



RIVERSIDE



As you pass the welcome sign and start to wind your way through the streets of west suburban Riverside, you can't help but notice that here, the land is what guides you.

The streets, for instance, are all curved and somewhat sloped, viusally making them seem to disappear into adjacent parks and parkways. Those green areas are, in turn, well cared for, in keeping with the town's slogan, "Village in a Forest."

Throughout the year, residents of this community about nine miles west of downtown Chicago take to the land within the village limits. In winter, you'll see families sledding down a hill near the charmingly-named Swan Pond, circling around the resident-funded skating rink in the center of town or quietly trekking through the snow on cross-country skis. In the warmer months, you can see folks strolling across the historic "swinging bridge" over the river or lined up along one of the curvilinear streets to watch fleets of fire trucks roll past red-white-and-blue festooned families during the village's notable Fourth of July celebrations.

The quaint downtown area begins on the banks of the Des Plaines River, with a historic stone library, town hall and gas-lit street lanterns that harken back to another era. In

Just how intertwined is Riverside and its landscape? The entire village of Riverside is a National Historic Landmark, a designation bestowed in 1970.

According to its residents, civic leaders and merchants, Riverside lives up to that National Historic Landmark status in a host of ways.

When he was growing up in a nearby suburb, current Village President Michael Gorman was charmed by Riverside's bucolic parks and neighborhoods. He chose to raise his own family in Riverside when he and his wife moved in 32 years ago. "The beauty, serenity and access to the city got me here, but it really is true that when you make friends in Riverside, they stay friends. And you may not know where your life takes you, but it seems like many folks stay here," says Gorman, adding with a laugh, "Of course, I also joke that sometimes people can't find their way out of this community with the crooked streets!"

Gorman's sentiment about the community spirit is echoed by lifelong Riverside resident Joanne Kosey, who lives down the block from the house in which she grew up. That house, in turn, is where her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren now live, underscoring the fact that Riverside engenders endearment and legacies. "There is something about how,

Riverside is home to many historic structures, from old Victorian homes to the landmark Water Tower. Even newer housing developments include gas-lit street lamps and attractive streetscaping. Among the towns most popular attractions is Brookfield Zoo and its animal exhibits.

notes that people have long been drawn to this particular swath of land. "When you look back and read history, you learn about the native Americans and some famous people who have trod on our green spaces," she says. "This was the first planned community, actually, with a strong history of architecture."

To Kosey's point, Riverside is on the map, literally and figuratively, for its historic architecture. When the village was first developed in the late 1860s and early 1870s, Frederick Law Olmsted was selected as the area's chief architect. Olmsted, who was by then known internationally for designing New York's Central Park, sought to create a community that reflected his personal belief that a town should be surrounded by nature in order for its people to lead rewarding lives.

By 1871, neighborhoods based on Olmsted's design started to come together, while structures like the iconic Water Tower and Arcade Building were built. The village was officially incorporated in 1875 and it wasn't long before local architects eyed the community, among them, the famed Frank Lloyd Wright. His Avery Coonley Estate and adjacent Garden Cottage remain landmarks

Layed out by the same landscape architect who designed New York's Central Park, this quaint, historic community is at one with its natural surroundings

that library, those who haven't been to Riverside before quickly learn that the land and river do in fact define this community in more ways than the town name. In addition to historic photos, paintings and books on Riverside, the walls of the Riverside Public Library are covered with quotes about rivers and river-carved landscapes. Reads one: "This living, flowing land is all there is, forever. We are it . . . it sings through us."

when you turn into Riverside, you are home," Kosey declares, adding that the landscape has a lot to do with its intrinsic appeal. "It's like this little oasis, with the hustle and bustle around it, still trying to maintain its Old World charm while moving into today."

Kosey, who has been active in the community for years and was instrumental in maintaining the Independence Day activities at a time when public budgets were drained,

and fixtures in the village. The residences have been meticulously maintained and, when needed, restored over the years.

Today, Riverside's neighborhoods reflect a visually interesting mix of architectural styles, with eclectic homes set on expansive lawns. The hundreds of antique-style gas street lanterns around town are another nod to the village's dedication to its storied past. "We are more than trees and good schools.

www.riverside.il.us



DESIGNED BY FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, the Village of Riverside is one of the first planned communities in the U.S. With expansive green parkways, curvilinear streets, remarkable architecture and gas-lit street lanterns, there is plenty to explore and discover in Riverside.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2012

