a guide to THE WESTERN SUBURBS

@properties
welcome to the
WESTERN SUBURBS
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The Village of Addison takes pride in its historic preservation, recreation and commerce. Residents of Addison enjoy a wide variety of recreational opportunities thanks to numerous parks and trails for jogging and bicycling, including the 61-mile Illinois Prairie Path. The park district also has an outdoor family aquatic center, fitness club, indoor pool and golf facility. There is something for residents of all ages – from a preschool program to a vibrant senior center. The 18-hole tree-lined Oak Meadows Golf Course, built in the 1920s, is one of the most historically significant in the Chicago area. Local attractions include the Addison Ice Arena, an indoor go-kart racing facility and Stardust Bowl – the largest bowling center in the state. The village also has restaurants, hotels and shopping centers. Students attend schools in Addison Elementary School District 4 and DuPage High School District 88.

The City of Berwyn practically wrote the book on Chicago-style bungalows. The suburb is known as the “city of homes” for its significant collection of Chicago-style bungalows, widely considered the largest in the nation. The city enacted strict building codes in the early 1900s, which resulted in a majority of new construction being classic two-story bungalows. While the community offers the conveniences of city living, residents enjoy the tranquility of the suburbs and a number of parks including Proksa Park, the largest in the area. The community’s parks offer extensive amenities including tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball and softball diamonds, walking and jogging paths, bike paths, playground equipment and picnic areas. One of the most popular events in the community is its vintage car show. The annual “Historic Route 66” event draws thousands of residents and car enthusiasts from across the country to celebrate the spirit of Route 66. Students are served by Berwyn North School District 98 and Berwyn South School District 100, comprised of 12 schools. The schools feed into two high schools: J. Sterling Morton High School East and J. Sterling Morton High School West. The Archdiocese of Chicago runs two Catholic, K-8 schools in Berwyn, which feed into Fenwick High School in nearby Oak Park. The Berwyn Metra station provides commuter service to Aurora and downtown Chicago on the BNSF Railway.
**brookfield**

The Village of Brookfield’s population skyrocketed as its train stations and affordable housing lured hardworking Chicagoans to the suburb.

Celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2018, Brookfield has plenty to celebrate, from the village’s miraculous return from the brink of insolvency in 1947 to being recognized as a top 10 “All American City” by the National Municipal League and Look magazine. Brookfield also pioneered a village manager concept, a model adopted by communities throughout the state.

Brookfield’s natural beauty includes oak savannas and Salt Creek, a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. Meanwhile, the village offers several restaurants including a second-generation Irish pub, and a video arcade with a collection of over 400 video and pinball games.

The community continues to thrive today, offering convenient transportation and a variety of amenities and attractions including the acclaimed Brookfield Zoo – one of only two zoos in the Chicagoland area.

**carol stream**

When developer Jay Stream became frustrated with red tape while building a subdivision in a nearby village, a clerk told him to go start his own town. So he did – and he named it Carol Stream after his daughter, Carol.

Located in DuPage County, Carol Stream has been ranked by CNN Money as one of the 100 best places to live in the United States. The community’s extensive parks department includes over 35 parks as well as recreational fields, tennis and basketball courts, biking and hiking trails, running and walking paths and a playground area. There is plenty to do year-round - from fishing and boating to ice skating and sledding.

Consolidated School District 93 serves the majority of the village, providing K-8 education with six elementary schools and two middle schools. High school students attend nearby Glenbard North, part of Glenbard Township High School District 87, which is located in Carol Stream.

The Illinois Central Railroad operates a feeder line through Carol Stream, which runs through the main industrial complex of the town.

Six major roads run through the village, the largest being North Avenue which runs through the center of town and extends 30 miles east into Chicago and further west across the state.
Cicero

With over 80,000 residents, Cicero is the 11th largest municipality in the state.

Recent years have brought a revival of the city’s commercial sector with an influx of businesses and large retail stores as well as condominium developments. The city includes eight distinctly different residential neighborhoods.

Among the area’s top attractions is Hawthorne Race Course, the oldest continually run, family-owned thoroughbred racetrack in North America.

The Hawthorne Park District includes parks and recreational areas with baseball and softball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, volleyball courts, walking and biking trails and picnic areas.

Cicero Elementary School District 99 serves students in the community with 17 schools across the city. All of the schools feed into Unity Junior High, followed by Morton East High School. Our Lady of Charity and St. Frances of Rome are two Roman Catholic, parochial, K-8 schools located in Cicero.

