



city of
Ankeny

The City of Ankeny, Iowa is hiring a
CITY MANAGER



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WELCOME TO ANKENY, IOWA

Located in the heart of Central Iowa, Ankeny is a vibrant and fast growing community known for its strong sense of civic pride, excellent schools, and thriving local economy. Ankeny offers a perfect balance of hometown charm and big-city amenities.

COMMUNITY

Ankeny is a rapidly growing community located five miles north of Des Moines, Iowa's capital city. It is the fifth largest city in Iowa. With a growing population of more than 76,000, Ankeny covers approximately 33 square miles and offers an outstanding quality of life, with a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities. Being part of the greater Des Moines area, Ankeny offers big city amenities with the hometown feel of a smaller city.

Ankeny was recently named one of the Best Places to Live in the United States by U.S. News & World Report: #18 in the nation and #1 in Iowa. The City is ranked among the highest for desirability, affordability, safety, and public education.

In a 2024 citizen survey, 93% of residents rated Ankeny as an excellent or good place to live. Additionally, residents ranked the City high for its overall quality of life and for being a good place to raise a family. Ranked one of the safest cities in Iowa with a population of 20,000+ by Safewise, it's no surprise Ankeny is also rated highly by its residents for being a safe place to live.

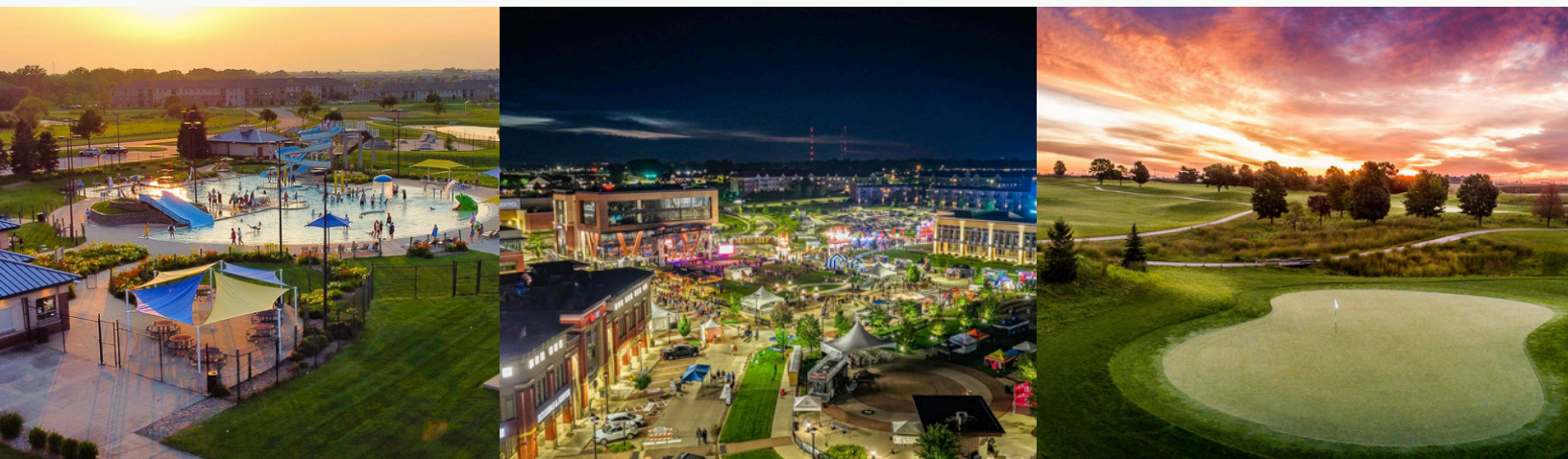
LIVING IN ANKENY

Housing prices in the area are affordable with a variety of options to accommodate any lifestyle. A typical 3 bed/2 bath home between 1,500 to 2,500 square feet is priced from \$325,000. More upscale living is available for \$500,000 and up.

Ankeny boasts a diverse shopping scene and access to quality healthcare, making it easy for you to find all the goods and services you need nearby. The District at Prairie Trail features a vibrant mix of restaurants, boutique shops, entertainment venues, a movie theater, bowling alley, park and green spaces for outdoor events.

