

SUBURBAN JUNGLE

LIFESTYLE. NOT JUST REAL ESTATE.

The 5 Best Chicago Suburbs if You Work From Home

Posted on February 20, 2019



No longer a cubicle dweller? While working remotely allows freedom from a humdrum routine, you also need an environment that encourages productivity. So where do you live when you can work anywhere? Worry no more! From comfortable coworking spaces to resourceful libraries to great coffee shops, these 5 Chicago suburbs will help you embrace location flexibility.

Naperville

Just over 10 percent of Naperville's workforce works remotely (FlexJobs). With its beautiful riverwalk and trendy downtown area full of eateries, cafes, and boutiques, it's no wonder why Naperville is consistently voted as one of the country's top places to live.

Express trains zip you downtown for occasional client meetings, and Naperville's first-rate Chamber of Commerce offers Lunch & Learn programs, panel discussions, and workshops. Stay on task at NaperLaunch, a free workspace in Nichols Library, or try Rev3 Innovation Center, a friendly coworking space. Alternatively, java lovers will embrace the ambiance at Sparrow Coffee and Adagio Teas.



Lake Forest

If you can work anywhere, why not work near a beach in one of Chicagoland's premier suburbs? If you're dreaming of spacious lawns, brick streets, pristine beaches, and a pleasant family atmosphere, Lake Forest is for you. And without a commute to consume your day, you have time to join the Lake Forest Running Club!

The local chamber hosts a revolving calendar of professional and social networking events for freelancers, small businesses, and mobile professionals. Members of the conveniently located LifeWorking Coworking enjoy ergonomic workspaces, free coffee and snacks, and bike storage. On the west side of town, Regus' coworking spaces include a complimentary fitness center and deli.

Barrington

Surrounded by countryside rich with equine heritage, Barrington's residents rave about their community's sociable activities, scenic splendors, and welcoming vibe. Weekends beckon locals outside to enjoy the village's baseball fields, picnic areas, and trails that wind through wetlands and forest preserves. And Barrington's ensemble of annual parades, charity functions, and golf outings will provide plenty of much-needed family time.

Although Metra's BNSF line makes the Chicago trip in under an hour, why leave? Given the chamber's plethora of marketing services, golf leagues, and networking events, including the Women's Biz Net and Young Professionals luncheon, you'll bound to find all you need right here. Co-Optim and 25N Coworking provide shared spaces near Barrington, or Cook Street Coffee is perfect for a working day on the town. Better yet, meet other independent and remote workers through the Barrington Cowork.Zone Meetup group!



Glen Ellyn

Glen Ellyn flaunts the best of both worlds: peaceful, emerald-hued parklands and a simple 47-minute commute. Add in its dynamic, pedestrian-friendly downtown, and you'll understand why Glen Ellyn is one of Chicago's top suburbs. Plus, the village's 29 parks and serene Lake Ellyn encourage midday work breaks (but we won't tattle!).

Glen Ellyn's Chamber of Commerce provides marketing opportunities, networking luncheons, and social media workshops. Or if you're nuts about science, tech, or digital art, meet fellow enthusiasts at centrally located Workshop 88. When nap time becomes too tempting, pack your laptop and head to the public library for quiet meeting rooms, or stake out a spot at Blackberry Market or Tuovo Tea. (Bonus points for their motivating sweets and savories!)

La Grange

La Grange checks all the boxes for primo suburban living. A thriving downtown with clothing, antique, and unique stores galore. Impressive gastronomy with sushi, Indian, Southern comfort food, and much more. Outdoor activities—from tennis to swimming to golf—that appeal to any fitness connoisseur. And cultural options, including a symphony orchestra, art league, and Mother Cluckers comedy group.

When downtown comes a-callin, journey to Union Station aboard the BNSF Metra line. If you're prone to binge-watching Netflix, try Suite Spot Coworking, which offers an energizing, light-filled coworking space with 24/7/365 access. Locals also like Owl and Lark for its cozy atmosphere and superfood smoothies. Hang out for a bit and finally get your Gmail inbox organized. Winning!

There are hundreds of towns to choose from. How do you figure it all out? You simply don't, without getting a Suburban Jungle Strategist to help you through it all. [Schedule here](#)

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Chicago Suburbs with the Most Type A Personalities

Posted on February 26, 2019



Are you a perfectionist and workaholic, lover of to-do lists and master of multitasking, goal-oriented and competitive all of the above? Type As, we're talking to you! While you strive to be the best, we strive to show you the best Chicago suburbs that will sync with your particular lifestyle.

