

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Name

The village was first called Pennyville, after one of the first settlers, George Penny, but at his request the name was changed to Brickton in 1855. This name was adopted because of the small brick manufacturing village it had become, surrounded by farms. The City was incorporated on July 1, 1873. At the July 4 picnic of 1873, "Brickton," the name of the unincorporated town at that time, was painted on a large balloon and sent aloft, thus symbolizing the changing of the name from Brickton to Park Ridge. The closing of the brickyard prompted the change of name to Park Ridge. The new name was chosen because of the high natural ridge near Ashland Avenue that separates the Des Plaines and the Chicago River watersheds, and the park-like appearance of the town.

Location

Park Ridge is known as a prime residential community located 15 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. Originally settled in 1840, Park Ridge has grown into a medium sized city. The City is situated in a key geographic location in close proximity to O'Hare Airport, the Northwest Tollway, the Kennedy Expressway, CTA Rapid Transit and the Metra Railroad.

Community Description

The July 17, 2009 edition of the [Chicago Tribune](#) listed an in-depth description of Park Ridge. It described the City's "Upsides and Downsides" and "Things To Do" in the town. The article stated the following:

Upside: Park Ridge's spirited central business district, known as Uptown, is the city's beating heart. It's the hub where neighbor meets neighbor and friends greet friends, while dropping off books at the library, taking in a movie at the Pickwick, or simply sipping a cup of Joe at Starbucks. And while it can get bogged down in traffic at rush hour, Uptown's great walkability has been one of the catalysts spurring city residents' zest for pedestrian locomotion. "The best part of Park Ridge is it's the kind of town that encourages walking," says Mayor David Schmidt. "You'll see lots of families, in the evening after dinner, out going for walks."

Downsides: Because Park Ridge has no industry, a larger share of the tax load is shifted to homeowners through residential property taxes. The city has a recent history of being flood prone during the "storms of the century" the Chicago area endures several times a decade. It's taking steps to mitigate that problem, in part by updating and upgrading the maintenance regimen for its storm sewer system. Landlocked Park Ridge has no green fields, and must assemble and clear multiple residential and commercial parcels for new development needed to lift residential tax burdens. The new northern runway at O'Hare has boosted noise complaints, particularly near Maine South High School.

Things To Do: Park Ridge serves up fun events all year. Summers bring Taste of Park Ridge, the Uptown Sidewalk Sale and Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony Summer Concerts in Hodges Park. From May to October, the City holds Saturday morning Farmers Markets in a parking lot behind Main Street. And on the day after Thanksgiving, the city stages its annual Winterfest, when Uptown is lit up and decorated for the holidays, Christmas carolers warble, and double-decker buses carry holiday shoppers between Uptown and South Park.



Famous Citizens

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Frederick Goudy (inventor of 120 typefaces), Grant Wood, Eugene Kupjack (miniaturist; works displayed at the Art Institute), Alfonso Iannelli (sculptor; designed parts of the Pickwick Theater), Harrison Ford, Jim Pankow, John Pankow (actors), Karen Black & Carrie Snodgrass (actresses), Steve Goodman (folk singer and songwriter).

Famous Landmarks

The Pickwick Theater and the Park Ridge Youth Campus (formerly the Illinois Industrial School for Girls) are listed on the National Register of Historic Places

**Type of Government**

Park Ridge was incorporated as the Village of Park Ridge in 1873 and incorporated as the City of Park Ridge in 1910. The City operates under a Mayor-Council form of government. The Mayor and the City Clerk are elected from the population at large. Seven Aldermen are elected for staggered terms from seven wards on the basis of ward population. The Mayor and City Council establish policy; the City Manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the City and its employees.

City's Mission Statement

The City of Park Ridge is committed to providing excellence in City services in order to uphold a high quality of life so our community remains a wonderful place to live and work.

