The Best (And Worst) Places to Live
How we ranked the city's 140 neighbourhoods

The great thing about living in Toronto is that every neighbourhood comes with bragging rights. Rosedale has prestige schools. Trinity-Bellwoods is the capital for small-batch picklers. Etobicoke has low crime rates, Scarborough has lush parks, downtown has the most transit. Every neighbourhood has something going for it. But Torontonians are competitive, and we like knowing how we stack up.

To that end, we present a ranking of Toronto’s 140 neighbourhoods—a definitive document that separates the great from the good, the average from the awful. We teamed up with the urbanists, economists, sociologists and information scientists at the Martin Prosperity Institute, a think tank at U of T’s Rotman School of Management. They crunched every stat they could drum up: census data, community health profiles, the Fraser Institute’s school report cards, the Toronto Police Service crime figures and independent studies. We used the City of Toronto’s official neighbourhood breakdown, which you can examine in depth here.

The last time we ranked the neighbourhoods, in 2013, we conducted an online poll of Toronto Life readers to determine what they look for in their neighbourhoods. This time, we used the same criteria and weightings, but improved our methodology, adding new information and
more controls for land area and population. The city has drastically changed, and so have our rankings (to wit: Rosedale, the former champion, has dropped to number 18).

**We scored each neighbourhood in 10 categories, broken down as follows:**

1. **Housing (15%)**: affordability (cost versus income), appreciation (year-over-year change) and quality (how many homes recently required major repairs).

2. **Crime (13%)**: the number of incidents per neighbourhood by type

3. **Transit (11%)**: the number of overcrowded routes and TTC stops per square kilometre

4. **Shopping (11%)**: the number of groceries, hardware stores and pharmacies per square kilometre

5. **Health (10%)**: the number of cancer screenings and health care providers per capita, and the amount of air pollution, tree coverage and green space

6. **Entertainment (10%)**: the number of sports facilities, bars and restaurants per square kilometre

7. **Community (8%)**: the number of street beautification efforts per square kilometre, plus voter turnout

8. **Diversity (7%)**: the number and proportion of various ethnicities

9. **Schools (7%)**: the number of schools in each ‘hood, and their performance in the Fraser Institute’s report card

10. **Employment (7%)**: the number of jobs and businesses per capita, plus unemployment rates

For more detailed look at our methodology, please visit the [Martin Prosperity Institute’s website](#).

Of course, the perfect neighbourhood is a subjective ideal, so we’ve created an [interactive (and addictive) feature](#) that lets users create their own custom ranking by selecting and weighting their priorities. We’ve also included a smorgasbord of all the data we couldn’t let go to waste: tidbits about real estate, crime, money, schools, demographics and transit that help us better understand our city.

Some of our findings confirm what we already know—that wealthier neighbourhoods score higher for schools, that a huge number of jobs are downtown, that the suburbs are transit deserts. But there were also some surprises, especially in our top 10, which stretches across the whole city and features some rapidly emerging new players. So here it is: our mostly scientific,
wildly controversial ranking, one that pits east versus west, downtown versus suburb, neighbour versus neighbour. Let the turf wars begin.

The Ultimate Neighbourhood Rankings

1. Yonge-Eglinton
2. Casa Loma
3. Playter Estates-Danforth
4. Runnymede-Bloor West Village
5. Lawrence Park North
6. North Riverdale
7. Yonge-St.Clair
8. Mount Pleasant East
9. Cabbagetown-South St.James Town
10. Leaside-Bennington
11. The Beaches
12. University
13. Kingsway South
14. Danforth Village - Toronto
15. Mount Pleasant West
16. Old East York
17. Corsa Italia-Davenport
18. Rosedale-Moore Park
19. Thistletown-Beaumond Heights
20. Forest Hill South
21. Bay Street Corridor
22. High Park-Swansea
23. Wychwood
24. Lawrence Park South
25. Palmerston-Little Italy
26. Annex
27. Willowdale West
28. Waterfront Communities-The Island
29. Banbury-Don Mills
30. Woodbine Corridor
31. Moss Park
32. Church-Yonge Corridor
33. Bedford Park-Nortown
34. Humewood-Cedarvale
35. Lansing-Westgate
36. Roncesvalles
37. Centennial Scarborough
38. Little Portugal
39. St. Andrew-Windfields
40. Niagara
41. Caledonia-Fairbanks
42. Trinity-Bellwoods
43. Forest Hill North
44. Bayview Village
45. High Park North
46. Henry Farm
47. Long Branch
48. Blake-Jones
49. Hillcrest Village
50. Bayview Woods-Steeles
51. Briar Hill-Belgravia
52. East End-Danforth
53. Milliken
54. Dufferin Grove
55. Agincourt South-Malvern West
56. Guildwood
57. North St. James Town
58. Keelesdale-Eglinton West
59. Danforth Village - East York
60. Markland Woods
61. Pleasant View
62. Beechborough-Greenbrook
63. Rexdale-Kipling
• 110. Flemingdon Park
• 111. Oakridge
• 112. Elms-Old Rexdale
• 113. Victoria Village
• 114. Glenfield-Jane Heights
• 115. Dorset Park
• 116. Eglinton East
• 117. Black Creek
• 118. Maple Leaf
• 119. York University Heights
• 120. Eringate-Centennial-West Deane
• 121. Etobicoke West Mall
• 122. Cliffcrest
• 123. South Riverdale
• 124. West Humber-Clairville
• 125. Birchcliffe-Cliffside
• 126. Rockcliffe-Smythe
• 127. Scarborough Village
• 128. Kennedy Park
• 129. Parkwoods-Donalda
• 130. Morningside
• 131. Islington-City Centre West
• 132. Rouge
• 133. Woburn
• 134. Englemount-Lawrence
• 135. Clanton Park
• 136. Kingsview Village-The Westway
• 137. Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown
• 138. Downsview-Roding-CFB
• 139. West Hill
• 140. Westminster-Branson