



# II Community Profile & Demographics

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Wood Dale, Illinois

Wood Dale is a community in DuPage County, located 19 miles west of Chicago, and 8 miles west of O’Hare International Airport. Wood Dale is easily accessible with Interstate 290 to the south and west, the Elgin-O’Hare expressway to the north, as well as convenient rail transportation via Metra’s Milwaukee District/West line.

The estimated 2013 population of Wood Dale is 13, 969 per the United States Census Bureau. Wood Dale’s land area is 4.72 miles with 2,916 persons per square mile. The City is a mature community with a diverse mix of residential housing as well as commercial, business, and industrial. Wood Dale has excellent recreational opportunities, including access to the Salt Creek Greenway Trail, several golf courses, as well as the Wood Dale Park District.

### Wood Dale Park District Service Area

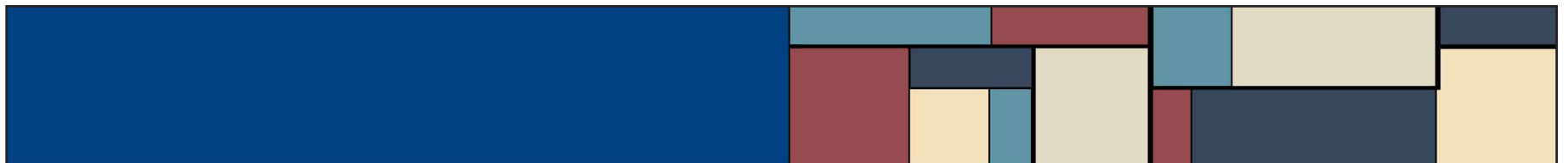
The Wood Dale Park District (WDPD) boundary and the City of Wood Dale corporate boundaries are not co-terminus. There are segments of the WDPD that are outside of the City of Wood Dale corporate limits and there are areas of the City that are not within the WDPD’s corporate limits. We feel the variance in these areas do not adversely affect the comparisons and analysis of the WDPD’s and the City’s demographic profile. The Wood Dale Park District encompasses a 6.25 square mile area and serves residents in the City of Wood Dale, as well as portions of Elk Grove Village, Bensenville, Itasca, and unincorporated Addison Township. The WDPD serves approximately 13,770 residents and includes 140 acres of park land on 15 park sites.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

An important component of the master planning process is to understand how current and future demographics affect programming, facility use, and outdoor recreation space needs; as well as ensure the resident needs are currently being met and will continue to be met as the community changes.

Information about demographics can also provide an understanding into recreational interests and participation. Factors such as age, ethnicity, and income significantly affect the level and individual ability to pursue recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment and education also play a role. This section is used to identify the past, current, and future characteristics of the WDPD.

The population and demographic information used herein for the City of Wood Dale is derived



from three sources, the most recent data was used when possible:

- U.S. Census Bureau;
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP); and
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

The Census Bureau provides reliable information on the overall population and trends and CMAP and the DCEO provide valuable population forecasting.

**Population**

Wood Dale has seen steady but limited growth over the last fifteen years, the largest growth occurred during the 1980’s when the population rose ten percent over the decade. The current population; however, reflects a community that is largely built out with limited new development bringing in new residents. This relatively slow growth rate would indicate a stable demand for recreation facilities and programs to meet the needs of the Wood Dale Park District residents.

The 2010 census established the population of Wood Dale at 13, 770; this represents an increase of 2% since the 2000 census when the population was 13, 535. The 2013 population estimate per the 2009-2013 American Community Survey is 13,969 which is a 1.4% growth from 2010.

Per the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the population of DuPage County is projected to experience 0.30% growth over the next five years, the Wood Dale area 0.45% growth and 0.21% growth for the State of Illinois. Using this DCEO data in relation to the City of Wood Dale, by 2020 the town’s population is projected to be 14, 402.

