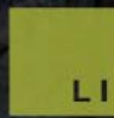


Jamaica Plain



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JAMAICA PLAIN

MSN lists Jamaica Plain among 10 'revitalized' US neighborhoods

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 2, 2011 12:13 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The Internet network MSN has listed Jamaica Plain among 10 "revitalized" neighborhoods from across the country.

In a [photo-and-text web gallery](#) published last week in the Microsoft-run site's "Real Estate" section, the Boston neighborhood is seventh on a list dubbed "[From blighted to bling.](#)" There is no explanation or methodology for how the list was compiled, nor does it claim to necessarily be a top 10, or ranked, list.

The gallery was created by [SwitchYard Media](#), which according to its website produces multimedia content for various web publications. The media company and its writer who compiled the list were not immediately available to comment Wednesday afternoon.

The list was released as [concerns stirred by a new grocery store](#) swirl over the current and future state of [gentrification in Jamaica Plain](#).

The slideshow [begins](#):

Run-down, dilapidated, crime-infested and drug-ridden are descriptors that homeowners typically avoid attaching to their neighborhoods — unless those terms describe what the area was like before its revitalization.

Now, many of the urban neighborhoods that were forsaken in the 1960s, '70s and '80s are staging a resurgence. Frequently, artists seeking affordable work spaces have been at the forefront of this urban renaissance ... Usually, it doesn't take long for developers to get in on the action.

About [Jamaica Plain](#), the list says:

A 1960s proposal to build a highway through the "southwest corridor" of Boston's Jamaica Plain

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neighborhood accelerated white flight to the suburbs. The road was never built, but during the project's planning stages, hundreds of businesses and families were uprooted, shaking the community.

Many of the former factory workers' homes turned over to Cuban, Dominican, and Puerto Rican immigrants, giving the neighborhood an eclectic mix. But abandoned factories left the neighborhood in a state of neglect.

The turnaround started in the late 1980s, when cheap rent attracted students, artists and a vibrant lesbian and gay community. In the past decade, conversion of commercial spaces into condos added to the neighborhood's appeal for new residents. Now Jamaica Plain, a 4.5-square-mile community, has become one of the hottest neighborhoods in Boston, leaving some local boosters wondering if they can afford to stay.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.



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