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**BEDFORD**  
*Massachusetts*



A Business & Community Guide



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## Welcome to Bedford, MA – Home of the Bedford Flag!

The Town of Bedford is a thriving New England community with an outstanding school system, stable property values, prudent fiscal management, and robust public services and private amenities. Bedford benefits from access to a substantial venture capital market, leading research and education centers, and a large and highly educated workforce.

Located just 15 miles northwest of Boston and 12 miles northwest of Cambridge, Bedford businesses are well positioned to serve markets in Massachusetts as well as throughout New England. Bedford has many opportunities for growing businesses with more than 5.76 million square feet of commercial, office, and industrial floor area.

Bedford has **excellent access to the state transportation network** and is conveniently located near major highways including Route 128/Interstate-95 and US Route 3. Bedford is within easy reach of Logan International Airport in Boston with direct service to global destinations.

Bedford is home to many businesses that foster the **growth of innovative technology and life sciences**. The Crosby Drive and Wiggins Avenue Business Districts are home to a significant proportion of the Town's high-tech, software, biotechnology, and cyber security companies. The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council gives Bedford a "platinum" rating as a **"BioReady®" community**, having in place the infrastructure, zoning options, and available sites to accommodate new biotechnology enterprise. Bedford also supports many **small to mid-sized business** with sites for retail, restaurant, and mid-sized to start up companies.

With significant recreational opportunities and exercise facilities, Bedford offers many amenities that support an **active lifestyle**. The **Minuteman Bikepath**, a dedicated bike corridor, extends from Alewife station to Bedford Depot Park. In addition to the bikepath, Bedford is home to the Narrow-Gauge Rail Trail and the Reformatory Branch Trail as well as 27 miles of biking and walking trails.

Bedford provides an **outstanding public school system**. Boston Magazine ranks Bedford schools as number 5 of all Massachusetts public school districts in its recently published ranking. Bedford's number five status reflects the town's strong commitment to education. Bedford is close to world-renowned universities and medical resources, such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Tufts, Mass General Hospital, New England Medical Center, Lahey Clinic, and Lowell General Hospital. Bedford's own Middlesex Community College offers a broad range of professional and technical training programs.

Lauded as one of the state's **safest communities**, Bedford provides a great quality of life for its residents. It was recently named one of the 10 safest places to live in Massachusetts by Movoto Real Estate. Bedford was also recently named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People, a competitive national award sponsored by ING.

Bedford has an **outstanding civic reputation** for its fiscal management as well as its professional staff and services, all of which strive to provide excellent customer service to its residents and businesses. Recognizing its array of innovative services, the Massachusetts Municipal Association awarded Bedford the Kenneth E. Pickard Memorial Innovation Award several times in past two decades. The town has also earned the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Governance and Finance Association of the United States and Canada for the last 8 years.

### BEDFORD BY THE NUMBERS

- Founded in 1729
- Population: 13,995
- Average Employment: 21,552
- Information Technology and Software Companies: 60
- Life Sciences Companies: 31
- Population with graduate degrees: 37%
- Percentage of Housing that is Affordable according to State metrics: 17%
- High School Ranking in Massachusetts: 20

### BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Bedford's business development team is ready to serve you to get your business started quickly and efficiently in Bedford. From site location to permitting assistance throughout your project, Bedford's business development team is ready to get you started.

#### Business Contacts are:

**Richard Reed** – Town Manager

781-275-1111 • rreed@bedfordma.gov

**Alyssa Sandoval** – Economic Development Coordinator

781-275-1111 • asandoval@bedfordma.gov

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# Business in Bedford

## BUSINESS INCENTIVES

The Town of Bedford is an active participant in the State's Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP). The EDIP is a three-way partnership between the state, a municipality and a new or existing growing company. First the company and the municipality agree to a tax exemption schedule on future incremental real property taxes (a local tax reduction) and sign a Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) agreement. In turn, the company commits to a



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job growth and private investment schedule. The duration of this incentive could range from 5 to 20 years. Bedford recently entered into a TIF agreement with Aspen Technology which brought 400 employees to its new headquarters on Crosby Drive in Bedford.

