

BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS



Boston is a city of neighborhoods, each with unique characteristics, housing options, and atmosphere. In many ways, Boston is more like a collection of mini-towns than a single unified city.

The BUMC is located in the historic South End neighborhood of Boston. Many students (about a fourth of the BUMC population) choose to make the South End their home. Other popular areas include: Fenway/Kenmore, Brookline, Allston/Brighton, Back Bay, and Cambridge. Keep in mind, however, that BUMC students are scattered throughout the Greater Boston region.

The commute times in each neighborhood's description are estimates based on public transportation and apply to most areas within a specified neighborhood. There may be other transportation options that the OHR is unaware of that would change commuting times and desirability of some neighborhoods. Most commute times would be shorter via car.

The descriptions are intended to provide you with an idea of what these neighborhoods can offer. No neighborhood, especially in a city as old and characterful as Boston, can be described in a few pages, though. Page 91 has a number of websites that provide neighborhood data to help students get a more accurate picture of each location.

The neighborhoods in the city are described in the following pages based on how popular they have been with BUMC students in the past. The neighborhoods with a two-page spread have consistently attracted at least 5% of our population. The neighborhoods with a one page spread are no less viable as living locations; they simply have not attracted as much interest from the student body here.

The Office of Neighborhood Services

www.cityofboston.gov/neighborhoods

Room 708

1 City Hall Square

Boston, MA 02201

617-635-3485

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) encourages, facilitates and maximizes citizen input and participation in all aspects of government through service requests, neighborhood meetings, mailings, and emergency responses. It also serves as the primary contact for city residents to get more information about municipal and constituent services. If you need to know who your city councilor is, where to vote, or what day to take out the trash, call the office or visit its website. In particular, the **My Neighborhood** feature is particularly powerful in helping point out city services you may need.

For each of Boston's neighborhoods, the guide indicates the representative from the Office of Neighborhood Services who is responsible for resolving issues in that community. These coordinators are also a wealth of information about local citizens' groups, events, and issues within the neighborhood.

On the Uses of Google Maps

www.maps.google.com

One of the most powerful tools students have for exploring a neighborhood when they cannot come to visit Boston in person is the street view feature of the Google Maps website. The street view feature allows students to explore, via a 360 degree photographic image, just about every street and block in Boston, Brookline, and Cambridge. While an image alone won't convey the entirety of a neighborhood's personality, the street view feature can certainly indicate the look and overall feel of a neighborhood, locate nearby grocery stores, Laundromats, and other necessities, and plan transportation routes to and from campus.



General Information

Basics

Population: 31,000
 School Zone: North
 Police District: D-4

City Government

City Councilor:

Bill Linehan

Coordinator:

Tabitha Bennett, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 22, 700 Tremont Street

Police Stations:

650 Harrison Avenue
 617-343-4250

Library:

685 Tremont Street
 617-536-8241

Post Office:

59 W. Dedham Street
 800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

South End News
www.southendnews.com

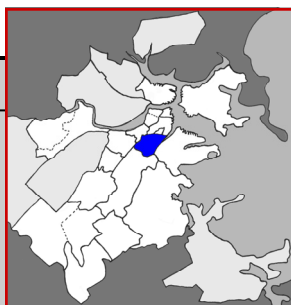
Transportation

Major T stops

Massachusetts Ave: Orange Line
 Newton, Concord St.: Silver Line

Major Bus Connections

Concord St, Newton Street: 1, CT1,
 CT3, 8, 10, 16, 47



The South End Crossroad of Boston

Bordered by Massachusetts Avenue on the western end and Columbus Avenue to the north, the South End is the most popular housing location for students on the Medical Campus. The reason is simple – the South End is home to the BUMC and no part of the neighborhood is farther than a fifteen or twenty minute walk away. About a quarter of the students at the BUMC live in the South End.

The South End was constructed on tidal flats during the 1800s and originally designed to attract the wealthy merchant class from downtown with beautiful Victorian townhouses surrounding community parks. In the early 20th century, many of those merchants turned down the South End and moved into the neighboring Back Bay, allowing a variety of working-class residents access to the neighborhood. The original development left a distinct impression on the South End's housing market – the South End is the largest Victorian landmark district in America, with street after street of brownstones. By the early 1900s, the South End was becoming a tenement district, housing immigrants and the poor.

In the 1950s, the South End was selected as an urban renewal area, and federal money allowed developers to begin constructing a number of affordable housing developments throughout the neighborhood – the Cathedral Development on Harrison Avenue is an example of the affordable housing stock in the neighborhood, built in 1950 to house about 400 low-income renters. In the 1960s and '70s, young professionals looking to live close to downtown moved to the neighborhood and restored the housing stock and converted a number of apartments into condominiums. The housing selection in the South End is still mainly concentrated in brownstones or other small apartment buildings, but there are a number of larger apartment complexes in the neighborhood as well now.

Because of the South End's history as both a tenement district and a high profile living location, it boasts one of the most diverse populations in Boston. The first chapter of the NAACP was founded here in 1912. Wally's Jazz Café, now at 427 Massachusetts Avenue, was one of the stops on the Chitlin Circuit, the famous network of clubs where black jazz musicians made a name for themselves during the 1940s and '50s. Since the '60s, the neighborhood has been one of Boston's most vibrant gay and lesbian scenes. The annual Gay Pride parade makes its way through the South End, and Club Café, located at 209 Columbus Avenue, is a major hotspot for the LGBT community.

The South End has seen a recent renaissance in the past 15 years, transforming into one of the hottest locations in the city, thanks to new luxury housing developments, an influx of high-end restaurants, and the stabilizing affect of the BUMC. New construction is a constant sight in the South End. Trees, fountains, and small parks are common throughout the area—there are nearly 30 parks in the neighborhood. Tremont, Washington and Columbus Streets are the economic hubs of the area. Tremont Street in particular has become the home of some of Boston's best restaurants, and



AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$1200—\$1500

Expensive, but common

One-Bedroom

\$1400—\$2000

Most common housing

Two-Bedroom

\$1900—\$2500

Cheaper closer to Mass. Ave

Three-Bedroom

\$2700—\$3200

Rare in the South End

Four-Bedroom

\$3200 and up

Very rare in the South End.



the area near the Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is known as “restaurant row.” Washington and Columbus Streets have a number of small boutiques, restaurants, and unique non-chain stores. The South End is home to a strong arts community, with the BCA and the Boston Ballet just off of Restaurant Row, and the newly recreated “SoWa” – South of Washington Street – district near the BUMC housing many artists and visual-arts studios.

The social opportunities in the South End are incredibly diverse – the neighborhood is home to a number of small pubs, clubs, and bars. The Piano Craft Guild apartment building has a small theater in the basement, and the neighborhood hosts a number of similar, smaller venues for music and performance. The South End is one of the busiest social locations in Boston. Most of the social scene here is sophisticated, refined, and expensive.

The South End’s narrow streets offer limited parking. Resident stickers are available, but the number of stickers greatly outnumbers the actual available spaces. Closer to the BUMC, more of the streets will have parking meters or available on-street parking, but competition for those spaces is fierce. BU does operate several garages near campus, but there is generally a waiting list for them. Buying a spot in a garage near campus can cost around \$200 per month.

Types of Housing

The South End’s most distinctive trait is the street after street of Victorian brownstones. There are a number of small apartment units and affordable housing developments, and since the early ‘90s, several larger apartment complexes as well. Housing can change vastly in the space of one block due to the waves of development the South End has seen in the past. Units in the Northeastern section, closer to the BCA and Downtown, tend to be more expensive and upscale.

The housing available in rowhouses throughout the neighborhood is old. While good owners will maintain their buildings well, the vast majority of the historic brownstones were built between 1820 and 1850. As a result, even a well-maintained brownstone will look significantly different than a more modern complex. Few of them will have carpeting—hardwood floors are by far the more common floor style. Also, many of them will feature large metal hot-water radiator units as a primary heating mechanism for the apartments. These systems (also generally older) make a lot of noise when they first heat up in the fall.



Living in the South End

SAFETY

While the South End has become much safer in the last 10-15 years, it still grapples with a gritty history, poverty, and disenfranchisement. The Boston Medical Center is the major trauma treatment center for injuries resulting from gang violence, including gunshot wounds and stabbings that occur anywhere in the city of Boston. The South End still has a very visible indigent population., and the BMC serves a large chunk of Boston’s homeless population. Public Safety runs a number of programs to make students and staff on campus feel secure during their time at the BUMC, including a free shuttle service to the major public transit stops in the neighborhood.



TRANSPORTATION

Approximate Commute Time: 0-15 minutes

Most South End apartments are within walking distance of the Medical Campus. The Orange Line and numerous buses including the Silver Line provide access to downtown Boston and other parts of the city.

WHY LIVE HERE?

Convenience is key.

Because the South End is not a particularly large neighborhood, the Medical Campus is easily accessible from any part of it. Students and staff who dislike commuting choose the South End because of the incredible convenience it offers. The South End also packs a lot of experiences in a small space – between the restaurants, clubs, and neighborhood associations, the South End is one of the most bustling and dynamic neighborhoods in the city, and features a strong artistic vibe.

General Information

Basics

Population: 36,000
 School Zone: North
 Police District: D-4

City Government

City Councillor:

Michael Ross

Coordinator:

William Onuoha, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 37, 560 Huntington Ave

Police Stations:

7 Warren Avenue
 617-343-4250

Library:

666 Boylston Street
 617-536-5400

Post Office:

11 Deerfield Street
 800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Fenway News
www.fenwaynews.org

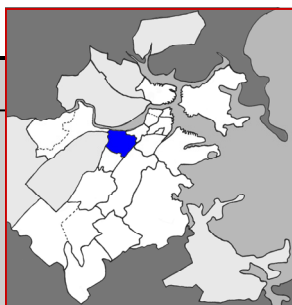
Transportation

Major T stops

Kenmore: BCD trains, Green Line
Northeastern: E train, Green Line

Major Bus Connections

Kenmore: 8, 57
Massachusetts Ave: 1, CT1



Fenway/Kenmore Institutional Center

Most often referred to as Kenmore or The Fenway, The Fenway/Kenmore area is bounded by Massachusetts Avenue on the east, Allston to the west, and Northeastern University roughly to the south. Most famous as being the home of the Red Sox baseball team, the Fenway/Kenmore area is also host to many of Boston's finest cultural institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Symphony Hall. It is also home to the Boston Latin School, the oldest public school in the U.S. and one of the top 20 public schools in the country.

The neighborhood hosts a huge number of colleges, with Northeastern University on the southern end, BU's Charles River campus at the northern stretch, and the "Colleges of the Fenway" scattered in between (Wheelock, Wentworth, MassArt, Simmons, Emmanuel, and Mass College of Pharmacy). Because many of these schools do not have enough on-campus housing for all of their undergraduate students, the Fenway/Kenmore has a high population of student renters. It is also a central destination for young people across the city, due to the string of bars and clubs along Lansdowne Street, in the shadow of Fenway Park. Lansdowne Street is one of the biggest nightlife locations in Boston, and features the House of Blues is one of the larger music venues located in the city itself.

Only a little more than a square mile in area, the Fenway/Kenmore area is one of the most densely populated in the city. Despite the crowding, the area has significant open, green spaces including the Fens and the Fenway Victory Gardens, two parks in the middle of the neighborhood. The center of the neighborhood is the Back Bay Fens parkland ("the Fens"), part of the "Emerald Necklace" chain of parklands built in the 1800s by Frederick Law Olmstead.

While the neighborhood is considered a single entity for administrative purposes, the area almost consists of four different subsections. The West Fenway section of the neighborhood is a series of short, grid-like streets connected to Boylston Street and Park Drive. A number of small neighborhood jewels are hidden throughout the area, including the music venue Church on Queensbury Street. The section of Boylston Street that runs almost parallel to Brookline Avenue has seen an explosion of development since the mid-2000s, and the developer of both the large Trinity and 1330 Boylston apartment complexes is marketing the area as "the Fenway Triangle." Featuring new, higher-end restaurants, furniture stores, and bars, the Fenway Triangle area is changing the image of the previously hard-scrabble Boylston and Brookline Avenue subsection of Fenway/Kenmore. The commercial hub of the Fenway neighborhood is the Landmark Center, a recently completed retail space in the historic Sears catalogue store which closed in 1988 after 60 years in business. The



Landmark center is home to the Regal 13 movie theater (which has the largest screen in Boston), and a number of department stores like Best Buy, Staples, and Bed, Bath, and Beyond. The Fenway neighborhood connects to the Longwood Medical Center, and some of the best hospitals in Boston are just a few minutes' walk away.

To the south of the Fenway Section is Huntington Avenue and Northeastern University's campus.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$1000—\$1400

Common near campus

One-Bedroom

\$1400—\$1800

More expensive near Longwood

Two-Bedroom

\$1700—\$2200

Most common housing

Three-Bedroom

\$2200—\$3000

Easier to find near the Fens

Four-Bedroom

\$3200 and up

Rare in the Fenway/Kenmore



Much like BU, Northeastern dominates this section of Huntington Avenue, with the exception of the Museum of Fine Arts, which has its own T-stop on the E line of the train. NEU's campus features a number of college-friendly pizza joints and bars. The area near Massachusetts Avenue and Huntington Avenue is also known as "Symphony," due to Symphony Hall, and shares many housing characteristics with the South End.

The Kenmore area is centered in Kenmore Square at the intersection of Beacon Street and Commonwealth Avenue. Due to the proximity to both the Back Bay and Brookline, the Kenmore area looks more upscale than the Fenway section. The BU Bookstore, located in Kenmore Square, is the foundation for the famous Citgo sign, originally built in 1940. The 60 foot by 60 foot sign (advertising a gas station chain that has very few operating locations in the city) is now a local symbol of both Boston and the Red Sox.

