



South entrance to Lincoln Square

NEIGHBORHOODS TO WATCH

With over 200 neighborhoods in Chicago, and more continuing to pop up, it's difficult to keep up to date with what's out there. Add in the tons of suburbs in the area, each with their own unique flare, and the task just gets tougher. To help keep you informed of what's going on around town, every year we publish our Neighborhoods to Watch issue to highlight a few of the hot Chicagoland neighborhoods. In this issue, we spoke with six experts from six different neighborhoods to tell you in their own words why their location is one to watch in 2010.

LINCOLN SQUARE



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Years in Real Estate: 8

Years in Lincoln Square: 6

Population: 4,798

Median home price:
\$349,900

Location: 5200 N. Foster on the north, 4400 N. Montrose on the south, 2000 W. Damen on the east and 3000 W. Chicago River

Why do you like working in Lincoln Square?

Lincoln Square has small-town friendliness, but offers big city shopping, dining, entertainment and transportation.

What makes Lincoln Square unique?

The neighborhood is a walk-able, green-friendly community anchored by Lincoln Avenue and surrounded by three lovely, large parks: Wells Park on the south, Winnemac Park on the east and River Park on the west. Auto traffic is restricted on the Square. In the summer you can enjoy concerts and movies in the parks, swim at River Park, play ball, jog or walk your dog. Take in the wildflower gardens and nature preserves at Winnemac Park, or visit the Folk and Roots Festival in July at Wells Park.

There are many fun places to shop, dine and discover. At the north end of Lincoln Avenue, you can take cooking classes at Chopping Block, eat at Gene's Sausage Shop and enjoy European pastries and al fresco dining at Café Selmarie. Stop in at Book Cellar to meet an author for a book signing, then pamper yourself at Merz Apothecary or Renaissance Salon. Keep walking and you see women and children's boutiques, the Old Town School of Folk Music and you can't miss Wells Park.

What is your favorite attraction in Lincoln Square?

Wells Park - it has a gazebo that reminds me of Paris, a large indoor pool, ball fields and it is home to the Folk and Roots Festival in July. My next fave is Renaissance Salon on Lincoln, where you can enjoy everything from a facial to a pedicure to a massage or a new 'do in a serene, yet friendly, atmosphere.

Why is Lincoln Square a neighborhood to watch?

Speaking as a girl who grew up in the suburbs but loves the city, Lincoln Square offers the best of both. The more time you spend there, the more you discover. Take a walking tour of local gardens, then look around and see architecture from turn-of-the-century homes to contemporary condos. There are many choices in housing, no matter what your circumstance, from small apartment buildings to large homes to condominiums.

If you bike in the parks or go to a summer concert, you will begin to understand why values have held up pretty well. Once you live in Lincoln Square, you won't feel the need to flee to the 'burbs for shopping, green space or family activities.

Lincoln Square is well served by transit. On the east side there is a Metra Rail stop (at Lawrence and Ravenswood), and express busses to downtown. The brown line also has four stops in Lincoln Square (Damen, Western, Rockwell and Sacramento).

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