

Glencoe

Charming and rich in educational, cultural and recreational opportunities, the village of Glencoe is one of the most popular suburbs on the North Shore. Originally a thriving farming community and later a lumber center, the town was first known as Taylorsport in honor of the original settlers, Anson and Eliza Taylor. The Village was incorporated as Glencoe in 1869, possibly named for prominent resident Matthew Coe or possibly named after Glencoe, Scotland.

Whatever the origin of Glencoe's name, the Village owes much of its present-day character and appeal to another early resident, Alexander Hammond, who led the effort to create a model village with parks, homes and streets in harmony with the natural topography of the land. Hammond's plan has been modified over the years, his central vision remains in Glencoe's tree-lined streets, gracious open spaces and delightful downtown business center, home to many cafes, shops and boutiques.

Among Glencoe's many natural resources is the Chicago Botanic Garden, featuring a yearlong calendar of classes and exhibits and a superb variety of formal and informal gardens and nature settings. Glencoe is also home to The Writer's Theater and an active Historical Society. The Village operates the Glencoe Golf Club, considered one of the finest 18-hole public golf facilities on the North Shore.

Glencoe has many historical and architecturally significant structures and contains the only known bridge designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The village established the Glencoe Historic Preservation Commission in 1990. Since then, the Commission has researched and certified more than 40 homes as being historically or architecturally significant. Another 260 homes have been identified as significant and await certification.

Parks and Recreation. Incorporated in 1912, the Glencoe Park District operates 44 parks and over 100 acres of parkland including ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, playgrounds and picnic areas. The Glencoe Lakefront Beach and sailing facility was completely renovated in 1997-98 and includes a lighted pier, umbrella chair rentals, play equipment and locker rooms. The Watts center offers two lighted outdoor refrigerated ice skating rinks plus hockey and skating classes. The Community Center is home to Children's Circle Day Care as well as hundreds of classes and recreation programs.

Schools. Students attend District 35, which includes South School for Kindergarten through second grade, West School for third and fourth grade and Central School for fifth through eighth grade. Among the many school clubs and activities is the Glencoe Junior High Project (GJHP), which includes a drop-in center for grades 6 through 8 and programs combining educational and community projects. High School Students attend the award-winning New Trier High School, District 203, in neighboring Winnetka.

Housing. One of the smaller North Shore suburbs, Glencoe offers a mix of appealing housing styles including traditional Tudors, Colonials and Georgians. Although a community of primarily single-family homes, attractive townhomes and condominiums are also available.

Transportation. Downtown commuters board the Metra trains at the Glencoe station for the 40-minute ride (30 by express train) to the city. Drivers can access Eden's Expressway (I-94) for the 40-minute drive to the Loop O'Hare Airport is a 30-minute drive and Midway is 50 minutes away. PACE suburban bus service is also available.

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