West of Kenmore Square is BU's Charles River campus, and it dominates Commonwealth Avenue from Brookline Avenue all the way out to Allston. Both sides of the street feature BU academic buildings, dorms, and apartments. Closer to Packard's Corner, where Commonwealth Avenue splits off from Brighton Avenue, the neighborhood takes on more characteristics of Allston. The Paradise Rock Club and T Anthony's, two landmarks for BU undergrads, are located in this farthest western section of Fenway/Kenmore.

Parking is difficult in the Fenway/Kenmore area because of the number of institutions that need garages and lots. While there are resident sticker spaces available, street parking is limited and private parking is expensive.

Types of Housing

The housing stock in the Fenway is old; most of the apartment buildings in the area were built 50 years ago. The vast majority of the housing stock is five to six storey walk-up apartment buildings, with 10 to 25 units. Studios through two bedroom apartments are fairly easy to find, but higher multiple-occupancy rooms are rare. Buildings vary in quality tremendously in this area and because of the proximity of the Fens parkland, mice can occasionally be a problem. The high number of undergraduate students in the area, and the high turn-over rate of such a population, can sometimes leave apartments in less than ideal condition. In the BU and Northeastern-dominated sections of the neighborhood, housing is almost entirely owned by the respective universities.

Living in Fenway/Kenmore

Safety

Theft is a major concern in this neighborhood. The Huntington Avenue/Massachusetts Avenue intersection (by Symphony Hall) is a high theft area. With so many students concentrated in one location, thieves will often target student unions or coffee houses that undergraduates frequent. Do not leave your laptop or electronics alone unattended! On Landsdowne Street, especially after 2 a.m. when bars and clubs close, occasional drunken disorder can be a problem.

Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 20-30 minutes
The BU Shuttle leaves from a number of different locations on the BU Charles River Campus and provides direct transportation to the Medical Campus. The CT3 bus provides service from the Longwood Medical Area to BUMC. All four trains of the green line travel through the neighborhood linking students with the #1, or CT1 buses on Massachusetts Avenue. The #47 also travels south through both BU's campus and Northeastern's, on its route to the BUMC.



Why Live Here?

College Atmosphere

The Fenway/Kenmore area is essentially like seven or eight mini-neighborhoods, each one focused on a particular college and the housing available immediately nearby. For students who like the idea of living in a neighborhood that offers a more identifiable college feel – younger residents, lots of folks out late in the evening, and tons of study space – the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood offers that in droves. Especially in the Kenmore section, along Commonwealth Avenue, BU controls the street. With a two-mile long campus and almost 27,000 students, the area is dominated by BU. Fenway/Kenmore is also a neighborhood that offers almost unlimited opportunities for socializing – every section has distinct pubs, bars, restaurants, and places to hang out and meet new people.

General Information

Basics

Population: 69,000
 School Zone: North
 Police District: D-14

City Government

City Councilor:

Mark Ciommo

Coordinator:

Daniel Roan, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 4, 460 Cambridge St
 Engine 51, 425 Faneuil Street

Police Stations:

301 Washington Street
 617-343-4260

Library:

300 North Harvard Street
 617-787-6313

Post Office:

47 Harvard Avenue
 800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Allston/Brighton Tab
www.wickedlocal.com/allston

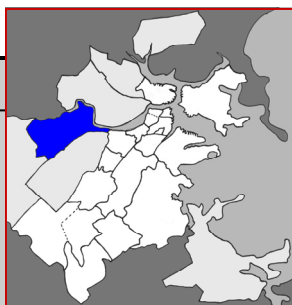
Transportation

Major T stops

Harvard Ave: B train, Green Line

Major Bus Connections

Union Square: 57, 64, 66 buses
 Oak Square: 57



Allston/Brighton Student Central

Once home to stockyards and meat-packing industries, Allston/Brighton today is the large western section of Boston that wraps northwest of Brookline. Close to Harvard University, Boston College, and Boston University's Charles-River campus, Allston/Brighton is a haven for students of all sorts. Despite the number of students in Allston/Brighton, it is one of the city's most integrated and racially diverse neighborhoods with large number of Korean, Vietnamese, and Brazilian families.

For the purposes of city representation and economic development, Allston and the adjacent area of Brighton are considered one neighborhood, although the two areas have a distinctly different atmosphere – Brighton offers more suburban space compared to the inner-city look and feel of Allston. The population of Allston, in particular, is heavily undergrad students from BU and Harvard, while Brighton sees more BC students and professionals. The boundary between the two areas is Everett/Warren Street. The eastern edge of the neighborhood is attached to Boston only by the thin sliver of Commonwealth Avenue that runs north of Brookline, which borders it to the south and east. Together, Allston/Brighton is the second-largest neighborhood in Boston in terms of population, behind Dorchester.

Allston/Brighton is made up of a number of smaller sub-neighborhoods. North Allston is located to the north of the Massachusetts Turnpike, and hosts Harvard's Business School and Stadium. Allston Village, located at intersection of Harvard Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue, is a popular party spot for students and musicians and probably the most popular section of the neighborhood for non-neighborhood residents to visit. This section of the neighborhood has a rich assortment of ethnic restaurants, inexpensive retail stores, and bars and pubs. This area in particular is sometimes referred to as "Allston Rock City" due to the large number of local musicians living here and the assortment of music venues like Great Scott's, Common Ground, Harper's Ferry, O'Brien's, The Model and Our House, as well as the number of student-thrown house parties. This section of Allston/Brighton offers the most nightlife in the area, and is a busy dancing and drinking destination for party-goers across the city. Allston Village, along with Central Square in Cambridge, is the most popular location to see small-scale musical acts and concerts.

Brighton Center is the economic hub of the western side of the neighborhood, accessible by the #57 bus line. Located at the intersection of Cambridge Street and Washington Street, over 50 businesses, retail stores, and restaurants line the area. The strip ends on the western end by Oak Square, a small circle bordered by the Brighton YMCA. This side of the neighborhood forms the western gateway of Boston, and is closer to the Newton Center exit on the Massachusetts Turnpike than the Allston/Brighton exit farther east.



Farther south from Oak Square is Brighton's other main commercial center, Cleveland Circle. The area boasts a number of BC-centric bars, and the end of the C line of the green train. This area is within short walking distance of the Chestnut Hill reservoir and BC's campus. Because BC only guarantees students three years of on-campus housing, a large number of juniors or seniors will live off-campus in this neighborhood. Also, a number of BC's fraternities and sororities are located in this area. While most observers would never confuse Cleveland Circle with Allston Village, it is a lively area with a higher student presence than most of the rest of Brighton.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$700—\$1000

Common in apartment buildings

One-Bedroom

\$1100—\$1400

Vary tremendously in quality

Two-Bedroom

\$1500—\$1800

Fairly common in Allston Village

Three-Bedroom

\$1800—\$2400

Plentiful

Four-Bedroom

\$2400 and up

Common in Brighton



With so many colleges nearby, Allston's population is one of the youngest in Boston. Boston College is very close to the south-western edge of Brighton, BU's Charles River Campus is only minutes away from Allston Village, and Berklee School of Music has a practice and rehearsal space on Fordham street, a few blocks east of Allston Village. About 50% of the population is between the ages of 20-35, compared to Boston's overall average of around 30%. The presence of so many students and young people, most of whom do not live in the neighborhood for very long, has been a source of tension for a number of years. Noise is probably the most common problem in Allston/Brighton – aside from the bars and music venues in the neighborhood, many students have their own house parties. A police presence on Allston Village streets is a common sight during the weekends while BU and BC are in session.

Parking isn't as hard in Allston/Brighton as the Fenway or South End, but most spots are still resident-sticker only. North Allston is generally open parking.

Types of Housing

Housing in Allston/Brighton is primarily small apartment buildings and multi-family houses. In the Allston zip code of 02134, 13% of the housing is owner-occupied, compared to the national rate of 66%. Most Allston/Brighton apartments are old, and while there are some condos and luxury apartment buildings in the neighborhood, most units will not have central A/C, elevators, or allow pets. Finding multiple bedroom apartments is generally easy in Allston/Brighton, although four bedroom apartments are more common further west by Boston College.

North Allston is less urban than the Allston Village area, offering a number of single-family homes (one of the few areas in the neighborhood that does). The quality of housing in Allston is mixed, varying from well maintained to worn down. Landlords and property owners who do not rent to undergraduate students (a fairly common business practice in Boston) tend to have slightly better maintained buildings than those who do.

Living in Allston/Brighton

Safety

Allston/Brighton is one of the safest areas of the city. The mix of students, long-term residents, and musicians can make the neighborhood loud and boisterous, but not particularly dangerous. The major concerns in the Allston/Brighton area are usually "quality of life" issues, basic misdemeanors like vandalism and petty theft, tire slashing and public disturbances. Despite the noise and general disruptive behavior, according to the city of Boston's most recent crime statistics, Allston/Brighton has some of the lowest rates of violent crime (assault, homicide) in the city.

Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 40-60 minutes

The most common commute from Allston/Brighton will be the green line train (either the B or C, depending on starting location) to Hynes Convention Center, or the #57 bus to Kenmore with a short walk to Hynes. From Hynes, most people will transfer to the #1 bus or the CT1 bus and head south to the Harrison Avenue/Massachusetts Avenue stop (right at the corner of our medical campus).

Students living near Allston Village can walk to the BU Shuttle, which takes about a half-hour to get to the BUMC from Allston.

Please Note: Because Allston/Brighton is farther away from the BUMC than some of the more centrally located neighborhoods, students commuting to and from it need to keep their transportation schedule firmly in mind. After the green line stops running at 12:30 a.m., and after the last #57 bus leaves Kenmore (around the same time as the T stops running), it can be very difficult to get back to Allston/Brighton without having to take a taxi.

Why Live Here?

Cheap and active

Allston/Brighton offers two very prominent features: affordability and sociability. If you are a fan of indie rock, local music, or a hip, vibrant scene, Allston Village is the place to be. If you just need a cheap apartment, the neighborhood will fit your needs. It's rarely quiet in Allston/Brighton, though – if you like to sleep, you might want to look elsewhere. Allston/Brighton is loud, fun, dirty, cheap, full of young people, and a little run down.

General Information

Basics

Population: 16,000
 School Zone: North
 Police District: A-1/D-4

City Government

City Councilor:

Michael Ross

Coordinator:

William Onuoha, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 33, 941 Boylston Street

Police Stations:

40 Sudbury Street
 617-343-4240

Library:

666 Boylston Street
 617-536-5400

Post Office:

31 St. James Avenue
 800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Back Bay Sun

www.backbaysun.com

Transportation

Major T stops

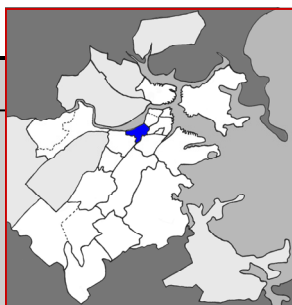
Hynes: BCD trains, Green Line

Copley: BCDE trains, Green Line

Back Bay: Orange Line

Major Bus Connections

Massachusetts Ave: 1, CT1



The Back Bay Stately Boston

The Back Bay is one of Boston's most exclusive neighborhoods. The Back Bay borders Fenway/Kenmore to the west, the Charles River and Cambridge to the north, downtown to the east and the South End to the south. Some of the more southern-sections of the Back Bay are as close to the BUMC as areas in the South End itself.

The name "Back Bay" originally referred to the body of water that separated what used to be the city of Boston from Brookline, before it was filled in starting in 1857. One of the most ambitious city-planning projects of its era, filling in the Back Bay more than doubled the size of the city, adding 450 acres of land. Much of modern Boston lies on filled-in land, including Kenmore Square and the Fenway neighborhood, chunks of the South End, and the entirety of the Back Bay. The filled area was originally designed to be an "ornament" to Boston, and the city set a number of development restrictions on the buildings to ensure they were built to the highest standards of taste at the time.

The Back Bay today is one of the most popular spots for tourists and visitors to the city. The main commercial strips on Newbury Street, Boylston Street and Commonwealth Avenue are lined with high-end retail stores, restaurants and vintage brownstones. Newbury Street is often called "the 5th Avenue of Boston," and offers restaurants like the Armani Café and high-end retail like Burberry's and Chanel, but also some more student-friendly shops, like the legendary Newbury Comics (which is actually a music store). Many of the architectural achievements that are associated with Boston, including Trinity Church, the Boston Public Library, the John Hancock Tower and the Prudential building are all located in this neighborhood. The Commonwealth Avenue Mall, a tree-lined pedestrian walkway through the center of the 4-lane road, is a faithfully translated example of 19th century Victorian architecture that runs from the edge of Kenmore Square to the Boston Common.



AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$1200—\$1700

Common in apartment buildings

One-Bedroom

\$1700—\$2000

Most likely in brownstones

Two-Bedroom

\$2000—\$3000

Many "split" type apartments

Three-Bedroom

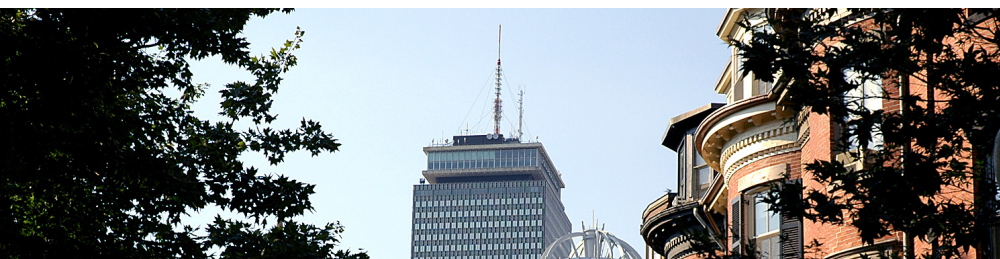
\$3200 and up

Hard to find

Four-Bedroom

\$3500 and up

Very hard to find



The Back Bay is parallel to a section of the Charles River Esplanade (a 17-mile park that runs alongside the Charles River). The neighborhood ends at the Public Garden and the Common, the oldest public space in the country.

