



LIVING ROOM
REALTY

Neighborhood Guide

Portland's neighborhoods are as diverse as its citizens, ranging from posh residential neighborhoods to lively areas with a more bohemian feel. This neighborhood guide features some of our favorite neighborhoods and should provide a good overview of the types of neighborhoods in the city. This guide is not exhaustive--let me know which neighborhoods in the guide sound good for you and I can probably make several other suggestions that may be even better. Have fun exploring the city!

North Portland

MISSISSIPPI in North Portland is one of those pockets of Portland that has become trendy in a relatively short time. Mississippi Avenue between Fremont Street and Shaver Street you'll find two popular establishments: The Rebuilding Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to recycling building material, and the Mississippi Pizza Pub, whose adjacent lounge hosts live music every night. But new sleek bars with shiny storefronts have sprung up all along the street.



At Failing Street, a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over I-5 connects Mississippi to the Interstate MAX stop on N. Interstate Avenue. This makes Mississippi a very attractive place to live: thriving local businesses, decent houses, and a quick train to downtown Portland. Freeway access to I-405 is also very quick.

Mississippi has a definite youthful, almost counter-culture vibe to it. The area should only continue to thrive as more people discover it, old buildings are renovated, and new development continues.

ST. JOHNS' downtown core has received a lot of new investment, as cool independent businesses have thrived or started up. Cafes, coffee shops, and retail stores fill historic buildings in a variety of architectural styles.

St. Johns is at the northwest end of the beautiful St. Johns Bridge. The main drag through St. Johns is N. Lombard St., which is a busy road



between St. Johns and the I-5 freeway. Another way into Portland from St. Johns is over the bridge and east on Highway 30.

UNIVERSITY PARK is near the small private Catholic college, the University of Portland. Despite the neighborhood's name, the university doesn't have an overwhelming impact on University Park. You will find a number of rental homes full of students, naturally more so than in other neighborhoods; there are surprisingly few apartment buildings around. But it's most definitely not a "college neighborhood" - you wouldn't know there was a college anywhere nearby unless you drive right past it. The campus sits at the south side of the neighborhood, overlooking the river. A few views such as that of the St. Johns and nearby Railroad Bridge are nice.

KENTON has exploded with activity recently. Houses are being remodeled, and shops and cafes are coming in. Kenton Park is a big beautiful park lined with huge old growth trees- and it's a good place for walking on the trails, playing baseball, basketball or other sports, walking your dog, or just laying in the sun. Most of these houses were built in the 1920' to 1940's, so there are plenty of classic historic homes, in styles ranging from Craftsman style, bungalows, old Portland and cottages.

Overlook--Overlook is just minutes to downtown by car, bike or MAX. The neighborhood has some big beautiful houses along wide, tree-lined streets. Some houses along the river have sweeping views. There are several commercial sections that are filled with trendy little cafes and eating places.

Northeast Portland

ALBERTA ARTS on NE Alberta Street has been transformed in the last ten years from an artist's enclave to a vibrant street full of popular cafes, bars, clothing stores, salons, and galleries, now known as the Alberta Arts district. On the last Thursday evening of the month, the galleries stay open late ("Last Thursday") and the cafes and bars are mobbed - a kind of street fair. This is Alberta's more laid-back answer to the Pearl District's "First Thursday" art crawl.



Two of Alberta's older anchor community businesses are the Community Cycling Center and the Alberta Cooperative Grocery, so the area has a definite community-involved attitude. Walk down the street and you'll see murals all over the place, giving Alberta a colorful feel.

The Street itself has a kind of split personality, with popular shops, cafes and galleries next to businesses such as glass companies, car repair shops, etc. But you can see a lot of investment has gone into the newer areas. There are also a couple of churches on the street and an old

American Legion Hall; the very prominent St. Andrew Catholic Church at the west end of the street stands out.

CONCORDIA has really come up these past few years. It has a lot of really cool old houses- English Tudors with leaded glass, inlaid hardwoods, arched fireplaces with built-ins. There are also Bungalows, Old PDX, Craftsman and other interesting styles. Concordia also is home to the Kennedy School, a McMenamins hotel-restaurant with several bars, a restaurant, a movie theatre, and a soaking pool.

BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE is a nice neighborhood is a few miles from downtown - in between the close-in urban neighborhoods and the outer-82nd Avenue neighborhoods. Beaumont-Wilshire feels a little more conservative and established than, say, the younger vibe that Alberta and Mississippi Avenue have. It has some very posh homes but, like most other Portland neighborhoods, some of the homes are smaller and more modest than others. NE Fremont street has a variety of retail shops, cafes, and restaurants within close proximity to houses.

HOLLYWOOD's main drag, Sandy Boulevard, a very busy arterial road whose heavy traffic limits the "cafe life" appeal of the area. Sandy is a diagonal street that runs at 45 degrees to the grid. The diagonal cuts off some of the blocks and make for some curious little islands with some small buildings crammed onto them. Driving along Sandy can be frustrating through Hollywood, because left turns are not allowed at most intersections.



For a Portland urban neighborhood, Hollywood is very car-oriented; perhaps that's because several busy roads intersect in the heart of Hollywood. At some point the retail district in Hollywood seems to have been heavily modified to accommodate the cars; unusual for a Portland urban neighborhood, many Hollywood businesses have small parking lots, in addition to street parking. This is very different than you would find in, say, NW Portland or Hawthorne, where you're largely limited to street parking.

Sandy has an eclectic mix of businesses: some interesting local icons such as the historic Hollywood Theatre (run by a non-profit, it now shows largely art house films) and a few bars and cafes.

North of Sandy, a few blocks from the retail district, you'll find a nice neighborhood area with beautiful homes, a "classic" Portland neighborhood.

