**Yonkers New York**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the city in the state of New York. For other uses, see* [*Yonkers (disambiguation)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_(disambiguation))*.*

[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [40°56′29″N 73°51′52″W﻿ / ﻿40.94139°N 73.86444°W﻿ / 40.94139; -73.86444](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Yonkers%2C_New_York&params=40_56_29_N_73_51_52_W_)



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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Yonkers, New York** | | | [**City**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_(New_York)) | | | View of Yonkers from the [New Jersey Palisades](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Jersey_Palisades) | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Flag** | **Seal** | | | | Nickname(s): The Central City, The City of Gracious Living, The City of Hills, The City with Vision, The [Sixth Borough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixth_Borough), The Terrace City | | | Location in Westchester County and the State of [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) | | | Coordinates: [40°56′29″N 73°51′52″W﻿ / ﻿40.94139°N 73.86444°W﻿ / 40.94139; -73.86444](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Yonkers%2C_New_York&params=40_56_29_N_73_51_52_W_type:city(200667)_region:US-NY) | | | [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | | [**State**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_state) | [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) | | [**County**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_New_York) | [Westchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westchester_County,_New_York) | | **Founded** | 1646 (village) | | [**Incorporated**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_corporation) | 1872 (city) | | **Government** | | | **• Type** | [Mayor-Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor-council_government) | | **• Body** | [Yonkers City Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_City_Council) | | **•** [**Mayor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor_of_Yonkers,_New_York) | [Mike Spano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Spano) ([D](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Democratic_Party)) | | **Area** | | | **• Total** | 20.3 sq mi (52.6 km2) | | **• Land** | 18.1 sq mi (46.8 km2) | | **• Water** | 2.2 sq mi (5.8 km2) | | **Elevation** | 82 ft (25 m) | | **Population** (2014) | | | **• Total** | 200,667 | | **• Density** | 11,142/sq mi (4,302/km2) | | [**Demonym(s)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Yonkersonian Yonkersite | | [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [EST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Time_Zone) ([UTC-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)) | | **• Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** | [EDT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Daylight_Time) ([UTC-4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)) | | [**ZIP codes**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ZIP_code) | 10701, 10702 (post office), 10703, 10704, 10705, 10707 (shared with [Tuckahoe, NY](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuckahoe,_NY)), 10708 (shared with [Bronxville, NY](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronxville,_NY)) 10710 | | [**Area code(s)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | [914](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_code_914) | | [**FIPS code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Information_Processing_Standard) | 36-84000 | | [**GNIS**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_Names_Information_System) **feature ID** | 0971828 | | **Website** | [www.yonkersny.gov](http://www.yonkersny.gov/) | |

**Yonkers** ([US](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_English) [/ˈjɑːŋkərz/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English)) is the fourth most populous [city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_(New_York)) in the [U.S. state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) of [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) (behind [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), [Buffalo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo,_New_York), and [Rochester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_New_York)), and the most populous city in [Westchester County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westchester_County,_New_York), with a population of 195,976 (according to the 2010 Census). An [inner suburb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_suburb) of New York City, Yonkers directly borders [the Bronx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bronx) and is located two miles (3 km) north of [Manhattan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan) at the municipalities' closest points.

Yonkers's downtown is centered on a plaza known as [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square), where the municipal government is located. The area also houses significant local businesses and non-profits, and serves as a major retail hub for Yonkers and the northwest Bronx.

The city is home to several attractions, including the [Hudson River Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River_Museum); [Saw Mill River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saw_Mill_River) [Daylighting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylighting_(streams)), wherein a parking lot was removed to uncover a river; [Science Barge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_Barge); [Sherwood House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherwood_House); and [Yonkers Raceway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_Raceway), a [harness racing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harness_racing) track that has renovated its grounds and clubhouse and added legalized [video slot machine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_slot_machine) [gambling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gambling) in 2006 in a "[racino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racino)" called Empire City.

Major shopping areas can be found in [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square), on South Broadway, at the [Cross County Shopping Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_County_Shopping_Center) and [Westchester's Ridge Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westchester%27s_Ridge_Hill), and along [Central Park Avenue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Route_100), informally called "Central Ave" by area residents, a name it takes officially a few miles north in [White Plains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Plains,_New_York).

**History**

**Early years**



[Philipse Manor Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philipse_Manor_Hall)

The land on which the city is built was once part of a 24,000-acre (97-square-kilometer) land grant called [Colen Donck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colen_Donck) that ran from the current Manhattan-Bronx border at [Marble Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble_Hill,_Manhattan,_New_York) northwards for 12 miles (19 km), and from the [Hudson River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River) eastwards to the [Bronx River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronx_River). This grant was purchased in July 1645 by [Adriaen van der Donck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adriaen_van_der_Donck), the first [lawyer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawyer) in New York City. Van der Donck was known locally as the [*Jonkheer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonkheer) or *Jonker* (etymologically, "young gentleman," derivation of old Dutch *jong* (*young*) and *heer* ("lord"); in effect, "[Esquire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esquire)"), a word from which the name "Yonkers" is directly derived. Van der Donck built a [saw mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawmill) near where the Nepperhan Creek met the Hudson; the Nepperhan is now also known as the [Saw Mill River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saw_Mill_River). Van der Donck was killed in the [Peach War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peach_War). His wife, Mary Doughty, was taken captive and ransomed later.

Near the site of van der Donck's mill is [Philipse Manor Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philipse_Manor_Hall), a Colonial-era manor house which today serves as a museum and archive, offering many glimpses into life before the American Revolution. The original structure (later enlarged) was built around 1682 by [Frederick Philipse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Philipse) and his wife Margaret Hardenbroeck. Frederick was a wealthy Dutchman who by the time of his death had amassed an enormous estate, which encompassed the entire modern City of Yonkers, as well as several other Hudson River towns. Philipse's great-grandson, Frederick Philipse III, was a prominent [Loyalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loyalist_(American_Revolution)) during the [American Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolution), who, because of his political leanings, was forced to flee to England. All the lands that belonged to the Philipse family were confiscated and sold.