The Cicero Metra station provides convenient service to Chicago and Aurora along the BNSF Railway.

Clarendon Hills

Known for its curved roads that were influenced by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Clarendon Hills has a unique street plan that contours its beautiful natural landscape.

The rapidly-growing village has been named one of the best places to live in the Chicago area by West Suburban Living and today is home to more than 80 businesses. Eight parks spanning nearly 50 acres offer recreational activities for residents of all ages, with amenities including baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, walking and biking trails and areas for picnicking.

Once known as “Daisy Fields”, Clarendon Hills celebrates its beginnings every June with “Daisy Days” and the annual “Daisy Dash” on Father’s Day, consisting of a 5K run to benefit local charities.

Community Consolidated School District 181 serves students in grades PK-8. Clarendon Hills Middle School is the lone middle school in the village, one of five that feeds into Hinsdale Central High School.

Transportation is convenient for commuters with the Clarendon Hills Metra station, which provides service to Chicago and Aurora along the BNSF Railway.
Fortunately, Downers Grove doesn’t let fame go to its head. The village has racked up more than its share of accolades, with Forbes naming it one of America’s friendliest towns and CNN ranking it among the country’s best places for a healthy retirement due to its abundance of parks and top-notch hospitals.

A varied housing stock exists in this robust community, ranging from historic homes from the mid-1800s to an assortment of Sears Roebuck Catalog Homes, which were built between 1908 and 1940 from purchased kits. New construction can also be found in the village.

Along with ample boutique shopping and upscale dining, Downers Grove hosts dozens of community events and festivals, attracting visitors and earning the village a place on the Chicago Tribune’s “Top 10 List of Downtowns.” The community is also home to the Downers Grove Museum, which includes the historic Blodgett House.

Downers Grove is served by Downers Grove Grade School District 58, Center Cass School District 66, and Community High School District 99, which consists of two public high schools — Downers Grove North and South. The community also boasts the prestigious Avery Coonley School, founded in 1906 and located in the village since 1929.

Metra’s BNSF Railway has three stations in Downers Grove, providing direct transportation to Chicago.
Elmhurst is a pretty sweet place to call home. Not only was the city home to the Keebler Company, Sunshine Biscuits and a distribution center for Famous Amos cookies; Elmhurst was named one of the “Ten Best U.S. Towns for Families” by Family Circle magazine. With a wealth of community activities, shops, restaurants, and arts and culture, this bustling town has more than 40,000 residents who enjoy everything it has to offer.

Wilder Park connects the city’s museum campus that includes the Elmhurst Art Museum, named the “Best Suburban Art Museum in Chicago” by Chicago magazine. The museum recently restored the McCormick House, designed and built by Mies van der Rohe. Elmhurst is also home to a public library, the Elmhurst History Museum, Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, GreenMan Theatre Troupe, Elmhurst Choral Union, and Elmhurst Children’s Theatre.

Recreational opportunities are plentiful, with The Elmhurst Park District maintaining more than 20 parks, playgrounds, walking trails and facilities for tennis, golf, swimming and more. Students in the community are served by Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205. Elmhurst is also home to Elmhurst College, a private liberal arts college.

With its proximity to O’Hare International Airport, the Tri-State Tollway and the Eisenhower Expressway, Elmhurst offers convenient transportation options. A Metra station is also located in the community, providing easy access to downtown Chicago.

In addition to its many cultural offerings, the city is known for its shopping and dining. At the heart of Elmhurst is City Centre, home to a movie theater, an assortment of eateries and boutiques, and community events such as the annual Rock the Block Party. The Elmhurst Express Trolley connects downtown Elmhurst with the community’s other shopping districts, including the Spring Road and York and Vallette business districts. The Trolley is free and runs during the summer and holiday season.

Residents also come together for dozens of community events throughout the year. The Memorial Day Parade has taken place every year since its start in 1918, and the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade is the third largest in the Chicago area.
Forest Park

It’s not easy appealing to city lovers and suburbanites alike. Somehow the Village of Forest Park manages to offer residents the best of both worlds with its easy city access and small-town sense of community.

Known for its award-winning dining scene, Forest Park has been voted by readers of the Chicago Tribune as the “Best Neighborhood Dining” in the Chicago area. Residents also enjoy plenty of recreation, including beautiful parks and an aquatic center with two large water slides and a volleyball court. Consistently chosen because of its wonderfully-maintained fields, the community has hosted the annual No Gloves National Invitational Softball Tournament for many years, featuring the best 16-inch slow-pitch softball teams in the Midwest.

