

ROOM TO BREATHE

CHOOSE
GREATER
PEORIA



Big-city amenities.
Small-town feel.
Here, your opportunities
are greater and your
efforts go further.
Make your home here
and live greater.

SPACE TO BELONG



Work-life balance takes work — no matter where you live. But in Greater Peoria, it's easier to get it right. Enjoy the best of both worlds: the perks of city living and the comfort of a small-town feel. Low cost of living. High quality of life. Short commutes. A long list of things to do. Here, you can build a meaningful career and have time to enjoy the people and moments that matter most. Work greater. Play greater. Live greater. Make your home in Greater Peoria — and live the life you've been looking for.

@CHOOSEGREATERPEORIA

GREATER PEORIA BY THE NUMBERS



#1

MOST AFFORDABLE
MID-SIZED COMMUNITY
IN ILLINOIS



4X

VOTED AN
ALL-AMERICA
CITY



#1

LARGEST PARK
DISTRICT IN
ILLINOIS

Source: AdvisorSmith Most Affordable Cities for Homebuyers 2021; National Civic League

There’s a place for you here.

You’ll quickly discover how easy it is to meet people, make friends and get connected here. Newcomers and new ideas are welcome here. And diversity isn’t just a buzzword. Greater Peoria is a true melting pot of ethnicities, cultures and communities.

To find your people, join a service organization and team with others to give back to the community. Attend business networking events and interact with local decision makers. Or discover your spiritual home at an area church, mosque, temple or synagogue.



Meet Nikki

“
I was born in Chicago and I’ve lived in cities all over the country. Of all the places I’ve lived, this is truly the place that feels most like home. We are proud to live and raise our daughter here in Greater Peoria!
”

Nikki Romain
Co-Founder and
Executive Director,
Artists ReEnvisioning
Tomorrow
(ART Inc.)



40* REASONS TO MOVE TO GREATER PEORIA

1 Peoria ranks in the top 100 communities to live in the U.S. — as well as one of the nation’s best places to retire — recognizing our low cost of living, arts and cultural activities, sports, recreation and more. [Livability.com, 2025](#)

2 Peoria is the largest city on the Illinois River — the only inland waterway linking Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and beyond. And riverfront living is the best living: a gorgeous platform for nature, business and recreation alike.

3 Also known as the “City of Gratitude,” Peoria is a four-time winner of the All-America City Award, recognizing our strong civic engagement, collaboration and innovation. [National Civic League](#)

4 Your dollar goes further here! Greater Peoria ranks #21 among U.S. cities with the lowest cost of living. [Niche, 2025](#)

5 With our housing affordability and low cost of living, Peoria ranks in the top 20 best housing markets for first-time buyers. [SmartAsset.com, 2025](#)



To your health!

With short commutes and the outdoors close at hand, you'll find more time to live an **active lifestyle** in Greater Peoria. And more places to get moving your way: Gyms. Pools. Yoga studios. Mile after mile of trails to run, hike or bike.

Access to world-class healthcare is right here, too. Greater Peoria is a medical hub with two major hospital systems, the only children's hospital in Illinois south of Chicago, a brand-new cancer institute, specialty care options and robust mental health services.



Meet Drs. Ed and Bindu



**A TOP 10 MID-SIZED
HEALTHCARE HUB
IN THE UNITED
STATES**

**#1 IN THE STATE
FOR PATIENT-
CENTERED
CARE AT OSF
MEDICAL
CENTER**

**HOME TO THE
WORLD'S LARGEST
SIMULATION AND
HEALTHCARE
ENGINEERING
CENTER**

40⁺ REASONS TO MOVE TO GREATER PEORIA

6 Lower utility bills! Electricity costs in Greater Peoria are 19% lower than the national average, while monthly gas bills are 45% lower than the national average. [Greater Peoria Economic Development Council \(GPEDC\)](#)

7 We're diverse, inclusive and welcoming. With our strong Black, Hispanic and Asian-Indian communities, plus one of the nation's largest Lebanese American populations, Peoria ranks #75 on the "2025 Most Diverse Cities in America" list. [Niche.com](#)

8 Commutes in Greater Peoria average just 17.5 minutes (and are often much lower) — so you'll have more time for family, hobbies and other interests. [BestPlaces.net](#)

9 Centrally located in the middle of the country, Greater Peoria is within a day's drive of half of the nation and most major U.S. markets. [GPEDC](#)

10 Stay connected to the world! The Peoria International Airport offers direct flights to the three most connected U.S. airports — with just eight minutes from car to gate ... plus free parking. [flypia.com](#)

11 Cost of business — low. Greater Peoria ranks #49 for Cost of Doing Business among communities across the U.S. [Forbes, 2019](#)

Make yourself at home.