**19th century**

For its first two hundred years, Yonkers was a small farming town with an active industrial waterfront. Yonkers's later growth rested largely on developing industry. In 1853, [Elisha Otis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisha_Otis) invented the first safety elevator and the [Otis Elevator Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otis_Elevator_Company), opened the first elevator factory in the world on the banks of the Hudson near what is now Vark Street. It relocated to larger quarters (now the Yonkers Public Library) in the 1880s. Around the same time, the [Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Smith_Carpet_Mills_Historic_District) (in the Saw Mill River Valley) expanded to 45 buildings, 800 looms, and over 4,000 workers and was known as one of the premier carpet producing centers in the world.

The community was incorporated as a village in the northern part of the Town of Yonkers in 1854 and as a city in 1872. In 1874 the southern part of Yonkers, including [Kingsbridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingsbridge,_Bronx) and [Riverdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverdale,_Bronx), was annexed by New York City as [The Bronx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bronx). In 1898, Yonkers (along with [Brooklyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn), [Queens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens), and [Staten Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staten_Island)) voted on a referendum to determine if they wanted to become part of [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City). While the results were positive elsewhere, the returns were so negative in Yonkers and neighboring [Mount Vernon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Vernon,_New_York) that those two areas were not included in the consolidated city, and remained independent. Still, some residents call the city "the [Sixth Borough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixth_Borough)" referring to its location on the New York City border, its urban character and the failed merger vote.

The [New York City and Northern Railway Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_Putnam_Railroad) (later the [New York Central Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Central_Railroad)) connected Yonkers to Manhattan and points north from 1888. A three-mile spur to Getty Square existed until 1943.

Aside from being a manufacturing center, Yonkers also played a key role in the development of entertainment in the United States. In 1888, Scottish-born John Reid founded the first [golf course](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golf_course) in the United States, St. Andrew's Golf Club, in Yonkers.

**20th century**

[Bakelite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakelite), the first completely synthetic plastic, was invented in Yonkers circa 1906 by Leo Baekeland, and manufactured there until the late 1920s. Today, two of the former [Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Smith_Carpet_Mills_Historic_District) loft buildings located at 540 and 578 Nepperhan Avenue have been repurposed to house the [YoHo Artist Community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YoHo_Artist_Community), a collective group of talented artists that works out of private studios there.

Early in the 20th century, Yonkers also hosted a [brass era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brass_era) [automobile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automobile) maker, [Colt Runabout Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colt_Runabout_Company); despite the car's seemingly glowing performance, the company went under. Yonkers was also the headquarters of the Waring Hat Company, at the time the nation's largest hat manufacturer. [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) saw the city's factories manufacture such items as tents and blankets in the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Factory and tanks in the Otis Elevator factory. After [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), however, with increased competition from less expensive imports, Yonkers lost much of its manufacturing activity. The Alexander Smith Carpet Company, one of the city's largest employers, ceased operation during a labor dispute in June 1954. In 1983, the Otis Elevator Factory finally closed its doors. With the loss of jobs in the city itself, Yonkers became primarily a residential city, and some neighborhoods, such as [Crestwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crestwood,_Yonkers,_New_York) and [Park Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Park_Hill,_Yonkers), became popular with wealthy New Yorkers who wished to live outside Manhattan without giving up urban conveniences. Yonkers's excellent transportation infrastructure, including three commuter railroad lines (now two: the [Harlem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem_Line) and [Hudson Lines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_Line_(Metro-North))) and five parkways and thruways, as well as its 15-minute drive from Manhattan and picturesque prewar homes and apartment buildings, made it a desirable city in which to live. Yonkers's manufacturing sector has also shown a recent resurgence.

On January 4, 1940, Yonkers resident [Edwin Howard Armstrong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Howard_Armstrong) transmitted the first [FM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FM_broadcasting) radio broadcast (on station [W2XCR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W2XCR)) from the Yonkers home of C.R. Runyon, a co-experimenter. Yonkers also had the longest running [pirate radio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_radio) station, owned by [Allan Weiner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Weiner) during the 1970s through the 1980s.

In 1942, a short subway connection was planned between Getty Square and the [IRT Broadway – Seventh Avenue Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IRT_Broadway_%E2%80%93_Seventh_Avenue_Line), which terminates in Riverdale at [242nd Street](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/242nd_Street_(IRT_Broadway_%E2%80%93_Seventh_Avenue_Line)) just slightly south of the city line, but the plan was dropped.

In 1960, the Census Bureau reported Yonkers's population as 95.8% white and 4.0% black. The city's struggles with racial discrimination and segregation were highlighted in a decades-long federal lawsuit. After a 1985 decision and an unsuccessful appeal, Yonkers's schools were integrated in 1988. The federal judge, [Leonard B. Sand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_B._Sand) ruled that Yonkers had engaged in institutional segregation in housing and school policies for over 40 years and tied the illegal concentration of public housing and private housing discrimination to the city's resistance to ending racial isolation in its public schools.



