



NAPERVILLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP **PRESIDENT**

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PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Naperville, IL (pop. 149,540) is widely recognized throughout the country as the premier location to live, work, and visit -- a recognition made possible in part to an exceptional partnership between the City of Naperville and the [Naperville Development Partnership and Convention and Visitors Bureau \(NDP\)](#).

Established in 1995, this public/private economic development organization leads all major economic development initiatives within the City of Naperville. Naperville has an enviable local economy, with a downtown that is both charming and bustling with national retailers and locally owned businesses. It is the largest retail sales economy in the suburban Chicago metro area. In addition, Naperville is home to a thriving research and development corridor. Naperville leaders have taken a thoughtful, strategic approach to economic development, ensuring it aligns with the City's goals.

As the post-pandemic world evolves, the understanding of Naperville's business climate requires vision, creativity, collaboration and a highly skilled workforce.

Challenges, such as underutilized office space, will require an executive with demonstrated experience and well-developed communications and collaboration skills. It is critical the next President fully grasp the development approach and philosophy that has brought Naperville to its current enviable status in both the Chicago metropolitan area and throughout the country.

As a first point of contact for economic development and other business concerns, the NDP is focused on creating a synergy between the commercial, retail, and industrial needs and City infrastructure which include a municipal electric utility, water and planning services. Trusted relationships are critical in cementing the City's efforts to support a vibrant community which regularly receives recognition as the best city to raise a family, one of the safest cities in America, and some of the best public schools in America. As Illinois' fourth largest city, cultural amenities, recreation, education, and outdoor opportunities are plentiful. The City's reputation as a business-friendly community attracts international and national corporations and small businesses to serve this 40-square-mile community 30 miles west of Chicago.



COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

The City of Naperville (population 149,540), founded along the banks of the DuPage River in 1831 and incorporated in 1857 by Joseph Naper, is located approximately 30 miles west of Chicago in DuPage and Will counties. Naperville hosts successful top-ranked technology firms, retailers, and factories, as well as small and home-based businesses. Naperville combines the values and charm of small-town life with the vibrancy and boldness of a modern, thriving economic powerhouse in the Chicago area. In 2022, Naperville was ranked No. 16 on Money's Best Places to Live to list and was named for the second year in a row as No. 1 in two community rankings compiled by Niche: Best Cities to Raise a Family in America and Cities with the Best Public Schools in America. Naperville was also ranked the third Best City to Live in America by Niche and fourth on Livability's 2022 list of the Top 100 Best Places to Live in the US. In 2023, Naperville was also named the safest city in America by MoneyGeek. Featuring a vibrant city center, Naperville is a regional destination for shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

Cultural amenities abound throughout the city, including the living history museum Naper Settlement, early childhood favorite DuPage Children's Museum, award-winning parks and recreation facilities, and fun-for-all-seasons forest preserves. Naperville is also home to North Central College, among several other satellite campuses of regional higher education institutions.

Some of the premiere organizations that contribute to Naperville's quality of life include the National Gold Medal Award-winning Naperville Park District, a separate government entity that provides a wide range of recreational activities, and the Naperville Public Library, a Library Journal Five-Star Library with three branches providing an extensive and diverse collection of materials, resources, and programming for all ages.

Naperville is also supported by two award-winning public-school districts that routinely rank among the highest-performing districts in the state and regularly receive local, regional, and national awards. [Indian Prairie School District #204](#) and [Community Unit School District #203](#) appear on [Niche's 2023 list of Best School Districts in the country](#).

NAPERVILLE AT A GLANCE

We invite you to visit the Naperville Development Partnership website to learn more about the organization and the City's [demographics](#).

Population: **149,540**

Land Area: **39.76** square miles

County: **DuPage and Will**

Median Home Value: **\$424,800**

Median Family Income: **\$127,648**

Median Age: **39.1**

Total Households: **53,208**

Public Transportation: **Metra
Burlington Northern, Pace**



ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

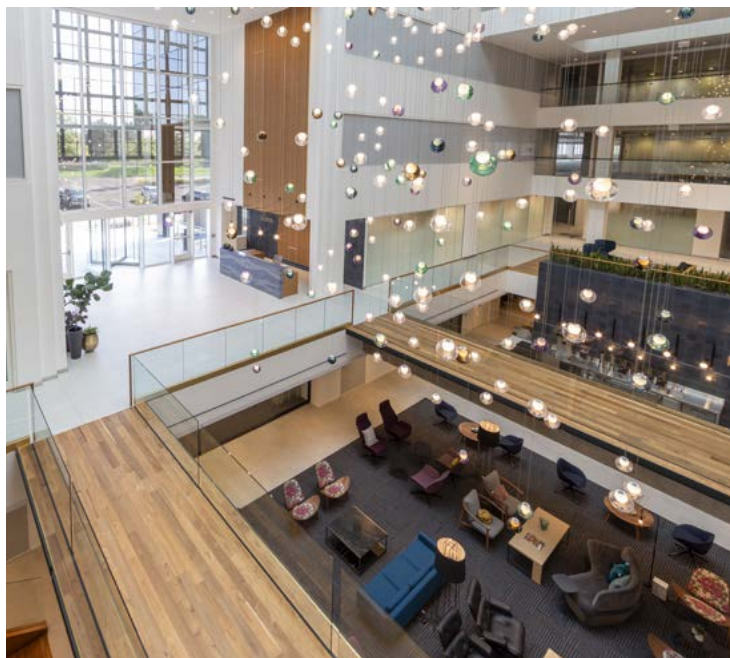
The Partnership, with an annual budget of \$1.5 million, is primarily funded by the City of Naperville and a mix of private and public organizations along with limited program revenue. The Partnership is governed by a 15-person Executive Board and a 35-person Board of Directors consisting of community leaders representing local government (City, education, library and park district), and a cross section of retail, commercial, non-profit, small business, and real estate development. The President enjoys far-reaching authority over the day-to-day operation of the 501(c)(6) organization which has six highly capable full-time employees and two part-time employees.