Stylish downtown loft? Family-friendly subdivision? Secluded country farmhouse? Cozy cabin on the river? Greater Peoria is a collection of communities, each with its own character and atmosphere. Whether you're looking for a small town, a suburban dream or the center of the city, **you can find it** — and more — in Greater Peoria.



Meet Scurry

And one of the best parts? No matter your preference for living, Greater Peoria is capital-A affordable. From city living to suburban outposts to rural estates, there are choices for every lifestyle and budget.

But what truly makes Greater Peoria unique is the proximity of, well, everything to everything. So if you want to live rural but work urban? Or maybe live urban and work rural? You can do that with a short, painless commute. Wherever you choose to call home, you're never far — in time or distance — from all the things you need to do. Better yet, you're also never far from pretty much anything you want to do.

LESSON PLANS? Thinking about where to send your kids to school — or where to continue your own education? You've got high-quality options from pre-school to medical school:

- 

National Blue Ribbon award-winning public schools
- 

An affordable community college
- 

Illinois' only downstate International Baccalaureate program
- 

Multiple private and faith-based alternatives
- 

Two private four-year universities
- 

A campus of the nation's largest public medical school



40+ REASONS TO MOVE TO GREATER PEORIA

- 12** Business is booming! Greater Peoria is home to a robust network of major employers across a range of industries — including more than 350 manufacturing locations and 114 international companies from 21 countries. [GPEDC](#)
- 13** Higher education in Greater Peoria comprises world-class private universities, top colleges for nursing and medicine, and the largest community college in Illinois outside of Chicago: Illinois Central College. [community college-review.com](#)
- 14** K-12 education options include award-winning districts in Dunlap, Morton and Washington, top-notch parochial and religious schools, and the prestigious Richwoods International Baccalaureate (IB) program — the only IB program in Illinois outside of Chicago. [richwoodsIB.org](#)
- 15** Our workforce is educated and highly skilled, with expertise in advanced manufacturing, engineering, agricultural technologies, medicine and more — including 250+ PhD researchers innovating at institutions around the region. [GPEDC](#)
- 16** World-class venues like the Peoria Civic Center make us the #2 concert market in Illinois and #87 in the US in the 2025 Pollstar Concert Market Rankings. [Peoria Civic Center](#)

From tractors to robots, Greater Peoria has long been a mecca for makers. Caterpillar grew into a Fortune 100 leader here, flanked by hundreds of manufacturers serving global industries. And our rich Midwestern soil places you among the world's most abundant agricultural regions. Today's diverse economy encompasses manufacturing, agriculture and so much more. Healthcare is our fastest-growing sector, joined by thriving businesses in industries from financial services and education to engineering, robotics, autonomy and beyond.

Here, you can make your mark.

From innovative startups to internationally known firms, Greater Peoria's employers serve in-demand industries worldwide:



Manufacturing

In addition to Caterpillar, the region is home to over 350 manufacturing firms, large and small, from heavy equipment to steel production to specialty manufacturing.



Technology & Innovation

Our innovators and entrepreneurs bring new concepts to life every day. Autonomy, robotics, electric vehicles, biotech, sustainable materials and more.



Healthcare

More than 30,000 residents are employed at two major health systems, dozens of specialty providers and schools of nursing.



Financial Services

Four major insurance firms are headquartered here, while banks, credit unions and wealth management firms offer a host of career opportunities.



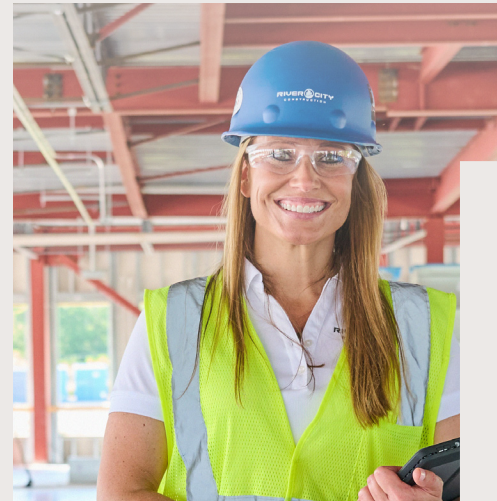
Construction & Engineering

Greater Peoria's firms are second to none — designing and building world-class projects across the state and around the nation.



Education

From community colleges and four-year universities to public, private and faith-based schools, career options abound in the education sector.



