



Greetings and welcome to our favorite St. Louis neighborhood! Once a clay pit providing materials to build thousands of brick home across St. Louis; Dogtown is now a friendly, walkable neighborhood with an Irish heart that boats restaurants, taverns, coffee shops, bakeries, ice cream and (most recently) a full service grocery store. The heart of Dogtown is roughly the intersection of West Park and Tamm Avenue, with the business district running to the North, St. James Catholic Church--the long-time spiritual anchor--to the South and residential areas all around.

## History

(The following information provided by the [Dogtown Pizza](#) web site)

### The Name 'Dogtown' Refers to the STL Mining Industry

Many people are familiar with the history of the Dogtown neighborhood will tell you an interesting tale regarding the origin of its name. The story goes like this:

During the 1904 World's Fair, which was held in St. Louis, the city had a lot of foreign visitors, including a lot of native peoples from all over the globe who were featured as living displays. One of those native peoples were the Igorots from the Philippines who apparently ate dogs as part of religious ceremonies, so they would kidnap and, well, feast on them in an area just outside Forest Park. Yikes. Fortunately, this legendary tale is just that—a legend. St. Louis did host the World's Fair in 1904. But the fact that [recorded references](#) to the Dogtown Neighborhood pop up as early as 1889 makes the Igorot theory highly unlikely!

The origin of the Dogtown name may be much simpler. The area that is now the Dogtown Neighborhood was a clay and coal mining community in the mid-19th century. You can see from historical records across the country that many

“Dogtowns” pop up where there was an active mine. In fact, the mining industry from this time period uses the term “dog” to refer to other things, as well. Terms like “doghouse” (small shacks near the mines that the workers would use for various things) and “doghole” (a small coal mine that employed 15 miners or less) were commonly used.

Theoretically, the miners could have had a lot of dogs guarding their homes (which was a common practice at the time and how the name “dogtown” came about in the first place).

### Dogtown Was Predominantly Irish for Almost a Century


From 1850 until the 1940's, Dogtown (which was then referred to as “Cheltenham”) was home to a large Irish population that had moved to this area when other parts of the city became too run down and crime-ridden. There was also work to be found there: the mines were the perfect opportunity for an immigrant to get to work and start making a living in America. Eventually Scullin Steel was built, which drew even more Irish—and [Italian](#)—immigrants to the area. Obviously, Dogtown is not home exclusively to the Irish these days, but you can especially feel the Irish spirit every St. Patrick's Day when a large parade runs from Forest Park (near the Zoo), up and down Tamm Avenue to Manchester Rd.



**We hope you enjoy your stay in our home-away-from home! Here are some nearby destinations you may want to check out:**

**The Basics: Food and Drink**

Lots to choose from in this category. Links are provided to save me from typing.

