

Old Town Chicago

Site Characteristics

Boundaries

Old Town Chicago lay between 15th Street and the Expressway and from 7th Avenue to the Mississippi River.

Location Maps

[Click here](#) to see where the neighborhood is located in the City of Rock Island. [Click here](#) for a street and parcel map of the neighborhood.

Size

Approximately 72 city blocks make up Old Town Chicago. It covers 103 acres or .16 square miles.

Population

According to the 2000 Census, there are 500 households in the neighborhood.

Natural Features

The topography of Old Town Chicago is typical of a river's floodplain. Vast flat land with much open space occupies the area.

Housing and Architecture

The following architectural styles and types are found in Old Chicago: Apartments, Double Houses, Foursquare, Italianate, and Queen Anne.

There are three [Rock Island Landmarks](#) in the Old Chicago neighborhood:

- Mitchell House, 1131 2nd Avenue
- Schriver-Nettles House, 1029 3rd Avenue
- Streckfus House, 908 4th Avenue

In 2003, housing sales prices ranged around \$10,000.

Institutions Located in Old Town Chicago

- AME Church
- Denkmann Park
- Derrick's Temple of God
- Elks Lodge #1648
- [Great River Bike Trail](#)
- King Solomon Lodge
- Lincoln Manor Homes
- Living Waters Gospel Temple
- [Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center](#)
- Rock Island Central Fire Station
- Rock Island County Courthouse and Justice Center
- Second Baptist Church

Shopping Areas Located Within Half-Mile of Old Town Chicago

- [Downtown Rock Island - The District](#)
- 11th Street Commercial Corridor

Neighborhood History

The original Old Town plat and the Chicago or Lower Addition make up most of the Old Town Chicago neighborhood, which traces its origins to 1835. Like the days when the proprietor lived next door to his shop, residents in Old Town Chicago find themselves neighbors to commercial and even the occasional industrial uses. However, the most prominent neighbor to this area is the mighty Mississippi River, which is just two blocks away.

Neighborhood Vision/Goals

Mission Statement

The neighborhood where it all began and still is.

Goals Most Recently Identified by Broadway Historic District Association

The following are the most recently identified goals of the Old Town Chicago neighborhood:

- Install new banners and street signs
- Provide a neighborhood green space
- Invest in new housing
- Promote well kept properties
- Cleanup neglected areas in Old Chicago
- Find more home owners
- Find landlords to maintain the properties

Neighborhood Activities

Annual Activities

Event	Month
Spring Clean Up	April
Beautiful Yards	July or August
At-Large Meeting	October
Lighting Contest	December

Old Town Chicago Neighborhood Association Activities of Note

Clean Ups

These are used to help educate the residents and improve the aesthetics of Old Town Chicago.

Banners

The neighborhood association is raising money to fund banners that will help instill pride into the neighborhood. Currently, they are being installed on 15th and 11th Street.

Green Space

Old Town Chicago neighbors are hoping to create a neighborhood green space at the corner of 15th Street and 6th Avenue. This will provide a public space for residents to meet and enjoy the outdoors.

Great Neighbors

Gracie: Gracie helps with the neighborhood pick-ups and passes out flyers to the community.

Jo Ann: Jo Ann helps with turning in neighborhood violations.

Dorinda: Dorinda assists with the neighborhood 'watch dog'.

Partnerships

Capital Improvements Accomplished in Last Five Years

- Rock Island County Justice Center was constructed.
- Noticeable improvements along the 3rd Street corridor.

Capital Improvements Expected in Next Five Years

New housing in the Old Chicago Neighborhood can be expected.

Neighborhood Planning

Old Town Chicago is in the process of creating a new neighborhood plan focused on integrating housing development.

Old Town Chicago was the focus of the city's second comprehensive neighborhood planning effort in 1993.

Copies of this plan are available at the City's Planning & Redevelopment Division at City Hall.

Partnerships

- Rock Island Clean and Beautiful
- [Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation](#)
- Rock Island Adopt a Highway Program
- Community Caring Conference
- Problem Properties Task Force
- [Neighborhood Partners](#)
- Neighborhood Leadership Task Force

Contacts

Sheila Rind
President, Old Town Chicago Historic Area Association
1321 7th Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
309.788.7372