

Housing & Living Guide:

BROWN MPA



THE WATSON SCHOOL
of International
and Public Affairs

BROWN UNIVERSITY

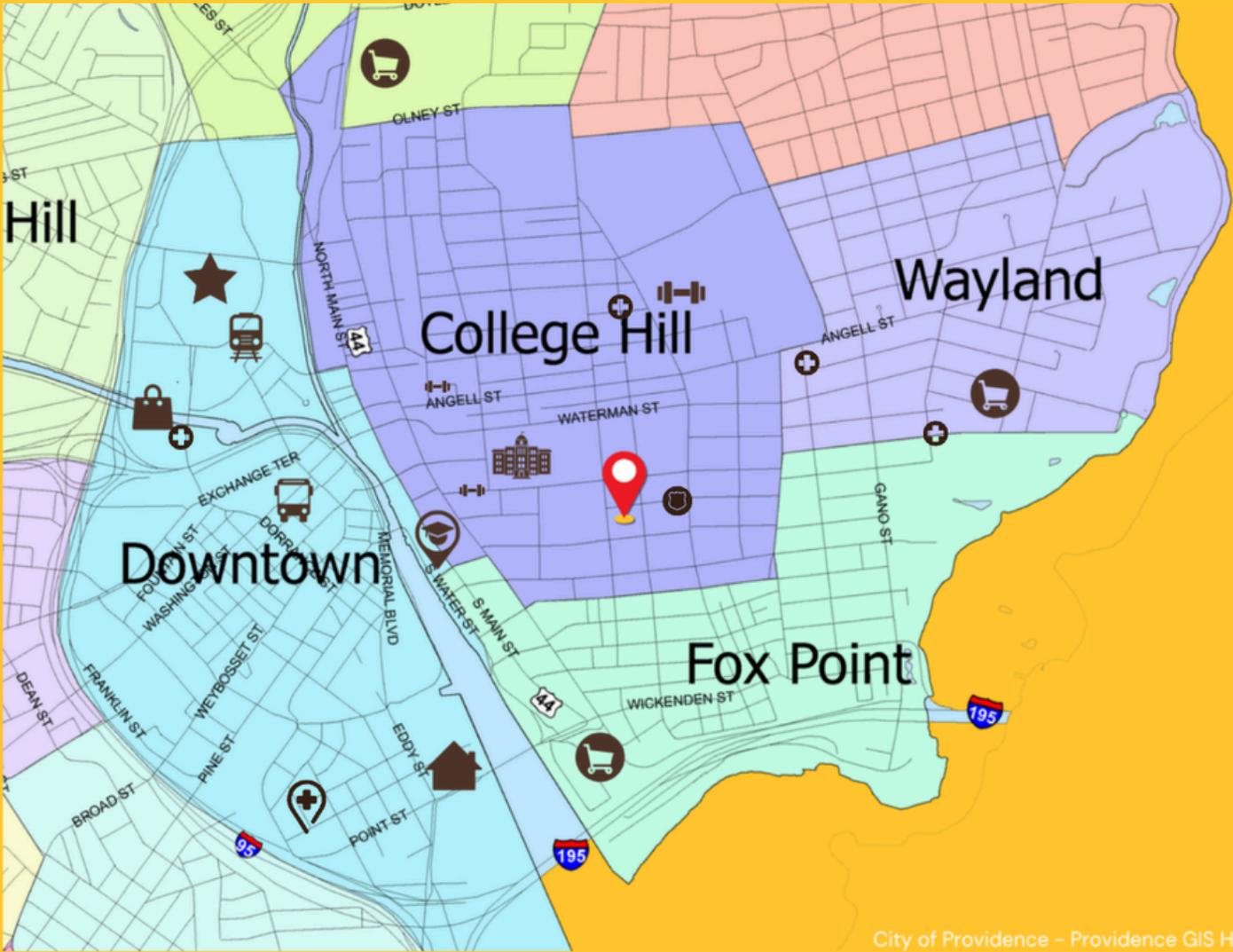


Welcome To

PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE AMENITIES



Watson School for International and Public Affairs



Grocery Store (Trader Joe's & Whole Foods)



