

# Community Profile

Many advantages and a wealth of resources are provided for the residents of the City of Oak Forest, a well-established community of over 28,000 nestled among the forest preserves of southwest Cook County.

The Central Avenue Corridor is fundamental to the family, recreational and civic life of Oak Forest residents. It is home to George W. Dunne National Golf Course, well known as one of the best public courses in the country. Acorn Public Library, Oak Forest City Hall, Oak Forest High School and Oak Forest Park District are also located along Central Avenue.

Recreational opportunities abound in Oak Forest. The Park District has a full service Health and Fitness Center and 19 parks located throughout the community. The forest preserves provide walking, biking and equestrian paths for recreational use.

With a METRA station conveniently located at 159th and Cicero Avenue, it is only a short train ride to Downtown Chicago. This, combined with easy access to interstate highways, provides residents and business owners an opportunity to have easy access to both the excitement of the city, or the relaxation of the country. This is an excellent benefit to anyone considering locating in Oak Forest.

The history of Oak Forest extends back to the 1800s. The area currently known as Oak Forest was originally called Cooper's Grove. Mr. Cooper who settled here in the 1830s was said to have been the first president of Bremen Township. A log cabin discovered by later settlers is believed to have been built by Cooper and was the first home built in the township. The community was further established when settlers arrived to farm in the area, sometime in the mid to late 1840s. The Cooper's Grove post office was renamed New Bremen in 1848; neighboring Tinley Park was part of the community known as New Bremen until it was incorporated in 1892.

The earliest reference to the community as "Oak Forest" (probably so named for its proximity to nearby forest preserves and mature oak trees throughout and surrounding the area) is in an 1893 Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway timetable. Oak Forest was incorporated as a village in 1947, and then incorporated as the City of Oak Forest in 1971. It became a Home Rule Community in 1981.



## **CITY OF OAK FOREST**

15440 South Central Avenue

Oak Forest, IL 60452

(708) 687-4050 Fax (708) 687-1179 [www.oak-forest.org](http://www.oak-forest.org)

# Area Demographics

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary County: COOK

POPULATION	1980	1990	2000	Current
City	25,500	26,203	28,051	28,116
County	5,253,655	5,105,067	5,376,741	5,376,741
Labor Market	0	0	2,698,107	2,698,107

## EDUCATION FACILITIES

(in community)

Type	Number	Teachers	Enrollment
Elementary	7	137	2,610
Junior High	2	146	2,293
High School	1	137	2,196
Trade & Technical	4	0	0
Community College*	2	0	0
Four-Yr College	0	0	0
University*	4	0	0

Latest A.C.T. Composite Score: 19.3      University: 4 branches

(\* = Satellite facility)

## HEALTH FACILITIES

Number of Hospitals in Community: 1\*      Total Number of Beds: 800      Clinic: Yes  
 Doctors in Community: 14      Dentists in Community: 20  
 Emergency Medical Treatment Local: Yes    1 MI    2 KM

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

(Available within 10 miles)

Motels/Hotels: 2      Number of Rooms: 126  
 Protestant Churches: 12      Catholic Churches: 1      Jewish Synagogues: 0  
 Restaurants: 25      Capacity of Largest Banquet Room: 600      Country Clubs: 1  
 Public Golf Courses: 1      Health Clubs: 3  
 Public Tennis Courts: 6      Public Swimming Pools: 0  
 Public Access to Lake/River: Yes      Name of Lake/River: Twin Lakes (adjacent to city)

## CLIMATE

Avg. Winter Temp      27.00 F - 2.78 C      Avg. Summer Temp      73.00 F    22.77 C  
 Avg. Annual Rainfall    35.18" In    89.35 Cm      Avg. Annual Snowfall    40.40" In    101 Cm

## TAX STRUCTURE

Property tax rates per \$100 assessed valuation. Valuation is 16% of residential property, commercial property is assessed at 38% and industrial property is assessed at 36%.

