

On May 8, 1993, the *Chicago Tribune* wrote "The real character of Brookfield is clearly evident. Friendliness and family orientation are two traits almost everyone in town highlights as primary reasons they like calling Brookfield home." Brookfield, said the *Tribune*, is a "community that puts family first, and quite possibly second, third and fourth as well." The article went on to say "The whole town, it seems, is on a first-name basis and the village president picks up his own telephone."

Fast forward 20 years. In 2013, *Chicago* magazine recognized the Village of Brookfield as one of the top places in metro Chicago for first-time home buyers. The magazine asks, "Like nature? You'll love this western suburb, which is home to Brookfield Zoo and a stretch of the Salt Creek forest preserve. You can easily find a brick bungalow or a postwar Georgian for under \$200,000."

Conveniently located 13 miles west of downtown Chicago, with easy access to trains, buses, highways, and airports, Brookfield is an established, stable, and serene suburb of only 3.1 square miles. We are often called "the world's most visited village" because the world famous Brookfield Zoo attracts so many visitors.

Brookfield is a vibrant, diverse community of 19,023 individuals supporting a variety of churches, good schools, an excellent library, modest taxes, convenient transportation, and extensive parks and recreation programs. We are committed to economic development, modernizing, building, and making our neighborhoods better and safer. Whether shopping, dining, or enjoying the zoo, you will find our village a remarkable and friendly place. A great place to live, raise a family, shop, and do business, Brookfield is a welcoming community in every sense of the word.

WELCOME TO BROOKFIELD!



Brookfield
Connected

The Village Welcomes You



Connected to You!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to your new community, the Village of Brookfield, *"The World's Most Visited Village."* Yes, it's true! Thanks, in part, to the international fame of our most noted landmark, the Brookfield Zoo (which attracts over 2.2 million visitors annually), our village has received this very special honor.

In addition to attracting millions of visitors each and every year, we continually attract homeowners like you. From our convenient location, just 13 miles from the Chicago Loop with multiple train stops that can take you downtown in less than 30 minutes, to our thriving businesses, award-winning schools, excellent restaurants, and welcoming neighborhoods, Brookfield offers the very best of city and suburban living. Our flourishing Chamber of Commerce supports a number of local businesses, all of which look forward to welcoming you to our village!

Brookfield is also home to ten superbly maintained park properties, along with several recreational facilities hosting Little League baseball and AYSO soccer. Our parks offer a variety of activities including playground equipment, a splash pad, areas for bocce ball and horseshoe, and courts for volleyball, basketball and tennis. Our expansive pedestrian and bike paths are among the very best in the area, connecting our residents with the beauty of nature.

We have several Commissions comprised of Brookfield resident volunteers including Beautification, Conservation, Playground & Recreation, Special Events, Planning and Public Safety. If you would like to be involved with one of our Commissions or their activities, please contact me at kketchmark@brookfieldil.gov or at 708-485-7344.

As a resident of Brookfield, you have joined approximately 19,000 others who have chosen our community as their home. Beyond our excellent schools, our responsive police, fire and public works services, diverse dining and shopping, and convenient location, our village's very best asset is the friendly and caring people who will be your neighbors.

Welcome to Brookfield!

Kit P. Ketchmark
Village President

Connect with Your Community! (cont.)

1958 The Village's Public Works Department installs a traffic circle at the treacherous intersection known as "eight corners". Miss America, Mary Ann Mobley, and three bands are on hand for the dedication.



1976 Brookfield is named a "Bicentennial Community" and gets one of 111 replicas of the Liberty Bell cast from the same mold as the original in Philadelphia.

1981 Brookfield is named a "Tree City USA." The new water tower sporting the now famous logo of two porpoises from the Brookfield Zoo is erected.



1987 The Village of Brookfield and the City of Moe, Australia become sister cities. Similar in size and economic structure, Moe is located 135 km east of Melbourne.