Brown University Main Green



Providence Train Station



River House



Kennedy Plaza



Fitness Center



Providence Place Mall



Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)



Rhode Island State House



Pharmacy



Brown University Department of Public Safety



Rhode Island Hospital

NEIGHBORHOODS NEAR BROWN: THINGS TO CONSIDER



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College Hill

- *Closest to campus amenities*
- *Near Thayer Street*
- *Busier area with lots of students*



Steve Szydlowski - The Providence Journal

Wayland

- *Close to Whole Foods*
- *15-minute walk to campus*
- *Near shopping, restaurants, and cafes*



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Fox Point

- *Wickenden Street*
- *Near Trader Joe's*
- *Short walk to campus*



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Downtown

- *Further walk to campus*
- *More housing and apartment options*
- *Less of college/graduate feel*

Housing Options: **GUIDANCE ON SECURING HOUSING**



BROWN VS. PRIVATE HOUSING

Campus Housing

Brown University offers a variety of campus housing options:

- *Auxiliary Housing*
- *River House Apartments*



Facebook & Other Resources

Active student-led groups with posts seeking and offering housing:

- *Grad School Council GSBB Listserv*
- *Brown University Off-Campus Housing*
- *Brown Off-Campus Housing for Grad Students*
- *Brown Housing, Sublets, and Roommates*
- *Housing for Brown, RISD, J&W and Providence Young Professionals*

Rental Sites

- *Samson Realty*
- *Residential Properties*
- *Compass Realty*
- *RentProv*
- *Seaflower Property Group*
- *Zillow*
- *Google Apartments*

AVERAGE COSTS

Average Monthly Cohort Rent Range:

\$750-\$1,500

**depending on individual preferences*

Finance Links:

- [Brown Grad Student Funding & Support](#)
- [GradSense Budgeting Calculator](#)



Monthly Estimated Expenses:

- **Utilities: \$100-300**
- **Food & Groceries: \$250**
- **Transportation: \$100**
- **Books & Supplies (per semester): \$135**

**All numbers are approximate estimates based on past individual student experiences.*

TIPS FROM THE 2026 COHORT

- "All of the Auxiliary housing and many of the apartments on Thayer street come fully furnished. Check in with your landlord to see what your apartment comes with!"
- "Ask for up-to-date pictures of apartments for a realistic view of what you're getting."
- "Brown Auxiliary Housing on Brook Street is incredibly close Watson School Headquarters and extremely extremely convenient!"
- "If off campus, choose a place that's close to shuttle stops."

DINING AND TRANSPORTATION

Dining Options:

- Restaurant and take-out options on nearby Thayer St. & Wickenden St
- Brown University meal plans and eateries can be found on the Brown Dining website
- Brown offers a wide variety of food options/resources:
 - Bear Market Food Exchange
 - Brown's "Free Food" GroupMe Channel
 - GSC-Sponsored Brown Market Shares

Transportation Options:

- On-Call Shuttles do pick-ups and drop-offs at a number of grocery stores:
 - Whole Foods
 - Stop & Shop
 - TraderJoe's
 - Walmart
- RIPTA buses are also **free** to all Brown ID Card Holders!

RIVER HOUSE



Photo from SGA website

Securing Housing

- *Upon admission to the MPA program, join the River House waitlist immediately*
- *Call River House to inform them that you have an early move-in date*
- *Various unit layouts available: choose between studio, one bedroom, and two bedroom (cost varies)*

Considerations

- *20-minute walk to College Hill and Watson School*
- *7-minute walking distance to Trader Joe's*
- *Short walking distance to downtown Providence*
- *Shuttle bus runs 7 days a week*
- *Less accessible if you are unable to walk frequently*
- *Price range: \$1,025-\$1925*

MPA STUDENT AMBASSADOR ADVICE



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Join the [Graduate Student Council listserv](#) to learn about renting, subletting, and lease takeover opportunities from other Brown graduate students.



Hannah, MPA '26

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Be sure to sign up for and watch the [housing webinars](#) and other events for admitted students!



Ashley, MPA '26

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Use social media groups and admitted students day to connect with people who are also searching for housing (i.e., roommates, sublets, etc.).