Property Tax Rates

Year 2006:      City: 1.334%      County: 0.5%      School: 7.65%      Other(s): 1.091%      Total: 10.575%

Total Sales Tax Rate 9%

Utility Tax on Electricity: 5%      Natural Gas: 5%      Telephone: 6%      Water: 0%

Total Property Tax Rates For Two Previous Years:      2005- 1.515%      2004- 1.471%

The amounts shown under prior years is the city rate only.

# Business & Employment

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AMENITIES

Municipal Services  
 Local Government: MAYOR/ALDERMEN/CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
 Municipal Zoning: yes  
 Comprehensive Plan: yes  
 County Zoning: no  
 Subdivision Ordinance: yes  
 Home Rule: yes w/ Design Standards  
 Emergency 911 System: yes

Public Library: yes  
 Rescue Squad: yes

Fire Insurance Class      3 in city      3 outside  
 Fire Department          27 f/t    30 p/t    0 volunteer  
 Police Department        41 f/t    1 p/t    0 volunteer

## Commercial Services

General Waste Disposal: yes  
 Special Waste Disposal: no  
 Cable: yes  
 Machine Shops: 4  
 Tool & Die: 0 distance to nearest: 2 MI 3 KM  
 Banks: 7

Radio Stations: 0  
 TV Channels: 60  
 Newspapers: 1 Daily, 1 Weekly

## Additional Economic Amenities

Competitive Communities Initiatives: no  
 Stages: 0 Foreign Trade Zone: no  
 Enterprise Zone: no Tax Increment Financing District: yes

## LABOR FORCE

### Labor Force Summary for COOK COUNTY

Annual Average for Year 2005  
 Total Labor Force 2,597,452  
     Unemployed 167,659  
     Percentage 6.50%  
 Total Employed 2,429,793  
     Manufacturing 16.90%  
     Non-Manufacturing 82.70%  
     Agriculture 0.40%

Community Union Activity  
 Last Year Data Available 0

Labor Relations Board Elections  
 Number in Last 5 Years 0  
 Number won by union 0  
 Number won by company 0  
 Work stoppage occurrences within last 5 years 0  
 Number of employees involved 0

## EMPLOYMENT

### Major Employers In The Community

Employer	Product/Service	Employees	Yr. Est.
Jewel-Osco	retail food/drug	75	-
InBank	commercial bank	68	-
Marquette Bank	commercial bank	66	-
Food 4 Less	retail food/drug	140	2006
Vicorp/Vicom	wholesale bakery	225	1985
Oak Forest Hospital	chronic/rehab	2,400	1940
Frito-Lay	snack distribution	200	1994
Wille Bros.	ready-mix concrete	65	1955

### Wage Rates

Wage rates for experienced workers in selected occupations working in the Econ Dev Reg 4 NE

Occupation	Entry	Top
Accountant/Auditor	\$19.90	\$40.27
Maintenance Mechanic	\$12.35	\$23.63
Assembler-Electronic	\$7.85	\$14.50
Office Clerk	\$8.87	\$15.48
Assembler-Production	\$7.30	\$12.17
Secretary	\$9.86	\$19.45
Computer Operator	\$13.03	\$23.15
Sheet Metal Worker	\$15.21	\$33.75
Computer Programmer	\$21.84	\$43.43
Ship-Receiving Clerk	\$9.83	\$16.48
Data Entry Operator	\$8.60	\$15.32
Systems Analyst	\$26.61	\$45.92
Drill or Punch Press	\$10.51	\$17.73
Technician	\$15.16	\$27.82
Engineer	\$25.04	\$42.59
Tool & Die Maker	\$15.44	\$27.68
Janitor/Porter/Cleaner	\$7.86	\$13.77
Warehouse Worker	\$10.05	\$18.06
Laborer	\$10.94	\$29.58
Welder	\$11.15	\$20.14
Machinist	\$10.85	\$21.05
Word Processor	\$11.76	\$19.20

Wage rates updated June 2007 from IL Department of Employment Security website.

