

Your Complete Guide to Moving to Lakes of the Four Seasons

Welcome to Lakes of the Four Seasons

Lakes of the Four Seasons is a planned residential community in Lake County, Indiana, offering a unique blend of suburban tranquility and recreational amenities just an hour from Chicago. This master-planned community centers around four private lakes—Holiday, Lancelot, Ione, and Zuma—providing residents with year-round water activities, fishing, and scenic beauty. For families and professionals seeking more space and affordability without sacrificing access to urban opportunities, this Northwest Indiana community has become an increasingly popular destination. Tree-lined streets, well-maintained common areas, and a strong sense of community create a neighborhood atmosphere that stands in stark contrast to dense urban living.

What truly sets Lakes of the Four Seasons apart is its private community structure. Residents enjoy access to beaches, boat launches, clubhouses, tennis courts, and organized social events throughout the year. The community association maintains these amenities and enforces standards that preserve property values and neighborhood character. Unlike typical suburban subdivisions, living here means becoming part of a planned community with shared recreational spaces and an active social calendar. Many residents who relocate from Chicago appreciate the transition to a lifestyle where neighbors know each other, children play safely in cul-de-sacs, and weekend activities revolve around the water rather than navigating crowded city parks.

Planning Your Move

Timing your move to Lakes of the Four Seasons strategically can make the entire process smoother and more cost-effective. Summer months are the most popular for family relocations, particularly for those coordinating with the school calendar to ensure children start fresh in August or September. If you're planning a summer move, book your moving date 3-4 weeks in advance to secure your preferred timing, as this is peak season for cross-state relocations. Spring and fall offer excellent alternatives with better availability, more flexible scheduling, and often less competition for moving dates. Winter moves are certainly possible and sometimes more affordable, but Indiana weather can be unpredictable, so build extra time into your schedule for potential delays.

Cross-state moves between Illinois and Indiana require additional planning beyond typical local relocations. Experienced [Lakes of the Four Seasons movers understand the logistics of navigating toll routes, coordinating timing to avoid Chicago rush hour congestion, and ensuring all necessary documentation for cross-state transport is in order. The most common route involves I-94 to I-80/94 East \(Indiana Toll Road\), with tolls typically ranging from \\$4-8 depending on your exit, plus the \\$6 Chicago Skyway toll. Reputable moving companies factor these costs into estimates upfront. Since Lakes of the Four Seasons is a private community with residential](#)

[streets. your moving company should plan arrival times carefully to avoid narrow roads during peak traffic and coordinate with you regarding any community-specific access requirements.](#)

Living Here

Daily life in Lakes of the Four Seasons revolves around the community's recreational amenities and the practical benefits that draw many families from Chicago. The school districts serving this area are often cited as a major relocation factor, with families appreciating smaller class sizes, more individual attention for students, and strong academic programs compared to overcrowded urban schools. The community itself offers activities year-round: swimming and boating in summer, ice fishing in winter, and community events during every season. You'll find that the pace of life slows down considerably compared to Chicago—commutes happen by car rather than crowded trains, weekend errands don't require navigating parking nightmares, and there's significantly more space both indoors and out.

For those who still work in Chicago or the surrounding Illinois suburbs, the roughly one-hour commute is the trade-off for affordable housing and more square footage. Primary highways including I-94, I-80/94, US-30, and local state roads provide multiple route options depending on your destination. Many residents appreciate having access to both worlds: they can enjoy quiet suburban evenings by the lake while still reaching Chicago's cultural attractions, airports, and employment centers within reasonable driving distance. The cost of living difference is substantial—housing prices, property taxes, and general expenses are typically lower than comparable Chicago suburbs, allowing families to afford larger homes with yards, something often impossible within their budget in Illinois.

Moving Tips

1. ****Verify community access requirements****: Contact the Lakes of the Four Seasons Property Owners Association before moving day to understand any restrictions on moving truck sizes, required access passes, or designated moving hours for your street.
1. ****Plan for toll expenses****: Budget for Indiana Toll Road and Chicago Skyway tolls, and consider getting an E-ZPass or I-PASS transponder if you'll be commuting regularly—it saves money and time at toll plazas.
1. ****Schedule utilities early****: Set up electricity, gas, water, internet, and trash service at least two weeks before your move date, as some providers may have limited appointment availability in the area.
1. ****Time your arrival strategically****: Avoid arriving during weekday rush hours (7-9 AM and 4-6 PM) when narrow residential streets are busiest with commuters, and coordinate with your moving company to arrive mid-morning on a weekday for easiest access.