Forest Park has a healthy mix of industrial and commercial businesses, including a major shopping mall and a bustling commercial center. Historic Madison Street is at the heart of the shopping and dining district, featuring local boutiques, antique shops and restaurants.

Students attend one of the four elementary schools and one middle school in Forest Park School District 91. High school students attend the prestigious Proviso Central Math and Science Academy as well as two private parochial schools.

Commuters have several transportation options with Metra, CTA “L” trains (both Green and Blue lines) and access to the Eisenhower Expressway.

Geneva

Welcome to Geneva, with its beautiful Riverwalk, extensive parks and historic Dutch windmill standing nearly 70 feet tall.

A popular destination for residents and visitors alike, Geneva features an abundance of shops and restaurants along its downtown Riverwalk and a scenic location along the Fox River. The suburb continues to see its population grow as Chicago’s urban sprawl spreads further west.

The Fabian Windmill, an authentic, fully-operational Dutch windmill, is in near perfect condition and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Dutch Mill was featured on a series of U.S. postage stamps, one of five selected for the “Windmills USA” book of stamps.

Geneva has one of the most extensive park districts in the area, serving over 40,000 people a year. The district includes more than 30 parks offering biking and walking trails, athletic fields, fitness, aquatic and recreation centers, a skate park and disc golf course. An expansive bike trail includes parts of the Fox River Trail and the Illinois Prairie Path.

Since 1991, Geneva has been home to the Kane County Cougars minor league baseball team, and since 2015, home to the Chicago Steel hockey team.

Geneva has a stop on Metra’s Union Pacific West Line with daily service to Chicago or west to Elburn. The city is within driving distance of the DuPage Airport.
Chicago had Mrs. O’Leary’s cow; Glen Ellyn had a local baker who is said to have started a fire that consumed most of the town.

The town had no water supply or fire department in 1891, but it did have a community of volunteers who saved what they could from the raging fire. The community immediately started rebuilding, replacing destroyed wood buildings with masonry buildings that still stand today.

Today Glen Ellyn’s Main Street is a charming mix of small boutiques, restaurants and coffee shops. The community is one of the most affluent in DuPage County.

Village residents enjoy numerous recreational areas including 29 parks, the Willowbrook Wildlife Preserve, an 18-hole golf course and access to the Illinois Prairie Path.

Neighborhoods are lined with mature trees and homes in a variety of architectural styles, ranging from new construction to historic homes dating back to the community’s early days.

Glen Ellyn students are served by the Glen Ellyn School District 41, Community Consolidated School District 89 and Glenbard Township High School District 87. The Village is also home to the main campus of the College of DuPage, whose alumni include comedy legends Jim Belushi and his late brother, John Belushi.

Along with access to major highways and Interstate tollways, the Metra Union Pacific West Line runs through Glen Ellyn, providing daily train service to the Ogilvie Transportation Center in downtown Chicago.

Hinsdale’s rolling, wooded landscape, historic downtown and beautiful homes attract some of the state’s most affluent residents, earning the suburb its ranking as one of the wealthiest zip codes in Illinois.

Several notable people have made their home here including Chicago Blackhawks’ head coach Joel Quenneville and renowned architect R. Harold Zook.

A walk through downtown Hinsdale is a step back in time. The downtown district is on the National Register of Historic Places with several historic buildings dating back to before the community was incorporated in 1873.

The community has a wealth of amenities including the Katherine Legge Memorial Park and Lodge and Hinsdale Community Swimming Pool. There are also numerous parks and athletic facilities including tennis courts, baseball and soccer fields.

Students attend Community Consolidated School District 181 and the Hinsdale Township High School District 86, which includes Hinsdale South High School and Hinsdale Central High School, ranked one of the best high schools in the country.

Hinsdale has easy access to the Tri-State Tollway, Stevenson Expressway and three train stations along Metra’s BNSF Railway.
La Grange

All roads lead to La Grange, just one of the reasons the suburb is a popular place to call home.

Named one of the Chicago area’s top transit suburbs, La Grange has two Metra train stations providing direct transportation to Chicago’s Union Station. Two major highways also run through the village and intersect with I-294 and I-55, putting the community within easy reach of airports and the city.

