



**COMPOSITION BOOK**

ASDB's **Declassified**  
School Survival Guide



An unofficial guide to life at BU



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## STUDENT LIFE

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<b>Welcome Note</b>	03
<b>Campus Tips</b>	04
<b>Boston Discounts</b>	05
<b>Free Services by BU</b>	06
<b>Student Provided Services</b>	07
<b>Emergency Strategies</b>	08



## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHTS

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<b>JAMAICA PLAIN</b>	10
<b>CHINATOWN</b>	13
<b>MATTAPAN</b>	17
<b>EVERETT</b>	20
<b>EAST BOSTON</b>	24
<b>DORCHESTER</b>	26



**- BOSTON -**

Visit

[HTTPS://ASDBBU.WIXSITE.COM/HOME](https://asdbbu.wixsite.com/home)

for more information on ASDB

# admissions student diversity board



# Welcome Note

Congratulations on making it into BU! Whether you're new here or a returning student looking for some guidance, we hope this guidebook serves you well. If you ever want more information on a tip or have something to add to the guidebook yourself, feel free to email us at [asdb@bu.edu](mailto:asdb@bu.edu). We hope your time at BU is off to a great start with this guidebook 😊!

*Your  
Coordinators*

**Editors-in-Chief**



STYLE • STYLE • STYLE • STYLE • STYLE • STYLE • STYLE • STYLE • STYLE • STYLE

## In this Guide

Refer to this document for advice on what to do in emergency situations, free services provided to you as a BU student, recommendations on places to eat in Boston, and everything in between!

# Campus Tips

Ever need help on campus? Advice on how to get free stuff from the school? Here you go.

01

## Newbury Center

- Need free laundry soap? Want free breakfast on Fridays? Need someone to talk to as you navigate the challenges of being a college student? Hit up the Newbury Center!

02

## EBT Card

- In dire need of affordable groceries? Apply for an EBT card! If you reside in an on campus apartment, and do not have a meal plan, you may be eligible for an EBT Card. If eligible, you can receive up to \$250 to spend on groceries. If you live off campus and don't have a meal plan, you should apply to! Go here for more information: <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/>

03

## BU Ninja

- Class registration is hard. Monitoring StudentLink all day, everyday is hard. If you're looking to find a seat in a class, but don't have the time to be glued to StudentLink, sign up for BUNinja. It will alert you when a seat becomes open in a class you're interested in. Go here for more information: <https://buninja.com/>

04

## Wellness Rooms

- Looking for a wellness room to just unwind and relax during your academic day? Here are some places to go:
  - CDS, ninth floor
  - CDS, 17th floor
  - HTC listening room, second floor
    - looking for a place to meditate, completely unbothered and surrounded by green space? Check this room out!

»»» SURVIVAL GUIDE

# BOSTON DISCOUNTS



»»» BOSTON MUSEUMS

- Interested in visiting the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, or the Institute of Contemporary Art? Just show your BU ID to gain free admission!
- For a more inclusive list on different Arts discounts and how to access them, visit this website:  
<https://library.bu.edu/sth/discounts#:~:text=Contemporary%20Art%2C%20Boston-,Current%20BU%20students%20receive%20free%20admission%20to,upon%20showing%20valid%20BU%20ID.&text=Current%20BU%20students%20receive%20free%20admission%20to%20the%20Isabella%20Stewart,upon%20showing%20valid%20BU%20ID.>

TRANSPORTATION <<<

- Travel using public transportation often? You may be eligible for a Youth Pass that offers reduced fares on Charlie Cards and the commuter rail! Go here to learn more:  
<https://www.mbta.com/fares/reduced/youth-pass>
- Use BlueBikes a lot? BU students also get discounted rates. Click here for more information:  
<https://www.bu.edu/transportation/bicycling/bluebikes-discount/>



»»» ACTIVITIES

- Sign up for a Boston Public Library Card and get free admission to the Aquarium or 1 hour free of kayaking at select locations! Visit this website for more perks of a library card:  
<https://bostonuncovered.com/boston-public-library-card-benefits/>
- Want to support a nearby local theater? Coolidge Corner theater gives students discounted movie tickets! <https://coolidge.org/plan-your-visit/ticket-prices>

