HYDE PARK
MAKING A HOME IN THE CITY
Transitioning. Kinetic. And home to lifelong residents.

This is Hyde Park, where different people, perceptions, and pursuits coexist and thrive in a
unique Chicago neighborhood on the southwest shore of Lake Michigan.

THIS IS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Downtown Chicago: Just 7 miles from Hyde Park and easily reached by bus, train, car, or a quick cruise down Lake Shore Drive.
In a city known for its architecture, Hyde Park features an eclectic mixture of styles, from vintage greystones and brownstones to buildings designed by such world-class architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, and Eero Saarinen.

Hyde Park is surrounded by communities experiencing unprecedented levels of growth and redevelopment—Woodlawn, North Kenwood/Oakland, and beyond—leading to an ever-broadening community of communities and a blurring of the boundaries that once isolated Hyde Park from its neighbors. The result is an ever-richer cultural life and a shared appreciation for life on the Mid-South Side.
“People in Hyde Park are intellectually ambitious—they want to be among others who are creative, doing productive work, and are into ideas.”

David Bashwiner
PhD student in Music
The University of Chicago
Hyde Park resident: 6 years; lives in a 3-story walk-up apartment

Off campus: Heads the band Immoral Worth; composed the score for the independent film “Crime Fiction.”

For fun: Hang out with friends at Chicago neighborhood bars: Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap in Hyde Park; Lincoln’s in Lincoln Village; or Skylark in Pilsen.” I have a lot of friends in Pilsen. It’s a good bike ride from Hyde Park. It’s a Mexican neighborhood—a somewhat industrialized neighborhood that’s being gentrified. The people are really nice.”

If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: “Go to the lake.” David swims daily in the warm-weather months.

If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Go to Jimmy’s or visit the Pub on the University of Chicago campus. “It has pool tables and hundreds of beers.” Check out some of the shows on campus: Undergrads are doing stuff all the time. They even have their own circus.” Another recommendation: University of Chicago Presents. “Those concerts are really fantastic.” Attend a lecture. Go to the Smart Museum of Art. Visit the University’s Regenstein Library, where “you can see intelligence happening.”
Heavenly career moments: Worked with VisionTV’s “Divine Restoration” series to perform a 48-hour makeover for First Church of Deliverance, a Chicago landmark; interior designer for Apostolic Church of God’s banquet hall and new Youth and Family Center (pictured).

For fun: Walking along the lakefront; golfing at Jackson Park golf course; cooking for huge holiday gatherings.

Walking around the world: “Since walking the lakefront bike path to work downtown every day for the past 11 years, I have covered the distance from Chicago to my hometown of Madrid, Spain, and back.”

For fun: Catching up with performances at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Steppenwolf Theater, Court Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Links Hall, Rubyrium Theatre, Writers Theatre, and Chicago Opera Theater.

“If seniors riding free on the CTA and Metra, my mom and I more often enjoy the ride into the Loop, where we attend the Sunday piano series at CSO—possibly the best piano program in the country.”

If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Walk around the neighborhood, perhaps stopping at the Oriental Institute Museum and then visiting the Seminary Co-op Bookstore “to complete the immersion in the humanities.”

If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Zip downtown to check out Millennium Park and have dinner at Park Grill there. Or visit the DuSable Museum of African American History in Hyde Park and have dinner in Greektown or Chinatown. “You can really enjoy a lot of different communities and cultures in Chicago.”

“An ideal free day is to see what’s new at the Hyde Park Art Center, Smart Museum, and Renaissance Society, and then find a table outdoors at Starbucks and watch the people walk by on 53rd Street.”

“The best part of living in Woodlawn is seeing the community change and being a part of it.”