Of course, location is not all that La Grange has to offer. The community also has notable historic homes, top-rated schools, a charming downtown and a historic district designated by the National Trust for Historic Places.

La Grange has a variety of single-family homes in a range of styles and prices. Many homes are architecturally significant and have been carefully restored to preserve their original charm, including Victorian, Queen Anne and Prairie School style homes. The village has a few homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, including a “bootleg” house that Wright designed on the side while working for architect Louis Sullivan.

With dining, shopping, nightlife and a movie theater, La Grange has a vibrant downtown, earning the village a place on Chicago magazine’s list of best neighborhoods and suburbs.

A number of events are held each year, including the annual Pet Parade, craft show, Endless Summerfest and West End Art festival, along with seasonal celebrations. Residents also enjoy abundant recreation, with the community’s park district maintaining dozens of acres of parkland.

Lisle

They don’t call Lisle the “arboretum city” for nothing. Naturally it’s home to the famed Morton Arboretum, but that’s not where the trail ends here. In fact, the community is also home to the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum, the Museums at Lisle Station Park and the award-winning PrairieWalk Pond.

The two-acre PrairieWalk Pond includes scenic overlooks, walking paths, a nature walk, children’s play area and wetlands. The nature park includes more than 100 varieties of native plants and wildlife including cranes, ducks, geese, turtles, frogs, fish, butterflies and dragonflies.

The Garden Walk connects the park to downtown Main Street, which features nature-inspired colorful streetscapes and a dramatic fountain. Beyond enjoying the view, residents and visitors have a variety of local boutiques and eateries to enjoy indoors and out. Many of the businesses are Green by Choice members dedicated to preserving natural resources.

It’s no wonder Lisle was ranked by Money magazine as one of the 100 Best Places to Live. The community hosts several popular festivals including Lisle Cruise Nights throughout the summer when Main Street becomes a massive block party. The village also hosts the popular Eyes to the Skies annual hot air balloon festival and Depot Days, which includes tours of the community’s historic museums and working blacksmith shop.

Located just off the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway, Lisle has a Metra station providing direct access to downtown Chicago.

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Lombard

Everything is coming up lilacs in the Village of Lombard. Known as the “Lilac Village”, the community earned its nickname after the estate of local resident Colonel William Plum, who gave his estate to the village in 1927.

Plum’s home ultimately became the Helen M. Plum Memorial Library, while his lilac garden became Lilacia Park. Since 1930, the village has hosted an annual lilac festival and parade, as well as other lilac-themed celebrations.

The Peck House, which served as the area’s first school, was restored and inducted into the National Park Service’s Network of Freedom as a verified Underground Railroad location.

Lombard students are served by two elementary and middle school districts; high school students attend Glenbard schools, named for the district shared with the Village of Glen Ellyn.

Metra’s Union Pacific West Line railway stops in Lombard, providing commuter transportation to downtown Chicago.

Lyons

Welcome to Lyons, the “Gateway to the West”, where thousands of early settlers once traveled across a small area of land connecting the Chicago River and the Des Plaines River, paving the way for Chicago to become a center of trade.

Explorer Louis Jolliet envisioned a canal connecting the two waterways. 200 years later, that became a reality with the opening of the Illinois—Michigan Canal. Today a statue stands at the Chicago Portage National Historic Site located just north of I-55 along Harlem Avenue.

The community has one of the most impressive historical sites in the area, the Hofmann Tower, an eight-story concrete castle built by George Hofmann, Jr. in 1908. Once the tallest building west of The Loop, it offers a breathtaking view of Chicago and surrounding areas.

The tower is at the center of the village’s sprawling recreational area. Residents enjoy canoes, picnicking and powerboat rides as well as dancing, orchestra concerts and a beer garden.

Nearby La Grange Park District operates the parks in Lyons as well as the surrounding community with over 50 acres of parkland with recreational centers, playgrounds, basketball courts, soccer fields and jogging paths.

Five area elementary schools feed into George Washington Middle School. High school students attend J. Sterling Morton West High School or Lyons Township High School.

Metra service to Aurora and downtown Chicago is available at stations in nearby Riverside and Berwyn, on the BNSF Railway.
Naperville is a regular on the “best” lists. The community has not only been ranked one of America’s best places to live by *Money* magazine; it’s also among the safest cities in the country, according to *USA Today*.

Incorporated in 1857, Naperville grew rapidly through the 1980s and 1990s with the construction of two tollways, nearly quadrupling as Chicagoans and corporations moved to the suburb. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway and Veterans Memorial Tollway, the community is served by nearby Metra and Amtrak stations, making it ideal for commuters.