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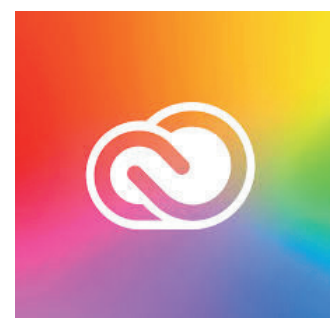
# Free Services Provided by BU :)

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## ***Product Preview***

1. If you live on campus, all students get free access to Xfinity, a cable provider, and by extension, a free HBO Max account
  - a. go here for how to register for Xfinity:  
<https://www.bu.edu/tech/services/cccs/television/xfinity-on-campus/>
  - b. for HBO, sign in with your provider Xfinity, and then once you're on the sign-in page, select "Xfinity on Campus students sign in here" to log in with your BU credentials
2. Get free access to HeadSpace, a meditation app:  
<https://www.bu.edu/studentwellbeing/how-to-live-well/headspace-app-free-for-students/>
3. Use Grubhub to order from on campus restaurants and get free delivery from anywhere :)
  - a. <https://www.bu.edu/dining/grubhub-campus-dining/>
4. Want full access to Photoshop, Premiere Pro, or all Adobe services?  
<https://www.bu.edu/tech/services/teaching/digital-multimedia-production/adobe-creative-cloud/>
5. Want to know what retail sites give you student discounts?
  - a. <https://www.studentbeans.com/us>
6. Gain full access to all Microsoft Office 365 services  
<https://www.bu.edu/tech/services/cccs/desktop/distribution/microsoft/studentoffice/>

## **Product Catalog**

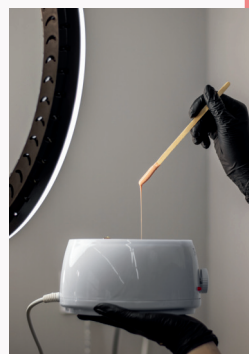


***StudentBeans***





# SERVICES



## Hair Removal

@Kadykitties on Instagram is known for hair removal services at an affordable price! Turn on post notifications to see when she's available next!

Are you in need of protective styles? Cornrows, locs, and braids? @bayatibraids and @chennaschair will get you right! They both do everyone's hair, no matter the gender. Check them out on Instagram to see examples of her work.



Since  
2024

Looking to get your nails done at an affordable price? Hit up @laradoesnails or @curedby.abi on Instagram!



Are you looking to get that 30 inch buss down? Struggling to get that lace to melt? Reach out to @theelacemuse on Instagram for some fire wig services



# Emergency Strategies

Special  
New  
Edition



## 01.

### Dean of Students

The Dean's Office has emergency funds that they will distribute to students who are in need. They will be able to assist with issues ranging from needing to go home for a family emergency to helping offset costs from a flooded apartment, and everything in between. They are there to help!

Contact them at (617) - 353 - 4126 or [dos@bu.edu](mailto:dos@bu.edu)

## 02. Laptop Loan

If you ever damage your laptop or go through a period of time where you don't have access to one, you can borrow a Macbook from the school for up to 2 weeks at a time. You can renew your loan for as long as needed!

