

METRO BOSTON NEIGHBORHOODS

Allston / Brighton

Allston's buzz of activity and Brighton's residential atmosphere complement each other nicely to give this area a somewhat suburban feel within Boston city limits. The area contains dozens of parks and other open spaces and has one of the lowest median age levels in Boston. With highly diverse demographics, a wide selection of shops and restaurants, and a large student population from the nearby Boston University and Boston College campuses, Allston is the "funkier" of the two neighborhoods. In exchange for shops and services, Brighton offers parks and open space, tree-lined streets, and a more family-oriented, "community" feel. Both are approximately 30-45 minutes away from campus by the "B" Green Line and various bus routes.

Back Bay

The Back Bay is a neighborhood where old Boston charm blends with the latest in style and entertainment. Bordering the Charles River from the Public Gardens to Massachusetts Avenue, the Back Bay offers a wealth of culture and shopping. Neighborhood jewels include the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, a beautiful grassy strip running the length of the street; the Public Gardens and lagoon, the Boston Public Library, the Mall at Copley Place, the Prudential Center plaza, the Esplanade park adjacent Charles River, and Newbury Street, where brownstone apartment buildings perch above trendy shops, galleries, and boutiques. Perhaps the most desirable neighborhood in Boston, it tends to be pricier than most other neighborhoods; however, all of the Back Bay is walking or easy T-ride distance to campus.

Beacon Hill

Generally regarded as the most prestigious of Boston neighborhoods, Beacon Hill is conveniently located near the downtown shopping district and the Boston Common, the neighborhood also embraces the Massachusetts State House and Charles Street, the main commercial area on the Hill. The neighborhood enjoys access to community sailing on and spectacular views of the adjacent Charles River. This is financially the most exclusive neighborhood in Boston, but it is mostly within walking distance of campus.

Charlestown

Rich with history, Charlestown is home to such landmarks as the Bunker Hill Monument, the Phipps Street Burying Ground, and the U.S.S. Constitution, the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. navy. Charlestown also boasts unique architecture, safe streets, and a quick commute to downtown by car, bus, or water taxi. In addition to a number of beautiful old homes, the Charlestown Navy Yard has been restored in recent years to include new condominiums, restaurants, and offices, with a superb view of the Boston skyline.

Fenway / Kenmore

With a large student population from nearby Boston University, Northeastern University, Emmanuel College, Simmons College and Wheelock College, the shops and services of Kenmore Square and the Fenway area cater primarily to a younger crowd. Kenmore Square tends to be dominated by the nearby Boston University campus and its students. From Fenway Park to the nightclubs of Landsdowne Street to the restaurants and stores of Kenmore Square, the neighborhood is a busy one. It offers a 10-15 minute commute to campus via the Green Line subway.

Fenway is one of the smallest neighborhoods in Boston, yet also one of the most densely populated, the area is also home to the Museum of Fine Arts, as well as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Contrasting with the bustle of Kenmore Square, the beautiful Back Bay Fens, part of the Emerald Necklace string of city parks, provide a quiet refuge from the urban din.

Jamaica Plain

Sometimes referred to as America's "most integrated neighborhood," JP's racial, ethnic, and socio-economic diversity is unmatched in metro Boston. An eclectic collection of restaurants and shops on Centre Street, quiet residential neighborhoods, and the beautiful Jamaica Pond and Arnold Arboretum, make JP a great place for students to live. Commute to campus is by the "E" Green Line or the Orange Line.

North End

Decidedly Italian in flavor and atmosphere, Boston's North End maintains an antiquated neighborhood charm despite a steady influx of tourism and commercialism. The neighborhood enjoys a location convenient to the Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Haymarket and downtown Boston. While already blessed with ten City-owned parks, recreational facilities and wharfs with marvelous harbor views, the area will be the recipient in coming years of an extensive new Rose Kennedy Park system. In addition to scores of local shops and restaurants, the Waterfront area is also home to the New England Aquarium, the Children's Museum and the Computer Museum.