Meet Leanne



Meet Cody

40⁺ REASONS TO MOVE TO GREATER PEORIA

17 Greater Peoria is home to the largest concentration of Caterpillar workers in the world — as well as the Caterpillar Visitors Tech Center and multiple manufacturing plants and administrative offices. caterpillar.com

18 Our region is also home to Natural Fiber Welding — named one of the world's most innovative companies for the past two years — plus industry leaders in electric vehicles, autonomy, med-tech, robotics and more. [Fast Company, 2023](https://fastcompany.com)

19 Our companies supply the world! We ranked as the 55th largest export market in the U.S. in 2020 and #25 Top Foreign Trade Zone in 2019. [International Trade Administration; Foreign-Trade Zone Board](https://internationaltradeadministration.gov)

20 Greater Peoria's Heart of Illinois Regional Port District is part of the Corn Belt Ports, the largest inland port in the U.S., with more than 13 million tons of cargo passing through local locks each year. [Cornbeltports.com](https://cornbeltports.com)

21 Looking to start your own business? Bradley University's Turner Center for Entrepreneurship was named the best Small Business Development Center in Illinois in 2023 — anchoring a robust regional support network for startups, entrepreneurs and business owners. 25newsnow.com

Here, you can start something new.

Innovation is alive in Greater Peoria. It's a great place to birth a business thanks to lab, incubator and coworking spaces and a host of resources to support entrepreneurs. Multiple biotech and medtech startups have launched here in recent years. And other locally based innovators are already changing the world with unique, groundbreaking solutions. That includes Natural Fiber Welding's plant-based sustainable materials and Pringle Robotics' BoTs for the hospitality, healthcare and retail markets.



🔗 Meet Ravi

“
Greater Peoria isn't just about work — it's also a fantastic place to raise a family and pursue your passions. I get to play my favorite sport, cricket, enjoy outdoors walking the trails and connect with like-minded professionals to exchange ideas and drive growth.
 ”

Ravindhar Uddavolu
 Senior Vice President,
 Automotive and
 Industrial Solutions,
 Tada Cognitive
 Solutions

**A TOP 10 MID-SIZED
 HEALTHCARE HUB
 IN THE UNITED
 STATES**

**#1 IN THE STATE
 FOR PATIENT-
 CENTERED
 CARE AT OSF
 MEDICAL
 CENTER**

**40* REASONS TO MOVE
 TO GREATER PEORIA**

22 Got innovation? Distillery Labs, in downtown Peoria, is a critical hub of the Illinois Innovation Network, connecting people, ideas and resources to grow new businesses and drive economic development in Greater Peoria. [DistilleryLabs.org](https://www.distillerylabs.org)

23 We're a big name in healthcare! Greater Peoria is ranked the 6th mid-sized healthcare hub in the country, with over 30,000 workers across two major health systems, top specialists and other providers. [GPEDC, 2021](https://www.gpedc.org)

24 And it's high-quality care, too. OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria has ranked #1 in the state for patient-centered care nine years in a row by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. [osfhealthcare.org](https://www.osfhealthcare.org)

25 There's also Carle Health, a multifaceted, highly integrated healthcare system complete with award-winning hospitals, multi-specialty physician group practices, provider-driven health insurance plans, a renowned College of Medicine and a deep-rooted commitment to adolescent mental and behavioral health — all aimed at providing the best care possible for patients and health plan members. [Carle Health; Youth Minds Project](https://www.carlehealth.org)

Where people make progress.

Whether you want to take on a leadership role or rise up the ranks, it's easy to advance your career in Greater Peoria. Professional development is a priority for area employers — in fact, our workforce development pipeline serves as a model for the nation. You'll **discover opportunities** to gain new skills, take on new challenges and showcase your talents. There's no better place to take the next great step in your career.



Meet The Champs of Change

Emerging young leaders in Greater Peoria are making moves and creating big change! Get inspired by their stories and see how they're shaping the future.

Giving back!

