

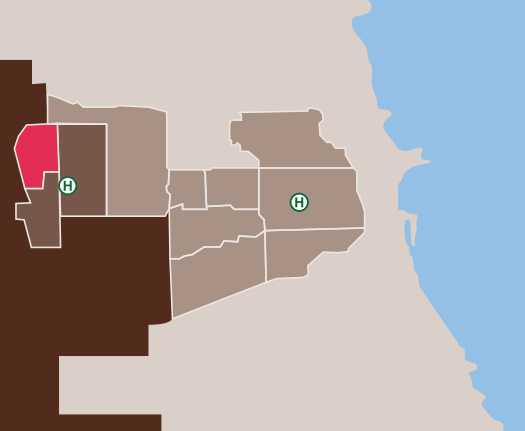
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Community Snapshot: River Forest



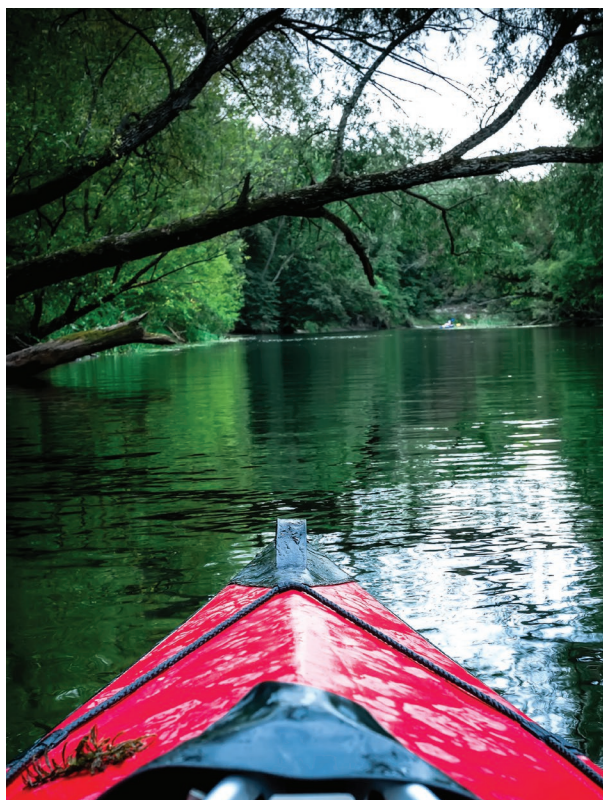
Adopted on June 8, 2016

River Forest



Ten miles west of the Loop on the eastern bank of the Des Plaines River, River Forest grew from a settlement established near a sawmill in 1831 into one of the Chicago area’s most picturesque suburbs. Like its sister village of Oak Park, the community experienced growth after the Chicago fire of 1871, when displaced city residents moved west looking for a new place to settle. After the village made infrastructure improvements in the late 19th century, the population grew quickly and became known for significant residential architecture such as Frank Lloyd Wright’s Winslow House.

River Forest has a strong base of residents who are committed to keeping the community vibrant and providing support to those who need it. For example, through grants and philanthropic fund management, the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation supports local nonprofits and social-service organizations that include the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry, which reduces food insecurity for more than 5,000 households in the community and surrounding areas each year, and Housing Forward, which helps people transition from homelessness to stable housing.



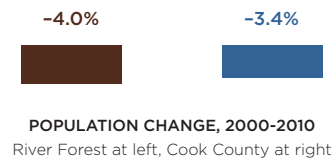
[We have] good access to retail. I love the fact that there’s a little Lake Street here, so you can walk to the movies.

- RUMC focus group participant from River Forest

HIC survey participants asked how common violence is in their community: 69.9% said “not very/not at all.”

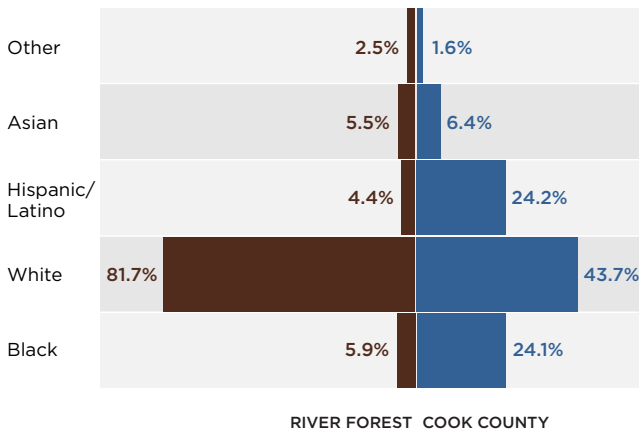
Who lives here?

