

Gothenburg included in 'Eden' list of best small cities

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Nice downtown, friendliness are some attributes

Gothenburg fits one researcher's idea of an unspoiled paradise.

With its clean and tidy downtown, plus people who care about each other, a retired geography and civics teacher ranks the town 48th in his list "In Search of Eden: America's Best Small Cities."

Charles Anderson, of Winter Park, FL, compiled a list of 50 cities with populations up to 45,000.

Seward is ranked No. 8 and is the only other Nebraska town listed on a revised 2013 list of great small cities.

Over the past 50 years, Anderson has visited the cities he ranked and issued his first list in 2012.

He has visited Gothenburg twice, most recently during the summer of 2011 and said he liked the Scandinavian atmosphere, friendliness and strong community spirit.

Fitting in Anderson's 12 criteria for selection is the town's location in what he describes as "Nebraska's banana belt."

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Gothenburg, Pa., has been named one of the best small cities for the third time in a row by the National Civic League's annual "Eden" list. The list is based on a survey of 100 small cities across the country, and Gothenburg has been ranked in the top 10 for three consecutive years.

- TOP 10 TOWNS**
1. Gothenburg, PA
 2. Montrose, CO
 3. Belmont, NC
 4. Concord, NH
 5. Summerville, SC
 6. Cedar City, UT
 7. Christiansburg, VA
 8. Seward, NE
 9. Cody, WY
 10. Georgetown, KY
- (Compiled by Charles Anderson)

Gothenburg's success is due to its high quality of life, excellent schools, and strong economy. The town has a long history of excellence and is a model for other small cities.