When you join the Greater Peoria workforce, you join a community committed to giving back and paying it forward. Local employers encourage philanthropy and volunteerism, generously donating to local nonprofits, matching employees' gifts and supporting time off for charity work. And every year, our business community comes together to lead a **United Way campaign that's consistently one of the highest-performing in the entire country.**

26 We have specialized care for children: OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois was recognized as a Best Children's Hospital for 2021-22 — among the top three children's hospital in Illinois and top 25 in the Midwest. [U.S. News & World Report](#)

27 Headquartered in downtown Peoria, OSF HealthCare is home to the world's largest purpose-built simulation and healthcare engineering center, plus one of two centers in Illinois (and 32 in North America) to offer cutting-edge proton beam therapy for cancer treatment. osfhealthcare.org

28 Healthcare + Innovation: Peoria-based Virtusense Technologies was ranked 294th on the Deloitte Technology Fast 500 (TM), a ranking of the 500 fastest growing tech companies in North America. [Deloitte](#)

29 We care. And we give generously. Greater Peoria's nonprofit sector is spearheaded by one of the top United Ways in the country for per capita giving and includes one of the nation's top Easterseals chapters, with a host of ways to volunteer and make a difference in the community.



Welcome to the great(er) outdoors ... Yes, you'll find prairies and cornfields here. But you'll also find diverse landscapes and terrains — forests, river bluffs, marshes, wetlands and more — as well as Illinois' oldest and largest park system, offering a wealth of outdoor adventures. It's an ideal environment to enjoy your favorite activity or try something new. Kayak, canoe, paddle board or set sail. Run, hike or bike the trails. Grab a fishing rod or pack up your camping gear. It's all up to you!

There's fun for the whole family.

Have toddlers, grade-schoolers or teenagers? Relatives and friends coming to visit? **Don't worry about finding ways to keep them entertained** — no matter their age.

In addition to sports and outdoor activities, Greater Peoria boasts **plenty of other family-friendly adventures**. A zoo and wildlife park. Museums with kid-focused exhibits. Escape rooms and trampoline parks. Climbing gyms and ice skating rinks. The toughest choice? Deciding what to do first.



GET YOUR GAME ON! Greater Peoria is a **sports paradise**, with world-class venues and teams at various levels of play — perfect for athletes and spectators alike.



Baseball

Peoria Chiefs, affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals



Basketball

Bradley Braves, NCAA Division I action



Golf

More than two dozen local courses (plus disc golf!)



Hockey

Peoria Rivermen, Southern Professional Hockey League



Soccer

Peoria City, USL League Two pre-professional team



Racing

Running, motorcycles and auto racing

40 REASONS TO MOVE TO GREATER PEORIA

- 30** We're a big sports town. You'll find college, pre-professional and professional sports, from the Peoria Chiefs and Peoria Rivermen (minor-league baseball and hockey) to Bradley University's proud basketball program and Peoria City Soccer, part of the nation's top pre-professional league.
- 31** With a dozen synthetic turf fields and a 126,000-square-foot dome, our Louisville Slugger Sports Complex is the premier sports facility in the Midwest, honored by the U.S. Sports Specialty Association as 2022 Complex of the Year. sluggerpeoria.com
- 32** Our Eastside Centre Sports Complex boasts 10 natural grass baseball/softball diamonds, four full-length soccer/lacrosse fields, three indoor basketball courts, a 20,000 ft² soft gymnasium, a fully equipped fitness center and more. It also hosts the IHSA State Softball Championship and the IESA State Track and Baseball Finals. [Eastside Centre Sports Complex](http://EastsideCentreSportsComplex.com)
- 33** We're packed (but rarely overcrowded) with over 26 golf courses. So, whether you're looking for a weeknight nine, the full country club experience or planning an outing, we have hidden gems and breathtaking greens for golfers of all skill levels. [Golf Greater Peoria](http://GolfGreaterPeoria.com)

Wine and dine!

Feel like dressing up and dining at an award-winning Distinguished Restaurant of North America? Rather grab some Indian, Lebanese or Vietnamese takeout and chow down in front of the TV? Greater Peoria’s got you (more than) covered, no matter your dietary desires.

Here, you’ll find everything from traditional steakhouses and old-school diners to plant-based eateries and farm-to-table bistros — plus a thriving coffee, brewery and cocktail scene.

Are your taste buds ready?

LOCAL RECS

Fine Dining

Casual Dining

Coffee

Tacos

Pizza & Wings

BBQ & Butchers

Breweries & Pubs

Cocktails



Best in show.

Welcome to a community that loves the arts! The Peoria Civic Center hosts events throughout the year, from Broadway musicals to big-name rock concerts and more! In addition to our Smithsonian-affiliated Peoria Riverfront Museum, you’ll find many smaller galleries showcasing regional and national painters, sculptors, printmakers, photographers and other artists. Community theater, ballet and public art thrive here as well.