If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Visit the Magnificent Mile downtown. Attend a sporting event at one of the major stadiums: Soldier Field for a Bears game, United Center for a Bulls game, U.S. Cellular Field for a Sox game. Go to a production at Steppenwolf Theatre or ETA Creative Arts Foundation, where Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson got her start. Golf 18 holes at Jackson Park, followed by dinner in Hyde Park.
Tree-lined streets and neo-Gothic grandeur typify the University of Chicago campus.
Anchored by the University of Chicago, an intellectual energy infuses the Hyde Park community, from the 18-year-old college student to the Bronzeville jazz musician, from the astrophysics researcher to the Woodlawn blogger, from the bookshop tourist to the senior playing chess in the park.

It is this energy that informs discussions and fuels activism, that cherishes history and prompts change, that tethers loyal residents to the very community they sometimes criticise. Hyde Park is a place for thinkers and poets, for conservatives and liberals, for the religious and secular. It is a place where voices are heard.

The University draws people to the neighborhood. The community is the reason they stay.
HYDE PARK RESIDENTS

GARY BECKER
University Professor in Economics, Sociology, and the Graduate School of Business, the University of Chicago; winner of the Nobel Prize in economics

Hyde Park resident: 40 years; lives in a single-family home near the heart of the campus.

"Hyde Park is a real community. In a lot of city neighborhoods, you don’t really know your neighbors. This is like a small town, it’s a very warm community."

For fun: Everything from attending a play at Court Theatre to hanging out at Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap, Bar Louie, or the lakefront. If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Visit the Seminary Co-op Bookstore and grab a bite at Valois. If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Visit Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House; tour Jackson Park and the Osaka Garden; walk past the Ginz Building at 5825 Dorchester. A lot of the great professors lived there: Chandrasekhar, Saul Bellow, Art Condon, Milton Friedman, George Trigler—what’s five Nobelists right there?

BRANDON JOHNSON
Project Manager
Metropolitan Planning Council

Hyde Park resident: 28 years. "I’ve lived in Hyde Park my entire life. I was 7 years old when Mayor Harold Washington passed. [Richard M.] Daley’s been mayor since I was 9 years old. "Lives in a 3-flat just down the block from where he grew up.

"I’m always running into people I know. It’s easy to spend an hour just getting a cup of coffee."

For fun: "You can’t beat the Hyde Park area for books." If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Visit the Seminary Co-op Bookstores and grab a bite at Valois. If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Visit the Oriental Institute Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry. Spend some time at the lake or go skating on the Midway. Get some pizza from Giordano’s or the Medici.

Blog: becker-posner-blog.com

More info: "I’m always running into people I know. It’s easy to spend an hour just getting a cup of coffee."

"Hyde Park is a real community. In a lot of city neighborhoods, you don’t really know your neighbors. This is like a small town, it’s a very warm community."
“There are a lot of distinct cultural communities within the city, but Hyde Park is like a lot of different communities put together.”
Promontory Point, at the easternmost tip of Hyde Park, offers picturesque views of downtown and Lake Michigan.
Wide open describes both Hyde Park’s vistas and its attitude. From the gardens of the Midway Plaisance to the beaches of Lake Michigan, from the parlors of Jackson Park to the historic mansions lining Woodlawn Avenue, Hyde Park offers remarkable views. Since the days of the World’s Columbian Exposition and the opening of the University of Chicago in 1893, such views of Hyde Park have been enjoyed by people of every race, religion, culture, and ethnicity. Today, the community is considered a model of successful urban integration. This environment has long fostered a culture of challenge and discovery. From Nobel Prize winner Enrico Fermi to Chicago’s first black mayor, Harold Washington, Hyde Park residents have a tradition of speaking out, breaking barriers, and changing the world.

Youth soccer teams are a familiar sight along the Midway Plaisance in spring and fall.
THE YEARS, HYDE PARK HAS BEEN HOME TO MANY FAMOUS RESIDENTS.

BARACK OBAMA

MOVED TO HYDE PARK IN 1961 TO TEACH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL.

SARA PARETSKY

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF THE V. L. WARD-MAWSKI DETECTIVE NOVELS.