1991 The Irish Times opens for business, and becomes an "anchor" for the downtown business district. Owner Martin Lynch (native of County Galway, Ireland) takes over the family business in 2008, subsequently expands the restaurant space and menu offerings. It is now recognized as one of the preeminent Irish pubs in greater Chicago.



2010 The Galloping Ghost Arcade opens. The video arcade (notable for its amazing collection of retro and futuristic video games), is estimated to be the largest video arcade in the United States with over 400 video and pinball games.

2014 The Village of Brookfield celebrates the 125th anniversary of the original "Grossdale" train station. The train station is now on the National Register of Historic Places, one block from the current Brookfield train station and downtown.





Connect with Your Community! (cont.)

1889 Gross opens "Grossdale" and begins offering lots for sale. The first two buildings are a train station south of the tracks at what is now Prairie Avenue, and a Pavilion across the tracks. The original train station was moved across the tracks in 1981, and is now the home of the Village's Historical Society and museum. The Pavilion housed the first post office, general store, Gross' real estate office, meeting rooms, and eventually a dance Hall. Gross begins offering free train outings from Chicago to Grossdale where the prospects are met at the station by a band and treated to a picnic lunch complete with a sales pitch from Gross.

1893 Early residents vote to incorporate Grossdale, the official date of the founding of what is now Brookfield.

1894 The first Village Board meets.

1905 Grossdale's name is changed to Brookfield.

1918 Riverside Brookfield High School opens. RB beats Oak Park in basketball to win the Suburban League Championship.

1920 The Plank Toll Road, now called Ogden Avenue, is paved in cement providing easy automobile access.

1934 The Chicago Zoological Park opens. It is commonly called the Brookfield Zoo, and quickly grows to gain international fame as a zoo, educational institution, and research facility.

1947 The Village's finances are so bad that bankruptcy is discussed, but Illinois law prohibits it. Backs to the wall, hundreds of residents volunteer to make sure all lots listed as empty are really empty and that all buildings are properly assessed and on the tax rolls. Hundreds of water leaks are stanchied to drastically reduce the Village's water bill from Chicago. To further combat the Village's financial problems, Brookfield pioneers the concept of using a full-time Village Manager to oversee the Village's affairs. It is so successful that the state begins recommending it to other villages.

1952 Citing Brookfield's remarkable recovery from the brink of insolvency, The National Municipal League and Look Magazine give Brookfield and 10 other municipalities the title "All American City."

Connect With Us

Visit our Website www.brookfieldil.gov

Please be sure to visit our website regularly for the latest, most up-to-date information on Village programs and events. While on our site, we encourage you to...

- **Sign up for our E-Newsletter**

Get the most current Village news and information sent directly to your email.

- **Sign up for CodeRED**

Code RED is a system that allows you to receive free telephone notification of severe warnings, tornadoes, flash floods or other warnings issued by local authorities.

- **Enroll in Water Billing Autodraft**

The Village is pleased to offer residents the ability to pay water bills automatically in order to eliminate the worry of late payments and penalties, while also saving on postage and time. Forms are available on-line to complete the registration process.

- **Explore the Current Recreation Brochure**

In addition to receiving it in the mail, the most recent edition of our recreation brochure will always be posted on our website for your convenience.

- **See the Board and Commission Meeting Dates and Times**

Interested in local government deliberations? A complete agenda and calendar is just a click away! The public is always welcome.

- **View the Village Telephone Directory**

Quickly and easily find the phone numbers you need.