[Yonkers Public Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_Public_Library)

In the 1980s and 1990s, Yonkers developed a national reputation for racial tension, based on a long-term battle between the City of Yonkers and the [NAACP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NAACP) over the building of subsidized low-income housing projects. The City planned to use federal funding for [urban renewal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_renewal) efforts within Downtown Yonkers exclusively; other groups, led by the NAACP, felt that the resulting concentration of low-income housing in traditionally poor neighborhoods perpetuated poverty. Yonkers gained national/international attention during the summer of 1988, when it reneged on its previous agreement to build promised municipal public housing in the eastern portions of the city, an agreement it had made in a consent decree after losing an appeal in 1987. After this reversal, the city was found in contempt of the federal courts, and [United States district court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_district_court) Judge Leonard Sand imposed a fine on Yonkers which started at $1 and doubled every day until the City capitulated to the federally mandated plan. Yonkers remained in contempt of the courts until September 9, 1988, when the City Council relented in the wake of library closures and sanitation cutbacks and while looking at massive city layoffs, which would have been required to continue its resistance to desegregation. First-term mayor [Nicholas C. Wasicsko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Wasicsko) fought to save the city from financial disaster and bring about unity. Yonkers's youngest mayor (elected at age 28), Wasicsko was a lonely figure in city politics, which was scarred with the stigma of the "[Balkanization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkanization) of Yonkers". He succeeded in helping to end the city's contempt of the courts, but was voted out of office as a result.

A [Kawasaki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kawasaki_Heavy_Industries_Rolling_Stock_Company) railroad cars assembly plant opened in 1986 in the former Otis plant, producing the new [R142A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R142A_(New_York_City_Subway_car)), [R143](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R143_(New_York_City_Subway_car)), [R160B](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R160B_(New_York_City_Subway_car)), and [R188](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R188_(New_York_City_Subway_car)) cars for the [New York City Subway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Subway), and the PA4 and PA5 series for [PATH](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Authority_Trans-Hudson).

**Ethnic communities**



Dignitaries at the 2005 Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade

The Irish-American community is prominent in Yonkers, and the city hosts one of the nation's oldest [St. Patrick's Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Patrick%27s_Day) parades. There is also home to a large [Italian-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian-American) community, and the city hosts a large [Columbus Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbus_Day) festival with a *Miss Italian-American* pageant. Yonkers also has a significant [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_people) population.

Another large community is the [Slavic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavic_peoples) community. In the early and mid-20th century a large number of people emigrated from [Poland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland), [Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine), [Czechoslovakia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechoslovakia), [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia), and [Croatia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia). Recently a large number of immigrants from the former [Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yugoslavia) have called Yonkers home. The Slavic community is centered around St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church, Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, and St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church. Yonkers still has a large Slavic community. The city also has a "stanytsia" (branch) of [Plast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plast). Yonkers also has a large [Arab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_American) population, coinciding with the high percentage of Arabic speakers in Yonkers. Most of these Arabs come from [the Levant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Levant) region, mainly from of [Jordan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan), [Palestine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_(region)), and [Lebanon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon), and are of the Christian faith. The Arabic community specifically Jordanian currently has three churches in the city, Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, and Christ the Savior Melkite Church. The community settled in Yonkers in the late 1940s and has since continued a steady growth.

There also once was a significant [Jewish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish) population (the [Broadway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadway_theatre) plays [*Lost in Yonkers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_in_Yonkers) and [*Hello Dolly*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hello,_Dolly!_(musical)) take place within the Yonkers Jewish community). However, it has dwindled.

**21st century**

In the 2000s, some areas bordering similar neighborhoods in [Riverdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverdale,_Bronx) began seeing an influx of [Orthodox Jews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Jew). Subsequently, Riverdale [Hatzalah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatzalah) Volunteer Ambulance Service began serving some neighborhoods in the southwest section of the city. There is also a small Jewish cemetery, the Sherwood Park Cemetery.

**Geography**



High-rise apartments along the Hudson River in Northwest Yonkers

The city is spread out over hills rising from near sea level at the eastern bank of the [Hudson River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River) to 416 feet (126 m) at Sacred Heart Church, whose spire can be seen from [Long Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Island), [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), and [New Jersey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Jersey).

The city occupies 20.3 square miles (52.6 km²), including 18.1 square miles (46.8 km²) of land and 2.2 square miles (5.8 km²) (11.02%) of water, according to the [United States Census Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau). The [Bronx River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronx_River) separates Yonkers from [Mount Vernon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Vernon,_New_York), [Tuckahoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuckahoe_(village),_New_York), [Eastchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastchester,_New_York), [Bronxville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronxville), and [Scarsdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scarsdale) to the east. The town of [Greenburgh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenburgh,_New_York) is to the north, and on the western border is the [Hudson River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River).

On the south, Yonkers borders the [Riverdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverdale,_Bronx), [Woodlawn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodlawn,_Bronx), and [Wakefield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakefield,_Bronx) sections of [The Bronx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bronx). In addition, the southernmost point of Yonkers is only 2 miles (3 kilometers) north of the northernmost point of [Manhattan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan) when measured from Broadway & Caryl Avenue in Yonkers to Broadway & West 228th Street in the [Marble Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble_Hill,_Manhattan) section of Manhattan.

Much of the city grew up around the [Saw Mill River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saw_Mill_River), which enters Yonkers from the north and feeds into the [Hudson River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River) in the [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square) neighborhood. Portions of the [Saw Mill River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saw_Mill_River) that were buried in flumes beneath parking lots are being uncovered, or ["daylighted"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylighting_(streams)).

The [gentilic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentilic) for residents is alternately Yonkersonian or Yonkersite.

**Climate**

Yonkers has cold [winters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winter) and hot summers. Temperature ranges average lows of 27 degrees F in January, and average highs of 84 degrees F in July.

