

The City of Litchfield Park, 16 miles west of downtown Phoenix and located in Maricopa County, is a planned residential community boasting a small town atmosphere and casual lifestyle. It started in 1916 when Goodyear Tire and Rubber bought farm land to grow Egyptian long-staple cotton to use in tire cords. This project was developed by Paul Litchfield, a junior executive with Goodyear, for whom the company town was named in 1926. Litchfield Park was headquarters for Goodyear Farms, which had thousands of acres under cultivation. From 1931 to 1944, it was also the test site for Goodyear tires. In the 1960s, Litchfield Park designed a master-plan for development, including several self-sufficient villages, of which positive aspects are still evident.

BASIC INFORMATION

Founded	1916
Incorporated	1987
Elevation	1,027
Nearby Highways	I-10 & Loop 303
Population (2010)	5,476
Median Age	45
Median Household Annual Income	\$86,726
City Sales Tax Rate	2.8% (4.8% contracting)
Land Area	3.3 square miles
Fiscal Year 2017 Budget	\$15.5 million
City Hall	214 W. Wigwam Blvd Litchfield Park, AZ 85340 623.935.5033
Mayor	Thomas L. Schoaf
City Manager	Darryl H. Crossman



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The City of Litchfield Park offers a range of community facilities including a recreation center with swimming pool and basketball court, library, three golf courses, and six parks with baseball and soccer fields. The library, parks and pools are open to the public.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Litchfield Park has an active community calendar including a 4th of July celebration, Native American Arts Festival, Winter Trout Fishing Derby, Arts in the Parks Concert Series, 10K, 5K, 1 Mile Fun Run, Spring Art & Culinary Festival, Annual Kiwanis Sprint in the Park Triathlon, The Wigwam Amateur Championship, Oktoberfest, Annual Festival of the Arts, Annual Taste of the Park, and the annual Christmas in the Park.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The Wigwam resort hotel, a four-star establishment, is a highlight of Litchfield Park. It boasts 331 rooms, conference facilities and three 18-hole golf courses. It was originally built for Goodyear executives visiting the farming operations. In 1929, the Wigwam opened to the public and soon became a fashionable and exclusive resort. The Tierra Verde business district makes Litchfield Park a self-sufficient community and is the center of town.

GOVERNMENT

Fire and Emergency Services Provider: Goodyear Fire Department
Law Enforcement Services Provider: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

AIRPORTS

Phoenix (PHX) Sky Harbor International (18 miles east)

Phoenix-Goodyear Municipal Airport with a lighted 8,500-ft runway (4 miles south)

Glendale Municipal Airport: light aircraft, private jets, several aviation companies provide private flight instruction, availability to book flights through private hire aircraft (8 miles northeast)

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Litchfield Elementary School

Middle & High Schools in surrounding cities including:

Western Sky Middle School (Goodyear, Arizona)

Millennium High School (Goodyear, Arizona)

FINANCIAL

Number of banks: 2

BBVA Compass Bank

US Bank

UTILITIES

Electricity	APS	602.371.7171
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corporation	602.861.1999
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Liberty Utilities	623.935.9367

MEDICAL

Abrazo West Campus, in neighboring City of Goodyear

Cancer Treatment Centers of America, in neighboring City of Goodyear

La Loma Medical Building

La Loma Health Care Center

Hacienda Del Rey Assisted Living & Memory Care Community

HOTEL & LODGING

Number of Rooms: 331

Meeting Rooms: 25

Capacity of Largest Facility: 1,000

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

White Tanks Regional Park, west of Litchfield Park, is named for natural rock water tanks once used by local Indians. Many unusual petroglyphs are found in the 26,000-acre park. South, Estrella Mountain Regional Park has 19,000 acres with an 18-hole golf course and camping, horseback riding, hiking and picnic facilities. The Wildlife World Zoo, 4 miles northwest, provides a natural habitat for many endangered species. Nearby Cricket Pavilion has seating for 8,000 under the roof with an additional 12,000 on the hillside and hosts about 50 major shows each year. In the neighboring City of Avondale, Phoenix International Raceway hosts major NASCAR auto races. Phoenix also has a symphony, many theater groups, a host of museums, professional football, basketball and baseball, and a wide range of popular entertainment. The Wigwam Resort offers golf and facilities for business and private accommodations.

WEATHER

Period of Record Monthly Climate Summary

Period of Record: 8/1/1917 to 2/26/2012

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Average Max. Temperature (F)	66.8	71.6	77.4	86.1	95.1	104.1	106.9	104.6	100.3	89.5	76.4	67.5	87.2
Average Min. Temperature (F)	36.5	40.1	44.2	50.2	58.3	66.9	75.9	74.5	67.2	54.2	42.8	37.1	54.0
Average Total Precipitation (in.)	0.92	0.96	0.82	0.32	0.12	0.08	0.74	1.21	0.83	0.46	0.63	1.06	8.14
Average Total Snow Fall (in.)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average Snow Depth (in.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Percent of possible observations for period of record.

Max. Temp.: 96.3% Min. Temp.: 95.5% Precipitation: 98.6% Snowfall: 98.8% Snow Depth: 98.8%

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu

HISTORY

The town of Litchfield Park is named for its founder, Paul Weeks Litchfield (1875-1959). He was an executive of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company who came to the Phoenix area in 1916 in search of suitable land to farm a long-staple cotton that previously had been available only from the Sea Islands off the coast of Georgia and from Egypt.



Statue of Paul W. Litchfield in Akron, Ohio, headquarters of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

This cotton was needed to strengthen the rubber in the pneumatic tire, of which Goodyear was the world's largest producer. The east coast cotton supply had been decimated by the boll weevil and the African supply had been greatly reduced by World War I attacks from German U-boats. Litchfield went to the Phoenix area at the suggestion of the USDA, but he was not successful in motivating local farmers to grow his cotton. Instead he got Goodyear to form the Southwest Cotton Company in Phoenix, with Litchfield as its president, eventually purchasing some 36,000 acres in the general Salt River Valley area including 5,000 acres around the present site of Litchfield Park, then known as Litchfield Ranch. Much of the land was bought for as little as \$25 per acre. The cotton was cultivated with a workforce of mostly Mexican and Native American men. The US Postal Service agreed to the name 'Litchfield Park' in 1926. In 1929, the Wigwam Resort was opened to the public. In 1926, Litchfield went on to become the president of the Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation, and then Chairman of the Board in 1930. He retired from the company in 1958, and spent the final months of his life as a resident of Litchfield Park at his home on Fairway Drive.

In 1964, Goodyear created Litchfield Park Land and Development Company to expand Litchfield Park into a 90,000 resident community. Arden E. Goodyear was the head of the company, Patrick Cusick was vice president and general manager, and Victor Gruen was hired to design some of the buildings. The plan called for 25,000 homes, a college, a junior college, eighteen elementary schools, ten junior high schools, and six high schools as well as improvements to the town's golf course and harness track at an expense of at least 750 million dollars. Goodyear made many mistakes during development, including selling properties right up to the curb line, which means that the city must get permission from property owners before they can put in a sidewalk. They abandoned their plans for expanding Litchfield Park before they were completed and sold whatever land they could.

A nearby city is named Goodyear, and the Goodyear Blimp often operates in the area.