RIVERSIDE ARTS WEEKEND (RAW)
May 19-20, 2012

FARMERS' MARKET
Wednesday afternoons
June—October

HISTORIC WALKING TOURS
May—October

CRUISE NIGHTS & CAR SHOW
June, July, August & September

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
July 3 & 4, 2012

HOLIDAY STROLL
December 7, 2012



www.riversidechamberofcommerce.com

{Statistical Snapshot}

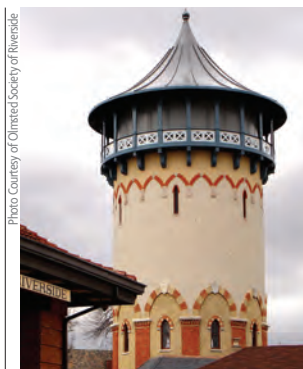
Population

- ▶ 2010 pop - 8,875
- ▶ Decrease from 2000 - 20
- ▶ Median Age - 41.9
- ▶ % 18 or Under - 25.7%
- ▶ % 20 to 24 - 4.2%
- ▶ % 25 to 34 - 9.1%
- ▶ % 35 to 64 - 41%
- ▶ % 65 and over - 12.9%
- ▶ % White - 84.6%*
- ▶ % African American - 3%*
- ▶ % Asian - 4.2%*
- ▶ % Hispanic - 13.9%*

* Race percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents were allowed to check multiple boxes.

Income

- ▶ Median Household Income - \$90,816
- ▶ % Household Income \$100,000 and over - 45.7%
- ▶ % Below Poverty Level - 3.6%



Education

- ▶ % High school degree or more - 96.5%
- ▶ % Bachelor's degree - 55.7%
- ▶ % Graduate degree - 24.8%

Housing

- ▶ Total households - 3,200
- ▶ % Family Households - 71.1%

- ▶ % Married Couple Families - 63.2%
- ▶ Avg Household Size - 2.71
- ▶ Avg Home Sale Price - \$446,600
- ▶ Owner-occupied housing units - 2,526
- ▶ Renter-occupied housing units - 452
- ▶ Gross median rent - \$841

Business/Employment

- ▶ % Residents Employed - 67%
- ▶ Average Travel Time to Work - 32.2 minutes

Major Employers

- ▶ Riverside High School District 208 - 183
- ▶ Riverside Elementary School District 96 - 164
- ▶ First American Bank - 20
- ▶ Texor Petroleum Distributor Co. - 20

Sources: 2000 & 2010 Census, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

We are this jewel in the suburbs and quite frankly, we are known around the world for our Olmsted design," sums up Gorman.

Riverside residents keep the community's history alive in many ways, from the library's Frederick Law Olmsted Collection to the active Frederick Law Olmsted Society.

The Riverside Historical Commission Museum, located in Riverside's historic Water Tower Pump House, is run by a team of member volunteers. The museum is open to the public for information, tours, special events and exhibits.

While history is honored in many ways in this community, parts of Riverside are decidedly 21st century. Just across the street from the restored water tower and Historical Commission Museum, the new Riverside Wine Bar recently opened. Around the corner, Molly's Public House serves up pub fare and drinks.

The Chew Chew Restaurant in downtown Riverside is another popular draw in this village of nearly 9,000 residents. After operating his eatery in the historic Arcade Building for several years, proprietor Scott Zimmer moved and re-opened the Chew Chew three years ago when the Arcade was

shuttered. "When it became time to search for a new home, I explored many options. I considered locations in Forest Park, Oak Park and La Grange, but decided the Chew Chew was an important part of Riverside. Knowing many of the original employees were willing to return made my decision to reopen in Riverside final," recalls Zimmer. The spot that some consider a hidden find isn't so hidden anymore: The Chew Chew has been ranked number one in a list of Top 10 "Neighborhood Gems" by Open Table.

In his 14 years in town, Zimmer, too, has been captivated by this suburb. "Riverside is a special place, but it is the people who make it unique. Over the years, we have become a meeting place for the community and hosted first dates, engagement celebrations, rehearsal dinners, baby showers and graduations. As a neighborhood restaurant, we have the benefit of knowing our guests and treating them like family. We are growing up together."

Befitting its uniqueness, Riverside is home to many one-of-a-kind businesses frequented by loyal residents. In the morning, for instance, you can find plenty of conversations keeping things lively at Grumpy's Coffee and Ice Cream Café, which also serves up lunch.

Aunt Diana's is another fixture in downtown Riverside, known for its handmade candies, chocolates and other treats like caramel corn, cheese corn, chocolate-dipped strawberries and bananas. "We've been in town for 39 years in February and I've worked here almost as long," reports store manager Patty Miglore. The best part of her job, she says, is seeing each new generation of the same local families routinely pay visits to Aunt Diana's. Miglore's favorite item in the shop? "The cheese corn," she declares.

Another Riverside institution is Higgins Glass Studio, founded by well-known glass craftsmen Michael and Frances Higgins. Now in its 60th year, Higgins Glass carries a variety of fused glass giftware and art objects. Then there's Arcade Jewelers, which started out 35 years ago selling antiques and collectibles but now focuses on estate and fine jewelry. The store was once located in the landmark Arcade Building, the first commercial structure in Riverside and considered one of the first multi-tenant retail buildings in the country. Built in 1871, the historic structure faced an uncertain future a few years ago, but village residents rallied to preserve it, creating a 2000-sq-ft mural around the theme "This Place Matters."

