

RIDGEWOOD & GLENDALE

Borough: Queens

District: 24

Location

Ridgewood and Glendale are located just north of a cluster of cemeteries in southwestern Queens, right at the borough line with Brooklyn. The two neighborhoods are south of Metropolitan Avenue with the old Long Island Railroad tracks between them. Ridgewood is east of Flushing Avenue (also a borough divider) and Glendale is west of Woodhaven Boulevard.

Transportation

L and M Trains

B13, B24, B38, B52, B54, B57, Q55, Q58 Buses

School Information

There are 20 schools located within Glendale and Ridgewood. The 16 schools listed below have three or more Fellows currently teaching there, averaging more than seven Fellows per school. The majority of the schools in this area qualify for Title I Funds and more than 65 percent of students in these schools on average are eligible for the free lunch program (see below). The majority of these schools also meet the Adequate Yearly Progress standards measured by New York State Department of Education. For more information about specific schools, you may visit the school report card section of the Department of Education's website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/daa>.

Fellows who work in Ridgewood and Glendale tend to live all throughout Queens, lower Manhattan, and northern Brooklyn. Please see the *Relocation Guide* for information on finding a place to live.

Please visit www.nycteachingfellows.org/mypersonalinfo/downloads/SchoolsBriefDescriptions.pdf for more information on Title I Funds, Free Lunch Program, and Adequate Yearly Progress.

| School Name | School Code | School Type | Grade Levels | Student Population | Number of Fellows | Percentage Eligible for Free Lunch |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Grover Cleveland High School | Q485 | High School | 9 - 12 | 3,035 | 16 | 40.30% |
| I.S. 73 W. Cowper Intermediate School | Q073 | Middle School | 6 - 8 | 1,684 | 10 | 69.80% |
| I.S. 77 | Q077 | Middle School | 6 - 8 | 1,275 | 15 | 82.00% |
| I.S. 93 Ridgewood Intermediate School | Q093 | Middle School | 6 - 8 | 1,356 | 13 | 77.50% |
| I.S. 119 Glendale Intermediate School | Q119 | Middle School | 6 - 8 | 1,072 | 8 | 38.60% |
| P.S. 87 Middle Village School | Q087 | K - 8 School | PK - 8 | 639 | 4 | 70.80% |
| P.S. 81 Jean P. Richter School | Q081 | Elementary | K - 5 | 1,196 | 9 | 85.90% |
| P.S. 91 Richard Arkwright School | Q091 | Elementary | K - 5 | 806 | 3 | 47.10% |
| P.S. 68 The Cambridge School | Q068 | Elementary | PK - 5 | 848 | 3 | 78.70% |
| P.S. 88 Seneca School | Q088 | Elementary | PK - 5 | 1,062 | 4 | 70.40% |
| PS 239 | Q239 | Elementary | PK - 5 | 837 | 4 | 80.40% |
| P.S. 153 Maspeth School | Q153 | Elementary | PK - 6 | 1,342 | 3 | 48.70% |
| P.S. 229 Emmanuel Kaplan School | Q229 | Elementary | PK - 6 | 1,248 | 5 | 48.20% |
| PS 58 The School of Heros | Q058 | Elementary | PK - 6 | 912 | 6 | 46.30% |
| P.S. 75 Robert E. Peary School | Q075 | District 75 | 9 - 12 | 365 | 9 | 66.10% |
| P.S. 9 Walter Reed School | Q009 | District 75 | K - 8 | 430 | 7 | 89.30% |

Neighborhood Demographic Data

Demographic data from 2000 New York City Community District Census Data

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Median Household Income | \$36,930 |
| | <u>Percent of Population</u> |
| Total population under age 18 | 24.4% |
| Ethnicity | |
| White | 55.5% |
| Hispanic Origin | 35.1 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 5.5 |
| Other | 2.6 |
| Black/African American | 1.3 |
| Total foreign born population | 34.2% |
| Total population not proficient in English* | 26.4% |

*Older than five years

Brief History of Glendale and Ridgewood

In 1642 the Dutch West India Company chartered the town of Fresh Ponds and all of Western Queens (Long Island at the time). It was a remote area filled with woods, swamps, and freshwater pools. While the English were ruling and settling Long Island, a Dutch farmer named Newtown settled west of the town of Fresh Ponds. Newtown's area was called South Williamsburgh, but its border would be disputed with Bushwick for over a hundred years.

