The Village of Melrose Park, Illinois, spans Proviso and Leyden Townships in Cook County west of Chicago. The Des Plaines River is the village’s eastern border. The Melrose Realty Company purchased three lots comprising 342.74 acres to develop the land west of Maywood, Illinois, in 1871. The village of Melrose grew steadily and added “Park” to its name in 1894.

Located at Casa Italia in nearby Stone Park, Illinois, the Italian American Veterans Museum focuses on local Italian Americans’ involvement in national defense from the Revolutionary War to the present. The museum contains a library, an archive of memorabilia, and a small art exhibit and also offers comfort and assistance to service members and veterans of all ethnicities.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio and the Unity Temple that he designed are located in nearby Oak Park and are near the historic district that has some of Wright’s most significant Prairie-style private residences. His first major commission as an independent architect, Winslow House, is located in River Forest.

Also in Oak Park, Ernest Hemingway's Birthplace Museum is the home where the author was born in 1899 and then lived for 6 years. The house has been restored to its 1890s Victorian heritage. A transformed Oak Park firehouse dating from 1898 is home to the Oak Park River Forest Museum, which collects, preserves, and retells the stories of Oak Park and River Forest. Wonder Works is a children’s museum that offers live experience zones and an outdoor organic garden.

The Cernan Earth and Space Center is a public planetarium on the campus of Triton College in River Grove. Trailside Museum of Natural History features displays of live native animals, colorful wildflower gardens, and information about local wildlife and their habitats and is located in River Forest.

**Neighborhoods**

Homes in the West Melrose Park and Middle of Melrose Park neighborhoods were built in various styles— including ranch, bungalow, and two-story—and have exteriors of siding, brick, or wood.

Built in the late 1950s, the Winston Park neighborhood has three split-level styles that vary in size. The smallest, the Ashley, has three bedrooms and one bathroom; the Beverly has three bedrooms and two bathrooms; and the largest, the Canterbury, has four bedrooms and three bathrooms. However, since their construction, some owners have made additions or other modifications to the original designs.

**Parks and Recreation**

Veterans Park District has facilities in Melrose Park as well as Northlake, Franklin Park, and River Grove. In Melrose Park, Bulger Park Community Center offers many amenities on its 8 acres, including two softball diamonds, multiuse playgrounds, a jogging/walking area, two bocce ball courts, two lighted tennis courts, a gazebo, a splash fountain, memorial gardens, and an outdoor fitness park. With 4.35 acres, Batak Park’s facilities include two baseball diamonds, lighted ice rinks, multiuse playgrounds, two lighted tennis courts, and a gazebo. Michael Cimbalo Fitness Center and Museum has an aerobics/exercise room, dry sauna and tanning booth, indoor racquetball court, and batting cages. Other parks located in Melrose Park include the George A. Leoni Complex, Olsen Park, Juan A. Montoya Park, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park.

**Health Care**

Melrose Park is served by Loyola Gottlieb Memorial Hospital with 247 licensed beds.

**City Stats**

<table>
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<th>Metric</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Chicago–Naperville–Elgin</td>
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Photograph courtesy of Nora Mota.