Municipal Services

The City provides emergency 911 telephone, police, fire, and emergency medical services. The Police Department is accredited by the Illinois Law Enforcement Agency. The City has one police station and employs 60 police officers and supervisors. The Fire Department is exemplified by the very high "class three" fire insurance rating. This rating indicates the department's ability to successfully suppress fires and provide life support. The Fire Department was awarded International Accredited Agency status through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International in 2001 and 2006. Park Ridge was the seventh fire department in Illinois and the 45th fire department in the United States to receive accreditation. There are two fire stations and 52 officers, firefighters, and firefighters/paramedics.

Park Ridge consists of 7.1 square miles and has 123 miles of streets. The City provides weekly curbside garbage and recycling pickup to its residents. The Public Works Department manages a strong infrastructure program for the maintenance of streets, water mains, sewers, alleys, sidewalks, and trees. The City operates a water distribution system that provides residences and businesses with Lake Michigan water. The City provides environmental health and planning services. The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Classification is 4 (B). In 2009, the City won the Voice of the People Award for Excellence in Code Enforcement.

The City fully funds the operation of a public library that has a collection of 240,000 items and a circulation of 713,000.

The City provides partial funding to several community organizations including the Park Ridge Senior Center, Park Ridge Teen Center, Park Ridge Historical Society, Park Ridge Civic Orchestra, Park Ridge Fine Arts Society, Brickton Art Center, Center of Concern, and the Maine Center for Mental Health. The City also subsidizes the cost of providing taxicab service to senior and disabled citizens. The City has no statutory authority over the schools or park districts.

Demographics (Information based on 2000 Census unless otherwise noted)

Population. The City's population is 37,775. 48% of the population is male; 52% is female.

Demographics. 95% of the population is white (non-Hispanic). 3% of the population is Asian. 2.9% is Hispanic and .3% is Black.

Age. The median age in Park Ridge is 41 years.

Income and Wealth Statistics. Household income in Park Ridge is substantially higher than surrounding areas and exceeds State averages.

Estimated Park Ridge Family Income	\$112,049
Estimated Illinois Family Income	\$74,622

Average Household Size. The average household size is 2.62 persons.

Education. 92% of the adult population have a high school diploma or higher. 46% have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Employment. Park Ridge has relatively low unemployment, although the unemployment rate has increased from last year. The following is a comparison of Park Ridge unemployment with neighboring communities:

<u>City</u>	<u>December 2009</u>	<u>December 2008</u>
Arlington Heights	7.3%	4.5%
Des Plaines	11.0%	6.7%
Elk Grove Village	9.0%	5.3%
Mt. Prospect	7.8%	4.9%
Niles	8.9%	5.3%
Park Ridge	7.3%	4.8%
Illinois	10.8%	7.4%
United States	9.7%	7.1%

Source: <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/laus/lausmenu.htm> "Current Monthly Unemployment Rates" "Cities".

There are 1,752 businesses in Park Ridge with 18,563 employees. The City's top industry is outpatient health care.

Crime.

Compared to the Chicago community area (For 2006 – Number of Reports per 100,000 people):

Least			Most
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Least – Among the 25% with fewest reports

Most – Among the 25% with most reports

Overall Crime:

	Park Ridge		
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Violent Crime:

Park Ridge			
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Property Crime:

	Park Ridge		
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Source: Chicago Tribune, July 17, 2009

2008 Uniform Crime Rate:

	Rate per 100,000	Total Crime Index	Murder	Criminal Sexual Assault	Robbery	Aggravated Assault & Battery	Burglary	Theft	Vehicle Theft	Arson
2008	1,845.7	680	0	2	6	12	132	509	14	5
2007	1,569.7	579	0	4	6	16	109	423	21	0
% Chg	17%	17%	N/C	(50%)	N/C	(25%)	21%	20%	(33%)	N/C

Source: Park Ridge Pioneer Press, November 19, 2009

City Economy. Park Ridge enjoys an active downtown area containing a mix of office space, restaurants, retailers, specialty stores, entertainment and multi-story housing.

Park Ridge is home to many medical and trade associations of which 19 associations own signature buildings. All pay property taxes. Park Ridge is home to the Million Dollar Round Table, the Tooling & Manufacturing Association, the American Egg Board, the Big Ten Athletic Conference, and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, among other associations.