**Demographics**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Historical population** | | | |
| **Census** | **Pop.** |  | **%±** |
| [**1860**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1860_United_States_Census) | 8,218 |  | — |
| [**1870**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1870_United_States_Census) | 12,733 |  | 54.9% |
| [**1880**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880_United_States_Census) | 18,892 |  | 48.4% |
| [**1890**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1890_United_States_Census) | 32,033 |  | 69.6% |
| [**1900**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900_United_States_Census) | 47,931 |  | 49.6% |
| [**1910**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910_United_States_Census) | 79,803 |  | 66.5% |
| [**1920**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1920_United_States_Census) | 100,176 |  | 25.5% |
| [**1930**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1930_United_States_Census) | 134,646 |  | 34.4% |
| [**1940**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1940_United_States_Census) | 142,598 |  | 5.9% |
| [**1950**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1950_United_States_Census) | 152,798 |  | 7.2% |
| [**1960**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960_United_States_Census) | 190,634 |  | 24.8% |
| [**1970**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_United_States_Census) | 204,297 |  | 7.2% |
| [**1980**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_United_States_Census) | 195,351 |  | −4.4% |
| [**1990**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_United_States_Census) | 188,082 |  | −3.7% |
| [**2000**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_Census) | 196,086 |  | 4.3% |
| [**2010**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census) | 195,976 |  | −0.1% |
| **Est. 2014** | 200,667 |  | 2.4% |
| Historical sources: 1790-1990 [U.S. Decennial Census](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/) | | | |

| **Demographic profile** | **2010** | **1990** | **1970** | **1950** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_American) | 55.8% | 76.2% | 92.9% | 96.7% |
| —[Non-Hispanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Hispanic_whites) | 41.4% | 67.1% | 89.9% | N/A |
| [Black or African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) | 18.7% | 14.1% | 6.4% | 3.2% |
| [Hispanic or Latino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (of any race) | 34.7% | 16.7% | 3.5% | N/A |
| [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American) | 5.9% | 3.0% | 0.4% | — |

As of the [census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Census) of 2010, there were 195,976 people in the city. The [population density](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_density) was 10,827.4 people per square mile (4,187.5/km²). There were 80,839 housing units at an average density of 4,466.2 per square mile (1,727.3/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 55.8% [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_(U.S._Census)), 18.7% [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American_(U.S._Census)), 0.7% [Native American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_(U.S._Census)), 5.9% [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_(U.S._Census)), 0.1% [Pacific Islander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islander_(U.S._Census)), 14.7% from [other races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(U.S._Census)), and 4.1% from two or more races. 34.7% of the population were [Hispanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_(U.S._Census)) or [Latino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latino_(U.S._Census)) of any racial background. [Non-Hispanic Whites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Hispanic_Whites) were 41.4% of the population in 2010, down from 89.9% in 1970.

According to the 2000 Census, 19.9% were of [Italian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_people) and 11.6% [Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_people) descent. 61.3% spoke only [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) at home; 22.7% spoke [Spanish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language), 3.9% [Italian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_language), 5% [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) and 1.3% [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language) at home.

There were 74,351 households out of which 30.9% have children under the age of 18 living with them in 2000, 44.2% are [married couples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage) living together, 17.2% have a female householder with no husband present, and 33.7% are non-families. 29.2% of all households are made up of individuals and 11.9% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size is 2.61 and the average family size is 3.23.

In 2000, the city the population is spread out with 24.3% under the age of 18, 8.8% from 18 to 25, 30.6% from 25 to 45, 21.2% from 45 to 65, and 15.0% who are 65 years of age or older. The median age is 36 years. For every 100 females there are 88.6 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there are 84.2 males.

The median income for a household in the city was $44,663 in 2000, and the median income for a family is $53,233. Males have a median income of $41,598 versus $34,756 for females. The [per capita income](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Per_capita_income) for the city is $22,793. 15.5% of the population and 13.0% of families are below the [poverty line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_line). Out of the total population, 24.8% of those under the age of 18 and 9.9% of those 65 and older are living below the poverty line.

**Neighborhoods**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | This section **needs additional citations for** [**verification**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability). Please help [improve this article](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Yonkers,_New_York&action=edit) by [adding citations to reliable sources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Introduction_to_referencing_with_Wiki_Markup/1). Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(February 2014)* |

Though Yonkers contains many small residential enclaves and communities, it can conveniently be divided into four quarters, demarcated by the Saw Mill River. There are 37 or more distinct neighborhoods, though many of these names are rarely used today except by older residents and real-estate brokers.

**Northeast Yonkers**

Northeast Yonkers is a primarily [Irish-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish-American) and [Italian-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian-American) area. Though suburban, it more closely resembles parts of [the Bronx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bronx) than the town of [Greenburgh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenburgh,_New_York) to the north. House sizes vary widely, from small houses set close together, to larger homes in areas like Lawrence Park West, and mid-rise apartment buildings along Central Avenue ([NY 100](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NY_100)). Tuckahoe Road, which intersects Central Avenue, contains many large retail stores as well. Notable former residents include [Steven Tyler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Tyler) (born Steven Tallarico) of the rock band [Aerosmith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerosmith), whose childhood home was just off Central Avenue on Pembrook Drive. Northeastern Yonkers contains the desirable [Crestwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crestwood,_Yonkers,_New_York), Colonial Heights, Cedar Knolls, and Beech Hill sections of the city, as well as several other wealthy enclaves such as Lawrence Park West and the [gated community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gated_community) of [Winchester Villages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winchester_Villages). Landmarks include [St Vladimir's Seminary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Vladimir%E2%80%99s_Orthodox_Theological_Seminary), as well as [Sarah Lawrence College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Lawrence_College), and the Tanglewood Shopping Center (one-time home of [The Tanglewood Boys](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Tanglewood_Boys) gang). Northeast Yonkers is somewhat more upscale than the rest of the city, and due to the proximity of several [Metro-North](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metro-North) commuter railroad stations, its residents tend to be employed in corporate positions in [Manhattan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan).