The social scene in the Back Bay is varied: while some of the city's highest-end bars and restaurants line Commonwealth Avenue and Newbury Street, most of the neighborhood is quiet. The section of Boylston Street near the Prudential Center has a number of wallet-friendly watering holes like the Pour House, Lir, McGreavey's and Whiskey's. One of the major draws to the neighborhood for social activities is the Berklee College of Music Performance Center, located on the corner of Boylston Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The Center hosts jazz, pop/rock and world music concerts throughout the year, often performed by Berklee's student body. One of the best aspects to social life in the Back Bay is its centralized location – from Commonwealth Avenue or Boylston Street, the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood, downtown, and even Cambridge are a quick bus or subway ride away.

The Back Bay (along with Beacon Hill) is, on average, the most expensive section of the city. Rents in this part of Boston will be very high, although less expensive units do sometimes open up, especially near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Beacon Street (Danielsen Hall, a BU dormitory, is located at that intersection, as are a number of MIT fraternities and Sororities). It is exceptionally difficult to find affordable single-occupancy units in the Back Bay. Most apartments will also not be particularly large; the high price tag for an apartment here is based mostly on the beauty of the location and the buildings themselves.

Parking is very hard to find in this neighborhood. Resident stickers are available, but much of the parking along Commonwealth Avenue, Boylston Street, or Beacon street is metered parking with a 2-hour limit. Boston's Traffic and Parking Department gives out almost four times as many resident stickers as there are spaces actually available on the street.

Types of Housing

North of Boylston Street, the Back Bay offers a number of brownstones and small apartment buildings, although there are some larger complexes in the area. The uniform brownstones and distinct Boston bay windows give the Back Bay a stately feel uncommon in neighborhoods with more modern architecture. Units larger than two bedrooms are hard to find, but studios, one- and two-bedroom units are generally available. The average quality of an apartment in the Back Bay is higher than the Fenway/Kenmore area or the South End, in part because the rent is prohibitively expensive for most undergraduate students.

Back Bay neighborhood associations are very strong and have successfully blocked construction in the area that violates strict zoning laws. As a result, very few apartments in the Back Bay will be larger than four or five stories tall. Almost all of the housing available in the neighborhood along Beacon Street, Commonwealth Avenue, or the smaller parallel streets like Marlborough will be in brownstones or small apartment buildings. While some may be renovated, the vast majority of housing in the Back Bay will be over 100 years old.

Living in the Back Bay

Safety

While the Back Bay is one of the safest sections of the city, it is still part of the city and downtown. Most of the Back Bay's major streets (i.e.: Beacon Street, Newbury Street, Commonwealth Avenue and Boylston Street) are well-lit and well-traveled in the evenings and at night, especially when the local colleges are in session, making walking relatively safe. However, you should still use common sense when planning your trips through the neighborhood at night – don't use the public alleys that run parallel to Newbury Street or Boylston Street. The Esplanade, Common, and Public Gardens are less well-lit than the streets at night, and are sometimes a haven for pickpockets or purse-snatchers.

Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 15-25 minutes

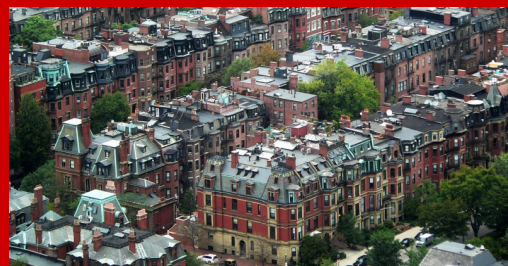
The Back Bay is well served by public transit. The transportation hub in this area is the Hynes Convention Center stop at Massachusetts Avenue, which links the B, C, and D trains of the green line with a number of busses, including the #1 and the CT1. The Copley/Back Bay station serves as a connection to Amtrak and the commuter rail. The southern sections of the Back Bay are about a 20 minute walk from the BUMC.

A typical commute from the Back Bay would involve a short ride on the #1 or CT1 bus located along Massachusetts Avenue.

Why Live Here?

Beauty and quality apartments

The Back Bay, simply put, is one of the most gorgeous sections of the city. The buildings are beautiful, the streets are beautiful, and the river is beautiful. For students looking for a more picturesque living environment, the Back Bay offers a truly unique one! It is also fairly close to campus, making the commute short and manageable.



General Information

Basics

Population: 92,000
 School Zone: East
 Police District: C-11

City Government

City Councilor:

Maureen Feeney

Coordinator:

Lauren Smyth, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 16, 9 Gallivan Boulevard
 Engine 18, 1884 Dorchester Ave

Police Stations:

40 Gibson Road
 617-343-4330

Library:

1520 Dorchester Avenue
 617-436-2155

Post Office:

551 Columbia Road
 800-275-8777

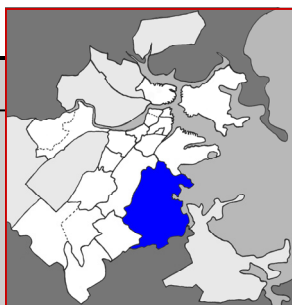
Neighborhood Paper:

Dorchester Reporter
www.dotnews.com

Transportation

Major T stops

All Red Line T stops south of
 Broadway are in Dorchester,
 including Fields Corner, Savin Hill,
 and JFK/UMass.



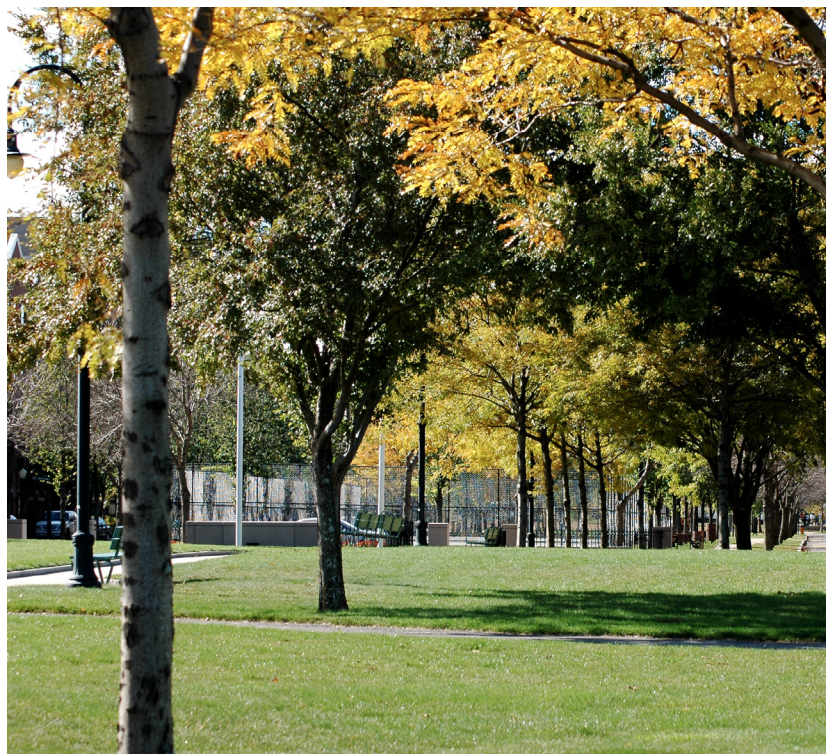
Dorchester Diversity in Action

Dorchester, Boston's largest neighborhood, is also one of its most diverse. Extending south from the South End, Dorchester runs parallel to the Boston Harbor and borders Roxbury and Mattapan to the west. Dorchester, or "Dot" amongst its residents, is sometimes broken up into a northern and southern section, based on the commercial streets and ethnic identity of the areas. Throughout Dorchester, long-time residents mingle with new immigrants from Ireland, Vietnam, and Cape Verde. The nation's first Vietnamese Community Center is located in Fields Corner, and is the heart of the Vietnamese community in Boston. On the whole, Dorchester is a more residential section of the city with a large working class population.

Dorchester Avenue, which runs north and south from South Boston to Milton, anchors the neighborhood business districts with a unique mix of ethnic restaurants, beauty salons, electronics stores, and pharmacies. Dorchester is often broken down into smaller communities, based around a main commercial hub or area; major centers include the Uphams Corner neighborhood, Columbia Point, Savin Hill, Fields Corner, Four Corners, Codman Square, Ashmont and Neponset. Because of the size of Dorchester in its entirety (over 92,000 people), each sub-section of the neighborhood has its own identity.

There is no one economic center for Dorchester, because of the size of the neighborhood. However, Uphams Corner was once the largest commercial district in the city outside of Downtown crossing. It is now the cultural center of Northern Dorchester and home to a large segment of the neighborhood's Cape Verdean population. Fields Corner is one of Dorchester's largest business districts - it boasts largest selection of Asian foods and retail outside of Chinatown, primarily Vietnamese. The Bowdoin/Geneva area is one of the oldest sections of the neighborhood, and is known for its long-term residents and the annual Ronan Park Multicultural Festival in August. Fields Corner, Four Corners, and the Bowdoin/Geneva areas have all undergone commercial revitalization through the city of Boston's "Main Streets" program, increasing the retail space and popularity of those neighborhoods.

Franklin Park, considered the "crown jewel" of Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace, is located in Dorchester. The park houses the Franklin Park Zoo, an 18-hole municipal golf course, and 527 acres of parkland (making it many times the size of the Boston Common). Green space is common throughout Dorchester. Most sections of the neighborhood have some form of park or athletic field nearby.



AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$700-\$1000

Some in apartment buildings

One-Bedroom

\$1000-\$1400

Common in apartment buildings

Two-Bedroom

\$1400-\$1800

Fairly common

Three-Bedroom

\$1800-\$2700

Can span wide range

Four-Bedroom

\$2400 and up

Common in areas with houses

Neighborhood pride is strong in Dorchester, as former residents have been known to wear T-shirts proclaiming “OFD” - “Originally From Dorchester.” Dorchester is, along with Jamaica Plain and Allston/Brighton, among the most racially diverse neighborhoods in the city. With a strong population of African-Americans, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean and Irish, Dorchester has many fine ethnic restaurants and a particularly strong set of community organizations.

Dorchester offers so many diverse social opportunities, it is hard to pinpoint them. Each sub-section of the neighborhood offers something different. Fields Corner offers fantastic Vietnamese cuisine and shopping, the Polish Triangle by Andrew Station at the border of South Boston offers traditional Polish cuisine and good soccer bars like the Banshee, and Savin Hill and Columbia Point both offer access to the JFK Library and UMass Boston. For many students, close proximity to the red line train or the #8 bus offer them the fastest route to get downtown to more centralized entertainment.

One particular area that has drawn a number of students from the BUMC over the years is the Columbia Point/Savin Hill neighborhood. Directly south of South Boston is Dorchester Bay, and a small peninsula that juts southward into the Boston Harbor. Originally the home of one of the most infamous housing projects in the city, in the late 1980s Boston turned a significant chunk of the peninsula over to private developers who created the Harbor Point apartment complex. Harbor Point, with its 1,300 units situated on 50 acres of land, is the largest apartment facility in the city. The University of Massachusetts at Boston also makes its campus on the Columbia Point peninsula. Those same developers recently opened a new apartment complex right down the street: the Peninsula, a large luxury apartment facility.

The Savin Hill area is sandwiched between Morrissey Boulevard to the east and the Southeast Expressway I-93 to the west. The neighborhood is somewhat isolated from the rest of Dorchester, and has been a target of significant gentrification over the past 15-20 years. Many of the traditional double- and triple-decker homes have been converted to condominiums. A number of BUMC students have lived either on Columbia Point or in Savin Hill because of the relatively low rent, the access to the ocean, and because the #8 bus runs directly to campus.



Parking is generally easy in Dorchester; many places have parking spots, or easily accessible on-street parking.

Types of Housing

Dorchester's age as a neighborhood is easy to see in its housing stock. Dorchester spans the range from older, Victorian homes of its original 17th and 18th century residents to the more modern, two and three family homes of recent immigrant families. The most identifiable housing from Dorchester is the “triple-decker,” or a three-family house. Because it is farther away from Downtown Boston, rents in Dorchester are often less expensive than some of the other areas of the city (fairly comparable to Allston/Brighton). Properties closer to the harbor tend to be a bit more expensive than their inland counterparts. While there are larger, complex-style apartments in Dorchester, most apartments will be a floor of a multiple-family house, or a unit in a small 15-20 apartment building. Triple-decker houses tend to offer more space and cheaper rents than small apartment buildings, but they may not include the cost of heat and hot water in the rent. Make sure to ask any landlord about what utilities are included in the rent.

Living in Dorchester

Safety

Dorchester is a very large area and some sections of the neighborhood are quiet and suburban. Areas closer to the BUMC tend to be more urban. Dorchester and the neighboring Roxbury were historically areas of high gang violence in the early 1990s. Operation Ceasefire, a comprehensive program linking police to community organizations and schools dramatically lowered crime in the neighborhood and encouraged a number of young professionals and white-collar workers to purchase property in the area. However, in the last year, sections of Dorchester and Roxbury have seen a rise in gang related violence.