To aid in the development of a new automobile sales center, the City created its first Tax Increment Financing District in 1999 and provided the dealer with an economic incentive. To aid in the redevelopment of the Uptown area, the City created its second Tax Increment Financing District in 2003.

Land Use and Housing

Residential land use makes up 48% of Park Ridge total area. The remaining general land use includes: commercial - 5%, public, institutional, park, & open space - 24%, and transportation & utilities - 23%. There is little vacant or undeveloped land in Park Ridge; much development results from the demolition of existing structures.

Park Ridge has a long established reputation as a stable residential community known for its well-maintained homes, tree lined streets, and outstanding schools. There are 14,365 housing units in Park Ridge. 85.32% of these units are owner occupied. 90.1% have lived in their homes for 5+ years.

Housing Values.

Home prices fell less in Park Ridge than in surrounding areas:

Municipality	Av Sale Price*	Av Days on Mkt	No. of Sales	% Chg in SI Pr-1994	% Chg in SI Pr - 2008
Arlng Heights	\$406,708	189	350	107.65	(9.24)
Des Plaines	\$264,593	154	282	64.56	(18.96)
Downer Grve	\$429,133	198	315	143.64	(6.68)
Elk Grv Vlg	\$298,582	176	109	79.06	(11.47)
Mt Prospect	\$324,742	156	237	73.28	(13.87)
Niles	\$322,988	199	114	73.84	(13.89)
Palatine	\$379,260	180	257	92.56	(15.64)
Park Ridge	\$489,734	205	215	108.27	(10.06)
Schaumburg	\$311,729	155	217	79.28	(11.17)
Average	\$358,558	179	233	91.35	(12.33)

* July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Source: Chicago Magazine, October 2009

Comparison of Housing Prices Indicating Park Ridge Home Prices Are Above Average:

Municipality	Jan – March 2008		Jan – March 2009	
	Units	Median	Units	Median
Arlington Heights	161	\$318,500	85	\$267,500
Des Plaines	184	\$233,750	122	\$214,500
Elk Grove Village	60	\$271,750	40	\$212,500
Mt Prospect	71	\$312,000	55	\$265,000
Palatine	239	\$189,000	97	\$195,000
Park Ridge	78	\$365,000	41	\$385,000
Schaumburg	188	\$201,250	92	\$207,500
Average	140	\$270,179	76	\$249,571

Source: Chicago Tribune, August 23, 2009

Building Activity.

	New Single Family Home Construction		Existing Single Family Home Remodeling	
	Permits	(\$Mil)	Permits	(\$Mil)
2006	93	\$46.1	338	\$15.3
2007	48	\$24.4	348	\$13.0
2008	32	\$16.8	323	\$14.2
2009				

Source: Park Ridge Community Preservation and Development records.

There was a significant drop in teardowns in calendar year 2009.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. of Teardowns	72	86	97	110	87	39	

Foreclosures:

Park Ridge had the lowest rate of foreclosures compared to neighboring communities based on total properties.

Municipality	A	B	C	D	E	F
Arlington Heights	121	17	144	1 in every 245	206%	161%
Des Plaines 60016	115	30	162	1 in every 151	184%	194%
Des Plaines/Rosemont 60018	45	7	58	1 in every 190	152%	132%
Elk Grove Village	50	8	67	1 in every 212	235%	168%
Glenview	46	18	77	1 in every 258	156%	126%
Mt Prospect	68	9	83	1 in every 278	186%	102%
Niles	40	10	57	1 in every 231	78%	159%
Park Ridge	33	5	45	1 in every 338	80%	114%
Average						

Source: Journal & Topics Newspapers, page 1B, December 2, 2009

- A Initial First Filing
- B Taken Over By Lender
- C New Activity At Some State of Foreclosure
- D % of Properties Receiving Some Kind of Notice in October
- E % Increase Since September 2009
- F % Increase Since October 2008

Park Ridge on the Internet

The Park Ridge Community Network, (www.parkridge.info), provides timely information about the City, Library, Park District, schools, businesses (over 1,500) and other organizations on the Internet. The City's Web site is www.parkridge.us. The Park Ridge Fire Department has a Web site at www.parkridgefd.org and the Park Ridge Police Department's Web address is www.parkridgepolice.org. Internet e-mail to the City may be sent to info@parkridge.us. The Library's Web address is www.parkridgelibrary.org. Internet e-mail to the Library may be sent to abarger@prpl.org.

