

# BRONXVILLE GUIDE



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# OVERVIEW

The charming, English-style village of Bronxville is nestled along the Bronx River in southern Westchester County.

Located in the Town of Eastchester, Bronxville's postal address encompasses small parts of neighboring areas. With lush green yards and towering trees, its close-knit neighborhoods have been the hallmark of Bronxville's history. They are lined with graceful and distinctive turn-of-the-century homes, including Tudors, Colonials and Victorian-styles, along with townhouses and apartments. Most are within a close proximity to the business district and railroad station.

Originally known as an "Artist's Colony" in the early 1900's, the village gained a reputation for its romantic design and "celebrity residents," especially in Lawrence Park, a district on the hill above the business district. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is recognized for its narrow, meandering stone streets and unusually shaped building lots.

A charming and lively downtown, with old-fashioned lamp posts, is balanced between the railroad station at one end and the Four Corners, a cluster of civic buildings, at the other. It offers an eclectic array of fashionable boutiques, specialty food shops, art galleries, antique shops, diverse restaurants, a triplex movie theater and professional offices, all within a few blocks.

Bronxville residents maintain a vibrant community spirit and appreciation for the enduring character of the village. They are dedicated to supporting its schools, library, government and local businesses. The village has succeeded as one of the nation's first planned communities that has been able to protect and enhance its quality of life. An award-winning school district, proximity to New York City, small-town comfort, aesthetically-pleasing topography and architecture, along with a tight-knit community, has earned Bronxville its reputation as a premier suburban village. As a noted historian has written, it is "a suburb that is copied but never matched."



## AREA

Approximately 1 square mile

## POPULATION

Approximately 6,500

## HISTORY

Local Native American tribes deeded the region to British colonists in 1666, however, the earliest settlement of Bronxville began in the 18th century, with residents who farmed and built factories. It was in 1890, when a wealthy pharmaceutical manufacturer, William Van Duzer Lawrence, set about creating an exclusive colony for artists, that the history of the modern suburb actually began. After purchasing an 86-acre farm, he commissioned William A. Bates to build a community of well-designed homes. Turning cow paths into curved, yellow-brick streets, while retaining giant elms, wildflowers and huge granite outcroppings, the two produced gabled Victorians and shingled cottages with verandas and porches overlooking the winding streets. Now called Lawrence Park, it set the stage for what would become a vibrant, well-planned residential community. With many prominent painters, writers and architects in residence, subsequent

building in Bronxville was just as lovely. Almost fully developed by the early 20th century, Bronxville benefitted from a sustained standard of architectural design and quality. Noted architects include Charles Lewis Bowman, Penrose Stout and Harry Leslie Walker.

Lawrence Hospital, the first Village Hall, much of the downtown area and nearby Sarah Lawrence College also owe their existence to William Van Duzer Lawrence.

## TOWN GOVERNMENT

Bronxville is governed by a Mayor and four Trustees who are elected to serve two-year terms. They adopt laws that protect the health, safety, property and general welfare of residents.

## TRANSPORTATION

**New York City:** 15 miles

**White Plains:** 9 miles

**Kennedy Airport:** 24 miles

**LaGuardia Airport:** 17 miles

**Newark Airport:** 30 miles

**Westchester County Airport:** 17 miles

Via Metro-North trains from the Bronxville station, the commuting time to Grand Central Terminal in New York City averages 28 minutes during peak rush hour periods.

There is bus service via Bee-Line, taxi service and Para-transit. The village is easily accessible to the Bronx River and Hutchinson River Parkways.