## BUSINESS RESOURCES

### STATE

**The Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) Network** provides one-to-one free, comprehensive, and confidential services focusing on business growth and strategies, financing and loan assistance, as well as strategic, marketing and operational analysis. In addition, low cost educational training programs are offered across the state targeted to the needs of small business. [www.msfdc.org](http://www.msfdc.org)

**The Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD)** is committed to assisting companies who want to locate, expand, or maintain a presence in Massachusetts. The MOBD mission is to strengthen the economy and increase job

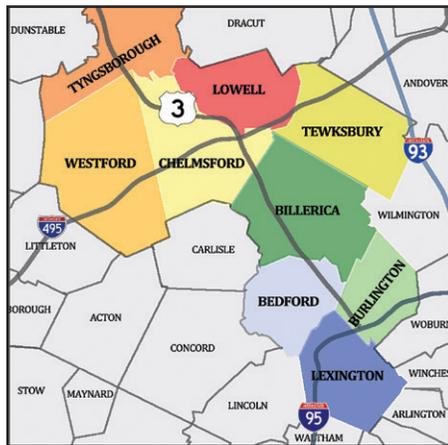
growth by providing a highly responsive central point of contact that facilitates access to resources, expertise, and incentive programs available in the Commonwealth. [www.mass.gov/mobd](http://www.mass.gov/mobd)

**Contact: Peter Milano,  
Senior Regional Director, Northeast  
Office: 978-970-1193;  
Email: [peter.milano-sea@state.ma.us](mailto:peter.milano-sea@state.ma.us)**

**REGIONAL**

**The Middlesex 3 Coalition** is a regional partnership of nine Middlesex County Communities, Bedford, Billerica, Burlington, Chelmsford, Lexington, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough and Westford with the support of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

The coalition communities share a common goal of fostering economic development, job growth and retention, diversification of the tax base and enhancement of quality of life. Members include stakeholders in local government, business, finance, education and development who have combined resources to promote the competitive advantages of the region and advance the economic vitality of the corridor. **More information at [www.middlesex3.com](http://www.middlesex3.com). Contact: Stephanie Cronin, Executive Director, (978) 808-5281 or [info@Middlesex3.com](mailto:info@Middlesex3.com).**



**The Middlesex Coalition is available to help businesses by:**

- Providing assistance with infrastructure and transportation projects
- Facilitating employment and workforce resources including grants and training programs
- Serving as a direct line to legislators
- Providing an introduction to business, municipal and financial contacts



**LOCAL**

The **Bedford Chamber of Commerce** is a professionally managed non-governmental business association dedicated to providing its membership with effective business tools and resources that help businesses become more profitable, visible and community-oriented. It forms public policy on issues affecting the quality of life in our region, and actively seeks to improve the business climate on a statewide and national level through effective advocacy for its business membership. **Contact: Maureen Sullivan, Executive Director  
Office: 781-275-8503, Email: [bcoc@bedfordchamber.org](mailto:bcoc@bedfordchamber.org)**



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## BEDFORD INDUSTRIES

With 31 life sciences companies, Bedford was named a **mini biotech hub** within Greater Boston by the Boston Business Journal. Bedford hosts many world class life sciences companies such as EMD Millipore, Anika Therapeutics, Instrumentation Labs, Ocular Therapeutix, Thermo Fisher Scientific, among many others. Growth sectors include:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Biotechnology
- Clean Technology
- Cloud Computing
- Cyber Security
- Healthcare
- Hospitality and Food Service
- Information Technology and Software
- Medical Devices
- Retail
- Robotics



## BEDFORD BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Bedford has a four primary business districts that are well-suited to a variety of companies and small businesses. The **Crosby Drive Business District** located directly off U.S. Route 3 include primarily high class office and research and development space for companies such as iRobot,

Progress Software, Oracle, FujiFilm, Joule Unlimited, Aspen Technology, Multiplan, Entegris, Interactive Data, and GSI Group. Crosby Drive is adjacent to Burlington, and the retail centers of Bedford Center and Burlington Mall are within a quick drive.