# Transportation & Utilities

## TRANSPORTATION

Highways Serving Community: 3 Federal 2 State  
 Interstates Serving Community: I-294, I-80, I-57  
 Nearest Interchange: Yes Distance 0 MI 0 KM

Motor Freight Terminals 0 Local Carriers 0  
 Interstate Carriers 0 Intrastate Carriers 0  
 Package Delivery Service: Yes Commercial Bus Service: Yes

Nearest Commercial Airport CHICAGO MIDWAY AIRPORT  
 Local NO 13 MI 21 KM Commercial Airlines 10 Flights per day 275

Nearest Public Airport CHICAGO MIDWAY AIRPORT  
 Local NO 12 MI 19 KM Type of Surface: concrete  
 Longest Runway: 6,523 FT 1,957 M Runway Lighted: Yes  
 Fuel Available: Yes Charter Service Available: Yes  
 Pvt Storage Available: Yes Pvt Maintenance Available: Yes

Railroad(s)  
 METRA (COMMUTER) and C.S.X.

Water  
 City Adjoins Navigable Water: No Public Barge: No  
 Private Barge: No Public Dock Local: No 5 MI 8 KM

Travel Time (distance and travel time for goods in transit to selected major cities)

City	Highway		Days	
	Miles	Km.	by Rail	by Truck
Atlanta	710	1,136	1	2
Chicago	26.7	43	0	0
Cleveland	343	549	1	1
Dallas	916	1,466	1	2
Denver	1,016	1,626	1	2
Detroit	271	434	1	1
Kansas City	499	798	1	1
Los Angeles	2,095	3,352	3	3
Memphis	524	838	1	1
Minneapolis	412	659	1	1
New Orleans	924	1,478	2	2
New York	840	1,344	2	2
St. Louis	268	429	1	1
Seattle	2,063	3,301	3	3

## UTILITIES

Water  
 Water Supplier MUNICIPAL  
 Water Source LAKE

	Gallons/Day	Liters/Day
Storage Capacity	8,000,000	30,400,000
Treatment Capacity	8,000,000	30,400,000
Avg. Daily Demand	2,100,000	7,980,000
Peak Daily Demand	5,000,000	19,000,000
Excess Capacity	5,900,000	22,420,000

### Waste Water Treatment

Type of Sewage Treatment Plant	TERTIARY	
Process	MWRD	
Treatment Capacity	250,000,000	950,000,000
Present Load	0	0
Excess Capacity	354,000,000	1,345,200,000

### Natural Gas - Electricity - Telecommunications

Gas Supplier NORTHERN ILLINOIS GAS  
 Electric Supplier COMMONWEALTH EDISON  
 Local Telephone Supplier AT&T  
 Digital Switching: yes Fiber Optics: yes  
 Long Distances Carriers AT&T, SPRINT, MCI



# Location

The City of Oak Forest is situated in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, approximately 24 miles from downtown Chicago. Its far southern boundaries intersect I-57 for fast, convenient access to and from the city of Chicago and south to Missouri. Just south of Oak Forest, I-57 connects to I-80, which runs the width of the entire U.S., from New York to California. North of the city, travelers can connect to I-294, north to the Wisconsin border and south and east to Indiana.

Oak Forest is also served by U.S. Route 6 (east-west), State Routes 43 (Harlem Ave.) and 50 (Cicero Ave.) both run north-south.

METRA trains carry passengers into Chicago and all points in-between for work or shopping, with a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year schedule. The Oak Forest commuter station at 159<sup>th</sup> Street and Cicero Avenue is served by three commuter parking lots on 157<sup>th</sup> Street, 159<sup>th</sup> Street and Waverly Avenue, with parking for 1,200+ cars daily. Pace Bus service shuttles commuters to and from the stations, with convenient routes coinciding with morning and afternoon/evening METRA schedules.