

Approximate boundaries:

N-W. Silver Spring Dr; **S**-W. Cornell St;
E-N. Green Bay Ave, **W**-N. Teutonia Ave

FAR NORTH SIDE *Lincoln Park*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

The most common architectural styles of homes in the Garden Homes neighborhood are bungalow and Tudor, which were popular in the early 20th century. Garden Homes Park is a small county commons with playground equipment. See photos below.

HISTORY

For much of its history, the Lincoln Park area has been conveniently located, sandwiched between two relatively prosperous towns—Glendale and North Milwaukee.

In the middle of the 19th century, most of today's Lincoln Park was within the boundaries of the Town of Milwaukee (not to be confused with the City of Milwaukee). Beginning in 1840 the Town of Milwaukee area stretched from today's Greenfield Avenue on the south to County Line Road on the north, and from Lake Michigan on the east to 27th Street on the west.

Just west of today's Lincoln Park area was the Town of Granville—a wide expanse of territory and hamlets that today includes much of Milwaukee's northwest side. One hamlet within Granville on the immediate border of Lincoln Park was known as Schwartzburg in the late 19th century. Schwartzburg's development was spurred by two railroad lines that intersected near its western boundary that, in turn, attracted industry. Villard Street became a major commerce corridor in Schwartzburg. In 1897, the hamlet received a charter from the State of Wisconsin and incorporated as North Milwaukee. The town would be annexed by Milwaukee in 1929 and later become known as the Old North Milwaukee neighborhood.

Glendale, to the immediate east of today's Lincoln Park neighborhood, was a hamlet within the Town of Milwaukee until 1950, when it incorporated. The area grew rapidly in the first half of the 20th century, and like Old Milwaukee, also attracted a lot of industry—particularly in its southern portion. It also developed a large shopping mall in the late 20th century (today known as the Bayshore Town Center). In addition, Glendale had a large park directly on Lincoln Park's eastern border that offered amenities such as a golf course and aquatic center. The park was also named Lincoln Park.

The residents of the Lincoln Park neighborhood would benefit greatly from the amenities of its two neighbors, both in terms of employment and quality of life features. But who were these residents?

Early populations

For most of its early history, the majority of residents in the Lincoln Park area were Germans. The early pioneers were widely scattered farmers. Later, the nearby industries attracted residents from the City of Milwaukee and Granville—also mainly Germans. Then in the early years of the 20th century a very different German community arrived—the German Russians. German Russians were ethnic Germans who had migrated into Russia in the late 1700s to take advantage of opportunities then offered by

Today's neighborhood-
Houses on 24th & Lancaster



Catherine the Great. Most settled along the Black Sea or the Volga River. For generations German Russians were able to maintain their own culture and language. But later Russification policies enacted in the late 1800s and early 1900s and the Bolshevik Revolution led to collective emigration by many of these communities. A large group of German Russians came to the United States and settled in North Milwaukee on Lincoln Park's border between 1910 and 1920 and some migrated from there into nearby neighborhoods. See below.

Lincoln Park Random Resident (1930s)

*Name selected randomly from the 1933 City Directory in the Lincoln Park area
(photo and other information found on Ancestry.com)*

David Wormsbacher



In 1933, David Wormsbacher (also spelled Wormsbecher) and his small family lived at the intersection of Hampton, Teutonia, and 27th Street on the southwest corner of the Lincoln Park neighborhood.

David had a wife Lydia and a daughter Ruby at this time (the couple would later have children Bill and Wilma). David worked as a welder at Press Steel Factory. David and wife Lydia were members of the German Russian community. David left Russia with his parents and arrived in the United States in 1914. He and Lydia were naturalized in the late 1930s. They were renters in Lincoln Park. By 1940 the family moved a few blocks west and rejoined the North Milwaukee German Russian community. David died in 1953 at age 50.

As the City of Milwaukee continued to expand, the Lincoln Park area eventually became one of many Milwaukee neighborhoods. A major business corridor never developed in Lincoln Park, and residents continued to take advantage of the amenities of its bordering neighbors ([see businesses on Villard in Old North Milwaukee neighborhood](#)).