These 5 Chicago suburbs have speedy commutes (because you dislike being even the tiniest bit late) and offer countless activities to fill your calendar and challenge you and your family.

Winnetka

Cultured, amiable, and serene, Winnetka is nestled along picture-perfect Lake Michigan. With its inviting beaches, quaint 19-century houses, and host of dining and shopping options, you'll see why residents tend to stick around. And Winnetka's thriving cultural, charitable, and social scene will encourage you to take a healthy—albeit short-lived—break from your day job, perhaps adding yet another gold star to your resume.

Your Commute: 40 minutes via Metra's UP-N line

Schools: an impeccable school district, including New Trier High School, one of the country's best

Why you'll thrive: Early birds head to Spynergy's spin classes or local Pilates and Aerial Fitness studios. And the fabulous A.C. Nielsen Tennis Center, with a total of 20 courts, provides a healthy outlet for indulging your competitive edge.

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Highland Park

Highland Park is legendary for its lively downtown center, rolling ravines, and beautiful historic homes, many dating from the mid-1800s. Join friendly repartee as neighbors compete for “Best Gourmand” at Ravinia Festival or enjoy the park district’s recreational and cultural amenities. These perks—plus two beaches, golf courses, and an all-encompassing foodie scene—will certainly add to your never-ending to-do lists.

Your Commute: 50 minutes via Metra’s UP-N line

Schools: several parent-approved primary and secondary schools, including A+ rated Deerfield High School

Why you’ll thrive: Type As are prone to some major stressing! Settle your nerves over a golf game or tennis lesson at the town’s first-class country clubs. And you’ll soon be checking “half-marathon” off your bucket list when you sign up for the North Shore Classic Half Marathon!

Glencoe

When it comes to a safe, close-knit community with top-notch schools, it’s hard to top Glencoe. With its idyllic lakeside setting, grand homes, and well-planned city center, Glencoe is a quintessential model for high-quality living. Add in its abundant parks, pre-World War II architecture, and elegant art galleries and theaters, and you’ll soon be a long-time resident!

Your Commute: 35-45 minutes via Metra’s UP-N line

Schools: small student-to-teacher ratios and challenging curriculums at A+ rated schools

Why you’ll thrive: Multitaskers take note! Choose from three luxurious golf courses, master nature trails at Chicago Botanic Garden, or enjoy some serious family time at Glencoe’s annual Great Mud Run. If your crammed schedule finally calls for a breather, slow down for a relaxing evening at Movies on the Green.

La Grange

Notable, walkable, and thoroughly lovable, La Grange earns a nod for its small-town charm and pleasing dining, shopping, and entertainment options. You’ll see your neighbors hitting the pavement for balmy evening strolls or pedaling around DTLG (a.k.a Down Town La Grange). And residents are involved! You will be too given La Grange’s thriving community programs, grass-roots organizations, school and church activities, and volunteer groups.

Your Commute: 23-40 minutes via Metra’s BNSF line

Schools: highly rated public schools, including Lyons Township High School, plus several private and parochial alternatives

Why you’ll thrive: Achieve your fitness goals at iLoveKickboxing or Orange Theory. Take the family to Endless Summerfest and Family Bingo nights, or add to your inspiring skill set by auditioning at Writers Theatre.

SUBURBAN JUNGLE

LIFESTYLE. NOT JUST REAL ESTATE.

Wilmette

Veteran residents love Wilmette's established neighborhoods, welcoming spirit, and array of charitable and civic organizations. The town's visual facade—brick streets, towering trees, immaculate yards—adds an appealing je ne sais quito to its already impeccable ambiance. Plus, your family will reap the benefits of Wilmette's public amenities, including beaches, sprawling park systems, and the impressive Centennial Recreation Complex.

Your Commute: 30 minutes via Metra's UP-N line

Schools: many lauded public and private school systems, including acclaimed New Trier High School

Why you'll thrive: Get those endorphins flowing at BodyStar or yogaview Wilmette, polish your swing at Westmoreland Country Club, or browse one-of-a-kind boutiques downtown. Alternatively, build your network and meet like-minded individuals at chamber events such as the W.K. Power Networking Breakfast.