

# Reasons to Make Urbana Your New Home

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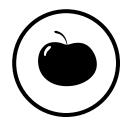


# **Great Neighborhoods**

Urbana is made up of a number of friendly neighborhoods, each with its own school and park facilities, and many with an active resident association. There are a range of choices for the home-buyer, from the nationally recognized top-ten West Urbana neighborhood, to the stately homes and recreational trails at Stone Creek and Beringer Commons, to the smaller homes of the East Urbana and North Urbana neighborhoods, to the more rural feel of Prairiewinds and Southridge in Southeast Urbana and Landis Farms and Somerset to the northeast.

### **Fantastic Schools**

Urbana is known for the progressive and high-achieving school system of District 116 and its great Urbana Tiger spirit. Our schools offer a multi-cultural experience with a commitment to the fine arts and academic excellence. Early childhood education is provided in a brand new facility on the Prairie School campus in east Urbana. The recently renovated elementary schools have a neighborhood focus and are co-located with park facilities. The Middle School has an indoor aquatic center and the High School has recently upgraded its athletic and performing arts facilities on its beautiful historic campus. Urbana High School has an outstanding graduation rate, and regularly sends students on to the University of Illinois, as well as to the Ivy League and other elite colleges. USD has won recognition from the State Board of Education, the Associated Press Honor, and U.S. News and World Report.





# Parks, Parks, and More Parks

The award-winning Urbana Park District oversees more than 600 acres of parks and natural areas. Two of its best-loved signature parks are Crystal Lake Park, 149 acres just north of downtown Urbana that includes an eight-acre lake, and Meadowbrook Park, a 130-acre park along Windsor Road that includes over 80 acres of recreated native Illinois tallgrass prairie, a perimeter walking path and the Wandell Sculpture Garden. The park district also operates the Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center and the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Facility.

# A Safe Community

Urbana's professional and highly respected Police Department provides effective community-based policing that helps to keep residents safe. Unlike many communities, Urbana has seen a notable decline in crime despite our increasing population. Our police are proactive in working with residents to promote neighborhood watch and safety awareness programs.





# **Bicycle Friendly Gold**

Urbana is the only gold-level Bicycle Friendly community in Illinois. Families can enjoy 22 miles of bike lanes connecting to parks, schools, restaurants and the University of Illinois. The city plans to more than triple the amount of bike lanes by 2020.

# Sustainability

Urbana provides curb-side single-family and multifamily recycling, with recycling totes given at no extra charge. Recycling is "single stream," meaning all recyclables can go in one receptacle. Urbana takes environmental sustainability seriously and is working to reduce our footprint through a Climate Action Plan.





# Market at the Square

Urbana's Market at the Square is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Illinois. Boasting 80 vendors per weekend and over 127,000 visitors each season, Market at the Square offers fresh produce, meat, dairy, wine, cheese, arts and crafts and food trucks. The Market is open May to November every Saturday, from 7 a.m. to noon, in the Lincoln Square Village parking lot.

#### Downtown Urbana

Urbana's walkable downtown features locally-owned boutiques and specialty services, along with a variety of restaurants and entertainment venues. Cuisines to choose from include classic American, Thai, Indian, Vietnamese, Vegan, and Korean food, as well as barbecue and gourmet pizza. Popular spots include the Community Center for the Arts, Mirabelle Bakery, Common Ground Food Co-op and the Heel to Toe shoe store. Catch a jazz show at the Iron Post or a country rock performance at the Rose Bowl Tavern. The Urbana Free Library, Lincoln Square Mall and a new city park along the Boneyard Creek all are part of the downtown fabric.





# **High-speed Internet**

Urbana and Champaign are home to UC2B (Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband), with five Urbana neighborhoods currently being wired to receive gigabit fiber-optic internet service. Not-for-profit UC2B is partnering with iTV3 to provide broadband fiber to any city neighborhood where at least 50 percent of the potential customers subscribe. More information is available at www.theperfectupgrade.com

#### Sweet Corn Festival

Held annually since 1975, the Urbana Sweetcorn Festival offers a weekend of fun in downtown Urbana in late August of each year (Aug. 26 and 27 in 2016). Entertainment includes two nights and one full day of free live music, featuring local bands, regional acts and nationally renowned headliners. More than 30,000 ears of buttered corn, cooked in an antique steam engine, are consumed at the downtown festival each year.

