



**Incorporated: 1775**

**Hampshire County**

Located in the fertile and scenic Connecticut River Valley, Amherst enjoys views of hills and mountains in all directions. Although originally a farming community, Amherst's main industry is now education, since it is the home of the main campus of the University of Massachusetts as well as two private colleges, Amherst College and Hampshire College. Consequently, the town's population varies from about 35,000 during the academic year to the mid-20's during the summer. The town's commercial, social and cultural life benefit from the liveliness and diversity stimulated by the colleges and the University. Amherst has long supported excellent public schools, libraries and town services; it has also worked hard both to preserve farming and open space and to provide affordable housing. Amherst is one of the few towns in the Commonwealth to have met the goal of having 10% of its housing stock affordable. Department of Housing & Community Development

**Population:** 34,874 (2000 census)

**Total Area:** 27.75 sq miles

**Government:** Select Board  
Town Manager  
Representative Town Meeting

**Tax Rate:** \$16.95 (2010)

**School Superintendent:** 549-5806

**Colleges/Universities:** Amherst College

**Public Schools:** 4 Elementary Schools  
Amherst Regional Middle School  
Amherst Regional High School  
Vocational School Available

Hampshire College  
UMass @ Amherst

**Private Schools:** Amherst Common School  
Amherst Montessori School

**Shopping:** Downtown area shopping and small outlying shopping centers. Larger malls within a 10-30 minute drive.

**Libraries:** Jones Library  
Munson Memorial Library  
North Amherst Library

**Recreational Facilities:**

Holyoke Range State Park; Lawrence Swamp; Hickory Ridge Golf Club; Amherst Golf Club; Cherry Hill Golf Course; Holyoke Range Conservation; Groff Park; Mill River Recreation Area; Norwottuck Rail Trail

**Utilities:**

Cable: Comcast 1-888-633-4266  
Electric: Western Mass Electric Co. 800-286-2000  
Gas: Berkshire Gas Company 586-3677  
Telephone: Verizon 800-870-9999

**Child Care Providers:** 413-582-4218

Child Care Focus 56 Vernon Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
--provides a list of licensed childcare facilities

**For More Information:**

**Town hall:** (413) 256-4004  
[www.JonesRealtors.com](http://www.JonesRealtors.com)  
[www.amherstarea.com](http://www.amherstarea.com), [www.amherstma.gov](http://www.amherstma.gov)

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