Figure 1

## Wood Dale Population

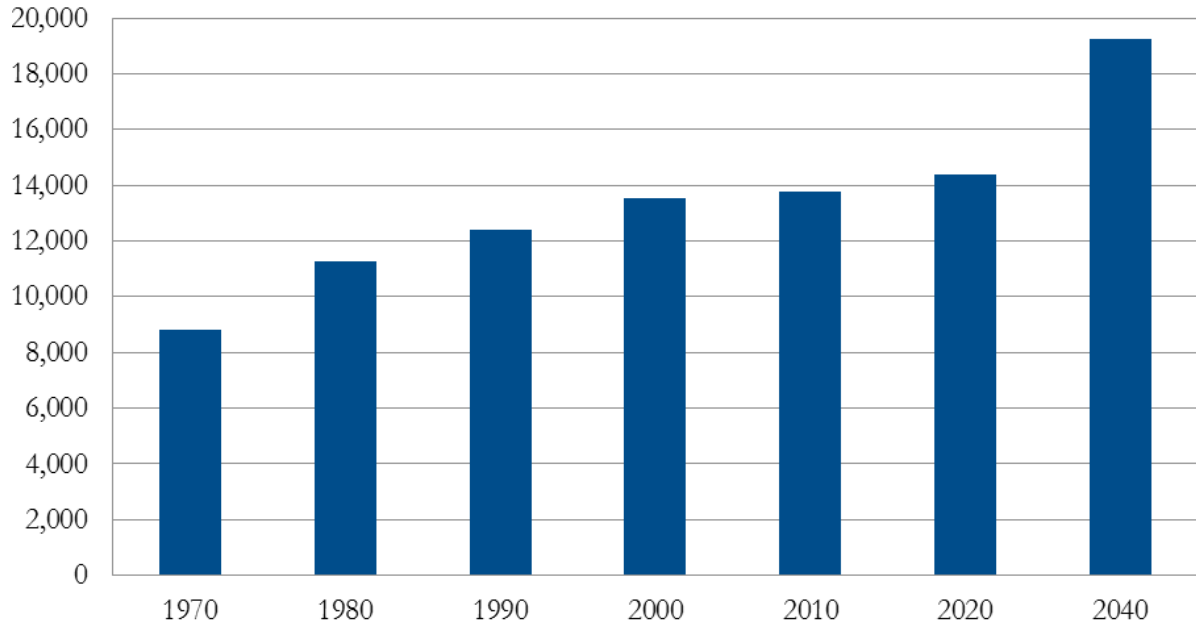


Figure 2

	2010 *	2011 **	2012 **	2013 **
Wood Dale	13,770	13,858	13,899	13,969
Addison	36,942	37,181	37,267	37,385
Itasca	8,649	8,727	8,769	8,811
Elk Grove Village	33,127	33,250	33,342	33,419
Bensenville	18,352	18,445	18,482	18,535
* US Census Bureau				
** Population Estimates				

Per CMAP’s 2040 Forecast of Population, Households and Employment, Wood Dale is projected to have a population of 19, 272; however, due to the limited available land for large residential developments, it is difficult to see how the city could achieve the population CMAP forecasts. These census figures and forecasts are shown in Figure 1.

## Age Distribution

A resident's age indicates the tendency for active or passive recreation activities, as well as helps the Park District adjust programming to meet future age-sensitive trends. The following age breakdown is used to separate the population into age sensitive user groups and to retain the ability to adjust to future age distribution trends.