Areas close to the center of the city, like Grove Hall, have seen a resurgence in gang-related violence in the past few years. Many of the neighborhoods in Dorchester are working class and the presence of poverty is more visible than in neighborhoods that attract more tourism. Still, Dorchester is very large and most sections of the neighborhood are very safe and quiet.

Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 10-30 minutes
Dorchester is primarily served by the Ashmont branch of the Red Line train—there are five stops on the red line throughout the neighborhood (from North to South: JFK/UMass, Savin Hill, Fields Corner, Shawmut, Ashmont).

A typical commute from Dorchester involves taking the #8 bus to campus, or taking the Red Line to the Broadway T-stop and taking the #47 bus to Albany Street, or walking. In general, parking is much easier in Dorchester than other areas of Boston.

Why Live Here?

Cheap and actually diverse

Dorchester rents are significantly lower than those in the South End, Fenway/Kenmore, or the Back Bay. Also, because houses tend to be a common housing option, finding housing for three or four people is much easier to do in Dorchester than many other neighborhoods. Dot is also a minority white neighborhood, meaning that there is actual, true ethnic diversity in this area, and it can offer a much more varied and exciting living situation as a result.

General Information

Basics

Population: 38,000
 School Zone: West
 Police District: E-13/E-18

City Government

City Councilor:

John Tobin

Coordinator:

Colleen Keller, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 28, 746 Centre Street

Police Stations:

3345 Washington Street
 617-343-5630

Library:

12 Sedgewick Road
 617-524-2053

Post Office:

655 Centre Street
 800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

JP Bulletin

www.bulletinnewspapers.com

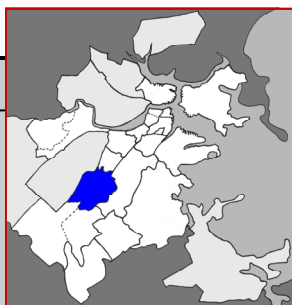
Transportation

Major T stops

All Orange Line stops south of Roxbury Crossing are in JP.

Major Bus Connections

Forest Hills: 16 separate buses, including the 39.



Jamaica Plain Vibrancy

Often referred to as “JP” by the locals, Jamaica Plain has evolved into one of Boston’s most economically and racially diverse neighborhoods. Situated between Brookline and the Jamaicaaway on the west, Mission Hill on the northern border, and Roxbury and the Arnold Arboretum on the east, JP is well placed for an easy commute to the Longwood Medical Area, the BUMC, or Northeastern University. The neighborhood is the most alternative and bohemian section of Boston. Existing between the affluent community of Brookline and working class neighborhood of Roxbury, JP is an interesting and vibrant combination of many different people and ideas.

Because of the diversity of the population, JP’s smaller communities have a more distinct atmosphere than some of the other neighborhoods. Jamaica Hills is west of the Arnold Arboretum and is characterized by high-end housing and single-family zoning. Very little rental housing is available in this section of JP. The Pondside area (along Jamaica Pond) is a similar community, featuring impressive mansions and high-end housing. Forest Hills is east of Hyde Park Avenue and is dominated by triple-deckers and the scattered Victorian home.

About 25% of JP residents are Hispanic, identifying as Cuban, Puerto Rican, or Dominican. The sub-neighborhoods Hyde Square and Jackson Square in particular show their ethnic roots. Many of the shops and restaurants here do business in both English and Spanish, and merengue and salsa music are both common sounds on the street.

JP is a large neighborhood with a few distinct commercial centers; aside from Hyde/Jackson Squares, Egleston Square, near the Stony Brook T-stop on the Orange Line, is the border between JP and Roxbury, and originally the home of beer brewing barons. The Brookside community, along Boylston Street and Washington Street, was dominated by the brewing trade in the early 1900s. Today, the Stony Brook, which provided the water for the breweries, is hidden by the Southwest Corridor Park but the old 16-building Haffenreffer brewery still exists, and is now home the Milky Way lounge, a relocated neighborhood hotspot for dancing and socializing. The Samuel Adams brewery is also

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$800-\$1100

Some in apartment buildings

One-Bedroom

\$1000-\$1400

Many houses have sections

Two-Bedroom

\$1500-\$1800

Fairly common

Three-Bedroom

\$1800-\$2700

Can span wide range

Four-Bedroom

\$2400 and up
 Often in houses





located here, and offers a popular and free tour of the facility several times a day throughout the week.

The long drag along Centre Street and South Street is the center of the neighborhood, and probably one of the most unconventional sections of Boston, featuring used furniture and clothes shops, vegan restaurants, and several houses of worship. The residents of JP are truly diverse – long-term activists, political discontents, artists, students, working people, and big chunk of Boston’s gay and lesbian community. The Midway Café, home to local music and a well-attended lesbian night, is located just to the east of the Centre Street commercial area, on Washington Street. The shopping district is surrounded by the Emerald Necklace with the Jamaica Way, Arnold Arboretum, and Franklin Park on three sides of the neighborhood.

JP is the most politically active neighborhood in the city, and offers a much higher number of food cooperatives, vegan and vegetarian eating options, and small music venues than most of the other areas in Boston. Parking is also not generally a problem here.

Types of Housing

There are many different styles of accommodation available including triple-decker houses, Victorian homes and some apartment buildings. Unlike some of the other neighborhoods, it is difficult to generalize about the types of housing that are most prominent in the area, due to the diversity of the residents and the available stock.

Property along the Jamaicaway is some of the largest and most impressive in the city, with mansions dating to the mid-1800s. In the areas closer to Centre and South streets, the predominant housing is multiple family houses, with double- and triple-deckers being the most common. There are a few small apartment buildings scattered throughout the neighborhood, especially towards the border of Mission Hill and the Longwood Medical Area. Rents are generally reasonable in JP, but get higher closer to Brookline. JP has more options for co-op living than probably every other neighborhood in Boston.

Living in Jamaica Plain

Safety

The rich diversity in JP has created a strong character of social awareness and tolerance among neighbors and residents. While generally a safe place to live, parts of the Hyde and Jackson Square area has historically had trouble with drug dealing and youth violence. In a typically JP style, in the 1980s a group of citizen activists came together to help fight the problem by forming the Hyde Square Task Force, which still runs youth-intervention programs in the neighborhood. Theft can be a problem in some sections, near Egleston Square and parts of Centre Street and Heath Street. Because JP is such a diverse neighborhood in terms of economic levels, the presence of poverty and homelessness is more prominent here than neighborhoods like the Back Bay or Fenway/Kenmore.

Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 30-40 minutes

A typical commute from JP might involve either taking the E train of the Green Line or the #39 bus to the Symphony stop on Massachusetts Avenue and then transferring to the #1 or CT1 bus. Another option might be to take the Orange Line to Massachusetts Avenue station then transfer from there to the #1 or CT1 bus.

Moving around inside of JP is usually handled by the orange line, which runs through the eastern edge of the neighborhood. JP can sometimes be difficult to navigate without a car because of the one-way streets and traffic circles, although there is a strong cycling community here.

Why Live Here?

Eclectic atmosphere and low prices

JP rents are lower than areas like the South End, Back Bay, or Fenway/Kenmore and fairly comparable to Allston/Brighton. As a neighborhood, JP has so many different ethnic groups, economic levels, and occupations that the neighborhood truly does have a strong sense of tolerance and openness. It is also one of the more socially active places in the city - there are probably more vegan and ethnic cuisine options in JP than the rest of the city combined. JP is also known as one of the most politically active neighborhoods in Boston, and houses a tremendous number of small non-profits, organizers, and volunteering opportunities.

General Information

Basics

Population: 30,000
 School Zone: East
 Police District: C-6

City Government

City Councilor:

Bill Linehan

Coordinator:

Casey Hines, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 2, 700 East 4th Street
 Engine 29, 272 D. Street

Police Stations:

101 West Broadway
 617-343-4730

Library:

646 East Broadway
 617-268-0180

Post Office:

444 East 3rd Street
 800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

South Boston Tribune
www.southbostoninfo.com

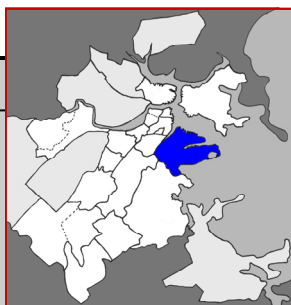
Transportation

Major T stops

Broadway: Red Line

Major Bus Connections

Broadway: 9, 11, 47
 Courthouse: Silver Line



South Boston

A Changing Neighborhood

South Boston is a peninsula just south of the Fort Point Channel and adjacent to Dorchester Bay. Long a remote peninsula, in 1804 developers were able to persuade Boston to annex the entire area. Planners organized the community with a regular grid of numbered and lettered streets, an urban design not seen anywhere else in Boston.

South Boston, or "Southie," has long been the home of Irish immigrants in the city, and a very white, very catholic neighborhood, but the area has become more diverse in the last decade. The peninsula is cut-off from the South End and mainland Boston by a long stretch of train tracks and Interstate 93. Southie attracted a large population of Irish immigrants who came to Boston looking for one of the plentiful jobs in the shipping or metalworking industries along the Boston harbor. Southie has a long history in Boston of being insular and somewhat ethnically homogenous, but that atmosphere has started shifting in recent years with a wave of new development and condominium construction.

Changes in Boston condo laws inspired opportunistic developers and consumers to purchase land in Southie and begin to rehabilitate some of the older housing stock 15 to 20 years ago. This started changing the physical landscape of the neighborhood. Once a leader in industrial trades, including metalworking and shipbuilding, Southie has transformed into a dynamic waterfront residential community. The neighborhood has increasingly attracted young professionals and families looking for a strong sense of community, quick access to downtown, and low rent. Miles of beaches and oceanfront parks, including Carson Beach, L Street, and Pleasure Bay make up the eastern portion of the peninsula. Strange as it is for a town built with a huge harbor, Southie is one of the few neighborhoods in Boston that offers close contact with the ocean. In the late 19th century, Frederick Law Olmsted created "the Strandway," which runs from Castle Island to Columbus Park, providing open space for the residents. Pleasure Bay park and Fort Independence lie at the eastern end of the peninsula, providing a ready location for picnics and outdoor activities.

Southie is really made up of two neighborhoods: the older residential peninsula and the Waterfront District (sometimes called the Seaport District). The Seaport District is separated from the rest of South Boston by the Black Falcon Terminal, and from downtown by a thin strip of water called the Fort Point Channel, home of the soon-to-be completed Harbor Walk, which runs from the Broadway T-stop on the Red Line to Summer Street, where a bridge connects the Seaport to South Station terminal. Today, the Waterfront is the fastest growing section of Southie, already housing the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (the largest building in New England), the brand-new Institute of Contemporary Art, and the new Westin Waterfront hotel. Right now, a significant portion of the Seaport is still unused or corroded shipping tankers and warehouses, although the Harpoon Brewery is located here. Boston's World Trade Centers are located along Northern Avenue, which along with



AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$750-\$1000

Some in apartment buildings

One-Bedroom

\$1200-\$1400

More likely in condos

Two-Bedroom

\$1500-\$1900

Wide span of quality

Three-Bedroom

\$1800-\$2600

Often in a house

Four-Bedroom

\$2400 and up

Closer to the water



Summer Street is the main thoroughfare for the neighborhood. The Seaport is currently a non-residential neighborhood, but the city has plans to change that over the next 10 years. This area of Southie offers the most condominium and luxury apartment housing opportunities, although housing opportunities are still limited.

East and West Broadway are the commercial heart of the residential peninsula and home to a number of great sports bars and pubs and recently, a few trendy restaurants as well. Throughout the year, residents take advantage of the scenic area by strolling up and down Broadway, shopping and enjoying the sights. The Fort Point Channel, still under development, is the largest concentration of in-residence artists in New England. The residential peninsula is still mostly housing and small pubs.

Southie has limited resident sticker spaces and available street parking. Residents in the neighborhood will often mark their spots on the street with an orange construction cone or lawn furniture.

Types of Housing

Most of the housing in Southie is traditional triple-deckers, although larger and more expansive homes are more common closer to the beach. Recently, Southie has become a popular spot for new developments and condominium conversions because of the low cost and scenic neighborhood. The area closest to the Broadway T-stop has seen the most new development, with the McCallen Building at the corner of Broadway and Dorchester Avenue and a number of other developments under construction currently.



Living in South Boston

Safety

While Southie is generally a safe neighborhood and many of the residents have lived there for decades, Southie has also had problems with poverty, public drunkenness, and drug addiction. Getting to know your neighbors in Southie is a good idea because of the tight-knit community atmosphere.



Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 20-30 minutes

Commuting from South Boston is easy. Close to the Broadway T-stop, students can take the #47 bus directly to Albany Street, or walk (Broadway is less than a mile away from campus).

Students living farther east on the peninsula can take the #11 bus to Broadway. The Red Line of the T runs along the western edge of the neighborhood, with stops at both Broadway and Andrews Station. South Boston is, however, geographically isolated from the rest of Boston with the Harbor to the east and south, and a buffer zone of warehouses and railroad tracks to the north and west. The city's financial district is less than two miles away.

A typical commute from South Boston would involve taking the #47 bus from Broadway Station or commuting via the #10 bus. More athletically inclined students can probably bike the distance in the same amount of time.

Why Live Here?

Real neighborhood feel

South Boston is close to the BUMC, and it offers a true community environment. The residents of Southie are proud of their neighborhood, want to know who's living there, and get to know them. This does not mean that every resident of Southie is friendly, but it does mean that the neighborhood is more tightly knit than many of the other sections of town.

