Open Space & Recreation Plan

CITY OF BOSTON

2015–2021

BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

Open Space & Recreation Plan 2015–2021

CITY OF BOSTON

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January 2015

Acknowledgments

The many residents who use the parks and open spaces of Boston, attended the numerous community meetings over the past two years, and submitted input, comments, and suggestions to us through surveys and by correspondence, in large part wrote this plan. They made their recommendations known and shared their invaluable insights and knowledge.

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We also thank Valerie Burns and Vivien Li for their assistance and review in the drafting of the Community Gardens and Harbor Open Space chapters, respectively. There are many other community members, too numerous to mention, who reviewed and commented on sections of the plan draft. We thank them as well.

We also thank the Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information Services (MassGIS) for their provision of data that we used for our own GIS system.

We want to thank former Associate Commissioners Raymond Foley and Susan Park for their years of service to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City.

Note: Data provided in the open space property inventories and the maps contained in this plan were developed for general planning purposes only, and as such are the best available data. However, readers are cautioned that use of such data may not be appropriate or sufficient for legal, design, or other site-specific purposes. For such purposes, only research in the Registry of Deeds or other appropriate offices, property surveys, and field-checked research can be considered appropriately reliable.

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Letter from Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Dear Friend,

It is my pleasure to present the City of Boston's Open Space & Recreation Plan 2015–2021. This document would not have been possible without the contributions of thousands of Bostonians through public meetings, responses to the Open Space Plan survey questionnaire, and participation in the Open Space Plan Summit. As with our parks system, this plan's development was supported by our outstanding park partner organizations and fellow public agencies. I especially want to thank the hardworking members of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for their leadership on this effort.

Thanks to iconic figures like Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, Boston's history is one of foresight in parks, recreation, and open space. From the balanced beauty and functionality of the Emerald Necklace to Joseph Lee's preeminent role in the playground movement, our city's leaders knew that dynamic growth would need dynamic public spaces. They supported development with parks and play areas that would provide resilience, health benefits, and better livability to Boston.

Boston's growth today requires that same foresight, leadership, strong action, and the support of our people. The public input in creating this document has made clear that a healthy open space system is essential as the city grows. A rational plan is needed to guide our work as we manage the current assets of the open space system and create new places to enrich and support our city's growth. This Open Space and Recreation Plan provides that guidance and will be a major contribution to the development of our new citywide plan, Imagine Boston 2030.

Advances sought by this plan will also reinforce city efforts in other realms as well: housing, economic and neighborhood development, health, infrastructure, climate mitigation and adaptation, arts and culture, and environmental well-being. This plan will help achieve our vision of increasing our outstanding quality of life, a hallmark of our great city.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

Section 1

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Boston's open space system is dynamic, historically significant, and critical to the quality of life for its residents. America's first park, Boston Common, played a vital role in the beginnings of our country, but it is also a neighborhood park with a playground, off leash dog areas, skating rink and tennis courts. The Common is also a regional destination where millions annually attend festivals, concerts, learn history and enjoy Shakespeare. Its more than 600 trees and rolling lawns provide vital green space benefits to an increasing densely populated downtown. The challenge of balancing historical significance and aging infrastructure with sustainable design and heavy use may not be unique to our city. It is, however, the penultimate challenge for our stewardship of Boston's open spaces. The Boston Parks and Recreation Department mission focuses on access, equity and excellence- so that every neighborhood is home to beautiful spaces that serve both the people and the environment.

This Open Space Plan (OSP) provides the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) an opportunity to assess Boston's current system. The analysis of collected data informs an action plan that will guide our efforts through the year 2021. It will inform investment, programming, operations, citywide initiatives, and evaluation of ongoing policy work. Through our inventory and analysis of existing open space (Sections 4, 5, and 7) and our extensive public input process (Sections 2 and 6) we found that the city currently features:

- Exceptional walkable access to our existing open spaces
- Disparities in the quantity and quality of open space available to residents from one community to the next
- A treasured system of historic parks and sites
- Linear parks, parkways and greenways that provide a connective fabric through the city

In addition, three broad challenge areas are present throughout the plan: *Open Space Access and Quantity; Open Space Quality; and Climate Change and Resilience*.

Open Space Access and Quantity

Boston is a mature but rapidly growing city. If the rate of growth remains constant (the MAPC "Status Quo" Scenario – see page 3-32), the city's population will grow by 3.7% by 2020 and by 7.6% by 2030. Mayor Walsh's Housing Report (*Housing and a Changing City, Boston 2030*) projects a city population of 700,000 by 2030. To maintain our open space ratios as they are today (7.59 acres per 1,000 residents), the city would need to add another 173 acres of protected open space to our inventory by 2020, plus 451 additional acres by 2030. A city as built out as ours makes this level of acquisition particularly daunting. We will need to identify new open space opportunities through planning, development, and partnerships. A siloed approach to green space will no longer suffice. The City will look to the public right-of-way and other properties to provide pedestrian and bicycle amenities, shade, seating, and gathering spaces.

Critical to the OSP's success will be its integration into the Boston Redevelopment Authority's master planning process for the city- Boston 2030. As we evaluate potential impacts, BPRD must also advocate for a stronger relationship between building development and open space development. Strategies must be employed that aggregate open space provisions into larger, multi-purpose facilities for public use. Our city's projected growth has the potential to widen disparities in open space distribution. Many of the densest neighborhoods will be experiencing additional residential development, increasing pressures on existing parks. These inner core neighborhoods offer few opportunities for the creation of new recreation areas. Strategic assessment of potential new park spaces, an enhanced public realm, and strong connections to existing green spaces from these neighborhoods are paramount. Collaborative planning with other agencies is key to these efforts.

Open Space Quality

Equity is a core component of the BPRD mission and our parks must be equitable not only in their distribution but also their quality. Park quality includes environmental, health, social, economic, and aesthetic factors. Some of these factors are explored in the coming chapters, others are highlighted in our Action Plan, and all will require an ongoing analysis. This analysis will enhance our understanding of how our park system serves the public through the quality of its open spaces. The multiple uses and values of open space are discussed further in Section 2. What cannot be achieved through creating new park land must be realized through improving and sustaining the quality and functionality of existing resources so that these spaces can meet or exceed the level of service city residents and visitors expect.

Designing and sustaining high-quality parks is one of the highest priorities of the OSP. Stewardship is at the core of the work that park owners and managers undertake. Stewardship activities include capital reinvestment, maintenance, renovation, restoration, and historic preservation. However, BPRD must also place a renewed focus on innovation as an activity. Best practices, partnerships and operations optimizations must be explored, implemented and evaluated to ensure quality throughout our system. This work requires significant annual funding to sustain, and these investment needs will climb with population growth and increased impacts on park facilities. BPRD must diversify its sources of investment to ensure an equitably high quality parks system.

Climate Change and Resilience

This OSP complements the 2014 City of Boston's Climate Action Plan. These two planning efforts share fundamental objectives to improve quality of life in the city while reducing carbon emissions and preparing for climate change. Bolstering the city's green infrastructure systems can help us withstand and temper the impacts of climate change through storm water absorption, tree canopy benefits, and walkable access to active and passive recreational facilities. Expanded open space systems can provide physical buffers to increasingly powerful storms, support systems of non-vehicular transportation, and mitigate the health risks associated with warming urban environments. Parks and open spaces are central to the future health, resilience and livability of our city. The Open Space Plan will guide us in making informed decisions to improve our city in the years to come.

These challenge areas, *Open Space Access and Quantity; Open Space Quality; and Climate Change and Resilience*, are complex and interrelated. However, they are not intractable. Section 8 of the OSP introduces three goals that will lead BPRD's responses to these and other challenges presented to our parks system. These goals are:

- Steward the exceptional open space system that the City of Boston has inherited;
- Envision and create an accessible and equitable open space system for Boston's future; and
- Enhance the urban natural environment and improve quality of life and well-being in the city.

The objectives and action items presented in Section 9 provide the means to track the Open Space Plan's success. Over the next seven years, the assessment will be as important as the implementation. By evaluating progress on a routine basis, the BPRD will be able to take corrective action when needed. We will also be able to celebrate our successes. We look forward to working with all of you to build a better open space system for Boston.

Section 2

Introduction

"The future of Boston lies in its parks and open spaces. Our parks bring people together, diffuse social pressures, educate and strengthen our children, cool our planet, keep us healthy, and add economic value to our endeavors. They can become a powerful organizing force for advancing our city's image."

Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Transition Team Report on Energy, Environment and Open Spaces, April 2014

Section 2.1:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

What is Open Space?

Open space is commonly defined as lands that are not developed for building purposes. The term is synonymous with "green space" and can include parks, natural areas, athletic fields or courts, plazas, waterfront areas, community gardens, and cemeteries. The City of Boston Open Space Plan uses a broad definition of open space to incorporate all publicly owned or accessible parks and green spaces. Ownership of these open space properties varies from the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), to myriad other land holders like the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), the MBTA, and the State Department of Transportation (MassDOT). Some privately-owned open spaces are publicly accessible (Q Park in South Boston for example) and those too are acknowledged in this plan. Institutional landholdings encompass a large portion of the privately owned undeveloped lands in the city, though public access to these places varies. These campus green spaces are also included in the Open Space Plan due to their environmental and conservation value, potential recreation value, and visual qualities that contribute to the landscape character of the city. Open space ownership and protection status is presented in Section 5: Open Space Inventory.

Value of Parks

Public parks and open space contribute to our sense of place in the city. Parks express our history and culture, cultivate community by drawing people to a shared space, and connect us with the natural world. Green spaces offer opportunities for citizens to directly engage in shaping public space through stewardship, participation in park activities and events, and community design.

Park Benefits

The value of open space extends across multiple arenas, providing health, economic, environmental and social benefits.

Health benefits of open space include access to opportunities for physical activity for children and adults, as well as access to the mental health benefits associated with the restorative aspects of green space. Urban trees offer health benefits by improving air quality and creating cooler environments which make our city more livable year-round. (Source: Quantifying the Contribution of Public Parks to Physical Activity and Health by the National Recreation and Park Association)

Economic benefits of parks are multi-faceted as well. Parks increase property values of nearby homes, which in turn benefits both the city and those residents. Many of Boston's parks are cultural destinations, contributing to the economic engine of tourism. Parks are venues for programmed activities that provide economic benefits to the city, and help sustain a quality of life in the city that's highly valued. (Source: The Economic Value of City Park Systems by the Trust for Public Land)

Environmental benefits of open space extend from buffering increasingly extreme storm events, absorbing stormwater run-off and reducing strain on traditional infrastructure systems, to providing shade and cooling as well as carbon sequestration from tree canopies. Urban parks and open space systems also support wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for city dwellers to engage with the natural world.

Social benefits of parks are largely supported by public access and ownership of these spaces. Public spaces provide a platform for civic life including protests, rallies, events, and gatherings. Public parks are shared spaces where neighbors come together to create communities, and where the diversity of urban life is celebrated. Parks provide venues for arts and performance of all scales. These spaces also hold cultural meaning for their role in the history of our city and our nation as well as their role as a stage for contemporary events. Privately owned parks and open space can offer health, economic and environmental benefits, but the full spectrum of social benefits of parks are only found in the public foundation of these places.

The Open Space Plan takes a full accounting of all green spaces in the city which enables us to understand the system we have in place and envision the open space we need in our city's future. Boston is amidst a time of population and development growth, and we are benefitting from the open space vision our predecessors provided for this city over a hundred years ago. As we look to Boston's future, we must embrace the value that these spaces bring to our lives and ensure that they are sustained.

Open Space and the Public Right of Way

Lands which are primarily used for transportation are not typically classified as open space (i.e. roads and right-of-ways), but these spaces can offer public value for active and passive uses in addition to their transportation services. Reconceiving of city streets as "Complete Streets" allows us to transform this traditional infrastructure into green infrastructure offering multiple benefits for city residents including plantings, gathering areas, bikeways, and walkways in addition to traditional transportation and utility needs. The roadway system has the potential to provide green connections to and between parks which enhances the value of all open spaces. In some ways, these links between green space and roadway space increase the value of each as shade, pedestrian access and animated activity nodes are spread throughout the city. In other ways, it is important to regard the city's parks and open space system as unique and discrete from these other networks. The social, health, economic and environmental benefits of park lands cannot be replicated, even in exceptionally designed streets. These public spaces can work together and complement each other, but expansion and

improvement of the city's street network should not be considered interchangeable with expansion and improvement of the city's park system.

The following resources can provide further information and research findings on the benefits of urban parks:

National Parks and Recreation Association – http://www.nrpa.org/research-papers

Trust for Public Land – https://www.tpl.org/research-library

Landscape Architecture Foundation, Landscape Performance Series – https://lafoundation.org/research/landscape-performance-series

Centers for Disease Control Parks, Trails and Health Resources – http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/parks_resources.htm

University of Washington Green Cities: Good Health – http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: Landscape and Urban Health Laboratory – http://lhhl.illinois.edu

Section 2.2:

PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

As the owner and caretaker of the largest and most complex municipal park system in the Commonwealth, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department has, over the years, taken a suitably multi-layered approach to public participation in developing the current Open Space Plan.

We developed three methods of engaging community input for this new 2015-2021 Open Space Plan. One method used a survey questionnaire to elicit information about use of the city's open spaces and the preferences and changes desired by respondents, which included residents and non-residents who stated they used parks in Boston. The survey was available both online and as a hard copy for those without internet access. Approximately 3000 survey responses were received and incorporated into the Analysis presented in Section 6, Community Vision.

A second method was the provision of an email address (openspaceplan2015@cityofboston.gov) specifically designed to accept comments throughout the planning process. These emails were reviewed and comments incorporated as appropriate into the plan.

The third method was sponsoring public meetings in all the neighborhoods, as well as a citywide public forum held at the main branch of the Boston Public Library at Copley Square, which has excellent transportation access. The first series of community meetings was held in June and July 2013. The citywide public forum was held on the evening of November 13, 2014. The second series of community meetings was held in July through September 2014. Comments received at these events were recorded and later evaluated for incorporation as appropriate into the plan.

These public processes reached out to green space advocates, the average citizen in the neighborhoods, other city agencies and non-governmental organizations, all with the goal of gaining maximum input, as we looked to the future of open space in Boston.

We used various means of notification to alert interested parties to these public participation processes. For the survey, we used multiple email blasts to notify the public to its availability. Target audiences for the email blasts included:

- 150+ Park Partner Organizations
- Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
- ONS Early Notification System (the city's own city-wide email blast system)
- City Clerk's Office
- BPS System Wide Employee News Blast
- BPS System Wide Community News Blast
- All City Councilors and State Representatives for Boston Districts
- City of Boston Main Streets Organizations
- Various Community Groups
- Churches throughout City of Boston (via fax, email, and post-card mailing)
- City of Boston Parks Department Facebook and Twitter Accounts
- All Special Events and Athletic Permit Holders

- Boston Redevelopment Authority
- Department of Neighborhood Development
- Boston Transportation Department
- Boston Public Works Department
- Banner on the City of Boston Webpage

Posters and handbills were distributed to all branches of the Boston Public Libraries and all Boston Centers for Youth and Families (aka Boston Community Centers), as well as many non-profit agencies and churches.

A City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department press release about the survey was issued. A notice among the rotating banner items was provided on the City's website home page. A special webpage on the Parks Department website (http://www.cityofboston.gov/Parks/openspace) served as a portal to the online survey and promoted locations for the availability of the hard copy surveys. A notice on the Parks Department home page also alerted viewers to the survey. All community design review meetings for park projects during the survey period gave notice to attendees of the survey's availability. We promoted the survey at events such as the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's Multicultural Festival and the Boston Elderly Commission's Walk. Parks staff appeared on air for announcements about the survey on radio stations MIX 106.3 ("Today's R&B and Classic Soul") and BigCity 101.3 (urban/hip-hop music), and on Chronicle, the nightly newsmagazine of Boston television station WCVB, TV-5.

The first series of community meetings that gave background information on the Open Space Plan also alerted attendees to the survey availability; meeting notification via notices to local newspapers and email blasts also mentioned the availability of the survey.

The survey availability period was extended one month to October 31, 2013 to broaden participation further. Notification of this extension was sent via email blasts and a press release.

The survey was also mentioned in the pre-event promotion of the panel discussion about the Open Space Plan that was held at the Boston Public Library at Copley Square in November. The panel discussion also featured a open-ended discussion with members of the public in attendance.

After the survey period was closed, Parks staff analyzed the data and prepared Section 6, Community Vision. The total responses analyzed were 2,998, which compares favorably with the 1,105 responses for the survey prepared for the 2008–2014 Open Space Plan.

A second round of community meetings was held in neighborhoods throughout the city from mid-July to early September 2014. Besides giving background on the Plan and an update on its status, a prominent feature of the meeting presentation was highlighted results of the survey. The presentation, including the survey results, stimulated lively discussion between the meeting attendees and the Parks Department staff presenters. The Department presenters recorded the responses, as well as providing paper input forms for those who wished to provide written input instead. Also presented was the Open Space Plan's email address for sending us written comments. The Open Space Plan webpage mentioned above also served as the portal to the pdfs of the neighborhood presentations so that those who could not attend their neighborhood meeting could see the presentation and provide their input by other means.

These comments were reviewed and considered as we finalized preparation of the Draft Open Space Plan 2015–2021 for pubic release. The draft plan was released on October 23, 2014 with the comment period ending on November 26, 2014. Again a Department press release was issued to notify the public of the draft availability and comment period, as well as an extensive email blast protocol that replicated the target audiences as noted above for the survey, plus all those who attended the community meetings and gave us their email address were also sent a notification email. A notice appeared on the Parks Department home page about the draft release and comment period, which linked to the Open Space Plan home page that served as a portal to the draft plan.

Using the same email address for comments during and after the survey period, the Department accepted email comments on the draft. Once the comment period ended, Parks staff reviewed and considered the comments as we prepared the final revisions to the Plan.

We also used other means to incorporate community input:

- As various chapters of the Open Space Plan were completed in draft form, these drafts were circulated among community persons with experience and special knowledge of that specific chapter. For example, the chapter on community gardening was vetted by persons active in the community garden movement.
- The Parks Department's ongoing capital improvement program typically schedules two to three advertised community meetings for each capital project. Through that process, community residents will often bring up additional open space-related concerns that are incorporated into the plan.
- On a daily basis, public input is literally only a telephone call away as various units at the Parks Department – from planning to maintenance – field numerous messages from our users on how we are doing and what can be improved.
- Within the Parks Department, preparation of the Open Space Plan has been led by the Design and Construction Unit, but with participation from other units and divisions within the Department. To ensure expert comment and input, the Design and Construction Unit also distributed various draft chapters of the plan among city officials.

Thus, by using the existing plan as a platform to be updated, and incorporating traditional outreach methods with the newer internet-based communication methods, we have combined the best of various methods to achieve a plan that is reflective of public input and responsive to public need.

Section 2.3:

ENHANCED OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

Boston is an immigrant city and a majority-minority city. This contributes to the following statement made in Section 3, Community Setting: "Boston meets the criteria for being defined as an environmental justice community. The total population of Boston that fell within an Environmental Justice Block Group was 456,403 or 74% of the population."

In light of this phenomenon, our public participation process has assumed that every community, no matter its demographic composition, should be treated like an environmental justice community, and that all our outreach throughout the city is enhanced outreach for environmental justice communities.

So while our entire public participation program for the public was enhanced to reach out to environmental justice populations, and that program was described in the previous Section 2.2, Planning Process and Public Participation, we will highlight here the more assertive measures we undertook to reach out the environmental populations.

In Section 2.2, we mentioned that there were three major methods of engaging community input for the 2015–2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The first method mentioned, the survey questionnaire, was translated into six other languages, in addition to English. These six languages were recommended by the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, an agency which focuses on the needs of newer immigrants living in the city: Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Brazilian Portuguese, and Cape Verdean Creole. The survey in all seven languages was made available online and as a hard copy paper version, and notification to appropriate news outlets in all communities, including environmental justice communities, was also made. Paper (hard copy) versions were distributed to all neighborhood Boston Public Library branches and to Boston Community Centers located in most neighborhoods. The collection period of May 4 to October 31, 2013 was a period for the public when they are most aware of the parks and open spaces in their neighborhoods.

Notices about the survey and the opportunity for public input and comment were provided via press releases to citywide and local newspapers, some radio appearances by Parks Department community outreach staff, and via the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services Electronic Notification System; news outlets, radio stations, and neighborhood groups in environmental justice neighborhoods were included. To further reach out to environmental justice communities, Parks staff appeared on air for announcements about the survey on radio stations MIX 106.3 ("Today's R&B and Classic Soul") and BigCity 101.3 (urban/hip-hop music), and on Chronicle, the nightly newsmagazine of Boston television station WCVB, TV-5.

The Parks Department held a series of public meetings in each neighborhood (most of which are environmental justice communities) during the survey collection period to outline the process of developing the Open Space Plan and to encourage participation in the survey. In addition to hosting this series of meetings, Parks Department staff attended various events and forums such as Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's Multicultural Festival, the Mayor's Annual Health and Fitness Walk for Seniors, and the ONEin3 Council (for persons in the 20 to34 age range), where publicizing the survey yielded more public input from these underrepresented age groups. In all methods of notification and at the end of the questionnaire itself, the public was made aware of the opportunity to also convey their opinion and input in writing, beyond the limitations of the survey questionnaire, to an email address specific to this planning process.

Another method was sponsoring public meetings in all the neighborhoods including environmental justice communities, as well as a citywide public forum held at the main branch of the Boston Public Library at Copley Square, which has excellent transportation access. The first series of community meetings was held in June and July 2013. The citywide public forum was held on the evening of November 13, 2014. The second series of community meetings was held in July through September 2014. Comments received at these events were recorded and later evaluated for incorporation as appropriate into the plan. As with the survey collection phase, notices about the meetings and the opportunity for public input and comment were provided via press releases to citywide and local newspapers, some radio appearances by Parks Department community outreach staff, and via the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services Electronic Notification System. All notification went out to environmental justice communities, as they form the majority of communities in the city.

Section 3

Community Setting

Section 3.1:

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Physical Location and Watershed Address

Geographical Location

Boston is in eastern Massachusetts on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, at the westernmost point of Massachusetts Bay where the Mystic, Charles, and Neponset Rivers meet the sea. Boston is located within two major watersheds, the Boston Harbor Watershed and the Charles River Watershed. The Boston Harbor Watershed includes the Mystic River sub-watershed to the north and the Neponset River sub-watershed to the south. These watersheds are further described in Section 4.3. It sits at latitude 42.3581° N and longitude 71.0636° W. The lowest point of the city is at sea level. The highest point is at Bellevue Hill in West Roxbury which is 325 feet above sea level. The city has 48.4 square miles of land (not including islands) and 41.2 square miles of water. The City of Boston is the county seat of Suffolk County and the capital of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Boston is bounded on the north by Chelsea Creek, the Mystic River, and the Charles River, and by the Town of Winthrop, the City of Revere, the City of Chelsea, the City of Everett, the City of Somerville, the City of Cambridge, and the Town of Watertown. It is bounded on the west by the Muddy River and the Charles River and by the City of Newton, the Town of Brookline, the Town of Needham, and the Town of Dedham. Boston is bounded on the south by the Neponset River, and by the Town of Milton and the City of Quincy. It is bounded on the east by Boston Harbor, Dorchester Bay, the Neponset River, and the Boston Harbor Islands.

Communities of Boston

The city is made up of many neighborhoods, but for the purposes of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, sixteen (16) communities were used: Allston-Brighton, Back Bay/Beacon Hill, Central Boston, Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Fenway/Longwood, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Mission Hill, Roslindale, Roxbury, South Boston, the South End, and West Roxbury. Many of these communities were once cities or towns that were annexed.

Impact of Location

The region as a whole is known as the Boston Basin, the lowlands and Boston Harbor surrounded by a series of hills. These hills, the Blue Hills to the south, the Arlington Heights to the west, and the Middlesex Fells to the north, define this outer rim. The Shawmut Peninsula, where the City of Boston began, was the center of this circle, and where the major rivers of this basin (the Mystic, Charles, and Neponset) radiated toward, making this a strategic location from which people, goods, and services could spread. Glaciation produced lowlands and drumlins, both inland and in the Harbor. The coastline is deeply embayed and varied. This containment by the rim of hills and the radiating rivers made the center of the region–Boston–uniquely poised to serve as its economic engine, becoming a major port and transportation hub. Charles Eliot's regional park plan built on these regional assets, and sought to preserve the hills and lands along the rivers and coastline for the future enjoyment of the region's population, home to almost one-third of the state's population.

Adjacent Land Uses and Resources Shared with Neighboring Communities

Boston is linked with its municipal neighbors by infrastructure, commerce and education, and also by the larger regional system of open spaces and natural areas. The summary below specifically notes natural and environmental resources that are shared between Boston and adjacent communities from north to south. Appendix A presents further information about adjacent land uses in the communities around Boston.

Town of Winthrop

In Winthrop are large conservation properties owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the town including the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, the Fort Banks Playground, and a cemetery, while across Belle Isle Inlet in East Boston are the large open spaces of Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, Constitution Beach, and Wood Island Bay Marsh.

City of Revere

Two areas in Revere that are across the Belle Island Inlet from East Boston are Revere-owned open space. The Suffolk Downs racetrack straddles the border of Revere and East Boston. The portion of East Boston that is adjacent to Revere includes the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. The riverbank of Chelsea Creek continues northward from East Boston to Revere.

City of Chelsea

The common natural resource shared by East Boston and Chelsea is Chelsea Creek. However, industrial and commercial uses dominate both shorelines, with the exception of the Condor Street Beach urban wild in East Boston. The common natural resource shared by Charlestown and Chelsea is the Mystic River. In this segment of the Mystic River, industrial and commercial uses dominate the Charlestown side, while the Chelsea side is dominated by a city park (O'Malley Memorial Park).

City of Everett

The common natural resource shared by Everett and Charlestown is the Mystic River. The uses on both sides of the river are industrial, commercial, and transportation, with the exception of Ryan Playground on the southern side near the Alford Street Bridge (Route 99). The land adjacent to the Alford Street Bridge in Everett is currently designated to be the proposed Wynn Everett casino.

City of Somerville

The natural resource shared by Somerville and Charlestown is the Mystic River. The portion of Charlestown that abuts Somerville includes the MBTA Bus Barn which sits on the riverfront adjacent to Assembly Square, a large development area.

Harbor Islands
EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
SOMERVILLE
Charlestown
East Boston
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
Central Boston
Allston-Brighton
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Fenway/Longwood
South End
South Boston
BROOKLINE
Mission Hill
NEWTON
Roxbury
Harbor Islands
Jamaica Plain
Dorchester
West Roxbury
Roslindale
Mattapan
QUINCY
Hyde Park
MILTON
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles
N
City of Boston
MAPC Region
Regional Context:
Communities within Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

City of Cambridge

The shared natural resources between Boston and Cambridge are the Millers River and the Charles River. Parkland predominates on either side of these water bodies.

Town of Watertown

The shared natural resource between Boston and Watertown is the Charles River. Parkland predominates on either side of the river.

City of Newton

The natural resource shared by both Newton and Allston-Brighton is the Charles River. Not only this is by virtue of each area abutting along the southern side of the river, but also hydrologically, as the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, a large municipal open space in Newton, is in the watershed of Chandler Pond, one of Boston's remaining fresh water bodies.

The Charles is also shared by Newton and West Roxbury, hydrologically connecting the DCR's Cutler Park and Boston's Millennium Park.

Town of Brookline

The primary natural resource shared by Brookline and Boston (Mission Hill and Jamaica Plain) is the Muddy River and the parklands on its banks known as the Riverway and Olmsted Park. Other wooded or open spaces along the Brookline/Boston border include those associated with Showa Institute, Daughters of Saint Paul, Lawrence Farm, Allandale Woods, Leatherbee Woods, Hancock Woods, and Blakely Hoar Sanctuary.

Town of Dedham

The major shared natural resources with Dedham and Boston include the Charles River, the Mother Brook, and the Neponset River. Most of Sprague Pond is in Boston, but its southern tip lies in Dedham. Natural areas and open spaces along these resources include DCR's Cutler Park, Havey Beach, the Fowl Meadow, and the Neponset River Reservation, Boston's Millennium Park, Dedham's Riverdale (Kehoe) Park, Condon Park, and Mother Brook Park, and private cemeteries.

Town of Milton

The Neponset River is the major shared natural resource for Milton and Boston. The Neponset River Reservation straddles much of both the Milton and Boston shorelines.

City of Quincy

The Neponset River is the major shared natural resource for Quincy and Boston. The Neponset River Reservation straddles some of both the Boston shoreline. The DCR Pope John Paul II Park, Port Norfolk Park, Tenean Beach, and Victory Road Park are located on the Boston side, and Squantum Point Park is located on the Quincy side.

Socio-Economic Context

Boston is the largest city in the state, and the largest city in New England. In 2010, Boston had a population of 617,594, making it the 22nd largest city in the U.S. Boston has a land area of 48.4 square miles making it the second smallest major U.S. city in terms of land area, after San Francisco. Boston has a population density of 20.3 persons per acre, which is greater than Chicago at 18.6 persons per acre.

The city is the anchor of the Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which is the tenth-largest in the U.S., with a total population of approximately 4,640,802. The Boston-Worcester-Manchester/Nashua Combined Statistical Area is the fifth largest in the U.S. with more than 7.6 million residents. This CSA represents the commuting region of Boston.

Boston is among the most economically powerful cities in the world. Pricewaterhouse Cooper (Hawksworth, Hoehn, and Tiwari 2009) notes that the Greater Boston metro area has the sixth-largest economy in the country and the twelfth-largest economy in the world. The *2011 Global Economic Power Index* by noted urban planning theorist Richard Florida (2011) ranked Boston as sixth in the world in terms of economic power, behind Tokyo, New York, London, Chicago, and Paris.

The *2013 Economy Report* by the BRA summarizes Boston as follows:

> "At the start of 2013, the overall demographic and economic health of Boston is strong. The City's population is growing, becoming increasingly diverse, and more educated. These population trends position Boston well for competing in the global knowledge economy. In terms of jobs, Boston appears to have weathered the most recent economic downturn well. While unemployment and job losses were issues here, the effects of the recent recession were not nearly as severe in Boston as they were throughout the U.S.
>
> Over the last year Boston experienced significant job growth. Recent building permit data lends further support to the notion that the Boston economy is moving forward following the "Great Recession." Local employment projections suggest that Boston's leading industries are poised for strong growth over the next several years, particularly in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and also Education and Health Care." (BRA, Research Division 2013)

With the strong presence of several institutions of higher learning and research hospitals, which attract private investment and businesses, the City of Boston is positioned to maintain its momentum for being an economic engine that attracts capital and people, which thereby generates pressures for development and the need for further open space protection and development.

Regional Watershed Planning Efforts

Regional watershed planning efforts include those of the Boston Harbor Watershed and its Mystic River and Neponset River sub-watersheds, and the Charles River Watershed.

Documents were reviewed for applicability to this Open Space and Recreation Plan, and for potential partnerships, programs, planning and projects. The documents are summarized in Appendix C.

Regional and Municipal Planning Initiatives

In addition to the watershed planning efforts referenced above, federal, state, regional, and municipal planning initiatives were reviewed for applicability to this Open Space and Recreation Plan. The documents reviewed are summarized in Appendix D.

Regional Land Trusts

Boston is served by several national, regional and local conservation organizations and land trusts, which work in partnership with smaller nonprofits.

The Trustees of Reservations

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) is the nation's oldest regional land trust, dedicated to preserving properties of scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts. The organization cares for more than 100 places statewide—nearly 25,000 acres. Through the incorporation of the Boston Natural Areas Network as of 2014, The Trustees has transformed the Network's holdings into its new Boston Region. This Boston Region holds more than 175 community gardens, the Leatherbee Woods urban wild in West Roxbury, and an agricultural preservation restriction on part of Allandale Farm in Jamaica Plain. (TTOR Undated)

The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has protected nearly 14,300 acres of land in Massachusetts since 1980, primarily through acquisition assistance and advocacy. The land protection and enhancement efforts in Boston have included Thompson Island, the East Boston Greenway, playgrounds such as Elmhurst Park, and community gardens such as the Berkeley Street Garden. (TPL Undated) The TPL also releases an annual Park Score Index which rates the provision of parks in the 60 largest cities in the US. Boston tied for third place in 2013, when 50 cities were ranked; in 2014, with 75 cities considered, Boston is ranked eighth. (TPL Undated)

Massachusetts Audubon Society

Founded in 1896, the Massachusetts Audubon Society is a completely separate organization from the National Audubon Society. It engages in research, education, advocacy, and natural land protection and management. It has nature sanctuaries statewide. The organization owns a 67-acre portion of the former Boston State Hospital site in the Mattapan-Roslindale section of Boston, known as the Boston Nature Center. The center includes two miles of trails, one mile of which is universally accessible. Per their website, the grounds are "home to over 150 species of birds, 40 species of butterflies, and more than 350 species of plants." It also contains the Clark-Cooper Community Garden, the largest and one of Boston's oldest. Year-round educational programs help inform Boston's residents of their natural surroundings. (MAS 2015) A "green" building houses its staff and programs, built with funds from the George Robert White Fund, which is managed by the City of Boston Trust Office.

Resources of Regional Significance

Resources of regional significance located in Boston include the parks of the Emerald Necklace, the Charles River Reservation, the Neponset River Reservation, the Stony Brook Reservation, the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, the Dorchester Shores and Old Harbor Reservations, the Arnold Arboretum, two municipal golf courses, active and historic cemeteries, greenways, parkways, the Harborwalk, urban coastal beaches, the Boston Harbor Islands, Forest Hills Cemetery, and Soldiers Field. The Blue Hills Reservation is immediately adjacent to Boston, and also has regional significance.

Some of the most extensive and significant regional scale open spaces in the Boston metropolitan area are found in Boston's communities, and these resources are available to users beyond the City's boundaries. Many of the neighboring communities that are smaller in population lack the significant open space resources that can be found in Boston. It can be presumed that adjacent communities meet at least some recreational needs by making use of the facilities located in Boston.

Boston had 617,594 residents in 2010 and over 16,250,000 visitors to the Boston MSA region in 2014. (Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau 2015) Being the center of a large metropolitan region, and a major tourist destination, generates significant impacts on Boston's open space resources of regional significance.

Open space resources of regional significance are further discussed in Sections 5 and 7.

Shared Protection Strategies

The above review of land use maps, watershed plans, regional open space documents and municipal open space plans suggests that watershed and river planning has offered the best examples of shared protection efforts. It appears that waterfront land uses may offer the greatest disparity between adjacent municipalities, and the greatest opportunities for regional planning. There is also opportunity for shared protection strategies between the State, the City of Boston, and other municipalities for regional scale or shared open space, beyond the awareness of protection needs of rare species.

A review of municipal open space plans indicates that a goal of some neighboring communities is to form coalitions, communications, and connections with neighbors on open space initiatives. There are opportunities for Boston and adjacent municipalities to work together with MAPC and the Commonwealth on waterfront and riverfront planning, linear parks, green infrastructure, alternative transportation, social equity, and climate change on a regional level and between adjacent municipalities. The opportunity exists for the City of Boston to be partners with its neighbors over shared resources and environmental issues that exist beyond the boundaries of the city.

Section 3.2:

HISTORY

Introduction

Boston's social and political history since colonization—its growth over the last 400 years, its academic, cultural, and industrial achievements—have brought it to world-wide renown and is well documented elsewhere. We will cover Boston's history and archeology from the perspective of how it has shaped our land uses, especially those pertinent to our environmental and recreational pursuits.

History of Settlement and Development in Boston*

Prehistoric Era (12,000–400 BP)

Boston's human history began approximately 12,000 years ago. The first Native People were hunters following migrating herds of large game like mastodon or caribou. These nomadic people settled on the ring of hills overlooking low-lying areas with rivers and wetlands where animals gathered.

The landscape and environment that the Native People encountered would have been far different than today. The one mile thick glaciers that once covered the area were retreating but still retained vast quantities of water, causing a sea level nearly 250 feet lower than today. Boston's shoreline would have extended nearly 10 miles east of its current location due to the lower sea level. The cold environment and lack of soil due to glacial erosion resulted in a tundra with low shrubs, mosses, and few trees. There is little evidence of human settlement from this early period due to seasonal movement, the tendency to locate within estuaries, the use of organic building materials, the consequent human development that may have eradicated these sites, and changes in land forms and sea level rise.

The Archaic Period (10,000–3,000 BP) saw an increase in the native population, now using many areas of Boston. The development of forests and major rivers allowed Native People to begin establishing seasonal camp sites at the location of resources such as wild berries, hunting areas, and stone outcrops that could provide the material for tools. The Woodland Period (3,000–400 BP) saw the stabilization of the overall climate and the formalization of settlements in villages at river confluences and outlets in Boston.

There were two major factors that occurred in Boston's environmental history 3,000 years ago. The first was the flooding of Boston Harbor. Up to this point, the Harbor was a hilly plain similar to Jamaica Plain and Roxbury today. Rising sea levels quickly transformed the area into a shallow harbor filled with islands. The shellfish in the harbor came to provide a reliable food source.

The second major development 3,000 years ago was the adoption of pottery and agriculture, which helped to transition the Native population from nomadic hunters to life in more formally established villages in places like Charlestown, downtown Boston, and the Lower Mills area of Dorchester. These villages contained the populations of Native People who were encountered by Europeans when they first began exploring and settling what would become Boston in the early 1600s.

Contact Period (1500–1620 AD)

The Historic and Archaeological Resources of the Boston Area (Massachusetts Historical Commission 1982) notes there likely developed a seasonal migration pattern, where in the spring and fall the native populations settled along the Neponset and Mystic River estuaries, and the nearby Harbor Islands, while during the summer and winter, they would likely have dispersed to smaller sites along upland tributaries and ponds (beyond the limits of present Boston) for greater protection from storms and the opportunity for ice fishing and hunting.

The Native American settlement along the coast probably increased during the Contact Period because the presence of Europeans provided opportunity for trade, yet also reduced their population through infectious diseases brought by the European traders.

The primary transportation system during the Contact Period was a complex network of trails that followed the natural contours of the landscape, changed elevation at an easy grade, and favored the sunny rather than shady slope. The trail network provided alternative routes for crossing the landscape. Examples of native trails include Shawmut Avenue in Boston proper and Mishawam Street in Charlestown.

Fords were located where trails crossed rivers, usually at the first fall line such as the Charles River at Watertown Square and the Neponset River at Lower Mills. Archeological evidence on the Harbor Islands indicates that water transport was used.

Plantation Period (1620–675 AD)

This period is defined by the establishment of permanent English settlement along the coast, and expansion inland along major tidal rivers. The initial European settlements of coastal trading posts and plantations clustered with the native population around the Mystic, Neponset, and Charles River estuaries.

This period is also characterized by the virtual removal of the native population from the Boston area. By the end of the 1600s, the remnants of the native population had retreated to upland sites such as the Blue Hills, or moved west and north of Boston.

There were two types of settlement patterns in this era—the planned town and the organic village. Charlestown is the only planned town within Boston, characterized by a regular street grid and formal market squares (Harvard Square in Cambridge is another local example). Partial attempts at formal street plans were made in Boston.

* Much of the material presented in the early eras of this history are sourced from personal communications with Joseph Bagley of the City of Boston Archaeology Program and from the Massachusetts Historical Commission's 1982 publication, Historic and Archaeological Resources of the Boston Area.

The most common type of settlement pattern was the organic village which was usually located at the intersection of existing native trails, and centered on a meetinghouse and burying ground, perhaps with a tavern and common ground. Early examples developed in Dorchester and Roxbury.

By the mid-1600s, most towns consisted of a small meeting house center with individual farms set in a grid of divided fields. Boston itself had developed in a more intense pattern by this time, with an urban density with separate residential and commercial districts.

The colonists used the native trail system to get around difficult terrain, and improved ford sites by building bridges. Planned towns such as Charlestown had street grids. Rangeways—long, straight roads that ignored changes in topography—were added to the trail network.

Colonial Period (1675–1775 AD)

Boston emerged, during the Colonial Period, to become one of the most important port cities on the Atlantic coast in the New World. Boston and Charlestown had key port facilities, and the Charles River continued to grow as the regional focus.

Settlement followed a pattern of infill and consolidation of the previously developed areas. Colonial settlement in Boston focused on many of the areas previously occupied by native villages including Charlestown, downtown Boston, and Savin Hill in Dorchester. Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and areas along the Mystic River became fashionable for country estates in the early 1700s. Several of the Harbor Islands were used for grazing, fishing, and institutional purposes.

Boston proper had an increase in population and commercial activity that led to distinct social and economic districts. Three- and four-story brick buildings along Corn Hill (Washington) Street were the civic and commercial heart of the city. The area from Town Cove to the North End and Fort Hill was a district of wharves and shipyards, much of it built on filled land.

The water transport system grew, particularly to Portsmouth, Salem, and Plymouth. It was often easier to get to a local destination by boat than by road, and a large number of wharfs were built for passenger and freight use. The same corridors of enhanced native trails connected Boston to adjacent areas, and development focused along these routes. Many of these routes terminated in Roxbury, as Boston proper remained isolated on a peninsula. Roxbury controlled the access to Boston proper.

Federal Period (1775–1830)*

Boston saw a dramatic increase in population and prominence during the Federal Period, establishing itself as a major source of goods and supplies including ships, lumber, cod, and other material goods while also being a major port for immigrant arrival.

This period marked the beginning of the most extensive landscape transformation in Boston that rapidly expanded its land mass. By this time Boston reached the physical limits of its shoreline. The core city began to develop more density. It also expanded outward and absorbed adjacent communities. Toll bridges on causeways, turnpikes, and omnibus service (horse drawn carriage) encouraged residential development beyond the urban core. Another solution was to expand the land mass, a process which began as hills were excavated and used to fill the surrounding tidal marshes and waters.

The newly filled land was platted in planned grids. Large speculative grids were also laid out in South Boston and Roxbury. Residential and industrial uses were often mixed. An institutional area of hospitals, prisons, almshouses, and naval facilities developed on the fringes of waterfront and filled land, between the central core city and the outlying residential areas of Roxbury and South Boston.

Early Industrial Period (1830–1870)*

The industrial revolution in Boston was fueled by the Stony Brook and Muddy Rivers as well as by a thriving sea port and large population of immigrants, making it one of the biggest producers of goods in the world.

Boston's central core increased in density with greater height and proximity of buildings, and differentiation of a central business and commercial district and high-density residential areas. Residential development in the central core of the city included high density rowhouses built in planned street grids around London-style residential parks. This pattern was realized in parts of the South End, Charlestown, and East Boston.

The settlement beyond the central core was defined by innovations in transportation including steam ferry, suburban commuter rail service, and horse-drawn street railways.

Important events in landscape and urban planning include an emerging green belt of landscaped cemeteries and municipal properties such as reservoirs. These were accessible by street railway and provided important areas for recreational and social activity for people in the inner city and outer suburban areas.

Late Industrial Period (1870–1915)

Development in this period was influenced by electrical-powered technology. The electrification of the street railway system and the opening of the subway and elevated lines generated development away from the core, now known as "streetcar suburbs" (Warner 1978). Larger buildings with elevator shafts were built in the urban core of Boston, increasing density.

During this era, secondary commercial areas developed at Kenmore Square on the end of downtown, and in Fields Corner, Uphams Corner, Dudley Station, and Jamaica Plain along major transit routes. These nodes served the immediate residential population of an expanding city.

In reaction to the rapid urbanization of the early and late industrial periods, both a comprehensive system of parks and parkways within the City of Boston (1875) and a comprehensive metropolitan park system (1892) were created and provided open spaces and recreation areas amidst dense urban and suburban development. Parkways were new then: transportation corridors generally emphasizing vegetated landscaping and curvilinear road layouts that connected parks and thereby stimulated residential and commercial development in the areas near the parks and parkways.

* Much of the material discussed in this mainly 19th century section of this history relied on the following sources: Whitehill 1968, Seasholes 2003, and Kennedy 1992.

Early Modern Period (1915–1940)

This era was defined by two World Wars and the Great Depression. The population in the core of Boston decreased for the first time in history. Railroad and waterfront facilities began to become obsolete as highways and new fuel storage facilities replaced coal yards and older wharves and warehouses. Military docks, shipyards, and facilities expanded and overwhelmed the communities of Charlestown and South Boston. Industrial activity began to decline in the Boston core.

The widespread use of automobiles and commercial air service had an influence on the development of Boston, where construction of Boston Municipal Airport (now Logan Airport) (1923), the Sumner Tunnel (1934), and the regional highway system (1931–1936) meant that people were no longer restricted to recreational facilities served by trolley or

train lines, and that land from existing parks and potential open spaces were used to support this new infrastructure. On the other hand, greater mobility allowed people to enjoy ponds, woods, and other scenic or historic areas that were on the periphery of the city.

A series of parkways were developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, scenic routes that connected the suburban residential areas to the urban core. These included the West Roxbury Parkway, Neponset River Parkway (now Truman Parkway), Brook Farm Parkway (now Veterans of Foreign Wars Parkway), and Morrissey Boulevard.

Urban Renewal

Boston was in decline in the mid-1900s, as factories became old and obsolete, and businesses moved out of the region for cheaper labor elsewhere, and population was not replaced as people moved to the suburbs or elsewhere. The city was in need of infrastructure improvements, as well as economic infusion. The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) was established in 1957 and responded to this disinvestment by undertaking urban renewal projects. One project significant for its open space was the creation of Government Center which included City Hall Plaza. (Kennedy 1992)

Geographic Expansion

The city of Boston has grown to 40 times its original size from its original 783 acres at the time of settlement in 1630. Boston was originally about 1.2 square miles, and currently has a land area of 48.4 square miles. It is the second smallest major US city in terms of area, and that land mass was hard earned through the filling of wetlands and annexation of neighboring municipalities.

Original Land Mass

In 1630, the 783-acre Shawmut peninsula was surrounded by the Boston Harbor and the tidal land of the Back Bay, part of the Charles River estuary. To the south, a narrow isthmus which was 120 feet wide at high tide supported the single road (now Washington Street) that connected the peninsula to Roxbury on the mainland.

The peninsula originally had five hills—Copp's Hill (in the North End); Fort Hill (in the Financial District); and the Trimount (meaning triple mountain) which actually consisted of the three hills of Mt. Vernon, Beacon Hill and Pemberton Hill.

Land Making

The first land making in Boston began with the "wharfing out" from the mainland. The area between the wharves was then often filled in, creating more land. (Seasholes 2003)

Except for the wharves that were built, there was little change in the topography and landform of Boston until 1775. Then the landscape was radically transformed over a period of 100 years to accommodate and encourage growth. Expanding onto the mainland was not considered first because of the maritime economy. The solution was to fill the tidal flats. (Seasholes 2003)

A second motivation for filling the tidal flats was to finally dispose of untreated sewage placed there. For several hundred years animal, human, commercial and industrial waste was disposed of by piping it to the tidal flats where it was washed away. However, the many mill dams enabled industry to thrive but prevented the tides from flushing the flats. Sewage and trash built up and created a noxious condition. Much of the new land was created by filling in the sewage- and trash-filled tidal areas with earth from Boston's original hills.

From 1857 to 1894, the Back Bay was filled in behind the Boston & Roxbury Mill Dam. This added about 700 acres and nearly doubled the size of the original peninsula. This area became the Back Bay neighborhood.

Charlestown and the Fenway area were filled in a short while later. The end of the 1800s included fill projects in East Boston, Marine Park, and Columbus Park (now Moakley Park) to the south.

The area which would become Logan Airport began to be filled in 1922.

Land making in relation to parks and open space in Boston is discussed in the history of Boston parks section below.

Annexation

The city has also grown significantly through annexation of adjacent towns over the years. Boston annexed South Boston in 1804, East Boston in 1836, Roxbury in 1868, Dorchester including Mattapan and a portion of South Boston in 1870, Roslindale in 1873, Brighton including Allston in 1874, West Roxbury including present day Jamaica Plain and Roslindale in 1874, Charlestown in 1874, and Hyde Park in 1912.

Effect of Location and the Economy on Open Space

Boston has evolved over the centuries from an area of Native American encampment, to a coastal colonial outpost, to a major metropolis of global significance. The provision and protection of open space has changed along with the economy, politics, and the population's needs.

The harbors, shoreline, tidal flats, lakes, ponds, marshes, and riverbanks have provided food and water, enabled transportation, encouraged trade, and influenced development throughout the history of Boston. The landscape of steep hills and small valleys with ponds, streams, and rivers was amenable to early agriculture. The early economy and survival was strongly supported by fishing and seafaring. Settlement followed the rivers inland.

This setting made possible a seaborne commerce that flourished with protected deep-water harbors. Early manufacturing utilized the waterpower of streams, rivers and tides. The terrain provided space for farmland, then suburban estates, and then streetcar suburbs as the population increased throughout the 19th century.

Demand for development in Boston resulted in many of the original landscape features being altered or obliterated through the centuries. Hills were used to fill wetlands; streams were culvertized; and the shoreline was extended.

The Great Migration of colonists began a continual influx of newcomers that peaked during the Industrial Revolution. In the mid-1800s, Boston was a densely populated city with a seafaring- and industrial-based economy that relied on its tidal flats for domestic and commercial waste elimination. Immigrants lived in heavily populated neighborhoods where parks, playgrounds, and other public open spaces became important to populations with limited resources and time for recreation.

The industrial uses along the harborfront and along the Charles and Neponset Rivers and other waterways helped to build a city and create a strong economy, but left behind significant pollution. Costly cleanup efforts have begun to alleviate these problems, thus enabling such areas to be used more extensively for water-based recreation.

Seaport commerce defined the economy of Boston for centuries, and shaped its landscape with wharves and human made land. But seaborne commerce declined (but has not disappeared) and freight and passenger traffic at Logan Airport increased. This led to runways and aviation facilities that spread across islands, tidal lands, and a city park (Wood Island Park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.), to the bitterness of many East Boston residents.

Railroad tracks were converted to the Massachusetts Turnpike, enabling the flow of workers into the city, but with accompanying noise and air pollution, and the loss of land.

After World War II, the population declined as many families left the city, either to other parts of the country, or for the suburbs, trading apartment blocks and triple-deckers for single-family homes separated by private yards and linked by wide, tree-lined streets. The population decline had a significant adverse impact on several neighborhoods in Boston.

A rise in abandoned buildings and vacant lots resulted, affecting the property tax-based municipal budget and local private investment. Pressure grew to reduce labor-intensive municipal functions such as park maintenance. City parks deteriorated during the 1960s and 1970s with the loss of constituents and reduced maintenance. In the 1980s, the passage of Proposition 2½ capped the rate at which local property taxes could rise, further limiting municipal revenues and services, especially those related to park functioning.

In the mid-1980s, open space activists formed a coalition to strengthen their voice in City Hall. With local philanthropists, they put together an effort to focus on the critical deterioration of municipal and metropolitan parks.

Based on that effort, *The Greening of Boston* report (The Boston Foundation 1987) stimulated the City to develop an open space plan in 1987 that outlined a program to rehabilitate the park system. The strong economy in the 1980s allowed the City to enjoy large increases in property taxes, which funded the multi-million dollar capital rehabilitation campaign.

As important as the rehabilitation of the parks was the recognition at the policy level that beautiful, safe, clean, and functional parks were needed to revitalize neighborhoods and stimulate private re-investment. Parks were seen as a key quality of life factor by which individuals and businesses assessed the value and stability of a neighborhood and the potential for return on investment in it.

Boston's population and demand for development continues to grow. High density and small geographic size put developable parcels at a premium, and tax existing infrastructure systems such as open space. New and expanding residential buildings, office towers, and university campuses compete with parks, playgrounds, and other open space for land. Achieving a balance of development, grey infrastructure, and green infrastructure so that the city becomes an integrated whole remains a critical focus for policy and practice in the future.

History of Parks and Open Space in Boston

City of Boston Parks

Boston's park system includes the oldest public open space in the nation, Boston Common, established in 1634. The Public Garden was the next significant addition, developed more than 200 years later in 1838.

The park movement in the U.S. began in the mid-1800s in response to urbanization and the sanitary reform movement (which believed that disease was caused by bad odors, dirt, and dampness). Sanitarians sought to eliminate places that were overcrowded, dark, damp, and contained organic waste by introducing sunlight, fresh air, dry land, and pure water–parks were seen as one desirable solution. Parks were for the public and were a place where city residents could escape to a country setting.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Grounds was established by ordinance on February 28, 1870. The Superintendent had charge of all public grounds—Boston Common, the Public Garden, and residential squares and small parks created before 1975.

In 1875, Boston's voters approved an act that set up a Board of Park Commissioners to establish and run public parks. In 1876, the Commissioners recommended a comprehensive system of

seven parks in the inner city and four in outlying areas which would be connected by parkways. By 1881, the City appropriated the funds for the parks.

In 1878 the Commissioners hired Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., America's first and then most prominent landscape architect, to design and supervise the development of a comprehensive park system. Olmsted proposed to create a network of parks linked by parkways. The resulting park system is now known as the Emerald Necklace which then included the Charles River embankment, the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, Leverett Park (now Olmsted Park), Jamaica Pond Park, the Arnold Arboretum, West Roxbury Park (now Franklin Park), and Marine Park. The parkways to connect these parks included the Arborway, Fenway, Jamaicaway, and Riverway.

The Park Commissioners also proposed to locate a park in each section of the city. Some parts of the city did not have enough remaining open land, so in those sections the parks were placed on the shore where land had to be filled in. Parks in this original system that required filling included Charlesbank in the West End, Marine Park in South Boston, and Wood Island Park in East Boston.

In the early 20th century, Boston created many playgrounds, mostly in parts of the city without squares or other public grounds, as the playground movement sought to improve the lives of the poor urban children through organized activities in smaller spaces closer to home. Some of these playgrounds were also on the shore and required landfilling, such as Charlestown Playground (now Ryan Playground).

The Park Department continued until 1913, when the Public Grounds, Bath, and Music Departments were merged with it to become the Park and Recreation Department. In 1920, the Cemetery Department was merged with the Park Department.

Land continued to be made in the 20th century to create public parks. The narrow Esplanade was filled along the Charles River as part of the Charles River Dam construction. Playgrounds and beaches were created by filling such as McConnell Park, Tenean Beach, Moakley Park, Carson Beach, Noyes Playground, and Constitution Beach. Storrow Drive was created in 1950 on part of the Esplanade; to compensate for the parkland that was taken, some filling was done along the river, creating a series of connected islands.

By 1950, most of Boston's parks and playgrounds were in place. As described previously, after World War II the budget for parks declined, and was then cut by more than half with the passing of Proposition 2½ in 1982, resulting in a period of severe deterioration for the City's park system.

By the mid-1980s, along with increased interest in urban living and improved economic conditions, citizen outcry brought attention to the poor condition of the parks. As a result, in 1987 the Mayor and the City Council approved $75 million for a program to rebuild City parks and playgrounds.

In the early 21st century, the Central Artery/Tunnel Project (the "Big Dig") removed the elevated Central Artery through downtown and created a new highway tunnel. This project created a total of 300 acres of new and restored open space, including 45 parks and major plazas, among them the Rose Kennedy Greenway in downtown Boston managed by the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, and the Bremen Street Park in East Boston managed by Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). Material from the Big Dig tunnel excavation was used to cap landfills as part of creating Millennium Park in West Roxbury and the park land at Spectacle Island.

Metropolitan Park System

Boston was the first American city to create a metropolitan park system and the first to undertake regional planning (Penna & Wright 2009). The Metropolitan Park System was established in 1893 and Frederick Law Olmsted's concept of networked parks was applied to the metropolitan region. The metropolitan parks and parkways were the first regional effort to protect environmentally significant areas and provide a physical framework for suburban growth.

The leading advocates of this effort were Charles Eliot, a landscape architect who had worked with Olmsted, and Sylvester Baxter, a social reformer. These men believed that a metropolitan government was needed to carry out major public works projects and provide the planning that would create a rational spatial and infrastructure framework for development.

Eliot and Baxter advocated for the creation of the Metropolitan Park Commission to develop a plan for a regional parks system to fulfill this vision. In 1892, the Metropolitan Parks Commission (MPC) was formed to provide for regional open space needs of Boston and its metropolitan area, and given eminent domain powers. The Commission issued the *1893 Report of the Metropolitan Park Commissioners*, which was the country's first regional plan, and was a blueprint for preserving Greater Boston's natural areas. The plan focused on the forests on the edge of the city, in the Middlesex Fells, the Blue Hills, and Stony Brook, and on riverbanks along the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset Rivers, and called for reservations to protect and manage them. A third focus was oceanfront beaches and many were preserved in outlying towns such as Revere. Eliot further proposed that the Harbor Islands be preserved as parkland. Finally, the plan proposed parkways between the city and the reservations.

The plan for the Metropolitan Parks system was soon implemented. By 1900, the Metropolitan Park Commission had acquired 9,177 acres of reservations, 13 miles of oceanfront, 56 miles of riverbanks, and had built seven parkways.

The State created the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) in 1919, subsuming the MPC. In the 1920s, the MDC converted the parkways to four lane motorways. By the 1930s, these regional parks were evolving from beautification and preservation of nature to providing opportunity for recreation. The MDC added recreational facilities to its park system, including ball fields, golf courses, tennis courts, swimming facilities, and a ski run at the Blue Hills Reservation.

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) had water and sewer responsibilities as well as the park development and management responsibilities held by its predecessor agency, the Metropolitan Parks Commission. The MDC's water and sewer responsibilities were eventually reallocated to the Massachusetts

Water Resource Authority (MWRA) in 1985. Without this burden, the MDC was able to reinvest more effort to its parks mission. In 2003, the MDC merged with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to form a new agency, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), putting non-metropolitan Boston and metropolitan Boston parks under one agency.

As a result, the Boston Harbor Islands State Park, part of the assemblage of 34 islands ranging in size from less than one acre to 274 acres that total about 1,600 acres at high tide and 3,100 acres at low tide, and among the few DEM holdings in Boston, came under the purview of the DCR. In turn, that state park is a part of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, an administrative unit under the National Park Service (a U.S. Department of the Interior agency), that extends 11 miles seaward from downtown Boston.

Section 3.3:

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Unless otherwise noted, the information in this section is taken from U.S. Census data, and from information compiled by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA).

Population

Population	1990	2000	2010
Boston	574,283	589,141	617,594

For Boston overall, the trend has been toward increasing total population: 2.6% for the period between 1990 and 2000, and 4.8% for the period between 2000 and 2010. Given the 2.0% increase in the 1980–1990 period, we can see a trend of accelerating population increase occurring.

Census data (see table below) indicates that the communities in Boston that experienced ten percent or more population growth from 2000 to 2010 are Central Boston with 24.4%, Mission Hill with 17.0%, Roxbury with 16.8%, Fenway/Longwood with 12.9%, the South End with 12.2%, and South Boston with 11.7%. The five communities that experienced the least population growth from 2000 to 2010 are the Harbor Islands with -16.4%, Mattapan with -7.1%, Roslindale with -5.5%, Dorchester with -3.9%, and Jamaica Plain with -1.9%.

Communities within Boston	2000 Population	2010 Population	2000-2010 Change	2000-2010 % Change
Central Boston	25,573	31,821	6,248	24.4%
Mission Hill	13,935	16,305	2,370	17.0%
Roxbury	41,484	48,454	6,970	16.8%
Fenway/ Longwood	33,285	37,581	4,296	12.9%
South End	21,911	24,577	2,666	12.2%
South Boston	31,514	35,200	3,686	11.7%
Charlestown	15,195	16,439	1,244	8.2%
Allston-Brighton	69,648	74,997	5,349	7.7%
West Roxbury	28,755	30,446	1,691	5.9%
East Boston	38,413	40,508	2,095	5.5%
Hyde Park	30,076	30,637	561	1.9%
Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	27,004	27,111	107	0.4%
Jamaica Plain	38,176	37,468	-708	-1.9%
Dorchester	118,848	114,235	-4,613	-3.9%
Roslindale	30,351	28,680	-1,671	-5.5%
Mattapan	24,333	22,600	-1,733	-7.1%
Harbor Islands	640	535	-105	-16.4%
Boston	**589,141**	**617,594**	**28,453**	**4.8%**

Hundreds of thousands of people travel into Boston daily for work, education, health care, culture, recreation, special events, etc. Research by the Boston Redevelopment Authority indicates that Boston's workforce more than doubles every day to over 600,000 when non-resident commuters arrive at their Boston-based jobs (BRA 2015). The Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau notes that there were 16,250,000 visitors to the Boston MSA region in 2014. In all, over one million people pass through Boston on a daily basis, which would have an effect on Boston's parks and open spaces.

The *MetroFuture Regional Plan* (MAPC 2008) provides projections for the region. It notes that in 2030, one third of residents in the metropolitan region will be 55 or older. All other age groups will shrink, including school-age children which may decline by 6%.

Population and Housing Demand Projections for Metro Boston (MAPC 2014) provides two scenarios for growth–Status Quo and Stronger Region. The population projections for Boston under the two scenarios are below:

				Status Quo Scenario		Stronger Region Scenario	
Boston	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020***	**2030***	**2020***	**2030***
Total Population	574,283	589,141	617,594	640,798	664,867	664,218	709,400
Population under 15	94,381	98,320	85,766	90,657	92,706	93,217	99,568
Population over 65	65,152	61,336	62,237	78,018	96,079	78,688	97,393

*projected

The Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012 ("2012 SCORP") (EOEEA 2012) notes that Massachusetts had 6,547,629 residents in 2010. It is the third most densely populated state in the country at 839.4 persons per square mile (or 1.3 persons per acre). Only Rhode Island and New Jersey are more densely populated.

In 2010, Boston's population density is 21.3 persons per acre (without Logan Airport acreage). This is an increase from 20.3 persons per acre in 2000. This density increase indicates that the need for more open space should be evaluated, as more people will put greater pressure on existing spaces.

OSP 2015-2021 Communities	Acres	Acres w/o Airport	2000 Population	2010 Population	Population Density 2000 (persons/acre)**	Population Density 2010 (persons/acre)**	Density Change (persons/acre)**
Mattapan	1,352	1,352	24,333	22,600	18.0	16.7	-1.3
Roslindale	1,678	1,678	30,351	28,680	18.1	17.1	-1.0
Dorchester	4,913	4,913	118,848	144,235	24.2	23.3	-0.9
Jamaica Plain	2,603	2,603	38,176	37,468	14.7	14.4	-0.3
Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	599	599	2,004	27,111	45.1	45.3	0.2
Hyde Park	2,972	2,972	30,074	30,637	10.3	10.5	0.2
West Roxbury	3,516	3,516	28,755	30,446	8.2	8.7	0.5
East Boston	3,012	1,509	38,413	40,508	25.5	26.8	1.4
Charlestown	872	872	15,195	16,439	17.4	18.9	1.4
South Boston	2,062	2,062	31,514	35,200	15.3	17.1	1.8
Allston-Brighton	2,839	2,839	69,648	74,997	24.5	26.4	1.9
Roxbury	1,701	1,701	41,484	48,454	24.4	28.5	4.1
South End	472	472	21,911	24,577	46.0	52.1	5.6
Fenway/ Longwook	749	749	33,285	37,581	44.4	50.2	5.7
Mission Hill	351	351	13,935	16,305	39.7	46.5	6.8
Central Boston	833	833	25,573	31,821	30.7	38.2	7.5
Boston*	**30,479**	**28,976**	**588,501**	**617,059**	**20.3**	**21.3**	**1.0**

* Boston Population Counts exclude the Harbor Islands

** Population Density based on Acres without Airport

Age

Age cohorts (aka age groupings) for Boston residents in 2010 are shown below.

Boston Age Cohorts	2010	% of Total Population*
Population 19 & under	135,592	22.0%
Population 20 to 34	216,213	35.0%
Population 35 to 54	147,501	23.9%
Population 55 to 64	56,051	9.1%
Population 65 & over	62,237	10.1%
Total Population	**617,594**	**100.0%**

* error may occur due to rounding

Children under 18

In 2010 there were 103,710 children between the ages of 0 and 17 living in Boston. This represents 16.8% of the total city population.

Boston Age Cohorts under 18	2010	% under 18	% of total population	% change since 2000
Under 6	38,089	36.7%	6.2%	-1.0%
6 to 11 years	31,701	30.6%	5.1%	-22.4%
12 to 17 years	33,920	32.7%	5.5%	-8.8%
Total under 18	**103,710**	**100.0%**	**16.8%**	**-11.0%**

The population of children in Boston dropped 11% since 2000. This drop was seen in all racial and ethnic groups except Hispanic/Latino. African-American and Hispanic/Latino children comprise 60% of the under 18 population in Boston.

Nearly 40% of Boston's children live in Dorchester or Roxbury. Neighborhoods in which children make up more than 20% of the population include Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, East Boston, and West Roxbury.

Young Adults 20-34

Boston has the highest concentration of young adults (age 20–34) among the 25 largest cities in the U.S. Thirty five percent (35%) of Boston's population is between 20–34 years old. The population of 20–34 year olds in Boston has increased 11% since 2000. The city's population grew about 5% during that same time period.

The growth of the 20–34 population represents 75% of the city's total population growth over the last decade. Much of this increase was driven by the 20–24 year olds whose population grew by close to 26% between 2000 and 2010.

Neighborhoods with a large population of young adults age 20–34 as a percentage of the neighborhood population include Allston (64.5%), Fenway (59.2%), Brighton (55.7%), North End (54.8%), Longwood (51.7%), Beacon Hill (50.9%), South Boston Waterfront (50.5%), Mission Hill (48%), Back Bay (46.5%), and South Boston (41.4%).

Of the young adult population age 20–34, 60% rent their homes, 29.5% own their homes, and 9.4% live in group quarters such as college dorms.

Persons 65 and Over

The proportion of the 65 and over population remained fairly constant between 2000 and 2010. Just over half of this cohort is between the ages of 65 and 75 years. Of this cohort, 94.7% live in some form of household, while 5.3% live in group quarters.

Ability

A Profile of Health among Persons with Disabilities in Massachusetts, 2008–2011 (MDPH 2012) defines disability as having one or more of the following conditions: (1) physical, mental, or emotional problem that limited activities or caused cognitive difficulties; or (2) used special equipment or required help from others to get around. This report notes that in 2011, 11% of the non-institutionalized population of Massachusetts (an estimated 740,400 individuals) reported having one or more disabilities:

- 6% of people in Massachusetts of all ages reported having an ambulatory disability,
- 5% reported having an independent living disability,
- 5% had a cognitive disability,
- 2% had a vision disability,
- 3% had a hearing disability, and
- 3% had a self-care disability.

The prevalence of disability increased with age: 5.8% among children ages 5–17 years, 8.8% among those ages 18–64 years, and 34% among persons ages 65 years and older.

The *2009–2010 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs* (CDC 2012) notes that 18% of Massachusetts children (an estimated 261,475 children) had a special health care need. The prevalence in Massachusetts was higher than the national prevalence of 15%.

The prevalence of children with special health care needs increased with age: 9.8% among Massachusetts children ages 0–5 years (vs. 9.3% nationally), 21.4% among Massachusetts children ages 6–11 years (vs. 17.7% nationally), and 23.3% among MA children ages 12–17 years (vs. 18.4% nationally).

The Health Needs Assessment of People with Disabilities in Massachusetts, 2013 (MDPH 2013) notes that:

- People with disabilities are more likely to be older.
- Blacks, Native Americans, Hispanics, and those of other racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely to report a disability compared to those who are white.
- Asians are least likely to report a disability.

Also relevant to this Open Space and Recreation Plan, the *Health Needs Assessment of People with Disabilities in Massachusetts, 2013* reported on weight and obesity issues, as well as physical activity.

- Overweight: Among adults in Massachusetts in 2011, those with disabilities were more likely to report being overweight (67%) than those without disabilities (34%).
- Obese: Those with disabilities were more likely to report being obese (57%) than those without disabilities (20%).
- Physical activity of 150 minutes per week or more: Adults with disabilities were less likely to report 150 minutes or more of aerobic activity per week (45%) than those without disabilities (59%).
- Physical activity of 150 minutes per week or more: Adults with disabilities were less likely to report 150 minutes or more of aerobic activity per week (45%) than those without disabilities (59%).
- Muscle strengthening, two or more days per week: Those with disabilities were less likely to report muscle strengthening activity two or more days per week (26%) than those without disabilities (34%).

The *Health Needs Assessment of People with Disabilities in Massachusetts, 2013* notes that 45% of the respondents rated the ability to locate an accessible gym as a "Big Problem." Though not specifically stated, the issue of locating accessible gyms could relate to the ability to find accessible amenities for physical activity, such as playgrounds and parks.

Age, Ability, and Park Use

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has assisted other communities in the Boston metropolitan region with the production of open space plans, which have included the following summary of recreational needs by age group and ability:

> "Under the age of five, most recreation is done with parental supervision. This recreation tends to be close to home due to the difficulties of traveling with children. This age group also needs structured preschool programs that focus on teaching basic skills.
>
> Adolescents are a difficult age group to serve because they do not like to participate in traditional programs that are structured or involve adult supervision. They prefer programs where they are more actively involved in determining the activities. Programs that work well for adolescents include rock climbing, adventure programs, skateboarding, hiking, band concerts, cook outs, dances and sports.
>
> The needs of [older adults] are divided between the [*deleted*], more active [older adults] and the frail[er older adults]. The frail[er older adults] generally require therapeutic recreational services. More active [older adults] tend to enjoy walking, golf, tennis, and swimming.
>
> The recreation needs of persons with disabilities also vary. Some residents with disabilities can participate in regular recreational programs without any modifications while others may need some assistance. Depending on the degree of disability, there may also be a need for specific programs geared for that population." (MAPC 2013, pp. 12–13)

Race, Ethnicity, and Country of Origin

In 2010, Boston was 8.9% Asian, 22.4% Black, 17.5% Hispanic and 47% White, with 43.8% of Hispanics and 69.5% of Asians being foreign-born.

Race/ Ethnicity	2000	2010	Change	% Change
Asian	44,009	54,846	10,837	24.6%
Black	140,305	135,073	-2,232	-1.6%
Hispanic or Latino	85,089	107,917	22,828	26.8
White	291,561	290,312	-1,249	-0.4
Total	**589,141**	**617,594**	**28,453**	**4.8**

Between 1990 and 2010, Boston's foreign-born population grew from 114,597 to 167,311. Immigrants now account for 26.7% of the city's population. Boston has the 6th highest proportion of foreign-born residents among the 25 largest U.S. cities.

In 2010, the most common countries of origin for Boston's foreign-born residents were Dominican Republic (18,189 persons), China (16,785), Haiti (13,782), Vietnam (7,684), El Salvador (7,575), Columbia (6,703), Cape Verde (6,457), Jamaica (5,637), Brazil (4,823), and India (4,203).

In 2010, 35% of Boston's residents spoke a language other than English at home. Nine and a half percent (9.5%) of Boston residents had limited English proficiency. Spanish is the most common foreign language spoken in Boston, with 15.2% speaking it. French (4.8%), Chinese (3.8%), Portuguese (2.0%) and Vietnamese (1.7%) are the next most common foreign languages spoken in Boston.

The neighborhoods of Boston where 25% or more of the population were foreign-born includes East Boston (50.3%), Mattapan (35.5%), Allston (33.1%), Downtown (32.4%), West End (32.3%), Dorchester (31.1%), Hyde Park (29.9%), Brighton (29.5%), Roslindale (29.1%), Mission Hill (24.7%) , and Roxbury (24.6%).

The *MetroFuture* regional plan (MAPC 2008) forecasts that 31% of the region will be Black, Hispanic, Asian, or some other non-White race by 2030, and almost one-quarter of the region will be foreign-born.

Households

There were 252,699 households in Boston in 2010, a 5.47% increase over the number of households in 2000, which follows the 4.87% increase from 1990 to 2000. The increasing number of households and demand for housing puts pressure on existing open spaces and the remaining land available for open space.

Of these 252,699 households in 2010, 136,455 (54.0%) were non-family households and 116,244 (46%) were family households. Of the family households, 64,502 (55.5%) were husband-wife families of which 25,307 (40%) had children under 18, while 41,301 (35.5%) were female-headed, of which 22,741 (55%) had children under 18, and 10,441 (9.0%) were male-headed, of which 3,513 (34%) had children under 18.

Housing

Population and Housing Demand Projections for Metro Boston (MAPC 2014) provides two scenarios for growth—Status Quo and Stronger Region. The demand for housing units for Boston under the two scenarios are shown below:

			Status Quo Scenario		Stronger Region Scenario	
Boston Metropolitan Region (MAPR)	**2000**	**2010**	**2020***	**2030***	**2020***	**2030***
Households	239,528	252,699	271,109	285,176	279,515	301,774
Housing Units	251,935	272,481	292,823	307,504	301,696	324,975

*projected

Multi-family housing is the general rule in Boston: the Single to Multiple Unit Ratio has gone down even further to 0.14 as of 2013, from the 0.20 ratio in 2000. Renters and owners in multi-family structures will tend to have less access to open space on-site, and therefore have greater need for open space availability in the public realm.

Number of Housing Units in Structure	2013 Estimate	% of Total Units in Structure
1, detached	32,658	12%
1, attached	16,445	6%
2	35,964	13%
3 or 4	70,161	26%
5 to 9	31,457	12%
10 to19	23,208	8%
20 to 49	24,842	9%
50 or more	38,068	14%
Mobile home	247	0%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	68	0%
Total	**273,118**	**100%**
	Single/Multiple Unit Ratio	**0.14**

"0%" means less than 1%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2013 5-Year American Community Survey

Means of Commuting

While the car is not the dominant means of commuting for workers 16 and over who are Boston residents, it is the most frequently used of the several transportation modes available (45%). On the other hand, 51% of those who traveled to work did so by means other than car, truck, or van, while 4% worked at home.

Means of Transportation to Work by Workers 16 & over	2013 Estimate	% of Workers 16 & over
Drove/driven in car, truck,or van	145,967	45%
Used public transportation (excluding taxicab)	107,375	33%
Bicycled	5,734	2%
Walked	48,911	15%
Used taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	2,753	1%
Worked at home	11,837	4%
Total	**322,577**	**100%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2013 5-Year American Community Survey

Income

The 2011 estimated median household income was $52,065, while the 2011 estimated family income was $61,109.

Household Income in the Past 12 Months*	2011 Estimate	% of Total Households
Less than $10,000	32,370	13.1%
$10,000 to $14,999	17,100	6.9%
$15,000 to $19,999	12,765	5.2%
$20,000 to $24,999	10,206	4.1%
$25,000 to $29,999	9,501	3.8%
$30,000 to $34,999	10,643	4.3%
$35,000 to $39,999	9,400	3.8%
$40,000 to $44,999	9,763	3.9%
$45,000 to $49,999	8,607	3.5%
$50,000 to $59,999	16,731	6.8%
$60,000 to $74,999	21,180	8.6%
$75,000 to $99,999	27,927	11.3%
$100,000 to $124,999	18,894	7.6%
$125,000 to $149,999	12,243	4.9%
$150,000 to $199,999	13,912	5.6%
$200,000 or more	16,379	6.6%
Total households	**247,621**	**100.0%**
	Median Household Income	**$52,065**

* in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars
Source: 2007–2011 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

Family Income in the Past 12 Months*	2011 Estimate	% of Total Families
Less than $10,000	9,569	8.2%
$10,000 to $14,999	6,059	5.2%
$15,000 to $19,999	5,529	4.8%
$20,000 to $24,999	4,616	4.0%
$25,000 to $29,999	4,614	4.0%
$30,000 to $34,999	5,392	4.6%
$35,000 to $39,999	5,111	4.1%
$40,000 to $44,999	4,880	4.2%
$45,000 to $49,999	4,130	3.6%
$50,000 to $59,999	7,558	6.5%
$60,000 to $74,999	9,460	8.1%
$75,000 to $99,999	14,281	12.3%
$100,000 to $124,999	10,093	8.7%
$125,000 to $149,999	6,377	5.5%
$150,000 to $199,999	7,893	6.8%
$200,000 or more	10,753	9.2%
Total Families	**116,315**	**100.0%**
	Median Family Income	**$61,109**

* in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars
Source: 2007–2011 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

Quoting from a report called *Poverty in Boston* (BRA, Research Division 2014),

[Among the] "Overall Population

- 21.6% of Boston's population lives in poverty. This percentage has remained fairly consistent since 2000.[1]
  - In comparison, the U.S. poverty rate is 15.9% and the Massachusetts poverty rate is 11.9%.
- Boston's elevated poverty rate is in part related to the high concentration of affordable housing units and public housing in the city.[2]
- Boston's poverty rate decreases slightly when college students are excluded. Boston's poverty rate, less college students, is 19%.
- The poverty rate among Boston's college student population is 28.2%.
  - 48.6% of college students who are in poverty have children.

"Age [as related to poverty]

- Children consistently have a higher poverty rate than the city as a whole.[3]
- The poverty rate for Boston's children is currently 26.9%.
  - In comparison, the poverty rate among children in the U.S. is 22.6%. In Massachusetts, it is 15.4%.
  - Additionally, the following neighborhoods have very high poverty rates among children: Roxbury (49.7%), South Boston (43.8%), Charlestown (42.4%) and Mission Hill (39.4%).
- The poverty rate for Boston's elderly is 21.4%.
- However, the elderly poverty rate is higher in the following neighborhoods: Mission Hill (43.3%), Fenway (35.8%), and Downtown (35.5%).[4]
- Boston's 18-24 population has a very high poverty rate, at 41%. However, 81.4% of this group is currently enrolled in school or college.
- Poverty rates tend to decrease during the prime years of labor force participation, ages 25 through 64.

Quoting from a report called *Unemployment in Boston* (BRA, Research Division 2014),

"General Overview

- 9.6% of Boston's population is unemployed.[5]
- Unemployment rates are higher within the following subgroups:
  - Racial minorities
    - Black/African American population (13.5%)
    - Hispanic population (11.4%)
    - Asian population (10.7%)
  - Men (10.6%)
  - Recent immigrants (20.8%)
  - Individuals who did not graduate from high school (16.1%)
  - Individuals with a disability (19.7%)
- Excluding the Harbor Islands, unemployment rates are highest in Mattapan (17.3%), Roxbury(16.8%) and Dorchester (16.2%).

[1] The poverty rate in Boston in 2000 was 19.5%. In 2005, it was 22.3%. In 2010, it was 23.3%.

[2] See the BRA Research Division's report, "Boston by the Numbers: Housing" for more information on housing in Boston …."

[3] In 2000, the poverty rate for children was 25.9%, compared to the city's poverty rate of 19.5%. In 2010, the poverty rate among children was 30.4%, compared to the city's poverty rate of 23.3%.

[4] The elderly poverty rate in Longwood Medical Area is 45.5%. However, there are only approximately 11 people age 65 and over in this neighborhood."

[5] All unemployment data is for Boston's population age 16 and over. …"

Low socioeconomic status is associated with limited access to regular health care, adequate housing, quality education, nutritious food, recreational opportunities, and other resources associated with a healthy lifestyle. When incomes are lower, persons and households may be more dependent on public open spaces close to home for their outdoor leisure pursuits.

Generally related to income, the availability of a motor vehicle for a household leads to mobility and access to recreation areas much farther from home than walking distance. In 2010, 36% of households in Boston did not have a car. This makes these residents generally dependent on walking or various forms of mass transportation to access open space. The neighborhoods where proportionally more of the households did not have cars than Boston as a whole were South Boston Waterfront, East Boston, Roxbury, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Downtown, Fenway, Longwood, Mission Hill, the South End, Allston, the West End, and the North End. Compare this to the 12% of households in Massachusetts as a whole that have no vehicles available. The importance of close-to-home open space for Boston is clear.

Industries, Occupations, Employers, and Employment Trends

The *Boston by the Numbers: Economy and Jobs* fact sheet (BRA, Research Division 2011) notes that the total jobs in Boston in 2008 was 680,000. Boston has more jobs than residents and far more jobs than resident workers. Commuters from outside the city fill 62% of the jobs within Boston.

The *2013 Economy Report* (BRA 2013) states that by 2016 the city could approach 730,000 jobs. Should this growth scenario play out as projected, 26.6 % of these jobs would be in health and education, 35.7% would be in financial, professional and business services, and 10.2% will be in the leisure and hospitality sector.

Boston by the Numbers: Economy and Jobs notes that Boston has shifted from an industrial-based economy to a knowledge- and information-based economy. Industrial specialties in Boston include health care, education, financial, professional, and business services, and hospitality and leisure, all represented in greater proportion than found nationally. Wages have grown along with the evolution to a knowledge-based economy.

Using U.S. Census data, the report *Boston in Context: Neighborhoods* (BRA, Research Division 2015) states that there are 329,714 residents over 16 in Boston with occupations in the following industries:

Industries	Residents Employed	%
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	103,195	31.3%
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative and waste management services	51,575	15.6%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, and accommodation and food services	36,411	11.0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate, rental, leasing	30,677	9.3%
Retail trade	28,792	8.7%
Other services, except public administration	15,766	4.8%
Public administration	15,038	4.6%
Manufacturing	14,196	4.3%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	10,391	3.2%
Construction	10,243	3.1%
Information	8,319	2.5%
Wholesale trade	4,774	1.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining	337	0.1%
Total Boston	**329,714**	**100.0%**

Source: U.S. Census, 2009–2013 5-Year American Community Survey; BRA Research Division Analysis

The *Largest Employers in the City of Boston* report (BRA 2013) provides an overview of the largest private sector employers, defined as having 500 employees or more. The analysis revealed that there are 121 private sector companies in Boston with more than 500 employees. These companies account for 196,446 jobs. Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Boston University together provide more than 35,000 jobs.

Boston's largest employers are mainly providers of Health Care and Social Assistance, Finance and Insurance, and Educational Services. These three industries account for 144,070 jobs across 61 companies, representing 73% of all employment among Boston's largest employers.

However, not all business is big business in Boston. *Boston's Neighborhood Business Patterns* (BRA 2014) states that the majority of firms in Boston are small employers with almost half of the establishments having 1 to 4 workers. There are 8,800 immigrant-owned small businesses in Boston that generate almost $3.7 billion in annual sales and employ 18,500 people.

Boston by the Numbers: Colleges & Universities (BRA, Research Division 2011) notes that the city is the location of 35 public and private colleges and universities. There are about 152,000 students at Boston's institutions of higher learning. The concentration of students ranks at the top in the nation and the world.

Boston's colleges and universities employ over 42,600 people, 6.5% of the jobs in the city. Student and student visitors spend about $1.7 billion annually in Boston.

Currently, 54% of Boston's employed workers have a bachelor's degree (*Boston's Labor Force*, BRA, Research Division 2013). The combination of the large number of colleges and universities and skilled jobs results in a highly educated work force and a population that is relatively younger than other cities.

The city is home to a number of technology companies and is a hub for biotechnology. In 2014, Boston institutions received $1.72 billion from the National Institutes of Health, which was the highest funding to any city in the U.S. for the 19th consecutive year (*Boston: Top Recipient of NIH Funding for 19 Consecutive Years*, BRA, Research Division 2014).

Tourism forms a large part of the local economy. The Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau (2015) notes that there were 16,250,000 visitors to the Boston MSA region in 2014, spending a total of $11.5 billion while visiting the area in 2013.

Boston is a state capital and county seat, and the home of federal, state, county and municipal agencies, law offices, and other government services, which are another major component of the city's economy.

The city is a major seaport on the East Coast and the oldest continuously operated industrial and fishing port in the Western Hemisphere.

The Boston Indicators Report 2012 (The Boston Foundation 2012) notes that an emerging industry is regional food production. This trend is seen in food trucks, farmers markets, farm-to-school programs, plans for urban hydroponic farms, and a regional food system. The *2013 Economy Report* notes that the Food Services industry "was the second greatest job producer, adding close to 4,000 jobs …," i.e., a 10% jump in the 2010–2011 one-year period (BRA 2013).

The *MetroFuture* regional plan (MAPC 2008) provides employment projections for the region. It notes that in 2030, the region's economy may add 293,000 jobs from 2000. Half of the net jobs will be in Professional and Business Services, Education, and Health Services. Manufacturing is the only sector that is expected to decline and 46,000 manufacturing jobs may be lost.

Environmental Justice

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs enacted an Environmental Justice Policy in 2002. Governor Patrick issued Executive Order 552 on November 25, 2014 requiring this policy to be updated. The information below is based on the 2002 policy (EOEA 2002).

This policy notes that Environmental Justice (EJ) is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution, and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits.

EOEA (now EOEEA) established an Environmental Justice Policy to address the disproportionate share of environmental burdens generally experienced by lower-income people and communities of color who, at the same time, often lack environmental assets in their neighborhoods. The policy is designed to help ensure protection from environmental pollution as well as promote community involvement in planning and environmental decision-making to maintain and/or enhance the environmental quality of their neighborhoods.

Environmental Justice neighborhoods are those areas that EOEEA has determined to be most at risk of being unaware of, or unable to participate in, environmental decision-making or to gain access to environmental resources. They were originally defined in the 2002 order, as neighborhoods that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The median annual household income is at or below 65 percent of the statewide median income for Massachusetts; or
- 25% of the residents are minority; or
- 25% of the residents are foreign born, or
- 25 % of the residents are lacking English language proficiency.

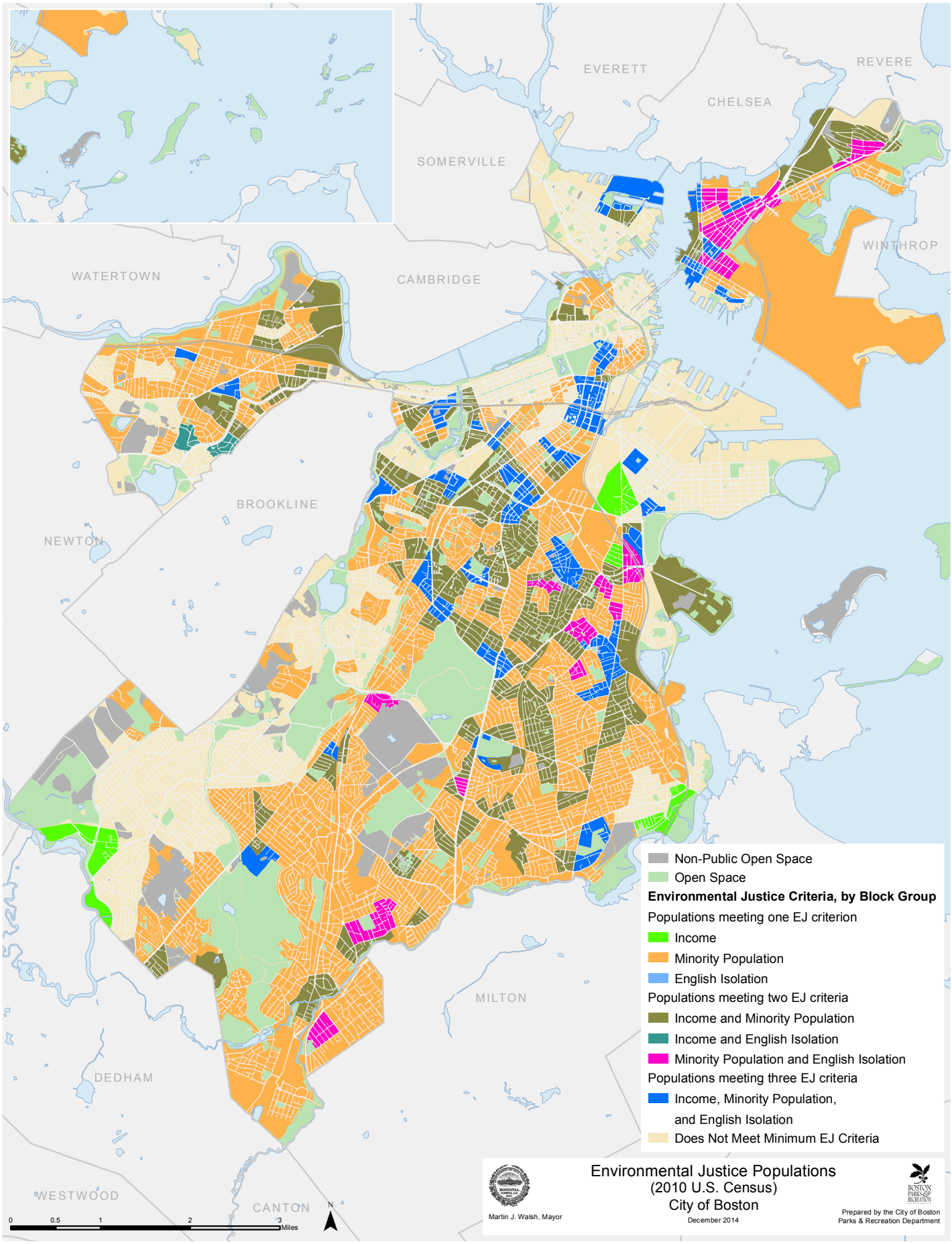
The 2002 criteria included the criterion that "25% of residents are foreign born." However, the City of Boston did not use this criterion in the production of this Open Space and Recreation Plan, because the Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information Systems (MassGIS) indicated that the 2010 Census data is not accurate enough at the Census Block Group level to use for a determination of "residents who are foreign born." (Pahlavan 2015) So only the remaining three criteria used by MassGIS for EJ population determination are portrayed for this Open Space and Recreation Plan (MassGIS 2012).

Boston meets the criteria for being defined overall as an environmental justice community. The total population of Boston that fell within an Environmental Justice Block Group was 456,403 or 74% of the population (MassGIS undated). All of Boston's neighborhoods contain at least one or more census block groups that meet the criteria.

The *State of Equity in Metro Boston* (MAPC 2011) addresses equitable access to open space. The report calls for land use decisions that provide equitable access to open space and address issues of safety. MetroFuture Goal #23 addresses environmental justice and states that "all neighborhoods will have access to safe and well-maintained parks, community gardens, and appropriate play spaces for children and youth. Even as density increases, MetroFuture will protect and enhance access to open space. The region will…focus on areas currently underserved by open space." Such improvements will not only help children, but will also meet MetroFuture Goal #25 that all of the region's residents build more physical activity into their lives.

The Boston Foundation: The Boston Indicators Project (Undated) notes "[i]n Greater Boston, the highest concentration of environmental hazards are located in cities and towns with higher poverty rates and larger concentrations of children, such as … Boston with 121 per square mile[,]"i.e., that communities of color and low-income neighborhoods in Boston shoulder a disproportionate share of environmental and environmental health burdens. A recent Northeastern University study documented cumulative exposures to 17 different types of environmentally hazardous sites and facilities, and found 9 in Boston neighborhoods, particularly in communities of color (Faber and Krieg 2005). As a result, Boston was ranked among the 20 most environmentally overburdened communities in Massachusetts.

Similarly, analysis by the Boston Public Health Commission finds that people of color in Boston have higher rates of health problems that can reflect environmental conditions such as asthma (BPHC 2014, p. 7).


EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
SOMERVILLE
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
MILTON
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Populations meeting one EJ criterion
Income
Minority Population
English Isolation
Populations meeting two EJ criteria
Income and Minority Population
Income and English Isolation
Minority Population and English Isolation
Populations meeting three EJ criteria
Income, Minority Population, and English Isolation
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Environmental Justice Populations
(2010 U.S. Census)
City of Boston
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Section 3.4:

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Introduction

Boston's historical growth and development has been discussed in Section 3.2, History. To briefly summarize Boston's development and growth, Boston's location on the Atlantic coast at the confluence of several rivers gave it great advantages that were used to make it a maritime port of international significance. When the industrial revolution occurred, its location near rivers allowed for transportation and power sources, and its port gave it worldwide market reach. The development of educational and cultural institutions from its beginnings gave it further advantages that continue to be exercised in the knowledge- and information-based economy. Thanks to this knowledge base, industries such as cutting-edge health care, advanced technologies, and advanced financial services are a robust part of the city's current growth. Its historical resources have provided the basis for a strong tourism economic sector, and its leadership role in the development of public open spaces, as well as strong support for the arts and culture, has helped make Boston a highly desirable place to live and work. Those assets help attract a strong talent baseto Boston's knowledge- and information-based economy, as does the public transportation system and the varied housing stock, from high rise apartment towers to triple deckers and stately Victorian homes.

In the decade between 2000 and 2010, the following significant milestones in growth were achieved:

- Housing growth by 20,546 units occurred between 2000 and 2010, an 8.2% increase in Boston's housing stock, the strongest leap in 50 years. This growth has led to a total of 272,481 units by 2010, the largest housing stock in Boston's history, of which 19.4% is affordable (*Boston by the Numbers: Housing*, BRA, Research Division 2011).
- In this same decade, 29 dormitories and nearly 11,000 dormitory beds were added, an increase of 39%. Between 2007 and 2010, 11 non-residential higher-education projects were built at a total of 655,400 square feet (*Boston by the Numbers: Colleges and Universities*, BRA, Research Division 2011).
- During this decade, 9.8 million square feet of new office space was added. From 2000 to 2010, 4,970 hotel rooms (35%) were built (Mayor's Press Office March 22, 2011).

Open Space: Character and Change

Boston's open space has been a function of its growth and a definer of its growth. In the early 19th century, the small squares were assets to attract dense residential development. When in the later 19th century, rapid development greatly reduced informal access to open space in the countryside, and its density led to the call for a park system that would be pastoral landscape-oriented, as exemplified by the Olmsted-designed Emerald Necklace parks. This gave the public a more formalized access to green landscapes that would also define and attract development. However, it proved difficult to provide large landscape-oriented parks throughout the city. That combined with the new recreation movement that saw physical activity as one means to counteract the ills of poverty in dense urban settings led to the movement to create smaller parks more oriented to sports and games, where the spaces were dedicated to them.

As development continued in the 20th century, with building technology allowing for tall buildings for residential and commercial purposes, the additional population and ensuing congestion again sought relief in the movement for on-site open space, either plazas for commercial buildings or parks with passive and/or active recreation elements in residential buildings or building complexes. Toward the latter part of the 20th century and into the early 21st century, there is more of a movement toward more intensive programming of parks, not just for physical activity, but also for entertainment, arts, and cultural events. This movement sees open space as an interactive realm, where society is limited to intimate encounters, as in the pastoral landscape park, but well integrated into the landscape/cityscape.

Of course, like many forms of technology, all these forms of open space have come to occupy their own niche, just as hard copy books are still published in the digital age, and radio and television have not been superseded by internet streaming services. The Emerald Necklace parks, probably among Boston's most defining physical elements, has taken on a historical character, yet is amenable to carefully wrought changes that fit into its own defining elements, such as the golf clubhouse in Franklin Park that blends into the pastoral landscape.

With preventive-oriented health care the focus of cost-cutting policy makers, active recreation will not fade as an important subject of park design, but will experience change as new immigrants bring new pursuits to the fields and courts, or whole new sports and games are created, or existing ones modified thanks to new technology.

Of course, demographic, socio-economic, and land use changes will affect open space needs and designs. As it has throughout Boston's history, open space will reflect and be part of the wider currents of its development and growth, helping to define community character and meet community needs.

Current Land Use and Development Trends

The Metropolitan Planning Council (MAPC) classifies Boston as a Metropolitan Core Community. These communities have a historic, high-density, urban character, with a range of housing from traditional triple-deckers and row houses to large multifamily buildings. New growth occurs mostly through redevelopment, infill, or conversion from industrial uses to residential or mixed uses. Minority, immigrant, and low-income populations comprise a large share of the population. (MAPC 2008)

The BRA (2011) notes that overall land use distribution in Boston is as follows: 51% tax exempt (26% state, 14% city, 2% higher education and medical, 8% other exempts), 36% residential, 9% commercial, and 4% industrial. (BRA 2011)

The neighborhood land use maps generated by the BRA were analyzed to create the summary of current land uses that is presented in Appendix A1.

Future Trends

Population and Housing Demand Projections for Metro Boston (MAPC 2014) provides projections for Metro Boston through 2040 to help municipalities form policies to ensure that the region continues to grow. The report states that the aging and retirement of the Baby Boomers will have implications for the region, and the economic future depends on attracting more young workers from other places. The report states that 435,000 new housing units—mostly multifamily, and mostly in urban areas—will be needed by the year 2040 to accommodate these young workers and the growing senior population. This implies that all types of publicly accessible open space, active, passive, and natural resource-based, will be needed to accommodate this increase in population. This will be especially so given that most of these new units will be of a multifamily, urban nature, where onsite open space, if any, will be limited.

The report offers two possible scenarios—"Status Quo" and "Stronger Region." The Status Quo scenario is based on the continuation of existing rates of birth, death, migration, and housing occupancy. The Stronger Region scenario explores how changing trends could result in higher population growth, greater housing demand, and substantially larger workforce. The key findings are below:

Population: The Status Quo Scenario assumes a population growth of 6.6% over thirty years. The Stronger Region projects a 12.6% growth in population.

Workforce: More than a million of the workers in the region will retire by the year 2030. Young people will need to be retained and attracted from other places in order to fill those jobs. The Status Quo scenario notes that the current weak in-migration of younger workers will result in 0.4% growth in the labor force. The Stronger Region scenario projects that more young people will be attracted from outside the region and then retained, adding 175,000 new workers to the labor force and growing it by 7%.

Housing: Under the Status Quo scenario, the need for more housing will require 305,000 new housing units by 2040. Under the Stronger Region scenario, there will be a need for 435,000 new units.

Households: There will be a need to provide housing for a growing number of households of declining size due to single person households (especially seniors), divorced households, and fewer children. An increasing percentage of senior-headed households will choose to downsize from single family homes to apartments and condominiums. The sale of single family homes by the aging Baby Boomer generation will provide an adequate supply for younger families. With smaller households, public open spaces will serve as community gathering spaces where social isolation can be reduced.

Housing Preferences: Attracting more young people to the region with the kinds of housing they prefer could result in a "Stronger Region" scenario with a total population increase of 12.6%. This report confirms the need for significant new supplies of rental and owner multi-family housing to attract young people. The Status Quo scenario requires 48% of units to be multi-family in urban communities. The Stronger Region scenario requires 62% of the units to be multi-family in urban communities.

The report says that many signs point to the resurgence of inner core urban communities. An increasingly diverse population attracted by job proximity, transit access, community vibrancy, and cultural assets is likely to drive continued population growth in inner urban areas. More than half of housing demand will be in urban communities under either scenario—as much as 56% in the Stronger Region scenario.

Children: The number of children in the region peaked in 2000 and is likely to decline over the coming decades. The population aged 5 to 14 is projected to fall another 8% to 9% by 2020 and is not likely to fully rebound, even under the Stronger Region scenario.

Economy: MAPC's recent economic development strategy report (MAPC Undated) includes trends in the Boston Metropolitan Regional Economy. It notes that in the colonial era, the region focused on international trade and building global connections. The economic security that resulted allowed governance that supported growth and universities that ensured an educated population. As manufacturing increased, there was greater investment in education, cultural institutions and physical development that enhanced the quality of life. The region is now undergoing an economic transition with core strengths in education, healthcare and finance that form the basis of an innovation and knowledge economy. To support this transition will demand further investments in education for economic/workforce development, and in cultural institutions and recreational venues and opportunities (including open space) that will attract an educated, skilled workforce to an area with a high quality of life.

Climate Change: The City's climate action plans (City of Boston undated) note that the city is among the most vulnerable in the US to climate change and rising seas. Models that showed an ice-free status in the Arctic by 2050 are being revised to project open seas in a decade. Projections are for a 6 foot rise in sea level by the end of the century (City of Boston Undated). With increasing temperatures come stresses on vegetation that can affect species planted, while frequent high velocity/high volume rain events can create more erosion. High temperatures will also make outdoor activities less attractive, and along with more water pooling could increase mosquito-borne disease outbreaks. Among Boston's approaches to address this issue may include the provision and use of open space to accommodate temporary periods of inundation, changes in species planted, and changes in hours of recreational programs. While some of these changes can moderate the climate-wrought changes, others may change the nature of the recreational experience in the affected open spaces.

Maximum Build-Out

In the late 1990s, the MAPC generated maximum build-out scenarios for municipalities within the region. However, only two small areas of Boston were attempted for the build-out analysis given the complexity of zoning. As a result, it was deemed

infeasible to go further with a build-out analysis of Boston. It was also understood that most new development in Boston is located in areas where development has already occurred.

A maximum build-out analysis is a display of the results of all allowable development on all developable land. This is a concern to open space planners because potential open spaces that are not protected may be developed. However, even without this analysis, the potential for losses of open space can be seen in the zoning maps mentioned earlier. How these unprotected areas may be protected from development is the subject of much consideration at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

Current Infrastructure

Boston's land use is compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented, and well served by transit. Land is at a premium and development competes with open space. The infrastructure systems necessary to support a dense city include multi-modal transportation, electrical services, gas lines, water and waste systems, and recreational and ecological open space. Achieving a balance of infrastructure systems that allow for growth and maintains a superior quality of life requires the careful development and application of public policy.

Water Transportation

Natural water bodies provided the earliest means of transport in Boston. (Seasholes 2003) The sea and the harbor (including the Mystic River and Chelsea Creek) continue to be important avenues of international commerce, although Boston's share of this trade has fallen behind other port cities such as New York and Montreal. Today cruise liners calling in Boston are a bigger business than container ships. Harbor channel maintenance dredging under the direction of the US Army Corps of Engineers was completed in 2008. The next project is a channel deepening project that will enable larger container cargo ships to enter the Port of Boston.

In recent years the water ferry system for passenger transport has been revived and expanded. In a region defined by its access to water, ferry service will become an alternative to clogged highways and packed transit trains as population and development densities increase. (Massachusetts Department of Transportation 2012)

Streets, Roads, and Highways

Native People had a hierarchy of paths throughout the region that responded to topography, landforms, sun, and shade. The European settlers first adopted these paths and eventually augmented them, before then imposing straight line "rangeway" roads. Boston's colonial-era streets have grown into an 800-mile network that varies from narrow cobblestone alleys on Beacon Hill dating back several centuries to the massive and congested Massachusetts Turnpike Extension (I-90) and John F. Fitzgerald Expressway (I-93). The more significant highways that serve the city include Interstates 90 and 93, Massachusetts Routes 1A, 2, 3, 3A, 9, 28, 30, 99, and 203, and U.S. Routes 1 and 20.

As the ownership of privately owned vehicles increases, traffic adversely impacts the quality of life in the city. The conflict between personal choices and public good remains ongoing, from residential neighborhoods where merchants and residents call for more parking, to the heavily-used Interstate Highway System that cuts through and surrounds Boston. Traffic delays and air, water, and noise pollution are constant reminders of the impacts of an auto-dependent transportation system.

Some reductions in auto ownership and use may be coming, as some residents take advantage of car sharing systems like ZipCar, or bike sharing systems (see below) like Hubway, for personal mobility. At least one high rise residential development in downtown Boston was recently approved without any parking garage onsite or associated with it elsewhere, in recognition of a market for carless-lifestyle housing. This could potentially free up land for other uses, including open space, but such urban-oriented residents will also seek close-to-home recreation, which may lead to further pressures on existing limited open space.

Bridges and Tunnels

In many instances, colonial-era ferries and then bridges were developed at the fording places of the Native Peoples. The bridges and tunnels that now serve the city include the Callahan, Sumner, and Ted Williams Tunnels crossing Boston Harbor to East Boston, the Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. Tunnel (I-93) under downtown Boston, the Tobin Bridge (U.S. Route 1) crossing the Mystic River, and the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge (also I-93) crossing the Charles River.

The Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. Tunnel is located below the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway in downtown Boston. It was built as part of Central Artery/Tunnel Project (aka "The Big Dig" or the CA/T Project), which removed the deteriorating elevated Central Artery. This project created a total of 300 acres of open space, including 45 parks and plazas in downtown Boston, Charlestown, East Boston, and South Boston. (Massachusetts Department of Transportation Undated)

Mass Transit

Railroads were first built in Boston during the 1830s. The tracks required flat land so wetlands were often filled to serve that purpose. This technology thereupon made possible the extensive filling in of tidal flats, wetlands, and other lowlands by transporting fill, thereby creating new land for neighborhoods, roads, and railroads.

Boston residents were served by horse drawn buses in colonial times. By the late 1800s, streetcar suburbs grew along trolley lines in Roxbury, Brighton, Dorchester, and other areas around Boston.

Boston developed the first subway system in the country. The FY2014–2018 capital plan for the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT 2014) notes that the MBTA is the fifth largest transit system in the country as measured by ridership. It serves a daily ridership of approximately 1.3 million passengers. It maintains 182 bus routes, 4 rapid transit lines of heavy and light rail, 5 bus rapid transit lines, 3 trackless trolley lines, 14 commuter rail lines, 3 ferry routes, and a flexible paratransit

service. This system allows for better public access to public open spaces throughout the city, whether local or regional scale open spaces. This system can help increase public open space use of unused land, but there are also trends toward sale of such assets or use of or impact upon public open spaces to improve or expand the transit network.

Air Travel

Logan International Airport started during the 1920s on the mud flats of East Boston. The neighborhood was originally composed of five separate islands. Significant fill has created the land mass that exists today.

Logan International Airport is a critical link between the New England and the rest of the world. Recent additions to the airport include a runway built in 2006, new terminal buildings, parking garages, circulation improvements, hotels, and a third harbor tunnel (Ted Williams Tunnel) to increase vehicular access.

Massport has built and maintains Piers Park as mitigation for impacts on surrounding communities, especially East Boston. The 10-acre Bremen Street Park opened in 2007, adjacent to the Airport MBTA stop on a former rail yard. This park was funded by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority as part of the CA/T Project, and is maintained by Massport.

Pedestrians and Bicycles

Section 7.1.1 presents detailed information on recreational infrastructure for pedestrians and bicycles.

The draft *FY2014–FY2018 Transportation Capital Investment Plan* of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (2014) notes that $130 million will be provided for the construction or reconstruction of bikeway and bike path improvements, including rail trails and scenic byways, across the Commonwealth.

The *Boston Regional Pedestrian Transportation Plan 2010* (MAPC 2010) identifies actions that local governments, advocacy organizations, citizen groups, the private sector, and individuals can take to encourage walking.

Hubway is a public bicycle sharing system with stations throughout Boston and adjacent towns. (City of Boston Undated) This builds on the past decade's extensive laying out of bicycle lanes on city streets and arterial routes, and the installation of bicycle parking stands throughout the city. (City of Boston Undated)

Water Supply Infrastructure

The water supply infrastructure for Boston is the responsibility of both the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC).

Water services had a modest beginning in colonial Boston, as early settlers relied on water from cisterns and underground wells, but the quality was poor and the supply inadequate. The first attempt to provide an alternative came when the Aqueduct Corporation began delivering water from Jamaica Pond through wooden pipes in 1796. (MWRA 2015)

Through the 1800s, Boston sought water supply sources further away from the city: 1848, from Lake Cochituate via the Cochituate Aqueduct and the Brookline Reservoir; 1870, the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, with the construction of reservoirs on the Sudbury River to feed the Chestnut Hill Reservoir through the Sudbury Aqueduct soon following. A regional approach, the Metropolitan Water District, was formed in 1895 and by 1908 the Wachusett Dam, Reservoir, and Aqueduct were completed.

By the early 1900s, the Boston metropolitan area required additional water supplies and a more comprehensive plan to ensure its delivery. The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Water Supply Division was created in 1926 as the agency responsible for building these new facilities, among them Quabbin Reservoir, the Quabbin Aqueduct, and the Hultman Aqueduct.

Today, the MWRA supplies water to Boston and 60 other communities, where 2.5 million people are served in 890,000 households. Some 230 million gallons daily come from the Quabbin Reservoir which is 65 miles west of Boston, and the Wachusett Reservoir which is 35 miles west of the city. The water is conveyed via aqueducts from the two reservoirs to the Weston and Norumbega reservoirs.

The MWRA water reaches Boston after passing through treatment plants, storage tanks, and aqueducts. The BWSC owns and operates a system for the distribution of drinking water within Boston. The BWSC purchases water, disinfected and fluoridated, from the MWRA, and is the MWRA's largest single customer for both water and sewer services.

The BWSC's water supply distribution system consists of approximately 1,096 miles of pipe, 13,074 hydrants, and 16,885 valves. The system serves approximately 88,000 accounts through four major service networks. (BWSC 2015)

The most significant assets of the water supply system which exist in Boston and that have a relationship to the open space system are the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, where no water contact is allowed, but a path on the perimeter of the water body allows for walking and running, and the Bellevue Hill storage tank that helps maintain water pressure in the system for the southwestern section of the Boston area, and is located within the Bellevue Hill Reservation under the control of DCR. Paths are located within this reservation.

Sewer Infrastructure

The BWSC owns and operates a system for the collection and transport of wastewater and storm drainage. The sewer system consists of conduits ranging in size from six-inch clay lateral sewers to 20-foot by 15.5-foot concrete culverts. The 1,450-mile system

has 600 linear miles of sanitary sewers, 550 miles of storm drains, and 300 miles of combined sewers. Other facilities include eight pumping stations, two gatehouses, 40 permitted combined sewer overflow outlets, 185 regulators, and 200 tide gates. (BWSC 2015)

In 1985, legislation transferred the possession, control, and operation of the MDC Water and Sewerage Divisions to the newly created Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Today, all wastewater collected by BWSC facilities is conveyed to the MWRA's Deer Island Treatment Plant for treatment. The MWRA

has created a 44-acre park around the plant which is located within Boston, thus offering a harbor island experience accessible by land from Winthrop. (MWRA 2015)

The Deer Island Treatment Plant is part of the federal court-ordered cleanup of Boston Harbor. The court ordered the MWRA to build the wastewater and sludge facilities as well as improved combined sewer overflow facilities, all on a court-set schedule.

These sewer renovations and the wastewater and sludge treatment made up the largest public works project to be built in New England up to that time and had a final cost estimated at up to $6.1 billion. This undertaking included a 9-mile effluent tunnel to carry treated water hundreds of feet below Boston Harbor and into Massachusetts Bay.

This vast undertaking was driven by the 2.5 million people (almost half of the state's population) and the 5,500 businesses and industries that send their waste to Boston Harbor. It was also driven by the high value of the Boston waterfront, where commercial, residential, and recreational interests have been positively affected by the cleanup of the harbor waters. The harbor beaches in Boston have come back as a recreational destination thanks to this cleanup of the effluent flowing into the harbor waters.

Stormwater Best Management Practices

The *Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP): Guidance Document* (BWSC 2013) calls for green infrastructure that uses storm water runoff management practices to mimic the natural hydrologic cycle. Site planning includes reducing impervious areas, fitting the proposed improvements to the site terrain, preserving and using the natural drainage systems, and replicating pre-development hydrology.

The Water and Sewer Commission is currently working on the implementation of demonstration projects at Audubon Circle (Beacon Street/Park Drive area), Central Square in East Boston, and City Hall Plaza. (BWSC 2013) The potential need to use open space to manage stormwater runoff is an issue that warrants the further consideration of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Future Development

Boston's long term development is largely a function of the economy, the local land use controls, and the amount of remaining, buildable land. The areas where new development is taking place in Boston are discussed in Section 7.2 – Neighborhoods. There is a need to provide open space in a balanced manner to augment the build-out in these neighborhoods.

Local Land Use Controls: Planning

The City of Boston does not have a comprehensive master plan at this time. However, at the direction of Mayor Walsh, the Boston Redevelopment Authority has initiated the development of a General Plan for the City (Imagine Boston 2030) that will knit together and establish a context for the individual neighborhood plans that have been the focus of city planning for the last 30 years.

The BRA states that the scope of the General Plan will also include a review of all of the individual planning efforts being undertaken by various City departments that are specific to their own mission (e.g., the Parks and Recreation Department's Open Space and Recreation Plan) and incorporate that work into a single coordinated vision and plan for Boston.

Local Land Use Controls: Zoning

The City of Boston prescribes land use through citywide districts and special districts zoning. Specific to this plan, the zoning designations include Open Space Districts and Conservation Protection Subdistricts (see Map 3). The City's Zoning Code has several articles that relate to open space that are summarized in Section 5. These include the following:

- Article 29 Greenbelt Protection Overlay District
- Article 33 Open Space Subdistricts
- Article 49A Greenway Overlay District
- Article 56 Conservation Protection Subdistrict
- Article 89 Urban Agriculture

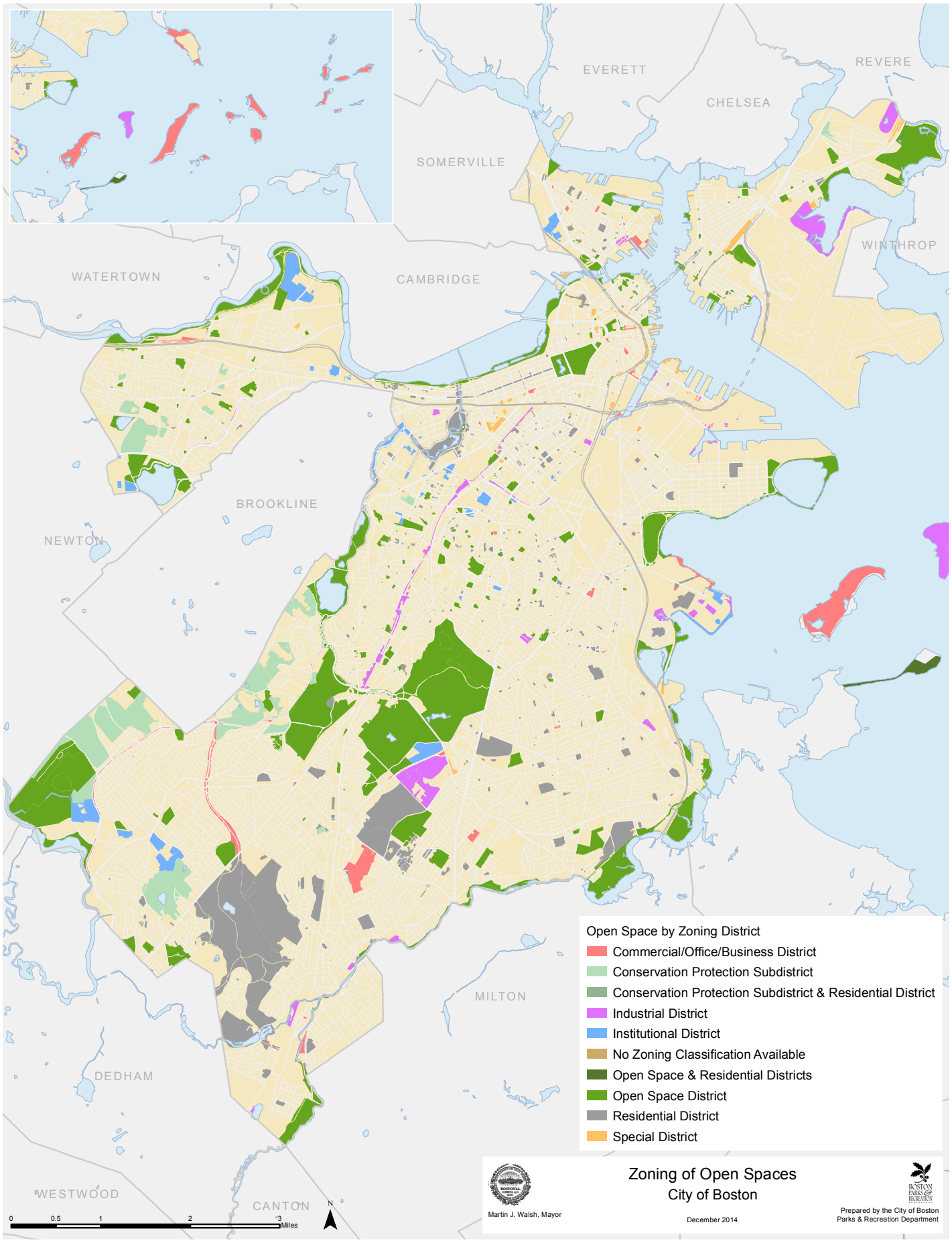
Open space zoning is designated for lands in public ownership that are currently used for open space purposes. Open space zoning prohibits or limits to varying degrees the development of open space. The type of open space typically governs what degree of development can be allowed. The protection of open space through zoning has limitations as a project that does not meet zoning requirements may seek a variance.

