

## Is Cedar Rapids Corridor a good place to live?



"We moved to Marion, IA in February from northern California and immediately fell in love with the area. Everyone we meet is 'Iowa Nice' going out of their way to help us feel settled. We have a young family and a dog that spend a lot of time outdoors and enjoy ALL of the state and county parks this area has to offer. The splash pads and playgrounds are a hit with our daughters (ages 3 and 8). There 7 farmers markets offered during the summer months along with many other community events. As fall approaches, we are looking forward to the fall colors and cross country skiing this winter. We are truly happy we made the move to Eastern Iowa to be part of this amazing community. " -Erin

"One of the biggest draws for settling in Cedar Rapids, outside the slower pace, affordability, and friendly folds, is the potential beginning to blossom and the opportunity to be able to influence how that potential takes shape. The city already has some great plans in the works, but we can help ensure that no one is left out." -Jay

“We moved here for the great job opportunities but we stay in our retirement years because it is a really nice community. Our dollar goes a lot farther here than it would if we chose to live on a coast” -Jerry

“For me it comes down to lifestyle. I grew up in Iowa but moved to the west coast after college. I was making the same salary I would in the Midwest but paying 4x the cost of living and spending countless unpaid hours a week sitting in my car stuck in commuter traffic. Even though there is lots of arts and culture in Southern California, I could not afford to enjoy most of them.

I decided I wanted an affordable place to live that still offered a cool social life and great employment. I wanted to be able to travel and visit cool places but make my home somewhere I could fully enjoy my day-to-day life. This brought me to the Cedar Rapids, where it only takes 15 (or less) minutes to get across town. Where I can walk my dog at night and feel safe, where my kid can run amuck with neighbor kids like I did in my youth. Where I can go to the Opera, a Minor league baseball game and see “Blue Man Group” all in my town.

I might take a long weekend to drive Chicago, St. Louis, or Minneapolis. Or, if I feel the need to be on the beach, we have an international airport making it easy to travel when planning a trip. But I always get that special feeling as I enter my neighborhood on my return trip, thankful I am at my home base, where life is calm, stable and where my family and friends come to gather.

Cedar Rapids has a vitality and friendly atmosphere that attracts large companies to have their offices here. They have found that it offers what people are looking for in their community that it is easy to attract brilliant talent to this area. The ability to be in an urban area one minute, and paddling on a lake, hiking, cross country skiing or biking in the country minutes later is unbeatable. We have affordable living costs, excellent schools, low crime, highly rated hospitals and so much more... won't you come and see what we have to offer you?” -Susan