Former industrial buildings along the riverfront slated for replacement



Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church



Riverdale Avenue looking north from the [Bronx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronx) line



Messiah Baptist Church

**Northwest Yonkers**

Northwest Yonkers is a collection of widely varying neighborhoods, spanning from the [Hudson River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River) to around the [New York State Thruway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Thruway)/I-87 and from Ashburton Avenue north to the [Hastings-on-Hudson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hastings-on-Hudson,_New_York) border. With the Hudson River bordering it to the west, this area has many beautiful [Victorian-era homes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_architecture) with panoramic views of [the Palisades](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Jersey_Palisades). An interest in historic preservation has taken hold in this neighborhood in recent years, as demonstrated on streets like Shonnard Terrace, Delavan Terrace and Hudson Terrace. The population of northwestern Yonkers is probably the most ethnically diverse in the city.

Neighborhoods include Nepera Park, [Runyon Heights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runyon_Heights,_Yonkers), Homefield, Glenwood, and Greystone. Landmarks include the [Hudson River Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River_Museum), [Untermyer Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Untermyer_Park) and the Lenoir Nature Preserve. The significant amount of surviving Victorian architecture and 19th century estates in northwest Yonkers has attracted many filmmakers in recent years.

The two block section of Palisade Avenue between Chase and Roberts Avenues in northwest Yonkers is colloquially known as "the north end" or "the end". It was and still is the only retail area in the neighborhood, and was well known for an original soda fountain store, "Urich's," and Robbins Pharmacy. It was once the end of the #2 trolley line, which has since been replaced by a [Bee-line Bus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee-Line_Bus_System) route. One part of Yonkers that is sometimes overlooked is Nepera Park. This is a small section at the northern part of Nepperhan Avenue on the Hastings-on-Hudson border. Nepperhan Avenue in Nepera Park is also a major shopping district for the area.

**Southeast Yonkers**

Southeast Yonkers is mostly Irish-American (many of the Irish being native born) and Italian-American. Many of the businesses and type of architecture in southeast Yonkers bear a greater resemblance to certain parts of [the Bronx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bronx), [Brooklyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn), [Queens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens), or [Staten Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staten_Island) than to points north. This is not surprising as southeastern Yonkers is largely within walking distance of the [Riverdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverdale,_Bronx), [Woodlawn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodlawn,_Bronx,_New_York), and [Wakefield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakefield,_Bronx,_New_York) sections of the Bronx. Many residents regard eastern McLean Avenue, home to a vibrant Irish community shared with the Woodlawn section of the Bronx, to be the true hub of Yonkers.

Similarly, a portion of Midland Avenue in the [Dunwoodie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunwoodie,_Yonkers,_New_York) section has been called the "Little Italy" of Yonkers. Landmarks of southeastern Yonkers include the [Cross County Shopping Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_County_Shopping_Center), Yonkers Raceway, and [St. Joseph's Seminary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Joseph%27s_Seminary,_Dunwoodie) in the Dunwoodie neighborhood, which was visited by [Pope John Paul II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_II) in October 1995 and later by [Pope Benedict XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI) in April 2008.

**Southwest Yonkers**

[Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square), Yonkers's [downtown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown), is the [civic center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civic_center) and [central business district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_business_district) of the city. Much of Southwest Yonkers grew densely along the multiple railroad and trolley (now bus) lines along South Broadway and in [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square), connecting to [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City). Clusters of apartment buildings surrounded the stations of the Yonkers branch of the [New York and Putnam Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_Putnam_Railroad) and the [Third Avenue Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Avenue_Railway) trolley lines, and these buildings still remain although now served by the [Bee-Line Bus System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee-Line_Bus_System); The railroad companies themselves built neighborhoods of mixed housing types ranging from apartment buildings to large mansions in areas like [Park Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Park_Hill,_Yonkers) wherein the railroad also built a [funicular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funicular) to connect it with the train station in the valley. This traditionally African-American and white area has seen a tremendous influx of immigrants from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South Asia, and the Middle East. Off South Broadway and Yonkers Avenue one can find residential neighborhoods, such as Lowerre, Nodine Hill, [Park Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Park_Hill,_Yonkers), and Hudson Park (off the Hudson River) with a mix of building styles ranging from dense clusters of apartment buildings, blocks of retail with apartments above, multifamily [row houses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Row_house), and detached single-family homes.

Other neighborhoods of these types, although with a larger number of detached houses, are Ludlow Park, Hudson Park and Van Cortlandt Crest, off Riverdale Avenue, right over the [Riverdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverdale,_Bronx) border - the former alongside the [Hudson River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River).

The area is also home to significant historical and educational institutions including the historic [Philipse Manor Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philipse_Manor_Hall_State_Historic_Site) (a New York State Historic Site that houses one of three papier mache ceilings in the United States), The [Science Barge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_Barge), [Beczak Environmental Education Center](http://www.beczak.org/), and a 2003 [Yonkers Public Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_Public_Library).

Many residents are of [African](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American), [Caribbean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean), [Italian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_people), or [Mexican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_people) descent while an influx those from other cultural backgrounds has continued to shape a culturally diverse community. Some neighborhoods right on the [Riverdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverdale,_Bronx) border are increasingly becoming home to [Orthodox Jews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Jew). The revitalization of [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square) area has helped to nurture growth for Southwest Yonkers.

In the early 2000s several new luxury apartment buildings were built along the Hudson. There is also a new "Sculpture Meadow on the Hudson," renovation of a Victorian-era pier, and a new public library housed in the remodeled Otis elevator factory. [Peter Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_X._Kelly)'s award-winning fine dining restaurant X20 - Xaviars on Hudson is located at the renovated pier with much success. There are new proposals along with the current projects which are intended to revitalize downtown Yonkers.

**Government**

Yonkers is governed via a mayor-council system. The [Yonkers City Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_City_Council) consists of seven members, six each elected from one of six districts, as well as a Council President to preside over the council. The mayor and city council president are elected in a citywide vote. The current mayor is Democrat [Mike Spano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Spano) and the Council President is [Liam McLaughlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liam_McLaughlin).