Private property owners may have their property zoned for open space if they so desire.

Residential zoning prescribes areas to be provided for open space on-site, as in Article 17, Open Space Requirement for Residences. New residential uses may be required to provide a minimum usable open space per dwelling unit on the project site. This requirement may be met by balconies or on the roofs. Required front, side, and rear yards are included in computing the usable open space.

Meeting the minimum usable open space per dwelling unit zoning requirement onsite has become a challenge in densely developing neighborhoods like South Boston where developers are maximizing the development on a site and seeking variances by which to do so, including seeking relief from the minimum onsite open space requirements. This puts pressure on existing open space in already dense neighborhoods with limited open space.

Article 80 Development Review: The Article 80 process is intended to protect and enhance the public realm and to mitigate the impacts of development projects on their surroundings and on City resources. One of the specific goals of Article 80 is "to encourage new buildings and public spaces that are designed to enhance and preserve Boston's system of parks, squares, walkways, and active shopping streets." However, the Article 80 review criteria do not specifically address a project's potential impact to the park system.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CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
MILTON
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
Open Space by Zoning District
Commercial/Office/Business District
Conservation Protection Subdistrict
Conservation Protection Subdistrict & Residential District
Industrial District
Institutional District
No Zoning Classification Available
Open Space & Residential Districts
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Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Zoning of Open Spaces
City of Boston
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Planned Development Areas: The BRA may approve a Planned Development Area (PDA), a special feature of Article 80, for a project that codifies the development potential of a particular parcel through an extensive public process, review, and negotiation. The end result is that the required provision of open space on a site may be changed during this approval.

Institutional Master Plans: The BRA may also approve an Institutional Master Plan (IMP) under Article 80 that determines how a college or hospital will grow over a decade. There are no requirements for open space in this process. Open space may be provided in the IMP, but a later amendment, or a future IMP, may utilize that open space. The institution may eliminate the open space within its holdings, and instead look to the City's already oversubscribed public open spaces to serve its own users.

Local Land Use Controls: Parks and Recreation Commission Review

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department reviews development projects for the impacts to open space through the Section 7.4-11 (the 100-foot rule) and Article 80 processes.

Municipal Code Section 7.4-11 Permission for Construction near Parks or Parkways: The City's Municipal Code requires that the Parks and Recreation Commission must approve in writing construction or alteration of all buildings and structures within 100 feet of a public park or parkway. This review process is conducted either administratively or through the monthly public hearings of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Infrastructure Improvements

The assets of a region that support an innovation/knowledge-based economy include its human capital, its public and civic institutions, and its physical and virtual infrastructure that allows people to live in the region and businesses to thrive. A vigorous, lively infrastructure of parks and open space can be considered part of this vision.

The MAPC's recent economic development strategy report (MAPC Undated) notes that Boston overall has good infrastructure systems that have contributed to general economic success. The future challenges include the maintenance, modernization, and expansion of these systems due to the age of the systems, changing demographics, development, and lack of funding sources. Of particular note are needs related to transit systems, storm water infrastructure, and energy infrastructure. The need to provide equitable distribution of infrastructure investments is critical, because it will determine where growth occurs and who benefits from it.

Development decisions in the future will be influenced by the preferences of the baby boomers and the millennials. These two groups have trended towards a distinct preference for urban environments, with living and working environments that require less automobile dependence for access to a wide array of entertainment, services, and innovative economic opportunities. From an infrastructure perspective, this creates a need for more urban investments, particularly with regard to transit which enables higher density environments, and storm water management which helps to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of development.

The transit systems of Boston require significant investments to support improvements and expansion. Transit in this region must offer higher quality and greater efficiency. It must also be expanded to support greater density and enhance connectivity.

Storm water management is also an issue of increased concern because the need to manage flooding and water quality in urban and suburban areas has necessitated the development of practices that create additional costs for municipalities and developers.

Mass Transit

The BRA Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative (BRA Undated) notes that the line passes through Downtown Boston, South Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park. There had been only four stops along the corridor and the line bypassed large sections of lower-income urban neighborhoods that endured the environmental impact of the train without enjoying the benefit of access to it. The MBTA has recently constructed three new stations along this line at Newmarket/South Bay, Four Corners/Geneva Avenue, and Talbot Avenue. A fourth new station, at Cummins Highway/Blue Hill Avenue, is in design and is expected to be completed in 2017. These new stations will significantly expand transportation options (both rail and bus) for communities living within the Fairmount Indigo Corridor. Approximately 40,000 people live within a one-half mile walk of the existing four stations. An additional 42,000 people live within a one-half mile walk of the three new stations and the one in design. If the last two proposed stations were to be constructed, an additional 26,000 people would be within a one-half mile walk of a transit stop.

The *Capital Investment Plan for FY2014-FY2018* for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (2014) outlines how the state will spend about $12.4 billion over the next five years, with investment in public transit, bike paths, paratransit, roads, bridges, airports and railroads. The plan seeks to fund investments that will enhance mobility, improve safety, stimulate economic growth, and protect the environment. The proposed improvements are as follows:

- $75 million in matching funds to the MBTA for the purchase of 392 new buses.
- Green Line Cars ($2.6 million)–supports initial planning and design work to replace the entire existing Green Line fleet, with anticipated delivery of new vehicles beginning in FY2021.
- Green Line Extension [GLX] ($1.3 billion)–this will fund procurement of vehicles, construction of stations and improvements to rail and signal systems to enable service to Somerville and Medford by FY2020, improving access to employment opportunities for Boston residents.
- Red and Orange Line Program ($835 million)–this represents initial funding for a $1.3 billion program to replace the Red Line vehicles and Orange Line vehicles (120 Orange Line cars and 74 new Red Line cars) as well as improvements to tracks

and signals systems, thus improving capacity and frequency of trains for customers.

The report notes that the Red Line is the transit backbone of the region's innovation economy, connecting Kendall Square to the Massachusetts General Hospital campus and then to the Innovation District via South Station and the Silver Line.

The Orange Line runs through North Station through Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. It serves hundreds of thousands of residents, including many low and moderate income persons. The improvements along this line will advance a host of smart growth and equity goals, while putting added pressure on the Southwest Corridor Park, located in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, and built as part of the Orange Line reconstruction in the 1980s.

- DMU Service and Silver Line to Chelsea ($252 million)–implementation of diesel multiple unit (DMU) vehicles (independently powered subway vehicles running on commuter rail lines) and expansion of the Silver Line service will provide reliable public transit to underserved communities in the Fairmont Corridor of Boston, Chelsea and the North Shore. The DMU funding will establish the new Indigo Line, using the Fairmont commuter rail corridor, to provide faster, more reliable service to that region of Boston.

Impacts of Growth

The regional *2012 to 2013 Annual Update, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* report (MAPC Undated) states a goal to promote economic development policies and practices driven by Smart Growth Principles. It notes that regional development patterns of the past have ceased to be in the long term self-interest of future generations.

Smart growth will focus a larger share of regional growth in central cities, urbanized areas, near transportation nodes, and in communities already served by adequate infrastructure. The intent is to encourage density in some places in order to save open land in other places. This is a goal, however, that can have a negative impact on the provision of parks within Boston, since as density increases, open space needs and pressures on open space both increase. This goal therefore needs further development to limit adverse impacts on Boston residents.

The MAPC encourages policies to promote the redevelopment of brownfields and regulate the development of greenfields in order to enable compact growth, protect natural landscapes, and focus economic growth.

The MAPC has a goal to develop the region's Green Economy. It supports the development and implementation of local and regional, state, and interstate plans that foster development projects, land and water conservation, transportation, and housing that have a regional benefit. The *MetroFuture* regional plan (MAPC 2008) includes goals to protect natural landscapes and conserve natural resources.

The MAPC has projected that there will be a need for 435,000 more housing units to be created in the region between 2010 and 2040 in order to accommodate and encourage growth. (MAPC 2014, page 20) This growth will be primarily in multi-family housing, as lifestyles change to accommodate younger workers and aging baby boomers. This added density in housing units that are typically without private open space will thus need to be served by public open space.

There is already a heavy demand put on open space resources in Boston and the Metropolitan Boston Region, a highly urbanized and densely populated area. The Metropolitan Boston Region contains approximately 32% of the state population but only 4.8% of the land area. The per capita acreage available for open space and recreation is only 0.03 acres per person.

Land available for open space and recreation in the Metropolitan Boston Region is more limited than in other parts of Massachusetts. However, the percentage of total land area dedicated to recreation and open space in this region is 26 percent. This ranks third among the seven Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) regions (EOEEA 2006) in total land area percentage dedicated to recreation and open space.

The 2006 SCORP also noted that the more heavily used resources in the region are golf courses, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and tot lots, lakes and ponds, and historical and cultural sites. The new 2012 SCORP supports this, in its statement (EOEEA 2012, page 18) that "[r]esidents in the Eastern part of Massachusetts were more likely to use local facilities than residents of Central and Western parts of the state."

The 2006 SCORP said that overall the satisfaction levels of the Metropolitan Boston Region are much lower than for other SCORP regions. High levels of dissatisfaction were associated with rivers or streams, bikeways and golf courses, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and tot lots. These resources seem to be suffering due the overall population density of the region. They will continue to suffer without improvements to existing public open spaces and additions to the supply of public open spaces.

Section 4

Environmental Inventory & Analysis

Section 4.1:

GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

Introduction

Boston is situated in topographic lowland, referred to as the Boston Basin. This lowland is surrounded by a ring of hills that circle it from the Middlesex Fells to the north, inland to the Belmont Hills and Newton Highlands to the west, and around to the Blue Hills to the south. Boston's geology is attributed to several different geologic processes. The geology of Boston can be described by its bedrock, structural, and surficial features including glacial, fluvial, and wind deposited sediments. The soils of Boston reflect these geological factors, as well as influences due to vegetation and humans.

Geological History

The *Historic and Archaeological Resources of the Boston Area* provides information on the geological history of Boston and the landforms and resources that influenced the development of this place.

A distinctive grain of bedrock runs northeast through Boston and follows the Appalachian tectonic plate. This grain is most obvious in the course of the Neponset River, in the angle of the bedrock Harbor Islands, and in the angle of cliffs of the Middlesex escarpment north of the city. This ancient fault system is active and Boston is subject to earthquake shocks.

The existence of ancient volcanoes is evidenced in the granite outcrops to the north and west of the city. This rock was important to native people for tools, and was later quarried for local structures such as the Bunker Hill Monument and Quincy Market.

Much of Boston is located in a large lowland basin, which is underlain with blue clay and slate. Quarries in South Boston provided material for building foundations, roofing and gravestones for the early development of the city. Local clays were used to make pottery and bricks.

A conglomerate rock commonly known as Puddingstone is unique to the area, and gives Roxbury and Stony Brook their names. It can be found in Franklin Park and other parks throughout the city, that were likely created around rock formations that were difficult to remove or quarry. However, it was used as a building material in Roxbury, Brookline and throughout Boston, and also as a material for Victorian Gothic churches.

The Great Ice Age (Pleistocene Epoch) began to end around 10,000 BP as the glaciers and ice sheets that had covered North America for 1.8 million years retreated. As the glaciers melted, they changed the course of rivers like the Mystic, and created large bogs. Shallow kettle lakes formed throughout greater Boston, which later became important locations for natural ecology, prehistoric settlement, colonial country estates, ice harvesting, recreational areas and reservoirs for Boston's water supply.

The glacial retreat also formed the drumlin hills that shaped the landscape of Boston. Beacon Hill, Bunker Hill, and some of the Boston Harbor Islands remain as examples, though many of the gravel hills were removed during the filling of the wetlands.

Much of the glacial plain was flooded by sea level rise as the ice melted, so the level, well-drained soil in Boston is limited. Early development was limited to these areas.

Bedrock Geology

The principal bedrock in the Boston Basin include the Cambridge Argillite, Roxbury Conglomerate, Mattapan Volcanic Complex, and the Dedham Granite.

The Cambridge Argillite is classified as a shale or mudstone. This fine-grained sedimentary unit was most likely deposited in deep oceanic waters millions of years ago when the area was below sea level. This unit currently lies well below Allston, Back Bay, Central Boston, Charlestown, East Boston, South Boston, and the South End.

The Roxbury Conglomerate is known as Puddingstone. This unit consists of pebbles and cobbles within a matrix of varying rock types. The range of size of the cobbles suggests that a river or stream deposited this unit. The Roxbury Conglomerate underlies much of Boston including Brighton, Kenmore/Fenway, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Dorchester, Roxbury, and the northern portions of Mattapan, Roslindale, and West Roxbury.

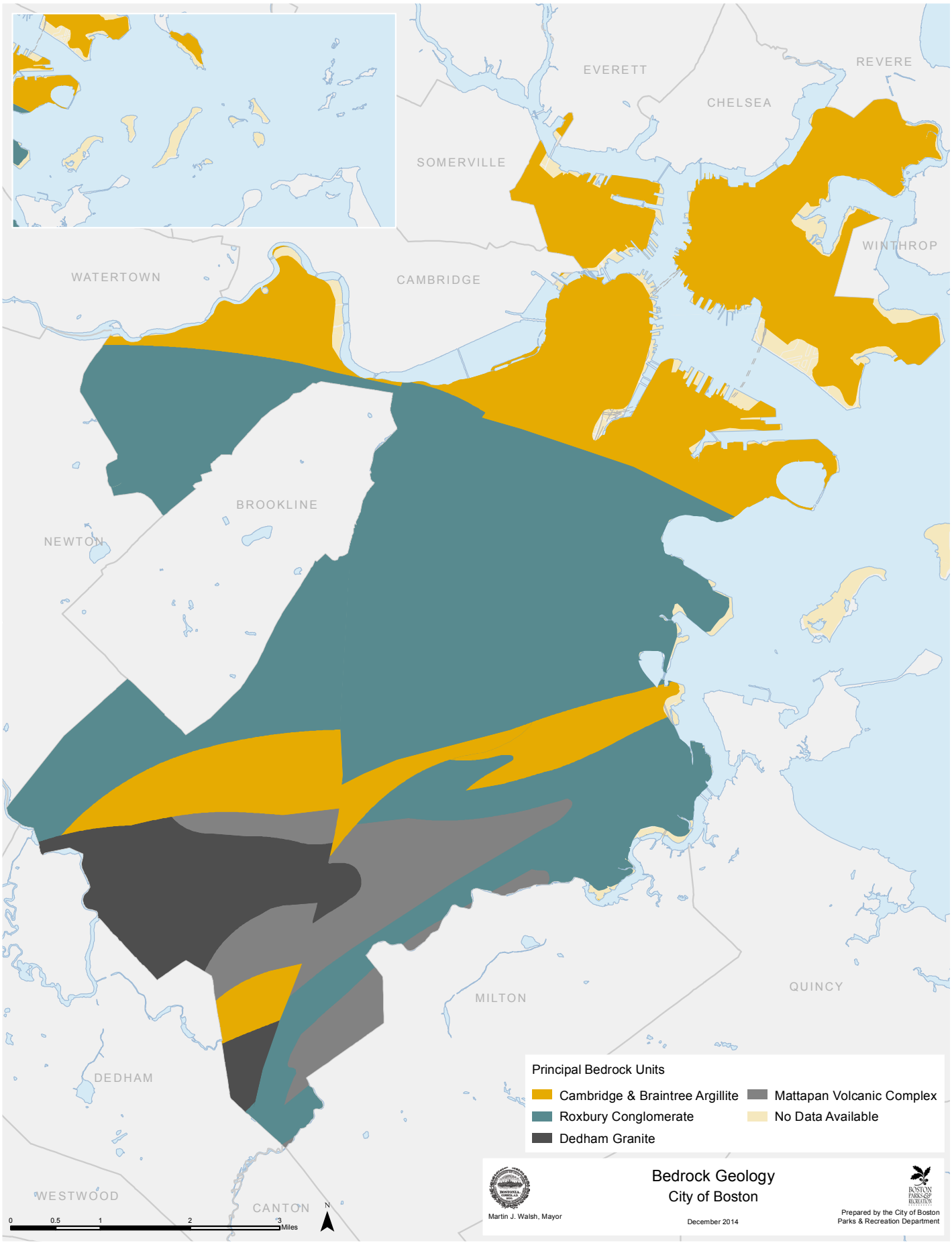
The Mattapan Volcanic Complex is one of the oldest rock units found in Boston. These volcanic rocks are primarily granite. Pebbles and cobbles from this unit have been found in the Roxbury Conglomerate. This suggests that the Mattapan Volcanic Complex is older than the Roxbury Conglomerate, having experienced erosion, producing pebbles and cobbles that later formed the Roxbury Conglomerate. The Mattapan Volcanic Complex lies under the southern portion of Mattapan and large portions of Hyde Park.

The Dedham Granite is most likely the oldest rock unit found in Boston. This unit, which is found below the southern portions of Hyde Park and West Roxbury, is a Precambrian age rock that indicates an age well in excess of 600 million years.

Structural Geology

Structurally, several features distinguish the Boston Basin. These include plunges, folds, anticlines, synclines, and faults. These structural features are found throughout the many rock units in the Boston Basin. Geologists use these features to date rock units relative to each other.

Plunges are physically represented by a significant dip in the bedrock. In the Boston Basin, the bedrock generally plunges east/northeast. This means that if a plunging rock unit were exposed at the surface in a southwest area of Boston, that same rock unit would be hundreds of feet deep in a northeast area of Boston.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Principal Bedrock Units
Cambridge & Braintree Argillite
Roxbury Conglomerate
Dedham Granite
Mattapan Volcanic Complex
No Data Available
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Bedrock Geology
City of Boston
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Folds in the bedrock occurred over 600 million years ago as the rocks were subjected to tectonic stress, causing the once flat-lying rocks to bend and fold.

Tectonic stress also resulted in the formation of anticlines and synclines. These features are simply bedrock that has been folded up or down, respectively.

Anticlines underlie Central Boston, Mattapan, and the Lower Mills. Synclines are found under the Charles River basin, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.

Inactive faults can also be located within the Boston Basin. These faults mark boundaries where different rock units once met and moved relative to one another.

Thrust faults, where one rock unit is lifted above the other, are found at Mt. Hope Cemetery, the Neponset Valley, and the Blue Hills.

Transverse faults, where units move in opposite directions, include the Stony Brook fault.

Surficial Geology

The surficial geology of the Boston Basin is the dominant factor of the landscape. The surficial geology of Boston includes glacial drift, glacial outwash, riverine deposits, and marine clays, as well as loess, which is fine silt deposited by wind.

Glacial landforms dominate the local topography. These landforms resulted from periods of extensive glaciation approximately 10,000 to 50,000 years ago. Repeated advances of thick glacial ice resulted in deformation of the earth's crust. Valleys that existed 50,000 years ago were scoured, deepened, and widened by the ice. Glacial till—unconsolidated, non-stratified glacial drift—was deposited in depths of up to 150 feet.

This till was commonly deposited as smooth, oval shaped hills known as drumlins. The Boston Basin has more than 100 of these drumlin features including the Harbor Islands, Breeds Hill, and Bunker Hill. A major factor in the Boston Harbor Islands' designation by the National Park Service as a National Recreation Area is that it is the only drumlin field in North America to intersect a coastline.

Deglaciation of the basin had a profound effect on the current landscape. As glacial ice began to melt, the run-off deposited sands, gravel, and silts that had been trapped in the glacial ice. Changing sea levels, freshwater streams, wind, and erosion then modified these glacial deposits, thereby forming varied, sorted layers throughout the basin.

The prominent deposits on Boston's current topography include sand, gravel, till, bedrock, and silt and clay deposited by both fresh and estuarine water. Sand and gravel deposits run north/south through Boston. These deposits represent glacial outwash that was deposited as glacial ice melted. These deposits are found in abundance in Allston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, North Dorchester, Roslindale, the South End, and West Roxbury. These deposits are well suited for development, as they are relatively stable and flat. Sand and gravel deposits typically, however, have a high water table, which may cause basements to be more susceptible to flooding. A high water table and the speed at which fluids move through sand and gravel can increase a surface release's capability to pollute groundwater.

Till and bedrock are found throughout the city and are characteristic of areas which contain drumlin hills. Neighborhoods that are dominated by till and bedrock deposits include Brighton, Central Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, and West Roxbury. Till and bedrock are considered to be extremely stable materials for development, although they also present constraints. Bedrock presents difficulties in excavation while till is commonly found as a drumlin hill, possibly causing topographic restraints for development.

Floodplain alluvium consists of fine-grained material such as fine sands and silts that are found adjacent to, and deposited by, rivers and tidal marshes. These deposits underlie the Back Bay, Fenway/Kenmore, and South Boston. These deposits are now covered by artificial fill that was laid down in the late 18th and 19th centuries to allow development of these lands. The obvious development constraints associated with this material include instability and a high water table. The material does, however, possess a low permeability, thus trapping pollutants and resulting in a slow migration which can be contained should a release of pollutants occur.

Soils

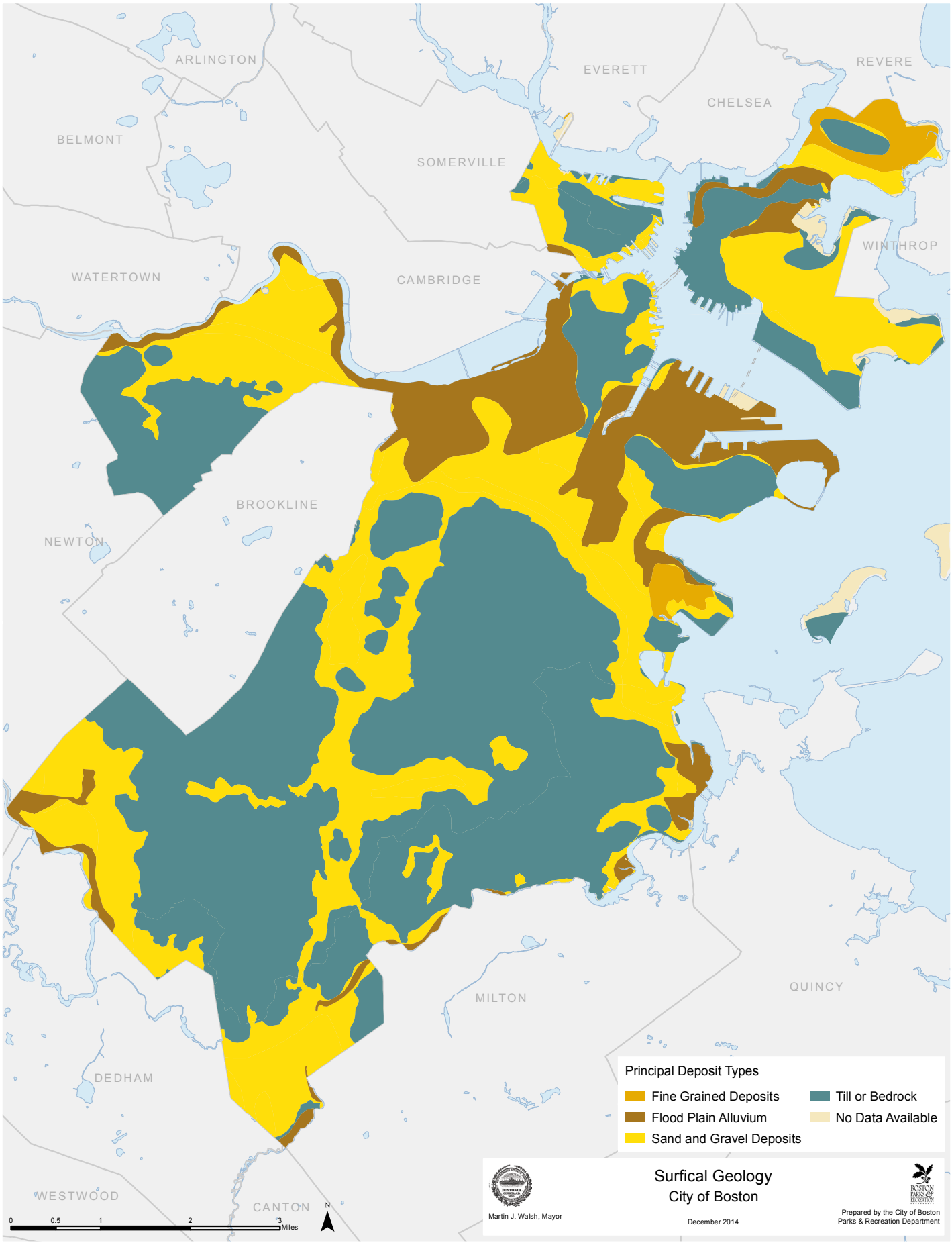
The soils of the Boston Basin are derived from natural glacial processes and artificial processes attributed to the extensive filling of lands by humans. The three largest generalized soil units in Boston are Udorthents-Urban Land, Canton-Charlton-Hollis, and Newport-Urban Land units. These units are typically deep deposits found on land with a topographic range from nearly level to moderately steep.

Udorthents-Urban Land

Udorthents-Urban Land soils occupy most of Boston. These soils are found in areas that were previously tidal marshes, flood plains, bays, harbors, and swamps. Udorthents are classified as areas where native soil has been removed and filled with artificial soil material. The fill consists of soil material, rubble, refuse, and channel dredgings. Depth of this unit ranges from 2 to 20 feet. Land that is 85% or more covered by an impermeable surface such as concrete and asphalt including roads, sidewalks, and buildings is defined as Urban Land. Urban Land overlays actual soil units that cannot be determined due to the urban coverage.

Canton-Charlton-Hollis

The Canton-Charlton-Hollis unit is characterized by well drained, loamy soils formed from glacial deposits. This unit is typically found on low hills and uplands in Hyde Park, Mattapan, and Roslindale. Canton soils are found on small undulating hills adjacent to valleys. Charlton soils are located in depressions between ridges at higher elevations. Hollis soils are found at the top of ridges and near rock outcrops. These soils are conducive to woodland growth, and are suitable for development.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MILTON
QUINCY
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
Principal Deposit Types
Fine Grained Deposits
Flood Plain Alluvium
Sand and Gravel Deposits
Till or Bedrock
No Data Available
Surfical Geology
City of Boston
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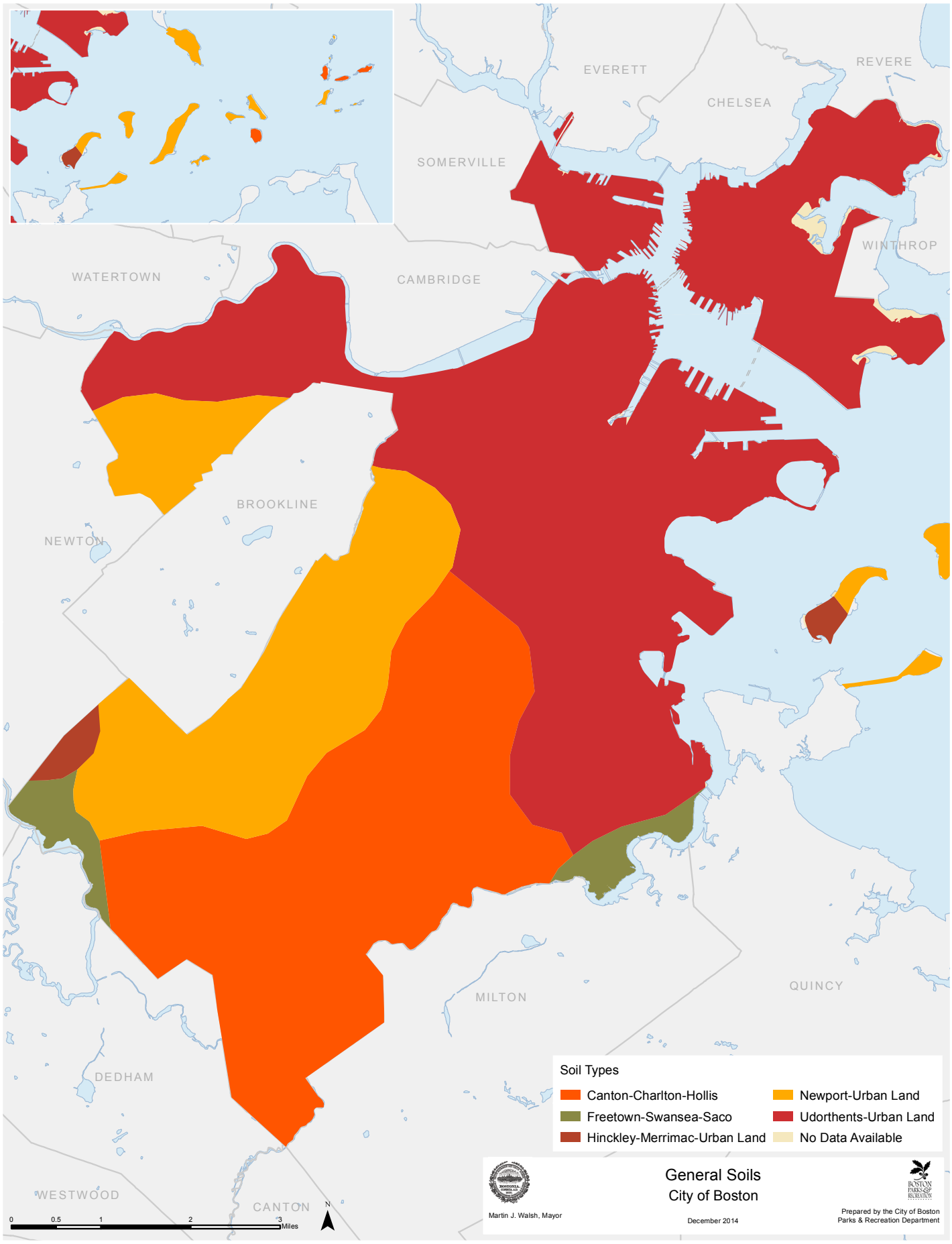
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NEWTON
MILTON
QUINCY
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
Soil Types
Canton-Charlton-Hollis
Freetown-Swansea-Saco
Hinckley-Merrimac-Urban Land
Newport-Urban Land
Udorthents-Urban Land
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Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
General Soils
City of Boston
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Newport-Urban Land

Newport-Urban Land is commonly found on steep hillsides in the Boston Basin. This unit is found on top slopes and side slopes in Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury. Course fragments of flat dark gray shale and slate in the substratum characterize it. A layer of compacted glacial till causes low permeability and a perched water table, potentially contributing to wet basements in residential areas.

Topography

Ten to twelve thousand years ago, glaciers shaped the landscape that subsequently Native Americans inhabited and Europeans colonized. These massive sheets of ice moved across the land, totally displacing all flora and fauna in the area. The ice sheets' great weight caused the coastal lands to sink below the surface of the ocean.

After the glaciers retreated, the most prominent landscape features were the drumlins, hills made up of glacial till. They tend to have an oval shape, with the "points" of the oval aligned in the direction of the glacial retreat. (Many of the harbor islands are such drumlins.)

The glaciers also left sand and gravel deposits through many parts of Boston, such as along the Charles in West Roxbury and Allston-Brighton, in the Stony Brook Valley in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Roslindale, and Hyde Park, and near Dorchester Bay in Dorchester and South Boston.

Overall, the terrain of Boston is gently rolling, with heights ranging from near sea level along the coast to 370 feet above sea level at the highest point, Bellevue Hill in West Roxbury, within the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Bellevue Hill Reservation.

Section 4.2:

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

History of the Landscape

Boston's landscape is rich in history. It has been changing since the city's founding in 1630. These changes have left traces on the landscape of the city. The growth of the city's landmass has been the most significant evidence of the change of this landscape. The history of land making in Boston is discussed in Section 3.

Current Assessment

The current assessment of the landscape is also described in Section 3 and Section 7.

Boston has become a highly urbanized area. High- and low-density residential developments dominates the landscape throughout the neighborhoods of Boston. Despite this historical spread of development, the municipal and the metropolitan park systems preserve much of the original landscape character.

Water is a prominent part of the landscape character of Boston. With extensive miles of coastline and riverfront, Boston is blessed with aquatic resources, coastal and estuarine wetlands, and scenic vistas. Within city limits are many of the Boston Harbor Islands that now make up the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area. Much of this area is considered a "noteworthy landscape," by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's statewide Landscape Inventory.

Boston's open lands are a mixture of uplands and wetlands. Most of the upland areas consist of forest, with the remainder in fields and meadows. These upland areas are generally either publicly owned parklands and cemeteries or privately owned cemeteries. The larger, expansive wetland areas are primarily under public ownership. Boston is a highly mature, developed community.

Developable land that is as yet undeveloped is extremely limited. The protection of the natural resources and open areas of Boston's landscape is as vital a function now as it was in the 19th and 20th centuries.

BOSTON
BOSTON
WINTHROP
Boston Harbor Islands - Noteworthy
HULL
Boston Harbor Islands - Distinctive
QUINCY
Open Space
Boston City Boundary
Department of Conservation & Recreation Designated Scenic Landscapes
Scenic Landscapes
City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
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Section 4.3:

WATER RESOURCES

Introduction

The settlement of the Shawmut Peninsula took place due to the area's outstanding water resources. Mainland Boston is bordered by water to the north, south, and east. These water resources include an ocean harbor, rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands.

Boston Harbor

To the east, ten miles of the city's shoreline lies on Boston Harbor. The Harbor consists of several unique areas which border Boston, more specifically, its Charlestown, Central Boston, East Boston, South Boston, and Dorchester neighborhoods. Sections of the Harbor include the Inner Harbor, the Outer Harbor, and Dorchester Bay.

The Inner Harbor is bounded by Charlestown, East Boston, Central Boston, and South Boston. The Inner Harbor stretches from the confluence of the Mystic and Chelsea Rivers to the Fort Independence and Fort Winthrop sections of South and East Boston, respectively. The Inner Harbor is used for recreational fishing and boating, and maritime/industrial uses. Freighters and ferries are common in its shipping channels and designated deep port areas. The Inner Harbor includes three channels: the Little Mystic, Fort Point, and the Reserved Channel. These channels are large capacity docking points that can provide protection during rough seas.

The Outer Harbor includes dozens of islands, many of which were once used as military forts, hospitals and industrial plants but have generally reverted to a more natural state. The City owns four islands: Long Island, Moon Island, Rainsford Island, and a large portion of Spectacle Island. The islands are partly submerged drumlin hills formed through glacial action. Rounded hills, open fields, forests, and historical sites characterize these islands. Beaches are found on Spectacle Island, Long Island, Lovell's Island, Thompson Island, and Gallops Island. The water of the Outer Harbor is typically used for swimming, boating, fishing, and navigation by commercial ships.

Constitution Beach Bay (aka Orient Heights Bay) is located on the eastern coast of East Boston between Logan Airport and Orient Heights. Swimming and fishing are common activities there. The bay includes 275 acres in Belle Isle Marsh, which is part of the designated Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

These marshes are important biological resources and are host to numerous species of waterfowl, wading shore birds, migrant songbirds, invertebrates, and fish. Constitution Beach is a small beach area on tidal flats located in the northern section of the bay. Marshes to the west and the Belle Isle Marsh to the east border the beach.

Dorchester Bay stretches from Castle Island at Pleasure Bay in South Boston to the mouth of the Neponset River at Commercial Point in southern Dorchester. Dorchester Bay is used primarily for boating, fishing, and swimming. Swimmers gain access to the water at several locations along the bay in both South Boston and Dorchester. Access points include the beaches of Pleasure Bay, L and M Street Beaches, and Carson Beach in South Boston, and Savin Hill and Malibu Beaches in Dorchester.

Watersheds

Boston Harbor Watershed

Boston is located within the Boston Harbor Watershed which encompasses about 293 square miles of land, including all or part of 45 municipalities. This watershed includes the Mystic River Watershed to the north, the Charles River Watershed to the north and west, and the Neponset, Fore, Back, and Weir river watersheds to the south.

The Boston Harbor watershed has metropolitan beaches such as Constitution Beach, Pleasure Bay, Carson Beach, Savin Hill Beach, and Tenean Beach. It also contains the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area in the Outer Harbor. These islands contain trails, paths, campsites, beaches, and vistas that attract many visitors.

A publicly accessible, privately owned HarborWalk is being developed on waterfront properties through the Coastal Zone Management program and the Chapter 91 regulations, as well as Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) policy.

Boston is contained within the Mystic River Watershed, the Charles River Watershed, and the Neponset River Watershed. These watersheds are described below.

Charles River Watershed

The Charles River is 80 miles long and flows through 23 towns and cities southwest of Boston, beginning at Echo Lake in Hopkinton and ending in Boston Harbor. The river forms part of the southwest boundary of Boston, and also follows the north boundary of the city. The watershed comprises 308 square miles and includes 35 towns and cities.

The Charles River watershed has heavily used park systems such as the Charles River Reservation and the Emerald Necklace, as well as Stony Brook Reservation, Cutler Park, and Millennium Park.

Neponset River Watershed

The Neponset River Watershed includes about 130 square miles of land southwest of Boston. The river starts in Foxboro near Gillette Stadium and runs for 30 miles, through 14 cities and towns. It forms the southern boundary of the Boston and ends in Dorchester Bay / Boston Harbor, near the landmark gas tank along I -93.

Mystic River Watershed

The Mystic River Watershed covers 76 square miles and includes 21 municipalities. It begins north of Boston in Reading, then flows into the Upper Mystic Lake in Winchester, to Lower Mystic Lake, through Arlington, Somerville, Medford, Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown, East Boston and into Boston Harbor.

ARLINGTON
BELMONT
EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
SOMERVILLE
Mystic River
Chelsea Creek
WINTHROP
MYSTIC
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
Charles River
Muddy River
BROOKLINE
Chestnut Hill Reservoir
NEWTON
BOSTON HARBOR (PROPER)
Dorchester Bay
BOSTON HARBOR
Jamaica Pond
CHARLES
WEIR
River
Charles River
Neponset
NEPONSET
MILTON
QUINCY
Mother Brook
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
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N
Water Resources
Major Watershed
Charles
Boston Harbor
Subwatershed
Wetlands
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Water Resources
City of Boston
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Rivers

The City of Boston is traversed by five rivers: the Charles River, the Muddy River, the Neponset River, the Chelsea River, and the Mystic River.

Charles River

The Charles River comprises eight miles of shoreline within the city including the Charles River Reservation and the parkways of Soldiers Field Road and Storrow Drive. The portion of the Charles between the Charles River Dam and Boston University Bridge is referred to as the Charles River Basin. This section of the river, which once inundated the Back Bay, is a wide and deep impoundment of freshwater used extensively for rowing and sailing.

Neponset River

The Neponset River flows east along seven miles of natural, meandering banks to the south of Boston through Hyde Park and along Mattapan and South Dorchester. This section of the River is bordered by the Neponset River Reservation, which includes a large tidal wetland in South Dorchester. The lower four miles of the river from Dorchester Bay to the Lower Mills Dam in southern Dorchester are tidal and frequently used for bird watching, picnicking, canoeing, and fishing.

Muddy River

The Muddy River originates at Jamaica Pond and flows north 3.5 miles before joining the Charles River. It flows through four distinct parklands designed by Frederic Law Olmsted: Olmsted Park from Ward's Pond to Leverett Pond, the Riverway from Leverett Pond to Park Drive and Brookline Avenue, the Back Bay Fens from Park Drive and Brookline Avenue to the Boylston Street Bridge, and Charlesgate from the Boylston Street Bridge to the Charles River.

The river's watershed drains 8.6 square miles of land, only 25% of which are in Boston. From Jamaica Pond to Leverett Pond, the 2% gradient is steep—an average of a two-foot drop in elevation every 100 feet downstream. This section flows through Olmsted Park, including Ward's Pond, Willow Pond, and several small waterfalls.

The lower section of the river flows from Leverett Pond to the Charles River with a gradient of less than 0.01%, causing the river to be essentially flat with little current. From Leverett Pond, the Muddy meanders through the Riverway before reaching the Brookline Avenue gates at Park Drive. When these gates are opened during times of flood, a portion of the river's flow is directed through the Muddy River Conduit under Brookline Avenue and is emptied directly into the Charles River. During periods of normal flow, river water travels one and one-half miles through the Back Bay Fens to the Charles River.

Since October of 1996, the Muddy River has flooded three times, causing damage to residences, businesses, academic, medical and cultural institutions and the public transit system in Boston and Brookline. To alleviate this problem, a dredging and ecological restoration project for this river, managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, began construction in 2013. The objectives of the Muddy River Restoration project are:

- Improvement of flood control;
- Improvement of water quality;
- Enhancement of aquatic/riparian habitat;
- Rehabilitation of landscape and historic resources; and
- Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Planned work includes channel improvements, removal of undersized culverts, installation of two new culverts, and daylighting two sections (about 700 linear feet) of the Muddy River; dredging approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Fens, Riverway, Leverett, Willow and Wards Ponds; eradication of Phragmites from wetland and riparian areas by dredging and cutting/herbicide treatment; and preservation and restoration of the historic shoreline and vegetation in construction areas. The multi-phase project is anticipated to be complete by spring of 2016.

Chelsea Creek

Chelsea Creek (a.k.a. Chelsea River) is 2.6 miles long. It runs along Revere, Chelsea and East Boston and feeds part of the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. The creek starts as Mill Creek in Revere, and flows east for .5 miles, then turns south where it becomes Chelsea Creek. It widens as it runs between Chelsea and East Boston, then turns southwest and runs into the Mystic River shortly before it empties into Boston Harbor.

Mystic River

There are approximately two miles of Mystic River frontage on Charlestown's north shore, and most of this is dominated by industrial marine transportation enterprises. The Mystic meets the Chelsea River under the Tobin Bridge to form the northern part of the Inner Harbor.

Brooks and Streams

Stony Brook

Stony Brook once traversed Boston for approximately seven miles. Most of the stream has been culvertized to accommodate development and stormwater conveyance. Currently, the only portion remaining above ground is at its origin in the Stony Brook Reservation in West Roxbury. The conduit carries mostly brook flow in dry weather and combined sewer overflows and stormwater flows in wet weather.

Canterbury Brook

Canterbury Brook is a tributary of Stony Brook. It is a partially culvertized and partially exposed body of water that is fed by Scarborough Pond in Franklin Park, and storm drains from Mattapan and Roslindale. The brook flows southwest through sections of the former Boston State Hospital, along the edge of the Boston Nature Center, through part of the Canterbury I Urban Wild on the edge of the Greenleaf Composting operation, through part of St. Michael's Cemetery, and then briefly along the northern side of American Legion Highway south of Walk Hill

Street. The brook disappears and reappears at various points along its route, dropping underground south of Walk Hill Street and ultimately merging with the Stony Brook Conduit.

Mother Brook

Mother Brook was the first canal constructed in the New World. Originating at a diversion dam on the Charles River in Dedham, it flows east through Hyde Park where it joins the Neponset River. The first three-quarter mile section of Mother Brook, located in Dedham, is an artificial canal excavated to connect the Charles River to a branch of the Neponset River formerly known as East Brook. Mother Brook diverts one-third of the flow of the Charles River.

Bussey Brook

Bussey Brook flows through portions of West Roxbury, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain before discharging underground into the Stony Brook Conduit near the Forest Hills MBTA station. Like other streams in Boston, it has been almost completely buried, though remnant above-ground sections can be found in Allandale Woods and the Arnold Arboretum. Though seriously degraded by culverting and urban run-off, these remaining sections of Bussey Brook represent an important aquatic resource in Boston.

Sawmill Brook

Sawmill Brook traverses the perimeter of both Millennium Park (the former Gardner Street landfill) and the DCR Brook Farm Reservation in West Roxbury. Though channelized in sections and diverted by construction of the landfill, it is an important tributary to the Charles River. Small, wooded sections of Sawmill Brook occurring within the Brook Farm Reservation are critical habitat to a number of wildlife species, including a state-listed rare amphibian (see Wildlife section).

Dana Brook

Dana Brook was formerly the main drainage channel in West Brighton. It now lays completely underground from Chandler Pond to the Charles River, a distance of approximately one and one-half miles. Segments of Dana Brook still exist upstream of Chandler Pond, on the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course within Newton. This is the main inlet for Chandler Pond.

Ponds

Boston contains several ponds and a reservoir. These bodies of water vary in nature and origin from glacial ponds to river ponds to artificial ponds and reservoirs. Glacial ponds, called kettle ponds" were formed by glacial processes involving melting water and large blocks of ice deposited upon Boston's landscape, forming ponds. Kettle ponds are common in the Boston Basin. One example is Jamaica Pond, at approximately 80 acres the largest natural pond in Boston.

Turtle Pond is located within the Stony Brook Reservation in Hyde Park and is another natural pond of great significance. It is a popular fishing spot and, despite the presence of the adjacent Turtle Pond Parkway, is relatively undisturbed and has generally good water quality. In addition, several small, unnamed ponds within the Stony Brook Reservation provide critical habitat to a number of important wildlife species. Other small woodland ponds occur in Allandale Woods.

Boston also contains many artificial ponds, and ponds that are part of river systems. One of the most notable artificial ponds is the Public Garden Lagoon. This pond was created in 1838 during the construction of the Public Garden. Mill Pond in Hyde Park is an artificial pond that was created through an impoundment of Mother Brook. Chandler Pond, located in Brighton, was originally excavated for the purpose of producing ice. It is the last of more than 20 ponds once found in Brighton. Scarborough Pond in Franklin Park was dug out in the 1890s during the park's construction.

The DCR Chestnut Hill Reservoir, located in Brighton, is an artificial impoundment of water that once served as Boston's only water supply. The Reservoir was discontinued as a source of drinking water following completion of the Quabbin Reservoir in Western Massachusetts. The largest body of water located within Boston, the Reservoir is now used for scenic recreation purposes.

Among Boston's ponds that are part of river systems are Cow Island Pond which is a still water section of the Charles River in West Roxbury. The DCR-owned Havey Beach borders this pond. Ward's, Willow and Leverett Ponds are part of the Muddy River system located in Olmsted Park in Jamaica Plain.

Wetlands

Wetlands serve a vital function for Boston. They assist in flood control, treat stormwater run-off, and provide food and shelter to fish, birds, amphibians, and other important animals. However, in the last 100 years, 6,000 acres of coastal wetlands and approximately 50% of Boston's inland wetlands have been destroyed.

The largest single wetland in Boston, at 275 acres, is the Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston. Other substantial wetlands are found in the Neponset River Reservation in South Dorchester, the Stony Brook Reservation in Hyde Park, and the Brook Farm Reservation in West Roxbury.

Smaller yet still significant forested wetlands are found near the Leatherbee/Hancock Woods in West Roxbury, and at Allandale Woods in Roslindale/West Roxbury. Wetlands associated with rivers and streams include those along the banks of the Muddy River, Mother Brook, the Charles River, and Saw Mill Brook (see Section 4.4 for further description of wetland resources).

Aquifer Recharge Areas

Aquifers are areas beneath the surface of the earth that contain water, whether composed of permeable rock or unconsolidated materials such as gravel, sand, silt or clay. If they are uncontaminated and of sufficient yield, aquifers serve as a source of drinking water for people throughout the world, as well as here in Massachusetts.

In Boston, high and medium yield aquifers are found in two limited locations. Both types are found in West Roxbury along the Charles River, where open spaces uses, such as Cutler Park,

Millennium Park, the Rivermoor Urban Wild, Havey Beach, the West Roxbury High School athletic fields and marsh, and cemeteries dominate the landscape. Some residential, commercial, and industrial uses are also located in this area.

The second area is associated with the Fowl Meadows Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in Hyde Park, at the southernmost tip of the city. Most of this medium yield aquifer is within the Fowl Meadows ACEC. Some of this aquifer lies within parklands held by DCR. Other portions are overlain by a residential area. One large portion is overlain by a warehouse complex.

The city of Boston is dependent on the DCR-MWRA regional system of water supply, which is based on surface water reservoirs located at great distances from Boston. Therefore, aquifer recharge area protection is not a critical issue for drinking water supply for this community. However, should the City desire at some point in the future to extract groundwater for non-drinking water supply purposes, development over these recharge areas may become an issue worth some consideration. The fact that much of these high and medium yield aquifers found within Boston's city limits are located in areas with some form of protection from development will help future generations, should the need ever arise.

Flood Hazard Areas

Areas with a greater chance of severe flooding are known as flood hazard areas. For purposes of federal and State law and policy, they are known to be areas where there is a 1% annual chance of flooding (aka the "100-year floodplain" or "FEMA Zone A"), or a 1% annual chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves for coastal areas (aka "100-year floodplain" or "FEMA Zone V").

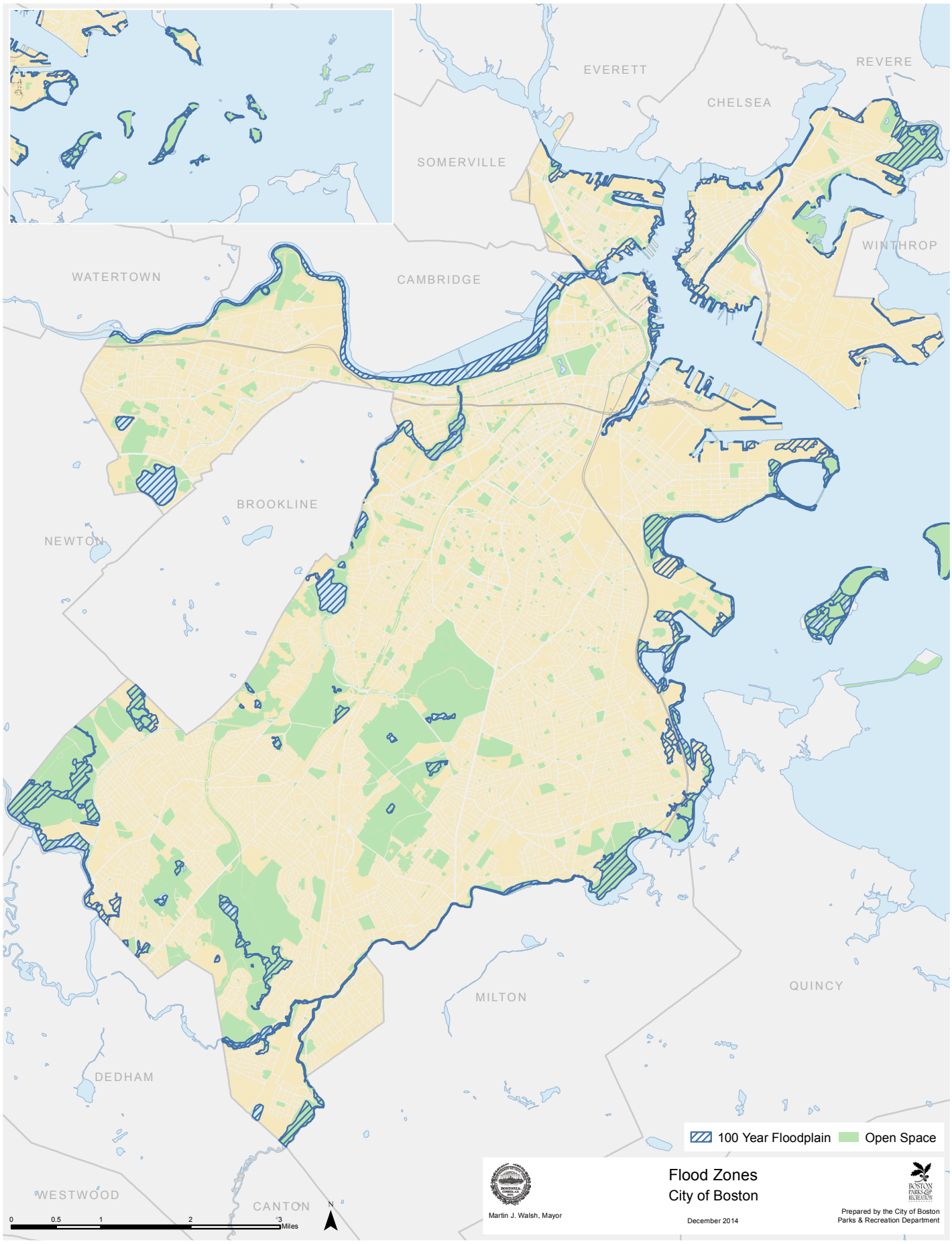
The city wide map titled "Flood Zones" shows the location of both FEMA Zones A and V (this map shows the official designations prior to the anticipated new FEMA maps to be issued in the fall of 2015, and effective in spring of 2016). These areas tend to be associated with major freshwater or coastal surface water bodies, such as Boston Harbor, Dorchester Bay, the Charles River, the Neponset River, and the Muddy River. The Flood Zones map also shows open space in the city, and these areas often overlap. Major exceptions tend to be found along coastal areas, such as the downtown, East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, and Dorchester waterfronts. Flood hazard areas not within designated open spaces are found in some smaller inland areas in East Boston, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, and the Kenmore sub-neighborhood.

Many of the flood hazard areas are found within protected open spaces, ensuring that development in these areas, if any, will be limited. In those flood hazard areas not within open spaces, protected or not, such sites are typically highly developed. Whatever redevelopment takes place in such areas will be the subject of the State Wetland Protection Act and other laws affecting development in flood hazard areas. Flood hazard mapping is periodically revised to reflect changing flood risk factors such as sea level rise. Such a map revision is currently underway at the time of this writing.

The Chapter 91 regulations mandate public access and use along the water's edge and can help reduce flood impacts along flood hazard areas that may be valuable resources.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), has developed municipal harbor plans that cover such areas as the downtown, Fort Point Channel, East Boston, and South Boston waterfronts in accordance with Chapter 91 and Coastal Zone Management policies. These plans and associated policies work with applicable regulatory review processes to ensure that development in coastal areas does not harm the environment, and is resilient in the face of coastal flooding.

The BRA also seeks to extend the HarborWalk along the coastal shoreline of Boston (except in working waterfront areas including Logan Airport and Designated Port Areas). BRA is assisted by the City's Conservation Commission which encourages public access along the water as part of its approvals, and by non-profit groups such as the Boston Harbor Association and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.


EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
SOMERVILLE
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
MILTON
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DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles
N
100 Year Floodplain
Open Space
Flood Zones
City of Boston
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Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 4.4:

VEGETATION

Introduction

The natural vegetation of Boston is chiefly influenced by the city's geographic position along the Atlantic coast, the presence of landforms resulting from glaciation, and a long history of human land use and manipulation of native habitats.

Upland Vegetation

Forested Uplands

The Boston area, like most of eastern Massachusetts, lies in the Appalachian oak-hickory forest zone. This forest type occurs from southern Maine, throughout southern New England, south to Georgia at higher elevations, and west to western New York. Red, white, and black oaks, with lesser densities of pignut, shagbark, bitternut, and mockernut hickories are species found in the plant communities that dominate the Appalachian oak-hickory forest zone. Other trees commonly found are white ash, black cherry, black birch, hophornbeam, and red maple.

Numerous species of shrubs including lowbush blueberry, maple-leafed viburnum, witchhazel, flowering dogwood, and beaked hazelnut.

In Boston, the oak-hickory forest is mixed with patches of other forest types found in adjacent northern and southern regions. Elements of the northern hardwood forest, such as sugar maple, eastern hemlock, yellow birch, and American beech can be found in Boston's forested areas, especially on north and west facing ridges. These species are generally prevalent throughout northern New England and southeast Canada.

Conversely, areas in the city with well-drained, sandy soils and southeast exposures support woodland species more typical of Cape Cod and other coastal areas, such as pitch pine, scrub oak, and sweet fern. White pine is a ubiquitous species throughout the region, frequently occurring in abandoned pastures and other open, sunny locations.

Given the long history of industrial and residential development within Boston, it is not surprising that natural forests and other native plant communities occur today in remnants and small patches. The largest forested area remaining in the city is the 466-acre Stony Brook Reservation in Hyde Park, Roslindale, and West Roxbury.

Other significant forested areas are Allandale Woods (100 acres, West Roxbury), Hancock Woods (55 acres, West Roxbury), Sherrin Street Woods (25 acres, Hyde Park), the Wilderness (100 acres, Franklin Park), Olmsted Park (50 acres, Jamaica Plain), Brook Farm (120 acres, West Roxbury), parts of the Arnold Arboretum (Jamaica Plain), and sections of several Boston Harbor Islands.

Boston's forests provide a range of recreational, scenic, and ecological benefits. They are the city's lungs, cleansing the air of carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. Summer temperatures are up to ten degrees cooler in city forests, helping to mitigate the warming effects of urban development and activity. They also help control stormwater and filter pollutants from urban runoff. Healthy forest communities are essential for preventing excess sedimentation of waterways, wetlands, storm sewers, and catch basins by stabilizing erodible soils and steep slopes.

Many of Boston's forested areas are open to the public providing both formal and informal environmental education opportunities to schoolchildren, families, and adults. Recreational activities such as hiking, trail running, cross country skiing, wildlife viewing and tracking, and nature photography offer city residents and visitors the unique opportunity to experience and observe nature up close within the confines of an urban environment.

Though many of these areas are publicly owned and protected from outright development, they still suffer from a host of problems. Some, such as the Stony Brook Reservation, have been fragmented by the construction of parkways, creating more edge habitat, less interior habitat, and interrupting established wildlife corridors.

The habitat value of all forested areas is seriously degraded by the prevalence of non-native, invasive plant species. These plants were either purposely or accidentally introduced to the area and, because of their tolerant and hardy nature, have become major threats to the sustainability of native forest ecosystems. Among the most destructive non-native invasive plants in Boston forests are Norway maple, Japanese knotweed, European buckthorn, multiflora rose, Asiatic bittersweet, and Japanese barberry. In addition, people sometimes subject forested areas in Boston to direct abuse. Severe littering, illegal dumping, vandalism, and trampling by foot and vehicles are chronic problems in many urban forests.

Serious pests, blights, and diseases currently threaten several tree species. Most notable is the marked decline of the eastern hemlock caused by an insect parasite, the wooly adelgid. More recently, in 2014, the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Suffolk County, placing another important canopy tree species at risk for decline. This discovery, along with the early detection in 2010 and successful containment from 2011 to 2014 of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle, have raised public awareness about threats to the City's tree canopy and overall environmental health.

Conservation through public ownership by itself is insufficient to protect Boston's forests from degradation. Funding, staffing, and active, hands-on management is also required to ensure the long term sustainability of Boston's forests. Non-native, invasive plants need to be controlled, eroding soil needs to be stabilized and revitalized, and native species of trees and shrubs must be planted in order to restore a healthy forest ecosystem. Early detection, control, and monitoring of invasive plants, pests, blights, and diseases must play a larger role in parks management.

In addition, activities that damage the forests—illegal dumping, fires, uncontrolled mountain biking, and off-road vehicles—must be curtailed, while beneficial and productive recreational and educational activities are promoted. It is of paramount importance to maintain the remaining forests to maximize the benefits they provide and ensure that they continue to function as viable ecosystems for future generations.

The global warming phenomenon will also affect plant hardiness zones. The effect of rising temperatures, and the impact on the growth of invasive plant species and pests, diseases, and blights could negatively affect some native species' sustainability.

Non-Forested Uplands

Non-forested uplands, primarily meadows, are a dwindling resource in Boston. Often a remnant of past agricultural use, virtually all meadows and pastures throughout the city have been subject to intense residential and commercial development. Most of those not developed have been left to grow into shrubby thickets and early successional forests dominated by non-native, invasive plant species.

Meadows and pastures provide critical habitat to many species of plants and wildlife that are rarely found in Boston and are increasingly uncommon throughout the northeast. These habitats offer great scenic value, breaking up the monotony of dense residential areas and providing expansive views of the city, Boston Harbor, and the surrounding landscape. Boston's meadows are frequently found atop hills and other steep slopes subject to erosion problems. Viable, healthy meadow plant communities are thus important to stabilize vulnerable soil.

Significant upland meadows today can be found in the Arnold Arboretum, Franklin Park, the Boston Nature Center, Calf Pasture, the Walter Street Tract, Allandale Farm, and on several Boston Harbor Islands. Most of these sites are current or former agricultural or horticultural sites. Turf grasses and opportunistic wildflower species of Eurasian origin are dominant. Farmers during the 17th and 18th centuries deliberately or accidentally introduced these species and turf grasses.

The acreage of meadow found in Boston increased substantially in 2000 with the opening of Millennium Park, a new park on top of the former Gardner Street landfill in West Roxbury. This 100-acre park includes over 70 acres of grassland comprised of both native and Eurasian grass species.

Because of the suppression of natural wildfires and the disappearance of farming practices such as haying and grazing, meadows now require regular intentional maintenance to sustain their open, pastoral character. Mowing is the most common method of maintenance; however in many cases mowing is done too frequently to allow for the development of a diverse meadow plant community. Such areas are generally devoid of any habitat value. To maximize floristic diversity and ecological value, most meadow habitats should be mowed only once per year, at the most, in the late summer.

The Parks Department through its Urban Wilds Initiative, conducts selective, low-impact mowing regimes at several meadows throughout the city's urban wilds and other natural areas. Community groups and other volunteers have also been involved in introducing native meadow plants, such as goldenrod and aster, and controlling non-native, invasive plant species at many sites.

Wetland Vegetation

Freshwater Wetland Vegetation

As throughout all of Massachusetts, Boston has lost a substantial percentage of its original freshwater wetlands to development. Intense filling and subsequent construction has occurred in the extensive marshes once found along Stony Brook, Bussey Brook, and the upper Charles River. Isolated wetlands, bogs, vernal pools, and small ponds have been filled for residential development. Remaining wetlands have been affected by changes to hydrology as streams have been buried and diverted to storm sewers.

Wetlands serve a vital function for the city. They help to store, control, and cleanse stormwater run-off, a function that becomes increasingly important as additional impervious surfaces are created. They also provide essential habitat for a wide array of wildlife (see Section 4.5).

Several distinct plant communities are present in freshwater wetlands in Boston. Forest wetlands—such as red maple swamps and floodplain forests—are typified by large trees, such as red maple, willows, basswood, green ash, silver maple, and a diverse shrub layer of dogwoods, alder, winterberry holly, viburnums, and swamp azalea.

An outstanding remnant of the southern New England floodplain forest, a rare community type recognized by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program, occurs along the Charles River shoreline of Millennium Park in West Roxbury. Other significant forested wetlands are found in the Stony Brook Reservation, Brook Farm, Sherrin Street Woods, and Leatherbee/Hancock Woods.

Non-forested wetlands – marshes, shrub swamps, and wet meadows – are dominated by shrubs, such as buttonbush, highbush blueberry, dogwoods, and elderberry, along with an extremely diverse collection of grasses, grass-like plants, and herbs typified by cattails, water willow, pickerel weed, arrow arum, bulrushes, and sedges. Typical marshes are found at Allandale Woods, West Roxbury High School, Brook Farm, along the West Roxbury stretch of the Charles River, and the Boston Nature Center.

Coastal Wetland Vegetation

Coastal wetlands, primarily salt marshes in Boston, were once the most dominant plant community within the city. Thousands of acres occurred along the harbor shoreline and up into the estuaries of the Charles, Chelsea, Mystic, and Neponset Rivers. Over the past 350 years, these salt marshes have been lost to filling, alterations to hydrology, pollution, and other drastic changes to the shoreline. Today only about 400 acres of salt marsh remain. These are primarily found at the DCR's Belle Isle and Neponset River Reservations in East Boston and Dorchester, respectively, and at Massport's Wood Island Marsh in East Boston.

Salt marshes comprise one of the richest and most biologically productive ecosystems on Earth. The precisely balanced cycles of tide, sedimentation, and decomposition all contribute to the production of up to ten tons per acre per year of vital nutrients, minerals, and organic material to nearby aquatic and terrestrial

habitats. Healthy salt marshes support dozens of animal species. Some species (ribbed mussel, salt marsh dragonfly, fiddler crab, for example) are restricted to this habitat for the duration of their lives, while other animals (sharp-tailed sparrow, mummichogs, meadow vole) use salt marshes for breeding or feeding but can also be found in other habitats.

Overwhelmingly dominated by salt marsh cordgrass and salt meadow grass, salt marshes also protect sensitive, low-lying coastal areas from flooding and other damage resulting from strong storms. They are vital to the maintenance of clean water in Boston Harbor. Other plants adapted to withstand the unique physical conditions in and around salt marshes include marsh elder, black rush, spike grass, glasswort, and sea lavender.

Both coastal and freshwater wetlands are particularly susceptible to the deleterious effects of urban development because they form the interface between surface waters and groundwater and developable or developed uplands. Public ownership alone is insufficient to protect them and preserve the vital functions they provide.

All of the wetlands occurring in Boston are degraded to a certain extent. They have been at least partially filled or drained, have received either too much or too little water, have been subjected to pollutants, and have been invaded by non-native, invasive plants that have out-competed the native species. The most destructive non-native plants in Boston wetlands are giant reed (Phragmites australis) and purple loosestrife.

The City of Boston is pursuing a number of programs to restore some natural functions to the city's degraded wetlands. The prime example of this is the restoration of the Muddy River and Back Bay Fens. This project, estimated at $43 million, aims to remove years of accumulated sediment and restore a diverse native wetland plant community.

The Condor Street Urban Wild in East Boston was a major remediation and salt marsh restoration project completed in 2003. It resulted in the removal of hazardous materials, the creation of a healthy salt marsh, upland meadow, pier, sculpture, pathways, benches and scenic overlooks for habitat and passive recreation uses.

The Belle Isle Coastal Preserve in East Boston, was completed in 2005 and culminated in the remediation and restoration of a previously degraded salt marsh, the reconnection and re-integration of land within the vast DCR Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, and the construction of a trail segment for the future East Boston Greenway extension.

Public Shade Trees

The urban forest is an ecosystem that provides benefits such as filtering dust, pollution, and the harmful rays of the sun, providing shade, protecting people and property from wind and weather, reducing air conditioning and heating costs for adjacent buildings, helping to filter storm water, and generally contributing to the physical well-being of the city's residents. Street trees also link highly developed spaces with more forested areas.

Further, trees consume and store carbon through absorption of carbon dioxide, and produce oxygen. By this carbon sequestration, the return of carbon to the atmosphere is slowed, especially if the tree is long-lived. Thus, the urban forest can help contribute to the slowing of global warming.

Current Initiatives

The city of Boston Climate Action Plan has established a target of reaching 35% tree canopy coverage in the city by 2030. To meet this goal, a detailed, actionable, Tree Canopy Plan that incorporates the City of Boston's Comprehensive Public Shade Tree Policy must be developed by government agencies and our non-profit and private sector partners.

Substantive tree canopy expansion can only be achieved through coordinated efforts to develop new policies that will better protect existing trees, both public and private, as well as grown and sustain new trees. The Boston Urban Forest Council, a group of non-profit, city, state, and federal organizations working to improve the urban forest ecosystem, public health, and the quality of life for Boston's residents, can play a key role in advancing tree canopy goals in the city.

In addition to caring for trees in its own parklands, the Parks Department is the agency with regulatory and operational responsibilities for city-owned shade trees in the street right-of-way. The ability to develop policy and day-to-day management plans in the same organization, the Parks Department, is a key part of the framework to ensure that the future of Boston is green.

Statutory Responsibility and Regulations

The Parks Commissioner is by statute (Chapter 87, Massachusetts General Laws) the Tree Warden of the city. Together with the Superintendent of Trees, the Commissioner is responsible for establishing a work plan for trees within the statutes and regulations that have already been established.

The City is in the process of revising its public shade tree policy, in order to make all regulations, technical specifications, operations, and programs current.

Inventory, Planting, and Maintenance

Over the Parks Commission's 130-year history the tree inventory has been replenished through budget expenditures on improvements to streets and parks. With the exception of the Emerald Necklace, little data existed to substantiate a sense among advocates that the inventory contains too few young trees relative to the percentage of mature trees. A visual inspection of streets provided subjective confirmation; however, the exact number, condition, and age of the canopy was unknown.

Inventory

With increasing competition for funding, the ability to identify critical problems quickly and efficiently has become crucial for the Parks Department. Through the use of inventory analysis, the city foresters can identify problems, or potential problems, easily and develop and implement precise and accurate management plans. The most recent street tree inventory was compiled in 2007.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy drafted the Emerald Necklace Tree Inventory, Conditions Assessment and Management Plan for 7000 trees across 630 acres of the Emerald Necklace parks in 2014. This significant undertaking complements existing inventories of the trees in the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

A city-wide canopy assessment using remote sensing data was completed by Boston University in 2014 using imagery from 2005–2007 and 2009.

Planting

A major goal of the Parks Department's Urban Forestry Unit is to spread the benefits of tree planting—heat-island effect-reduction, water quality and air quality improvements, increase in well-being and property values—to all neighborhoods, especially those with a lower percentage of tree canopy cover, thus making it an environmental justice initiative.

On streets where sidewalk widths limit the viability of street trees, the city's front yard tree planting program can help achieve the public benefits of street tree plantings using private property. Expansion of this program can help meet the city's tree canopy goals over the next 16 years.

In fiscal year 2014, the Urban Forestry Unit anticipates planting 1350 street and front lawn trees (fall 2013 and spring 2014 planting seasons).

Maintenance

The Maintenance Division's Urban Forestry Unit is responsible for the pruning and removal of all trees under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. In addition they supervise specialized treatments for disease such as Dutch Elm Disease and respond to such emergencies as snowstorms and hurricanes. The Department pruned over 2,106 trees, removed 681 trees, responded to 3155 maintenance requests, and answered 927 emergency tree calls in calendar year 2013.

Rare Species

Given the history of scholarly study in the Boston area, it is not surprising that the city's natural areas were well-traveled by knowledgeable botanists and naturalists during the 19th century and the city's flora well documented. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNHESP) lists several dozen rare plant species that are known to have occurred in Boston. Currently threatened plant species still present in Boston include Pale Green Orchis, Long's Bulrush, and Britton's Violet.

The vast majority of rare plant species habitat is long gone in Boston, but isolated occurrences may still exist in a few locations. In 2003, the New England Wildflower Society conducted botanical inventories at selected urban wilds in Boston. These inventories noted two potentially rare species that are listed by the MNHESP on their "watch" list. These species are Black Oat Grass (*Piptochaetium avenaceum*) and Violet Bush Clover (*Lespedeza violacaea*).

Cultural Communities

As one of the oldest cities in the U.S., Boston has a very long tradition of agriculture and horticulture. At one time, the majority of what is now the city was comprised of farmland. Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Dorchester, Roxbury, and Hyde Park were all intensely farmed into the early 20th century, providing food and supplies to the burgeoning industrial and commercial center in central Boston. Pieces of this activity still remain. Allandale Farm in West Roxbury and Brookline is the lone remaining working farm in Boston. It is planted with vegetables, fruit, hay, and cover crops that are sold at the farm's retail stand.

The Arnold Arboretum, managed by Harvard University on land owned by the Parks Department, is a world-famous facility with a collection of trees and shrubs from around the globe. The site contains several expansive, naturalistic meadows and unmanicured woodlands that provide excellent wildlife habitat and give visitors a sense of the area's pastoral history. The 25-acre Bussey Brook Meadow Urban Wild is one of the few areas within the Arboretum that is truly managed as a natural area.

Section 4.5:

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Introduction

Approximately half of Boston's 7,200 acres of open space, about 3,500 acres, is comprised of land that provides important habitat for a large number of plant and animal wildlife species. These areas are made up of reservations, beaches, urban wilds, portions of parklands, sections of the Boston Harbor Islands, campus areas, and privately-owned land. The diversity of these areas and the plant communities found at each, support an abundant collection of both native and non-native animal species.

Fish

The city's most diverse habitat for fish is Boston Harbor. This is probably one of the few habitats in Boston that supports a generally native wildlife population. It is also a major recreational resource for sport fishing. The commercial aspect of fishing, though integrally tied to the historic economic development of Boston, is almost completely limited to charter boats and other activity supporting sport fishermen.

The most significant fish in Boston Harbor are striped bass, winter flounder, cod, mackerel, bluefish, and monkfish. Other important species are pout, hake, dogfish, menhaden, and killifish. The clean-up of Boston Harbor has improved the habitat for all marine wildlife, though populations of several fish species are still imperiled by over-fishing and degraded habitats. Good access for onshore fishing is found at Castle Island, Long Island, Harbor Point and along the Dorchester and East Boston shorelines.

Boston's shellfish beds have been officially closed for many years. Abundant populations of clams, mussels, quahogs, and to a lesser extent, oysters, are still found within Boston Harbor. However, water quality has still not improved to the level required for state officials to allow their consumption, except for those found in certain small beds in Dorchester Bay and Constitution Beach Bay. Shellfish in those beds can be harvested with the proper license and made fit for human consumption with post-harvest cleansing at a shellfish purification facility.

Sport fishing also occurs on several of Boston's rivers and ponds such as Scarborough Pond, Chandler Pond, Turtle Pond, the Charles River, and most notably Jamaica Pond. The State stocks Jamaica Pond with hatchery-raised trout and smallmouth bass. Native species found in Boston's ponds include golden shiner, bluegills, pumpkinseed, chain pickerel, and American eel. These populations have suffered from generally poor water quality and non-native species such as carp, bass, trout, and goldfish.

The Charles River still supports seasonal migrations of some anadramous fish (species that generally live in salt water and return to freshwater for breeding), most notably Atlantic herring and American shad.

One State-listed rare species of fish occurs in Boston, the three-spined stickleback. This small, inconspicuous fish lives in a small pool in the Olmsted Park area. The species occurs commonly in marine habitats, but freshwater populations are rare in New England. The Boston population is the southern-most freshwater occurrence and the only one in Massachusetts.

Birds

Urban natural areas provide important, valued habitat for birds, other fauna, and wild plant species. More than 200 species of birds can be seen within Boston in one calendar year. This diversity stems from Boston's location on the Atlantic Flyway migration corridor and the diverse collection of habitats found within the city limits. Boston Harbor and its associated estuaries, salt marshes, beaches, and mud flats support numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds. Forested areas and wetlands are home to resident songbirds and dozens of species of neotropical migrants in the spring and fall. Meadows and other open areas attract raptors and owls.

Birdwatching is an increasingly popular recreational activity in urban areas as more people discover the great array of birds found even in the midst of extensive development. In the Back Bay Fens area, over 170 species of birds have been documented by local birders, all within the shadows of Fenway Park and the Hancock Tower. At the Boston Nature Center in Mattapan, naturalists have documented approximately 150 species of birds. Other important and well-documented habitat areas for birds are the Arnold Arboretum, the Belle Isle Reservation, Franklin Park, and the Stony Brook Reservation.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program lists six species of rare birds that have nested in Boston: Vesper Sparrow, Common Tern, Least Tern, Barn Owl, Peregrine Falcon, and Upland Sandpiper. Currently, the Upland Sandpiper is listed as endangered, the Grasshopper Sparrow is listed as threatened, and the Least Tern and Common Tern are listed as of special concern. In addition, several state-listed rare species, such as Pied-billed Grebe and Piping Plover, have nested in towns adjacent to Boston and could just as easily nest within the city boundaries.

Wild Turkeys have returned to the city after an absence of many years. Several Boston Harbor Islands host nesting colonies of egrets and herons. Given the colonial and sensitive nesting habits of these birds, these rookeries are of great regional significance.

The city also contains significant wintering habitat for several important bird species. Examples of this are the Snowy Owls and other birds of prey that spend most winters along the runways at Logan Airport. This phenomenon has been well documented by researchers at the Massachusetts Audubon Society with the cooperation of Massport.

Falling partly within the limits of the City of Boston are three Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Important Bird Areas have been identified and designated in more than 130 countries in order to focus attention on the significance of protecting critical bird habitats. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has taken the lead in identifying IBAs in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts IBA program may be viewed online through the Mass Audubon website. The three IBAs falling partly in the city of Boston are Belle Isle Marsh, the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation

Area, and the Mystic River Watershed. Mass Audubon has urged that any public open space within these areas be managed in a manner compatible with the goals of the IBA program.

Several species of birds, both native and non-native, have grown in population to be considered public nuisances. The Common Pigeon, for example, was developed from the European Rock Dove and introduced into this country as a domesticated bird, but many of these birds escaped and formed feral populations. Today the pigeon is found in association with human habitations and regarded as a pest.

Other non-native bird species, such as the House Sparrow, European Starling, and House Finch, are also abundant in Boston and wreak havoc among populations of native birds. Humans introduced all of these species to North America. These non-native species have grown to a population size where they outcompete native species for food, nesting sites, and other resources.

Canada Goose and American Crow, both native species, have also experienced recent population explosions, causing a variety of problems among other native bird populations. The Canada Goose population has also created a negative impact on the quality of lawns and playing fields in parks, as well as water run-off from park lands.

Mammals

Like the rest of eastern Massachusetts, Boston is experiencing rapid and dramatic changes to its resident wild mammal population. A combination of factors—explosive residential development in the suburbs, intentional and inadvertent creation of forested wildlife corridors, and the continued habituation of animals to human activity, among others—has caused the sighting of species traditionally associated with remote wilderness areas to be an increasingly common occurrence within the city.

White-tailed deer, rarely seen within the Route 128 beltway only 20 years ago, are now year-round residents in Boston. Deer and signs of their presence—tracks, scat, antler rubbings, and browse—are frequently seen in Franklin Park, the Arnold Arboretum, Allandale Woods, and near Millennium Park, among other locations. As the presence of deer has become more common, concern may develop over the possible impacts deer have on public and private lands and public safety. Shrubbery browsed by deer, the prevalence of Lyme Disease, and the potential for deer-car collisions all contribute to the public's eventual intolerance for large populations of deer in dense residential areas.

Coyotes have also made a dramatic comeback to eastern Massachusetts, after being almost completely extirpated by a government-sponsored eradication program during the 19th century. Coyote sightings in areas of the city, such as along the Neponset River, have become more common in recent years.

Small mammals adaptable to humans and human settlements, such as raccoons, possum, striped skunk, and cottontail rabbits, abound throughout the city, in both developed and undeveloped areas. Less conspicuous mammals, such as mice, voles, shrews, and moles, though rarely seen, are also common in natural habitats.

Other Vertebrates

Reptiles and amphibians, commonly grouped as herpetiles, are imperiled animals, and their presence is used as an ecological indicator to gauge the health of an ecosystem. Common species found in Boston include green frog, bullfrog, painted turtle, red-eared slider (non-native), snapping turtle, garter snake, red-backed salamander, and two-lined salamander. Though these species are common elsewhere, their occurrence in Boston is sporadic at best, with only scattered records existing in a few neighborhoods.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program lists the Blue-Spotted Salamander as a species of special concern in Boston. In addition, two state-listed rare herpetiles occur in West Roxbury. Species that should occur in Boston but have not been recently documented include milk snake, black racer, Northern-water snake, ribbon snake, American toad, and wood frog. Significant herpetile habitats are in the Stony Brook Reservation, the Brook Farm Reservation/Millennium Park area, and Allandale Woods.

Invertebrates

Insects and other invertebrates are also commonly used indicators of ecosystem viability, particularly for aquatic ecosystems. Preliminary studies of benthic macroinvertebrates conducted by the Parks Department at Chandler Pond, Scarborough Pond, Wards Pond, Willow Pond, and the Muddy River have shown very low species diversity, thereby confirming the poor water quality of these water bodies.

Wildlife Corridors

The undeveloped vegetated lands and the water bodies of the City of Boston play an important role in supporting wildlife. While in some cases, these are islands in a sea of urbanization, many of these lands and water bodies are connected so that even species with lesser mobility than birds and insects can traverse the cityscape.

Corridors associated with water bodies are the dominant corridors in the City of Boston. Much of the undeveloped harborfront serves as a wildlife corridor, and the Harbor itself and associated bays and estuaries serve as aquatic wildlife corridors. The Chelsea, Mystic, Charles, and Neponset Rivers also serve as terrestrial and aquatic wildlife corridors. Thanks to state, city, and federal agencies, these water-based corridors have protected lands that are vegetated and provide the ability for wildlife to move along them. The Charles River Reservation, the Neponset River Reservation, and the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation are among the largest of such land holdings. Smaller holdings also help, such as Millennium Park along the Charles, Constitution Beach along Winthrop Bay, and the Old Harbor Reservation along Dorchester Bay.

Then there are corridors that connect inland from these river- and harbor-based corridors. One of the most significant of these is the Emerald Necklace park system from Charlesgate at the Charles to the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, Olmsted Park, and Jamaica Pond Park, linked by the Muddy River tributary to the Charles. There is a further land-based connection via the Arborway to the Arnold Arboretum. Then again, there is another land connection, either from the Arboretum to the nearby Allandale Woods tracts, or from Jamaica Pond Park through vegetated lands in the Jamaica Hills neighborhood and southern Brookline to Allandale Woods. From Allandale Woods, wildlife can connect via two parkways to two large vegetated areas of the city. Southward from West Roxbury Parkway, wildlife can connect to the Stony Brook Reservation & George Wright Golf Course area, and then connect to the Neponset via the Mother Brook, which is tributary to both the Charles and the Neponset. Westward from the VFW Parkway, wildlife can connect through the large group of lands in northwest West Roxbury, primarily cemeteries, but also conservation lands such as Hancock Woods and Brook Farm, and parkland such as Millennium Park, to the Charles River. The Neponset Valley Parkway serves as a corridor from the Stony Brook Reservation southward to the Neponset River Reservation and the Blue Hills Reservation in Milton and Canton.

A more isolated wildlife corridor of lands exists in what was once termed "the Heart of the City." This assemblage of vegetated lands exists surreounded by the neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roslindale. The biggest parcel is Franklin Park, but this corridor also includes the Boston Nature Center, and the following cemeteries: Forest Hills Cemetery, St. Michael's Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery, New Calvary Cemetery, and Mount Hope Cemetery.

Railroad corridors and associated lands can also serve as wildlife corridors. With Boston as a rail hub, many rail corridors from more rural parts of the state cross into the city. The Southwest Corridor and its associated Park serves as a wildlife corridor linking the highly developed Back Bay neighborhood to both the Emerald Necklace corridor and the Heart of the City corridor. It is likely that such a rail corridor or perhaps the Charles River Reservation was the likely route for the deer sighted in May 2009 in such downtown locations as Boston Common, the Public Garden, and City Hall Plaza. (It was killed when struck by a car on the Massachusetts Turnpike near Fenway Park.)

Section 4.6:

SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE AREAS

Scenic Landscapes

Boston has many scenic and significant landscapes that define the city's character. The most extensive landscape type is the waterfront. Whether along Dorchester Bay, the Inner Harbor, Belle Isle Inlet, the Mystic, or the Chelsea, saltwater-oriented landscapes form much of the basis for Boston's attractiveness.

Freshwater-oriented landscapes, such as the Neponset, Mother Brook, Bussey Brook, Scarborough Pond, and Chandler Pond also have great scenic charm. The two most notable scenic landscapes based on fresh water are the Charles River Reservation and the Emerald Necklace. In the midst of a densely developed urban area, these green corridors provide a visual and recreational respite. As envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, the views they afford, and the opportunity to stroll away from streets and through naturalized and recreational landscapes, provide relief from the hectic pace of urban life.

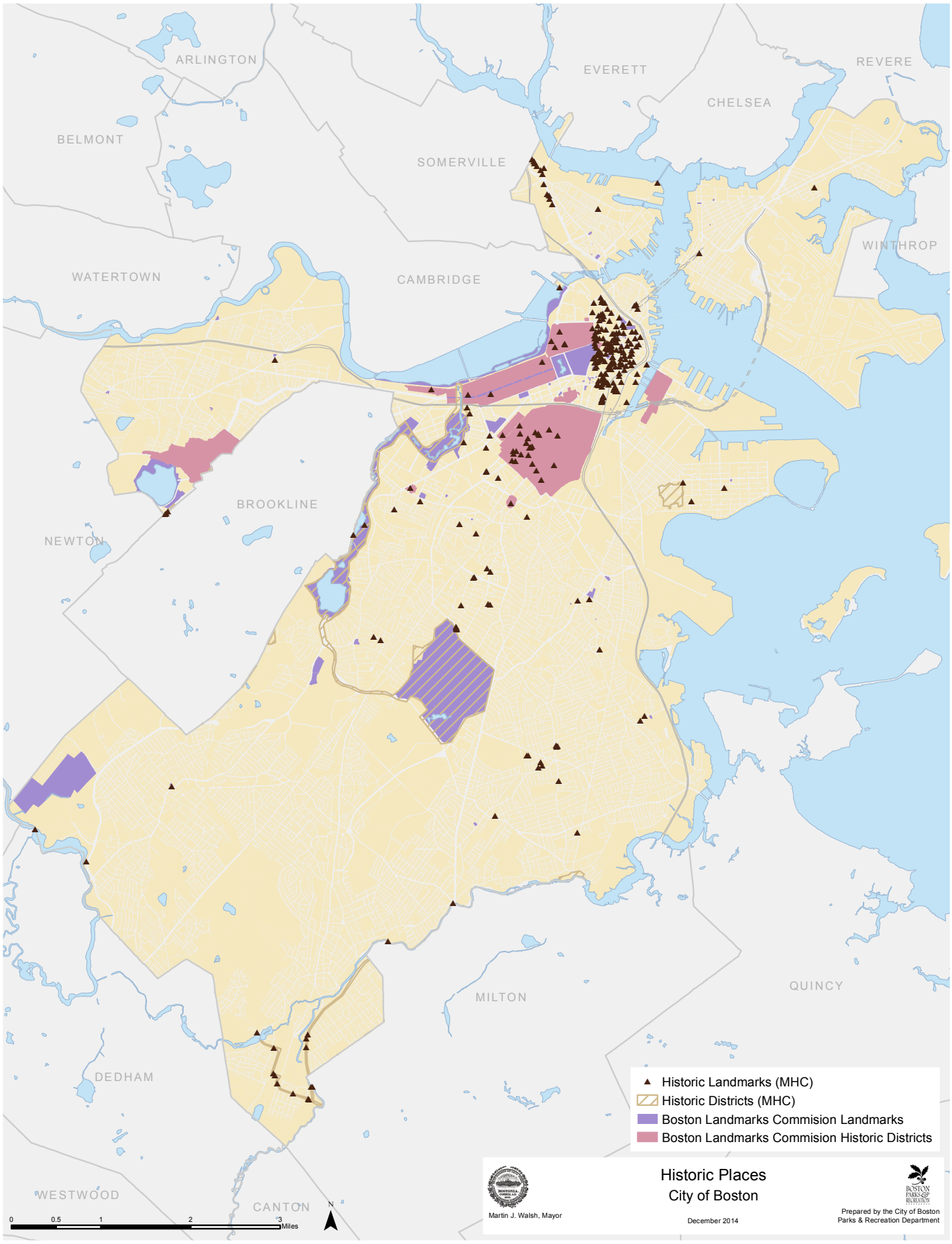
Some parklands developed on former landfills provide scenic landscapes themselves as well as the opportunity for viewing scenic vistas. Pope John Paul II Park along the Neponset in southern Dorchester provides views of the Neponset Estuary, including extensive estuarine wetlands. Millennium Park in West Roxbury forms a prominent hill along the banks of the Charles, a unique landform in the valley of a mature, meandering river. It provides vistas, especially to the west, that some have said are more typical of views from hilltops in rural Central Massachusetts. Of course, the exception is the view to the northeast, which shows the top of the glass Hancock Tower peeking over a wooded skyline.

Geological Features

Geologic features are described elsewhere in this section. The one geologic feature most appropriate for discussion in this particular section is Roxbury Conglomerate, also known as Roxbury Puddingstone, the State Rock of Massachusetts. This particular bedrock unit is unique to the Boston Basin, yet quite prevalent within the Basin. Its presence as a rock outcrop is seen occasionally in parts of the city, oftentimes because of the expense of blasting it to provide room for development. It forms a prominent feature in some parks and natural areas/urban wilds, such as Franklin Park, Allandale Woods, Hancock Woods, and Stony Brook Reservation. Such outcrops are natural play areas for children, who love to climb them.

Cultural and Historic Areas

Boston has numerous properties designated as historically significant, as well as entire districts so designated. Much of the Emerald Necklace is so designated as well as several other parks. The protection of such cultural and historical resources has become City policy and a facet of the character and strategy for redevelopment of neighborhoods, commercial areas, and parklands.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Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
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A map has been included in this plan that shows the extensive designation of districts and sites throughout the city. These designations offer some degree of protection with a review process if federal or state monies, approvals, or licenses are required. Preservation of these areas not only protects the cultural heritage of Boston, but also maintains the visual character of the city.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administers the Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC) program in order to identify, inventory, and ensure careful stewardship of the Commonwealth's outstanding natural resource areas. The City of Boston contains portions of three ACECs—Rumney Marshes, Neponset Estuary, and Fowl Meadow/Ponkapoag Bog.

The Rumney Marshes

According to DCR's Office of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has characterized the Rumney Marsh ACEC as one of the most biologically significant estuaries in the state. The area includes approximately 1,000 acres of highly productive salt marsh, tidal flats, and shallow channels. The Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston is wholly included in the Rumney Marsh ACEC and is comprised of 275 acres of salt marsh, salt meadow, and tidal flats, providing critical wildlife habitat, flood storage, and water quality improvement functions. All of the Belle Isle Marsh is publicly owned by the DCR, except for small parcels owned by the Town of Winthrop and the City of Boston-owned Belle Isle Coastal Preserve, formerly known as Belle Isle Fish Company Urban Wild.

The Neponset Estuary

The Neponset Estuary ACEC extends from the mouth of the Neponset River to the Lower Mills Dam, which separates the tidal and freshwater sections of the river. About 435 acres of the 1,260-acre ACEC are located in Boston with the remainder located in Milton and Quincy. The Neponset Estuary provides valuable habitat for anadramous fish species, including smelt and blueback herring. Most of the open space along the Boston side of the estuary is owned by the DCR, providing a variety of public open space and recreational opportunities. The DCR's Lower Neponset River Reservation Master Plan provides a vision for the long-term development of these properties.

The Fowl Meadow/Ponkapoag Bog

The Fowl Meadow/Ponkapoag Bog ACEC is also located along the Neponset River, from the Readville section of Hyde Park and through the towns of Canton, Dedham, Milton, Norwood, Randolph, Sharon, and Westwood. Large areas of the 8,350-acre ACEC are part of the DCR's Blue Hills Reservation. This ACEC protects habitat for at least 13 rare species, several aquifers and public water supplies, floodplains, and wetlands associated with the Neponset and its tributaries. In Boston, Sprague Pond and the privately-held Sprague Pond Lakeside Access Area are located within the ACEC.

Section 4.7:

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Introduction

Boston's intense land use can pose threats to several different components of the environment. Recognizing and planning for these different threats is essential for the environmental protection of Boston and the region.

For example, most reflective of an environment's health is its water quality. Threats to water quality include hazardous waste sites, landfills, and sewer discharges. However, water itself poses a threat to the landscape. Flooding, erosion, and sedimentation threaten the constructed and natural landscapes of Boston.

The preservation and expansion of Boston's green spaces contribute to both climate mitigation and adaptation. Green spaces keep the city cooler in summer, thereby reducing the urban heat-island effect (black pavement and other urban structures absorb more solar energy than grass and trees). This reduces the amount of electricity (and associated greenhouse gases) needed for air conditioning and reduces the risks of more frequent heat waves posed by climate change. Greenery also increases the amount of groundwater recharge, thereby lowering flood risks.

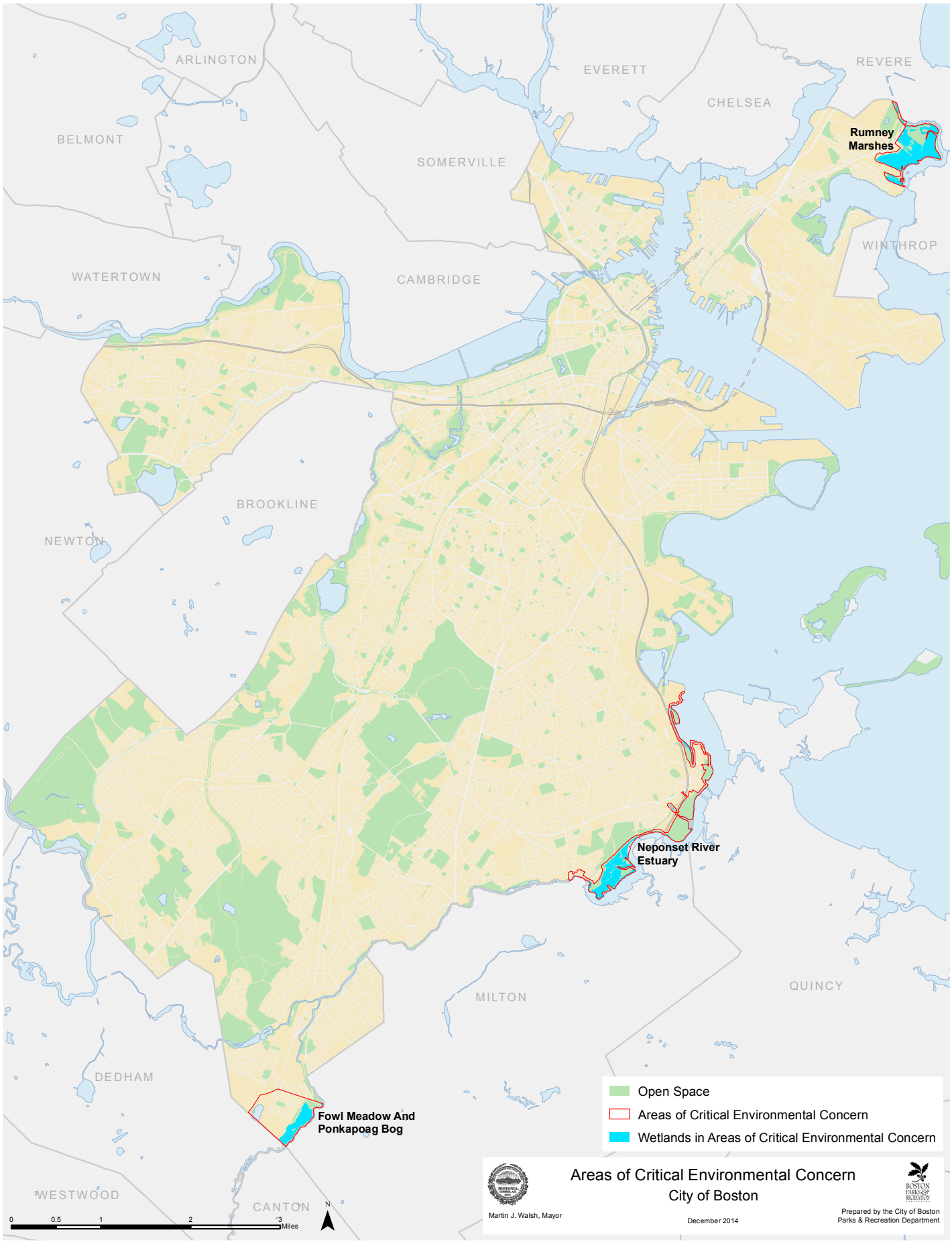
Hazardous Waste Sites

As of January 2014, there were 137 hazardous waste sites in the city of Boston.

A hazardous waste site is an area in which a hazardous substance has been released into the ground. The most common hazardous waste released is petroleum-based. Therefore, the most common hazardous waste site is one that has a land use associated with motor vehicles. This may be a gas station, service garage, or junkyard. Leaking underground tanks are responsible for a substantial amount of contaminated sites. These tanks commonly hold fuel oil for homes and businesses, or gasoline for service stations. Other typical locations of hazardous waste include dry cleaners and industrial land uses which use various chemicals in manufacturing or processing.

Once released into the ground, pollutants may migrate towards ground and surface water resources. If the contaminated soil is exposed to the air (not covered by concrete or asphalt) the pollutant may vaporize causing unusual odors and harmful vapors. Physical contact with contaminated soil may cause skin irritation. Remediation or cleansing of contaminated soils is necessary because of these threats.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) is responsible for enforcing laws that require remediation of contaminated sites (primarily MGL Chapter 21E). The 137 sites in Boston are either considered to be of highest priority for clean up, and therefore require MADEP permitting, or where classification is unconfirmed or not yet determined, so that many of these sites may not be seriously contaminated, making remediation a financially feasible possibility for reuse.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DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
Rumney Marshes
Neponset River Estuary
Fowl Meadow And Ponkapoag Bog
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Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
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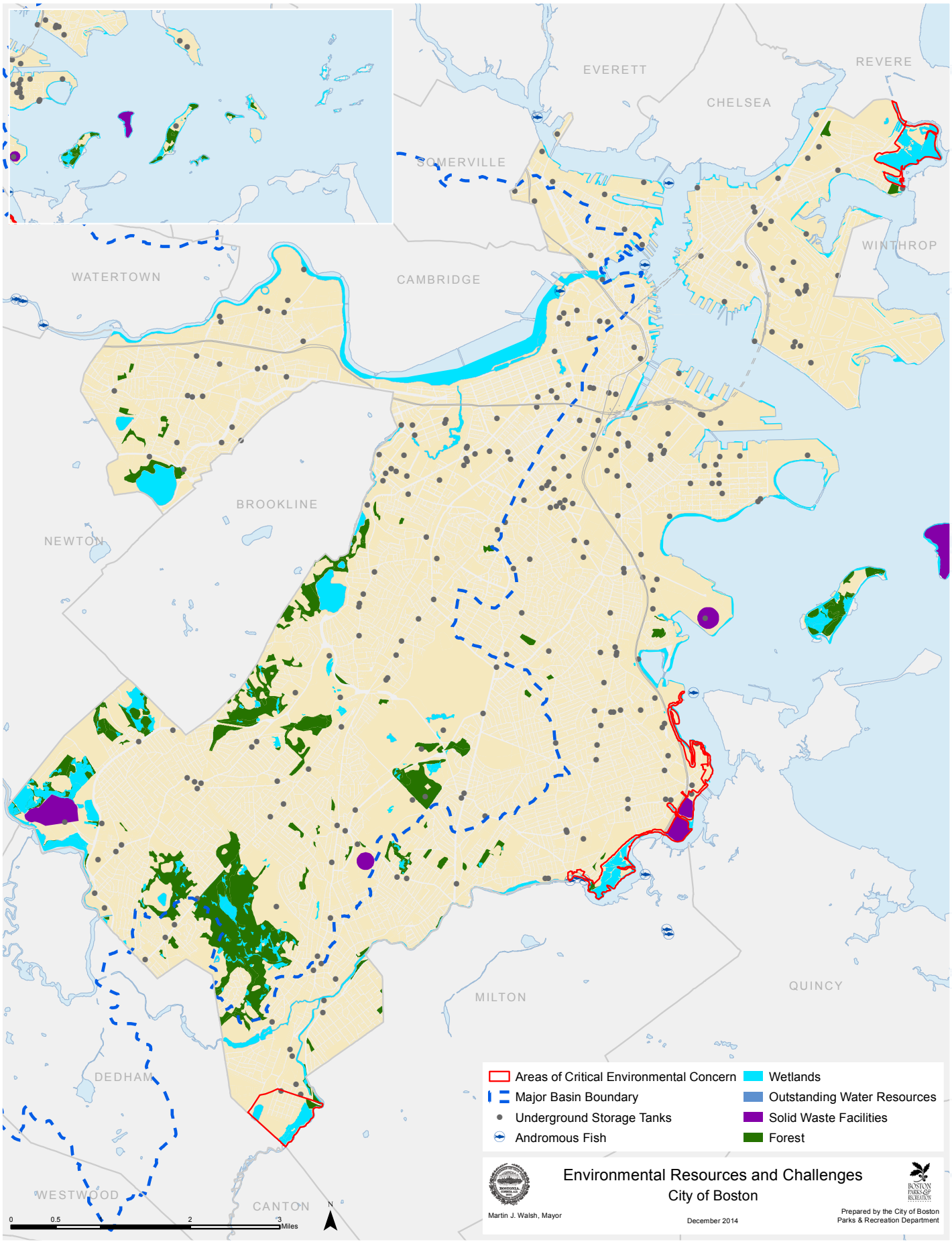
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Outstanding Water Resources
Solid Waste Facilities
Forest
Environmental Resources and Challenges
City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Landfills

Boston does not currently have an active landfill, but does have several areas that have operated as landfills, dumps, or waste transfer stations. Former landfills include the Spectacle Island and Gardner Street landfills. Both facilities have undergone a capping that has resulted in the safe containment of waste and the creation of open space.

The Gardner Street landfill site is located on the banks of the Charles River in West Roxbury. The landfill's operation began in the 1930s and closed in 1980 but not capped. Contaminated surface runoff and groundwater flow posed a threat to the water quality of the nearby Charles River and its associated wetlands and groundwater resources. Excess material from the Central Artery Project was used to cap the landfill in 1997, which created the 105-acre Millennium Park which was dedicated in 2000. This park features several athletic fields, passive recreation areas, a canoe/kayak launch on the Charles River, six miles of paths, grasslands, and nature study areas.

The Spectacle Island landfill was located on Spectacle Island in the Boston Harbor. It operated until the 1950s. In an uncapped state, the dump presented a threat to water quality in the Boston Harbor. Excess material from the Central Artery Project was used to cap the landfill, which created 105 acres of primarily passive parkland. The park was opened to the public in 2006 with the completion of a visitor's center, walking paths, and a swimming beach. The Parks Department and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation jointly manage this park.

The Hallet Street and Neponset Avenue Landfills are also capped and used as open space. DCR closed and capped the landfills, and created the Pope John Paul II Park which opened in 2000 as part of the Lower Neponset River Reservation. This park includes active and passive features as well as improvements for access to the water.

The other closed landfills in Boston are at Columbia Point in Dorchester along Dorchester Bay where UMass Boston and housing uses are found, and the Barry Quarry in Hyde Park, which is also known as the Oak Lawn Driving Range.

Erosion/Sedimentation

Channelized streams and ocean walls have historically controlled erosion along the city's waterways. Pavement or structures cover a large percentage of Boston's surface area, served by an extensive stormwater drain system. This minimizes most land erosion, yet also contributes to localized erosion problems both by increasing surface run-off volume and speed, and by concentrating flows at specific discharge points. Erosion also occurs in areas that are undeveloped and not served by storm drains.

Urbanization is associated with impervious surfaces that speed the delivery of water to the river channel and result in larger and quicker peak flows. These increased peak flows transport large sediment loads that are dumped upon reaching low energy environments (i.e., slower moving waters contained in broader, shallower channels).

In association with chronic erosion and uncontrolled run-off in Boston's open spaces, deposition of sediments has posed a threat to areas such as the Back Bay Fens and Muddy River system. The Muddy River is an area of intensive sedimentation within Boston (and Brookline). The Muddy River receives a large volume of inorganic sediment from storm runoff caused by the intense urbanization within the river's drainage basin. Large deposits of sediments are concentrated along the Riverway and Back Bay Fens sections of the Muddy River.

Construction of the Charles River Dam in 1910 prevented tidal flow into the Muddy therefore decreasing salinity and preventing flushing of river sediment. This river sediment has remained along the Muddy River's banks, creating point bars that contribute to the proliferation of the non-native, invasive Phragmites—a tall freshwater grass with robust, hollow stems and dense, tasseling flower heads that can be seen flourishing, up to 20 feet tall, along the banks of the Muddy River. Phragmites contributes to sedimentation of the river by trapping sediment, which then encourages further Phragmites growth. While the Phragmites trap sediment, pollutants chemically bound to the sediment seriously degrade water quality in the river. Pollutants found in sediment include trace metals, inorganic nutrients, and organic compounds.

Flooding

Boston is served by an extensive stormwater drainage system of dams, berms, and seawalls that have been designed to prevent flooding. However, changing weather patterns, coupled with aging infrastructure, will soon begin to strain the system. Annual precipitation is expected to increase by 5%–8% by 2050, and 7% to 14% by 2100 according to the *2011 Massachusetts Climate Adaptation Report*. In addition, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration anticipates sea levels in Boston to rise by up to 2.2 feet by 2050 and up to 6.86 feet by 2100.

Recent major storms between 2010–2013 have caused substantial flooding in both coastal and inland neighborhoods. During a storm in March 2010, the City of Boston broke the record of 11 inches of rain previously set in 1953. Storm surge reached 6.5 feet. Major flooding was experienced. The MBTA's Green Line D branch was hindered by a sinkhole that washed out a track.

From December 2010 through February 2011, the City of Boston saw a series of winter storms that led to a record snowfall of over 70 inches, more than 45 inches above the average. Heavy snow, combined with rain led to numerous collapsed roofs, downed trees and utility lines and flooding problems throughout the City.

In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy brought high winds and coastal flooding to Boston. Sustained wind speeds of 41 mph and gusts to 62 mph were reported at Logan Airport. Seas were 20–25 feet just off the coast with a storm surge generally about 2.5 feet to 4.5 feet. Luckily, storm surge peaked at 4.57 feet in between high tide cycles, and as a result only moderate coastal flooding occurred within Boston. If the peak surge had hit five hours earlier at high tide, the city would have experienced severe flooding.

In February 2013, a blizzard known as Winter Storm Nemo, produced moderate to major coastal flooding, most notably during the time of the high tide Saturday morning. The 5th largest snow accumulation ever recorded of 24.9 inches occurred at Logan.

The City of Boston anticipates working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on planning for climate adaptation for the parks along the coast in light of the predicted increased flooding and sea level rise in the foreseeable future. City parks such as Condor Street Beach, the East Boston Greenway, Umana School Park, LoPresti Park, Porzio Park, Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park, Ryan Playground, Barry Playground, Little Mystic Access Area, Menino Park, Langone Park, Puopolo Park, Christopher Columbus Park, Long Wharf, Children's Wharf Park, L Street Beach, and McConnell Park will be affected by more frequent and intensive salt water inundation.

State parks along the coast in Boston are numerous and large in size. City and State parklands are often located side-by-side so an integrated system of adaptation is possible. Areas under the control of National Park Service, Massport, and private owners of the publicly accessible HarborWalk will also be affected by coastal flooding and its aftereffects, and could share common adaptation policies and practices.

Flooding in the Fenway/Longwood area is caused by the Muddy River system. High water levels in the Muddy River can occur as a result of intense surface runoff from storm events, high water levels in the Charles River, and the nearly level gradient of the

Muddy River in the Fenway area. These high water levels impede discharge from the Stony Brook Conduit, which carries stormwater, brookflows, and combined sewage from West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury.

Sewage Discharge

Approximately 380 million gallons of effluent (treated sewage) are released into Massachusetts Bay each day. Sewage from Boston and outlying communities is treated by the MWRA at the Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant. The volume discharged is roughly equivalent to the combined flow of the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset Rivers. The Deer Island treatment facility now also treats sewage that is pumped under the Harbor from the former Nut Island treatment plant in Quincy.

The Deer Island treatment plant is the second largest in the nation. It uses two phases of treatment, primary and secondary. Primary treatment separates the sewage by allowing sludge (primarily human waste) to settle from the water. Secondary treatment uses microorganisms to consume the remaining human waste and toxic chemicals. The effluent is then disinfected with chlorine and is 90% free of human waste and 70% free of toxic chemicals. It is released from the facility via a 9.5-mile, 24-foot diameter deep rock tunnel. At its end, the tunnel diffuses the effluent into Massachusetts Bay where ocean currents mix and further dilute the effluent. This largely minimizes the impact of treated wastewater on Boston Harbor.

The most prominent point source pollution in Boston is discharge from combined sewer overflow systems (CSOs). Combined sewer overflow systems collect both sewage and surface water runoff from rainfall and snowmelt. During wet weather conditions, surface runoff causes sewer lines to overload. To prevent this overload from backing up into streets or basements, designated overflow discharge points are located along Boston Harbor and the Charles and Muddy Rivers.

Due to the various sources of CSO discharges, many pollutants may be present. These pollutants include fecal coliform bacteria, suspended solids, nutrients, metals, and floatable material. Discharges containing such pollutants create potential health impacts near areas such as swimming beaches and shellfish beds.

Substantial efforts have been made by the MWRA to reduce CSO discharge. Among these efforts is the expansion of the Deer Island Treatment Plant, which treats 89% of total overflow during an average rainfall year. An additional 6% of that overflow is treated by CSO treatment facilities that provide screening and disinfection of overflows. This accounts for treatment of 95% of discharges. Upon completion of further CSO improvements in the near future (anticipated by August 2015), the MWRA expects to treat 99.6% of overflows from combined sewer systems.

Water Quality

Water quality data used for this section was obtained from a *2002-2006 Charles River Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report* and the *2004–2008 Boston Harbor Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report* produced by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP).

Chelsea River

Locally known as Chelsea Creek, this river flows through a highly urbanized watershed dominated by industrial and commercial uses. Chelsea Creek is a Designated Port Area where water-dependent industrial and commercial uses are favored. Most of the petroleum for this region, and therefore the oil tanker traffic, travels through this river, which has been dredged to a depth of 38 feet. The City of Boston and Massport store road salt on its banks. CSO discharges to the river are allowed under the approved MWRA CSO Facilities Plan. MADEP classifies Chelsea Creek as SB_{CSO}.

In 2001, the EPA stated that the creek "is one of the most polluted tributaries of the Boston Harbor." Chelsea Creek was on the MADEP 2004 303(d) list of impaired waters, due to priority organics, unionized ammonia, organic enrichment/low DO, pathogens, oil and grease, taste, odor and color, turbidity, and objectionable deposits.

The first direct public access to the Chelsea River from East Boston was developed when the City's Parks and Recreation Department and the Urban Wilds Initiative, constructed a hazardous waste remediation and urban open space reuse project at the Condor Street Beach urban wild. The public now has access to view the river and the industrial activity and traffic. A portion of the site is now a restored coastal wetland.

Mystic River

Much of the Mystic River in Charlestown is classified as a Designated Port Area, with mainly industrial and commercial uses on both sides of the river, a channel depth of 40 feet for industrial and commercial shipping, and CSO discharges allowed under the MWRA CSO Facilities Plan. MADEP has classified the Mystic River as SB_{CSO}.

The Mystic River was on MADEP's 2004 303(d) list of impaired waters for metals, other inorganics, priority organics, unionized ammonia, organic enrichment/low DO, pathogens, oil and grease, taste, odor, and color.

During summer months, the river is on "Alert Status" due to organic enrichment and low DO that can impact aquatic life. During wet weather, elevated pathogen counts can impact primary and secondary contact recreation.

The MWRA CSO Control Program has installed a CSO storage tunnel in Charlestown near Barry Playground that has helped reduce CSO discharges.

The only public access to the Mystic River in Charlestown is from Ryan Playground, where the Parks Department recently installed a shoreline boardwalk, and at the Schraffts Center, which has a boardwalk installed as a result of the state-mandated Chapter 91 and the BRA-mandated HarborWalk requirements.

Inner Harbor

The Boston Inner Harbor consists of the Chelsea Creek and Mystic River confluence, the Upper Inner Harbor, Fort Point Channel, the Lower Inner Harbor, and the Reserved Channel. Land uses along the shores of the Inner Harbor include industrial, commercial, residential and recreational. The start of secondary treatment at Deer Island and the disposal of effluent via a 9.5-mile outfall tunnel into Massachusetts Bay, has helped to clean up the Inner harbor and has improved clarity.

The MADEP has classified the Inner Harbor as SB_{CSO} waters. The SB_{CSO} classification allows for fishing, but due to public health concerns MADEP's *2004–2008 Boston Harbor Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report* does not support consumption of fish or shellfish caught in the Inner Harbor. Wet weather discharges, discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), and industrial point source discharge impact aquatic life, though primary and secondary contact recreation is supported. The Inner Harbor is on the 2008 Integrated list of Waters in Category 5: Waters Requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for priority organics and pathogens.

Pleasure Bay

Pleasure Bay is part of the Olmsted-designed waterfront recreation area on the South Boston shoreline. It is mostly enclosed, with flow restricted to two channels between Castle and Head Islands. A beach stretches for two-thirds of its shoreline, and a pedestrian causeway linking Castle and Head Islands for the remainder of the length. Its use is primarily recreational, but the watershed generates urban storm runoff and storm sewer discharges. It is classified SB Shellfishing (Restricted). Fish consumption is not supported, per the 2004–2008 MADEP report. The water body was not assessed for aquatic life or aesthetics in this report. Support with alert status is given for primary recreational contact with full support for secondary contact. Pleasure Bay is also on the 2008 Integrated list of Waters in Category 5: Waters Requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for priority organics and pathogens. In 2013, Pleasure Bay was closed for one day.

Dorchester Bay

Dorchester Bay stretches from Head Island along the South Boston beaches to Columbia Point, then southward past Savin Hill to the mouth of the Neponset River and out to Thompson Island. Dorchester Bay's watershed has a mix of industrial, commercial, residential, and recreational uses. The MWRA CSO Control Program has reduced CSO discharges and improved water quality in the bay.

The surface water quality classification for Dorchester Bay is SB Shellfishing (Restricted), and it is listed on the 2008 Integrated list of Waters in Category 5: Waters Requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for priority organics and pathogens.

The 2004–2008 MADEP report does not support consumption of fish and shellfish due to PCBs and other contaminants. It does not support primary contact due to discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems and urban stormwater. Support is given for secondary contact recreation, and support with alert status for aquatic life.

Progress is being made in the improvement of water quality for primary contact recreation. In the 2006 season, Tenean Beach was posted against swimming for a total of 19 days, Savin Hill Beach for a total of five days, Malibu Beach for a total of five days, Carson Beach for a total of 14 days, M Street Beach for a total of eight days, and City Point Beach for a total of 12 days. For the 2013 season, conditions improved, with Savin Hill Beach not subject to any closure, Malibu Beach closed for three days, Carson Beach for three days, M Street Beach for two days, and City Point Beach for one day. On the other hand, for 2013, Tenean Beach was closed for 24 days.

Outer Harbor

Water quality for the Outer Harbor and the Harbor Islands typically meets water quality standards for bacterial contamination. The 2004–2008 MADEP report supports aquatic life and primary and secondary contact recreation in this surface water body. Fish consumption is not supported, nor is shellfishing for most of this area. The 2008 303(d) list includes the Outer Harbor (here called "Boston Harbor") as a water requiring a TMDL due to priority organics and pathogens.

Spectacle Island was capped with soils from the Central Artery project. This has helped to improve water quality, and created recreational amenity on the island. The Spectacle Island and Lovell's Island beaches were not closed due to water quality in 2013.