LAURELHURST is one of Portland's original planned neighborhoods. Like Ladd's Addition, it has streets that are not quite on a grid. The area is considered one of Portland's more exclusive areas, with some nice, expensive homes.

Laurelhurst, unlike adjacent Portland neighborhoods, is not "mixed use" - it is completely residential. But there is a nice cluster of shops and restaurants to the west, around 28th and

Burnside. It also has on its southern border the beautiful Laurelhurst Park, which has a man-made lake. The busy 39th Avenue runs right through Laurelhurst and includes Portland's only real "circle" intersection at 39th and Glisan.

LLOYD DISTRICT is dominated by a large shopping mall, the Lloyd Center, plus a lot of restaurants. The Oregon Convention Center is in the area too, as is the Rose Garden Arena where the Portland Trailblazers play and many of the big rock concerts are held. Lloyd is almost entirely newer development and retail, with virtually no stand-alone houses.

The MAX train runs right through the area, and in Lloyd it's fareless square - a free, quick train ride to downtown Portland (or a few bucks to get to the airport in the other direction). You could quite easily live in this area without a car.

CULLY has a different feel from other "typical" Portland neighborhoods--larger lots and winding roads contain cute little bungalows and a lot of ranches. It's close in and has good public transportation either down Lombard or down Cully, which angles to the SW and becomes Sandy . It only takes about 10 minutes to get into downtown.

Cully is a culturally diverse neighborhood with a good mix of both commercial and residential areas. There is a good feeling of community and a lot of people are involved in trying to make it a better place to live. The Rigler Community Garden helps bring people together and is a good community gathering place.

Southeast Portland

HAWTHORNE — Many of the inner-Southeast Portland neighborhoods feel like neo-hippie counterculture areas, and the Hawthorne District is probably the most well-known of all the areas in SE. Hawthorne still retains its counter-culture feel but has become increasingly gentrified in the last few years.

Neighbors did organize successfully a few years ago to prevent a McDonald's from taking the place of an abandoned fast food building; it has now been replaced with a set of condos and first-floor retail shops.

The district is centered on Hawthorne Boulevard, a busy 2-way street. Although there are pockets of action (interesting restaurants and businesses) all along the street, the most condensed area is between 30th and 39th Avenue, where the McMenamins' Bagdad Theatre Pub sits across the street from a branch of Powell's Books.



Off the Boulevard there are many beautiful homes in the Richmond and Sunnyside neighborhoods, in the classic grid style with tall trees along the sidewalks.

LADD'S ADDITION is like another world. The roads are not set on a traditional grid but rather zig-zag around four little rose gardens and a circular garden right in the middle. Tall trees adorn the sidewalks of the streets entering the area.

Ladd's is a wonderful neighborhood to stroll through, especially when the roses are in bloom. Ladd's contains many beautiful single-family homes in a variety of architectural styles. The neighborhood is in close proximity to retail shops and restaurants on SE Hawthorne and Division.

SELLWOOD is a quiet neighborhood along the Willamette River south of downtown and slightly removed from it. Sellwood seems best known for its antique stores, but also has a variety of hip shops, cafes, and restaurants. Sellwood has a peaceful feel, and the same kinds of old classic homes you find in other Portland neighborhoods.



Southwest Portland

LAKE OSWEGO is full of huge mansions, smaller homes, and some condos and apartment complexes. The small downtown has some trendy, shops and restaurants, and many of the shops are locally-owned. The Lake itself is overlooked by bluffs that offer great views.

Some people simply don't like urban neighborhoods, even though Portland's are terrific. Living in Lake Oswego might be a good alternative - its a beautiful area. Lake Oswego high school is excellent also.



MULTNOMAH VILLAGE is one of the standout Southwest neighborhoods that has sidewalk cafe life and a fun feel. Nearby Hillsdale has some of this feel, too. Capitol Highway, a fairly busy road, connects Hillsdale and Multnomah Village. The "village" is at the intersection of Capitol and Multnomah Blvd, another busy road - but it is still pedestrian-friendly for several blocks in various directions.

The SW Portland neighborhoods have a much different feel from the flat, grid-like east side neighborhoods. Multnomah Village and Hillsdale are (not surprisingly from the name!) hilly and have curvy roads. There is no rail service but very decent bus service.

Nearby Gabriel Park is a terrific, huge park which also has a dog walking area. Wilson High School, one of the best in Portland, is also in the area.

Northwest

NORTHWEST PORTLAND has long been one of Portland's most desired neighborhoods for many reasons. One reason is that it is very close to downtown, so you can easily take a bus or train downtown, ride your bike, or even walk downtown. It is also convenient to several freeways if you are to commute anywhere. But Northwest is full of nice, well-maintained old houses as well as apartment buildings and an eclectic variety of retail businesses along NW 21st and 23rd Avenues.

NW Portland has been given the official name the "Alphabet District" even though locals don't use the name. It signifies that the streets in NW run alphabetically, starting with Burnside, Couch, and Davis. The area specifically around NW 23rd Ave is technically called Nob Hill, but again, few locals use this terminology.

THE PEARL is Portland's most talked-about trendy neighborhood of the last decade. Now a destination for upwardly-mobile young professionals, the Pearl was once an old warehouse district that was originally discovered by artists who coveted the cheap living and work space but soon became a magnet for developers to build new condo and apartment buildings, many of them in the foundations of old buildings. Up through the 1990's the area



still had railroad tracks previously used to move goods and beer (a brewery at NW11th and Burnside) out of the area, but these have now been paved over for streets. The area has since been completely transformed by all the new development - it is full of expensive restaurants and shops on the first level the shiny new mid-rise apartment and condo buildings.