VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Aran Kessler Photo.Imaging
With our successful ChicaGo DASH commuter bus service, Valparaiso residents have direct access to Chicago. The four ChicaGo DASH commuter buses include Wi-Fi, satellite TVs, free parking, and bike racks to make the morning commute a more pleasant experience for our riders.

Valparaiso is a growing community located in the northwest corner of Indiana, just 50 miles southeast of Chicago. The City is home to over 32,000 residents and acts as a hub for an additional 12,000 living in surrounding areas.

Valparaiso is the seat of Porter County, which has the 7th highest per-capita income in the State. Porter County is also one of the few counties in Indiana with a growing population, totaling over 160,000, making it the ninth largest county by population in the state.
Our award-winning downtown gathering spaces and year-round community events provide a thriving and vibrant place to call home. Central Park Plaza, Porter Health Amphitheater and Urschel Pavilion have acted as magnets, drawing our engaged community downtown for events including Shakespearian plays, music concerts, food tastings, movie nights, and ice skating in the winter months.

Valparaiso recently received recognition from the American Planning Association’s “Great Public Places” awards for its 2.5 acre downtown park and pavilion that transformed an underused parking lot into a vibrant gathering space, and made the downtown a regional destination.
Valparaiso’s downtown maintains its character with renovated façades and green space, featuring 14+ distinct non-chain restaurants, and a number of artisan shops.

The City is also developing an Arts District to connect its downtown to Valparaiso University’s campus. This vision helped the City make it into the semifinalist round of Frontier Communication’s “America’s Best Communities” competition. Valparaiso was 1 of 15 communities chosen out of 350.
Valparaiso is filled with excellent education opportunities from pre-k to post-graduate, adding to our creative and technical working class.

Valparaiso Community Schools are ranked 23rd out of 331 school districts in the State of Indiana by the US Department of Education and East Porter County Schools, the district to our direct east, is ranked 10th.

Valparaiso residents are so invested in our school’s success that in 2016, a referendum to increase property taxes for the $148 million construction and renovation of Valparaiso Community Schools passed by an overwhelming margin of 2-to-1.

Valparaiso University is also central to the City’s identity, with an architecturally stunning campus and diverse student population located about half a mile from our downtown.

This private liberal arts college has been ranked in the Top 10 of regional universities in the Midwest since 1990, and is nationally recognized for its College of Engineering and College of Nursing.
After speaking with several local companies and educational institutions about their information technology needs, City officials found that access to dark fiber with carrier diversity and redundancy was almost impossible to secure. As a response, Valparaiso is currently constructing a municipally owned fiber loop, called “ValpoNet,” with dark fiber strands that can be leased and lit by an individual company or a service provider.

In December of 2015, Valparaiso was designated as a Google eCity, an award given to only one city per state. Google’s award recognizes cities that have the most business online per capita, and therefore rewards entrepreneurs that have embraced e-commerce and the value of internet visibility. Other cities that were honored with this designation include Denver, Louisville, Boston, and Memphis.

When the ValpoNet network is completed in 2017, high-speed, reliable connectivity will be a reality for many local businesses. To learn more, take a look at the ValpoNet website at valponet.com.
As your business grows, the City and the surrounding region can fulfill your needs with a skilled and diverse workforce. Assistance for recruitment and training are available locally through WorkOne and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

The Porter County Career and Technical Center and Ivy Tech Community College, both located in Valparaiso, can coordinate specific training for your business needs.