General Information

Basics

Population: 10,000
 School Zone: North
 Police District: A-1/D-4

City Government

City Councilor:

Michael Ross

Coordinator:

William Onuoha, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 4, 200 Cambridge Street

Police Stations:

District D-4: 7 Warren Avenue

617-343-4250

District A-1: 40 New Sudbury St

617-343-4240

Library:

151 Cambridge Street

617-523-3957

Post Office:

25 New Chardon Street

800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Beacon Hill Times

www.beaconhilltimes.com

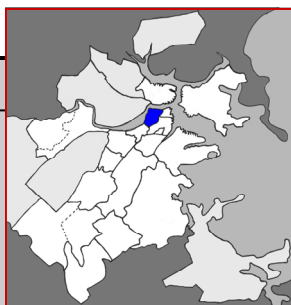
Transportation

Major T stops

Park Street: All T lines

Major Bus Connections

Temple Place: Silver Line



Beacon Hill Statehouse Territory

Beacon Hill is one of the original neighborhoods of Boston. Many of the streets in this tiny, exclusive neighborhood are still lined with cobblestones, and the Federal style architecture of the rowhouses give the area a stately feel.

Beacon Hill is located north of the Boston Common and forms about a one mile square bounded by Beacon Street, Storrow Drive to the north, and the Esplanade to the West. Located in the heart of Boston, Beacon Hill is home to the Massachusetts Statehouse and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Socially, this area is home to a number of small, exclusive pubs and the shops along posh Charles Street. High-end crafts and restaurants line Charles Street from Beacon Street to Cambridge Street. Cambridge Street itself offers slightly less expensive fare, as well as access to Massachusetts General Hospital. Beacon Hill borders both Haymarket and the Common, offering a number of other social opportunities. Still, this is not a loud or rowdy neighborhood, and has a very small percentage of student renters due to high costs and the lack of cheap social opportunities. It is also important to note that because most of the neighborhood is built on a hill with streets paved with old cobblestones, disability access is poor in Beacon Hill.

Types of Housing

The housing stock is almost universally Federalist-style brownstones, which vary slightly from the Victorian brownstones of the South End in only minor ways. Much of the housing is between 100 and 200 years old, and many buildings are national historic landmarks. Expect apartments in Beacon Hill to be a rented room in someone else's home – often small, though potentially well-appointed. Even small rooms in Beacon Hill will have a high rent, though, due to the neighborhood's historic feel and high

property values. Many landlords will refuse to rent to undergraduate students and are slightly reticent to rent to even graduate students unless they feel their renters are mature and responsible.



Average Commute Time:

25-35 minutes

Beacon Hill offers access to the Red Line via the Charles Street/MGH T stop and the Green, Orange, and Red lines at the Park Street stop on the Boston Common.

A typical commute from Beacon Hill would involve taking the Red Line to Broadway Station and then transferring to the #47 bus. Another option would be to catch the Silver Line at Downtown Crossing.

Safety

Beacon Hill is generally a very safe neighborhood. The streets are narrow and sometimes poorly lit, though, so if traveling through the neighborhood at night, watch out for purse-snatchers.

Why Live Here?

Historic and Great Location

There is no neighborhood that is as identified with Boston as Beacon Hill. Many of the streets are the original cobbled roads of the city. The buildings along Charles Street and on the hill are gorgeous, and since the rest of the city grew up around Beacon Hill, it is exceptionally close to downtown and most of the famous tourist destinations in the city.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$1200 and up

Often garden- or basement-level

One-Bedroom

\$1600—\$2400

Most common

Two-Bedroom

\$2200—\$3000

Usually small

Three-Bedroom

\$3000—\$3500

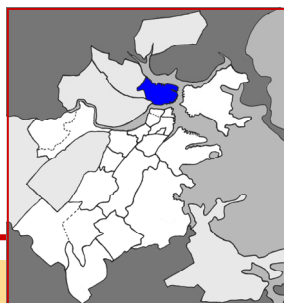
Exceptionally rare

Four-Bedroom

N/A

Virtually none available

Charlestown Oldest Neighborhood



General Information

Basics

Population: 15,000
School Zone: North
Police District: A-1

City Government

City Councilor:

Salvatore LaMattina

Coordinator:

Jack Kelly, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 32, 525 Main Street
Engine 50, 34 Winthrop Street

Police Stations:

360 Main Street
617-343-4888

Library:

179 Main Street
617-242-1248

Post Office:

23 Austin Street
800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Charlestown Patriot-Bridge
www.charlestownbridge.com

Transportation

Major T stops

Sullivan Square: Orange Line

Major Bus Connections

Sullivan Square: 13 buses stop here, including the CT2

Charlestown is to the north of mainland Boston, across the Charles River and is connected to the town of Somerville. Charlestown is the oldest neighborhood in modern Boston, having been founded as its own separate town in 1628 (two years before Boston). Present day Charlestown is connected to Boston via the Zakim Bridge and the Charlestown Bridge.

As one of the oldest sections of the city, Charlestown offers a number of attractions for a history buff. The Charlestown Navy Yard is the long-standing dock of the U.S.S. Constitution, the oldest commissioned warship in the U.S. fleet, and the neighborhood is home to the Bunker Hill monument. Outside of its historical value, Charlestown is mainly a working class neighborhood with its Irish roots still visible, although the areas closest to the water have some impressive new houses and condos.

offering single and multi-family units are common in Charlestown, many of which are rich in charm and feature old-fashioned wide-plank floors. Closer to the harbor, larger developments and higher-end units have become more regular.

Types of Housing

Much of Charlestown's housing is traditional triple-decker houses, but new developments near the harbor provide some higher-end apartment complex options.

Approximate Commute Time:

30-40 minutes

Charlestown is accessible by the Orange Line at Sullivan Square and Bunker Hill, as well as the #93 bus. It is a short walk across the bridge to Boston's North End and Waterfront District.

A typical commute from Charlestown would involve taking the Orange Line to Massachusetts Avenue and then transferring to the #1 or CT1 bus. Taking the Orange Line to New England Medical Center and then transferring to the Silver Line would also be an option.

Safety

Charlestown had problems with gang violence in the past. In 2005, the Bunker Hill projects in the north-east section of Charlestown, were at the top of the BPD's most violent locations list. However, a combination of new youth workers, and a plan from the Boston Redevelopment Authority to renovate and repair the projects helped to curtail violence there.

Why Live Here?

Historic and Near the Water

Charlestown offers excellent access to the water, amazing views, famous Boston history, and Downtown.



Charlestown offers a wide variety of rentals including renovated and newly constructed buildings throughout. Quaint row houses

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$900-\$1200
Often in condos

One-Bedroom

\$1200-\$1500
Lots of condos near the harbor

Two-Bedroom

\$1500-\$2000
More expensive close to water

Three-Bedroom

\$2100 and up
Some in large apartments

Four-Bedroom

\$2600 and up
Usually in houses

General Information

Basics

Population: 6,000
School Zone: North
Police District: A-1

City Government

City Councilor:

Bill Linehan

Coordinator:

Denny Ching, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 10, 125 Purchase Street

Police Stations:

40 New Sudbury St
617-343-4240

Library:

65 Harrison Avenue
617-482-3292

Post Office:

7 Avenue de Lafayette
800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Sampan (Chinese)

www.sampan.org

Transportation

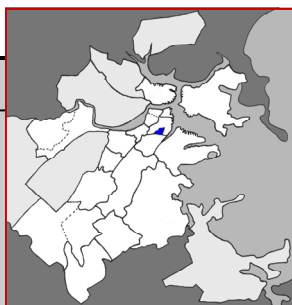
Major T stops

Chinatown: Orange Line

Park Street: All T lines

Major Bus Connections

Temple Place: Silver Line



Chinatown Asian Community

Chinatown is the historic home of the Chinese community in Boston, and is still the neighborhood of the city's largest concentration of Chinese. Located along Beach Street, Chinatown borders downtown, the South End, and the Boston Common. Chinatown is small geographically and population-wise, but because of its ethnic focus the neighborhood has a distinct identity. It is also home to the Tufts New England Medical Center.

The *paifang* (welcome gate) of Chinatown sits on the intersection of Beach Street and Surface road. The striking entrance to the neighborhood used to be little more than a ventilation building for the large central artery of the road system in downtown Boston. Since the Big Dig was completed, the area welcoming visitors to Chinatown has been landscaped and is a popular destination for tourist photographs. Chinatown is the prime location in the city for Chinese and Asian cuisine; in the small area, over 60 restaurants and nine bakeries serve Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese fare.

Today's Chinatown is primarily a residential and shopping location. Because it is so close to downtown, and a few of the larger (now abandoned) garment warehouses still stand, Chinatown is experiencing a new wave of development in the late 2000s. The Asian Community Development Corporation has filed plans with the city to create a new 450,000 square foot condo and commercial building along Kneeland Street. Archstone Boston Common, a 400 unit luxury apartment complex, recently opened on Washington Street.

Types of Housing

Aside from the new towers, Chinatown is predominantly a neighborhood of three to five story apartment buildings with commercial spaces on the first floor. Because the neighborhood is so densely populated, it can be hard to find open apartments here, especially along the main streets of Washington, Kneeland, or Beach. Located between Dewey Square and Kneeland Street, the Leather District is a

nine-block area noted for its 19th century brick warehouse structures. Limited housing opportunities exist in this area, although developers are building more residential units in the Leather District on a regular basis.



Approximate Commute Time:

10-20 minutes

A typical commute from Chinatown would involve taking the Silver Line bus to Newton Street. The Orange Line to Massachusetts Avenue is also an option in combination with the #1 or CT1 bus.

Safety

Chinatown is an incredibly densely populated neighborhood, and property crime can be a problem here. The area between Boylston Street and Kneeland Street used to be known as "the Combat Zone," a particularly seedy red-light district, in the 1960s and '70s. The area is generally clear today, although drug issues do surface occasionally.

Why Live Here?

Strong Neighborhood Character and Proximity
Chinatown has one of the most distinct personalities in Boston, and its close to both the BUMC and downtown.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$1200 and up
Widely scattered

One-Bedroom

\$1600 and up
Can vary in size and shape

Two-Bedroom

\$2000 and up
Often in larger complexes

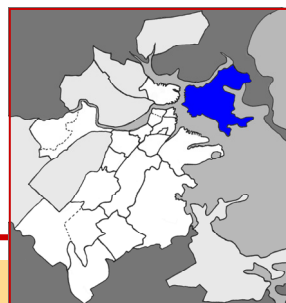
Three-Bedroom

N/A
Not enough data

Four-Bedroom

N/A
Not enough data

East Boston Air Portal to the City



East Boston is the second section of the city, along with Charlestown, that is not physically connected to mainland Boston. Across the Charles River to the northeast, East Boston is a working class community with a strong Hispanic and Italian flavor.

Known locally as "Eastie", East Boston is connected to the North End neighborhood and the rest of the city by the Sumner (westbound), Callahan (eastbound) tunnels and to South Boston and Storrow Drive through the Ted Williams tunnel. Boston has worked with Eastie residents to provide vehicle transponders that allow them to use the various tunnels for a reduced cost when coming into Boston.

Eastie has attracted a strong Hispanic population, and the neighborhood is slowly undergoing redevelopment and new construction, although not as completely as other areas in Boston. Because of the neighborhood's relative isolation and the presence of the largest institution on the island, Logan airport, development has taken more time here than in other neighborhoods. With the Boston Redevelopment Authority's new East Boston Municipal Harbor Plan, new condos, restaurants, and shops are starting to spring up near the waterfront, and some of the older urban blights, like the Maverick housing project, have been replaced with newer mixed-income units that helped reduce crime.

Logan Airport dominates the eastern section of the neighborhood. Relations between residents and the airport have always been

tense. Outside of the airport, two of the important commercial centers of Eastie are Maverick Square and Orient Heights, known for its large Italian population.

Types of Housing

Eastie is a neighborhood of triple-deckers and small apartment buildings. However, the growth in new developments means a number of newer apartment complexes, condos, and homes are cropping up, especially around Maverick.

Approximate Commute Time: 40-45 minutes

A typical commute from this area would involve taking the Blue Line to State Street and then transferring to the Orange Line and taking it to Massachusetts Avenue, about a 10 minute walk from the BUMC.

Safety

Eastie used to be the site of some notorious gang violence, particularly focused near the Maverick housing project. Since the redevelopment of the area, and the strong effort from the BPD and the North Shore Gang Summit, many of the consistently dangerous gangers have been apprehended.

Why Live Here?

Good Food and Cheap Rent

Eastie has some of the best ethnic cuisine in the city, including Santarpio's, widely regarded as the best pizza in the city, and has affordable rents. Away from the airport, it is generally a quiet neighborhood.

General Information

Basics

Population: 38,000
School Zone: North
Police District: A-7

City Government

City Councilor:

Salvatore LaMattina

Coordinator:

Ernani DeAraujo, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 5, 360 Saratoga Street
Engine 9, 239 Summer Street

Police Stations:

69 Paris Street
617-343-4220

Library:

276 Meridian Street
617-569-0271

Post Office:

50 Meridian Street
800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

East Boston Times
www.eastietimes.com

Transportation

Major T stops

Maverick: Blue Line

Airport: Blue and SilverLines

Major Bus Connections

Maverick: 114, 116, 117, 120, 121

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$650—\$100

Scattered

One-Bedroom

\$900—\$1200

More likely in condos

Two-Bedroom

\$1300—\$1700

Wide span of quality

Three-Bedroom

\$1800—\$2400

Larger apartments have some

Four-Bedroom

\$2400 and up

Mostly in houses



General Information

Basics

Population: 31,000
 School Zone: East
 Police District: E-18

City Government

City Councilor:

Robert Consalvo

Coordinator:

David McNulty, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 49, 209 Neponset Valley
 Engine 48 60 Fairmount Avenue

Police Stations:

1249 Hyde Park Avenue
 617-343-5600

Library:

35 Harvard Avenue
 617-361-2524

Post Office:

1269 Hyde Park Avenue
 800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Hyde Park Bulletin
www.bulletinnewspapers.com

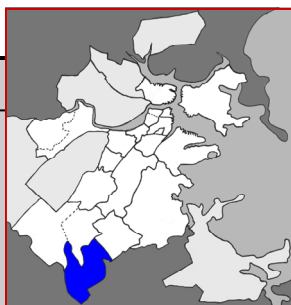
Transportation

Major T stops

Hyde Park: Commuter Rail Line

Major Bus Connections

Cleary Square: Numerous buses, including 24, 32, 33, and 50.