**rural CHARM**

Naperville embraces its history as a rural community and retains its small-town charm with farmers’ markets, sidewalk sales, a summer concert series and culinary events including the ever-popular Ribfest. The community’s character is also preserved in the Naperville Historic District, where hundreds of buildings showcase its cultural and historical heritage.

The DuPage Children’s Museum is located in Naperville as well as the award-winning Naperville Public Library, which has made several appearances on the “best” list.

The city has a number of top-notch schools. The Naperville Community Unit School District 203 includes Naperville Central High School and Naperville North High School. Indian Prairie School District 204 includes elementary schools, junior high schools and Nequa Valley High School.

With plentiful amenities, Naperville continues to capture the interest of homebuyers. Downtown Naperville has a popular Riverwalk with nearly two miles of brick paths, bridges, artwork, fountains and recreational facilities along the DuPage River. To the west is historic Centennial Beach, which goes from zero to 15 feet deep, and nearby Centennial Park, which has an inline skating and skateboarding facility.

Residents and visitors also enjoy an assortment of local boutiques, well-known retailers and fine restaurants in downtown Naperville. Meanwhile, Naperville Crossings offers more shops, eateries and a movie theater.
Oak Brook

The affluent Village of Oak Brook is home to 7,800 residents – but it’s more like 90,000 if you count the people who come here every day for business and shopping.

Residents enjoy various recreational opportunities thanks to the Oak Brook Park District, which maintains a tennis center, aquatic center, disc golf course, fitness center, the Dean Nature Sanctuary and 150 acres of park. The community also offers a golf club, one of the oldest polo clubs in the country and popular annual events including the Taste of Oak Brook.

Residential subdivisions abound in Oak Brook, offering an array of housing options from condominiums and ranch homes, to stately mansions.

Butler School District 53 serves the community with Brook Forest Elementary School and Butler Junior High School. High school students attend Hinsdale Central High School.

Oak Brook is easily accessible by car with its proximity to Interstate 294 and 88. There are also numerous bus routes as well as train stations in neighboring communities that provide transportation to downtown Chicago.

Oak Park

Oak Park is definitely the cool kid on the block as far as communities go. Located just 10 miles west of downtown Chicago, the community has a distinctly urban, creative vibe and has long been home to artists who have risen to the top of their fields.

Renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright spent the first 20 years of his career in Oak Park, building more homes in the area than anywhere else in the world. Novelist Ernest Hemingway attended Oak Park and River Forest High School, where he excelled in English classes and wrote for the school paper.

Oak Park is noted for its unique mix of home styles including Victorian, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Prairie School. The community is comprised of three historic districts, including the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District.

In addition to an active arts community, locals enjoy ample recreational opportunities including public parks, outdoor pools, an ice-skating rink and the Oak Park Conservatory. Meanwhile, downtown Oak Park offers a number of boutiques, national retailers, noted restaurants and galleries.

Students attend Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and Oak Park – River Forest School District 200 with eight elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

Transportation is easily accessible with the Eisenhower Expressway and public transportation options like the CTA Green Line, Blue Line, buses and Oak Park Metra station. If biking is more your speed, the village’s Augusta Boulevard is part of the Grand Illinois Trail.
The main thoroughfare through town became the route of the Lincoln Highway in 1913, the first paved transcontinental highway. When U.S. 66 crossed the Lincoln Highway, Plainfield found itself right in the middle of the intersection of the two largest highways in the world.

Before his famous solo transcontinental flight, Charles Lindbergh supervised the installation of guiding lights and emergency landing fields in Plainfield. Aviator Eddie Gardner, who was born in the village, helped establish the first airmail routes.

Plainfield is said to be home of the first ice cream sundae, created by a Plainfield druggist who had the sweet idea of topping ice cream with syrup.

Plainfield steadily transformed from rural farmland to modern metropolitan suburb. Then in 1990, a tornado ripped through the area.

The community recovered, rebuilt and saw its population increase from 4,500 to more than 37,000 as more city dwellers moved to the suburb just under 40 miles from downtown Chicago.

The Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202 serves the majority of the village, while Oswego Community Unit School District 308 serves a small part of Plainfield. There are four high schools in the community: Plainfield North, Plainfield South, Plainfield East, and Plainfield Central. Plainfield Central has been in the community for over 50 years, the other three schools have all been built since 2001.