- <https://www.bu.edu/tech/services/cccs/desktop/software/student-laptop-loans/>





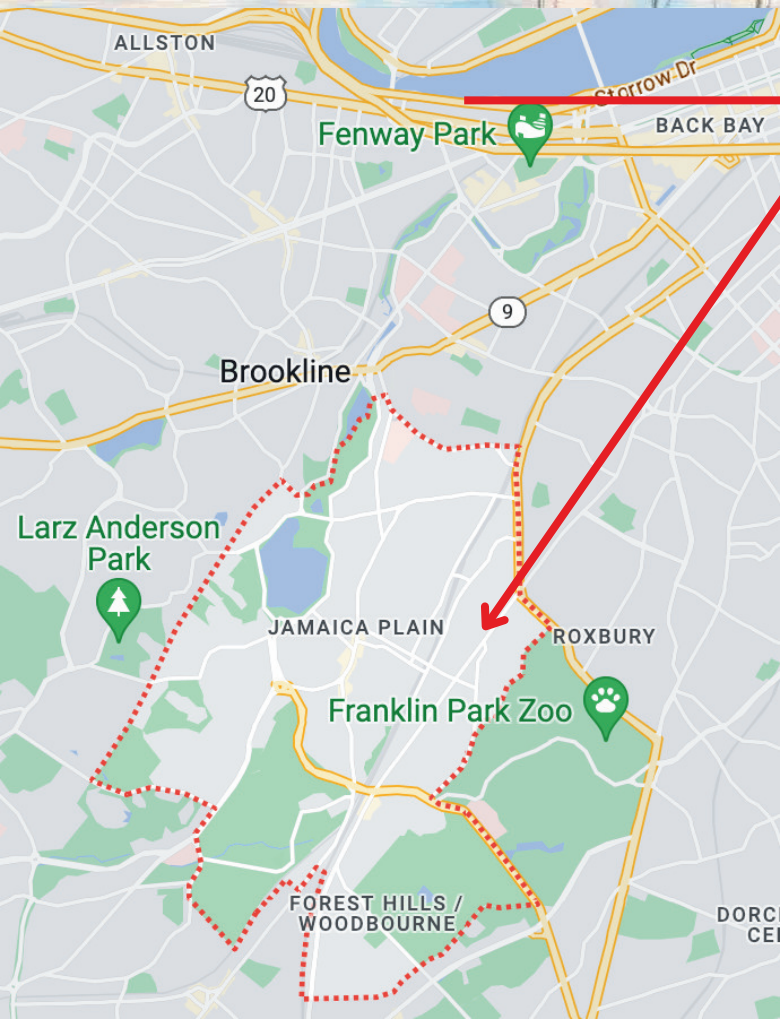
# NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHTS



In each ASDB meeting, A Boston Outreach Committee Member will highlight a Boston Neighborhood. These presentations are meant to increase ASDB members' awareness of diverse communities and the history within Boston neighborhoods.

Page 10: Jamaica Plain  
Page 13: Chinatown  
Page 17: Mattapan  
Page 20: Everett  
Page 24: East Boston  
Page 26: Dorchester

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Jamaica Plain



This is BU Campus  
And this is where you should go

You can get to Jamaica Plain:

- By walking (3-4 miles, 45 minutes to 1 hour and 15, very pleasant and scenic)
- Taking the MBTA bus (66 and 39)
- Taking the MBTA train (Green to the Orange Line)
- BlueBiking on safe bike paths
- Uber

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Jamaica Plain

## Contemporary Fast Facts:

- Arts
  - The Footlight Club; America's oldest continuous community theater
  - Tons of galleries
  - Open Studios celebration
- Nature
  - Emerald Necklace
  - Arnold Arboretum
  - Franklin Park (where the Zoo is)
  - Jamaica Pond
- Culture
  - Vast queer community
  - Large Puerto Rican and Dominican populations
  - Lots of nonprofits



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Jamaica Plain

## Food Suggestions:

### Alex's Chimis



Dominican

### El Oriental de Cuba



Cuban

### JP Seafood



Japanese + Korean

### Cafe Beirut



Lebanese

### Blue Nile



Ethiopian

### The Haven



Scottish

## Salon Suggestions:

- Beauty by Venard
  - Partial sew-ins, weaves, wigs, braids, twists
- Latino Beauty Salon
  - Braids, styling, beauty services, silk press. Spanish and English
- Exclusive Jhonattan Barbershop
  - Caters toward short hair, beard trim, line-ups, shaves. Spanish and English

