



media release

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Greater Mankato Named One of the Nation's Top 10 "Dream Towns" by Bizjournals

What many area residents already know has now been made "official" today by Bizjournals: Greater Mankato is a dreamtown! Bizjournals analyzed 140 micropolitan areas and ranked Greater Mankato number seven in its 2008 list of 10 dreamtowns nationwide.

Each of the 140 micropolitan areas studied consisted of a central city, town or village with 10,000 to 50,000 residents, surrounded by a county or cluster of counties that are economically tied to it, with a total combined area population of 65,000 or more. The Greater Mankato micropolitan includes not only Mankato and North Mankato, but also Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties.

Focusing on a variety of quality of life factors, the study gave the best marks to well-rounded communities with light traffic, healthy economies, moderate costs of living, impressive housing stocks, strong educational systems and easy access to big-city amenities.

"While Greater Mankato has grown significantly over the past several years, those livability factors that make our community a great place to live have remained consistent and in some cases been enhanced," said Greater Mankato Growth President and CEO Jonathan Zierdt. "By continuing on our path of strategic progress with controlled, deliberate growth, Greater Mankato will continue to thrive and offer residents a fantastic quality of life, even as our community grows from micropolitan to a metropolitan in the next few years."

The bizjournals dreamtown designation comes on the heels of Greater Mankato ranking in the top 10% of micropolitans nationally and number one in Minnesota on POLICOM's Economic Strengths list. "The combination of these two recognitions, one primarily looking at livability and the other focusing on economic strength, means Greater Mankato has everything anyone would want in the ideal community," said Zierdt.

Bizjournals publishes weekly business publications in 66 major markets nationwide, including the Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal. Each publication has its own website with local and national business news. These sites and the national bizjournals.com have a total of 3.2 million registered users.

For the bizjournals dreamtowns story, go to: http://www.bizjournals.com/edit_special/68.html.

For details on the 10 dreamtowns go to: <http://www.bizjournals.com/specials/slideshow/48.html>.

For the study methodology go to: <http://www.bizjournals.com/specials/pages/188.html>.

10 American Dreamtowns

Rank	Micropolitan area	Quality of life score	Average commuting time (minutes)	Median household income	Management and professional jobs	Homeownership rate	Adults (25 or older) with bachelor's degrees	Air mileage to closest major metro	Micropolitan area population (2006)
1	Torrington, Conn.	18.19	25.2	\$66,664	39.0%	77.4%	31.9%	81 miles (New York City)	190,119
2	Bozeman, Mont.	17.01	20.6	\$47,532	33.6%	66.2%	45.2%	517 miles (Denver)	81,763
3	Lexington Park, Md.	16.96	26.6	\$71,158	40.2%	71.9%	24.4%	48 miles (Washington)	98,854
4	Lebanon, N.H.-Vt.	16.41	20.3	\$49,526	39.0%	73.6%	34.5%	112 miles (Boston)	172,429
5	Helena, Mont.	15.44	16.3	\$45,013	40.0%	73.4%	30.8%	480 miles (Seattle)	69,212
6	Kalispell, Mont.	14.33	18.9	\$45,920	29.9%	76.1%	25.3%	373 miles (Seattle)	85,314
7	Mankato-North Mankato, Minn.	14.06	16.8	\$46,104	33.2%	69.8%	33.8%	62 miles (Minneapolis-St. Paul)	89,567
8	Oak Harbor, Wash.	12.99	25.5	\$49,022	33.7%	78.9%	27.3%	40 miles (Seattle)	81,489
9	Stevens Point, Wis.	12.66	17.5	\$52,354	34.6%	74.1%	30.5%	187 miles (Minneapolis-St. Paul)	67,484
10	Concord, N.H.	12.56	23.7	\$55,072	35.1%	69.6%	28.9%	72 miles (Boston)	148,085