

LOCAL NEWS

And the winner is: The best holiday lights in Greater Boston

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Researching your top five sites for holiday lights proved illuminating for our reporters.

But while there can be only one winner, all these locations make the season extra bright for their communities and visitors.

5) **Tower Hill Botanic Garden:** Fifteen lush acres tucked into Boylston, dotted with illuminated plants, paths, sculptures, fountains and light displays. There are fire pits for warm ups, cocoa and even adult beverages. (Note: This comes in at No. 5 because it's sold out for the season. Reserve early next year).

4) **Christopher Columbus Park Trellis:** For 18 years, the Friends of the Christopher Columbus Park have partnered with the Boston Parks Department to create this quick but immersive holiday display. Beginning at 110 Atlantic Ave., the trellis is hung with more than 50,000 blue and white lights and accented with 14 uniquely decorated trees. At the end of the walk, you walk out to the always spectacular view of the Harbor; this time of year with bursts of holiday lights of its own.

3) **Somerville Illuminations Tour:** Yankee Ingenuity: It's who we are. Few places show it as well as this tour, a collab between residents, art groups and businesses. This tour can be done by car or on foot using the special Google map created for the tour. Dress in your comfies, pack a Yeti of cocoa and click on the tour's podcast for background and description. Many must-see homes make this a diverse and lovely night of lights.

2) **Commonwealth Avenue Mall:** Called the "Spine of the Back Bay" since its creation in the late 1800's, the mall is a centerpiece to Back Bay holiday lighting. The sweetgum, green ash, maple, linden, zelkova, Japanese pagoda and elm trees look like magical sparklers bedecked with gold lights.

1) **Boston Common:** Call it the OG of Boston holiday lights, the Common stands as the top spot for the perfect seasonal vibe. Up there with the great holiday trees of the nation (The Rockefeller in NYC, The National Tree in D.C.), the tree, a gift from thankful Nova Scotians for 80 years now, is the center of it all. Beyond it, dramatic jewel-toned lights adorn surrounding Common trees, making for a memorable winter walk in the city. And the best backdrop: Our stately State House and its illuminated gold dome.

Tags: [Christmas](#)

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