

8 Lively Havens With Clean Air and Green Space

# WHERE *to* RETIRE

JULY/AUGUST 2007  
Display until September 30

## AMERICA'S 100 BEST

MASTER-PLANNED  
COMMUNITIES

Getting a Home  
That Suits You

The New Scene  
In Communities

Steps to Making  
A Stress-Free Move



Field of Dreams:  
Great Towns  
In the Heartland



Door County, WI



Rochester, MN



Galena, IL

# Field of Dreams — 8 Mid

*Heartland has its own allure, from historic*

**W**hen it's time to retire, not everyone's thoughts turn to sunny beaches and palm trees. Some retirees look to the Midwest, perhaps lured by childhood memories of fun times in river towns and lake resorts.

The Heartland has its own appeal for retirement — hills, prairie lands, forests and the Great Lakes, a four-season climate, big-city action, small-town charm and places where the dollar stretches further.

Longtime New Jersey resident Judy Segall says

she never considered Florida, where many from the Northeast retire, and New England's winters didn't hold any appeal. But autumn in Ohio was a favorite memory from her childhood. The chance to experience four seasons at a reasonable cost of living and a slower pace of life is a lure that many retirees cite.

Still others, like world traveler James Sebanc, realized that a good international airport like Chicago O'Hare was all he needed to put down roots only a few hours away in a charming small town in Illinois.



Marietta, OH



Lake of the Ozarks, MO



Rapid City, SD

# Best Retirement Havens

From historic towns to vacation hot spots ♦ By Julie Cooper

Their choices in Ohio and Illinois are among our eight great Midwestern options for retirees.

## **Manhattan, Kansas**

It's called "the Little Apple" after its namesake, but Manhattan, KS, has little to remind native New Yorkers of the hectic life in the Big Apple. What it does have going for it is a colorful history, a good transportation system, a major university and a growing economy.

In 2004, Fred and Evelyn Brock traded life in the New York area for Manhattan when Fred took early retirement at age 60 from The New York Times. Today he teaches journalism at Kansas State University and writes books about retiring on less money.

The author of "Live Well on Less Than You Think" and "Retire on Less Than You Think" says he got the best end of the deal when he chose Kansas State over New York University.

The Brocks sold their home in Montclair, NJ, for

minutes from downtown. Ephraim, with its Norwegian heritage dating to the mid-19th century, has many buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sturgeon Bay is home to the Door County Maritime Museum, a revived waterfront and historic downtown, and the Fairfield Center for Contemporary Art. Sister Bay, on the Green Bay side of the peninsula, offers boaters a marina rebuilt in 1993 with 100 slips and services. Each May, residents and visitors celebrate the Door County Festival of Blossoms with a children's parade, entertainment and a Maypole ceremony.

Fish Creek is famous for its winter festival, when the frozen harbor hosts such sports as ice golf and ice volleyball the first Saturday in February. In summer, guided walking tours feature more than 20 historic buildings.

**Population:** 28,302

**Climate:** High Low

January 24 8

July 78 57

**Cost of living:** Average

**Housing cost:** The median sales price in Door County was \$228,100 in the first quarter of 2007, according to the Wisconsin Realtors Association.

**Information:** Door County Visitor Bureau, (800) 527-3529 or [www.doorcounty.com](http://www.doorcounty.com).

## Rochester, Minnesota

Rochester is proud of its big businesses but even prouder of its small-town friendliness and warmth. Home to the famed Mayo Clinic as well as IBM, the third-largest city in Minnesota cultivates what has been dubbed "Minnesota nice." Consistently voted one of the top places to live in the United States, Rochester is located in Olmsted County in the southeastern part of the state.

When the cold Minnesota winter rolls in, pedestrians in Rochester can use the city's underground walkways, called the "subway," or the covered skyways that make shopping, dining and parking more accessible. The pathways are especially useful to patients visiting the Mayo Clinic, one of the most respected medical facilities in the world.

Vicki Snyder, 54, thinks the quality

program at an elementary school or to greet people at the Mayo Clinic. There is a volunteer program to suit just about "whatever you want to do," she says. When she isn't working with RSVP, Snyder is a motivational speaker. "I had one lady tell me her life started again when she began volunteering," Snyder says. Snyder keeps an office at the Rochester Senior Center, housed in the former National Guard Armory. Anyone age 50 or older can join the center, which currently has 1,570 mem-



**From top:** Silver Lake and its tributaries offer spots for fishing near Rochester, MN. Crab apple trees color the skyline along one of Rochester's many hiking and biking trails, which extend over 29 miles around the city.

bers who pay \$32 a year to participate in such programs as square dancing, crafts, legal workshops, monthly dinners, card games, singing groups, a book club and Bible study.

**Population:** 97,191

**Climate:** High Low

January 20 4

July 81 60

**Cost of living:** Below average

**Housing cost:** The median sales price from January through May was \$163,900, according to Duane Sauke, president of the Minnesota Association of Realtors.

**Information:** Rochester Convention and Visitors Bureau, (800) 634-8277 or [www.rochestercvb.org](http://www.rochestercvb.org).

*Julie Cooper is a writer in San Antonio, TX.*