

#### Presents...

# The Chicago Neighborhood Initiative: **Revitalizing Our Marketplace**





Canvassed in 4/2010

### Methodology

Because a neighborhood encompasses so much more than what its demographics and statistics reveal, a canvassing report is crucial for creating a more complete picture that also includes non-statistical information, such as the physical condition of buildings, true accessibility, public transportation options, ratio of visitors to residents and the graffiti and littering that a canvasser can witness. Through visits and photos of communities taken during peak hours, an outsider can gain a comprehensive understanding of a neighborhood that falls beyond its demographics.

After identifying Chicago community areas defined by the Multiple Listing Service and City of Chicago, C.A.R.'s Economic Development Team visited and walked one commercial corridor in each. We made note of each street-level storefront property address, its use and its condition. We also observed each community area as a whole, pertaining to its cleanliness, walkability, housing stock, traffic patterns and connectedness to other city areas. We visited some local establishments too, to assess their level of business and availability of certain services.

Following is our finding.

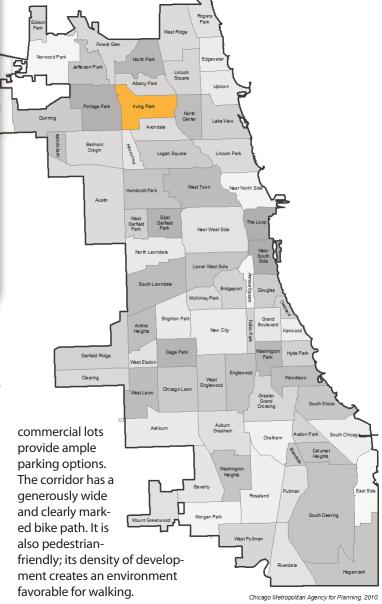
The commercial corridor along Elston Avenue from Addison Street to Montrose Avenue in Irving Park offers a wide assortment of restaurants, retail and service-oriented businesses that reflect the community's multicultural population. A different language seems to filter from the door of every storefront and not one chain restaurant is evident along the route. Irving Park has an authentic Chicago feel.

Shops seem to be firmly established and thriving despite the down economy. Though a few larger retailers dot the area, the neighborhood is apparently true to its smaller local businesses. The corridor features several busy manufacturers and auto repair establishments. While the foundations of many buildings were in acceptable condition, deterioration was evident in some of their facades. The corridor would benefit aesthetically from facade upgrades. There were just a few empty storefronts and vacant lots.

Street parking is easily found along Elston Avenue, metered in some spots. A few small lots and a couple of larger



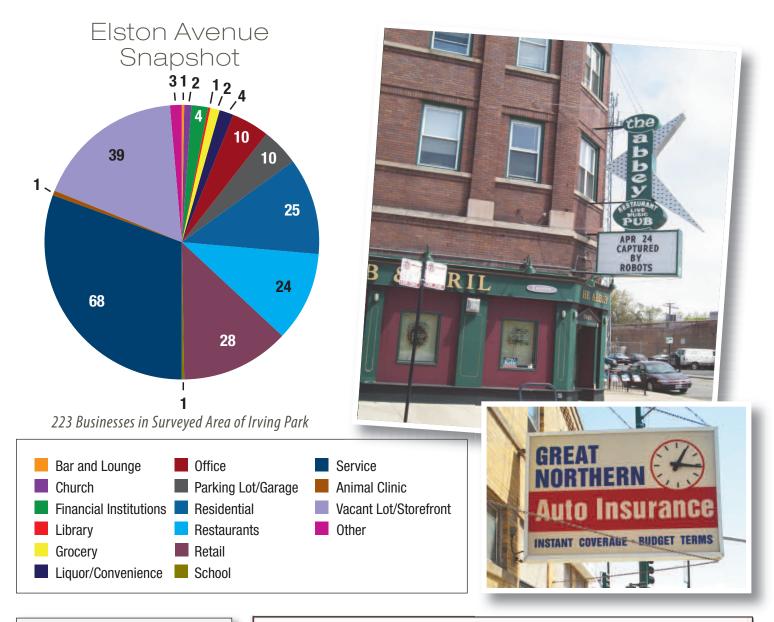
#### City of Chicago Community Areas

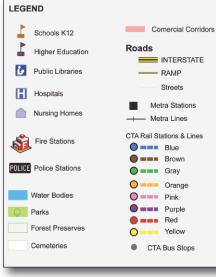


Though Irving Park is relatively distant from downtown, its commercial corridor is busy enough to have a downtown feeling. Commuters have access to the CTA Blue Line, which parallels the corridor. Yet despite this easy connection to downtown, Irving Park seems not to draw many tourists or name-brand businesses. Its retail expansion retains a strong merchant-focused commerce center.

The commercial corridor seems well-suited to serving its community. Despite a shortage of banks and grocery stores, the area would meet the needs of most individuals or families seeking city life on a smaller scale.

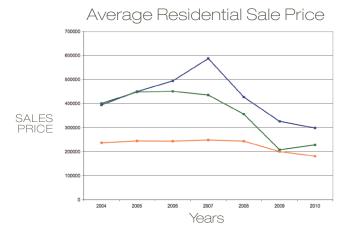
Residential Profile: Though Irving Park offers multi-family and condo living, it is predominately a single-family home community.

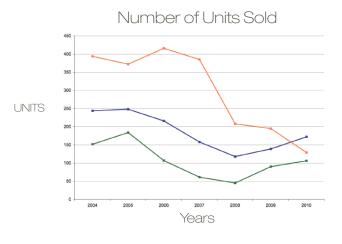




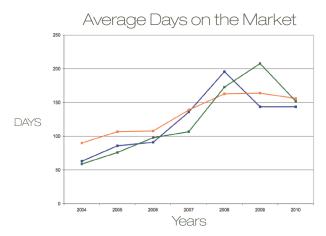


## **Irving Park by the Numbers** Housing Statistics





Type 1 — Type 2 — Type 3
MLS Information (2004-2010) Property Type Classifications:
Type 1 - Single Family Detached; Type 2 - Multi Unit Attached; Type 3 - 2, 3, 4 Flats
STATISTIC SOURCE: Midwest Real Estate Data LLC (MRED)





<b>Street/Corridor</b>	<b>Bus Routes</b>	<b>Ridership - 2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010*</b>
Montrose	CTA 78	2,706,866	2,924,111	2,742,152	2,228,236
Irving Park	CTA 80	3,879,489	3,983,172	3,051,060	3,817,280
Addison	CTA 152	3,253,362	3,382,139	3,091,686	2,543,896
Pulaski	CTA 53	6,817,311	6,983,657	6,894,509	5,817,227
Kimball	CTA 82	5,721,250	6,025,167	5,864,557	4,949,272
<b>Street/Corridor</b>	<b>CTA "L" Train/Metra</b>	<b>Ridership - 2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010*</b>
Addison	Blue Line	739,568	772,720	737,728	635,622
Irving Park	Blue Line	1,191,347	1,220,056	1,200,865	1,041,378
Montrose	Blue Line	551,074	545,090	560,702	506,827
Metra - Irving Park Station	Union Pacific Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*2010 Chicago Transit Authority ridership numbers are through November 2010 only. Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) ridership numbers were sourced through the CTA website <u>www.transitchicago.com</u>.

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