

What Is a Data Center?

A data center is a secure building or group of buildings that contains computer servers and other equipment used to store, process, and transmit digital information.

Although most people never see a data center, they use services supported by data centers every day. Data centers help operate:

- Email and text messaging
- Online banking and bill payments
- Websites and online shopping
- Streaming television, movies, and music
- Cloud storage for photographs and documents
- Medical and government information systems
- Business and school computer systems
- Artificial intelligence (AI)

How Does a Data Center Work?

Inside a data center are large numbers of computer servers connected through high-speed fiber-optic networks. These servers process information and make digital services available at all hours of the day.

Because the equipment must operate continuously, data centers generally require:

- A dependable supply of electricity
- High-speed fiber-optic connections
- Cooling systems to control equipment temperatures
- Backup power systems
- Fire protection and security systems
- Employees who operate, maintain, and secure the facility

Data centers can vary greatly in size. Some occupy a single building, while larger developments may include several buildings constructed in phases. Water use, electrical demand, employment, traffic, and other characteristics vary depending on the size, design, and intended use of each data center.

Is a Data Center the Same as a Factory?

No. A data center does not manufacture a physical product. Its primary function is to store and process digital information.

However, data centers are large commercial or industrial developments and may require substantial electrical, communications, transportation, and utility infrastructure. Their possible effects should be evaluated according to the actual design and operating requirements of each project.

Are All Data Centers the Same?

No. Data centers differ in several important ways, including:

- Overall size
- Number of buildings
- Type of computer equipment
- Cooling technology
- Water requirements
- Electrical demand
- Number of permanent employees
- Construction schedule
- Backup-power systems

General information about data centers can help residents understand how these facilities operate, but it should not automatically be treated as confirmed information about the proposed project near Trent.

What Is Currently Known About the Proposed Project

The exact design and operating requirements of the proposed project near Trent have not all been confirmed.

As verified project-specific information becomes available, the City will provide updates through the **Proposed Data Center Near Trent** section of the City website.

The City will clearly separate general educational information about data centers from facts confirmed about the proposed project near Trent.

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