Transportation, ice cream sundaes and a tornado all played a part in the Village of Plainfield’s history.

River Forest was originally part of a larger community that included parts of Oak Park and Forest Park before it incorporated on its own in 1880. The villages remain connected through cultural programs. The Oak Park–River Forest Performing Arts Center has long hosted stage productions by Circle Theatre, Festival Theatre and Village Players. River Forest’s orchestra was recently awarded Community Orchestra of the Year.

The Village of River Forest is committed to preserving its heritage. There are several structures designed by renowned architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed and built The Winslow House here in 1893. A total of 860 properties are in the village’s historic district.

The River Forest Park District offers facilities and activities for all ages, including 10 parks with baseball fields, walking paths, a sledding hill and a climbing wall. Residents enjoy wide-open spaces and three miles of Cook County Forest Preserve trails that surround the community.

River Forest students attend some of the highest-ranking schools in the state including two public elementary schools and one middle school in River Forest Public Schools District 90. High school students attend Oak Park and River Forest High School, which consistently ranks among the top 10 Illinois high schools based on the number of National Merit and National Achievement honorees. There also are a number of parochial schools and a Montessori school.

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Riverside is considered to be the first planned community in the United States. Incorporated in 1875, the historically-recognized village is noted for its expansive parkways, charming town center and early 20th century architecture.

The Riverside Landscape Architecture District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970. To retain its original aesthetic charm, the village even maintains approximately 379 antique-style gas street lanterns.

Residents take great pride in the community’s history and architecture, which is on display through walking tours at the Riverside Historical Museum and the Riverside Water Tower. Homes include well-maintained 1920s bungalows, huge Victorians and early 20th century mansions.

The village features several restaurants including some that have been recognized as among the best in the Chicago area. There are also several unique boutiques and stores selling antiques and Victorian house fixtures – a nod to the town’s rich architectural history.

Riverside students attend District 96 schools including four elementary schools and one junior high school. High school students attend Riverside Brookfield High School, part of the Riverside-Brookfield Township School District 208.

With a train station along Metra’s BNSF Railway, Riverside is a short commute to Chicago’s Union Station.

St. Charles is a picture-perfect city with a bustling Main Street, 1920s hotels and theaters, and an idyllic setting along the scenic Fox River.

The community has an incredible mix of arts and entertainment, recreation, shopping and fine dining. St. Charles also topped Family Circle magazine’s list of “Best Towns and Cities for Families” for its ideal combination of good neighbors, green spaces, strong public schools and affordable housing.

Although it has a small-town feel, the community has big-time entertainment to offer residents and visitors. For decades, the area has featured top performers at its comedy theater at the Pheasant Run Resort as well as its vaudeville-style Arcada Theatre.

Students attend schools within Community Unit School District 303, which includes 12 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools. Three District 303 schools have been named Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

The village is accessible via several major roadways including routes 64, 38, 25 and 31. Two major county roads also traverse St. Charles including Randall Road on the west side and Kirk Road on the east side.
Villa Park

The Village of Villa Park owes its founding to the Ovaltine chocolate company, which built the DuPage County subdivision in 1908 to ensure factory employees didn’t have any transportation issues getting to work.

Villa Park was incorporated in 1914 when two subdivisions were combined for a total of 300 residents. The Ovaltine factory closed in 1988 and later converted to loft apartments.

In addition to the factory, the town blossomed in part for its proximity directly west of downtown Chicago and the railroad that ran from the Loop to Wheaton. The railroad stopped operations due to construction of the Eisenhower Expressway, which caused a decline in ridership. The area later was developed into a hiking and biking trail, the Illinois Prairie Path, which runs through the village. The area’s two original train stations house the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society.

Commuters enjoy direct access to downtown Chicago thanks to the village’s train station on the Metra’s Union Pacific West Line. The village’s proximity to several highways make it a convenient drive to O’Hare and Midway airports and nearby suburbs.


Warrenville

Welcome to Warrenville, the city that Julius Warren built after his family blazed a trail west from New York and settled along the DuPage River. Warren not only cut the lumber for the first homes here, he also served as a mail carrier and innkeeper.

Known for its scenic landscape, Warrenville offers numerous recreational opportunities from fishing and canoeing to hiking and cross-country skiing. The community, surrounded by five forest preserves and the Fermi National Laboratory, has more than 10,000 acres of open space and 30 miles of bike paths.

