



Westlake attracts apartment renters of all ages

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Are you looking for an apartment in a vibrant neighborhood? Try the Crocker-Detroit area in Westlake. It's a great place that draws renters of all ages and walks of life.

The Crocker-Detroit area "appeals to both young people and empty nesters, corporate people who are here for a short time, and Cleveland sports figures, especially the Browns, Indians, and Cavs players," said William R. Krause, AICP, assistant director of planning and economic development for the city of Westlake.

Founded as a township in 1811, the community has developed into an upscale city that offers apartments to 1,800 square-foot, single-family homes and multimillion-dollar mansions.

"People can move into an apartment here, then buy a condominium, then a house, and then go into assisted living. People really like the community," he said.

The fact that downtown Cleveland and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport are both about 15 minutes away also attracts renters, as do the city's excellent schools.

"The city has a 1.5-percent income tax rate," he said, which is also attractive to residents. "A resident who pays income tax someplace else, as in the city of Cleveland, doesn't have to pay it in Westlake."

He credits much of the city's growth to sound planning.

"In the 1960s, the city's planners put together a comprehensive plan guide that detailed where different things would go. That plan divides the tax base among one-third commercial property, one-third office property, and one-third retail property."

Crocker Park

Westlake offers another major attractant that entices renters, the trendy Crocker Park. It's a mixed-use development built on a 75-acre site at the intersection of Crocker and Detroit Roads in 2004.

"Crocker Park is one of the most exciting developments of its kind in the country," said Brian Weisberg, director of operations of Stark Enterprises/Comet Management. "This \$480-million project encompasses 12 city blocks and features a mixture of internationally-known retail stores, spacious office buildings, great restaurants, luxury apartments, and spectacular homes."

"Crocker Park has created a downtown area for Westlake that we never had," Krause said.

Having retail shopping just a stone's throw from living spaces makes the high-end development especially attractive to renters whose leisure time is limited. Minutes from your apartment door are Aeropostale, Gap, Banana Republic, and Lucky Brand. Do you want a manicure? Charles Scott Salon & Spa and Anthony Vince Nail Salon are there, too.

Are you hungry? Blake's Seafood, Liquid Plant, and Vieng's Asian Bistro are among 20 Crocker Park restaurants. An Apple store is also there, as are several banks, Regal Cinema, Office Max, sporting goods, bookstores, and grocery stores such as a Trader Joe's.

Crocker Park also offers a calendar chock-full of enticing events. Scheduled in the month of August are a wine tasting, Stride & Ride for Muscular Dystrophy, Green Factory, gaming tournaments every Wednesday night, Movies in the Park every Thursday night, and North Union Farmer's Market every Saturday morning.