📍 Meet Mark & Maggie

“
Public art makes Greater Peoria a home. It shows you care. It allows you to represent yourself in your surroundings.
”

Mark & Maggie Misselhorn
Retirees, Community Visionaries, Hands-on Art Activists

40+ REASONS TO MOVE TO GREATER PEORIA

35 Peoria is home to the Smithsonian-affiliated Peoria Riverfront Museum — the only multidisciplinary museum of its kind in the U.S. — featuring interactive galleries, the Dome Planetarium and the largest Giant Screen Theater in the state.
riverfrontmuseum.org

36 Greater Peoria is full of year-round festivals that celebrate our unique communities — from the nation’s oldest Santa Claus Parade to East Peoria’s nationally recognized Festival of Lights, from cultural events like Passage to India to community highlights like the Morton Pumpkin Festival.

37 The Peoria Art Guild’s Fine Art Fair is our region’s largest arts and cultural event — ranking #2 among the Top 5 Midwestern Art Fairs in the U.S., #20 in the “Top 200” by Sunshine Artist magazine and among the “Top 50” art fairs nationally by Art Fair Calendar.
peoriaartguild.org

38 We’re a hotbed for public art. Greater Peoria features more than 70 outdoor murals and a host of sculptures from local, regional and nationally known artists — including a range of works from Peoria’s own Preston Jackson, voted #6 on the list of top Illinois artists of all time.
[Greater Peoria Public Mural Map](#); [Enjoy Illinois](#)



Good things come to those who shop local.

Find everything you need to outfit your new home, upgrade your wardrobe or just treat yourself to something cool in Greater Peoria. Between Northwoods Mall and The Shoppes at Grand Prairie, you'll find nearly 100 stores — one indoor, one outdoor, both packed with options from major brands to hidden gems.

Love entertainment? You'll feel right at home here. Catch a movie at Grand Prairie 18 or Willow Knolls 14, then swing by local record stores like Younger Than Yesterday and Hudson Vinyl to dig through crates of classic albums and new releases. From vintage shops and independent bookstores to big-name retailers and specialty boutiques, hometown hubs like Junction City, Keller Station and the Metro Centre offer plenty to explore. And don't sleep on the charm of all the "old Main Street" districts in Peoria, Morton, Pekin, Peoria Heights and Washington — they're full of shops worth browsing and one-of-a-kind finds worth bringing home.



“ I love First Fridays in Peoria. Every time I go, I'm sure to find something I gotta have at Urban Artifacts or Ribbon Records. The art, the shops, the vibe ... somehow it feels both nostalgic and new. ”

John Miller
Jazz Guitarist

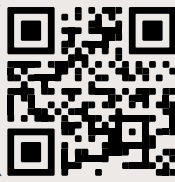
40* REASONS TO MOVE TO GREATER PEORIA

- 39** Hungry for a more diverse food and restaurant scene? Peoria's got it! From down-home to upscale to a wide range of international flavors — when it comes to eating good, the options are endless. Plus, restaurants like Connected and Saffron Social boast the esteemed designation of Distinguished Restaurants of North America. dirona.com
- 40** Greater Peoria is proudly home to the oldest and largest park district in Illinois: Peoria Park District, a four-time winner of the National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal Award. nrpa.org
- 41** Walk, run, hike, bike or just enjoy nature ... The Peoria Park District hosts nearly 9,000 acres of green space and more than 50 miles of hiking and biking trails — with miles upon miles of additional trails throughout the region. peoriaparks.org
- 42** From vaudeville to the present day, the performing arts run deep in Peoria! The Peoria Symphony Orchestra is the nation's 14th oldest orchestra, while Peoria Players Theatre is the oldest continuously running community theater in Illinois and fourth oldest in the nation. peoriasymphony.org; peoriaplayers.org

TAC  S

C  FFEE

C  CKTAILS

EX  RCISE

& ACTIVITY

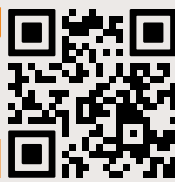
BRE  ERIES

& PUBS

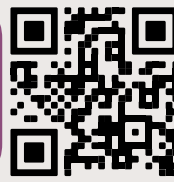
FINE 

DINING

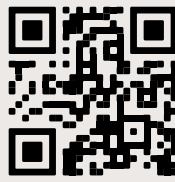
There's a lot
more* in Greater
Peoria than you
might think.

PIZZ 

& WINGS

BOU  TQ ES

N  TURE

CASU  L

DINING

BBOQ &

B  TCHERS

FAMILY F  N

*We put together a bunch
of lists with great local
spots to eat, drink, hangout,
shop and more — all right
here in Greater Peoria.



**CHOOSE
GREATER
PEORIA**

@CHOOSEGREATERPEORIA