

# Lackawanna County

## Progression Built on History



# Welcome

Welcome to Lackawanna County! Our county is indeed a great place to live, work, do business, raise a family, and enjoy a diverse array of leisure amenities. We are committed to enhancing our operating environment even more by attracting cutting-edge industries and the latest technology to keep the best and the brightest here and to offer opportunities to other people and businesses to relocate to our area.

Aside from targeting new growth opportunities, we also strive to assist our home-grown companies with their expansion plans. We are also focused on improving our quality of life by investing in our parks and recreation system, supporting Triple A minor league baseball, strengthening our public safety services, creating vibrant arts and cultural activities, preserving our environment, and delivering innovative and vital human services programs to our residents.

Thank you for your interest in Lackawanna County.

Sincerely,



**Jerry Notarianni**  
Commissioner



**Chris Chermak**  
Commissioner



**Debi Domenick, Esq.**  
Commissioner

## Lackawanna County COMMISSIONERS



**Jerry Notarianni**  
Commissioner



**Debi Domenick, Esq.**  
Commissioner



**Chris Chermak**  
Commissioner



**Mayor Paige Cognetti**

Scranton was built on hard work. We have had our ups and downs, as have most cities, but we've taken them in stride and adapted as needed. We know our future is bright.

Our economy is diverse and so is our city. We have thriving neighborhoods with unique character that are rich in culture and steeped in history. We value family and friends and take pride in the place we call home.

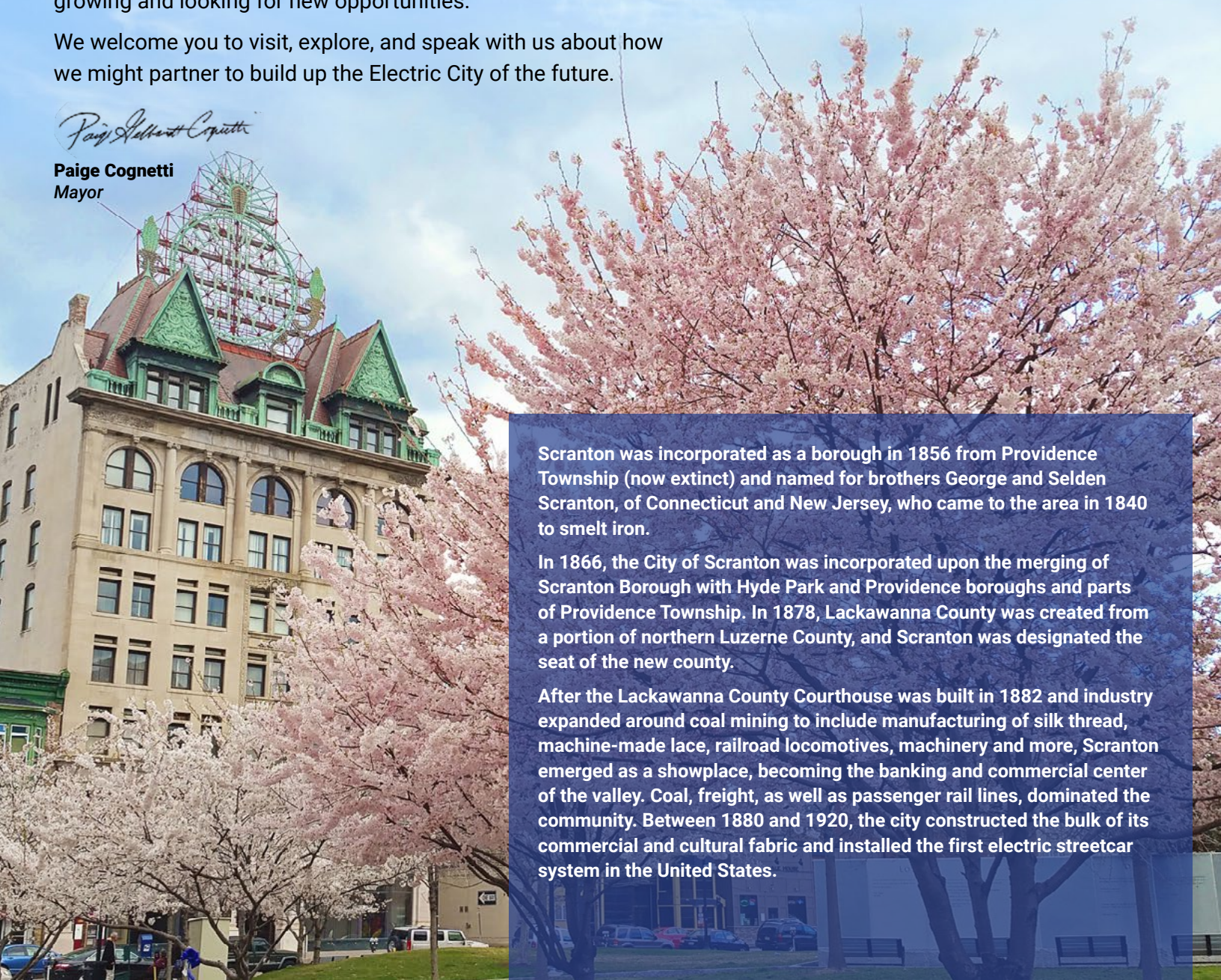
We have a great theatre, music, and arts scene, fabulous food across cuisines, dozens of parks, and beautiful, historic architecture. We have a ski mountain ten minutes from downtown and countless lakes, hiking trails, and game lands in the region.

