



# Lake Forest, IL



Lake Forest, Illinois, is located north of Chicago along Lake Michigan. The area had once been the home to the Potawatomi tribe, but many treaties wrested the land from the Native Americans. In 1857, Presbyterian ministers established Lind University, now known as Lake Forest College, and the village grew around it. Although the village served as a stopping point for people as they traveled south toward Chicago, the town’s planners opted to limit the layout of the roads in an effort to reduce traffic. They followed the picturesque principles that worked for English gardens and American rural cemeteries and parks by laying out the streets in an organic manner that allows for such natural features as ravines and lake bluffs.

The History Center of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff hosts rotating and permanent exhibits. Other museums in Lake County include the Dunn Museum located in the General Offices of the Lake County Forest Preserves in Libertyville; the National Museum of the American Sailor, which is one of 10 Navy Museums and is located in North Chicago; and the Lake Bluff History Museum.

Lake Forest offers opportunities to enjoy performing arts. CenterStage in Lake Forest is a community theater that performs in the Gorton Community Center; the theater company also presents free Shakespeare in The Park shows in Lake Forest parks, the Village Green of Lake Bluff, and other Lake County parks during the summer. Citadel Theatre’s repertoire includes dramas, comedies, cutting-edge new works, and contemporary and classical selections. Lake Forest Symphony performs throughout Lake County and northern Illinois in venues that include the College of Lake County’s James Lumber Center, Lake Forest Academy’s Cressey Center for the Arts, and the Gorton Community Center. Lake Forest College Theater Department also presents theatrical performances during the year.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Completed in 1916, Market Square was designed by architect Howard Van Doren Shaw to replace the original downtown area, which had become a shantytown of unplanned barns, shacks, and alleyways. Shaw blended Italian Renaissance, Tyrolean, Bavarian, Flemish, and English architecture in the three sides of the U, which enclose a grassy square with a fountain in the middle. Shops are on the ground floors of the buildings with offices and apartments located above. Market Square is considered the first planned shopping center in the country and remains Lake Forest’s downtown district.

Five neighborhoods in Lake Forest are on the National Register of Historic Places: Deerpath Hill Estates Historic District, Green Bay Road Historic District, Lake Forest Historic District, Vine-Oakwood-Green Bay Road Historic District, and West Park Neighborhood Historic District.

The City Center/Lake Forest College area is the oldest neighborhood in the city. Many of the residences were built before 1939, while others were built between 1940 and 1969. The single-family homes and townhomes are primarily medium (3 or 4 bedrooms) to large (4, 5, or more bedrooms) size.

Many of the homes in the rest of Lake Forest are established but not old, as they were built between 1970 and 1999. These neighborhoods are dominated by large homes with 4 or more bedrooms. Other types of housing are also available. The Deerpath/Skokie neighborhood contains small (studio to 2-bedroom) single-family homes and apartment complexes and high rises. West Lake Forest and Skokie Highway/East Old Elm Road neighborhoods have medium-sized, single-family homes and townhomes. East Westleigh Road/South Green Bay Road offers medium-sized, single-family homes and small apartment buildings.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Lake Forest has 12 parks with amenities that include playgrounds, a community center, pavilions, sport fields, Deerpath Golf Course, and over 30 miles of walking trails.

The Wildlife Discovery Center is a living natural history museum that focuses on wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship. The Center houses a variety of reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals and offers interpretive trails and nature-based programs.

Forest Park Beach is a 29-acre park that features a large beach, grass areas, and swimming and other water activities. Open all year, the park’s amenities include sheltered pavilions, a fishing pier, a boat launching ramp and storage area, sailing classes and camps, sailboat and kayak rentals, volleyball nets, walking paths, and a concession stand during the summer months.

## EDUCATION

Lake Forest School District 67 educates approximately 1,700 students in 2 kindergarten through grade 4 schools, a pre-kindergarten through grade 4 school, and a middle school for grades 5 through 8. Lake Forest Community High School District 115 educates approximately 1,600 students from the communities of Lake Forest; Lake Bluff; and the unincorporated areas of Arden Shores North, Arden Shores South, Knollwood, and Shores Acres.

Higher education is available at Lake Forest College, which is a 4-year coeducational private liberal arts college.

## HEALTH CARE

Lake Forest is served by Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital with 114 licensed beds.

Other nearby hospitals include Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan and Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville.

## CITY STATS

2017

City Population	19,612
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	9,533,040
Per Capita Personal Income, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	\$58,315