



Tama County, Iowa
Economic Development

Gladbrook, Iowa

The story of Gladbrook...

When two of the founders of our community went to Chicago to complete the paperwork for the location, they were given the privilege of naming the town to be located on their land. After much discussion, a gentleman asked what was worthwhile in Iowa? The men answered they had a nice brook and were glad they had it! "There you have it—GLADBROOK", and thus the name.

In the early days, as with today, we are an agriculture-rich community. Some of the finest soil is located around Gladbrook, making it very favorable for farming. We have many agriculture-based businesses in our community. We can also boast of a very good school system for which our citizens are very proud. We are rich in tradition in Gladbrook, our Corn Carnival is celebrating its 85th year in 2007, and can brag about the very large crowds for the festivities.

We have a very active veterans community, which recently completed a Veteran's Memorial Park on the eastern edge of town.

We have a successful City Center that was built mostly by volunteers with donated money. The City Center houses the Gladbrook Museum, City Hall, the \$1 movie theater, and the Matchstick Marvels Tourist Center.

Matchstick Marvels, the creations of local artist Pat Acton, is a popular attraction in our community; hundreds of visitors come to see this amazing display of matchstick figures.

Currently the community is collecting funds to construct a fitness center, which will be built onto the Middle School.



Location: Gladbrook is located in east central Iowa at the intersection of county road T47 and state highway 96. Gladbrook is 7 miles west of U.S. highway 63 and 14 miles north of U.S. highway 30.

Population: 1,021 (2005).

Per Capita Income: \$18,484 (2000); county average \$24,112 (2002); state average, \$28,089 (2002); median household income \$38,167 (2000).

Geography/Climate: Gently rolling mid-continent farmlands. Four seasons. A few brittle cold winter days may not rise above zero; a few sultry summer days may reach high 90's. July average temperature is 72, January average temperature is 14. Precipitation averages: 35 inches of rain, 32 inches of snow.

Employment: Corn, soybeans, cattle, & hogs anchor the agricultural economy. Larger payrolls: Gethmann Construction, Goos Implement, Gladbrook-Reinbeck School, Westbrook Acres.

Financial Institutions: 1 commercial bank: F & M Bank has 11 statewide locations with total deposits of \$346,496,000.

Newspaper: Northern Sun Print, published Fridays. One-year subscription: \$39.00. Other regional newspapers: Marshalltown Times-Republican, Des Moines Register, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Waterloo Courier, El Heraldo Hispano.



Communications: Local Public Access, Cable and broadband available via Mediacom. Phone service and High Speed DSL internet via lowatelecom.

Utilities: Alliant Energy provides electric service and natural gas for residents of Gladbrook. Alliant offers a rebate for customers who build an energy-efficient home. Water & sewer are provided by the City of Gladbrook.

Health Care: Covenant Health System has a clinic in Gladbrook. One local MD in private practice.

Schools: Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District: enrollment of 745; 13.2 students per teacher, \$6,351 spending per student. State ACT average 22; SAT average 1204, graduation rate 89.4%. Crayon Corner Preschool.

Educational Level: 5% of Gladbrook residents have an associate's degree; 9% have a bachelor's degree; 4% have a graduate or professional degree.

Library: Gladbrook Public Library has 11,714 books & serial volumes, 1 public internet terminal, total circulation of 16,988. Circulation of children's materials: 4,110, children's program attendance: 235.

Recreation: 1 city park (Frisbee golf, sand volleyball), indoor swimming pool & future fitness center (at the school). Wolf Creek Recreational Trail runs along the northern edge of Gladbrook. Swimming, fishing, boating, camping at Union Grove State Park, south of Gladbrook. \$1 Theater.

Housing: Median value of housing units in Tama County (2000) is \$64,200; median gross rent of units in Tama County (2000) is \$418. Gladbrook offers a four-year 100% tax abatement on new home construction or home improvement which increases the value by 15%.

Taxes: State sales tax rate is 5% plus Gladbrook's local option sales tax is 1% and school infrastructure local option tax is 1% for a total sales tax rate of 7% in Gladbrook. State income tax rates range from 0.36% to 8.98% plus a base rate.

Churches: Methodist, Lutheran, Peace United Church of Christ.

Further Information:

City Clerk's office

641-473-2582 | clerkgladbrook@iowatelecom.net

Tama County Economic Development

641-484-3108 | info@tamacountyiowa.org

What the People Say...

"The people are friendly, the business owners pride themselves on their quality of service, the churches inspire your spiritual growth, the youth and adult organizations give so much of themselves for others, the G-R School provides a top notch education as well as an outstanding sports program, and the community has proven time after time that they can unite to accomplish many a goal or project." Jeanne Paustian

"It always falls back on the people and their willingness to get involved. This defines Gladbrook." Mike Wentzien

"The time, talent, and resources contributed by generations of Gladbrook citizens has resulted in a community spirit which makes Gladbrook an outstanding place to call home." Senator John Putney

