

Evanston

“Dynamic” best describes Evanston in the new century. While retaining its traditional past, the city is experiencing a renaissance with a revitalized downtown and an explosion of residential construction. Uniquely situated as the first suburb north of Chicago, Evanston offers its residents the rare combination of an urban/suburban environment along with beauty of Lake Michigan.

Evanston has long been known for the diversity of its residents, housing, shopping, community groups, and neighborhoods. As in the past, these attributes continue to attract individuals and families, evidenced by an increase in population in the 2000 census.

Like its larger neighbor to the south, Evanston has something for everyone. The variety and abundance of locally owned shops and restaurants draw residents and non-residents alike to the four main shopping areas—Main Street, Dempster Street, Church and Davis downtown, and Central Street to the north. National chain stores can be found in shopping centers in various parts of the city. The ethnic diversity of Evanston’s restaurants keeps growing and you can virtually ‘feast’ your way around the world.

Evanston’s architectural diversity is well known, ranging from significant mansions like the Historical Society’s Dawes House to farmhouses, Chicago-style bungalows, as well as modern ranches and bi-levels. Multi-family buildings range from vintage condo and rental buildings to new condo high-rises downtown. Several historic districts reflect Evanston’s pride in its architectural heritage, along with landmarks like the Grosse Point Lighthouse and Shakespeare Gardens.

The ambiance of Evanston is enhanced by the presence of Northwestern University. The importance of education to its citizens is reflected in the library and the numerous bookstores that are well utilized at all hours. Museums, art centers and galleries, a symphony, an opera company, and numerous theatre and other community groups round out the many cultural offerings of Evanston.

The recreation and parks department keeps Evanstonians busy. Of special pride are Evanston’s numerous beaches, parks, and lakefront bike and walking paths that residents enjoy all summer long. A new senior citizen center offers a wide variety of activities and amenities. Numerous parks, a golf course, tennis courts, an ecology center, two indoor ice rinks and community centers engage residents of all ages.

Schools – Education has always been a priority for the residents of Evanston. Nine elementary schools and two laboratory schools feed into three middle schools in District 65. Evanston Township High School (District 202) continues its excellence while serving the entire community. Private and parochial schools, including a Montessori School, round out the educational offerings. A new state-of-the-art Education Center houses District 65 administrative personnel, teacher aides, a library, an early childhood facility, and other educational services. Evanston was one of the first communities in the area to offer full-day kindergarten, and offers after-school programs in numerous schools. Northwestern University enriches education in the community through several programs, including an accelerated studies program for high school students.

Transportation—Downtown Evanston’s Transportation Center is the hub of the public transportation system that includes a Metra rail line, the CTA’s Purple el line, and numerous bus routes of the CTA and PACE systems. Metra trains stop at three stations and the Purple Line at seven ‘el’ stations throughout the length of the city. The Edens Expressway (I-94) is just a few miles west of the city leading south to Chicago and north to Wisconsin and beyond. O’Hare Airport can be reached in less than an hour, and Midway is less than an hour and a half.

www.cityofevanston.org
www.evanston-illinois.org
www.evchamber.com