

Skokie

Over 60,000 residents proudly call Skokie home. Known for its outstanding municipal services, an exceptional school system and a nationally acclaimed park district, Skokie has been a recipient of the Governor's Hometown Award and was an official finalist for the "All American City" title granted by the National Civic League.

Skokie's early settlers hailed primarily from Germany and Luxembourg. Founding father Henry Harms was Skokie's first merchant, postmaster and founder of three school districts. His home still stands just west of downtown Skokie on Oakton Street and is now under the care of the Park District.

Two events sparked early growth – the arrival of the railroad in 1903 and the establishment of the first bank in 1907. The resulting real estate boom lasted until the Great Depression, but began again in the years after WWII. In the 10 year span from 1940 to 1950, Skokie's population doubled.

Today, Skokie continues to be a sought-after residential location. The village offers a thriving commercial and retail community. The heart of Skokie spreads out from the intersection of Oakton Street and Lincoln Avenue with numerous service and retail stores, the Village Hall and the newly renovated and expanded Skokie Public Library. The Westfield Mall, formerly known as Old Orchard, is located at the northern edge of the community.

Skokie is home to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, an award-winning performance venue that hosts internationally known artists as well as three resident companies: Center East, Northlight Theater and the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra. Also of note is The Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park offers a world-class sculpture exhibition featuring over 70 works by local, national and internationally known artists.

Parks and Recreation. The Skokie Park District offers 49 parks and playgrounds on over 240 acres of land. The District also includes three recreation centers, theater, an indoor ice rink, two outdoor ice rinks, a driving range, miniature golf course, a fitness center, two water parks, nature center, more than 40 tennis courts and a new state-of-the-art rowing center. Services include pre-school and child-care programs and over 1,000 classes and events throughout the year.

Schools. Skokie is known for providing quality education throughout its elementary, middle and high school districts. Grade school students are served by districts 65, 68, 69, 72, 73 and 73.5 while high school students attend Niles North and Niles West High School in district 219. A small portion of Skokie/Evanston area students attend Evanston Township High School in district 202. A variety of private education opportunities are also available.

Housing. Skokie offers single-family homes in styles to suit every taste. Options range from classic Georgians and Colonials to more contemporary split-levels and ranches. The Village also offers a variety of townhome and condominium options.

Transportation. The Edens Expressway (1-94) runs through the western edge of the village. Drive time to the Loop is 30 to 40 minutes. The Skokie Swift offers a 50-minute ride to Chicago's Loop from its renovated Dempster street station with 87 round trips each workday. Residents can also board Metra trains to downtown at the nearby Evanston or Morton Grove Stations. O'Hare Airport is a 30 minute drive and Midway is 45 minutes. PACE bus service operates 11 routes throughout the village.

www.skokie.org, www.skokiechamber.org, www.skokieparkdistrict.org, www.sculpturepark.org
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