Stay Connected

VILLAGE HALL

8820 Brookfield Avenue
Brookfield, Illinois 60513

HOURS

Monday:

8:30 am to 6 pm
(5 - 6 pm, cashier's office only)

Tuesday through Friday:

8:30 am to 5 pm

Email:

help@brookfieldil.gov

WATCH US ON TV

Visit us on our community
access channels:

Comcast – Channel 6

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Village Hall Offices

Phone: 708-485-7344

Fax: 708-485-4971

Police/Fire Emergency

911

Non-Emergency Police

708-485-8131

Non-Emergency Fire

708-485-0076

Snow Hotline

708-387-SNOW (7669)

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Brookfield Population | 19,023 (census as of 2014) |
| Park Areas | 64 square acres |
| Number of Housing Units | 7,785 |
| Median Age of Residents | 38 |
| Size of Brookfield | 3.1 square miles |
| Date of Incorporation | 1893 |
| Median Housing Value | \$240,300 |
| Median Household Income | \$72,540 |

Source: 2010 Census and census.gov



Connect with Your Community!

History of Brookfield



In 1994 a number of citizens and local historians teamed up to publish a remarkable 388 page book with hundreds of photographs named "Brookfield Illinois, A History." Most of the information below was excerpted from this valuable resource. The book may be purchased from the Brookfield Historical Society housed in the original Grossdale train station on Brookfield Avenue just east of Prairie Avenue.

Before 1803 The area now called Brookfield is mostly covered by prairie grasses, forests, and farms. Large portions of the area are inhabited by the Native Americans who long ago developed agriculture and corn cultivation, built villages and burial mounds, invented the bow and arrow, and made beautiful pottery.

1803-1816 The US Government captures and purchases most of northern Illinois from Chippewa, Ottawa, Pottawatomi, Kickapoo, and Kaskaskia tribes.

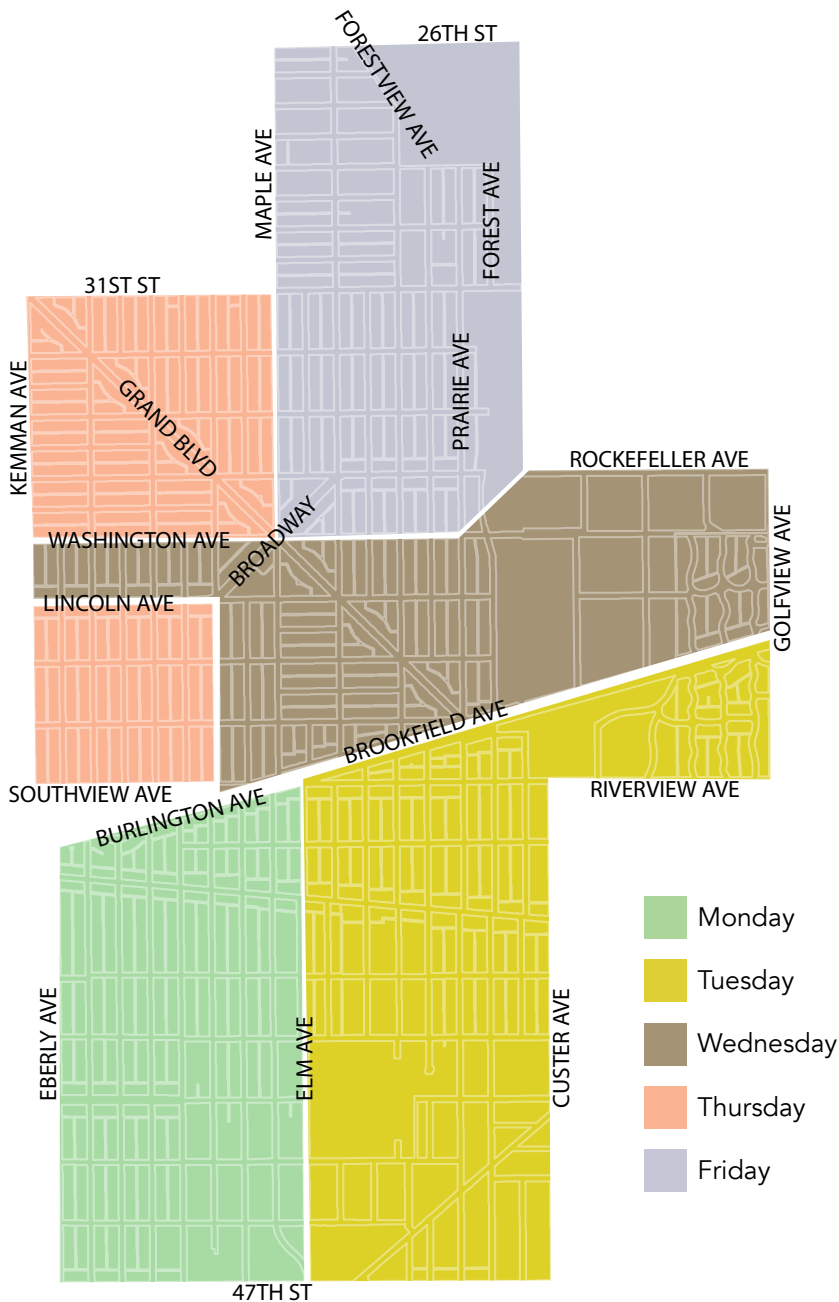
1818 The Illinois Territory becomes the 21st state.