1. ****Prepare for cross-state vehicle registration****: You'll need to register your vehicles in Indiana within 60 days of establishing residency, so gather necessary documents (title, proof of insurance, ID) early to avoid last-minute scrambling.
1. ****Research property association requirements****: Familiarize yourself with community rules regarding exterior home modifications, parking boats or RVs, and architectural approval processes before making any changes to your new property.

Getting Settled

Once you've unpacked, prioritize connecting with the Lakes of the Four Seasons Property Owners Association to understand all the amenities available to you and obtain any necessary passes for lake access and community facilities. Register children for school immediately if you're moving during the academic year, and consider joining community Facebook groups or attending association meetings to meet neighbors and learn about local events. Stock up on essentials at nearby shopping areas along US-30, establish relationships with local service providers (medical, dental, veterinary), and explore the community's recreational offerings to help your family feel at home quickly. Many new residents find that participating in community events—summer concerts, holiday celebrations, or recreational sports leagues—accelerates the transition and builds the neighborhood connections that make Lakes of the Four Seasons special.

FAQs About Moving to Lakes of the Four Seasons

Q: How much does it cost to move from Chicago to Lakes of the Four Seasons?

A: Most Chicago to Lakes of the Four Seasons moves range from \$800-2,500 depending on home size and belongings volume. A typical three-bedroom home averages \$1,200-1,800 including labor, transportation, and toll expenses. Cross-state moves cost more than local relocations due to distance, toll roads, and additional time requirements. Request detailed written estimates from multiple companies, ensuring toll costs are included rather than added as surprise charges later.

Q: What's the best time of year to move to Lakes of the Four Seasons?

A: Spring (April-May) and fall (September-October) offer the best combination of weather, availability, and pricing for moves to Lakes of the Four Seasons. Summer is most popular for families coordinating with school schedules but requires booking 3-4 weeks in advance due to high demand. Fall and spring provide more flexible scheduling, pleasant weather for loading and unloading, and often better rates than peak summer season without winter weather risks.

Q: Do I need special permits to move into Lakes of the Four Seasons?

A: Lakes of the Four Seasons is a private community, so you should contact the Property Owners Association before moving day to confirm any access requirements or moving truck restrictions. While formal permits typically aren't required, the community may have guidelines about moving hours, truck sizes on residential streets, or temporary access passes for moving companies. Your moving company should coordinate these details, but verify requirements with your realtor or the association directly.

Q: What challenges should I expect moving from Chicago to Lakes of the Four Seasons?

A: The main challenges include coordinating cross-state logistics, navigating toll routes efficiently, and timing to avoid Chicago traffic congestion. Moving trucks must account for the Indiana Toll Road and potential delays on I-94, particularly during rush hours. Additionally, adjusting to private community rules, establishing new utilities with different providers, and vehicle re-registration in Indiana require advance planning. Weather can also impact timing, especially during winter months when Indiana roads may face different conditions than Chicago streets.

Q: Why do families choose Lakes of the Four Seasons over Chicago suburbs?

A: Affordability is the primary driver—housing prices and property taxes are significantly lower than comparable Chicago-area suburbs, allowing families to afford larger homes with yards. Access to private lakes and community amenities, highly-rated schools with smaller class sizes, and a strong neighborhood atmosphere attract families seeking space and recreational opportunities. The trade-off is a longer commute for those working in Illinois, but many families consider the lifestyle benefits and cost savings worth the additional drive time.

Q: How long does the commute take from Lakes of the Four Seasons to Chicago?

A: The commute typically takes 60-75 minutes to downtown Chicago in normal traffic conditions via I-94 and I-80/94. However, timing matters significantly—leaving during rush hour can extend the commute to 90+ minutes, while mid-day or reverse-commute trips may take only 50-60 minutes. Many residents working in Chicago's southern suburbs or Northwest Indiana face much shorter commutes of 20-40 minutes. Consider your specific work location and schedule flexibility when evaluating whether the distance works for your situation.

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