## LIBRARY

The Bronxville Library is housed in a Georgian-style brick building with porches, an art collection, exhibit galleries, fireplaces and a community meeting room. There is a special Teen Room for students in grades seven through twelve, and a Children's Room that offers programs for children from birth through grade six. Before the library was chartered in 1906, villagers enjoyed a small library room that was added to the Bronxville Model School in 1875. It was later moved into a new Village Hall Building, with the police station, firehouse and post office, yet residents hoped for a civic center that would include the school, library and municipal buildings. In 1942, their dream was realized, with the "Four Corners," as it is known today. It has since been redesigned and expanded. The library is a member of the Westchester Library System, which enables cardholders to borrow materials from any of the thirty-eight member libraries.

## EDUCATION

The Bronxville School District is comprised of an elementary school, a middle school and Bronxville High School, all housed on one campus, which creates an interconnectedness that allows students to form relationships and teachers to track students over the years. Specific limits at each grade level ensure small classes. The school district's philosophy centers on developing the potential of each child through a combination of traditional and innovative approaches that accommodate individual learning styles and rates of development. Students are encouraged to become independent thinkers and problem solvers.

The elementary school includes kindergarten through fifth grade. Elementary education is viewed as a process that engages the child's total self — physical, emotional, social and intellectual. Mastery of knowledge is important, but so is love of learning, self discipline, self-esteem, responsibility as a group member and creative expression. Special areas, which include Music, Art, Science and Physical Education, mesh with regular classroom learning.

The Bronxville Middle School, for grades 6 through 8, is designed to assist students in their transition from the elementary school to the high school. An Advisory Program provides an opportunity for a teacher/advisor to meet regularly with groups of students to provide effective mentoring and promote group activities. Each student is required to take Language Arts, History, Mathematics, Science and Physical education classes, and may select Band, Orchestra or Chorus. There are additional programs in Technology, Art, Drama, Word Processing and Home and Career Skills, and a modified sports program available after school.

The Bronxville High School is known for its challenging academic program for students in grades nine through twelve, who undertake a core curriculum that is taught at the Honors Level. The curriculum also offers a full range of Advanced Placement courses. Most students complete at least three years of Mathematics, Science and Foreign Language, in addition to the required four years of English and Social Studies and six courses in Physical Education. Students are encouraged to develop their creative talents and athletic abilities outside of the classroom and most participate in a variety of co-curricular activities. The High School sponsors a broad program in interscholastic sports, including male and female varsity teams. Other activities include several major drama productions, three school publications, school government, Jazz Band, Model U.N., Math team, Foreign Language Clubs, community service opportunities and special interest clubs. The overwhelming majority of high school seniors continue their education at institutions of higher education.



The Bronxville community has a long history of supporting public education. Yearly donations from the PTA and the Bronxville School Foundation have enhanced the excellence of the schools' programs. Parents devote time and energy to school activities and organizations.

## NATURE & CONSERVATION

The Bronxville Beautification Council works to enhance and maintain the natural and man-made beauty of the village with the planting of trees and flowers and a yearly "Beautify Bronxville Week." The Bronxville Historical Conservancy "records and preserves Bronxville's history and life in the village." Bronxville supports a New York State Advocacy program for legislation that would create a comprehensive energy program to address efficiency, conservation, renewable energy and green building. The village has strived to make similar commitments at the local level. Bronxville residents are dedicated to maintaining open space and recreational parks. Bacon Woodlands, located on Kensington Road, is a natural rock outcropping which has been left in its natural state, the flatter portion of which is used as an informal play area.

## COMMUNITY & CIVIC GROUPS

There are branches of National and Fraternal organizations, along with local clubs and philanthropic groups. They include, but are not limited to, the American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution, the League of Women Voters, Bronxville School Foundation, Bronxville Women's Club, Bronxville Youth Council, Junior League of Bronxville, Rotary Club, Lawrence Hospital Volunteer Services, Senior Citizens of Bronxville, Working Gardeners, Working Women of Bronxville, and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. The Friends of the Library focuses public attention on the library's needs and sponsors projects and events for its benefit.