1864 The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad begins running freight along its recently completed Chicago-to-Aurora Line.

1888 Samuel Eberly Gross, a lawyer turned real estate investor from Chicago, begins buying large parcels of farm, prairie, and woods along both sides of the track about 13 miles west of the city. He immediately begins planning to divide the area into streets and lots, and drafts a complex plan for a village with affordable housing for working class families.



Garbage Collection Days



Garbage Collection by Groot: **708.485.0900**

Connect with Our Departments

Village Manager's Office

Phone Number: 708-485-7344

help@brookfieldil.gov

The Village of Brookfield operates with a Village Manager form of government established by referendum in 1951. The Village Manager is a full-time employee appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve as the administrative head of the government of the Village and is responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. The administrative offices, located in Village Hall, can assist residents with information on voting, public meetings, current projects, etc. And, of course, we are always ready to assist residents and answer questions.

Police Department

Non-Emergency Phone Number: 708-485-8131

The Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day.

The Brookfield Police Department is housed at the east end of Village Hall and has more than 30 sworn officers, in addition to civilian employees and crossing guards. We are proud to be one of the first towns in the Midwest region to implement the 911 system, which has subsequently been enhanced. The TDD system for hearing impaired persons can be reached through the Police non-emergency phone number (708) 485-8131.

The department hosts an annual Citizen's Police Academy for all Brookfield residents and business owners 18 years or older. The ten week class covers many topics such as self-defense, traffic stops and firearms. This is an educational experience and builds a strong bond between the community and police department, as it gives citizens a first-hand look at the operations of a police department.

Fire Department

Non-Emergency Phone Number: 708-485-0076

The Fire Department is staffed 24 hours a day.

Brookfield is one of the few villages in the area to have a full-time fire department from its inception. It has two fire stations, one on each side of the railroad tracks, and two ambulances manned by licensed paramedics ready to assist in medical emergencies. The staff for the Brookfield Fire Department includes: 1 Fire Chief, 2 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, and 17 Fire Fighters.



Connect with Our Departments (cont.)

Public Works Department

Phone Number: 708-485-2540 (7 am to 4 pm)
publicworks@brookfieldil.gov

In addition to maintaining our streets, alleys, trees, and our water and sewer systems, the Public Works Department also offers a variety of other services and programs to Brookfield residents including:

Snow Removal

Brookfield snow regulations are in effect from December 1 to March 31 of each year from 8 am to 8 pm each day. After a snowfall of 2 inches or more, residents can check the signs on their block to see on what day and on which side of the street they should park. To check if 2 inches or more of snow has fallen, dial the Brookfield snow line (708) 387-SNOW. Parking violators are subject to a ticket for each occurrence. During the winter months, please use your garage or driveway whenever possible.

Street Replacement

Streets are rated from best to worst condition, and are given priority on the replacement schedule in the annual Capital Plan. For information about which streets are being repaired and when, please contact the Public Works Department.

