



Peoria, IL



Peoria, Illinois, is located along the Illinois River where it widens to form Peoria Lake. The city was named for the Peoria tribe, one of the five tribes of the Illinois Confederation of Native Americans who lived in the area. In 1691, Henri de Tonti, a French explorer and colonizer, and his men built a fort at Lake Pimiteoui (Peoria Lake), which is recognized as the origin of the city. The first American settlers began farming there in 1819.

The Illinois River is a focus of one of the Peoria Riverfront Museum's exhibits, which also exhibits fine art, folk art, historic artifacts that include a Duryea Motor Wagon Company car, and natural science artifacts and offers many interactive activities. The museum is home to the Dome Planetarium, Giant Screen Theater, and the Peoria History Center, where photos and information on inductees to the African American Hall of Fame Museum are displayed.

Other museums in Peoria include the Contemporary Art Center, which exhibits the work of living artists at the forefront of their fields, and the Peoria Art Guild, which presents multi-disciplinary contemporary art. Open from May through October, the Wheels O' Time Museum displays antique and collector cars, fire trucks, airplanes, bicycles, clocks, tools, farm and Caterpillar equipment, a steam locomotive and train, and more. The Doug Oberhelman Caterpillar Visitors Center offers interactive exhibits that tell the history of the Caterpillar Company and its achievements and displays Caterpillar equipment. Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum features six exhibits and a variety of programs. The Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame is located in the Civic Center foyer where plaques honoring Peoria area athletes, teams, and organizations hang.

The Peoria Historical Society operates two historic homes as museums. Built in 1837 in the American Federalist style, The John C. Flanagan House Museum is the oldest standing house in Peoria. Reflecting mid-Victorian architectural influences, the Pettengill-Morrison House was built in 1868 and portrays the life of the Morrison family, the last owners of the house.

Peoria offers many opportunities for performing arts that include the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, Peoria Municipal Band, Central Illinois Youth Symphony, Peoria Area Civic Chorale and the Peoria Ballet Company. Peoria Civic Center Theater, Riverside Church, Grace Presbyterian Church, and Five Points Performing Arts Center are among their performance venues. Peoria Players Theatre is the longest continuously running community theatre in Illinois with a main season of 6 productions. Corn Stock Theatre offers summer community theatre shows outdoors under a big-top style tent and winter shows inside the Corn Stock Theatre Center building.

Located on the Peoria Riverfront, Festival Park hosts concerts and other Peoria activities and events throughout the year. Limelight Eventplex is another concert venue.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Residential options in downtown Peoria include condominium and apartment lofts as well as traditional apartments.

The Randolph-Roanoke Historic District represents some of Peoria's finest collection of Victorian structures with homes built in the early 1900s. The Uplands Neighborhood is in the heart of Peoria and was founded in 1902 and features two-story historic homes on tree-lined boulevards. The Moss-Bradley neighborhood that surrounds Bradley University is another older neighborhood with homes from the early 1900s.

Many residential neighborhoods are located in central Peoria. Biltmore Heights and Delmar Glen feature brick homes with stone accents as well as frame homes. Lexington Park is a large subdivision built in the late 1960s through the 1980s with housing styles that include ranch, two-stories, tri-levels, bi-levels, and split foyers. Mature trees, homes with stone and brick accents, and winding roads characterize The Knolls neighborhood, where homes were built primarily between 1930 and 1960.

Located in the northern part of the city, traditional two-story homes in the Butterfield subdivision were built in the 1980s and 1990s. The Forest Lawn neighborhood comprises several streets, including the narrow and winding Detweiller Drive that leads into Detweiller Park. Many ranch-style homes were built in the 1950s on large lots, but other sizes and styles are available, with some offering wooded river views.

The Charter Oak area comprises many neighborhoods located on the north-west side of Peoria. In the Charter Oak neighborhood, most homes are either two-story or ranch style, but a few split-foyers and quad-levels are also available. Woodcrest is known for Stonewood Court, which is one long cul-de-sac with wooded back yards for all of the homes. The homes are ranch or two-story styles that were built in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The Weaveridge Subdivision is a golf course community where most of the residences are large, single-family detached homes built in the early 2000s in contemporary styles; some town-homes are also available. The Cove at Charter Oak is a community featuring 1 1/2 story homes built since 2010.

The Thousand Oaks neighborhood features large traditional and contemporary-styled homes built on large lots in the late 1980s and 1990s and surrounded by tall, mature trees.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Peoria has 64 park with amenities that include miles of hiking trails, 5 golf courses, 4 swimming pools, 31 tennis courts, 11 softball and 22 soccer fields, indoor fitness center, conservatory and gardens, nature center, arena with 2 ice rinks, an outdoor stage, and a band shell.

The 1400-acre Bradley Park features a Japanese bridge over Dry Run Creek and the Corn Stock Theatre. The park also has baseball diamonds, frisbee golf, lighted horseshoe pits and shuffleboard courts, play areas, tennis and sand volleyball courts, sledding areas, and a dog park.

With 760 acres, Detweiller Park is home to a golf course and a dedicated nature preserve. Other park amenities include a BMX course, large open play-fields, play areas, soccer fields, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, sledding areas, and the scenic Detweiller Drive.

Glen Oak Park's 117 acres are home to the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum; Peoria Zoo; Luthy Botanical Garden, which contains more than a dozen themed gardens and a conservatory; and Peoria Rotary Adventure Grove. The Glen Oak Amphitheatre hosts summer concerts by the Peoria Municipal Band. The park also has a baseball diamond, biking/hiking trail, fishing at Glen Oak lagoon, fitness area and trail, tennis courts, tricentennial playground, and other smaller playgrounds.

Peoria Players Theatre, Lakeview Family Aquatic Center, Lakeview Recreation Center, Owens Recreation Center indoor ice skating facility, Bonnie W. Noble Center, Peoria Public Library Lakeview Branch, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, and a play area are located in the 40-acre Lakeview Park.

Other recreational areas include the Hazel & Bill Rutherford Wildlife Prairie Park, which consists of a 2,000-acre zoological park that is home to more than 150 animals and is a destination for hiking, biking, fishing, riding a train, and overnight adventures.

Professional sports teams in Peoria include the Peoria Chiefs (minor league baseball) and the Peoria Rivermen (minor league hockey).

EDUCATION

Peoria Public School district educates 13,297 students in 5 elementary schools (kindergarten through grade 8), 8 elementary schools (kindergarten through grade 5), 7 middle schools (grades 5 through 8), and 3 high schools. The district also has several special schools, including a career and technical center and a technical specialty school.

Higher education is available at Bradley University, which is a private university that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The Peoria location of Robert Morris University Illinois offers master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees in business, graphic design, networking, psychology, nursing, and accounting. Midstate College is a private, for-profit college that offers bachelor's and associate degrees in selected fields of business and health information management. Methodist College offers baccalaureate degree programs focused on nursing, health sciences, and human services programs. Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing offers Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and postgraduate Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree programs.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria is one of the medical school's four campuses.

Illinois Central College is a public comprehensive community college with a campus in Peoria.

HEALTH CARE

Peoria is served by the following health care facilities:
 UnityPoint Health-Methodist: 319 licensed beds.
 UnityPoint Health-Proctor: 218 licensed beds.
 OSF Saint Francis Medical Center: 609 licensed beds.
 Kindred Hospital Peoria: 50 long term acute care beds.

CITY STATS

2015

City Population	115,070
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	378,018
Per Capita Personal Income, Peoria, IL, MSA	\$45,132