

Lighting

The Brookline Preservation Commission considers original light fixtures such as lamp posts, lanterns, hurricane lamps, and sconces to be irreplaceable elements of a property's historic and structural character. Further, the Commission encourages homeowners to maintain historic patterns of exterior lighting, minimizing the number of fixtures to reduce light pollution that is not in keeping with the character of Local Historic Districts. These guidelines reflect the extra consideration homeowners must take while installing or altering any fixtures seen from a public way, park or body of water:

- Lighting is meant for utility and safety purposes, with limited placement in and around: patios, walkways, stairways, or entrances. Exterior path lighting should be designed to direct light downwards. Lighting should not be used to solely illuminate landscaping or building facades, with up-lighting generally not allowed. Some light fixtures should be shielded to prevent glare.
- Applicants are encouraged to be cognizant of existing public street lighting and not unnecessarily supplement it.
- Whenever possible, the Commission requires the location of electrical conduit and junction boxes to be not visible from a public way.
- The Commission encourages owners to limit the usage of light fixtures that are on all night to mitigate light pollution.
- The Commission encourages retaining, maintaining and repairing original light fixtures. Replacement of these original fixtures should be consistent in: design, style, material, and location.
- Energy efficient bulbs should have the warm color palette of incandescent bulbs.