

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

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LAKE FOREST IS BEST DESCRIBED BY THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE.



In 1861, its founding motto was established: “Naturae et Scientiae Amor” (“Love of Science and Nature”). Lake Forest, Illinois is known for its creative culture and the energetic spirit of its founders and residents. Successful business people, entrepreneurs, actors, writers, architects, educators and shopkeepers have made Lake Forest their home town. A vibrant community of thoughtful planners, Lake Forest is about living, learning, thinking and giving.



Sitting high on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan to the east, Lake Forest encompasses 19 square miles and has a population of just under 20,000. Native open spaces, ravines, trees and park-like settings provide a safe and tranquil environment. The natural beauty of the area during all four seasons is embraced by all generations.



New residents are drawn here and families choose to stay here because of its diverse neighborhoods, quaint business districts, the vitality of the community, access to railroad transportation, beautiful streetscapes, unique homes, religious institutions, outstanding public school system and state-of-the art, top-rated hospital. Market Square (known as America’s first shopping center), the beach, the parks, the library and acres of native open lands are just a few of the special places where residents come together.



Residents acknowledge and appreciate the abundant history of Lake Forest. Multiple generations still reside in town and contribute to the notable and culturally-rich fabric of the community and its “small town” atmosphere. Many local shops and institutions have been in operation for over 100 years.

Lake Forest is a community of philanthropically-minded families and individuals. Local institutions, including churches, schools, garden clubs, historic preservation, conservation, arts and cultural groups, would not exist if it were not for the generosity of Lake Forest residents. Scores of non-profit organizations have been



established to fulfill missions involving a wide variety of causes benefiting the community.

The humanities are thriving in Lake Forest through professional and community theater organizations, art, music and literary events. From unique shops in the historic



downtown to several national and multi-national corporations off of bustling I-94, Lake Forest is home to several of Chicagoland’s most popular retailers and a wide assortment of four-star and casual dining establishments. Railroad transportation on two separate lines is available for easy commuting to Chicago and beyond. The community enjoys easy access to major interstate highways, O’Hare International Airport and nearby executive airports.

Residents call Lake Forest their “home base.” In an age when society is constantly balancing technology and customary practice, *the things that matter (Family, Education, Tradition, Philanthropy)*, a rare sense of true community and strong values, define Lake Forest.

CITY SERVICES

City Hall (220 E. Deerpath) was built in 1898 and served as the Office of the City Manager, Mayor and City Council as well as the Fire Station, Police Station and Library. As the population in Lake Forest grew, these departments moved into separate facilities. When the Fire Department outgrew City Hall, the present-day Market House restaurant was built as the Fire Station. City Hall additionally serves as home to the Office of Economic Development, LFTV, meetings of Boards and Commissions, and Administrative Hearings. Resident services include: birth and death certificates, Compost Center permits, landscape licensing, leaf bag stickers, liquor licensing, parking tokens, raffle licensing, solicitor permits, Special Event applications, FOIA requests and voter registration.

The Municipal Services Building (800 N. Field Drive), built in 2009, received LEED Gold Certification as a sustainable site and for utilizing efficient energy resources, water, materials and resources. The building houses the departments of Community Development, Building Maintenance, Engineering, Finance, Parks & Forestry and Public Works. Resident services available there are: animal licensing, building permits and construction inspections, Compost Center permits, recycling, community sign board applications, parking permits, real estate transfer tax transactions, sewer inspections, tree removal permits, vehicle stickers, water service and billing.

Lake Forest Cemetery (520 Spruce Avenue) was platted in 1857, even before Lake Forest was incorporated. Positioned on 23 acres on top of a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, it is a peaceful, tranquil and beautiful setting.

Lake Forest Government

Located 30 miles north of Chicago, The City of Lake Forest was incorporated under a special charter in 1861 that permits Lake Forest to be administered effectively and economically within a minimum number of separate government bodies. The City Council is the legislative and policy-making body and includes the mayor and two Aldermen from each of the City's four wards. Lake Forest government operates under the Council/Manager system, where the City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the City. Appointed by the Mayor and City Council, the City Manager carries out the policies set by the elected officials and is responsible for the efficient operation of services and facilities in the City of Lake Forest.

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The Public Safety Building (255 W. Deerpath) houses the Police and Fire Departments, with the Fire Department also occupying a second station at 1111 S. Telegraph Road. These departments also offer programs to educate residents and businesses in life and property safety. Additional resident services offered: block party, garage sale and burn permits, as well as special event tent applications.