Uptown Redevelopment – A Community Dream Matures

The residences and shops of Uptown Park Ridge, a mixed-use development has matured according to plan on a six-acre triangle of land bounded by Touhy Avenue, Northwest Highway, and Morris Avenue This project is a transit oriented development containing a mix of residential condominiums, lofts, row houses and retail space.

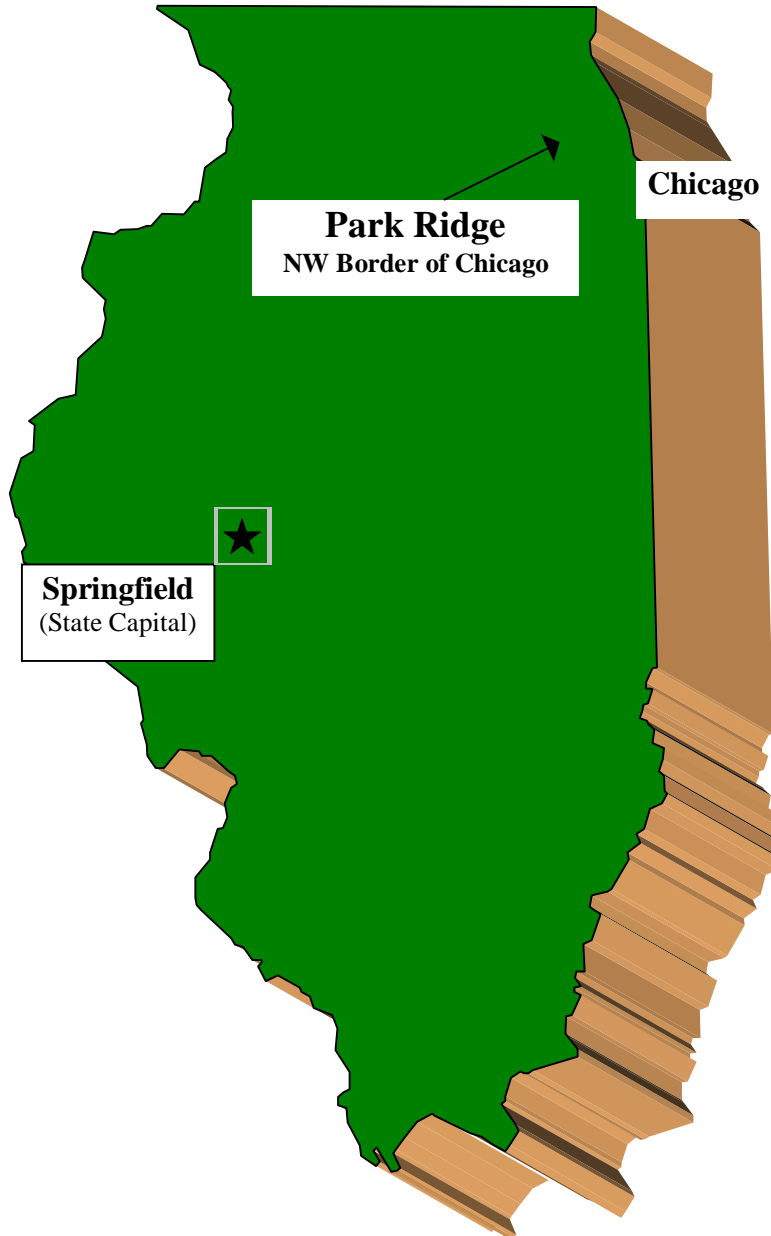
Since June 1, 2005, when the \$110 million project broke ground, the City of Park Ridge and PRC Partners LLC, its selected developer, a three-party entity consisting of Mid-America Asset Management, which oversees the retail component; Edward R. James Homes, which oversees the residential component; and Valenti Builders, Inc., which provides construction services have worked tirelessly to complete this project.