However, Lincoln Park also had its own assets that attracted new residents, and these included Meaux Park and the beautiful Lincoln Creek. During the Great Depression, Lincoln Park indirectly became a New Deal beneficiary. The Housing Act of 1937 created a support system for local governments to access housing dollars—mainly to assist returning World War II veterans. The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee was established in 1944, and in 1948 the Northlawn housing project was built for vets and other families with limited incomes.

Nearby industrial jobs continued to attract new residents to the area. In the late 20th century African Americans began to arrive and the neighborhood population grew. Many of the new arrivals were able to purchase homes. Unfortunately, this trend would reverse itself in the 1980s when the deindustrialization movement began.

Current populations (as of 2021)

Today, just under 9 in 10 of just over 5,000 residents of Lincoln Park are African Americans, and approximately 1 in 20 are Latinos. The rest are mainly European Americans and just under 300 residents still claim German extraction. The neighborhood skews young with approximately one-third of the residents aged 19 or younger. There are also significantly more women in Lincoln Park than men.

The neighborhood is economically diverse. Just under half of the residents live in low income households with annual household incomes under \$25,000, but just under 1 in 10 residents live in households with annual household incomes over \$75,000 (some with incomes over \$150,000). Most of the other residents fall into the lower middle income stratum. The main jobs held by residents are in the fields of administration, healthcare support, and production.

Rents are reasonable in Lincoln Park with over 8 in 10 property units going for under \$1,000. Slightly over half of the residents are renters. The price of home ownership is also reasonable, with select monthly costs (mortgages, deeds of trust, taxes, contracts to purchase, insurance, and more) of over three-quarters of the properties going for \$500 to \$1,500.

INTERESTING NEIGHBORHOOD FEATURES

- **Northlawn Housing Authority**, at 5145 N. 20th St., serving low income families.
- **Milwaukee Excellence Charter School**, at 4950 N. 24th St., a rigorous academic institution that prepares 6th to 12th graders to excel in four-year colleges.
- **Meaux Park**, at Villard and Green Bay, a Milwaukee County Park with a tot lot, softball field, basketball court, cricket pitch, and soccer field.
- **Meaux Park Apartments**, at 1906 W. Villard, serving low income families.

RECURRING NEARBY OUTINGS (Health conditions permitting)

In the following section the website addresses have been eliminated due to technical problems with the various ways different web browsers display PDF files. Website information on these events is available through the book *Milwaukee Area Outings on the Cheap*. See below.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION—LINCOLN PARK			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
July 4th, dusk	Lincoln Park, 1301 W. Hampton Ave., Glendale	Fireworks at dusk.	Families, free

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
First week Aug., weekday 4-8pm	Lincoln Park: 1301 W. Hampton Ave., Glendale	Fun evening of free food, games, rides, chance to dialogue with local police and community organizations.	Free

Most of these outings are provided courtesy of MECAH Publishing. To access the book that provides nearly 600 outings—all priced under \$10—for the entire Greater Milwaukee area, go to <http://mecahmilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

If you are a resident in Lincoln Park and wish to make an uplifting observation about this neighborhood, please send your quote to jflanthropologist@currently.com

PHOTOS



Today's neighborhood-View from the bridge over Lincoln Creek



Today's neighborhood-Houses on 26th & Custer

Today's neighborhood-Meaux Park



Today's neighborhood-Milwaukee Excellence Charter School



Today's neighborhood-Northlawn Housing





Today's neighborhood-House on 23rd & Hampton

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods* and Jill Florence Lackey's and Rick Petrie's *Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history*.

Do you have great photos of this neighborhood? Are you a resident with an interesting quote about this neighborhood? Do you have recurring outings, additions, corrections, or general comments about this neighborhood? Please email your input to Dr. Jill Florence Lackey at: jflanthropologist@currently.com



www.urban-anthropology.org