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Lake View

Outside of the downtown Chicago area, if there is a Chicago community that "has it all", or at least most of it, then [Lake View](#) is a candidate. There is the lakeshore, Lincoln Park and its golf course, Belmont Harbor, upper-end real estate, specialty shops, cafes, restaurants, and interesting vintage architecture.

Where to start, or of more practical importance for a north lakeshore community, where to park? There is a convenient cheap car park that serves Lincoln Park. It is just off Lakeshore Drive and to the immediate north of Belmont Harbor. From here you can see the [Waveland Clock Tower](#) and Field House in Lincoln Park, a Collegiate Gothic affair dating from 1932. On the East side of the Field House, it is pleasant to walk along the concrete lined lakeshore, North or South. Walking to the South brings you to [Belmont Harbor](#), populated by rows of expensive looking yachts in the summer, and icepack in the coldest parts of the winter. Walking around the harbor, the western side is bordered by busy [Lakeshore Drive](#). There are a couple of underpasses that provide access to the other side. There you will find a bronze statue of Sheridan mounted on a horse, overlooked by [The Darien](#), a very desirable vintage red brick apartment block completed in 1951. If you are an early riser, there is a string of vintage and modern residential skyscrapers overlooking Lakeshore Drive that positively glow in the early morning sunlight. Walking to the north along the west side of Lakeshore Drive brings you to the octagonal limestone almost Byzantine [Temple Shalom](#). Someday I would like to peek inside to see if the interior is as interesting as the exterior.

Now there is a choice to be made, whether to go back to the car and try to find a parking place nearer to Broadway, or to remain on foot and walk. I preferred to walk, partly because the route passes through a nice residential neighborhood with interesting vintage buildings. Although I ended up walking several miles, this strategy worked for me because there are cafes on Broadway, Halsted, and North Clark Street, places to recover and top up ones energy levels.

The first interesting landmark I came across on Broadway was the [Lake View Presbyterian Church](#), an attractive red shingle structure with a conical spire capping an octagonal tower. Next door the Salvation Army has its [college for officers' training](#), accommodated in a large Tudor Revival mansion. From Broadway I walked to Halsted Street, and the [12th precinct police station](#), a solid looking red brick box with green awnings over every window that make it easily recognizable. Halsted Street is one

of the most interesting in Lake View, lined with vintage shops and other commercial buildings, many from the Victorian period, and some from a little later boasting art deco features. Noteworthy examples are the ornate Sexauer Garage built in 1924 and whimsically decorated with a winged wheel, and the less ornate but just as pleasing [Mandel Brothers](#) warehouse building, built in 1903. Halsted Street is also decorated with "[Rainbow Pylons](#)" in the Boystown area, the nation's first officially recognized "gay village". Both [North Clark Street](#) and [Broadway](#) also have vintage buildings, cafes, shops and restaurants, but [Halstead Street](#) is my favorite.

After so many streets, and so much walking, I was eventually ready to plot my course back to the lakeshore, returning via Belmont Avenue, and passing the imposing Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church, which is just a couple of blocks from the neighborhood sex shop. Lake View caters for all.

Finally, in my wanderings I came across one vintage building worthy of note tucked away in the northwest corner of Lake View: the [Deagan Building](#) which is at the intersection of Ravenswood Avenue and Berteau Avenue. This red brick Edwardian factory, which for many years produced Deagan musical instruments, was built around 1912.

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