Basic Information	Insider Scoop
<p><a href="#">Fields Foods</a> – Grocery Store Located at Clayton and Graham</p>	<p>Full Service Grocery with specialty departments. Local products featured. Beer, Wine and Spirits available. Enjoy a class of beer or wine while you shop.</p>
<p><a href="#">Seamus McDaniels</a> –Bar and Restaurant Located at 1208 Tamm Ave. Closed Monday</p>	<p>Irish/Sports theme Large Patio with pull-down doors.</p>
<p><a href="#">Sweet-Ems Coffee &amp; Ice Cream</a> 6330 Clayton (easy to miss!)</p>	<p>Serving Cedar Creek Premium Ice Cream.</p>
<p><a href="#">Nomad Sandwich shop /Tamm Avenue Bar</a> 1221 &amp; 1227 Tamm Ave</p>	<p>Adjoined properties. Order food at Nomad (vegan friendly). Order drinks and eat at the bar next door. Elevated sandwiches. Large Patio. Local fave.</p>
<p><a href="#">Pat Connolly Tavern</a> 6400 Oakland Ave Closed Monday &amp; Tuesday</p>	<p>Landmark Irish pub with full bar and shaded patio. Classic bar food alongside upgrades.</p>
<p><a href="#">Heavy Riff Brewing Company</a> –Craft Brewery &amp; Restaurant 6413 Clayton Ave.</p> 	<p>Great Beers/Ales in many styles. Wine &amp; Spirits. Small but satisfying menu featuring house smoked protein, including vegan options. Large Patio under construction at last visit.</p>
<p><a href="#">Felix's Pizza and Pub</a> 6401 Clayton Ave</p>	<p>Super-sized NY-style Pizza by the slice. Full Bar. Craft beer. Spirited Vibe.</p>
<p><a href="#">Courtesy Diner</a> 1121 Hampton Open 24 Hours</p>	<p>Classic Diner fare. Order a St. Louis Tradition – The Slinger</p>
<p><a href="#">Hogtown Smokehouse</a> – BBQ 6301 Clayton Ave.</p>	<p>BBQ done well. Full Bar. Small Patio. Candied Bacon! If pork steaks are the special, give them a try—it's a St. Louis specialty!</p>
<p><a href="#">Stone Turtle Restaurant and Bar</a> 6335 Clayton Ave.</p>	<p>Upscale Gastropub. Menu sounds great.</p>
<p><a href="#">Sugaree Baking Company</a> 1242 Tamm Ave. Open Friday &amp; Saturday 11A M – 6 PM</p>	<p>True confessions – I haven't tried these three places. I will update when I do!</p>

<a href="#">The Cakery</a> 1420 Tamm Ave	
<a href="#">Comet Coffee</a> 5708 Oakland Ave.	Technically not in Dogtown, but walking distance (and worth it for the croissants!) Upscale (some may say snobby?) coffee. Delicious pastries.
Fast Food/Chains (All found on Hampton) Imo's Pizza Starbucks Steak-n-Shake Jack in the Box McDonalds	St Louis style thin "cracker" crust pizza

## What to Do—Where to go

Destination	Insider Scoop
<a href="#">Forest Park</a> North of Dogtown across Highway 40/64. Access Via Hampton or Tamm Ave. Forest Park was conceived to be a park for the people. Basic access to the museums, Science Center and Zoo are all free. (Please give, as you are able).	Classic urban park containing the Zoo, Science Center, Art Museum, History Museum, Jewel Box (greenhouse / botanical garden), Muny Opera outdoor theater, outdoor ice rink, paddle boat rentals, tennis courts, racquetball, handball, athletic fields, and two golf courses.
The World-Famous <a href="#">St. Louis Zoo</a> South entrance is on Wells Dr. North of Dogtown across Highway 40/64. Access Via Hampton or Tamm Ave.	Free. (Parking is pricey, but the Zoo is walkable from most of Dogtown). It really is world-famous. Known for its conservation and education efforts as well as its animals.
<a href="#">St. Louis Science Center</a> 5050 Oakland Ave Closed Tuesday & Wednesday	Interactive exhibits, Omnimax theater, planetarium and travelling exhibits.
<a href="#">St. Louis Art Museum</a> 1 Fine Arts Dr. Closed Monday	One of a hand-full of buildings that was present during the 1904 Worlds Fair held in Forest Park.
<a href="#">St. Louis History Museum</a> 5700 Lindell Blvd Closed Monday	Well crafted exhibits concentrating on the local side of history.
<a href="#">St. Louis Shakespeare Festival</a> Forrest Park near the Art Museum (June—Check web site for details.)	Shakespeare in the park. Free (or pay for reserved seats). Food and beverages available or bring your own picnic.

<p><a href="#">The Muny</a> Outdoor theater featuring live shows from Broadway past and present.</p>	<p>A St. Louis summer tradition for over 100 years! For seven weeks, travelling shows perform under the stars. Check the website for the line-up. Locals know about a small section of free seats at the back of the seating area. Get there early and bring a picnic!</p>
<p><a href="#">Turtle Park</a> Playground</p>	<p>A fun place to let the kids (or the kids at heart) climb around on large turtle statues...and one snake (!)</p>