These groups are:

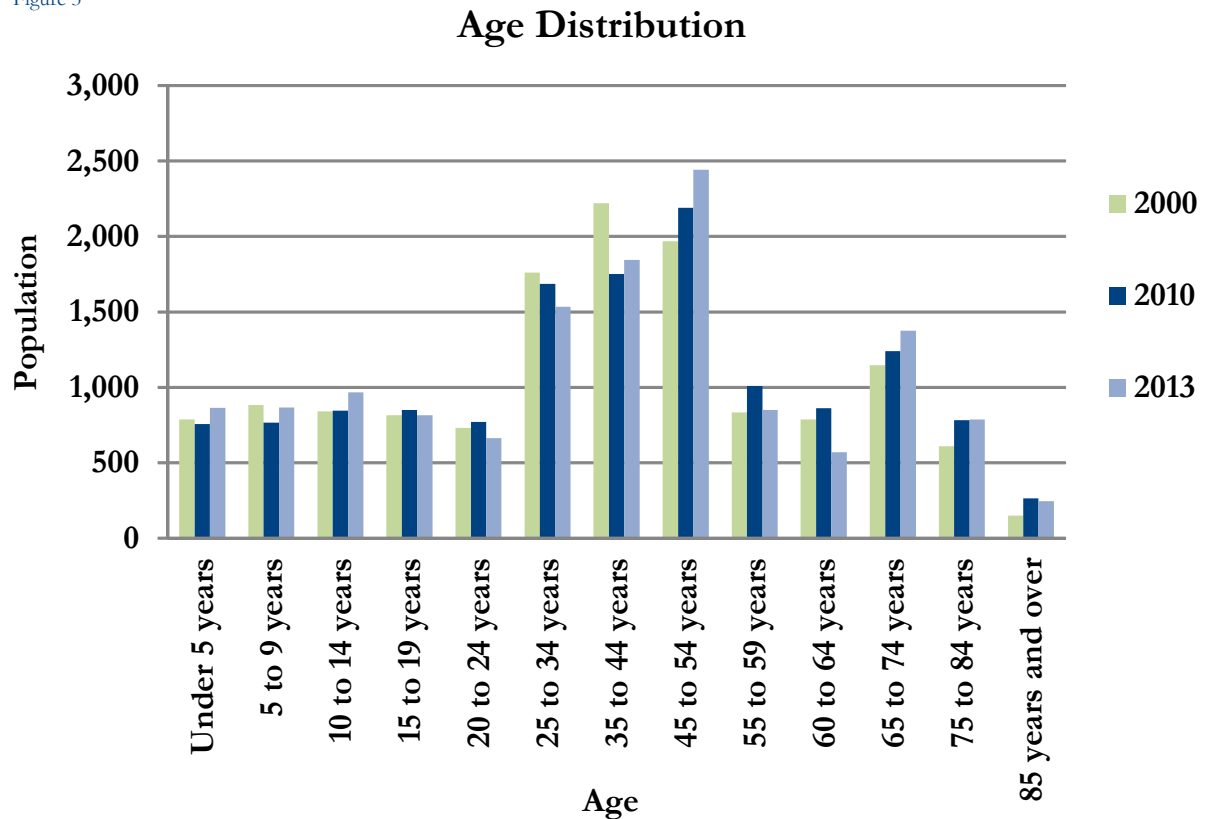
- Under 5 – this group are those with limited physical abilities; users of preschool programs/facilities and are the future youth activity participants;
- 5-14 – this group represents children's needs and programming, the teens will be slowly moving out of youth programs and into adult programs;
- 15-24 –this group represents young adults who use facilities and programs independent of their family;
- 25-34 – this group represents those whose needs primarily center on relationships and starting families;
- 35-54 – this group represents users of a wide range of adult programming and park facilities, as well as people whose needs generally revolve around their family;
- 55-64 – this group includes empty nesters, those focused on new grandchildren and preparing for retirement; and;
- 65+ - this group of active adults are currently more active than at any point in history.

The under-5 and 5-14 age groups make up 17.2% of the current Wood Dale population, a number that has remained fairly consistent over the last thirteen years. The largest fluctuation in age distribution is seen in the age groups of 35-54. As shown in Figure 3 above, the 45-54 comprise 17.7% of the population; together with the under 14 population, this data set reflects the family demographic and appeal of Wood Dale to families. Wood Dale has a slightly higher percentage of adults 65 and older (17.4%) than the state of Illinois (12.5%), while the under-5 and under 18 age groups are comparable. In addition, according to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the 2013 median age of

Wood Dale residents is 41.1; the median age of Wood Dale residents in 2010 was 41.7.