Uptown Ankeny presents a charming blend of retail boutiques, antique shops, restaurants, a brewery, meat market, and community services; along with the farmers market, access to the High Trestle Trail and a variety of community events throughout the year.

Ankeny offers numerous opportunities to achieve a fulfilling lifestyle in Central Iowa. Residential areas, both new and well established, are clean, safe, and family-friendly. Ankeny has something for everyone with 50 parks and playgrounds, 100 miles of trails, top notch sports facilities, the Albaugh Family Senior Community Center, two aquatic centers, all-inclusive Miracle Park, open green spaces and a large variety of organized programs for all ages. Ankeny is located just minutes from Saylorville Lake and is home to three golf courses.



ANKENY, IOWA

EDUCATION

Ankeny's public and private schools are among the best and offer exceptional educational opportunities. The Ankeny Community School District is the seventh largest in the state with 12,600 students with:

- 12 elementary schools
- 4 middle schools
- 2 high schools

In addition to public schools, Ankeny offers private education options, including Ankeny Christian Academy and St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School.

Ankeny is known for strong academic and co-curricular programs, designed to meet the diverse needs of all students. Ankeny city limits also include the North Polk and Saydel community school districts.

For postsecondary education, the main campus of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) is located in Ankeny, providing valuable training and education for the region's workforce. Faith Baptist Bible College also calls Ankeny home.

The City's central location provides easy access to nationally recognized institutions like Drake University and Grand View University in Des Moines, and Iowa State University in Ames.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

Ankeny's local economy is centered on education, manufacturing, healthcare logistics, and professional services. The community also serves as a regional retail hub. Large private sector employers include Deere & Company, Casey's General Stores, Baker Group, Perishable Distributors of Iowa, Ltd., B&G Foods North America, Mom's Meals, and Kreg Tool.

Ankeny has been recognized as the fastest growing city in the Midwest and among the top ten fastest growing in the U.S. by the U.S. Census several times in the last 10 years.

- More than \$2 billion of private investment over the last five years
- Approximately 5,000 new dwelling units permitted, supporting approximately 13,000 new residents over the last five years
- In the last 10 years, the City has supported 24 different companies who have invested more than \$600 million while creating over 3,000 new jobs in Ankeny

RANKINGS

- 25 Best Places to Live in the U.S. 2025-2026, U.S. News & World Report: #18
- Best Small Cities to Live in the U.S. 2025-2026, U.S. News & World Report: #11
- Best Places to Live in Iowa in 2025-2026, U.S. News & World Report: #1
- Best Small Cities in America, WalletHub: #1 in Iowa, 94th percentile in the U.S.
- 10 best cities to move to in the Midwest, Consumer Affairs Journal of Consumer Research: #9
- Hottest family-friendly cities people are moving to in 2024 for safe, affordable, good schools; MoveBuddha: #5
- Most Livable Small Cities, 2025 Study, SmartAsset: #5
- 13 Best Family-Friendly Cities With Homes Under \$400K, MoveBuddha: #5
- 21 Most Livable Midwest Cities for Middle-Class Families, GoBankingRates: #6



ANKENY GOVERNMENT

The City operates under a Mayor/ Council/ Manager form of government. The City Council is the governing body of the City, consisting of five members elected at large for overlapping terms of four years. The Mayor is also elected for a term of four years. The City Manager is appointed by the Council and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City. Department directors work under the leadership of the City Manager to administer the services offered by the City. In addition, the City Council appoints citizens to serve on special boards and commissions.

The City provides a comprehensive range of municipal services including Fire, Police, Parks & Recreation (including two aquatic centers and a golf course), Public Works, Municipal Utilities, and Library. Other departments include Economic Development, Community Development, Communications, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Finance. The Ankeny Regional Airport is operated by the Polk County Aviation Authority, with staffing provided by the City of Ankeny.

The City maintains a core of 380 full-time employees and permanent part-time and this number expands to more than 800 during the summer.

VISION

Ankeny is a multigenerational hometown with an independent community spirit. Residents enjoy a safe community, an active lifestyle, thriving businesses, and easy connectivity to the region.

MISSION

To provide customer-focused, high-quality services, and sound fiscal management. By advocating for and engaging our community, we enhance quality of life and protect the community's interests.