Yonkers is typically a Democratic stronghold just like the rest of [Westchester County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westchester_County) and most of [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) state on the national level. In 1992, Yonkers voted for [George H. W. Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_H._W._Bush) over [Bill Clinton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) and [Ross Perot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Perot) for president, but has voted solidly Democratic ever since. At a local level, recent mayors of Yonkers have included Republicans [Phil Amicone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phil_Amicone) and [John Spencer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Spencer_(politician)), while the [Yonkers City Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_City_Council) has mostly been controlled by Republicans. In the State Assembly, Yonkers is represented by Democrats [J. Gary Pretlow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Gary_Pretlow) and [Shelley Mayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelley_Mayer), and in the [New York State Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Senate), by Democrats [Andrea Stewart-Cousins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Stewart-Cousins) and [George Latimer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_S._Latimer). At the federal level, Democratic representative [Eliot Engel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliot_Engel) represents the city.

**Education**

Public schools in Yonkers are operated by [Yonkers Public Schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_Public_Schools).

[Sarah Lawrence College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Lawrence_College), which gives its address as Bronxville/Yonkers, is actually located in Yonkers. [Westchester Community College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westchester_Community_College) operates a number of extension centers in Yonkers, with the largest one at the [Cross County Shopping Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_County_Shopping_Center).

Libraries are operated by the [Yonkers Public Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_Public_Library).

[The Japanese School of New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Japanese_School_of_New_York) was located in Yonkers for one year; on August 18, 1991 the school moved to Yonkers from [Queens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens), [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) and on September 1, 1992 classes began at its current location in [Greenwich, Connecticut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenwich,_Connecticut). St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School at 204 Hawthorne Avenue, founded by the Sisters of Charity, celebrated its 100th anniversary in September 2011

[Academy for Jewish Religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_for_Jewish_Religion_(New_York)), a rabbinical and cantorial school, is located in the [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square_(Yonkers)) neighborhood of Yonkers. [Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Vladimir%27s_Orthodox_Theological_Seminary) is located in Crestwood.

**Transportation**



Yonkers Metro-North train station.

**Mass transit**

Yonkers has the eleventh-highest rate of [public transit ridership](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._cities_with_high_transit_ridership) among cities in the United States, and 27% of Yonkers households do not own a car.

Bus service in Yonkers is provided by Westchester County [Bee-Line Bus System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee-Line_Bus_System), the second-largest bus system in New York State, along with some [MTA Bus Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MTA_Bus_Company) express routes to Manhattan. Yonkers is the top origin and destination for the Bee-Line Bus service area, including Westchester and the northern Bronx, with the [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square) intermodal hub seeing passenger levels in the millions annually.

Yonkers is served by two heavy-rail commuter lines. [Hudson Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_Line_(Metro-North)) [Metro-North Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metro-North_Railroad) stations providing commuter service to New York City: [Ludlow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludlow_train_station), [Yonkers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers,_New_York_train_station), [Glenwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenwood_train_station) and [Greystone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greystone_train_station). The Yonkers station is also served by [Amtrak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amtrak). Several [Harlem Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem_Line) stations are on or very near the city's eastern border. These include [Wakefield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakefield_(Metro-North_station)), [Mt. Vernon West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Vernon_West_(Metro-North_station)), [Fleetwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleetwood_(Metro-North_station)), [Bronxville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronxville_(Metro-North_station)), [Tuckahoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuckahoe_(Metro-North_station)) and [Crestwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crestwood_train_station). A third commuter line dating from the late 19th century, the [New York and Putnam Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_Putnam_Railroad), was shut down in phases during the mid-to-late 20th century.

[New York Water Taxi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Water_Taxi) formerly operated a [ferry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferry) service from downtown Yonkers to Manhattan's [Financial District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_District,_Manhattan), but it ceased in December 2009.

**Roads and paths**

Major [limited-access](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limited-access) roads in Yonkers include [Interstate 87](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_87) (the [New York State Thruway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Thruway)), the [Saw Mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saw_Mill_River_Parkway), [Bronx River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronx_River_Parkway), [Sprain Brook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sprain_Brook_Parkway) and [Cross County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_County_Parkway) [parkways](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parkway). [US 9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_9_in_New_York), [NY 9A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Route_9A) and [100](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Route_100) are important surface streets.

The main line of the former [New York and Putnam Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_Putnam_Railroad) running through the middle of Yonkers has been converted into a paved walking and bicycling path, called the [South County Trailway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_County_Trailway). It runs north-south in Yonkers from the [Hastings-on-Hudson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hastings-on-Hudson) border in the north to the Bronx border in the south at [Van Cortlandt Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Cortlandt_Park) where it is unpaved as of 2014 and is referred to as the Putnam Trail.

The historic [Croton Aqueduct](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croton_Aqueduct) tunnel has a hard-packed dirt trail, called the [Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Croton_Aqueduct_Trailway), running above it for most of its length in Yonkers, with a few on-street routes on the edge of the [Getty Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Square) neighborhood.

**Fire department**

The city of Yonkers is protected by 459 firefighters of the city of Yonkers Fire Department (YFD), under the command of a Fire Commissioner and 3 Deputy Chiefs. Founded in 1896, the YFD operates out of 11Fire Stations, located throughout the city in 2 Battalions, under the command of 2 Assistant Chiefs per shift. The Yonkers Fire Department also operates a fire apparatus fleet of 10 Engines,5 Ladders, 1 Rescue, 1 Fireboat, 1 Air Cascade Unit, 1 USAR Collapse Unit, 1 Foam Unit, 1 Fire Investigation Unit, and numerous other special, support, and reserve units. The YFD responds to approximately 16,000 emergency calls annually.