It should also be noted that according to the Pew Research Center population projections, a national demographic shift is expected to occur by the year 2030. They report that by the time all Baby Boomers turn 65 in 2030, 18 percent of the nation's population will be at least that old. In 2010 only 13% of Americans were ages 65 and older.

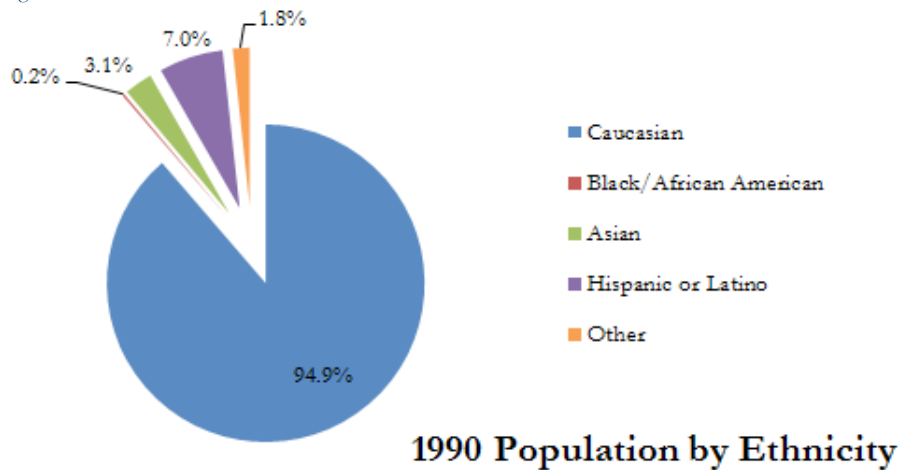
Figure 3



## Race/Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity play a role in a community's parks and recreation needs and desires. Trends can be found in the ways different ethnic groups use parks and recreation facilities and the types of programming they seek. An analysis of Wood Dale's racial and ethnic makeup reveals a predominantly Caucasian population that has been gradually diversifying over the last two decades. Statistics since 1990 show a 2.6% decrease in the Caucasian population, along with a 200% increase in the Hispanic or Latino population and a 91% increase in the Asian population. Such diversity is indicative of a stable population, particularly in a large metropolitan area such as Chicago. Figures 4 through 6 show the Wood Dale population trends by ethnicity compiled since the 1990 census.

Figure 4



Per the 2010 census, the majority of Wood Dale residents are Caucasian 83.4% and 20.3% of the population classifies itself as Hispanic or Latino. The next largest growing segment is the Asian population which is currently 5.2% of the population. In addition, according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2013 Estimates, 23.1% of the Wood Dale residents were born outside the United States. Per the website [www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com), more than 21% of residents claim Polish ancestry, 19.9% are of German ancestry and 19.5% Italian ancestry.

Figure 7 compares the percentage of foreign-born persons, as well as language other than English spoken at home by percentage of population in Wood Dale and the surrounding suburbs, as well as the State of Illinois and DuPage County. The percent of foreign born

persons according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2013 Estimates in Wood Dale is 23.1%; for DuPage County the percent is 18.4%, and for the State of Illinois it is 13.8%. The City of Wood Dale data is very similar to the adjacent communities; however, the percentages are considerably higher than the State of Illinois.

Reviewing the number of residents that speak a language other than English at home, Wood Dale again has a higher percentage than both the County and the State; however comparable to the adjacent communities.