CLARENCE Darrow

ONE OF HYDE PARK'S BEST-KNOWN RESIDENTS WAS THE COUNTRY’S MOST CELEBRATED DEFENSE ATTORNEY, FAMED FOR THE “MONKEY TRIAL” OF 1925. DARROW LIVED FOR MANY YEARS IN THE MIDWAY APARTMENT HOTEL ON 60TH STREET NEAR STONY ISLAND AVENUE.

BARACK OBAMA

FORMER U.S. SENATOR

HERBIE HANCOCK

GRAMMY AWARD–WINNING JAZZ MUSICIAN

JESSE JACKSON SR.

FOUNDER OF RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION

CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAYOR OF CHICAGO

MUHAMMAD ALI

HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION

HAROLD WASHINGTON

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MILTON FRIEDMAN & GEORGE STIGLER

WORLD-RENOWNED ECONOMISTS AND TWO OF NUMEROUS NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS TO MAKE THEIR HOME IN HYDE PARK.

LORRAINE HANSBERRY

AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT AND PAINTER, WHOSE “A RAISIN IN THE SUN” (1959) WAS THE FIRST DRAMA BY A BLACK WOMAN TO BE PRODUCED ON BROADWAY. 

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“You see Hyde Park’s diversity at the local playgrounds. My son sees black kids and white kids in the same sandbox, and in one week he’ll hear Chinese, Arabic, and Portuguese on the jungle gym.”

DAVID HOYT
Biologist and at-home dad
Hyde Park resident: A total of 6 years; came here as a student, received his PhD in History in 1999, and returned later to live here with his wife and son in a town house
Career switcher: Professionally trained historian who swapped teaching and writing to be an at-home dad to his infant son, joining the less than 10 percent of fathers nationwide who parent full-time.
For fun: Salsa dancing, cycling on the lakefront ("when we can get a babysitter")
If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Visit the University of Chicago campus and have lunch in the Harper Center (Graduate School of Business) café; go to the neighborhood bookstores; visit the Hyde Park Art Center and get some gelato at Istria Café there.
If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Drive or take the South Shore train to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; visit the Art Institute of Chicago downtown; rent a sailboat at the 63rd Street Beach.
Gardens abound on the Mid-South Side, from backyard blooms to colored carpets of flowers on the University of Chicago campus, which has been designated a botanic garden by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.

CHICAGO’S MOTTO IS “CITY IN A GARDEN”
Chicago’s motto is “City in a Garden,” and nowhere is that better illustrated than in Hyde Park and the surrounding communities. Home to Jackson Park, Washington Park, and the Midway Plaisance, all created by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, the Mid-South Side is nestled in a sea of green space. To the east is the vast expanse of Lake Michigan, where the color palette shifts with every season and sunrise.

The Lakefront bike path is more than 18 miles long. It connects Hyde Park to historic South Shore in one direction and the city’s North Side in the other, with cultural stopping points at museums, stadiums, summer festivals, and tourist attractions along the way.
KAREN SCHULZ-HARMON
Cellist with Chicago Opera Theater and the Chicago Trio
North Kenwood/Oakland resident: 6 years, along with husband, Andrew; lives in a 1920s town home
Backstage: Cello teacher on faculty at the Musical Offering and the Chicago Academy of the Arts; chamber music coach for the Chicago Youth Symphony’s Chamber Music Program.
For fun: Attends Lyric Opera as a season ticket holder; enjoys with friends for dinner, works out at Riddly Total Fitness on 63rd Street; bikes. “We have close access to the bike path. Andrew bikes to work downtown every week—rain or shine.”
Hyde Park restaurant favorites: Dixie Kitchen for Southern flavor and La Petite Folie for French cuisine. Elsewhere in the city: Paris Love in Lincoln Park for Mediterranean, San Elioguito in the Old Town-Elston Historic District for atmosphere, Heartland in Rogers Park for wholesome menu. “As a teacher, I love being in a room with the students, the players, the music—how it sounds, how it feels.”
If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park:
Enjoy a scenic walk to the Point on the lakefront. Visit the Smart Museum of Art. Have lunch at Dixie Kitchen.
If you have 2 days in Hyde Park:
Take a quick trip downtown to the Shedd Aquarium and Field Museum and “make a day of the museums.” Go on an architecture tour. “Biking to Navy Pier and back along the lakefront also would be high on my list—you can see beautiful views of the downtown, and you can easily reach any of the museums on the Museum Campus.”
“We moved here from the North Side. Our neighborhood is now much less busy and frantic. We see more grass and trees out our window. There’s a sense of calmness that I appreciate.”