Winthrop Bay/Orient Heights Bay

Winthrop Bay is between East Boston and Winthrop. The 2004–2008 MADEP report indicates support for aquatic life and secondary contact recreation. Excessive pathogen levels have caused the bay to remain on the 2008 303(d) list of impaired waters. In the 2006 season, Constitution Beach was posted against swimming for a total of 16 days. For the 2013 season, this beach was posted for five days.

Neponset River

MADEP has reviewed the Neponset River in four segments that appear in whole or in part within Boston, three segments representing portions of the Neponset mainstem, and one segment representing the Mother Brook, a tributary to the Neponset.

The most upstream Neponset segment is eight miles long, from the confluence with the East Branch in Canton to the confluence with Mother Brook in Hyde Park. Approximately the two most downstream miles are within Boston city limits, north of the point where the boundaries of Dedham, Canton, Milton, and Boston meet.

Portions of this segment, including some portion of the segment within Boston, are within the Fowl Meadow/Ponkapoag Bog ACEC. Many portions of the banks in this segment are owned by the DCR as part of the Neponset River Reservation, with some of these parklands developed for land-based and water-based recreation.

This segment is classified as Class B Warm Water Fishery surface water quality. The 1999 MADEP report assesses conditions in this segment to be in partial support of primary and secondary contact recreation, while fish consumption is in non-support due to elevated PCB levels in certain fish. The 2004 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to metals, priority organics, organic enrichment/low DO, oil and grease, pathogens, turbidity, and objectionable deposits.

Mother Brook is the first canal dug in the United States. It is 3.6 miles long, from its headwaters at the diversion of the Charles River in Dedham to the confluence with the Neponset in Hyde Park. A mix of land uses are along its banks, including parkland, residential, commercial and industrial. The DCR owns a considerable amount of the shore. The main public access to this river segment is in Hyde Park at Mill Pond.

This segment is classified as Class B surface water quality. The 1999 MADEP report assesses conditions in this segment to be in partial support of primary contact recreation and aquatic life, while secondary contact recreation is in full support. The 2004 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to nutrients, organic enrichment/low DO, flow alteration, pathogens, taste, odor, and color.

The next Neponset mainstem segment starts at the confluence with Mother Brook and ends at the Milton Lower Falls Dam. For most of this length, the southern banks are within Milton town limits, and the northern banks are within Boston city limits. The land uses nearby are residential, with some industrial and commercial. Much of the banks are owned by DCR. They are wooded and often narrow and steep. Some limited public access to the river through these lands has been developed in recent years.

This segment is classified as Class B Warm Water Fishery surface water quality. The 1999 MADEP report assessed conditions in this segment to be in non-support of primary and secondary contact recreation due to pathogens, while fish consumption is in non-support due to elevated PCB levels. This report puts aquatic life in the segment on "Alert Status" due to historically contaminated sediments. The 2004 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to metals, priority organics, organic enrichment/low DO, oil and grease, pathogens, and objectionable deposits.

The most downstream segment of the Neponset mainstem is estuarine, flowing from the Milton Lower Falls Dam to the mouth of the river at Dorchester Bay. Portions of the southern and eastern banks are within Milton and Quincy city limits; the northern and western banks are within Boston city limits. A variety of land uses, including estuarine wetlands and former landfills can be found on its shores. The landfills have been capped and made into a State park, Pope John Paul II Park. Most of the wetlands are under DCR management. A path for walking, bicycling, and other linear-oriented recreation has been established near the banks on lands primarily controlled by DCR.

This segment is classified as Class SB, Shell Fishing (Restricted) surface water quality. The 1999 MADEP report assesses conditions in this segment to be in non-support of primary and secondary contact recreation due to pathogens, while fish consumption is in non-support due to public health concerns. The 2004 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to priority organics, organic enrichment/low DO, pathogens, turbidity, and objectionable deposits.

Shad, river herring, and rainbow smelt still return to the Neponset River. The US Army Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Riverways Program engaged in a feasibility study to evaluate alternatives for fish passage at the Walter Baker (Milton Lower Falls) and Tilestone and Hollingsworth dams along the river, as well as to examine opportunities for channel improvements and habitat restoration.

The BWSC sewer separation project in Dorchester has led to the elimination of CSO discharges to this segment of the Neponset, helping to improve conditions during and following wet weather events.

Charles River

The Charles River traces the northern edge of Boson and a portion of the southwestern edge of the city in West Roxbury. Much of the banks along this stretch are protected parklands and wetlands, while some land uses along these banks are industrial, commercial, and residential. The *2002–2006 Charles River Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report* produced by MADEP includes the 23-mile segment of the Charles from Chestnut Street in Needham to the Watertown Dam in Watertown.

A major effort to improve water quality in this section of the Charles was the capping of the Gardner Street Landfill in West Roxbury, which is now known as Millenium Park. This park provides public access to the river for secondary contact recreation. Such recreational use promotes watershed awareness, a necessary component to help change the public's behavior

toward best management practices at the individual level. Individual practices include cleaning up pet waste, discouraging feeding of waterfowl, and proper disposal of waste motor oil and household hazardous wastes.

This segment is classified as Class B, Warm Water Fishery surface water quality. The 2002–2006 MADEP Report indicates non-support for all categories for this segment. The 2008 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to priority organics, nutrients, organic enrichment/low DO, pathogens, noxious aquatic plants, turbidity, and exotic species.

The Sawmill Brook is a 2.7 mile tributary to the Charles River that begins in southern Brookline, then travels through residential areas of southern Newton, through cemeteries, wetlands, and parklands in Boston before its confluence with the Charles at Millennium Park. The 2002–2006 MADEP Report indicates support for aesthetics only for this segment. The 2008 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to other organics, organic enrichment/low DO, pathogens, noxious aquatic plants, and other habitat alterations.

The most downstream segment of the Charles River runs 8.6 miles from the Watertown Dam to the Science Museum Dam in Boston. This segment of the Charlese River is like a lake, due to the Science Museum Dam and the Charles River Dam downstream. Its highly urbanized watershed contrasts to the DCR parklands along much of its banks in this segment. Historically, water quality in this section was degraded by CSO discharges, urban stormwater runoff, and the contributions from tributaries. The 2002–2006 MADEP Report indicates non-support for aquatic life, fish consumption, and primary and secondary contact recreation for this segment. The 2008 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to priority organics, metals, unknown toxicity, nutrients, organic enrichment/low DO, pathogens, oil and grease, taste, odor, and color, turbidity, noxious aquatic plants, and unknown causes.

The EPA has been working with the MWRA, the BWSC, and the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), and many other partners on its Clean Charles Initiative. Through negotiations, settlements, and joint projects, these partners have been able to achieve significant improvements to the number of days this segment of the Charles River can be used for primary and secondary contact recreation.

The MWRA CSO control program will achieve 99.5% reduction in CSO discharges to this segment from 1995 levels. Other efforts include the elimination of illegal cross-connections that contaminate municipal storm sewers that drain to the Charles or its tributaries, and negotiations and settlements with individual producers of discharges to the Charles. Public education to keep fertilizers, automotive care products, household hazardous wastes, excessive runoff, and pets and wildlife waste from entering the river has started to become an important strategy for improving water and recreation quality.

Muddy River

The Muddy River is a tributary to the Charles that forms the "backbone" for three of the Olmsted-designed Emerald Necklace parks—Olmsted Park, the Riverway, and the Back Bay Fens. While almost all of its banks are parkland, the river drains a highly urbanized watershed. Transportation corridors cross the river, such as State Route 9, the Massachusetts Turnpike, and commuter rail tracks.

The 2002–2006 MADEP Report indicates non-support for aquatic life, fish consumption, and primary and secondary contact recreation for this segment. The 2008 MADEP 303(d) list of impaired waters includes this segment due to priority organics, metals, nutrients, siltation, other habitat alterations, organic enrichment/low DO, pathogens, oil and grease, taste, odor, and color.

The Muddy River's flow is lake-like, as it has been affected for much of its length by the Charles River Dam. With historical CSO discharges, and ongoing urban stormwater discharges to the river, it has been highly impacted by sedimentation. This has consequently reduced the flood flow capacity of the river. The Army Corps of Engineers is currently undertaking an effort to improve flood control and water quality, as well as enhance riparian and aquatic habitat on the Muddy River

Environmental Equity

The environment provides resources such as open space and tree cover that is not uniformly distributed to all persons. For example, just one Beacon Hill townhouse may have a small but attractive backyard with trees and other plantings on a residential block with no other backyards. A residential block in West Roxbury may have each house with an ample backyard, frontyard, and sideyards. The residents of that Beacon Hill block may not have equal access to open space and tree cover *on that block*, while the West Roxbury block residents appear to on their block, on the other hand, within a short walking distance, those Beacon Hill residents have access to the Boston Common and The Public Garden (not to mention The Esplanade), while a car trip from that West Roxbury block will likely be needed to visit a similarly sized open space in West Roxbury, Millennium Park.

Overall for the city of Boston, there appears to be a reasonable amount of environmental equity. For example, the Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit organization with an interest in urban open space, has developed city park system rankings, called ParkScore. The city of Boston is one of three cities tied for third place among the 60 top ranked cities. One of the categories it ranks cities on is access to open space. Out of a possible 40 points, Boston received 40 points in that category. Further, they determined that neither age nor income had a significant influence on access to open space.

Access to open space is further discussed in Section 7.2 – Community Open Space and Recreation. While overall open space equity exists in Boston, there are pockets of need that are identified on a sub-community basis in that section.

Regarding tree cover (canopy), there too we find a counterintuitive result. An August 2014 article in *Science of the Total Environment* by current and former Boston University scientists (Raciti, Hutyra, and Newell) concluded "[i]n contrast to studies from other cities, we did not find strong correlations between neighborhood demographics and biomass. Boston is an old and

dense city with some of the wealthiest neighborhoods located in areas with the lowest biomass." The demographic characteristics studied included income, education, race and population density, and no correlations were found on those characteristics.

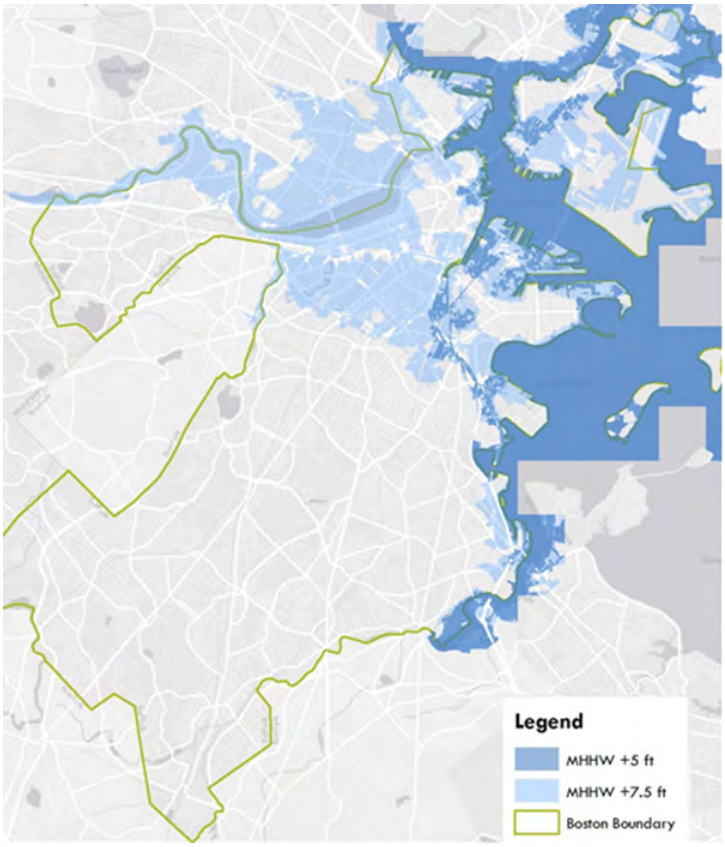
These authors provide a possible hypothesis for this result. They suggest that Boston being an older city, and trees being long-lived (especially in non-street conditions), that "today's neighborhoods have inherited the preferred landscapes of past communities." Boston in its earliest days was confined to the Shawmut Peninsula, connected by a narrow neck to the mainland at Roxbury. Surrounded by water in the humid summers, the wealthy sought relief in summer homes in Roxbury where breezes could be obtained. In the early nineteenth century, the filling in of Back Bay and the South Bay expanded the developable land near downtown Boston, creating sections of the South End, South Boston, the Back Bay, and the Fenway neighborhoods, which were then densely developed. This new land, filled at great cost, necessitated dense development with little land available to remain open and landscaped. As growth continued further, it spread to Roxbury, Dorchester and other outer areas, which made subdividing the summer estates there for denser housing an economic proposition. Yet while triple deckers, for example were developed, yard space was also provided, allowing the older tree stock to remain, in some sense preserving the original "preferred" landscape while the wealthier downtown residents sought second homes further afield, in towns farther away from Boston, such as along the North and South Shores in Massachusetts, and now even further out, such as Cape Cod, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Western Massachusetts. And the weekly exodus to second homes in greener landscapes on Friday evenings and the migration back at the end of two- and three-day weekends provides wealthier downtown residents living in denser parts of Boston that have excellent transportation access and access to entertainment and job opportunities, but little tree canopy, relief from this density and lack of tree canopy and access to nature.

The less dense areas of Boston such as Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Brighton, and Jamaica Plain have greater access to open space and tree canopy, and many residents rely on these close-to-home environmental resources for relief from the cityscape, as they have no second homes to visit. Thanks to the remains of the former summer estates and the good planning related to Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (Emerald Necklace and other pastoral parks), Charles Eliot (regional park system), and Joseph Lee (well distributed play-oriented parks), these areas did not suffer as much in terms of environmental equity from the relentless, unplanned spread of development associated with the "streetcar suburb" phenomenon. Current environmental justice populations which replaced the earlier immigrant populations in these areas benefit from the legacy of the open spaces and tree canopy still found in these neighborhoods. While some pockets in the city do exhibit open space and environmental need, it is not to the widespread degree that is generally thought of in other cities on the United States. These pockets are discussed in Section 7.2, Community Open Space and Recreation, and in Section 7.3.4, Public Shade Trees.

Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation

The map below shows that the areas of Boston that are vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise include parts of Charlestown, East Boston, South Boston, the South End, Fenway, Downtown, and along the Charles, Muddy and Neponset Rivers. According to *Climate Ready Boston: Municipal Vulnerability to Climate Change*:

- The number of days over 90 degrees in Boston could rise from the current average of 10 per year to an average of 31 to 62 per year by the end of the century; and days over 100 degrees could become a regular occurrence.
- Rainfall will likely stay about the same or slightly increase over the next 100 years. However, precipitation (including snow) will fall in fewer, more intense storms.
- There may be more time between precipitation events, producing more severe periods of drought. By the end of the century, droughts lasting one to three months could increase from about four in every ten years to about six or seven every ten years. Snow or rain, when it does fall, will likely fall in more concentrated bursts. This can overburden storm water management systems and lead to inland flooding
- There is a greater than 90 percent chance that average global sea level will rise between eight inches and 6.5 feet by the end of the century. Sea-level rise in Boston is likely to be greater than the global average, because Boston's land mass is subsiding, or sinking, at about six inches per century, and changing ocean currents and other features affecting the distribution of ocean water.



Projected Inundated Areas Due to Sea Level Rise

Benefits of Open Space

Open space can provide benefits that help to mitigate climate change and its impacts:

- Design of parks call allow these landscapes to adapt to and remain resilient in the face of climate change.
- Parks can be designed to mitigate flooding with the park, and can be an efficient means of addressing flood control.
- Well designed, constructed and maintained parks can help sequester carbon dioxide.
- Parks can also reduce ambient temperatures by provide shading and evaporative cooling, thus helping to reduce energy use needed for mechanized cooling.

Open Space and Climate Change

Given these vulnerabilities, the City of Boston is taking a multi-faceted approach to mitigating the impacts of climate change on city lands and city residents. The Parks Department has identified the following opportunities to address climate change:

Planning and Design

Conduct a citywide climate change impact survey for new and existing park areas to identify park sites and other landscaped amenities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, damage from violent storms, invasive species and pests, landscape succession, temperature related impacts, saltwater intrusion, and flooding from inland waterbodies or extreme precipitation. Give special attention to waterfront landscapes, geographically exposed landscapes, and sites with a history of flooding. Develop climate adaptation plans for vulnerable existing parks and landscapes. Design new parks to minimize risks related to climate change.

Flooding

Parks located near harbors or rivers may see increase in flooding. The Parks Department will assess the infrastructure in each park for vulnerability to flooding, as well as infrastructure alternatives in order to determine what action, if any, is needed to manage storm water retention and flooding in parks. Additional drainage may be needed in designs, as well as using hardy coastal plant materials and locating utilities in safe locations. New parks and other open spaces subject to storm surge and wave action may need to have wave breakers integrated in their designs. The Parks Department will utilize tools being developed by the Environment Department to incorporate sea-level rise considerations in the design of new projects.

Storm Water

The Parks Department will work with the BWSC to invest in infrastructure to reduce storm water run-off and retain water on site to reduce flooding hazards and provide irrigation for trees and plants. This can be achieved by use of rain gardens, retention basins, irrigation systems, permeable paving systems and less soil compaction.

Health and Safety

The Parks Department will work with the Boston Public Health Commission to develop educational materials and a campaign directed to park users regarding the health risks of mosquitoes (EEE and West Nile Virus currently) and high exposure to sunlight. Work schedules for maintenance workers will be reviewed for heat risks. Athletic permits will be reviewed to determine if extended hours and lighting are needed to schedule events that avoid peak hours of heat and sun.

Trees and Plant Materials

The Parks Department will replace or increase tree canopy on sidewalks and open spaces to reduce heat island effect. It will continue to survey the health and level of tree canopy with new survey information and continue to direct resources for replanting as needed to ensure shade. The Parks Department will continue to modify and update recommended tree species, plants, and turf lists to reflect current research and tree health concerns with regard to climate change issues such as heat, drought, wind, pests, and increased pollen production that can lead to an increase in allergies.

Power Consumption

The Parks Department will reduce energy consumption by upgrading systems and equipment such as field lights, street lighting, fountains, and irrigation systems.

Section 5

Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

(Open Space Inventory)

Section 5:

INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST (OPEN SPACE INVENTORY)

Introduction

Boston's open spaces are a system that includes parks, urban wilds, community gardens, and cemeteries. This system provides more than 7,200 acres of public and private open space (see Open Space maps following). These open spaces provide both active and passive recreation, scenic enjoyment, and a sense of well-being and community pride. They provide relief from the densely confined aspects of the urban environment.

However, the vital role of open space in urban areas is not to be taken for granted. Development pressures threaten many open spaces at some point. Consequently, to insure that cherished open spaces remain for their use and the use of future generations, people will need to consider issues such as the *ownership* of open space parcels and the degree of *protection* from adverse uses.

Ownership

Ownership is a key aspect of the system of open space protection, as certain owners have a major institutional mission to protect and maintain open space.

The largest holder of property in Boston is the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks Department has jurisdiction and management of a majority of Boston's parks, playgrounds, squares, malls, and cemeteries. The Parks Department also holds a limited number of urban wilds and community gardens.

Other owners of open space land include City agencies, State agencies, non-profit organizations, individuals, private entities, and institutions. The Boston Conservation Commission (BCC) has jurisdiction over a number of urban wilds and natural areas, while the State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owns and maintains a variety of parks, parkways, playgrounds, beaches, natural areas, and urban wilds.

Private owners of open space include conservation organizations such as the Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN), and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. These non-profit organizations have sizable holdings of community gardens and urban wilds.

Additional owners of open space include educational and religious institutions and private business organizations.

Protection: A Matter of Degree

The term "protection" generally refers to the ease with which an open space property can be converted from an open space use to a non-open space use. Some properties have permanent ("in perpetuity") restrictions on development. Others have lesser degrees of protection, while many have only the restriction imposed by the owner's own intentions or means.

This Open Space Plan considers properties to be protected if they are publicly owned lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Boston Conservation Commission. It also includes properties held by government agencies that are restricted by deed or statute to "conservation" purposes.[1] In 2014, there are 4,367 acres of protected open space on mainland Boston (62% of the total). Including the Harbor Islands, there are 4,689 acres of protected open space (67% of the total). See tables below.

Article 97 is the major reason such public land held for conservation purposes is considered protected (see description below, under the heading, "Types of Protection"). This State constitutional amendment requires a process for the conversion of such lands to non-conservation purposes.

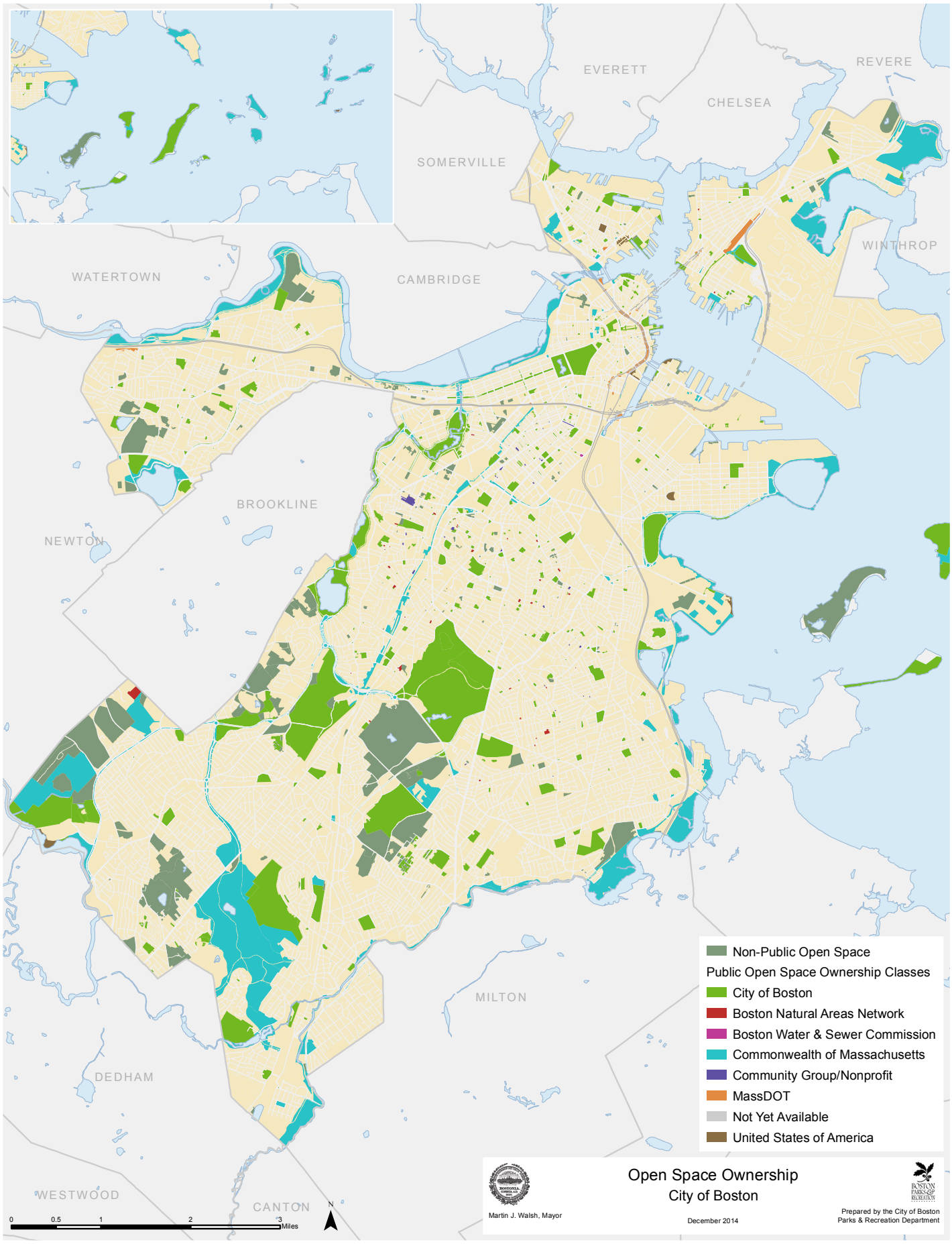
Some of these lands are further protected by State and federal requirements as part of accepting grant assistance for the purchase or development/redevelopment of these properties if they were the subject of a grant award. These grant programs are the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the federal Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR), and the State Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Programs (formerly the Self-Help (SH) and Urban Self-Help (USH) Programs, respectively). The requirement for receiving the assistance is that land of equal or greater monetary value and equal or greater conservation (including recreation) utility must replace land that was the subject of a grant award. This provides a more stringent degree of protection beyond Article 97 (in almost all cases, lands covered by this more stringent grant requirement are or will be subject to protection under Article 97).

The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund, administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, also contains requirements for grant-funded projects to maintain their historical integrity after completion of the project. For historic parks or open spaces associated with historic properties, this can also be a means of protection.

Private lands where the deed is permanently restricted by a conservation easement or restriction, an agricultural preservation restriction, an historic restriction, an open space restriction, or a wetlands restriction are also considered protected.

[1] Conservation has a broad definition. According to the June 6, 1973 Opinion of the Attorney General (No. 45, found at page 139 of Public Document No. 12, Report of the Attorney General for the year ending June 30, 1973), also known as the "Quinn Opinion," "...parks, monuments, reservations, athletic fields, concert areas and playgrounds clearly qualify" as "covered by Article 97" as they were "taken or acquired for the protection of the people in their right to the conservation, development, and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources[.]'" (Pages 142-143). The opinion goes on to state that Article 97 declares as a public purpose "the protection of the people in their right to the conservation, development, and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources...." It further states that given such a major public purpose, "[p]arkland protection can afford not only the conservation of forest, water and air but also a means of utilizing these resources in harmony with their conservation." (Page 142).

Given this Attorney General opinion, well known as the basis for application of Article 97 to parkland, it would appear that parkland and park uses serve conservation purposes. As indicated by Attorney General Quinn's list ("parks, monuments, reservations, athletic fields, concert areas and playgrounds"), all outdoor recreation, whether active or passive, is therefore a conservation use.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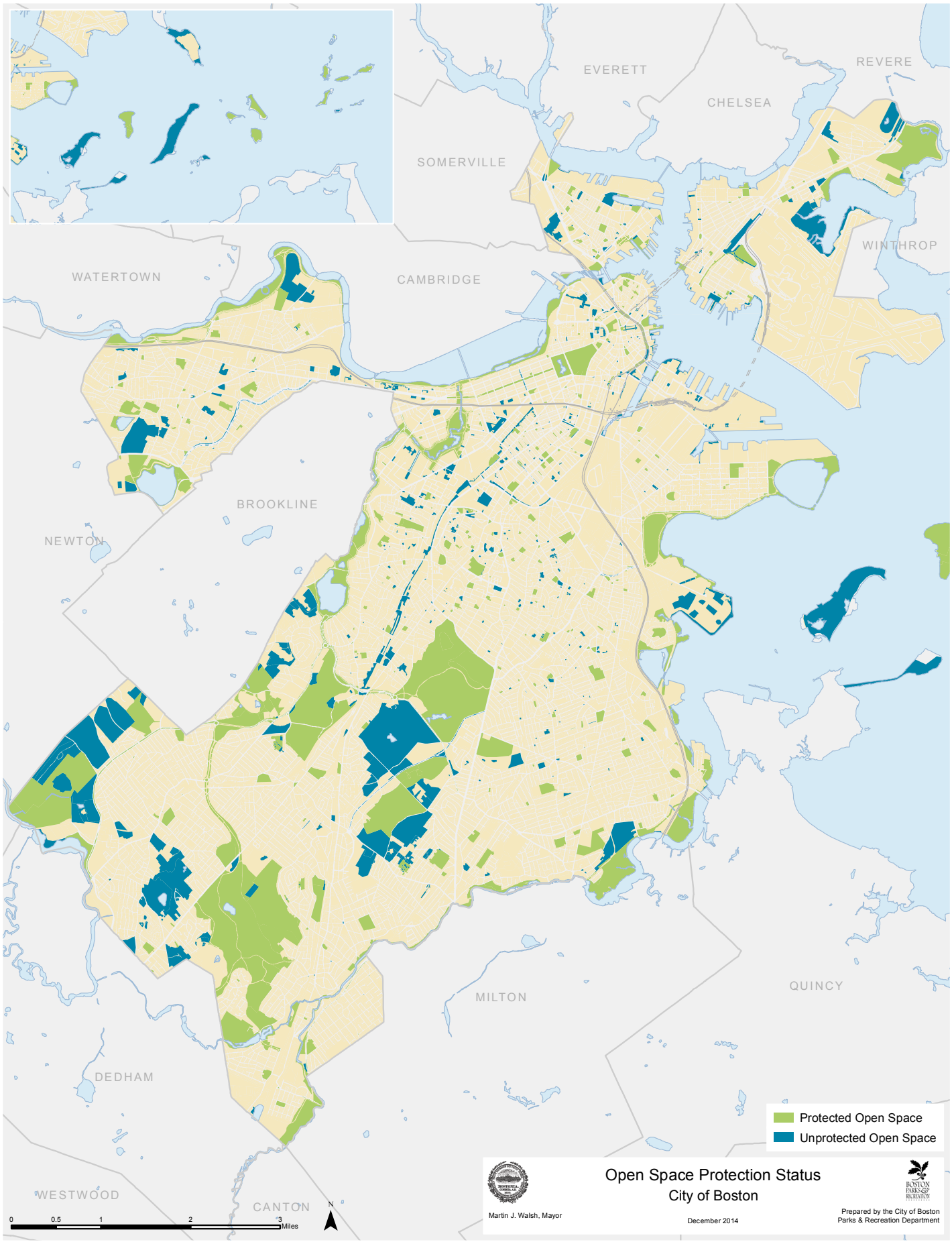
Open Space Ownership
City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department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Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
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Types of Protection

Open space can be protected in a variety of ways and to different levels. Whether owned publicly or privately, limitations on the use of ownership rights may either be self-imposed or externally imposed, permanent or temporary, revocable or irrevocable.

The different methods of protecting open space in Boston include Article 97, zoning, historical designation, environmental regulations, conservation restrictions, conservation land trusts, and Municipal Code 7-4.11 (the "100-foot rule").

Article 97

Article 97 is an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution that was passed in 1972. This provision prevents publicly-owned lands or interests in land (see for example conservation restrictions below) held for park, recreation, and conservation purposes from being used or disposed of for other purposes without a majority vote of the Park Commission or Conservation Commissions and the City Council, the approval of the Mayor, and a two-thirds vote of both houses of the State Legislature.

Open Space Zoning

The City of Boston Zoning Ordinance includes zoning for open space which prohibits or limits the development of open space. Open space protection through zoning has limitations, as zoning is subject to change, and variances and special permits may be granted thereby allowing development or alternative use of open space lands. The articles that relate to open space protection are below:

Article 29 Greenbelt Protection Overlay District

The City has designated Greenbelt Protection Overlay Districts (GPOD). Development along these corridors, generally within 500' of the centerline of the right of way, requires the review of the Parks and Recreation Department. The purpose of this article is to preserve and protect the amenities of the city of Boston; to preserve and enhance air quality by protecting the supply of vegetation and open space along Greenbelt roadways; to enhance and protect the natural scenic resources of the city; to protect Greenbelt roadways from traffic congestion and to abate safety concerns.

Article 33 Open Space Subdistricts

The pen space district designation can be given to public lands, or to private property with the written consent of the owner. The designation can be given alone, or in conjunction with a subdistrict designation: community garden, parkland, recreation, shoreland, urban wild, waterfront access area, cemetery, urban plaza, or air-right.

The purpose of this designation is to encourage the preservation of open space and to enhance the quality of life of the city's residents by permanently protecting its open space resources; to distinguish different open space areas in order to provide for uses appropriate to each open space site on the basis of topography, water, flood plain, scenic value, forest cover, urban edge, or unusual geologic features; to prevent the loss of open space to commercial development; to restore Boston's conservation heritage of Olmsted parks; to coordinate state, regional, and local open space plans; to provide and encourage buffer zones between incompatible land uses and mitigate the effects of noise and air pollution; to promote and maintain the visual identity of separate and distinct districts; to enhance the appearance of neighborhoods through preservation of natural green spaces; and to ensure the provision of adequate natural light and air quality by protecting the supply of vegetation and open space throughout Boston.

Article 49A Greenway Overlay District

This article established guidelines and design controls for parcels adjacent to the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The objective of the guidelines is to establish a set of design controls for these parcels that preserves the newly created open spaces environmentally and aesthetically; activates the broader public realm in and surrounding the parks; ensures the long term value of the public's investment in creating the Greenway; and balances the development pressures in the Greenway District with other growth areas and development opportunities in the City as a whole.

Article 56 Conservation Protection Subdistrict

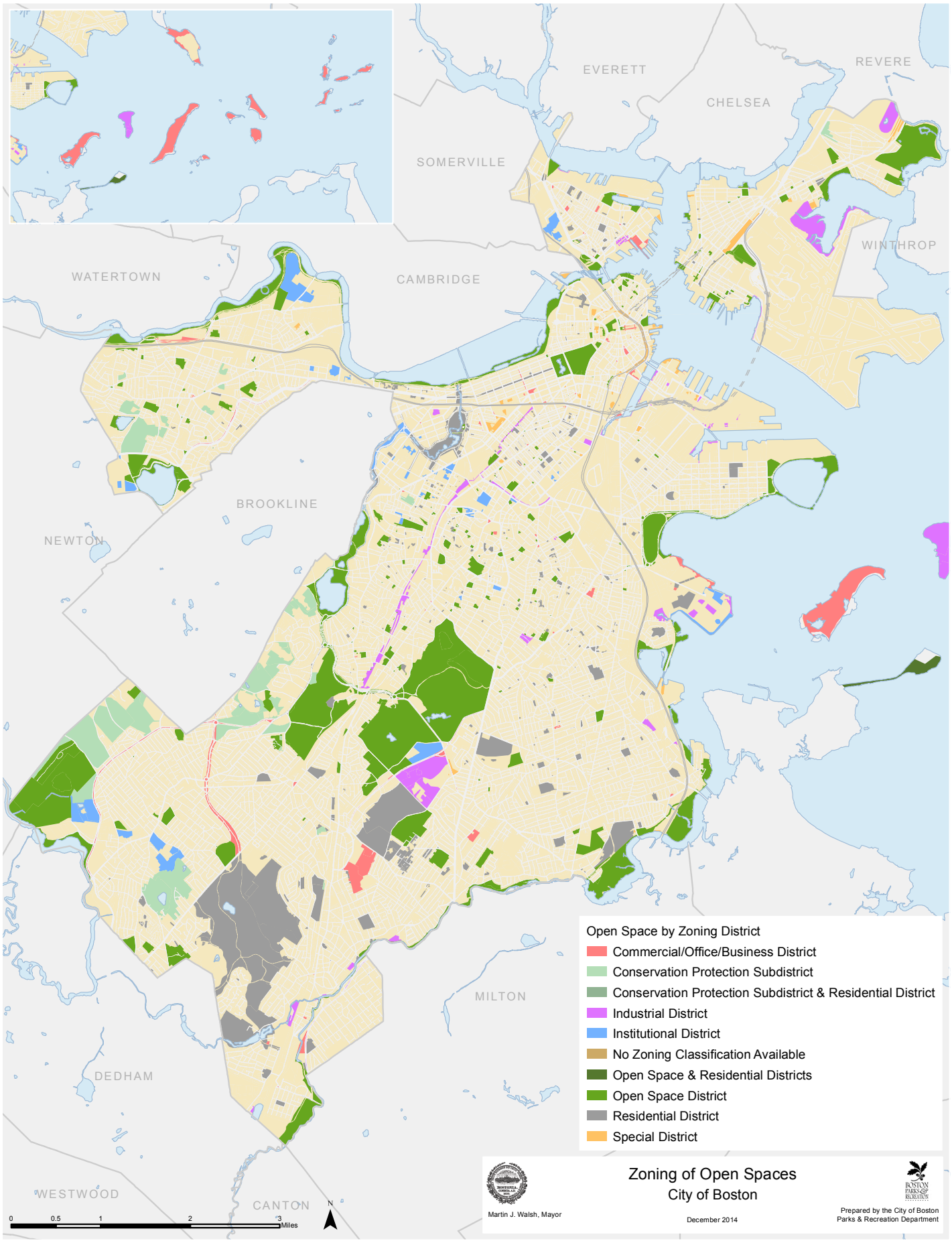
Of interest to open space and environmental activists is a special type of residential sub-district, the Conservation Protection Subdistrict. As the city has gone through a slow re-zoning, neighborhood by neighborhood, the Conservation Protection Subdistrict (CPS) has become a presence in more parts of the city. These CPS zones are typically established on large privately-owned tracts that possess some natural features deemed worthy of protection and preservation. CPS zones mandate that the site plan be reviewed first by the BRA which will determine if the site plan protects large-diameter trees, stream beds, wetlands, and other natural features, wherever they appear on the site. In exchange, the CPS zone will allow higher density if the development envelope is significantly narrowed over what would be allowed by as-of-right zoning.

Article 89 Urban Agriculture

The City has recently adopted Article 89 that regulates the provision of urban agricultural activities in its neighborhoods, in order to meet a growing interest in producing foods locally and maximizing underutilized land. The purpose of this Article is to establish zoning regulations for the operation of Urban Agriculture activities and to provide standards for the siting, design, maintenance and modification of Urban Agriculture activities that address public safety, and minimize impacts on residents and historic resources in the City of Boston.

Historical Designation Status

Federal, State, and local laws provide for designation of certain parcels, structures, or districts as "historic" or "architectural." As such, these laws require review by designated deliberative bodies or agencies, such as the Boston Landmarks Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Such review is meant to assure that the proposed project will at a minimum limit damage to the historical, architectural, or cultural artifacts or values of the subject property or properties.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Open Space by Zoning District
Commercial/Office/Business District
Conservation Protection Subdistrict
Conservation Protection Subdistrict & Residential District
Industrial District
Institutional District
No Zoning Classification Available
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Zoning of Open Spaces
City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Many of Boston's parks have historical designation status—either on the National Register of Historic Places, as outright designated Landmarks, or as parcels within an historic or architectural district. Several of these that have received historical designation are part of the Emerald Necklace park system. Given the number and significance of these and other parks of historical designation, the Parks and Recreation Department has assigned staff specifically charged with restoration and protection of these parks. This staffing commitment further ensures the protection of these open spaces that help define Boston's character and quality of life.

Development Reviews

Some development reviews at the State and federal level are described below in "environmental regulations." Development review at the local level that takes place in compliance with the zoning ordinance, also known as developing "as-of-right," is not subject to public review and comment, except where the zoning requires an extensive review by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) through the Article 80 review process.

City of Boston Municipal Code, Chapter 7, Section 4.11 (the "100-Foot Rule")

In Boston, the Parks and Recreation Commission carries out a City ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 4.11 of the City of Boston Code of Ordinances, known colloquially as the "100-foot rule." This ordinance mandates that the Commission render its approval before construction or alteration begins on any structure(s) within 100 feet of any park or parkway within the city. This allows the Commission the opportunity to review projects that may have direct or indirect physical or visual impacts on adjacent or nearby parkland. Such parkland or parkways may be under City, State, or Federal ownership.

Environmental Regulations

The environmental laws at the federal, State, and local level provide an array of protection for various types of environmental resources, including open spaces. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) provide procedures for public review of projects or policies of a magnitude that may possibly result in significant adverse effects on the environment.

The MEPA procedure specifically calls for review of projects that may convert lands protected by Article 97, i.e., that may change the use or purpose of a property from an open space or conservation purpose protected by Article 97. Certain regions or sub-regions may be generally acknowledged as possessing sensitive and valued resources that require additional review. The MEPA process allows for the designation of such regions or sub-regions as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Projects or policies proposed for such areas are required to undergo the initial MEPA review regardless of the proposed extent of the project or policy.

Other environmental laws include the Wetlands Protection Act, the Rivers Protection Act, the Public Waterfront Act (MGL Chapter 91), and the Natural Heritage Program.

Wetlands Protection Act

The Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) seeks to protect the lands continually or intermittently inundated by water. These are deemed to inherently possess values to be protected, such as flood storage and wildlife habitat. Many open spaces in Boston are wetlands or border on wetlands. The Boston Conservation Commission (BCC) carries out this State-mandated review process within the city limits, with an eye to protecting these resources and assuring their preservation through controlled public access and regular inspections for enforcement.

Rivers Protection Act

The Rivers Protection Act is an amendment to the Wetland Protection Act, designating a special resource protection area known as the Riverfront Protection Zone. In accordance with this law, the Riverfront Protection Zone in Boston is 25 feet wide. By limiting development activities within this zone, it may be possible to create and protect open space corridors along rivers.

Public Waterfront Act (MGL Chapter 91)

The State DEP administers the Public Waterfront Act, known as Chapter 91. Chapter 91 charges DEP to preserve the tidelands for water-dependent uses or uses that otherwise serve a proper public purpose. It also allows municipalities to develop a municipal harbor plan for the implementation of the Chapter 91 regulations for tidelands within their jurisdiction. Chapter 91 and associated municipal harbor plans mandate provision of open space amenities along the water's edge. In Boston, the Municipal Harbor Plan mandates a continuous 47-mile Harborwalk for public access to the waterfront from Dorchester to Central Boston, and along Charlestown's and East Boston's waterfronts. This law provides a strong basis for open space planning along the waterfront, and for linking such waterfront open spaces to inland communities.

Species Protection

The State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife administers the Natural Heritage Program. One aspect of this program is the designation and mapping of rare species habitats. Habitats of endangered, threatened, or special concern species are also designated and mapped. Proposed projects or policies that are reviewed under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) or the Wetlands Protection Act are required to disclose whether the project is within such designated habitat areas and if so, what will be done to prevent significant adverse effects on such species or habitats.

Conservation Restrictions (CRs)

Conservation restrictions are legally enforceable agreements voluntarily imposed by a landowner on their own land. (Conservation easements have similarities to CRs, but are now used less often than CRs. They are in force only for a limited number of years.) These deed restrictions prevent the development of a property in perpetuity. The landowner retains private ownership but surrenders development rights in exchange for a lower property tax rate and an income tax charitable deduction. State and federal guidelines apply in order to qualify for such tax

advantages. These restrictions are considered to provide a high level of protection against development pressures. However, some are temporary, imposed for only a fixed period of time.

Conservation Land Trust

A conservation land trust is a non-profit organization that protects land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or productive value. Some land trusts are involved solely in negotiating land transactions, while others purchase land outright or purchase the development rights. Some conservation land trusts may have charters that require all land held by it to be preserved in perpetuity as open space, while other conservation land trusts may not have such restrictions. For example, some lands held by a less restrictive land trust may be sold, perhaps to raise funds for purchases of more significant lands. Some lands in such a land trust's portfolio may be partially developed, perhaps to protect the higher priority, undeveloped portion of the original parcel with funds received from the developed portion. Some land trusts, whether restrictive or not, may hold parcels temporarily until a public agency can purchase them for inclusion in its inventory of protected lands.

Chapter 114, Section 17 of the Massachusetts General Laws

The Parks Department administers the City owned cemeteries. These cemeteries are protected under Article 97. Additional protection is provided under *Chapter 114, Section 17* of the Massachusetts General Laws. This law states that municipal cemeteries over 100 years old cannot be used for anything but a cemetery, and that use of any portion of such cemeteries for another public use needs special authorization by the legislature. All cemeteries owned by the City of Boston are over 100 years old.

Types of Open Space

Parks

The history of the park system in Boston is presented in Section 3.2.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has jurisdiction and care of over 2,000 acres of parks, including the nearly 1,000-acre Emerald Necklace, most of which was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Emerald Necklace is made up of Charlesgate, the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway Park, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond Park, the Arnold Arboretum, and Franklin Park. The Commonwealth Avenue Mall connects the Olmsted-designed Emerald Necklace to the pre-Olmsted Public Garden and Boston Common.

Boston parks contain monuments, fountains, statues, footbridges, trees, flower gardens, athletic fields, golf courses, playgrounds, squares, malls, and parkways.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (successor to the MDC and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM)) cares for and maintains significant parks in Boston including: the Belle Isle Marsh, Charles River, Stony Brook, Old Harbor, Dorchester Shores, and Neponset River Reservations, as well as Castle Island, the Southwest Corridor Park, and the Franklin Park Zoo (zoo operation and maintenance performed by the Commonwealth Zoological Corporation [aka Zoo New England]).

DCR also maintains parkways such as the Arborway, the Jamaicaway, the Riverway, the Fenway, Park Drive, VFW Parkway, Storrow Drive, Soldiers Field Road, Morrissey Boulevard, Columbia Road, Turtle Pond Parkway, Morton Street, and Day Boulevard.

Urban Wilds

In 1976, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) issued a landmark document that inventoried and offered recommendations for Boston's remaining unprotected natural areas. *Boston's Urban Wilds: A Natural Area Conservation Program* designated 143 areas throughout the city, whether privately or publicly owned, and categorically ranked them for significance. It also offered strategies for their preservation within a then-limited spectrum of protection mechanisms. The BRA study offered a plan for land protection by identifying particular available spaces, defining priorities, and suggesting an aggressive strategy for acquisition. The report's description of the irreplaceable nature of urban wilds reinforced the need for protection.

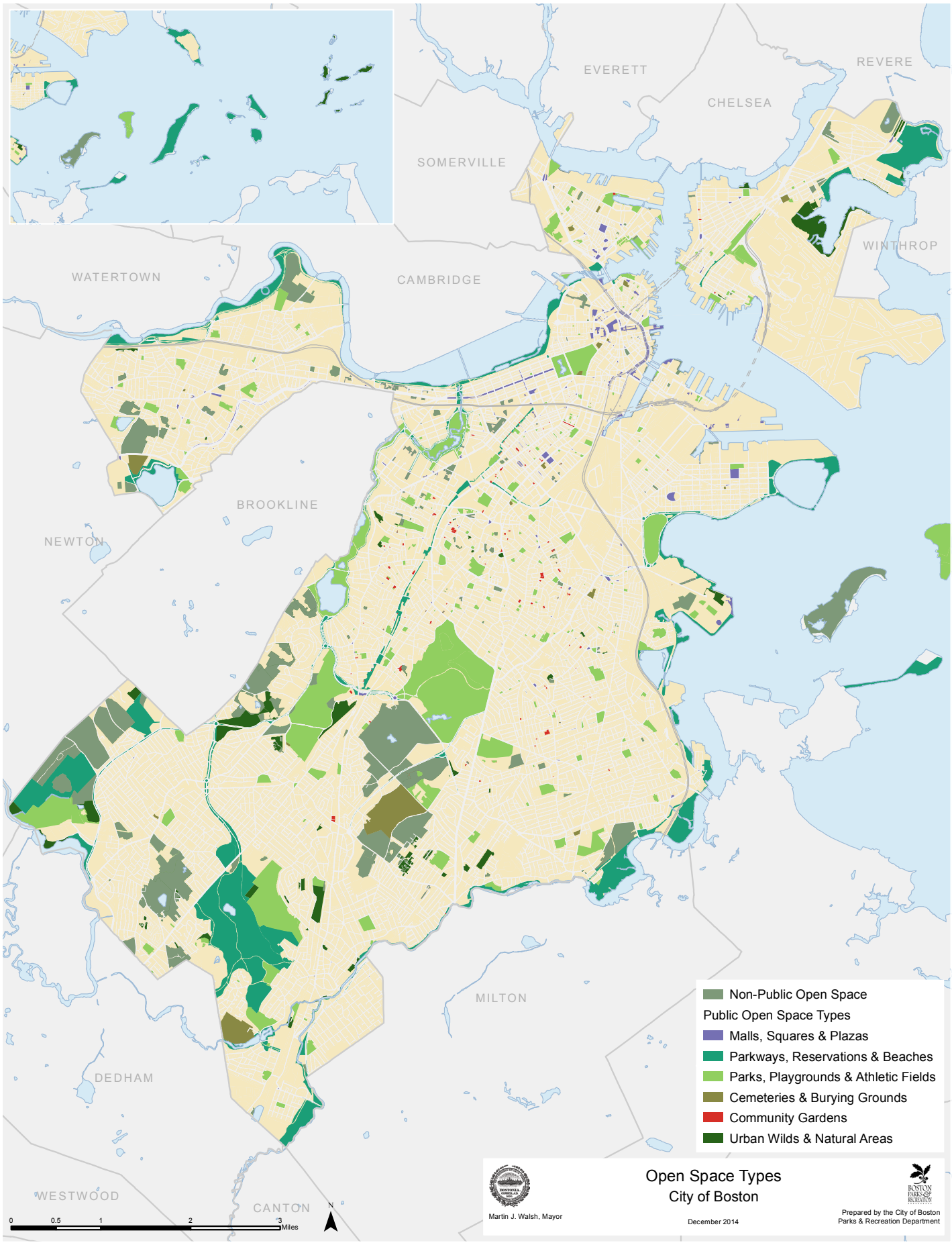
In 1977 a private, non-profit organization, the Boston Natural Areas Fund (now known as the Boston Natural Areas Network and part of The Trustees of Reservations), formed to work with City and State agencies to secure urban wilds inventoried in the BRA report. Since then, the City itself has developed an acquisition, advocacy, maintenance, and planning program for sensitive natural areas in need of permanent protection.

Today, the Urban Wilds Initiative, administered through the Parks Department, manages more than 30 City-owned sites comprising more than 192 acres. The initiative staff collaborates with staff from the Boston Conservation Commission, which holds jurisdiction over most of the City-owned urban wilds, and serves as guarantor of their natural ecosystem values and functions.

These marshes, woodlands, pastures, meadows, swamps, hilltops, ponds, and streams provide a vital ecological role as a repository for much of the remaining local biodiversity, and contribute to the maintenance of clean air and water throughout the city. Urban wilds expand the range of landscape experiences beyond that of the dense built environment and the designed and manicured landscapes of Boston's parkland. In traditionally under-served neighborhoods, they offer a haven for people seeking a refuge from hectic city streets and serve as outdoor classrooms for children and adults learning about the natural world.

However, these sites have in many cases suffered from years of neglect and abuse. Soil erosion, fires, illegal dumping of trash and debris, filling of wetlands, alterations in hydrology, and the presence of non-native, invasive plant species are chronic problems in nearly all urban wilds and other natural areas.

In 1998, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department made a major commitment toward addressing these problems by reviving the Urban Wilds Initiative. For the first time, a natural resource manager with ecological training was hired to administer the program on a full-time basis. Enhancing public access and use, where appropriate, is a major mission of this initiative. With a strong focus on ecological restoration and stewardship, the revitalized Urban Wilds Initiative seeks to restore and enhance biological diversity and ecological values, such as flood storage, water filtration, wildlife habitat, and control of air quality, while accommodating and enhancing passive recreation and environmental education. Current efforts, such as the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Non-Public Open Space
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Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
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City of Boston
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trailhead renovation and wayfinding project at Allandale Woods in West Roxbury, the site renovation at Buena Vista (Warren Gardens) in Roxbury, and the woodland trail creation and repair project at Sherrin Woods in Hyde Park, are aimed at accommodating access for a wide range of users and helping people understand and appreciate the importance of these vital natural areas.

Community Gardens

Community gardening in Boston originally began in 1895. The Industrial Aid Society for the Prevention of Pauperism established a Committee for the Cultivation of Vacant Lots. This committee leased a farm on the outskirts of the city and provided plots for elderly men and women. Shortly after, the School Department and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society initiated a School Gardens Program.

Community gardening increased during the World War Victory Gardens program. This program was a national effort to increase locally grown produce, allowing more commercially grown produce to be shipped to troops overseas. Boston participated in this program by contributing schoolyards and parkland, including Boston Common, for use as gardens. The plots in the Back Bay Fens, now known as the Parker Memorial Victory Gardens, are the only remaining Victory Gardens in Boston.

In the 1970s, community gardens regained popularity due to three factors: the creation of new vacant lots as a result of both a decrease in the city's population and an increase in property disinvestment; the community empowerment movement; and the immigration of persons from agrarian-based cultures into the city.

In 1974, a bill encouraged gardening on unused portions of State lands. The city's largest community garden was created at the Boston State Hospital site in Mattapan (now incorporated as part of the Boston Nature Center). The following year, the City initiated the Revival Program, which was responsible for the construction of 30 gardens. By 1978, garden groups and coalitions had formed in several neighborhoods. These gardens provided important contributions to Boston's open space.

Community gardens are typically planted on underutilized land and vacant lots. These gardens range in size from one-tenth of an acre to 32 acres, although most are very small. Due to their small size, the piecemeal assembly of these gardens, and the continual organization and energy needed on the part of a number of community residents for their ongoing life, they are often subject to development pressures.

These gardens are, however, productive ventures. Approximately 15,000 residents generate an estimated $1.5 million worth of produce annually. This often assists low- and moderate-income families in meeting their food supply needs and budgets.

Community gardens also have aesthetic and social qualities that strengthen their surrounding community. Gardens often fill vacant lots that would otherwise serve as possible dumping locations causing a sense of blight in the neighborhood. The gardens not only fill a physical void, they also serve as a common ground for residents, bringing them together through a common interest, for a common goal: to increase the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Cemeteries and Burying Grounds

The City has sixteen historic burying grounds and three large cemeteries, which date between 1630 and 1892, are located in 13 Boston neighborhoods. More than 15,000 grave markers in these cemeteries honor founders of Boston, Revolutionary War heroes, and many other historical figures. Four burying grounds are located on the Freedom Trail, seen by approximately 3,000 visitors per day who view the grave markers of such historical figures such as John Hancock and Paul Revere. Eleven other burying grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with several of those located in historical and architectural conservation districts.

In addition to providing a link to Boston's Puritan and Colonial past, these cemeteries provide relief in the form of open space. Many of these cemeteries and burying grounds are located in dense areas of the city in which open space is otherwise not abundant. The three larger City-owned cemeteries are still active, and are operated by the Parks Department.

While privately owned cemeteries exist in Charlestown and East Boston, the most significant private cemeteries are located in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and West Roxbury. Forest Hills Cemetery is the largest private cemetery in Boston, and also its most significant. Its attractive landscape design has inspired other cemetery landscape designs. Its proximity to Franklin Park, Arnold Arboretum, the Boston State Hospital site, and Mount Hope Cemetery helps create a sizable green oasis for the city, giving relief from the sense of density in the heart of the city.

Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester helps provide an open space corridor between Dorchester Park and the Neponset River. The cemeteries in West Roxbury along the Newton border provide a large open space assemblage in this southwestern part of Boston, along with the DCR's Brook Farm and the City's Millennium Park at the former Gardner Street Landfill site.

Private Open Space

Boston's open space includes over 1,400 acres of private unprotected open space, and an additional 29 acres that are protected through ownership in non-profit land trusts (see table below). These 1,400+ private unprotected acres represent 20 percent of the city's total open space. This includes educational institution campuses and athletic fields, office tower plazas, religious institution campuses, Harborwalk segments, cemeteries, stadia and racetracks, a working farm, vacant lands, and private recreational land.

This open space is unprotected, controlled by private owners who may choose to develop or otherwise alter their property so that land throughout the city that is taken for granted as open space may well disappear over time. Such development would likely alter the visual and social character of parts of Boston. Such change does not take place overnight, but occurs incrementally.

The inventory of unprotected, private open space includes parcels that do not have much open space significance due to their isolation, character, or size. However, many are important based on their location abutting existing protected areas or in a

neighborhood with a deficiency of open space, as links in green space corridors, as components of a large cluster of open space, or due to their special landscape character.

While these lands are unprotected in the legal sense, several are important features for their owners from a functional point of view, so that total conversion would not appear likely. For example, the openness of college campuses does erode over time (especially recently), but the bucolic image of a New England college campus with a leafy quad and sports fields in the distance is still a powerful marketing tool in the competitive higher education environment. Cemeteries can obtain permits to move graves, but such action would be highly unlikely.

Still, many private unprotected parcels are vulnerable to development. One example is Lawrence Farm in Jamaica Plain, which is part of the working farm more commonly known as Allandale Farm that straddles both Brookline and Boston. Two out of the four parcels in this assemblage receive a preferential assessment for property tax purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 61A, a State law that seeks to promote agricultural land preservation. However, for the purposes of this inventory, lands assessed under M.G.L. Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B are not considered protected. These statutes enable property owners to gain a preferential property tax assessment for land in forestry, agricultural, or recreational use. These laws help preserve open space by relieving pressure on property owners to develop in order to pay their property taxes. With the exception of Lawrence Farm, no other property owners in Boston have applied for the preferential tax assessment under M.G.L. Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B (please see the Lands under Chapter 61A map).

A condition of the preferential assessment is that the City holds the first right-of-refusal on any sale. However, these properties are not considered fully protected because the City would have to secure a relatively large sum of money in a short period of time (120 days) to exercise its right. The owner may also remove the property from the program by paying rollback or conveyance taxes. Therefore, the City must assume these properties are capable of being partially or fully developable at some time in the future. Thankfully, the owners of this property have placed an agricultural preservation restriction on one parcel in this assemblage (this parcel is considered protected). The restriction is being held by The Trustees of Reservations, the Commonwealth's oldest private conservation organization.

Harborwalk

Boston's Harborwalk program forms a continuous shoreline walking path and is one of the most important components of the City's waterfront revitalization program. The privately held, publicly accessible system connects neighborhoods to the harbor, leading recreational, cultural and historic attractions, and water transportation facilities.

When completed, the Harborwalk will stretch over 47 miles from Dorchester to East Boston and connect to inland paths and trails, including the South Bay Harbor Trail (from Roxbury), Walk to the Sea (from the State House), and the Neponset and East Boston Greenways.

Pursuant to the City's zoning code, new waterfront developments are required to set buildings back from the shoreline and construct a portion of the Harborwalk in that setback. This is to ensure waterfront access to pedestrians.

Public Unprotected Open Spaces

Boston's open space includes 876 acres of publicly-owned open space that is not protected via Article 97, a permanent deed restriction, or some other legislative restriction (please see table below). The citywide total of public unprotected open space drops to 486 acres if such lands within the Harbor Islands are not considered. Excluding the Harbor Islands, this represents almost 7% of the total open space acreage.

State and City agencies and authorities own these public unprotected open spaces. Some of these lands may be publicly accessible while others are not. Types of open spaces included in this category are vacant lands, wetlands, Harborwalk segments, squares and plazas, landscaped traffic islands, passive parks, steep slopes, abandoned rail lines, schoolyards, campuses, school athletic fields, community gardens, harbor shorefronts, rock outcrops, arterial medians, and children's play lots.

While unprotected according to the definition described at the beginning of this section, some of these properties are restricted to open space uses by other constraints. For example, the Wetlands Protection Act will prevent development on public and private properties that are in wetland resource areas, so that properties such as Wood Island Bay Marsh (Massport) and West Roxbury High School Marsh (City of Boston) are essentially undevelopable.

On the other hand, the development and expansion plans of various agencies and authorities may require them to use a property that is now prized as open space, for other purposes. For example, schools may need to expand, increasing the school building's footprint at the expense of the schoolyard or campus, or the configuration of a road may change, leading to the reduction or elimination of a landscaped traffic island. A large portion of the community may support these goals, while others in the community may wish to retain the current open space uses.

Alternatively, the development plans of an agency or authority may lead to the creation or retention of open space. An example of this is the creation of Children's Wharf Park near the Children's Museum at Fort Point Channel. This park was constructed by the MBTA as part of the South Boston Transitway Tunnel project, to serve as mitigation for project impacts on Chapter 91 interests.

Boston Schoolyards Initiative

The Boston Schoolyard Initiative involved a collaboration between City agencies, the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, and the Boston Schoolyards Funders Collaborative, a group of private sector philanthropists. This initiative transformed schoolyards throughout the city over eighteen years. This initiative helped retain open space and created additional play opportunities by enhancing these spaces.

ARLINGTON
EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
BELMONT
SOMERVILLE
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
Lawrence Farm
MILTON
QUINCY
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles
N
Chapter 61A Land
Open Space
Lands Under Chapter 61A
City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Looking quantitatively, the Boston Schoolyards Initiative accomplished the following:

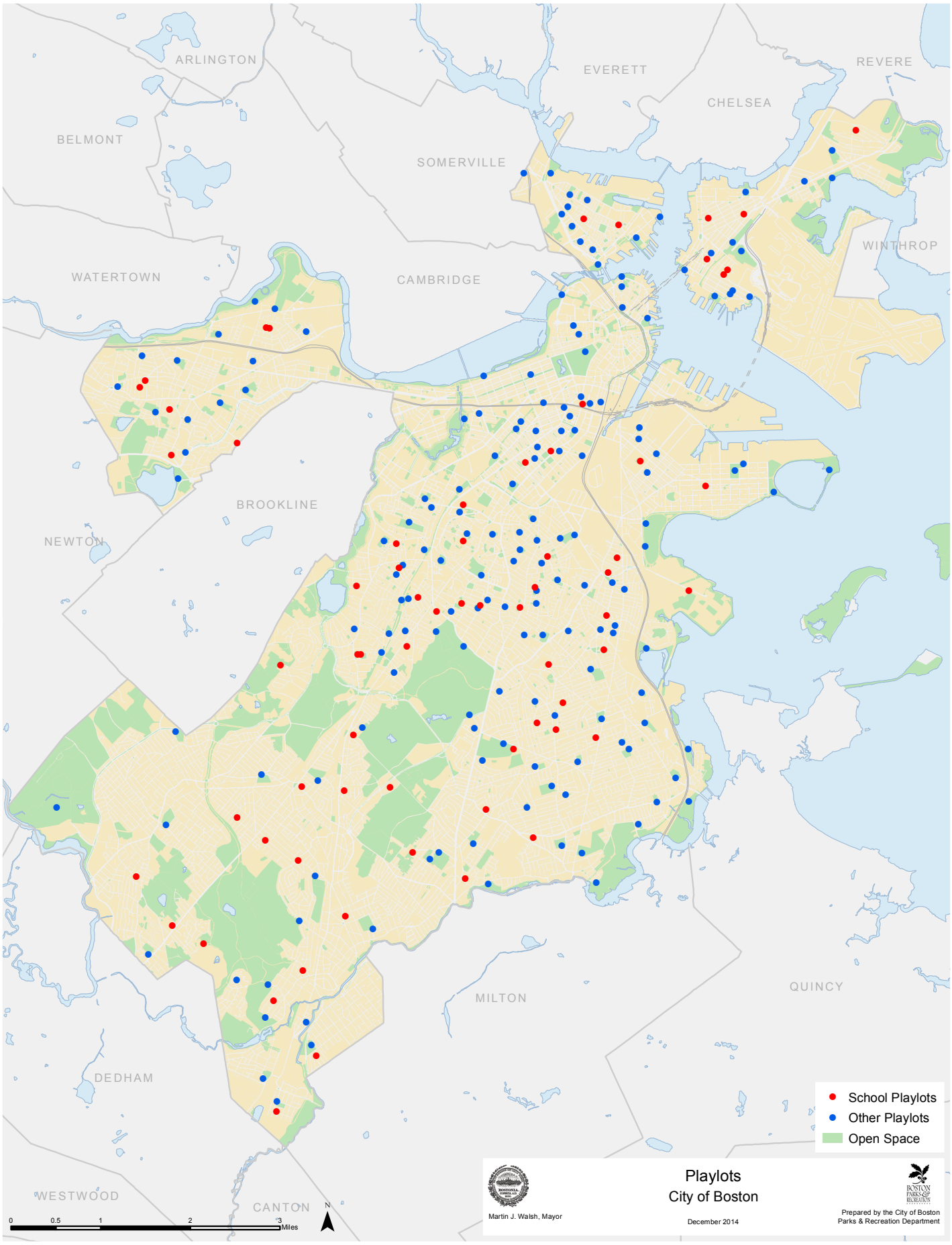
- 88 schoolyards renovated (every feasible elementary and K-8 school in the city)
- 32 Outdoor Classrooms constructed
- 30,000 school children reached annually
- 850+ teachers engaged in professional development
- 130 acres reclaimed for learning and play
- 25 acres of asphalt greened (equal to the Boston Public Garden)
- 100 garden beds created
- 200 trees planted
- 75 play structures installed

The private philanthropic group, the Boston Schoolyards Funders Collaborative, has closed due to this success and the School Department's integration of schoolyard improvements into facility planning and capital budgeting. These schoolyards have become important features of their surrounding neighborhoods.

Nevertheless, some of the 820 acres of public unprotected open space may be at risk of being transformed into a non-open space use in the foreseeable future. The visual and social character of certain parts of Boston may change incrementally because of such development. Each public unprotected open space parcel has its own degree of risk, and its own potential to become a valued and protected open space. The assessment of risk and potential has been presented elsewhere in this text, primarily in Section 7.

Park and Open Space Equity

Boston is the largest city in Massachusetts, in both size and population. Therefore, we have broken down the city into several communities to more closely examine open space resources, opportunities, and needs. These communities are examined in Section 7.2, Community Open Space and Recreation. For each community, we examine the environmental justice populations and other factors which make up need for open space. We examine the spatial distribution of these spaces, and the spatial distribution of features within these spaces that serve different recreational activities. We have developed a needs score and a determination of gaps in service and have mapped them to better understand unaddressed need and equity. Given each neighborhood's unique character, a discussion of open space equity is provided by neighborhood in Section 7.2.


ARLINGTON
EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
BELMONT
SOMERVILLE
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
MILTON
QUINCY
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles
N
School Playlots
Other Playlots
Open Space
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Playlots
City of Boston
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Legend

Ownership, Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction & Open Space Management	
BCC	Boston Conservation Commission
BFD	Boston Fire Department
BHA	Boston Housing Authority
BPD	Boston Police Department
BPHC	Public Health Commission
BPRD	Boston Parks & Recreation Department
BPS	Boston Public Schools (Boston School Department)
BPWD	Boston Public Works Department
BRA	Boston Redevelopment Authority
BTD	Boston Transportation Department
BWSC	Boston Water and Sewer Commission
CG/NP	Community Group or Non-Profit Organization
COB	City of Boston
COM	Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation (COM)
DND	Department of Neighborhood Development (COB)
MA DOT	Massachusetts Department of Transportation
MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
Massport	Massachusetts Port Authority
MBTA	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
MWRA	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
NPS	National Park Service
Private (or "Prv")	Land Owned by Private Individuals, Organizations, Institutions, Corporations, Etc.
RFKGC	Rose F. Kennedy Greenway Conservancy
TTOR	The Trustees of Reservations (Boston Region) (formerly Boston Natural Areas Network/Fund)
US ACOE	US Army Corps of Engineers
US GSA	United States General Services Administration
USA	United States of America
USCG	US Coast Guard
White Fund	George Robert White Fund, City of Boston Trust
Zoo NE	Zoo New England

N.B.: The column titled "Ownership" refers to the fee simple owner of the property; the column titled "OS Ownership/Jurisdiction" refers to either the ownership of the open space rights to the property or to the agency with jurisdiction to manage the property as an open space; and the column titled "OS Management" refers to the entity which manages a property for open space purposes or uses.

Blank or "NULL" means either no information available or not applicable.

Example: Some parcels in Allandale Woods are owned in fee simple by a private owner (Ownership = Private), but the open space rights are held by the Boston Conservation Commission (Open Space

Ownership/Jurisdiction = BCC); however, the manager of these parcels for open space purposes or uses is the Boston Parks Department via its Urban Wilds Initiative (Open Space Management = BPRD).

Public Access*	
PA	Publicly Accessible
X	Yes
	Blank = No or Unknown

* Public Access here means that either a space is legally accessible to the public or that there are no known barriers to access to open spaces on the identified properties.

Protection	
100	"100' Rule" (COB Municipal Code, Ch 7, Section 4-11)
A97	Article 97, Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern (MEPA)
Acts 2008, Ch 306	Acts of 2008, Chapter 306
Agrmnt	Agreement
Airport Mit	Logan International Airport Mitigation Program
AP	Agricultural Preservation Restriction
Art80	COB Zoning Code Article 80
AUL	Activity and Use Limitation Agreement under Chapter 21E (MCP)
BL	Boston (Historical) Landmark
CAT Mit	Central Artery/Tunnel Project Mitigation Program
Ch114s17	MGL Chapter 114 Section 17 (Cemetery Preservation)
Ch61A	MGL Chapter 61A (Property Tax Relief for Agricultural Uses)
Ch91	MGL Chapter 91 (Tidelands Protection)
Ch21E	MGL Chapter 21E (Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP))
CR	Conservation Restriction
DR	Deed Restriction
Esmnt	Easement for Open Space, Conservation, or Public Access Purposes
GPOD	Greenway Protection Overlay District (COB Zoning Code)
Land Trust	Land Trust or NonProfit Ownership
License	Non-Proprietary Permit for Use of Land
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund (NPS)
MEPA	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act
Mit	Mitigation (mandated by federal, state, or local laws)
MPPF	Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (Massachusetts Historical Commission)
NHESP	Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
NHL	National Historic Landmark
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OCB	Our Common Backyards (COM)
PARC	Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities Program (COM)
PR	Historic Preservation Restriction (Massachusetts Historical Commission)
SH	Self-Help Program (COM)
SURF	Strategic Urban Recreation Fund (COM)
Temp CR	Temporary Conservation Restriction
UPARR	Urban Park & Recreation Recovery Program (NPS)
USH	Urban Self-Help Program (COM)
WPA	Wetlands Protection Act

Protected Open Spaces	
POS	Protected Open Space
X	Yes
	Blank = No

Condition	
C	Condition
E	Excellent
G	Good
F	Fair
P	Poor

N.B.: Condition is only noted for properties under the jurisdiction of the Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Current Use & Recreation Potential
Both the "Current Use" and "Recreation Potential" of the sites are indicated by generalized open space types.

Note: Data provided in the open space property inventories contained in this plan were developed for general planning purposes only, and as such are the best available data. However, readers are cautioned that use of such data may not be appropriate or sufficient for legal, design, or other site-specific purposes. For such purposes, only research in the Registry of Deeds or other appropriate offices, property surveys, and field-checked research can be considered appropriately reliable.

The City of Boston recognizes the value and benefit gained by sharing data. Although the City has made reasonable efforts to provide accurate data, the City makes no representations or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or currency of the information provided.

The City of Boston provides this data as is and with all faults, and makes no warranty of any kind. Each user is responsible for determining the suitability of the data for their intended use or purpose. Neither the City nor its affiliates, employees, or agents shall be liable for any loss or injury caused in whole or in part by use of any data obtained from this publication, website, or other information conveyance. The GIS data the information presented in this plan is based on is updated and modified on a ongoing basis and users are encouraged to report any errors to the City.

Protected Open Space

City-owned

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Long Wharf	3.90	X	BRA	NPS	BRA	**LWCF**/ Ch91/WPA	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park I	9.58	X	BRA	NPS	BPRD	**LWCF**/ Ch91/WPA	X		Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Little Mystic Access Area	2.07		BRA	NPS	NULL	**LWCF**/ Ch91/WPA	X		Charlestown	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Brighton Common	0.51	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	E	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Cunningham Park	0.18	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Fern Square	0.04	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Hardiman Playground	1.47	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hooker-Sorrento Street Playground	1.00	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Jackson Square	0.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Oak Square	0.27	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	E	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Penniman Road Play Area	0.92	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Public Ground	0.06	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Raymond V. Mellone Park I	1.08	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	E	Allston-Brighton	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Rogers Park	8.17	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Shubow Park I	0.57	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	E	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cassidy Playground	9.61	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hobart Park	0.81	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Overlook Park	5.15	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Smith Playground	15.02	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ringer Playground	10.26	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **USH**	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Joyce Playground	1.36	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**PARC**	X	E	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Portsmouth Street Playground	4.26	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
McKinney Playground	5.89	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Chandler Pond	18.91	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	E	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Evergreen Cemetery	20.68	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Market Street Burying Ground	0.40	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Clarendon Street Totlot	0.32	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Copley Square Park	1.85	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Phillips Street Park	0.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Myrtle Street Playground	0.15	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Public Garden	23.51	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Boston Common	45.74	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ NHL	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Commonwealth Avenue Mall I	10.87	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ NRHP	X	E	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Central Burying Ground	1.49	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NHL/ PR/BL	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Frieda Garcia Park	0.27	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97	X	E	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Temple Street Park	0.06	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97/MPPF	X	G	Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Angell Memorial Square	0.18	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Bay Village Neighborhood Park	0.09	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Charter Street Park	0.24	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
DeFilippo Playground	1.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Faneuil Square	0.82	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Foster Street Play Area	0.11	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Lincoln Square	0.05	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Paul Revere Mall	0.79	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Polcari Park	0.29	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Rachel Revere Square	0.08	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Statler Park	0.23	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	E	Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Tai Tung Park	0.03	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Webster Avenue Playground	0.06	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Langone Park	2.34	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Puopolo Playground	2.20	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cutillo Park	0.29	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Elliot Norton Park	0.95	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Central Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Christopher Columbus Park	4.87	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ Ch91/WPA	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Copp's Hill Terrace	0.61	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
King's Chapel Burying Ground	0.43	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP	X	G	Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Copp's Hill Burying Ground	1.98	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/PR	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Granary Burying Ground	1.86	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/ PR/BL	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Bay Village Garden	0.02	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97	X	G	Central Boston	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Bowdoin Mall	0.50	X	COB	NULL	NULL	A97	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Cardinal Cushing Park II	0.07	X	COB	NULL	NULL	A97	X		Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Hawkins-New Sudbury Mall II	0.07	X	COB	NULL	NULL	A97	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Caldwell Street Play Area	0.13	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Charlestown	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cook Street Play Area	0.10	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Edwards Playground	1.34	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Essex Square	0.03	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Charlestown	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Hayes Square	0.17	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
John Harvard Mall	0.83	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Charlestown	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Rutherford Union Playground	0.67	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	E	Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Winthrop Square	0.90	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Charlestown	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Barry Playground	3.55	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**PARC**/ Ch91/WPA	X	E	Charlestown	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Doherty Playground	3.02	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ryan Playground	8.76	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**/ Ch91/WPA	X	G	Charlestown	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Bunker Hill Burying Ground	1.11	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Phipp's Street Burying Ground	1.72	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Charlestown	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Menino Park	1.24	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97/WPA/ Ch91	X	E	Charlestown	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Fernald Rock	0.06	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Geneva Cliffs	1.80	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Willowwood Rock	0.56	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Adams/King Playground	0.68	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Allen Park	1.35	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Byrne Playground	1.19	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Children's Park	0.19	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Coppens Square	0.36	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Deer Street Park	0.25	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Doherty/Gibson Playground	5.73	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Doucette Square	0.14	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Downer Avenue Playground	0.75	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Elmhurst Street Park	0.23	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Fenelon Street Playground	0.19	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Florida Street Reservation	0.07	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Garvey Playground	5.26	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Martin/Hilltop Playground	1.31	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mt. Bowdoin Green	0.54	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Mullen Square	0.23	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
O'Donnell Square I	0.04	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Peabody Square	0.05	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Puddingstone Park	0.55	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Quincy/Stanley Play Area	0.38	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Roberts Playground	10.18	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ryan Play Area	0.64	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Savin Hill Park	8.29	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Stanley-Bellevue Park	0.36	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Thetford/Evans Playground	0.68	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Tremlett Square	0.16	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Wellesley Park	0.71	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
McConnell Park	6.40	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Erie/Ellington Playground	0.37	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ OCB	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Harambee Park	45.56	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**/**USH**	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Franklin Park	238.05	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**/**USH**/ WPA/NRHP	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mother's Rest at Four Corners	1.15	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **USH**	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ronan Park	11.24	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **USH**	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hemenway Playground	4.40	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Rev. Loesch Family Park	2.25	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**/ **PARC**	X	E	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ripley Playground	0.85	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**/ **PARC**	X	G	Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ceylon Park I	4.15	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dorchester Park	27.30	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dorchester North Burying Ground	3.30	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Sharon's Park	0.31	X	COB	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Columbia Road	0.58	X	COB	DCR	MA DOT	A97	X		Dorchester	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Golden Stairs Terrace Park I	0.17	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		East Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Condor Street Beach I	2.74	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ Ch91/WPA/ AUL	X		East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Condor Street Overlook	0.42	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X		East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Central Square	0.91	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Cuneo Park	0.23	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
McLean Playground	0.43	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Paris Street Playground	0.79	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Prescott Square	0.27	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Putnam Square	0.27	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Sumner & Lamson Street Playground	0.48	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
The Rockies	0.71	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Veterans Park II	0.20	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Brophy Park	0.78	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Noyes Playground	8.22	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Porzio Park I	1.67	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
LoPresti Park	3.23	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **PARC**/WPA	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
American Legion Playground	3.38	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**/**PARC**	X	E	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
East Boston Memorial Park I	17.66	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	E	East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
East Boston Greenway	3.50	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	G	East Boston	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Bennington Street Cemetery	3.59	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	East Boston	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Fire Alarm House Grounds	0.84		COB	BPRD	BFD	A97	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Edgerly Road Playground	0.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Joslin Park	0.31	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Ramler Park	0.51	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	E	Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Symphony Community Park	0.48	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Commonwealth Avenue Mall II	0.98	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Back Bay Fens	70.09	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**/ NRHP/ WPA/ Ch91	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Riverway I	17.18	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Riverway III	2.82	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X	G	Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Boylston Street I	0.62	X	COB	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Park Drive I	5.09	X	COB	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
The Fenway I	6.75	X	COB	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Riverway V	0.23	X	COB	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Spectacle Island I	86.00	X	COB	BPRD	DCR	A97	X	E	Harbor Islands	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
DeForest Urban Wild I	0.91	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Monterey Hilltop I	4.18		COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Sherrin Woods I	23.95	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
West Austin Rock	0.30	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
West Street	2.51		COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Hyde Park	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mother Brook III	3.91	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X		Hyde Park	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Reservation Road Park	5.42	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X		Hyde Park	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Blake Estates Urban Wild	0.34		COB	BCC	NULL	A97/CR	X		Hyde Park	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Amatucci Playground	0.45	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dell Rock I	1.30	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
George Wright Golf Course	155.80	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Iacono/Readville Playground	4.91	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Jeremiah Hurley Memorial Park	0.07	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
McGann Park	0.88	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ross Playground	13.04	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Stonehill Park	0.37	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Williams Square	0.04	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Woodworth Square	0.03	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Fairview Cemetery	57.28	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Hyde Park	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
60 Paul Gore Street Garden	0.42	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Beecher Street Play Area	0.17	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Brewer/Burroughs Tot Lot	0.19	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Bussey Brook Meadow I	24.68	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Flaherty Playground	1.31	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Forbes Street Playground	0.07	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Heath Square	0.10	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Jamaica Pond Park	97.73	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mahoney Square	0.06	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Murphy Playground	2.54	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Nira Rock	1.45	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Oakview Terrace	0.10	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Paul Gore Street Playground	0.33	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Rossmore/ Stedman Park	0.07	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Soldier's Monument	0.13		COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
South Street Courts	0.34	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Parkman Memorial	6.71	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/GPOD	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Parkman Playground	2.07	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mozart Street Playground	0.81	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Franklin Park	124.85	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**/**USH**/ WPA/NRHP	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Riverway I	0.24	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Olmsted Park	40.32	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/ WPA/Ch91/ NHESP	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
South Street Mall	0.09	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/Trust Fund	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Jefferson Playground	3.40	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Pagel Playground	2.72	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Arnold Arboretum	158.56	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97/GPOD/ WPA	X	E	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Jamaicaway	3.75	X	COB	DCR	DCR	A97/GPOD	X		Jamaica Plain	Institutional District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
White Stadium	12.56		COB	White Fund	BPS	A97	X		Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Woodhaven	1.22	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Gladeside I	10.29	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X		Mattapan	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt Woods I	6.01	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X		Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Almont Park/ Hunt Playground	18.17	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Mattapan	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ernst Chery Jr. Playground	0.23	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Mattapan	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Walsh Playground	6.95	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Mattapan	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Walker Playground	5.95	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**/ **USH**	X	G	Mattapan	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dorchester South Burying Ground	1.94	A	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Mattapan	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Boston Nature Center_Visitor Ctr	2.00	X	COB	White Fund	MAS	A97/Trust Fund	X		Mattapan	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Back of the Hill	3.72	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **USH**	X		Mission Hill	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Gibbons Playground	0.10	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Mission Hill	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hanlon Square	0.04	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Mission Hill	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Heath Square	0.00	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Mission Hill	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
McLaughlin Playground	11.67	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Mission Hill	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mission Hill Playground	2.69	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**	X	G	Mission Hill	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Riverway III	2.24	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X	G	Mission Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Olmsted Park	2.51	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/NRHP/ NHESP	X	G	Mission Hill	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Jamaicaway	1.00	X	COB	DCR	DCR	A97/GPOD	X		Mission Hill	Institutional District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild I	8.05	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X		Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Adams Park	0.71	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roslindale	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Fallon Field	7.51	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roslindale	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Gustav Emmel Square	0.02	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roslindale	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Poplar Street Play Area	0.44	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roslindale	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Healy Playground	9.60	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Roslindale	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mt. Hope Cemetery	129.79	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Roslindale	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
George Wright Golf Course	0.15	X	COB	BPRD	NULL	A97	X	G	Roslindale	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Arnold Arboretum	65.69	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97/GPOD/ WPA	X	G	Roslindale	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Walter Street Cemetery	0.86	X	COB	BPRD	Private	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Roslindale	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Rockledge Street Urban Wild	0.51	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Warren Gardens/ Gendrot Trust	1.48	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Beauford Play Area	0.24	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cedar Square	0.62	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Chester Park	0.46	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Crawford Street Playground	1.67	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Denton Square	0.07	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Dudley Town Common	0.62	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Elm Hill Park	0.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Highland Park	3.63	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Justice Gourdin Park I	0.50	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Lambert Avenue Playground	0.66	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Laurel Street Green	0.14	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Linwood Park	0.07	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Little Scobie Playground	0.79	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Msgr. John Roussin Park	0.32	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mt. Pleasant Play Area	0.40	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
St James Street Park	0.39	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Wolf Square	0.02	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Hannon Playground	1.97	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/AUL	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Carter Playground	4.90	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Horatio Harris Park	2.52	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Malcolm X Park I	13.86	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Marcella Playground	5.09	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Franklin Park	29.23	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **UPARR**/**USH**/ WPA/NRHP	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Holborn Street Playlot	0.10	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**/ **USH**	X	G	Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Alvah Kittredge Park	0.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**PARC**	X	E	Roxbury	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Jeep Jones Park	1.82	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**PARC**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Laviscount Park	1.15	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**PARC**	X	E	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Clifford Playground	7.55	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Trotter School Playground	1.24	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Winthrop Playground	1.56	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Howes Playground	1.89	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**/ **PARC**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Edna V. Bynoe Park	2.67	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**/ **USH**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ramsay Park	5.49	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**/ **USH**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dennis Street Park	0.69	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Quincy Street Play Area	0.55	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**USH**	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Eliot Burying Ground	0.79	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
King Street Play Area	0.13	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97/Trust Fund	X	G	Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Franklin Park II	16.39	X	COB	DCR	Zoo NE	A97/**LWCF**/ **USH**	X		Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Franklin Park Zoo	63.77	X	COB	DCR	Zoo NE	A97/**LWCF**/ **USH**	X		Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Buckley Playground	0.65	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Flaherty Park	0.25	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Lincoln Square	0.22	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Medal of Honor Park	6.18	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Orton Field	1.49	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Sweeney Playground	0.46	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
L Street Beach	5.55	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X	G	South Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Christopher Lee Playground	5.44	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	South Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Joe Moakley Park	58.77	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	G	South Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hawes Burying Ground	0.25	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	South Boston	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Union Burying Ground	0.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	South Boston	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Channel Center Park	1.61	X	COB	BPRD	Private	A97	X	E	South Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Franklin Square	2.48	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Blackstone Square	2.44	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Braddock Park	0.09	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Bradford Street Play Area	0.04	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Chester Park	0.43	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Childe Hassam Park	0.06	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Concord Square	0.15	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Harriet Tubman Square	0.14	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Hayes Park	0.28	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hiscock Park	0.11	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Msgr. Reynolds Playground	0.32	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Peters Park I	3.33	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ringgold Park	0.45	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Rotch Playground	2.75	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Rutland Square	0.16	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
St Helena's Park	0.17	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Titus Sparrow Park	1.80	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Union Park	0.37	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Waltham Square	0.12	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Worcester Square	0.34	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
O'Day Playground	0.72	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**UPARR**	X	G	South End	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
South End South Burying Ground	1.47	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/A97	X	G	South End	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Rivermoor III	0.52	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Millennium Park II	8.33	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/**SURF**/ WPA	X		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allandale Woods II	10.60	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dunbarton Woods	0.74	X	COB	BCC	Private	A97	X		West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Beethoven School Play Area	0.52	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	West Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Draper Playground	5.79	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Duffie Square	0.06	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	West Roxbury	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Hynes Playground	6.41	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Piemonte Park	0.09	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	G	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Billings Field	10.78	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/**LWCF**	X	G	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Allandale Woods I	49.58	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	G	West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Carroll Pond Playground	0.47	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	G	West Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Westerly Burying Ground	0.90	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	Ch114S7/ A97/NRHP	X	G	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Zero Quinn Way	0.03		COB	BPRD	Private	A97	X	G	West Roxbury	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Millennium Park I	91.64	X	COB	COM	BPRD	**SURF**/WPA	X		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

State-Owned

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Charles River Reservation	108.73	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Boyden Park	0.48	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Chestnut Hill Reservoir Garden	0.11		COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Community Gardens

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Leo M. Birmingham Parkway	6.98	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Allston-Brighton	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Reilly Playground	6.93	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Chestnut Hill Reservoir	115.68	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/NRHP/ WPA	X		Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Charlesgate I	0.27	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Charles River Reservation	30.36	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Portal Park	0.37	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Charles River Reservation	15.17	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Central Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Nashua Street Park	2.02	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Central Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Prince Street Park	1.24	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Central Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
North Point Park	2.34	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA/ Ch91	X		Central Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Chinatown Park	0.84	X	COM	RFKGC	NULL	A97/ Acts2008Ch306/ CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Dewey Square Parks	2.64	X	COM	RFKGC	NULL	A97/ Acts2008Ch306/ CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Endicott Triangle	0.04	X	COM	RFKGC	NULL	A97/ Acts2008Ch306/ CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Lincoln Street Green	0.18	X	COM	RFKGC	NULL	A97/ Acts2008Ch306/ CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
North End Park	2.83	X	COM	RFKGC	NULL	A97/ Acts2008Ch306/ CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Wharf District Park	4.71	X	COM	RFKGC	NULL	A97/ Acts2008Ch306/ CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Armenian Heritage Park	0.25	X	COM	RFKGC	Private	A97/ Acts2008Ch306/ CAT Mit	X		Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
City Square	1.21	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Charlestown	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Paul Revere Park	6.37	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Charlestown	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Rink Grounds	0.73	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Charlestown	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Richardson Park	1.11	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Commercial Point	2.38	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/WPA/ Ch91/**LWCF**	X		Dorchester	Special District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Carson Beach	0.16	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Columbia Road Park	0.12	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Columbia Road/ Day Boulevard	1.86	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Conley & Tenean Streets Park	0.51	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Gallivan/ Hallet Circle	0.48	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Malibu Beach	26.11	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
McMorrow Playground	5.23	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Meany Park	0.23	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Savin Hill Beach	3.43	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Toohig Playground	2.12	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ventura Playground	1.31	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Victory Road Park	6.15	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Tenean Beach	8.69	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/ACEC	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Pope John Paul II Park I	170.73	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/ACEC/ WPA	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Pope John Paul II Park I	0.01	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/ACEC/ WPA	X		Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Old Harbor Park	7.96	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/**LWCF**/ WPA/Ch91	X		Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Savin Hill Cove	1.77	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA	X		Dorchester	Special District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Old Harbor Easement	3.54	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA/ Ch91	X		Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Patten's Cove	9.66	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA/ Ch91	X		Dorchester	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Constitution Beach	25.35	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		East Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	142.10	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/**LWCF**/ WPA/Ch91/ ACEC	X		East Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Charlesgate I	6.32	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Charlesgate II	1.49	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Charles River Reservation	17.35	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Park Drive II	1.38	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
The Fenway II	0.77	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Riverway II	2.36	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Riverway IV	0.32	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Agassiz Road	0.60	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/WPA	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Boylston Street II	1.78	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/WPA	X		Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Spectacle Island II	25.52	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Calf Island	22.42	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Gallops Island	25.09	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Georges Island	40.49	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Great Brewster Island	23.94	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Green Island	1.75	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Little Calf Island	0.81	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Lovells Island	60.96	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Middle Brewster Island	13.65	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Outer Brewster Island	20.12	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Shag Rocks	1.32	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Colella Playground	0.69	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Connell Fields/ Hickey Courts	16.78	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dana Avenue Urban Wild I	0.78	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dooley Playground	0.54	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Doyle Playground	0.94	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mother Brook Reservation	30.39	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Moynihan Playground	7.19	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Neponset River Reservation	74.54	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Neponset Valley Parkway	5.48-	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Railroad Avenue	1.10	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Stony Brook Recreation Complex	27.39	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Truman Parkway	2.71	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Hyde Park	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Camp Meigs	2.87	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/ACEC	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Martini Playground	5.78	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/**LWCF**/ WPA	X		Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Stony Brook Reservation	302.58	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/**LWCF**/ WPA/NHESP	X		Hyde Park	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Arborway Overpass Path	1.15	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Forest Hills Rotary	0.69	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Centre Street I	2.39	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/100/ GPOD	X		Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Arborway	17.92	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/GPOD	X		Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Chestnut Street	1.04	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/GPOD	X		Jamaica Plain	CPS	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Perkins Street	0.23	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/GPOD	X		Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Riverway II	0.05	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X		Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Willow Pond Meadow	6.26	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/WPA	X		Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Johnson Park I	2.60	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Morton Street	0.51	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Jamaica Plain	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Kennedy Garden	0.16		COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Mattapan	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Kennedy Playground	0.26	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Mattapan	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Morton Street	0.25	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Mattapan	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Msgr. Francis A. Ryan Park	6.14	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Mattapan	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Neponset River Reservation I	21.59	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Mattapan	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Neponset River Reservation II	0.65	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Mattapan	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Riverway IV	1.54	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/NRHP/ GPOD	X		Mission Hill	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Centre Street IV	0.17	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Roslindale	CPS & Residntl Dst	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
VFW Parkway	0.00	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		Roslindale	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Centre Street I	0.01	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/100/ GPOD	X		Roslindale	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Centre Street II	0.34	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97/100/ GPOD	X		Roslindale	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Weider Park	6.88	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Roslindale	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
West Roxbury Parkway	9.77	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Roslindale	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Stony Brook Reservation	22.75	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA/ NHESP	X		Roslindale	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Roxbury Heritage State Park I	2.82	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Carson Beach	24.57	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		South Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Columbia Road/ Day Boulevard	15.33	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		South Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
M Street Beach	4.40	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		South Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Marine Park	17.20	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		South Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Strandway/ Castle Island	47.68	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		South Boston	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Old Harbor Easement	0.00	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA/ Ch91	X		South Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Centre Street IV	0.00	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		West Roxbury	CPS & Residntl Dst	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
VFW Parkway	13.15	X	COM	DCR	DCR	A97	X		West Roxbury	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Bellevue Hill Reservation	26.77	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
West Roxbury Parkway	21.89	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97	X		West Roxbury	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Sawmill Brook/ Brook Farm	149.42	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/NRHP/ WPA	X		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Hancock Woods I	45.95	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA	X		West Roxbury	CPS	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Havey Beach	15.20	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA	X		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Stony Brook Reservation	141.93	X	COM	DCR	NULL	A97/WPA	X		West Roxbury	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches

Federal-Owned

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Bunker Hill Monument	3.75	X	USA	NPS	NULL	A97/NRHP/PR	X		Charlestown	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Navy Yard Grounds	3.58	X	USA	NPS	NULL	NPS	X		Charlestown	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dorchester Heights NHS	4.40	X	USA	NPS	NULL	A97/NRHP	X		South Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Privately-Owned

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Theresa Hynes Park	0.45	X	Private	BCC	NULL	A97/CR	X		Allston-Brighton	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Brian Honan Park	0.96	X	Private	BCC	Private	A97/CR	X		Allston-Brighton	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
The Cenacles	15.34	X	Private	BCC	Private	A97/CR	X		Allston-Brighton	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Norman B. Leventhal Park	1.56	X	Private	BRA	Private	A97/Agrmnt	X		Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Allandale Woods III	0.00	X	Private	BCC	BPRD	A97/CR/WPA	X		Jamaica Plain	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Parley Vale Preserve	0.72		Private	BCC	NULL	A97/Esmnt	X		Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Lawrence Farm	41.16		Private	TTOR	Private	AP (Part)/ Ch61A	X		Jamaica Plain	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Boston Nature Center	56.89	X	Private	MAS	MAS	Land Trust	X		Mattapan	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Clark/Cooper Community Garden	5.65		Private	MAS	NULL	Land Trust	X		Mattapan	Industrial District	Community Gardens
Parker Hilltop	1.69	X	Private	BCC	PrvBPRD	A97/CR	X		Mission Hill	Institutional District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Iroquois Street Woods	1.08	X	Private	BCC	PrvBPRD	Esmnt	X		Mission Hill	Institutional District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Nancy Kafka Reserve	0.71		Private	BCC	BPRD	A97/CR	X		Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Children's Wharf Harborwalk	0.23	X	Private	BPRD	Private	A97/Ch91/ WPA	X		South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Allandale Woods ROW	0.17	X	Private	BCC	BPRD	A97	X		West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allandale Woods III	16.72	X	Private	BCC	PrvBPRD	A97/CR/WPA	X		West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allandale Woods IV	6.29	X	Private	BCC	PrvBPRD	A97/CR/WPA	X		West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allandale Woods V	2.78	X	Private	BCC & TTOR	BPRD	A97/Esmnt/ WPA	X		West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allandale Field	2.63	X	Private	BPRD	PrvBPRD	A97/DR/WPA	X		West Roxbury	CPS	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Duck Pond Outlet	0.19	X	Private	TTOR	BPRD	WPA	X		West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

Land Trust Open Space

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
10 Josephine Street Garden	0.07		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
29 Josephine Street Garden	0.11		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Audrey Jacobs Memorial CG	0.10		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Barry Street Garden	0.09		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Bullard Street Garden	0.09		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Erie/Wolcott Streets Park	0.25	X	TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Greenwood Community Garden	0.20		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Leyland Street Garden	0.39		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Lucerne/Balsam Street Garden	0.23		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Monadnock Street Garden	0.22		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Nightingale Garden	1.37		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Norton/ Stonehurst Garden	0.08		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Quincy/Coleman Garden	0.30		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Spencer Street Garden	0.10		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Torrey Street Park Garden	0.07		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Wheatland Avenue Victory Garden	0.15		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens
Eagle Hill Memorial Park Garden	0.15		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			East Boston	Residential District	Community Gardens
Joe Ciampa Garden	0.22		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			East Boston	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Symphony Road Garden	0.30		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Community Gardens
Arcola Park Garden	0.08		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Brookside Community Garden	0.12		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens
Forbes Street Garden	0.37		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens
Granada Park Garden	0.31		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens
Leland Street Herb Garden	0.25		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Minton Stable Garden	1.20	X	TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Nira Avenue Garden	0.18		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens
Paul Gore/ Beecher Street Garden	0.51		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Round Hill Street Garden	0.07		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens
St Rose Street Garden	0.07		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens
TTOR Parcel	0.27	X	TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Mission Hill	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Kevin Fitzgerald Park	6.58	X	CG/NP	CG/NP	CG/NP	Land Trust			Mission Hill	CPS	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mission Hill Community Garden I	0.34		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Mission Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection *(Grant Bolded)*	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)
Bessie Barnes Garden	0.13		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Bessie Barnes Park	0.10		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cedar-Juniper Natural Area	0.39	X	TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dacia/Woodcliff Community Garden	0.30		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens
Frederick Douglass Peace Garden	0.11		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens
Highland Avenue Community Garden	0.10		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens
John Eliot Square Urban Wild II	0.08		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Julian, Judson, Dean Garden	0.20		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens
Kendall & Lenox Streets Garden	0.43		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Kittredge-Linwood Parcel	0.15	X	TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Northhampton St Community Garden	0.22		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Nuestra Playground	0.23		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Savin/Maywood Street Garden	0.46		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Winthrop Street Garden	0.11		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Berkeley Street Garden	1.10		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Residential District	Community Gardens
Dartmouth Garden	0.07		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Harrison Urban Garden	0.20		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Residential District	Community Gardens
Rutland/ Washington Comm Garden	0.28		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Rutland's Haven Community Garden	0.11		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Warren & Clarendon Streets Garden	0.05		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Wellington Green	0.05		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Open Space District	Community Gardens
West Springfield Garden	0.16		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Open Space District	Community Gardens
Worcester Street Garden	0.57		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust			South End	Residential District	Community Gardens
Southwest Corridor Community Farm	0.61		TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust/ Esmt			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens
Leatherbee Woods	8.15	X	TTOR	TTOR	TTOR	Land Trust/ WPA			West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

Public Unprotected Open Space

City-Owned

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Commonwealth Tenants Assn CG	0.35		BHA	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Franklin Hill Green	0.51	X	BHA	NULL	BHA				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Blue Hill Rock	0.45		BHA	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Lewis Mall	1.33	X	BHA	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Lombardi Memorial Park	0.53	X	BHA	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Forest Hills Preserve	2.45	X	BHA	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Alice Taylor Homes Playlots	0.15	X	BHA	NULL	BHA				Mission Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mission Main Longwood Gate	0.11	X	BHA	NULL	BHA				Mission Hill	NULL	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Mission Main Park	0.71	X	BHA	NULL	BHA				Mission Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mission Main Playlots	0.82	X	BHA	NULL	BHA				Mission Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Southwest Corridor Park Extension	0.18	X	BHA	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Sterling Square	1.04	X	BHA	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Veterans Memorial Park	0.68	X	BHA	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Washington Manor Community Garden	0.02		BHA	NULL	NULL				South End	Special District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Watson Park II	0.02		BHA	NULL	NULL				South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Union Street Park I	0.51	X	BRA	NULL	BPRD				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Long Wharf Boat Access	0.07	X	BRA	NULL	BRA				Central Boston	NULL	Malls, Squares & plazas	Malls, Squares & plazas
Aquarium Harborwalk II	0.00	X	BRA	NULL	BRA	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Ausonia Plaza	0.20	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Marketplace Plaza I	0.29	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pemberton Square I	0.18	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pine Street Park	0.28		BRA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cardinal Cushing Park I	0.35	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
City Hall Plaza	6.01	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Hawkins-New Sudbury Mall I	0.10	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Quincy Market Square	1.56	X	BRA	NULL	Private				Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
School Street Park	0.07	X	BRA	NULL	Private				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Old City Hall Grounds	0.23	X	BRA	NULL	Private				Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Austin & Main Plaza	0.12	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Charlestown Overlook	0.21		BRA	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Ceylon Park II	0.49	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Norton Street Playground	0.07	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mission Hill Community Garden II	0.16		BRA	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Allan Crite Garden II	0.04		BRA	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Cedar Street Garden II	0.08		BRA	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Wakullah St. CG	0.09		BRA	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Frederick Douglass Peace Garden	0.11		BRA	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Children's Wharf Park	0.94	X	BRA	BPRD	Private	Ch91/WPA/ MEPA			South Boston	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Marine Industrial Park Entrance I	1.25	X	BRA	NULL	BRA				South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Boston Design Center Plaza	0.76	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Dry Dock Plaza	0.24	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pier 10 Mall	0.56	X	BRA	NULL	NULL	Ch91			South Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Peters Park II	0.51	X	BRA	NULL	BPRD				South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Watson Park I	0.08	X	BRA	NULL	BRA				South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Castle Square Parks	1.19		BRA	NULL	NULL				South End	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Tent City Courtyards	0.53	X	BRA	NULL	NULL				South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Rutland Green	0.09		BRA	NULL	TTOR				South End	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Rivermoor II	1.03		BRA	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Union Park Street Playground	0.56	X	BWSC	NULL	BPRD	Lease			South End	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Brighton Police Station Campus	0.45	X	COB	NULL	BPD				Allston-Brighton	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Raymond V. Mellone Park II	0.48	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	100			Allston-Brighton	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Shubow Park II	0.16	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Brighton HS Hillside	1.43	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Commonwealth Avenue Outbound	5.53	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Euston Path Rock	0.39		COB	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Union Square Plaza	0.39	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Wilson Park	0.10	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Wilson Square	0.06	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Dartmouth Street Mall	1.01	X	COB	NULL	BPWD				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Temple Street Park	0.06	X	COB	NULL	NULL	MPPF			Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
BPL Courtyard	0.19	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Belvidere/ Dalton Plaza	0.16	X	COB	NULL	Private				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Union Street Park II	0.03	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
North Square	0.07	X	COB	NULL	BPWD				Central Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
China Gate Plaza	0.14	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Federal Reserve Bank Harborwalk	0.08	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Grain Exchange Plaza	0.05	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Liberty Tree Plaza	0.09	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Pemberton Square Access	0.13	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pemberton Square II	1.06	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
RFK Greenway II	0.29	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Winthrop Square	0.15	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Liberty Square	0.03	X	COB	NULL	NULL	Browne Fund			Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Corey Street Court	0.18	X	COB	NULL	BHA				Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
O'Reilly Way Court	0.53	X	COB	NULL	BHA				Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Thompson Square	0.14	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Charlestown HS Athletic Fields	10.42	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	Ch91/WPA			Charlestown	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
13th Street Circle Garden	0.06		COB	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Special District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
8th Street Circle Garden	0.05		COB	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Special District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
9th Street Circle Garden	0.05		COB	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Special District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Charlestown Sprouts Garden	0.48		COB	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Charlestown Veteran's Memorial Park	0.04	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Sullivan Square	1.62	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
American Legion Highway	1.37	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	100			Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Algonquin Square	0.04	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Nellie Miranda Memorial Park	0.09	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
O'Donnell Square II	0.02	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Nonquit Street Garden	0.15		COB	NULL	CG/NP				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Centervale Park	0.20	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Clementine Park	0.02		COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Codman Square	0.34	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Columbia Road Totlot	0.22		COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Edward Everett Square	0.09	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Franklin Field BHA Garden	0.10		COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Franklin Field BHA Green	0.70	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Franklin Field BHA Playground	0.39	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Lydon Way Garden	0.19		COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Meetinghouse Hill Overlook	0.34		COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Scalia Square	0.01	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Tebroc Street Playlot	0.02	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
The Humps	0.93		COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Washburn Street Green	0.23	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	NULL	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
William S. Britton Square	0.03	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	NULL	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Condor Street Beach II	0.20	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				East Boston	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Belle Isle Coastal Preserve	1.47	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	WPA/Ch91/ ACEC/Ch21E			East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Porzio Park II	0.67	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Bonito Square	0.06	X	COB	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Golden Stairs Terrace Park II	0.08	X	COB	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Mendoza Square	0.03	X	COB	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Our Garden	0.21		COB	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Solari Square	0.00	X	COB	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Lewis Mall Harborpark	0.25	X	COB	NULL	NULL	WPA/Ch91			East Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Avenue Louis Pasteur	1.49	X	COB	NULL	BPWD				Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Harry Ellis Dickson Park	0.08	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Huntington-Hemenway Mall	0.33	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Mass Art Park	0.16	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Oscar Tugo Circle	0.06	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Long Island	225.19	X	COB	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			Harbor Islands	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Moon Island	54.09		COB	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			Harbor Islands	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Rainsford Island	16.73	X	COB	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			Harbor Islands	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Dell Rock II	0.04	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Cleary Square Plaza	0.07	X	COB	NULL	BTD				Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Boundary I	0.06	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Foley Square	0.14	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Jones Square	0.04	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pleasant View I	0.07		COB	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Webster Square	0.05	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Dana Avenue Urban Wild II	0.03		COB	NULL	NULL	WPA			Hyde Park	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
South Street BHA Play Area	0.10	X	COB	NULL	BHA				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
English H.S. Athletic Fields	7.63	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Centre Street II	0.01	X	COB	NULL	BPWD				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Johnson Park II	0.17	X	COB	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Amory Street Park	0.12	X	COB	NULL	DND				Jamaica Plain	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Dixwell Street Playlot	0.10	X	COB	NULL	DND				Jamaica Plain	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Agassiz Community & School Garden	0.19	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Bromley Heath Play Area	0.82	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Egleston Plaza I	0.08	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Egleston Plaza II	0.01	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Starr Lane Park	0.06		COB	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Williams Street III	0.31		COB	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
American Legion Highway	4.14	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	100			Mattapan	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Almont Park/Hunt Playground II	0.19	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Mattapan	OS & Residntl Districts	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Babson-Cookson Tract	2.41		COB	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas or Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Currier Woods I	1.43		COB	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt School Woods	2.98	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Savannah Woods I	3.19		COB	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt Woods III	3.57		COB	NULL	NULL	WPA			Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Tobin Community Center Garden	0.30		COB	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Institutional District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
American Legion Highway	1.27	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	100			Roslindale	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Boundary I	7.01	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Canterbury I	1.23		COB	NULL	NULL				Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Centre Street V	0.26	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Roslindale	Institutional Subdistrict	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Delano Park	0.21	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Roslindale	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
John Eliot Square Urban Wild I	0.23		COB	NULL	BCCBPRD				Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
John Eliot Square	0.13	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Roxbury	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Madison Park H.S. Athletic Fields	9.61	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Malcolm X Park II	0.19	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Grove Hall Plaza	0.09	X	COB	NULL	BRA				Roxbury	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Cedar Street Garden I	0.44		COB	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Maple-Sonoma Sts Community Park	0.26	X	COB	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Allan Crite Garden I	0.38		COB	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Roxbury Heritage State Park II	0.35	X	COB	NULL	DCR				Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Boston Evening Academy Garden	0.22		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Centre Place Garden	0.16		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
ELC Playlot	0.45		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Madison Park Village CG	0.24		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Institutional District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Magazine Street Garden	0.19		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Magnolia & Woodford Streets Garden	0.15		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Massachusetts Avenue Malls	0.21	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Phyllis Wheatley/ Warren Place	0.15		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Schroeder Plaza	0.28	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
The Food Project Lot #1A	0.41		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
The Food Project Lot #2	1.38		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Waldren Road Garden	0.10		COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Whittier Playground	0.28	X	COB	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Foster's Nook CG I	0.07	X	COB	NULL	CG/NP				South Boston	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
South End Library Park	0.19	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				South End	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Chandler/ Tremont Plaza	0.23	X	COB	NULL	NULL				South End	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Massachusetts Avenue Malls	0.22	X	COB	NULL	NULL				South End	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Newland Street Park	0.15	X	COB	NULL	Private				South End	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
West Roxbury H.S. Athletic Fields	13.42	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	WPA			West Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Centre Street V	0.00	X	COB	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Institutional Subdistrict	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Dana Road I	2.73		COB	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Shaw Woods I	0.72	X	COB	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
West Roxbury H.S. Campus	7.07	X	COB	NULL	NULL	WPA			West Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
West Roxbury High School Marsh	21.48	X	COB	NULL	NULL	WPA			West Roxbury	Institutional District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

State-Owned

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Turnpike Overlook	3.15		COM	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Commonwealth Plaza	0.16	X	COM	NULL	Private				Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
State House Park	1.24	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Copley Place Plaza	0.29	X	COM	NULL	Private				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Richmond & North Streets Park I	0.09	X	COM	NULL	BPRD	BPRD License			Central Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Ashburton Place Plaza	0.82	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Brooke Courthouse Plaza	0.24	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Mary Soo Hoo Park	0.07	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
New Chardon Square	1.91	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pagoda Park	0.34	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Richmond & North Streets Park II	0.28		COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Somerset Street Plaza	0.68	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Valenti Square	0.12	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	NULL	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Dewey Square Plaza	0.58	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
New Center for Arts and Culture	1.95	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
North Street Park	0.24		COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Revere Plaza	1.38	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
RFK Greenway I	0.16	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Rolling Bridge Park	0.73	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
West End Park	0.14	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Leather District Park	0.42	X	COM	NULL	RFKGC	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Bunker Hill CC Athletic Fields	14.07		COM	NULL	COM				Charlestown	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Bunker Hill CC Campus Grounds	4.09	X	COM	NULL	COM				Charlestown	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
CANA Portal	1.16		COM	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Charlestown Parcel 6	0.12	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
UMass Boston Athletic Fields	9.86		COM	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
UMass Harborwalk	13.08	X	COM	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			Dorchester	Institutional District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Canterbury Brookside I	3.14		COM	NULL	NULL	WPA/100			Dorchester	Special District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
UMass Boston Campus Ctr Oval	1.67	X	COM	NULL	NULL	WPA/Ch91			Dorchester	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
East Boston Memorial Park III	2.01	X	COM	NULL	BPRD	CAT Mit			East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Decatur & Meridian Streets Park	0.20	X	COM	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Scarmella/ Maverick Square	0.40	X	COM	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Veterans Park I	0.37	X	COM	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
London Street Park	0.14	X	COM	NULL	Private	License			East Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mass Art Campus	0.31	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
South Street Community Garden	0.47		COM	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
State Public Health Campus	11.80	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Boston State Hospital Campus	17.69	X	COM	NULL	Private				Mattapan	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Tree House Plaza	0.18	X	COM	NULL	COM				Mission Hill	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & plazas	Malls, Squares & plazas
Melnea Cass Boulevard I	4.38	X	COM	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
United Nbhd of Lower Roxbury CG	0.29		COM	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Williams Tunnel Portal Park	0.20	X	COM	NULL	Massport				South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Fourth Street Park	0.66	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			South Boston	NULL	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Rolling Bridge Park	0.33	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			South Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Wormwood Park	0.13	X	COM	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit/ Ch91			South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Tunnel Harborwalk	0.19	X	COM	NULL	NULL	Ch91			South Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Mt. Vernon Street Plaza	0.15	X	Massport	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
East Boston Memorial Park II	3.06	X	Massport	NULL	BPRD	CAT Mit			East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Bayswater Street	1.70	X	Massport	NULL	Massport				East Boston	Special District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Festa Field	0.99		Massport	NULL	Massport				East Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Wood Island Bay Edge	2.90		Massport	NULL	Massport				East Boston	Special District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Massport Harborwalk	2.47	X	Massport	NULL	Massport	Airport Mit			East Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Bremen Street Park	17.79	X	Massport	NULL	Massport	CAT Mit			East Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
East Boston Piers Park	6.80	X	Massport	NULL	NULL	Acts 1986, Ch 349			East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Wood Island Bay Marsh	88.45		Massport	NULL	NULL	Airport Mit			East Boston	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Eastport Park	1.15	X	Massport	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Marine Industrial Park Entrance II	0.01	X	Massport	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
South Boston Maritime Park	0.88	X	Massport	NULL	NULL	Ch91			South Boston	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Podium Plaza	0.46	X	Massport	NULL	Private	Ch91			South Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Southwest Corridor Park	3.49	X	MBTA	NULL	DCR				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Wellington Common	0.00		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Blackwood/ Claremont Garden	0.10		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Follen Garden	0.09		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Greenwich/ Cumberland Garden	0.10		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Harcourt/West Canton Garden	0.08		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Atlantic Avenue Plantings	0.58	X	MBTA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pope John Paul II Park II	1.14	X	MBTA	NULL	DCR				Dorchester	Open Space District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Belle Isle Inlet Buffer I	5.16		MBTA	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Special District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Suffolk Downs T Station Lawns	1.00	X	MBTA	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Shempa Square	0.03	X	MBTA	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Bussey Brook Meadow II	1.26	X	MBTA	NULL	BPRD				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Kelly Outdoor Skating Rink	0.36	X	MBTA	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Oakdale Street Community Garden	0.16		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Southwest Corridor Park	29.23	X	MBTA	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Hall/Boynton Street Garden	0.14		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Lamartine/ Hubbard Streets Garden	0.06		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Lawndale Terrace Garden	0.09		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
McBride Garden	0.06		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Forest Hills Greenspace	5.47	X	MBTA	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Forest Hills Station Mall	1.34	X	MBTA	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Anson Street Garden	0.17		MBTA	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Southwest Corridor Park	1.55	X	MBTA	NULL	DCR				Mission Hill	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Southwest Boston Garden Club	1.52		MBTA	NULL	Private				Roslindale	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Southwest Corridor Park	12.27	X	MBTA	NULL	DCR				Roxbury	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Saranac/New Castle Garden	0.15		MBTA	NULL	DCR				Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Southwest Corridor Park	0.92	X	MBTA	NULL	DCR				South End	Industrial District	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Wellington Common	0.11		MBTA	NULL	DCR				South End	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Braddock Park Garden	0.09		MBTA	NULL	DCR				South End	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Deer Island	91.33	X	MWRA	NULL	MWRA	Ch91/WPA			Harbor Islands	NULL	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches

Federal-Owned

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Federal Reserve Plaza	2.09	X	USA	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
408 Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk	0.01	X	USA	NULL	Private	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Kennedy Library Harborwalk	3.27	X	USA	NULL	US GSA	Ch91/WPA			Dorchester	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Little Brewster Island	3.12		USA	NULL	USCG	Ch91/WPA			Harbor Islands	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Fan Pier Plaza	2.34	X	USA	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			South Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Rivermoor I	7.74		USA	NULL	US ACOE	WPA			West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

Private Unprotected Open Space

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Boston College Athletic Fields	9.72		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Boston University Ball Diamond	1.68		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
BU Grounds West	1.10	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Crittenton Hospital	2.93		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Foster Street Hill	4.14		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Foster Street Rock	4.63		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Harvard Business School Athltc Flds	0.57		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Kennedy Rock	2.21		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mount St. Joseph's Athletic Fields	3.59		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Nickerson Field	6.35		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
North Beacon Allee	0.84		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Soldiers Field	61.54		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
St John's Seminary	59.97		Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Campus	4.86	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Allston-Brighton	CPS	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Christian Science Plaza	9.92	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Louisburg Square	0.32		Private	NULL	NULL				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Mount Vernon Square	0.05	X	Private	NULL	Private				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Prudential Center Plaza I	1.06	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Prudential Center Plaza II	1.09	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Prudential Center Plaza III	1.02	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Back Bay/ Beacon Hill	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
400R Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk	0.01	X	Private	NULL	Private	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Aquarium Harborwalk I	0.13	X	Private	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Aquarium Plaza	0.66	X	Private	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Central Court	0.07	X	Private	Private	Private	Easement			Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Commercial Wharf Harborwalk	0.19	X	Private	NULL	Private	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Independence Wharf Harborwalk	0.16	X	Private	NULL	Private	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
India Wharf Harborwalk	0.41	X	Private	NULL	Private	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Jenney Plaza	0.13	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Joe's American Harborwalk	0.04	X	Private	NULL	Private	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Marketplace Plaza II	0.10	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Oak Terrace Playlot	0.03		Private	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Old West Church Yard	0.19	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	NULL	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Oxford Place Plaza	0.05	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Rowe's Wharf Harborwalk	1.25	X	Private	NULL	Private	Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Russia Wharf Harborwalk	0.06	X	Private	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Thoreau Path	3.85	X	Private	COB	NULL				Central Boston	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Tufts Wharf Harborwalk	0.73	X	Private	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit/ Ch91/WPA			Central Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
West End Recreation Complex	3.42		Private	NULL	NULL				Central Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park II	0.75	X	Private	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Gardens for Charlestown	0.36		Private	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Kennedy Family Service Center Park	0.11	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Kennedy Family Service Cntr Playlot	0.20		Private	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Mishawam Playlots	0.24	X	Private	NULL	Private				Charlestown	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Patrick J. Kelly Park	0.25		Private	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Schraffts Centre Harborwalk	1.01	X	Private	NULL	NULL	Ch91/ WPA/100			Charlestown	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Spaulding Rehabilitation Plaza	0.23	X	Private	NULL	Private	WPA/Ch91			Charlestown	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
St Francis De Sales Cemetery	1.80		Private	NULL	NULL				Charlestown	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Adams Rock	0.22		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Boston College HS Athletic Fields	18.55		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cedar Grove Cemetery	54.17		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Clayborne Street Garden	0.08		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Claymont Terrace	0.61		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Codman Burying Ground	2.63		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Columbia Point Community Garden	0.05		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Esparanza Garden	0.11		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Fannie Lou Hamer Community Garden	0.10		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Geneva Cliffs II	1.19	X	Private	NULL	BPRD				Dorchester	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Granite Avenue Ledge	0.38		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Special District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Harbor Point Boulevard	2.31	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Huntoon Rock	0.17		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Keystone Shoreline	0.49		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Special District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Meetinghouse Hill Churchyard	0.81		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Melvinside Play Area	0.40		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Nonquit Green	0.41	X	CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Paul Sullivan House Comm Garden	0.05		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
ReVision House Urban Farm #1	0.35		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
ReVision House Urban Farm #2	0.18		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Dorchester	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Rupert-Trinity Park	0.07		Private	Private	Private				Dorchester	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
St Mary's Cemetery	10.62		Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
YMCA Community Park	1.03	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Dorchester	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Belle Isle Inlet Buffer II	1.98		Private	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Special District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dom Savio Athletic Field	3.11		Private	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Don Orione	9.09		Private	NULL	NULL				East Boston	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
East Boston Social Centers Playlot	0.34		Private	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Porzio Park II	0.67	X	COB	NULL	BPRD				East Boston	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Shore Plaza East Garden	0.09		Private	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Special District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
South Shore Plaza Courts	0.23		Private	NULL	NULL	WPA/Ch91			East Boston	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
South Shore Plaza Park	0.50		Private	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Suffolk Downs Infield	28.04		Private	NULL	NULL	WPA/ACEC/ Ch91			East Boston	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery	2.34		Private	NULL	NULL				East Boston	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Beth Israel/ Deaconess Plaza	0.50	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
BU Grounds Central	4.88	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
BU Grounds East	1.03	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
BU Grounds South	0.91	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
BU Yard	0.18		Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Emanuel College Grounds	3.21		Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Fenway Park Field	2.78		Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Harvard Medical School Quadrangle	1.71	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Kilmarnock-Brookline Square	0.10	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Stony Brook Sewer Easement	0.31	X	Private	NULL	Private	Sewer Easement			Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Wentworth Field	2.98		Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Windsor School Athletic Field	4.47		Private	NULL	NULL				Fenway/ Longwood	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
DeForest Urban Wild II	0.11		Private	NULL	NULL	100			Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Monterey Hilltop II	0.11		Private	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mother Brook I	0.37		Private	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Neponset River Corridor	1.19		Private	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Oak Lawn Cemetery	6.08		Private	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Oak Lawn Golf Range	22.92		Private	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Pleasant View II	0.17		Private	NULL	NULL				Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Sprague Pond Lakeside Access	1.34		Private	NULL	NULL	WPA			Hyde Park	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Bowditch Garden	0.14		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Chapman	5.60		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Daughters of St. Paul	12.71		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Egleston Square Peace Garden	0.12	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
First Church Cemetery	0.63		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Forest Hills Cemetery	243.73	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Harvard Tract I	5.11	X	Private	NULL	Private	100/GPOD			Jamaica Plain	CPS	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Harvard Tract II	4.75	X	Private	NULL	Private	100/GPOD			Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Harvard Tract III	1.48	X	Private	NULL	Private	100			Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hellenic College Athletic Field	3.41		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	CPS	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Hellenic Hill I	17.70		Private	NULL	Private	100/GPOD			Jamaica Plain	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Hellenic Hill II	6.37		Private	NULL	Private	100/GPOD			Jamaica Plain	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Showa	22.55		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
St Michael's Cemetery	24.14		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Toll Gate Cemetery	0.90		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Walden Street Community Garden	0.25		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Williams Street I	2.10		Private	NULL	NULL				Jamaica Plain	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Currier Woods II	0.56		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Fairlawn Green	1.15	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Gladeside II	0.90		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Harvard-Livermore Tract	5.95		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt Woods Buffer	1.03		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt Woods Buffer	0.00		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt Woods II	3.73		Private	NULL	NULL	WPA			Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
New Calvary Cemetery	59.45		Private	NULL	Private				Mattapan	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Olmsted Green Park	0.09	X	Private	NULL	Private				Mattapan	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Pendergast Entrance	1.03		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Pendergast Preventorium	6.62		Private	NULL	NULL	WPA			Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Savannah Woods II	0.73		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
St Michael's Cemetery	12.31		Private	NULL	NULL				Mattapan	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Allegheny Street I	0.22		Private	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allegheny Street II	0.74		Private	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Brigham Circle Plaza	0.22	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Butterfly Garden	0.27	X	CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Mission Hill	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Huntington-Vancouver Triangle	0.14	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Judge Street	0.15		Private	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Lawn Street Garden	0.15		Private	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Mission Church Gardens	1.13		Private	Private	Private				Mission Hill	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Wentworth Grounds	3.29	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Mission Hill	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Calvary Cemetery	42.51		Private	NULL	Private				Roslindale	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Canterbury Brookside II	0.49		Private	NULL	NULL	WPA			Roslindale	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild II	2.45		Private	NULL	NULL	WPA/100			Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Sherrin Woods II	1.11		Private	NULL	NULL				Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
St Michael's Cemetery	10.03		Private	NULL	NULL				Roslindale	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Stony Brook Commons Park	1.53		Private	NULL	NULL				Roslindale	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Weld Hill Tract	14.11	X	Private	NULL	Private				Roslindale	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
59 Crawford Street Playground	0.25		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Alpine Street	2.83		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Boys Club Park	0.82	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Egleston Community Garden	0.24		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
First Church Yard	1.60		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Frederick Douglass Green	0.92		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Special District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Highland Park 400 Garden	0.68		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Margaret Wright Memorial Garden	0.13		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
NCAAA Museum Grounds	0.84		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
New Academy Estates Courtyard	0.08	X	Private	NULL	Private				Roxbury	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
New Academy Estates Half Court	0.09	X	Private	NULL	Private				Roxbury	NULL	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Piano Craft Garden	0.56		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Salvation Army Field	1.48		Private	NULL	Private				Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Sargent Street Park	0.30		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Shirley-Eustis House Grounds	1.30	X	Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
St. Joseph's Garden	0.20		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Open Space District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
St. Monica's	0.62		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
The Food Project Lot #1B	0.19		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	NULL	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
The Food Project Lot #3	0.12		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Warren Gardens Community Garden	0.26		CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				Roxbury	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
YMCA Athletic Field	2.34		Private	NULL	NULL				Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Binford Street Park	0.45	X	Private	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit/ Ch91/WPA			South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Children's Museum Plaza	0.44	X	Private	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Fan Pier Harborwalk	1.66	X	Private	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Fort Point Channel Harborwalk	1.42	X	Private	NULL	NULL	CAT Mit			South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Foster's Nook CG II	0.04	X	CG/NP	NULL	CG/NP				South Boston	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
ICA Pier Walk	0.28	X	Private	NULL	NULL				South Boston	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Pier Four Harborwalk	0.09	X	Private	NULL	NULL	Ch91/WPA			South Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Q Park	0.60	X	Private	NULL	Private	MEPA/ Art80 Mit			South Boston	Industrial District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Reserved Channel Harborwalk	3.19	X	Private	NULL	Private	Ch91			South Boston	Industrial District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
St. Augustine Burying Ground	0.91		Private	Private	Private				South Boston	Residential District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
The Park at Fan Pier	1.26	X	Private	Private	Private	Ch91			South Boston	Special District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Boston Medical Center Campus	1.31	X	Private	NULL	NULL				South End	Institutional District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Dartmouth Square	0.17	X	Private	NULL	NULL				South End	Residential District	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mngmnt	Protection	POS	C	Neighborhood (Community)	General Zoning Districts	Current Use (Open Space Type)	Recreational Potential (Open Space Type)
Harrison Urban Garden	0.20		Private	NULL	TTOR				South End	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Unity Towers Garden	0.07		Private	NULL	NULL				South End	Residential District	Community Gardens	Community Gardens
Catholic Memorial H.S. Athltc Fld	7.26		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Centre Marsh	3.72		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Congregation Mishkan Tefia Cemetery	9.58		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Dana Road II	0.20		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Gethsemane Cemetery	20.83		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Grove Street Cemetery	26.09		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Hancock Woods II	4.59		Private	NULL	NULL	100/WPA			West Roxbury	CPS	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches	Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Mount Benedict Cemetery	79.31		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	CPS	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Mount Lebanon Cemetery	48.71		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Open Space District	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Oak Ridge	0.18		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Praught/ Bunker Fields	4.92		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Open Space District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Recuperative Center Lawn	0.31		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	CPS	Malls, Squares & Plazas	Malls, Squares & Plazas
Roxbury Latin School Athletic Fields	38.50		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	Institutional District	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields	Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Shaw Woods II (Roxbury Latin School Woods)	72.95		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
St Joseph's Cemetery	129.11		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	CPS	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds	Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
St. John Chrysostom Tract	4.31		Private	NULL	NULL	100			West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
West Roxbury Quarry	60.17		Private	NULL	NULL				West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas or Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Open Space Outside Boston City Limits: the Mary Cummings Estate

Located partly in both Woburn and Burlington, the Mary Cummings Estate currently consists of approximately 216 acres of mostly vegetated land located north of Boston. This land was donated to the City of Boston by the terms of the will of Ms. Mary Cummings. This donation was accepted by the City in 1930. The purpose of this donation was for the City to "hold and keep [this land] forever open as a public pleasure ground, and to maintain and care for the same in a suitable manner in accordance with that purpose."