## Event Suggestions:

- Wake Up The Earth
- Puerto Rican Festival of MA



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Chinatown

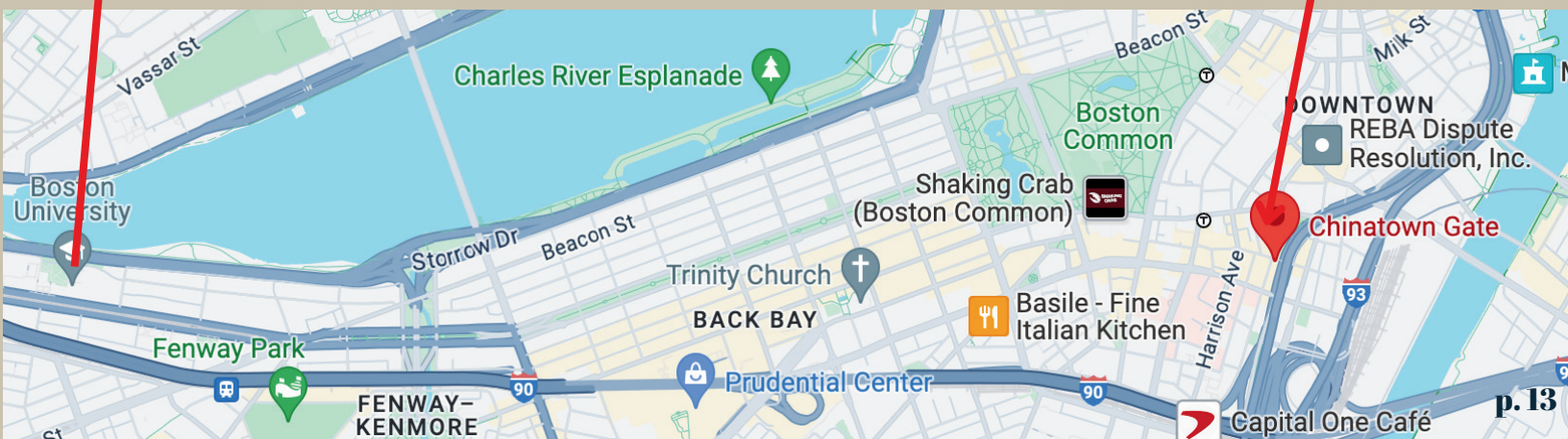


This is BU Campus

And this is where you should go

You can get to Chinatown:

- By walking (2-2.5 miles, 45 minutes to 1 hour)
- Taking the MBTA train (Green Line to Chinatown)
- BlueBiking on safe bike paths
- Uber



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Chinatown

What to do?

- Lunar New Year
  - Many lion and dragon dance troupes practice year round for showcases during this event
  - Pao Arts Center is Boston Chinatown's first arts and cultural center. They offer many free wholesome interactive activities and art galleries
  - Everyone has to wear red! Festive activities include buying confetti launchers, small fireworks, red clothes/furniture, and red envelopes. Common foods sold include rice cake and dumplings.
- Mid-Autumn Festival
  - Considered as the 2nd most important holiday, and is an equivalent to Thanksgiving
  - Important tradition of eating "moon cakes" during this time. Many bakeries in Chinatown will sell these fresh or can be purchased at grocery stores.
  - Chinatown is vibrant outdoor activities including (more) lion dancing, music, traditional dances, and calligraphy.



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Chinatown

- Gate Festival

- The peifang style gate was a gift from the Taiwanese government in 1982. Inscriptions read: “恥廉義禮” (lǐ yì lián chǐ) “公為下天” (tiān xià wèi gōng)
- Films at the Gate Festival: Annual free 3-night event that is entirely organized by the youth in Chinatown. A new film is screened each night and has old school movie house vibes.
- Even more music, lions, dancing, tai chi, and activities!