We like to say that "all roads lead to Scranton." Only 100 miles from New York City and Philadelphia, we are an inland city that is growing and looking for new opportunities.

We welcome you to visit, explore, and speak with us about how we might partner to build up the Electric City of the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige Cognetti".

**Paige Cognetti**  
Mayor



Scranton was incorporated as a borough in 1856 from Providence Township (now extinct) and named for brothers George and Selden Scranton, of Connecticut and New Jersey, who came to the area in 1840 to smelt iron.

In 1866, the City of Scranton was incorporated upon the merging of Scranton Borough with Hyde Park and Providence boroughs and parts of Providence Township. In 1878, Lackawanna County was created from a portion of northern Luzerne County, and Scranton was designated the seat of the new county.

After the Lackawanna County Courthouse was built in 1882 and industry expanded around coal mining to include manufacturing of silk thread, machine-made lace, railroad locomotives, machinery and more, Scranton emerged as a showplace, becoming the banking and commercial center of the valley. Coal, freight, as well as passenger rail lines, dominated the community. Between 1880 and 1920, the city constructed the bulk of its commercial and cultural fabric and installed the first electric streetcar system in the United States.

# Attract. Sustain. Grow.



With a growing population that has learned to unite its old-world values and hard work with innovation in business, health care, education, arts, culture and beyond, Lackawanna County is truly poised at the forefront of modern America.

Whether in terms of a strong work ethic, neighborly friendliness, or generosity of spirit, the population of this region has proven itself to be just as diverse as the industries, activities, and other amenities located here.

Not only do we offer an award-winning workforce, a booming business climate, and a superior quality of life, we also offer recreational and cultural activities for all ages, from a thriving arts scene to historic sites and show-stopping performances.

Lackawanna County and the surrounding area is a region of progression built upon its strong history, an area of Pennsylvania where you can expect the unexpected.

  
Bob Durkin

  
Patrick Fricchione, Jr.



**Bob Durkin**  
*President*  
The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

**Patrick Fricchione, Jr.**  
*Board Chair*  
The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce



The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce is a multifaceted organization that touches nearly every aspect of our community. Our focus on attracting, growing and sustaining businesses directs all our initiatives. Established in 1867, the Chamber is the largest business network in northeastern Pennsylvania, with more than 1,500 member companies representing a variety of businesses.

Our traditional Chamber services are exceptional. We offer a variety of programming, services, and activities to our members – striving to help them reach their business goals. We also offer opportunities for networking, referrals, and cost-saving programs, while hosting large signature events known throughout the region for top-notch entertainment and cuisine.

The Chamber is also the parent organization to several affiliates. These affiliates support economic development, provide small business lending services, facilitate leadership development programs, guide workforce development initiatives, and act as a business advocate with government entities.

Our affiliates – Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company (SLIBCO), Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises, and The Scranton Plan – have been spearheading economic development in Lackawanna County since 1945. SLIBCO has developed 15 business parks totaling close to 3,000 acres, while The Scranton Plan has been the driving force behind job creation and retention, retaining more 5,500 jobs from 2016 - 2020.

We also run an entrepreneurship program and offer small business lending options to help local businesspeople make their dreams a reality. Our Leadership Lackawanna programs support local students and business professionals to gain leadership, interpersonal, and managerial skills.

The Chamber and its family of affiliates is proud support our members' success, creating opportunities for the region and helping business owners and executives address the issues they face each day.

