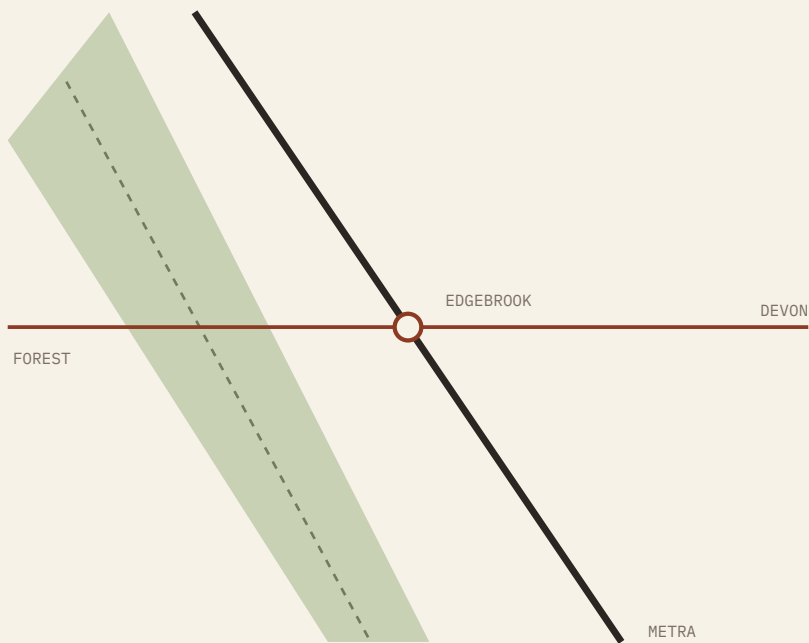




A HYPOTHETICAL CASE

The Edgebrook Case

When the Household Changes, the Answer Can Change

Ludovicus Aurelius

THE HOME INDEX · A HYPOTHETICAL CASE

Evidence current to October 2026

Working plates are schematic; positions approximate.

Change the household, and the map changes with it.

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Working plates: 1 The line north · 2 Her morning · 3 The right blocks · 4 Two lives, one home

CHAPTER I

The Original Answer Still Stands

Start with what has not moved. For a deliberately small Chicago life of your own, two or three months at a time, the North Center–Lincoln Square seam remains the answer.

Nothing in this case weakens it. The seam still gives the stronger ordinary week: the supermarket, the sausage shop, the produce grocer and the regional library within one walk; a Tuesday market on Leland; Welles Park and the river for the morning run. Three Brown Line stations make the rest of Chicago a decision rather than a commute, with trains every few minutes. Of every place considered, it is the one where the enormous city most easily moves to the edge of the day.

That answer was given to a particular household with a particular question: where should you live a Chicago season? It still answers that question well.

This case is about what happens when the household itself changes.

Change One Thing

Your niece takes a job at the Kraft Heinz R&D Center on Waukegan Road in Glenview. She has no car, and she wants to reach her desk within forty minutes of her front door.

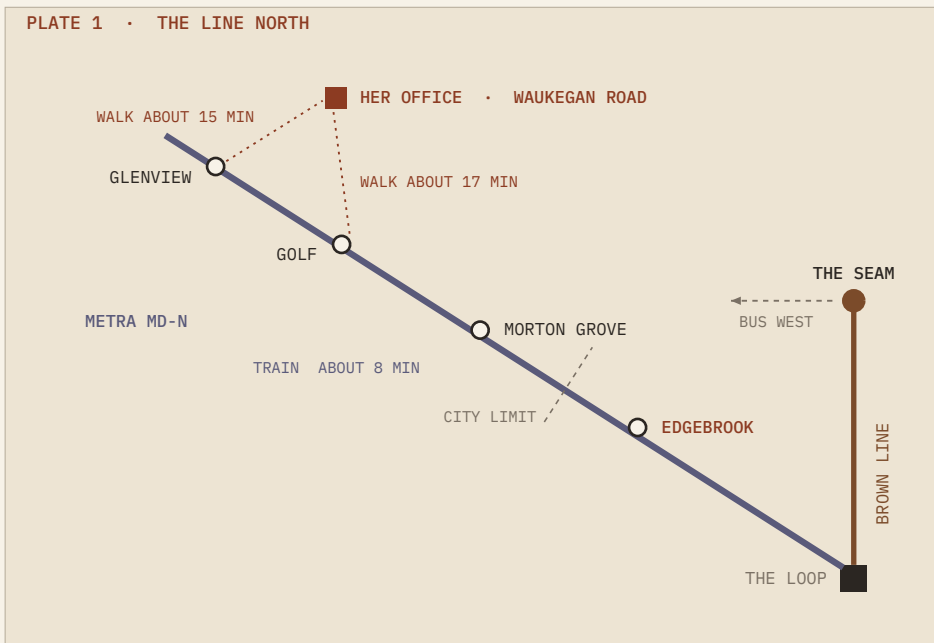
Now suppose she signs an ordinary year-round lease on a two-bedroom, two-bathroom home. She lives there full time. When you come to Chicago, the second bedroom and the second full bathroom become yours. The home serves her life all year and yours when you visit.