PAULA WORTHINGTON
Lecturer, Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Students, The University of Chicago
Hyde Park resident: 3 years, along with husband and three boys; lives in a historic single family home
Making music: Plays French horn in the Isaac Israël klezmer band.
For fun: Biking along the lakefront, ice-skating on the Midway, and cross-country skiing in the parks. “Walking down these streets, I feel like I can touch history.”
If you have 2 days in Hyde Park:
Visit at least two of the local museums, such as the Museum of Science and Industry and DuSable Museum of African American History; do a walking tour of the Kenwood masonic houses; have lunch at a Thai restaurant or other ethnic place on 55th Street; have dinner at someplace high-end like Park 52.
“Riding to Navy Pier and back along the lakefront also would be high on my list—you can see beautiful views of the downtown, and you can easily reach any of the museums on the Museum Campus.”

“Walking down these streets, I feel like I can touch history.”
The arts thrive in and around Hyde Park: many of the myriad music, dance, dramatic, art, and film events are sponsored by the University of Chicago.
Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center in Kenwood is just one of many visual arts showcases in the neighborhood.

A rich cultural life is thriving around Hyde Park. From the exciting new season of plays at Court Theater and groundbreaking art exhibitions at the Renaissance Society on the University of Chicago campus to the jazz and blues greats at the annual Hyde Park Jazz Festival and the Checkerboard Lounge, the Mid-South Side has a treasure trove of choices.

The Mid-South Side is brimming with opportunities for arts, recreation, and entertainment.
The Hyde Park area has it all: Top health care facilities, outstanding schools, abundant housing choices, and diverse places to worship. It’s a great place to make a home in Chicago.

Health Care

U. S. News & World Report consistently selects Hyde Park’s own University of Chicago Medical Center as one of the best hospitals in the United States. The Medical Center, which stands on its own at the forefront of medicine, includes two hospitals for adults as well as the new University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital, which specializes in state-of-the-art care in a family-friendly environment. Also under the Medical Center umbrella are the Duchossois Center for Advanced Medical Research, a state-of-the-art care in a family-friendly environment.

The Hyde Park area has it all: Top health care facilities, outstanding training programs of the Pritzker School of Medicine; and several health care locations throughout the Chicago region.

Housing

Hyde Park escaped the devastation of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, so the neighborhood boasts one of the oldest houses in the city. Plenty of two building is going on, too, with a special focus on luxury studio conversions. Housing options in Hyde Park range from large single-family homes to townhouses, high-rise condominiums, three- and four-story walk-up co-ops, and rental apartments. Montgomery Place offers seniors a continuing care retirement community.

Education

From preschool through high school, Hyde Park’s IT public, parochial, and private schools give parents a wide variety of educational choices. Among the options are Ray School, recently named an Illinois State Board of Education ‘Model School’; Huffman Language Academy, a top-ranked magnet school; and Akiba-Schechter, the only Jewish school in Chicago’s South Side. Options for younger children include the Parent Cooperative for Early Learning and the Baby PhD Childcare Network, which offers several day care homes as well as a nursery-care program. The University of Chicago plays a key role in educating area children. The University’s laboratory schools educate nearly 1,000 students each year, while the University of Chicago Charter School’s four campuses serve as national models of urban education at its best.

Worship

Hyde Park’s diversity is reflected in its many opportunities for worship and fellowship. All major religious faiths are represented, as are many that are less well known. Rockefeller Memorial Chapel sponsors an annual Interfaith Thanksgiving fellowship. All major religious faiths are represented, as are many that are less well known.

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