

Raleigh Neighborhood Guide

Six Forks:

Housing:

The median home price is \$500,000. Rents can top \$2000/mo however, modest and corporate 1-2 BR apartments can be found from \$800-\$1300/month. The closer to the 540 Interstate you are, the more reasonable the rents.

Neighbors:

Young professionals and couples, many with children, are found here. Your neighbors make a good living in executive and sales positions. Most are homeowners and married with many established families in high-end single family homes.

Best for:

Rubbing elbows with those who have made high-end living a priority. Convenient commute to the Research Triangle puts you on the road with other professionals who are “movin’ on up.”

Vibe:

Suburban style. Think “Leave it to Beaver” meets “BMW.” College educated parents love the community feel for socializing and for kid-friendly, academically-oriented pursuits. Professionals in-the-making enjoy proximity to successful executives.

Downside:

Living in the lap of luxury has its price so the high-ticket rent may put some people off. The area is best suited for two-income families or urban professionals.

Can't Miss:

Kids (or kids at heart) will love the Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park which is 157 acres dedicated to nature and wildlife education.

Local Transit:

Get around in your own vehicle or work from home, these are the primary options for the professionals living her.

North Hills:

Housing:

You can find great studio apartments on up to 3 bedrooms with an average price of \$900/month. Most apartment homes include amenities such as a gym, pool, and beautiful reception and club areas.

Neighbors:

Great neighbors who you don't have to know. You'll be surrounded by other busy, friendly professionals but the push for "community" and over-socializing is not present. Socializing is casual, it's a great place to raise a family, and everyone more or less keeps to themselves.

Best for:

Spontaneous is the name of the game! The old mall was recycled into a shiny new outdoor mall and event center which offers places to eat, shop and play all year long. You'll never be far from entertainment and there is very little opportunity for boredom to settle in.

Vibe:

This is "Mid-town", located just outside downtown Raleigh and just before entering suburbia. Loaded with up-scale shops, dining experiences filled with ambience that will delight your eyes, and food that will satisfy your palate. An added plus is high-rise offices for city life just outside the city.

Downside:

Access to major highways is close, however; the commute to the Triangle area can be up to 30 minutes or more if the traffic is heavy. With premium rents and so much available to buy, do, and spend your money on you will enjoy having an income in the above-average range.

Can't Miss:

Weekly Farmer's Market at The Commons every Saturday. Local growers and producers gather with fruits, vegetables, seafood, cheese and baked goods.

Local Transit:

Although there are local office-type businesses, plenty of opportunities in the retail and restaurant industries, and the ability to work from home, most residents jump in their car and ride. Once the workday is over, there are plenty of places to get to on foot in and around the main area of town.

Wade:**Housing:**

Snuggled between Downtown Raleigh and Meredith College, you'll find modern rentals ranging from \$1000-\$2000/month for apartments and high-rise options. There is an almost equal mix of owners and renters with many older, well-established, homes with an average price of \$475K. Ah...the price you pay for lower than average crime rates.

Neighbors:

You'll find diversity and wealth here with almost 22% of your neighbors being from Asian ancestry, with a sprinkling of Scots, Irish, Germans, Italians, and English. College students are abundant as are the amenities that cater to college life.

Best for:

College students, young professionals, and two-income families that love a little spice and flavor in their life and don't mind being a part of the hip, trendy, sophisticated urban scene. While over half of residents are already married, if you're looking for a mate there are plenty of singles to be found.

Vibe:

A great place for getting down to business, doing some business, or building a business. Focused professionals enjoying the finer things in life.

Downside:

High dollar. If you're a starving student you may want to visit this area for play, but lay your head someplace else. The good news is that with so many great Raleigh areas, you won't have to go far to stay within budget.

Can't Miss:

Gather at the salad and hot bar for breakfast, lunch or dinner at the local Whole Foods on Wade Avenue. Don't get confused, the locals still call this place Wellsprings, the name of the original café in the same location.

Local Transit:

While there are some local bus stops that may get you to class on time, most workers use their own personal vehicles to get from point A to point B and back again.

Five Points:

Housing:

Located just northwest of downtown, the intersections that make up the 5-point may be confusing, but the residents know exactly who they are. Proud stewards of 1900's-era homes, you'll find lovingly maintained treasures from days gone by. Don't be surprised by the view of skyscrapers from some of the backyards. Rents are in the mid-\$800 range.

Neighbors:

Funky hipsters who love to be on the fringes yet close to the action. Incomes are in the upper-middle ranges and families in this area adore their large lots and homes with character ranging from 500 to 5000 square feet.