For many years, children from Boston were transported to this site for recreation; this practice ceased several decades ago. The land is currently accessible and used for its informal paths for non-motorized travel. It is held by the Trust Office of the City of Boston, with management assistance from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

The Mary Cummings Estate is not within the geographic boundaries of the City of Boston. Therefore, it will not be considered part of the open spaces under the purview of the Open Space Plan. Our open space plan will consider parks owned by the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or other entities that are located within the geographic boundaries of the City of Boston.

The City of Boston acknowledges the importance of this regional resource to Woburn and Burlington. We understand that this property was identified as a priority preservation area through MAPC's recent North Suburban Priority Mapping Project. If any changes are anticipated in the ownership or management of this property we will work closely with Burlington and Woburn in order to take their concerns into consideration.

Section 6

Community Vision

Section 6.1:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS

Introduction

This Open Space Plan update comes out of the ideas and information provided by the residents of Boston through surveys and public meetings along with input from agency officials, field work, and review of past information. The planning and public participation process has been described in Part 2, the Introduction to this plan.

The Planning Process and Public Participation portion of Section 2 (Introduction) described the use of a standardized questionnaire to survey public opinion on open space in Boston as the major means of providing input into the plan. The results of the survey are presented here.

A brief statement of community goals and priorities will be presented in Section 6.2, Statement of Open Space and Recreation Community Goals.

Survey Questionnaire and Results

Questionnaire Development, Distribution, and Coding

The Design and Construction Unit of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department devised a questionnaire with the goal of learning the needs of a cross section of the public. Given limited staff and budgetary resources, the questionnaire was used to elicit a large amount of information by providing a broad range of standardized response categories that could be easily coded in a short period of time. Most of the completed surveys were submitted via the Internet-based survey firm SurveyGizmo.

This process limited manual coding of the standardized responses to the surveys submitted by paper versions distributed to neighborhood Boston Public Library branches and Boston Community Centers located in most neighborhoods. In the case of the paper questionnaires, the manual coding was limited due to the use of a software program that reads scanned paper questionnaires and translates the results into a format compatible with the output of the online survey software. Only where entries were difficult for the software to decipher, either for the "fill-in-the-circles" questions or the text boxes requiring character recognition, was manual coding needed as a supplement.

The survey was available from May 4 to October 31, 2013. Notices about the survey and the opportunity for public input and comment were provided via press releases to citywide and local newspapers, some radio appearances by Parks Department community outreach staff, and via the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services Electronic Notification System. Athletics and special events permit holders were notified by way of electronic mail. Notice was posted on the first page of the city's home web page for the duration of time that the survey was available. It was also posted on the Parks Department's homepage with a direct link to the survey hosted by the SurveyGizmo web site. The Parks Department held a series of public meetings in each neighborhood during the survey period to outline the process of developing the Open Space Plan and to encourage participation in the survey. In addition to hosting the series of meetings, Parks Department staff attended various events and forums such as the Mayor's Annual Health and Fitness Walk for Seniors and the ONEin3 Council (for persons in the 20 to 34 age range), where publicizing the survey yielded more public input from these underrepresented age groups. In all methods of notification and at the end of the questionnaire itself, the public was made aware of the opportunity to convey their opinion and input in writing, beyond the limitations of the survey questionnaire, to an email address specific to this planning process.

To increase outreach, especially to environmental justice communities, the questionnaire was translated into six other languages recommended by the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, an agency which focuses on the needs of newer immigrants living in the city. The languages available were English, Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Brazilian Portuguese, and Cape Verdean Creole. The survey in all seven languages was made available online, a hard copy paper version, and notification to appropriate news outlets in these communities was also made. Copies of the questionnaire in all seven languages will be shown online; the English version is shown at the end of this Section 6.1.

A total of 2,998 survey questionnaires were deemed complete for the purposes of coding and analysis, which compares favorably to the 1,105 survey questionnaires coded and analyzed for the 2008–2014 plan.

We developed questions that sought to obtain information about actual use of parks and open spaces in Boston by the respondents. The introduction to the questionnaire reinforced that this questionnaire was for persons who used Boston parks, even if they were not residents, but not for persons who used only parks in communities outside of Boston city limits. We asked about general activities undertaken in the park used most often, and what features they used. We also asked their preferences on park services and park features (the operating and capital sides of providing park opportunities), and what changes the City could implement that would encourage more frequent visitation. We asked what parks they visit often, how often they visit them over the course of the past year, and whether the park they visit most often is the park closest to their home. We then asked for basic demographic information such as age, gender, race/ethnic origin, neighborhood of residence, and the number of persons under 19 in their household.

Survey Results

Note: For all tables and figures, wherever N (the number of responses or frequency of choice) is greater than 0, but the percent figure is 0%, "0%" should be taken to mean "less than 1%."

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Boston Neighborhood of Residence

We asked several questions to help us get an understanding of the sample population and to compare it to the population of Boston as determined by the 2010 U.S. Census. We also hope to see if characteristics of this population can help explain the responses we received in our survey.

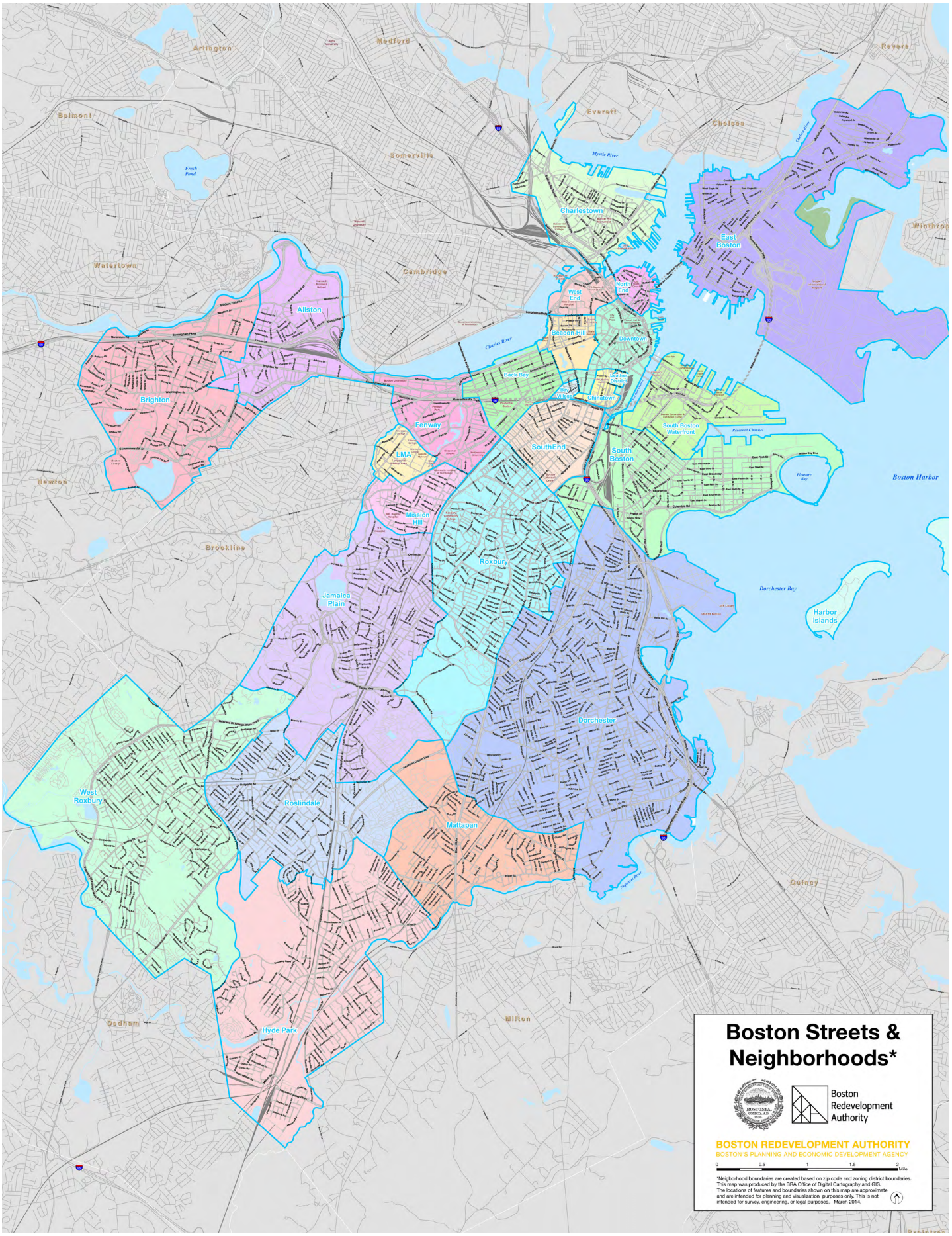
We asked respondents, "in which Boston neighborhood do you live now?" A map was provided in both the paper and online versions. The paper questionnaire's map took up most of a page, and included surrounding towns so that nearby Boston non-residents would know that they did not reside in Boston. The online questionnaire's map was interactive: one could zoom into the area where one resides to help determine more accurately which Boston neighborhood one lives in.

The boundaries of the Boston neighborhoods shown in the survey were the ones recently created by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) based on zip codes and other planning and demographic information (see BRA "Neighborhoods" map below). It is more detailed than the planning districts traditionally used by the Boston Redevelopment Authority's Research Division. We have also prepared for reference a map that shows the Open Space and Recreation Plan communities, which is based on the BRA neighborhoods, but aggregates certain neighborhoods, or in the case of Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Roslindale, slightly redraws the boundaries so that each includes a section of Franklin Park (or the Arnold Arboretum in the case of Roslindale) that said neighborhoods more heavily use.

We found that out of 26 neighborhoods, 11 had a population percentage that differed from the percentage of respondents from that neighborhood (as found in the U.S. 2010 Census) equal to or greater than two (2) percentage points (the difference could be plus or minus). The table and graph illustrates the comparison. The neighborhoods that were substantially overrepresented were Beacon Hill, Charlestown, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roslindale, and the South End. The neighborhoods that were substantially underrepresented were Dorchester, East Boston, Fenway, Hyde Park, Mattapan, and Roxbury.

In the table and graph that look at Boston neighborhood of residence of the sample alone, we see the interesting data point that the second most frequent type of respondent is a non-resident of Boston, at 12% of the sample. Given that 62% of the city's jobs employ non-residents, a significant base of non-resident users of the Boston park system would seem reasonable.

As was mentioned in the 2008–2014 plan, there is a significant overrepresentation of Jamaica Plain residents in the survey sample as compared to the 2010 census; this likely results from "… Jamaica Plain, with its considerable acreage of public open space and its good public transit access to downtown, [being] a popular location for residents in the city with a stronger than average appreciation of the role of open space in daily life. This neighborhood has a history of organizing to protect existing open space resources and create new open spaces, such as the Southwest Corridor Park. Therefore, it has a considerable number of long-term stakeholders with an acute awareness of the need for open space in daily life. Many of these stakeholders have a history of organizing and activism at the local level on land use and environmental issues. Therefore, they would be likely to complete and return the survey questionnaire, and consequently be overrepresented in the new survey sample." (from Section 6 of the 2008–2014 Open Space Plan.)


Boston Streets & Neighborhoods*
Boston Redevelopment Authority
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOSTON'S PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Mile
*Neighborhood boundaries are created based on zip code and zoning district boundaries. This map was produced by the BRA Office of Digital Cartography and GIS. The locations of features and boundaries shown on this map are approximate and are intended for planning and visualization purposes only. This is not intended for survey, engineering, or legal purposes. March 2014.
Arlington
Medford
Revere
Belmont
Everett
Chelsea
Somerville
Fresh Pond
Mystic River
Charlestown
East Boston
Winthrop
Watertown
Cambridge
North End
West End
Allston
Beacon Hill
Downtown
Charles River
Back Bay
Leather District
Bay Village
Chinatown
Brighton
Fenway
South Boston Waterfront
Reserved Channel
SouthEnd
South Boston
LMA
Pleasure Bay
Boston Harbor
Newton
Mission Hill
Brookline
Roxbury
Dorchester Bay
Jamaica Plain
Harbor Islands
Dorchester
West Roxbury
Roslindale
Mattapan
Quincy
Milton
Hyde Park
Dedham

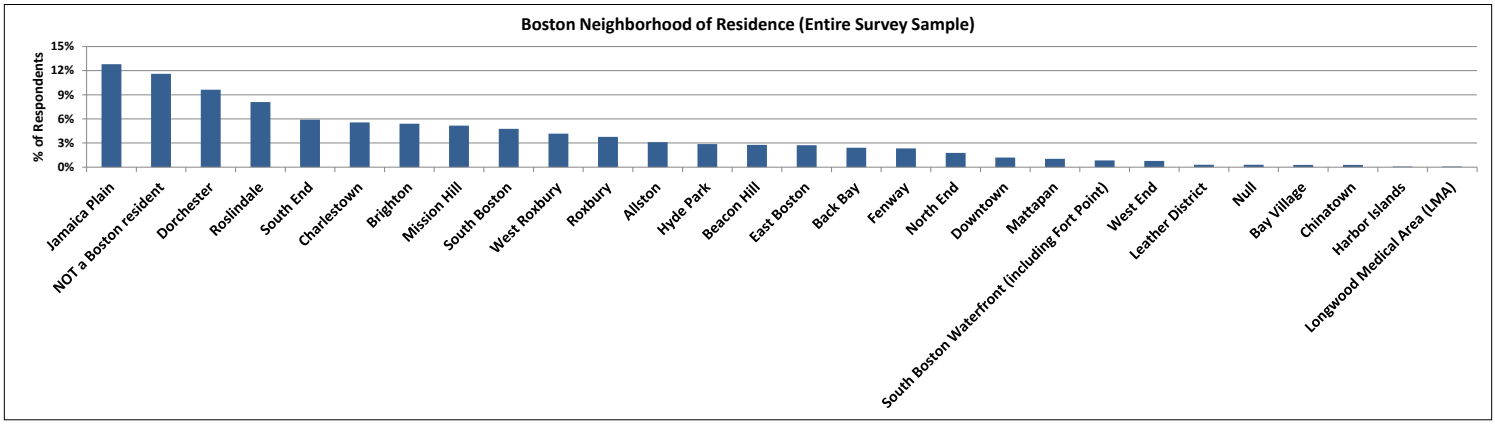
Harbor Islands
EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
SOMERVILLE
Charlestown
East Boston
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
Central Boston
Allston-Brighton
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Fenway/Longwood
South End
South Boston
BROOKLINE
Mission Hill
NEWTON
Roxbury
Harbor Islands
Jamaica Plain
Dorchester
West Roxbury
Roslindale
Mattapan
QUINCY
Hyde Park
MILTON
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles
N
City of Boston
MAPC Region
Regional Context:
Communities within Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

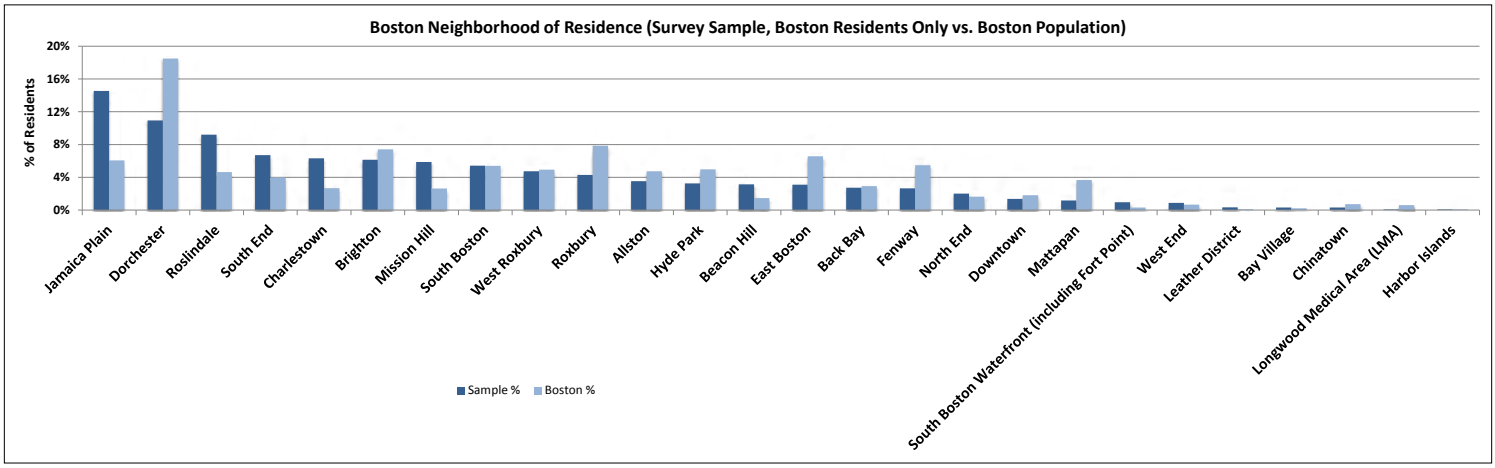
Boston Neighborhood of Residence (Entire Survey Sample)	N	%
Allston	93	3%
Back Bay	72	2%
Bay Village	8	0%
Beacon Hill	83	3%
Brighton	162	5%
Charlestown	167	6%
Chinatown	8	0%
Dorchester	289	10%
Downtown	36	1%
East Boston	82	3%
Fenway	70	2%
Harbor Islands	2	0%
Hyde Park	86	3%
Jamaica Plain	384	13%
Leather District	9	0%
Longwood Medical Area (LMA)	2	0%
Mattapan	31	1%
Mission Hill	155	5%
North End	53	2%
Roslindale	243	8%
Roxbury	113	4%
South Boston	143	5%
South Boston Waterfront (including Fort Point)	25	1%
South End	177	6%
West End	23	1%
West Roxbury	125	4%
NOT a Boston resident	348	12%
Null	9	0%
Total Respondents	**2,998**	**100%**

"0%" due to rounding for percentages less than 0.5%

Boston Neighborhood of Residence (Survey Sample, Boston Residents Only vs. Boston Population)	Sample N	Sample %	Boston[1]	Boston %
Allston	93	4%	29,196	5%
Back Bay	72	3%	18,088	3%
Bay Village	8	0%	1,312	0%
Beacon Hill	83	3%	9,023	1%
Brighton	162	6%	45,801	7%
Charlestown	167	6%	16,439	3%
Chinatown	8	0%	4,444	1%
Dorchester	289	11%	114,235	18%
Downtown	36	1%	11,215	2%
East Boston	82	3%	40,508	7%
Fenway	70	3%	33,796	5%
Harbor Islands	2	0%	535	0%
Hyde Park	86	3%	30,637	5%
Jamaica Plain	384	15%	37,468	6%
Leather District	9	0%	639	0%
Longwood Medical Area (LMA)	2	0%	3,785	1%
Mattapan	31	1%	22,600	4%
Mission Hill	155	6%	16,305	3%
North End	53	2%	10,131	2%
Roslindale	243	9%	28,680	5%
Roxbury	113	4%	48,454	8%
South Boston	143	5%	33,311	5%
South Boston Waterfront (including Fort Point)	25	1%	1,889	0%
South End	177	7%	24,577	4%
West End	23	1%	4,080	1%
West Roxbury	125	5%	30,446	5%
Total	**2641**	**100%**	**617,594**	**100%**

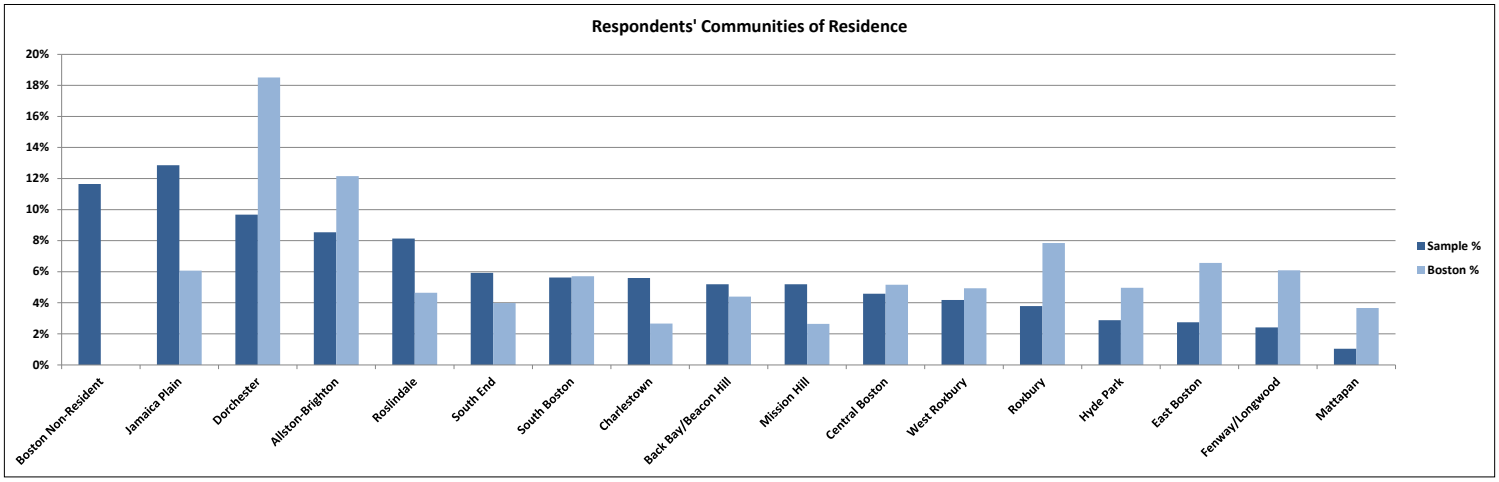
"0%" due to rounding for percentages less than 0.5%
[1] 2010 U.S. Census





Respondents' Communities of Residence	Sample %	Boston %
Boston Non-Resident	12%	0%
Jamaica Plain	13%	6%
Dorchester	10%	19%
Allston-Brighton	9%	12%
Roslindale	8%	5%
South End	6%	4%
South Boston	6%	6%
Charlestown	6%	3%
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	5%	4%
Mission Hill	5%	3%
Central Boston	5%	5%
West Roxbury	4%	5%
Roxbury	4%	8%
Hyde Park	3%	5%
East Boston	3%	7%
Fenway/Longwood	2%	6%
Mattapan	1%	4%

Communities	Neighborhoods
Allston-Brighton	Allston
	Brighton
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	Back Bay
	Beacon Hill
Central Boston	Bay Village
	Chinatown
	Downtown
	Leather District
	North End
	West End
Fenway/Longwood	Fenway
	Longwood Medical Area
South Boston	South Boston
	South Boston Waterfront (including Fort Point)



Present Age Group

Our next demographic question was, "what is your present age?" We provided several age group categories in 10-year ranges except for "15–19 years" and "80 years and over," with a "do not wish to answer" option.

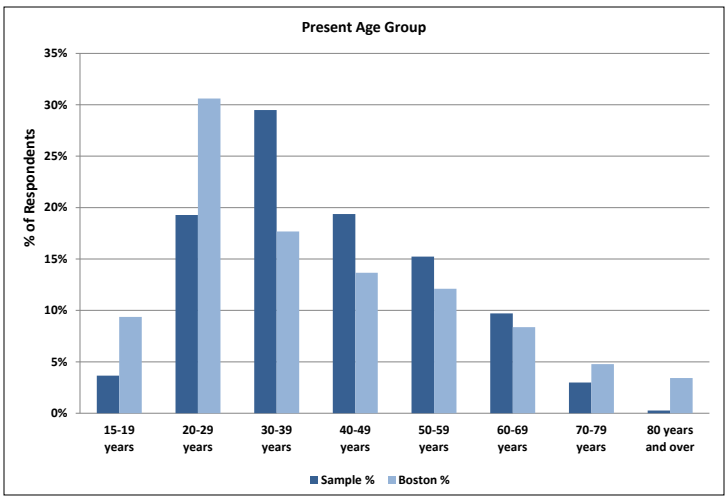
The modal category among the responses was 30–39 years (29%), then 40–49 years (19%), and 20–29 years (19%). The only other age groups that were in the double digit percentage response rate were 50-59 years (15%) and 60–69 years (10%).

Using the current Census data, we see that that 31% of Boston's population is in the 20–29 age group, significantly above the 19% participation by this age cohort in the survey sample. Many of this age group are college and graduate students, with a significant number not originally residing from this area. It can be hard to reach this age cohort on local issues and concerns. In fact, we made an additional effort to reach out to this group through providing fliers at a college student festival held annually in the beginning of the school year at the Hynes Convention Center in the Back Bay neighborhood, and by presenting a talk and discussion with the Mayor's ONEin3 Council in the fall of 2013.

Instead, we see that in the age cohorts from 30–39 on up to 60–69, those ages that are more likely engaged in local affairs and concerns, there is an overrepresentation versus the U.S. Census representation of these age groups in the Boston population. Given that these are ages where the care of pre- and college-age children likely occurs, this overrepresentation may not be as significant in a general sense, as these caregivers can convey the needs of their children as well as their own.

Present Age Group	N	%	Boston	%
15–19 years	108	4%	49,826	9%
20–29 years	568	19%	162,820	31%
30–39 years	869	29%	94,049	18%
40–49 years	571	19%	72,675	14%
50–59 years	449	15%	64,388	12%
60–69 years	286	10%	44,514	8%
70–79 years	88	3%	25,379	5%
80 years and over	8	0%	18,177	3%
Refuse to answer	39			
Null	12			
Total Respondents*	**2947**	**100%**	**531,828**	**100%**

*Does not include "refuse to answer" and "null"



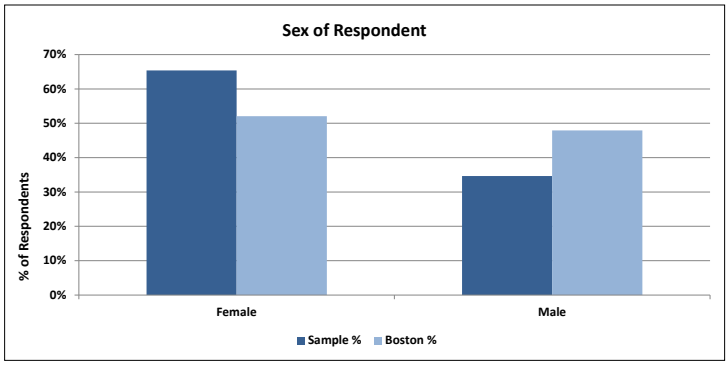
Gender

We also asked each respondent, "What is your sex (gender)?" The choice "female" was chosen by 65% of the respondents; the choice "male" was chosen by 34% of the respondents.

The 2010 U.S. Census data for Boston shows that 52% of persons were female and 48% were male. Obviously, the survey sample is skewed with an over representation of female respondents.

Sex of Respondent	Sample N	Sample %	Boston N	Boston %
Female	1,949	65%	321,643	52%
Male	1,032	35%	295,951	48%
Total Respondents	**2,981**	**100%**	**617,594**	**100%**

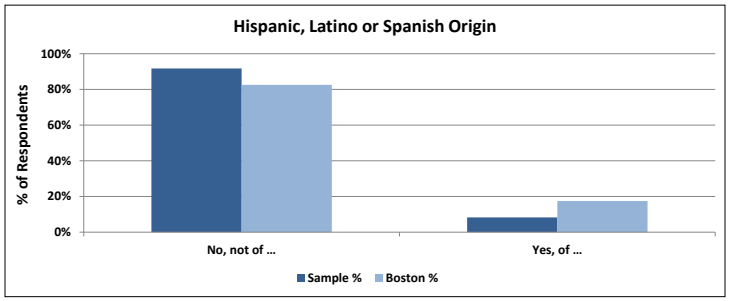
*17 respondents provided null responses or did not wish to answer



Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin of Respondents

We asked the question, "Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?" The large majority of the respondents answered, "no, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin" (91%), as compared to those who answered, "yes, of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin" (8%). This compares to the 2010 U.S. Census figure for the City of Boston of 18% that identify as of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.

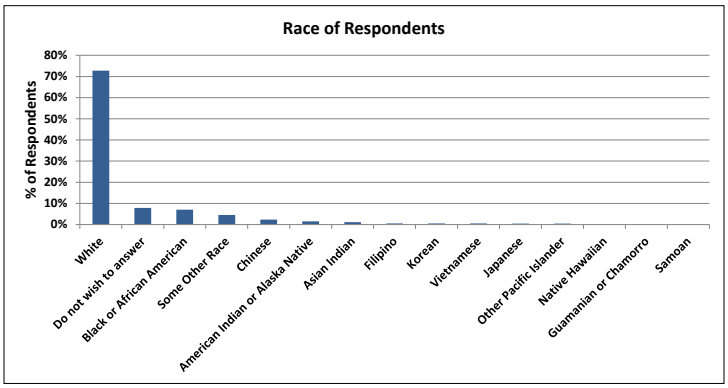
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin	Sample N	Sample %	Boston N	Boston %
No, not of …	2731	92%	509,677	83%
Yes, of …	245	8%	107,917	17%
Total Respondents	**2976**	**100%**	**617,594**	**100%**



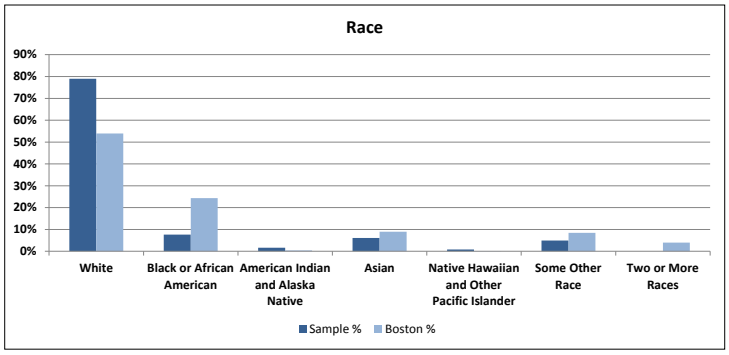
Race of Respondents

The questionnaire's next to last question was "what is your race?" We provided the categories used in the 2010 U.S. Census, and instructed respondents to "please fill all circles that apply to you."

Race of Respondents	N	%
White	2290	73%
Do not wish to answer	247	8%
Black of African American	222	7%
Some Other Race	142	5%
Chinese	75	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	48	2%
Asian Indian	37	1%
Filipino	18	1%
Korean	16	1%
Vietnamese	16	1%
Japanese	14	0%
Other Pacific Islander	14	0%
Native Hawaiian	3	0%
Guamanian or Chamorro	3	0%
Samoan	3	0%
Total Respondents	**3148**	**100%**



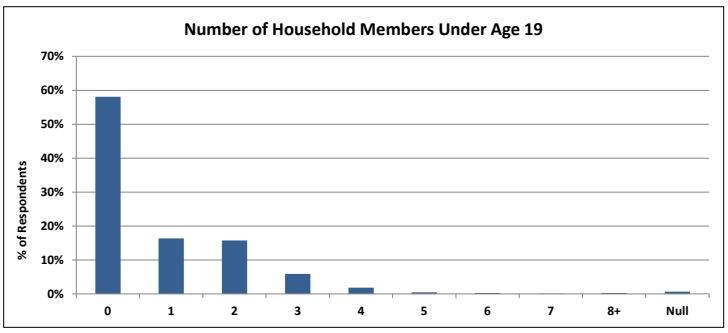
Race	Sample N	Sample %	Boston N	Boston
White	2290	79%	333,033	54%
Black or African American	222	8%	150,437	24%
American Indian and Alaska Native	48	2%	2,399	0%
Asian	176	6%	55,235	9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	23	1%	265	0%
Some Other Race	142	5%	51,893	8%
Two or More Races			24332	4%
Total	**2901**	**100%**	**617,594**	**100%**



Number of Household Members under Age 19

The last question of the questionnaire was "How many persons in your household are under the age of 19 years, including yourself?" The chart and graph shows that the majority of respondents (58%) are in households where no household member is under the age of 19 years.

Number of Household Members Under Age 19	N	%
0	1742	58%
1	491	16%
2	473	16%
3	178	6%
4	56	2%
5	15	1%
6	9	0%
7	4	0%
8+	9	0%
Null	21	1%
Total Respondents	2998	100%



City of Boston, 2010 Census (SF-1)	N	%
Total households	**252,699**	**100.00%**
With children under 18 years	58,610	23.20%
No children under 18 years	194,089	76.80%

While not a majority of households, households with children 18 years and younger represent a constituency that tends to be more reliant on close-to-home open space and outdoor recreation resources, such as playgrounds, little league, football, and soccer fields, and basketball and tennis courts. The fact that households with members under age 19 are close to a majority of respondents' households is important as it will be a factor in determining park and recreation operating and capital investment decisions.

Activity Pursued in Boston Parks

Our first survey question was "What do you do when you visit parks in Boston?" This question allowed respondents to choose more than one response. Therefore, total responses add to more than the total number of the respondents. For the paper questionnaires, the responses were arrayed alphabetically to prevent unintended bias in response presentation. For the online questionnaires, the setting was enabled that randomized the responses for each respondents.

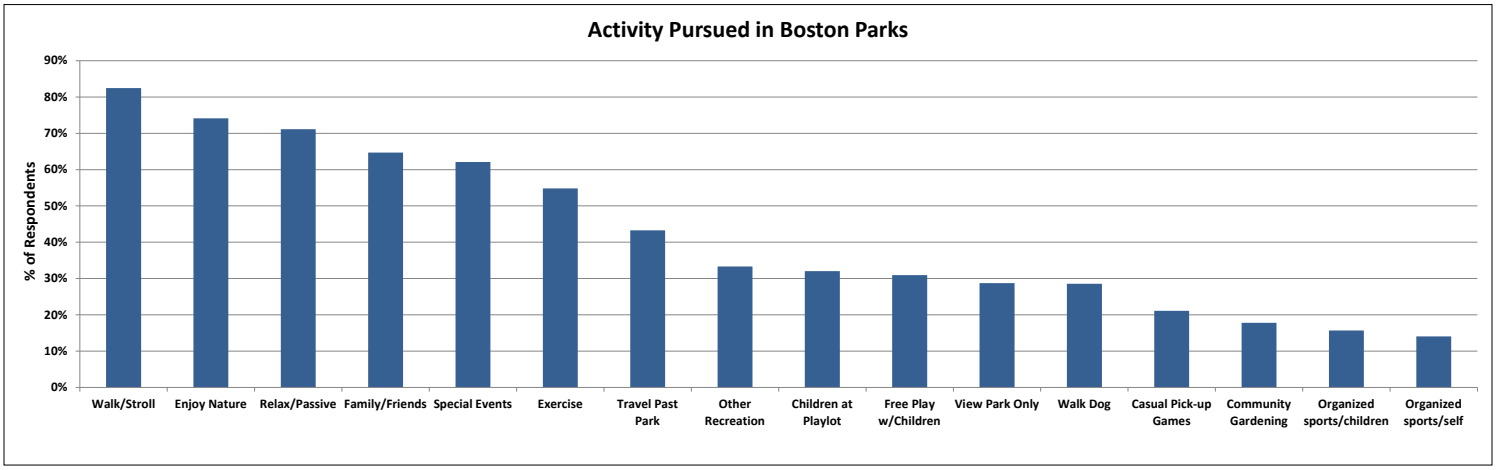
Activity Pursued in Boston Parks	N	%*
Walk/Stroll	2,472	82%
Enjoy Nature	2,223	74%
Relax/Passive	2,132	71%
Family/Friends	1,940	65%
Special Events	1,862	62%
Exercise	1,643	55%
Travel Past Park	1,297	43%
Other Recreation	999	33%
Children at Playlot	960	32%
Free Play w/Children	927	31%
View Park Only	861	29%
Walk Dog	856	29%
Casual Pick-up Games	633	21%
Community Gardening	534	18%
Organized sports/children	470	16%
Organized sports/self	421	14%
Total Responses	**20,230**	**100%**

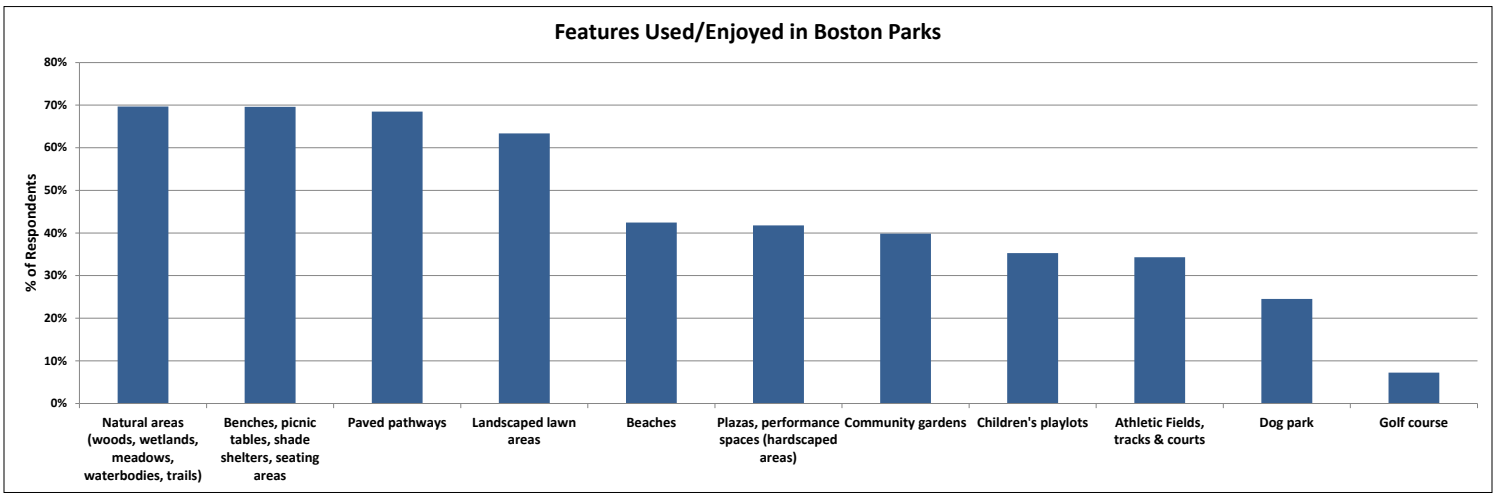
* % of 2998 Respondents

Feature Types Used or Enjoyed at Parks in Boston

This question allowed respondents to choose more than one response. Therefore, total responses add to more than the total number of the respondents. For the paper questionnaires, the responses were arrayed alphabetically to prevent unintended bias in response presentation. For the online questionnaires, the setting was enabled that randomized the responses for each respondents.

Features Used/Enjoyed in Boston Parks	N	%
Natural areas (woods, wetlands, meadows, waterbodies, unpaved trails)	2,089	70%
Benches, picnic tables, shade shelters, seating areas, barbeque areas	2,087	70%
Paved pathways	2,053	68%
Landscaped lawn areas	1,900	63%
Beaches	1273	42%
Plazas, performance spaces (hardscaped areas)	1,252	42%
Community gardens	1,194	40%
Children's playlots	1,058	35%
Athletic fields, tracks & courts	1,028	34%
Dog park	735	25%
Golf course	217	7%
Total Respondents	**2,998**	**100%**

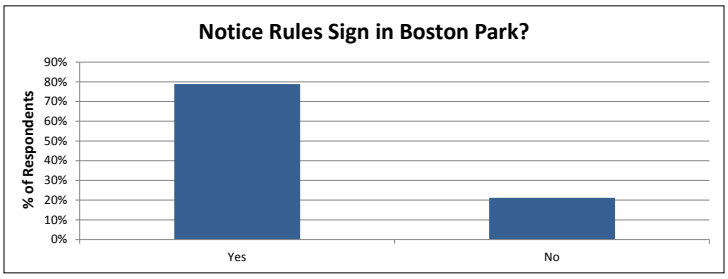




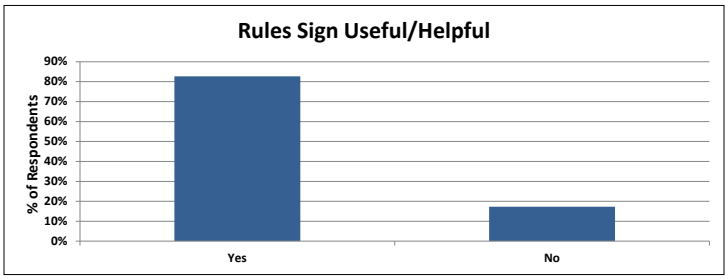
Park Rules Sign

The first of this pair of questions asked respondents if they noticed the parks rules sign in the park. For those who answered "yes," we asked the second question, do they think these signs are useful or helpful? For the vast majority of respondents who used the online questionnaire, the software allowed for an enforced skip logic to occur: if one answered yes, then the question about the signs' helpfulness or utility was presented as the next question; if one answered no, then the next question was not the one about sign's helpfulness or utility. However, for those using the paper questionnaire, the respondent was free to not use the skip logic as written on the questionnaire. Therefore, the possibility existed for the number of respondents who answered yes to the first question to be less than the number of persons answering the second question, no matter which answer they chose for the second question. Instead, we found that the number of persons answering "yes," they noticed the rules sign (2,263) to be slightly greater than the number of persons who answered the second question of whether they found it useful or helpful (2,258).

Notice Rules Sign in Boston Park	N	%
Yes	2,263	79%
No	607	21%
Total Respondents (out of 2998)	**2,870**	**96%**



Rules Sign Useful/Helpful	N	%
Yes	1,867	83%
No	391	17%
Total Respondents	**2,258**	**100%**

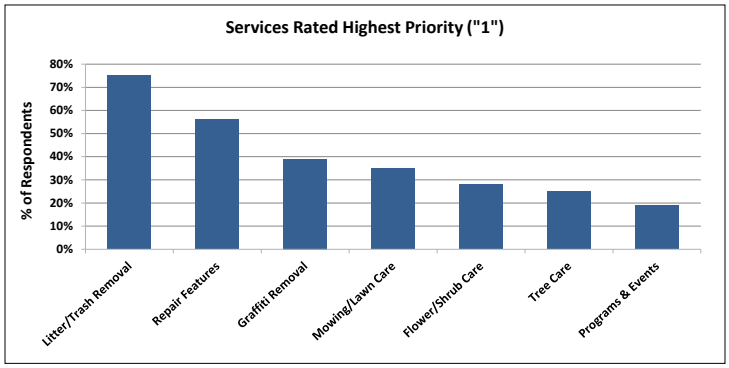


Priority Rating of Service Delivery

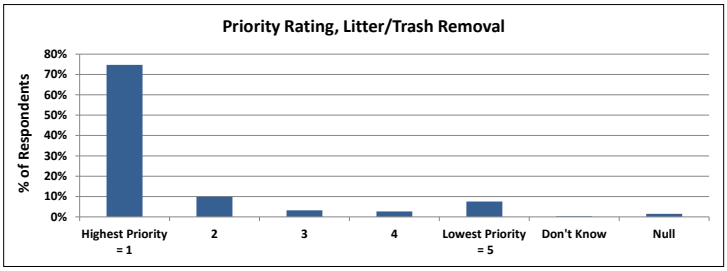
This question asked respondents to rate the priority from 1 for the highest priority to 5 for the lowest priority* for several services the Parks Department provides. We looked at two ways of analyzing the data. The first is to compare the frequency with which a particular service was rated 1 for highest priority.

The second way to view this data is to compare the array of priority ratings for each service against each other: this can be done easily by comparing the graphs with each other, observing the "shapes" of the graphs, i.e., comparing each service's distribution of the priority ratings.

Services Rated Highest Priority ("1")	%
Litter/Trash Removal	75%
Repair Features	56%
Graffiti Removal	39%
Mowing/Lawn Care	35%
Flower/Shrub Care	28%
Tree Care	25%
Programs & Events	19%

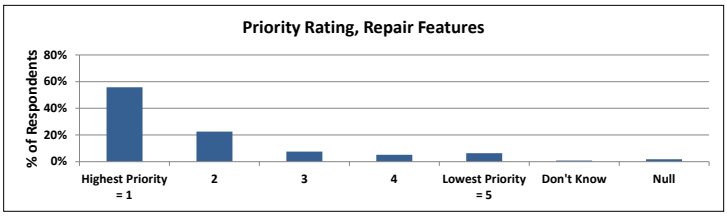


Priority Rating, Litter/Trash Removal	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	2,241	75%
2	297	10%
3	97	3%
4	80	3%
Lowest Priority = 5	227	8%
Don't Know	10	0%
Null	46	2%
Total Respondents	**2,998**	**100%**

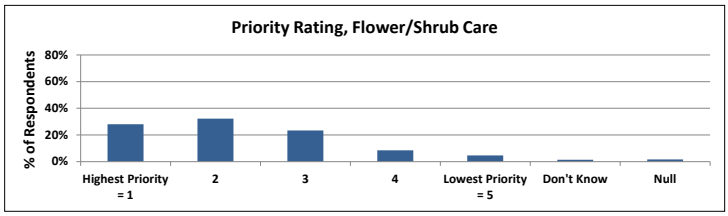


*There is a school of thought in the questionnaire development field that higher numbers should be used for the highest levels in a ranking question such as this one. In other words, they posit that we should have used "5" for the highest priority ranking, and "1" for the lowest priority ranking. While we are sure there is much scientific evidence to back that concept, we felt that given the small number of priority rankings (1 to 5) in this scale, that the questions prominently displayed "1" as highest priority, and "5" as lowest priority twice, including once immediately over the displayed scale, and that commonly the number "1" is thought of as connoting the "best" or "highest," as in "We're Number 1," "Quality is Job 1," "The Number 1 Selling ____ in America," etc., our team felt it best to go for this alternative ranking scale. If the scale had been a 1 to 10 scale, perhaps we would have used 10 as highest priority, given the fairly common association of 10 with highly regarded features ("That's a 10!").

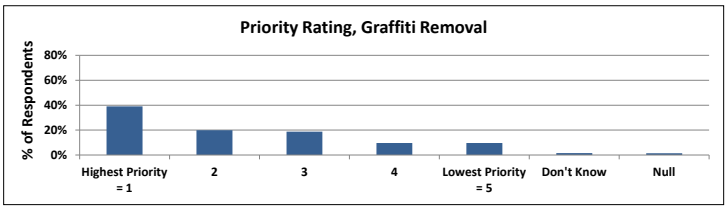
Priority Rating, Repair Features	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	1,673	56%
2	677	23%
3	228	8%
4	153	5%
Lowest Priority = 5	190	6%
Don't Know	24	1%
Null	53	2%



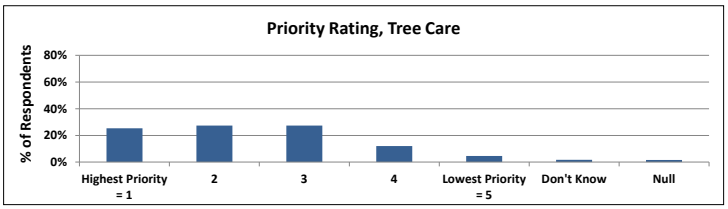
Priority Rating, Flower/Shrub Care	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	840	28%
2	967	32%
3	702	23%
4	256	9%
Lowest Priority = 5	140	5%
Don't Know	43	1%
Null	50	2%



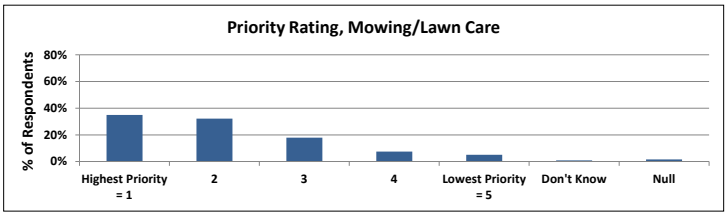
Priority Rating, Graffiti Removal	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	1,169	39%
2	598	20%
3	561	19%
4	288	10%
Lowest Priority = 5	289	10%
Don't Know	48	2%
Null	45	2%



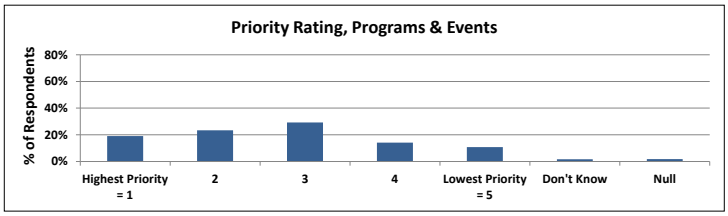
Priority Rating, Tree Care	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	759	25%
2	821	27%
3	819	27%
4	362	12%
Lowest Priority = 5	138	5%
Don't Know	52	2%
Null	47	2%



Priority Rating, Mowing/Lawn Care	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	1,048	35%
2	964	32%
3	538	18%
4	225	8%
Lowest Priority = 5	152	5%
Don't Know	25	1%
Null	46	2%



Priority Rating, Programs & Events	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	570	19%
2	700	23%
3	879	29%
4	424	14%
Lowest Priority = 5	322	11%
Don't Know	49	2%
Null	54	2%

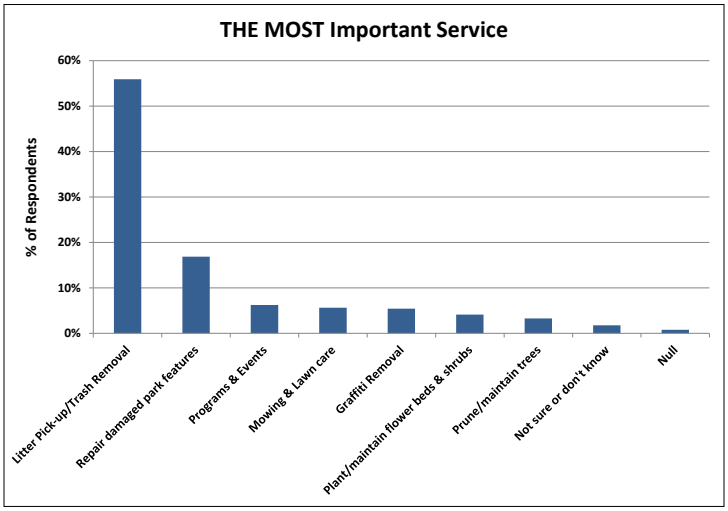


Importance Rankings of Park Services

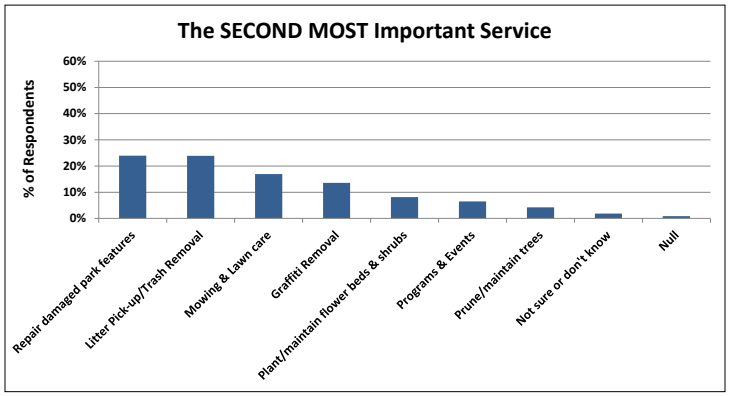
In the prior question, we asked respondents to rate the priority for several park services. It is conceivable that a respondent could rate every service the highest priority ("1"). In fact, several respondents did that. To enable us to understand those services that are important to the public, we added three questions, each of which allowed only one answer: what is the most important service, the second most important service, and the third most important service.

Based on the analysis for the priority ratings and the analysis for the importance rankings, it appears that the public clearly values litter pick-up and trash removal as the primary service to be delivered; the second in value would be repair of damaged park features; the third in value would most likely be mowing and lawn care given how highly it is valued as a second and third most important service, as well as the high priority ratings it earns. Graffiti removal comes in as a close fourth, more based on the priority ratings.

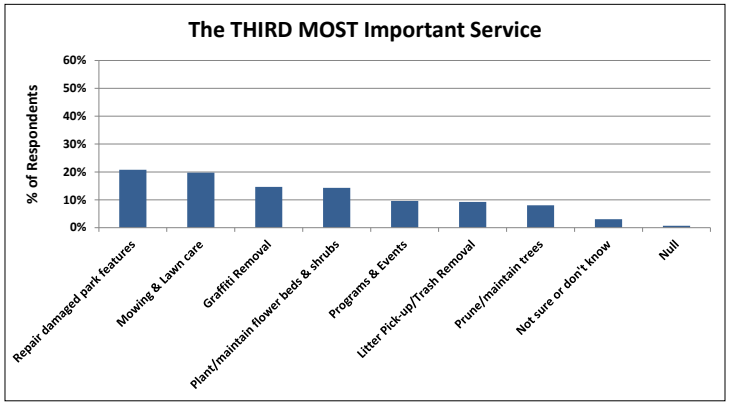
The MOST Important Service	N	%
Litter Pick-up/Trash Removal	1,677	56%
Repair damaged park features	506	17%
Programs & Events	187	6%
Mowing & Lawn care	169	6%
Graffiti Removal	162	5%
Plant/maintain flower beds & shrubs	123	4%
Prune/maintain trees	98	3%
Not sure or don't know	53	2%
Null	23	1%



The 2nd MOST Important Service	N	%
Repair damaged park features	718	24%
Litter Pick-up/Trash Removal	717	24%
Mowing & Lawn care	508	17%
Graffiti Removal	407	14%
Plant/maintain flower beds & shrubs	245	8%
Programs & Events	194	6%
Prune/maintain trees	127	4%
Not sure or don't know	56	2%
Null	26	1%



The 3rd MOST Important Service	N	%
Repair damaged park features	622	21%
Mowing & Lawn care	591	20%
Graffiti Removal	439	15%
Plant/maintain flower beds & shrubs	429	14%
Programs & Events	288	10%
Litter Pick-up/Trash Removal	277	9%
Prune/maintain trees	240	8%
Not sure or don't know	91	3%
Null	21	1%

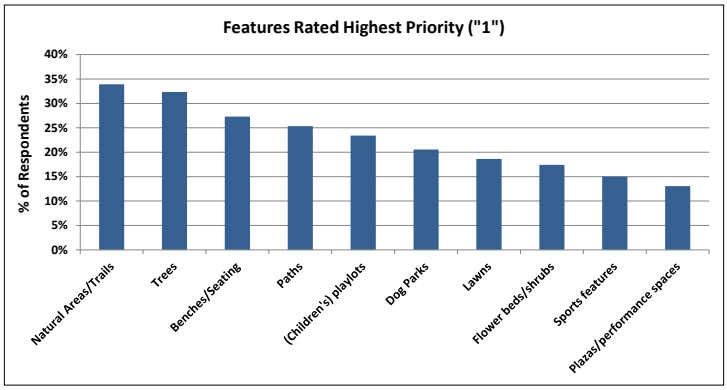


Priority Ratings of Park Features

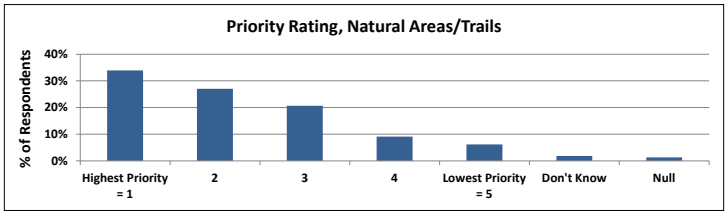
In this question we asked respondents to tell us how high a priority they thought it was to improve or add certain types of features. A scale of 1 to 5, plus a "Don't Know" option, was provided, with "1" as the highest priority and "5" as the lowest priority. A priority rating for each feature was allowed, without any reference to the other features. Therefore, a respondent could respond by saying each feature was a priority 1 rating. Several respondents did that.

We are choosing two analysis methods: one is to compare the frequency each feature was chosen priority rating 1; a second analysis method is a comparison of the response distributions of the 1 to 5 priority ratings for each feature.

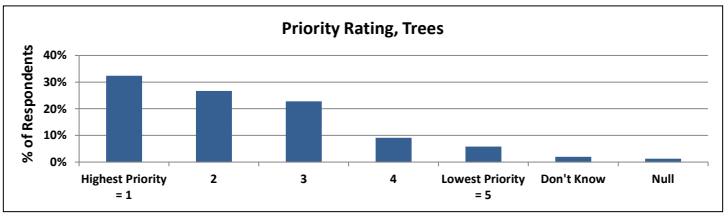
Feature Rated Highest Priority ("1")	%
Natural Areas/Trails	34%
Trees	32%
Benches/Seating	27%
Paths	25%
(Children's) playlots	23%
Dog Parks	21%
Lawns	19%
Flower beds/shrubs	17%
Sports features	15%
Plazas/performance spaces	13%



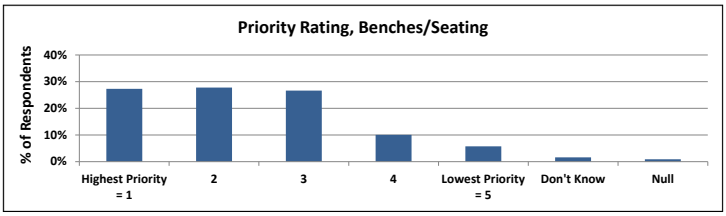
Priority Rating, Natural Areas/Trails	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	1,017	34%
2	810	27%
3	619	21%
4	272	9%
Lowest Priority = 5	184	6%
Don't Know	56	2%
Null	40	1%
Total Respondents	**2,998**	**100%**



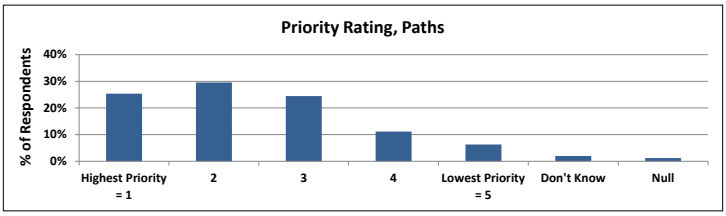
Priority Rating, Trees	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	970	32%
2	800	27%
3	683	23%
4	274	9%
Lowest Priority = 5	175	6%
Don't Know	59	2%
Null	37	1%



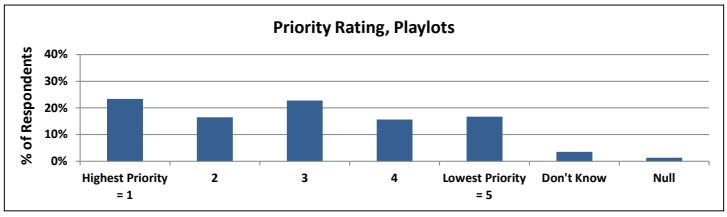
Priority Rating, Benches/Seating	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	819	27%
2	834	28%
3	799	27%
4	301	10%
Lowest Priority = 5	171	6%
Don't Know	48	2%
Null	26	1%



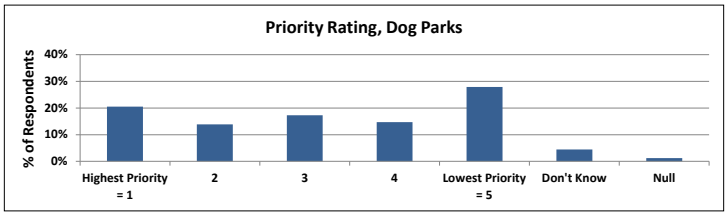
Priority Rating, Paths	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	760	25%
2	886	30%
3	734	24%
4	335	11%
Lowest Priority = 5	188	6%
Don't Know	59	2%
Null	36	1%



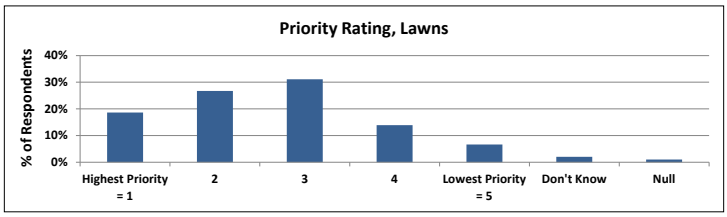
Priority Rating, Playlots	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	702	23%
2	495	17%
3	683	23%
4	469	16%
Lowest Priority = 5	502	17%
Don't Know	107	4%
Null	40	1%



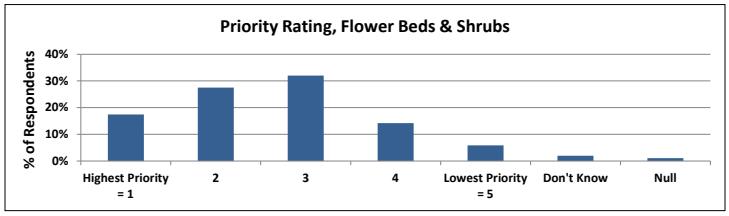
Priority Rating, Dog Parks	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	616	21%
2	416	14%
3	518	17%
4	441	15%
Lowest Priority = 5	836	28%
Don't Know	134	4%
Null	37	1%



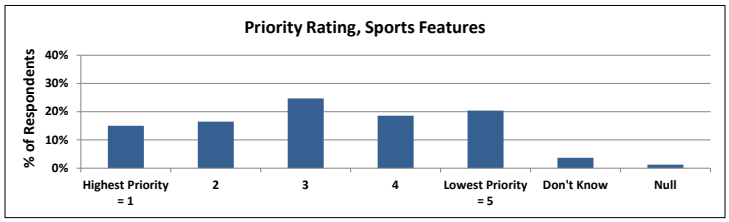
Priority Rating, Lawns	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	558	19%
2	801	27%
3	932	31%
4	417	14%
Lowest Priority = 5	199	7%
Don't Know	61	2%
Null	30	1%



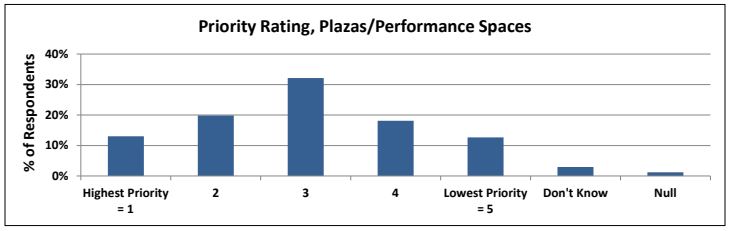
Priority Rating, Flower Beds & Shrubs	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	522	17%
2	824	27%
3	960	32%
4	426	14%
Lowest Priority = 5	175	6%
Don't Know	59	2%
Null	32	1%



Priority Rating, Sports Features	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	450	15%
2	494	16%
3	740	25%
4	557	19%
Lowest Priority = 5	611	20%
Don't Know	109	4%
Null	37	1%



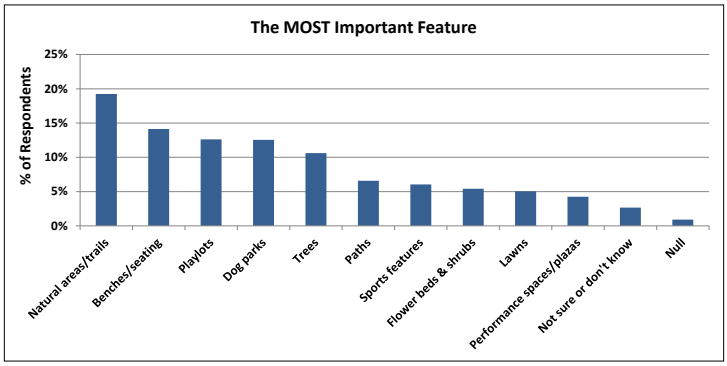
Priority Rating, Plazas/Performance Spaces	N	%
Highest Priority = 1	391	13%
2	595	20%
3	964	32%
4	544	18%
Lowest Priority = 5	380	13%
Don't Know	88	3%
Null	36	1%



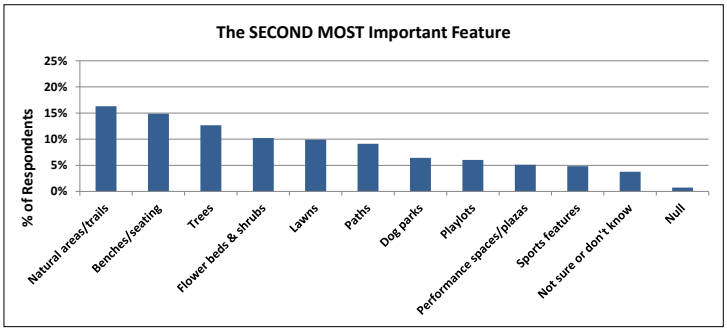
Importance Rankings of Park Features

In the prior question, we asked respondents to rate the priority for several park features. It is conceivable that a respondent could rate every feature the highest priority ("1"). In fact, several respondents did that. To enable us to understand those features that are important to the public, we added three questions, each of which allowed only one answer: what is the most important feature, the second most important feature, and the third most important feature to be improved or added?

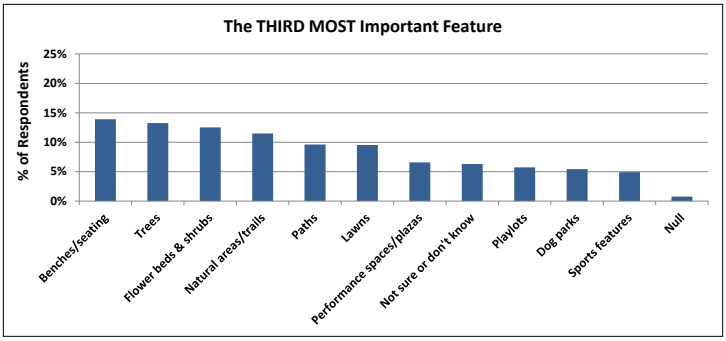
The MOST Important Feature	N	%
Natural areas/trails	577	19%
Benches/seating	424	14%
Playlots	378	13%
Dog parks	376	13%
Trees	318	11%
Paths	197	7%
Sports features	181	6%
Flower beds & shrubs	162	5%
Lawns	151	5%
Performance spaces/plazas	127	4%
Not sure or don't know	80	3%
Null	27	1%



The 2nd MOST Important Feature	N	%
Natural areas/trails	489	16%
Benches/seating	446	15%
Trees	380	13%
Flower beds & shrubs	306	10%
Lawns	297	10%
Paths	273	9%
Dog parks	193	6%
Playlots	181	6%
Performance spaces/plazas	153	5%
Sports features	145	5%
Not sure or don't know	113	4%
Null	22	1%



The 3rd MOST Important Feature	N	%
Benches/seating	417	14%
Trees	397	13%
Flower beds & shrubs	375	13%
Natural areas/trails	344	11%
Paths	288	10%
Lawns	286	10%
Performance spaces/plazas	197	7%
Not sure or don't know	189	6%
Playlots	172	6%
Dog parks	163	5%
Sports features	147	5%
Null	23	1%

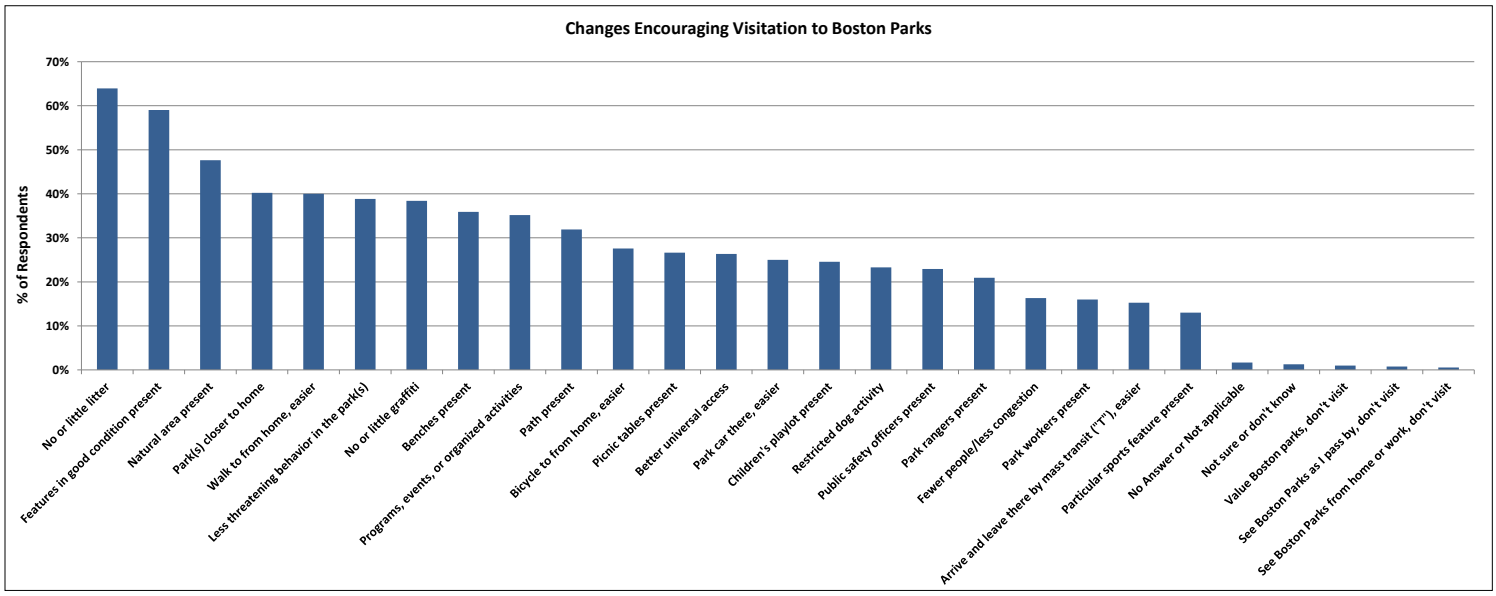


Based on the analysis for the priority ratings and the analysis for the importance rankings, it appears that the public clearly values natural areas/trails and benches/seating, with trees almost as valued. It is less clear from the priority ratings and importance rankings what the order of value by the public would be for the other features.

Changes Encouraging Visitation to Boston Parks

There was a fairly comprehensive list of responses to the question "what changes would encourage you to visit a park in Boston more often?" Respondents were allowed to pick as many responses to this question as desired. Therefore the number of chosen responses adds up to far more than the total number of respondents. The results are shown as the percent of persons who chose a particular response out of the total number of respondents.

Changes Encouraging Visitation to Boston Parks	N	%
No or little litter	1917	64%
Features in good condition present	1770	59%
Natural area present	1428	48%
Park(s) closer to home	1206	40%
Walk to from home, easier	1199	40%
Less threatening behavior in the park(s)	1164	39%
No or little graffiti	1151	38%
Benches present	1076	36%
Programs, events, or organized activities	1054	35%
Path present	956	32%
Bicycle to from home, easier	827	28%
Picnic tables present	798	27%
Better universal access	790	26%
Park car there, easier	749	25%
Children's playlot present	737	25%
Restricted dog activity	698	23%
Public safety officers present	688	23%
Park rangers present	628	21%
Fewer people/less congestion	489	16%
Park workers present	480	16%
Arrive and leave there by mass transit ("T"), easier	458	15%
Particular sports feature present	390	13%
No Answer or Not applicable	51	2%
Not sure or don't know	39	1%
Value Boston parks, don't visit	30	1%
See Boston Parks as I pass by, don't visit	23	1%
See Boston Parks from home or work, don't visit	17	1%
Total Respondents	**2998**	**100%**



Park Visitation

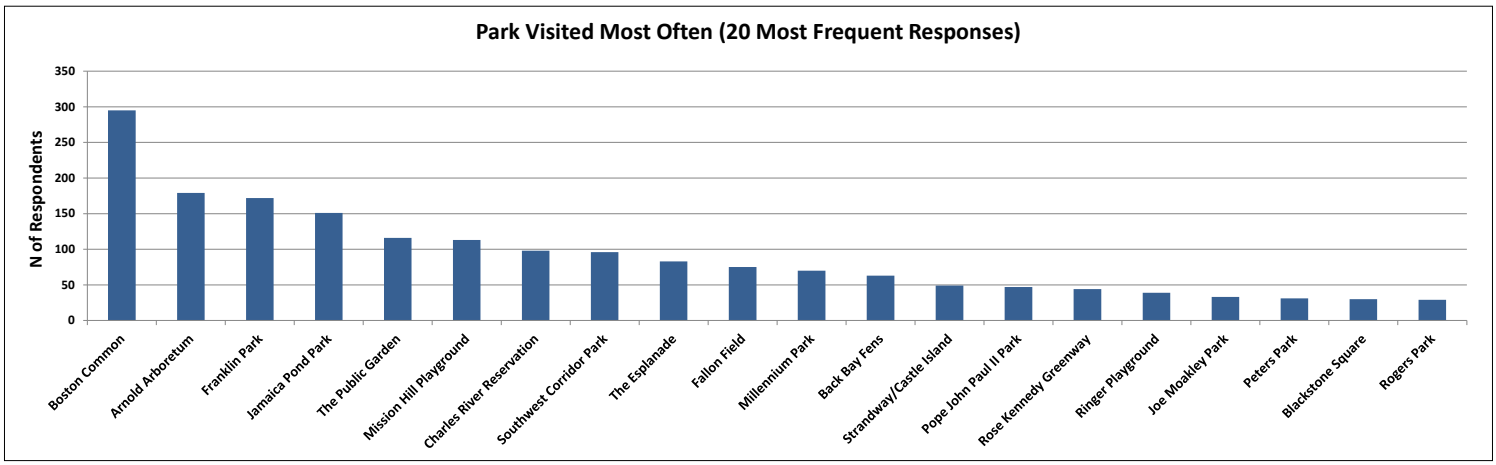
The survey asked a series of questions about the respondent's recent park visitation. Three of the six questions in this series required respondents to enter park or open space names into text boxes. For the online questionnaire, responses were entered by the respondents using their keyboard devices; responses collected through the paper questionnaire had the respondents use pencil or pen to enter the letters of the name into boxes to enable the scanning software to use the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) function to decipher the letters. When the OCR was not able to "read" the letter, it alerted the coder to the need for intervention to decipher the "unreadable" entry. Afterward, once coding was completed, the paper questionnaires output was integrated with the online questionnaire output, and the park names for the three similarly formatted questions were reviewed to insure the greatest accuracy possible.

To assist respondents for the online questionnaire, an GIS-based dynamic map was provided to allow users to zoom in and out to discern the park name and location. The respondent then manually recorded the name into the text box using their keyboard.

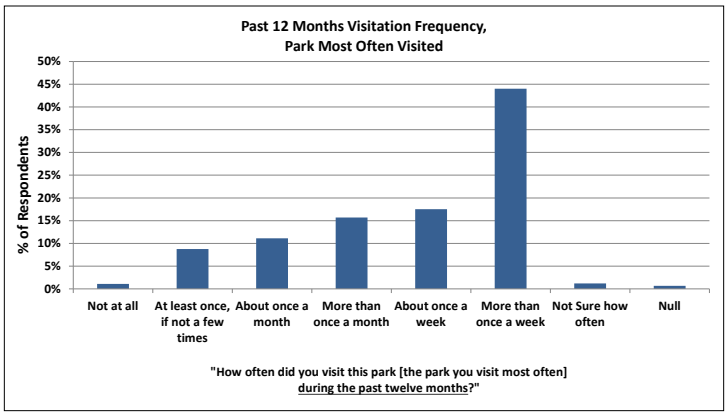
To assist respondents for the paper questionnaire, a booklet of maps was provided with each questionnaire packet sent to the library branches and community centers. The maps focused on sub-neighborhood areas in all parts of the city, and outlined park and open space boundaries with labels giving the park or open space name. The respondent then manually recorded the name into the text box using pen or pencil.

Park Visited Most Often	N	%	Rank
Boston Common	295	10%	1
Arnold Arboretum	179	6%	2
Franklin Park	172	6%	3
Jamaica Pond Park	151	5%	4
The Public Garden	116	4%	5
Mission Hill Playground	113	4%	6
Charles River Reservation	98	3%	7
Southwest Corridor Park	96	3%	8
The Esplanade	83	3%	9
Fallon Field	75	3%	10
Millennium Park	70	2%	11
Back Bay Fens	63	2%	12
Strandway/Castle Island	49	2%	13
Pope John Paul II Park	47	2%	14
Rose Kennedy Greenway	44	1%	15
Ringer Playground	39	1%	16
Joe Moakley Park	33	1%	17
Peters Park	31	1%	18
Blackstone Square	30	1%	19
Rogers Park	29	1%	20

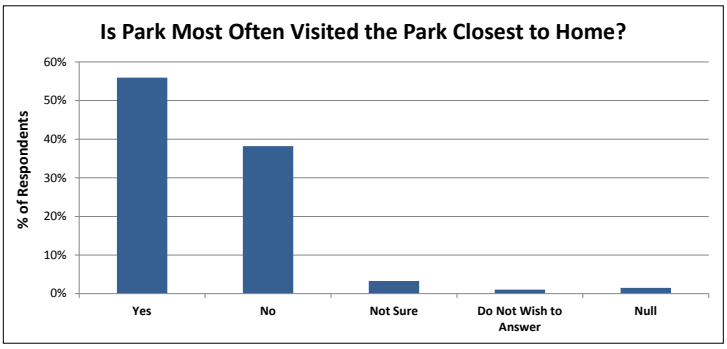
Total Top 20 Ranked "park most often visited" — 60%



Past 12 Months Visitation Frequency, Park Most Often Visited	N	%
Not at all	32	1%
At least once, if not a few times	262	9%
About once a month	333	11%
More than once a month	470	16%
About once a week (about 4x/month)	525	18%
More than once a week	1320	44%
Not Sure how often	36	1%
Null	20	1%

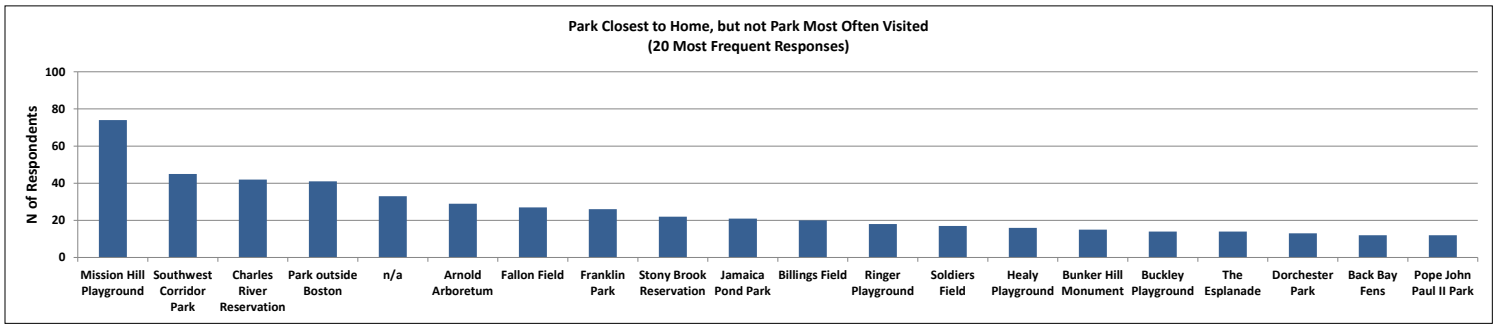


Is the Park Most Often Visited the Park Closest to Home?	N	%
Yes	1677	56%
No	1145	38%
Not Sure	99	3%
Do Not Wish to Answer	32	1%
Null	45	2%



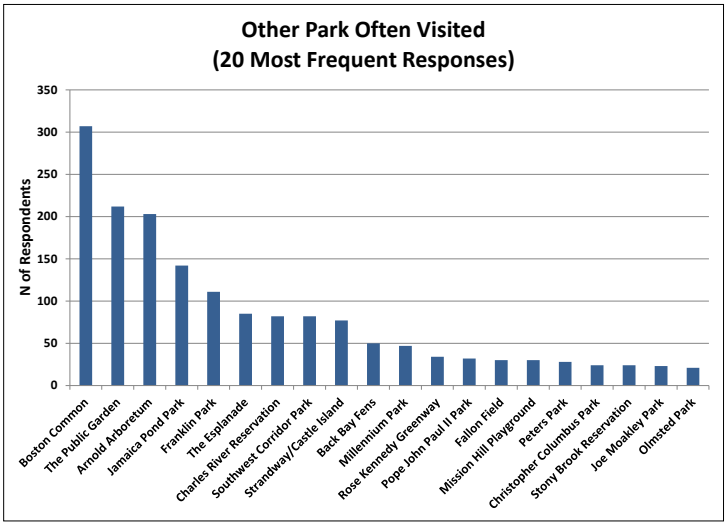
Park Closest to Home, but not Park Most Often Visited	N	%	Rank
Mission Hill Playground	74	2%	1
Southwest Corridor Park	45	2%	2
Charles River Reservation	42	1%	3
Park outside Boston	41	1%	4
n/a	33	1%	5
Arnold Arboretum	29	1%	6
Fallon Field	27	1%	7
Franklin Park	26	1%	8
Stony Brook Reservation	22	1%	9
Jamaica Pond Park	21	1%	10
Billings Field	20	1%	11
Ringer Playground	18	1%	12
Soldiers Field	17	1%	13
Healy Playground	16	1%	14
Bunker Hill Monument	15	1%	15
Buckley Playground	14	0%	16
The Esplanade	14	0%	17
Dorchester Park	13	0%	18
Back Bay Fens	12	0%	19
Pope John Paul II Park	12	0%	20

Top 20 Ranked "park closest to home but not the park most often visited" — 17%

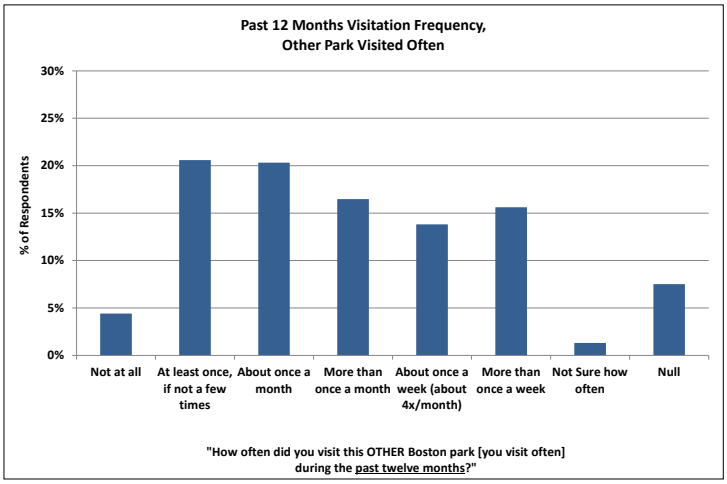


Other Park Often Visited	N	%	Rank
Boston Common	307	10%	1
The Public Garden	212	7%	2
Arnold Arboretum	203	7%	3
Jamaica Pond Park	142	5%	4
Franklin Park	111	4%	5
The Esplanade	85	3%	6
Charles River Reservation	82	3%	7
Southwest Corridor Park	82	3%	8
Strandway/Castle Island	77	3%	9
Back Bay Fens	50	2%	10
Millennium Park	47	2%	11
Rose Kennedy Greenway	34	1%	12
Pope John Paul II Park	32	1%	13
Fallon Field	30	1%	14
Mission Hill Playground	30	1%	15
Peters Park	28	1%	16
Christopher Columbus Park	24	1%	17
Stony Brook Reservation	24	1%	18
Joe Moakley Park	23	1%	19
Olmsted Park	21	1%	20

Total Top 20 Ranked "other park often visited" — 55%



Past 12 Months Visitation Frequency, Other Park Visited Often	N	%
Not at all	132	4%
At least once, if not a few times	617	21%
About once a month	609	20%
More than once a month	494	16%
About once a week (about 4x/month)	414	14%
More than once a week	468	16%
Not Sure how often	39	1%
Null	225	8%



Section 6.2:

STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMUNITY VISION AND GOALS

Introduction

Based on community input through the new Open Space Plan Survey, correspondence, and the series of public meetings held across the city between 2013 and 2014, the City of Boston through its Parks and Recreation Department prepared a set of community goals that will be integrated with a subsequent analysis of needs to develop the plan's Goals and Objectives presented in Section 8.

Community Vision: Visioning the Future of Open Space

The vision or endpoint for our efforts to plan for open space in Boston can be outlined as a set of commonly held images that can inspire, and have been inspired by, the imaginations of residents and professionals alike throughout the discussions that have lead up to this plan.

- Parks that are cleaner than ever with well-maintained paths, benches, play equipment, courts, and fields;
- Parks with healthy trees and other vegetation for enjoyment of nature, production of shade and improvement of air quality;
- Parks with programming by arts groups, and sports, fitness, and recreation providers;
- Play lots that are safe, widely available, that stimulate child development, and provide meeting places for parents and other caregivers;
- Recreational facilities that respond to changing demographics and provide youth and adults alike with opportunities for healthy activity;
- Parks with access to public amenities like drinking fountains and restrooms;
- Parks that provide space for dog recreation and a park system that enforces the rules around management of dog activity in parks;
- Greenways, trails, and bikeways between parks and along the seashore and riverbanks linking neighborhoods as well as open spaces;
- Burying grounds maintained as attractive, historical assets for their neighborhoods;
- Community gardens protected and designed with community enhancement in mind;
- Natural areas and urban wilds with trails that are protected, maintained, and interpreted;
- Improved access to open space through inclusive design and programming, enhanced public transit and non-motorized travel, as well as improved vehicular routes and well-designed streetscapes;
- Acquisition of key open space parcels to protect viewsheds, watersheds, and habitats, buffer existing open spaces, provide needed recreational facilities, and reduce community vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, flooding and sea level rise;
- Continual improvement and innovation in park and open space design, maintenance, and programming, with a particular emphasis on preparing for natural hazards and climate change;
- Corporate, institutional, and business partnership in open space creation, funding, and enhancement;
- Community empowerment through involvement in decision making about the design and care of parks and open spaces; and
- Stable and enhanced funding for the citywide system of open spaces.

Community Open Space and Recreation Goals

The Community Setting section of this plan (Section 3) has indicated that Boston's population includes a variety of ages and a range of population densities. The Environmental Inventory and Analysis section (Section 4) has indicated that Boston is blessed with resources that give it a special sense of place, such as Boston Harbor and Dorchester Bay, and the rivers tributary to them – the Charles, the Muddy, the Mystic, Chelsea Creek, and the Neponset. The Open Space Inventory section (Section 5) arrays the various open spaces that are used to fulfill current open space needs, or have the potential to fulfill future needs. Based on a review of previous goals and policies, the current community setting, current assessment of environmental conditions, and a review of public input including the results of the open space plan survey, three primary goals emerged:

- Protect and improve the existing system of open spaces throughout the city through capital improvements, maintenance, programming, and other system operations to meet current and future challenges.
- Create new opportunities for meeting open space needs and recreational goals through the city-building and neighborhood development processes.
- Protect and enhance the ecological resources of the open space system, maintain and restore high quality natural areas, utilize green infrastructure and open space to reduce community vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change, and value the contributions these open space areas make in the urban environment.

14771

Survey Questionnaire

City of Boston
Open Space and Recreation Plan
2015-2021

Prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department, April 2013

14771

HELP US MAKE YOUR PARKS EVEN BETTER!!!

The City of Boston is preparing a new Open Space and Recreation Plan. To help better meet your and your family's needs, and to let us know what parks you go to, what you like about them, and what could change to make them better, we made this questionnaire as one way for your voice to be heard.

We look forward to learning from you.

A few guidelines for answering the survey:

> **"You."** When we use the word "you," we mean you and/or any member of your household, or your household as a whole. For example, in this survey "you" may be how your child feels about some feature of the park that you visit together.

> **Boston Only.** This survey is ONLY about the parks within the city limits of Boston. This is not about parks in cities and towns like Cambridge, Quincy, Brookline, Medford, Belmont, Newton, Chelsea and so on.

If you live outside Boston, but use a Boston park (even just looking at it outside the window or just walking past it), yes, please take the survey.

And of course, if you live in Boston, please take the survey.

THANK YOU for taking the time -- about 10 minutes -- to answer the few questions that come next. Your answers will help us make your parks and outdoor recreation areas even better in the years to come.

For best results, please use blue or black ink to fill in the circles.

14771

First, we would like to learn what you do in the Boston park(s) you visit, and what features you use when you visit them.

1. What do you do when you visit parks in Boston?

PLEASE FILL ALL CIRCLES THAT APPLY

- ○ Attend special events (concerts, movies, fundraising walks/runs, etc.)
- ○ Casual pick-up sports/games
- ○ Community gardening/beautification
- ○ Enjoy nature
- ○ Exercise/fitness
- ○ Free play activity with children (not at playlot part of park)
- ○ Meet/spend time with family, friends, or neighbors
- ○ Organized sports (team or non-team) for children/youth
- ○ Organized sports (team or non-team) for self
- ○ Other recreation (sailing/boating, bouldering/climbing, fishing, canoeing/kayaking/rowing, nature photography, birding, etc.)
- ○ Simple relaxation/passive recreation (sit on bench, sit on grass, etc.)
- ○ View park from home or workplace window
- ○ Visit playlot with children
- ○ Walk dog
- ○ Walking/strolling
- ○ Walk, drive, or ride past park without entering

2. What types of <u>features</u> do you use or enjoy in parks in Boston?

PLEASE FILL ALL CIRCLES THAT APPLY

- ○ Athletic fields, tracks, and courts
- ○ Beaches
- ○ Benches, picnic tables, shade shelters, seating areas, barbeque areas
- ○ Children's playlots
- ○ Community gardens
- ○ Dog park
- ○ Golf course
- ○ Landscaped lawn areas
- ○ Natural areas (woods, wetlands, meadows, water bodies, unpaved trails)
- ○ Paved pathways
- ○ Plazas, performance spaces (hardscaped areas)

14771

3. Do you notice a park rules sign in the park?

FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE

- ○ Yes
- ○ No (If "No," please skip to Question 5.)

4. Do you think these signs are useful or helpful?

FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

The Parks and Recreation Department delivers services such as maintaining parks and playgrounds, and providing programs and events of general or special interest.

5. Of the following SERVICES, can you tell us how HIGH A PRIORITY each is for your enjoyment of parks in Boston?

Please use the following scale, where 1 is HIGHEST PRIORITY and 5 is LOWEST PRIORITY.

Please SELECT only ONE answer in each row.

How HIGH A PRIORITY is each service? SELECT your ONE answer in each ROW.

1 = HIGHEST PRIORITY **5 = LOWEST PRIORITY**

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Graffiti removal	○	○	○	○	○	○
Litter pick-up/trash removal	○	○	○	○	○	○
Mowing & lawn care	○	○	○	○	○	○
Plant/maintain flower beds & shrubs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Programs & events	○	○	○	○	○	○
Prune/maintain trees	○	○	○	○	○	○
Repair damaged park features	○	○	○	○	○	○

***Horizontal lines provided only to help you align answers with each category above.**

6. Which one of the SERVICES shown is THE MOST IMPORTANT to you?

THE MOST Important: Select ONE Service Only

- ○ Graffiti Removal
- ○ Litter pick-up/trash removal
- ○ Mowing & lawn care
- ○ Plant/maintain flower beds & shrubs
- ○ Programs & events
- ○ Prune/maintain trees
- ○ Repair damaged park features
- ○ Not sure or Don't know

7. Which one of the SERVICES shown is SECOND MOST IMPORTANT to you?

SECOND Most Important: Select ONE Service Only

- ○ Graffiti Removal
- ○ Litter pick-up/trash removal
- ○ Mowing & lawn care
- ○ Plant/maintain flower beds & shrubs
- ○ Programs & events
- ○ Prune/maintain trees
- ○ Repair damaged park features
- ○ Not sure or Don't know

8. Which one of the SERVICES shown is THIRD MOST IMPORTANT to you?

THIRD Most Important: Select ONE Service Only

- ○ Graffiti Removal
- ○ Litter pick-up/trash removal
- ○ Mowing & lawn care
- ○ Plant/maintain flower beds & shrubs
- ○ Programs & events
- ○ Prune/maintain trees
- ○ Repair damaged park features
- ○ Not sure or Don't know

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The Parks and Recreation Department replaces or improves upon worn or obsolete features. Given changing demands, sometimes the Department adds new features.

9. Of the following FEATURES, can you tell us how HIGH A PRIORITY you think it is to IMPROVE OR ADD them for your enjoyment of parks in Boston?

Please use the following scale, where 1 is HIGHEST PRIORITY and 5 is LOWEST PRIORITY.

Please SELECT only ONE answer in each row.

How HIGH A PRIORITY to add or improve feature? SELECT your ONE answer in each ROW.

1 = HIGHEST PRIORITY **5 = LOWEST PRIORITY**

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Improve or add benches/seating	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add dog parks	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add flower beds & shrubs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add lawns	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add natural areas/trails	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add paths	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add performance spaces/plazas	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add playlots	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add sports features	○	○	○	○	○	○
Improve or add trees	○	○	○	○	○	○

***Horizontal lines provided only to help you align answers with each category above.**

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10. Which one of the FEATURES shown is THE MOST IMPORTANT to you?

THE MOST Important: Select ONE Feature Only

- O Improve or add benches/seating
- O Improve or add dog parks
- O Improve or add flower beds & shrubs
- O Improve or add lawns
- O Improve or add natural areas/trails
- O Improve or add paths
- O Improve or add performance spaces/plazas
- O Improve or add playlots
- O Improve or add sports features
- O Improve or add trees
- O Not sure or Don't know

11. Which one of the FEATURES shown is SECOND MOST IMPORTANT to you?

SECOND Most Important: Select ONE Feature Only

- O Improve or add benches/seating
- O Improve or add dog parks
- O Improve or add flower beds & shrubs
- O Improve or add lawns
- O Improve or add natural areas/trails
- O Improve or add paths
- O Improve or add performance spaces/plazas
- O Improve or add playlots
- O Improve or add sports features
- O Improve or add trees
- O Not sure or Don't know

12. Which one of the FEATURES shown is THIRD MOST IMPORTANT to you?

THIRD Most Important: Select ONE Feature Only

- O Improve or add benches/seating
- O Improve or add dog parks
- O Improve or add flower beds & shrubs
- O Improve or add lawns
- O Improve or add natural areas/trails
- O Improve or add paths
- O Improve or add performance spaces/plazas
- O Improve or add playlots
- O Improve or add sports features
- O Improve or add trees
- O Not sure or Don't know

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13. What changes would encourage you to visit a park in Boston more often?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- O Having a park or parks closer to home
- O Easier to walk to from home
- O Easier to bicycle to from home
- O Easier to arrive and leave there by mass transit ("the T")
- O Better universal access (curb cuts, ramps, etc.)
- O Easier to park car there
- O Fewer people -- less congestion -- in the park(s)
- O Less threatening behavior in the park(s)
- O No or little graffiti
- O No or little litter
- O Presence of benches
- O Presence of a children's playlot
- O Presence of features in good condition
- O Presence of a natural area
- O Presence of park rangers
- O Presence of park workers
- O Presence of a particular sport feature
- O Presence of a path
- O Presence of picnic tables
- O Presence of public safety officers
- O Programs, events, or organized activities
- O Restricted dog activity in parks
- O Don't visit Boston parks but value them in city
- O Don't visit Boston parks, see them from home or work
- O Don't visit Boston parks, see them as I pass by
- O Not sure or Don't know
- O No answer or Not applicable

14. What is the <u>name</u> of the park in Boston you visit *<u>most often</u>*?

If you need help answering this question, please look at the pages of maps at the end of the survey; once you find this park, please PRINT THE NAME -- ALL CAPITALS OR UPPER CASE LETTERS -- in the space below. Please leave a space between each word.

PARK NAME HERE

15. How often did you visit this park during the <u>past twelve months</u>?

FILL ONLY <u>ONE</u> CIRCLE

- O Not at all
- O At least once, if not a few times
- O About once a month
- O More than once a month
- O About once a week (about 4 times a month)
- O More than once a week
- O Not sure how often

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16. Is this the park closest to home?

FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE

- ○ Yes, it is closest to home (If "Yes," please skip to Question 18.)
- ○ No, it is not closest to home
- ○ Not sure (If "Not sure," please skip to Question 18.)
- ○ Do not wish to answer (If "Do not wish to answer," please skip to Question 18.)

(Please answer Question 17 below ONLY if you answered "No" to Question 16 above.)

17. What is the name of the park closest to your home?

If you need help answering this question, please look at the pages of maps at the end of the survey; once you find this park, please PRINT THE NAME -- ALL CAPITALS OR UPPER CASE LETTERS -- in the space below. Please leave a space between each word.

PARK NAME HERE

18. What OTHER Boston park (if any) did you visit often during the past twelve months?

If you need help answering this question, please look at the pages of maps at the end of the questionnaire; once you find this park, please PRINT THE NAME -- ALL CAPITALS OR UPPER CASE LETTERS -- in the space below. Please leave a space between each word.

PARK NAME HERE

19. How often did you visit this OTHER Boston park during the past twelve months?

FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE

- ○ Not at all
- ○ At least once, if not a few times
- ○ About once a month
- ○ More than once a month
- ○ About once a week (about 4 times a month)
- ○ More than once a week
- ○ Not sure how often

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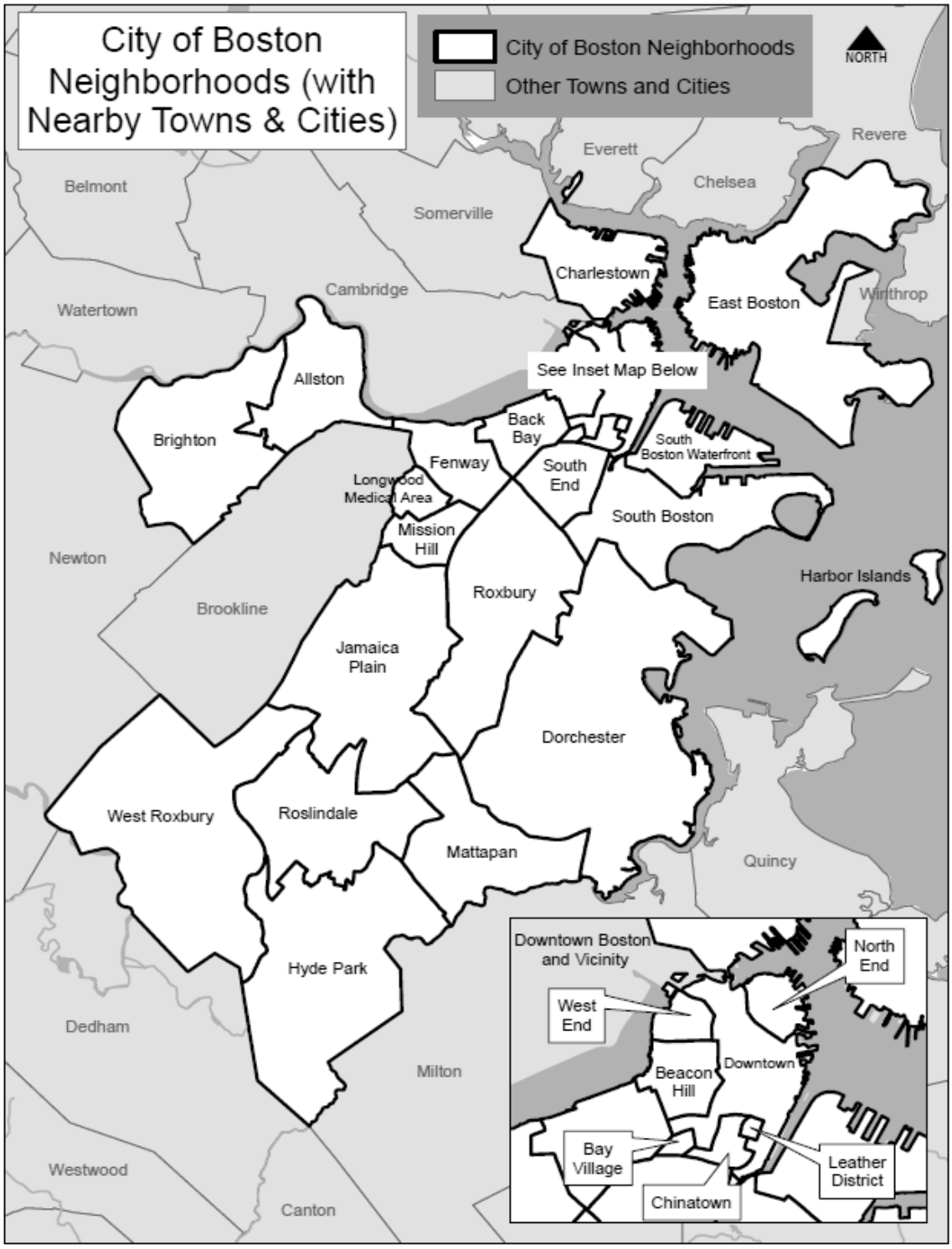
Finally, we would like to ask a few questions about you for statistical purposes.

20. In which Boston neighborhood do you live now?

Please look at the map below and then choose from the list on the next page. If you have difficulty reading the map below, please choose your best answer from the list of neighborhoods on the next page.



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PLEASE FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE IN THIS LIST

- ○ Allston
- ○ Back Bay
- ○ Bay Village
- ○ Beacon Hill
- ○ Brighton
- ○ Charlestown
- ○ Chinatown
- ○ Dorchester
- ○ Downtown
- ○ East Boston
- ○ Fenway
- ○ Harbor Islands
- ○ Hyde Park
- ○ Jamaica Plain
- ○ Leather District
- ○ Longwood Medical Area
- ○ Mattapan
- ○ Mission Hill
- ○ North End
- ○ Roslindale
- ○ Roxbury
- ○ South Boston
- ○ South Boston Waterfront (including Fort Point)
- ○ South End
- ○ West End
- ○ West Roxbury
- ○ NOT a Boston resident

21. What is your present age?

FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE

- ○ 15-19 years
- ○ 20-29 years
- ○ 30-39 years
- ○ 40-49 years
- ○ 50-59 years
- ○ 60-69 years
- ○ 70-79 years
- ○ 80 years and over
- ○ Do not wish to answer

22. What is your sex (gender)?

○ Male ○ Female

23. Are you of Hispanic, Latino. or Spanish origin?

FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE

- ○ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ○ Yes, of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

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24. What is your race?

PLEASE FILL ALL CIRCLES THAT APPLY TO YOU

- ○ White
- ○ Black or African American
- ○ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ○ Asian Indian
- ○ Chinese
- ○ Filipino
- ○ Japanese
- ○ Korean
- ○ Vietnamese
- ○ Native Hawaiian
- ○ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ○ Samoan
- ○ Other Pacific Islander
- ○ Some Other Race
- ○ Do not wish to answer

25. How many persons in your household are under the age of 19 years, including yourself?

FILL ONLY ONE CIRCLE

- ○ 0 (No one in household INCLUDING YOURSELF under the age of 19 years)
- ○ 1
- ○ 2
- ○ 3
- ○ 4
- ○ 5
- ○ 6
- ○ 7
- ○ 8 and over

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Your answers will help inform the Open Space and Recreation Plan and future decision making of the Parks Department. Please deposit your questionnaire at your Boston public library branch or Boston community center, or mail to Boston Parks Dept., 1010 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118, Attention: Open Space Survey.

If you have further comments or concerns you wish to let us know about, please feel free to send an email to openspaceplan2015@cityofboston.gov.

If you wish to alert us to a current problem in one of our parks or require a particular service there, please contact us either by phone (617 635-PARK [-7275]) or online through the Citizens Connect service at http://www.cityofboston.gov/online_services/default.aspx (scroll down to "Parks and Trees" for various selections).

Section 7.1

Analysis of Needs: Resource Protection

Section 7.1.1:

GREENWAYS AND BIKEWAYS

Overview

Restoring Health, Maintaining Wellness

The rationale for urban parks posed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. in the late 19th century was the need to restore health. This need was to be satisfied through a separation from both the hustle and bustle and confined spatial experiences of urban life. Olmsted sought to provide opportunities for the quiet contemplation of pastoral scenery as the preferred means of retreat from urban life.

By the beginning of the 20th century, others felt that, due to the limited land resources available within cities, more active recreation in smaller spaces could restore the health of urban dwellers. Joseph Lee pioneered and championed this concept when, here in Boston, he developed the first children's play lot in the United States (at Charlesbank, located in what is now known as the Esplanade). Play and physical activities even within the confines of small courts and play lots were felt to be as necessary for health as the quiet enjoyment of the large-scale pastoral landscape parks of the Olmsted model. The recreation model based on playlots would involve the purchase and maintenance of many smaller but more scattered spaces that would be accessible to residents on a day-to-day basis. These smaller spaces would also be more attractive fiscally, given the limitations of municipal budgets.

Both the Olmsted parks and the active playlot model of smaller interspersed play spaces endure because they do address our health and recreation needs. However, just as advances in public health led to these different types of parks, so too the more recent focus on greenways, trails, and bikeways in the urban environment has also been driven in part by health considerations. Certainly the activities fostered by these linear facilities are fun and worthy of being addressed for that reason alone. But one consensus among public health and medical experts that has developed during the late 20th century has been that aerobic activity can provide significant overall health benefits, including the prevention of disease and the improvement in general mood and attitude.[1]

The general preference in this country for outdoor aerobic activity has been to favor pathways that also involve a contact with scenic, naturalistic surroundings.