CORE VALUES

Teamwork | Respect | Integrity | Quality | Professionalism | Communication

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS, FY 2026

- Property tax levy: \$9.90 per \$1,000 of taxable property valuation (the lowest among cities with a population over 5,000 in the Des Moines metro area)
- Total Budget: \$198,047,627
- Operating Expenditures: \$124,633,550
- Capital Expenditures and Funds: \$46,358,602
- Debt Service Expenditures: \$27,055,475

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Annual Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). This is the 23rd consecutive year the Ankeny Finance Department has received this award.

CURRENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Upgrades to infrastructure, streets, water, and sewer
- Comprehensive planning for development, traffic management, and infrastructure prioritization
- Policy/strategic discussions regarding community/metro engagement and partnerships, diversification of revenue, approaches to economic development
- New fire station



THE POSITION

ANKENY, IOWA | CITY MANAGER

Performs under general administrative direction; to act as the chief administrative officer of the city, and to plan, organize, and coordinate the administration of all divisions, offices, and services of the city, and to perform related duties.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Ensures that council directives, approved operational policies, and business affairs of the city are executed, conducted, or delegated for enforcement.
- Supervises and directs the administration, operations, and functions of all divisions, offices, and services except that of the city clerk and city treasurer.
- Attends all meetings of the council and all committee meetings as requested.
- Keeps the council fully advised of the financial and other conditions of the city, and recommends to the mayor and council such measures as are deemed necessary for efficient operation of the city.
- Evaluates and analyzes operations of the city by reviewing reports and statistical data prepared by subordinates.
- Develops and recommends policies and procedures regarding city operations.
- Coordinates the investigation and resolution of complaints or inquiries by the public.
- Attends a variety of meetings and acts as city's representative to officials of other municipalities, federal and state agencies, and the public.
- Supervises and directs the performance and completion of all contracts for work and services.
- Directs the purchasing of all commodities, materials, supplies, capital outlay and services for all departments.
- Interviews, hires, fires, and evaluates all employees over which specific authority is given.
- Supervises and manages all municipal property under jurisdiction of the council.
- Confers with and advises directors on special problems and to stay current with operations of the city.
- Directs and coordinates the completion of the city budget and capital improvement plans.



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

ANKENY, IOWA | CITY MANAGER

- Strong financial and budgeting background, economic and community development, and well-versed in municipal planning.
- Outstanding leadership skills, can work as part of a team, be an active listener, is trustworthy and dependable.
- Leads by example, open to new ideas, and always demonstrates honesty, integrity, fairness, and diplomacy.
- Desires to immerse oneself in and be part of the community.
- Motivator who works collaboratively with and empowers staff. Recruits, retains, mentors, sets priorities, provides resources, has high expectations, and ensures accountability.
- Encourages teamwork, delegates appropriately, and is comfortable engaging with department staff directly.
- Ability to make clear and concise decisions.
- Ability to build public trust, and engage with city, regional, and state leaders.
- Outstanding communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Strong presentation skills, with the ability to communicate complex information clearly to the City Council and residents.
- Ability to lead and guide the Council impartially.
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Public Administration, Business Administration, Public Policy or related field required (Master's degree preferred).
- Minimum seven years experience of progressively responsible management and supervisory experience as a city or county manager in the public sector for a similar size city or county, or as an assistant or deputy in a larger community, or equivalent experience in the private sector for an organization of similar size and complexity.
- Credentialing as a Certified Manager by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) preferred.
- Understanding of State and Federal legislative policies.



HOW TO APPLY

COMPENSATION: Highly competitive salary and benefits package, commensurate with experience. Compensation package inquiries encouraged. Benefits include health, dental, life, long-term disability, Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS) and voluntary benefits including vision, short-term disability, accident, critical illness and voluntary life insurance. Paid leave time includes holidays, vacation, personal, and sick days.

TO APPLY, please email your cover letter and resume in .pdf format by Friday, September 26, 2025, 5 p.m. CST, to bbauer@governmentpros.com. Position is open until filled. Faxed and mailed submissions will not be considered. Direct questions to Bret Bauer at 316-207-0688 or bbauer@governmentpros.com.

For additional information about the City of Ankeny, please visit:

AnkenyIowa.gov

Ankenyschools.org



The City of Ankeny is an Equal Opportunity Employer and embraces diversity. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.