- **11,183** people live in River Forest. The average household size is **2.7** people, the same as the average Cook County household size.¹
- River Forest's population per square mile is **4,514.7** people, as compared to **5,530** people per square mile in Cook County.²
- Between 2000 and 2010, River Forest's population decreased by **4.0%**, less than the population change in Cook County overall, where the population decreased by **3.4%** during the same period.³



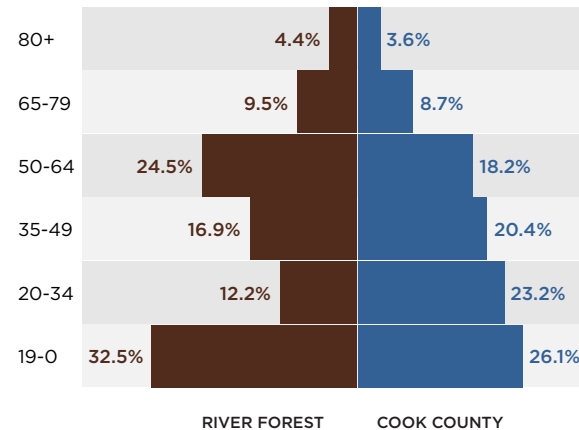
RACE AND ETHNICITY⁴

A majority of the population of River Forest is white.



AGE⁵

The median age in River Forest is **41.4**, older than the Cook County median age of **35.5**.



Let's talk about what you like about your community? Excellent schools.

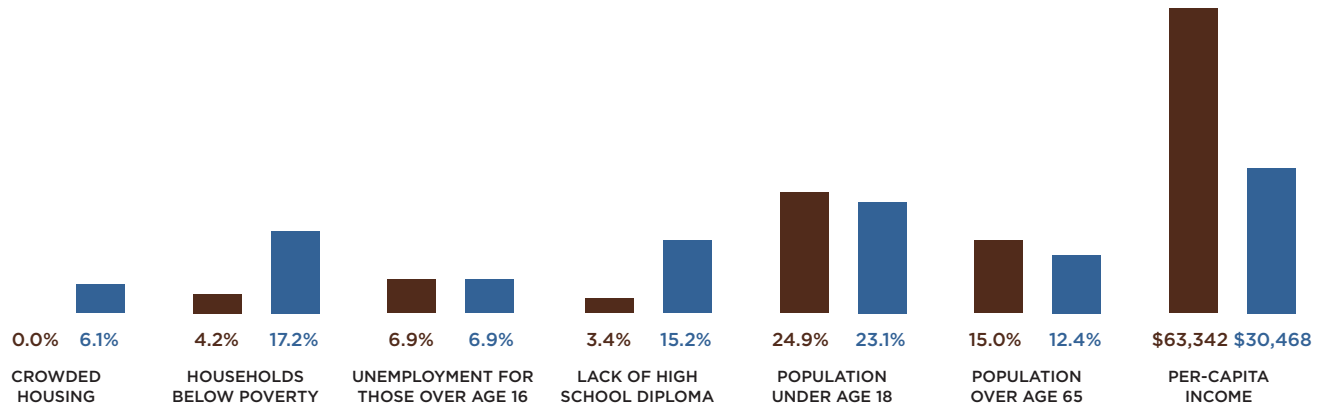
- RUMC focus group participant from River Forest



What are the potential barriers to good health?