South Boston

Primarily a residential, heavily Irish neighborhood, South Boston enjoys a substantial amount of ocean frontage of which facilities such as Castle Island Park, Carson Beach and the L Street Bathhouse make full use. Very much part of a "neighborhood" atmosphere, South Boston's population consists of many families. Although close to downtown Boston, the neighborhood will augment its existing shopping facilities in the near future with the construction of a new mall off Route 93.

East Boston

Located in the shadow of Logan International Airport, East Boston (which is actually located north of central Boston) is another waterfront, primarily residential community. The neighborhood, whose median age is among the highest in Boston, centers on the shops and services of Central, Day, and Maverick Squares. The Callahan and Sumner Tunnels under Boston Harbor provide access to and from Boston. Commute to campus is via the Blue Line subway and varies in length.

South End

With the distinctive charm of Victorian row houses and tree-lined streets, the South End is a beautiful neighborhood with reasonable prices. One of Boston's most racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods, the South End's demographics includes young professionals, the elderly, and students. The area has seen a renaissance of sorts in recent years, with new housing and commercial initiatives, and is one of the most convenient areas of the city for Tufts students to live.

Brookline

Located minutes from downtown Boston by car or T, the Town of Brookline has a distinctively suburban feel, but with the convenience of a city. Excellent schools, exceedingly safe streets, a strong sense of community, and proximity to Boston make Brookline one of the more desirable towns in the Boston area. The town revolves around the shops and commercial areas of several bustling neighborhoods, of which Brookline Village and Coolidge Corner are the most notable, while a number of parks, tot lots, and a public swimming pool provide ample recreational space. Commute to campus from Brookline is on the "B", "C", or "D" trains of the Green Line T, and varies depending on distance from campus.

Cambridge / Somerville

Home to the world-renowned intelligentsia of Harvard University and MIT, the City of Cambridge is also a stimulating collection of neighborhood and ethnic sights and sounds. Cambridge is an eminently diverse and student-friendly community. The Fresh Pond area offers parks, tennis courts and a golf course, while community boating is available on the Charles River. Commute to campus varies depending on location, but is easily accessible via the Red Line subway.

The most densely populated community in the entire U.S., Somerville provides a more affordable alternative to living in Cambridge while still being located close to downtown. It is almost exclusively residential, but has a lot to offer in terms of culture, cuisine, and lifestyle, especially in the Davis Square area. It is a very student-friendly community and is about 45 minutes away on the Red Line.

Newton

Despite proximity to Route 128 and the Mass Pike as well as extensive shopping facilities, Newton contains a number of quiet, residential neighborhoods, along with excellent schools and recreational facilities and a safe, suburban feel within 30 minutes of Boston. Parts of Newton are close to the "D" Green Line subway, with an approximately 45 minutes commute to campus.

Arlington / Medford/ Malden

Arlington offers a town beach, sailing on Spy Pond, and a number of parks and bike trails at Menotomy Park. A recent influx of professionals in recent years has fostered a strong cultural awakening to the arts through its Center for the Arts, which provides classes, poetry readings, open studios, and other activities.

Conveniently located on Route 93, Medford features such diverse offerings as the sprawling Middlesex Falls Reservation, two malls, Tufts University, swimming for residents in Wrights Pond, and numerous parks scattered throughout the city. Commuters may take bus routes, commuter rail or the Red Line to the Boston campus, which will vary in time depending on location.

Malden offers considerable shopping facilities, a diverse ethnic makeup contrasting a strong suburban feel, numerous town squares, and TUSM's Sharewood Clinic. Malden is a 20 minute commute by car or a 30-45 minute commute via the Orange line to campus.

Watertown / Belmont

Watertown and Belmont are suburban towns along the Charles River outside of Boston. They offer many recreational facilities, excellent shopping in the Arsenal Mall. Access to Route 2 and the Mass Pike is easy, making commute to campus best accomplished by car (about 30-35 minutes), but there are trolley lines that bring commuters to Harvard square, and to the Red Line T.

West of Boston

Cities such as Framingham and Natick are approximately 20 miles west of Boston. Both offer easy access to the area's main highways including the Massachusetts Turnpike, Route 9, and Route 30, as well easy access to the commuter rail train.