## OUR Community PARTNERS



The Lackawanna County Visitors Bureau provides comprehensive resources on visiting our area - whether you want to learn more about our rich history, vibrant arts scene, outdoor adventures, and more - start at [www.VisitNEPA.org](http://www.VisitNEPA.org).

Download their 2020 Guide for the best overview on Lackawanna County.



DiscoverNEPA® is a powerhouse of information in the form of articles, photography, and videos. Their mission is to highlight Northeastern Pennsylvania's best and brightest to stay in the region, to promote local quality of life, to recruit talented individuals to the region, and to assist local nonprofits by cultivating awareness and branding the region as one of the nation's best places to live. Visit [www.DiscoverNEPA.com](http://www.DiscoverNEPA.com).



Scranton Tomorrow is a community and economic development organization working to establish Scranton as the premier urban center of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Their mission is to mobilize resources that enhance a vibrant environment for Scranton residents, businesses, and visitors. They also help to promote economic development, facilitate partnerships among local organizations, and share opportunities and news about Scranton. Visit [www.scrantontomorrow.org](http://www.scrantontomorrow.org)

# Quick FACTS

Founded in 1878 with  
Scranton designated as the  
seat

Population: 211,454  
U.S. Census ACS 2018

Area: 473.8 square miles

Average household  
income: \$50,875  
U.S. Census ACS 2018

Median household value  
(owner occupied): \$149,700  
U.S. Census Bureau

Less than 2.5 hours and  
130 miles from Harrisburg,  
Philadelphia, and New York City

Lackawanna County is  
divided into 40 municipalities.  
Including:

- 2 cities
- 17 boroughs
- 21 townships
- 12 school districts

Major highways include:  
81, 84, & 380, the northeast  
extension of the Pennsylvania  
Turnpike (Interstate 476), US  
Route 6 (Governor Robert Casey  
Highway), US Route 11, PA  
Route 307, and Business Route 6  
(Scranton-Carbondale Highway)

Registered voters  
(as of 2018 general election)

- County Total—143,610
- Democrats—86,740
- Republicans—42,383
- Other—14,487

For more detailed statistics and history  
on the area visit [www.ScrantonPlan.com](http://www.ScrantonPlan.com)  
and [www.LackawannaCounty.org](http://www.LackawannaCounty.org).

# Lackawanna County FUN FACTS



The county was named  
after the Lackawanna  
River, which is an  
Algonquin word meaning  
“where the streams  
meet”



Scranton installed  
the first electric  
streetcar system in  
the United States,  
earning it the nickname  
“The Electric City”

Home of the Lackawanna Train  
Station, built in 1908,  
a six-story historic landmark  
once served as a grand  
passenger train station



Scranton hosts one of the  
largest St. Patrick's Day  
parades in the country, known  
as “Parade Day,” to locals.

Lackawanna County has  
**over 7,500 acres**  
in protected and  
preserved lands



Average daily  
commute in the  
greater Scranton  
region is just  
**20 minutes**

Lackawanna County  
is home to  
**more than  
5,600 industries**

Jessup, PA hosts  
Lackawanna County's  
most unique festival,  
St. Ubaldo Day, every  
May. The only other  
city in the world that  
celebrates this festival  
occurs in Gubbio, Italy



Scranton, PA is the  
setting of NBC's  
sitcom “The Office.”  
Find information on a  
self-guided “Office” tour,  
visit the Visitor's Bureau  
website at [visitnepa.org](http://visitnepa.org)

Scranton is the  
home of a paper  
company, but  
it's not Dunder  
Mifflin.



Home to the Steamtown National  
Historic Site, a \$70 million rail  
museum operated by the National  
Park Service.



## Top 5 Industries:

- Healthcare & Social Assistance
- Retail Trade
- Manufacturing
- Accommodation & Food Service
- Educational Services

# Quality OF LIFE



## Education

Quality education, from preschool through graduate school, is one of the region's top priorities. The area is home to public, technical, parochial, private, and higher education institutions. It's also become a center for healthcare innovation with its own medical school.

Lackawanna County has 11 public schools. Class sizes are small, with the average ratio at 14:1, with almost all school districts offering gifted and special education services. High school graduation rates are significantly higher than state and national averages and dropout rates are miniscule. The area is home to 16 post-secondary institutions, enrolling over 46,000 students within a 50-mile radius of downtown Scranton.