Hyde Park Southern Gateway

Hyde Park, Boston's southern-most neighborhood, is surrounded by the Blue Hills Reservation, Neponset River, and Stony Brook Valley. It is one of the most suburban and residential neighborhoods in the city of Boston. Mayor Thomas Menino currently lives in Hyde Park.

Hyde Park grew originally as a manufacturing community in the paper and cotton industries in the early 1700s. When the railroads expanded into Hyde Park in the mid 1800s, Bostonians looking for less expensive land flocked to the area. It was only annexed into the larger town of Boston in 1912, making it the last section of the city to be added. Hyde Park has a long legacy of activism; abolitionists called the neighborhood home in the 1800s, and Camp Meigs was the training ground for the famous Massachusetts 54th regiment called up during the Civil War (the 54th was the first regiment in the army composed of African-American soldiers).

Because of the significant amount of open parkland in Hyde Park, the neighborhood retains a distinct suburban feel. The George Wright Municipal Golf Course and 450 acre Stony Brook Reservation both call Hyde Park home. Logan and Cleary Squares are the center of Hyde Park, and the location of many of the restaurants, shops and action in the neighborhood. Hyde Park has one of the city's oldest Main Streets organization, a

cooperative of business owners and city of Boston officials who promote community involvement and economic development. The motto for the group is "A Small Town in the City," a perfect commentary on the character of Hyde Park today. Parking is generally not a problem in this area.

Types of Housing

The neighborhood offers many single and two family homes with yards and feels more like a suburb than a part of the city.

Approximate Commute Time: 45-60 minutes

Hyde Park is accessible via the Red Line (through Mattapan) and multiple bus routes. A typical commute from Hyde Park would involve taking the Red Line to Andrew Station then transferring to the CT3 or #10 bus, or riding the commuter rail.

Safety

Hyde Park is generally a quiet neighborhood with a suburban feel. The areas closer to Mattapan or Roxbury are more urban, though, and sometime see more crime as a result.

Why Live Here?

Suburban Feel

Hyde Park shares more in common, personality-wise, with its southern neighbor Dedham than the rest of Boston. It is a quiet and suburban community.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$650-\$1000

Harder to find

One-Bedroom

\$900-\$1200

Common in apartment buildings

Two-Bedroom

\$1300-\$1700

Can vary a lot

Three-Bedroom

\$1800-\$2100

Wide variety in houses

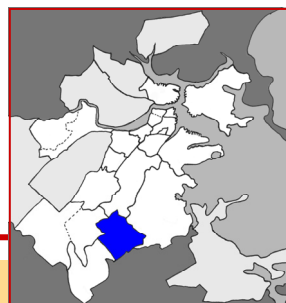
Four-Bedroom

\$2100-\$2600

Most common in houses



Mattapan Little Haiti



General Information

Basics

Population: 37,000
School Zone: East
Police District: B-3

City Government

City Councilor:
Charles Yancey
Coordinator:
Freda Brasfield, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:
Engine 17, 7 Parish Street

Police Stations:
1165 Blue Hill Avenue
617-343-4770

Library:
10 Hazelton Street
617-298-9218

Post Office:
1602 Blue Hill Avenue
800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:
Mattapan Reporter
www.bostonneighborhoodnews.com

Transportation

Major T stops
Mattapan: Red Line (through trip to Ashmont station)

Major Bus Connections
Mattapan: Numerous buses stop at Mattapan Station.

Mattapan is a residential neighborhood to the west and south of Dorchester. Morton Street is a generally agreed upon divider amongst residents, though municipal services and zip codes overlap the neighborhoods.

Mattapan is a mixed neighborhood - it is not unusual to see condos next to public housing developments, small apartment buildings, and single-family homes on the same street at more traditional triple-deckers. Most of the area is a working-class African American community with areas of focused poverty. Over 90% of the neighborhood is ethnic minorities, many originating from Caribbean nations.

Mattapan is the largest Haitian community in Massachusetts. Haitian Creole is a common language here, and about a third of the residents of Mattapan speak a second language.

Average rental rates in Mattapan are significantly lower than neighborhoods closer to Downtown. While rental rates have risen in the bordering communities of JP, Hyde Park, and Roslindale, Mattapan's have generally stayed level over the past 10 years.

Mattapan, like most neighborhoods in Boston, has a few distinct communities. Wellington Hills, on top of a steep hill near the Lewenberg Middle School, is a middle-class area with a high percentage of single-family homes and owner-occupied housing. The Franklin Hill neighborhood, also referred to sometimes as Franklin Field, stretches into Dorchester and has a predominance of closely packed public and private apartment complexes. Franklin Park is easily accessible from this neighborhood. Mattahunt is a growing section of Mattapan, with many new single-family homes and significant new development. Mattapan Square is the commercial heart of the area, located at the junction of Blue Hill Avenue and River Street.

Blue Hill Avenue, which forms the spine of Mattapan, Roxbury, and Western Dorchester, is also a major shopping and business center. With the close proximity to Franklin Park, and the Arnold Arboretum, Mattapan has access to a lot of parkland.

Mattapan has no public high school. Many of the students in the neighborhood attend either a Roxbury or Dorchester school.

Types of Housing

Mattapan has a little bit of everything, from triple-deckers to small apartment buildings. There aren't many large apartment complexes.

Approximate Commute Time: 40-50 minutes

The most common commute to the BUMC would be the Ashmont-Mattapan high speed line—nominally a section of the Red Line of the T, although it runs different trolleys and requires a transfer at Ashmont Station—to the Red Line and Broadway station. Mattapan Station is the first stop on the high speed line, at 1670 Blue Hill Avenue, and also a major bus transfer point. Moving around within Mattapan is usually done by bus.

Safety

For decades, Mattapan had a reputation as a dangerous neighborhood. In the late 1990s, crime dropped fairly significantly, but it has been creeping up since then. In 2007, Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan and Dorchester saw more gang shootings than any other section of the city.

Why Live Here?

Ethnic Focus

Mattapan is a huge Haitian community and a growing Cape Verdean one, as well. Students who are looking for Haitian cuisine or culture will certainly find it in spades in Mattapan.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO
\$800-\$1000 Some in apartment buildings
One-Bedroom
\$1100—\$1300 Closer to Dorchester/Roxbury
Two-Bedroom
\$1400—\$1700 Wide span of quality
Three-Bedroom
\$1800—\$2100 Houses near Hyde Park
Four-Bedroom
\$2000—\$2600 Closer to Hyde Park/Roslindale

General Information

Basics

Population: 18,000
School Zone: North
Police District: B-2

City Government

City Councilor:

Michael Ross

Coordinator:

William Onuoha, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 37, 560 Huntington Ave

Police Stations:

135 Dudley Street
617-343-4270

Library:

1497 Tremont Street
617-427-3820

Post Office:

1575 Tremont Street
800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Mission Hill Gazette
www.missionhillgazette.com

Transportation

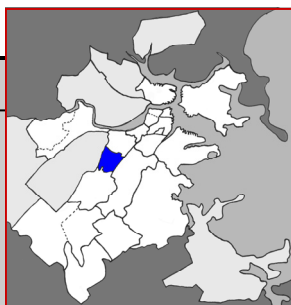
Major T stops

Brigham Circle: E train Green Line

Roxbury Crossing: Orange Line

Major Bus Connections

Museum of Fine Arts: 8, 19, 39, 47, CT2, CT3.



Mission Hill

Students and Doctors

Mission Hill, like the Fenway/Kenmore

neighborhood, is strongly influenced by the large institutions that call it home. Parker Hill is the defining geographical trait of the neighborhood, and the highest point in Boston where downtown is visible. After the construction of Mission Church on Tremont Street, the neighborhood gained the name "Mission Hill." Northeastern University, the second largest university in the city after BU has a significant chunk of its population in Mission Hill.

Tremont Street and Huntington Avenue are the largest streets in the area, and have the highest concentration of businesses, restaurants, and attractions. Brigham Circle, at the intersection of those two, is the commercial center of Mission Hill with a large grocery store, a number of restaurants, and easy access to the E train of the Green Line.

Mission Hill is a racially and economically diverse neighborhood. Attracting medical staff and researchers from Longwood, students from Northeastern University, and blue-collar workers, the community is a genuine mix. In recent years, neighborhood groups have raised concerns about both Northeastern and Longwood's expansion into residential areas. Most of the hospitals have been responsive to such concerns, and are becoming more heavily involved in cooperative community planning.

At the northern end of the neighborhood, along Huntington Avenue, is the Longwood Medical Center featuring Beth Israel Deaconess, Brigham and Women's, and Boston Children's Hospitals, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and the Harvard Medical School. This area is bustling with medical professionals, but does not offer much in the way of housing or social opportunities.

There are many scattered social opportunities through Mission Hill, but they are not as concentrated as neighborhoods like Fenway/Kenmore. Brigham Circle offers a few bars and restaurants and plenty of college-friendly pizza joints.

Types of Housing

Most of the housing in Mission Hill is in apartment buildings or triple-deckers, but the neighborhood is a Boston landmark district and a few of the older, more majestic homes built in the 1870s and 1880s still stand on the hill. Mission Hill has also undergone a few waves of urban redevelopment – large housing projects in the neighborhood were removed and replaced with mixed-income units, like the new Mission Main complex near Northeastern University.

Approximate Commute Time:

25-35 minutes

A typical commute from Mission Hill might involve taking the CT3 bus all the way to the BUMC. Another option would be to take the #39 bus or the E branch of the Green Line to Symphony Station then transfer to the #1 or CT1 bus.

Safety

The large student population ensures that areas of Mission Hill, especially those close to Northeastern, have similar concerns as Allston/Brighton; namely noise and drunkenness.

Why Live Here?

Interesting Location and lots of houses

Mission Hill is full of small parks with beautiful views, and the neighborhood feels like it is right in the middle of everything. From the top of the Parker Hill to the Orange or Green line trains is just a short walk, and getting downtown is fast and easy. Mission Hill also offers a lot of multiple bedroom apartments, especially on the hill itself, in a location close to the heart of the city.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$800-\$1100

Available in complexes

One-Bedroom

\$1100-\$1400

Lots of condos available

Two-Bedroom

\$1500-\$1800

Common

Three-Bedroom

\$1800-\$2500

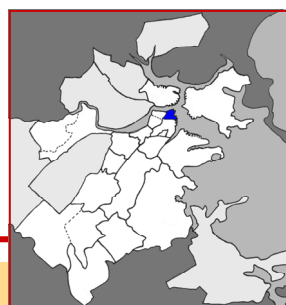
Common near Northeastern

Four-Bedroom

\$2400-\$3000

On the hill and near the school

The North End Boston's Little Italy



The North End is one of Boston's oldest neighborhoods. Located just north of downtown across Atlantic Avenue, it borders the Boston Harbor and the Quincy Market area. Since its creation, the North End has served as a home to several waves of immigrants to the city. Today, the North End is Boston's version of "Little Italy," and one of the best places in the city for good Italian food. The neighborhood is only about a half square-mile in size, but boasts over 100 restaurants and eateries.

The North End is physically very small, and the streets in the neighborhood are cramped. Tenement-style brick buildings, with the occasional rowhouse, fill out most of the neighborhood's housing stock. Tucked away on some of the small back streets are historical gems, like Paul Revere's House and the Old North Church. Because of its historic importance, the North End is a significant stop on the Freedom Trail, the series of Revolutionary-War Era landmarks located throughout the city.



Hanover and Salem Streets run directly through the neighborhood, from south to north, and function as the main boulevards through the North End. Hanover Street is busy at almost all hours of the day and night, and parking is virtually impossible – taking the T to the North End is generally a better idea than driving.

The North End is regarded as the best place to get Italian food of any sort – traditional, cosmopolitan, avant garde – in Boston. The social scene in the North End is almost entirely focused on food and Italian culture, with numerous small celebrations and festivals throughout the year. Residents looking for bars or clubs will often head across Atlantic Avenue to Haymarket, unless they want to watch Italian soccer.

Types of Housing

Most of the housing options will be studio, one or two bedroom apartments in old brick rowhouses or small apartment buildings. Many of them are owner-occupied, and have a restaurant or café on the first floor. Space is at a premium in the North End, so apartments tend to be small and not particularly cheap. Many apartments here may not come with a formal lease.

Approximate Commute Time: 30-40 minutes

A typical commute would involve taking the Orange Line at Haymarket Station and then transferring to the #1 or CT1 bus at the Massachusetts Avenue stop. Taking the Orange Line to Downtown Crossing and then transferring to the Silver Line is also an option.

Safety

The North End is not a quiet neighborhood, but it does not see much in the way of crime. Because of its popularity as a dining and entertainment location, though, it tends to be noisy, especially on the weekends.

Why Live here?

Location and food!