At a time when "For Lease" signs have become all too common in suburban windows, there are a few "Opening Soon" signs around downtown Riverside. A new empanada (a stuffed bread or pastry) restaurant is set to open within a few months. Bringing history full circle, meanwhile, is a soon-to-open distillery that relies on time-tested techniques for making spirits like gin and vodka. Riverside resident Derrick Mancini plans to put a custom copper still and other equipment to good use and open the Quincy Street Distillery in 2012, with space for both retail sales and tastings.

Riverside's vibrancy is also reflected in the many young couples with families that have moved here in recent years, including many who grew up in town and others

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rings, earrings, bracelets, pendants, neckwear

Arcade Jewelers
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www.arcadejewelers.net • Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11-6

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Photo courtesy of Brookfield Zoo



Resources

Riverside Public Library

- ▶ Total Holdings - 82,769
- ▶ Items Checked Out Per Year - 144,161
- ▶ Visitors Per Year - 128,856

Attractions

- ▶ **Avery Coonley House** - 350 Fairbanks Rd., 312 731-8000. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1908. Declared a National Historic Landmark.

- ▶ **The Arcade Building** - 1 Riverside Rd. First commercial building built in Riverside. One of the earliest examples of a multi-shop, commercial building in the nation.

- ▶ **Brookfield Zoo** - 3300 Golf Rd. Brookfield, 708 688-8000. Covers 216 acres and houses approximately 450 species of animals.

- ▶ **Water Tower** - Designated an American Water Landmark in 1972 by the American Waterworks Association, one of only eight such American Landmarks recognized as

important in the technological development of the American water supply.

Museums & Galleries

- ▶ **Riverside Art Center** - 32 E Quincy Rd., 708 442-6400. Showcases art of local member artists and offers classes for aspiring artists.

- ▶ **Riverside Historical Commission Museum** 10 Pine Ave., 708 447-2542. Located in the historic Water Tower Pump House, the museum contains documents and artifacts that are dedicated to preserving the history of the village.

Shopping

- ▶ **North Riverside Mall** - 7501 W Cermak Rd, North Riverside, 708 442-1111. An indoor mall featuring several department stores and 130 specialty shops.

Recreation

- ▶ **Riverside Golf Club** - 2520 Des Plaines Ave., 708 447-3700. Country club with restaurant, pool and 18-hole golf course.

- ▶ **Centennial Park** - 708 442-7025. Located in front of the Water Tower on Longcommon Rd. Community events often held here.

- ▶ **Frederick Law Olmsted Society**
A society that hosts walking tours and other gatherings dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside.
tours@olmstedsociety.org.

drawn to the village for its proximity to the city, distinctive ambiance and high-ranking schools. Riverside is home to four elementary schools, one junior high school and Riverside Brookfield High School, along with the parochial St. Mary's School.

In addition to taking advantage of nature in their Village in a Forest, Riversiders can choose from several programs for all ages through the Riverside Parks and Recreation Department. In addition to its 160 or so classes and events, the parks and rec group maintains the picturesque Recreational Scout Cabin in the Indian Gardens area of town, which is available for private events and functions.

Meanwhile, Riverside residents of all ages enjoy another jewel of the community – the Brookfield Zoo. Although the adjacent suburb of Brookfield became the namesake of the Chicago Zoological Society's zoological park,

part of the zoo property falls within Riverside's boundaries, too.

"We are fortunate to have so many members in Riverside and Brookfield and see them not just as zoo members, but as partners in the community. A lot of them are volunteers, too," says Matthew Mayer, vice president of public affairs for the Chicago Zoological Society.

Mayer points to another important Riverside connection to the zoo. In 1919, onetime Riverside property owner Edith Rockefeller McCormick, who had traveled extensively through Europe and marveled at the modern zoos there, donated the initial parcel of land to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to create a zoological park. The zoo opened in 1921.

Today, the Brookfield Zoo – which is open 365 days a year – is not only a world class attraction for its animal exhibits, but a

reflection of the vision of its founders.

"The Chicago Zoological Society is a non-profit conservation organization that manages the 216-acre Brookfield Zoo and conducts conservation programming here and in the regions throughout the world," explains Mayer. "We take an animal-centric approach with our mission of providing conservation leadership and the animals here at Brookfield Zoo serve as ambassadors that allow our 2.3 million guests (per year) to have meaningful interactions and sometimes life-changing experiences here."

While species of all kinds are part of Riverside's history and landscape through the zoo, those who live in Riverside say that they are constantly rediscovering pieces of the past while building on their future in the village. As Kosey says, "You can walk around the block and see something you haven't seen before." ■

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