



Welcome to the Neighborhood

Sauganash/Edgebrook

by Brett Ashley McKenzie

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"Welcome to the Neighborhood" profiles a Chicago community each issue and highlights the major draws of buying and selling property within that community, as well as local perspectives on the neighborhood and interesting facts for you to share with your clients.

For many adult Chicagoans, starting a family necessitates a move to a sprawling development in a far west suburb. Former bachelors and bachelorettes surrender their proximity to the "L" and local pubs for fenced in yards (front and back), driveways, and relative peace and quiet.

Others, however, find the idea of relinquishing the city life they know and love unfathomable. Many people look forward to raising their children in an urban environment, near the city's family-friendly attractions, like the lakefront, zoo, and numerous museums and parks.

Somewhere in between sit the neighboring communities of Sauganash and Edgebrook, not quite city and not quite suburb. Despite the numerous tree-lined streets, forest preserve, bike paths, and parks, Sauganash and Edgebrook are indeed located within Chicago's city limits in the Forest Glen neighborhood, a sort of suburban oasis only minutes west of Western Avenue.

"One of the funny remarks I have heard from people over the years is, 'are these [neighborhoods] in the city?'" says Ken Reeder, ABR, GRI, Broker/Associate, Baird & Warner. "The large lots, mature trees, parks, and forest preserve make these neighborhoods solidly residential areas."

Residential, perhaps, but certainly not sleepy, Sauganash and Edgebrook truly come alive in the summertime. These neighborhoods are home to numerous commuters, many of whom climb aboard the Metra every morning or turn onto the Edens Expressway and head downtown for work. Each evening, these commuters return to the relative sanctuary of their charming homes.

On the weekends, bikers whiz down paths that wind their ways through dense forests, families hold barbeques at Bunker Hill Forest Preserve, children and adults alike play soccer, Frisbee, and softball in the parks, and even horseback riders trot through the dirt trails in the woods.

Sauganash

The name Sauganash was taken from Chief Sauganash, the Canadian-born son of an Irish army officer and a Pottawatomie Chief's daughter. In 1828, Chief Sauganash (which means "white man" in Pottawatomie) received a 1,600-acre parcel of land from the U.S. Government in thanks for the work he had done to improve relations between settlers and Native Americans.

Today, Sauganash extends as far north as Devon, as far south as Bryn Mawr, as far east as Pulaski, and as far west as the Edens Expressway. Unlike neighborhoods closer to Chicago's downtown, Sauganash is predominantly a residential community. A recently completed Whole Foods (6020 N. Cicero Ave.) is already a popular attraction, and shopping centers in nearby Lincolnwood, Niles, and Skokie offer close proximity to movie theaters, grocery stores, and chain retailers like Best Buy and Target. The selection of restaurants is diverse, ranging from

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Tudor-style home in Old Edgebrook District



Graziano's Brick Oven Pizza



Edgebrook homes

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quick, quality Greek fare at East of Edens (6350 N. Cicero Ave.) to authentic Basque and Andalusian tapas at Café Marbella (3446 W. Peterson Ave.). The classic Sauganash Restaurant (4732 W. Peterson Ave.) is an affordable, family-friendly local favorite and the Balanced Kitchen (6263 N. McCormick Rd.) offers delicious vegan, organic, and gluten-free food in an eco-friendly environment.

Sauganash residents and visitors alike embrace the outdoors, and Sauganash Park (5861 N. Kostner Ave.) offers everything from softball to tennis to basketball to playgrounds. Music and dance lessons and programs are offered at the park's indoor facilities, and a gymnasium and fitness center allow for year-round athletics.

Edgebrook

Edgebrook once belonged to the same parcel of land as Sauganash, annexed to Chicago in 1889. Like Sauganash, Edgebrook is mostly residential, with the Cook County Forest Preserve bordering the neighborhood on the west. Trails that wind their way through the woods are perfect for running, rollerblading, biking, and horseback riding. From the intersection of Caldwell and Devon Avenue, nearly 20 miles of bike trail stretch from Edgebrook to the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe. Pack a picnic and enjoy the gardens in full bloom or stop near one of the many picturesque scenes along the way.

Cycling enthusiasts should reward themselves at Graziano's (5960 West Touhy Ave.), an exceptional, unpretentious Italian restaurant with an authentic brick oven for pizza and baked pasta dishes. Technically located in Niles, Graziano's

is only blocks from the bike trail and offers arguably some of the best homemade Italian food in the Chicago area. Ask to sit in Marilyn's section for top notch service and expert recommendations for the restaurant's best dishes.

Nothing caps off a hot summer's day outside like a gigantic ice cream cone. Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream (5337 W. Devon Ave.) offers more than 40 flavors of ice cream made in Wisconsin. Try the special Zanzibar ice cream in a waffle bowl.

Chicago history and architecture buffs won't want to miss the Old Edgebrook District (intersection of Central and Devon). Hidden in a wooded enclave alongside the Edgebrook Golf Course, the Old Edgebrook District was

neighborhoods the prime locale for families with young children. "This is truly a family-oriented neighborhood," says Cam Benson, CRB, CRS, C.A.R. Past President and a resident of Edgebrook/Sauganash for more than 50 years. "Just take a stroll through the tree-lined streets and you will meet children and parents on their way to the nearby parks."

REALTOR® Laura Lentino of Century 21 Sussex & Reilly also grew up in Sauganash. "Three generations of my family have lived in Sauganash since 1956," she says. "It is a great neighborhood to raise a family. Over the past few years, there have been a few tear downs and/or remodels of older, usually smaller homes, but the area has kept its unique appearance because no two homes are exactly alike. That's one of my favorite things about the neighborhood. The homes don't have a 'cookie cutter' appearance. Each one is truly different from the next, yet they blend together to make a gracious and elegant streetscape."

Commuters itching to escape the confines of the city like Edgebrook for the ease of travel. "It's an easy commute to downtown," says REALTOR® Ken Reeder. "Edgebrook even has its own unique Metra station [at 6402 N. Central Ave.]."

For a taste of what makes these communities so special, the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic is a great alternative to the crowded scene at Navy Pier. Or, simply pick a warm summer day, grab a bike or your walking shoes, and hit the trails. Edgebrook and Sauganash offer an oasis inside our city that simply can't be missed. **CR**

Photos by Kali Loader.

What's selling in... Forest Glen?

FastSTATS first quarter 2008 (8012)

Attached Single Family Detached Single Family

Units: 2	Units: 25
Median Price: \$231,000.	Median Price: \$465,000.
Market Time: 130 days	Market Time: 123 days

Check out neighborhood stats for all 77 Chicagoland neighborhoods at www.ChicagoREALTOR.com.

FastSTATS consists of average sales price, median sales price, market time, units sold and percent change for Chicago and the suburbs.

built in 1894 with close proximity to the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway. The architectural styles of the homes lining the quiet streets range from bungalow to colonial revival to Queen Anne and more. Tucked away in the woods, this piece of Chicago history was designated a Chicago Landmark in 1988.

Who Wants to Live Here?

Edgebrook and Sauganash's strong school districts and small-town ambience make these