Protecting the Environment

Certain ecological assets, particularly oceanfronts, rivers, and streams, lend themselves to support linear recreational facilities. Environmentalists see public access to such resources via linear recreational facilities as a means of protecting the resource; first, by bringing "eyes" out to it so that threats and harms can be identified and then addressed; second, by creating a constituency to advocate for long-term protection and improvement of these facilities.

Adaptive Re-Use of Abandoned Rail Lines

Another factor has been the trend toward abandonment of underused rail corridors. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a national organization, supports the conversion of such abandoned rail lines into linear recreational facilities. The most prominent example here in eastern Massachusetts is the Minuteman Bikeway that extends from Cambridge to Lexington and Bedford. It is well used for commuting and recreation and is often crowded on weekends. Many businesses along the bikeway try to capture this market, posting signs to attract customers from the trail. Before the bikeway was built, these businesses had turned their backs to this abandoned industrial corridor.

Presidential Commissions and Congressional Acts: the Policy Spur

From a policy point of view, the current emphasis on linear recreational facilities emerged in large part in response to the 1986 Report of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, which called for a focus on greenways. This was a response to two phenomena. One was the rising value of land. The purchase of large tracts for use as parks was seen as becoming increasing costly and beyond the reach of many government agencies. The other was the concern about close-to-home recreation. Providing recreation experiences like hiking and bicycling in a natural, scenic setting close to home, while limiting land costs, led to a focus on the linear nature of these activities. Could such activities be accommodated in long linear park systems? The land costs could be reduced while careful design would either mask out unwanted visual intrusions or celebrate the existing and prior land uses adjacent to these facilities.

In urban areas, these linear facilities could be used to link existing parklands and natural areas. This open space linkage could help generate a feeling of connectedness and continuity ("connectivity") that would, like an Olmsted park, provide relief from the confined, maze-like spatial experience of city streets typical of the urban public realm.

The 1986 report spurred a greenway movement that has continued unabated. Grassroots groups and professionals in parks and ecology have worked to create many such linear facilities, identifying corridors based on either man-made elements such as abandoned rail lines or natural elements such as rivers. The momentum in the greenway movement advanced considerably with the passage by Congress of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in the early 1990s. This act changed the focus of federal surface transportation funding from solely highway- and arterial-oriented to a focus on coordinating different surface transportation modes. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities were to receive greater encouragement, especially through the Act's Transportation Enhancements Program. This program, continued in subsequent reauthorizations of the Act under new names, has provided grants to create "enhanced inter-modal surface transportation systems" enabling users to change from one mode to another or use different modes depending on trip purpose or timing. A major program category has been bicycle and pedestrian facilities, with

greenway projects, environmental groups interested in low-emission transportation, and bicycle advocacy groups targeting this funding resource.

Changes in Climate and Urban Sensibility

The centuries-long accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that has led to human-caused global warming is well-documented elsewhere, as is the growing awareness of it among the public. The phenomenon of a rising desirability in urban living is less well known. There was a time when middle class families led an exodus from the cities to the suburbs, leading to a significant decline in the fortune of many cities. Since at least the 1980s, however, a new movement has emerged of folks returning to the cities to pioneer a renaissance of residential and downtown neighborhoods. With the new century, and the rising awareness of global warming, there grew a new understanding that motor vehicles were major contributors to this worldwide environmental crisis. Cities, where many needs can be accessed without driving a car, came to be seen as not a defiler of nature, but one significant answer to this crisis. In the design of new communities, the New Urbanism movement arose expressing the need for walkability as a key determinant of successful community building. The bicycle became part of the toolbox urban advocates could use to help confront the global warming crisis on a day-to-day basis, to address congestion and the high cost of urban transportation, and to enjoy healthier lifestyles. Bicycle advocacy rose dramatically in the United States in the 21st century, especially in urban areas. Bike lanes, bike sharing programs, and the like became a notable addition to the menu of actions proposed or taken by progressive mayors throughout the country. This movement has a strong transportation focus, but it is complementary to the greenway movement previously discussed.

Defining Terms

These linear facilities, i.e., greenways and bikeways, are often confused with one another. In this section of the plan, we will refer to them generally as "linear [recreation] facilities." However, some sense of the differences between them should be conveyed, as these facilities have frequently become the subject of planning and management activities.

Greenway Corridors

Four types of resources can form the components of greenways: natural resource preservation areas; parks and other open spaces; cultural and historic resources; and corridors. Natural resource preservation areas are what greenways are meant to buffer and at the same time they are environments that, because of their scenic qualities, often attract users to greenways. The need to balance access and protection in these areas is an important function of greenway planning and management.

Parks and recreation areas are ideal candidates for inclusion in greenways. Other open spaces to consider are plazas and malls, estates and institutional campuses, and golf courses.

Cultural and historic resources are features of human origin, which have special meaning or help define the character of places along a greenway. Old mill buildings, landmark houses, and other historic structures, churches, burying grounds, town commons, and museums are examples of such features. They can provide the special nodes along a greenway route that attract a diverse set of users and stewards for the greenway.

Greenways inherently must include the corridor component[2] and are generally off-road. Corridors can be natural, of human origin, or a mix of the two. These stretches of land, water, or both link the various resource areas spatially and can be made up of at least one of the other three greenway components. Rivers, streams, canals, coastlines, rights-of-way for railroads or utility lines, trails, paths, scenic roads, and even city sidewalks, arterials, and boulevards are examples of corridors. The spatial linkage is the corridor's most important characteristic: According to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) "[b]y joining different resources together into an integrated network, each individual resource becomes part of a greater whole whose utility, accessibility, and environmental value are far greater than any of the separate pieces."[3] Often, some significant portion of the greenway corridor will likely have a buffer to protect one or more of the resource components. Such buffering is typical for greenway corridors that include natural resource preservation areas. An example of institutionalized buffering is the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, which mandates a development setback (25 feet in Boston and other urban areas) from the water's edge.

One commentator, Dr. Julius Fabos of the University of Massachusetts, has categorized three types of greenways: greenways based on ecologically significant corridors and natural systems, such as rivers, coastlines, and ridgelines; recreation-oriented greenways, based on trails, paths, or water routes to link recreation and scenic areas; and heritage and cultural-oriented greenways, based on historic and cultural resources and often created with a tourism motivation.[4] Yet "on the ground" these greenway categories often overlap as Dr. Fabos readily admits. In an older, highly urbanized state like Massachusetts, this overlap is almost inevitable and part of the attraction and excitement of our greenways.

An additional point to be mentioned pertains to the nature-based greenways. We typically think of "ways" as a travel route for humans. However, a nature-based greenway can be designed to enable wildlife species to travel/migrate or have sufficient space for its habitat needs. Through a greenway linkage, two separate natural resource preservation areas can better support certain species that could not be supported by each on their own. Such wildlife corridors may be designed with a travel way for humans to appreciate the natural resources there.

Bikeways

Bikeways are on-road travel ways for bicycling. The 2013 Boston Bike Network Plan proposes four types of bikeways[5]:

- Shared Road, such as the neighborway and shared street;
- Protected lane, such as one-way and two-way cycle tracks. (Cycle tracks differ from bike lanes in that they add a degree of separation from vehicular traffic. They are exclusive bicycle facilities separated from motor vehicle lanes and sidewalks by fixed objects such as parked cars, curbing, bollards, or flexposts.)
- Shared Lane, such as the bus/bike lane, advisory bike lane, priority shared lane, and marked shared lane; and
- Exclusive Lane, such as the bike lane, buffered bike lane, contraflow bike lane, and the climbing lane.

On-road/on-street bike lanes are portions of the roadway marked off by pavement striping. The bicycle travel lane may have markings on the pavement indicating designation for bicycle use, such as the international bicycling symbol. Signage may accompany bike lanes. Thanks to the Boston Bikes Program, bike lanes on major thoroughfares have been installed or are in the design stages throughout the city. Shared lanes (formerly known as sharrows) have pavement markings indicating bicycle travel on the vehicular travel lane when the street width does not allow a full bicycle lane to be installed. Shared lane markings are often installed to connect exclusive bicycle lane segments, and to remind motor vehicle drivers that bicycles have the same rights to use the vehicular right-of-way as the motor vehicle driver.

On-road/on-street bike routes known as Shared Roads are either paved shoulders (sometimes marked off by striping) or wide curb lanes (the traffic lane closest to the sidewalk curb whether or not there is a parking lane next to the curb). Signage usually accompanies bike routes, such as a sign with the international bicycling symbol and the words "Bike Route," or a sign with the symbols for a car and a bicycle side-by-side with the words "Share the Road." Recreational bike routes are typically used where traffic volumes permit or where required bike lane widths are not feasible.

Greenway Planning Efforts

There have been efforts to plan for improved existing and new greenways in Boston and the surrounding metropolitan area. The actors have been both governmental and non-governmental organizations, and sometimes a mix of the two.

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has an existing plan for the Charles River Reservation from the Charles River Dam to the Watertown Dam. In 2013, it issued a Charles River Basin Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity Study for Pathways and Bridges to help update and advance the connectivity facet of the Reservation's improvement. Its conceptual recommendations are seen as a first step as DCR and the state Department of Transportation (MA DOT) refine and finalize designs for improvements to paths and vehicular bridges in the Reservation system.

The MA DOT has a study underway to determine whether, where, and how to add ramps for the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90 Extension) in Boston. Part of that study is the review of the need for the Bowker Overpass that connects Storrow Drive to Boylston Street and passes over the Turnpike itself, as well as Charlesgate. Charlesgate was the green connection between the Charles River Reservation and the Back Bay Fens park. Since the post-war period, the Overpass has overshadowed Charlesgate as a park, and the removal of the overpass and the restoration of Charlesgate as a park has been a goal of open space advocates and is a recommendation of the Emerald Necklace Parks Master Plan (updated 2001).

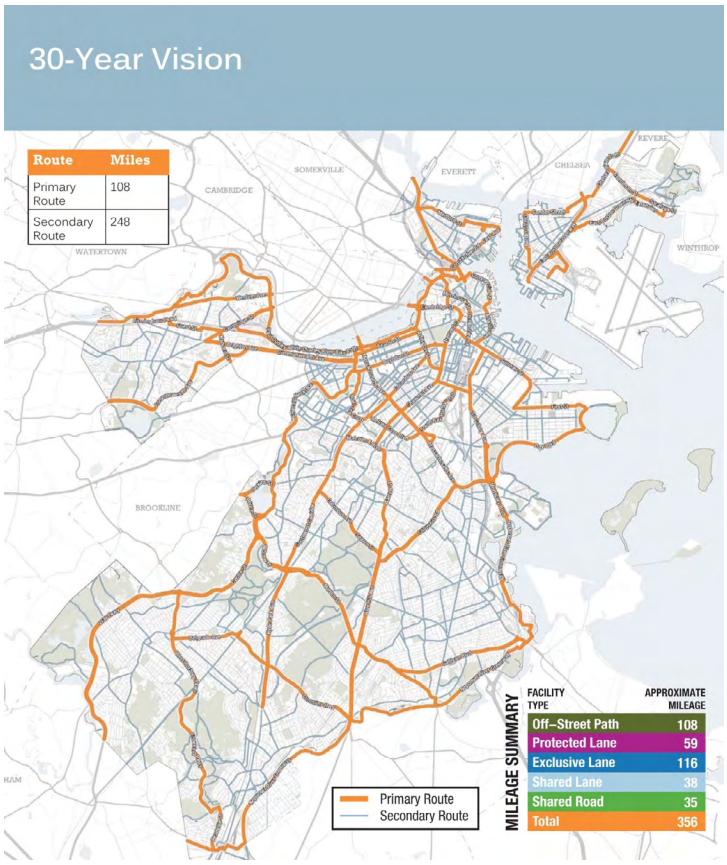
A group of greenway advocates, under the auspices of the Livable Streets Alliance, has gathered to look at a possible regional "green route" system. Called the Green Routes Coalition (GRC), it has garnered the financial support of the Trustees of Reservations and the Solomon Foundation, the technical support of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Northeastern University civil engineering department, and the staffing of the Livable Street Alliance (LSA). A GRC charrette, hosted by the LSA and the Boston Society of Architects Urban Design Committee, has taken place in mid-2014, as part of an effort called the Green Links Initiative, with juried awards for presentations by volunteer design teams of ideas for specific greenway segments in the Metropolitan Boston system, with all the award-winning ideas focused on Boston-sited projects.

A planning study will begin soon by the Boston Transportation Department "to inventory existing greenways and off-road paths in the city, and identify key missing links that would be needed to create a truly connected network." This "Green Links" study would complement the GRC efforts by focusing on the system inside Boston city limits.

Bikeway Planning Efforts

As previously mentioned, bicycle advocacy increased in public consciousness in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Given the progressive leadership Boston has enjoyed at the mayoral level, a director of bicycle programs reporting directly to the Mayor was appointed in 2007. From 2007 to 2014 the Boston Bikes Program generated 62 miles of bicycle lane and shared lane markings, more than 3,000 new bicycle parking spaces across Boston neighborhoods, and a bike share (on-street rental) system with 700 bikes and 72 stations. As a result, Boston has increased bicycle ridership by nearly 82% since 2007.

To create a more systematic approach to the planning of bicycling travel ways, the Boston Bikes Program spearheaded the City's Bike Network Plan. This 2013 Plan lays out "a comprehensive network of bicycle routes through the city, calling for 75 miles of new facilities in the next five years and reaching a network of 353 miles within 30 years." The hope is that an improved bikeway system will make the city's parks and open spaces more accessible to more people beyond the typical half-mile walk-based service area.



From the *Boston Bike Network Plan* (2013)

Assessment and Recommendations

Assessment: Greenways

Emerald Necklace

Treated as a series of parks and sensitive environmental areas elsewhere in the Open Space Plan, in this chapter the Emerald Necklace is treated primarily in its capacity to support linear recreation activities and in its state of continuity or connectivity.

In the first international publication on greenways[6], the authors noted repeatedly that Frederick Law Olmsted was the first greenway planner in the United States. Certainly the Emerald Necklace park system is an example to support that designation. Olmsted had designed a linked series of landscaped parks from Boston's Back Bay southward to the Arnold Arboretum, then eastward to Franklin Park. At the Back Bay end, this linked park system was connected to the major parks of Boston proper: Commonwealth Avenue Mall; the Public Garden; and Boston Common. The section of the Olmsted-designed system from Charlesgate to the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, Olmsted Park, and Jamaica Pond Park coincides geographically with the route of the Muddy River. Sinuous parkways, designed for horse-drawn carriages and now conveying automobiles, paralleled these parks and connected them to the outlying parks of the Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park.

As mentioned in this chapter's Overview, Olmsted sought to provide opportunities for quiet contemplation of pastoral scenery. Naturally this required a spatial buffer from existing and proposed development. Thus, a rationale existed for a corridor to provide both the scenic parklands—the pastoral landscapes – and the travel ways for pedestrians and horseback riders traveling at a slower pace than the parkway users. The corridor was sufficiently large in most places to buffer the users and the resources from the built environment. In both the Arboretum and Franklin Park, the parklands were large enough to provide an opportunity for trails that not only conveyed users from one park to another, but also allowed for exploration within the park. Franklin Park itself was so large as to provide several trail systems within it, such as the Scarborough Hill paths, the paths in the Wilderness, and the circuit paths.

Rivers and streams, ponds, lakes, woodlands, rock outcrops, and salt, brackish, and freshwater marshes were among the resource areas featured in this system. Through the use of grade changes, vegetation, and the corridor's width, Olmsted was able to spatially and visually buffer these resource areas.

Therefore, the Emerald Necklace park system was the first greenway built in Boston, even though it was not called that then. The term "Emerald Necklace Greenway" arose only in the late 1990s. A group of community and bicycle activists, primarily from the Jamaica Plain neighborhood, assisted by BikeBoston, an affiliate of MassBike, a statewide bicycle advocacy group, prepared a report and a poster on the Emerald Necklace Greenway. The report, funded with a grant from the Department of Environmental Management (a predecessor agency to DCR) Greenways Program, outlined the gaps in continuity posed by

changes to the system's landscape and parkways. These changes have accrued over the years due to many accommodations to the needs of automobile traffic. As these defined gaps occur typically on the DCR parkways, state action is needed to address these issues. However, as municipal park properties are immediately adjacent to these gaps, the impacts of potential solutions may affect them as well. Thus, any process to address these gaps will necessarily involve the Parks Department, the Boston Transportation Department, and the Brookline Public Works Department, in addition to the pertinent state agencies.

Within the parkland portions of the Emerald Necklace, much has been done to increase continuity/connectivity and promote bicycle and pedestrian use. In the late 1980s, a Parks Department project funded in part by DEM paved an former bridle path in Olmsted Park and Jamaica Pond Park and dedicated it for multipurpose use including bicyclists. This project represented the beginning of the Emerald Necklace Bike Path.

In the mid-1990s, a series of ISTEA grants were obtained by the Parks Department to address other pedestrian and bicycle improvements for the Emerald Necklace. The first project involved the improvement of a vacant parcel that the Department acquired, the first acquisition of parkland in the Emerald Necklace in decades. The South Street Tract had been added to the Arnold Arboretum, and with federal and state funds from the ISTEA Enhancement Program, construction was completed for a landscaped addition to the Arboretum with a stone dust path leading from an entrance near the Forest Hills MBTA station to another entrance on South Street across from the original Arboretum tract.

The second project was a three-pronged effort to improve Jamaica Pond Park. The three elements of the Connecting Jamaica Pond project were the reconstruction of the pedestrian paths around much of the pond, including the banks of the pond; the installation of a storm water pollution control measure – an oil and grit separator – to further improve the high water quality of Jamaica Pond; and the installation of pavement markings for bike lanes, the city's first, on Perkins Street to connect the Emerald Necklace Bike Path to Parkman Drive and Prince Street. The Emerald Necklace Master Plan has proposed the banning of motor vehicles on Parkman Drive, therefore this project provides a connection in anticipation of the proposed change at some indeterminate point in the future. This project was essentially completed in 2000.

The third ISTEA-funded project is currently under design. It consists of two major elements: the first is the reconstruction of pedestrian paths and the paving of an obsolete bridle path to allow for multi-purpose use, both in the Back Bay Fens; the second is the enhancement of Forsyth Street from the Fenway parkway to Ruggles Street for pedestrians and bicycles to create a connection between the Emerald Necklace at the Back Bay Fens to the Southwest Corridor Park at Ruggles Street near Boston Police Headquarters and the Ruggles MBTA station. The linkage between two of the city's most significant greenway corridors led to the project's name, Linking the Corridors. Once this project is complete, the two major outstanding greenway issues for the Emerald Necklace will be the closing of remaining open space gaps and the clean-up of its major natural resource area, the Muddy River (discussed elsewhere in this plan).

Based on advocacy by the Arborway Coalition, the Parks Department, with funding from the DCR Historic Landscapes Program, produced the Arborway Master Plan to improve the landscape character of this parkway which connects Jamaica Pond Park, Centre Street, the Arnold Arboretum, and Franklin Park. One of the goals of this 2004 plan is to improve the linear greenway function of this segment of the Emerald Necklace. It calls for both a continuous off-road shared use path and sidewalks that would increase the non-motorized realm of this parkway.

The Arborway Master Plan assumed the existence of the Casey Overpass that formed the southeastern end of the Arborway. By 2010 however, the MADOT determined that the overpass structure was deficient and needed to be torn down. A planning process was undertaken to explore alternatives from creating a new overpass to at-grade alternatives. In 2012, the MADOT decided to design a "new, multimodal at-grade … boulevard," to be known as the Casey Arborway. Construction is expected to begin in 2014 that will allow for improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodation in this section of the Emerald Necklace greenway corridor.

Charles River Reservation and Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path

Under DCR jurisdiction, this greenway corridor is as defining of Boston as is the Emerald Necklace. It occupies both banks of the Charles; we will look only at the portion of the Reservation within Boston city limits. This section will also include both the new and historic Charles River Reservation areas.

The Charles River Reservation is the centerpiece of the Metropolitan Park District, the array of parks throughout the metropolitan Boston area. During 1892 and 1893, Charles Eliot, a protégé of Olmsted and the son of a Harvard College president, worked to get the state legislature to set up the Metropolitan Parks Commission (the forerunner of the DCR) and produced a report recommending the acquisition of thousands of acres of land in the Boston region. Three years later, the Metropolitan Parks Commission acquired most of the Charles River shoreline between Leverett Circle and Watertown Square. Yet the estuary conditions still left polluted mud flats and poor rowing conditions, so the concept of damming the Charles at its mouth to create a large lake or basin took on great importance. By 1908, a dam was in place, replacing the tidal saltwater estuary with a freshwater lake. A widened embankment was created in 1936. However, the pressure of automotive traffic asserted itself after World War II, with the legislature brushing aside the express wishes of the donor who funded the embankment by authorizing a parkway (Storrow Drive) on the inner edge of the embankment, which created obstacles to access that remain to this day.

Dr. Paul Dudley White, President Dwight D. Eisenhower's personal doctor, advocated for the use of bicycles on the Esplanade, which use was first allowed in 1960. By 1970, a continuous bicycle path around the entire Basin was finally developed and named in honor of Dr. White.[7]

Constructed with mitigation funds from the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, an eastward extension of the Reservation, known as the New Charles River Reservation, was created. Below the old Charles River Dam, a series of parks—the Paul Revere Landing Park and North Point Park in Charlestown, and the Nashua Street Park in Central Boston—were built with pathways along the Charles River near its confluence with Boston Harbor. The New Charles River Reservation therefore links the "old" Charles River Reservation with the Harborwalk and city and federal parks in Charlestown and the North End, helping to extend waterfront access along the two major water bodies, the Inner Harbor and the Charles River, that surround much of Boston.

While the Emerald Necklace is beloved because it epitomizes the Olmsted pastoral landscape park with its contemplative, intimate effects, the Charles River Reservation is beloved for a different reason. Its much larger scale, particularly due to the Basin, has made for a much grander, spectacular scenic resource. As noted in DCR's master plan, "views of the boat-dotted Basin framed by Beacon Hill, the Esplanade, the Longfellow and Harvard Bridges, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology symbolize the region, its vibrancy, and its livability."[8]

However, the Reservation is in need of significant reinvestment according to the current (2002) DCR Master Plan. Master Plan recommendations that are of significance to linear recreation in the Reservation include:

- "Improve 8 and add 11 parkway pedestrian crossings" to improve access to this regional greenway;
- "Narrow … parkways … to broaden green space along the river;"
- "Improve the multi-use pathways and add separate pedestrian and bicycle paths where space permits;" and
- "Link the Basin to Boston Harbor at the New Charles River [Reservation] and to the Emerald Necklace at the Charlesgate."[9]

Citizen support for the Charles River Reservation Master Plan will be crucial to its success, as the multi-million dollar price tag for improvements will be a daunting obstacle for a Legislature faced with fiercely competing demands for funds. As earlier mentioned, DCR has developed conceptual plans for pedestrian and bicycle improvements to the Charles River Reservation paths and vehicular bridges, while the MADOT I-90 Boston Ramp Study will look into the possibility of improving the linkage between the Reservation and the Emerald Necklace at the Back Bay Fens via Charlesgate.

Neponset River Greenway

In 2006, DCR completed a Neponset River Reservation Master Plan Phase II for the section of the Reservation between Paul's Bridge in Milton and Central Avenue in Boston. In 2009 construction of an early action item, bike lanes and a pedestrian path along Truman Highway in Milton and Hyde Park took place.

In 2013, the DCR was given $1.9 million for the design of the completion of the Neponset River Greenway. Several segments from the National Grid property at the mouth of the Neponset to Mattapan Square will be the subject of this design effort. The approximately $15 million cost of the construction itself will expended by 2016.

The Neponset River Greenway is a significant open space resource for Boston's Hyde Park, Mattapan, and Dorchester communities. It is discussed in further detail in Sections 7.2.5 (Dorchester), 7.2.8 (Hyde Park), and 7.2.10 (Mattapan) of this plan.

East Boston Greenway

A neighborhood greenway linking old and new parks is being created in East Boston. The current segments of the Greenway include the Parks Department-owned segment between Marginal Street (near the harbor) and Porter Street (near East Boston Memorial Park, the segment between Porter Street and the Day Square area known as Bremen Street Park (owned by MADOT and managed by Massport), Constitution Beach (DCR), the Belle Isle Coastal Preserve (City of Boston), and the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation (DCR).

Currently the Massachusetts Port Authority is constructing the Wood Island Marsh Link, a half-mile section of the Greenway which will connect Bremen Street Park to Wood Island Bay Marsh. It will include open space areas at Neptune Road and an overlook park at the Wood Island Marsh.

The City of Boston is also designing the Narrow Gauge Link of the Greenway which will transform an old railroad bed adjacent to the MBTA's Blue Line, further extending the Greenway from Wood Island Bay Marsh to DCR's Constitution Beach. This will complete the connection from Bremen Street Park to Constitution Beach.

Once these segments are completed, the areas at the northern end, near Belle Isle Marsh, and the southern end, near Piers Park, will become a greater focus of efforts to improve this neighborhood greenway.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway

By virtue of state legislation in 1996, the surface restoration performed as part of the CA/T work on the downtown portion of the Central Artery was formally named the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway in honor of the mother of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Senators Robert and Edward Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy was born and raised from 1890-1897 in the North End neighborhood now abutting the Greenway. She was the daughter of John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, Mayor of Boston from 1906 to 1908 and 1910 to 1914 (the now depressed Central Artery is formally known as the John Fitzgerald Expressway).

This greenway corridor stretches for 1¼ miles in a highly dense section of downtown Boston and contains 11 acres of protected parkland. While owned by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, which also owns and manages the "Tip" O'Neill Tunnel underneath, these parklands are managed and maintained by the Rose Fitzgerald Greenway Conservancy. This nonprofit organization is a partner with the state, which provides 40% of its funding. The other 60% is provided through donations, endowment income, and earned revenue.

It has several enhanced features that are emblematic of its highly urbanized location: a carousel, a labyrinth, many public art pieces, a pavilion for visitors to the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, several fountains, various horticultural beds and an urban arboretum. In 2011, one of the

Greenway parks became the temporary site of the Occupy Boston protest, an offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street protest movement, entering the history books like Boston Common as a site for political speech and assemblage. The Conservancy is currently engaged in a five-year public art strategy to help enliven the spaces.

This greenway helps to connect users to the New Charles River Reservation, Harborwalk, and the Boston Harbor Islands via the Visitor Pavilion found on the Greenway. It has become an important corridor for residents in abutting neighborhoods, downtown workers, tourists, and regional recreation enthusiasts.

Southwest Corridor Park

Opened in 1987, this greenway corridor stretches 4.7 miles from the South End and Back Bay to Roxbury, Mission Hill and Jamaica Plain. It contains about 50 acres of parkland, owned by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Besides walking paths, it includes the 3.5 mile Pierre Lallement Bicycle Path, heavily used for recreation and commutation. Other features within it include eleven children's play lot areas, two spray pools, seven basketball courts, five tennis courts, two street hockey rinks, and two amphitheaters. Approximately a quarter of the parkland is decked over the railroad tracks. An advisory committee provides public input to help DCR manage this park, and a nonprofit conservancy raises funds for maintenance activities in concert with DCR. The re-design of the Casey Arborway area will involve connection to the southern terminus of the Southwest Corridor Park and the Pierre Lallement Bicycle Path.

East Coast Greenway

Since 1991, a group of greenway activists along the Atlantic Coast has worked with local citizens and organizations, as well as local, state, and federal agencies, to create a multi-use "urban Appalachian Trail." The East Coast Greenway will be nearly 3,000 miles long, from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine, serving the full range of non-motorized users, not only hikers, but also bicyclists, in-line skaters, skateboarders, etc., much of which will be ADA-compliant. The nonprofit organization behind the effort is the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA). Volunteers organized by the Alliance in each state work together to link existing and proposed greenway segments.

The East Coast Greenway is a work-in-progress, with 30% complete—that is, exists as a path or some other feature outside the street network—as of 2013. The Massachusetts chapter of the ECGA has identified a main (spine) route corridor through the state, and three scenic or historic alternates; all four routes pass through Boston. The spine route includes the paths on the Charles River Reservation. Alternates are routed within Boston on the Southwest Corridor Park pathways, the Emerald Necklace pathways, and the Neponset River Reservation Bikeway. Routing decisions are always made by stakeholders at the local level.

The ECGA pursues agreements with pertinent trail managing agencies for installation of signage identifying the trail as part of the East Coast Greenway. The ECG route is also identified for trail users through the publication of user-friendly maps and cue sheets, some of which are available through their website, www.greenway.org, or through their smart phone app. Please visit their website to learn more about these tools and for more information about the East Coast Greenway.

Assessment: Bikeways

Given the on-road nature of bikeways, the planning for these facilities are the responsibility of the Boston Transportation Department and the Mayor's Boston Bikes program. We incorporate by reference the Bicycle Network Plan prepared by the Boston Bikes program, with the following caveat:

Boston's City-owned parks are a critical resource for residents and visitors. City demand for open space is intense, and Boston's parks provide essential space for environmental and recreational benefit to residents and visitors citywide. There are many demands for parkland—some are easily compatible, others can be in competition. At the most fundamental level, new uses cannot interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of the parks. The Parks Department works with community members, regulatory agencies, and other City departments to balance varying demands and responsibilities, and to provide clean, green, safe and accessible parks.

The Boston Bikes Network Plan includes both short-term and long-term proposals for use of parkland for bicycling. Most of these proposed routes are intended to provide neighborhood connections rather than park-specific recreational opportunities. The Network Plan will help communities see opportunities for bicycling connections through parkland, but does not address the site-specific design challenges and compatibility of uses that will need to be considered at each park during the implementation process.

The primary uses in our parks are recreational, all park paths are open to pedestrians, and bicycling is permitted only in those areas specifically designated for this use by the Parks Commission. Unless a specific designation is made by the Parks Commission, use of bicycles is not permitted in parks. The Parks Department has worked with community groups to open appropriate park pathways to bicycling—like some of those in Franklin Park – and have continued the prohibition on those park paths that are not able to accommodate biking in addition to their current use—such as those in Boston Common. We will continue to work with communities to consider the opening of park paths to bicycles as each park identified in the Network Plan comes up for capital reinvestment.

Changes to parks proposed in the Network Plan will be considered for implementation over time when park improvements are scheduled. It is important to note community needs change over time, therefore current or even future paths may not exist long term. A decision to add biking into the parks and designate space to accommodate this activity will be the result of an inclusive process with discussion open to all park users in each community and at each park. As the Bicycle Network Plan states, Boston Bikes will participate in the community planning and design for each capital project proposed by the Parks

Department that can advance the network plan. In addition, any opening of existing or proposed park paths to bicycling will require a vote of the Park Commission.

The Next Seven Years

Historically, Boston has played a leading role in providing opportunities to enjoy various recreational pursuits in linked environs to promote health and well-being. Given projects already underway and proposed, this city will continue to excel in this role.

An overall vision to inspire and guide future efforts will be needed as interest in these facilities intensifies and other urban development pressures compete. Such a vision will see Boston within a regional context, as certain linear recreation users such as bicyclists have a farther range than pedestrians. From a regional tourism focus, greenways, trails, and bikeways can be a significant means of drawing people into the city for leisure pursuits. These linear open space elements can also provide opportunities for local residents to explore other areas of the city and to appreciate their built and natural beauty, thus naturally breaking down social barriers. They can also help diminish the sense of limited open space in certain neighborhoods by providing access to open space throughout the city.

By advancing connectivity, the movement to link open spaces will yield dividends for recreation enthusiasts, families, and communities while advancing Boston's agenda as a livable and ecologically sound community.

General Recommendations

- Support the regional effort to create a greenway network plan to provide the vision and prioritization needed to protect existing facilities and nurture proposed facilities.
- Encourage strongly, where feasible, the separation of pedestrians from other path users via separate paths. Allow shared-use paths only where space limitations or other constraints are present.
- Coordinate with the Boston Bikes program as capital improvements affect parks which are shown in the Bicycle Network Plan.
- Explore the development of a wayfinding and signage system for greenways and bikeways that promotes a cohesive, coordinated appearance that fosters a sense of connectivity while allowing for the distinctiveness needed for each greenway's and bikeway's identity.
- Coordinate with the Boston Bike Network Plan Six E's Program to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety.[10]

Emerald Necklace

- Support the effort to improve the Arborway and implement the Casey overpass replacement project. Protect abutting parkland in the process of closing gaps and re-aligning parkways. Provide additional signage to direct bicyclists and pedestrians to various destinations and paths.
- Complete the Muddy River Rehabilitation Project Phase II to restore the key natural resource conservation area in the Emerald Necklace greenway system, and improve pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in the Brookline Avenue/Fenway/Park Drive area.

Charles River Reservation and Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path

- Support the DCR Master Plan recommendations for improving access via parkway crossings, narrowing parkways to increase greenspace, improving the shared-use paths and creating separate pedestrian paths where space permits, linking the old Charles River Reservation to Boston Harbor via the new Charles River Reservation, and linking the old Charles River Reservation to the Emerald Necklace via Charlesgate. Support DCR and MADOT coordination as they implement improvements suggested in the 2013 Charles River Basin Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity Study.

Other Linear Facilities

- Support DCR implementation of its plan to complete the Neponset River Greenway.
- Work with the DCR and Massport on the extension of the East Boston Greenway to Constitution Beach and Belle Isle Marsh.
- Support the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and assure its long-term success through adequate maintenance funding by the Greenway Conservancy. Promote bicycle safety with Share the Road signage along the length of the surface road.
- Work with the East Coast Greenway Alliance to plan for the alignment through Boston of the proposed interstate greenway.

[1] National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999. Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health. U. S. Government Printing Office (S/N 017-023-00196-5). See also www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/sgr.htm. See also O'Sullivan, E., 2001. "Repositioning Parks and Recreation as Essential to Well-Being." In Parks and Recreation, Vol. 36, No. 10, October 2001, p. 91: "Linear Trails and Greenways – When walking trails were expanded in 12 southeastern Missouri counties, a study found that 40% of people with access used them and 50% of the trail walkers increased their walking since they started using the trails. Lower income groups who are at greater risk for non-activity were more likely to have increased walking as a result of the trail use (St. Louis University School of Public Health)."

[2] Greenways should be more properly termed greenway corridors, since paths and bikeways can be referred to as "greenways," as both are "ways" using non-polluting ("green") means of travel. Since for many people "greenways" implies the character of the path's surroundings, "greenway corridor" would be the more appropriate term.

[3] Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Greenways Program, 2000. Creating Greenways: A Citizen's Guide, p. 6.

[4] Fabos, J. Gy., 1995. "Introduction and Overview: the Greenway Movement, Uses and Potentials of Greenways." In Landscape and Urban Planning, Vol. 33, (Nos. 1-3, Special Issue: Greenways), p. 5.

[5] Boston Bikes, 2013. Boston Bike Network Plan, Appendix B, Facility Types. Found at http://www.cityofboston.gov/images_documents/Appendices_tcm3-40548.pdf

[6] Fabos, J. Gy., "The Greenway Movement," p. 3.

[7] Metropolitan District Commission, 2000. Charles River Basin: The Second Century (poster).

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Boston Bikes, 2013. Boston Bike Network Plan, Appendix A, The Six E's. Found at http://www.cityofboston.gov/images_documents/Appendices_tcm3-40548.pdf

Section 7.1.2

RESOURCE PROTECTION
HARBOR OPEN SPACE

Introduction: A Planning Framework

This chapter presents a planning framework that has been designed to guide the continuing revitalization of Boston Harbor's open space and Harborwalk systems. In keeping with the intent of this Open Space Plan, it recommends the enhancement of existing open space facilities while identifying opportunities to be realized by future programs and projects along the shoreline and on the islands. The framework builds on and extends the work of public agencies, including the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), the Boston Conservation Commission (BCC), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP), the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), as well as non-profit organizations and waterfront property owners, in an effort to promote and provide public access to waterfront open space.

The proposed framework reflects the larger vision of the City to share equitably among all the city's residents the resources of the harbor for recreational as well as economic benefits. Boston Harbor's clean-up project has fostered a resurgence in water-related activities and a desire for broad public access to the water's edge.

Boston's municipal harbor planning efforts, the product of a waterfront district specific community-based planning, articulates this vision through four comprehensive planning policies:

- Universal access to opportunities on the harbor;
- Year-round activation of the waterfront through public, cultural, and water-dependent uses;
- Enhancement of maritime activities; and
- Growth that is appropriately designed and brings vitality.

Guidelines

District-associated themes underpin the open space recommendations outlined in the pages below. In addition, the following guidelines serve as criteria for waterfront areas to ensure a rich mix of open spaces and uses in each district:

- Projects should maximize active and passive recreational potential with the creation of destination-oriented facilities such as recreational/cultural centers, historic interpretive exhibits, expanded sports facilities and water-dependent uses and activities, public art and performances, and the like.
- Projects should ensure the enhancement of environmental resources through the stabilization and restoration of natural ecosystems, provision of educational programs, and expansion of visitation access and opportunities. The city's youth should be especially targeted to enjoy and maintain these resources.
- Projects should include open space improvements along with a mix of housing, cultural/civic, retail, hotel, and commercial development. Waterfront projects should encourage water-related activity, including public docks and transient berthing, boat ramps, boat rentals, recreational marinas, fishing, and water taxi or water shuttle facilities, with supporting cafes and restaurants as well as swimming opportunities where possible. These diverse uses will activate the open spaces and support year-round, 24-hour activity.

Connectivity

While each district will have its own unique attractions derived from the above mix of activities, critical to waterfront open spaces are improved connections for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users (including water transportation users), and those coming by automobile. Improved access should continue to be addressed through access plans connecting inland facilities to the Harborwalk and the waterfront.

A system of desirable connections would include the following:

- Completion of a Harborwalk public access network along East Boston, Dorchester, Fort Point, South Boston, Charlestown, and North End.
- Improved Harborwalk wayfinding and interpretive signage program.
- Links to Harborwalk from inland facilities like neighborhood parks, the Emerald Necklace system, Rose Kennedy Greenway, Charles River Reservation, East Boston Greenway, South Bay Harbor Trail, and the Neponset River Trail especially through pedestrian paths, bikeways, and public transit.
- An expanded ferry network which links the Harbor Islands and existing downtown piers to docking areas in neighborhood locations.

Management

The implementation of this chapter's recommendations requires long term investment of capital and human resources that may be beyond the limited city, state, and federal means currently available. The State Chapter 91 Tidelands regulations have developed a series of agreements with private and public waterfront landowners that promote public access and mandate maintenance of public amenities. The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership, which includes the Boston Harbor Island Alliance, is another step towards broadening beyond limited city and state resources.

The planning framework in establishing well-defined district boundaries will facilitate the complex exercise of implementing potential projects and programs. Within the confines of a manageable area, ownership, jurisdiction, and operations responsibilities will be fine-tuned or, conversely, consolidated under an appropriate agency or entity in each district. A full matrix of management models can be considered, ranging from the National Park Service management coordination model to a leasehold arrangement with a non-profit corporation, depending on the attributes of a particular district.

Districts

As a first step toward understanding the context and the implementation of the above policies, this blueprint establishes districts that encompass neighborhood-level open space systems. The intention is to emphasize the distinct local character that makes each area unique. Existing shoreline features, neighborhood land uses, zoning boundaries, and history of public use provide the context to delineate and establish themes that characterize a particular district. The framework establishes the following districts and themes:

- **Orient Heights Bay**: Creating New Linkages
- The East Boston Waterfront: Reclaiming an Historic Harbor
- **The Charlestown Waterfront**: Diversifying the Open Space Experience
- **The North End/Downtown Waterfront**: Realizing the Public Realm
- **Fort Point Channel**: Creating an Urban Water Park System
- **The South Boston Waterfront/Innovation District**: Opening and Accessing a Renewing District
- **The South Boston Historic Shoreline**: Enhancing Olmsted's Vision
- **The Columbia Point Promenade**: Linking Institutional Development
- **The Savin Hill Bay Area**: Creating Recreational Opportunities
- **The Boston Harbor Islands**: Building a User Base through Partnership

The range of these themes and corresponding districts asserts the inherent character of an urban waterfront, reflecting the diversity of the city with a rich and varied choice of physical settings, cultural experiences, and recreational opportunities for residents. Further community-based planning will seek to blend neighborhood and citywide use, private development and public access, and natural resources protection and resource areas visitation.

Creating New Linkages: Orients Heights Bay

With the linking of Belle Isle Marsh and Wood Island Bay Marsh to the Constitution Beach area, a series of complementary open space experiences along Orient Heights Bay can become accessible to all of East Boston. These connections would open up new harbor recreation opportunities.

Recommendations

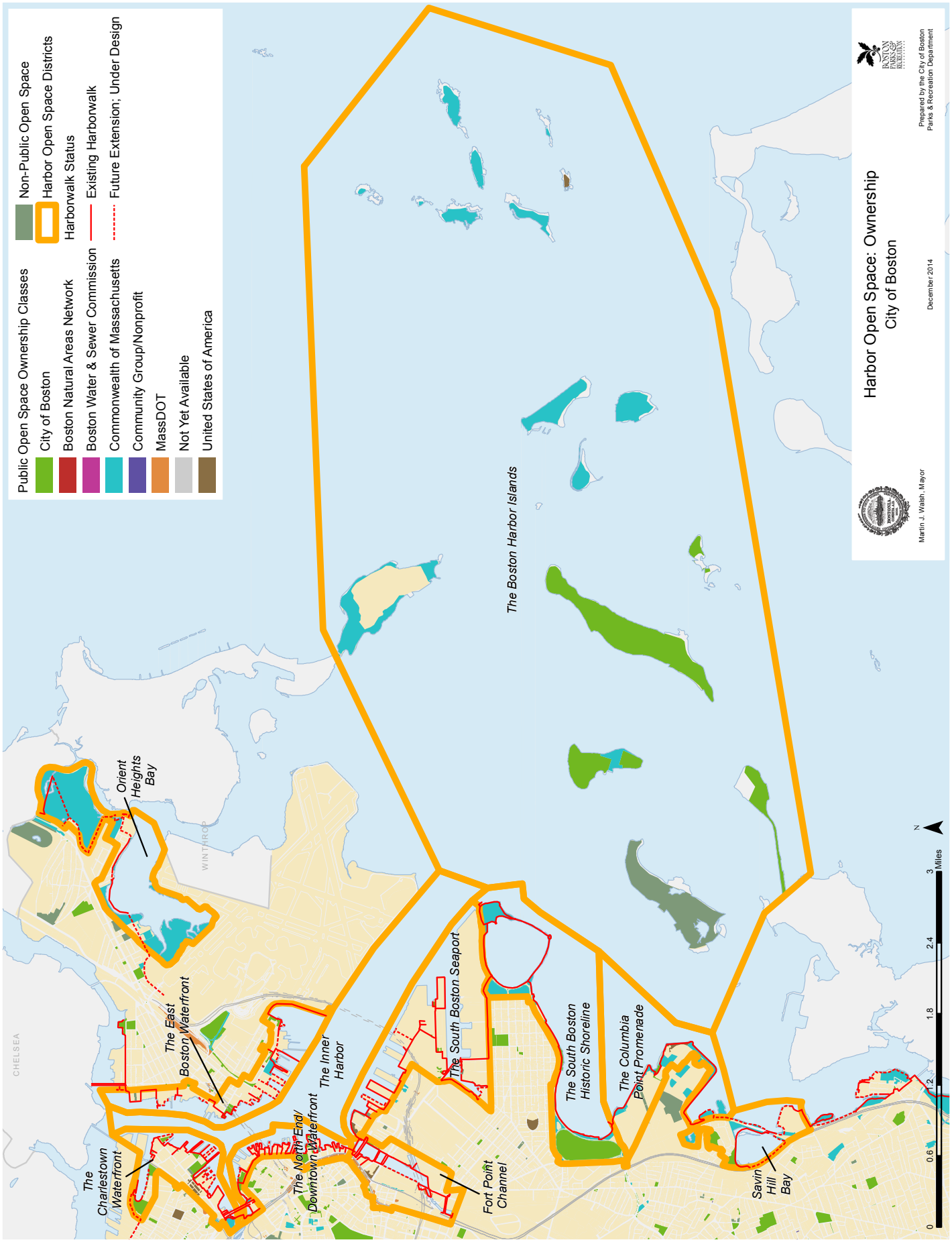
- Create a link between Constitution Beach and the Bayswater Street Urban Wild/Airport Buffer Project through a Harborwalk and/or public access path past the Orient Heights Yacht Club. Support the provision of a public docking pier at the Orient Heights Yacht Club.
- Complete the Narrow Gauge Link Pathway to provide access to Wood Island Bay Marsh from Constitution Beach as part of the East Boston Greenway expansion.
- Transfer the restored wetland at the Belle Isle Coastal Preserve to DCR for incorporation into the management of Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. Include a public access link via the East Boston Greenway to both the Bayswater Street Urban Wild and the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation.
- Implement the East Boston Greenway Access Plan recommendations for connecting the inland neighborhood to the Greenway in the sections from Neptune Road to Belle Isle Marsh.
- Develop a system of wayfinding and interpretive signage for this area's growing system of harbor open space that is integrated with the Harborwalk signage system.

Reclaiming an Historic Harbor: The East Boston Waterfront

East Boston's waterfront, for many decades neglected, is now beginning to undergo a transformation. The efforts of partners such as the Boston Natural Areas Network and Jeffries Point residents have resulted in new open spaces along the waterfront. During the past three years, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Massachusetts Port Authority have made improvements to the neighborhood's open spaces. As deteriorated or underutilized piers are redeveloped, an active promenade will be created with active and passive recreation, housing, and maritime industrial uses.

Recommendations:

- Extend the Harborwalk from Porzio Park in Jeffries Point to the Condor Street Overlook Urban Wild at the confluence of the Inner Harbor and Chelsea Creek. Use signage and landscaping to draw users to Harborwalk point access in maritime industrial areas. Develop an interpretive signage system to explain the maritime industrial and related uses, and integrate public art into these areas, much as has been done by Harbor Arts in the East Boston Shipyard.
- Restart Massport's planning for the expansion (Phase II) of Piers Park. Support the BRA East Boston Master Plan recommendation to create a waterfront park at Pier 5 in concert with local residents and organizations. Work with the Parks Department on the linkage between Golden Stairs Terrace Park, the Rockies open space, Piers Park (Phases I and II), and Pier 5 open space development.
- Renovate Lewis Mall as a major landscaped pedestrian and water transportation connection from the Maverick Square neighborhood to the waterfront, and coordinate with the newly constructed Portside at Pier 1 project.
- Establish a pedestrian and bicycle connection between Piers Park (Phases I and II) and the first segment of the East Boston Greenway.
- Continue the East Boston Greenway northward from Bremen Street Park to enable better access to Piers Park and Harborwalk from inland neighborhoods.
- Support the East Boston Municipal Harbor Plan to create public parks and new Harborwalk segments as part of private development along the waterfront. Integrate such parks and rights-of-way into a cohesive waterfront open space system through each site's design to ensure public accessibility visually as well as legally, and to provide activating destinations along the Harborwalk.
- Develop a "low tide trail" to connect Constitution Beach with "other than beach" access points, per the Metropolitan Beaches Commission's 2014 report. Support capital improvements to allow better ADA and stroller access to the beach and to expand water-based activities such as boating and swimming through a floating dock and small boat storage and rental facility, per the Metropolitan Beaches Commission's 2014 report.


Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
Not Yet Available
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Harbor Open Space Districts
Harborwalk Status
Existing Harborwalk
Future Extension; Under Design
Harbor Open Space: Ownership
City of Boston
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
The Boston Harbor Islands
Orient Heights Bay
The East Boston Waterfront
The Charlestown Waterfront
The North End/ Downtown Waterfront
The Inner Harbor
The South Boston Seaport
Fort Point Channel
The South Boston Historic Shoreline
The Columbia Point Promenade
Savin Hill Bay
CHELSEA
WINTHROP
0
0.6
1.2
1.8
2.4
3
Miles
N

Diversifying the Open Space Experience: The Charlestown Waterfront

Charlestown's waterfront from the Little Mystic Channel through the historic Navy Yard to Paul Revere Park affords unique opportunities for creating a variety of open space and recreational uses on both land and water. Rich in history, skirting a densely populated neighborhood, in close proximity to downtown Boston, and with links to the DCR Charles River Reservation, this area of Boston's waterfront has the potential of providing its open space users a diverse and enriching outdoor experience.

Recommendations:

- Realize the potential of the Little Mystic Channel as a unique open space resource, building upon the new Harborwalk segments, the newly built Thomas Menino Park, and the Weingarten Adaptive Sports and Recreation program for Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital patients and others.
- Use signage and landscaping to draw users to Harborwalk point access, where possible, in maritime industrial areas. Develop an interpretive signage system to explain the maritime industrial and related uses
- Expand the Courageous Sailing Center facilities at Pier 4 and increase programming for Boston's youth and new members.
- Support the BRA Charlestown Navy Yard Master Plan and Charlestown Navy Yard Waterfront Activation Plan which will create a public access and open space network that will reinforce the site's unique historical character and common identity. . Improve the Harborwalk connection from Tudor Wharf along Constitution Marina and coordinate Harborwalk segments and signage with the National Park Service and the Massachusetts Port Authority.
- Support waterside infrastructure allowing public access to the water such as the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital's adaptive marine program at Building 114, additional public touch and go docking facilities at marinas within the Navy Yard and water transit facilities at Piers 1 and 3.
- Support the development of the Maritime Interactive Park Network, a system of physical and programmatic maritime and historic interpretation to attract year-round use along Harborwalk and to protect public access.
- Study potential links to the Mystic River Trail System.

Realizing the Public Realm: The North End/Downtown Waterfront

The North End/Downtown waterfront has the most diverse recreational and open space opportunities of any waterfront neighborhood, including some of the highest concentrations of active and passive open spaces and recreational facilities. Open space mitigation efforts, as well as improvements by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Department, have resulted in attractive, well-used public spaces along the waterfront.

Recommendations

- Support the completion of the remaining pedestrian bridge and open space mitigation commitments as part of the Central Artery Tunnel Charles River Crossing to integrate Boston Harbor with the New Charles River Basin park system and the Esplanade. Complete open space improvements on the south bank of the Charles River and the pedestrian bridge over the tracks at North Station that connects Charles River Basin Park system to the Harborwalk at Lovejoy Wharf.
- Continue the Harborwalk through all upcoming private wharf/waterfront developments. Ensure that public parks that are part of development sites' designs are physically and/or visually linked to the Harborwalk and nearby streets.
- Improve Harborwalk conditions at Lewis and Union Wharves and complete Harborwalk connection along the north and southern sides of Commercial Wharf to Boston Yacht Haven.
- Provide, where appropriate, piers for docking with sewer pumpouts as part of the "No Discharge Area" designation.
- Unify the planned/completed pedestrian pathways and open spaces adjoining the waterfront with the Rose Kennedy Greenway. Support the BRA's Crossroads Initiative work to link downtown to the Greenway and the waterfront and the Connect Historic Boston project to link the downtown's transit to its historic resources.
- Support the development of the Historic Piers Network, a system of physical and programmatic historic interpretation to attract year-round use along the Harborwalk and to protect public access.

Creating an Urban Water Park System: The Fort Point Channel

South Boston's Fort Point District has seen significant change, with new open spaces, Harborwalk segments, and boat docks along the channel. Amenities include interpretive signage, public art, seating areas, and enhanced landscaping. Consistent with the goals of the Fort Point Channel Watersheet Activation Plan, a boat dock for non-motorized recreational boats, together with new docks for water taxis and a new "Cultural Connector" boat, make this area a truly urban water park area. The renovation and expansion of the Boston Children's Museum, together with the opening of the InterContinental Hotel and Residences, Atlantic Wharf, and Commonwealth Ventures properties have added open spaces and enhanced Harborwalk segments by the Fort Point Channel, complementing Harborwalk segments and open spaces created by the Central Artery/Tunnel Project as part of its environmental mitigation requirements.

Further anticipated improvements to the open space system include the Harborwalk along the South Station Postal Annex and proposed parks of the 100 Acres Master Planning Area and public amenities in and along the Channel.

Recommendations

- Establish a strong link on the cross-channel bridges between the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the enhanced Fort Point Channel through the Crossroads Initiative.
- Seek continued expansions of the water transportation system linking inner-harbor neighborhoods and, especially, waterfront attractions museums, etc., (through the Cultural Connector boat service) which are accessible from the harbor. Support the BRA's Inner Harbor Water Transportation Study recommendations for this area including service from the regional water transit terminal, to be constructed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation at the InterContinental Hotel.
- Implement public amenities, including parks, community boating, watersheet sculpture garden, restaurants, etc. along the Channel in accordance with the Fort Point Channel Watersheet Activation Plan, the blueprint for this urban water park.
- Support the development of the South Bay Harbor Trail linking Fort Point Channel to the South End, Roxbury, and the Fenway, as well as to the Southwest Corridor Park and the Emerald Necklace.
- Work with the BRA to disperse funds from the development of tidelands out of the South Boston Waterfront Account of the Fund for Parks and Recreation to support open space and recreational activation in the Fort Point District.
- Support the Public Works Department's efforts to rehabilitate and restore the Old Northern Avenue Bridge, an historic resource and vital pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Rose Kennedy Greenway, Downtown Waterfront, Fort Point District, and the South Boston Waterfront/Innovation District.
- Support the development of the Historic Piers Network, a system of physical and programmatic historic interpretation to attract year-round use along the Harborwalk and to protect public access.

Opening and Accessing a Renewing District: The South Boston Waterfront/ Innovation District

Thanks to critical public projects such as the Moakley Federal Courthouse, the I-90 Connection to Logan Airport, the MBTA Silver Line, and the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, a transformation of the South Boston Waterfront is well underway. This burgeoning area of the City will require the continued integration of industrial, commercial, residential, cultural, civic, and open space/recreational uses to form a lively district.

Significant public planning has taken place for more than a decade to develop a framework for the current development projects in the district including Fan Pier, Seaport Square, and Pier 4. The Seaport Public Realm Plan, South Boston Waterfront District Municipal Harbor Plan, Commonwealth Flats Master Plan, and 100 Acres Master Plan have laid out a vision and a framework to guide developers, designers, and community preservationists. The waterfront will be made accessible to the public via a continuous Harborwalk and linked to an inland park system by tree-lined thoroughfares and other public amenities. The Harborwalk and inland park system will be supported by a variety of cultural and commercial uses, including the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston Children's Museum, and District Hall, to enliven and activate this area.

Recommendations

- Work to complete the Harborwalk public access network in the South Boston waterfront, including measures to assure broad public access from inland neighborhoods. Extend and connect the Harborwalk network from the Fan Pier and the Institute of Contemporary Art to Pier 4 and the pier buildings at Commonwealth Pier and the Boston Fish Pier. Consider where feasible further extensions or point access to the Boston Marine Industrial Park, to Dry Dock No. 3, and to the Reserved Channel, as well as connecting across the Summer Street Bridge to L Street Beach and Castle Island in the South Boston Historic Shoreline District. Encourage pedestrian links and view corridors to enable maximum public awareness and use of the Harborwalk. Use signage and landscaping to draw users through public access segments to the Harborwalk. Develop an interpretive signage system to explain the maritime industrial and related uses found in the District. Ensure adjacent ground floor uses are compatible with and encouraging of the public's use of the Harborwalk. Develop implementation tools for the Seaport Public Realm Plan and the South Boston Waterfront District Municipal Harbor Plan urban design guidelines so as to assure human-scale development along pedestrian corridors to the Harborwalk.
- Encourage recreational use of the watersheet itself via zoning and planning tools, and the Chapter 91 tidelands regulations. Ensure these activities are available for patronage by the public. Support accessory land side uses such as boathouses, restroom facilities, fishing gear rental and sales, and associated food service to promote public use.
- Support active recreation uses in the parkland envisioned by the open space plans of both the Seaport Public Realm Plan and South Boston Waterfront District Municipal Harbor Plan at the southwest end of the Reserved Channel to ensure balanced recreation opportunities in the South Boston Waterfront District.
- Support the implementation and refinement of the recommendations contained in the BRA's Seaport Public Realm Plan. Work through the implementation process (urban design guidelines, zoning amendments, etc.) to assure varied active and passive open space and recreation needs are met for present and future users.
- Support the development of the Historic Piers Network, a system of physical and programmatic historic interpretation to attract year-round use along Harborwalk and to protect public access.

Enhancing Olmsted's Vision: The South Boston Historic Shoreline

The rich history of this section of Boston's shoreline can be the central theme to guide the next phase of its revitalization. Fort Independence has a military history going back to the 17th century. Castle Island and Marine Park are the waterfront segments of Olmsted's vision for the 19th century. The history of

the 20th century recreation movement is reflected in the City-improved facilities at the L Street Bathhouse and Joe Moakley Park, further supporting this district's historical theme.

The 1993 "Back to the Beaches" report by the city/state Joint Commission on the Future of the Boston Harbor Beaches laid the groundwork for the Department of Conservation and Recreation's beach restoration projects. Two Metropolitan Beaches Commission reports, in 2007 and 2014, reviewed improvements which have been made to date, and suggested additional initiatives to further enhance Carson Beach and Pleasure Bay. Concerted regional access improvements must also be made to these enhanced regional waterfront attractions.

Recommendations

- Continue to invest in improvements to the Castle Island area to enhance its use with an eye toward balancing local neighborhood and citywide visitation interests. Establish Castle Island as a museum and historical interpretative center. Increase the number of visitation days at Fort Independence.
- Provide Beach Shuttle bus connections from the UMass/JFK MBTA station to Carson Beach and Castle Island in accordance with the Back to the Beaches plan and the 2014 Metropolitan Beaches Commission report, and extend bus service from Columbia Road to Carson Beach.
- Provide designated pedestrian-activated crossings from Joe Moakley Park to Carson Beach.
- Support ongoing water quality improvement efforts that sustain swimmable conditions in these waters.
- Provide designated pedestrian paths through a wayfinding system from Telegraph Hill and Independence Square to the shoreline.
- Support the recommendations of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission 2014 Report, including the creation of a "signature" bathhouse at Pleasure Bay, reuse of the "Pickle Jar" building, improved lighting along Day Boulevard, full signalization at the L Street intersections with Columbia Road and Day Boulevard, and pedestrian-activated crossing signals in front of the Curley Community Center.

Linking Institutional Development: The Columbia Point Promenade

Columbia Point continues to evolve with a rich mix of residents, students, workers, and visitors. During the past decade, expansion of the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, construction of the new Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate, and implementation of UMass Boston's 25-year Master Plan have brought thousands of additional visitors and students to Columbia Point annually. Hundreds of residents, including many long-time residents, live at Harbor Point Apartments and the more recently-constructed Peninsula Apartments. Additional housing is planned on Mt. Vernon Street by Corcoran Jennison Companies.

Residents, students, workers, and visitors enjoy the local open space system that takes advantage of the water's edge. The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Old Harbor Park at Harbor Point, built in the 1980s, was a key open space amenity for residents. West Link followed in 2006, linking Old Harbor Park to Carson Beach. More recently, new segments of the Harborwalk, including at the Kennedy Library and a UMass segment opening in 2015, will further enhance public access to the water's edge. The Boston Redevelopment Authority's pending re-design of Mt. Vernon Street will help increase inland access to the waterfront.

Recommendations

- Reuse the Calf Pasture Pumping Station in concert with the needs of the public as well as its owner, UMass Boston, so as to provide a destination use and an activity node for the Columbia Point Promenade area.
- Support expansion of the UMass Boston Marine Operations Waterfront Recreation Program, which currently provides introductions to sailing, kayaking, and stand-up paddling from its Fox Point dock. Continue to support this program's operation of Monday Lunchtime Harbor Cruises for the UMass population and the general public.
- Explore with the Department of Conservation and Recreation the possible use of the John T. Fallon State Pier located at the Kennedy Library and Museum for water transportation to Columbia Point.
- Develop shuttle bus loops between the JFK Library and Carson Beach/Castle Island via the JFK/UMass Red Line station.
- Continue to link programmatically both the State Museum and the University of Massachusetts to the waterfront open space in this area including the Arts on the Point Project.
- Advance the open space goals and objectives of the 2011 Columbia Point Master Plan as they relate to the waterfront, including providing physical and visual links between key open spaces and across Columbia Point to Boston Harbor; developing a public open space system of active and passive parks, squares and streets, connected to the water's edge; creating a sense of place along the waterfront with active uses and amenities; and, preserving and enhancing public access to the waterfront and activating the water's edge.

Creating Recreational Opportunities: The Savin Hill Bay Area

In the past decade, significant improvements have occurred at some of Dorchester's beaches, which are important and well-used assets for the community. Water quality is very high at Savin Hill Beach, and its walkways are well-maintained. Water quality improvements are still needed at Malibu and Tenean Beaches, where illegal sewer connections can drain into the harbor and limit the number of days that residents can safely swim and play at those beaches. Moreover, while Malibu Beach is easily accessible and well maintained, Tenean Beach is in need of repair, and has been damaged by storms and high tide. (While not part of the Savin Hill Bay district, connections to and improvement of Tenean Beach is mentioned here given the importance of connectivity to the success of the city's harbor open space.)

Recommendations

- Develop Savin Hill Bay's protected waters as an aquatic park for passive and active water-oriented recreation.
- Enhance the developed Malibu Beach and supporting facilities by the provision of a dinghy dock and boat rental.
- Support ongoing efforts to improve water quality at Savin Hill Bay and Malibu Beach.
- Integrate McConnell Park with Malibu Beach and Savin Hill Bay by landscaped lawns and paths.
- Support connecting Tenean Beach to Savin Hill Bay through the construction of a boardwalk along the Southeast Expressway embankment to Victory Road Park.
- Identify new locations for public boat launching ramps.
- Extend public access from McConnell Park via a boardwalk along the periphery of the expressway to connect the public beach at Clam Point.
- Support the connectivity recommendations of the 2014 Metropolitan Beaches Commission report: "Increase public transit options and new connections between beaches in Dorchester and South Boston; provide connections to the Harborwalk, [beaches,] and the Neponset River Greenway/ Trail from neighborhoods that are not directly contiguous, such as Bowdoin/Geneva, Fields Corner, Clam Point, Popes Hill, Codman Square, Ashmont, and Lower Mills. Strengthen connections to the waterfront at UMass Boston and Columbia Point; consider a potential transportation partnership with UMass Boston and a seasonal shuttle from Franklin Park down Columbia Road."
- Support capital and other recommendations of the 2014 Metropolitan Beaches Commission report, such as a redesign and redevelopment of Tenean Beach, a new bathhouse at Savin Hill Beach, sediment dredging for improved water flow and quality, beach connections for cyclists and pedestrians, boat/kayak rentals, and more concessions/food trucks.
- Complete Harborwalk links along Port Norfolk linking Tenean Beach with Port Norfolk Park, Pope John Paul II Park, and the Neponset River Greenway

Building a User Base through Partnership: The Boston Harbor Islands

With the success of the Boston Harbor Cleanup Project, the 2006 opening of the restored Spectacle Island to the public, and the 2011 opening of a visitor pavilion on the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area (BHINRA), with its 34 islands and peninsulas, continues to attract a growing number of visitors (18 of the 34 islands are within Boston city limits). This is one of America's few urban national recreation areas. The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership consists of the owners, including city, state and federal governments, and two non-profit organizations, who manage the park. The City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation own Spectacle Island, a major hub to the rest of the islands.

Six islands, including Spectacle, Georges, Peddocks, Lovells, Grape, and Bumpkin are serviced by public ferry. Spectacle, Georges, and Peddocks Islands have visitor/welcome centers. Some of the more rustic islands, such as Peddocks, Bumpkin, Grape, and Lovells, offer camping experiences, including yurts on Peddocks Island for less seasoned campers. Free daily programs on the islands make them one of the most popular visitor destinations in the state.

The recently built Camp Harbor View, on the City-owned Long Island, affords inner city kids the opportunity through summer camps to experience this Distinctive Landscape (as designated by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation in its Scenic Landscape Inventory) as do more affluent visitors.

The Boston Harbor Islands, though beloved and enjoyed by many, are isolated and buffeted by their aquatic setting, making them among the most fragile and vulnerable resources in Boston's open space system. Continued investment in this national recreation area is needed, especially in light of predicted sea level rise and extreme storm events.

Recommendations

- Support the Camp Harbor View program to give inner city kids opportunities to experience the harbor environment at the summer camp grounds on Long Island.
- Build upon the success of the Island Alliance and National Park Service's $4 million Harbor Islands Pavilion on the Rose Kennedy Greenway, and work to enhance wayfinding from the Greenway to the Long Wharf water transportation gateway to the Harbor Islands.
- Work with the University of Massachusetts and the Kennedy Library on the development of a Dorchester-based gateway to the Harbor Islands, and with Fan Pier developers on the implementation of a Harbor Island gateway in the South Boston Seaport District in accordance with the South Boston Waterfront District Municipal Harbor Plan.
- Support ferry service from Lynn, Squantum Point in Quincy, and Point Allerton in Hull to the BHINRA as recommended by the 2014 Metropolitan Beaches Commission Report to diversify the visitor base.
- Support the recommendations of the 2014 Metropolitan Beaches Commission Report to remediate the asbestos at Gallops Island, invest in the Georges Island marina and terminal, and dredge the marina area of Spectacle Island.
- Document and map all conservation lands on the islands, specify those of critical environmental concern, and develop a natural resource protection plan for their permanent maintenance. Continue to separate these lands from recreational and intensive use areas.
- Continue the City's stewardship plan for Rainsford Island, including an archaeological reconnaissance-level survey, to identify cultural and natural resources and formulate recommendations for protection and use.

Section 7.1.3

RESOURCE PROTECTION URBAN WILDS AND NATURAL AREAS

Overview

Boston's remaining urban wilds and natural areas represent unique resources of natural heritage and biological diversity and are crucial components of the city's open space system. The geographic position and geologic history of the city's landforms has led to a complex array of wetland and upland habitats. Vast salt marshes once covered most of East Boston and the Dorchester shoreline, meadows dotted the hilltops of Roxbury, and pristine streams coursed through the forests of Hyde Park and West Roxbury.

Though almost all significant portions of these habitats have been lost due to extensive human-induced manipulation of land and water, we are fortunate today to have remnants of these original ecosystems. These areas provide a glimpse of the past, when most land in Boston was relatively undisturbed by people. They provide habitat for native plants and animals, harbor the city's remaining native biodiversity, and perform a wealth of ecological services such as storing floodwater, producing oxygen, and filtering stormwater run-off. They offer an oasis for people seeking a refuge from hectic city streets and serve as outdoor classrooms for children and adults learning about the natural world. Urban wilds and other natural areas expand the range of landscape experiences beyond that of the dense built environment and the designed and manicured landscapes of Boston's parklands.

History and Ownership of Urban Wilds

In 1976, the Boston Redevelopment Authority issued a landmark document that inventoried and offered recommendations for Boston's remaining natural areas. Boston's Urban Wilds: A Natural Area Conservation Program identified 143 areas throughout the city, whether privately or publicly owned, and categorically ranked them for significance. The document also offered strategies for their preservation within a then-limited spectrum of protection mechanisms. The BRA study offered a plan for land protection by identifying particular available spaces, defining priorities, and suggesting an aggressive strategy for acquisition. The report's description of the irreplaceable nature of these sites reinforced the need for protection.

The Boston Natural Areas Fund (later known as the Boston Natural Areas Network [BNAN]) was incorporated in 1977 as a non-profit organization to work with city and state agencies to secure urban wilds inventoried in the 1976 report. In the early 1980s, using available federal funding programs for environmental protection, BNAF successfully assisted the City of Boston and conservation entities with acquisition, advocacy, and planning for several sites in need of permanent protection. The City acquired more than 48 acres of land with BNAF's assistance. This included BNAF's purchase of eight sites which were then transferred to the City's Conservation Commission. The Fund, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, developed environmental educational programs at several urban wilds to encourage understanding and proper use of these sites. In 1990, BNAF released an updated urban wilds report, documenting the loss of several important sites and stressing the need for increased protection of privately-owned natural areas. As of 2014, BNAN has become the Boston region office of The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), the state's largest land preservation organization. In addition to its core focus of managing its many community gardens throughout the city, TTOR Boston Region will continue to provide advocacy and programming support for greenways and urban wilds in Boston.

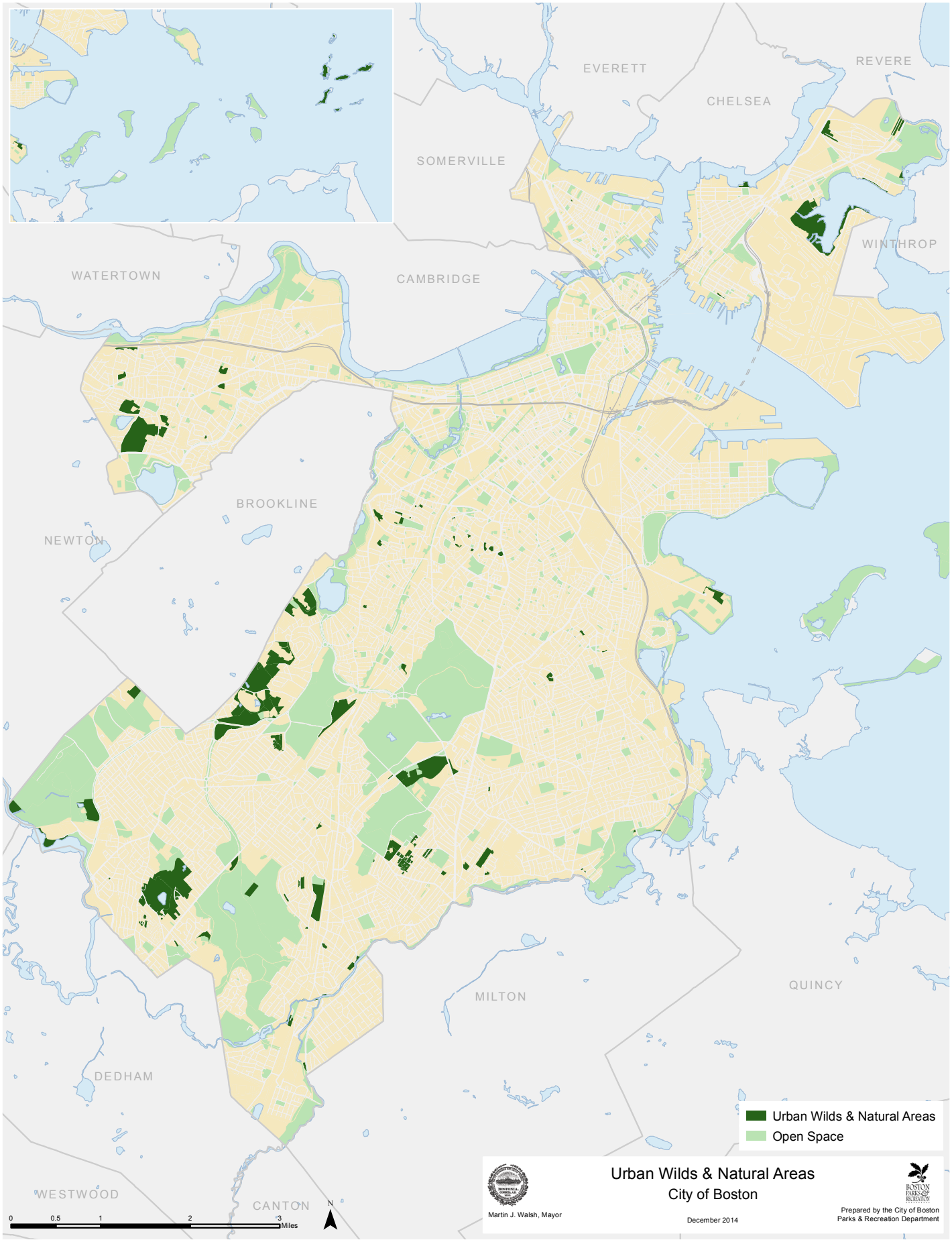
The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has also aggressively sought to protect significant parcels of land. Large sites identified in the BRA report, such as Sawmill Brook (Brook Farm) in West Roxbury and the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation in East Boston, are now owned by the DCR, as are a series of open spaces along the Dorchester shoreline and Neponset River. These acquisitions provide permanent protection to the city's largest and most important remaining habitats. Several of these have also broadened waterfront access for the city's residents.

Other state agencies whose mission is not natural resource protection have urban wilds under their jurisdiction, and therefore these wilds are not protected from public improvements, development, or encroachment. This includes the Massport's Wood Island Bay Marsh in East Boston.

With the exception of properties under the jurisdiction of the Boston Conservation Commission and the Parks Department, other urban wilds under City ownership are generally unprotected and subject to potential development. Several other City agencies own designated urban wilds, including the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Property Management Department, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the Boston Housing Authority.

Several large unprotected woodlands, such as St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Roxbury Latin School Woodlands and West Roxbury Quarry in West Roxbury, and the Daughters of Saint Paul in Jamaica Plain, are privately owned by private non-profit institutions, individuals, or businesses. Some successes have been found in the use of conservation restrictions held by the Conservation Commission in protecting natural areas at the Cenacles in Brighton, within Allandale Woods in West Roxbury, and atop Parker Hill in Mission Hill. Tax-exempt non-profit institutions such as churches and schools, however, cannot take advantage of the tax relief offered to other private entities upon the donation of conservation easements.

Since 1998, the Parks Department has been responsible for the maintenance of most City-owned urban wilds under its Urban Wilds Initiative (UWI). The UWI, in turn, has partnered with organizations such as BNAN (now TTOR Boston Region), Southwest Boston CDC (SWBCDC) and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to create and run youth conservation programs at the Parks Department to better maintain its larger urban wilds sites while helping young Bostonians to develop leadership and technical landscaping skills. The Boston Youth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Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Fund (BYF) has funded summer youth jobs for site clean-ups, trail maintenance, and vegetation control. Many corporate firms, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, City and county court community service programs, as well as neighborhood and local community groups, have been enlisted to conduct clean-ups, plantings, and special landscape restoration projects in the urban wilds.

Staffing and funding levels have continued to be very limited with only one urban wilds program manager on staff while maintenance burdens have simultaneously increased with the addition of more parkland. As a consequence a great deal of the necessary maintenance needs for these sites depends on the availability of volunteer help.

Recent and Ongoing Initiatives

Site Inventory and Master Planning

In 2002, the UWI developed the Boston's Urban Wilds and Natural Areas Management Plan, a comprehensive master plan for urban wild and natural area site management, program development, and administration. In addition to detailed site descriptions and assessments, the plan outlines a prioritized maintenance and management scheme, and presents a programmatic strategy for further outreach, resource development, increased site protection, and enhanced levels of stewardship and program administration. The UWI has compiled an inventory of all City-owned urban wilds (see Table UWNA-1).

Landscape Restoration

Some of the larger, more ecologically important sites have been selected for long-term habitat restoration. These sites include Roslindale Wetlands, Allandale Woods, Sherrin Woods, and Gladeside Urban Wild. Corporate and non-profit partners, in addition to local friends groups, have been helpful in conducting multi-year habitat restoration efforts to manage invasive plants, improve soil conditions, and install appropriate, site-specific plants. Summer youth conservation crews from BNAN, the Student Conservation Association, and the Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation's Green Team have also been useful in maintaining restored landscapes during the summer months in addition to their trail design, installation and maintenance work.

While the major objective for most sites is to accommodate public access, passive recreation, and expand environmental education opportunities where appropriate, projects are also pursued at high-priority sites where restoration of ecological functions and values is feasible. Restoration projects are being implemented based on their cost effectiveness, potential to provide habitat for native plants and animals, and ability to perform other ecological functions such as filtering and reducing storm-water run-off, producing oxygen, mitigating the warming effects of urban development, reducing soil erosion, and furthering a sense of environmental stewardship within the community.

In addition to ongoing management and general maintenance of urban wilds citywide, various significant site-specific projects have been undertaken since 2012, as shown below.

Site-Specific Initiatives

Puddingstone Garden and Buena Site Renovations

In 2014, the Parks Department received $450,000 in grant funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Signature Urban Park Program. Two the three projects funded by the state include urban wilds: Puddingstone Garden and Buena Vista (also know as Gendrot Trust/Warren Gardens), both in Roxbury.

A product of the 1960s Roxbury Beautification Program, Puddingstone Garden is an important neighborhood pocket park in Grove Hall. The latest round of improvements include plans for minor site regrading for accessibility, tree pruning, installation and/or repairs of pathways, fencing and stone steps, and the installation of signage, landscaping and a memorial boulder.

The Buena Vista site is the last natural area of note in the Dudley Square section of Roxbury. The land around this site was originally pasture lands belonging to local missionary John Eliot. In the late 19th century, clothing merchant Isaac Fenno built his mansion on highest ridge in this area and named it "Buena Vista." When his wife, aspiring artist Amira Fenno (Gendrot) died in 1955, she left the property ot the City to "be forever kept open , an object of beauty with its rocks and trees." Since the estate was leveled in the 1960s as part of the BRA development of Warren Gardens Housing Development, this project is the first significant effort to restore and beautify the site. The program developed for the site honors the site history with interpretive historical signage, an artistic moss mural, trailhead construction, wall repair, site identification signs, a city overlook, minor regrading, tree pruning and landscape plantings.

Allandale Woods Trailhead and Wayfinding Project

Allandale Woods is the largest city-owned Urban Wild. At approximately 100 acres, it touches three neighborhoods and abuts the Brookline town border. As the first capital project of its kind, the City initiated design work for this urban wild in 2014 with the goals of increasing visibility and improving accessibility to this largely hidden site on a comprehensive, site-wide basis. While focusing on the renovation of trailhead entrances and the installation of site identification signage and internal wayfinding, this project also includes features such as grading and drainage improvements, invasive plant management, wetland restoration plantings, wetland trail crossings, historical interpretive signage and stream bank stabilization.

The Next Seven Years

The land protection accomplishments achieved by the City and its partners over the last thirty-five years should now be complemented to address the considerable land management challenges that lay ahead. Based upon preliminary site evaluations and the work projects undertaken at urban wild sites to date, generalized recommendations for urban wild and natural areas

site management and program administration are summarized below. Boston's Urban Wilds and Natural Areas Management Plan will explore these goals and objectives in more detail.

Goal: Protect City-owned urban wilds and other natural areas from development, encroachment, and uses that degrade their natural character.

- Complete a boundary survey of all parcels and verify that existing boundaries conform to current ownership records. Document and rectify any boundary encroachments encountered.
- Work with the appropriate City agencies to transfer jurisdiction of remaining City-owned urban wilds and other natural areas to either the Parks Department or the Boston Conservation Commission. If outright transfer of jurisdiction cannot be facilitated, conservation restrictions should be placed on parcels to ensure their preservation as natural areas.
- Continue to use the Parks Commission's 100-foot rule jurisdiction, the Conservation Commission's wetlands protection powers, and other land use regulatory tools to prevent impacts to the urban wilds and other natural areas from nearby developments, uses, and encroachments; and,
- Achieve improved coordination with other City agencies seeking to conduct work on urban wilds.

Goal: Manage and maintain City-owned urban wilds and other natural areas to facilitate public access and recreation where appropriate and to promote site ecology.

- Work with community service groups, friends groups, the Parks Department's Maintenance Division, and the Boston Youth Fund year-round to conduct clean-ups and basic maintenance and improvements at each site.
- Continue site-specific inventories and assessments at a scale and scope appropriate for each site. Continue to adapt and modify maintenance/management plans as conditions and circumstances change.
- Develop and implement cost-effective ecological restoration projects at priority sites, generally those containing significant areas of forest, wetlands, and/or open water.
- Develop and implement projects at selected sites, as appropriate and feasible, to encourage establishment of native plant communities, control invasive plant species, and curtail soil erosion.
- Explore the feasibility of hiring a year-round, specially-trained work crew committed to implementing projects at urban wilds and other natural areas.

Goal: Promote the use of City-owned urban wilds and other natural areas for passive recreation, science and arts-related education, and other uses in keeping with their natural character.

- Produce a map and brochure describing City-owned urban wilds and the role of the Parks Department in managing the Urban Wilds Program.
- Develop trail systems and site-specific maps highlighting sites' ecological as well as health and physical fitness benefits, signage, information kiosks, and interpretative material for each site, as appropriate.
- Work with the Boston Park Rangers, local schools, scout troops, and environmental education organizations such as Massachusetts Audubon Society in using urban wilds and other natural areas as outdoor classrooms and natural history study sites for school groups, children's nature programs, families, and adults. Focus programs especially on biodiversity and interdependence of species.

Goal: Develop administrative, fiscal, and programmatic resources to ensure ongoing, long-term maintenance and management of City-owned urban wilds and other natural areas.

- Secure staffing as outlined in the Boston Urban Wilds and Natural Areas Management Plan to help manage and administer this program.
- Continue to recruit volunteer stewardship and advocacy groups to implement limited work projects and provide local support for urban wilds and natural areas.
- Establish sufficient yearly capital budget funds for implementation of prioritized renovation improvements at urban wild sites.
- Establish a sufficient yearly operation budget to fund urban wild maintenance items that are key to public health, safety, and well-being (i.e. sidewalk snow removal, hazardous tree removal, etc).
- Continue efforts to raise funds from other private and public funding sources to cover operational expenses (e.g., tool and supplies, year-round landscape maintenance crews, plant materials for restoration efforts, and staffing for interpretive tours by groups such as Audubon).
- Develop a system for monitoring of urban wild and natural area management activities, with an aim toward measuring progress on stated goals and objectives.
- Develop and implement an outreach strategy to ensure effective communication of urban wilds and natural areas management activities, successes, and notable achievements.

Goal: Advocate for the long-term protection and stewardship of other (non-City) publicly- and privately-owned urban wilds and other natural areas.

- Continue to use the City's Open Space Acquisition Program for the identification, assessment, and acquisition of high priority privately-owned urban wilds and other natural areas.
- Work with private landowners, other public natural area management agencies, such as the DCR, and other concerned parties such as Boston Natural Areas Network, and neighborhood-based groups in facilitating ecologically-based land management activities for all natural areas in Boston.

City-Owned Urban Wilds

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mgt	Protection	POS	Neighborhood	General Zoning Districts	Open Space Type
Fernald Rock	0.06	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Geneva Cliffs	1.80	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Willowwood Rock	0.56	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Dorchester	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Condor Street Beach I	2.74	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/LWCF/ Ch91/ WPA/AUL	X	East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Condor Street Overlook	0.42	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA/ Ch91	X	East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
The Rockies	0.71	X	COB	BPRD	NULL	A97	X	East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Blake Estates Urban Wild	0.34		COB	BCC	NULL	A97/CR/ WPA	X	Hyde Park	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
DeForest Urban Wild I	0.91	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Monterey Hilltop I	4.18		COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mother Brook III	3.91	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	Hyde Park	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Sherrin Woods I	23.95	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
West Austin Rock	0.30	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
West Street	2.51		COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	Hyde Park	Industrial District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dell Rock I	1.30	X	COB	BPRD	NULL	A97	X	Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Bussey Brook Meadow I	24.68	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97	X	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Nira Rock	1.45	X	COB	BPRD	NULL	A97	X	Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Gladeside I	10.29	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	Mattapan	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt Woods I	6.01	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Woodhaven	1.22	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Back of the Hill	3.72	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Mission Hill	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild I	8.05	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Rockledge Street Urban Wild	0.51	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97	X	Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Buena Vista	1.48	X	BRA	NULL	BPRD	A97	X	Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allandale Woods II	10.60	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dunbarton Woods	0.74	X	COB	BCC	Private	A97	X	West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Millennium Park II	8.33	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Rivermoor III	0.52	X	COB	BCC	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Allandale Woods I	49.58	X	COB	BPRD	BPRD	A97/WPA	X	West Roxbury	CPS	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Euston Path Rock	0.39		COB	NULL	NULL			Allston-Brighton	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Charlestown Overlook	0.21		BRA	NULL	NULL			Charlestown	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Meetinghouse Hill Overlook	0.34		COB	NULL	NULL			Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
The Humps	0.93		COB	NULL	NULL			Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Blue Hill Rock	0.45		BHA	NULL	NULL			Dorchester	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Belle Isle Coastal Preserve	1.47	X	COB	NULL	BPRD	WPA/Ch91/ ACEC		East Boston	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

Open Space Site Name	Acres	PA	Ownership	Open Space Ownership/ Jurisdiction	Open Space Mgt	Protection	POS	Neighborhood	General Zoning Districts	Open Space Type
Dana Avenue Urban Wild II	0.03		COB	NULL	NULL	WPA		Hyde Park	NULL	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dell Rock II	0.04	X	COB	NULL	BPRD			Hyde Park	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Pleasant View I	0.07		COB	NULL	NULL			Hyde Park	Comm/Off/ Bus District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Williams Street III	0.31		COB	NULL	NULL			Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Forest Hills Preserve	2.45	X	BHA	NULL	NULL			Jamaica Plain	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Babson-Cookson Tract	2.41		COB	NULL	NULL			Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Currier Woods I	1.43		COB	NULL	NULL			Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt School Woods	2.98	X	COB	NULL	NULL			Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Mattahunt Woods III	3.57		COB	NULL	NULL	WPA		Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Savannah Woods I	3.19		COB	NULL	NULL			Mattapan	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Boundary I	7.01	X	COB	NULL	NULL			Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Canterbury I	1.23		COB	NULL	NULL			Roslindale	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
John Eliot Square Urban Wild I	0.23		COB	NULL	BCCBPRD			Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Dana Road I	2.73		COB	NULL	NULL			West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Ohrenberger Woodland	3.78	X	COB	NULL	NULL			West Roxbury	Residential District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
West Roxbury High School Marsh	21.48	X	COB	NULL	NULL	WPA		West Roxbury	Institutional District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Rivermoor II	1.03		BRA	NULL	NULL	WPA		West Roxbury	Open Space District	Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

Legend:

PA	Publicly Accessible
POS	Protected Open Space
Open Space Mgt	Open Space Management Entity

Section 7.2

Analysis of Needs: Community Open Space & Recreation

Section 7.2

COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Introduction

The Community Open Space and Recreation Needs Analysis breaks down the open space analysis by neighborhood, in contrast to the city-wide assessment which was explored in Sections 3, 4 and 5. At the neighborhood scale we are better able to inventory and analyze the specific fabric and make-up of a community, and explore how the open space resources in that community respond to its needs. Functionally, neighborhood boundaries have no meaning in the use and operation of the city's open space system but these established perimeters help organize the discussion for the purposes of the Open Space Plan. Framework Goals, Objectives and Action Plan items, which are discussed in Sections 8 and 9 are again city-wide rather than neighborhood specific.

The six basic components of the Open Space Plan community needs assessment are:

1. Context
2. Demographics
3. Population Density and Need Score
4. Facilities Distribution
5. Park Access and Equity
6. Community Planning and Development

Each of these is explained in further detail in this introduction, and then explored within each neighborhood in the following sections.

1. **Context:** What is the development history of this community and how does it inform what we see today?
2. **Demographics:** Who is the parks and open space system serving in each neighborhood?

Demographic analysis provides an overview of the population of each neighborhood. The City of Boston has been in a period of population growth for the last several decades, and the most recent census data (2010) shows growth at nearly 5% between 2000–2010. City populations are projected to continue to increase through 2020 and these trends are important to understand when evaluating the parks and open space system.

Using the 2010 census figures, the city provides 7.59 acres of protected open space per 1,000 residents citywide. Some neighborhoods are rich with open space resources and others are more constrained; we'll compare how each neighborhood stacks up against the city averages. This analysis also considers the age ranges in each neighborhood as this information is closely correlated with the types of park facilities that are most used and desired.

3. **Population Density and Need Score:** Where are the populations in greatest need for open space in the neighborhood?

Park "need" is an important but somewhat subjective analysis. For the purposes of this plan, "need" scores are developed using several contributing criteria weighted in the following order:

- Population Density
- Percent of population under the age of 18
- Block groups designated as Low Income using the MA State Environmental Justice criteria
- Block groups designated as Minority using the MA State Environmental Justice criteria
- Block groups designated English Language Isolated using the MA State Environmental Justice criteria
- Percent of the population over the age of 69

These variables result in a total score for each census block group; those areas with the highest scores are identified as being in greatest "need". This analysis provides greater depth to the population density maps and offers a spatial understanding of the general demographics of a neighborhood.

4. **Facilities Distribution:** Where are the parks and open spaces in the neighborhood and what kinds of facilities are located in these open spaces?

The Facilities Distribution maps shows how active park uses are distributed throughout the neighborhood. Playlots and water spray play areas are indicated on Map 7 for each neighborhood, and athletic fields and three types of courts are indicated on Map 8. This information helps open space managers and stewards understand if a neighborhood has reasonable access to an appropriate range of active recreation opportunities.

Facilities distribution maps do not provide any information or analysis related to park quality or use. These important measures are examined through park inspections, audits, maintenance and qualitative assessments.

Facilities distribution is also interpreted to include community facilities—schools, libraries, and community centers. These community spaces are represented on the Neighborhood Fabric and Activity map (Map 9 for each neighborhood), which helps illustrate how park facilities relate to activity generators in the neighborhood. These facilities are a year-round draw for youth and families and offer opportunities for coordinated park programming, indoor and outdoor recreation activities. They often host community events and become a gathering place for civic activities and ideas.

5. **Park Access and Equity:** Can people easily walk to a public park? Are parks serving those residents in greatest need of open space access?

For the purposes of this plan, the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department utilized a version of the NRPA typology for categorizing existing parks and open space areas to better understand park availability. These categories were based on guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association (www.nrpa.org).

Park Type	Park size (acres)	Typical Uses	Service Area
Pocket Parks	Less than 0.25 acres	Plazas and squares	0.1 mile
Neighborhood Parks	0.25 acres to 5 acres	Multi-use	.25 miles – 5 min walk
Community Parks	Over 5 acres	Multi-use, large facilities	0.5 miles – 10 min. walk

The categories provide us with a structure through which to evaluate the distribution of open space across the city. No single park type is considered more valuable than another; rather, the ways these spaces relate to one another and form a network across the city help illustrate where city residents have ample access to open space and where that access is limited.

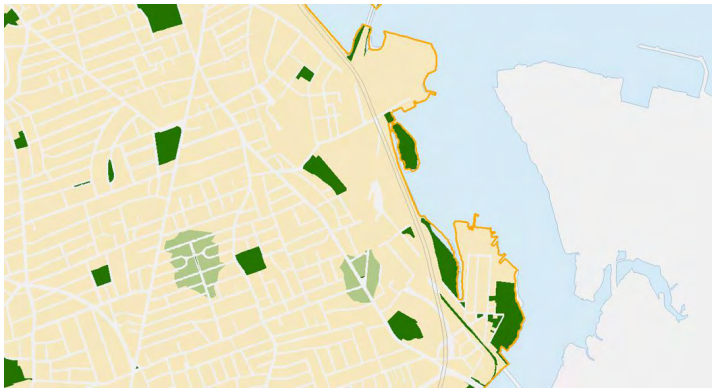
Service Areas and Access

The Open Space Plan's park access and service area analysis is similar to the access analysis published in the Trust for Public Land (TPL) ParkScore Index city rankings (http://parkscore.tpl.org). According to the TPL, 97% of City of Boston residents are within a 10 minute walk of a publicly accessible park. The city's Open Space Plan takes a more fine-grained approach to this analysis by reducing the service areas at parks that are 5 acres or less to a maximum 5 minute walk. This sets the bar higher and provides us with a more nuanced understanding of access to the city's open space system. Actual walking distances are less important than a comprehensive understanding of park distribution and access.

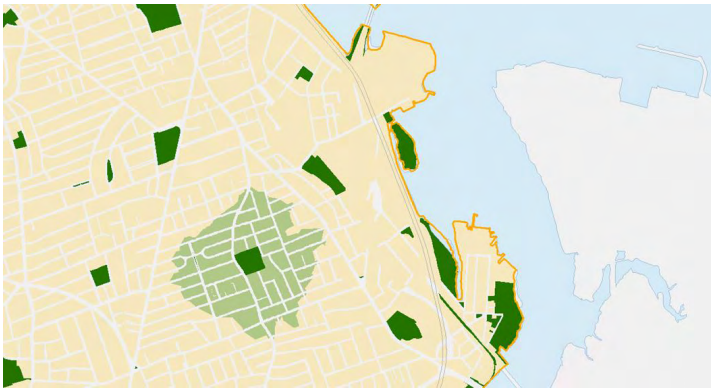
It is important to understand where the gaps in park service areas are, so that we can take steps to improve park access in those communities in the future. It is also important to understand that this is a walking distance analysis. Many city parks serve people who live beyond a 5 or 10 minute walking distance, particularly parks with athletic facilities or unique features. The Service Area Maps illustrate the reasonable walking distance to and from a park's entrance but do not define the entire population served by that park.

To understand the Park Service Area Maps, it helps to see that that information is layered.

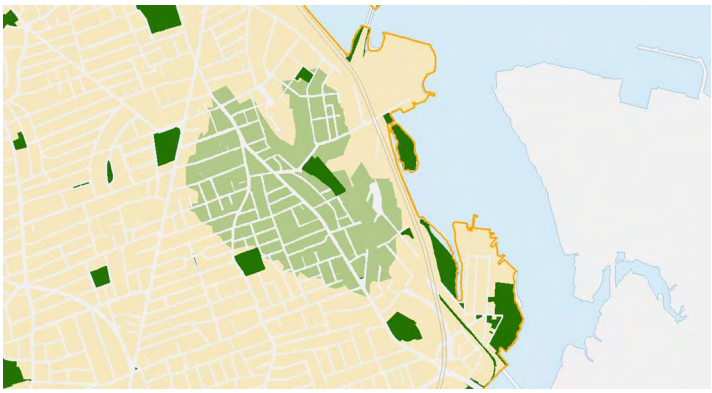
This map shows an example of the service areas from Pocket Parks (0.1 mile distance):



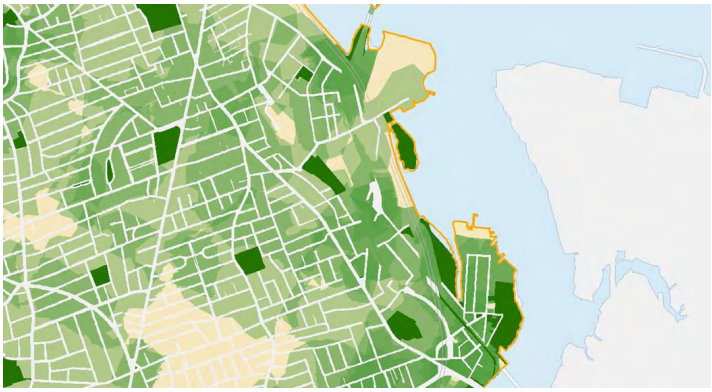
This map shows the Service Area from a Neighborhood Park (0.25 mile distance):



This map shows the Service Areas from a Community Park (0.5 mile distance):



When these Service Areas are layered together, we can see which parts of the neighborhood have walkable access to one park, several parks, or no parks at all:



For the purposes of this analysis, urban wilds are included as park lands (called "Publicly Accessible Open Space" on the Map 10 legend), but community gardens and cemeteries are not. This decision was made because urban wilds only differ from other parks in their landscape features and level of development. Community gardens also provide an open space resource to their communities, but the facilities are dedicated to a particular use and oftentimes users are limited to only those who are assigned plots. Community gardens are discussed in further detail under Section 7.3.2. Cemeteries and historic burying grounds are also not included in this park access analysis. While many cemeteries provide passive open space to their surrounding community, their primary function is to provide or preserve

burials. Because there is much variability in each cemetery's public access, passive recreation opportunities, and scenic value, we have elected not to include the entire class of properties in this analysis. Cemeteries and historic burying grounds are discussed in further detail under Section 7.3.1.

Park Equity

Park Equity advances the Park Service Areas analysis to understand how gaps in park access relate to areas with populations in high need of open space access. Overlaying the Park Need Score analysis with the Park Service Areas analysis creates a Park Equity Map for each neighborhood. Strategies for addressing gaps in park service, particularly in high need areas, are discussed in Section 8 Goals and Objectives.

6. **Community Planning and Development:** What planning and development projects are happening in the community? What are the potential open space impacts and opportunities associated with those projects?

Throughout the city there are planning and development initiatives underway by city departments and private developers. Much of this work will impact city open space in some way, and many of these planning and development projects offer opportunities to improve and enhance open space as a result of the project. Open space impacts from new projects are evaluated in multiple ways including proposed project density and use(s), provision of on-site open space, zoning compliance, and project design and massing. Critical to this analysis is an understanding of the existing neighborhood open space including park access, distribution of facilities, need scores, and other demographic criteria presented in this chapter. This understanding of the existing fabric of neighborhood open space informs the analysis of the potential impacts a project might have on a neighborhood. Adding new residents, workplaces, and commercial areas is often desirable and appropriate, but providing for the open space needs of those new dwellers or workers is fundamental. The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Open Space Impact Assessment tool builds on the analysis presented here, and applies this understanding to proposed projects.

Planning efforts precipitate many development projects throughout the city. The Boston Redevelopment Authority and Boston Transportation Department generate most planning studies, but some are the products of institutions undergoing their own Institutional Master Planning processes. Planning projects present unique opportunities for open space consideration. Redevelopment of underutilized lands, transportation enhancements, and city (or campus) connectivity projects all consider open space and offer opportunities for open space improvements. Again, the analysis of existing park access, equity, facilities distribution and demographics informs the process of identifying areas where planning projects can help advance open space goals and objectives citywide.

Direct investment in park improvement projects is ongoing and is one of the primary missions of the public agencies that manage and maintain open space in Boston. Capital expenditures target projects throughout the city and aim to reinvest in park land in a cyclical manner than is responsive to the lifecycle of park facilities and the changing needs of a neighborhood. Designation of new park land, whether publicly or privately owned, is usually the product of a planning project. The discussion of community planning and development within these neighborhood chapters highlights key projects with potential for open space impacts. A comprehensive list of active planning and development projects can be found on the website of the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

Further information on map data and metadata for each of the neighborhood maps can be found in Appendix E.

Needs Analysis and Persons with Disabilities

The demographic tables for each neighborhood include data on the percentage of the overall neighborhood population with some type of disability. This information is important within the Open Space Plan because the City of Boston strives to create a built environment that is responsive to the needs of all its citizens, including those with disabilities. All park renovation and improvement projects comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and many projects go beyond those minimum standards to create inclusive environments for play and passive recreation. The City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department has performed an Accessiblity Self-Assessment of BPRD-owned park properties and uses this tool to identify where accessibility improvements are needed as part of park renovation projects.

Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan and the SCORP

This introduction to the Community Open Space and Recreation Needs subsection would not be complete without a discussion of the relationship of the current (2012) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to said needs. Massachusetts, despite being one of the most densely populated states in the nation, is also one of the most heavily forested on a per acre basis. While the statewide plan addresses the needs of rural and suburban areas, the SCORP goals relate well to the needs we have found in the communities of Boston:

SCORP Goal #1: Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation.

The Boston OSRP survey respondents overwhelmingly pursue activities compatible with this goal: over 80% enjoy walking (the most popular activity) and over 70% "enjoy nature" (the second most popular activity). For park features used, again trail-oriented features are among the most popular: 70% of respondents chose natural areas, including trails, which was the most popular choice. Respondents were also asked how important park features were to them. "Natural Areas/Trails" was the most frequently chosen response for "most important feature" and "second most important feature." A large number of respondents (48%) stated that the presence of a natural area (associated with trails) would lead to more frequent visitation of a Boston park.

This section of the plan discusses these trail-related needs, and the means of addressing them, from building or redeveloping park paths and trails, the city's planning for a bike network system to encourage use of bicycles to access parks, and the city's effort to improve pedestrian access to parks via the Public Works Department's Safe Routes to Parks program.

SCORP Goal #2: Increase the availability of water-based recreation.

The Boston OSRP survey respondents overwhelmingly chose natural areas including "wetlands" and "waterbodies" as the most popular park features used (70%). Respondents were also asked how important park features were to them. "Natural Areas/Trails" was the most frequently chosen response for "most important feature" and "second most important feature." Since "natural areas" in an earlier question included water features like wetlands and waterbodies, it is a fair interpretation to say that water features are considered by Boston residents as highly important features of the parks where they exist. A large number of respondents (48%) stated that the presence of a natural area (associated with water features) would lead to more frequent visitation of a Boston park.

This section of the plan discusses these water-based recreation needs, such as for water spray play features in play lots, improved canoe and kayak access, improving pedestrian and bicycle access to parks with water features such as the Charles River Reservation and the Emerald Necklace, and increased waterfront access through Harborwark/Chapter 91 regulations.

SCORP Goal #3: Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits.

The majority (56%) of Boston OSRP survey respondents say the park they most frequently visited in the past twelve months was the park closest to home, which shows the value of proximity to parks and open space for usage. A very high percentage of respondents (40%) say that having parks closer to home and that are easier to walk to and from would encourage them to visit Boston parks more often.

This section of the plan discusses the need for close-to-home parks for everyday needs. The Park Service Area Analysis documents park proximity and highlights where in the city we need to add open space in order to ensure that every Boston resident has a park within a 5-10 minute walk of their home.

SCORP Goal #4: Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.

As EOEEA well knows, the vast majority of census block groups in the City of Boston are environmental justice areas. The majority of Boston OSRP survey respondents, 59%, were from neighborhoods that are racially, economically, and age diverse: Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, Roslindale, the South End, Mission Hill, Roxbury, Hyde Park, East Boston, and Mattapan.

This section of the plan discusses the diversity of the communities throughout Boston, and the effort to meet the needs for close-to-home recreation for such communities. We also discuss the community-based design process for park construction and renovations, where several public meetings and online surveys are used to solicit input into the development of the park design.

Section 7.2.1:

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Like many Boston neighborhoods, the Allston-Brighton area was established in the colonial era (1635) with land grants. A sparsely settled agricultural pattern prevailed until the filling in of the Back Bay and Kenmore Square areas in the late 1800s, by which time the Brighton stockyards had become the foremost cattle market in the region. Another important agricultural development in Brighton was the growth of horticulture: commercial gardens and extensive greenhouses covered many of the hills of Brighton. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society was founded in Brighton in 1829 and the area became well known for the many flowers and other decorative plants, fruit trees, and vegetables developed by Brighton growers. The grounds of Saint John's Seminary are the remains of an old estate orchard.

Proximity to the Charles River and the Boston & Albany Railroad encouraged construction of stockyards, slaughterhouses, and meatpacking operations in both Allston and the northern and eastern sections of Brighton. As the nation expanded westward and refrigerated railroad cars were introduced, regional stockyards, like those in Brighton, declined in importance. These cattle-related businesses were replaced over time by other industrial plants, commercial warehouses, and homes.

In the late 1800s, the extension of streetcar lines—especially along the Commonwealth Avenue corridor—encouraged high quality residential development in Brighton, much of which remains today.

After World War II, the Massachusetts Turnpike Extension further divided this neighborhood. Wider than the existing railroad tracks, the Pike added more noise and air pollution as it severed pedestrian links on either side. Proximity to expanding universities on all sides resulted in a considerable influx of students, coupled with younger families and immigrants from many lands. These changing population patterns in turn spurred conversion of large-scale apartments and 19th century single family homes to smaller rental units and condominiums.

Open Space Access & Equity

Allston-Brighton's ratio of protected open space per 1,000 residents is 4.83 acres which is lower than the city average of 7.59 acres per 1,000. City of Boston facilities include many neighborhood parks with play and sports facilities, an 18th century historic cemetery, a 19th century landscaped cemetery, a community garden, and passive areas such as Chandler Pond and the wooded part of Ringer Park. Parklands of historic and regional significance include the DCR's Chestnut Hill Reservoir and Charles River Reservation. Commonwealth Avenue is notable as an historic boulevard and an important link in the open space system (Allston-Brighton Map 4).

The largest demographic group in this neighborhood is young adults—college age or just beyond. Children make up a small portion of the overall population (only 13.3%) which is the second smallest portion of children for any city neighborhood (behind Back Bay/Beacon Hill). This community shares borders with Newton, Brookline, Cambridge, and Watertown; it also has a small border with the Boston community of Fenway/Longwood.

About one-third of the community's open space (a quantity not included in the acres per 1,000 ratio above) falls into the category of unprotected campus open space owned primarily by Boston College, Harvard University, and Boston University (Allston-Brighton Map 6). These institutional lands provide a sense of spaciousness as well as visual amenity to neighborhood residents and visitors. Retaining and protecting community access to open space owned by hospitals, schools, and religious organizations in Allston and Brighton, often taken for granted, is an important issue, especially as new uses are found and planned for some of these institutional sites. Understanding and documenting the ecological value of these lands provide can also inform the discussion about their importance and need for protection.

Allston-Brighton is gaining population (7.7% growth between 2000 and 2010) and the greatest population density in the neighborhood is along Commonwealth Avenue. The park Need Score, which also takes into account environmental justice criteria and age variables, reinforces the park needs along this corridor (Allston-Brighton Maps 1, 2 and 3).

Park distribution in the neighborhood differs in Allston than in Brighton. Brighton's parks are typically about ½ mile apart which serves the neighborhood well and allows for a reasonable distribution of facilities. Allston has fewer parks and they are more spread out. As this part of the community redevelops and converts industrial uses to commercial, office, residential and institutional uses, the lack of park facilities will be increasingly felt. Prioritizing the creation of meaningful, usable, open space as Allston continues to densify is essential.

The DCR's Charles River Reservation is a very significant regional and neighborhood recreational resource—used by picnickers, canoeists, kayakers, boaters, runners, walkers, bicyclists, and community gardeners. Neighborhood access to the Reservation however is difficult at most points due to the barriers created by the Massachusetts Turnpike and Soldiers Field Road. Efforts are underway by Harvard University, DCR and the City of Boston to improve and add pedestrian crossings to the river.

Throughout the Allston-Brighton neighborhood, the established parks consistently have very poor street frontage and visibility. This condition is present at Hooker-Sorrento, Ringer Playground, Overlook Park, Portsmouth Playground and Ray Mellone Park. This lack of visibility can invite misuse and reduces access to these important public spaces. This condition should be studied as each of these spaces is renovated and as adjacent parcels are redeveloped so that improvements to access and visibility can be prioritized. Opportunities to add parkland to these properties to improve their public street frontage should be sought.

There are only three parks in the Allston-Brighton community with tennis courts. The need for additional courts should be assessed, with input from residents. Allston-Brighton is predominantly a young adult neighborhood and open space uses and programming should be responsive to the needs of this demographic. This includes a need for fields and courts for sports league play, passive spaces for relaxing, and spaces that

encourage active/fitness uses (trails, connected path systems, exercise equipment). The neighborhood's open space facilities should be evaluated through this lens at the onset of all future capital planning or improvement work (Allston-Brighton Map 8).

As previously noted, parks are reasonably well distributed in much of this neighborhood, with the greatest gaps in park access occurring along the Mass Pike corridor. The existing demographics of these areas do not yet indicate that they are high need areas for parks. However, forthcoming redevelopment will change these demographics and accentuate open space deficiencies if not addressed simultaneously with development (Allston-Brighton Maps 10 and 11). These redevelopment projects will not likely be able to address the open space needs along the Commonwealth Avenue corridor which will require its own focus and strategies for improvement.

Future Development

The BRA anticipates that the Guest Street industrial area between North Beacon Street and the Massachusetts Turnpike, will be a focus of real estate development in the next 20 years. Their 2013 Guest Street Area Planning Study is a yardstick by which they propose to guide development, both public and private, to establish a creative live/work/play district. The study recommends early implementation of open spaces to create a sense of place for this area. A north-south boulevard is proposed that will lead to a pedestrian bridge to cross over the Turnpike to access the North Allston neighborhood.

The Allston I-90 Interchange Improvement Project being led by MassDOT, opens up possibilities for major redevelopment of the highway interchange and former CSX Yards alongside transportation improvements. Open space connections, particularly to and along the Charles River, must be a central component to these plans. A strategy for long term protection of these future open spaces should be developed and an open space planning process to ensure a mix of recreational facilities and uses should be employed.

West of the current Harvard campus in Allston, there is an area called the Holton Street Corridor, between the Massachusetts Turnpike and Soldiers Field Road, which has received attention through a planning initiative by the BRA. A mixed use redevelopment with commercial, ground floor retail, and residential is proposed for this area, including one or more parks, along with strengthened pedestrian connections to the Charles River Reservation via either Telford Street or Everett Street, or both.

The Charlesview multi-family housing development has moved west to the Holton Street Corridor area, but the grove of trees it left behind will be protected, with public access allowed, as a focal point of the Barry's Corner area. The Barry's Corner area will also have plazas with public access as a component to insure pedestrian activation and flow at this important intersection. The new roadway between the Barry's Corner residential project and Smith Field will improve public access to this park.