The Compost/Recycling Center is located on the south side of Rte.60 just west of Waukegan Road and east of the railroad viaduct. Recyclables, yard waste and most other unwanted items for disposal are accepted. The City of Lake Forest diverts approximately 37% of its waste by keeping recyclable materials out of landfills.

LIBRARY

Sitting on top of a small hill at 360 E. Deerpath, the Library was given to the City by residents and was dedicated in 1931. The Library welcomes all ages and houses an impressive collection of books, DVDs, online resources as well as other information and services.

CROYA (YOUTH)



In the **CROYA Student Union** adjacent to the Recreation Center at 400 Hastings Road, the **Committee Representing Our Young Adults** is an organization serving the youth of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. All programs are conceived and planned by the kids, and range from social activities to personal development, peer training and leadership, retreats and community service projects.



DICKINSON HALL

Nestled on the Grove Cultural Campus at 100 Old Mill Road, Dickinson Hall serves as the hub of activity for adults aged 50+ offering a variety of programs, classes, special interest groups, social opportunities and trips. Additional support services are designed to help older adults maintain their independence, including transportation.

PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation Center (400 Hastings Road)

Originally located in the building just west of the former Marshall Field Building in Market Square, the Rec Center houses the administrative offices, a gym, racquetball/squash courts, Kinderhaven Preschool Academy, dance studios, classrooms, Fitness Center and a game room. The Rec offers programs in early childhood education, athletics, racquet sports, arts, sport leagues and dance classes.

Kinderhaven Preschool Academy is a developmental preschool for children ages 2.5 to 5.5, licensed by the State of Illinois. Kinderhaven's approach has been influenced by the preschools of Reggio Emilia and is supported by short and long-term projects that are inspired by the children's interests.

Fitness Center offers personal trainers, a complete line of state-of-the-art cardiovascular equipment with Cardio Theatre, free weights, exclusive locker rooms, towel service, child care service and group exercise classes.

Deerpath Golf Course (500 W. Deerpath) is one of the oldest and finest 18-hole public courses in the Midwest, featuring a grass tee driving range, chipping and putting green, private and group lessons, Pro Shop and the Sandwedge Grill.

Stirling Hall Arts Center (60 E. Old Mill Road) on the Grove Cultural Campus (formerly the Grove School and renovated in 2001) is a multi-media art center with a ceramics studio (including kilns) and classes for adults and children.

Forest Park Beach is located at the east end of Deerpath. One of Lake Forest's natural and most beautiful landmarks, the beach occupies over 20 acres and offers sheltered pavilions, grills, fishing



pier, sand volleyball, boat launching ramp (with storage) and walking paths.

Public Parks, old and new, of all sizes are located throughout Lake Forest. The City maintains two community parks, eleven neighborhood parks, an outdoor ice skating rink, nature preserve, bike trails, playgrounds, pavilions, sports fields and walking trails.

Wildlife Discovery Center (1401 Middlefork Drive), with its home at Elawa Farm, is dedicated to global conservation. It houses a public viewing area of a vast and unique collection of live reptile and amphibian species, outdoor raptor exhibits, a venomous reptile exhibit, educational programs, nature hikes, bird and wildlife watching as well as conservation education classes.



ELAWA FARM

Adjacent to the ecologically-significant Middlefork Savanna at 1401 Middlefork Drive, Elawa Farm is one of the last remaining and intact examples of estate farm architecture in the Midwest. Elawa offers environmentally-rich programming and events provided by the Gardeners, Chef, Bee Keepers and more.

GORTON CENTER

A distinguished building on the northeast corner of Illinois and McKinley Roads at 400 E. Illinois Road, Gorton Center is a privately-funded community house occupying a 1901 completely-restored school building. Since 1972, Gorton has been the gathering place in the heart of the community where people connect, converse, learn, listen, play and perform.

RAGDALE

Located at 1230 N. Green Bay Road, a unique estate and gardens was designed as the summer home of architect Howard Van Doren Shaw. Ragdale is one of the most complete examples of a turn-of-the-century retreat. Throughout the year, Ragdale offers readings, artist lectures, workshops, and special events designed to connect artists and regional audiences.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1998, the Historical Society opened its first museum at 361 East Westminster, a former coach house and Masonic Lodge. The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society was formed in 1972 by over 100 charter members to preserve the history of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. With a robust collection dating back to 1860, the Historical Society is the place to research and discover the people, places and events from Lake Forest's past.

