

# Wyoming County

## WEST VIRGINIA



...LIVE

WORK...



PLAY...



# Wyoming County...

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Wyoming County West Virginia!



Thank you for your interest in learning more about the many opportunities available to your business or development initiative here in Wyoming County. On the following pages you will find a wealth of information about Wyoming County and what it has to offer your business. Our goal is to make our hometown in the mountains of Southern West Virginia your hometown.

We are working hard to make Wyoming County a desired location for your business. In Wyoming County your business will have access to business and employee training, below market loans, and other government resources to help make your investment in Wyoming County a profitable one.

### WHY Wyoming County?

- Low cost of commercial structures for both sale and lease
- HUB Zone (Federal acquisition priority is given to businesses located in HUB Zone)
- New highway being built in Wyoming County that will connect to I-64 and I-77
- Two regional airports located nearby
- Active commercial railroad lines run throughout Wyoming County
- Below market loan rates
- Located within 500 miles of 60% of US population
- New federal prison being built (Priority is given to local businesses especially businesses located in HUB Zone)
- Wyoming County categorized as distressed by ARC (Federal resources are available to help with business development in distressed counties)
- State resources available to help with business development based on number of jobs and amount of investment
- A proactive EDA that will work with you to bring all of these resources together to ensure the highest possible return on your investment

In addition to a lot of sound reasons to consider moving your business to Wyoming County, there are also many quality of life reasons to want to live in Wyoming County. To name just a few, Wyoming County has top rated schools, hunting and fishing right outside your front door, beautiful mountains and streams, and a friendly small town America feel that most people can only dream about.

The Wyoming County EDA is here to help your business succeed. If you would like more information or assistance in moving to Wyoming County, please feel free to contact me directly. It is our hope that we can work together to grow together.

Sincerely,

Christy L. Laxton  
Executive Director  
Wyoming County Economic Development Authority

# ABOUT THE WYOMING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Wyoming County Economic Development Authority is committed to opening our doors for business by providing the assistance, services and information you need to live and work in Wyoming County, West Virginia.

Types of assistance may include but are not limited to:

- Identifying new site and building locations
- Funding assistance to address immediate and future needs
- Technical support and referrals on issues such as taxes, workers compensation and other issues as identified by the business



We provide support and technical assistance to existing businesses to address their challenges and opportunities in a strategic effort to retain and maintain employees and sustain the existence of the business. We provide support and technical assistance to start-up businesses to encourage business planning and packaging.

We offer loans for individuals interested in Start-Up Businesses and those who have Existing Businesses to provide Economic Development opportunities for Southern West Virginia. Loan amounts range from \$300 to \$150,000.

## FROM OUR BUSINESSES



Boxley Concrete Plant in John D. Rockefeller IV Park

**"I am writing to formally thank you and your staff for assisting us with the set-up of our new ready mix plant in Wyoming County in the John D. Rockefeller Industrial Center... From the initial planning stages we truly felt welcomed to the community..."**

**The Governor's slogan of "West Virginia Is Open For Business" is very much in practice in Wyoming County. We are looking forward to a mutually beneficial and long term relationship."**

**Larry Bullock, VP Ready Mix  
Boxley Materials Company**

**"I have been working with Holden Machine Company for two years, and at the onset, found Wyoming County to be the best central location for our new Distribution Center. Our decision to set up an office here came quickly with the business we do within this and surrounding counties..."**

**"The EDA was quick to assist us in meeting our particular set-up requirements... I have never met with any opposition or any task that you or your team couldn't manage."**

**Tim Bailey, Holden Machine Company**

Cradled in the southern tip of West Virginia, Wyoming County is rich in both history and natural beauty. Rushing brooks; mighty mountains; and wild, wooded areas make up its rugged topography, with small communities and three diminutive municipalities--Mullens, Oceana, and Pineville--dotting the landscape. Named for an Indian word meaning "large plain," Wyoming County was created from Logan County in 1850.

Much of the county's history is tied to once-abundant natural resources. At the turn of the last century, King Coal dominated the land and ruled how and where most of its inhabitants worked and lived. Despite the eventual demise of coal as the county's chief industry, the region is still a showcase of earlier coal company heydays. Remains of coal tipples, miners' camps, and old mines now draw tourists.

Coal history buffs can visit the vestiges of once-bustling coal camps at Kopperston, Glen Rogers, Itmann and Coal Mountain, among others. Some of the camps' historic buildings have been pressed into modern service. In Itmann, for example, a three-story, cut-stone edifice, constructed in the mid-1920s and used as a company store and offices, now serves as a homeless shelter.

The county also boasts an extensive railroading history. The Caboose Museum, located in Virginian Railway Company Caboose 307 in Mullens, houses a collection of memorabilia from local residents. In addition, murals depicting local history adorn several city buildings in Mullens.