Sidewalk Program

The Village of Brookfield is dedicated to replacing defective sidewalks to minimize trip hazards for its residents. Staff members survey public sidewalks to identify and replace sections that have been damaged or heaved up from tree roots or the annual freeze/thaw cycle. If you would like to report a damaged sidewalk or would like to know which section of town is scheduled for the replacement program, please contact our department.

Street Cleaning

Street cleaning begins April 1 and ends November 30 of each year. Residents can check the signs on their block to see on what day and on which side of the street they should park during street cleaning. Parking violators are subject to a ticket per each occurrence.

Parkway Planting

No private planting of trees or shrubs in public parkway areas is allowed without a permit. The Village works to maintain an appropriate variety of species, as well as proper distance between trees. We also ensure that trees are not planted too close to wires, water service, or sewer services.

Keeping You Connected

Other Important Information:

Waste Collection and Recycling Services

The Village of Brookfield utilizes Groot to manage waste collection and recycling. Please refer to the Groot website for the most current information including our Village's pick-up days, a list of recyclable items, where to purchase stickers, and how to properly dispose of electronic waste. www.groot.com/waste-management-chicago/village-of-brookfield.com.



The following are observed holidays for trash collection: New Year's Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day, Independence Day and Christmas Day. Trash will not be collected on these days.

**Map of collection days on page 11.*

Brookfield's Rain Barrel Program

In 2015, the Village of Brookfield partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to facilitate free rain barrel delivery to every resident of Brookfield! Rain barrels capture rainwater from your roof and save it for when you need it. By keeping this water out of our sewer system, the rain barrels also prevent sewer overflows and flooding.



You can use rain barrel water to wash your car, water your lawn, or to clean work boots or tools. Rain barrel water is naturally free of chlorine, lime and calcium, and some gardeners swear that their plants prefer it! However, since rain barrel water is runoff from your roof, do not drink it!



Connect with Our Departments (cont.)

Recreation Department (cont.)

Permits for Fields and Courts

Organized teams, leagues, and groups/organizations must request a field use permit before any park facility, field or court can be utilized. Permits may be obtained from the Recreation Department. No person or group/organization shall bring into the parks any play class, day camp, or organized group or activity without prior permission from the Recreation Department.

SEASPAR

Brookfield is a member of SEASPAR, the South East Association of Special Parks and Recreation. SEASPAR provides year-round recreation programs for individuals with special needs. For more information, please visit www.seaspar.org, call 630-960-7600, or pick up a SEASPAR seasonal program book at the Brookfield Recreation Office.

Finance Department

Contact the Finance Department if you have questions concerning utility bills, business licenses, vehicle stickers, and commuter parking. Below is an overview of each. Further information can be found on the Village website.

Utility Bills

Residential utility bills, which include water, sewer and garbage service, are issued quarterly. New residents are asked to contact the Finance Department to start water and garbage service, to place a deposit, and to sign a water contract. In addition to signing up for utility billing auto-draft, bill payments can be mailed or deposited in the 24-hour drop box in the Village Hall parking lot and Fire Station 1. Cash payments will be accepted at the Village Hall.

Business Licenses

When opening a business in Brookfield, the Finance Department can provide the required business license application form. Existing businesses need to renew their license yearly before the December 31 expiration date.

Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers are required in Brookfield. Proof of residency and vehicle registration is needed in order to purchase a sticker. ALL vehicle stickers expire on June 30th. Renewal forms are mailed in May.

Commuter Parking

Daily commuter parking is available at the Brookfield and Congress Park lots. Monthly and quarterly parking permits are available at the Village Hall.

Connect with Our Departments (cont.)

Lawn Watering

Village ordinance regulates lawn watering between May 15 and September 15. Lawn watering, the filling of swimming pools, and watering of new sod is not allowed between the hours of noon and 6 pm daily. The watering of lawns is permitted daily during the remaining hours. There are no restrictions for gardens, shrubs or car washing.