**Wiggins Avenue Business District** hosts many world-class life sciences companies including Anika Therapeutics, EMD Millipore, Toxikon, Thermo Fisher Scientific, among many others. The Rev Commuter Shuttle brings employees from Alewife in Cambridge to business parks on Wiggins Avenue.



### Business Success Story: Aspen Technology

*"When we began our site search for a new Corporate Headquarters location, Bedford officials were extremely welcoming and receptive to talking with us. Once the decision was made, the Town became a key partner*

*working closely with us, from permitting through construction, to ensure that our occupancy dates were met. In recognition of our new campus headquarters and investment in Bedford, AspenTech recently won a 2015 Gold award from the Massachusetts Economic Development Alliance. We consider the project a great success, and we could not have had a better partner than the Town of Bedford."* -CFO, Karl Johnsen

With affordable flex space and great walkability, the **Bedford Depot Park** District hosts a number of start-ups, retail stores, personal services, and artist studios. From here, company employees have easy access to the popular Minuteman Bikepath and shops and restaurants in Bedford Center and the MBTA bus.

Charming and historic, Bedford's **Great Road** has mixed use retail, office and housing developments in walkable centers. Restaurants and shops thrive in these locations because of their high visibility and historic New England charm.

## COMMUTING TO BEDFORD

Bedford has **excellent access** to public and private transportation. Located next to Route 128/Interstate-95 and US Route 3, Bedford is very accessible to commuters from around Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It is within a 30-minute drive of Logan International Airport, and home to **Hanscom Field**, the largest general aviation and corporate aviation service provider in Massachusetts. Direct **MBTA** bus service is available (Routes 62, 76, and 351) from Alewife T Station in Cambridge to Bedford. LRTA bus service (Route 14) is also provided from Lowell to Bedford. Business parks benefit from two commuter shuttles serving corporate business parks in Bedford including the **Rev Commuter Shuttle** and **Middlesex 3 Coalition shuttle** with direct shuttle service from Alewife station in Cambridge. Bedford also has a notable number of bike commuters using the **Minuteman Bikeway** and the interconnected trail network in Bedford.



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## HOUSING

Bedford and its surrounding communities have many affordably priced rental and ownership opportunities for young workers, singles, and families. Twenty-five percent of Bedford's housing consists of condominiums and apartments. Apartment complexes in Bedford include:

**Avalon at Bedford Center**  
 200 Avalon Drive, Bedford, MA  
 866-680-5834

**Village at Taylor Pond**  
 3000 Taylor Pond Lane, Bedford, MA  
 888-468-5971

**Heritage at Bedford Springs**  
 100 Thompson Farm, Bedford, MA  
 866-797-5074

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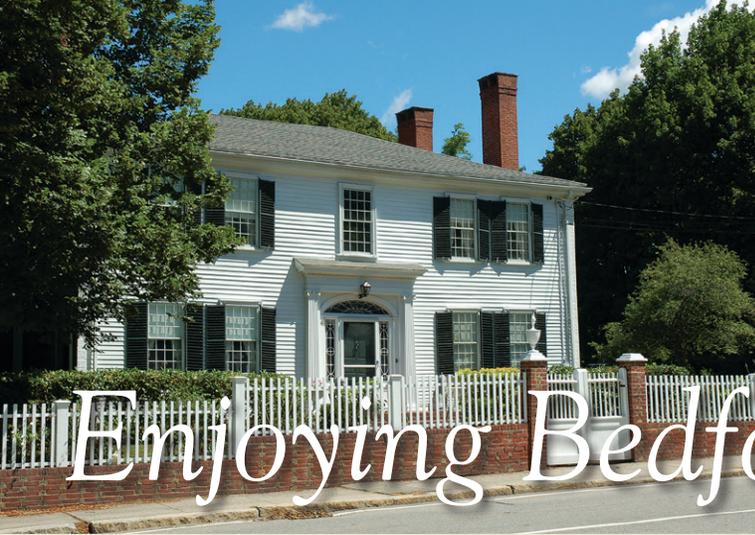
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# Enjoying Bedford