Historic land has also been transformed near Oceana, where the Clearfork Valley Golf Club occupies 120 acres of gently rolling land once roamed by Native Americans and early White settlers. The land was eventually farmed as the McDonald Plantation in the 1800s, but Union forces burned the ill-fated plantation to the ground during the Civil War. Today, Clearfork Valley's 18-hole golf course is open to the public and draws players from all over West Virginia as well as Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky. In addition to its beautiful setting, the course's clubhouse is quickly gaining a reputation for serving tasty, old-fashioned cheeseburgers.

The Wyoming County seat, Pineville, is home to both man-made and natural historic markers. The county courthouse, built in 1916, and the adjoining jail, constructed in 1929, are on the National Registry of Historic Places. Built of native stone by Italian stonemasons, the courthouse has been recently renovated to its original elegance. Chandeliers once again illuminate the lobby, and the restored trim on the lobby ceiling reflects the workmanship and attention to architectural detail of the building's first craftsmen.

Pineville is also home to Castle Rock, a 165-foot sandstone cliff that towers over the mouth of Rock-castle Creek. Native Americans, scouts, and early settlers used the impressive formation as a natural landmark.

According to many historians, the town of Pineville stands at what was once the convergence of seven Native American trails. In the late 1890s, the town bore the name of its most defining natural characteristic--Castle Rock--but the post office went by the moniker Pineville. (Former resident John W. Cline is credited with naming the post office in honor of a nearby forest of pine trees.) In 1907, the town officially adopted the name Pineville.

Though most of the region's recorded history chronicles the past few centuries, traces of its ancient history survive in Wyoming County. Petroglyphs, or rock carvings, on rock outcrops south of Oceana, have fascinated archaeologists, scholars, and the public. Some experts claim the carvings were done in the sixth, seventh, or eighth centuries AD, while others estimate they were created much later, in the 1300s to 1500s. A subject of fierce disagreement in the 1980s, the origin and meaning of the petroglyphs remain up for debate. Some researchers--including the late Dr. Barry Fell, an often-controversial former Harvard professor--hypothesized that the markings are from an ancient Celtic alphabet

called ogham. Fell thought the markings on one of the petroglyphs spell out a Christmas message carved by Irish missionaries, whose arrival in the New World predated Christopher Columbus by several centuries. Others think that a sunburst glyph located on the left side of one of the wall carvings depicts a supernova that is known to have lit up the night sky sometime during the 11th century. Still other observers have dismissed the carvings as the result of early natives sharpening stone implements.

In addition to its historic landmarks, Wyoming County offers plenty of modern-day, outdoor fun. The newest recreational attraction is the Hatfield-McCoy Trails' Castle Rock Trailhead, in the Pinnacle Creek area, near Pineville. The trails are open each day from sunrise to sunset to those riding ATVs, dirt bikes, horses, mountain bikes, and hikers. User permits are available at the trailhead. The Wyoming County loop of the Hatfield-McCoy Trails added nearly 120 miles to the system already established in surrounding Logan, Boone and Mingo counties.



Twin Falls Resort State Park, off WV 97 near Pineville, combines unspoiled scenic beauty with a variety of accommodations ranging from plush to rustic. Visitors can enjoy the comfort of the park's 20-room lodge, opt for the serenity of a secluded cabin, or set up camp in one of the 50 campsites.

One of Twin Fall's most popular assets is its thriving deer population, which roams the park's 4,000 wooded acres. In the evening, visitors line the park's roadsides to watch the animals from their cars. Another draw is the Pioneer Farm, a restored homestead on Bowers Ridge. The living history farm appears much like area farms would have looked in the 1830s and provides a glimpse into the lives of the pioneers who settled the Twin Falls area. Additionally, the park features an 18-hole golf course, driving range, swimming pool, year-round nature programs, and trails.



At the other end of the county, near Hanover, lies R. D. Bailey Lake, which boasts 17 miles of shoreline and excellent fishing. Open to boaters year-round, the lake is home to large-mouth bass, hybrid striped bass, walleye, tiger muskie, catfish, crappie, bluegill, and panfish. While two record-size bass have been caught in the lake, the area is fast becoming known throughout the country for the trophy bucks

that inhabit the surrounding forests. Seasonal picnic facilities, boat rentals at the local marina, and 168-site campground that stretch along the Guyandotte River are also available.

