

## **What is a Neighborhood in the District of Columbia?**

Data about the District of Columbia that covers the entire City is readily available from a number of web sites and reports listed at [www.NeighborhoodInfoDC.org](http://www.NeighborhoodInfoDC.org). This makes for easy reporting of statistics for the entire City. In many cases, though, this information is not nearly specific enough. The District of Columbia is a city of neighborhoods, and conditions vary widely among the different neighborhoods. Obtaining data for these different neighborhoods presents a unique challenge. A nonprofit or government agency providing services to a particular neighborhood often defines a neighborhood by a particular set of street boundaries. Unfortunately, these street boundaries often do not coincide with any of the boundaries used by local and federal agencies charged with collecting data about the District of Columbia. In addition, nonprofit and government agencies may be using slightly different street boundaries, making comparisons difficult.

To help cut through this confusion, a brief overview of the different neighborhood boundaries that are defined by the DC Government and by the U.S. Census Bureau is provided.

### **Commonly Use Neighborhood Boundaries in the District on Columbia**

#### **City Council Wards**

There are eight City Council Wards that are used to elect members of the City Council. Data is often presented for City Council Wards in connection with legislation and policy work sponsored by specific Council Members, as well as by citizens that closely identify with the Ward where they live. The boundaries for City Council Wards were redrawn in 2002, which is important to consider when reviewing historical data. Ward 7 and Ward 8 are located east of the Anacostia River, and reports sometimes use an aggregate "East of the River" statistic.

#### **Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs)**

The 37 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) in the District of Columbia are subdivisions of the City Council Wards. Representatives from ANCs are elected to advise the District government on issues relating to zoning, social service programs, health, police protection, sanitation, and recreation.

#### **Neighborhood Clusters**

There are 39 neighborhood clusters throughout the city. Each individual cluster is made up of three to five neighborhoods. Neighborhood clusters are being used by the DC government for budgeting, planning, service delivery, and analysis purposes. In October 2002, the DC Office of Planning released Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans (SNAPs) for each neighborhood cluster. These SNAPs were developed by residents and neighborhood planners, and can be found linked on the web site for the DC Office of Neighborhood Action at <http://neighborhoodaction.dc.gov/> (or use this direct link: <http://neighborhoodaction.dc.gov/neighborhoodaction/cwp/view,a,1163,q,487308.asp>).

#### **Police District's and Police Service Areas (PSAs)**

There are 45 Police Service Areas that the Police Department currently uses to organizes its services. These PSAs are grouped into 7 Police Districts.

## **Census Tracts**

Census tracts are small geographic areas defined for collecting and reporting data from the U.S. Census. There are 188 census tracts in the District of Columbia. Census tracts are useful for zooming in on smaller areas. Multiple census tracts can be added together to create a neighborhood defined to closely match customized street boundary specifications. Note that census tracts are slightly changed every ten years. The census web site includes information about the changes. In addition, data presented for census tracts on the NeighborhoodInfo DC web site are adjusted so that census tracts are comparable across decades.

## **Census Block Groups and Blocks**

Each census tract can be further subdivided into smaller census block groups, or even smaller census blocks. These smaller areas are useful for seeing even greater detail than what is attainable by using census tracts. These small area levels of detail, however, contain less information because of concerns about privacy and confidentiality.

## **Zip Codes**

Data about businesses are often organized by zip codes, however, few other resources organize data this way. Zip codes do not neatly coincide with any local boundaries (Wards, Clusters, ANCs, PSAs). They do not overlap with census tracts well either. These incompatibility issues make it difficult to compare zip code data with other data sets.

## **NE, NW, SW, SE; Voting Precincts; School Catchment Areas**

Data in the District of Columbia is rarely organized by these areas. Quadrants are not connected to any set of political, planning or research groups. Voting precincts are a further subdivision of ANC's, and generally do not get used in planning or research. School Catchment Areas are a relevant geography, but data has not been organized this way in past years in part because the catchment area definitions were not available. In addition, because of school choice and student mobility, school catchment area definitions are of limited value for research and planning.

## Finding Where Your Specific Address is Located

In determining which of the above geographies you want to use, first you may want to know where a specific address is located. There are several tools available to assist you with this. One is the DC Guide, presented at <http://citizenatlas.dc.gov/atlasapps/reporhometab.aspx> (or visit <http://about.dc.gov> and click on "Where You Live"). Enter the address you are interested in to find out the Neighborhood Cluster, Zip Code, Ward, or ANC where your address is located.

DC Citizen Atlas Reports Home - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://citizenatlas.dc.gov/atlasapps/reporhometab.aspx?QString=>

DC HOME | DC GUIDE | RESIDENTS | BUSINESS | VISITORS | DC GOVERNMENT | Kids

WELCOME TO DC Guide

Anthony A. Williams

Find It | Get There | Where You Live | Make A Map

Enter Your Address  
2100 M Street, NW  
Example: 441 4th Street NW

MAKE REPORT

- Neighborhood Cluster
- Zip Code
- Ward
- ANC
- Neighborhood

powered by DC Atlas

Data Disclaimer

Government of the District of Columbia  
Citywide Call Center: (202) 727-1000  
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Washington, DC 20004

**Important:** this information is at the bottom of the page, scroll down to see it!

DC Citizen Atlas Report - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://citizenatlas.dc.gov/atlasapps/reports.aspx?SAR=T&ShowX=395959.56&ShowY=137510.519&name=2100%20%20M%20Street%20NW&QString=>

Dupont Circle Metro Station			Website
<b>Post office</b>			
Ward Place	2121 Ward Place NW		Website
<b>Public Safety Service Areas</b>			
<b>Police District</b>			
Police District- Third District			Website
<b>Police Service Area</b>			
Police Service Area 306			Website
<b>Schools</b>			
<b>Senior High School</b>			
Woodrow Senior High School	3950 Chesapeake Street NW	(202) 282-0120	Website
<b>Middle School</b>			
Francis Junior High School	2425 N Street NW	202 724-4841	Website
<b>Elementary School</b>			
Stevens Elementary School	1050 21st Street NW	202 724-4852	Website
<b>Political Boundaries</b>			
<b>ANC</b>			
ANC 2a		(202) 736-1775	Website
<b>Ward</b>			
Ward 2		(202) 724-8058 Email	Website
<b>Neighborhood</b>			
Connecticut Avenue/K Street Neighborhood			Website
<b>Zipcode</b>			
20036			Website
<b>Neighborhood Cluster</b>			
Cluster 6			Website
<b>2002 Voting Precinct</b>			
Precinct 4			Website

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