The question is no longer where you should live for a season. It becomes: where can one home work for both lives?

The seam struggles with that question at once. From Lincoln and Montrose, her morning begins with a bus west before she ever reaches the train that runs to Glenview, and the forty-minute limit stops being realistic. The place that answers the first question best fails the first requirement of the second.

Why Edgebrook Appears

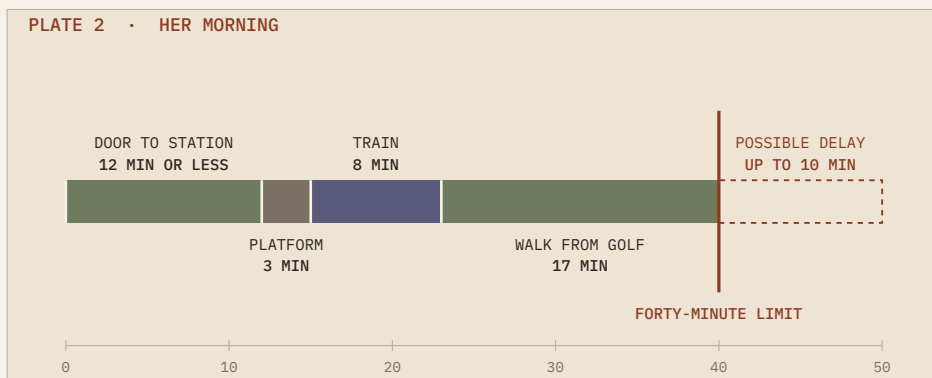
Follow the Metra line northwest from the city and, just before it leaves Chicago, it stops at Edgebrook. Here three things that rarely meet in one place meet at the same intersection.



Schematic; positions approximate. From the seam, her morning begins with a bus west. From Edgebrook, the train runs straight to Golf; the office sits between Golf and Glenview stations.

Her commute. On the weekday timetable current in October 2026, the train from Edgebrook reaches Golf in about 8 minutes. From Golf station she walks about 17 minutes to the office. Allow 3 minutes on the platform and that is 28 minutes, which leaves about 12 minutes for the walk from her door to the station. The commute works, but at the edge of her limit, not comfortably inside it.

There is a present vulnerability as well. A current maintenance notice warns that morning trains on the line may run up to 10 minutes late. While that notice stands, some mornings will break the forty-minute ceiling.

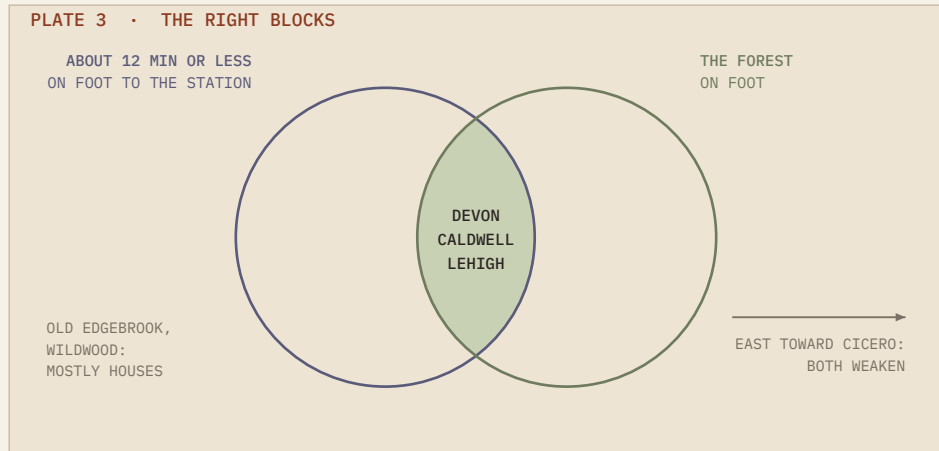


Weekday timetable current in October 2026. The commute fits the limit only while the walk to the station stays about 12 minutes or less, and a current maintenance notice warns of morning delays.

One roof. Two-bedroom, two-bathroom flats exist here at ordinary rents. A small three-unit building on West Devon, two blocks from the station, holds exactly that configuration: two full bathrooms, in-unit laundry, around 1,300 square feet. One of its flats was listed in May 2026 at about \$2,395 a month and has since leased. That proves the kind of home exists in the right place. It does not prove one will be free when she needs it.