Like other institutions with facilities in Boston, Harvard University has an Institutional Master Plan (IMP). This IMP proposes a connected series of open spaces from Mellone Park northeastward to the Charles River and the eastern end of Western Avenue. This greenway will be intersected by existing and proposed streets in a new grid. Other open spaces that will be more campus-centric will also be created in the IMP area. These potential open spaces will offer environmental benefits, but their creation on institutional lands does not ensure their long-term protection or their recreational benefits for non-student populations.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON

Population	
2010 Census	74,997
2000 Census	69,648
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**7.7%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	26.4
2000 Census	24.5
Density Change, 2000–2010	**1.9**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	3,431	5%
10 to 19	6,552	9%
20 to 34	44,344	59%
35 to 54	10,697	14%
55 to 64	3,975	5%
65 and over	5,998	8%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Allston-Brighton	74,997	1,544	4.6%	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	49,569	66%
Hispanic or Latino	7,440	10%
Black or African American alone	3,431	5%
Asian alone	11,533	15%
Other	3,014	4%

Median Household Income
$44,947

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008–2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

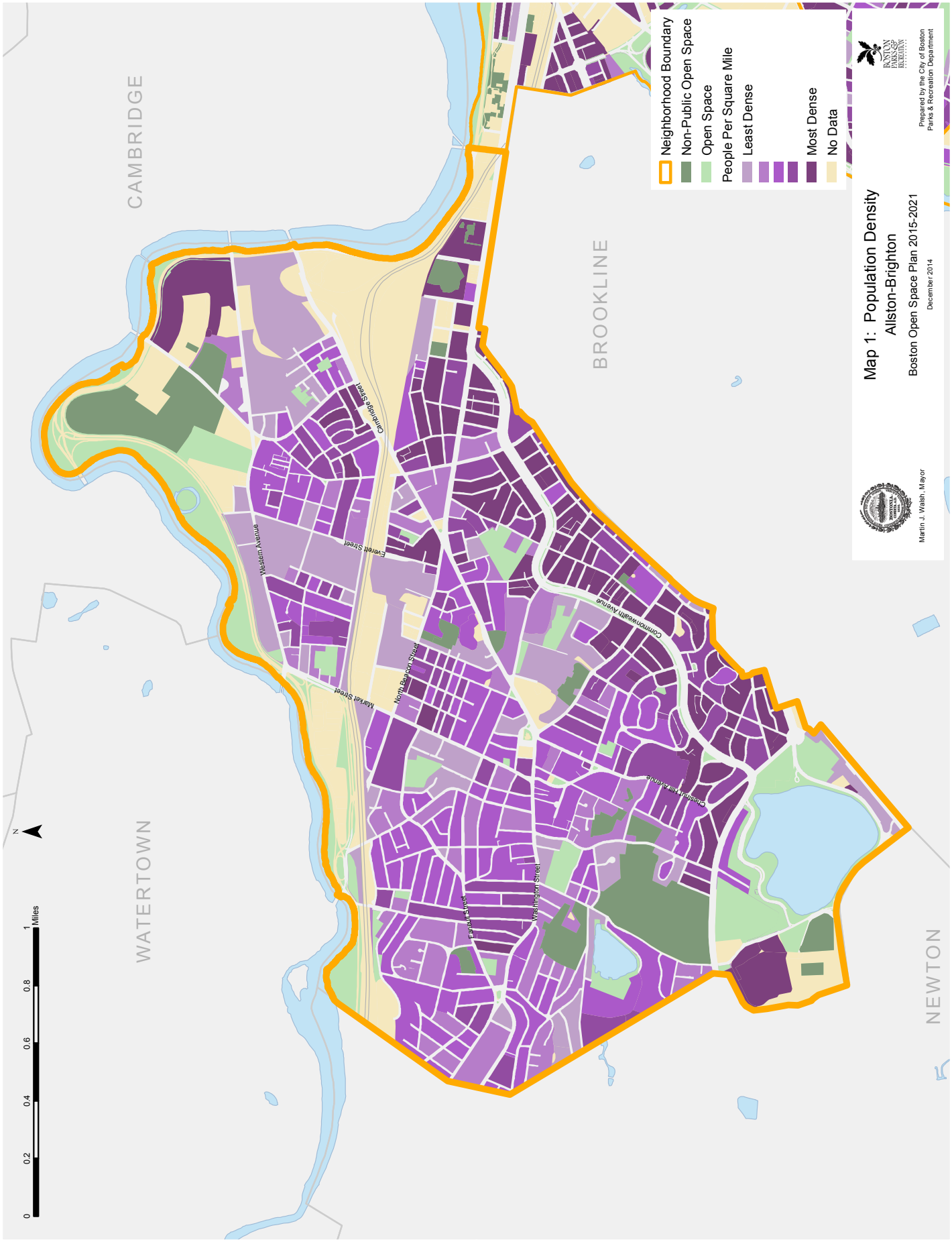
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	38%
1 vehicle	39%
2 vehicles	16%
3 or more vehicles	7%

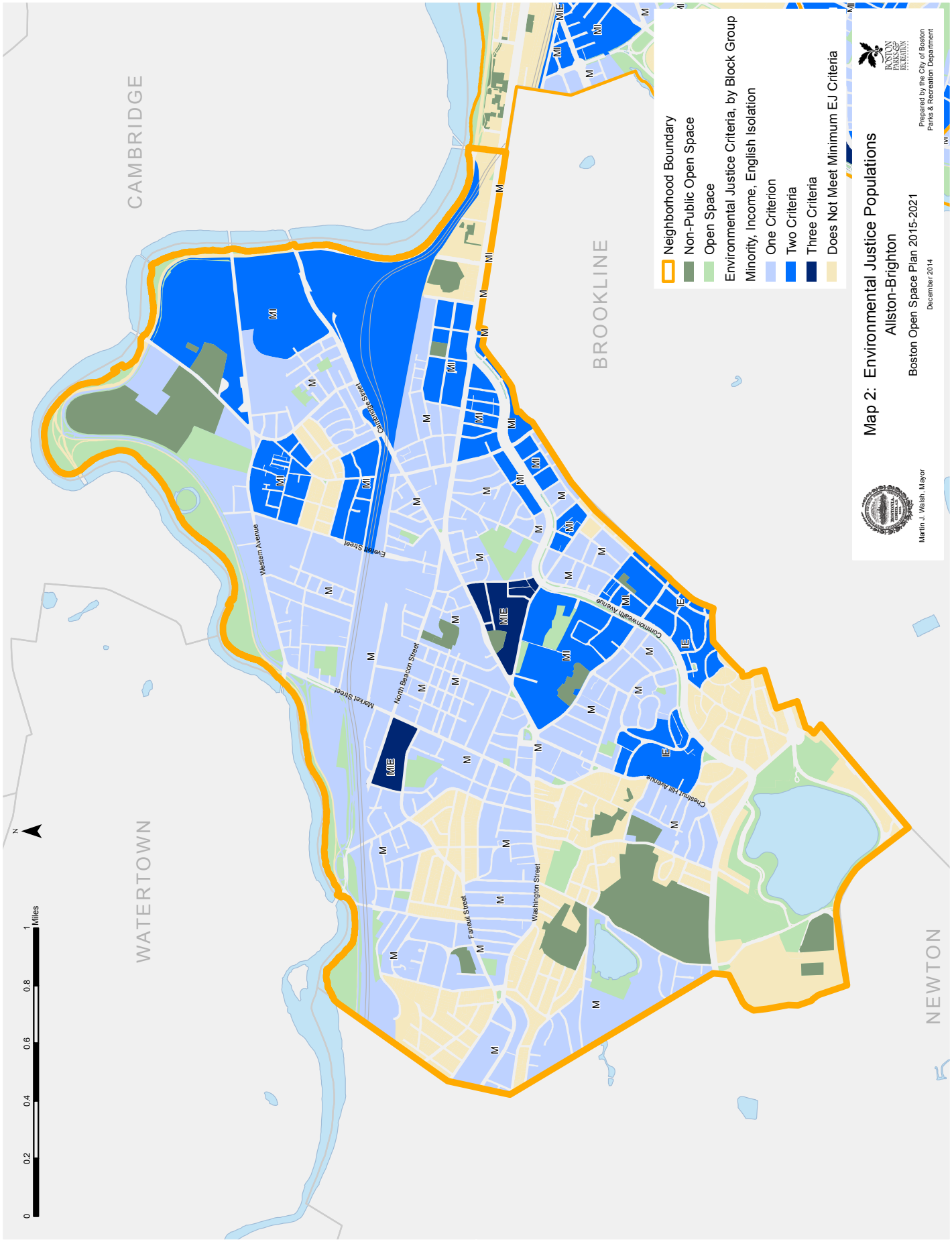
Source: American Community Survey 2006–2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

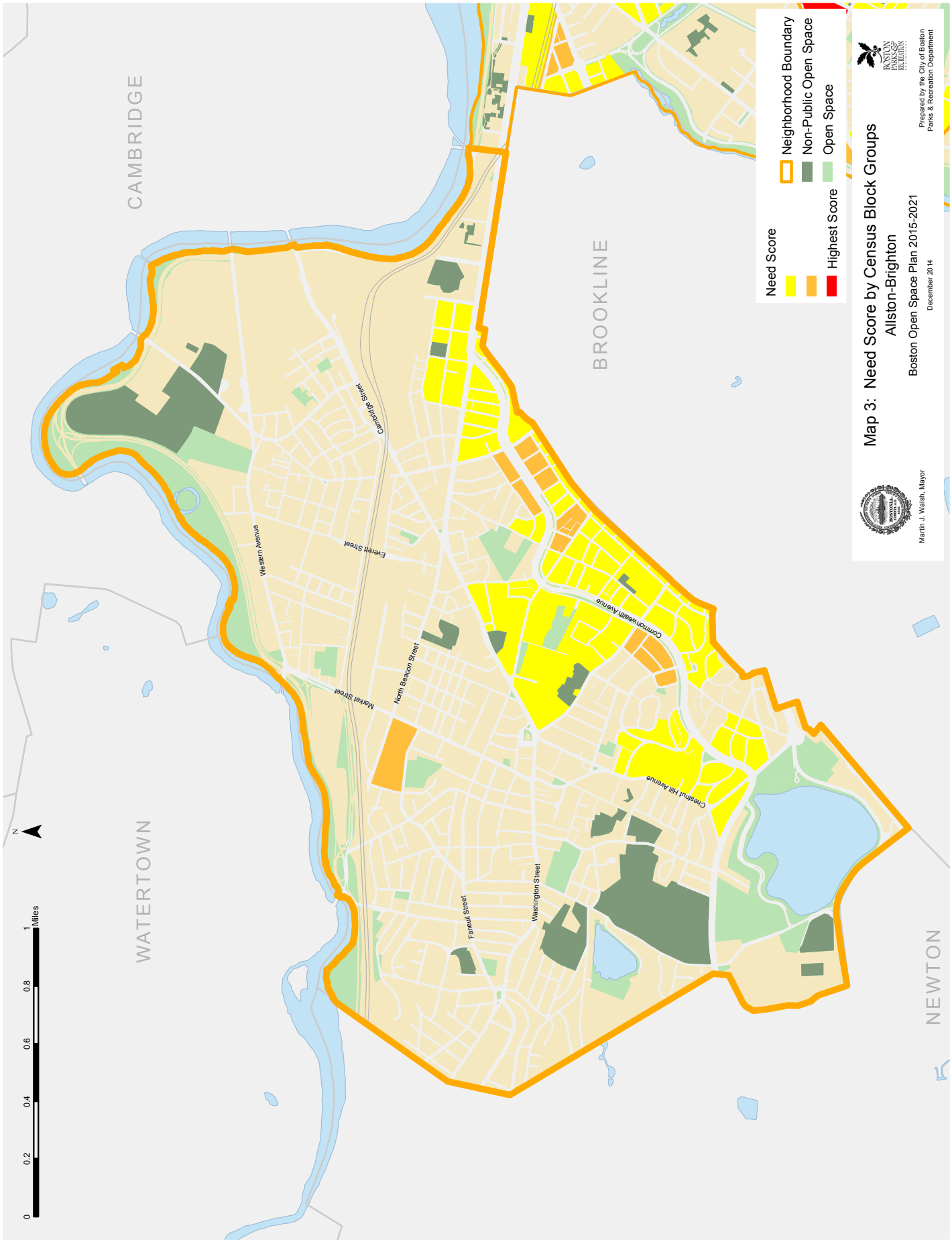
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Allston-Brighton	5,923	9.1%

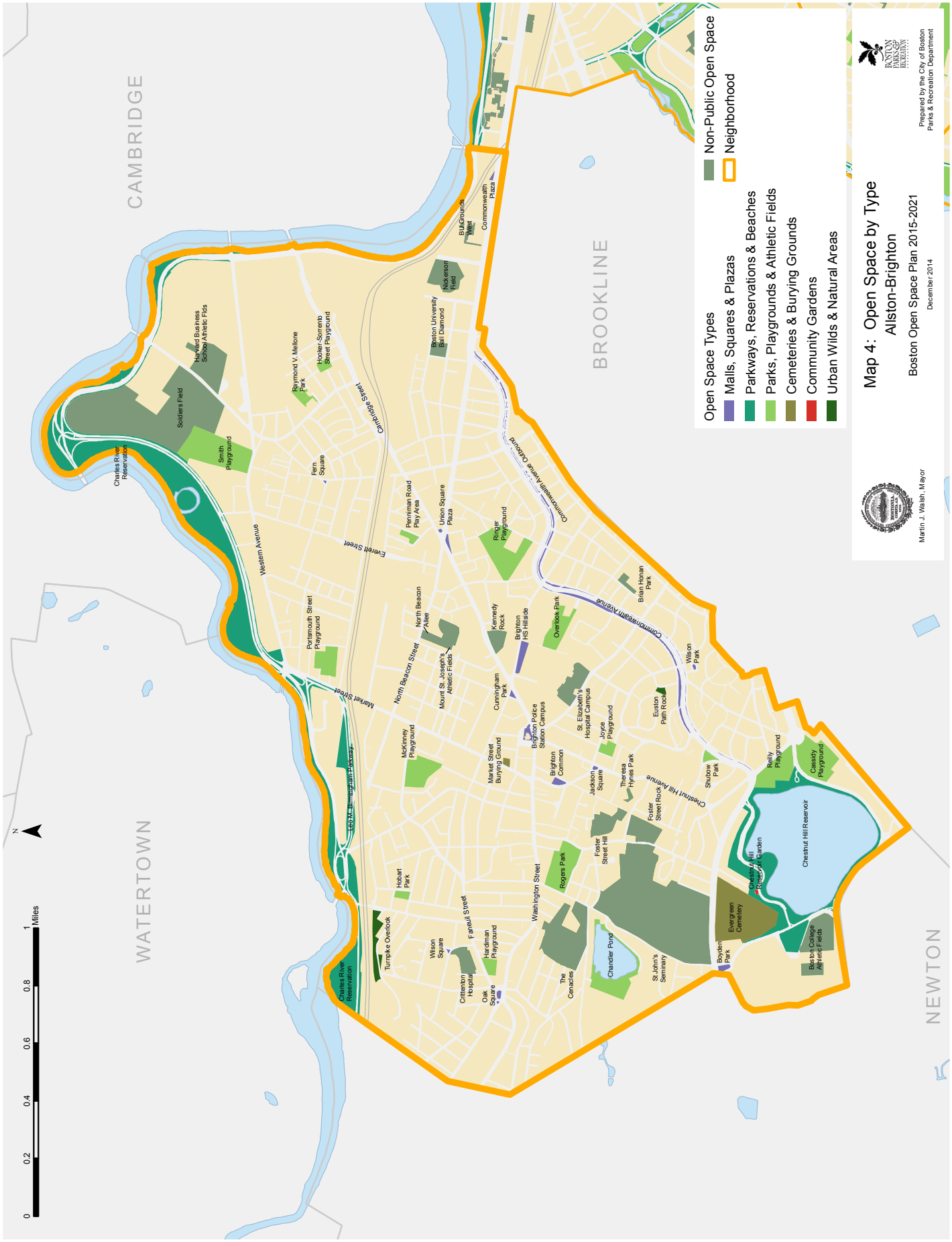
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

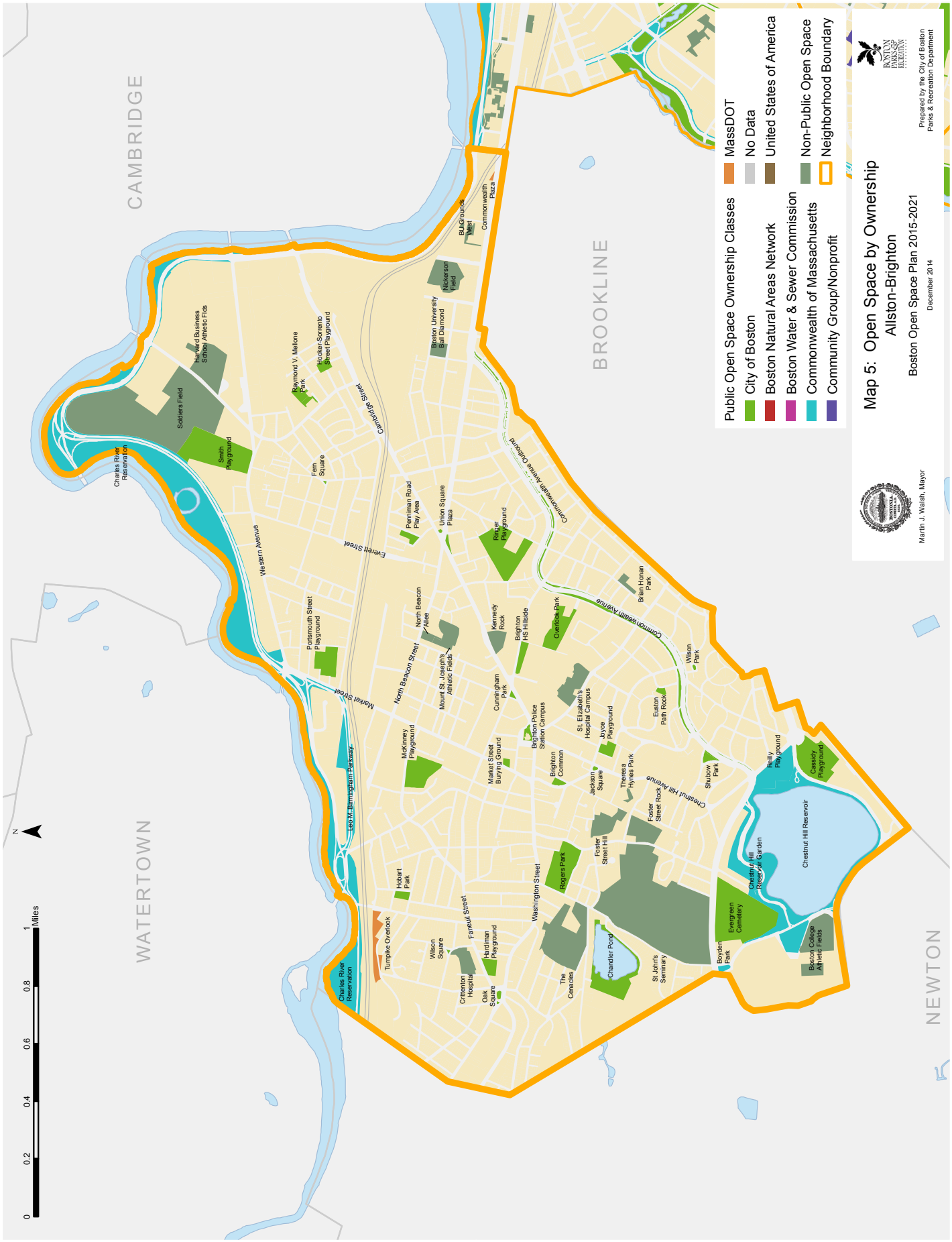
N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


CAMBRIDGE
WATERTOWN
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
Western Avenue
Everett Street
Cambridge Street
Market Street
North Beacon Street
Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Washington Street
Brighton Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
Map 1: Population Density
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
Miles
N

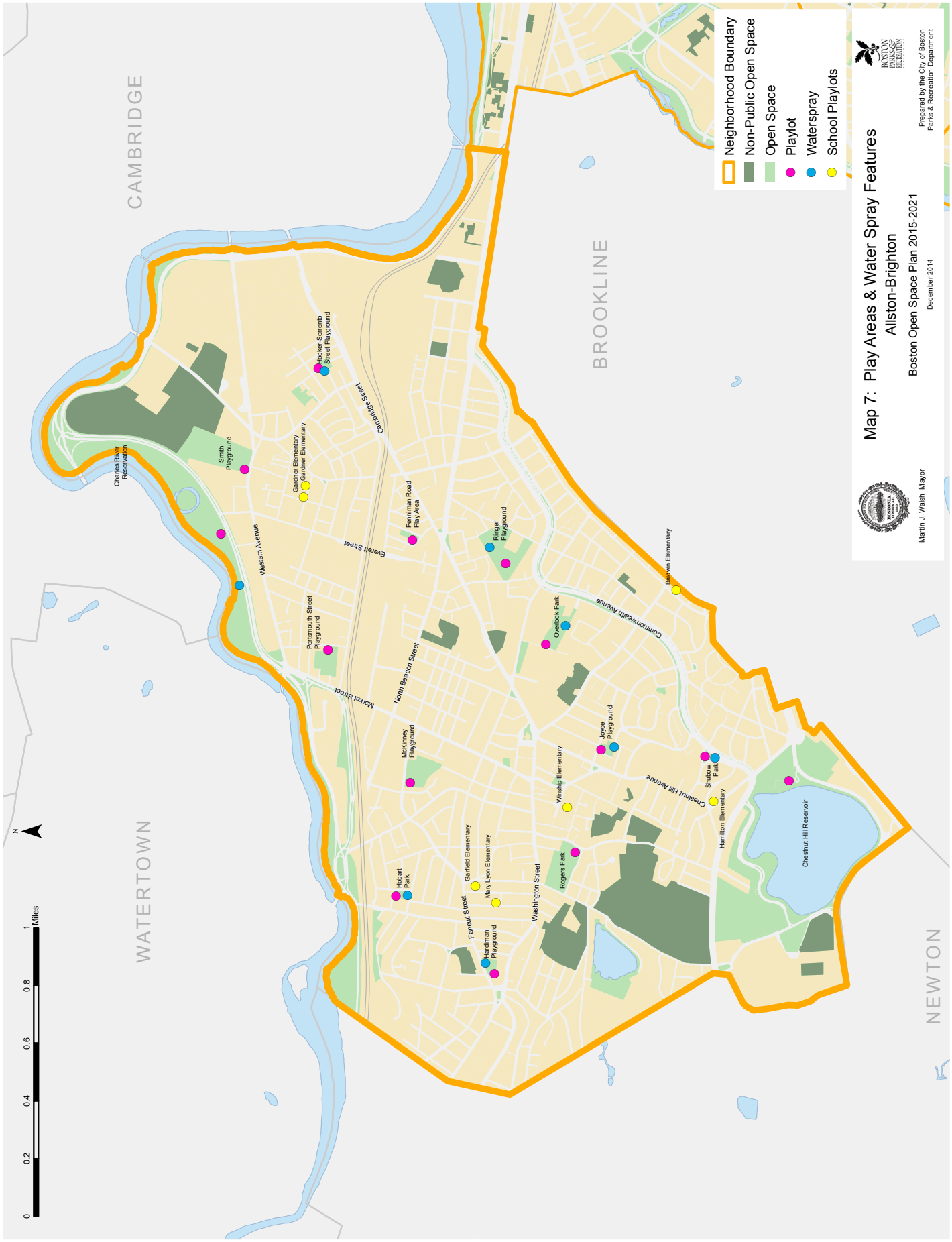

Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
WATERTOWN
NEWTON
Western Avenue
Everett Street
Cambridge Street
Market Street
North Beacon Street
Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Washington Street
Faneuil Street
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
Miles
N

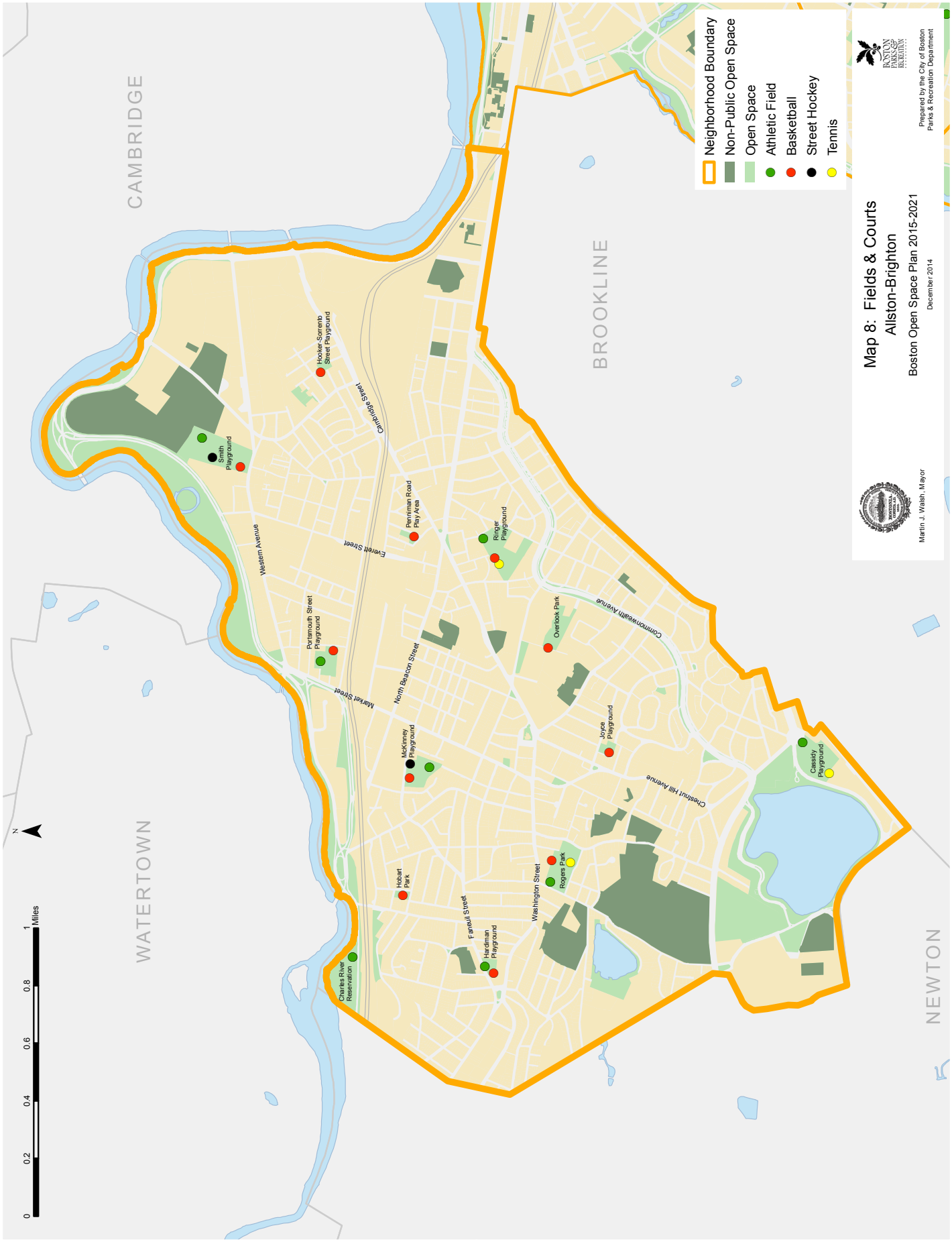

CAMBRIDGE
WATERTOWN
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
Western Avenue
Everett Street
Cambridge Street
Market Street
North Beacon Street
Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Washington Street
Faneuil Street
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
Miles
N
Need Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Highest Score
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

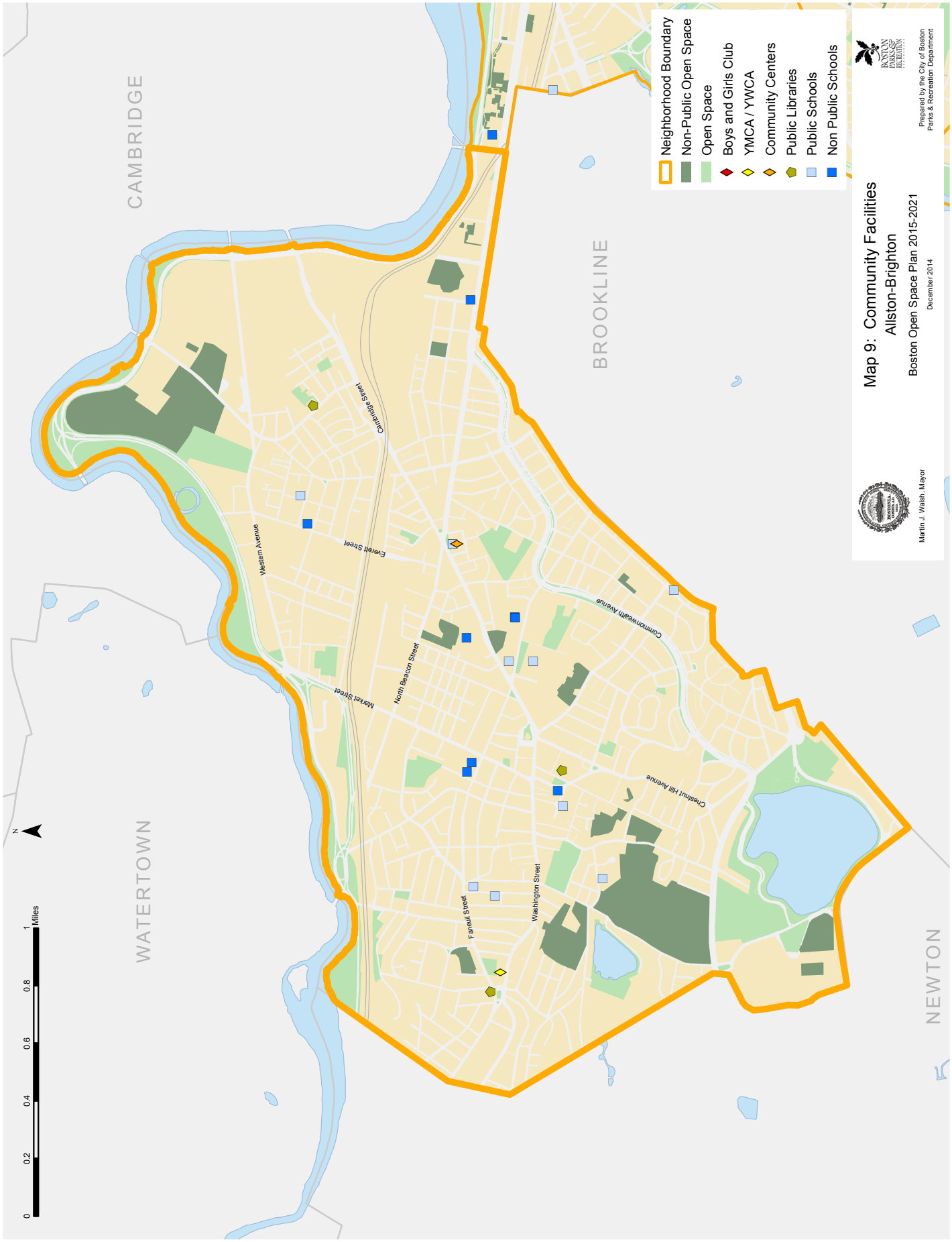

Map 4: Open Space by Type
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Open Space Types
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
CAMBRIDGE
WATERTOWN
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles
N
Charles River Reservation
Soldiers Field
Smith Playground
Harvard Business School Athletic Fields
Raymond V. Mellone Park
Hooker-Sorrento Street Playground
Fern Square
Western Avenue
Portsmouth Street Playground
Market Street
Ted Williams Parkway
Cambridge Street
Everett Street
Penniman Road Play Area
Union Square Plaza
Boston University Ball Diamond
Nickerson Field
BU Grounds Water
Commonwealth Plaza
Commonwealth Avenue Outbound
Commonwealth Avenue
Ringer Playground
Brian Honan Park
North Beacon Street
North Beacon Allee
Mount St. Joseph's Athletic Fields
Kennedy Rock
Brighton HS Hillside
Overlook Park
Wilson Park
McKinney Playground
Cunningham Park
Brighton Police Station Campus
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Campus
Euston Path Rock
Market Street Burying Ground
Brighton Common
Joyce Playground
Jackson Square
Theresa Hynes Park
Shubow Park
Cheshnut Hill Avenue
Foster Street Rock
Foster Street Hill
Rogers Park
Washington Street
Hobart Park
Turnpike Overlook
Wilson Square
Farrell Street
Hardiman Playground
Crittenton Hospital
Oak Square
The Cenacles
Chandler Pond
St John's Seminary
Boyden Park
Evergreen Cemetery
Cheshnut Hill Rogers Jr. Garden
Cheshnut Hill Reservoir
Reilly Playground
Cassidy Playground
Boston College Athletic Fields

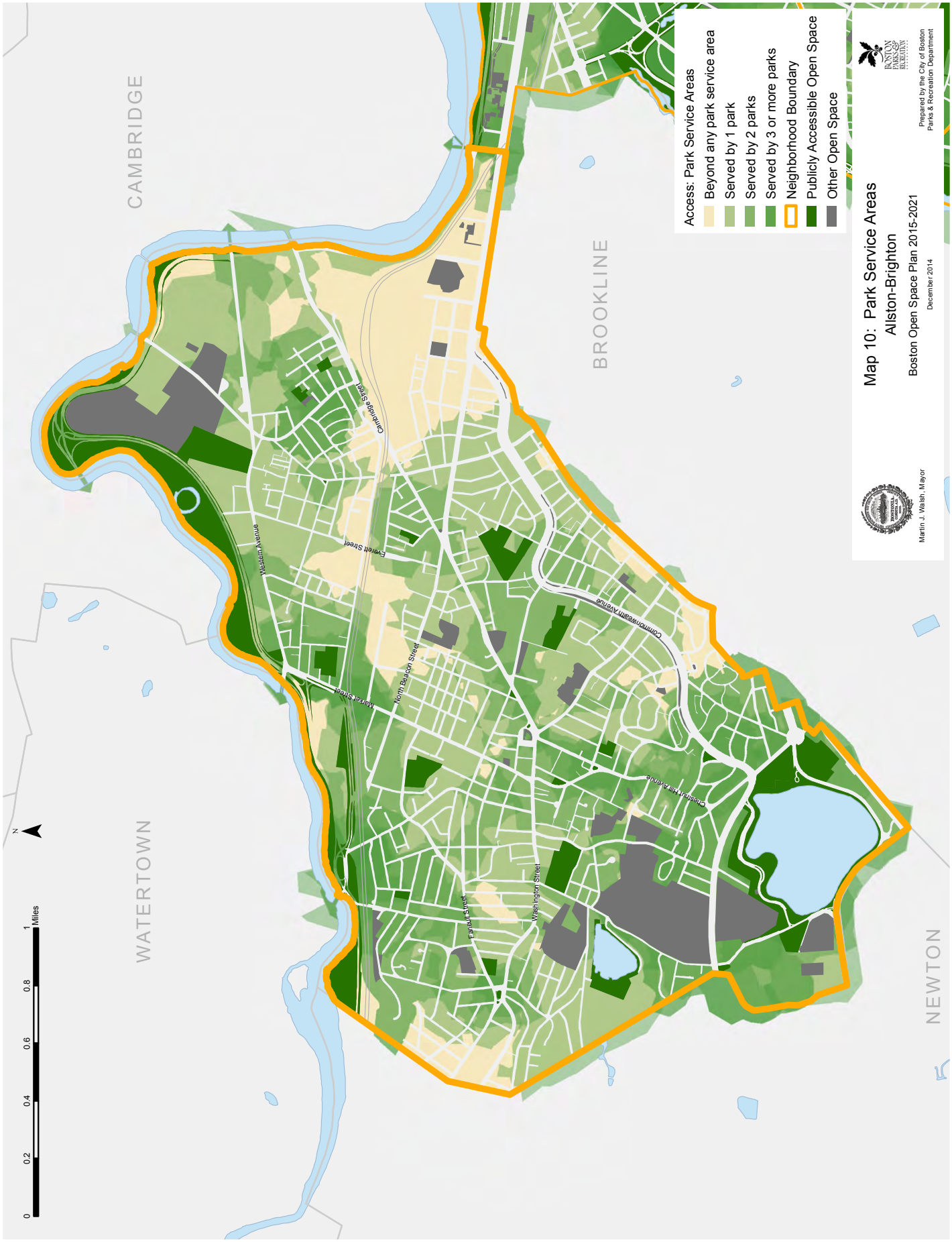

Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
CAMBRIDGE
WATERTOWN
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
Charles River Reservation
Soldiers Field
Harvard Business School Athletic Flds
Smith Playground
Raymond V. Malone Park
Hooke-Soments Street Playground
Fern Square
Cambridge Street
Western Avenue
Everett Street
Market Street
Leo M. Birmingham Parkway
Portsmouth Street Playground
Penniman Road Play Area
Union Square Plaza
Boston University Ball Diamond
Nickerson Field
BU Grounds Yard
Commonwealth Plaza
Commonwealth Avenue Outbound
Commonwealth Avenue
Ringer Playground
North Beacon Street
North Beacon Alice
Mount St. Joseph's Athletic Fields
Kennedy Rock
Brighton HS Hillside
Overlook Park
Brian Honan Park
Wilson Park
McKinney Playground
Cunningham Park
Market Street Burying Ground
Brighton Police Station Campus
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Campus
Joyce Playground
Easton Path Rock
Brighton Common
Jackson Square
Theresa Hynes Park
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Foster Street Rock
Shubow Park
Bally Playground
Cassidy Playground
Chestnut Hill Reservoir
Chestnut Hill Reservoir Garden
Boston College Athletic Fields
Evergreen Cemetery
Boyden Park
Foster Street Hill
Chandler Pond
St John's Seminary
Rogers Park
Washington Street
The Cenacles
Hobart Park
Turnpike Overlook
Farrell Street
Wilson Square
Hardiman Playground
Oak Square
Crittenton Hospital
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
Miles
N

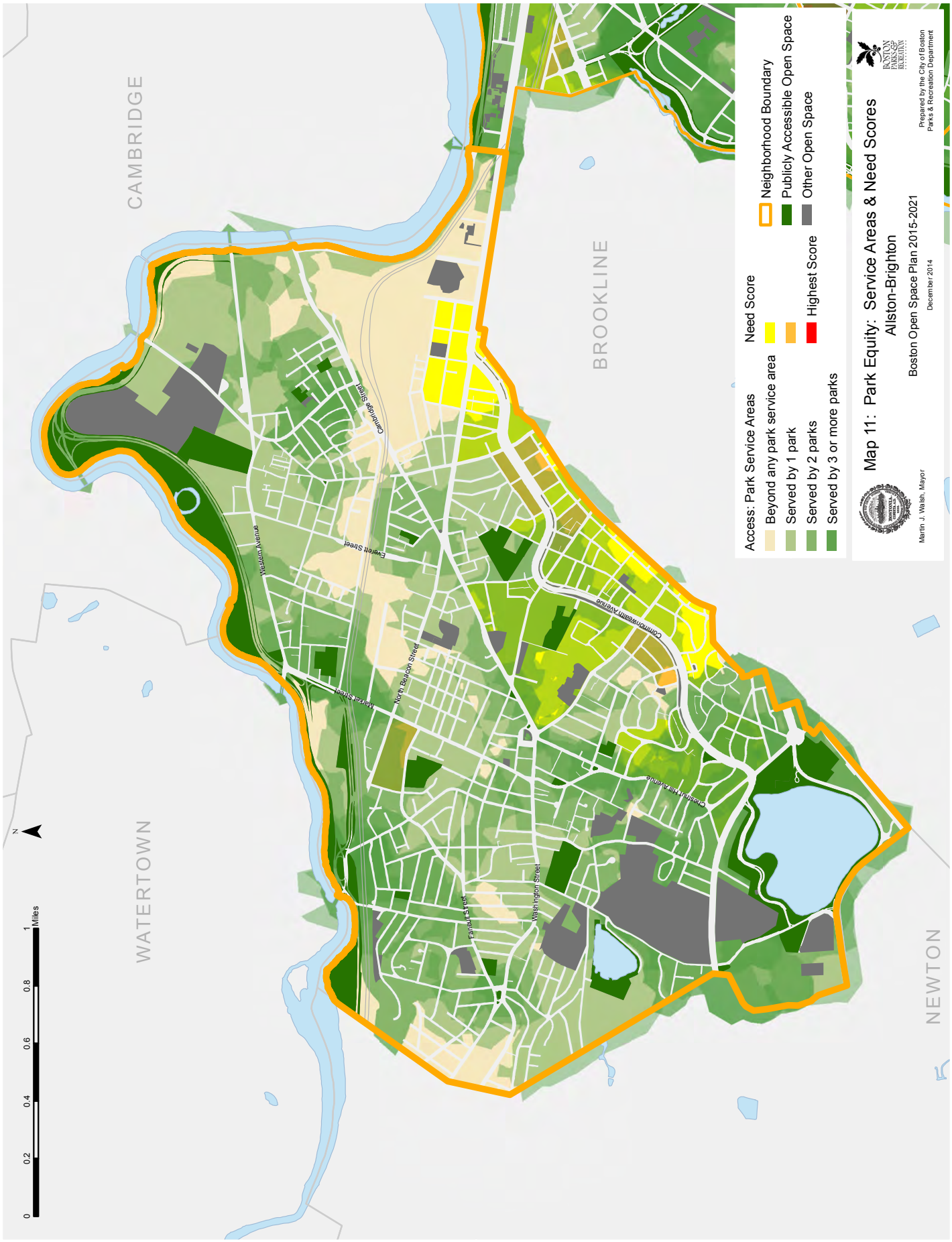
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
WATERTOWN
NEWTON
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles
N
Charles River Reservation
Soldiers Field
Harvard Business School Athletic Fields
Smith Playground
Raymond V. Mellone Park
Hooker-Sorrento Street Playground
Fern Square
Cambridge Street
Western Avenue
Everett Street
Portsmouth Street Playground
Market Street
Leo M. Birmingham Parkway
Turnpike Overlook
Hobart Park
Wilson Square
Fanelli Street
Hardiman Playground
Oak Square
Crittenton Hospital
Washington Street
Rogers Park
The Cenacles
Chandler Pond
McKinney Playground
North Beacon Street
North Beacon Allee
Mount St. Joseph's Athletic Fields
Market Street Burying Ground
Cunningham Park
Kennedy Rock
Brighton HS Hillside
Brighton Police Station Campus
Brighton Common
Jackson Square
Foster Street Hill
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Campus
Joyce Playground
Theresa Hynes Park
Foster Street Rock
St John's Seminary
Penniman Road Play Area
Union Square Plaza
Ringer Playground
Overlook Park
Boston University Ball Diamond
Nickerson Field
BU Grounds Test
Commonwealth Plaza
Commonwealth Avenue Outbound
Commonwealth Avenue
Brian Honan Park
Wilson Park
Euston Path Rock
Shubow Park
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Chestnut Hill Reservoir
Chestnut Hill Reservoir Garden
Boyden Park
Evergreen Cemetery
Reilly Playground
Cassidy Playground
Boston College Athletic Fields
Riverway


Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Playlot
Waterspray
School Playlots
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
WATERTOWN
NEWTON
Charles River Reservation
Smith Playground
Gardner Elementary
Hooker-Sorrento Street Playground
Cambridge Street
Western Avenue
Everett Street
Penniman Road Play Area
Ringer Playground
Portsmouth Street Playground
Market Street
North Beacon Street
Overlook Park
Commonwealth Avenue
Baldwin Elementary
McKinney Playground
Joyce Playground
Winship Elementary
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Shubow Park
Hamilton Elementary
Cheshnut Hill Reservoir
Hobart Park
Garfield Elementary
Mary Lyon Elementary
Farrell Street
Hardiman Playground
Washington Street
Rogers Park
N
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
Miles


Map 8: Fields & Courts
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
WATERTOWN
NEWTON
Smith Playground
Hooker-Sorrento Street Playground
Cambridge Street
Western Avenue
Everett Street
Penniman Road Play Area
Ringer Playground
Portsmouth Street Playground
Market Street
North Beacon Street
Overlook Park
Commonwealth Avenue
McKinney Playground
Joyce Playground
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Cassidy Playground
Hobart Park
Farrell Street
Washington Street
Rogers Park
Hardiman Playground
Charles River Reservation
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles
N


Map 9: Community Facilities
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
WATERTOWN
NEWTON
Cambridge Street
Everett Street
Western Avenue
Market Street
North Beacon Street
Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Washington Street
Faneuil Street
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
Miles
N


CAMBRIDGE
WATERTOWN
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
Cambridge Street
Everett Street
Weston Avenue
Market Street
North Beacon Street
Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Washington Street
Franklin Street
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles
N
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


CAMBRIDGE
WATERTOWN
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
Cambridge Street
Everett Street
Western Avenue
Lanal Street
North Beacon Street
Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill Avenue
Washington Street
Faneuil Street
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles
N
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Highest Score
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Allston-Brighton
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.2:

BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Beacon Hill takes its name from the sentry light erected on its peak to warn settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in case of a threat from Indians or foreign invaders. The south slope as it exists today began to emerge in the 1790s with the building of the present State House. Starting at this time, the hill was reshaped and the old beacon taken down.

Cutting and filling allowed the development of Louisburg Square and Mt. Vernon Street for substantial house lots. The north slope had three sections by the latter 1700s: stately houses around Bowdoin Square; an African-American community centered between Joy and Phillips Streets; and a "red light" district near the Charles River. The north slope changed largely due to construction of both the Massachusetts General Hospital complex and tenement and apartment buildings in the 1800s.

The Back Bay originally referred to a tidal body of water on the western edge of the Shawmut Peninsula that stretched from Brookline to Boston Common. A discussion on the process of landfilling and neighborhood development can be found under Section 3: Community Setting. Parisian boulevards were the inspiration for the linear plan of the Back Bay with its stately tree-lined spine of Commonwealth Avenue. By contrast, an English model with squares influenced the layout of Beacon Hill and the South End. The Back Bay developed quickly with fashionable townhouses reflecting the affluence of its residents. Deed restrictions created consistency for building heights, setbacks, and masonry construction.

In the realm of more recent history, development of the Massachusetts Turnpike, the Prudential Center, and Copley Place created a major residential, commercial, and hotel complex on the southern reaches of this neighborhood. Newbury and Boylston Streets continue to support thriving retail and restaurant uses. Large swaths of both Beacon Hill and Back Bay are now designated historic districts that provide continuing design controls. Boston Common, the Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall are themselves designated City of Boston Landmarks. In addition, Boston Common and the Public Garden are National Historic Landmarks (the highest tier of listing in the National Register of Historic Places).

Open Space Access & Equity/ Future Development

This community has 4.23 acres of protected open space for every 1,000 residents, which is lower than the city average of 7.59 but higher than most inner core neighborhoods. Despite the lower than average ratio, actual access to open space is quite successful in this neighborhood.

The population is dominated by young adults and has the lowest percentage of children of any city neighborhood. High population density throughout the Back Bay and Beacon Hill results in somewhat high park need scores for this area, but the effective distribution of park areas, as well as the quality of these spaces, results in a community that is well served by open space (Back Bay/Beacon Hill Maps 1 & 3).

Because they are large, highly visible, and centrally located in or near dense residential and business districts, the parks in this area are among the most heavily used in the greater metropolitan area (as evidenced in the results of this plan's survey as seen in Section 6): Boston Common, the Public Garden, Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and Copley Square Park (all under Parks Department jurisdiction), the DCR's Charles River Esplanade, and State House Park.

While these parks are regional and tourist destinations, they also serve the neighborhood. Both Boston Common and the Charles River Esplanade contain active sports facilities and children's play areas. In addition to these major parks, there are children's playgrounds within both the Beacon Hill and the Back Bay residential neighborhoods.

The greatest deficiency in this neighborhood, similar to Central Boston, is the lack of availability of active recreation facilities (Back Bay/Beacon Hill Map 7). Boston Common provides the only athletic fields and tennis courts in this part of the city. Titus Sparrow provides courts and the Ebersole Fields on the Esplanade provide ball fields, but the former is a South End neighborhood park and the latter is in the Central Boston community. Given similar deficiencies in these neighborhoods, these nearby parks can provide little reduction of this deficiency. This community's section of the Charles River Reservation includes the public sailing facilities at Community Boating, as well as a network of pedestrian and bicycle paths. These paths span both sides of the Charles River, and provide iconic scenic views of Boston and Cambridge, an attraction that helps encourage use of the paths and parklands. Taken in this context, the open space access for this neighborhood is among the city's best.

The Christian Science Complex, in the southwestern corner of the Back Bay/Beacon Hill community and designated a Landmark by the Boston Landmarks Commission, contains lawn areas, plaza space, a fountain, and large reflecting pool. The Complex owner has proposed adding buildings to the campus, while retaining and improving much of the iconic open space that reflected the "New Boston". The recently completed master plan calls for expanding the lawn areas and the number of trees in the complex. However, a small planted triangle (less than a quarter-acre) at the corner of Belvidere and Dalton Streets, nominally part of the complex, is slated to become a site for the construction of a tower building as part of the construction proposed in the new master plan. As part of the project, there will be included a new public/private park.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

Population	
2010 Census	27,111
2000 Census	27,004
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**0.4%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	45.3
2000 Census	45.1
Density Change, 2000–2010	**0.2**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	1,264	5%
10 to 19	1,490	6%
20 to 34	12,997	48%
35 to 54	5,697	21%
55 to 64	2,672	10%
65 and over	2,991	11%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Back Bay/Boston	27,111	295	0.9%	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	21,983	81%
Hispanic or Latino	1,424	5%
Black or African American alone	881	3%
Asian alone	2,275	8%
Other	548	2%

Median Household Income
$77,712

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	51%
1 vehicle	38%
2 vehicles	10%
3 or more vehicles	1%

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

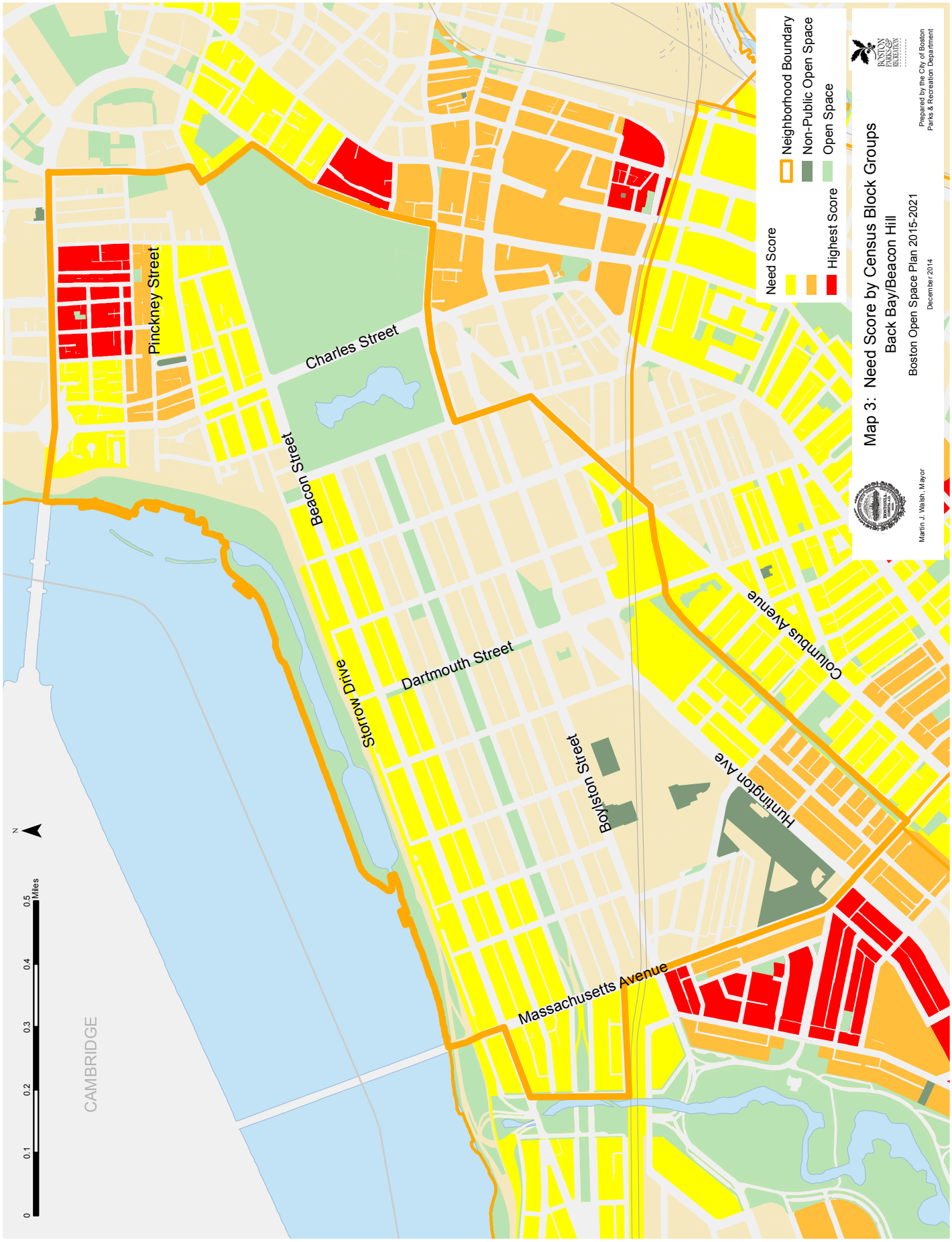
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Back Bay/Boston	1,483	5.6%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted

Map 1: Population Density
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
Pinckney Street
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Storrow Drive
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
Miles
N

Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
Pinckney Street
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Storrow Drive
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
Massachusetts Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles
N


Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Need Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Highest Score
Pinckney Street
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Storrow Drive
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
Massachusetts Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
Miles
N

Map 4: Open Space by Type
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood
0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles
N
CAMBRIDGE
Charles River Reservation
Storrow Drive
Massachusetts Avenue
Charlesgate
Commonwealth Avenue Mall
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Beacon Street
Charles Street
Pinckney Street
Columbus Avenue
Huntington Ave
Boston Common
Public Garden
Central Burying Ground
State House Park
Temple Street Park
Myrtle Street Playground
Phillips Street Park
Louisburg Square
Mount Vernon Square
Clarendon Street Tot lot
Copley Square Park
Boston Public Library Courtyard
Prudential Center Plazas
Copley Place Plaza
Southwest Corridor Park
Frieda Garcia Park
Harcourt/West Canton Garden
Follen Garden
Greenwich/ Cumberland Garden
Blackwood/ Claremont Garden
Christian Science Plaza
Belvidere/ Dalton Plaza

Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles
N
CAMBRIDGE
Charles River Reservation
Storrow Drive
Beacon Street
Charles Street
Boston Common
Central Burying Ground
Public Garden
Pinckney Street
Phillips Street Park
Myrtle Street Playground
Louisburg Square
Temple Street Park
State House Park
Mount Vernon Square
Clarendon Street Tot lot
Dartmouth Street
Copley Square Park
Boston Public Library Courtyard
Boylston Street
Prudential Center Plazas
Copley Place Plaza
Southwest Corridor Park
Frieda Garcia Park
Harcourt/West Canton Garden
Follen Garden
Columbus Avenue
Huntington Ave
Christian Science Plaza
Greenwich/ Cumberland Garden
Blackwood/ Claremont Garden
Belvidere/ Dalton Plaza
Massachusetts Avenue
Commonwealth Avenue Mall
Charlesgate

Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION
0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles
N
CAMBRIDGE
Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
Charlesgate
Massachusetts Avenue
Storrow Drive
Beacon Street
Charles Street
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
Commonwealth Avenue Mall
Pinckney Street
Boston Common
Central Burying Ground
Public Garden
State House Park
Temple Street Park
Phillips Street Park
Myrtle Street Playground
Louisburg Square
Mount Vernon Square
Clarendon Street Tot lot
Copley Square Park
Boston Public Library Courtyard
Prudential Center Plazas
Copley Place Plaza
Southwest Corridor Park
Frieda Garcia Park
Harcourt/West Canton Garden
Follen Garden
Christian Science Plaza
Greenwich/ Cumberland Garden
Blackwood/ Claremont Garden
Belvidere/ Dalton Plaza

Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Playlot
Waterspray
School Playlots
Phillips Street Park
Myrtle Street Playground
Pinckney Street
Boston Common
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Charles River Reservation
Storrow Drive
Clarendon Street Tot-lot
Dartmouth Street
Frieda Garcia Park
Southwest Corridor Park
Boylston Street
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
Massachusetts Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
Miles
N

Map 8: Fields & Courts
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
Pinckney Street
Boston Common
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Storrow Drive
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
Massachusetts Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
Miles
N

Map 9: Community Facilities
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
Pinckney Street
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Storrow Drive
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
Massachusetts Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
Miles
N

Map 10: Park Service Areas
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Pinckney Street
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Storrow Drive
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
Massachusetts Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
Miles
N

Pinckney Street
Charles Street
Beacon Street
Storrow Drive
Dartmouth Street
Boylston Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Huntington Ave
Columbus Avenue
CAMBRIDGE
0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
Miles
N
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Highest Score
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Back Bay/Beacon Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.3:

CENTRAL BOSTON

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Included within the BRA-designated Central Boston planning district discussed here are the Financial District, Downtown Crossing, the Waterfront, Government Center, and the Bullfinch Triangle, collectively known as Downtown; and the discrete residential areas of the North End, West End, and Chinatown.

Downtown

Originally known as the Shawmut Peninsula, the city's civic, commercial and financial core has been located at the site of modern-day downtown Boston since the city's founding. The Old State House, at the junction of State and Washington Streets, had served as the center of public life since the 17th century. The original Faneuil Hall was built in 1742. Today it is a major tourist draw along with Quincy Market. Christopher Columbus Park, located between the market and the waterfront, provides passive and active recreation for tourists and North End residents alike.

Financial District and Downtown Crossing

Throughout the 18th century, increasing development resulted in dense street patterns encircling Fort Hill and eventually reaching Boston Common. Fort Hill was leveled in 1872, the same year a fire destroyed much of downtown Boston. Now most of the financial district's office towers are located in the area. Norman B. Leventhal Park (formerly known as Post Office Square Park) provides critical open space, a green oasis in the built-up and paved-over downtown area. The park itself is the product of a public/private partnership and exemplifies the advantages of corporate abutters participating in the management of public spaces in the downtown core.

The Waterfront

A major influence in the growth of downtown Boston has been the development of its harbor. At the beginning of the 18th century, Boston's position as a prominent maritime community was secured with the addition of Long Wharf and the building of nearly 40 wharves, more than a dozen shipyards, and six rope-walks. With the decline of the shipping industry in the early 1900s, Boston's wharves began to be abandoned. Some buildings remained vacant or underutilized until the current Central Artery was constructed in the 1950s. From the 1960s onwards, wharf renovation and urban renewal created one of Boston's liveliest mixed use districts. The Harborwalk, a continuous pedestrian path created along the water's edge, has linked all the publicly accessible open spaces along the downtown waterfront.

Government Center

During the urban renewal era of the 1950s and 1960s, the dilapidated Scollay Square area was leveled to make space for Government Center, a new building complex to accommodate expanding city, state, and federal offices. An 11-acre brick-paved plaza in front of the new City Hall was built as the center of this complex. The plaza is regularly used for concerts, political rallies, civic celebrations, and a farmer's market.

Bulfinch Triangle

Bulfinch Triangle is the area between Government Center and the North Station complex. So-called because of Charles Bulfinch's street plan for the marshy North Cove, a triangular area created by a 19th century filling-in, it consists of warehouse structures now mostly converted for office and residential uses.

Many recent developments have transformed the character of downtown Boston: the completion of wharf restoration, the linkage of the Harborwalk system, the depression of the Central Artery, and above it at the surface a linear park (almost 12 acres worth) known as the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. More transformations will ensue as redevelopments with increasing densities occur to take advantage of this area's central location.

North End

The North End, one of Boston's oldest neighborhoods, was "wharfed-out" early and inhabited by wealthy merchants and humble seamen. In the early 1800s came the Irish who built houses abutting the narrow streets and alleys that to this day distinguish the North End. Since the 1890s the area has had a large Italian population. In the 1950s, with the building of the Central Artery, the North End became isolated from the downtown area; that isolation has disappeared since the completion of the Central Artery / Big Dig project.

West End

The West End was once a neighborhood of residential structures, shops, and commercial enterprises, an "urban village" much like the North Slope of Beacon Hill appears today. The urban renewal movement of the 1950s and 1960s razed the West End and replaced it with residential towers and large institutional uses.

Chinatown

Chinatown/South Cove is located on landfill deposited on tidal flats to provide additional housing in the early 1800s for Boston's expanding middle-class population. In the 1840s, this area's original residents began to move out of the city. Newcomers were mainly Chinese, Irish, Italian, Jewish, and Syrian immigrants who converted the homes to multi-unit tenements.

Non-residential uses developed on the edges of Chinatown. South Station, the railroad lines serving it, and the elevated line along Washington Street, were constructed in 1899. Many tenements were razed for expansion of the garment industry. After World War II, Chinese restaurants and specialty shops began to occupy ground floors of residential buildings and a tourist industry began to evolve.

Subsequently, many more housing units were lost due to urban renewal programs. Creation of the Southeast Expressway and the Massachusetts Turnpike, and an increase in traffic along Essex Street, isolated the Chinese residents in the South End from those in South Cove. Old rowhouses were replaced with institutional-scale buildings and high-rise housing towers. Community

isolation increased further following the 1974 creation of the "Combat Zone" adult entertainment district. This zone cut off Chinatown from the Central Business District as well as from Boston Common and the Public Garden.

Today, Chinatown exists on approximately one-half the land mass it once had, with a population that continues to grow. The community struggles to provide housing for new immigrants, growing families, elder residents, and non-Asians attracted by the proximity to downtown Boston.

Open Space Access& Equity/ Future Development

The Central Boston neighborhood population is dominated by young and middle age adults and has seen a dramatic 24.4% growth between the 2000 and 2010 census. These upward trends are likely to continue into the future as more downtown housing is developed. Where housing exists, population density is high which is appropriate for the downtown setting.

While characterized by mature and well-distributed public spaces, Boston's historic inner core has only 56 acres of open space, a quarter of which are hardscaped plazas, malls, and squares. The Central Boston neighborhood is extremely constrained in terms of access to active recreation spaces. Protected open space per 1,000 residents in this neighborhood is only 2.17 acres compared to the city average of 7.59 acres. The existing park facilities are well spread out, but they are limited in size and number and do not adequately meet the needs of this growing community.

The pedestrian environment in Central Boston benefits from its context as the civic, historic, and economic core of the city. While existing squares, pedestrian malls, passive seating areas, and plazas are well distributed, they could be better linked in a coherent, intelligible manner with improved wayfinding. The opening of the Rose Kennedy Greenway over the submerged Central Artery introduces a new organizing element into the downtown landscape. Developing strong connections across the Greenway to the waterfront is now paramount (Central Boston Map 4).

The residential neighborhoods in the North End, West End and Chinatown are most affected by the disaggregation of neighborhood open space. Chinatown, for instance, does not have any protected open space with active recreation facilities and its nearest ball fields are located on the Boston Common which is a high demand location.

There are no playgrounds within the downtown / Financial District area of the city and this should be considered as new residential units are introduced along the Rose Kennedy Greenway, within the Leather District, and in Downtown Crossing. Because of the high numbers of tourists who frequent these areas, a play space would be used by both residents and visitors alike (Central Boston Map 7). New development in this neighborhood attracts young adults who might choose to remain in the city if nearby recreational facilities can accommodate family uses.

Downtown open spaces may be necessarily smaller in scale, but they can support a range of uses, provide opportunities for urban greening, and foster engagement in city life. Larger multi-use open spaces that a community can coalesce around are limited to the North End (Langone/Polcari, Christopher Columbus Park, and the North End playgrounds), and Elliot Norton Park in Bay Village/Chinatown (Central Boston Map 8). Established, livable neighborhoods have activated open spaces that become part of the neighborhood fabric. The linear nature of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, its location between two boulevard-like thoroughfares, and its mix of largely passive uses does not currently suggest that this park will serve that purpose. This deficiency should be further explored as the Boston's downtown continues to add residential units.

Due to the number of small open space areas in this neighborhood, park access is well distributed. The Park Equity map overlays the high need areas on the park service areas. This shows a deficiency of open space in the Downtown Crossing area and in Chinatown (Central Boston Maps 10 & 11). The facilities discussion above has identified the shortcomings of this neighborhood's open space.

The BRA has initiatives underway to better link the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway with the downtown waterfront and other parts of downtown: the Greenway District Planning Study, the Downtown Waterfront Public Realm Plan, and the Crossroads Initiative. Another effort to better organize the downtown landscape is the BTD-led Connect Historic Boston project. Connect Historic Boston is an initiative between the National Park Service (NPS) and the City of Boston's Transportation Department to provide multi-modal transportation options for residents and visitors between many of downtown Boston.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

CENTRAL BOSTON

Population	
2010 Census	31,821
2000 Census	25,573
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**24.4%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	38.2
2000 Census	30.7
Density Change, 2000–2010	**7.5**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	1,293	4%
10 to 19	3,104	10%
20 to 34	13,067	41%
35 to 54	6,959	22%
55 to 64	3,094	10%
65 and over	4,304	14%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Central Boston	31,821	473	1.4%	1.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	12,635	40%
Hispanic or Latino	3,568	11%
Black or African American alone	4,113	13%
Asian alone	7,320	23%
Other	1,000	3%

Median Household Income
$63,105

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	52%
1 vehicle	40%
2 vehicles	7%
3 or more vehicles	1%

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

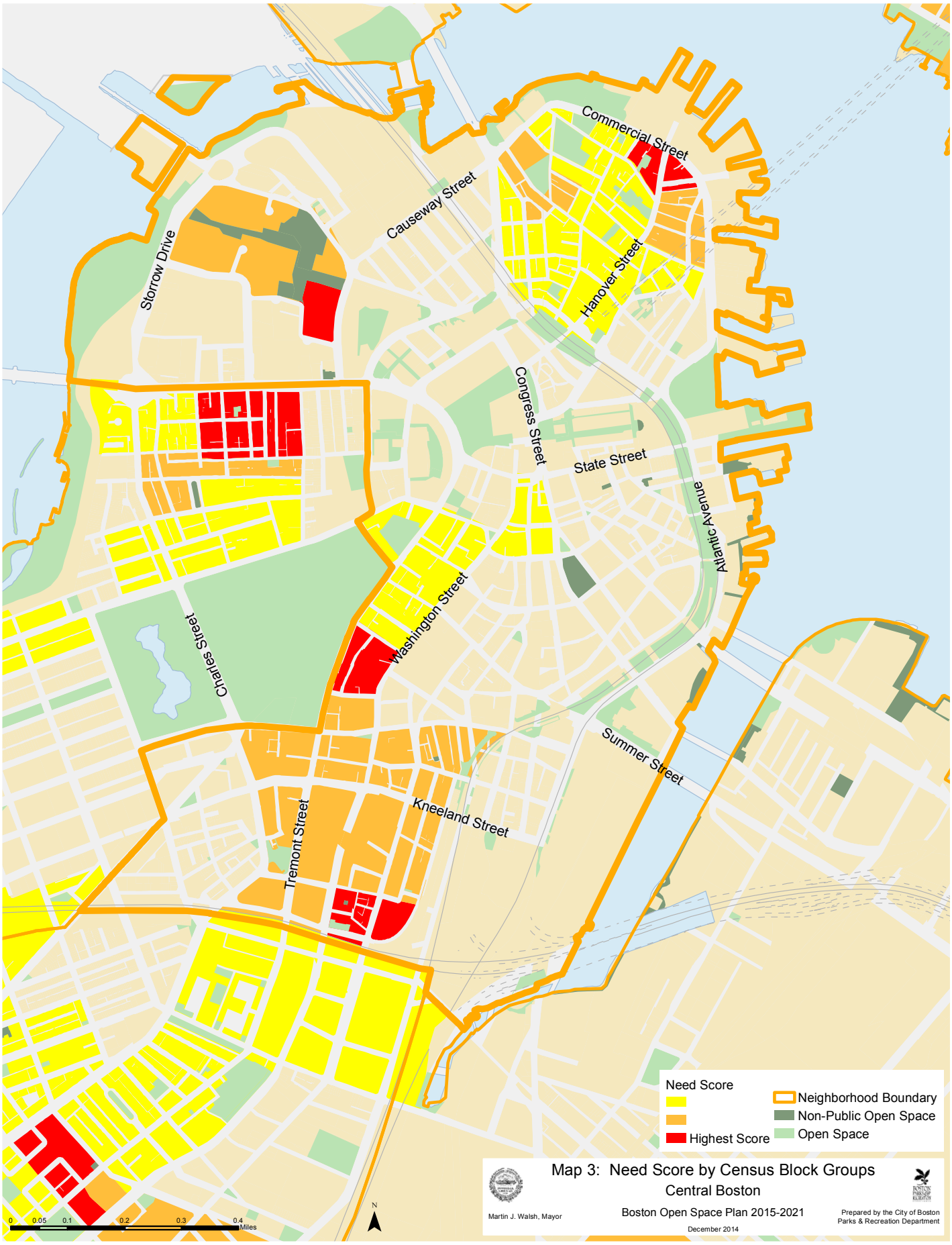
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Central Boston	2,722	9.1%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted

Commercial Street
Causeway Street
Storrow Drive
Hanover Street
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Washington Street
Charles Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Tremont Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 1: Population Density
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Commercial Street
Causeway Street
Storrow Drive
Hanover Street
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Charles Street
Washington Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Tremont Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N


Commercial Street
Causeway Street
Storrow Drive
Hanover Street
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Washington Street
Charles Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Tremont Street
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

North Point Park
Nashua Street Park
Revere Plaza
Prince Street Park
Langone Park
Copp's Hill Terrace
Puopolo Playground
Commercial Street
Copp's Hill Burying Ground
Foster Street Play Area
Charter Street Park
DeFilippo Playground
Webster Avenue Playground
Portal Park
West End Park
Causeway Street
Paul Revere Mall
Thoreau Path
West End Recreation Complex
Valenti Square
Polcari Park
Storrow Drive
Charles River Reservation
Endicott Triangle
Hanover Street
North Square
Cutillo Park
Rachel Revere Square
Richmond & North Streets Park
Brooke Courthouse Plaza
Government Center Garage Plaza
New Chardon Square
North End Park
North Street Park
Ausonia Plaza
Joe's American Harborwalk
Commercial Wharf Harborwalk
Bowdoin Mall
Hawkins-New Sudbury Mall
Old West Church Yard
Cardinal Cushing Park
Congress Street
Union Street Park
Armenian Heritage Park
Christopher Columbus Park
Long Wharf
Somerset Street Plaza
City Hall Plaza
Faneuil Square
Quincy Market Square
Ashburton Place Plaza
Pemberton Square
Marketplace Plaza
State Street
Wharf District Park
Aquarium Harborwalk
Pemberton Square Access
Jenney Plaza
Central Court
Aquarium Plaza
King's Chapel Burying Ground
Grain Exchange Plaza
Old City Hall Grounds
India Wharf Harborwalk
Liberty Square
Granary Burying Ground
Angell Memorial Square
School Street Park
Atlantic Avenue
Rowe's Wharf Harborwalk
Norman B. Leventhal Park
Urban Arboretum
400R Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk
408 Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk
Washington Street
Winthrop Square
Charles Street
Dewey Square Parks
Independence Wharf Harborwalk
Dewey Square Plaza
Tufts Wharf Harborwalk
RFK Greenway II
Federal Reserve Plaza
Lincoln Street Green
Atlantic Wharf
Liberty Tree Park
Chinatown Park
Leather District Park
Summer Street
Federal Reserve Bank Harborwalk
Lincoln Square
Oxford Place Plaza
Mary Soo Hoo Park
Staller Park
RFK Greenway I
Kneeland Street
Atlantic Avenue Plantings
Bay Village Neighborhood Park
Pagoda Park
Tremont Street
Bay Village Garden
Elliot Norton Park
Tai Tung Park
Oak Terrace Playlot
Pine Street Park
Rolling Bridge Park
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

North Point Park
Nashua Street Park
Revere Plaza
Prince Street Park
Langone Park
Copp's Hill Terrace
Puopolo Playground
Commercial Street
Copp's Hill Burying Ground
Foster Street Play Area
Charter Street Park
DeFilippo Playground
Webster Avenue Playground
Portal Park
Causeway Street
West End Park
Paul Revere Mall
Thoreau Path
West End Recreation Complex
Valenti Square
Polcari Park
Storrow Drive
Charles River Reservation
Endicott Triangle
North Square
Hanover Street
Cutillo Park
Rachel Revere Square
West End Recreation Complex
Thoreau Path
Brooke Courthouse Plaza
Richmond & North Streets Park
Government Center Garage Plaza
New Chardon Square
North Street Park
Joe's American Harborwalk
North End Park
Ausonia Plaza
Bowdoin Mall
Hawkins-New Sudbury Mall
Commercial Wharf Harborwalk
Old West Church Yard
Congress Street
Union Street Park
Armenian Heritage Park
Christopher Columbus Park
Cardinal Cushing Park
City Hall Plaza
Long Wharf
Somerset Street Plaza
Faneuil Square
Quincy Market Square
Ashburton Place Plaza
Pemberton Square
Marketplace Plaza
State Street
Wharf District Park
Aquarium Harborwalk
Jenney Plaza
Pemberton Square Access
Central Court
Aquarium Plaza
King's Chapel Burying Ground
Grain Exchange Plaza
Old City Hall Grounds
India Wharf Harborwalk
Liberty Square
Granary Burying Ground
Angell Memorial Square
Atlantic Avenue
School Street Park
Rowe's Wharf Harborwalk
Norman B. Leventhal Park
Urban Arboretum
Washington Street
400R Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk
408 Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk
Winthrop Square
Charles Street
Dewey Square Parks
Independence Wharf Harborwalk
Dewey Square Plaza
Tufts Wharf Harborwalk
RFK Greenway II
Federal Reserve Plaza
Lincoln Street Green
Atlantic Wharf
Liberty Tree Park
Leather District Park
Chinatown Park
Summer Street
Federal Reserve Bank Harborwalk
Oxford Place Plaza
Lincoln Square
Mary Soo Hoo Park
Stanler Park
RFK Greenway I
Kneeland Street
Atlantic Avenue Plantings
Bay Village Neighborhood Park
Pagoda Park
Tremont Street
Bay Village Garden
Elliot Norton Park
Tai Tung Park
Oak Terrace Playlot
Pine Street Park
Rolling Bridge Park
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

North Point Park
Nashua Street Park
Revere Plaza
Prince Street Park
Langone Park
Copp's Hill Terrace
Puopolo Playground
Commercial Street
Copp's Hill Burying Ground
Foster Street Play Area
Charter Street Park
DeFilippo Playground
Webster Avenue Playground
Portal Park
Causeway Street
West End Park
Paul Revere Mall
Thoreau Path
West End Recreation Complex
Valenti Square
Polcari Park
Storrow Drive
Charles River Reservation
Endicott Triangle
North Square
Hanover Street
Cutillo Park
Rachel Revere Square
West End Recreation Complex
Thoreau Path
Brooke Courthouse Plaza
Government Center Garage Plaza
Richmond & North Streets Park
Joe's American Harborwalk
New Chardon Square
North Street Park
Ausonia Plaza
North End Park
Bowdoin Mall
Hawkins-New Sudbury Mall
Commercial Wharf Harborwalk
Old West Church Yard
Cardinal Cushing Park
Union Street Park
Armenian Heritage Park
Christopher Columbus Park
Congress Street
City Hall Plaza
Long Wharf
Somerset Street Plaza
Faneuil Square
Quincy Market Square
Ashburton Place Plaza
Pemberton Square
Marketplace Plaza
State Street
Wharf District Park
Aquarium Harborwalk
Jenney Plaza
Pemberton Square Access
Central Court
Aquarium Plaza
King's Chapel Burying Ground
Grain Exchange Plaza
Old City Hall Grounds
India Wharf Harborwalk
Liberty Square
Granary Burying Ground
Angell Memorial Square
Atlantic Avenue
School Street Park
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Norman B. Leventhal Park
Urban Arboretum
400R Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk
Washington Street
408 Atlantic Avenue Harborwalk
Winthrop Square
Charles Street
Dewey Square Parks
Independence Wharf Harborwalk
Dewey Square Plaza
Tufts Wharf Harborwalk
RFK Greenway II
Federal Reserve Plaza
Lincoln Street Green
Atlantic Wharf
Liberty Tree Park
Chinatown Park
Leather District Park
Summer Street
Federal Reserve Bank Harborwalk
Lincoln Square
Oxford Place Plaza
Mary Soo Hoo Park
Statler Park
RFK Greenway I
Kneeland Street
Atlantic Avenue Plantings
Bay Village Neighborhood Park
Tremont Street
Pagoda Park
Bay Village Garden
Elliot Norton Park
Tai Tung Park
Oak Terrace Playlot
Pine Street Park
Rolling Bridge Park
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Langone Park
Puopolo Playground
Commercial Street
DeFilippo Playground
Causeway Street
Storrow Drive
Charles River Reservation
Hanover Street
Cutillo Park
Christopher Columbus Park
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Washington Street
Charles Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Tremont Street
Elliot Norton Park
Tai Tung Park
Quincy Elementary
Oak Terrace Playlot
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Central Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Langone Park
Puopolo Playground
Prince Street Park
Commercial Street
DeFilippo Playground
Causeway Street
Polcari Park
Storrow Drive
Charles River Reservation
Cutillo Park
Hanover Street
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Washington Street
Charles Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Pagoda Park
Tremont Street
Pine Street Park
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Commercial Street
Causeway Street
Storrow Drive
Hanover Street
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Washington Street
Charles Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Tremont Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Commercial Street
Causeway Street
Storrow Drive
Hanover Street
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Washington Street
Charles Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Tremont Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Central Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Commercial Street
Causeway Street
Storrow Drive
Hanover Street
Congress Street
State Street
Atlantic Avenue
Washington Street
Charles Street
Summer Street
Kneeland Street
Tremont Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Central Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles
N

Section 7.2.4:

CHARLESTOWN

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Originally settled in 1629, Charlestown was already a thriving harbor-side community by the time of the American Revolution and did not become a part of Boston until 1874. A naval shipyard was established in 1800, generating a mixture of industry and port-related activities as well as large sections of tenement housing for workers. As waves of working class Europeans arrived to work in the shipyard, many of the wealthy old Charlestown families began to move out.

With World War II placing a heavy demand on the shipyard, many of the neighborhood's homes were converted into rooming houses to accommodate both workers and ship crews.

During the immediate post-war period, the area began a decline that continued until the urban renewal efforts of the 1970s. A key part of this reinvestment was the redevelopment of the Charlestown Navy Yard for office, research, and residential uses. With adjacent parcels converted for mixed-use development, and the new Paul Revere and City Square state parks, the southern gateway to the neighborhood has been transformed.

Open Space Access & Equity

This neighborhood has seen over 8% population growth between the 2000 and 2010 censuses. It contains 3.09 acres of open space per 1,000 residents which is among the lowest ratio citywide—particularly for a residential neighborhood.

Charlestown is a dense walkable neighborhood that's just over 1 mile from one end to the other. Despite its compact nature, the neighborhood is best described via its four distinct geographic areas.

Town Hill/Breed's Hill

This southern section of Charlestown is primarily residential with some institutional buildings and churches. Many of its rowhouses have been converted into condominiums and two-family houses to accommodate an influx of new residents. Historical open spaces such as the John Harvard Mall and City Square Park are in the Town Hill area.

The Monument Square National Register District surrounds the Bunker Hill Monument. The Training Field (aka Winthrop Square) serves as the centerpiece of a cohesive residential community known as Breed's Hill. Rich in passive open space, the Town Hill/Breed's Hill area accesses active recreation spaces around its perimeter to accommodate its expanding population: at Bunker Hill Community College, the Navy Yard, Paul Revere Park, Rutherford Union, and Harvard Mall. The area with the most limited access to open space is the part of the neighborhood nearest the Bunker Hill Monument. The monument itself is a significant landscape feature, but offers limited recreational value to residents (Charlestown Map 10).

Bunker Hill/Little Mystic

This area contains most of Charlestown's one- and two-family houses. It features a variety of playgrounds and waterfront access areas, including Ryan, Doherty, and Barry Playgrounds. Ryan provides access to the Mystic River, while Barry provides access along the Little Mystic River. The latter water body also has public housing developments and abandoned sites at its edges, as well as a public access boat ramp. The nearby Charlestown High School has a full complex of ball fields and tennis and basketball courts, now maintained by the Parks Department.

Charlestown Navy Yard

This area has developed as a distinct neighborhood with affordable, elderly, and market-rate housing. The historic buildings have been rehabbed as office space and research facilities to provide employment and a substantial daytime population. Shipyard Park is a family-oriented facility, and the wharves allow increased public waterfront access.

Rutherford Avenue and the Neck

This area is on the western side of Charlestown bordering Somerville and is dominated by transportation arteries. While there is a small residential enclave north of Cambridge Street, most land uses are commercial or industrial. This section of Charlestown is served by the open spaces at Edwards Playground, Rutherford/Union and Caldwell Street. The Sullivan Square side of the neighborhood has much lower population densities, so there is not yet a pronounced park need score for this area (Charlestown Map 3). As redevelopment of Sullivan Square sub-area moves forward, new public park areas must be incorporated into the neighborhood to serve these new residents.

Future Development

The Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square improvement initiative being undertaken by the BTD with assistance from the BRA can have benefits for the open space character of this part of Charlestown. After a multi-year community involved planning process, the BTD is proposing an all-surface/at-grade option for the reconstruction of Rutherford Avenue from the City Square area to the Alford Street Bridge over the Mystic River. This option would result a corridor along the east side of Rutherford Avenue that would provide a multi-use path, tree plantings, and landscaping to make Rutherford Avenue a more multi-modal street that improves neighborhood connectivity.

This plan would also create a new block pattern in the Sullivan Square area, eliminating the enlarged traffic island that we now refer to as Sullivan Square, but has no reference to the original 19th century community square that no longer exists. The new streets and block pattern would make pedestrian connections from the residential community to the Sullivan Square Orange Line station safer and more pleasant. It would also provide space for growth of new residential buildings. The improved pedestrian connections over Rutherford Avenue would allow residents in this new area to better connect to Ryan Playground and the Mystic River.

While the BTD provided the proposed block pattern/street network, the BRA created a proposed set of development guidelines for these blocks, called the Sullivan Square Disposition Study (December 2013). This study proposes a series of small-scale linked open spaces, in part to link the T station to Ryan Playground and the main residential community in Charlestown.

The premise of a linked series of small spaces in the Sullivan Square area should be evaluated to understand if it brings enough open space value to this specific sub-area and the Charlestown community as a whole. The study proposes that the private sector generate the funding for construction and maintenance of these spaces. The City and the BRA will need to work together to insure this occurs even in the face of difficult market conditions.

In addition, the concept of the landscaped corridor for pedestrian and bicycle travel along the eastern flank of the renewed Rutherford Avenue surface artery needs to be evaluated as well for feasibility of maintenance and operation as the steward for this new open space has yet to be determined.

Another proposal suggested by Charlestown community activists, WalkBoston, and MassBike would convert the abandoned Mystic Wharf Branch rail line along the northeastern side of Charlestown to a bicycle and pedestrian corridor. This area of Charlestown has no access to the Mystic River except at the Schraffts Center and Ryan Playground due to the Designated Port Area and associated industrial and commercial uses. This bicycle/pedestrian corridor, also known as the Medford Street Corridor, can complement the Rutherford Avenue bicycle/pedestrian corridor—they intersect at the Sullivan Square area—and connect to the Harborwalk at the Little Mystic Channel, creating a greenway ring around Charlestown. It is held by Massport, which now has experience as a green space manager in East Boston (Piers Park, Bremen Street Park, Narrow Gauge Link Pathway). Massport has stopped further consideration of this rail right-of-way as a potential haul road and freight corridor. The bicycle/pedestrian corridor proposal would need evaluation to see if it is a feasible project.

At Bunker Hill Community College, the current Master Plan calls for new buildings to be added and linked to existing buildings, creating in the process a new central quadrangle with various sub-spaces. This plan appears to spare the active recreation facilities at the north end of the campus, and concentrate buildings and academic and support activities at the southern and central end of the campus, near the Bunker Hill Orange Line station.

The BRA released the Charlestown Navy Yard Waterfront Activation Plan (2007) proposing a public access and open space network that will reinforce the site's unique historical character and common identity. It would create interpretative trail segments for the Navy Yard, reinforced with a wayfinding system. The plan proposes a stewardship entity for the system of spaces that would coordinate the various entities involved in the Yard, program the spaces with events, target further improvements, and fundraise to implement the plan.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

CHARLESTOWN

Population	
2010 Census	16,439
2000 Census	15,195
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**8.2%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	18.9
2000 Census	17.4
Density Change, 2000–2010	**1.5**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	1,806	11%
10 to 19	1,108	7%
20 to 34	5,494	33%
35 to 54	4,668	28%
55 to 64	1,679	10%
65 and over	1,684	10%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Charlestown	16,439	647	1.9%	3.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	12,458	76%
Hispanic or Latino	1,591	10%
Black or African American alone	764	5%
Asian alone	1,334	8%
Other	292	2%

Median Household Income
$83,282

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

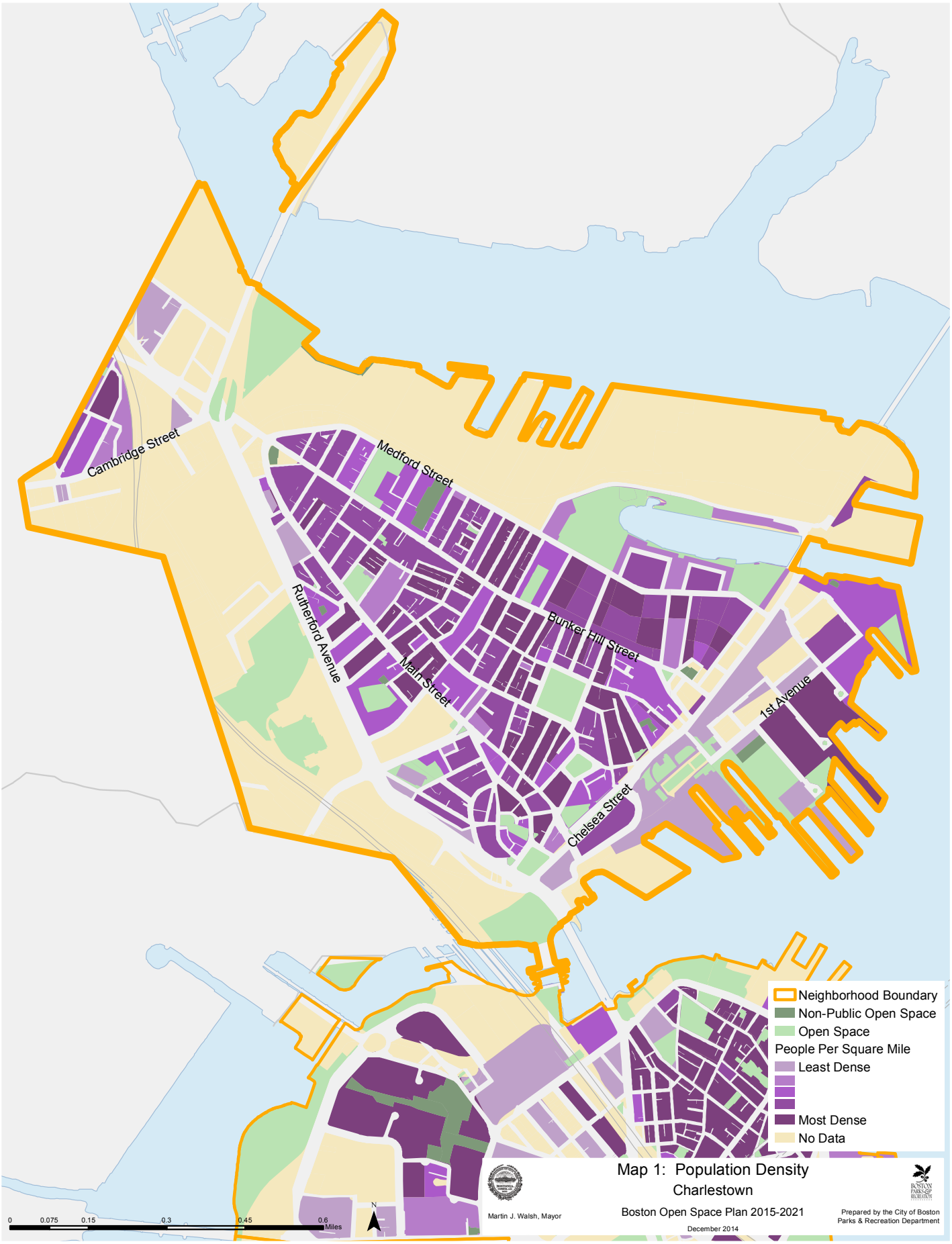
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	24%
1 vehicle	53%
2 vehicles	22%
3 or more vehicles	2%

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

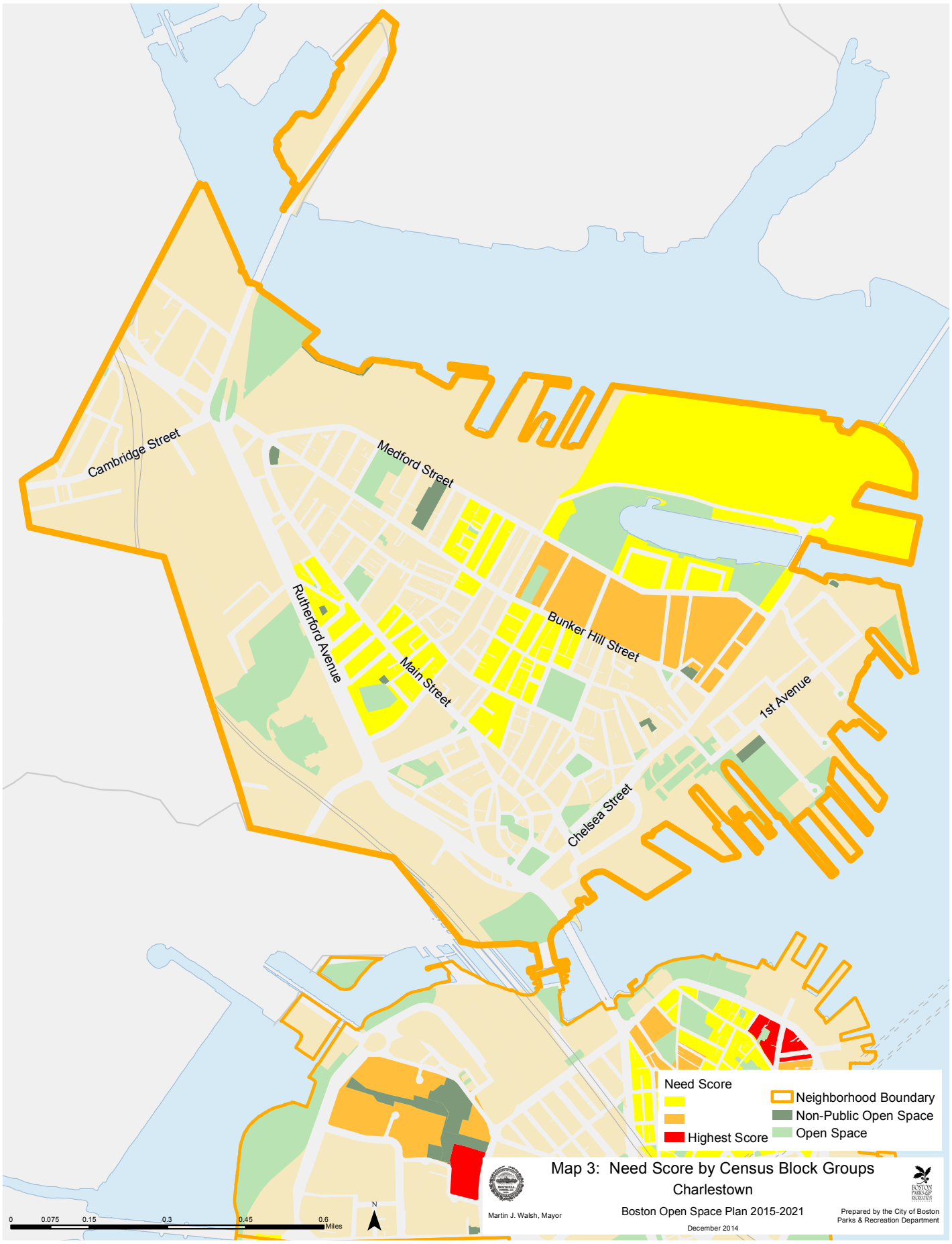
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Charlestown	1,643	9.5%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Rutherford Avenue
Main Street
Bunker Hill Street
1st Avenue
Chelsea Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0
0.075
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 1: Population Density
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Rutherford Avenue
Main Street
Bunker Hill Street
1st Avenue
Chelsea Street
MIE
MIE
MI
MI
M
M
M
M
M
MI
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Rutherford Avenue
Main Street
Bunker Hill Street
1st Avenue
Chelsea Street
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0
0.075
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
Miles
N

Ryan Playground
Schraffts Centre Harborwalk
Caldwell Street Play Area
Sullivan Square
Cambridge Street
Gardens for Charlestown
Medford Street
Doherty Playground
St Francis De Sales Cemetery
Charlestown Sprouts Garden
Little Mystic Access Area
Charlestown Overlook
Cook Street Play Area
Charlestown HS Athletic Fields
Essex Square
Edwards Playground
Bunker Hill Burying Ground
Barry Playground
Rutherford Avenue
Mishawam Playlots
Bunker Hill Street
Menino Park
Kennedy Family Service Center
Mishawam Playlots
Main Street
Hayes Square
Bunker Hill CC Athletic Fields
Phipp's Street Burying Ground
Bunker Hill Monument
1st Avenue
13th Street Circle Garden
Austin & Main Plaza
Patrick J. Kelly Park
Thompson Square
Mt. Vernon Street Plaza
9th Street Circle Garden
Rink Grounds
Rutherford Union Playground
Navy Yard Grounds
Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park
Winthrop Square
8th Street Circle Garden
CANA Portal
Chelsea Street
John Harvard Mall
Charlestown Parcel 6
Charlestown Veteran's Memorial Park
City Square
Paul Revere Park
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

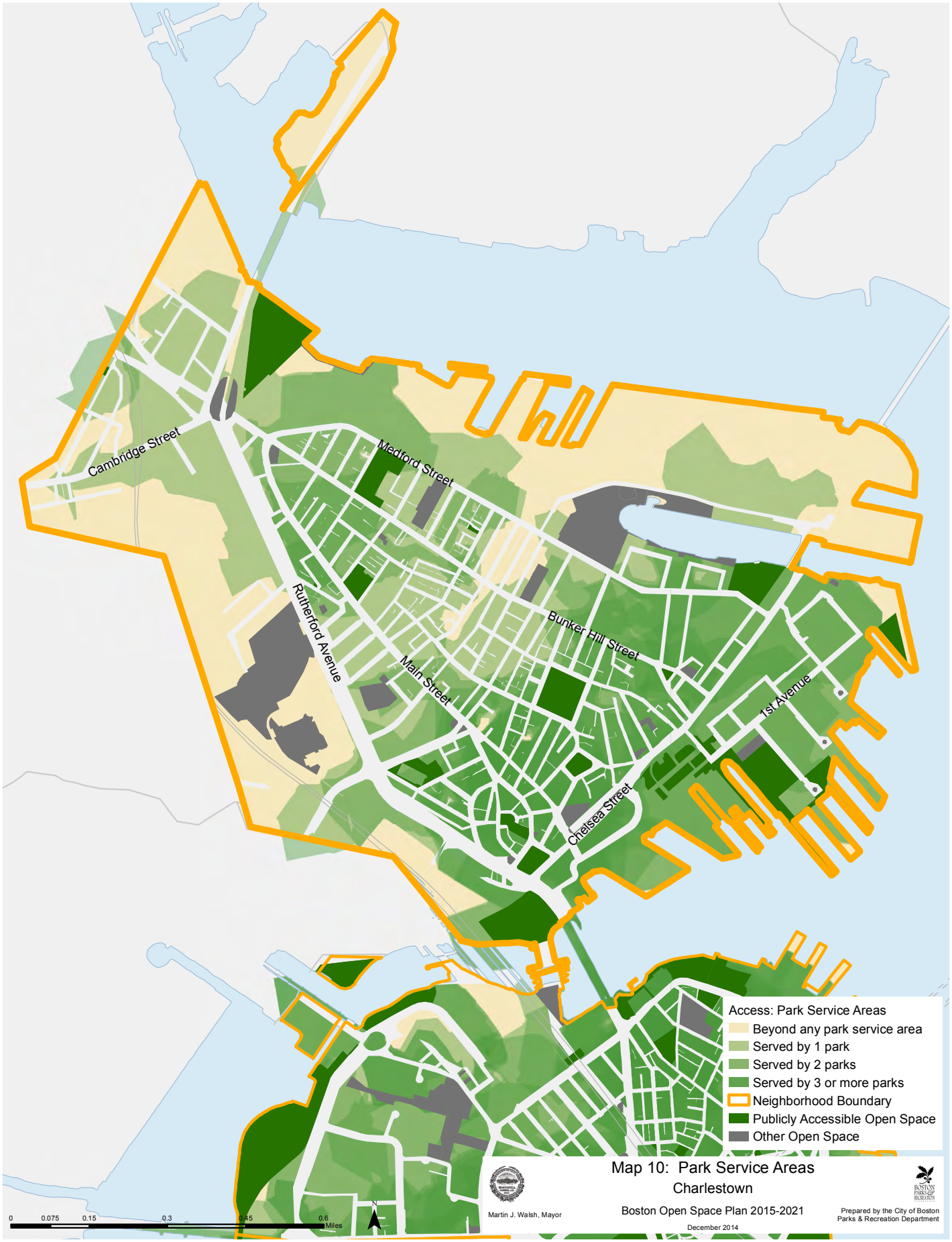
Ryan Playground
Schraffts Centre Harborwalk
Caldwell Street Play Area
Sullivan Square
Cambridge Street
Gardens for Charlestown
Medford Street
Doherty Playground
St Francis De Sales Cemetery
Charlestown Sprouts Garden
Little Mystic Access Area
Charlestown Overlook
Cook Street Play Area
Charlestown HS Athletic Fields
Essex Square
Edwards Playground
Bunker Hill Burying Ground
Barry Playground
Rutherford Avenue
Mishawam Playlots
Bunker Hill Street
Menino Park
Kennedy Family Service Center
Mishawam Playlots
Main Street
Hayes Square
Bunker Hill CC Athletic Fields
Phipp's Street Burying Ground
Bunker Hill Monument
1st Avenue
13th Street Circle Garden
Austin & Main Plaza
Patrick J. Kelly Park
Thompson Square
Mt. Vernon Street Plaza
9th Street Circle Garden
Rink Grounds
Rutherford Union Playground
Navy Yard Grounds
Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park
Winthrop Square
8th Street Circle Garden
CANA Portal
Chelsea Street
John Harvard Mall
Charlestown Parcel 6
Charlestown Veteran's Memorial Park
City Square
Paul Revere Park
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Massport
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N

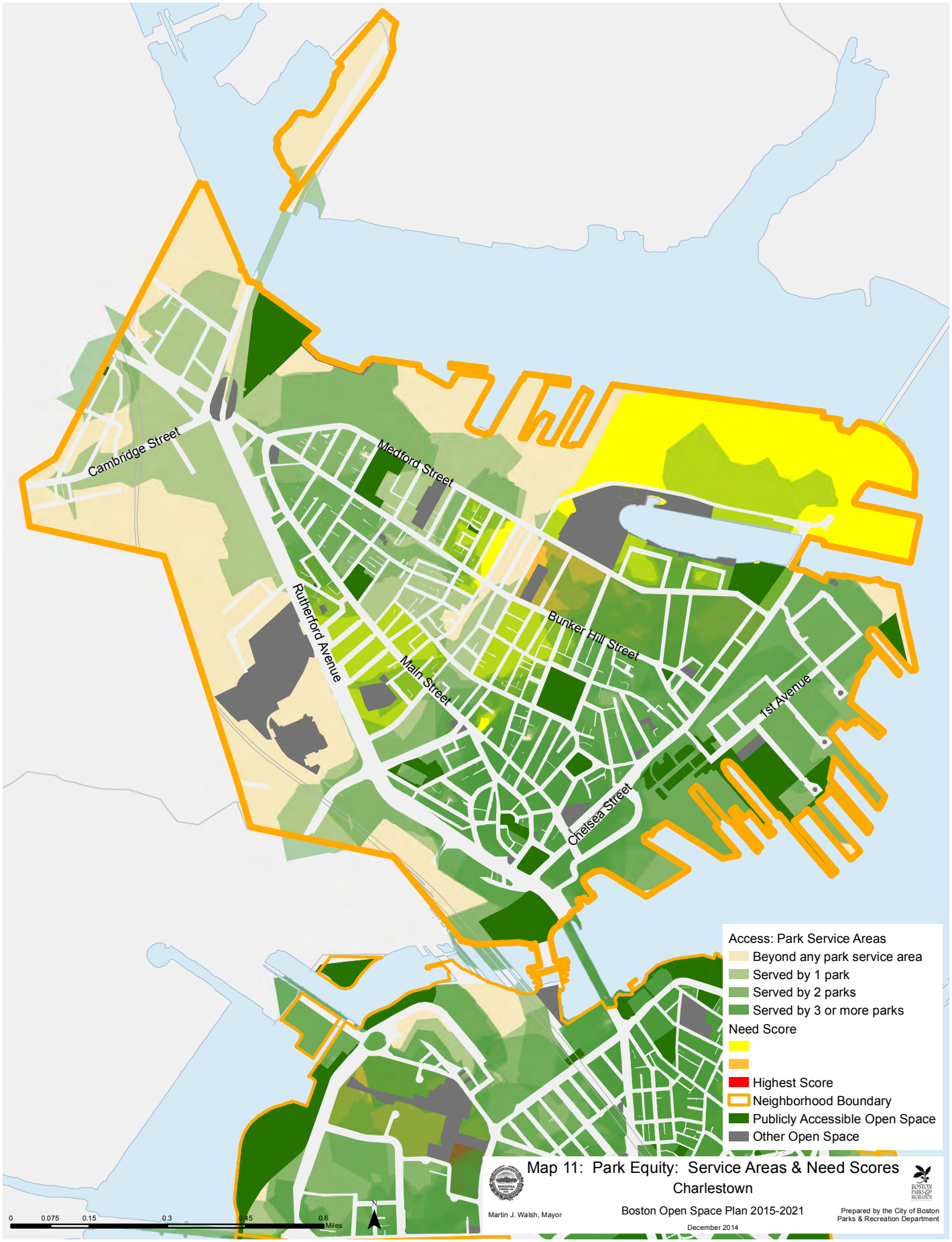
Ryan Playground
Schraffts Centre Harborwalk
Caldwell Street Play Area
Sullivan Square
Cambridge Street
Gardens for Charlestown
Medford Street
Doherty Playground
St Francis De Sales Cemetery
Charlestown Sprouts Garden
Little Mystic Access Area
Charlestown Overlook
Cook Street Play Area
Charlestown HS Athletic Fields
Essex Square
Edwards Playground
Bunker Hill Burying Ground
Barry Playground
Rutherford Avenue
Mishawam Playlots
Bunker Hill Street
Menino Park
Kennedy Family Service Center
Mishawam Playlots
Main Street
Hayes Square
Bunker Hill CC Athletic Fields
Phipp's Street Burying Ground
Bunker Hill Monument
1st Avenue
13th Street Circle Garden
Austin & Main Plaza
Patrick J. Kelly Park
Thompson Square
Mt. Vernon Street Plaza
9th Street Circle Garden
Rink Grounds
Rutherford Union Playground
Navy Yard Grounds
Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park
Winthrop Square
8th Street Circle Garden
CANA Portal
Chelsea Street
John Harvard Mall
Charlestown Parcel 6
Charlestown Veteran's Memorial Park
City Square
Paul Revere Park
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N

Ryan Playground
Caldwell Street Play Area
Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Doherty Playground
Cook Street Play Area
Edwards Playground
Rutherford Avenue
Mishawam Playlots
Warren-Prescott Elementary
Bunker Hill Street
Menino Park
Mishawam Playlots
Main Street
Harvard-Kent
1st Avenue
Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park
Rutherford Union Playground
John Harvard Mall
Chelsea Street
Paul Revere Park
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Ryan Playground
Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Doherty Playground
Charlestown HS Athletic Fields
Edwards Playground
Barry Playground
Corey Street Court
Rutherford Avenue
Bunker Hill Street
Main Street
Bunker Hill CC Athletic Fields
1st Avenue
Rutherford Union Playground
Navy Yard Grounds
Chelsea Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Rutherford Avenue
Main Street
Bunker Hill Street
1st Avenue
Chelsea Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Rutherford Avenue
Main Street
Bunker Hill Street
1st Avenue
Chelsea Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Charlestown
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Cambridge Street
Medford Street
Rutherford Avenue
Main Street
Bunker Hill Street
1st Avenue
Chelsea Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Charlestown
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.5:

DORCHESTER

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

The Town of Dorchester was settled and incorporated in 1630, encompassing present-day Dorchester, South Boston, Mattapan, and Hyde Park. In 1633, Puritans landed at Columbia Point, an area that was later defended from a fort atop Savin Hill. In that first year a burying ground was dedicated in Uphams Corner. Dorchester is also home to one of the city's oldest extant wood frame houses, the Blake House, constructed in 1648.

Although for nearly 200 years Dorchester developed primarily as a farming community, its harbor front and riverfront hosted commerce, particularly at Lower Mills and around Commercial Point. In the early 1800s, Dorchester estates and summer houses were built as second homes for wealthy Bostonians, especially on the area's numerous hilltops.

In 1870, when Dorchester itself was annexed to Boston, it was still a rural community of 12,000 residents. But in that same year came railroad access and ever-increasing residential and commercial development that began to transform what had been essentially an agricultural area. Upper-class Yankees and Irish built one and two-family Victorian homes on Savin Hill and Jones Hill. At the junction of five streetcar lines, Uphams Corner became Dorchester's marketplace.

By 1920, with new streetcar and municipal water lines supporting growth, Dorchester's population climbed to 150,000. Between 1950 and 1980, however, the neighborhood's population dropped by 23,000 people as many families joined the suburban exodus and a process of disinvestment in the neighborhood began. This movement was facilitated by the 1959 opening of the Southeast Expressway and the closing of the Old Colony Railroad commuter line. The recent construction of the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line has reconnected key sections of Dorchester to the city's transit system.

Open Space Access & Equity

Dorchester is the largest neighborhood in Boston, both geographically and by population count. Its northernmost boundary includes the South Bay Shopping Center; from there the community extends south, its eastern edge forming Dorchester Bay. Dorchester's southernmost extent is to the city limits along the Neponset River, while to the west it borders Mattapan and Roxbury. Across this vast community are many residential neighborhoods and the commercial districts that serve them. Some of the most significant include Uphams Corner, Fields Corner, Savin Hill, Jones Hill, Popes Hill, Bowdoin/Geneva, Harbor Point, Codman Square, Cedar Grove, Lower Mills, Adams Village, and Gallivan and Morrissey Boulevards. Dorchester is served by the MBTA's Red Line, the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line and many interconnected bus lines, while the Southeast Expressway skirts along its eastern edge.

Dorchester has great diversity of open space types and scales—from small squares to large connected waterfront parks along the Neponset River and Dorchester Bay (Dorchester Map 4). The neighborhood is also blessed with close access to two of the city's largest parks: Franklin Park and Harambee Park. These facilities, combined with the established pattern of large community parks throughout the neighborhood provide Dorchester residents with a good opportunity for access to open space. The ratio of 5.63 acres of open space per 1,000 residents is still below the city average of 7.59. Dorchester is a family neighborhood with over 28% of the population below the age of 20; 9% of the neighborhood population is teenagers, one of the highest percentages in the city.

In the denser northern part of the neighborhood, parks are smaller but clustered more closely together. Active facilities (athletic fields and courts) are lacking in these parks due to their size, which puts more pressure on the recreation spaces in adjacent neighborhoods. This situation echoes the conditions in the city's inner core neighborhoods and will be important to address as additional residential development comes to this part of Dorchester (Dorchester Maps 7 and 8). With a high proportion of families and teenagers in this neighborhood, active recreation facilities are essential.

The central and southern portions of the neighborhood contain the larger parks that accommodate both active and passive uses, but Dorchester's scale means that easy walkable access (0.5 miles or less) is not achieved in all pockets of the neighborhood (Dorchester Map 10).

Some of the greatest opportunities for open space in Dorchester reside in the incremental improvements to the Neponset River corridor and the ongoing projects on Columbia Point. Waterfront access and connectivity provide unsurpassed amenities that few other Boston neighborhoods can achieve. Because the Southeast Expressway cuts through the eastern edge of Dorchester, it creates a physical barrier between most of its residential areas to the west and the waterfront to its east. Columbia Point, Port Norfolk, and Savin Hill, while blessed with a diverse open space inventory, have limited access from the rest of Dorchester due to the Expressway, much like the North End was physically isolated from downtown Boston due to the then elevated Central Artery. Improving connectivity to the waterfront for all city residents should be a focus in ongoing planning efforts.

Dorchester's residential areas are quite dense, and nearly the entire neighborhood meets the State's criteria for Environmental Justice populations. These factors, combined with age variables, indicate that highest need areas for open space access are along the western half of the neighborhood (west of Dorchester Avenue) (Dorchester Maps 2 and 3).

When park service areas are mapped, the Grove Hall neighborhood (just north of Franklin Park along the Roxbury border) and Uphams Corner neighborhood are both underserved. The

Adams/Ashmont neighborhood also has limited park access, but it has lower need scores than the aforementioned areas (Dorchester Map 11).

Future Development

The Fairmount Commuter Rail Line and associated Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative, is opening up planning and transit-oriented development opportunities along this new corridor from South Station to Readville. Three of the four new stations built by the MBTA as part of this corridor are in Dorchester: Newmarket, Four Corners/Geneva Avenue, and Talbot Avenue. It is recommended that a wayfinding system be built to help rail users orient themselves to the community the station serves and the nearby open spaces, such as Clifford Playground and the shoreline park system in South Boston/Dorchester (Newmarket); Franklin Park (Four Corners/Geneva Avenue); and Harambee Park as well as Franklin Park (Talbot Avenue). The Boston Transportation Department's Green Links planning project can also facilitate better open space access along this corridor. The Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative, as well as closely aligned Fairmount / Indigo Corridor Collaborative, have identified potential open space improvements along the corridor to be implemented as funding allows.

The BRA and DND completed a Mid-Dorchester Action Plan with development guidelines for a series of vacant parcels in this area of the community. One parcel group at 218-230 Washington Street is proposed for at least partial open space development. This open space would be funded by the development of the adjacent parcels for housing and commercial uses.