## DINING AND SHOPPING

Many of Bedford's retail stores and restaurants are located on Great Road in the vicinity of Bedford's Historic District. Bedford's Historic Center combines the bustling activity of its many shops and restaurants with stately historic homes that link Bedford to its colonial past. **The Bedford Marketplace** is undergoing a major redevelopment with new



retail and restaurant space and is home to one of the region's largest Whole Foods Grocery Stores. New buildings, façade and streetscape improvements as well as bicycle and pedestrian amenities will transform the shopping center into an attractive new commercial space in the heart of Bedford Center.

Bedford hosts a broad range of restaurants including bakeries and cafes, casual lunch and after work spots, ethnic restaurants, and fine dining. Begun in 1880 as a dairy with home mik delivery, **Bedford Farms Ice**

**Cream** is one of Bedford's oldest running businesses and recently named by the *Boston Globe* as a "top local ice cream stand." To see a complete list of restaurants in Bedford, check out Bedford's dining guide at [www.bedfordma.gov/sites/bedfordma/files/file/file/bedford\\_restaurant\\_guide.pdf](http://www.bedfordma.gov/sites/bedfordma/files/file/file/bedford_restaurant_guide.pdf)

## ARTS AND CULTURE

Bedford offers an abundance of arts and cultural options — from community events, to historic amenities, movies, concerts, and more — there's always something to do in Bedford. Some of Bedford's offerings include:

**Bedford Recreation Department** offers a wide variety of visual and performing arts classes and workshops for both children and adults.



**Bedford Center for the Arts** brings the arts into the Bedford community through classes, workshops, presentations, lectures, exhibits and projects.



**The Bedford Arts & Crafts Society** nurtures appreciation of fine arts and welcomes the community to participate in creating original art and crafts and hosts local artist exhibitions.

**Bedford Free Public Library** accommodates collections for patrons of all ages. As part of the Minuteman Library Network, it offers internet access and other online services. Attend book sales, art exhibits, movie nights, lecture series, and more.

**Bedford Flag:** The Bedford Flag is the oldest complete flag known to exist in the United States. It is celebrated as the flag carried by Bedford Minuteman, Nathaniel Page, during the famous battle at Concord Bridge in 1775 at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. The Bedford Flag is on display to the public at the Bedford Free Public Library.

**Bedford Historic Homes & Sites:** Explore Bedford's history at historic homes and sites, including Huckins Farm, Job Lane



House, Two Brothers Rocks, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Fitch Tavern, and the John Wilson Corne Mill. Additionally, Bedford's **Historical Society** offers tours, lectures, and access to archival resources.

**Middlesex Community College** hosts author readings, live music, and movies year round often free of charge for the general public.

**Cultural Events**

Attracting visitors from around the region as well as residents, several festivals and food events are very popular in Bedford.

- Bedford Day (September)
- Apple Festival (September)
- Flavors of Bedford (November)
- Holiday Tree Lighting (December)
- Liberty Pole Capping (April)
- Multicultural Festival (April)
- Plant and Craft Fair (May)
- Strawberry Festival (June)
- Outdoor Summer Concert Series (July/August)



**PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS**

Bedford is a family-friendly town with a wonderful outdoor and indoor recreation. Bedford's Public Works Department takes care to maintain its great variety of open spaces with 27 miles of walking trails and bikeways, as well as 17 athletic fields, playgrounds, and parks for recreation. Maintained and operated by the Town of Bedford, **Springs Brook Park**, with its swimming, picnic areas, and walking trails, attracts families from around the region during the summer months. The privately-operated **Edge Sports Center** is also a major resource, offering two hockey rinks, two outdoor athletic fields, athletic training center and a health club. **Summit Fitness** and **Atlantis Sports Club** in Bedford offer private gym facilities, personal training, and adult fitness classes.