In addition to the President, full-time support staff are an Economic Development Coordinator, a Director of Sales (Naperville Convention and Visitors Bureau), a Graphic Designer, a Digital Media Coordinator, an Administrative Assistant, as well as the part-time Finance and Human Resources Manager and part-time Communications Specialist. The President is a hands-on Economic Development professional relied upon to lead negotiations, advise and respond to opportunities and resolve concerns, as well as actively engaged manager of the organization. Trusted and key partners to the President at the City of Naperville include key members of the City's leadership team: City Manager, TED (Transportation, Engineering and Development), Director of Public Utilities - Electric, and the Director of Public Works.

Naperville is a home-rule municipality that operates under the Council/Manager form of government. The Mayor and eight Council members are elected at large for four-year staggered terms and appoint a City Manager to administer the policy set by the City Council. The city provides a full range of municipal services, including police and fire protection; community and economic development; and construction and maintenance of the city's streets and infrastructure, including water, wastewater, and electric systems.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES

- The next President will collaborate with City and business leaders to develop an innovative strategy that will address vacant and underutilized office space. Exploring opportunities, considering how to utilize or modify the existing development approach and philosophy, to achieve the successful reutilization of these office sites primarily located along the I-88 corridor is critical.
- The next President must continue the strong partnership and collaboration with City, business, education and other community leaders assisting them to achieve the City's potential in the development arena both in the Central Business District and in the many commercial centers throughout the community.
- The next President may be called upon to consider and facilitate conversations on how City business regulations and zoning regulations impact development.
- The next President will be called upon to forge strong working relationships with the 15-person Executive Board and the 35-person Board of Directors consisting of community leaders representing local government (City, education, library, and park district), a cross section of retail, commercial, non-profit, small business and real estate professionals.
- The next President will remain a consistent and positive force for adaptation responding to the dynamics created by the changing business and political climate.



QUALIFICATIONS

To continue and enhance Naperville's commitment to its core values of People, Respect, Pride, and Trust, the following education, experience, management style, and personality traits have been identified as the ones the new President will possess:

- Exceptional public speaking and interpersonal skills; an individual who will be seen as a trusted and transformational leader with a keen focus on collaboration with all key stakeholders in the community, including business owners, property owners, civic groups, and local government staff to foster partnerships and joint activities which will encourage a cooperative climate and working relationship among businesses, developers, property owners, organizations, City and regional entities, and public officials.
- Strong leadership, managerial and marketing sales skills, along with a minimum of ten years of senior level experience in a mix of private and public sector experience and be well versed in all aspects of community economic development. A bachelor's degree from an accredited university in Public Administration, Business Administration, non-profit management, or another related field is preferred. CECD certification is a plus.
- A vision for the Partnership which advances the community adapting to the changing post-pandemic work environment that can be articulated and executed by developing strategies and collaborative working relationships with members of the Board, the City's leadership team and stakeholders.
- Superior skills in developing trust and effective partnerships with the Board of Directors, Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Development team, City Council, and the business community.
- Proven track record of delegating to staff and fostering teamwork and creativity in problem-solving while ultimately being accountable for the quality and effectiveness of overall organizational performance.
- Sufficient experience in evaluating the organizational resources and operations to maintain a highly responsive, efficient, productive, effective staff team. Budgeting and managing the finances of the organization, along with the ability to advocate for the NDP needs when appropriate and within the context of balancing those needs of the organization with the needs of the community.

COMPENSATION

To attract highly talented and accomplished candidates to this position, the NDP Board has set a starting annual salary range of \$170,000 to \$200,000 DOQ/E.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should apply by November 3, 2023, online at www.govhrjobs.com with résumé, cover letter, and contact information for five professional references to either Heidi Vorhees, President, or Kathleen Rush, Vice President. Any questions should be directed to either Ms. Voorhees (847) 380-3240 x. 101 at or Ms. Rush at (847) 380-3240 x. 120. The confidentiality of all applicants will be strictly maintained. Equal Opportunity Employer.