The City, through the BRA, has developed a master plan for the Columbia Point area. This master plan seeks to increase residential and retail development to service the neighborhood. The plan calls for additional passive open space; however, as mentioned earlier, active recreational facilities, such as courts and fields, are lacking in northern Dorchester, of which Columbia Point is a part. It is unknown if the University of Massachusetts Boston campus, as it redevelops through its own master plan, will allow non-campus residents to use the proposed active recreation facilities that may become part of the new campus. The City, through the Parks and Recreation Department, will engage with the BRA and the University administration to discuss how this area can better meet active recreation needs.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

DORCHESTER

Population	
2010 Census	114,235
2000 Census	118,848
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**-3.88%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	23.3
2000 Census	24.2
Density Change, 2000–2010	**-0.9**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	15,543	14%
10 to 19	17,209	15%
20 to 34	28,441	25%
35 to 54	30,936	27%
55 to 64	11,364	10%
65 and over	10,742	9%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Dorchester	114,235	10,227	30.2%	9.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	25,308	22%
Hispanic or Latino	19,407	17%
Black or African American alone	49,144	43%
Asian alone	10,605	9%
Other	9,771	9%

Median Household Income
$42,467

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

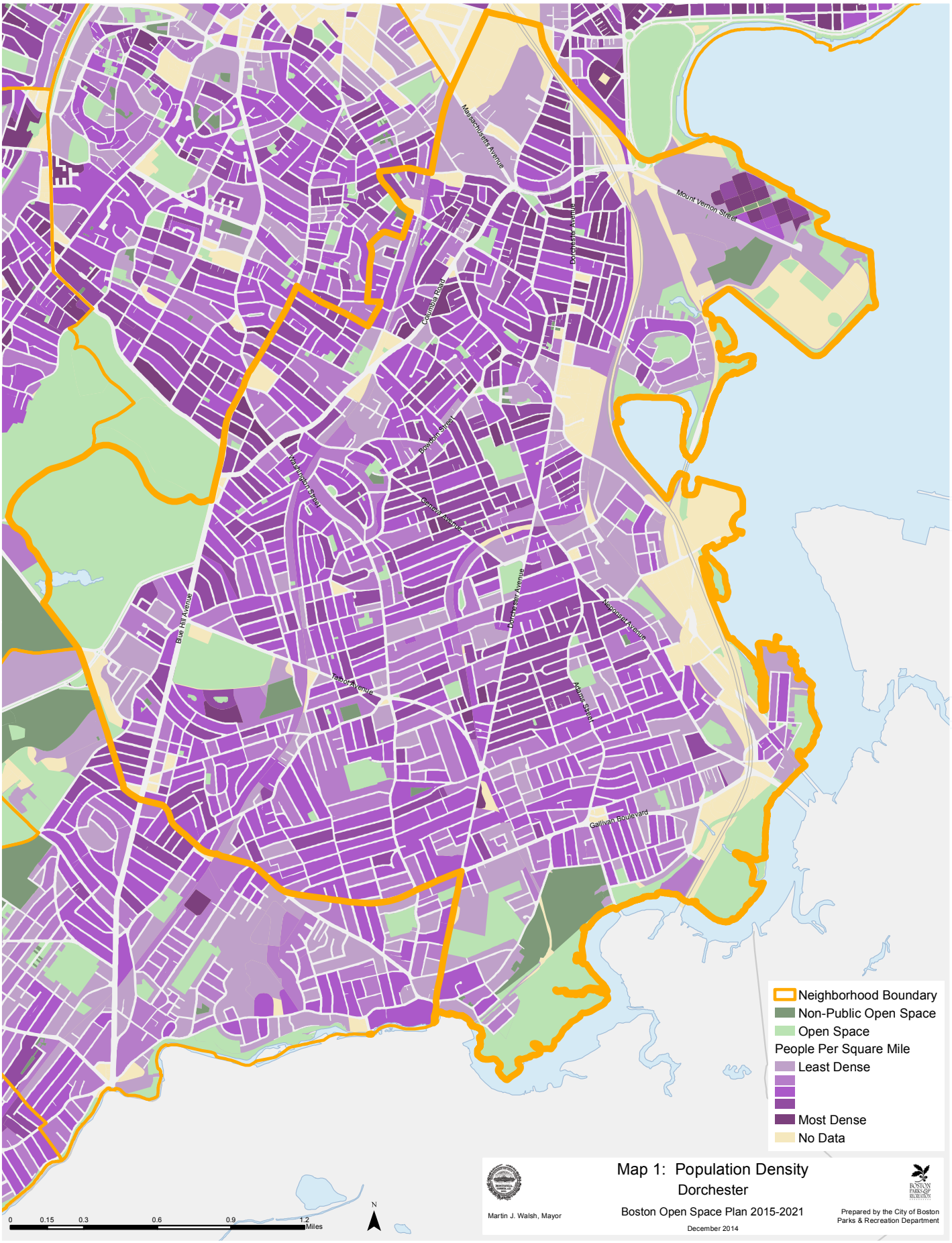
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	32%
1 vehicle	42%
2 vehicles	21%
3 or more vehicles	6%

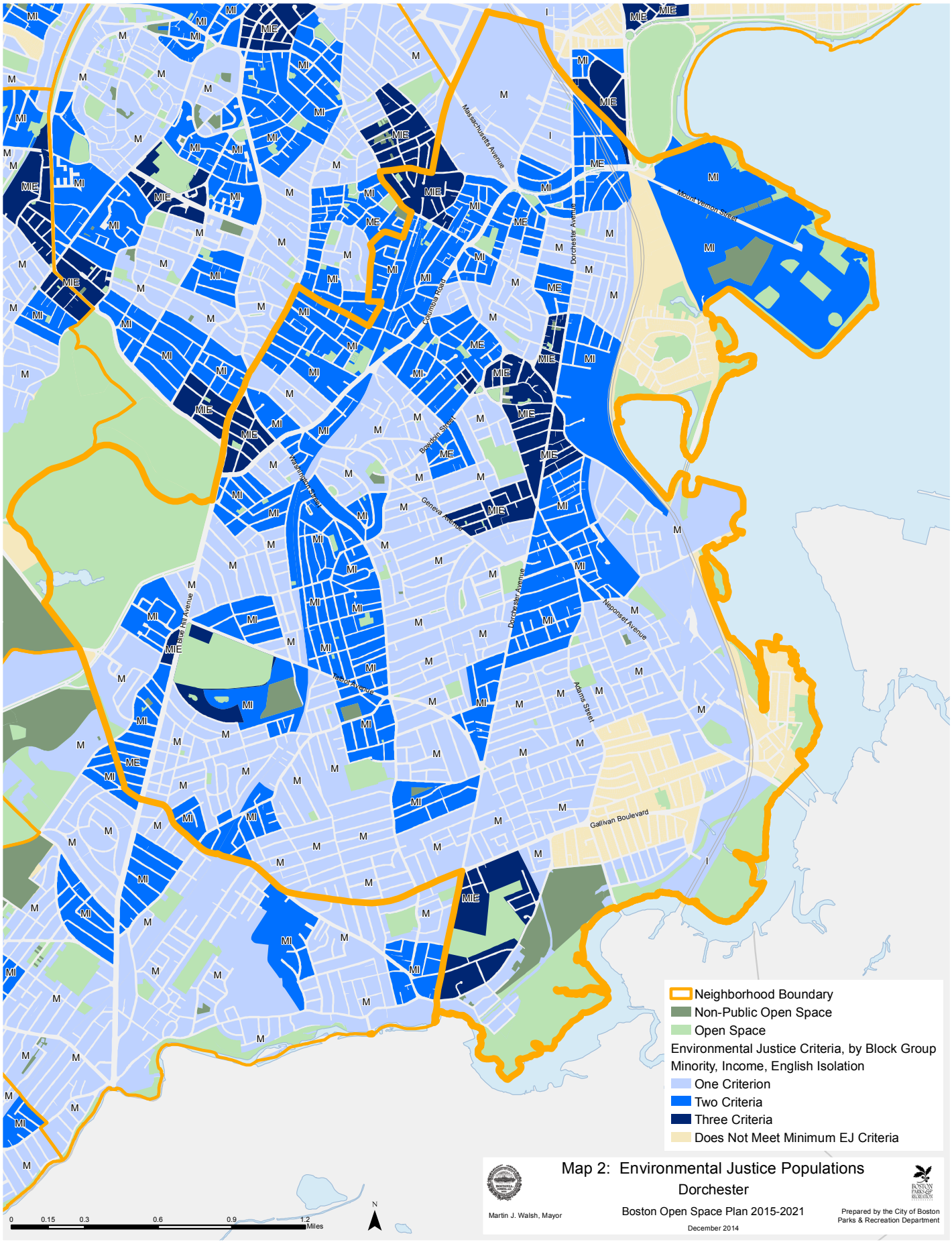
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Dorchester	18,095	15.1%

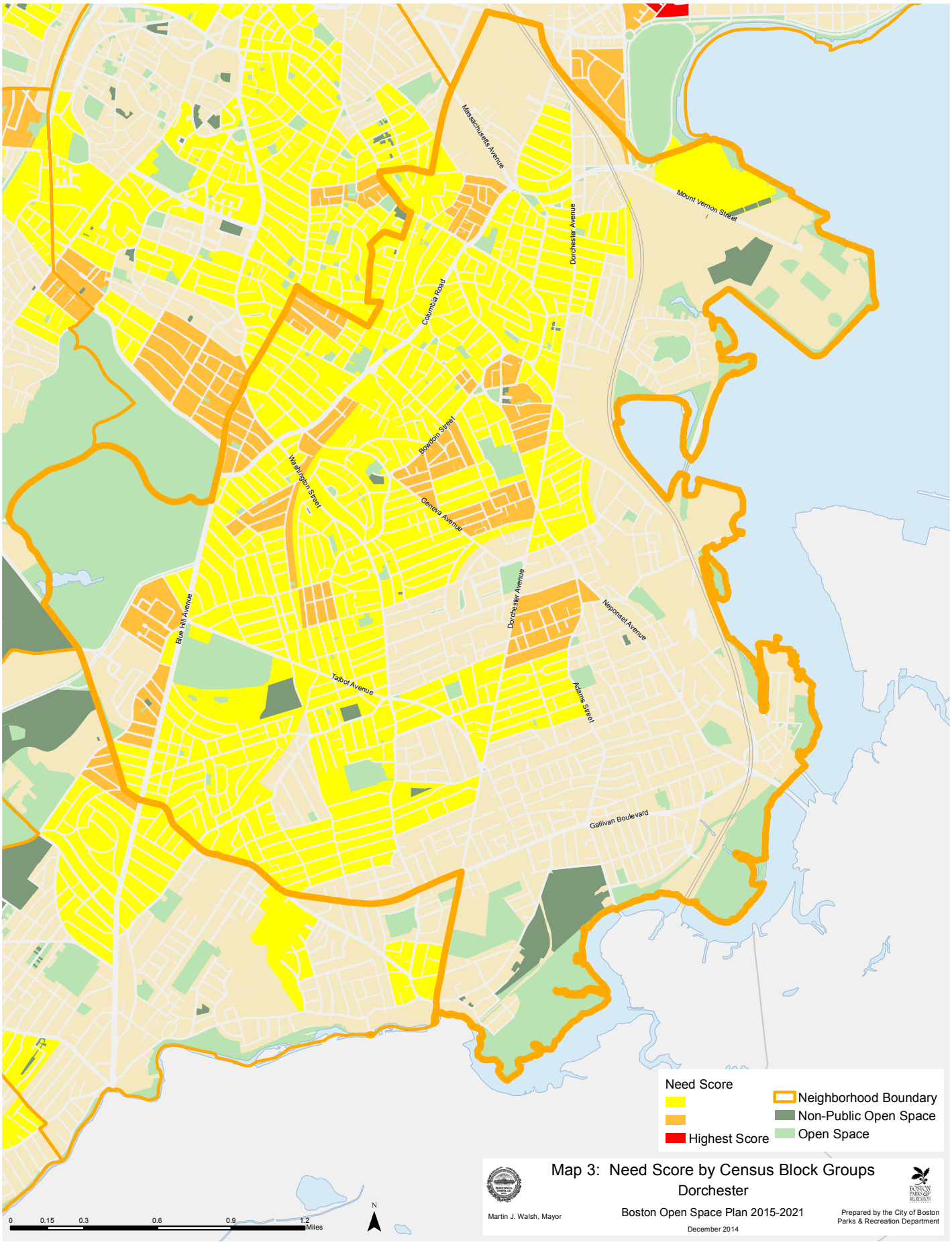
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

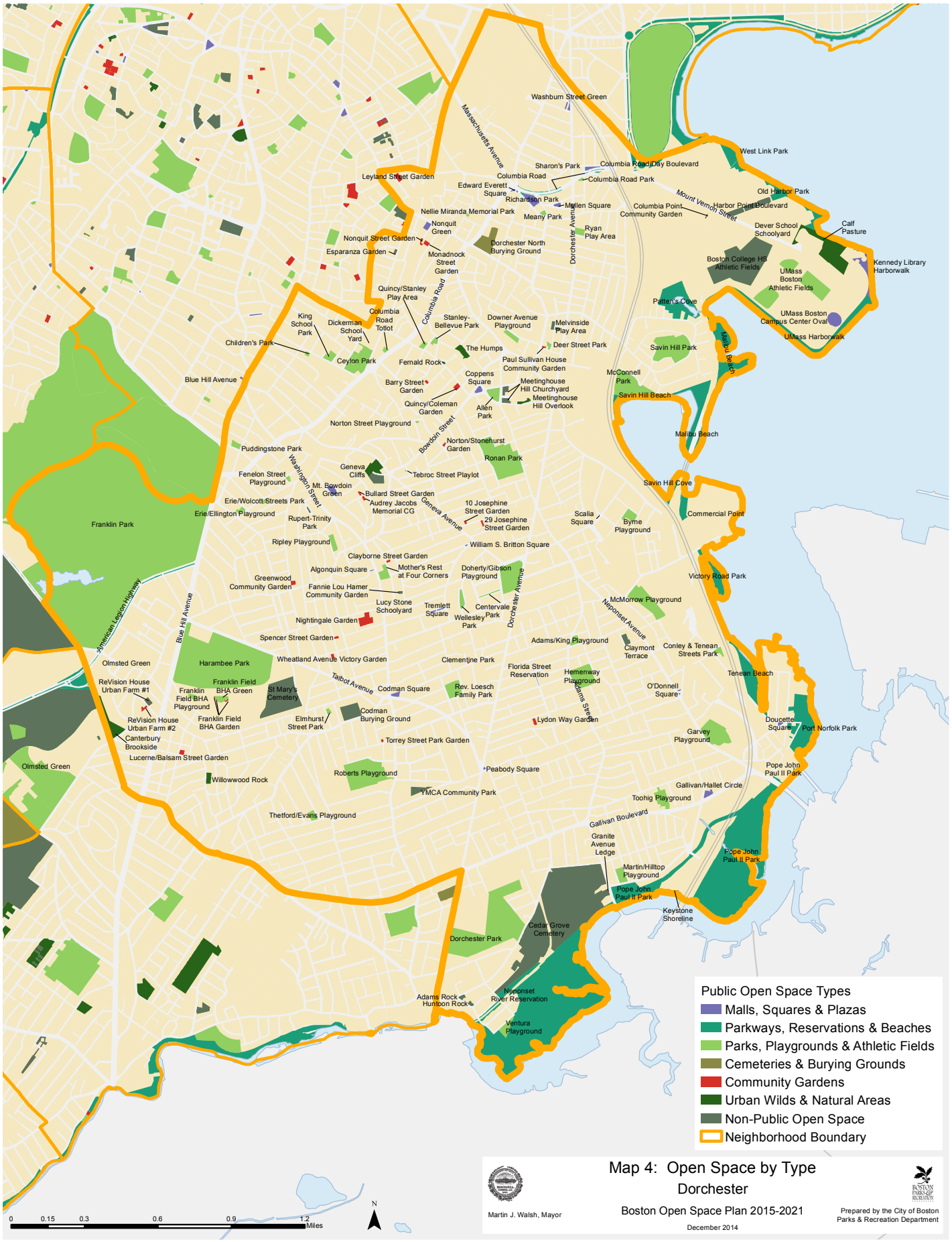
N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


Massachusetts Avenue
Mount Vernon Street
Columbia Road
Dorchester Avenue
Bowdoin Street
Washington Street
Geneva Avenue
Blue Hill Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
Neponset Avenue
Talbot Avenue
Adams Street
Gallivan Boulevard
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 1: Population Density
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

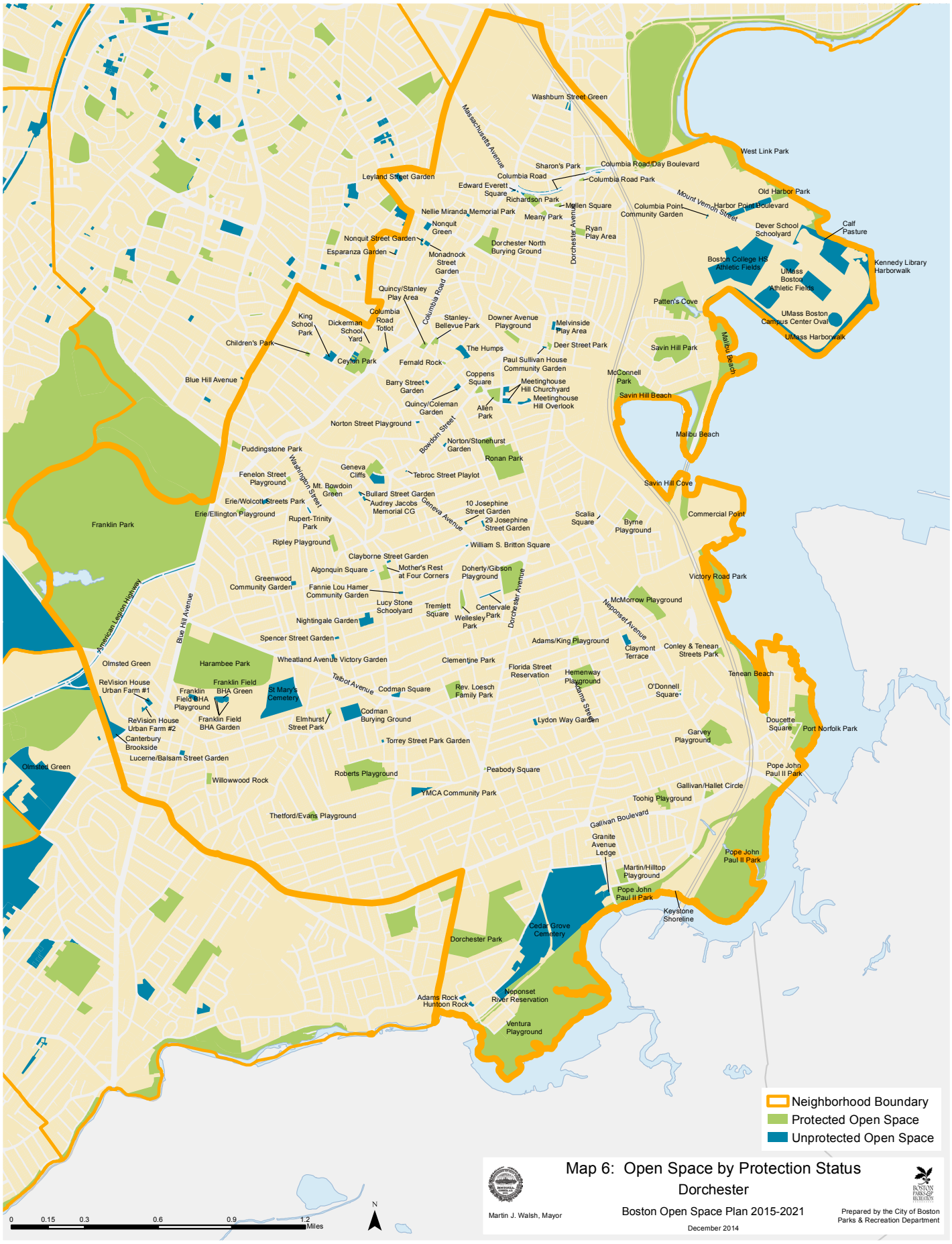


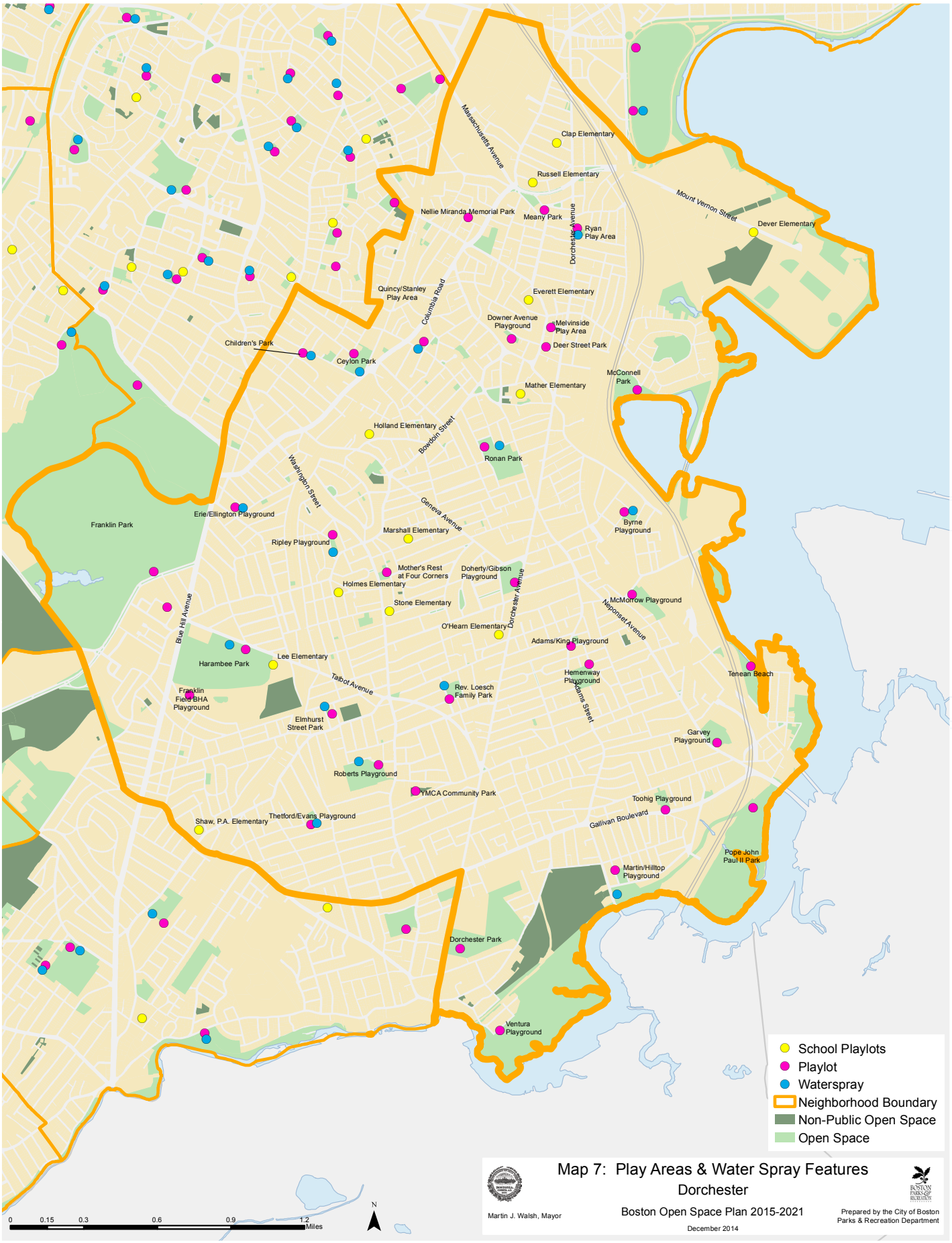
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Dorchester

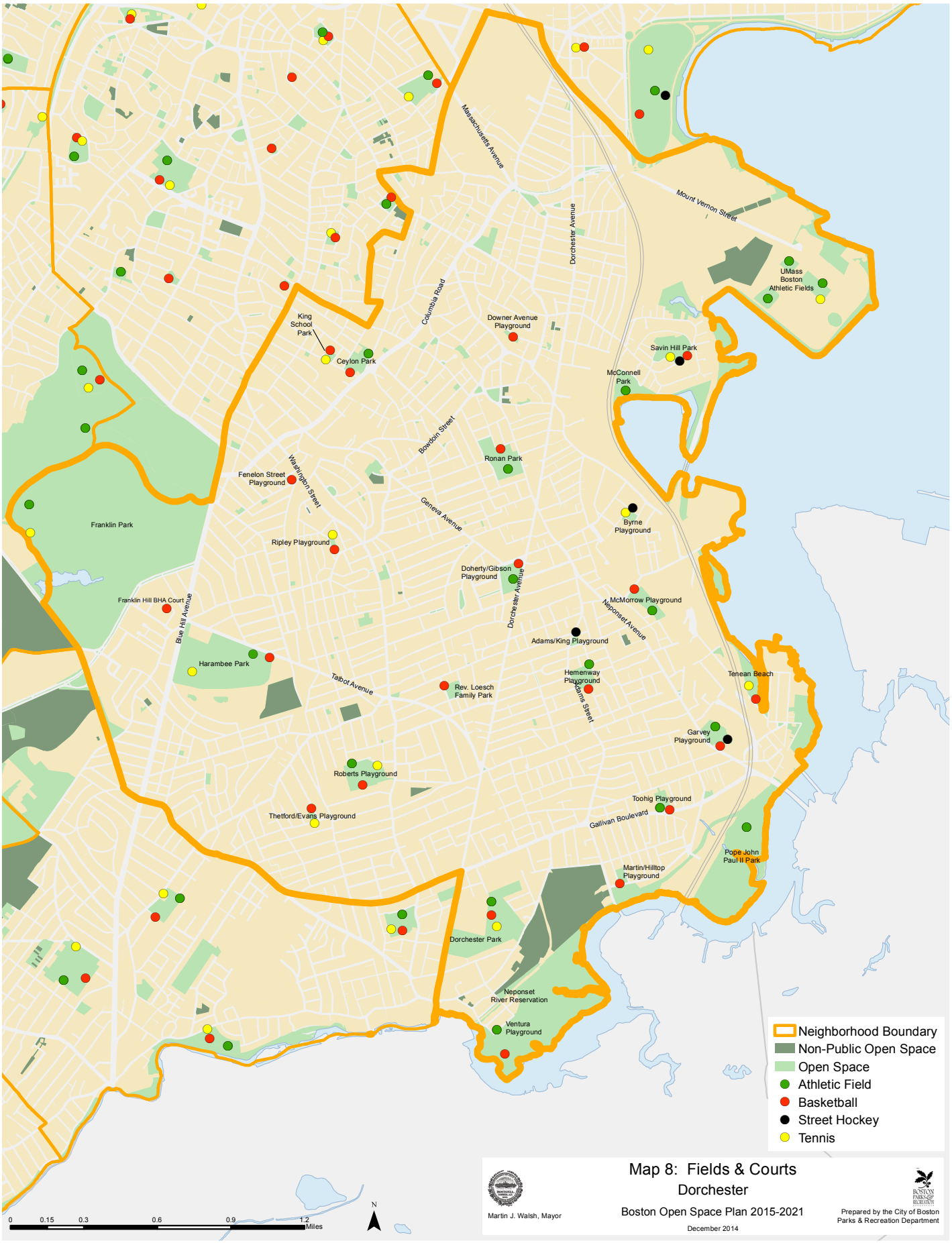

Massachusetts Avenue
Mount Vernon Street
Dorchester Avenue
Columbia Road
Bowdoin Street
Washington Street
Geneva Avenue
Blue Hill Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
Neponset Avenue
Talbot Avenue
Adams Street
Gallivan Boulevard
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

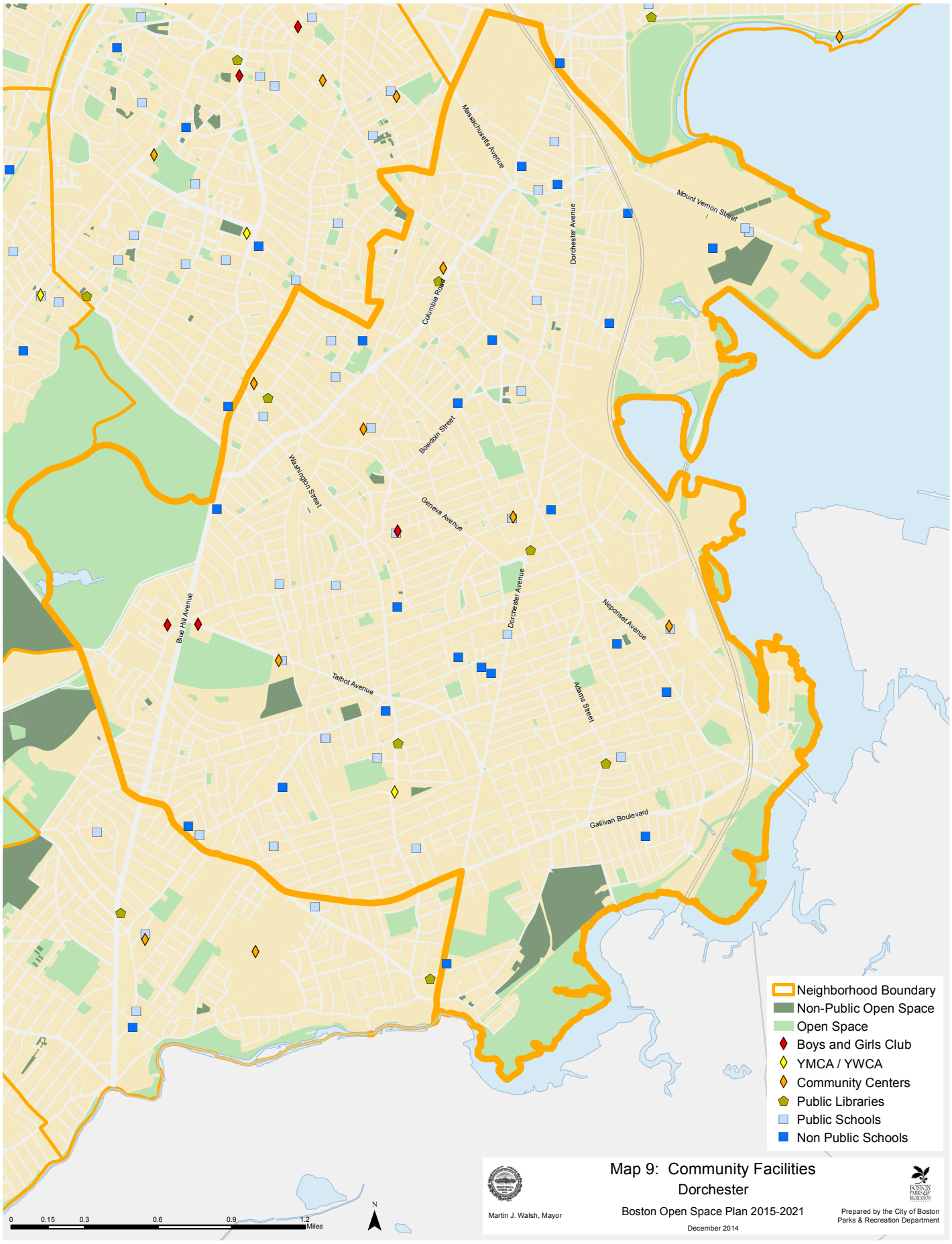

Washburn Street Green
Massachusetts Avenue
West Link Park
Sharon's Park
Columbia Road/Day Boulevard
Columbia Road
Columbia Road Park
Leyland Street Garden
Edward Everett Square
Richardson Park
Old Harbor Park
Mount Vernon Street
Harbor Point Boulevard
Mullen Square
Columbia Point Community Garden
Nellie Miranda Memorial Park
Meany Park
Dever School Schoolyard
Calf Pasture
Nonquit Green
Ryan Play Area
Dorchester Avenue
Nonquit Street Garden
Dorchester North Burying Ground
Esparanza Garden
Monadnock Street Garden
Boston College HS Athletic Fields
Kennedy Library Harborwalk
UMass Boston Athletic Fields
Quincy/Stanley Play Area
Columbia Road
Patten's Cove
UMass Boston Campus Center Oval
King School Park
Dickerman School Yard
Columbia Road Totlot
Stanley-Bellevue Park
Downer Avenue Playground
Melvinside Play Area
UMass Harborwalk
Children's Park
The Humps
Deer Street Park
Savin Hill Park
Malibu Beach
Ceylon Park
Fernald Rock
Paul Sullivan House Community Garden
Blue Hill Avenue
Coppens Square
McConnell Park
Barry Street Garden
Meetinghouse Hill Churchyard
Savin Hill Beach
Quincy/Coleman Garden
Allen Park
Meetinghouse Hill Overlook
Norton Street Playground
Bowdoin Street
Malibu Beach
Puddingstone Park
Norton/Stonehurst Garden
Ronan Park
Washington Street
Geneva Cliffs
Fenelon Street Playground
Tebroc Street Playlot
Mt. Bowdoin Green
Savin Hill Cove
Bullard Street Garden
Erie/Wolcott Streets Park
Audrey Jacobs Memorial CG
Geneva Avenue
10 Josephine Street Garden
Commercial Point
Erie/Ellington Playground
Rupert-Trinity Park
29 Josephine Street Garden
Scalia Square
Byrne Playground
Franklin Park
Ripley Playground
William S. Britton Square
Clayborne Street Garden
Algonquin Square
Mother's Rest at Four Corners
Doherty/Gibson Playground
Victory Road Park
Greenwood Community Garden
Fannie Lou Hamer Community Garden
Dorchester Avenue
McMorrow Playground
Neponset Avenue
American Legion Highway
Blue Hill Avenue
Lucy Stone Schoolyard
Tremlett Square
Centervale Park
Wellesley Park
Nightingale Garden
Spencer Street Garden
Adams/King Playground
Claymont Terrace
Conley & Tenean Streets Park
Olmsted Green
Harambee Park
Wheatland Avenue Victory Garden
Clementine Park
Florida Street Reservation
Hemenway Playground
Tenean Beach
ReVision House Urban Farm #1
Franklin Field BHA Playground
Franklin Field BHA Green
St Mary's Cemetery
Talbot Avenue
Codman Square
Rev. Loesch Family Park
Adams Street
O'Donnell Square
ReVision House Urban Farm #2
Franklin Field BHA Garden
Elmhurst Street Park
Codman Burying Ground
Lydon Way Garden
Doucette Square
Port Norfolk Park
Canterbury Brookside
Torrey Street Park Garden
Garvey Playground
Lucerne/Balsam Street Garden
Olmsted Green
Peabody Square
Pope John Paul II Park
Willowwood Rock
Roberts Playground
Gallivan/Hallet Circle
YMCA Community Park
Toohig Playground
Thetford/Evans Playground
Gallivan Boulevard
Granite Avenue Ledge
Pope John Paul II Park
Martin/Hilltop Playground
Pope John Paul II Park
Keystone Shoreline
Cedar Grove Cemetery
Dorchester Park
Adams Rock
Huntoon Rock
Neponset River Reservation
Ventura Playground
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

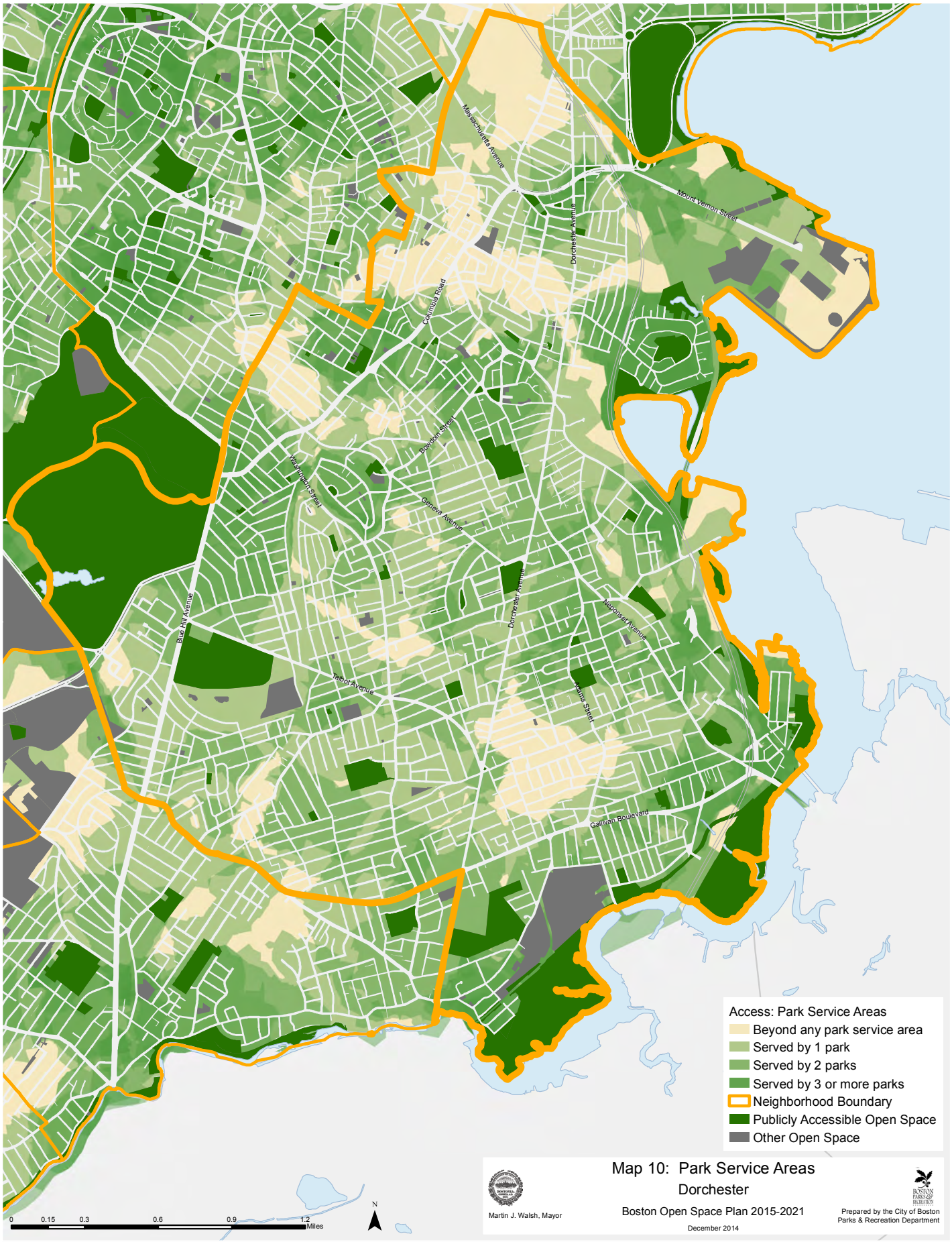
Washburn Street Green
Massachusetts Avenue
West Link Park
Sharon's Park
Columbia Road/Day Boulevard
Columbia Road
Columbia Road Park
Leyland Street Garden
Edward Everett Square
Richardson Park
Mullen Square
Old Harbor Park
Mount Vernon Street
Harbor Point Boulevard
Columbia Point Community Garden
Nellie Miranda Memorial Park
Meany Park
Dorchester Avenue
Ryan Play Area
Nonquit Green
Nonquit Street Garden
Dever School Schoolyard
Calf Pasture
Esparanza Garden
Monadnock Street Garden
Dorchester North Burying Ground
Boston College HS Athletic Fields
Kennedy Library Harborwalk
UMass Boston Athletic Fields
Quincy/Stanley Play Area
Columbia Road
Patten's Cove
UMass Boston Campus Center Oval
King School Park
Dickerman School Yard
Columbia Road Totlot
Stanley-Bellevue Park
Downer Avenue Playground
Melvinside Play Area
UMass Harborwalk
Malibu Beach
Children's Park
The Humps
Deer Street Park
Savin Hill Park
Ceylon Park
Fernald Rock
Paul Sullivan House Community Garden
Blue Hill Avenue
Coppens Square
McConnell Park
Barry Street Garden
Meetinghouse Hill Churchyard
Savin Hill Beach
Quincy/Coleman Garden
Allen Park
Meetinghouse Hill Overlook
Norton Street Playground
Bowdoin Street
Malibu Beach
Puddingstone Park
Norton/Stonehurst Garden
Ronan Park
Washington Street
Geneva Cliffs
Fenelon Street Playground
Tebroc Street Playlot
Mt. Bowdoin Green
Savin Hill Cove
Bullard Street Garden
Erie/Wolcott Streets Park
Audrey Jacobs Memorial CG
Geneva Avenue
10 Josephine Street Garden
Commercial Point
Erie/Ellington Playground
Rupert-Trinity Park
29 Josephine Street Garden
Scalia Square
Byrne Playground
Franklin Park
Ripley Playground
William S. Britton Square
Clayborne Street Garden
Algonquin Square
Mother's Rest at Four Corners
Doherty/Gibson Playground
Victory Road Park
Greenwood Community Garden
Fannie Lou Hamer Community Garden
McMorrow Playground
Neponset Avenue
Lucy Stone Schoolyard
Tremlett Square
Centervale Park
Wellesley Park
Dorchester Avenue
Nightingale Garden
American Legion Highway
Blue Hill Avenue
Spencer Street Garden
Adams/King Playground
Claymont Terrace
Conley & Tenean Streets Park
Olmsted Green
Harambee Park
Wheatland Avenue Victory Garden
Clementine Park
Florida Street Reservation
Hemenway Playground
Tenean Beach
ReVision House Urban Farm #1
Franklin Field
Talbot Avenue
Codman Square
Rev. Loesch Family Park
O'Donnell Square
Franklin Field BHA Playground
BHA Green
St Mary's Cemetery
Adams Street
ReVision House Urban Farm #2
Franklin Field BHA Garden
Elmhurst Street Park
Codman Burying Ground
Lydon Way Garden
Doucette Square
Port Norfolk Park
Canterbury Brookside
Torrey Street Park Garden
Garvey Playground
Lucerne/Balsam Street Garden
Olmsted Green
Peabody Square
Pope John Paul II Park
Roberts Playground
Willowwood Rock
Gallivan/Hallet Circle
YMCA Community Park
Toohig Playground
Thetford/Evans Playground
Gallivan Boulevard
Granite Avenue Ledge
Pope John Paul II Park
Martin/Hilltop Playground
Pope John Paul II Park
Keystone Shoreline
Cedar Grove Cemetery
Dorchester Park
Adams Rock
Huntoon Rock
Neponset River Reservation
Ventura Playground
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0
0.15
0.3
0.6
0.9
1.2
Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

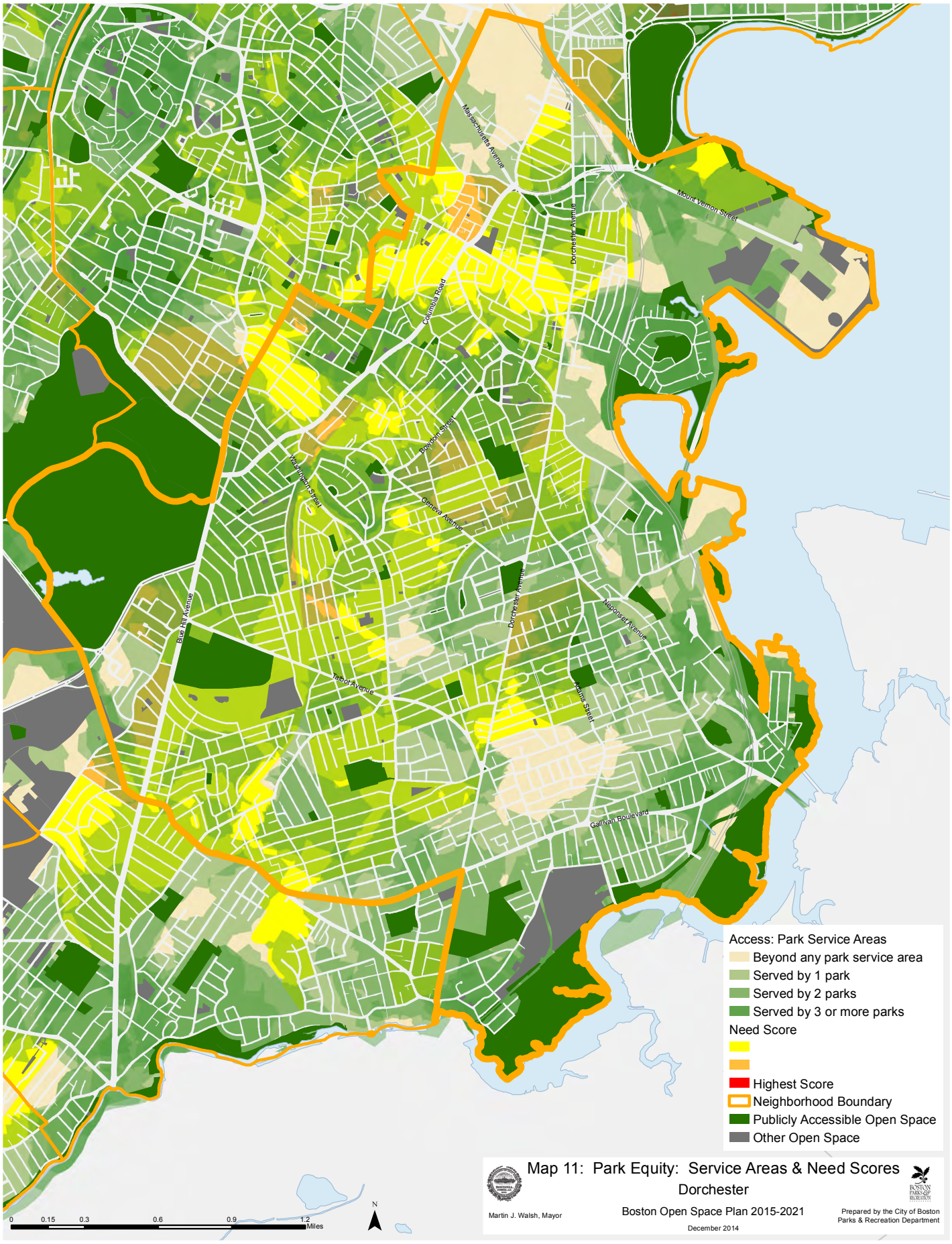

Washburn Street Green
Massachusetts Avenue
West Link Park
Sharon's Park
Columbia Road/Day Boulevard
Columbia Road
Columbia Road Park
Leyland Street Garden
Edward Everett Square
Richardson Park
Old Harbor Park
Mount Vernon Street
Harbor Point Boulevard
Mullen Square
Columbia Point Community Garden
Nellie Miranda Memorial Park
Meany Park
Dever School Schoolyard
Calf Pasture
Nonquit Green
Ryan Play Area
Nonquit Street Garden
Dorchester North Burying Ground
Dorchester Avenue
Esparanza Garden
Monadnock Street Garden
Boston College HS Athletic Fields
Kennedy Library Harborwalk
UMass Boston Athletic Fields
Quincy/Stanley Play Area
Columbia Road
Patten's Cove
Columbia Road Totlot
King School Park
Dickerman School Yard
Stanley-Bellevue Park
Downer Avenue Playground
Melvinside Play Area
UMass Boston Campus Center Oval
UMass Harborwalk
Children's Park
The Humps
Deer Street Park
Savin Hill Park
Malibu Beach
Ceylon Park
Fernald Rock
Paul Sullivan House Community Garden
Blue Hill Avenue
Coppens Square
McConnell Park
Barry Street Garden
Meetinghouse Hill Churchyard
Savin Hill Beach
Quincy/Coleman Garden
Allen Park
Meetinghouse Hill Overlook
Norton Street Playground
Bowdoin Street
Malibu Beach
Puddingstone Park
Norton/Stonehurst Garden
Ronan Park
Washington Street
Geneva Cliffs
Fenelon Street Playground
Tebroc Street Playlot
Mt. Bowdoin Green
Savin Hill Cove
Bullard Street Garden
Erie/Wolcott Streets Park
Audrey Jacobs Memorial CG
Genera Avenue
10 Josephine Street Garden
Commercial Point
Erie/Ellington Playground
Rupert-Trinity Park
29 Josephine Street Garden
Scalia Square
Byrne Playground
Franklin Park
Ripley Playground
William S. Britton Square
Clayborne Street Garden
Algonquin Square
Mother's Rest at Four Corners
Doherty/Gibson Playground
Victory Road Park
Greenwood Community Garden
Fannie Lou Hamer Community Garden
Dorchester Avenue
McMorrow Playground
American Legion Highway
Lucy Stone Schoolyard
Tremlett Square
Centervale Park
Neponset Avenue
Blue Hill Avenue
Nightingale Garden
Wellesley Park
Spencer Street Garden
Adams/King Playground
Claymont Terrace
Conley & Tenean Streets Park
Olmsted Green
Harambee Park
Wheatland Avenue Victory Garden
Clementine Park
Florida Street Reservation
Hemenway Playground
Tenean Beach
ReVision House Urban Farm #1
Franklin Field BHA Playground
Franklin Field BHA Green
St Mary's Cemetery
Talbot Avenue
Codman Square
Rev. Loesch Family Park
Adams Street
O'Donnell Square
ReVision House Urban Farm #2
Franklin Field BHA Garden
Elmhurst Street Park
Codman Burying Ground
Lydon Way Garden
Doucette Square
Port Norfolk Park
Canterbury Brookside
Torrey Street Park Garden
Garvey Playground
Lucerne/Balsam Street Garden
Olmsted Green
Peabody Square
Pope John Paul II Park
Roberts Playground
Willowwood Rock
Gallivan/Hallet Circle
YMCA Community Park
Toohig Playground
Thetford/Evans Playground
Gallivan Boulevard
Granite Avenue Ledge
Pope John Paul II Park
Martin/Hilltop Playground
Pope John Paul II Park
Keystone Shoreline
Cedar Grove Cemetery
Dorchester Park
Adams Rock
Huntoon Rock
Neponset River Reservation
Ventura Playground
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
0
0.15
0.3
0.6
0.9
1.2
Miles
N
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Massachusetts Avenue
Clap Elementary
Russell Elementary
Mount Vernon Street
Nellie Miranda Memorial Park
Meany Park
Dorchester Avenue
Ryan Play Area
Dever Elementary
Quincy/Stanley Play Area
Columbia Road
Everett Elementary
Downer Avenue Playground
Melvinside Play Area
Deer Street Park
Children's Park
Ceylon Park
McConnell Park
Mather Elementary
Holland Elementary
Bowdoin Street
Ronan Park
Washington Street
Geneva Avenue
Erie/Ellington Playground
Franklin Park
Byrne Playground
Marshall Elementary
Ripley Playground
Mother's Rest at Four Corners
Doherty/Gibson Playground
Holmes Elementary
Stone Elementary
McMorrow Playground
Neponset Avenue
Blue Hill Avenue
O'Hearn Elementary
Adams/King Playground
Lee Elementary
Harambee Park
Hemenway Playground
Tenean Beach
Talbot Avenue
Rev. Loesch Family Park
Franklin Field BHA Playground
Adams Street
Elmhurst Street Park
Garvey Playground
Roberts Playground
YMCA Community Park
Toohig Playground
Thetford/Evans Playground
Shaw, P.A. Elementary
Gallivan Boulevard
Pope John Paul II Park
Martin/Hilltop Playground
Dorchester Park
Ventura Playground
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Massachusetts Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
Mount Vernon Street
UMass Boston Athletic Fields
Columbia Road
King School Park
Ceylon Park
Downer Avenue Playground
Savin Hill Park
McConnell Park
Bowdoin Street
Ronan Park
Washington Street
Fenelon Street Playground
Geneva Avenue
Byrne Playground
Franklin Park
Ripley Playground
Doherty/Gibson Playground
Dorchester Avenue
McMorrow Playground
Neponset Avenue
Franklin Hill BHA Court
Blue Hill Avenue
Adams/King Playground
Harambee Park
Hemenway Playground
Tenean Beach
Talbot Avenue
Rev. Loesch Family Park
Adams Street
Garvey Playground
Roberts Playground
Toohig Playground
Thetford/Evans Playground
Gallivan Boulevard
Pope John Paul II Park
Martin/Hilltop Playground
Dorchester Park
Neponset River Reservation
Ventura Playground
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Massachusetts Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
Mount Vernon Street
Columbia Road
Bowdoin Street
Washington Street
Geneva Avenue
Blue Hill Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
Neponset Avenue
Talbot Avenue
Adams Street
Gallivan Boulevard
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Massachusetts Avenue
Mount Vernon Street
Dorchester Avenue
Columbia Road
Bowdoin Street
Washington Street
Geneva Avenue
Blue Hill Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
Neponset Avenue
Talbot Avenue
Adams Street
Gallivan Boulevard
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Dorchester
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Massachusetts Avenue
Mount Vernon Street
Dorchester Avenue
Columbia Road
Boylston Street
Washington Street
Geneva Avenue
Blue Hill Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
Neponset Avenue
Talbot Avenue
Adams Street
Gallivan Boulevard
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Dorchester
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.6:

EAST BOSTON

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Originally a group of five islands, East Boston was connected to Boston with the establishment of the first ferry in 1637. In 1833, William Sumner established the East Boston Company to develop this area as one of the first planned communities in Boston.

From 1840 to 1865, East Boston began to expand rapidly, becoming a major site for the construction of world-famous clipper ships by well-known builders such as Donald McKay and Samuel Hall. East Boston became a significant transportation center and shipping port, attracting immigrants seeking employment in the shipbuilding industry. With the Cunard Line establishing a port of entry in the Maverick Square area by 1839, East Boston became the Ellis Island of New England.

In 1905, the first subway tunnel to downtown was opened. The development of Logan Airport in 1923, the Sumner Tunnel in 1934, and other transportation-related projects dramatically impacted the neighborhood. Local industrial facilities began to decline in favor of airport-related development and many families left for the suburbs.

Today, despite such pressures, East Boston has stabilized as a neighborhood and in recent years has benefitted from many new investments geared toward public facilities. The third harbor tunnel (aka Ted Williams Tunnel) has helped reduce airport bound traffic on residential streets. East Boston enjoys an extensive waterfront that will continue to provide redevelopment opportunities for maritime, industrial, commercial, residential, and open space uses.

Open Space Access & Equity

East Boston is predominantly a family neighborhood—nearly 25% of the population is composed of youth under the age of 20. East Boston compares favorably with other densely populated neighborhoods, with 5.33 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents, though this number is still below the city average of 7.59 acres. The neighborhood has had 5.5% population growth from 2000–2010, a trend that will likely continue as underutilized parcels are redeveloped for residential uses (East Boston Map 1).

East Boston neighborhoods are generally dense, with limited private residential outdoor space. This is a community that is dependent on its parks. East Boston has an extremely rich mix of open space types: active and passive areas, linear facilities, natural areas and waterfront access. Over 206 acres of open space in East Boston are located within two sizable saltwater marshes.

Nearly the entire neighborhood meets at least one of the State's Environmental Justice criteria. This combination of factors—high density, demographic and socio-economic factors—results in a high park need score for almost all of East Boston, with the greatest need in the Eagle Hill neighborhood (East Boston Maps 2 and 3).

Many of East Boston's parks are located on the edges of the neighborhood—bordering the water or the airport. Playground distribution is reasonable and walkable in this neighborhood, though two areas rely on BPS schoolyards for playlots—Orient Heights (Bradley School) and Eagle Hill (O'Donnell and Kennedy) (East Boston Map 7).

Due to recent renovations, East Boston now has three synthetic turf fields at East Boston Memorial Stadium, LoPresti Park, and American Legion Park. Conversion from natural to synthetic turf allows these facilities to accommodate heavy use, which is necessary in this dense neighborhood (East Boston Map 8).

Eagle Hill

Bordered by the Chelsea River, the Inner Harbor, and McClellan Highway, this is a primarily residential area with defunct industrial uses along the waterfront. Small open spaces like Prescott and Putnam Squares are located at street grid corners. American Legion Park accommodates active recreation needs. The area is one of East Boston's most stable sections, with many of the homes occupied by the same families for generations.

Eagle Hill, while rich in history and future potential, is currently lacking in the availability of diverse recreational and passive open space resources. This is especially true for the dense residential streets between Central and Day Squares. Central Square will be reconfigured through a Boston Transportation Department project, making its central feature, Bertulli Park, more accessible to the neighborhood for passive uses. The Chelsea River (aka Chelsea Creek) and Inner Harbor edges also remain generally inaccessible and undeveloped. The former Hess Oil site, on the Chelsea Creek waterfront has significant unrealized potential for community open space, though environmental remediation will likely be required preceding any project on this site.

Maverick Square

Roughly the triangular area between Maverick Square, Central Square, and LoPresti Park, the Maverick Square sub-area contains a mix of residential and industrial uses. Traffic arteries and commercial uses dominate both Central (a center for neighborhood commerce) and Maverick Squares.

LoPresti Park, located next to the Maverick Landing housing development (1,500 residents), is nearing completion of a multi-phased renovation effort. The adjacent New Street development will expand the publicly-accessible waterfront open space in this area.

The Lewis Mall from Maverick Square to Boston Harbor along Lewis Street suffers from inattention and lack of development. As reinvestment occurs along the piers in this area, with the consequent extension of Harborwalk, this open space connection will increase in importance as a gateway from the interior of this neighborhood to its greatest regional open space asset.

Jeffries Point

A largely residential area to the south of East Boston Memorial Park, Jeffries Point has a long waterfront directly facing downtown Boston. While some piers have maritime uses, most are underutilized or abandoned. This is one of the oldest and most densely settled areas of the neighborhood, dominated by triple-decker rowhouses. Neighborhood parks are predominantly passive or a mix of court-based recreational facilities. Porzio Park and Piers Park provide access to the water.

This area remains relatively isolated from active recreation facilities with airport-related highway ramps separating the residents from East Boston Memorial Park. A new pedestrian and bike path, built by Massport, connects from Maverick Street north up to Porter Street to provide access from Jeffries Point to the active recreation facilities at East Boston Memorial Park. The East Boston Greenway complements this connection on the other side of the neighborhood, connecting to Massport's Bremen Street Park.

Orient Heights/Harborview

This northernmost area of Boston includes the Orient Heights public housing development as well as a number of single-family homes (the rest of East Boston is dominated by multi-family homes). Orient Heights is characterized by hills gently sloping up from the water with the housing situated on well-defined terraces.

Available open space facilities have a rich diversity and include a large multi-use park (Noyes), saltwater marshes, Constitution Beach, a cemetery, and small play areas. Pedestrian and bicycle connections between different facilities in the Orient Heights area are lacking and several of the natural areas are unprotected.

The topography of this neighborhood is a factor in evaluating park access for area residents. Noyes Playground is directly adjacent to the Brandywyne Village apartment community, but is less convenient to other Orient Heights residents who live up on the hill. The deficiency of park space on the north side of Orient Heights near Suffolk Downs has the potential to be ameliorated as part of the upcoming phased renovation of the BHA Orient Heights public housing community (East Boston Map 11). A more substantive opportunity for open space expansion lays in the future redevelopment of Suffolk Downs which could provide regional open space amenities.

Future Development

Large underutilized parcels, combined with great transit access, make East Boston attractive for redevelopment. As these developable sites are transformed, particular attention must be paid to the impacts these projects will have on existing open spaces. The East Boston Greenway, in particular, is flanked by numerous potential project sites. Each of these future projects should aim to improve access to the Greenway, animate the corridor with thoughtfully designed adjacencies, and retain the sense of spaciousness within the park (via sunlight, views and plantings) that makes this linear amenity inviting.

As noted previously, East Boston as a whole has a high park need score (East Boston Map 3). Its high density contributes to that score, and the consequent pressure for housing contributes to the lack of open land for future parks distributed throughout the neighborhood. Instead, as noted in the East Boston Master Plan (BRA, 2000), looking to existing open spaces and assets and linking them will generate a high degree of access and usability out of the limited open space resources, many of which are high quality and water-oriented.

One such linkage is the Harborwalk system, supported by the Chapter 91 Tidelands mandate for open space and public access to the waterfront. Linking existing waterfront parks owned by public agencies to open spaces within proposed developments will provide a sense of continuity that reduces the spatial limitation inherent in the small size of each particular open space parcel. There will need to be alternative means of routing pedestrians and cyclists so that access restrictions at industrial sites and Designated Port Areas minimize the interruption in continuity.

Similarly, the East Boston Greenway, when fully constructed, will link open spaces between Boston Harbor and Belle Isle Marsh Reservation—Piers Park, Bremen Street Park, Constitution Beach, Bayswater Street Urban Wild, and Belle Isle Coastal Preserve—as well as be an open space amenity itself. A recent addition to the chain is the Wood Island Bay Link built by Massport in 2014, which extends the greenway northeastwards for half a mile from Bremen Street Park. It is expected that the BRA will soon complete the next third of a mile of the greenway, the Narrow Gauge Link, from the Wood Island Bay Link to the DCR's Constitution Beach. Further work will be needed to extend the greenway northeastward from Constitution Beach to its ultimate destination in the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. The BTD Green Links Project is an opportunity to look carefully at this extension.

Another project for consideration by the BTD Green Links Project would be the tangential extension of the East Boston Greenway northward toward Chelsea Creek via an abandoned rail corridor that is being studied for a haul road. If some space can be reserved for pedestrian and bicycle travel, it could help make a connection along the Chelsea Creek shoreline and beyond into Chelsea.

To address some of the open space shortcomings in the Eagle Hill neighborhood, the use of Prescott and Putnam Streets as links between Condor Street Urban Wild / American Legion Playground and the Bremen Street Park portion of the East Boston Greenway would be beneficial. This would create the opportunity for an approximately 2.5 to 3 mile loop in the southern "half" of East Boston.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

EAST BOSTON

Population	
2010 Census	40,508
2000 Census	38,413
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**5.5%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	26.8
2000 Census	25.5
Density Change, 2000–2010	**1.3**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	5,554	14%
10 to 19	4,508	11%
20 to 34	12,476	31%
35 to 54	11,478	28%
55 to 64	2,960	7%
65 and over	3,532	9%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
East Boston	40,508	2,588	7.6%	6.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	15,051	37%
Hispanic or Latino	21,419	53%
Black or African American alone	1,283	3%
Asian alone	1,410	3%
Other	1,345	3%

Median Household Income
$42,747

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	37%
1 vehicle	44%
2 vehicles	15%
3 or more vehicles	3%

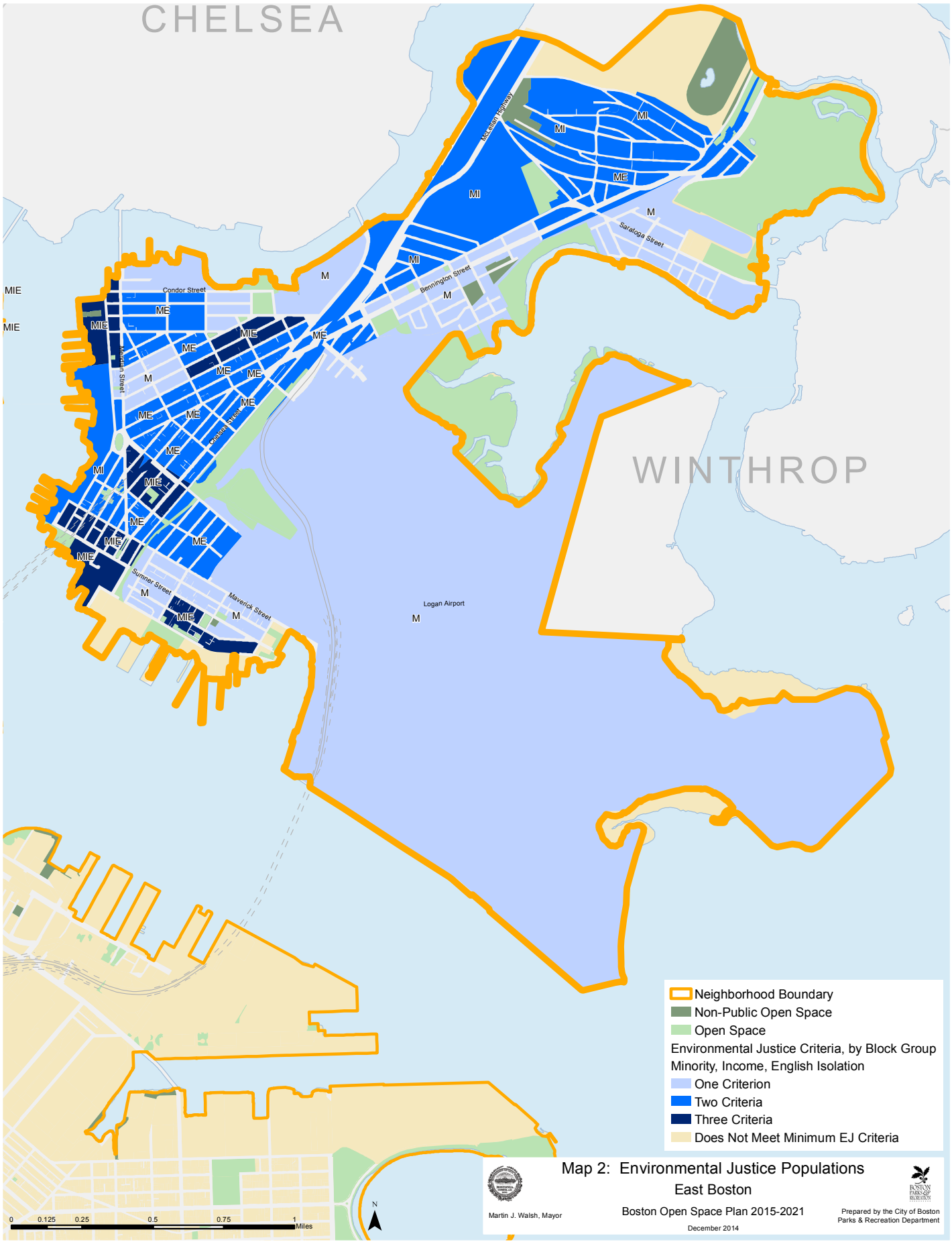
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

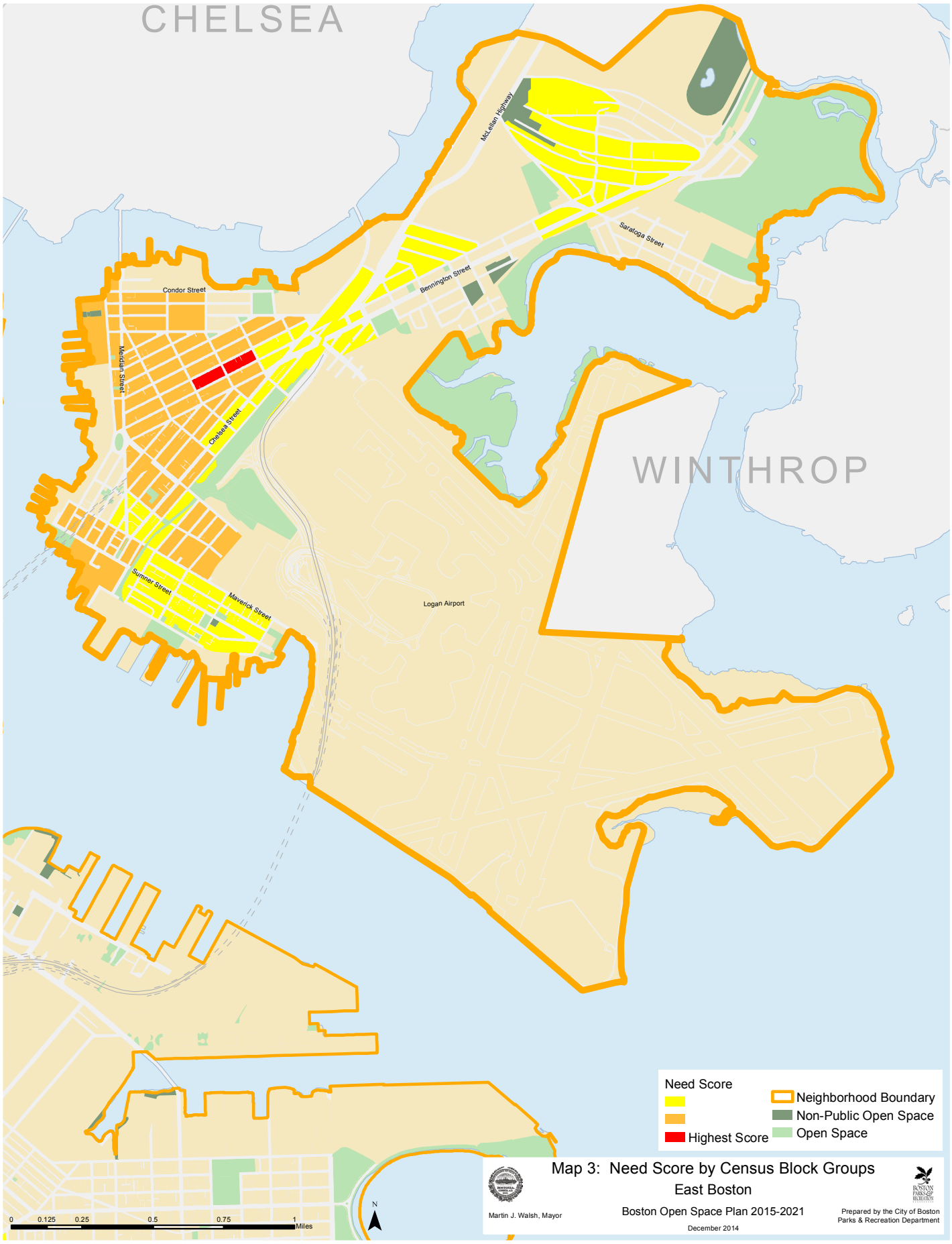
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
East Boston	5,448	12.5%

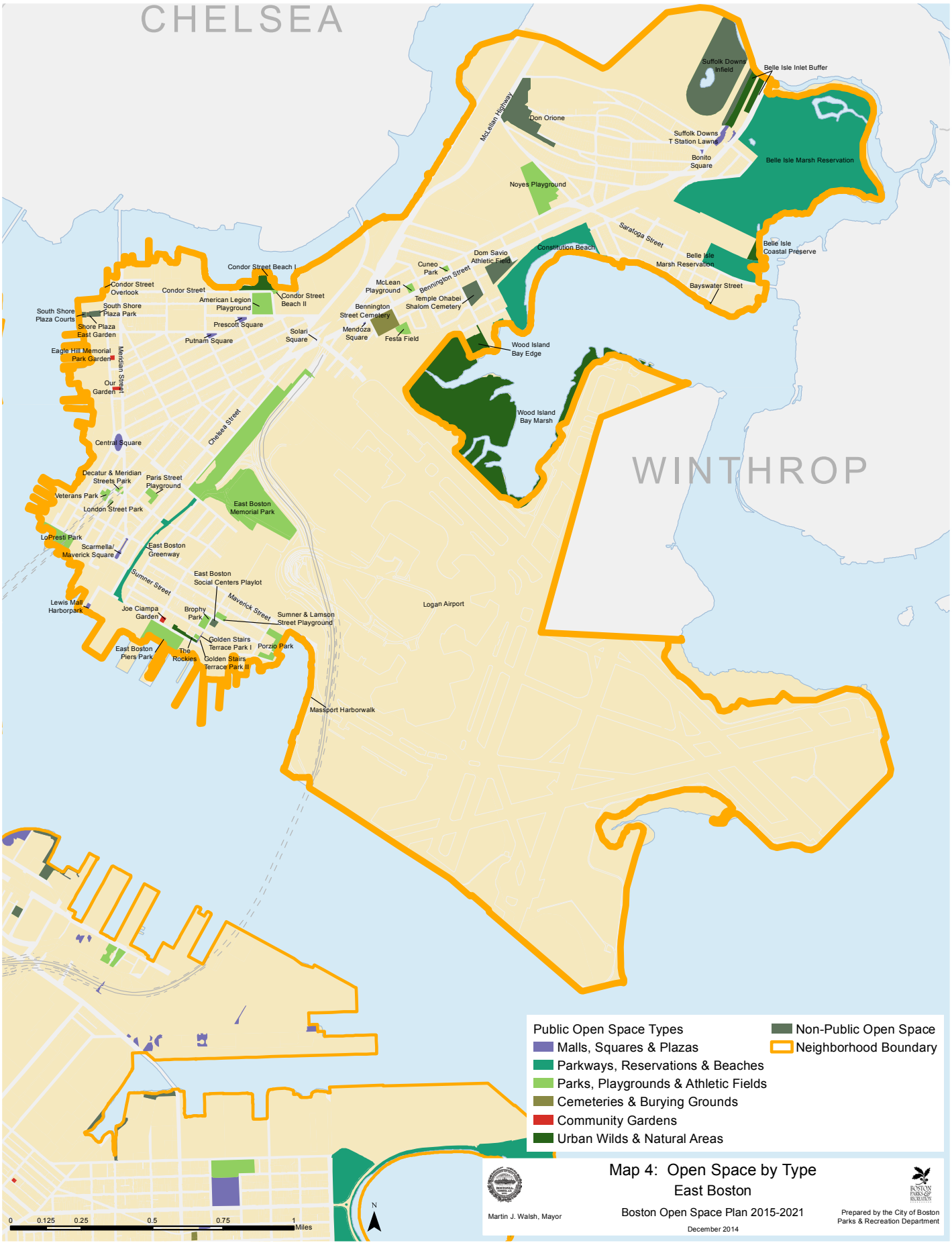
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

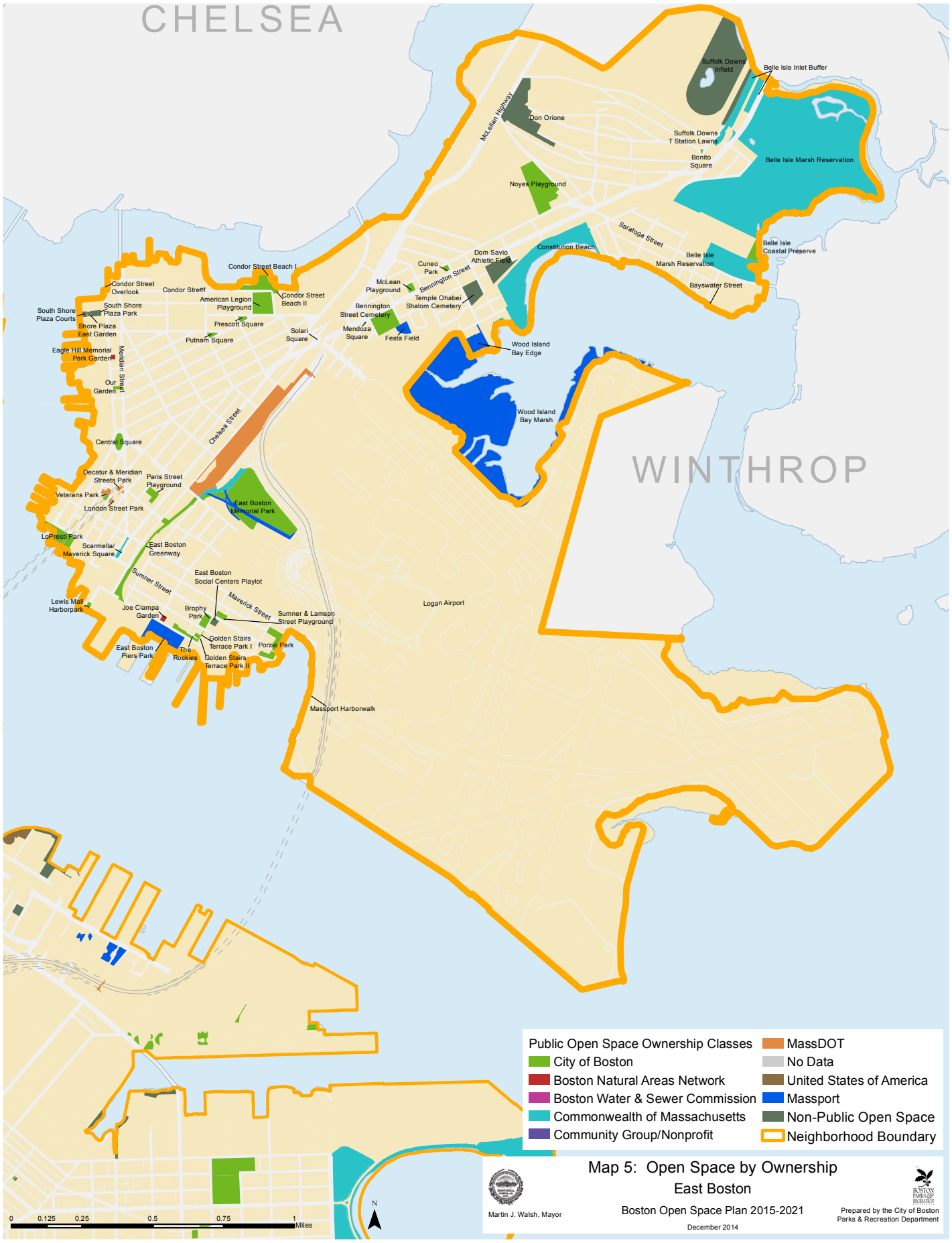
N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted

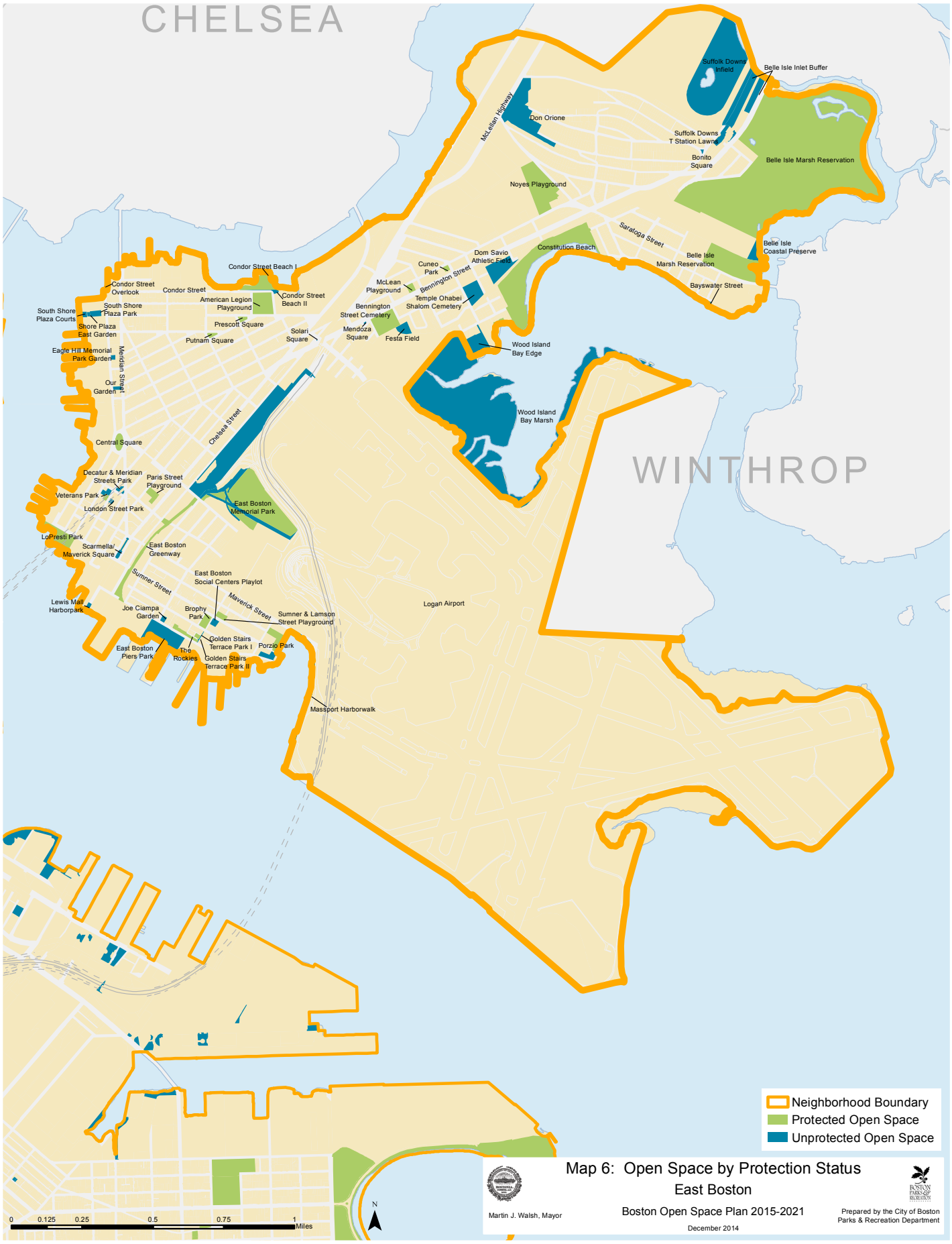
CHELSEA
WINTHROP
McLellan Highway
Saratoga Street
Bennington Street
Condor Street
Bremen Street
Princeton Street
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Logan Airport
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 1: Population Density
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


CHELSEA
WINTHROP
McGrath Highway
Saratoga Street
Bennington Street
Condor Street
Meridian Street
Chelsea Street
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Logan Airport
MIE
MIE
MIE
ME
MI
MI
MI
ME
M
M
M
MI
M
ME
MIE
ME
ME
ME
ME
ME
ME
ME
MI
MIE
ME
ME
MIE
MIE
M
MIE
M
M
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


CHELSEA
WINTHROP
McLellan Highway
Saratoga Street
Bennington Street
Condor Street
Meridian Street
Chelsea Street
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Logan Airport
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


CHELSEA
WINTHROP
Suffolk Downs Infield
Belle Isle Inlet Buffer
McLellan Highway
Don Orione
Suffolk Downs T Station Lawns
Bonito Square
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation
Noyes Playground
Saratoga Street
Constitution Beach
Belle Isle Coastal Preserve
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation
Bayswater Street
Dom Savio Athletic Field
Cuneo Park
Bennington Street
McLean Playground
Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery
Bennington Street Cemetery
Mendoza Square
Festa Field
Wood Island Bay Edge
Wood Island Bay Marsh
Condor Street Beach I
Condor Street Overlook
Condor Street
Condor Street Beach II
American Legion Playground
South Shore Plaza Courts
South Shore Plaza Park
Shore Plaza East Garden
Prescott Square
Putnam Square
Solari Square
Eagle Hill Memorial Park Garden
Meridian Street
Our Garden
Chelsea Street
Central Square
Decatur & Meridian Streets Park
Paris Street Playground
Veterans Park
London Street Park
East Boston Memorial Park
LoPresti Park
Scarmella/ Maverick Square
East Boston Greenway
Sumner Street
East Boston Social Centers Playlot
Maverick Street
Lewis Mall Harborpark
Joe Ciampa Garden
Brophy Park
Sumner & Lamson Street Playground
Golden Stairs Terrace Park I
Porzio Park
East Boston Piers Park
The Rockies
Golden Stairs Terrace Park II
Logan Airport
Massport Harborwalk
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


CHELSEA
WINTHROP
Suffolk Downs Infield
Belle Isle Inlet Buffer
McLellan Highway
Don Orione
Suffolk Downs T Station Lawns
Bonito Square
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation
Noyes Playground
Saratoga Street
Constitution Beach
Belle Isle Coastal Preserve
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation
Bayswater Street
Dom Savio Athletic Field
Cuneo Park
Bennington Street
McLean Playground
Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery
Bennington Street Cemetery
Mendoza Square
Festa Field
Wood Island Bay Edge
Wood Island Bay Marsh
Condor Street Beach I
Condor Street Beach II
Condor Street Overlook
Condor Street
American Legion Playground
South Shore Plaza Courts
South Shore Plaza Park
Shore Plaza East Garden
Prescott Square
Putnam Square
Solari Square
Eagle Hill Memorial Park Garden
Meridian Street
Our Garden
Chelsea Street
Central Square
Decatur & Meridian Streets Park
Paris Street Playground
Veterans Park
London Street Park
East Boston Memorial Park
LoPresti Park
Scarmella/ Maverick Square
East Boston Greenway
Sumner Street
East Boston Social Centers Playlot
Maverick Street
Lewis Mall Harborpark
Joe Ciampa Garden
Brophy Park
Sumner & Lamson Street Playground
Golden Stairs Terrace Park I
Porzio Park
East Boston Piers Park
The Rockies
Golden Stairs Terrace Park II
Logan Airport
Massport Harborwalk
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Massport
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

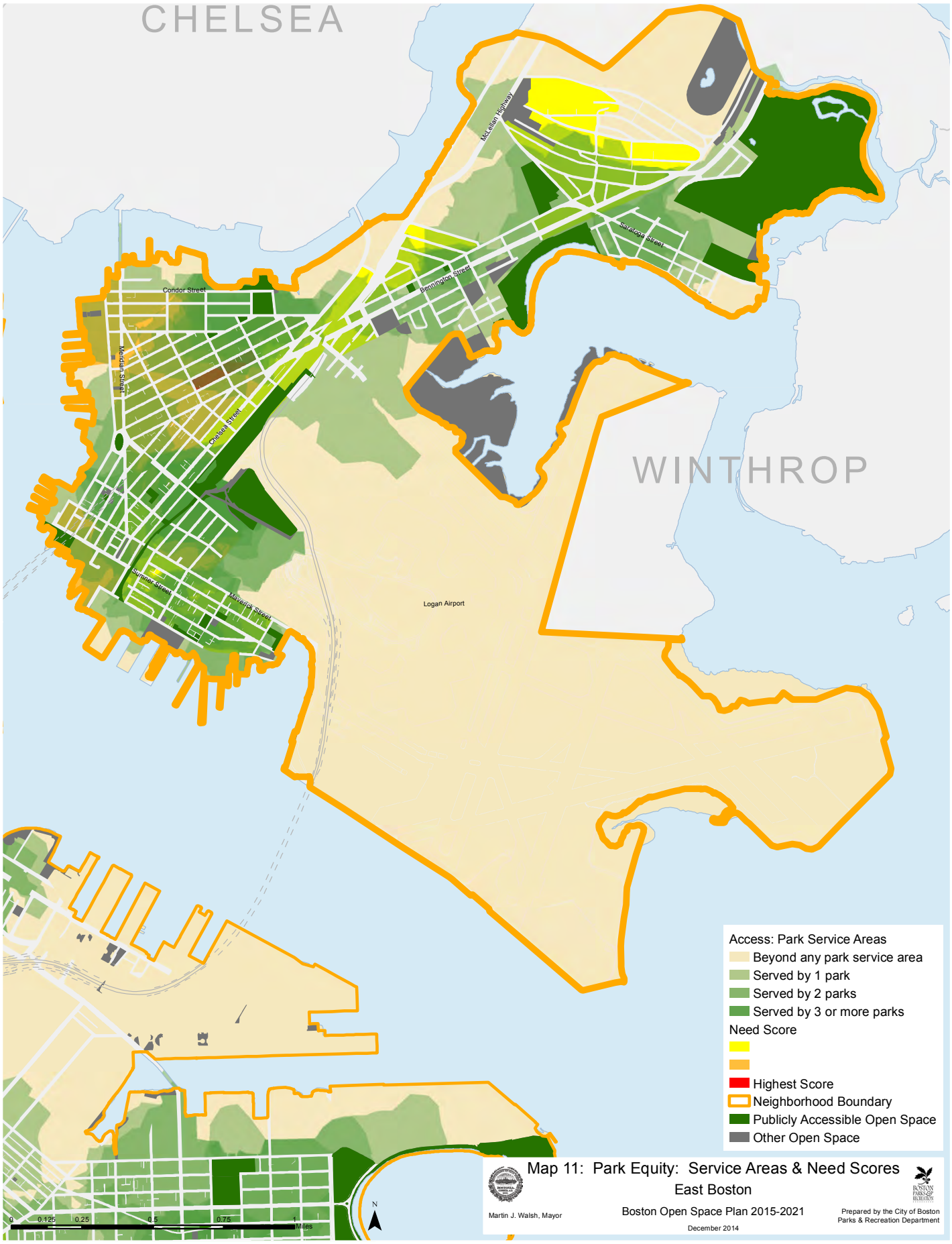

CHELSEA
WINTHROP
Suffolk Downs Infield
Belle Isle Inlet Buffer
McLellan Highway
Don Orione
Suffolk Downs T Station Lawn
Bonito Square
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation
Noyes Playground
Saratoga Street
Constitution Beach
Belle Isle Coastal Preserve
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation
Dom Savio Athletic Field
Cuneo Park
Bennington Street
McLean Playground
Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery
Bayswater Street
Condor Street Beach I
Condor Street Overlook
Condor Street
Condor Street Beach II
American Legion Playground
South Shore Plaza Courts
South Shore Plaza Park
Shore Plaza East Garden
Prescott Square
Putnam Square
Solari Square
Bennington Street Cemetery
Mendoza Square
Festa Field
Eagle Hill Memorial Park Garden
Meridian Street
Our Garden
Wood Island Bay Edge
Wood Island Bay Marsh
Chelsea Street
Central Square
Decatur & Meridian Streets Park
Paris Street Playground
Veterans Park
London Street Park
East Boston Memorial Park
LoPresti Park
Scarmella/ Maverick Square
East Boston Greenway
Sumner Street
East Boston Social Centers Playlot
Maverick Street
Lewis Mall Harborpark
Joe Ciampa Garden
Brophy Park
Sumner & Lamson Street Playground
Logan Airport
Golden Stairs Terrace Park I
Porzio Park
East Boston Piers Park
The Rockies
Golden Stairs Terrace Park II
Massport Harborwalk
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

CHELSEA
WINTHROP
Manassah E Bradley Elementary School
McLellan Highway
Noyes Playground
Saratoga Street
Constitution Beach
Cuneo Park
Bennington Street
Condor Street
American Legion Playground
Meridian Street
Patrick Kennedy Elementary
O'Donnell Elementary
Chelsea Street
Paris Street Playground
Dante Alighieri Elementary School
East Boston Memorial Park
LoPresti Park
East Boston EEC
McKay Elementary
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Brophy Park
Sumner & Lamson Street Playground
Porzio Park
East Boston Piers Park
Logan Airport
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

CHELSEA
WINTHROP
McLellan Highway
Noyes Playground
Saratoga Street
Constitution Beach
Bennington Street
McLean Playground
Festa Field
Condor Street
American Legion Playground
Meridian Street
Chelsea Street
Paris Street Playground
East Boston Memorial Park
LoPresti Park
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Sumner & Lamson Street Playground
Porzio Park
Logan Airport
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 8: Fields & Courts
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

CHELSEA
WINTHROP
McLellan Highway
Saratoga Street
Bennington Street
Condor Street
Meridian Street
Chelsea Street
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Logan Airport
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

CHELSEA
WINTHROP
McLellan Highway
Saratoga Street
Bennington Street
Condor Street
Meridian Street
Chelsea Street
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Logan Airport
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


CHELSEA
WINTHROP
McLellan Highway
Saratoga Street
Bennington Street
Condor Street
Meridian Street
Chelsea Street
Sumner Street
Maverick Street
Logan Airport
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
East Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.7:

FENWAY/LONGWOOD

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

The Fenway, Kenmore, and Longwood communities date from approximately a century ago, created on the last land to be filled for neighborhood growth in Boston. In the latter half of the 1800s, the tidal swamps and mud flats at the confluence of the Muddy River and Stony Brook had become a sanitary concern due to the city's tremendous growth.

Frederick Law Olmsted addressed this concern, simultaneously solving a major drainage/sewage problem and creating a park system for the city, now known as the Emerald Necklace. Tidal gates were installed for the Muddy River and Stony Brook, a sewage interceptor was built below the Fens Basin, and the surrounding land was reshaped to create parkland. Park and streetcar development stimulated the westward expansion of Boston proper. The Fens parkland divided the area: Kenmore and the west Fenway developed to the north and west; the east Fenway and Longwood developed to the south and east.

The Fenway/Longwood community includes three distinct geographic areas with their own history and identity:

Kenmore

This western portion of the neighborhood is generally bordered by Beacon Street, the Brookline town line, the Allston-Brighton community, the Charles River, and the Muddy River. Kenmore Square developed with fine hotels, shops, and professional offices flanking the streetcar tracks. Close to the river on Bay State Road, townhouses were built for affluent families. The Peterborough and Audubon Circle areas had large apartment buildings along Beacon Street and the streetcar line. The Back Bay West/Bay State Road Historic District and the landmark designation for Commonwealth Avenue Mall recognize the architectural and scenic qualities of this area, and afford these areas legal protection by the city.

West of Kenmore Square, Commonwealth Avenue was slow to develop. Temple Adath Israel stood virtually alone following the turn of the 20th century. Automobile showrooms began to line Commonwealth Avenue starting in 1910–1919. Boston University purchased the last unbuilt tract of land in 1920 and raised the residential height limit, but did not begin to build the campus for another 20 years. Many extant buildings, including car showrooms, have been converted to campus and support facilities as well as housing.

As in other parts of this neighborhood, in recent years there has been increasing development in the Kenmore area. Boston University has constructed classroom and administrative buildings and converted existing structures to university uses, a hotel has been built in Kenmore Square, and some moderately priced residential buildings have been converted to upscale condominiums.

Fenway

This is the central part of the larger community. It is generally bounded by Boylston Street, Massachusetts Avenue, the Southwest Corridor, Mission Hill, and the Brookline town line. Brownstone and brick residences typify the Symphony area and apartment blocks form the streetscape along the Fenway and Park Drive parkways. Institutions including the Christian Science Center, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Symphony Hall, Horticultural Hall, the New England Conservatory of Music, Simmons College, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner House (now Museum) were built starting in the 1890s and early 1900s.

The Fenway also has experienced development pressures in recent years. While the old Fenway Park remains, modified to increase attendance and revenues, other parcels in the area have been or are in the process of development. The former Sears building was converted into an office/retail/entertainment complex now known as the Landmark Center (and is being redeveloped as this is written): it stands at a critical node in the city's transportation and Emerald Necklace open space systems. In-fill housing, including new residential buildings on Boylston Street, has added population to an already densely settled residential community.

A long-paved-over portion of the Emerald Necklace, the infamous "Missing Link" in front of the former Sears building, reverted back to green space under the Parks Department's jurisdiction. The restoration of this 70,805-square-foot parcel was negotiated as part of the former Sears building's redevelopment into the Landmark Center. This parcel has restored this eastern-most segment of the Riverway and its linkage to the Back Bay Fens, and is being re-engineered to be another segment of the Muddy River that is open to the sky and public view.

Longwood

The Longwood Medical Area, or Longwood, comprises the southern portion of this neighborhood. Bounded by the Riverway, the Fenway, Huntington Avenue, and Francis Street, Longwood has developed a large institutional presence since the turn of the 20th century. Notable facilities include Harvard Medical School, several major Boston-area hospitals and medical institutions, higher education institutions, including four stand-alone colleges, a private girls school, a public high school (Boston Latin School, America's oldest school), and Temple Israel. These facilities employ over 45,000 people. Longwood has a student population of over 10,000. The residential community here is mostly comprised of employees and students. Building and development also continues apace in this area as area hospitals and colleges construct or seek additional facilities.

Open Space Access & Equity

The Fenway Longwood community is the city's second densest after the South End and is dominated by non-profit institutions (Fenway/Longwood Map 1). Eight colleges and universities are located within (or immediately adjacent to) this neighborhood as well as the city's medical and research area and two major art museums. Games and special events at Fenway Park generate a

population jolt as well. Contrasting with this intensity of use, the neighborhood is also defined by the Back Bay Fens and Riverway sections of the Emerald Necklace, which wind through the neighborhood and meet the Charles River Reservation at Charlesgate at the edge of the Back Bay. The ratio of 3.68 acres of open space per 1,000 persons in this neighborhood is far lower than the city average of 7.59.

Less than 2% of the total population in Fenway/Longwood are children under the age of 9. Only 13.4% are over the age of 34. This is a neighborhood of young adults. About half of the neighborhood meets at least one of the state's criteria for Environmental Justice populations and the areas with the highest need scores for access to open space are in the Symphony neighborhood west of Massachusetts Avenue and east of the Back Bay Fens.

Like Back Bay/Beacon Hill, most of Fenway/Longwood's parklands and recreational facilities are located in either the Charles River Reservation (DCR) or within the Emerald Necklace park system. Commonwealth Avenue Mall, the Back Bay Fens, and the Riverway are designated Boston Landmarks and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Muddy River, the waterway connecting Jamaica Pond to the Charles River, is in the midst of a multi-phase restoration being led by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This project is detailed in Section 7.3.3, The Emerald Necklace. Improvements for the neighborhood and visitors to this section of the Emerald Necklace park system to be realized through the completion of the Muddy River project include providing flood control, improving water quality, enhancing riparian and aquatic habitats, and preserving historic landscape resources.

There are two community gardens in Fenway/Kenmore, the Symphony Road Community Garden and the sprawling Richard Parker Memorial Victory Gardens in the Back Bay Fens, believed to be the last surviving World War II Victory Garden in the nation.

The major open space resources near Longwood are the southern Fens and the northern Riverway. Smaller open spaces exist within the fabric of institutional buildings. Open space on member institutions' property is coordinated by the Medical Academic and Scientific Community Organization, Inc. (MASCO). This association works closely with public agencies such as the Parks Department, the Public Works Department, and the Transportation Department to help provide an open space system with maximum public access to, from, and within Longwood.

As institutions continue to build out onto their campus open space and recreational facilities, greater pressure results on the limited resources in this highly populated neighborhood.

Passive park uses dominate the neighborhood from the Back Bay Fens, to Ramler Park, Symphony Park and Evans Way. The Fens accommodates some active recreation facilities at on the west side of the parks at the Joseph Lee Playground, which includes Clemente Field and the Bradley Basketball courts, and on the east side of the park at Mothers' Rest Playground, a children's play lot (Fenway / Kenmore Maps 7 and 8).

Future Development

Redevelopment of Boylston Street and Brookline Ave between the Landmark Center and Kenmore Square is bringing additional young adults to this neighborhood. The Landmark Center redevelopment proposes to add two acres of passive open space to the area as well as a multi-use path connection between the Riverway and Fenway MBTA stations. A new commuter rail station at Yawkey Way provides additional public transit access to this busy neighborhood. A major development is proposed for parking lots west of Fenway Park combined with air rights over the Turnpike. These and other developments in this community will lead to sharply increasing total population, with consequent impacts on the Back Bay Fens and other parks in the community. Population increases will put pressure on existing park facilities. These open space areas will require additional resources to maintain their quality and level of service amidst increasing use.

A change that could directly impact open space in the Fenway Longwood community may result from the state Department of Transportation's effort to ease growing congestion on city streets by adding Turnpike ramps in the Back Bay, Fenway/Longwood, and Seaport Districts, which would also enable use of bus public transit. One option being discussed within this study is the fate of the Bowker Overpass, which looms over Charlesgate and makes access to the Charles River Reservation (the Esplanade) difficult. An alternative may be the elimination of this overpass, but what takes its place may also have impacts for Charlesgate, the Back Bay Fens, and the Esplanade. A public review process of the alternatives is underway.

Another change that could directly impact open space straddles the Fenway/Longwood and Back Bay/Beacon Hill communities. Turnpike Air Rights Parcels 12–15 could introduce tall buildings that would create shadows on parklands north of their location, in this case, particularly the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

FENWAY/LONGWOOD

Population	
2010 Census	37,581
2000 Census	33,285
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**12.9%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	50.2
2000 Census	44.4
Density Change, 2000–2010	**5.7**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	448	1%
10 to 19	10,102	27%
20 to 34	21,976	58%
35 to 54	2,549	7%
55 to 64	963	3%
65 and over	1,543	4%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Fenway/Longwood	37,581	225	0.7%	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	24,544	65%
Hispanic or Latino	3,057	8%
Black or African American alone	1,975	5%
Asian alone	6,741	18%
Other	1,264	3%

Median Household Income
$24,707

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	68%
1 vehicle	29%
2 vehicles	5%
3 or more vehicles	1%

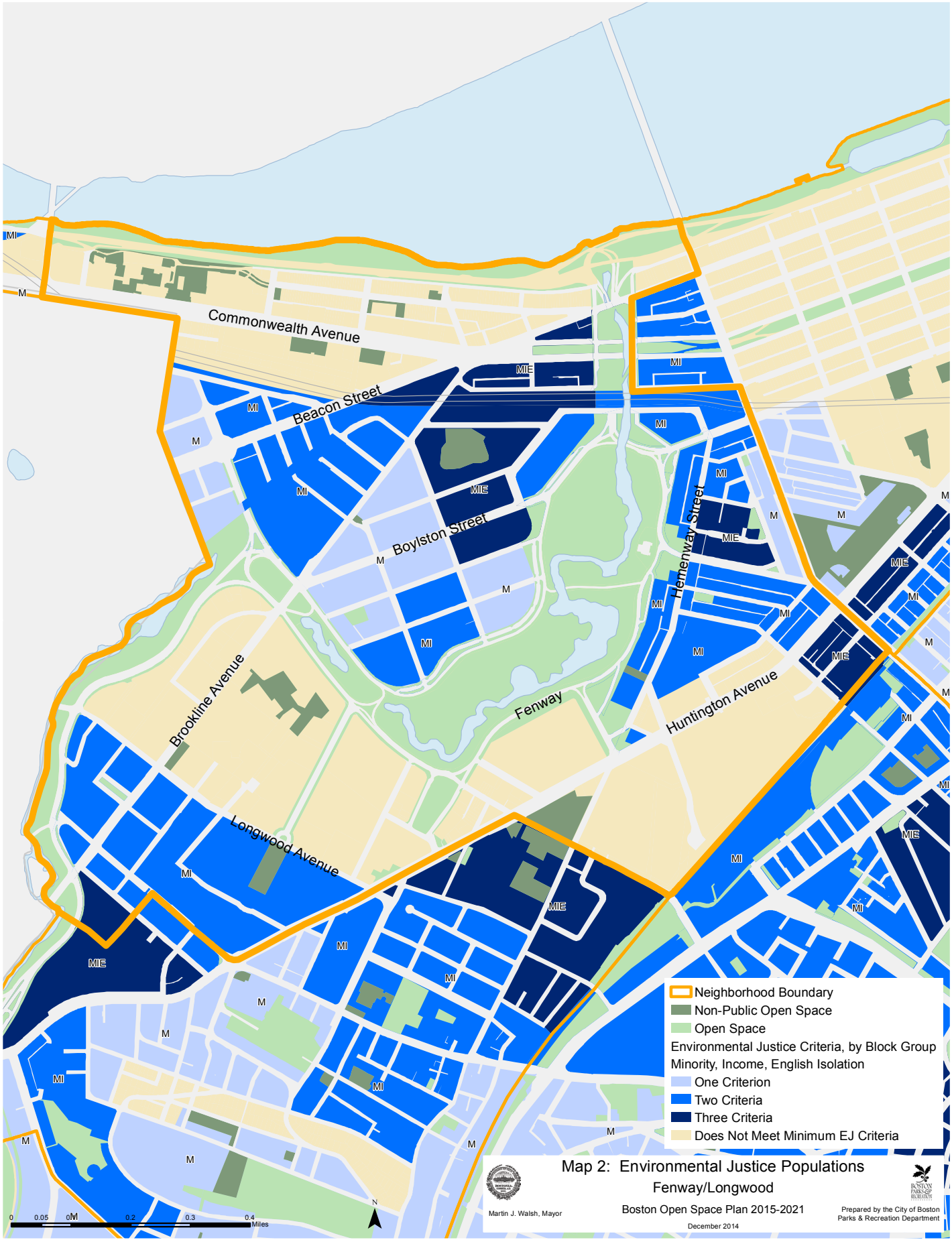
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

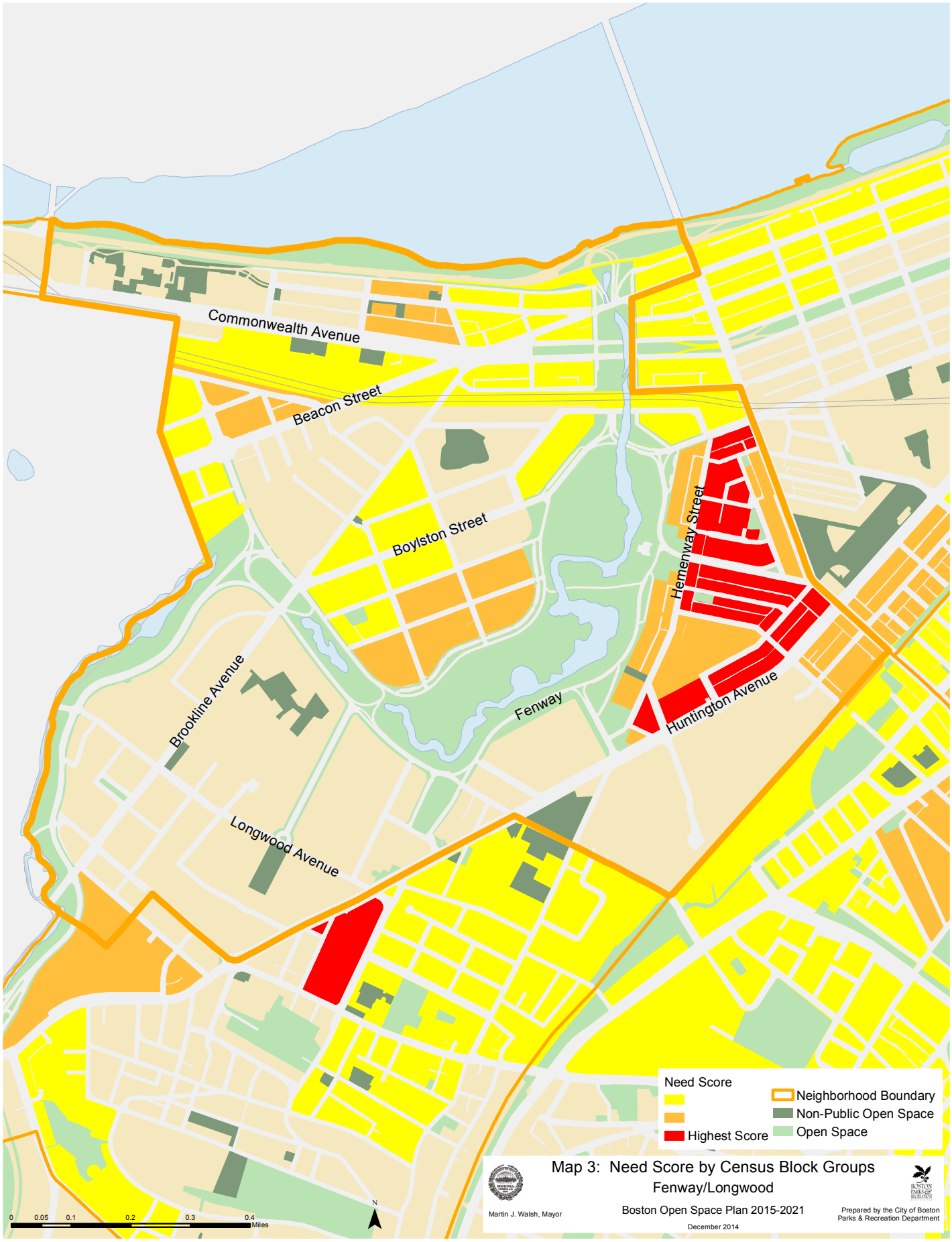
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Fenway/Longwood	2,281	6.1%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted

Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Hemenway Street
Brookline Avenue
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Longwood Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 1: Population Density
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Hemenway Street
Brookline Avenue
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Longwood Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles
N


Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Hemenway Street
Brookline Avenue
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Longwood Avenue
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
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0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles
N

Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
BU Grounds Central
BU Grounds Central
BU Yard
BU Grounds East
Commonwealth Avenue
BU Grounds South
BU Grounds East
Commonwealth Avenue Mall
Charlesgate
Charlesgate
Charlesgate
Beacon Street
Fenway Park Field
Boylston Street
The Fenway
Edgerly Road Playground
Park Drive
Kilmarnock-Brookline Square
Boylston Street
Back Bay Fens
Symphony Community Park
Park Drive
Hemenway Street
Fire Alarm House Grounds
Harry Ellis Dickson Park
Riverway
Agassiz Road
Symphony Road Garden
Riverway
Park Drive
Ramler Park
The Fenway
The Fenway
Back Bay Fens
Brookline Avenue
Park Drive
Back Bay Fens
Stony Brook Sewer Easement
Riverway
Emanuel College Grounds
The Fenway
The Fenway
Fenway
Back Bay Fens
Huntington Avenue
Beth Israel/ Deaconess Plaza
Huntington-Hemenway Mall
Avenue Louis Pasteur
The Fenway
Joslin Park
Evans Way Parks
Wentworth Field
Longwood Avenue
Oscar Tugo Circle
Mass Art Park
Riverway
Mass Art Campus
Harvard Medical School Quadrangle
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
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Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
BU Grounds Central
BU Grounds Central
BU Grounds East
BU Yard
Commonwealth Avenue
BU Grounds South
BU Grounds East
Commonwealth Avenue Mall
Charlesgate
Charlesgate
Charlesgate
Beacon Street
Fenway Park Field
Boylston Street
The Fenway
Edgerly Road Playground
Park Drive
Kilmarnock-Brookline Square
Boylston Street
Back Bay Fens
Hemenway Street
Symphony Community Park
Park Drive
Fire Alarm House Grounds
Harry Ellis Dickson Park
Riverway
Agassiz Road
Symphony Road Garden
Riverway
Park Drive
Ramler Park
The Fenway
The Fenway
Back Bay Fens
Brookline Avenue
Park Drive
Back Bay Fens
Stony Brook Sewer Easement
Riverway
Emanuel College Grounds
The Fenway
Fenway
The Fenway
Back Bay Fens
Huntington Avenue
Beth Israel/ Deaconess Plaza
Huntington-Hemenway Mall
Avenue Louis Pasteur
The Fenway
Joslin Park
Evans Way Parks
Wentworth Field
Longwood Avenue
Oscar Tugo Circle
Mass Art Park
Riverway
Mass Art Campus
Harvard Medical School Quadrangle
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
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Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
Charles River Reservation
BU Grounds Central
BU Grounds Central
BU Yard
BU Grounds East
Commonwealth Avenue
BU Grounds South
BU Grounds East
Commonwealth Avenue Mall
Charlesgate
Charlesgate
Charlesgate
Beacon Street
Fenway Park Field
Boylston Street
The Fenway
Edgerly Road Playground
Park Drive
Kilmarnock-Brookline Square
Boylston Street
Back Bay Fens
Hemenway Street
Symphony Community Park
Park Drive
Fire Alarm House Grounds
Harry Ellis Dickson Park
Riverway
Agassiz Road
Symphony Road Garden
Riverway
Park Drive
Ramler Park
The Fenway
The Fenway
Back Bay Fens
Stony Brook Sewer Easement
Brookline Avenue
Park Drive
Back Bay Fens
The Fenway
Riverway
Emanuel College Grounds
The Fenway
Fenway
Back Bay Fens
Huntington Avenue
Beth Israel/ Deaconess Plaza
Huntington-Hemenway Mall
Avenue Louis Pasteur
The Fenway
Joslin Park
Evans Way Parks
Wentworth Field
Longwood Avenue
Oscar Tugo Circle
Mass Art Park
Riverway
Mass Art Campus
Harvard Medical School Quadrangle
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N

Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Back Bay Fens
Edgerly Road Playground
Hemenway Street
Brookline Avenue
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Longwood Avenue
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Fenway/Longwood
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
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Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Hemenway Street
Back Bay Fens
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Brookline Avenue
Longwood Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Hemenway Street
Brookline Avenue
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Longwood Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Hemenway Street
Brookline Avenue
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Longwood Avenue
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Fenway/Longwood
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Commonwealth Avenue
Beacon Street
Boylston Street
Hemenway Street
Brookline Avenue
Fenway
Huntington Avenue
Longwood Avenue
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Fenway/Longwood
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles
N

Section 7.2.8:

HYDE PARK

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

The last town annexed to Boston (1912), Hyde Park's history illustrates the original, independent identity of many of Boston's neighborhoods, as well as the steady process that each neighborhood underwent as it later came under the influence of Boston. Hyde Park had a manufacturing base as far back as the early 18th century with associated residential and commercial development. That manufacturing base was dependent on the major water resource of Hyde Park, the Neponset River. The Mother Brook Canal, built in the mid-1800s to connect the Charles to the Neponset, enhanced the river's flow. The first dam and paper mill were built in 1714 along the Neponset, near the former Bay State Paper mill site at River Street and Wood Avenue, now a shopping center. By the late 1800s, industry (paper and cotton mills and other factories) grew so rapidly from the available water power that the town population increased a startling 900% from 1,512 persons in 1887 to 15,000 persons in 1912. Thanks to the extension of rail lines and the proximity to major highways, manufacturing continues to have a large place in Hyde Park's economy.

Another factor in the rapid population growth of Hyde Park in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was the introduction of trolley and rail lines to and from Boston. New residents who worked in Boston sought the grassy lawns and lower housing density available in Hyde Park. The pull toward Boston took hold; dissatisfied with town water rates and service, Hyde Park voted to join Boston in 1911.

Open Space Access & Equity

Hyde Park boasts the most acreage of protected open space of any community in the city and a generous ratio of 25.54 acres of protected open space per 1,000 residents, with a relatively low population density. The population did not change significantly between 2000 and 2010. Hyde Park is a family community with 26.5% of residents under the age of 20. 8.8% of the community is teenagers, which is a higher percentage than in all but three other city neighborhoods (Dorchester, Mattapan and Roxbury). All parts of Hyde Park meet at least one of the state's environmental justice criteria, and some sections register a moderate park need score (Hyde Park Maps 2 and 3).

The western half of Hyde Park has much better open space access than the eastern half. The Stony Brook Reservation and George Wright Golf Course extend along the western edge where Hyde Park meets West Roxbury/Roslindale and provide a connected system of parks and natural areas. The two railroad lines (Amtrak Northeast Corridor/Commuter Rail to Rhode Island and the Forge Park/I-495 Commuter Rail lines) extend north–south through Hyde Park and therefore limit cross connections through this neighborhood.

Given the large amount of open space in Hyde Park, it is not surprising to find it has great diversity open space types; downtown squares, playing fields and courts, and remote natural areas are all available. The largest holder of open space in this neighborhood (470 acres) is the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Their major open spaces are in the Stony Brook and Neponset River Reservations (Hyde Park Maps 4 and 5). Access to these natural lands by mass transit—either MBTA bus or commuter rail—makes these reservations valued parts of Boston's inventory of close-to-home outdoor recreation experiences.

The Stony Brook Reservation is the most significant open space for Hyde Park. It is a regional facility containing large natural tracts crisscrossed by trails and paths, parking for visitors, and a pond (Turtle Pond) with fishing docks and active recreation facilities. No other community can match the trail-oriented, natural resource-based outdoor recreation this reservation provides.

The other DCR reservation in Hyde Park is the Neponset River Reservation. Until its southernmost reaches in Hyde Park, this reservation is made up of thin tracts of riverbank along either side of the river. Within Hyde Park the Reservation broadens to include active and passive recreation spaces including courts, fields, water spray areas, playgrounds, and an outdoor stage. Guiding principles in DCR's Neponset River Greenway Master Plan include the protection and enhancement of the ecological systems along and in the Neponset River, enhancement of recreation opportunities, and protection and enhancement of the river as a living system.

The southern part of the neighborhood has good access to playgrounds and water spray features, but from Cleary Square north, these features become more dispersed. The schoolyards through the center of the neighborhood—particularly the Grew and Greenwood schools—become crucial neighborhood play spaces that provide walkable access for many residential areas. Changing use at the Greenwood School site could potentially impact neighborhood access to this open space.

Community facilities in Hyde Park are concentrated in Cleary Square, the commercial and municipal hub. This area has no parks or open space beyond sidewalk scale plazas, which is a missed opportunity for one public use to enliven another.

Athletic fields are also clustered to west and southwest sides of the neighborhood with only Ross Playground providing active recreation opportunities for the eastern portion of Hyde Park (Hyde Park Maps 7, 8 and 10). Given comparable needs in the adjacent community of Mattapan, and the high number of youth and teens in both neighborhoods, attention is needed to expand active recreation facilities in this part of the city (Hyde Park Map 11).

Future Development

The landscapes of the large protected natural areas (DCR Reservations and the George Wright Golf Course) in Hyde Park are highly contrasted with the industrial land uses that dominate much of the fabric of this community. Future planning and development in the neighborhood should find ways to extend the verdant quality of these connected open spaces into the neighborhood core.

In 2011, the BRA completed the Hyde Park Neighborhood Strategic Plan (HPNSP). It made several recommendations regarding open space: improve access to the Neponset River and the Mother Brook, encourage DCR in implementing its Neponset River Reservation Master Plan, and acquire city- and privately-owned parcels for a variety of uses, from community gardens to natural area protection to waterfront parks.

Existing features along the Neponset River under DCR jurisdiction can help improve access and achieve this Strategic Plan goal. The reconstruction of Doyle Playground between River Street and the Neponset is an important action for improving river access. The Fairmount / Indigo Corridor Collaborative has identified improvements to Doyle Playground as a priority project.

Besides DCR, the BRA has stated it has a role to play to increase access to the Neponset River and the Mother Brook. It has instituted a Riverfront Protection Overlay District in the Hyde Park zoning to protect natural assets and encourage public access on both private parcels public parcels owned by non-park agencies. This Overlay District creates a zone along the river and brook that requires additional design review promote implementation of the city and community's goals. One site where this overlay district can work is the Riverwood Phase III project along the riverfront area of the former Bay State Paper mill site. The proximity of this Phase III project to Doyle Playground can lead to synergies in design so that more extensive riverfront access may occur.

The third general set of recommendations in the BRA Neighborhood Strategic Plan calls for acquisition of city- and privately owned parcels to expand open space in this community. Parcel identification and acquisition will require assessment of the appropriateness of the particular parcel to address specific open space needs in the community, or the potential of a parcel to expand an existing open space resource. One set of parcels, known as the Oak Lawn Driving Range and Crane Ledge, offers a significant opportunity of open space expansion northeastern edge of Hyde Park. These private parcels are presently zoned for Neighborhood Shopping and single-family residential. They are of a size, when taken together, which could help address the park equity deficit in this area of Hyde Park, enabling active recreation features to be developed in selected sections. This same site could also help with the development of a natural area reserve/forest for the maintenance and growth of the existing tree canopy as a way to sequester carbon and provide other benefits of urban forests.