In 1856 a reservoir was constructed on the Newtown-Bushwick border that supplied water to the city of Brooklyn. The body of water became known as Ridgewood's Reservoir, after its eastern source, the Ridgewood Ponds (now called Seaman, Wantagh, and Mill Ponds). Desiring a unique identity for the area, South Williamsburgh residents adopted the name of the reservoir for their town. When map printers applied the name 'Ridgewood' to an area larger than that of the town limits, the tight-knit community defiantly changed its name again to 'Evergreen,' after the large nearby Cemetery of the Evergreens. In 1910 the name Ridgewood was finally officially bestowed upon the area east of Bushwick.

A little further east, in the early 1860s, developer George S. Schott acquired a considerable amount of land in Fresh Ponds as repayment of a debt. As the Civil War drew to a close, he founded what is today known as Glendale, named after his hometown of Glendale, Ohio. At this time, the area's main occupation was still farming.

The extension of the Myrtle Avenue elevated train line through the area was responsible for community growth and a housing boom which began prior to WWI. Ridgewood became a hub for transportation and a mecca for new, beautiful, and detailed housing. Four major builders provided living space for the new residents, many of whom were German immigrants, whose numbers were so substantial, they spilled over into Glendale, becoming the majority there as well. Paul Stier, Walter Ring, Gustave Matthews, and Henry Meyer, Jr. created the entire row home area of Ridgewood. All 2,980 buildings now comprise the largest National Historic District in the nation. All of the builders used Kreisler bricks, which give the buildings their golden appearance.

In the late 1800s picnic grounds and beer gardens flourished due to the German influx. After WWI, these recreational areas closed, farming began to die out, and textile factories and breweries became the town's major employers. Each boom in industry attracted a new wave of immigrants of German descent.

The boundary identity crisis continued, however, as the Brooklyn-Queens border shifted several times over the years. Ridgewood and Glendale were being served by the Bushwick, Brooklyn post office and therefore were assigned a Brooklyn zip code. Businesses in the area at the turn of the century preferred it that way, because at the time, Brooklyn carried more prestige than Queens. However, after riots and looting devastated neighboring Bushwick during the Great Blackout of 1977, area residents sought to disassociate themselves from Brooklyn. In 1979 Ridgewood and Glendale received a Queens zip code.

These days Ridgewood and Glendale remain quiet, mostly working-class, mostly German neighborhoods where you can get a great sausage or a plate of rice and beans on the same block. Most of Glendale's Atlas Terminal at 80th Street and Cooper Avenue was torn down in 2004, and The Shops at Atlas Park opened in mid-2006. The center has 300,000 square feet of park, shops, restaurants, a 25,000-square-foot cinema, and 75,000 square feet of offices. The overall community is home to the largest German-American population in all of New York City, albeit dwindling. Immigrants from Poland, Italy, Latin America, Asia, and the Caribbean have recently been arriving in sizeable numbers.

**Information in this section is from the following sources:*

<http://www.forgotten-ny.com/NEIGHBORHOODS/ridgewood/ridgewood.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridgewood,_Queens

Cultural & Recreational Institution

The Greater Ridgewood Historical Society, 18-20 Flushing Ave

Further Research/Community Information

<http://queens.about.com/b/a/118785.htm>

http://www.villagevoice.com/nyclife/0232_garcia.37188.15.html

<http://onderdonkhouse.org/default.aspx>