The popular **Wilson Mill Dam** features a restored dam, waterway and historic mill site as well as trails.

**Fawn Lake** is a beautiful 12-acre lake with hiking trails, which is rich in history and wildlife viewing opportunities.

A true gem within the greater historical region of Bedford, Lexington, and Concord, the **Bedford Depot Park** offers a visitors center, free parking, a welcome center and railroad history museum inside a restored Boston & Maine Budd Rail Diesel car. Three major trails converge at

Bedford Depot Park including the 10-mile Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, the 4-mile Reformatory Branch Trail, and the 3-mile Narrow-Gauge Rail-Trail. Bedford Depot Park is a popular spot from which bicycle enthusiasts, walkers, and runners begin (and end) their journeys.



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# Learning in Bedford

The **Bedford Public Schools** are highly rated within the Commonwealth for their excellent standards of teaching and wide offerings in extracurricular activities and athletic organizations. With prudent school management, families pay few to no fees for sports and other enrichment activities.

Bedford's Recreation Department offers sports and recreational programming for every age, from toddlers to seniors. Managed by the Recreation Department, the **Kids' Club** provides before and after school care for children grades K-5. It is open all year, including school vacation weeks. **More information at: (781) 275-5427 or [www.bedfordma.gov/kids-club](http://www.bedfordma.gov/kids-club).** Summer adventure programs for children and youth are offered through the Recreation Department as well as the popular "College for Kids" summer program through Middlesex Community College.

**Shawsheen Valley Technical High School** Shawsheen Technical High School serves Bedford and the surrounding towns of Billerica, Burlington, Tewksbury and Wilmington. The school offers a variety of programs designed to meet the interests of the students. Technical and academic training are offered on an alternate-week basis. **100 Cook St, Billerica (978) 667-2111**

### Higher Education

World-class institutions are close by in the greater Boston area, including Harvard, MIT, Tufts, Boston University, Boston College, Wellesley, Brandeis, Bentley, Northeastern, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

### Middlesex Community College

Located in the heart of Bedford, Middlesex Community College (MCC) is a public community college with its main campus located in Bedford. MCC offers 57 associate degree programs and 25 certificate programs, as well as many short-term, highly focused concentrations in selected career fields. Middlesex Community College's Business & Industry Programs provides customized, cost-effective, corporate education and training programs customized to the needs of today's companies. For more information, contact: **Judy Burke, Dean, Corporate and Community Education & Training, Middlesex Community College (978) 656-3143, [burkej@middlesex.mass.edu](mailto:burkej@middlesex.mass.edu)**



### University of Massachusetts Lowell

The University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML), with an enrollment of 9,800 undergraduate students, 4,100 graduate students, and 3,000 Continuing Education students, is a fully accredited, 4-year public university that offers 33 doctoral, 39 master's and 120 bachelor's degree programs in science, engineering, health, humanities, social sciences, fine arts, education and business. Internationally recognized for excellence in

science and engineering, UML is a leader in nanotechnology, nanomanufacturing, biomanufacturing, bioinformatics and advanced materials. **[www.uml.edu](http://www.uml.edu). For more information contact Gregory Denon, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, University of Massachusetts Lowell, (978) 934-2418, [Gregory\\_Denon@uml.edu](mailto:Gregory_Denon@uml.edu).**

### Nursery Schools & Day Care Centers

Private day care providers and nursery schools in Bedford provide resources to support many working families. A list of these programs can be found through Mass211 Child Care at: **[www.mass211.org/childcare.html](http://www.mass211.org/childcare.html). Bedford Youth and Family Services is another source of information: [www.bedfordma.gov/youth-family](http://www.bedfordma.gov/youth-family).**

## HEALTHCARE

### Lahey Hospital and Medical Center

in nearby Burlington is a physician-led hospital serving 3,000 patients a day. From advanced technology to research and medical education, Lahey Hospital combines the renowned specialty resources of its medical center with top-quality primary care services.