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Chinatown

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Bakeries



#### Corner Cafe Bakery

62 Harrison Ave

### BBT



#### Teazzi

31 Harrison Ave

### Street Snacks



#### bubble waffle lady

44 Beach Street

### Dim Sum



#### Hei La Moon

83 Essex Street

### Hot Pot



#### Liuyishou

702 Washington Street

### National Dish



#### Jiang Nan

177 Tremont Street

### Arts



#### Pao Arts Center

99 Albany Street

### Salons

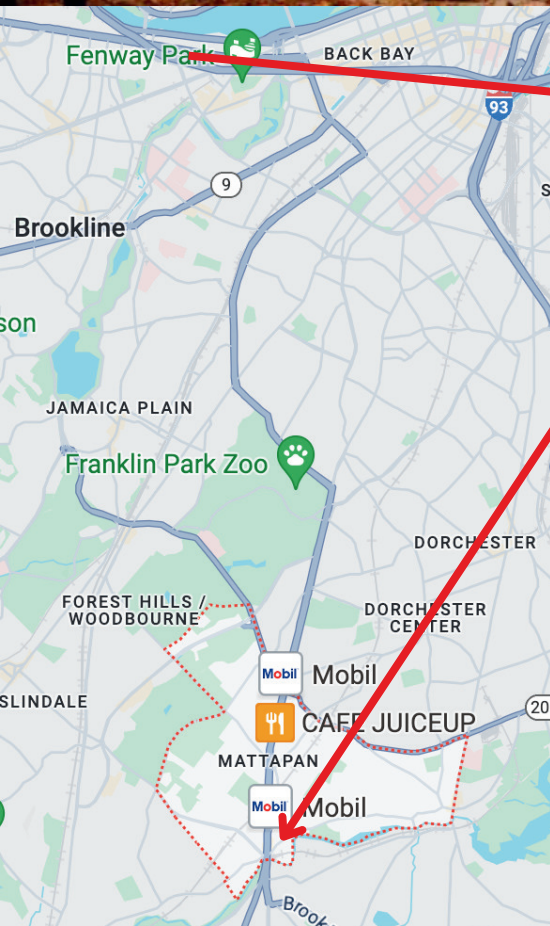


#### SKA Beauty Design

185 Essex Street



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Mattapan



This is BU Campus  
And this is where you should go

You can get to Mattapan:

- By walking (5-6 miles, over 2 hours long, very scenic but long)
- Taking the MBTA bus (take the 8 then 22 then 29)
- Taking the MBTA train (Green to the Red Line)
- BlueBiking on safe bike paths
- Uber

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Mattapan

## Origins

- Land originally belong to the Mattahunt Tribe within the Neponset band of the Massachusett peoples.
- “Good Place to Sit”



Mattapan Has A Lot of Great Nature To Explore!

- Neoposit Trail
- Mass Audobon - Boston Branch

Look at our very own ASDBer Rudy at the Mass Audobon!



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Mattapan

The Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library is a Great Study Space



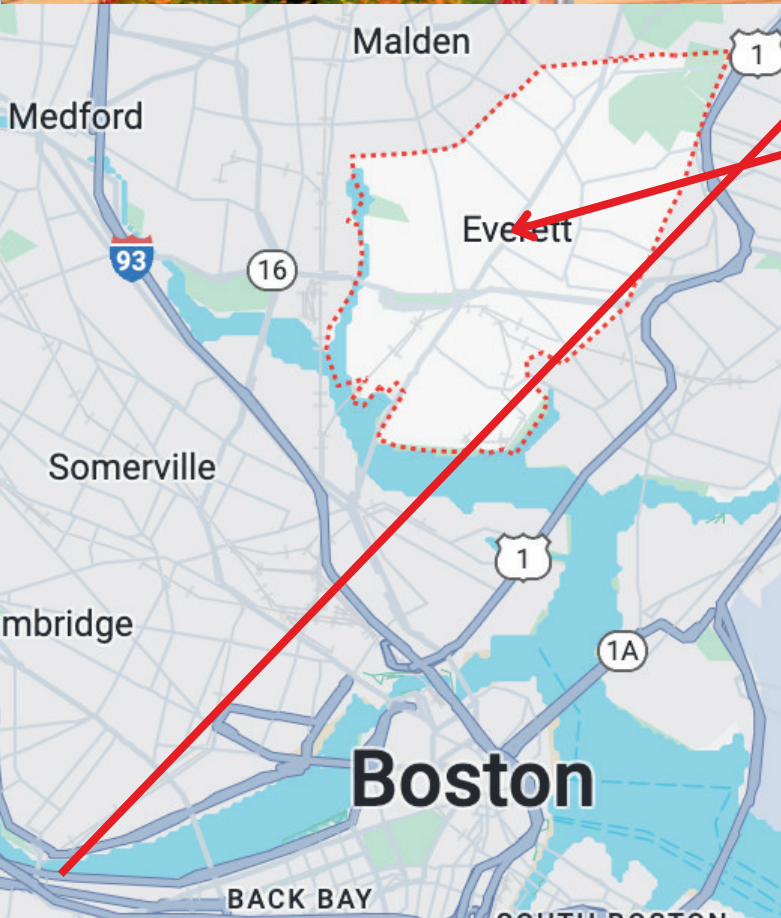
Mattapan's Haitian Community is the largest in Massachusetts  
It also has the highest rates of Black homeownership in Boston



Scan this QR Code  
For A List Of Food  
Recs!



