Following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, residents began to move to the outskirts of the city such as Englewood. The neighborhood’s railroad connections to the center of Chicago made it a convenient location. In fact, by the late 1890s over 1,000 trains would pass through Englewood every day.

In recent decades, however, the number of residents has significantly decreased primarily due to white flight. In 1960, there were over 51,000 white residents in the community, and by 2010 the white population was only about 100 people.

Englewood has been largely defined by the Englewood Shopping Center. It was the site of community events, parades, outdoor concerts, and live radio broadcasts. After losing its major tenants, the mall became a collection of smaller merchants. In 1999, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced a program for the relocation of Kennedy-King College to the former site of the shopping center.