Best for:

If you love that "sense of place" and the idea of having walls that whisper about the history they contain, this is your place. You may not like to live in the center of the action, but you appreciate the short commute to enjoy it nonetheless.

Vibe:

Quiet and quaint down home sort of feel with a splash of unique shops and plenty of room for renovations. There is talk of making thoughtful commercial additions to the area without compromising the historic charm. For now, enjoy the eclectic mix of shops and hole-in-the wall bars.

Downside:

There is a charm to being in “Old Raleigh”, however because the homes were erected in the late 19th century there will be some that need a little care. For some shopping needs, you may need to travel downtown.

Can't Miss:

Home of the Rialto independent movie theater built in the early 1940's and infamous for its midnight showings of Rocky Horror Picture Show along with beer and wine offerings.

Local Transit:

The area is close the beltline so a hop, skip, and a jump will get you on your way. You are super close to downtown with many walkable neighborhood areas to explore.

Oakwood

Housing:

Located east of downtown Raleigh, this area has hundreds of historic homes with lower than average rents. Small apartment complexes offer choices averaging \$600/mo. There are also college dorms in the neighborhood.

Neighbors:

It's very likely a St Augustine college student will be your neighbor. It's just as likely your neighbor will be a homeowner who has painstakingly restored their historic home to its original beauty. Celebrate both as you meander up and down sidewalks and tree-shaded streets.

Best for:

If you love a sense of community, building a home showpiece, and gathering with your neighbors, you'll love the revitalized section of Oakwood. You're just outside the “big city” but you'll feel like you stepped back in time as you stroll the walkable streets.

Vibe:

The ebb and flow of the neighborhood fluctuate with the college semesters. The summer months slow down as students head home or head for a holiday. When school is in session, so is the activity.

Downside:

This area is in transition. Many of the historic homes from the 1800s and modest 1920's bungalows have been restored and preserved. Still, lower than average incomes have left some neighborhoods unattended giving a harsh visual impression and the urge to lock your doors. The transition is coming from fresh money into the area.

Can't Miss:

The community comes together twice a year for home and garden tours. In the winter, enjoy the Candlelight Home Tour. Neighbors decorate the interior and exterior of their homes, exuding pride and showmanship. Oh, and the walk to Krispy Kreme doughnuts!

Local Transit:

While many people commute to work by car, there is a good amount that choose to bike, walk, or take the bus.

Glenwood South

Housing:

Apartment and Condo living at its best. Recent college grads holding advanced degrees and decent jobs will enjoy the downtown location, access to nightlife, and new construction. Starting at around \$1000/mo, this is the 2nd most expensive downtown area.

Neighbors:

Spirit of Revival. Owners and tenants are working together through the Neighborhood Collaborative to make Glenwood the best it can be. Recent accomplishments include completion of efforts to make the neighborhood more walkable with better lighting and efforts to create greenways, bike corridors and water elements.

Best for:

If you love energy and constant activity this is your spot. Still in its growing stage, some say this will be the best destination in the Triangle Area. There are enough restaurants, bars, and nightlife to keep you entertained for quite a while.

Vibe:

Trendy Energy. Just west of downtown and south of Peach Street. Used to be a warehouse district, now becoming a nightlife/shopping/restaurant destination with new condo developments.

Downside:

Earplugs Optional. Because many condo residences are located above the booming nightlife, things could get noisy as you try to catch some Z's. Neighbors and businesses are trying to work together to keep the peace.

Can't Miss:

Pub with a view. Head upstairs at the recently renovated Hibernian Restaurant and people watch the activity below from their outdoor patio by the bar.

Local Transit:

You can walk the streets in the neighborhood and have plenty to see and do; however, when it comes time to earn a living, your car becomes your best friend (unless you work in the neighborhood or from home).

Brier Creek:**Housing:**

New growth with single family homes and condos. You'll find cozy condos as well as homes that may be dubbed "McMansions." Rents run from \$900 and up for luxury apartment housing.

Neighbors:

Most of your neighbors are middle-aged with and without kids and are considered young transplants. The Brier Creek Golf and Country Club anchors the community of this "mini-town."

Best for:

If you crave a traditional family feel set in a modern, master planned suburban neighborhood then take a look here. It's easy to shop local and even get local care at the neighborhood medical facilities.

Vibe:

Suburban life. There are 14 miles of sidewalks and walking trails meandering through the community. Wave to your neighbors, plan play dates with your kids, or just enjoy easy access to work, play and shopping.

