



Melrose Park, IL



The Village of Melrose Park, Illinois, spans Proviso and Leyden Townships in Cook County west of Chicago. The Des Plaines River is the village's eastern border. The Melrose Realty Company purchased three lots comprising 342.74 acres to develop the land west of Maywood, Illinois, in 1871. The village of Melrose grew steadily and added "Park" to its name in 1894.

Located at Casa Italia in nearby Stone Park, Illinois, the Italian American Veterans Museum focuses on local Italian Americans' involvement in national defense from the Revolutionary War to the present. The museum contains a library, an archive of memorabilia, and a small art exhibit and also offers comfort and assistance to service members and veterans of all ethnicities.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio and the Unity Temple that he designed are located in nearby Oak Park and are near the historic district that has some of Wright's most significant Prairie-style private residences. His first major commission as an independent architect, Winslow House, is located in River Forest.

Also in Oak Park, Ernest Hemingway's Birthplace Museum is the home where the author was born in 1899 and then lived for 6 years. The house has been restored to its 1890s Victorian heritage. A transformed Oak Park firehouse dating from 1898 is home to the Oak Park River Forest Museum, which collects, preserves, and retells the stories of Oak Park and River Forest. Wonder Works is a children's museum that offers five experience zones and an outdoor organic garden.

The Cernan Earth and Space Center is a public planetarium on the campus of Triton College in River Grove. Trailside Museum of Natural History features displays of live native animals, colorful wildflower gardens, and information about local wildlife and their habitats and is located in River Forest.

Neighborhoods

Homes in the West Melrose Park and Middle of Melrose Park neighborhoods were built in various styles—including ranch, bungalow, and two-story—and have exteriors of siding, brick, or wood.

Built in the late 1950s, the Winston Park neighborhood has three split-level styles that vary in size. The smallest, the Ashley, has three bedrooms and one bathroom; the Beverly has three bedrooms and two bathrooms; and the largest, the Canterbury, has four bedrooms and three bathrooms. However, since their construction, some owners have made additions or other modifications to the original designs.

Parks and Recreation

Veterans Park District has facilities in Melrose Park as well as Northlake, Franklin Park, and River Grove. In Melrose Park, Bulger Park Community Center offers many amenities on its 8 acres, including two softball diamonds, multiuse playgrounds, a jogging/walking area, two bocce ball courts, two lighted tennis courts, a gazebo, a splash fountain, memorial gardens, and an outdoor fitness park. With 4.5 acres, Bataan Park's facilities include two baseball diamonds, lighted ice rinks, multiuse playgrounds, two lighted tennis courts, and a gazebo. Michael Cimballo Fitness Center and Museum has an aerobics/exercise room, dry sauna and tanning booth, indoor racquetball court, and batting cages. Other parks located in Melrose Park include the George A. Leoni Complex, Olsen Park, Juan A. Montoya Park, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park.

Memorial Park District operates Sharp Community Center, which is in Melrose Park and has an outdoor pool. It also operates community centers in Hillside and Bellwood.

Westdale Park offers a large pavilion, playground, green space, and baseball field and is home to the Westdale Baseball organization.

More than 250 native plant species and at least 45 bird species populate Thatcher Woods, which separates Melrose Park from River Forest. It features several footpaths that follow the bends of the east side of the Des Plaines River.

Education

The Maywood–Melrose Park–Broadview School District 89 educates Melrose Park students in five elementary school and one junior high school. Some Melrose Park students attend an elementary and middle school in Bellwood School District 88 or the Rhodes School District 84.5 elementary school. High school students attend Proviso Township High Schools District 209's Proviso East or West High Schools, the Proviso Math and Science Academy, or the West Leyden High School. Where students attend depends on their address or, in the case of the Math and Science Academy, admissions test scores.

Melrose Park is located in the Triton College district, a comprehensive public community college that serves the near western suburbs of Chicago. Triton College offers over 100 degree programs for students seeking associate's degrees or who are planning to transfer to a 4-year institution. Lincoln Tech in Melrose Park specializes in careers in automobile repair, collision repair, electrical and electronics, and health care.

River Forest is home to Dominican University, which is a private Catholic university that grants bachelor's and master's degrees, certificate programs, and a PhD in information studies. Concordia University Chicago is a private liberal arts university also in River Forest that offers more than 100 undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Health Care

Melrose Park is served by Loyola Gottlieb Memorial Hospital with 247 licensed beds.

City Stats

	2017
City Population	25,168
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	9,533,040
Per Capita Personal Income, Chicago–Naperville–Elgin	\$58,315