**Notable people**

* [Carlos Alazraqui](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Alazraqui) – actor, stand-up comedian, impressionist
* [Anthrax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthrax_(American_band)) – influential [thrash metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thrash_metal) band
* [Edwin Howard Armstrong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Howard_Armstrong) – transmitted first [FM radio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FM_radio) broadcast
* [David Berkowitz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Berkowitz) – serial killer known as the *Son of Sam*
* [James Blake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Blake_(tennis)) – tennis player
* [Mary J. Blige](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_J._Blige) – [R&B](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%26B) singer
* [Mike Breen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Breen) – sports broadcaster
* [Billy Burch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Burch)- professional hockey player
* [Sid Caesar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sid_Caesar) – actor and comedian
* [Robert Celestino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Celestino) – writer and director
* [Dave Costa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Costa) – NFL player, Saunders HS 1957–59
* [Cathy DeBuono](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathy_DeBuono) – actress, psychotherapist, radio personality
* [Alfred DelBello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_DelBello) – Mayor of Yonkers
* [Doug DeWitt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doug_DeWitt) – professional boxer
* [DMX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DMX_(rapper)) – rapper, actor
* [Tiziano Thomas Dossena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiziano_Thomas_Dossena) – writer, editor
* [Tommy Dreamer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Dreamer) – professional wrestler
* [Rudolf Eickemeyer, Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Eickemeyer,_Jr.) – photographer
* [Klement Tinaj](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klement_Tinaj) - Actor
* [Thomas Mikal Ford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Mikal_Ford) – actor
* [Frances Foster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Foster) – actress
* [Ron Garan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Garan) – astronaut
* [Tawny Godin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawny_Godin) – Miss America 1976, TV journalist (Tawny Little)
* [W.C. Handy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W.C._Handy) – composer and musician
* [Lewis Hine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_Hine) – photographer
* [Joe Howard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Howard_(actor)) – actor
* [Immolation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immolation_(band)) – [Death metal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_metal) band
* [Ethel D. Jacobs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethel_D._Jacobs) – thoroughbred racehorse owner
* [Jadakiss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jadakiss) – rapper, member of [The LOX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_LOX)
* [Ekrem Jevrić](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ekrem_Jevri%C4%87) – Montenegrin singer, rapper
* [Richard Joel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Joel), President of Yeshiva University
* [Eddie Kingston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_Kingston) – professional wrestler
* [Gene Krupa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Krupa) – drummer
* [Joe Lapchick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Lapchick) – basketball coach
* [Clayton LeBouef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clayton_LeBouef) – actor
* [Stagga Lee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stagga_Lee) – musician
* [Henrietta Wells Livermore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrietta_Wells_Livermore) – women's suffragist leader
* [Sheek Louch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheek_Louch) – rapper, member of [The LOX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_LOX)
* [Linda Lovelace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linda_Lovelace) – star of 1972 "[porno chic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porno_chic)" film [*Deep Throat*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Throat_(film))
* [Richard Masur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Masur) – actor
* [Ryan Meara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Meara) – professional soccer player
* [Lawrence Monoson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Monoson) – actor
* [Cathy Moriarty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathy_Moriarty) – actress
* [John Howard Northrop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Howard_Northrop) – co-recipient of 1946 [Nobel Prize in Chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Chemistry)
* [Elisha Otis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisha_Otis) – inventor of the safety elevator and [Otis Elevator Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otis_Elevator_Company)
* [Outasight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outasight) – singer, rapper
* [Erik Palladino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erik_Palladino) – actor
* [Joe Panik](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Panik) – professional baseball player
* [Floyd Patterson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floyd_Patterson) – champion heavyweight boxer
* [Eulace Peacock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eulace_Peacock) – track and field athlete who defeated [Jesse Owens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Owens) in sprints
* [Kevin Puts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Puts) – Pulitzer Prize-winning composer
* [Patrick Quinlan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Quinlan_(activist)) – author, activist
* [Will Rahmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Rahmer) – musician
* [Sally Regenhard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sally_Regenhard) – community activist
* [Vincent Richards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_Richards) – professional tennis player
* [Steve Ridzik](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Ridzik) – professional baseball player
* [Adam Rodriguez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Rodriguez) – actor
* [Betty Shabazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betty_Shabazz) – widow of civil rights leader [Malcolm X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_X)
* [Robert Shayne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Shayne) – actor
* [Alexander Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Smith_(New_York)), founder of Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Company
* [Mike Spano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Spano) – Mayor of Yonkers
* [Charles Proteus Steinmetz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Proteus_Steinmetz) – German-American mathematician and electrical engineer
* [Joseph Stilwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Stilwell) – U.S. Army General during [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) and [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II)
* [Avery Storm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avery_Storm) – R&B singer
* [Styles P](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Styles_P) – Rapper, member of [The LOX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_LOX)
* [Brian Sweeney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Sweeney) – professional baseball player
* [Chip Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chip_Taylor) – songwriter (brother of Jon Voight)
* [Paul Teutul, Sr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Teutul,_Sr.) – founder of [Orange County Choppers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_County_Choppers) and reality television personality on [*American Chopper*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Chopper)
* [Samuel J. Tilden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_J._Tilden) – former [Governor of New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor_of_New_York) and winner of the [popular vote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_vote) in the [disputed Presidential Election of 1876](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1876)
* [Salvatore Tripoli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvatore_Tripoli) – Olympic boxer
* [Steven Tyler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Tyler) – musician, member of [Aerosmith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerosmith)
* [Adriaen Cornelissen van der Donck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adriaen_Cornelissen_van_der_Donck), (c. 1618 – 1655)
* [Jon Voight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Voight" \o "Jon Voight) – Oscar-winning actor, father of [Angelina Jolie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angelina_Jolie)
* [Elsie B. Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elsie_B._Washington) – author
* [Nick Wasicsko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Wasicsko) – mayor during low-income housing controversy, 1988–89; John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award runner-up
* [Tom Wolk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Wolk) – [Hall & Oates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hall_%26_Oates) session musician
* [George Wright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wright_(sportsman)) – baseball pioneer

