

Gurnee

Located midway between Chicago and Milwaukee, Gurnee has experienced tremendous growth in recent years without losing its attractive, small-town appeal. The progressive village provides a well-balanced environment that attracts both residential and business development. The community prides itself on the quality of its municipal services, park districts and educational system. Gurnee is home to Six Flags Great America Theme Park and Gurnee Mills Shopping Mall. The lively business climate in the village translates into tax savings for homeowners as well as jobs for residents.

Named for Walter Gurnee, a former mayor of Chicago, the village can trace its history to the mid 1830's and the arrival of the first settlers. The small farming community welcomed the arrival of the railroad in 1854, but remained largely rural. At the time of its incorporation in 1928, Gurnee had a population of 500. Today, that number has grown to over 28,000.

The heart of Gurnee is the Village Center, home to the village hall, high school, library and park district offices. One of the community's largest recreational areas, Viking Park is nearby. The Village Center is also the site of many of the activities for Gurnee Days, a four-day celebration held annually during the second weekend in August.

Parks and Recreation. The Gurnee Park District operates numerous parks and facilities offering sports fields, tennis courts and playgrounds as well as a year-round program of classes and activities for all ages. The Hunt Club Aquatic Center is the largest outdoor aquatic center in Lake County complete with cascading waterfall, water slides designed for various age groups and lap pools. Gowe Beach is a three-acre, spring fed waterfront with beach, paddleboat rentals, and a 189-foot waterslide. Golfers enjoy the Bittersweet Golf Course. Completed in 1996, Bittersweet has won awards for preservation and maintenance of wetland areas.

Schools. Elementary students are served by Gurnee Grade School in District 56 or Woodland Elementary School in District 50. Both districts offer gifted programs and other special-needs support. High school students attend Warren Township High School in District 121. Private education options for pre-school through high school are also available.

Housing. Homebuyers can choose from traditional as well as contemporary styles including Colonials, Cape Cods, ranches and split levels. Because of Gurnee's housing boom in the 1990's, many newer homes are available. Condos and townhomes are also part of Gurnee's attractive housing mix.

Transportation. Gurnee offers easy access to I-94 and U.S. 41 for connections to Chicago's entire expressway system. Drive time to Chicago's Loop is approximately one hour. O'Hare Airport is a 40-minute drive and Midway is 80 minutes, while Mitchell Field in Milwaukee is a 30-minute drive. PACE offers local bus service including connections to nearby train stations. Rail commuters can take Metra trains from the Grayslake, Libertyville or Waukegan Stations for the one-hour trip to downtown Chicago.

Gurnee online

www.gurnee.il.us, www.gurneeparkdistrict.com, www.sixflags.com, www.lakecounty-il.org, Gurnee Village Hall: 847-623-7788