## Health Care

Lackawanna County's medical infrastructure is strong. Three hospitals are located within the county and within walking distance of downtown Scranton. Altogether, there are 16 hospitals and more than 1,000 patient-treating physicians in Northeastern Pennsylvania that can handle all but the most esoteric medical treatments such as transplantation, including neonatal intensive care, specialized geriatric care, cardiovascular care, an accredited regional trauma center, home health care organizations and more.



## Professional Services and Workforce

With a variety of business support services, including nationally recognized law firms, state-of-the-art construction companies, and top-quality financial institutions, this region is the place for entrepreneurs to thrive.

The greater Scranton area offers numerous programs aimed at strengthening its workforce. Through partnerships, local employees, as well as students, are offered opportunities to gain insight into the needs of business and industry.



## Transportation

Positioned at the crossroads of 5 interstate highways, Lackawanna County is an overnight truck delivery to 96 million North American customers, making it the perfect location for businesses looking to expand nationwide. We're less than 2.5 hours and 130 miles from Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and New York City; 240 miles from Washington D.C. and less than 300 miles from Pittsburgh.

With a local airport, both public and private bus systems, as well as rail transportation, residents have mobility and businesses have the infrastructure to manage various shipping means.





## Business and Economic Development

Poised as a hub of innovative business activity, northeast Pennsylvania offers an award-winning workforce, low operating costs, and a booming business climate. With access to millions of customers within a short distance, this region reaches markets that businesses located elsewhere would not reach.

The county's gross domestic product is \$7.7 million (St. Louis Fed, 2019). It is also home to 27 business parks, with inventory of tax-free real estate that can accommodate more than one million square feet. There are also a variety of tax abatement, tax credit, grant, and low-interest loan programs available.

## Housing and Cost of Living

The greater Scranton area offers one of the most affordable housing markets on the East Coast. Housing is priced 30% less than homes in Philadelphia or Hartford and 50% less than Boston or Long Island. While downtown Scranton is amidst a revitalization with historic buildings being transformed to trendy lofts.

The cost of living in the region also compares favorably with other small to mid-size cities in the northeast and is significantly lower than major metropolitan areas. For example, a person making \$50,000 in Scranton would need to earn more than \$68,649 in Philadelphia and more than \$129,678 in Manhattan to make a standard living.

Source: Sperling's Best Places

# Things TO DO

## Sports and Recreation

Lackawanna County is an outdoorsperson's paradise with breathtaking views and scenery, four picture perfect seasons, and endless options to explore. You will find places to ski, swim, hike, bike, hunt, fish, golf and more.

The area is home to the Triple-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders; the AHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins, The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins; as well as NASCAR racing and arena football.

## Arts, Culture, Diversity

A local Renaissance is occurring in Lackawanna County. The area is flourishing with artists, vendors, performers, and musicians whose creativity has sparked an electric arts scene.

There are 11 museums in the area. Local artists can display their work at 10 local galleries, while enthusiasts can take in the First Friday Art Walks, local performing arts at the historic Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, as well as enjoy the beautiful murals popping up across the area.

## Dining, Shopping, Entertainment

The area is a shopper's paradise offering both national retailers, along with hometown artisan shops and boutiques. Whether you enjoy fashion, beauty, antiques, or discount outlets, the region caters to all needs, styles, and budgets.

One of Lackawanna County's greatest assets is its wide variety of delicious and diverse food. Ranging from fine dining to classic diners, steak, seafood, and pasta houses. Many cafes, pubs, and bistros line the streets of Scranton. From traditional Italian delicacies and world-famous pizza, to gourmet ramen and everything in between, foodies will find dishes that satisfy their taste buds.

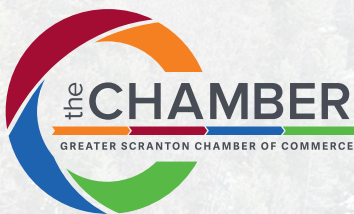
From festivals to historic sites to show-stopping performances, there's something for everyone in our region. Thanks to its focus on family, there are activities for all ages available. From a historical coal mine tour to a new aquarium, Broadway performances and local musicians, hiking trails to ski resorts, concerts and a thriving nightlife, there is a little piece of entertainment for everyone.

# THE ELECTRIC CITY



# Lackawanna County

## Progression Built on History



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Lackawanna  
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scrantonpa.gov



Lackawanna County Visitors Bureau  
1-800-22-Welcome  
visitnepa.org



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