

Oak Park

ILLINOIS



commitment

community

convenience

culture

education

entertainment

parking

public safety

recreation

refuse & recycling

special events

sustainability

contact

Globally, Oak Park is known as the home of world-renowned residents like prairie-style architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Nobel Prize winning author Ernest Hemingway. Regionally, Oak Park is recognized as a leader in environmental initiatives.

Potential new residents and visitors alike are invited to experience the thriving, environmentally aware community long-time residents know and love. With its celebrated architecture, eclectic business districts and welcoming accommodations, there is something here for everyone. No carbon emissions are required for enjoyment, as the sights are accessible by public transportation, riding a bicycle or walking the beautiful tree-lined streets.

Oak Park boasts an impressive list of environmentally conscious accomplishments, including building Illinois' first Public Works Center to earn gold certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council. Oak Park also has one of the region's largest alternative-fuel municipal vehicle pools, uses native plantings in its commercial planters and landscaped areas, and converted its traffic signals and emergency vehicle lighting systems to efficient LED.

Supporting bicycling also is priority in Oak Park. The Village has a bicycling plan that includes identifying safe bike routes, marking streets with bike lanes, increasing the number of bike racks at transportation hubs and encouraging residents to bike to work, school and shopping.



Oak Park Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd.

Residents seeking information on community efforts to be more environmentally conscious and links to a variety of organizations that can help Oak Parkers live greener need go no further than **www.oak-park.us/environment**. The content of the page was created by the Environment & Energy

Commission, citizen volunteers whose mission is to address conservation concerns and work for a pollution-free environment in Oak Park.

Urban Gardening

Whether you have a large or small backyard — or even no yard at all — growing vegetables in Oak Park is not only possible, but business as usual for many residents. The Village, in cooperation with the local gardening community, provides an online clearinghouse of resources. Visitors who go to **www.oak-park.us/gardening** will find links to those entities most cited by local gardeners as the best sources of information, including the University of Illinois Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and even the Centers for Disease Control. The goal of the Village's grow-local effort is to develop ways to educate and promote urban agriculture as an environmentally friendlier — and tastier — way to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the dining tables of Oak Parkers. A major benefit of urban gardening is less reliance on mass-produced and imported food, a reduced carbon footprint and savings on grocery bills. For more information on urban gardening in Oak Park, e-mail **health@oak-park.us**.