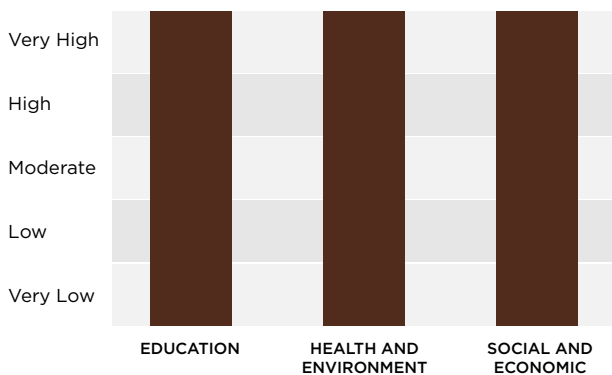
HARDSHIP INDEX⁶

Because the hardship index referenced in this report's other community snapshots is calculated only for community areas within the city of Chicago, River Forest does not have a comparable index number. Its statistics in some of the areas measured by the hardship index include the following (*River Forest at left, Cook County at right*):



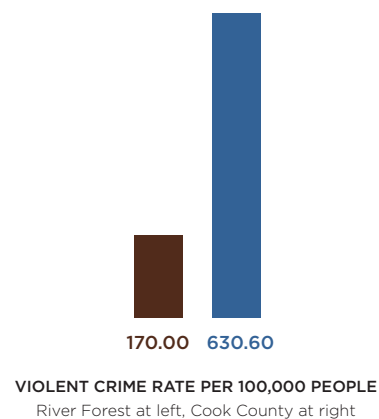
CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX⁷

The Child Opportunity Index (COI) assigns a “very high” ranking to River Forest in all three opportunity areas it measures: education; health and environment; and social and economic. This gives the community an overall COI ranking of **“very high.”**



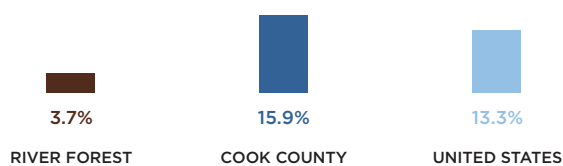
CRIME⁸

River Forest's rate of violent crime — homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault — is slightly more than one-fourth that of Cook County overall.



LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE⁹

River Forest residents have health insurance at a much higher rate than residents of Cook County and residents of the U.S. overall.

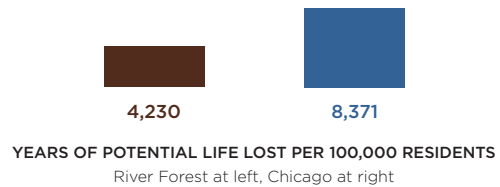


HIC survey participants asked whether they had not sought medical care due to cost anytime in the past 12 months: 74.7% said “no.”

What is the impact of the barriers?

YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST¹¹

The annual years of potential life lost per 100,000 residents aged 75 and younger due to selected causes of death in River Forest is **4,230**, approximately 50 percent lower than the annual years of potential life lost in Chicago.



What resources make life better?

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Some of River Forest's community assets include the following:

Immediate-care center

Gottlieb Center for Immediate Care

Pharmacy clinic

Take Care Clinic at Walgreens

Public parks

Centennial Park
Constitution Park
Keystone Park
Memorial Parkway
Priory Park
Washington Square Park
Washington Triangle Park

Grocery stores

Jewel-Osco
Whole Foods

Childcare centers

Concordia University Early Childhood Education Center
Mosaic Montessori Academy
River Forest United Methodist Church
Rose K. Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education
West Suburban Temple Har-Zion Early Childhood Program

Mental health facilities

St. Vincent Ferrer
St. Vincent Ferrer Church School

Colleges and universities

Concordia University Chicago
Dominican University

Pharmacies

CVS
Walgreens

Schools

Lincoln Elementary, Willard Elementary (Public, K-4)
Roosevelt Middle School (Public, 5-8)
Trinity High School (Private, 9-12)

Neighborhood organizations

Housing Forward
Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry

ENDNOTES

¹ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, River Forest, www.cmap.illinois.gov/.

² www.towncharts.com/Illinois/Demographics/Forest-Park-village-IL-Demographics-data.html.

³ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, River Forest.

⁴ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, River Forest.

⁵ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, River Forest.

⁶ Data from US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-14.

⁷ www.diversitydatakids.org/data/childopportunitymap/3310/chicago-joliet-naperville.

⁸ Data from www.neighborhoodscout.com/il/river-forest/crime/.

⁹ Data from 2010-14 American Community Survey as aggregated at assessment.communitycommons.org.

¹⁰ River Forest data courtesy of the Cook County Department of Public Health; Chicago data from data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/Public-Health-Statistics-Selected-underlying-cause/j6cj-r444.