Note: The five numbers may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Figure 5

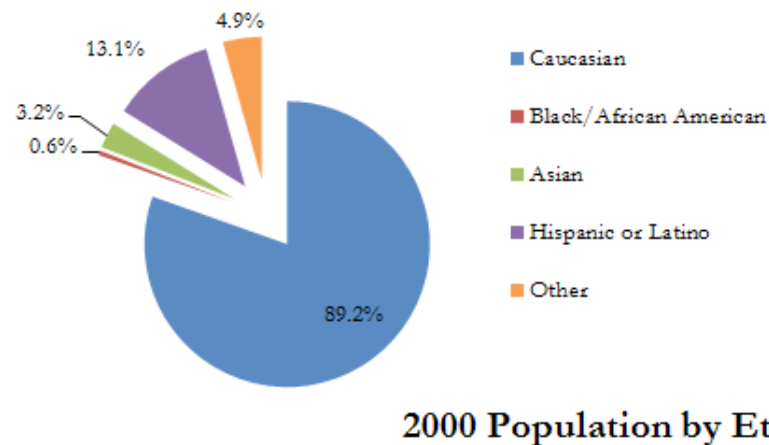


Figure 6

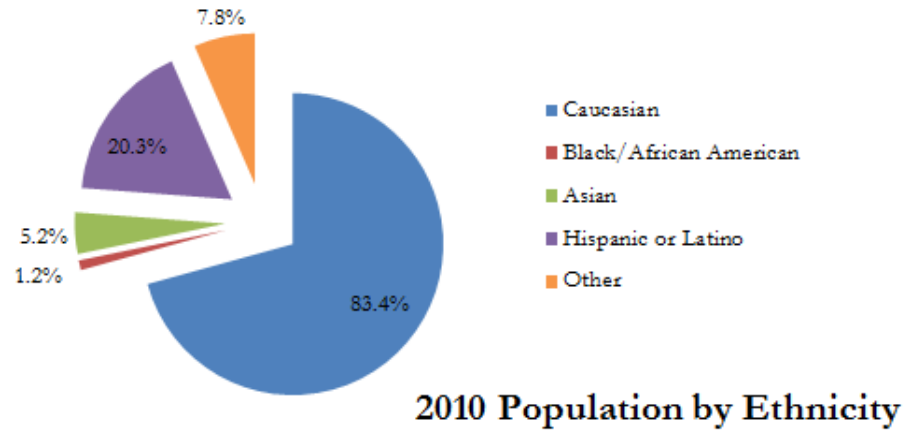


Figure 7

Municipality/State	Foreign Born Persons	Language other than English spoken at home
Wood Dale	23.1%	37.8%
Addison	34.4%	53.9%
Itasca	23.5%	33.7%
Elk Grove Village	20.3%	27.2%
Bensenville	33.3%	55.8%
DuPage County	18.4%	26.3%
State of Illinois	13.8%	22.3%