Block Parties

The Village encourages residents to plan block parties, as it's an excellent way for neighbors to get to know one another. To receive approval for a block party, a written request should be submitted to the Village. Full instructions can be found on the website.

Community & Economic Development Department

Phone Number: 708-485-7344 (dial option 3)

The Department of Community & Economic Development advances three Village goals:

- Economic development (business attraction and retention)
- Building safety by enforcing building and property maintenance codes
- Zoning and land use planning

To promote business development, the Village administers a number of programs including Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts, business districts, site selection assistance, and direct outreach to businesses and developers.

More About TIF Districts

The Village currently administers the Ogden and Congress Park TIF Districts. The Village works with business owners and developers in these districts and seeks to diversify the Village's tax base. By so doing, it reduces reliance on residential property tax.

The Community & Economic Development Department also handles the following:

Permits

To encourage the construction of safe, habitable buildings, the department has the responsibility to uphold building, plumbing, electrical and property maintenance codes. Permits are required for work prior to commencing, including demolition work. Permits are not generally required for minor improvements (i.e. painting, decorating, and certain landscape work).

Connect with Our Departments (cont.)

Community & Economic Development Department (cont.)

Inspections

Inspections are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Please allow a minimum of 24-48 hours to ensure timely scheduling. Permits are reviewed and approved on a revolving basis as they are received. Permits are not issued same-day (over-the-counter). Each permit is reviewed by required divisions of building, plumbing, electrical, and zoning as needed.

Property Maintenance

Property maintenance is also handled by the department. All concerns should be called in. If you have questions about a property maintenance notice, please call the department as soon as possible to avoid a citation and fine.

Zoning Codes

The department administers the zoning code, which is designed to ensure compatible uses among industrial, residential, commercial, and other uses (i.e. preventing industrial uses in an area zoned as residential). Zoning questions are reviewed concurrently with building permit approvals.

In addition...

The Community & Economic Development Department also looks to the future as it develops long-term plans for the Village including a new Comprehensive Plan, bike and pedestrian plans, and park improvement plans. Furthermore, the department also staffs the Planning and Zoning Commission, which is an advisory body to the Village Board of Trustees.

A complete listing of building permit requirements and forms can be found on the Village website.



Recreation Department

Phone Number: 708-485-1474

The Brookfield Recreation Department offers programs, classes and trips to meet the recreational and leisure needs of all residents, from infants to senior citizens. Activity registration can be taken online, in person, or by mail. The recreation office is located in the lower level of the Brookfield Municipal Building.

Connect with Our Departments (cont.)

Recreation Programs

Recreation program books are mailed out to all residents three times per year. Each book covers different seasonal activity in winter, spring, summer and fall. Program and event information can also be found on the Village's website (www.brookfieldil.gov), as well as the Recreation Department's online registration site, www.rectrac.brookfieldil.gov.

Special Events

The Recreation Department and the Village's Special Events Commission team up to present numerous events, including summer concerts, the teen Battles of the Bands, Movies in the Park, the Village's Independence Day Parade and community picnic in the park, as well as many other family-friendly activities for all residents to enjoy. There's something for everyone in Brookfield!



Parks

A complete list of Brookfield's 6 recreational facilities and 10 parks, as well as all of the amenities found at each park, can be viewed on our Village website. Here are some of our parks' highlights:



Picnic Pavilions

Picnic pavilions, located in Ehlert and Kiwanis Parks, are available by permit for your family gatherings, May through September. Please call the Recreation Department at 708-485-1474 for additional information and date availability.

Splash Pad

The splash pad, located at Ehlert Park, is open Memorial Day weekend through the Labor Day weekend (weather permitting). The pavilion adjacent to the splash pad is for all persons to enjoy while watching their children play. This pavilion is not available for group picnics or parties.

Skate Park

The skate park, located in Ehlert Park, is open April through October. Use of the skate park is at your own risk. Have fun and be safe!