

Cambridge, MA Housing Stock Data

File Name: Housing Stock and Residential Properties by Neighborhood

Current as of: June 30, 2018

Source:

This data set derives from several sources. The primary source is a data dump from the Fiscal Year 2013 version of the VISION assessing data system, which provides data current as of December 31, 2011. The data set has further been supplemented with development information provided by building permits issued by the Inspectional Services Department, lodging house data from the Cambridge Licensing Board, and from data found in the Development Log publication. Data has been standardized, cleaned and corrected to conform to a modified version of the cadastral property GIS layer.

Data Collection:

To develop an accurate snapshot of the state of the Cambridge building stock, a full set of Assessing data current as of December 31, 2011 was downloaded to a Microsoft Access database. Data was then augmented, updated, and corrected using a variety of techniques and data sources. The revised data incorporate information on building permits, certificates of occupancy, lodging houses, and university owned housing, as well as Community Development Department information on the development pipeline. The data was further processed to conform to a modified version of the cadastral property GIS layer.

To assure equivalent treatment across the city, all apartment-style graduate student housing operated by local universities is included in housing and property counts.

Each of approximately 13,000 active land parcel records was assigned to a Cambridge neighborhood based on the center point of the property record as determined using ArcGIS. Neighborhood values were imported into the parcel database and compiled by neighborhood using a query.

Limitations of the Data

- *Differences between Information Sources:* Figures found in the data set may differ from other information available from the U.S. Census, the Community Development Department, or third party sources. A number of programs using different techniques that may produce varying results collect data on many of the topics found here.
- *Sampling Error:* Since all information in this data set is the product of a complete census of all land parcels no sampling error is present in the results.

- *Non-Sampling Error:* While we have endeavored to develop as accurate a snapshot of the status of the Cambridge housing stock as possible, the data used to compile this table is subject to various types of recording error, inconsistent record keeping for similar properties, incomplete or misinterpreted secondary data sources, and other forms of non-sampling error.

Notes on Fields

- *Dwelling Units:* These fields count the number of individual housing units found in properties of a certain size. For example, in East Cambridge (Neighborhood 1) there are 1,191 dwelling units located in properties containing from two to four individual units.
- *Properties:* These fields count the number of land parcels records that report a number of dwelling units falling within the range specified in the field title. For example, in East Cambridge (Neighborhood 1) there are 445 properties that include from two to four dwelling units.
- *Neighborhood Boundaries:* The 1953 planning study [Thirteen Neighborhoods: One City](#) formalized the neighborhood boundaries now in effect in Cambridge; official borders have remained unchanged since that time.

For More Information

For additional information about this data set contact the Cliff Cook, Senior Planning Information Manager, at 617/349-4656 or ccook@cambridgema.gov. For GIS related questions contact Brendan Monroe, GIS Analyst, at 617/349-4641.