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Everett



This is BU Campus  
And this is where you should go

You can get to Everett:

- Taking the MBTA bus (take the CT2 then the 104)
- Taking the MBTA train (Green to the Orange Line, get off at Wellington then take either the 106, 97, 110 or 112)
- BlueBiking on safe bike paths
- Uber

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Everett

North of Boston,  
neighboring Charlestown

Very large Brazilian  
population, but also  
Haitian and Jamaican

40.3% of residents are  
foreign born

Most BU Students would  
recognize Everett for  
Encore



## RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS



Oliveira's



Santana's



Mini Bites Factory

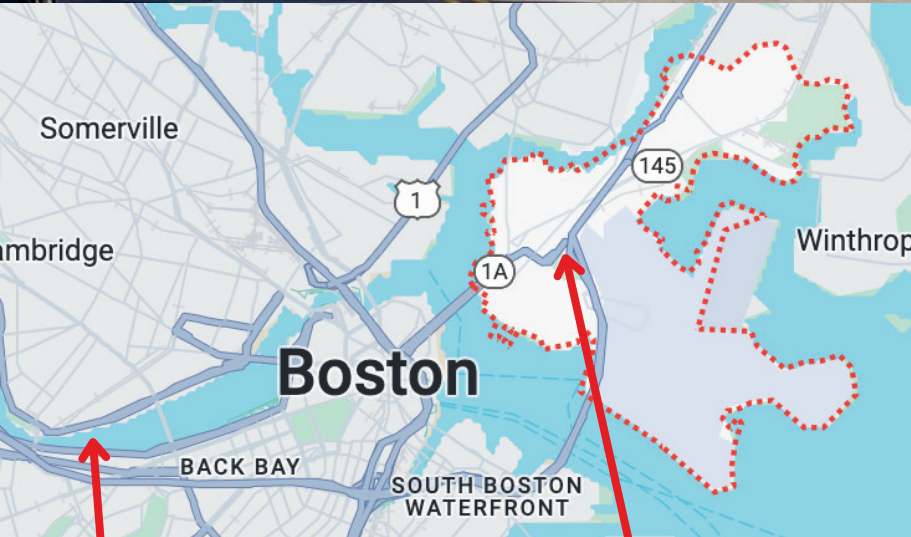


La Perle



La Mesa

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Everett



You can get to East Boston:

- Taking the MBTA train (Green to the Blue Line, get off at Wood Island)
- BlueBiking on safe bike paths
- Uber

This is BU Campus  
And this is where you should go

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Everett

## Brief History of East Boston

- Officially established as East Boston in 1836, the neighborhood was created using landfill to connect five Boston Harbor islands.
- The waterfront location made it a center for shipbuilding and other marine industries—a legacy that continues today.
- Nicknamed “Boston Ellis Island,” East Boston was once the port of entry for immigrants seeking to Enter both the city of Boston and United States. Thus historically, East Boston has been neighborhood affected by immigration for decades.
- We can trace much of Boston Italian history to East Boston with the Orient Heights neighborhood. It is seen as the Hub of Italian settlement in, before many moved to the North End, as a result of World War 1.
- Starting in the late 1980’s to the modern day, the largest group of Immigrants in East Boston come from LATAM and the Caribbean, helping us better understand the Neighborhoods modern day demographics.
- Fun Fact: The Kennedy family originated from East Boston



# Neighborhood Spotlight: East Boston



## Things to do

- Check out the Madonna Queen of the Universe Shrine
- Piers Park and the Eastie docks
- Hang Out at Constitution Beach (“Shays Beach”)
- Pickup Sports at LoPresti Park