### Emerson Hospital

Founded in 1911, Emerson Hospital is a full-service, regional medical center headquartered in historic Concord, Massachusetts. Emerson Hospital provides advanced medical services to more than 300,000 people in 25 towns.



## healthy communities

combine physical environment, educational resources, employment, housing, infrastructure, and social and environmental stewardship. We are passionate about our municipal work improving mobility, enhancing communities, and contributing to economic vitality.





# A TIMELINE OF BEDFORD HISTORY

- 12,000 – 400 BP Native Americans visit the area to camp and hunt. They leave behind stone tools and spear points, and establish trails that can still be traced.
- c.1642 The Shawshin Trading Post is set up along the Shawsheen River to trade for furs with Native Americans - probably the Pawtucket Nation .
- 1671 Michael Bacon builds his house, now the oldest house in Bedford.
- c.1710 The Bedford Flag, the oldest existing flag in the US, is made for a Massachusetts Bay Militia cavalry troop. (see it at the Public Library!)
- 1729 Incorporation of Bedford from south Billerica and east Concord. Meeting House built. Population of Bedford is about 45 families.
- 1775 Seventy-seven Bedford militia and minutemen march from Bedford to Concord to take part in the Battle of Concord at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.
- 1812 Shoe industry begins, which prospers in Bedford for 40 years.
- 1867 Dr. William Richardson Hayden opens the Bedford Springs Hotel. Fawn Lake is dug deeper and enlarged.
- 1873 The Middlesex Central Railroad reaches Bedford.
- 1877 The first narrow gauge railroad in the US is built between Bedford and Billerica, but operates for less than a year.
- 1900 Electric streetcars reach Bedford from Arlington, Concord, Billerica.
- 1928 Edith Nourse Rogers Veterans Memorial Hospital opens.
- 1935 Population of Bedford is about 3,200. Farming is the main industry. There are still more pigs than people.
- 1942 Hanscom Air Force base opens.
- 1950's and 60's Route 128, the "Technology Corridor," brings high tech industry to Bedford.
- 1957 Population of Bedford is about 7,000; double that of 20 years ago.
- 1959 The Bedford Shopping Center (now Bedford Market place), first shopping center in Bedford, opens on the Great Road.
- 1977 Train service to Bedford ends.
- 1983 The Job Lane House, Bedford's colonial museum, opens to the public.
- 1993 The popular Minuteman Bikeway opens on the old railway line.
- 2004 Happy Birthday to Bedford – 275 years old!
- 2009 The Freight House and Budd Rail Diesel Car 6211 and Visitors Center open to the public at Depot Park

## Key Town of Bedford Contacts:

Economic Development Office  
 Economic Development Coordinator • Alyssa Sandoval  
 781-275-1111  
 asandoval@bedfordma.gov

**Town Manager**  
 10 Mudge Way  
 781-275-1111

**Planning**  
 10 Mudge Way  
 781-275-1548

**Youth and Family Services**  
 12 Mudge Way  
 781-275-7727

**Code Enforcement**  
 10 Mudge Way  
 781-275-7446

**Public Works**  
 314 Great Road  
 Utility info: 781-275-7605  
 After hours & emergency:  
 781-275-1212

**Board of Health**  
 12 Mudge Way  
 781-275-6507

**Fire**  
 55 Great Road  
 781-275-5266 (non-emergency)

**Police**  
 2 Mudge Way  
 781-275-1212 (non-emergency)

**Recreation**  
 12 Mudge Way  
 781-275-1392