## RECREATION & ARTS

In addition to programs and activities offered by the Town of Eastchester, Bronxville offers recreational options for residents of all ages that include court sports, child development programs, hobbies and gymnastics, along with community events, rental facilities for gatherings and many public areas for active play. A Bronxville sponsored day camp is attended by hundreds of children every summer.

Special community events include parades and celebrations for Memorial Day and other national holidays, sidewalk sales and festivals with live bands. Every Saturday from June thru mid-November and select dates throughout the winter there is a Farmers' Market with organic produce, jams, fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs and specialty items. Every Sunday from April to October, a seven-mile stretch of the Bronx River Parkway, from Bronxville to White Plains, is closed to automobile traffic for "Bicycle Sundays."

The village has over 70 acres of parkland, including athletic fields, woodlands and a small part of the Bronx River Parkway Reservation, Westchester's oldest park, with ponds, footbridges and hundreds of varieties of trees. Bicentennial Park, on Meadow Avenue and Pondfield Road, has been landscaped as an outdoor garden and is equipped with benches and paved areas. Bronxville's School Field, an eight-acre area owned by the Bronxville Public School, is equipped with a football field, three smaller fields, a running track and a "little tots" playground. Dogwood Park, a complex utilized by

the schools, includes five tennis courts, a tennis building, a children's play area and a sitting area. Maltby Park is a play area covering 2.6 acres with the Girl Scout cabin located in the park. It is a popular spot for paddle tennis. Additional recreational areas include Sagamore Park and Leonard Morange Square.

There are two colleges, Sarah Lawrence and Concordia, in the immediate area and several private clubs, including Siwanoy Country Club, where the first PGA championship was held, and the Bronxville Field Club. Bronxville residents may utilize the expansive Lake Isle Country Club, in nearby Eastchester, with golf, outdoor swimming pools and tennis courts.



## IMPORTANT BRONXVILLE CONTACTS

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 911  
24-hour Non-Emergency:  
914.337.0500

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: 914.793.6402

### POST OFFICE

119 Pondfield Road  
914.779.7092

### LIBRARY

201 Pondfield Road  
914.337.7680

### VILLAGE HALL

200 Pondfield Road  
914.337.6500

### HOSPITALS

**Lawrence Hospital Center**  
Emergency: 914.787.1035  
Main: 914.787.1000  
[www.lawrencehealth.org](http://www.lawrencehealth.org)

**Sound Shore Medical Center  
of Westchester**  
Emergency: 914.365.3770  
Main: 914.632.5000  
[www.ssmc.org](http://www.ssmc.org)

**White Plains Hospital**  
Emergency: 914.681.1155  
Main: 914.681.0600  
[www.wphospital.org](http://www.wphospital.org)

**Westchester County Medical Center**  
Emergency: 914.493.6000  
Main: 914.493.7000  
[www.wcmc.com](http://www.wcmc.com)

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Building and Public Works department: 914.337.7338  
Justice Court: 914.337.2454  
Bronxville Central School District:  
914.395.0500 • [www.bronxville.k12.ny.us](http://www.bronxville.k12.ny.us)  
Bronxville Historical Conservancy:  
[www.bronxvillehistoricalconservancy.org](http://www.bronxvillehistoricalconservancy.org)  
Bronxville Mayor: 914.337.6500  
Bronxville Village Supervisor: 914.337.6500  
Senior Citizens of Bronxville: 914.793.2222  
Tax Assessor: 914.337.6500

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amtrak: 800.872.7245 • [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)  
Beeline Bus System: 914.813.7777 • [www.beelinebus.westchestergov.com](http://www.beelinebus.westchestergov.com)  
Metro-North Railroad: 800.638.7646 • [www.mta.info/mnr](http://www.mta.info/mnr)  
Village of Bronxville: [www.villageofbronxville.com](http://www.villageofbronxville.com)  
Westchester County Airport: [www.whiteplainsairport.com](http://www.whiteplainsairport.com)  
Westchester County: [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)  
Westchester Para-transit: 914.995.2957