Downside:

Everything is clean and fresh and new. This comes at a cost. Although residents enjoy the safe neighborhoods, activities, and the largest and most upscale shopping center, they also pay above average for housing.

Can't Miss:

Just off Glenwood Avenue on the Wake/Durham County line you'll find the Brier Creek Flea Market opened every weekend. Located next to Estatibles, which offers estate sale purchases, weekend vendors gather to offer even more goodies.

Local Transit:

Covering a large area, the best way to get around is by car. Conveniently located to the Triangle, many residents commute to work.

East Raleigh-South Park:

Housing:

You'll discover beautiful Craftsman, Colonial Revival and Neoclassical homes in this Historic African-American neighborhood. Great for working-class and middle-class budgets. Average rent for apartments and single family homes is \$500/mo.

Neighbors:

You neighbors will most likely be in the sales and service industries. Many rent their places rather than own. This could be due to the fact that many attend the nearby colleges. Some homes are vacant.

Best for:

Students who want to be close to any of the notable colleges in the area including Shaw University. Also great for those with a love history and sitting on a funky front porch to watch the world walk by.

Vibe:

Hope and Revitalization. This area has a lot of history that is set to be maintained. A tornado that touched down in 2011 heightened the need for restoration and some private efforts are under way. How advanced the revitalization efforts are varies from block to block.

Downside:

There are a lot of people sharing just 30 blocks of space. Although the area is in transition with new money coming in to spruce things up, there are still some vacant houses that cause some concern.

Can't Miss:

Because you are just a mile or two from the downtown area, put on your walking shoes or jump on your bike to explore downtown without having to worry about parking.

Local Transit:

Many people walk or take the bus to work or school. So leave your car worries behind and enjoy stretching your legs.

Crabtree Valley**Housing:**

Located in North Raleigh near the mall, you'll find apartments and condos on one end all the way up to high-end single family homes. Plan to spend about \$800/month for apartments and small units.

Neighbors:

Young families and retirees call this home. It's centralized with easy access to I440 so many people work in professional jobs and earn moderate to mid-level incomes.

Best for:

If commuting is not a concern then this could be perfect. Runners enjoy the Crabtree Creek Greenway that meanders through the community and has enjoyed some improvements and expansions.

Vibe:

Easy Life in Suburbia. Close to Cary (aka Containment Area for Relocated Yankees) but still in Raleigh.

Downside:

If you work at least 30 minutes from here, the commute could wear on you. Although 30 minutes is not a lot of time, traffic can back up with even the smallest fender-bender.

Can't Miss:

Be aware of what's going on at the mall. Along with shopping, you'll find events such as the Crabtree's Largest Cookie, a monthly book club that pontificates over wine and appetizers, and Holiday Victorian Carolers.

Local Transit:

This is a car-friendly area. You'll find that many people want to meet-up in and around Raleigh. The easiest and fastest ways to get there are by car even though some bus service is available.

Mordecai:**Housing:**

A small-ish historic neighborhood just north of central Raleigh shared by just over 3000 people, you will be neighbors-across time with our 17th U.S. President, Andrew Jackson. Rents can be found for \$900/mo with home prices started around \$300k and up and include historic and newer developments.

Neighbors:

You'll be surrounded by upper-middle class professionals and college students. The proximity to downtown, colleges, and walkability make the area desirable for non-commuters.

Best for:

Young professional families and students that want to walk to the city center and not live in a cookie-cutter styled house.

Vibe:

Urban hush. You definitely get an urban vibe with a blend of quiet neighborhoods. Hip, trendy and historic all in the same package.

Downside:

Many of the homes are being revitalized as young families and professionals breathe new life into the area. For those wanting to grab a hammer, there is still opportunity to fix something up and call it your own.

Can't Miss:

Be sure to experience everything that happens in and around Fayetteville and the heart of downtown Raleigh.

Local Transit:

Although this area is extremely walkable for local purposes, bussing and public transportation outside of the city center is available but not always desirable.

Not to Mention:***More Centrally Located for the Urban-at-Heart***

- Downtown – often referred to as “the little New York”
- Moore Square – right in the heart of downtown
- Apex – the “Best Small Town in North Carolina” is both historic and conveniently located to the Research Triangle.

Up-And-Coming Neighborhoods for the Suburban-Minded

- Stonehenge – North Raleigh – bridge clubs and Christmas light contests
- Cameron Village – Raleigh’s first planned community, located in Southwest Raleigh which has been dubbed the “Creative District”
- Carrboro – young people...”like a tiny Seattle without the rain”