Today, the project consists of 189 residences and 70,402 square feet of retail. According to Michelle Panovich, Mid-America Partner and Director of Development Services, Uptown Park Ridge is not only a place to live and shop, but an attractive place to gather, dine, and be entertained in the charm of a small town ambiance with urban amenities.

The Uptown Park Ridge Redevelopment project received its third award to date on June 25, 2009. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Development Council presented PRC Partners with an Edie Award. The award honors those who imagine, design, invest, build, and bring jobs, growth and prosperity to Illinois communities.



**CITY OF PARK RIDGE,
ILLINOIS**



PARK RIDGE CITIZENS

City Clerk

Mayor and City Council

Legislative (.30)

Legal

Legal Counsel

Library Board

Library

Administration (6.00)
 Maintenance (2.87)
 Technical Service (7.125)
 Adult Reference (12.18)
 Children Service (10.45)
 Circulation (7.695)
 Reader Service (7.475)

City Management

Administration (3.70)
 Records Control (.80)
 Human Resources (1)
 Information Services (.2)
 Information Technology (3)
 Economic Development

**City of Park Ridge
 Organizational Chart
 By Activities
 FTE in parenthesis**

Finance

Administration (2.5)
 Accounting (4.5)
 Collections (1)
 Purchasing (1)
 Pensions

Police

E 911
 Administration (8.7)
 Investigation (11.7)
 Communications (4.5)
 Patrol (50.48)
 Crime Prevention (1)

Fire

Administration (2.8)
 Fire Prevention (1.5)
 Emergency Response (45)
 Special Services
 Emergency
 Preparedness (.2)

Community Development

Administration (1.2)
 Planning (2)
 Zoning (1.5)
 Building (4.8)
 Environmental Health (2.5)
 Community Support (.1)
 Noise Abatement
 Transportation (.1)

Public Works

Administration (3.6)
 City Buildings Maint. (2.21)
 Vehicle Maint. (5.54)
 Engineering (3.7)
 Traffic Control (.73)
 Sewer (4.12)
 Solid Waste (.63)
 Parking (3.18)
 Forestry (1.2)
 Grounds Maint. (3.52)
 Water Admin. (3.54)
 Water Supply (2.7)
 Fire Hydrants (.63)
 Water Mains (3.57)
 Water Meters (1.05)
 Street Lighting
 Snow, Ice & Storm Control (2.3)
 Street Maintenance (6.18)
 Sidewalk Maintenance (.63)
 Alley Maintenance (.31)

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND TASK FORCES

BOARDS

Board of Trustees – Fire Pension Fund

Board of Trustees – Police Pension Fund

Emergency Telephone Service Board

Library Board

Liquor License Review Board

Zoning Board of Appeals

COMMISSIONS

Appearance Commission

Civil Service Commission

Community Health Commission

Electrical Commission

Fair Housing Commission

Fire & Police Commission

Heritage Commission

Historic Preservation Commission

O'Hare Airport Commission

Planning & Zoning Commission

Public Arts Commission

Sister Cities Commission

Youth Commission

TASK FORCES

Flood Control Task Force

Healthy Community Partnership

Human Needs Task Force

Tree Preservation Task Force

OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

MAY 1, 2010

Mayor

David Schmidt

Aldermen

First Ward: Joseph Sweeney
Second Ward: Richard A. Di Pietro
Third Ward: Donald Bach
Fourth Ward: James L. Allegretti
Fifth Ward: Robert J. Ryan
Sixth Ward: Thomas F. Carey
Seventh Ward: Frank Wsol

City Clerk

Betty W. Henneman

City Manager

James Hock

Deputy City Manager

Juliana Maller

Police Chief

Frank Kaminiski

Director of Community Development

Carrie Davis

Library Director

Janet Van De Carr

Human Resources Administrator

Diane Reeves

Director of Finance

Fire Chief

Director of Public Works

Wayne Zingsheim

Director of Information Technology

Diane Nelson

Assistant Finance Director

Linda Lazzara

City Attorney

Everette Hill, *Klein Thorpe & Jenkins, Ltd.*

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