Built by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of a flood control project for the Guyandotte River, R. D. Bailey Dam features an unusual random rockfill design that has drawn visitors from as far away as China. Most dams have a clay core, but R. D. Bailey Dam is a carefully designed mound of closely compacted rock. The dam is also the first concrete-faced dam built by the Corps. Constructed in 1974, the dam includes 5.7 million cubic yards of rock, 6.4 million pounds of steel, and 240,000 bags of cement. Tourists can get a bird's eye-view of the structure from the Visitor's Center, which sits 365 feet above the lake. The center also has exhibits and photos of the dam project and its flood control mission.

From fascinating history to outdoor fun, Wyoming County is one of West Virginia's wonderful out-of-the-way gems.

Mary Catherine Brooks has been Beckley Newspapers' Wyoming County Bureau Chief since 1989.

# Why Wyoming County

## LOCATION... LOCATION... LOCATION

Wyoming County, West Virginia is within 500 miles of 2/3 of the population of the United States.

## COST OF DOING BUSINESS

A study recently conducted by the Milkin Institute shows the Cost of Doing Business in Southern West Virginia is significantly below the National average:

Wage Cost Index	77.2% of the National Average
Electricity Cost Index	70.7% of the National Average
Industrial Rent Cost Index	62.4% of the National Average
Office Rent Cost Index	92.1% of the National Average
Overall Cost of Doing Business	86.1% of the National Average

## REGIONAL COST OF LIVING

As important to your business as the Cost of Doing Business is to you, the cost of living for your employees are just as important to attract and keep a quality workforce. Southern West Virginia in general offers a lower cost of living compared to other areas of the country as they relate to food, housing, utilities, transportation and health care costs.

## SITE SELECTION ASSISTANCE

Wyoming County Economic Development Authority will work with businesses wishing to locate or expand here with site selection. The EDA also has the John D. Rockefeller IV Industrial Park which currently has five businesses located there.

## CLIMATE

Wyoming County has Four seasons. There is Spring, where the flowers bloom and the weather starts to warm up. Then there is Summer, where the weather is from 75 - 95 degrees and the mountains are beautiful with all the blooms of the flowers and the green on the trees. Then there is Fall, where the weather starts to cool down, the trees turn beautiful colors and it's the best time for 4-wheeler riding and walking on the trails. And finally there is Winter. It does get cold snows, which is beautiful, but we very rarely get large snowstorms.

## RECREATION

Wyoming County is an outdoor enthusiast paradise. Be it the four-wheelin' excitement of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail, picnicking and fishing at R. D. Bailey Lake, mountain biking, walking/hiking trails, or a leisurely round of golf at Twin Falls State Park. It can all be found right here in Wyoming County.

## HEALTHCARE

There are several family practitioners in Wyoming County to choose from as well as numerous pharmacies. We also have a nursing home, physical therapy centers, sleep center, podiatrist, chiropractor services, dental services (general, surgical and orthodontic), optical services, and psychologists.

## HOUSING

Housing is on the rise in the area due to the new Federal Prison coming to McDowell County, just on the county line. The current housing is considered to be very low cost compared to other areas. We have several homes for sale or for rent in the county. There are many full time real estate agents that work in the county as well.

## EDUCATION

Wyoming County's School system has been recognized for excellence state-wide, including 4 Schools of Excellence; 2 National Blue Ribbon Schools; National Title I Distinguished; and State Exemplary Schools. From the award winning Theater and Art programs to the State Championship sport teams, our public schools ensure that the needs of the students and their education come first. We have the following schools in Wyoming County:

- Five Elementary Schools serve grade K-8
- Three Elementary Schools serve grade K-4
- Three Middle Schools serve grade 5-8
- Two High Schools serve grade 9-12
- Wyoming County Career & Technical Center grade 9-Adult
- Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Eight colleges and universities offer classes to more than 14,000 students within commuting distance of Wyoming County. These include: Appalachian Bible College, Bluefield State College, Concord University, Marshall University, Mountain State University, New River Community and Technical College, Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College, and the West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

## TRANSPORTATION

Wyoming County is enjoying a boom in new road construction. The Coalfields Expressway under construction is a modern highway connecting Wyoming County to Interstates 77 and 64 in nearby Raleigh County.

## WORKFORCE TRAINING

Prospective employers have several providers of workforce training available to them in Wyoming County. The Wyoming County Economic Development Authority will coordinate with businesses locating here in obtaining training from these providers. Some of these Southern WV Community and Technical College, Wyoming County Career and Technical Center, The Women's Business Center and Workforce WV.

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## LOCATION

The office of the Wyoming County EDA is located on Route 10 across from the football field at the Pineville Middle School.

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Closed – 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

P.O. Box 1828

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Wyoming County is Located Within 500 Miles of 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the US Population



Marsh Fork Falls



Deer in Twin Falls State Park



Coalfields Expressway Currently Under Construction



Federal Prison Under Construction on Wyoming-McDowell County Line



Pioneer Farm in Twin Falls State Park