Your ordinary life. Edgebrook keeps what the Home Index looks for in your days there. The North Branch Trail begins at the station's own intersection, at Devon and Caldwell, and runs south through Edgebrook Woods and north through Caldwell Woods and on for miles along the river. Old Edgebrook, the small historic quarter beside the station, is ringed by forest preserve. Devon Avenue gives you a modest centre on foot: a family grocery, a branch library, cafés, and a market by the station in season. A run from the door here is not a loop around a park. It is a path into the woods.

Not every home near the station delivers this. The two pieces of geography that matter, a short walk to the train and a short walk to the forest, come together best in the blocks around Devon, Caldwell and Lehigh. Move east toward Cicero Avenue and both advantages weaken at once. Old Edgebrook and Wildwood are the loveliest streets, but they are mostly single-family houses, and flats to rent there are few.



Diagram, not a map. The home has to sit where both walks are short; that overlap is the search area.

What It Gives Up

Edgebrook does not dominate. It trades the seam's density and the city's easy reach for the forest, the quiet and the family under one roof.

A thinner Tuesday. The family grocery and the branch library cover the week, but the large supermarkets sit outside the walking circle, and nothing here matches the seam's run of good shops on one avenue.

A slower door into Chicago. The Metra runs to a timetable, about hourly in the middle of the day, against the seam's Brown Line every few minutes. A bus to the Jefferson Park L station is the fallback. Going into the city becomes something you plan, not something you decide on the platform.

Farther emergency care. The nearest emergency department, at Resurrection Medical Center in Norwood Park, is a few kilometres away, and the nearest Level I trauma centre, at Lutheran General in Park Ridge, farther still. From the seam, Swedish Hospital is close by. Both pathways work; the seam's is shorter.

A tighter day for her. About 28 minutes plus her walk to the station, with evening trains home leaving Golf 20 to 60 minutes apart, so her day bends to the timetable.

Why Not Glenview

Glenview is the obvious alternative, and it has a real claim. From downtown Glenview she walks to work in about 10 to 15 minutes. Of the three places, Glenview gives her the easiest workday. The village centre has a full-service grocer, a Trader Joe's and a large library open seven days a week.

But the shared home has to serve your life too, and here Glenview falls short. Nothing within an ordinary walk of downtown gives you a run from the door: the nearest proper loop, in Flick Park, is about 2.4 miles away, and the forest preserve sits two kilometres or more to the east. That is geography, and no amount of searching moves it.

The shared home also costs more there. Two-bedroom, two-bathroom flats in downtown Glenview ran from about \$3,000 to \$3,850 a month, against about \$2,295 to \$2,650 in and around Edgebrook.

That is the balance the whole case rests on. The seam wins your ordinary Chicago week. Glenview wins her working day. On the dimensions tested so far, Edgebrook is the only place that fails neither.

PLATE 4 • TWO LIVES, ONE HOME			
	THE SEAM	EDGEBROOK	GLENVIEW
HER WORKING DAY	Bus, then train; past forty minutes	About 28 minutes plus her walk; at the edge	A walk to work; the easiest
YOUR ORDINARY WEEK	The stronger week	The forest on foot; a thinner Tuesday	No run from the door

On the dimensions tested so far. Safety and everyday civic life have not yet been measured on the same footing for all three places.

The Conditions

Edgebrook becomes the answer only while four things hold.

1. **She wants it.** The home is hers. A shared family home is her choice to make, not yours.
2. **The commute holds.** She accepts a Metra commute at the edge of forty minutes, timed to the trains, and the timetable and the maintenance delays leave that edge intact on ordinary days.
3. **The right home appears.** A two-bedroom, two-bathroom flat comes free in her move-in window in the right blocks: about 12 minutes or less on foot to Edgebrook station, with the forest on foot as well.
4. **Safety and civic life confirm.** Secondary sources place this corner of the city among Chicago's quieter, lower-crime areas, much like North Center, but neither safety nor everyday civic life has yet been measured on the same footing for all three places.

What Would Reverse It

Any one of these returns the answer to Glenview:

- she prefers to walk to work;
- the timetable or the maintenance delays push her mornings past forty minutes;
- no qualifying home appears in the station-and-forest blocks when she needs it;
- safety or civic evidence reveals a real deficiency.

A changed answer does not mean the earlier answer was wrong. The household changed. The seam remains the right answer to the question it was asked. Edgebrook answers a different one.

Edgebrook does not replace the Chicago choice. It becomes the Chicago choice when one home has to serve two lives.

REFERENCE

Method Note

This is a hypothetical sensitivity case, not a new Chicago ranking. It rests on evidence current to October 2026, including the Metra weekday timetable generated on 8 October 2026 and listing pages checked on 10 October 2026. Several checks remain conditional: a current vacancy in the right blocks, safety on primary data, civic culture, and driving times to hospital care.