



**Rangrim** is a town located in Chagang Province at the confluence of the Oman River (westerly) and Sampho River (northerly), which are tributaries of the Jangjin River. Its 2008 population was 36,481. The 2020 estimate is 40,141.

The original county seat used to lie several kilometers south of the current town of Rangrim, but it was flooded when the Rangrim Dam was built, creating Rangrim Lake. I am not sure when exactly the dam was constructed, but I do know that the Japanese constructed a [series of dams](#) and hydroelectric plants along the Jangjin River in the 1930s.

Regarding the founding of Rangrim itself, one source says that the town was officially established in 1952, so I think it is safe to assume that the area was never more than a tiny village (if anything) until after 1900. Known recreational sites include a skating park next to the Juche Study Hall and a children's "traffic park" that was built ca. 2016 at the southern end of town.

Rangrim sits in the middle of the Rangrim Mountain Range which has many peaks above 1,000 meters. This creates a fairly cold climate and places limits on agriculture.

Its **economy** primarily relies on logging and agriculture (especially corn, potatoes, wheat, and barely). The town has market but there hasn't been any visible growth since at least 2012. This makes sense as there have been very few new homes built during that same time period. There are also a few small unidentified factories and a small mine along the Oman River.

The Rangrim Train Station is part of the Kanggye Line, connecting the town to the provincial capital. It is the most easterly train station in the province.

**Militarily**, the area has little importance. Chagang Province is considered the arsenal of North Korea because of all the arms factories in the province, but Rangrim is too remote and lacks adequate industrial infrastructure. In fact, the nearest cellphone tower that I have been able to locate is 28 km away.

Rangrim has a single anti-aircraft battery (which isn't uncommon for county seats) and a potential small base 4 km to the north (41.005° 127.150°). The nearest military site that is of importance is an underground facility (40.998° 126.780°), nearly 30 km to the west.

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Jacob Bogle, 9/22/2020 (updated May 14, 2022)

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