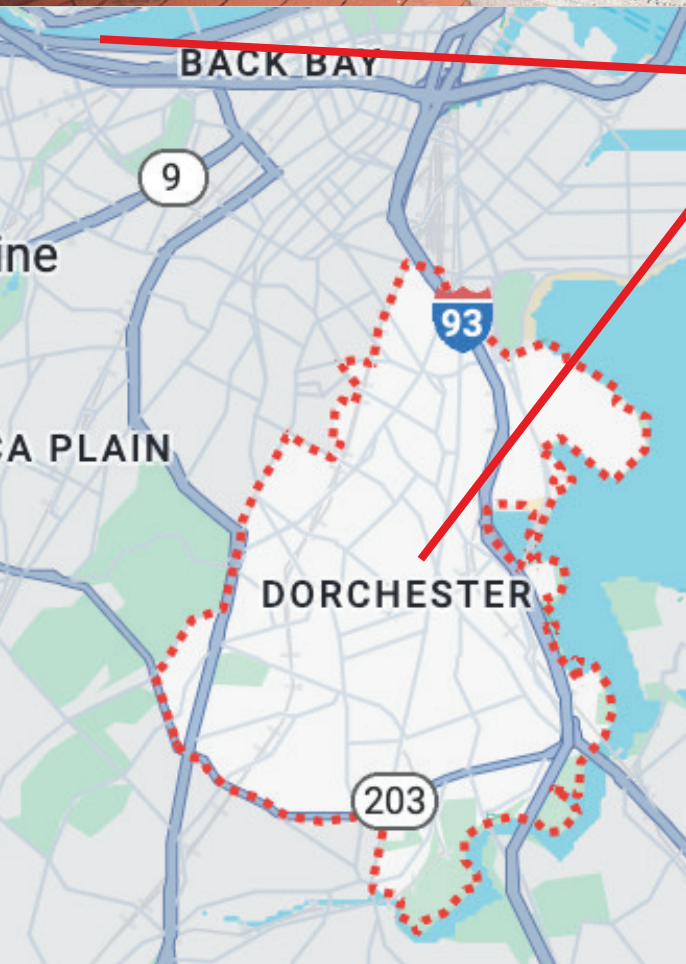
# Neighborhood Spotlight: East Boston

## Restaurant Recommendations

- Angela's for traditional Mexican. Get their mole or pozole
- Jalisco for taqueria. Get their tacos birria →
- Punto Rojo, Colombian Food
- Rincón Limeño for Peruvian. Get their ceviche
- Seabiscuit for Australian meat pies
- El Penol for Colombian Food →
- Casa del Pandebono for Colombian baked goods. Also surprisingly delicious tacos birria
- La Hacienda for Salvadoran and pan-Latin
- Pikalo for Dominican sandwiches and empanadas ↓



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester



This is BU Campus  
And this is where you should go

You can get to Dorchester:

- By walking (5-6 miles, 1 hour and 45 minutes to 2 hours, very scenic but long)
- Taking the MBTA bus (take the 47 then 19 to Geneva Ave)
- Taking the MBTA train (Green to the Red Line get off at Fields Corner)
- BlueBiking on safe bike paths
- Uber

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester

## Brief History of Dorchester

- Dorchester was founded in 1630 by Puritans who arrived from Dorchester, England
  - They landed at Columbia Point, today known as Harbor Point
- Dorchester actually didn't become part of Boston until 1870
- Dorchester is home to many firsts:
  - First town meeting in the United States was held in Dorchester in 1633
  - First public elementary school in the United States - Mather Elementary School established 1639 and still exists today!
  - The First Parish Dorchester (1630) is the oldest religious organization in present-day Boston
  - The James Blake House (1661) is the oldest Boston home and is now maintained by the Dorchester Historical Society



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester

## Neighborhoods of Dorchester

### Meeting House Hill

- One of the oldest sections of Dorchester
- First Parish Church and first public elementary school in North America, Mather School
- Ronan Park- best views and highest point in Dorchester
  - Multicultural festival every summer at Ronan Park



### Field's Corner

- Historic commercial district
- Transit hub Red Line and many buses
- Visit Little Saigon- great Vietnamese food
- Traditional Irish pubs for those 21+
- Farmer's market in the summer!