The North End is one of the most distinct neighborhoods in the city. The neighborhood offers some spectacular views, if residents can find a building that offers them, and great food, too.

General Information

Basics

Population: 8,600
School Zone: North
Police District: A-1

City Government

City Councilor:

Salvatore LaMattina

Coordinator:

Nicole Leo, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 8, 392 Hanover Street

Police Stations:

40 New Sudbury Street
617-343-4240

Library:

25 Parmenter Street
617-227-8132

Post Office:

217 Hanover Street
800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper:

Italian Post Gazette
www.bostonpostgazette.com

Transportation

Major T stops

North Station: Green, Orange Line,
Commuter Rail Line.

Major Bus Connections

Haymarket: 17 buses stop at
Haymarket, including the 92, 93.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$1100 and up
Small and rare

One-Bedroom

\$1200—\$1600
Probably most common

Two-Bedroom

\$1600—\$2200
Wide span of quality

Three-Bedroom

\$2200—\$2700
Very rare

Four-Bedroom

N/A
Not enough data

General Information

Basics

Population: 62,000
 School Zone: West
 Police District: E-5

City Government

City Councilor:

Robert Consalvo (Roslindale),
 John Tobin (West Roxbury)

Coordinator:

David McNulty (Roslindale),
 Chris Tracy (West Roxbury)
 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 55, 5115 Washington St.
 Engine 30, 1940 Centre St.

Police Stations:

1708 Centre Street
 617-343-4560

Library:

4238 Washington Street
 617-323-2343
 1497 Tremont Street
 617-427-3820

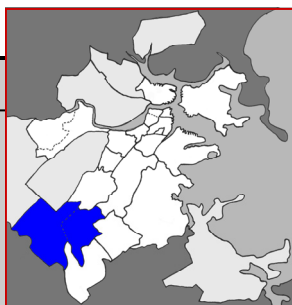
Post Office:

1834 Centre Street
 800-275-8777

Transportation

Major T stops

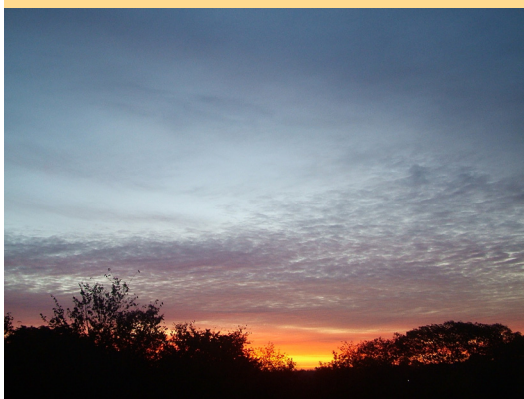
Bellevue/Roslindale Village:
 Commuter Rail Line



Roslindale/West Roxbury

Western Gateway

Roslindale and West Roxbury are two of the most western neighborhoods in Boston. Roslindale (known as “Rozzie” to its residents) roughly covers the area north of Hyde Park and south of JP, out to the West Roxbury Parkway (roughly) to the west, and Mattapan to the east. West Roxbury borders Brookline, Newton, and Dedham. Located about seven miles from downtown Boston, both neighborhoods are suburban and middle-class in character with large, open green space and many single-family homes.



Roslindale has a lower population density than the rest of the city; most of the housing in the area is single-family homes. Twenty years ago, the neighborhood was almost completely white, but now there is a better mix of ethnicities, and Rozzie is another center of the gay/lesbian scene in Boston. The portions of Roslindale closer to West Roxbury are more suburban, mostly characterized by sparsely populated, large plot one- and two-family homes. The areas closer to Mattapan has a more diverse spread of housing, including apartment complexes and triple-deckers. Although there are a few public housing developments in Roslindale, only about 14% of its housing stock is considered “affordable” by the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

Roslindale Village is the commercial heart of the neighborhood. Restaurants, bakeries,

and the Village Market grocery co-op thrive around a true village square. The area is a bustling small village, and was Boston’s test ground for the “Main Streets” community-based commercial redevelopment program.

West Roxbury is the tree-lined western gateway into Boston. Most of the housing stock in West Roxbury is single-family houses. Millennium Park is the largest park in Boston, built on the Gardner Street landfill in 2000.

Types of Housing

Rozzie and West Roxbury have a number of single-family homes, complete with front yards. Towards the center of the city, in the eastern section of Rozzie, are more triple-deckers and small apartment buildings.

Approximate Commute Time:

45-60 minutes

A typical commute from this area would involve taking the Commuter Rail to Back Bay Station along with a combination of one or more bus connections. From West Roxbury, a typical commute would involve the #36 bus to the Forest Hills Station, and then a transfer to the #1 or CT1 at Massachusetts Avenue. These two neighborhoods have the highest car ownership in the city of Boston, and many residents drive to work or school.

Safety

These neighborhoods are traditionally some of the safest locations in Boston, with very low crime rates.

Why Live Here?

Quiet and Suburban

These two neighborhoods offer some of the most space of any locations within Boston. The larger individual homes and access to park space give them a quiet suburban feel.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$900-\$1100

Vary widely

One-Bedroom

\$1200—\$1400

More apartment buildings east

Two-Bedroom

\$1400—\$1800

Very common

Three-Bedroom

\$1800—\$2400

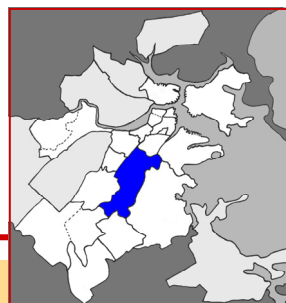
More options farther west

Four-Bedroom

\$2100—\$2800

More in West Roxbury

Roxbury Heart of Boston



Roxbury is the most centrally located neighborhood in Boston and the historic home of the African American community in the city. Roxbury borders the South End and Dorchester to the east, Mattapan to the south, and JP and Roslindale to the west. After Dorchester and Allston/Brighton, Roxbury is the most populous neighborhood of the city.

Roxbury has undergone a number of ethnic shifts over its long history - it has been a home for large Irish, Jewish, and now African American and Hispanic populations. Roxbury is a neighborhood of renters. Even in the section of Roxbury just north of Franklin Park, which sees the highest home-ownership in the community, only 31% of residents own their own home. Today, Roxbury is seeing some gentrification and growing property values, but still grapples with a legacy of disenfranchisement and poverty.

Grove Hall, Egleston Square, and Dudley Square are the commercial centers of the neighborhood. Grove Hall overlaps Dorchester on the eastern side of the neighborhood, and is a strongly rental community (about 90% of the residents are renters). Grove Hall is undergoing extensive redevelopment, and the Grove Hall Mecca Mall has the only grocery store in the area. Egleston Square overlaps JP on the west side of the neighborhood, and, like JP' is a strongly Hispanic area.

Dudley Square is located right in the heart of Roxbury and only about a 15 minute walk from the BUMC. Also undergoing a significant redevelopment phase, Dudley Square is a premier location for Afro-centric crafts and clothing, as well as the location of Dudley Square Station, the largest bus transfer point in the city.

Roxbury is a large neighborhood and offers a number of different social experiences.

Throughout the community are a variety of restaurants that cater to different ethnicities and nationalities: Roxbury has a high Cape Verdean and Dominican presence. Around Dudley Square are a number of shops and food options that cater to commuters.

Types of Housing

Triple-deckers are the most common housing available in the neighborhood. Fort Hill (close to Northeastern University) experienced a gentrification explosion in the 1990s and 2000s as students moved into the area. This area sees a number of brownstones and row houses instead of the more prominent triple-deckers.

Approximate Commute Time: 5-25 minutes

A typical commute from Roxbury involves taking the Silver Line bus to Newton Street. Numerous buses, as well as the Orange Line also service this area.

Safety

Roxbury has grappled with violence due to poverty and disenfranchisement for a long time. In the early 1990s, gang violence prompted Operation Ceasefire, a community-based violence reduction program. While Operation Ceasefire was wildly successful, Roxbury still sees a number of problems with gang violence and drug abuse.

Why Live Here?

Cheap Rent and Close Proximity
Roxbury is one of the very few neighborhoods that is very close to the BUMC and still offers inexpensive rent. For students who are looking for an urban living experience and are excited about a diverse neighborhood with many housing options, Roxbury can offer all of those things.

General Information

Basics

Population: 55,000
School Zone: North/West
Police District: B-2

City Government

City Councilor:

Chuck Turner

Coordinator:

Keith Williams, 617-635-3485

Public Services

Fire Stations:

Engine 14, 175 Dudley Street

Police Stations:

135 Dudley Street
617-343-4270

Library:

65 Warren Street
617-442-6186

Post Office:

55 Roxbury Street
800-275-8777

Transportation

Major T stops

Roxbury Crossing, Jackson Square:
Orange Line

Major Bus Connections

Dudley Square: Dudley is the largest bus transfer point in the city, including the silver line and 1, 8, 47, and 19.

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$800-\$1100

Some in apartment buildings

One-Bedroom

\$1200-\$1400

More likely in condos

Two-Bedroom

\$1400-\$1800

Wide span of quality

Three-Bedroom

\$1800-\$2400

Often in a house

Four-Bedroom

\$2200 and up

Closer to Roslindale



NEARBY COMMUNITIES

The Boston Area is comprised of a number of towns and cities aside from just Boston proper. Linked together by the MBTA and route 128 and I-495, the cities and towns near Boston also attract a number of students who are looking for housing, but who cannot find exactly what they are looking for within the city itself.

Remember that these communities are their own independent municipalities; while they may be geographically close, they have their own city governments, police forces, and parking regulations that are quite different than Boston's. Make sure to check each town's individual regulations for residents.

Cambridge and Brookline are so intimately linked by the MBTA that many Bostonians consider them to be a part of Boston. For students at the BUMC, parts of Cambridge and Brookline have often proven more attractive than many of the neighborhoods in Boston itself - between 10 and 15% of the BUMC has chosen to live in either Cambridge or Brookline.

In addition to those locations, here is a brief description of the more popular nearby communities outside of the city.

Malden

www.ci.malden.ma.us

Located just north of Boston, this ethnically diverse community is primarily a residential area. The housing stock includes single-, two- and three-family homes, grand old Victorians, and an array of condominiums. Apartments in this area are typically large and moderately priced. Malden is easily accessible to supermarkets, laundromats, and shopping centers. Malden offers availability to downtown Boston with the familiar feel of a small town.

Approximate Commute Time: 45-60 minutes

A typical commute from Malden would involve taking the Orange Line to Massachusetts Avenue and then transferring to either the #1 or CT1 bus. Connecting with the Silver Line at Downtown Crossing would also be an option.

Newton

www.ci.newton.ma.us

Newton is a prosperous suburb of Boston, connected by reasonably good public transit. Made up of 13 small villages, Newton's convenient location has made it a popular choice for commuters. Housing options vary throughout the area. Many

rental units are single-family homes that have been converted into multi-family dwellings. The rents in Newton vary and are affected by location. Proximity to Boston or the Massachusetts Turnpike may increase prices. The public school system here excellent. Newton was recently named one of the safest cities of its size in the country. Owning a vehicle is a must in some areas, though parts of Newton are serviced by buses and the D branch of the Green Line. Availability of on-street parking is fairly good in most areas.

Approximate Commute Time: 45-55 minutes

A typical commute from Newton might involve taking the D branch of the Green Line to Hynes Convention Center and then transferring to the #1 or CT1 bus.

Quincy

<http://ci.quincy.ma.us>

Quincy is a coastal city located just south of Boston. Quincy has 27 miles of coastline enveloped by two natural peninsulas that border Quincy Bay. The birthplace of U.S. presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams, Quincy is an area rich in history. Neighborhoods within Quincy, each having their own distinctive characteristics, include Adams Shore, Germantown, Houghs Neck, Merrymount, North Quincy, Quincy Point, South and West Quincy, Squantum, Wollaston, and Quincy Center. Quincy offers different housing throughout the city including high-rise complexes, houses, duplexes, and triple-deckers.

Approximate Commute Time: 25-50 minutes

A typical commute from Quincy would involve taking the Red Line to Andrew Station and then transferring to the CT3 bus.

Somerville

www.somervillema.gov

The city of Somerville is located just north of Cambridge, and is the most popular housing location for BUMC students outside of Boston, Cambridge, and Brookline. Due to the number of triple-deckers there, Somerville is the most densely populated city in New England.

Somerville has long been a working class community of manual laborers and Irish immigrants. In the past twenty years, Somerville has seen a substantial increase in the number of Brazilian and Portuguese families in addition to the old-timers.

Somerville, like Cambridge and Boston, has a number of sub-neighborhoods, each with their own distinct flavor and housing stock. East Somerville is the most industrial section of Somerville, and borders Sullivan Square in Charlestown. Union Square, an up-and-coming dining and socializing location north of Central Square in Cambridge, can be difficult to reach without a car, but does offer a number of ethnic restaurants and

Precinct, a bar in the old Somerville Police station. Housing in East Cambridge and Union Square tends to be concentrated in older multiple family houses of varying quality.



Inman Square, located along Cambridge and Hampshire Streets, borders both Cambridge and Somerville and is known for small boutiques and unique pubs. Inman is a favorite destination for Harvard students to eat out. Inman is a bit more cosmopolitan than Union Square, and houses here are slightly smaller and newer than those in East Somerville.

Porter Square is another major commercial location shared with Cambridge, and featuring its own T-stop on the red line train. Porter has a large grocery store, craft stores and small restaurants. Davis Square, the second-to-last stop on the red line heading towards Alewife, is probably the most active location in Somerville, featuring a number of well-known watering holes like the music venue Johnny D's, the Somerville Theater, and the barbeque joint Redbones. Housing in and around Davis Square tends to be among the most expensive in Somerville, about on par with prices in the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood (although generally not as expensive as places like the Back Bay or South End). Davis also has a higher number of condominiums than other sections of Somerville.