\* Data from U.S. Census Bureau 2013 Estimates

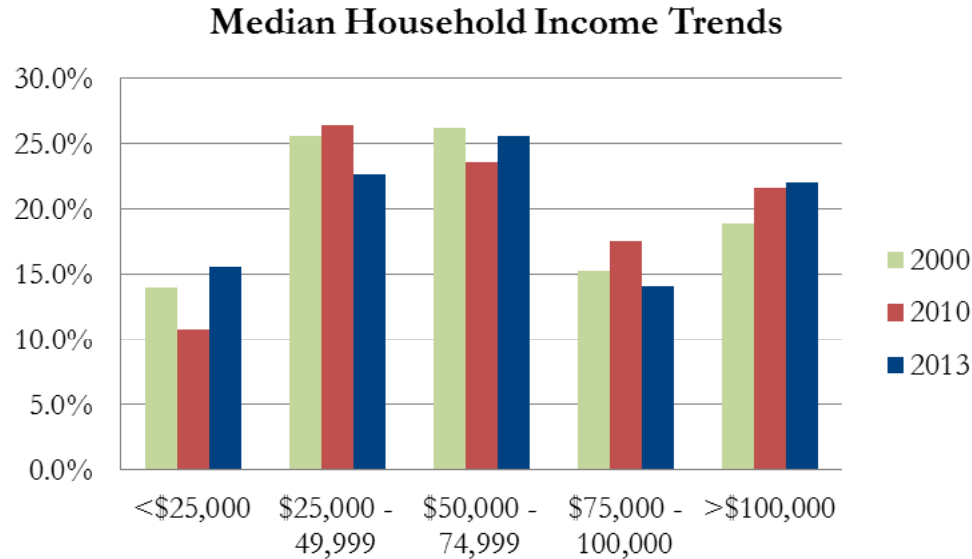
## Education, Employment & Income

Education, employment and income characteristics also affect service demands. These three profiles often correlate with one another and substantiate the trends found in the others. Typically, lower levels of each of these components tend to indicate a population that would seek local recreation opportunities, public programs and facilities. This data also provides insight into a community's ability to financially support a growing park district, as well as time constraints due to dual income households.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates from 2009-2013, the median household income for Wood Dale was \$61,406 and the per capita income was \$27,706. The median household income is slightly higher than the state average of \$56,797; however, the per capita income is slightly lower than the State of Illinois' \$29,666. In addition, U.S. Census Bureau estimates 10.6% of Wood Dale residents live below the poverty level. When benchmarked against the five surrounding communities, Addison, Itasca, Elk Grove Village, and Bensenville, Wood Dale is the average for residents that live below poverty level. Bensenville has the highest and Elk Grove Village the lowest. DuPage County is lower at 6.9% and the State of Illinois is higher at 14.1% as indicated in Figure 9.

The percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is 20.8%, which is significantly lower than the State of Illinois average of 31.4%. The percent of residents with a high school graduate or higher, (persons age 25+) is 87.5% which is comparable to the state's average of 87.3%.

Figure 8



According to the 2010 U.S. Census data, 16.9% of Wood Dale's work force is in educational services, health care and social assistance.

The second largest sector is manufacturing, which is 16.2% of the population. 66.7% of the population over the age of 16 is in the labor force which illustrates there are likely many two-working parent households in Wood Dale.

According to Homefacts ([www.homefacts.com](http://www.homefacts.com)), as of November 2014 the unemployment rate in Wood Dale is 4.5%, which is a significant improvement over January 2014 when the unemployment rate was 6.9%. The United States Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics lists the unemployment rate in Illinois as of November 2014 was 6.4%.

Figure 9

Municipality/State	Residents that live below the poverty level
Wood Dale	10.6%
Addison	14.4%
Itasca	5.6%
Elk Grove Village	5.2%
Bensenville	15.8%
DuPage County	6.9%
State of Illinois	14.1%
* Data from U.S. Census Bureau Estimates 2013	

## Summary

Wood Dale's population has exhibited a limited, slow growth pattern over the last decade. From 2000 to 2010, the population grew by 2.0% to a total population of 13,770.

From an age segment perspective, the largest percentage is the 45-54 year old age group which comprises 16% of the population or 2,191 individuals in 2010, and 17.6% of the population or 2,441 based on 2013 estimates. This is a slight increase from 15% in 2000. However, in the 55 and older age segment Wood Dale has seen a slight decrease in population. Per the 2010 census, 55 and older comprised 30% of the population and fell to 27.6% in 2013.

Wood Dale has a racially and ethnically diverse population. The percentage of Caucasian residents is decreasing while the Hispanic and Asian populations are increasing. These trends mimic the national trends per the U.S. Census Bureau's national population projections through 2060 as well as Pew Research's U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050 as shown in Figure 10.

The income characteristics are average with Wood Dales' current median household income at \$61,406 and 10.6% of the population below the poverty level. Wood Dale's income characteristics are comparable to the surrounding communities, but lower in comparison with that of DuPage County's average.

Figure 10

### U.S. Population, Actual and Projected: 2005 and 2050