**In popular culture**

* In the Depression-era film [*Don't Tell the Wife*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_Tell_the_Wife) (1937) [Guy Kibbee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Kibbee)'s character, Malcolm J. Winthrop, lives in Yonkers. One of the characters jokes that going to jail is "better than Yonkers."
* In the [*Twilight Zone*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Twilight_Zone_(1959_TV_series)) episode, "[What's in the Box](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What%27s_in_the_Box)" (1964) [William Demarest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Demarest)'s character, cab driver Joe Britt, mentions Yonkers as one of his customers' locations as a reason for coming home late from work.
* Yonkers is the setting of two feature [films](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Films) by local filmmaker [Robert Celestino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Celestino): [*Mr. Vincent*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mr._Vincent&action=edit&redlink=1), a 1997 [Sundance Film](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sundance_Film&action=edit&redlink=1) entrant in the non-competition Spectrum section, and [*Yonkers Joe*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_Joe), a scheduled 2009 release by [Magnolia Pictures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnolia_Pictures), starring [Chazz Palminteri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chazz_Palminteri) and [Christine Lahti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christine_Lahti). Yonkers' locations also provide the setting for *A Tale of Two Pizzas*, a "[Romeo and Juliet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romeo_and_Juliet)" theme played out among two rival pizza owners.
* The documentary [*Brick by Brick: A Civil Rights Story*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brick_by_Brick:_A_Civil_Rights_Story) described racial discrimination and housing segregation in Yonkers.
* The film [*Doubt*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubt_(2008_film)), starring [Meryl Streep](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meryl_Streep) as Sister Aloysius Beauvier, filmed scenes at St. Marks Lutheran Church's school.
* Yonkers is also the location for many major filming projects: [*Catch Me if You Can*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catch_Me_if_You_Can), with [Tom Hanks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Hanks) and [Leonardo DiCaprio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonardo_DiCaprio); [*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_Sunshine_of_the_Spotless_Mind), with [Jim Carrey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Carrey) and [Kate Winslet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_Winslet); [*Mona Lisa Smile*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_Lisa_Smile), with [Julia Roberts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia_Roberts); [*A Beautiful Mind*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Beautiful_Mind_(film)), with [Russell Crowe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russell_Crowe), [*Big Daddy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Daddy_(1999_film)), with [Adam Sandler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Sandler), [*The Preacher's Wife*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Preacher%27s_Wife) (a remake of [*The Bishop's Wife*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bishop%27s_Wife)), with [Denzel Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denzel_Washington) and [Whitney Houston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitney_Houston); and [*Kate and Leopold*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_and_Leopold), with [Meg Ryan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meg_Ryan) and [Hugh Jackman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Jackman). Some TV series' episodes of [*Fringe*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fringe_(TV_series)), [*The Blacklist*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Blacklist_(TV_series)), and [*The Following*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Following) were taped in the downtown area. the City Hall Courtroom is also the setting for many film scenes and commercials.
* Yonkers was also used as a filming location in the movie [*Riding in Cars with Boys*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riding_in_Cars_with_Boys).
* In [Max Brooks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Brooks)'s novel, [*World War Z*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_Z), the US armed forces are defeated in the [Battle of Yonkers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Yonkers) by a horde of [zombies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zombie).
* Yonkers is one of the settings in the musical [*Hello Dolly!*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hello,_Dolly!_(musical))
* A character in the musical [*Gypsy: A Musical Fable*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gypsy:_A_Musical_Fable) is named after Yonkers.
* [Neil Simon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_Simon)'s play [*Lost In Yonkers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_In_Yonkers), set in the city. The story is about two young boys during [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), whose father leaves them with their grandmother in Yonkers so he can earn money for the family.
* Yonkers was shown on [*A Shot at Love 2 with Tila Tequila*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Shot_at_Love_2_with_Tila_Tequila) as it was contestant [Kristy's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristy_Morgan) hometown.
* Yonkers is mentioned in [Bon Jovi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bon_Jovi)'s song "[Raise Your Hands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slippery_When_Wet)".
* In 2011, rapper [Tyler, The Creator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyler,_The_Creator) of [Odd Future](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odd_Future) released his song "[Yonkers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_(song))".
* On October 21, 2011, filming for the movie [*Disconnect*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disconnect_(2012_film)) (2012) took place at the [Cross County Shopping Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_County_Shopping_Center).
* [*Jessie*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessie_(TV_series)) - In the episode "Kids Don't Wanna Be Shunned," a new girl at school named Bryn is mean to Emma and claims she's from Europe. At the end of the episode, it is revealed that she is from Yonkers.
* A season 4 episode of [*Bar Rescue*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Rescue) was filmed in Yonkers.
* The season 17 premiere episode of [*Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_and_Order:_Special_Victims_Unit) was filmed at the Saw Mill Diner on Saw Mill River Rd.
* The [HBO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HBO) miniseries [*Show Me a Hero*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Show_Me_a_Hero) takes place, and was filmed, in Yonkers.

**Gallery**



Yonkers Welcome Sign



Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade 2010



Fountains at [Westchester's Ridge Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westchester%27s_Ridge_Hill)



The [Yonkers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers_(Metro-North_station)) Metro-North Station



The Saw Mill River in Getty Square



Westbound McClean Avenue at ParkHill Avenue



Eastbound Cross County Parkway

**Twin towns and sister cities**

Yonkers is [twinned](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_towns_and_sister_cities) with:

* [Kamëz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kam%C3%ABz) in [Albania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albania) *(2011-Present)*



* [Ternopil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ternopil) in [Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine) *(1991-Present)*



* This page was last modified on 29 December 2015, at 23:30.