Tufts University, while technically located in Medford, is very close to Davis Square, and a number of Tufts students, both graduate and undergrads, will look to live in the neighborhood if they move off-campus.

Approximate Commute Time: 40-50 minutes

There are many different ways to commute from Somerville. For students living in locations with easy access to the red line, a typical commute might involve taking the Red Line to Downtown Crossing then transferring to the Silver Line. For those in East Somerville, taking the orange line from Sullivan Square to New England Medical Center and then the Silver Line is a viable option. Central and north Somerville offer few public transit options.

General Information

Basics

Population: 54,000

City Government

City Hall

333 Washington Street

617-730-2200

School Board

617-730-2403

www.brookline.k12.ma.us

Public Services

Fire Department:

350 Washington Street

617-730-2270

Police Department:

350 Washington Street

617-730-2222

Library:

361 Washington Street

617-730-2370

Post Office:

1295 Beacon Street

800-275-8777

Neighborhood Paper

Brookline Tab

www.wickedlocal.com/brookline

Transportation

Major T stops

Coolidge Corner: C train, Green Line, 66 bus

Brookline Village: D train, Green Line, 65, 66 bus



Brookline

Urban Suburb

Brookline is Boston's immediate neighbor to the west, just four miles from downtown. Except for its western-most border, Brookline is surrounded on all sides by Boston – Allston/Brighton to the north, JP and Mission Hill to the east, and West Roxbury to the south. With an area of about six and a half square miles, Brookline is the largest town in Massachusetts, geographically. The areas of Brookline that border Boston tend to take on characteristics similar to the neighborhoods they abut.

Brookline is an upper-middle-class community of professionals and some students who are looking for a quieter living experience. Brookline as a town allows no manufacturing or industrial activities within its borders, which results in a quiet, almost purely residential experience. Brookline is not the most diverse community in the Boston area, although it does have a large Jewish population.

The main commercial centers of Brookline are Coolidge Corner, in the northern section of town, and Brookline Village located more centrally. Coolidge Corner, at the intersection of Beacon Street and Harvard Avenue, has a number of well-loved local restaurants, like the always-crowded deli Zaftig's, and slightly upscale chains, like the dessert hotspot Finale. A Trader Joe's grocery store is located in Coolidge Corner, and a Stop N' Shop is just a short walk away down Harvard Avenue. The Coolidge Corner Theater, one of the few non-profit movie houses in the country, is also located here on Harvard Street. This section of Brookline is in the highest demand amongst young professionals and students for its close proximity to the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood, and its slightly more urban feel. Housing here, especially along Beacon Street, is expensive.

Brookline Village is located further south at the intersection of Washington Street and Harvard Street. Brookline Village is less commercial than Coolidge Corner, but does house the main Brookline public library and police department, as well as a number of restaurants. A smaller commercial hub also exists farther west, closer to Cleveland Circle, in an area called Washington Square at Washington Street and Beacon Street. Washington Square is much smaller than Coolidge Corner or Brookline Village, but does boast the Publick House, a well-known local watering hole, and a grocery store.

The areas of Brookline near Coolidge Corner and Brookline Village are the most commonly rented

AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO

\$1000—\$1400

Some in houses; often basements

One-Bedroom

\$1400—\$1800

In houses and apartments

Two-Bedroom

\$1600—\$2500

Good variety

Three-Bedroom

\$2600—\$3200

Often in a house

Four-Bedroom

\$2600 and up

Options in some complexes





areas of Brookline. The southern sections of the town are more suburban in nature and single-family homes are the dominant housing in this area. In the north, the housing options tend to focus on small apartment buildings and the occasional space in a house for rent. Zoning for high-rise buildings is rare in Brookline, and even the larger apartment complexes tend to be smaller than those in Boston.

Brookline has a very similar atmosphere to Roslindale or West Roxbury – it's almost a suburb in the city. It is so close to the very urban neighborhoods of Fenway/Kenmore and Allston/Brighton that it doesn't feel isolated, but the town is noticeably quieter and less hectic than most of Boston. Parking is difficult to find in Brookline. No overnight parking is allowed on any street in the city, and many apartments do not have parking available. You may be able to purchase a spot in a garage for \$50 to \$150 per month. If you are living near one of the T lines, having a car in Brookline is not necessary.

Brookline does not have a mayor – town affairs are conducted by a council of selectmen and town hall meetings.

Types of Housing

Brookline has a diversity of housing types. In the northern areas of the town, small apartment buildings and scattered multiple-family homes are the stock. The western and southern sections of the town tend to offer more single-family houses. Brookline rents tend to be higher than the Boston average and many landlords do not rent to undergraduate students. As a result, Brookline apartments tend to be in decent shape.

An important legal distinction between Boston and Brookline: in Brookline, no more than four unrelated people are allowed to live in a single housing unit. This law is not rigorously enforced, but it does limit the number of five or six bedroom apartments (or at least makes most landlords change their advertisements to four bedrooms, even if their apartments can hold more people). Brookline does not have a dedicated Inspectional Services Department. The office that oversees code violations is the Department of Public Health.



Living in Brookline

Safety

Brookline is one of the safest communities in the Greater Boston Area. The primary population is young professionals starting families, and long-term Jewish residents. The fire and police departments are well-staffed and efficient, and often assist BU police or Boston police in looking into noise violations that occur on the Allston/Brighton border.

Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 30-45 minutes



Brookline is well served by the Green line of the T, with the exception of certain sections south of Brookline Village. The B, C, and D lines run through Brookline or immediately border it. Because the green line is running above ground while in Brookline, it can take a little while longer to get to Downtown Boston than a similar trip on the Orange or Red lines. A normal commute from Brookline to the BUMC would be the C or D line train to Hynes Convention Center, and then switching to the CT1 or the #1 bus to travel down Massachusetts Avenue.

Students living in Northern Brookline, close to Commonwealth Avenue, can walk to the St. Mary's stop on the BU Shuttle in about 10-15 minutes, depending on where they are.

Why Live Here?

Quiet and suburban community feel

Brookline, despite being surrounded by Boston on three sides, has a distinctly different pace than its larger neighbor. Life is a little slower in Brookline, a little quieter, and a little easier to navigate. The town is small, housing is generally high-quality, and many of the streets have trees and flowers lining the road. For students looking for a location that is close to Boston, near the heart of the urban experience, but also feels like a quiet suburb, Brookline is a great option.

General Information

Basics

Population: 101,000
Mayor: David Maher

City Government

City Hall

795 Massachusetts Avenue
617-349-4000

School Board

159 Thorndike Street
617-349-6400

www.cpsd.us

Public Services

Fire Department:

491 Broadway
617-349-4900

Police Department:

5 Western Avenue
617-349-3301

Library:

359 Broadway
617-349-4040

City Paper

Cambridge Chronicle
www.wickedlocal.com/cambridge

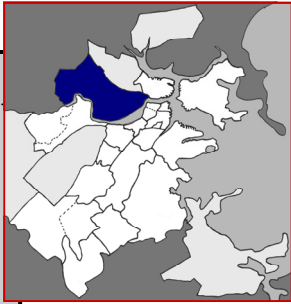
Transportation

Major T stops

All Red Line stops from Kendall/
MIT to Porter Sq are in Cambridge.

Major Bus Connections

Central Square: 1, CT1, 47, 64, 70,
70A, 83, 91



Cambridge Political Hotspot

The city of Cambridge is Boston's immediate neighbor to the north, across the Charles River. The largest of the nearby towns in terms of population, Cambridge is a bustling city in its own right. Cambridge is best known as an intellectual and historical center, being home to both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Much like Boston, Cambridge is made up of a number of different neighborhoods linked by Massachusetts Avenue. With so many students, scholars, and other visitors traveling through the city, Cambridge has a dynamic character. It also has an exceptionally low vacancy rate as far as housing is concerned. Cambridge is a very liberal town, politically – the Bay Area Center for Voting Research rated it the 8th most liberal city in the country in 2005. Expect to experience a diverse population of people, languages, food, and beliefs in Cambridge.

Cambridge neighborhoods are based around their central commercial squares. Harvard Square, Central Square, and Porter Square are the major economic hubs in Cambridge, with Kendall and Inman Squares growing to become a major centers as well.

Harvard Square, located almost in the middle of the city, is a convoluted series of streets, alleys, and turn-abouts that caters to a student and academic audience. The area is home to Harvard University (hence the name), and its buildings are interspersed throughout the square. Harvard Square is one of the most vibrant locations in the entirety of the Boston area – the “pit” outside of the Harvard Square T-stop on the Red Line is an informal stage for musicians, street performers, and dance troupes. Because of the number and variety of commercial establishments here, and the convenience of the neighborhood for Harvard students and staff, finding housing in Harvard Square is exceptionally difficult. Competition is powerful. Prices are also high; about equal to areas of the South End in Boston. Further north on Massachusetts Avenue is Porter Square, a smaller business area but one with a large grocery store. Close to Lesley University, Porter Square offers a number of smaller shops in addition to its Shaws supermarket.

Further east and south, Central Square offers a number of restaurants and themed bars, Cambridge City Hall, one of Cambridge's grocery co-ops, and a strong music scene. Central Square is home to the music venues the Middle East, TT the Bears, and the All Asia Café, making it one of the most musically dominated communities in the Boston area (similar to Allston Village). Stores in Central offer cheap goods for a variety of needs. Because Central Square is located directly on Massachusetts Avenue and see so much bus and pedestrian traffic, the area can be a prime location for panhandlers.

Kendall Square is an emerging commercial center, with part of MIT's campus running along it and attractions like the Kendall Square Cinema, specializing in foreign and independent films, drawing visitors. Most of Kendall Square is still made up of MIT administrative offices and biotechnology firms.

East Cambridge is the residential area directly north of the Kendall/MIT area and is a densely populated, generally



AVERAGE RENTAL COSTS

STUDIO
\$900—\$1500
More common near campuses
One-Bedroom
\$1200—\$2000
Lots of condos in Cambridge
Two-Bedroom
\$1600—\$2500
Central Square, Kendall area
Three-Bedroom
\$2400—\$3200
Some options in larger buildings
Four-Bedroom
\$2600—\$4000
Often options in houses



working class community. A number of the apartments in this area do not include heat. In recent years, East Cambridge has been the target of a major redevelopment project within the city, and condominium conversions and rehabilitation have begun to update some of the aging buildings in the area. The redevelopment has also brought up the rent to an extent. Public transportation in this section of town is limited, with the Kendall/MIT Red Line stop and the Lechmere Green Line stop about equidistant. Many parts of East Cambridge are within walking distance of the Cambridgeside Galleria, a large mall in southeastern Cambridge.

Along Cambridge Street, heading west from East Cambridge towards Harvard Square is Inman Square, a strip of small restaurants and boutique shops. Inman is still growing and links the northern sections of Cambridge with the Somerville.

The Cambridgeport neighborhood is located between MIT's campus at Kendall Square and Harvard's Campus in Harvard Square. The neighborhood runs along the Charles River south of Massachusetts Avenue. This area has mostly older, one to four family houses. Most do not include the cost of heat in the rent. Housing quality definitely falls on a wide range in this area; some buildings are well maintained, but many are suffering from some neglect. Expect to have significant competition from Harvard and MIT students looking for housing when looking in Cambridgeport. Most of this neighborhood is no more than a 10-15 minute walk to the BU Shuttle on Commonwealth Avenue.

Parking in Cambridge, as with most of the area around Boston, is difficult and expensive. Cambridge does offer a resident sticker program, but there are many more stickers than spots to park. Some homes may have parking available, but in the Harvard, Central, and Kendall areas, parking is hard to find on a consistent basis. Resident parking applications cost \$8 and require proof of Cambridge residency.

Types of Housing

Cambridge is a city of over 100,000 residents – its housing is as varied as Boston's, although the general characteristics of age and price are still applicable here. Multiple-family houses are common in East Cambridge and Cambridgeport, while small apartment buildings tend to dominate Central Square and parts of Harvard Square.

Living in Cambridge

Safety

Cambridge in general is an exceptionally safe place for a city of its size. The southern sections of Cambridgeport have relatively low-levels of crime, but the main road along the Charles River, Memorial Drive, can be more dangerous at night. Central Square can be a high-crime area – about half of the street crime in Cambridge takes place in the area surrounding Massachusetts Avenue. Break-ins happen more in Central Square than they do in other areas of Cambridge. The prominence of Harvard and MIT also make their police departments important security resources in Harvard Square and Kendall Square respectively.

Transportation

Approximate Commute Time: 25-40 minutes
Public transportation is easy to come by if you walk to Harvard or Central Square, or Kendall/MIT. A typical commute from Cambridge might involve taking the #1 or CT1 bus all the way to the BUMC. Numerous bus lines, as well as the Red Line and E branch of the Green Line also service parts of Cambridge.



Why Live Here?

Active neighborhood life and direct commute
Cambridge is a vibrant, active town. The students of MIT, Harvard, Leslie, and Cambridge College make the city an intellectual hotbed, and the long history of politically liberal and active community organizations and city departments ensure that there is something going on at all times of the year. While parts of Cambridge are quieter than others, most of the city is a pretty energetic place. Any location along Massachusetts Avenue—Kendall Square, Central Square, Harvard Square, Porter Square, Davis Square—is a good shopping, dining, and socializing center. Also, since Massachusetts Avenue borders the BUMC, the commute from Cambridge is fairly direct and rarely requires changing buses or trains.