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TODAY'S NEW HOMES

CITY STROLLERS

These properties meet buyer demand for walkability

Add “city of long strides” to the list of Chicago’s monikers, as it was recently named the fourth most walkable city in the nation, according to the web site www.walkscore.com. The site ranked the nation’s 40 largest cities and their neighborhoods based on their pedestrian friendliness. Just ahead of Chicago were San Francisco, New York and Boston.

A local advocate, the Metropolitan Planning Council, also released a recent study detailing the economic strain of congestion on the Chicago region. It found that the average commuter wasted \$14.75 an hour, or \$1,580 a year, sitting in traffic, while the toll on the six-country region was as high as \$7.3 billion, twice the original estimate.

Not coincidentally, many homebuyers have taken walkability increasingly into account while shopping for a home. Among their choices, the following new communities have topped not only Walk Score’s list, but also theirs.

Ten East Delaware

With a perfect walk score of 100 – also dubbed a “walker’s paradise” – Ten East Delaware, in the heart of the Gold Coast neighborhood, is foot steps away from the designer boutiques of Oak Street and the shops along Michigan Avenue, as well as the dining and nightlife of Rush Street. In addition, the development’s close proximity to the loop will provide residents with a quick commute to work.

Designed by renowned architect Lucien Lagrange, the 35-story boutique building will include one-, two-, or three-bedroom floor plans ranging from 845 to 3,095 square feet. Residences will include 1 ½ to three baths; 9-to-10 foot ceilings and oversized balconies. Prices range from \$550,000 to \$2.6 million and climate-controlled, indoor parking is available and starting at \$65,000.

It offers the type of understated elegance that would make the building right at home on the streets of Paris,” said Michael W. Reschke, CEO and Chairman of The Prime Group, Inc., developer of Ten East Delaware. “And not unlike a Parisian residence, it is located in a highly walkable neighborhood.”