



Published 23:04, December the 1st, 2009



Avenue in Dorchester has beautiful homes at a fraction of the price of homes in the South End.

Sawyer

Photo: NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

What to do when you're priced out

It may be a good time to purchase a home but prices in the Boston area are still some of the highest in the country.

For those of you with dreams of living in the heart of Tremont Street we check in with real estate agent, Paul Santucci of Boston Realty Advisors, who offers alternatives to the super-pricey, sought-after areas of the South End, South Boston and downtown Boston. Here's what we discovered:

East Cambridge vs. downtown Boston's high-rise, full-service buildings.

Naturally, East Cambridge doesn't have the panache that downtown does, but the luxury buildings average more than \$1000 per square foot. For full-service buildings, where the amenities include garage and concierges, East Cambridge has a handful that average about \$550 per square foot. The buildings in East Cambridge are next to the MBTA and a short walk to Charles Street. You can take advantage of the proximity to both Cambridge and Boston. The average two-bedroom at The Residence at the Ritz-Carlton Towers, Boston Common, is \$1.3 million. At OneFirst in Cambridge, you can buy a brand-new, two-bedroom for an average of \$621,000. East Cambridge is destined to rise in value due to its tremendous location.

DORCHESTER IS PRIME REAL ESTATE

For nicely renovated condo neighborhoods, Savin Hill and Jones Hill are a good bet. We are seeing newly renovated two-bedroom condos that are 1200 square feet for an average of \$286,000. South Boston averages \$420,000 for a two-bed condo of the same size. The South End buyer from 10 to 15 years ago is now looking in Dorchester and finding a wonderful combination of classic homes with contemporary amenities. One of the hidden gems in Boston is Sawyer Avenue. It is a tree-lined street with amazing views of Boston and incredible homes with modern finishes.

METRO/CW

CHRISTINA WALLACE

Your turn:



"Also worth noting is that in Q3 condos in the West of Dorchester were selling for an average price of \$87,803. So you can almost buy 3 condos in West Dorchester for what they cost in Northeast Dorchester. A huge difference!"

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