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester

## Neighborhoods of Dorchester

### Ashmont/Peabody Hill

- Contains subsections (Ashmont Hill, Peabody Square, Ashmont-Adams)
- Known for having Victorian style houses and a lot of traditional Boston triple deckers
- Ashmont Hill house tour



### Savin Hill

- Popular for its parks and beaches
- Savin Hill Beach and Malib Beach



### Harbor/Columbia Point

- Less of a residential area, more institutional
- Landing place of the Puritan settlers
- JFK Library



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester

## Neighborhoods of Dorchester Neponset/Port Norfolk/Pope's Hill

- Neponset Tribe was the original dwellers of Neponset
- Neponset/Port Norfolk is highly residential, isolated from the rest of Dorchester
- Pope John Paul II Park



- ### Upham's Corner/Jones Hill
- Upham's Corner has managed to develop enormously without displacing low income families, they have avoided gentrification in many ways!
  - Strand Theatre
  - Lots of great businesses and food!

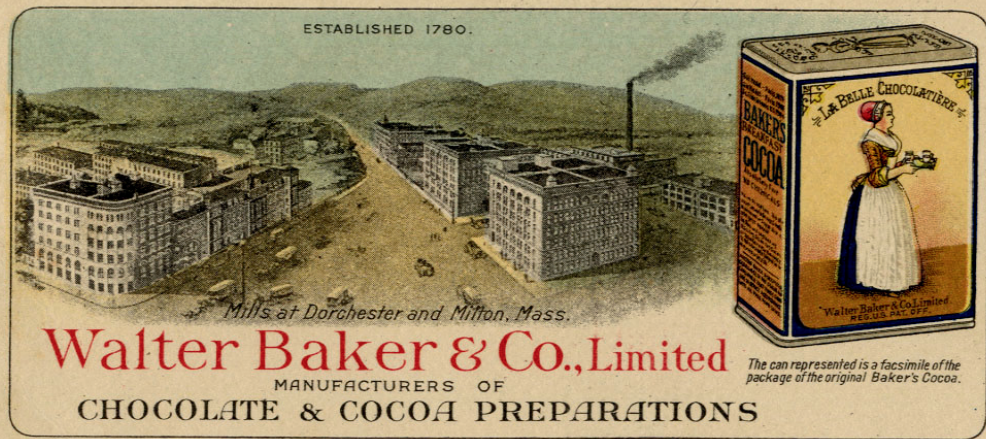


# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester

## Neighborhoods of Dorchester

### Lower Mills/Cedar Grove/Adam's Village

- Historical area stretching across Dorchester and Milton
- Industrial factory complex - Walter Baker & Co. the first major chocolate producer in the US
- Lots of pubs for those 21+
- Lower Mills waterfall
- Adam's Village is really nice to walk around
- Cedar Grove Cemetery in the fall



### Mount Bowdoin/Four Corners

- Used to be predominantly Jewish, but now is predominantly Hispanic and Black
- Great Caribbean food options - Mother's Rest Park



# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester

## Codman Square

- Codman Square is on the National Register for Historic Places
- Lots of neighborhood initiatives such as the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corp
- Codman Square Farmers Market
- Caribbean Jerk Festival
- Outdoor Movie Nights every week of the summer!



## Franklin Park

- Woodsy area that stretches across Dorchester, JP, Roxbury
- 527 acres, Boston's largest park
- Largest component of the Emerald Necklace
- Home to
  - Franklin Park Zoo
  - White Stadium
  - Harambee Park
  - Emerald Necklace
  - Bear Dens





# Neighborhood Spotlight: Dorchester

## Great Eats in Dorchester

- Caribbean Food
  - Singh's Roti Shop (Trinidadian)
  - Raphael's Restaurant (Jamaican)
  - Santo Domingo (Dominican)
- Vietnamese Food
  - Pho 2000
  - Banh Mi Ba Le
- Misc
  - Blarney Stone (Irish/American)
  - Shanti Indian Cuisine (Indian)
  - Restaurante Cesaria (Cape Verdean)
  - Down Home Delivery & Catering (Soul/Southern Food)



The

End.



if found, please return here:

Instagram/Tik-Tok: @asdbbu

Email: [asdb@bu.edu](mailto:asdb@bu.edu)

<https://asdbbu.wixsite.com/home>