The Ferry Creek Wetland Restoration at Summerlakes Park features six acres of open land for water conservation and wildlife. The community also offers entertainment at the Acorn Community Theater, which features large-scale summer musicals.

Warrenville students attend Community Unit School District 200, which includes several elementary schools, middle schools and Wheaton Warrenville South High School located in neighboring Wheaton.

Located within the Illinois Technology and Research Corridor, Warrenville is home to several corporate headquarters. The community is accessible via the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway and Metra, which has a station just south of the city in Naperville.
Nearly all of the open land in the village has been consumed by expansion except for the 85-acre Wolf Road Prairie.

Westchester is home to the Westbrook Corporate Center, which includes five 10-story towers with more than one million square feet of office space.

The small community hosts several annual events and activities including a Cinco de Mayo celebration, Fourth of July parade and fireworks, BBQ Block Party, Fall Festival at the Fountain and tree-lighting holiday kickoff.

The Village of Westchester was farmland until 1924, when its founder purchased the land to develop an English-styled town. Today several of the village’s street names are of English origin.

Students in Westchester are served by School District 92.5, which includes Westchester Primary School (K-2), Westchester Intermediate School (3-5), Westchester Middle School (6-8) and Britten School for special needs. High school students attend Proviso West High School in Hillside, and may apply to Proviso Math and Science Academy in Forest Park.

Westchester offers access to downtown Chicago via the Eisenhower Expressway and provides Pace bus service to the Forest Park Transit Center.

The Village of Western Springs was named for its clear, cool springs. The springs may be gone, but the community continues to thrive. The affluent community offers beautiful homes, a short commute and plenty of parks and recreation.

Homes here include a mix of spacious single-family homes as well as condominiums and townhomes. The village has a number of new construction homes and remodeled homes featuring additions and updates.

The Western Springs Park District maintains more than 80 acres of land in several neighborhood parks, and offers sports programs and classes sponsored by the recreation department. Residents can also find restaurants and shops in the picturesque downtown district along with plaza shopping facilities at the Garden Market.

The Thomas Ford Memorial Library and the Theatre of Western Springs are two local attractions. The Theatre hosts classes and summer camps as well as 10 performances a year for adults and children.

Area students attend two public elementary schools and Lyons Township High School, which has two campuses. Freshmen and sophomores go to the south campus; juniors and seniors go to the north campus in La Grange.

Western Springs is bordered by several major thoroughfares including the Tri-State Tollway. The community also has its own Metra station, offering train service to downtown Chicago.
Westmont

In the immortal words of Blues legend Muddy Waters, you might say Westmont has got its “mojo working”. The “father of modern Chicago blues” lived here for more than a decade until his death. A street near his former home is named “Honorary Muddy Waters Way.”

The suburb has grown more than 300% thanks to its proximity to all that Chicago has to offer. Residents enjoy a suburban lifestyle and easy commute downtown.

Westmont has nearly 18 parks with numerous Westmont Park District facilities including bocce ball, tennis and basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields, along with jogging paths, playgrounds and picnic areas.

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The DuPage County village has a number of highly-regarded restaurants as well as retailers and fine arts.

Students attend Westmont Community Unit School District 201, which includes three elementary schools, a junior high school and Westmont Senior High School.

Convenient Metra service to downtown Chicago and Aurora is available at the Westmont Station on the BNSF Railway.

Wheaton

Wheaton has racked up more than its share of awards. The affluent community ranks among the “top 25 highest earning towns” and one of the best places to live by Money magazine.

The Wheaton Public Library is regularly ranked among the top in the nation. The Wheaton Park District, with 52 parks and more than 800 acres, has won several National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence from the National Recreation and Park Association. The park district includes the 135-acre Lincoln Marsh Natural Area with over 300 plant and animal species and a ropes course; the Cosley Zoo, which houses more than 200 animals; and the 27-hole Arrowhead Golf Club.

Wheaton is home to the prestigious Chicago Golf Club, the oldest 18-hole course in the country and host of numerous U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur Golf Championships; and the Cantigny Park and Golf Course, the former estate of Chicago Tribune owner Robert R. McCormick, which includes a championship golf course and two museums. The county also owns the Danada Forest Preserve and Equestrian Center, once an estate and home to a Kentucky Derby winner.

The community has seen considerable residential and business development including its landmark, the Wheaton Center, a six-building apartment complex downtown that includes two 20-story high-rise buildings.