

Chicago – Edgewater and Rogers Park

Edgewater and Rogers Park are two northeastern neighborhoods in Chicago and the only city communities with direct access to the lake. This enviable location has made the area a magnet for settlers since the early 1830's. Both communities are proud of their heritage as well as their current status as two of the city's most diverse yet fastest growing and evolving communities. The area is also home to Loyola University and includes a student population of approximately 10,000.

Edgewater encompasses several smaller areas including Edgewater Glen, Lakewood Balmoral and Andersonville, which is known for its strong identification with its early Scandinavian settlers. Edgewater's total population is 62,000. The earliest Edgewater homes were small farmhouses and workman's cottages, but the area began to boom after World War I with the addition of large homes and elegant multi-unit buildings. Later development brought many high-rise buildings along Sheridan Road with dramatic lake views and private beaches. Today, rehab and new construction projects are drawing newcomers to Edgewater. The area is coming alive with new shops, restaurants and condo developments. The neighborhood beach boasts a fishing pier, "contemplation point" and walking paths.

Rogers Park lies immediately to the north of Edgewater, ending at the Evanston, Illinois border. Over 63,000 residents of many cultures call Rogers Park home and retail establishments include numerous ethnic restaurants and markets as well as one-of-a kind shops and boutiques. Native American tribes, including the Pottawattomie, were the first settlers and established two historic trails through the area, known today as Rogers Avenue and Ridge Avenue. White settlers began to arrive in the early 1830's among them, Philip Rogers and his family. The Rogers Park Historical Society offers a wealth of information and photographs from the early days of the area. Many of the neighborhood's loveliest residential streets end at the lake where community residents can enjoy a total of eight beaches.

Housing. Edgewater offers a great variety of housing options from the stately homes west of Broadway to the lakefront high-rises. Many classic courtyard buildings as well as two and three-flats have been rehabbed into spacious condominiums. Rogers Park also offers an excellent housing inventory. A high-rise construction ban going east from Sheridan Road to the lake has prompted a condo conversion boom in that area. Many beautiful vintage two and three story buildings are being rehabbed into spacious sought-after condominiums. West of Sheridan Road, buyers will find an attractive mix of single-family homes and multi-unit buildings with many rehab construction projects.

Recreation. Both Edgewater and Rogers Park benefit from the many programs offered by the Chicago Park District. Edgewater alone has seventeen parks and beaches. Facilities in Rogers Park include Warren Park, which features a nine-hole golf course, skating rink and multiple tennis courts. Loyola Park, located at the lakefront and named for the nearby University, offers activities for all ages. Indian Boundary Park includes a small petting zoo and one of the best playgrounds in the city. Park District Information: 1-312-742-PLAY.

Schools. The area is served by Chicago Public School District 299, covering elementary, junior high and high school students (773-535-2900). Private schools are also available for pre-school through high school.

Transportation. Driving time to downtown Chicago via Lake Shore Drive is approximately 20 minutes from Edgewater and 30 minutes from Rogers Park. Public transportation to downtown is readily available in both areas via CTA bus and elevated lines. The Chicago and Northwestern railroad stops at the Rogers Park station and reaches Chicago's Loop in approximately 20 minutes.

Rogers Park/Edgewater online

www.rogerspark.com, www.rpwrhs.org, www.edgewater.org, www.chicagoparkdistrict.com