The HPNSP also called for a wayfinding system so that the public can be made more aware of the open space assets throughout the community that have limited visual access, such as the Neponset River and Mother Brook properties. This recommendation is one that bears repeating throughout the city. A system of virtual linkage can emerge that allows residents to use signs, pavement markings, and internet-enabled aids to follow sidewalks, river paths, reservation trails, and bike lanes to connect open spaces and create a wholly new experience of their parks and their community. This can then be replicated in other communities throughout the city, building on their own open spaces and folding in other types of cultural assets as desired.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

HYDE PARK

Population	
2010 Census	30,637
2000 Census	30,076
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**1.9%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	10.5
2000 Census	10.3
Density Change, 2000–2010	**0.2**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	3,663	12%
10 to 19	4,454	15%
20 to 34	5,863	19%
35 to 54	8,993	29%
55 to 64	3,720	12%
65 and over	3,944	13%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Hyde Park	30,637	2,693	7.9%	8.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	8,650	28%
Hispanic or Latino	6,034	20%
Black or African American alone	14,476	47%
Asian alone	485	2%
Other	992	3%

Median Household Income
$59,502

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

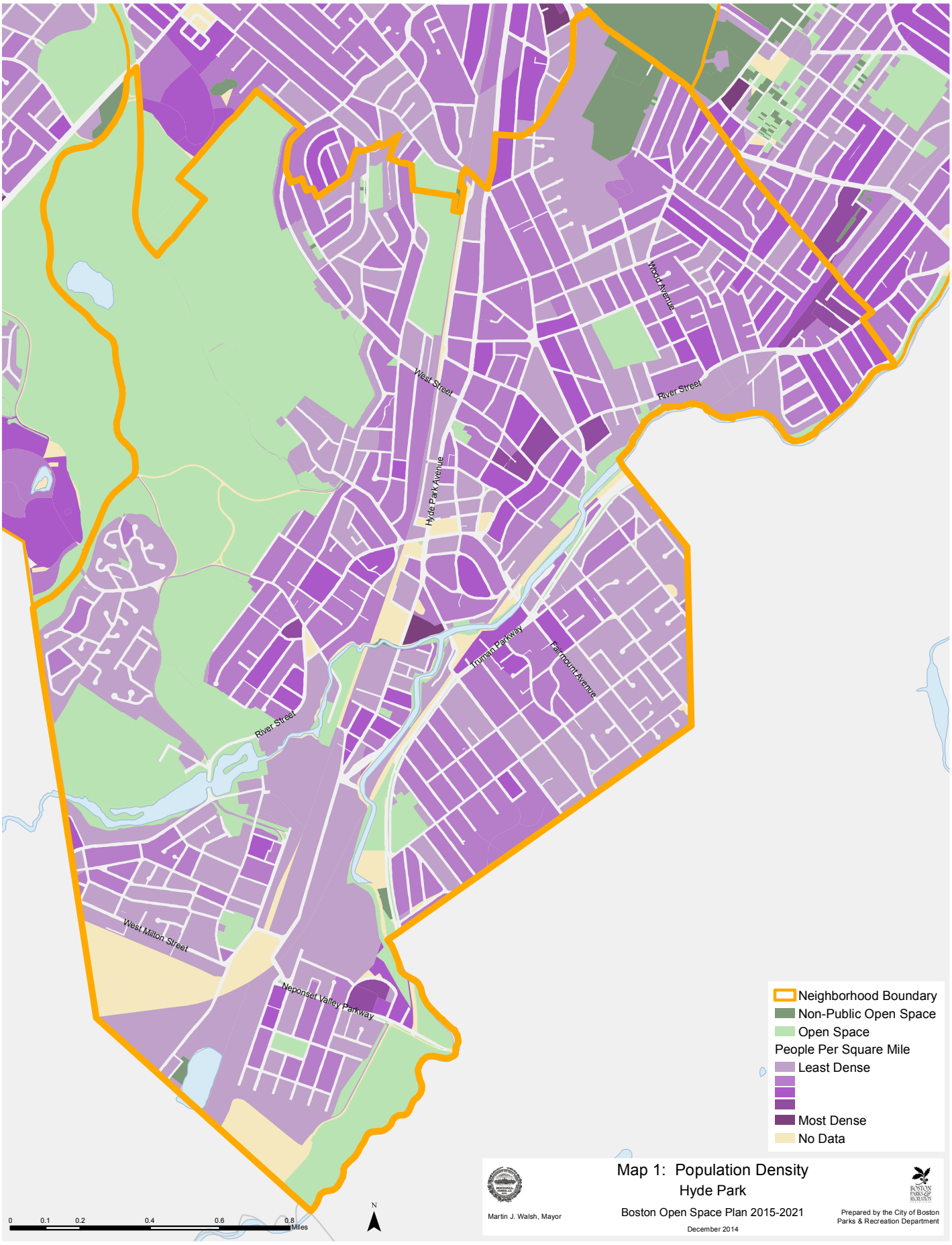
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	16%
1 vehicle	44%
2 vehicles	31%
3 or more vehicles	10%

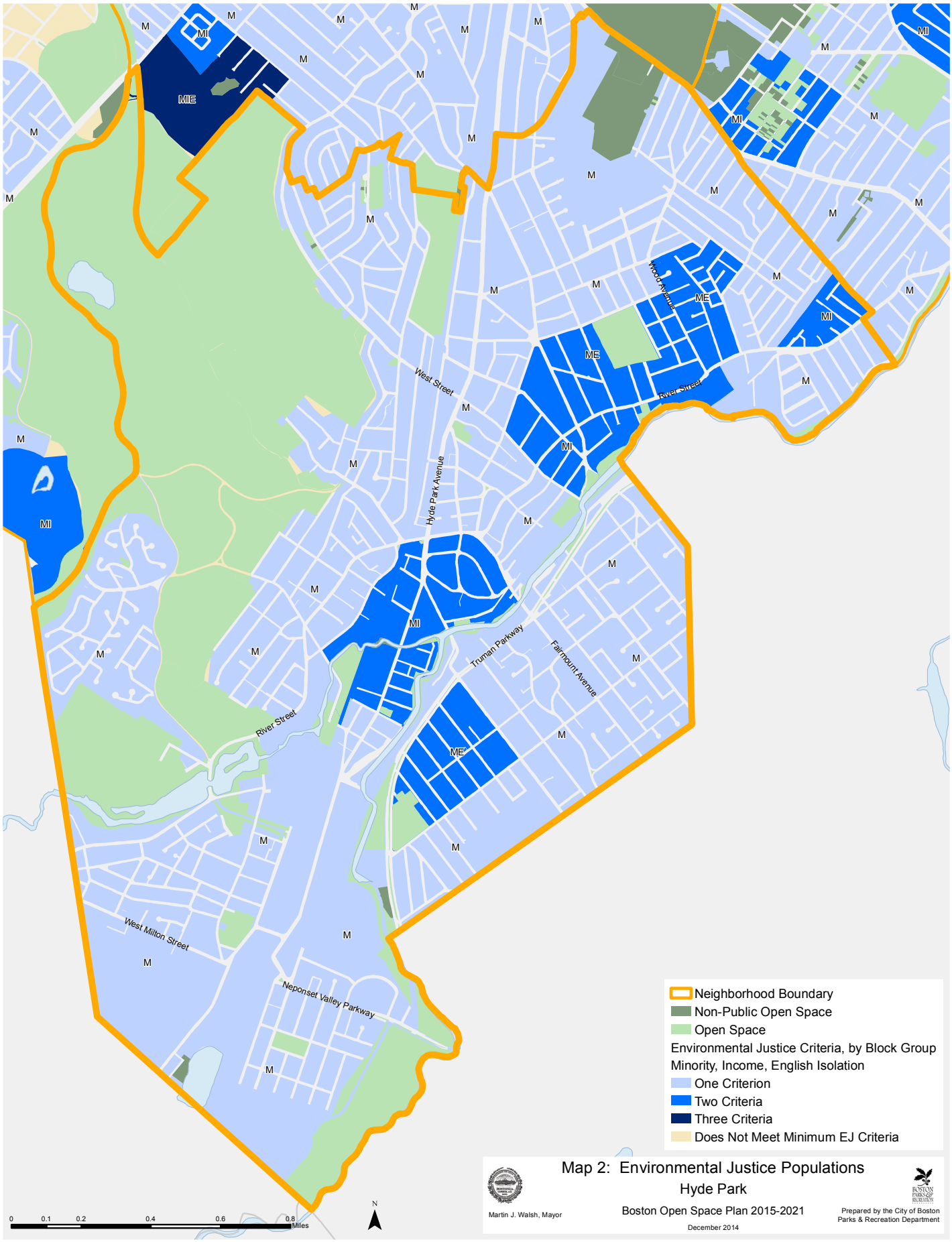
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

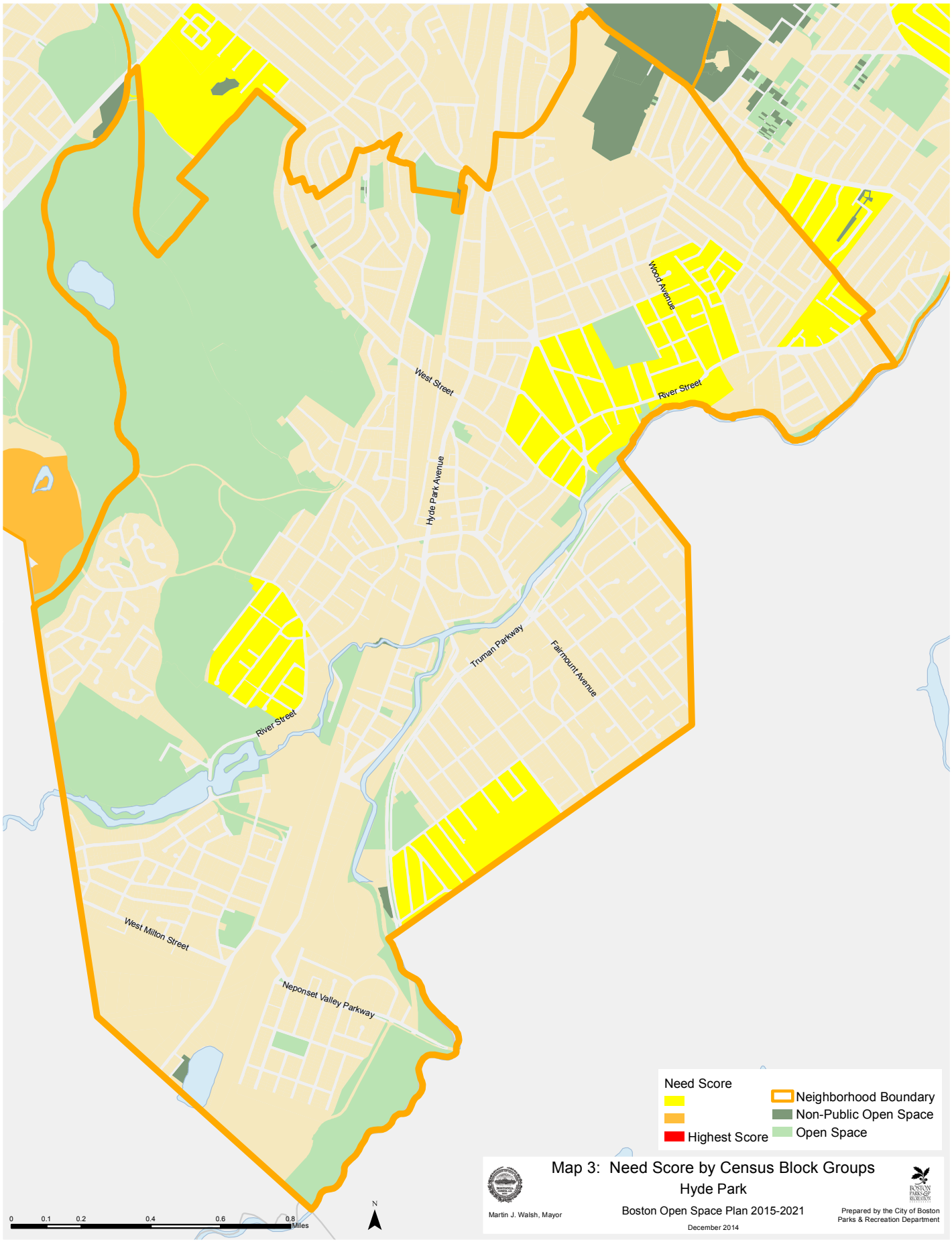
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Hyde Park	3,441	10.2%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

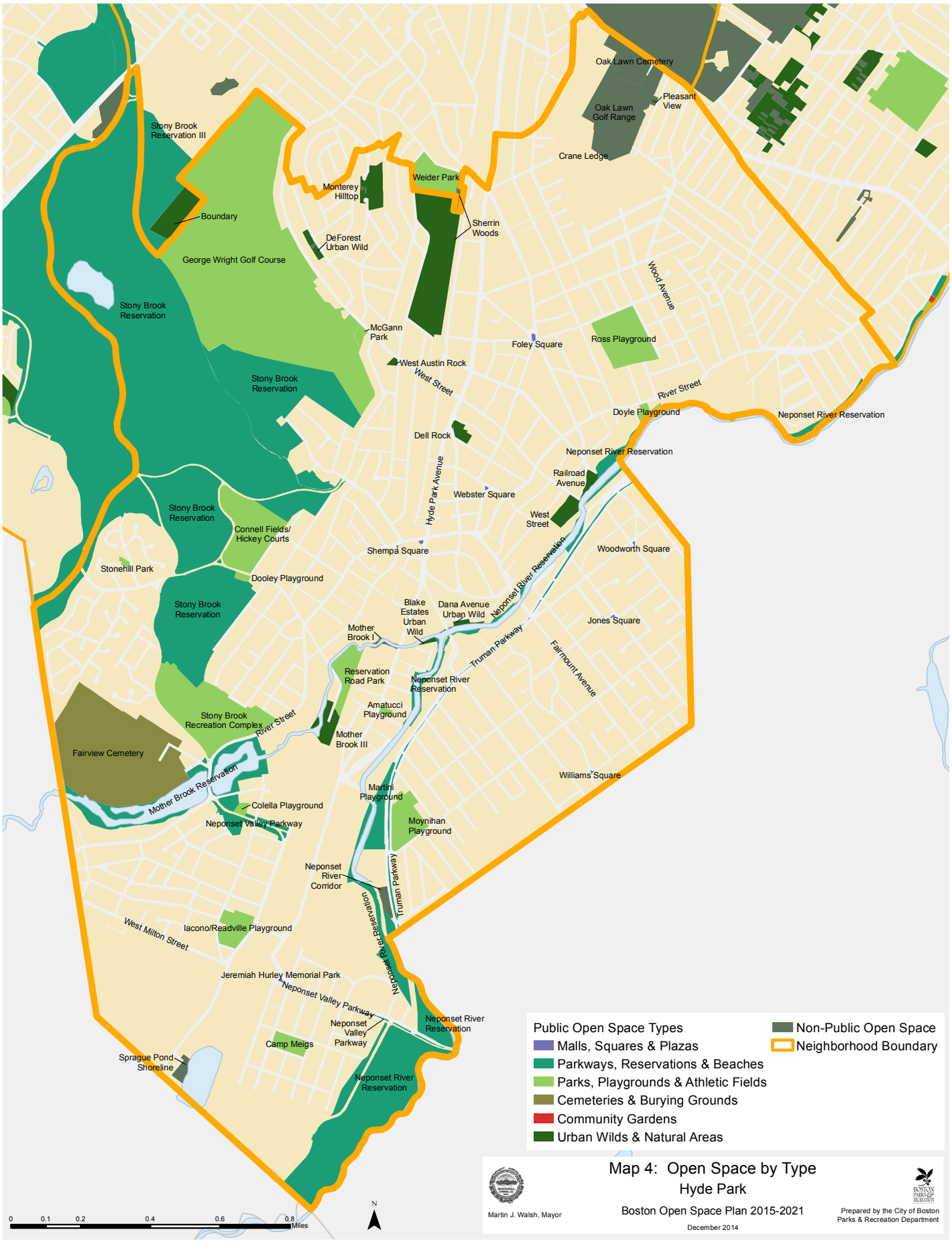
N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted

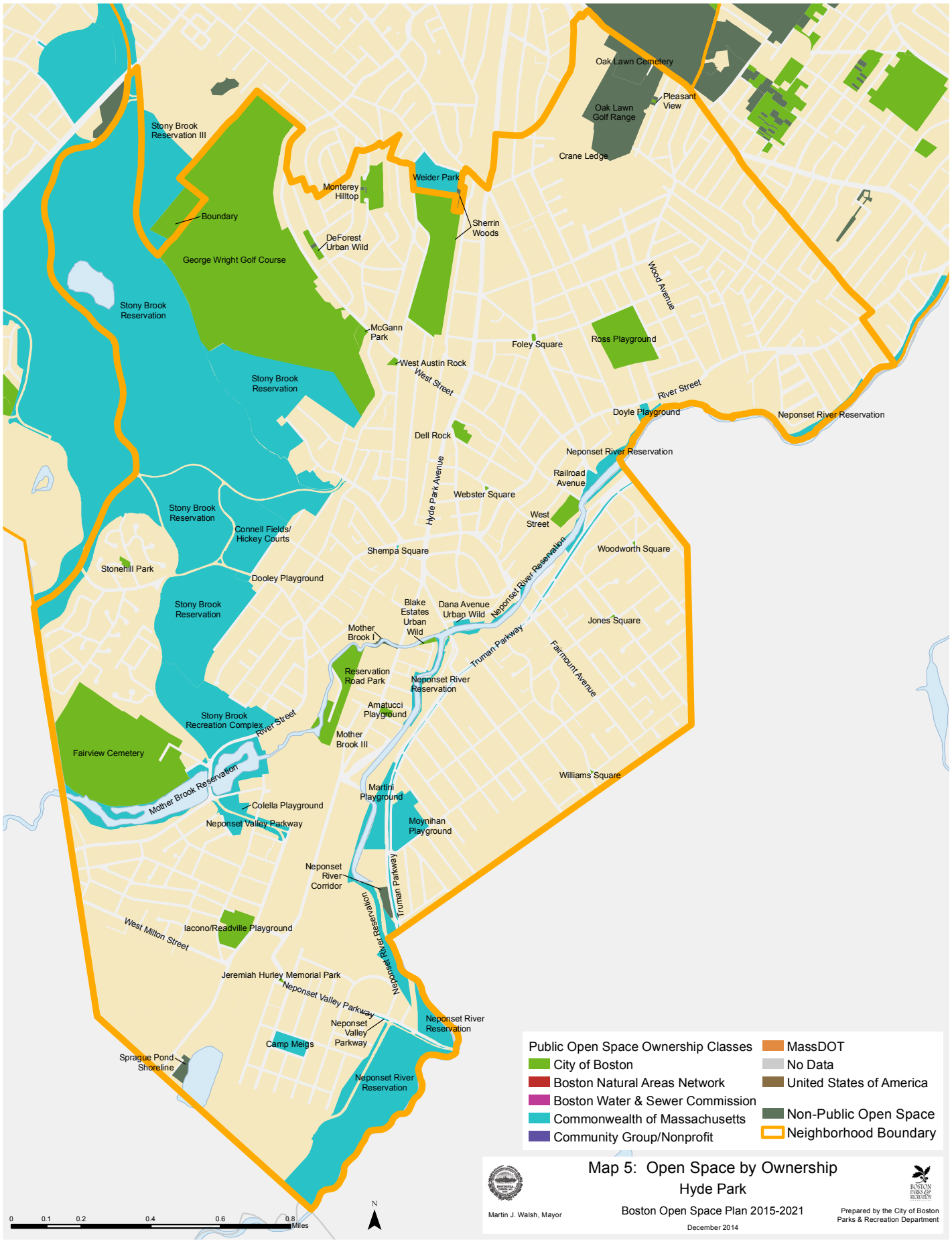

West Street
Hyde Park Avenue
River Street
Wood Avenue
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
River Street
West Milton Street
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 1: Population Density
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

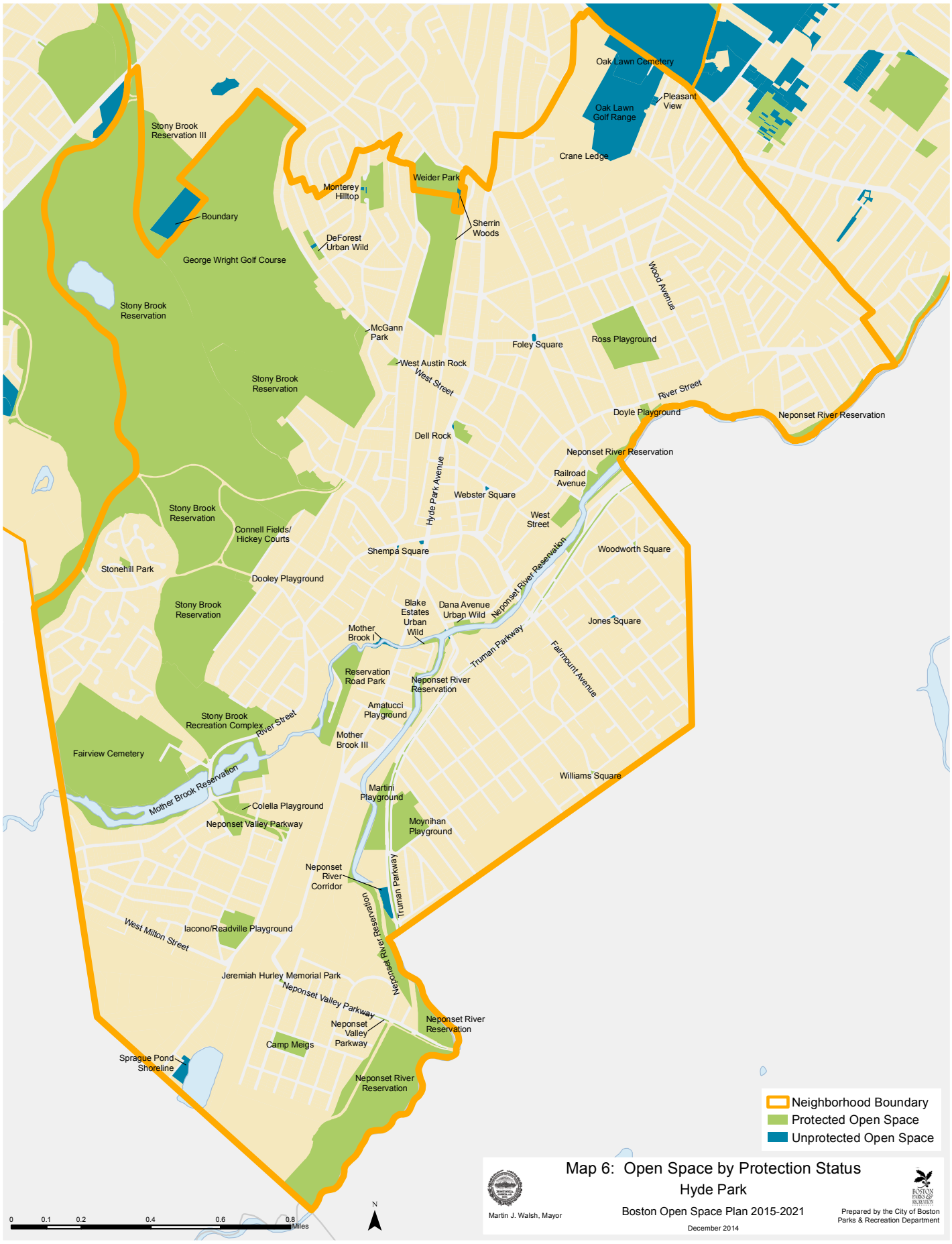

West Street
Hyde Park Avenue
River Street
Wood Avenue
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
West Milton Street
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

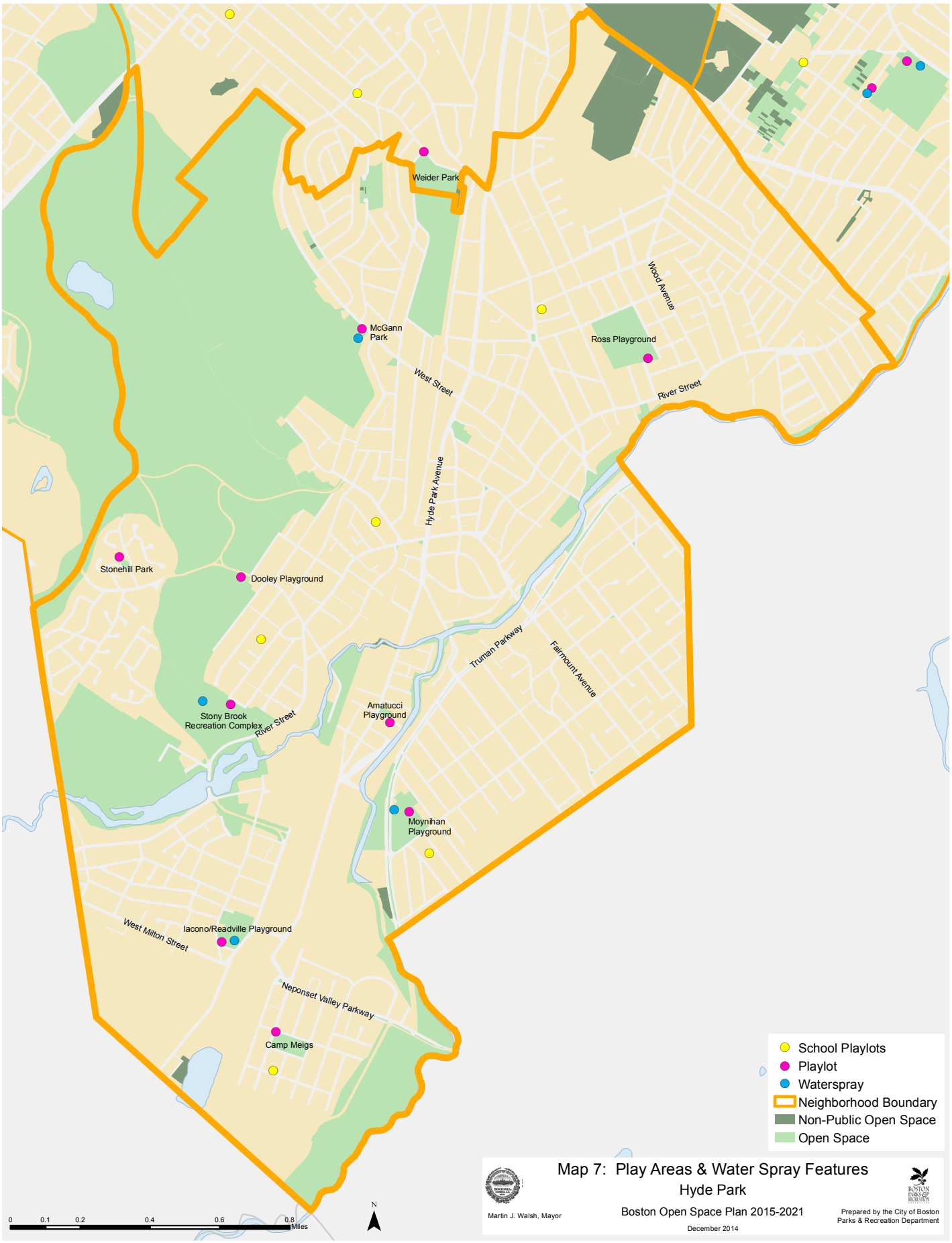


Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Hyde Park

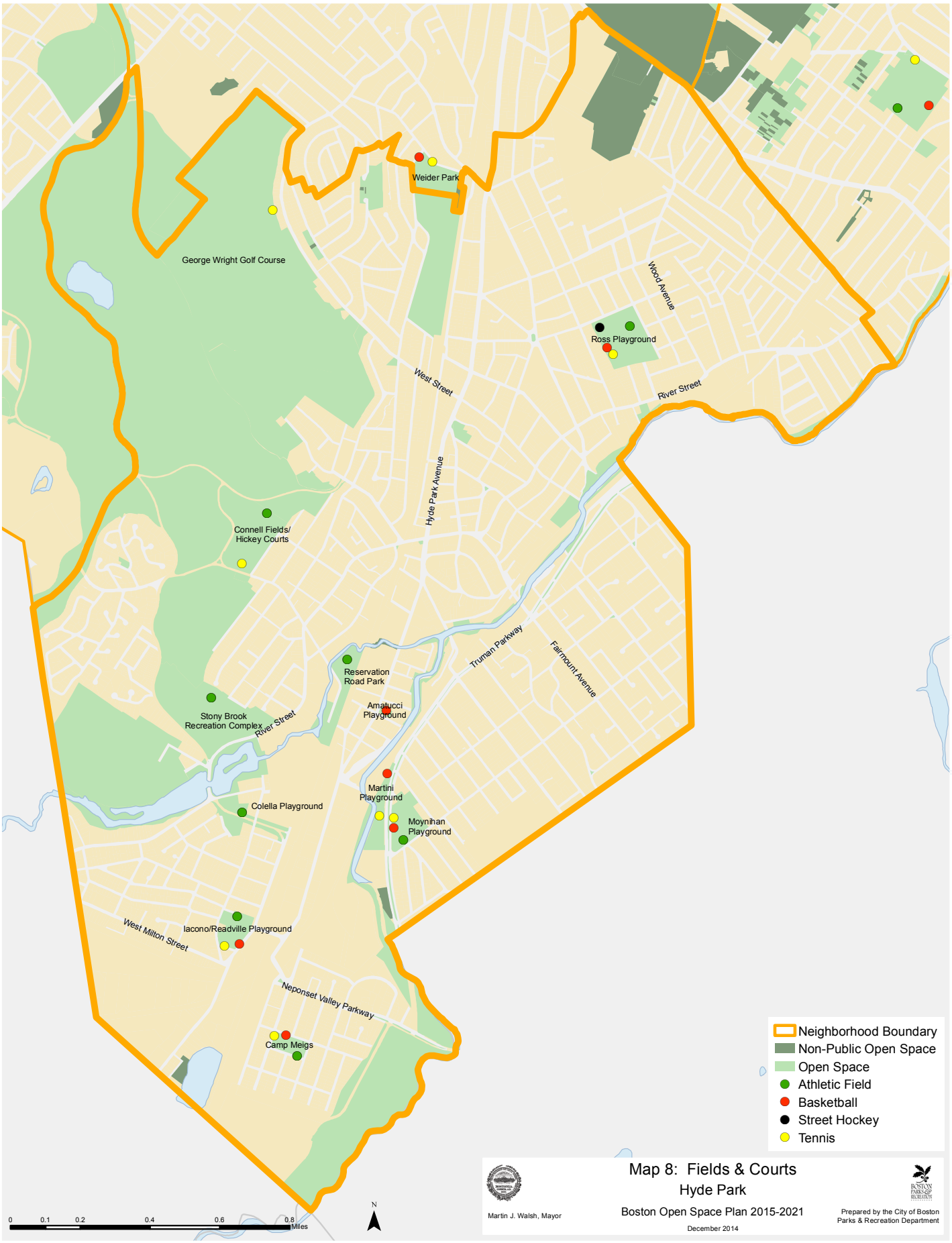

Oak Lawn Cemetery
Pleasant View
Oak Lawn Golf Range
Crane Ledge
Stony Brook Reservation III
Weider Park
Monterey Hilltop
Boundary
Sherrin Woods
DeForest Urban Wild
George Wright Golf Course
Wood Avenue
Stony Brook Reservation
McGann Park
Foley Square
Ross Playground
West Austin Rock
West Street
Stony Brook Reservation
River Street
Doyle Playground
Neponset River Reservation
Dell Rock
Neponset River Reservation
Railroad Avenue
Hyde Park Avenue
Webster Square
West Street
Stony Brook Reservation
Connell Fields/ Hickey Courts
Shempa Square
Woodworth Square
Stonehill Park
Dooley Playground
Neponset River Reservation
Blake Estates Urban Wild
Dana Avenue Urban Wild
Stony Brook Reservation
Mother Brook I
Jones Square
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
Reservation Road Park
Neponset River Reservation
Amatucci Playground
Stony Brook Recreation Complex
River Street
Mother Brook III
Fairview Cemetery
Williams Square
Mother Brook Reservation
Martini Playground
Colella Playground
Neponset Valley Parkway
Moynihan Playground
Neponset River Corridor
Truman Parkway
Neponset River Reservation
West Milton Street
Iacono/Readville Playground
Jeremiah Hurley Memorial Park
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neponset River Reservation
Camp Meigs
Sprague Pond Shoreline
Neponset River Reservation
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N

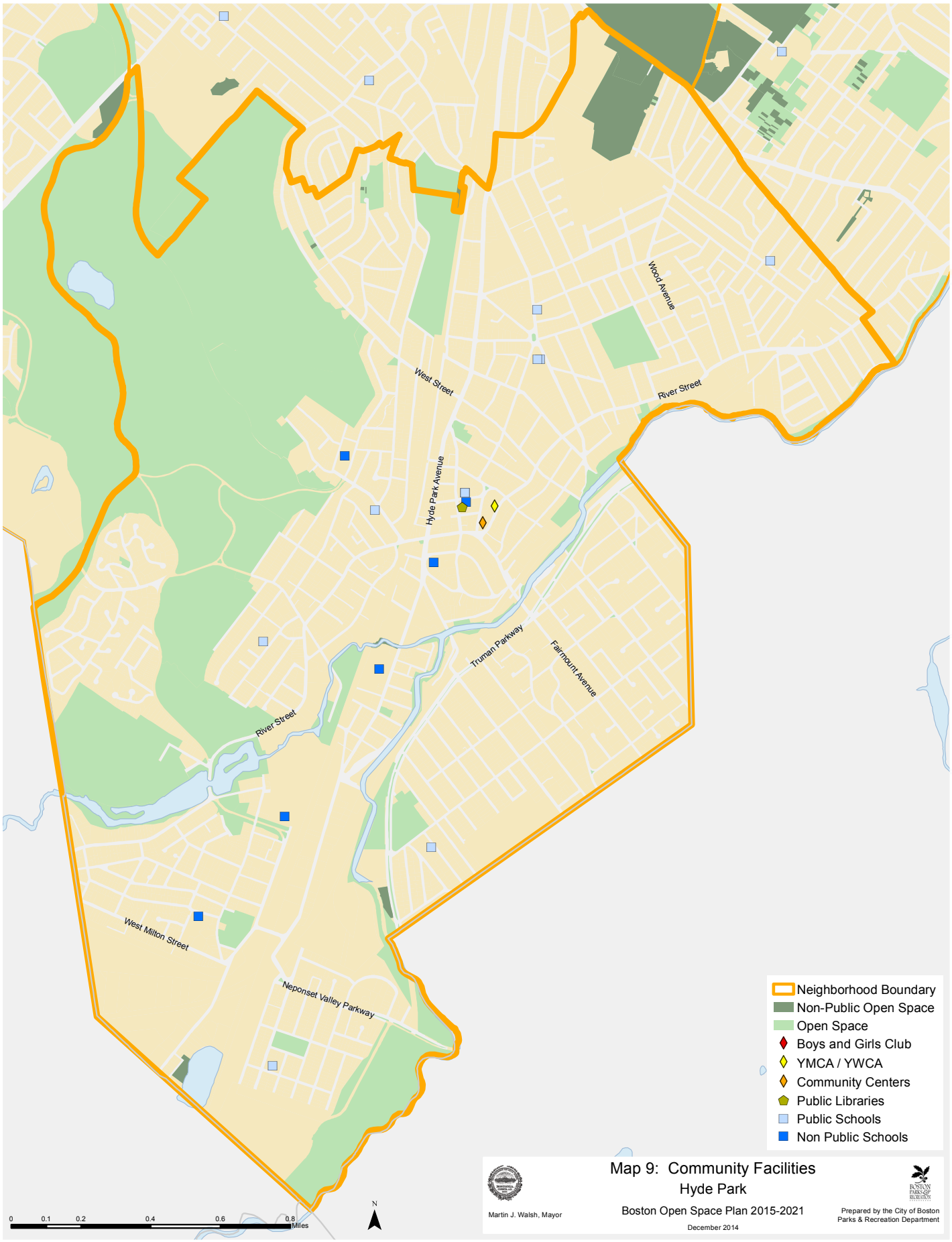

Oak Lawn Cemetery
Pleasant View
Oak Lawn Golf Range
Crane Ledge
Stony Brook Reservation III
Weider Park
Monterey Hilltop
Boundary
Sherrin Woods
DeForest Urban Wild
George Wright Golf Course
Wood Avenue
Stony Brook Reservation
McGann Park
Foley Square
Ross Playground
West Austin Rock
West Street
Stony Brook Reservation
River Street
Doyle Playground
Neponset River Reservation
Dell Rock
Neponset River Reservation
Railroad Avenue
Hyde Park Avenue
Webster Square
West Street
Stony Brook Reservation
Connell Fields/ Hickey Courts
Shempa Square
Woodworth Square
Stonehill Park
Dooley Playground
Neponset River Reservation
Stony Brook Reservation
Blake Estates Urban Wild
Dana Avenue Urban Wild
Jones Square
Mother Brook I
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
Reservation Road Park
Neponset River Reservation
Amatucci Playground
Stony Brook Recreation Complex
River Street
Mother Brook III
Fairview Cemetery
Williams Square
Mother Brook Reservation
Martini Playground
Colella Playground
Neponset Valley Parkway
Moynihan Playground
Neponset River Corridor
Truman Parkway
Neponset River Reservation
West Milton Street
Iacono/Readville Playground
Jeremiah Hurley Memorial Park
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neponset River Reservation
Camp Meigs
Sprague Pond Shoreline
Neponset River Reservation
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Oak Lawn Cemetery
Pleasant View
Oak Lawn Golf Range
Crane Ledge
Stony Brook Reservation III
Weider Park
Monterey Hilltop
Boundary
Sherrin Woods
DeForest Urban Wild
George Wright Golf Course
Wood Avenue
Stony Brook Reservation
McGann Park
Foley Square
Ross Playground
West Austin Rock
West Street
Stony Brook Reservation
River Street
Doyle Playground
Neponset River Reservation
Dell Rock
Neponset River Reservation
Railroad Avenue
Hyde Park Avenue
Webster Square
West Street
Stony Brook Reservation
Connell Fields/ Hickey Courts
Shempa Square
Woodworth Square
Stonehill Park
Dooley Playground
Neponset River Reservation
Stony Brook Reservation
Blake Estates Urban Wild
Dana Avenue Urban Wild
Jones Square
Mother Brook I
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
Reservation Road Park
Neponset River Reservation
Amatucci Playground
Stony Brook Recreation Complex
River Street
Mother Brook III
Fairview Cemetery
Williams Square
Mother Brook Reservation
Martini Playground
Colella Playground
Neponset Valley Parkway
Moynihan Playground
Neponset River Corridor
Truman Parkway
Neponset River Reservation
West Milton Street
Iacono/Readville Playground
Jeremiah Hurley Memorial Park
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neponset River Reservation
Neponset Valley Parkway
Camp Meigs
Sprague Pond Shoreline
Neponset River Reservation
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N



Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Hyde Park


Weider Park
George Wright Golf Course
Wood Avenue
Ross Playground
West Street
River Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Connell Fields/
Hickey Courts
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
Reservation
Road Park
Amatucci
Playground
Stony Brook
Recreation Complex
River Street
Martini
Playground
Colella Playground
Moynihan
Playground
West Milton Street
Iacono/Readville Playground
Neponset Valley Parkway
Camp Meigs
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8
Miles
N
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Wood Avenue
West Street
River Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
River Street
West Milton Street
Neponset Valley Parkway
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
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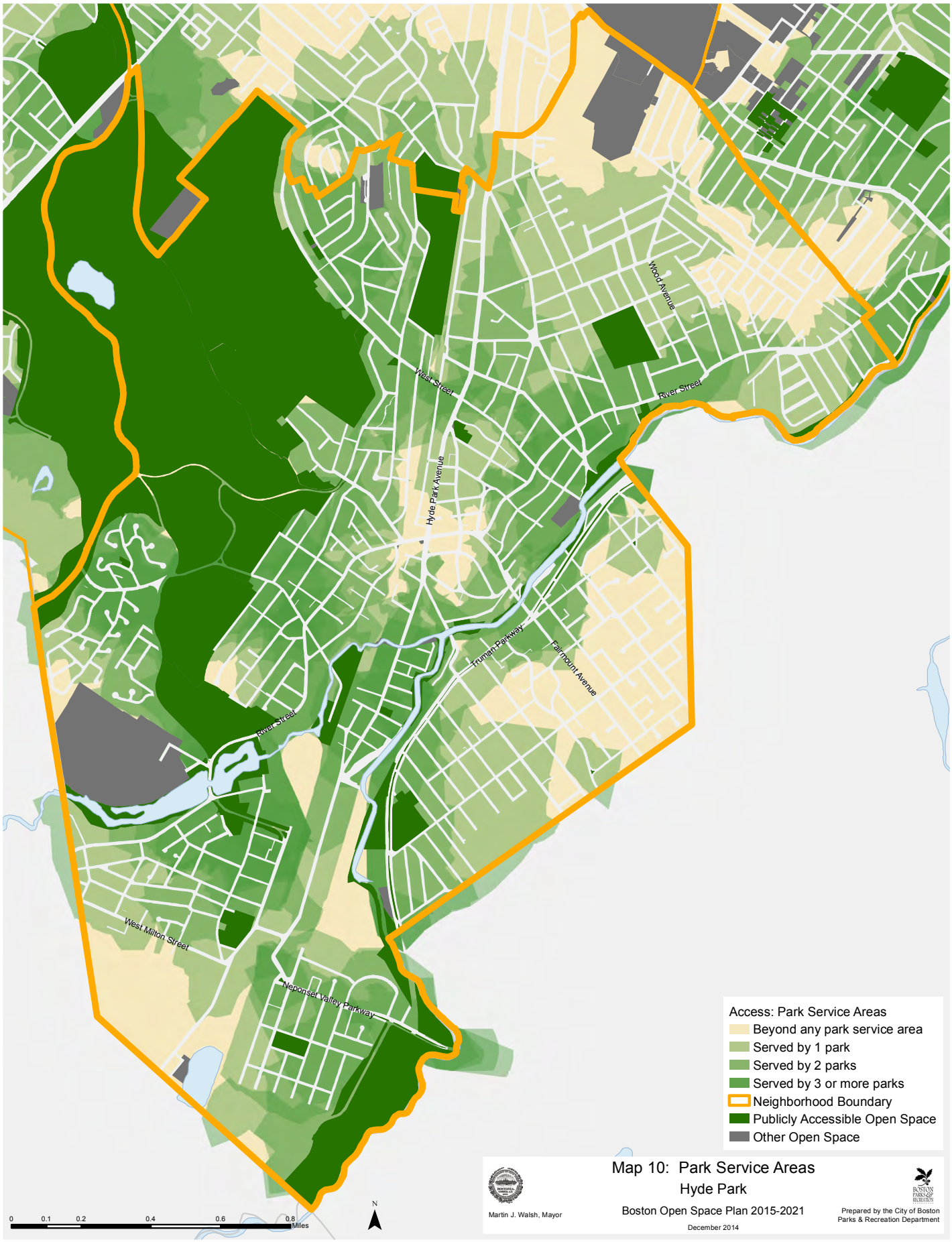
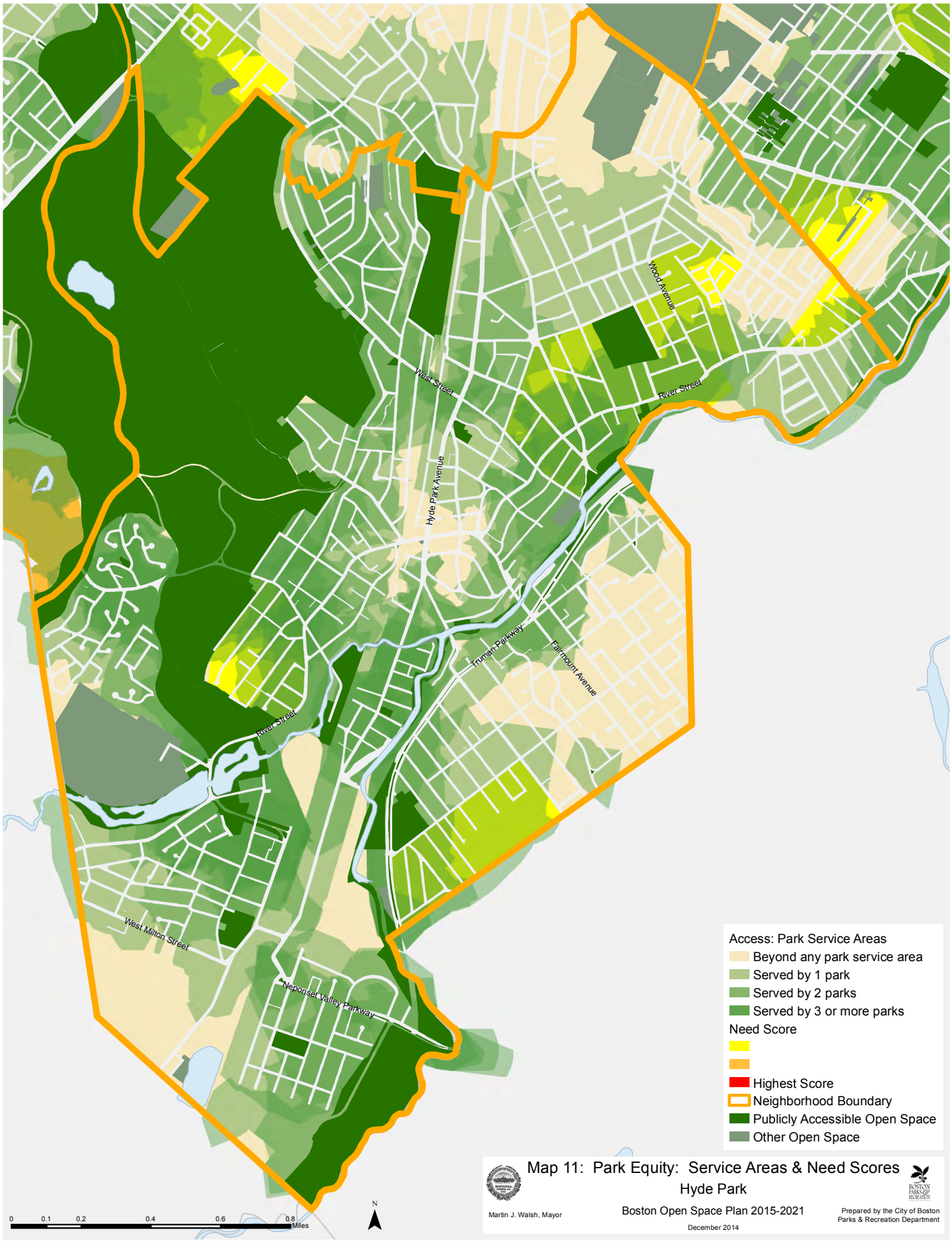

Wood Avenue
West Street
River Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
River Street
West Milton Street
Neponset Valley Parkway
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Hyde Park
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Wood Avenue
West Street
River Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Truman Parkway
Fairmount Avenue
River Street
West Milton Street
Neponset Valley Parkway
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Hyde Park
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.9

JAMAICA PLAIN

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

The secession of West Roxbury from the Town of Roxbury in 1851 included Jamaica Plain in the new town. In fact, what we now know as Jamaica Plain was the most urbanized area of the Town of West Roxbury. The village had developed along its earliest major streets, Centre Street and Washington Street (originally the Norfolk and Bristol Turnpike, opened in 1803). In the latter half of the 18th century, wealthy citizens built summer estates—such as Commodore Joshua Loring's 1760 house on Centre Street—in what was even then known as scenic Jamaica Plain. Jamaica Pond was the major water source for Boston from 1795 to 1845.

The wholly bucolic character of Jamaica Plain began to change in 1834 when the Boston and Providence Railroad was built through the Stony Brook Valley. The combination of the Stony Brook's waterpower and improved transportation access brought industrial development. Cottages for workers were built. Commuters to Boston were now able to live in Jamaica Plain as the farms and estates were subdivided for housing. By 1873, West Roxbury had voted to annex itself to Boston. With the extension of streetcar service from Roxbury to West Roxbury along Centre and Washington Streets after 1890, less affluent middle class commuters moved in, accelerating the subdivision of large tracts and tying the village's fate further to that of Boston.

With the decrease in rural character in the mid-1800s, open space began to emerge as a means to help maintain the community's desirable qualities. Even before the development of a formal park system, open space was designated. Forest Hills Cemetery, a rural cemetery modeled on Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, was consecrated in 1848. Benjamin Bussey gave 250 acres to Harvard University in 1842 for what became the Arnold Arboretum. Olmsted later designed the Arboretum to fit with the pastoral landscape style of the other Emerald Necklace parks.

When the Parks Department was established in 1875, its first report a year later identified Jamaica Pond as a key feature in parks for Boston. Jamaica Pond was developed as a park between 1894 and 1898. Other scenic lands of this area were preserved and incorporated into the system now known as the Emerald Necklace, providing an escape from the urban pressures of late 19th century.

Open space has continued to be a defining neighborhood characteristic of Jamaica Plain. In more recent times, the completion of the new MBTA Orange Line in 1987 created the Southwest Corridor Park with 27 acres in Jamaica Plain. Open space, mass transit access, and relatively low-scaled tree-lined residential streets continue to attract new residents, but have put pressure on longtime lower-income and elderly residents to match the housing prices generated by the new demand. The ethnic, economic, and lifestyle mix of people, many with a strong sense of community, has continued to make Jamaica Plain one of Boston's most vibrant neighborhoods.

Open Space Access & Equity

Between the Emerald Necklace parks and the Southwest Corridor, Jamaica Plain is blessed with open space acreage which averages 10.94 acres per thousand residents versus the 7.59 acres citywide average. Given the number of Jamaica Plain households owning no motor vehicles is 50.62%, a much higher percentage than for Boston as a whole (35.9%), this abundance of close-to-home open space gives Jamaica Plain strong livability advantages. Jamaica Plain's population declined slightly between 2000 and 2010—though young adults continue to move into this desirable neighborhood. The population of children and teens is just under 19% whereas the 20–34 age bracket is 31.9%.

In addition to its well-designed public open spaces, private open space also contributes to the character of the neighborhood, including Allandale Farm and various school campuses on the western edge of the neighborhood and cemetery properties to the east. Jamaica Plain is also punctuated with small neighborhood parks, squares, and twenty community gardens, which contribute to the character of this diverse neighborhood (Jamaica Plain Map 4).

Population density in Jamaica Plain varies; there are high-density areas in Jackson Square, Egleston Square, and Hyde Square, and low-density single family neighborhoods in Moss Hill and the Woodbourne area. About half of the neighborhood meets at least one of the State's criteria for environmental justice populations and only a few pockets—notably the Jackson Square and Egleston Square areas - are identified as high need for park access based on these demographic factors (Jamaica Plain Maps 1, 2 and 3).

Due to the primarily passive nature of the Emerald Necklace Parks, most active park facilities in Jamaica Plain are centered along the Southwest Corridor which cuts through the center of the neighborhood. This configuration works well for facilities access, as the Southwest Corridor is a linked system of parks. Residents who live west of Centre Street have only the Brewer-Burroughs Tot Lot within close proximity, but this is mitigated by the direct access to the Arboretum and Jamaica Pond parks this neighborhood is afforded (Jamaica Plain Map 7). Most court facilities—tennis and basketball—are also located along, or just off, the Southwest Corridor parks. Athletic fields are more dispersed throughout the neighborhood (Jamaica Plain Map 8).

Community and civic facilities are located along Centre and Washington Streets, which are also the commercial routes for the neighborhood. The Southwest Corridor is located in between these two streets and all of these corridors come together in Forest Hills.

As expected, park access in Jamaica Plain is widespread and evenly distributed. The Moss Hill neighborhood has areas with very limited walkable access to City of Boston parks, but is in close proximity to the Town of Brookline's largest park, Larz Anderson. The Woodbourne sub-neighborhood on the border with Roslindale and close to Forest Hills also has less access than elsewhere. This is due in part to the barrier of Hyde Park Avenue, which offers limited crossing points, and is only slightly

improved by the single-use facilities at Pagel Playground. Connectivity of this sub-neighborhood to Forest Hills, especially as Forest Hills undergoes redevelopment, would facilitate access to the open space opportunities along the Southwest Corridor that most of the rest of Jamaica Plain already enjoys (Jamaica Plain Map 10).

Future Development

Recent City planning efforts for Jamaica Plain include the South Huntington Corridor Study which seeks to manage the change from an institutional district to a residential district. Public realm improvements are discussed including how new residential developments will relate visually and physically to the Jamaicaway and Olmsted Park.

Community planning staff at the BRA anticipate a similar planning study for the Washington Street/Stony Brook corridor where light industrial zoned land is slated for residential proposals due to market forces. The removal of the Casey Overpass has informed the re-design of the public realm in the Forest Hills station area and offers possibilities for improved access to open space upon completion of this major transportation project.

The Centre and South Street Study proposes a series of improvements to this corridor which is anchored by two state owned open spaces—the Arborway and the Southwest Corridor Park—and possesses two key nodes held by the Parks Department, Hyde (Mahoney) Square and Monument Square. As incremental projects are developed, the Parks Department will provide guidance for its squares so as to retain their place-making qualities in this corridor.

At the Southwest Corridor Park end of this streetscape corridor, the city has been engaged with the community in a planning effort to develop guidelines for development at Jackson Square. In addition to housing and commercial uses, the development proposal created in response to these guidelines calls for an indoor recreation center and outdoor gathering spaces and protection of the Southwest Corridor Park from negative development impacts.

Another BRA planning effort has also taken place in the southern end of Centre and South Street corridor, the Forest Hills Improvement Initiative. This work has generated guidelines for development of underutilized parcels held by the MBTA and private owners in the vicinity of the Forest Hill transit center. Open space-oriented goals are to encourage family/child-oriented recreation in the residential developments, and to create area improvements to pedestrian and bicycle access that will not only benefit commuters but also users of the nearby major open spaces such as the Arboretum and Franklin Park. Some of the MBTA parcels have already been built under these guidelines.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

JAMAICA PLAIN

Population	
2010 Census	37,468
2000 Census	38,176
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**-1.9%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	14.4
2000 Census	14.7
Density Change, 2000–2010	**-0.3**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	3,851	10%
10 to 19	3,234	9%
20 to 34	11,936	32%
35 to 54	10,295	27%
55 to 64	4,145	11%
65 and over	4,007	11%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Jamaica Plain	37,806	1,866	5.5%	4.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	20,070	54%
Hispanic or Latino	9,464	25%
Black or African American alone	5,038	13%
Asian alone	1,665	4%
Other	1,231	3%

Median Household Income
$66,361

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

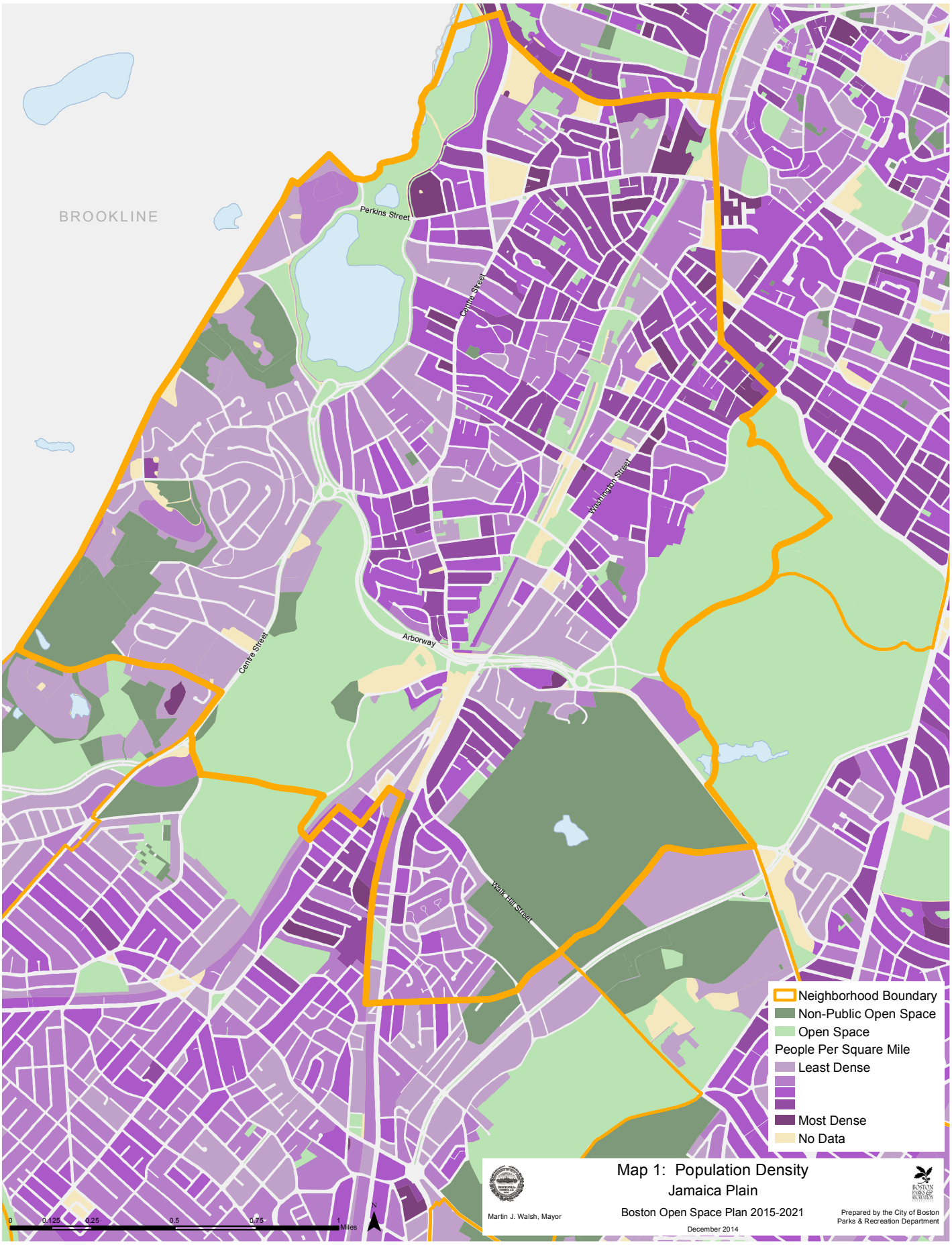
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	24%
1 vehicle	50%
2 vehicles	23%
3 or more vehicles	3%

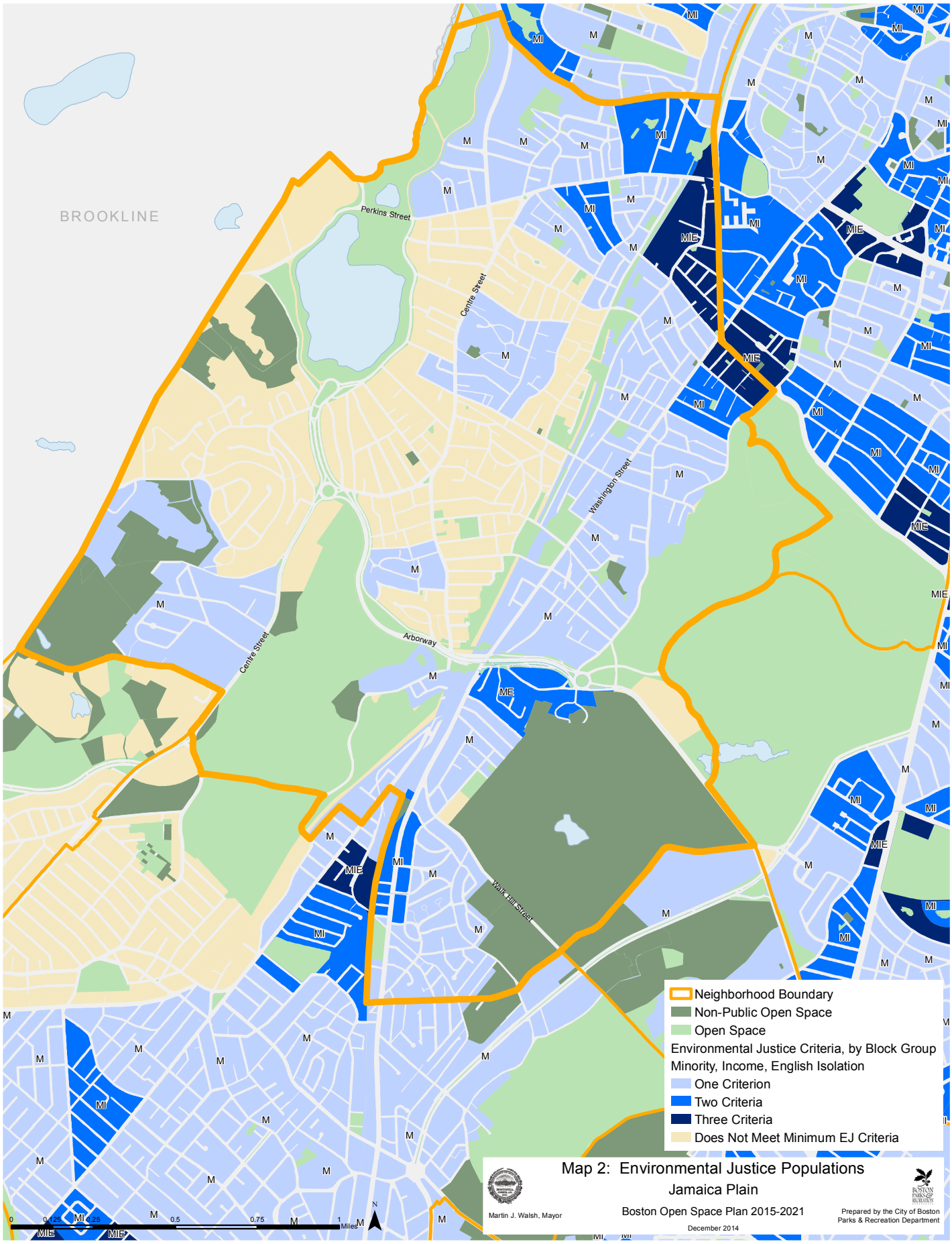
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

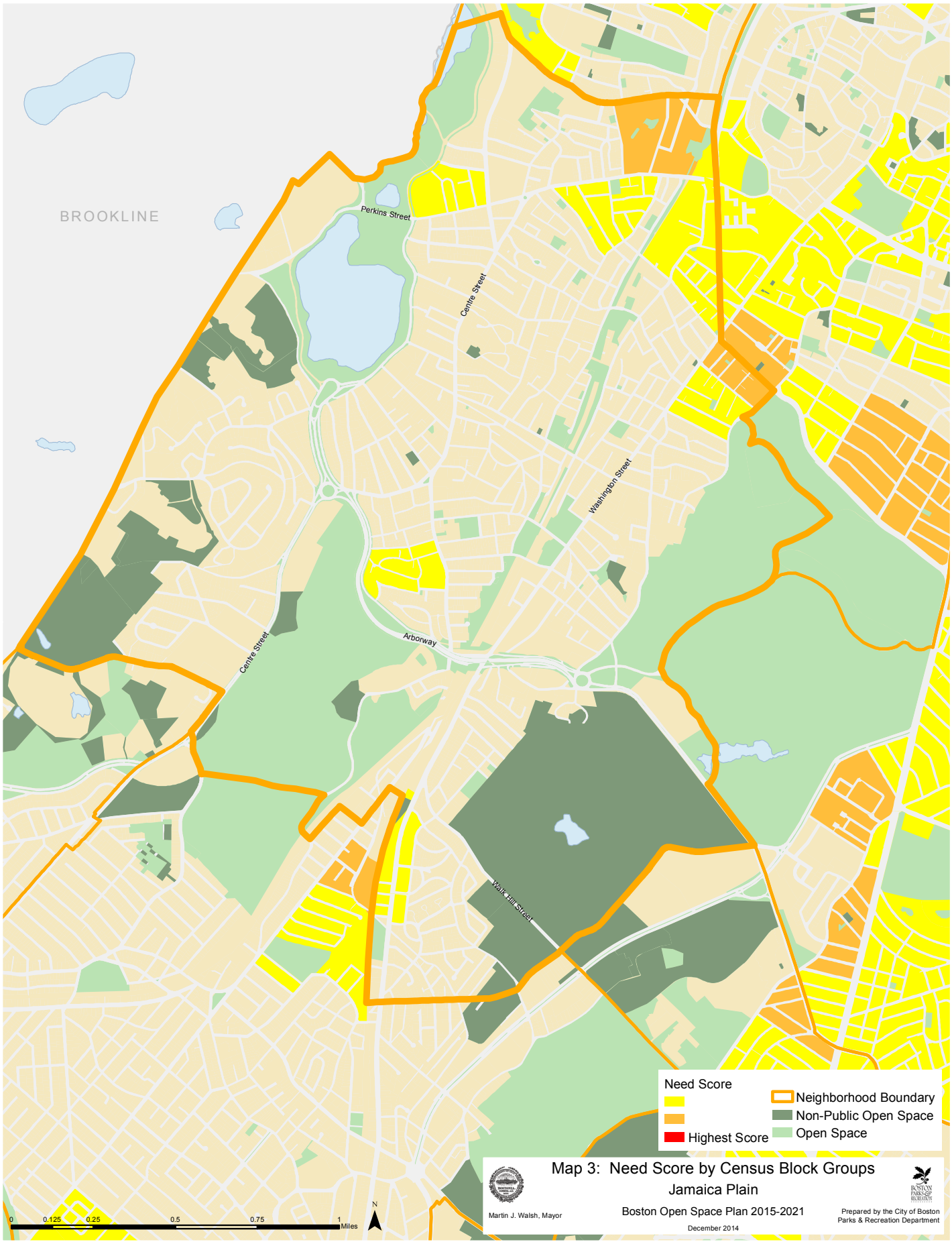
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Jamaica Plain	3,525	9.4%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


BROOKLINE
Perkins Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Arborway
Centre Street
Walk Hill Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N
Map 1: Population Density
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


BROOKLINE
Perkins Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Arborway
Walk Hill Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N


BROOKLINE
Perkins Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Arborway
Centre Street
Walk Hill Street
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N

BROOKLINE
Olmsted Park
Willow Pond Meadow
Jefferson Playground
Hennigan Schoolyard
Walden Street Community Garden
Heath Square
Nira Rock
Nira Avenue Garden
Round Hill Street Garden
Bromley Heath Play Area
Arcola Park Garden
Southwest Corridor Park
Chestnut Street
Olmsted Park
Jamaicaway
Mahoney Square
Forbes Street Garden
Mozart Street Playground
Perkins Street
Perkins Street
Rock Hill
Forbes Street Playground
Southwest Corridor Community Farm
60 Paul Gore Street Garden
Paul Gore Street Playground
Oakview Terrace
Beecher Street Play Area
Paul Gore/ Beecher Street Garden
Kelly Outdoor Skating Rink
Parkman Memorial
Jamaica Pond Park
Centre Street
Hellenic College Athletic Field
Hellenic Hill
Lamartine/Hubbard Streets Garden
Egleston Plaza
Parley Vale Preserve
Lawndale Terrace Garden
Egleston Square Peace Garden
Chapman
Brookside Community Garden
Oakdale Street Community Garden
Granada Park Garden
Starr Lane Park
Johnson Park
Flaherty Playground
Brewer/Burroughs Tot Lot
Bowditch Garden
Arborway
First Church Cemetery
Southwest Corridor Park
Soldier's Monument
Washington Street
Centre Street
South Street Courts
South Street Mall
Murphy Playground
Shoya
Daughters of St. Paul
Agassiz Community & School Garden
English H.S. Athletic Fields
McBride Garden
Minton Stable Garden
Williams Street
Franklin Park
Hall/Boynton Street Garden
St Rose Street Garden
Rossmore/Stedman Park
Harvard Tract I
Arborway
Anson Street Garden
Lawrence Farm
Arborway
Arborway Overpass Path
Arborway
Centre Street
South Street Community Garden
Arborway
Forest Hills Rotary
Arnold Arboretum
Bussey Brook Meadow II
Forest Hills Station Mall
Morton Street
Harvard Tract III
Harvard Tract II
Forest Hills Preserve
Leland Street Herb Garden
Bussey Brook Meadow
Parkman Playground
Toll Gate Cemetery
Forest Hills Cemetery
Walk Hill Street
Pagel Playground
St Michael's Cemetery
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N

BROOKLINE
Olmsted Park
Willow Pond Meadow
Jefferson Playground
Hennigan Schoolyard
Walden Street Community Garden
Heath Square
Nira Rock
Nira Avenue Garden
Arcola Park Garden
Round Hill Street Garden
Bromley Heath Play Area
Southwest Corridor Park
Chestnut Street
Olmsted Park
Jamaicaway
Mahoney Square
Forbes Street Garden
Mozart Street Playground
Perkins Street
Perkins Street
Rock Hill
Forbes Street Playground
Southwest Corridor Community Farm
60 Paul Gore Street Garden
Paul Gore Street Playground
Oakview Terrace
Beecher Street Play Area
Paul Gore/ Beecher Street Garden
Kelly Outdoor Skating Rink
Parkman Memorial
Jamaica Pond Park
Centre Street
Hellenic College Athletic Field
Hellenic Hill
Lamartine/Hubbard Streets Garden
Egleston Plaza
Parley Vale Preserve
Lawndale Terrace Garden
Egleston Square Peace Garden
Chapman
Brookside Community Garden
Oakdale Street Community Garden
Granada Park Garden
Starr Lane Park
Johnson Park
Flaherty Playground
Brewer/Burroughs Tot Lot
Bowditch Garden
Arborway
First Church Cemetery
Southwest Corridor Park
Soldier's Monument
Washington Street
Centre Street
South Street Courts
South Street Mall
Murphy Playground
Showa
Agassiz Community & School Garden
English H.S. Athletic Fields
Daughters of St. Paul
McBride Garden
Minton Stable Garden
Williams Street
Franklin Park
Hall/Boynton Street Garden
St Rose Street Garden
Rossmore/Stedman Park
Harvard Tract I
Arborway
Anson Street Garden
Lawrence Farm
Arborway
Arborway Overpass Path
Arborway
Centre Street
South Street Community Garden
Arborway
Forest Hills Rotary
Arnold Arboretum
Bussey Brook Meadow II
Forest Hills Station Mall
Morton Street
Harvard Tract III
Harvard Tract II
Forest Hills Preserve
Leland Street Herb Garden
Bussey Brook Meadow
Parkman Playground
Toll Gate Cemetery
Forest Hills Cemetery
Walk Hill Street
Pagel Playground
St Michael's Cemetery
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Jamaica Plain
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N

BROOKLINE
Olmsted Park
Willow Pond Meadow
Jefferson Playground
Hennigan Schoolyard
Walden Street Community Garden
Heath Square
Nira Rock
Nira Avenue Garden
Arcola Park Garden
Round Hill Street Garden
Bromley Heath Play Area
Southwest Corridor Park
Chestnut Street
Olmsted Park
Jamaicaway
Mahoney Square
Forbes Street Garden
Mozart Street Playground
Perkins Street
Perkins Street
Rock Hill
Forbes Street Playground
Southwest Corridor Community Farm
60 Paul Gore Street Garden
Paul Gore Street Playground
Oakview Terrace
Beecher Street Play Area
Paul Gore/ Beecher Street Garden
Kelly Outdoor Skating Rink
Parkman Memorial
Jamaica Pond Park
Centre Street
Hellenic College Athletic Field
Hellenic Hill
Lamartine/Hubbard Streets Garden
Egleston Plaza
Parley Vale Preserve
Lawndale Terrace Garden
Egleston Square Peace Garden
Chapman
Brookside Community Garden
Oakdale Street Community Garden
Granada Park Garden
Starr Lane Park
Johnson Park
Flaherty Playground
Brewer/Burroughs Tot Lot
Bowditch Garden
Arborway
First Church Cemetery
Southwest Corridor Park
Washington Street
Soldier's Monument
Centre Street
South Street Courts
South Street Mall
Shoya
Murphy Playground
Daughters of St. Paul
Agassiz Community & School Garden
English H.S. Athletic Fields
McBride Garden
Minton Stable Garden
Franklin Park
Hall/Boynton Street Garden
Williams Street
St Rose Street Garden
Rossmore/Stedman Park
Harvard Tract I
Arborway
Anson Street Garden
Lawrence Farm
Arborway Overpass Path
Arborway
Arborway
South Street Community Garden
Centre Street
Arborway
Forest Hills Rotary
Arnold Arboretum
Bussey Brook Meadow II
Forest Hills Station Mall
Morton Street
Harvard Tract III
Harvard Tract II
Forest Hills Preserve
Leland Street Herb Garden
Bussey Brook Meadow
Parkman Playground
Toll Gate Cemetery
Forest Hills Cemetery
Walk Hill Street
Pagel Playground
St Michael's Cemetery
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
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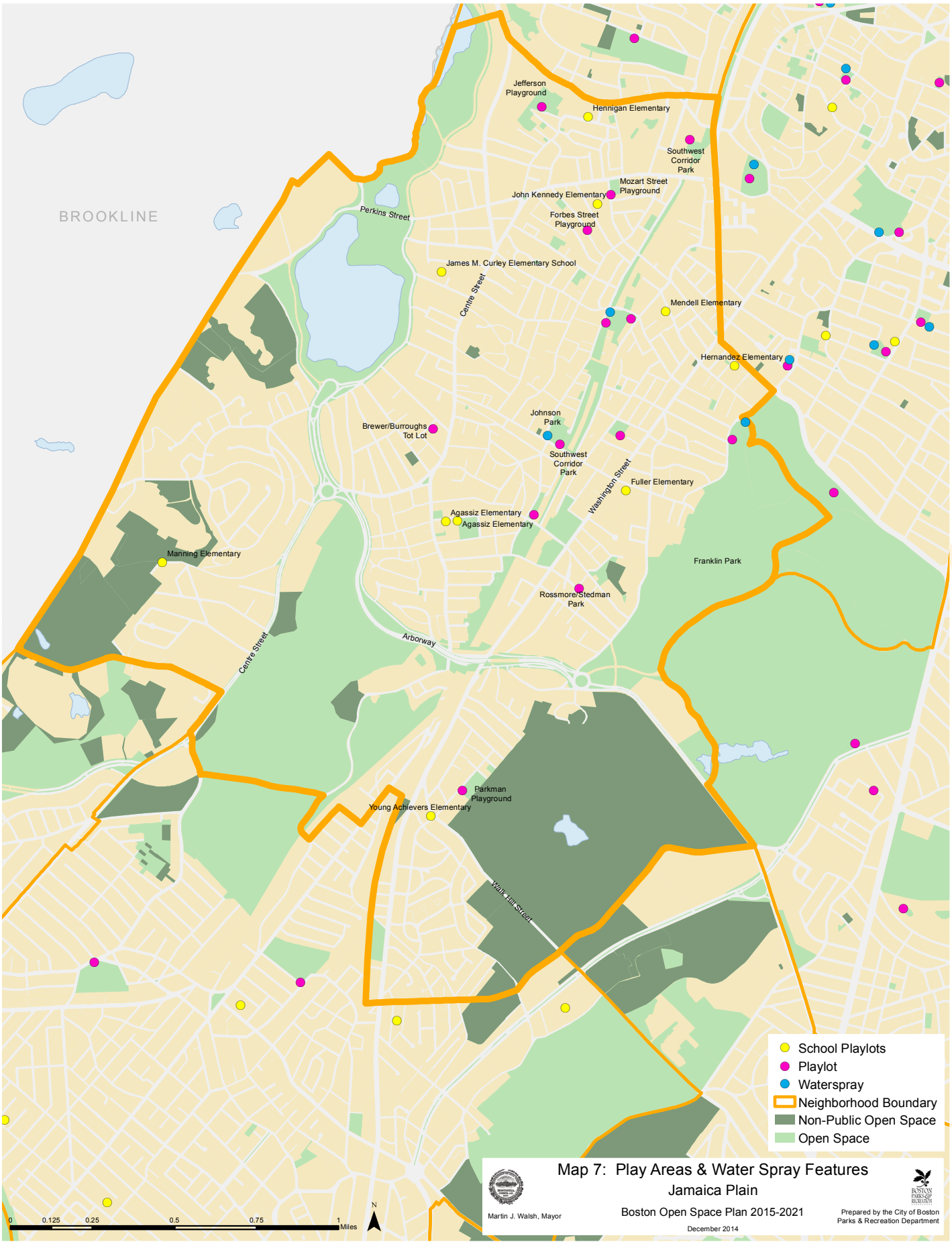
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N


BROOKLINE
Jefferson Playground
Hennigan Elementary
Southwest Corridor Park
Mozart Street Playground
John Kennedy Elementary
Forbes Street Playground
Perkins Street
James M. Curley Elementary School
Centre Street
Mendell Elementary
Hernandez Elementary
Johnson Park
Brewer/Burroughs Tot Lot
Southwest Corridor Park
Washington Street
Fuller Elementary
Agassiz Elementary
Agassiz Elementary
Manning Elementary
Franklin Park
Rossmore/Stedman Park
Arborway
Centre Street
Parkman Playground
Young Achievers Elementary
Walk Hill Street
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Jamaica Plain
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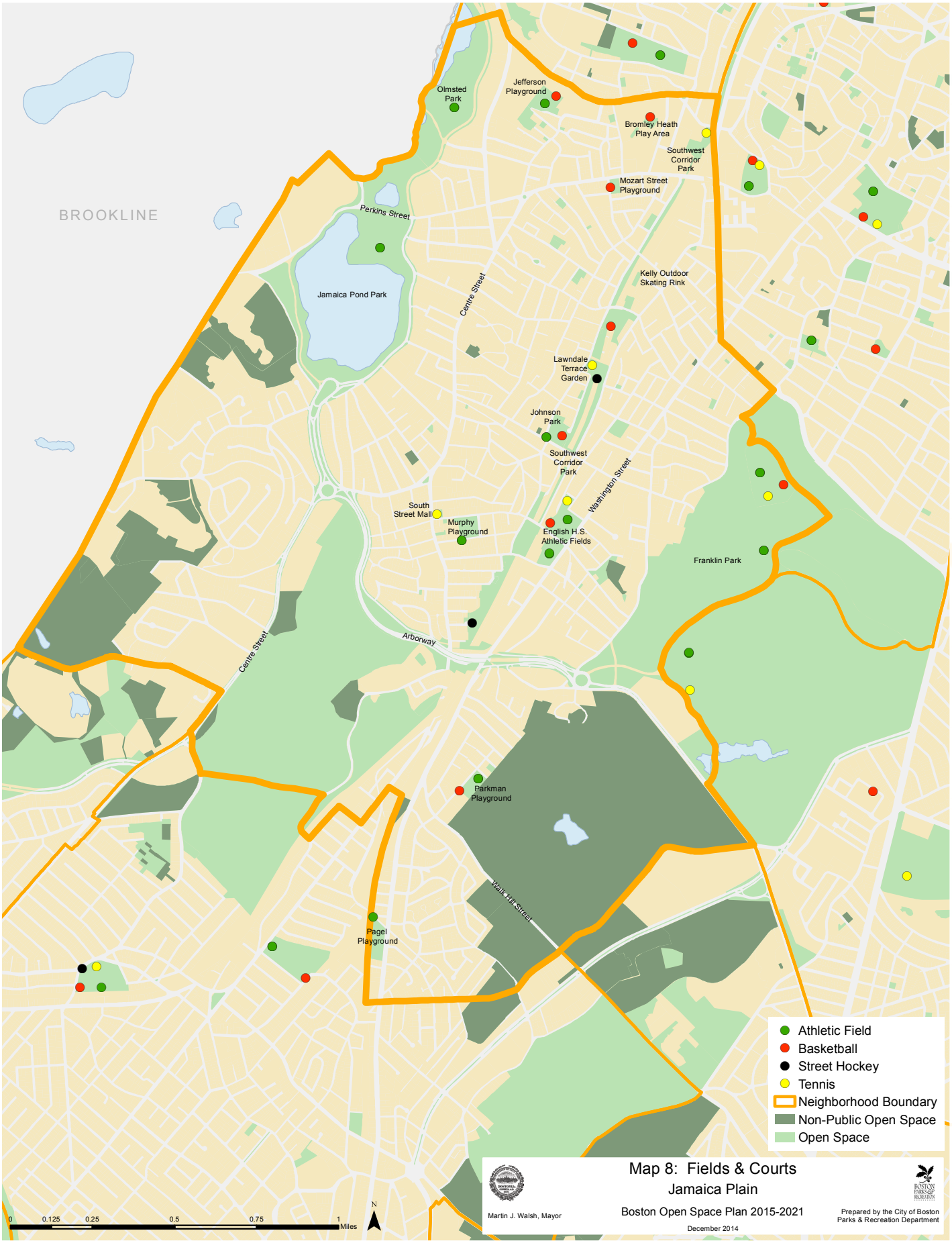
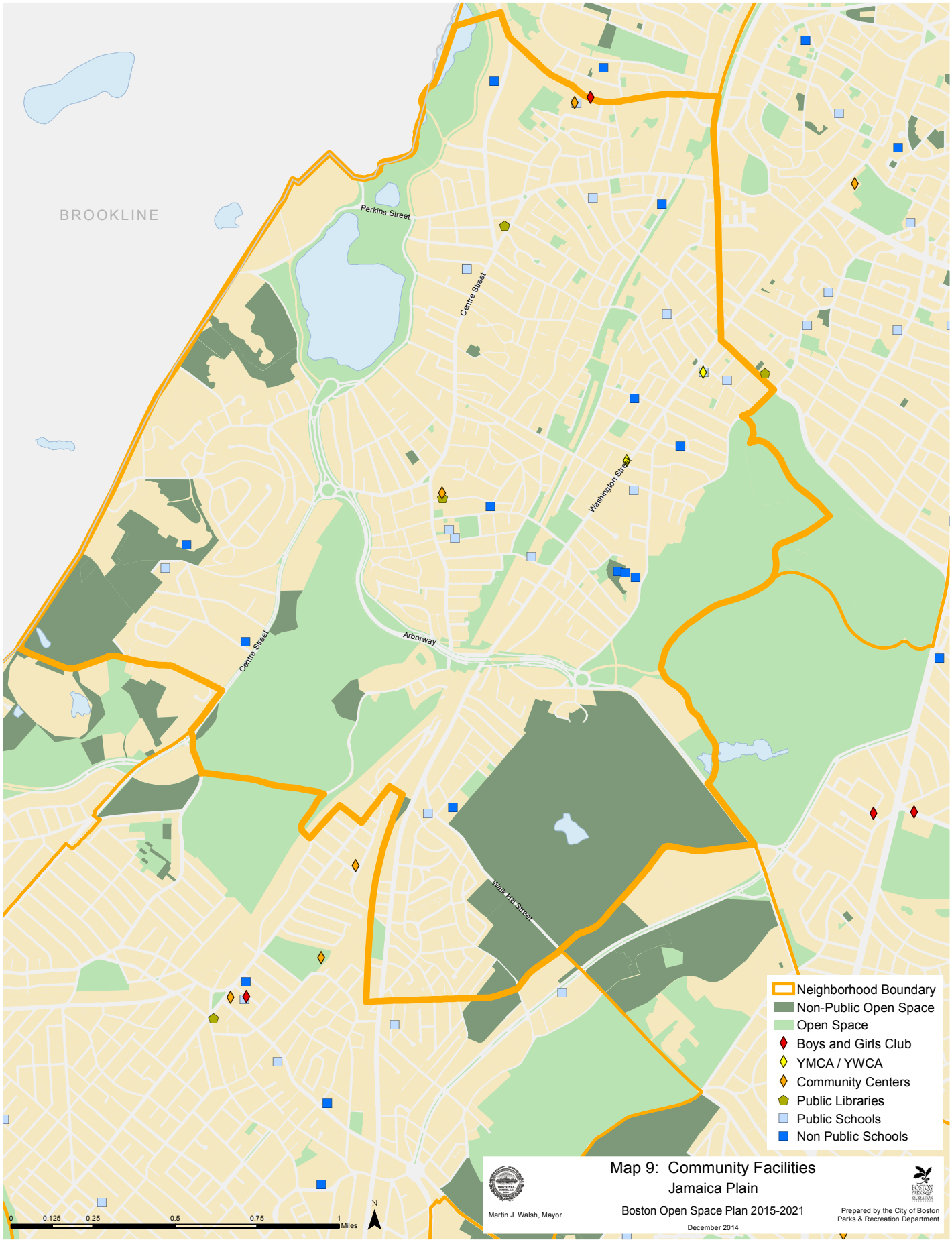
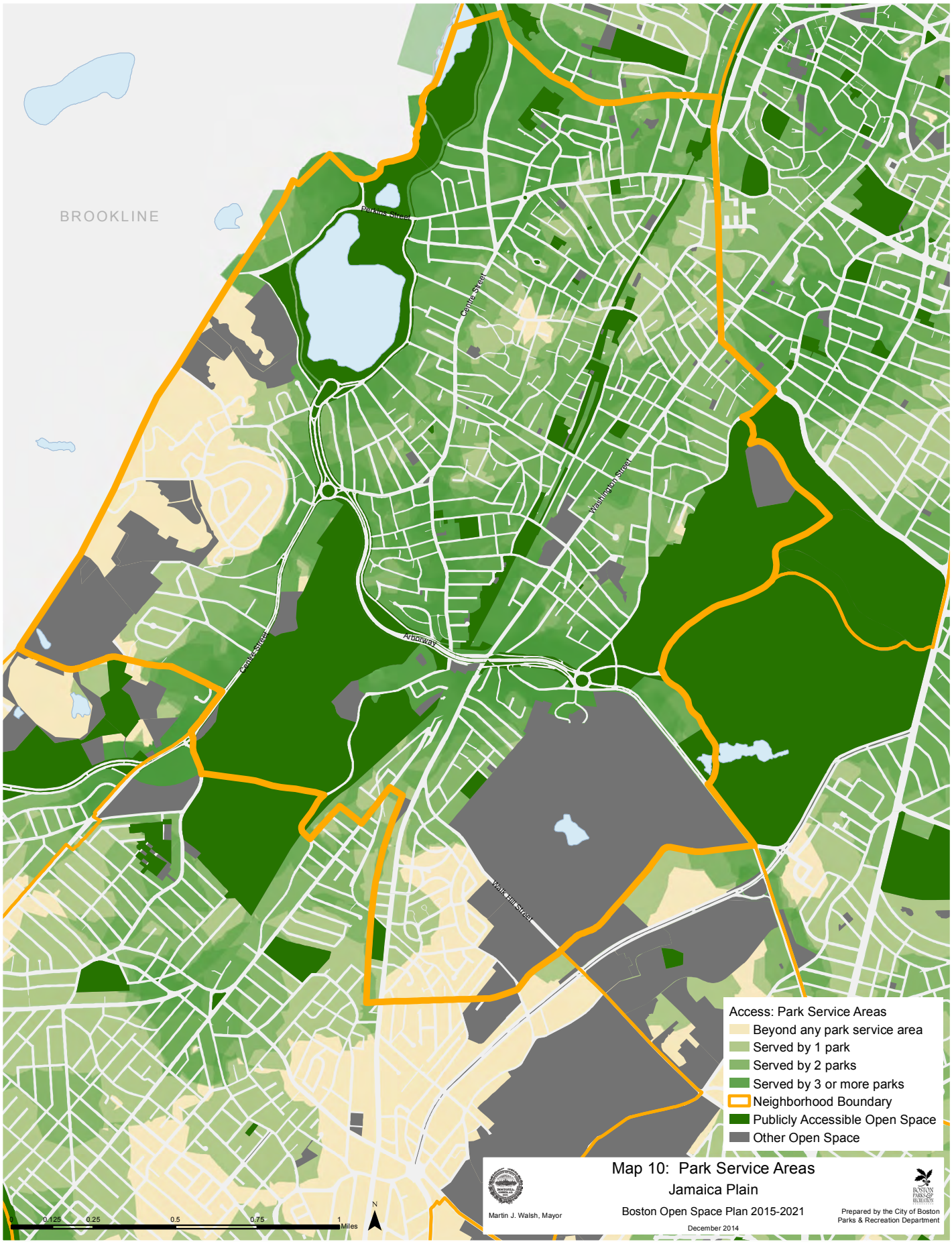
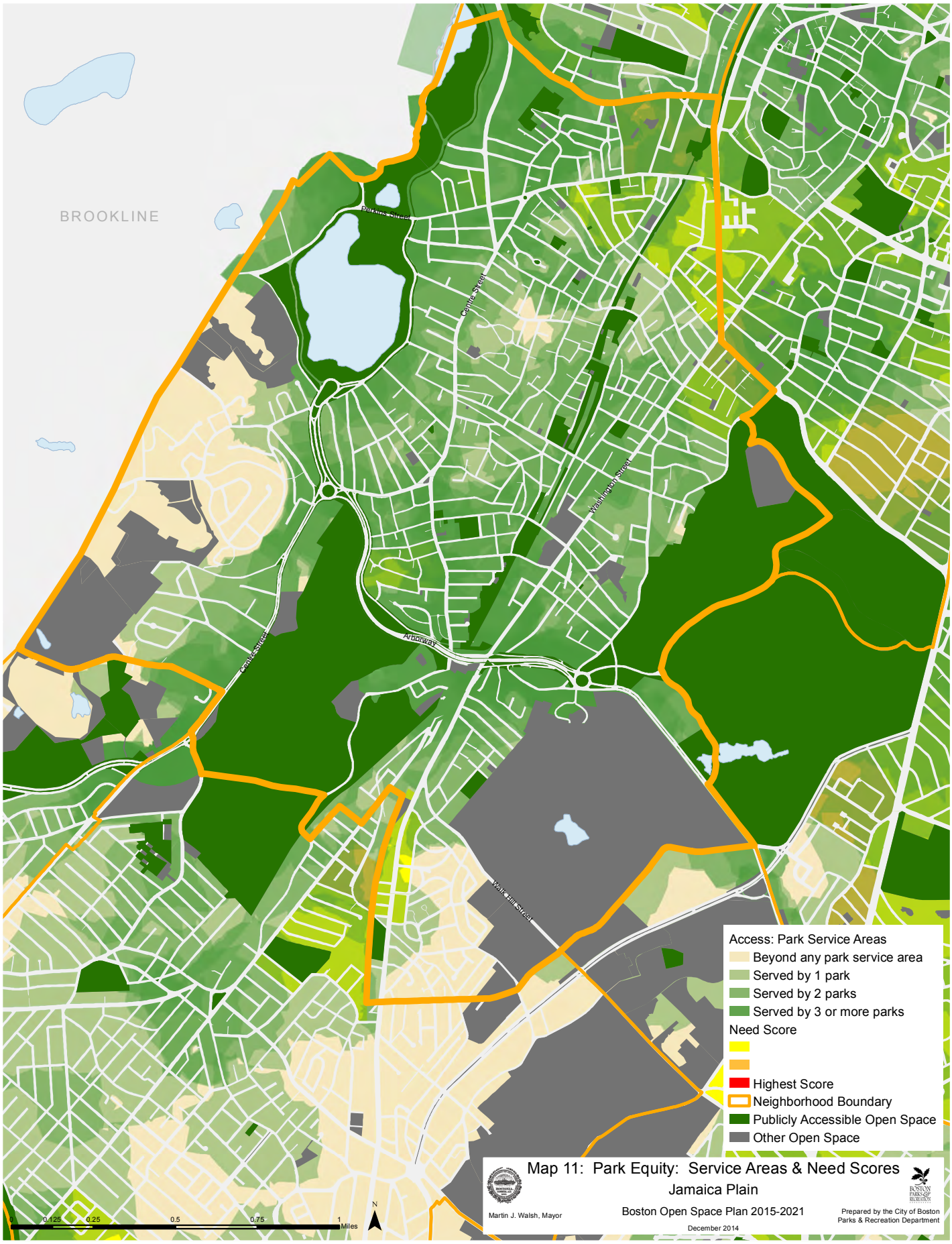
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


BROOKLINE
Olmsted Park
Jefferson Playground
Bromley Heath Play Area
Southwest Corridor Park
Mozart Street Playground
Perkins Street
Jamaica Pond Park
Centre Street
Kelly Outdoor Skating Rink
Lawndale Terrace Garden
Johnson Park
Southwest Corridor Park
Washington Street
South Street Mall
Murphy Playground
English H.S. Athletic Fields
Franklin Park
Arborway
Centre Street
Parkman Playground
Walk Hill Street
Pagel Playground
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


BROOKLINE
Perkins Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Arborway
Centre Street
Walk Hill Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


BROOKLINE
Perkins Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Arborway
Centre Street
Walk Hill Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Jamaica Plain
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N


BROOKLINE
Perkins Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Arborway
Centre Street
Walk Hill Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Jamaica Plain
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
N

Section 7.2.10:

MATTAPAN

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Mattapan became part of Boston in 1870 through the annexation of the town of Dorchester. Mattapan is predominantly residential, a classic streetcar suburb. The Midlands Branch railroad in 1855 followed by the trolley in the 1890s opened up Mattapan to waves of residential construction. Construction in the northern half of Mattapan saw single-family homes mixed in with two- and three-family homes. In the southern half of Mattapan, east and west of Mattapan Square, single-family homes on larger lots were built in the middle of the 20th century. Mattapan Square, at the confluence of Blue Hill Avenue, River Street, and Cummins Highway, with MBTA Red Line trolley service, became the commercial heart of Mattapan. After declines through the second half of the 20th century, Mattapan Square has seen slow but sustained reinvestment over the last twenty years.

Open Space Access & Equity

The BRA's neighborhood boundaries for Mattapan were redrawn in the late 2000s, which reduced its overall area while adding to the adjacent neighborhoods of Dorchester and Hyde Park. Mattapan now has the smallest population of any city neighborhood and it has lost over 7% of its population between 2000 and 2010 (redrawn boundary not withstanding). Its population density is similar to Roslindale or Jamaica Plain, and its open space ratio of 6.38 acres per thousand residents is a bit lower than the city average of 7.59.

While the entire neighborhood satisfies at least one of the state's criteria for an environmental justice population, park need scores are not as high in this neighborhood as in Dorchester, likely due to Mattapan's lower density (Mattapan Maps 2 & 3). At 27.6%, Mattapan has a higher proportion of children than most of the other city neighborhoods. At 9.2% of the neighborhood population, there are more teenagers in Mattapan than any other city neighborhood.

Mattapan contains four large community parks, as well as the two DCR parks along the Neponset River Reservation (Ryan and Kennedy), all of which support a range of active recreational uses. All the parks but Kennedy Playground contain athletic fields, basketball and tennis courts, play areas, and four have water spray features (Mattapan Maps 7 & 8).

While the community parks serve this neighborhood well, most of the remaining open spaces are urban wilds, cemeteries and other limited access, low use areas. The Gladeside Urban Wild, in particular, is a large natural area with trails and habitat area suitable for exploration, but site access has limited visibility. The neighborhood has expressed interest in increased access and programming in these woodland sites.

The area along the Mattapan and Hyde Park boundary lies between the two large multi-use parks at Ross and Hunt-Almont, neither of which is within a 10 minute walk for many neighborhood residents. Boston Parks will be considering acquisition opportunities in this area to meet this community need. A similar area of need (see Map 10) is illustrated at the Boston Housing Authority Gallivan Boulevard Housing south of Morton Street. While this 27-acre development does not include any officially designated public parks, the residents are served by large shared passive landscape areas. Further consideration should be given to the inclusion of active recreation facilities to serve the needs of the residents in this BHA community.

Future Development

The Mattapan neighborhood contains the large campuses of the Foley Senior Housing Development and the Boston Public Health Commission Campus which limit neighborhood connectivity. Similarly, the Boston Nature Center is isolated by virtue of its location at the northwest edge of the community, with large institutional and residential developments limiting connections to the rest of the neighborhood to the south. Long term disposition, access and use of these sites should be further studied to ensure that possible development protects the open space character of the neighborhood and ideally improves access and connectivity.

Waterfront access is an unrealized opportunity in Mattapan. Only the DCR's Ryan Playground and Kennedy Playground and Community Gardens offer access to the Neponset. The rebuilding of Ryan and Kennedy Playgrounds and the additional attention from the Greenways to the Harbor program has provided paths down to and along the river including canoe launches. As the DCR further develops the Neponset River Greenway (most of which in this section is on the Milton side of the Reservation), Mattapan will benefit from the connectivity this greenway provides.

The DCR recognizes the importance of the connection between Mattapan Square and the River in its Neponset River Reservation Master Plan Phase II. The planning staff at the BRA is aware of this and has suggested that the City re-design Mattapan Square for better pedestrian and bicycle access, using the Complete Streets guidelines, so as to facilitate movement through the Square and onto the Reservation. Coordination between DCR and the City would optimize the accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists in this whole area, improving the attractiveness of Mattapan as a residential destination, and of the Square as a commercial destination.

Another key development in Mattapan is the creation of the Morton Street station on the MBTA Fairmount commuter rail line. Located in the northeastern part of this community, it provides an additional transit option to downtown. This station opens the possibility of economic and community activity in the Morton Street corridor.

The BRA planning staff is in the final stages of preparing a Corridor Plan for their Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative. This planning effort in part responds to a 2011 proposal by a group

of non-profit organizations known as the Fairmount Greenway Task Force. Both efforts build on the transportation access opportunities afforded by the state's investment in the Fairmount Line, a commuter rail line that runs from South Station to Readville in Hyde Park, the only commuter rail line wholly within the City of Boston.

Several large, underutilized, potential development sites in Mattapan offer the opportunity to increase the number of residences in this community substantially. Ongoing awareness of the incremental impacts of development on existing open space resources is essential. Advocacy by the community to preserve and enhance existing undeveloped woodlands would protect the open space character of Mattapan for future residents.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

MATTAPAN

Population	
2010 Census	22,600
2000 Census	24,333
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**-7.1%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	16.7
2000 Census	18
Density Change, 2000–2010	**-1.3**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	2,861	13%
10 to 19	3,363	15%
20 to 34	4,677	21%
35 to 54	6,283	28%
55 to 64	2,732	12%
65 and over	2,684	12%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Mattapan	22,600	2,090	6.2%	9.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	1,431	6%
Hispanic or Latino	2,735	12%
Black or African American alone	17,263	76%
Asian alone	383	2%
Other	788	3%

Median Household Income
$48,364

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

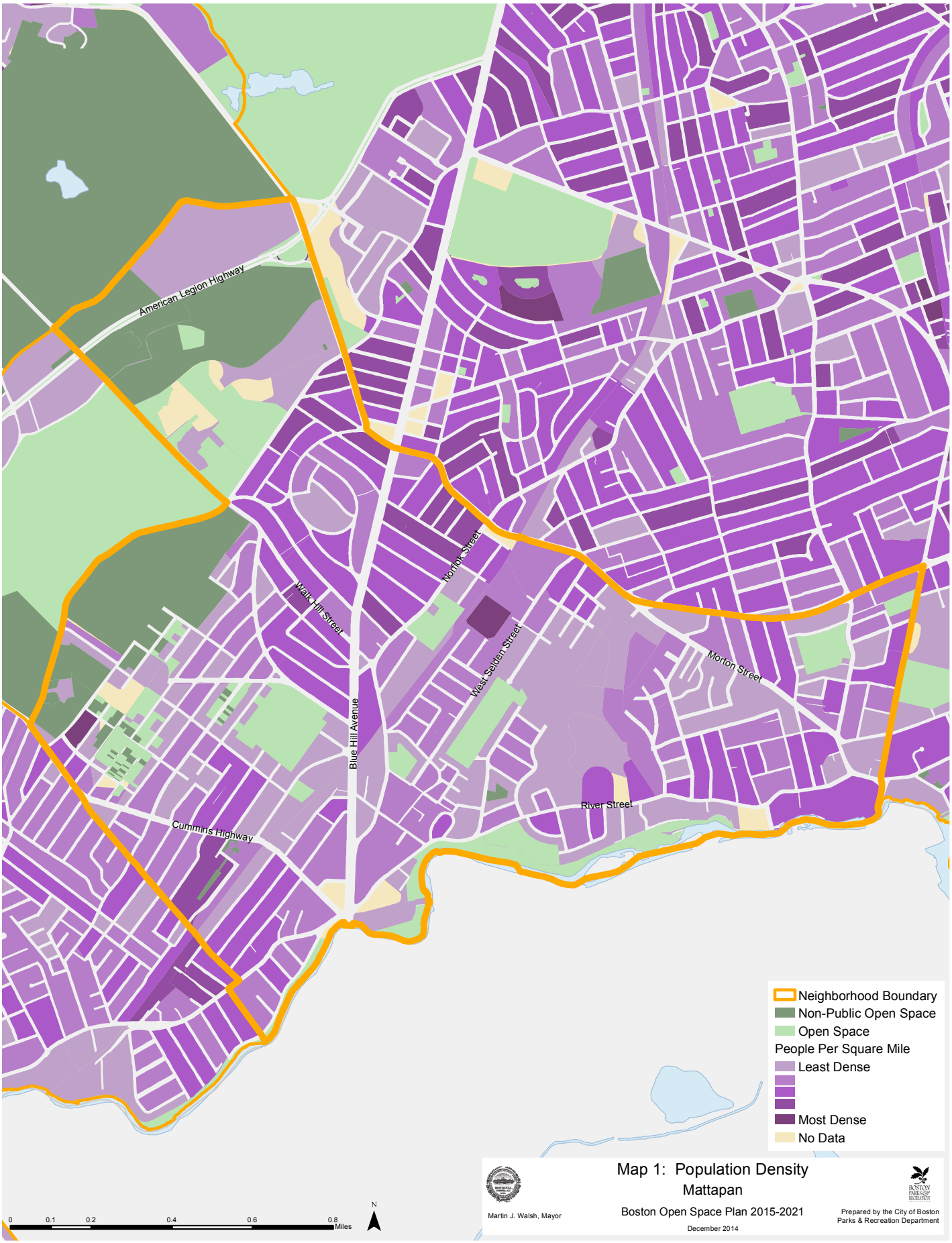
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	27%
1 vehicle	43%
2 vehicles	23%
3 or more vehicles	7%

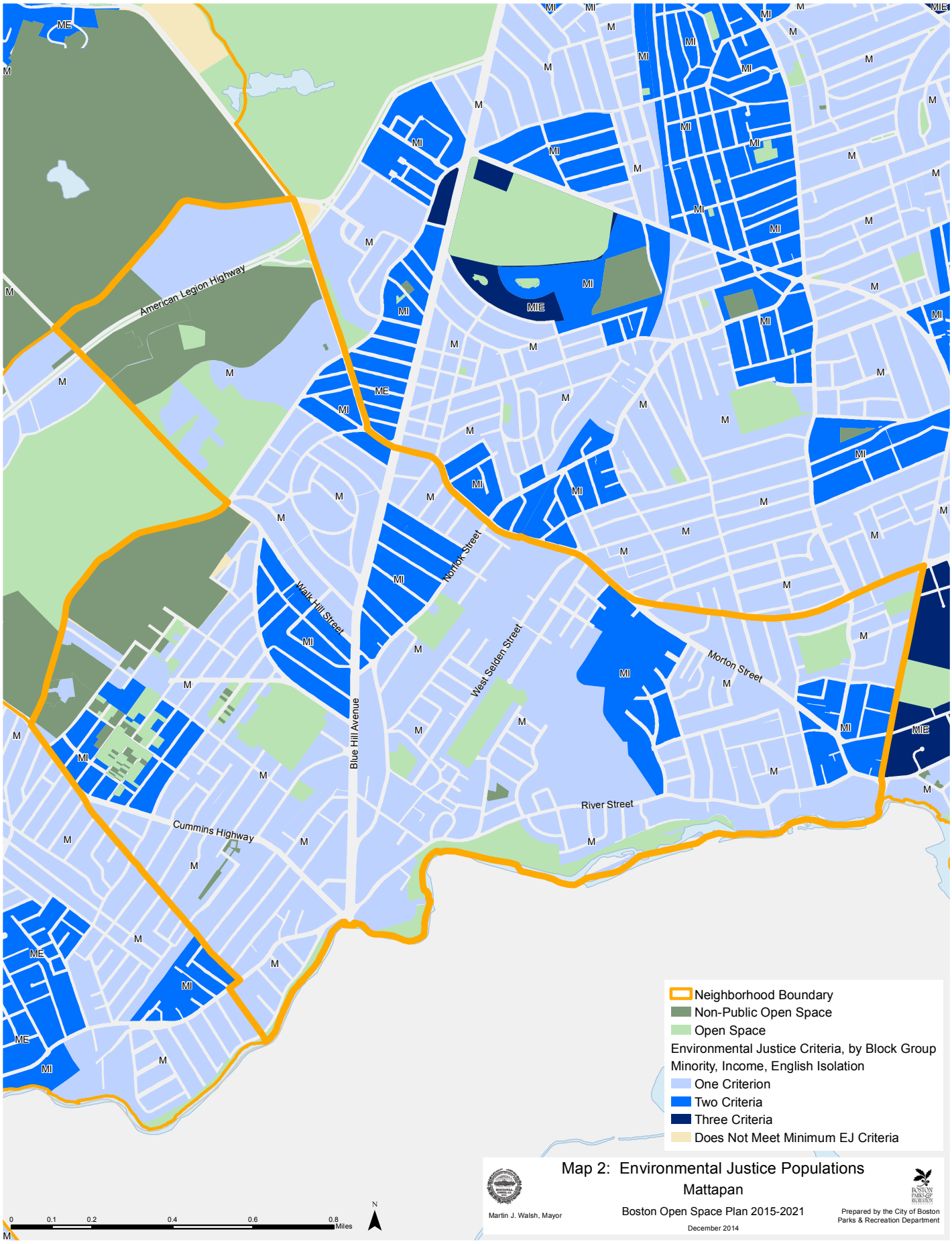
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Mattapan	4,023	16.8%

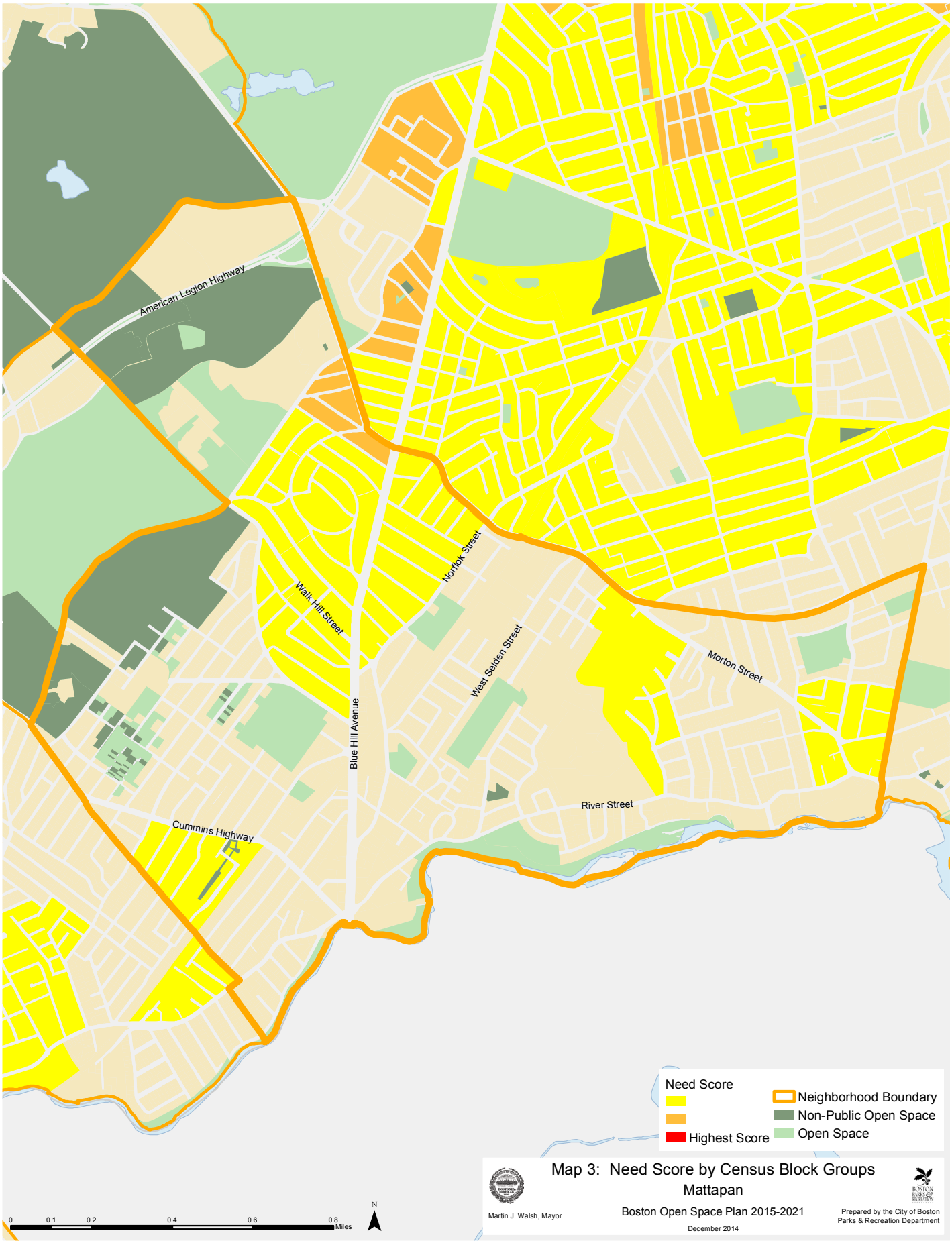
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

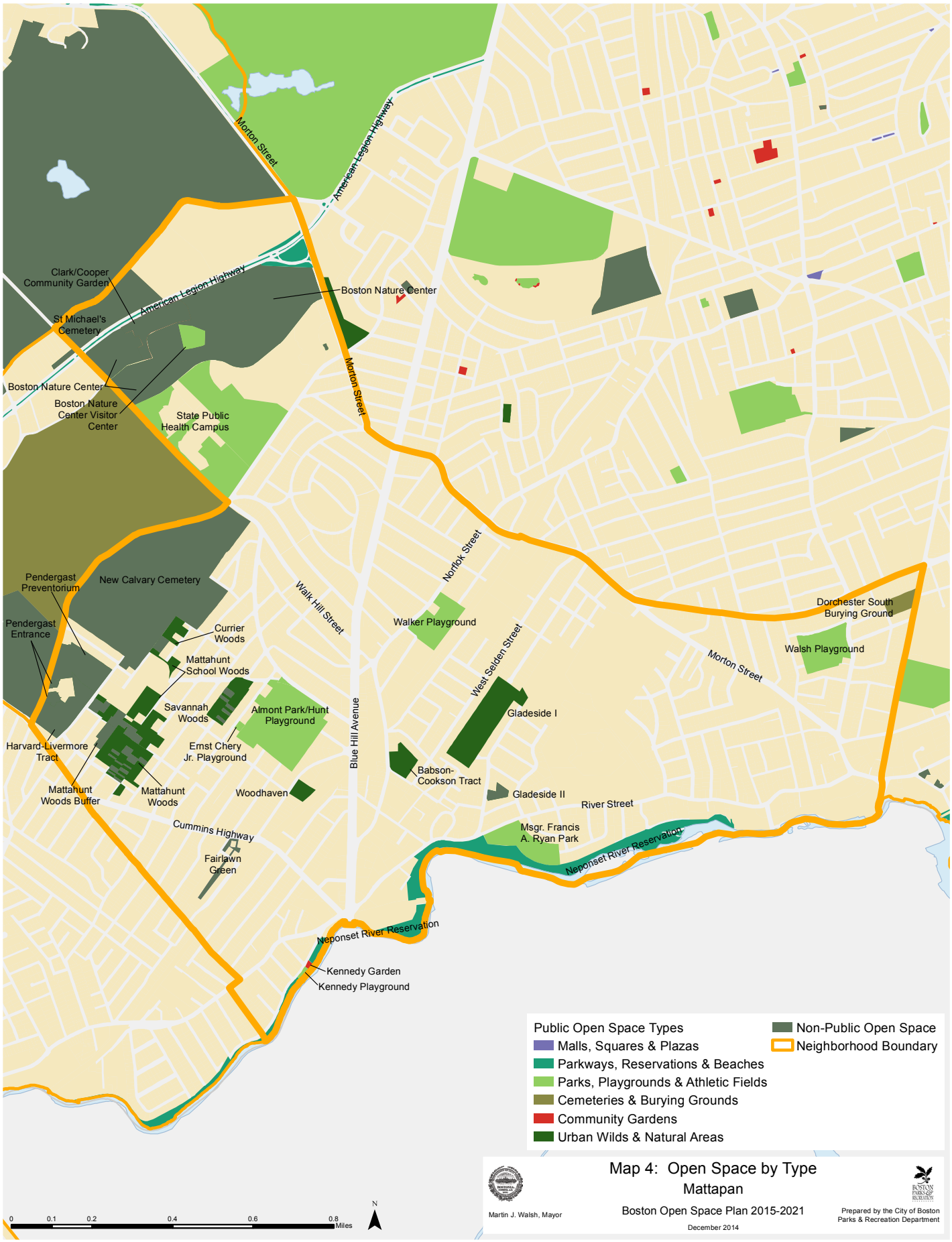
N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


American Legion Highway
Walk Hill Street
Norfolk Street
Blue Hill Avenue
West Selden Street
Morton Street
River Street
Cummins Highway
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0
0.1
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
Miles
N
Map 1: Population Density
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department



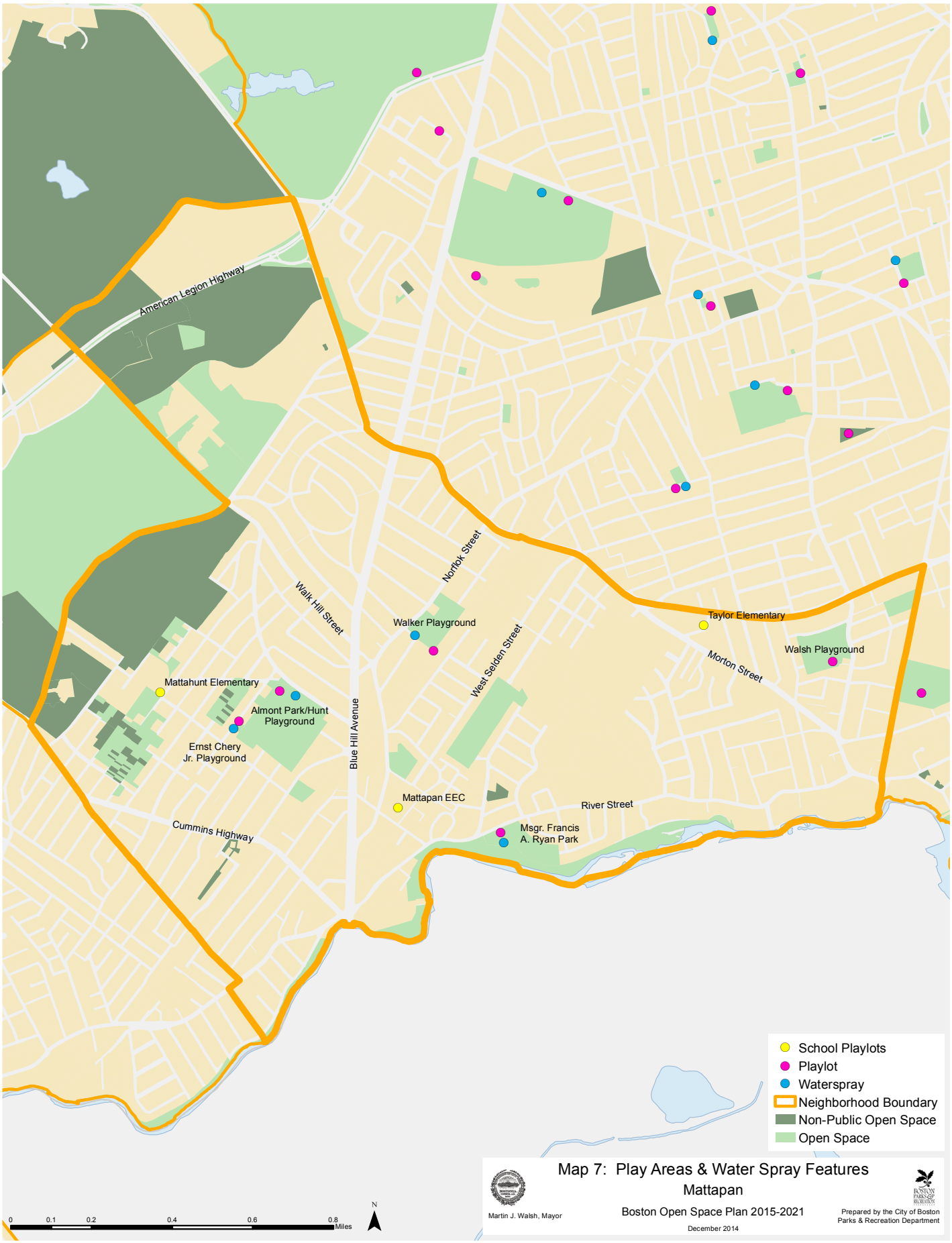
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Mattapan


American Legion Highway
Walk Hill Street
Norfolk Street
Blue Hill Avenue
West Selden Street
Morton Street
River Street
Cummins Highway
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

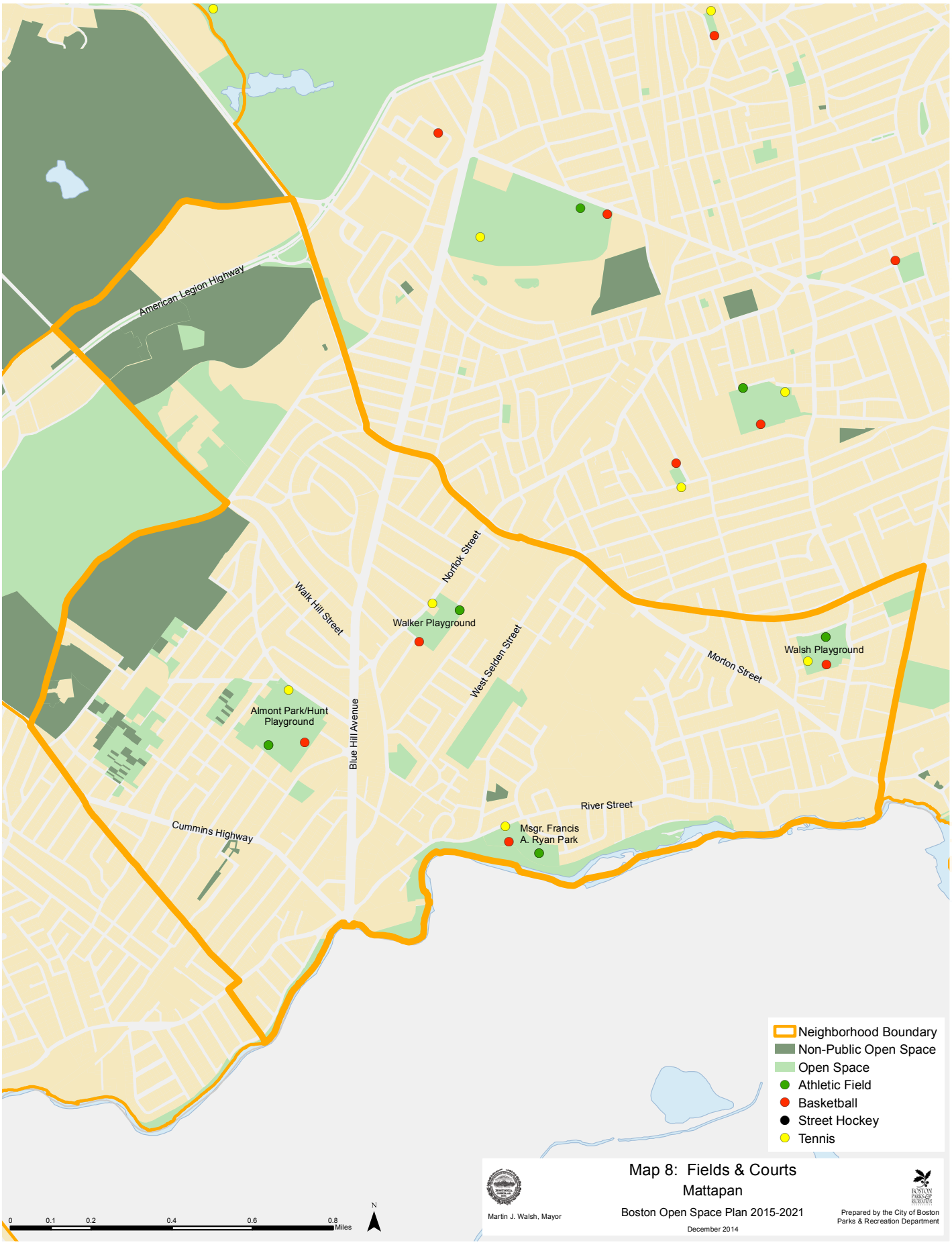

Morton Street
American Legion Highway
Clark/Cooper Community Garden
St Michael's Cemetery
Boston Nature Center
Boston Nature Center Visitor Center
State Public Health Campus
Pendergast Preventorium
New Calvary Cemetery
Pendergast Entrance
Currier Woods
Mattahunt School Woods
Savannah Woods
Almont Park/Hunt Playground
Harvard-Livermore Tract
Ernst Chery Jr. Playground
Mattahunt Woods Buffer
Mattahunt Woods
Woodhaven
Cummins Highway
Fairlawn Green
Walk Hill Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Norfolk Street
Walker Playground
West Selden Street
Gladeside I
Babson-Cookson Tract
Gladeside II
River Street
Msgr. Francis A. Ryan Park
Neponset River Reservation
Kennedy Garden
Kennedy Playground
Dorchester South Burying Ground
Walsh Playground
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

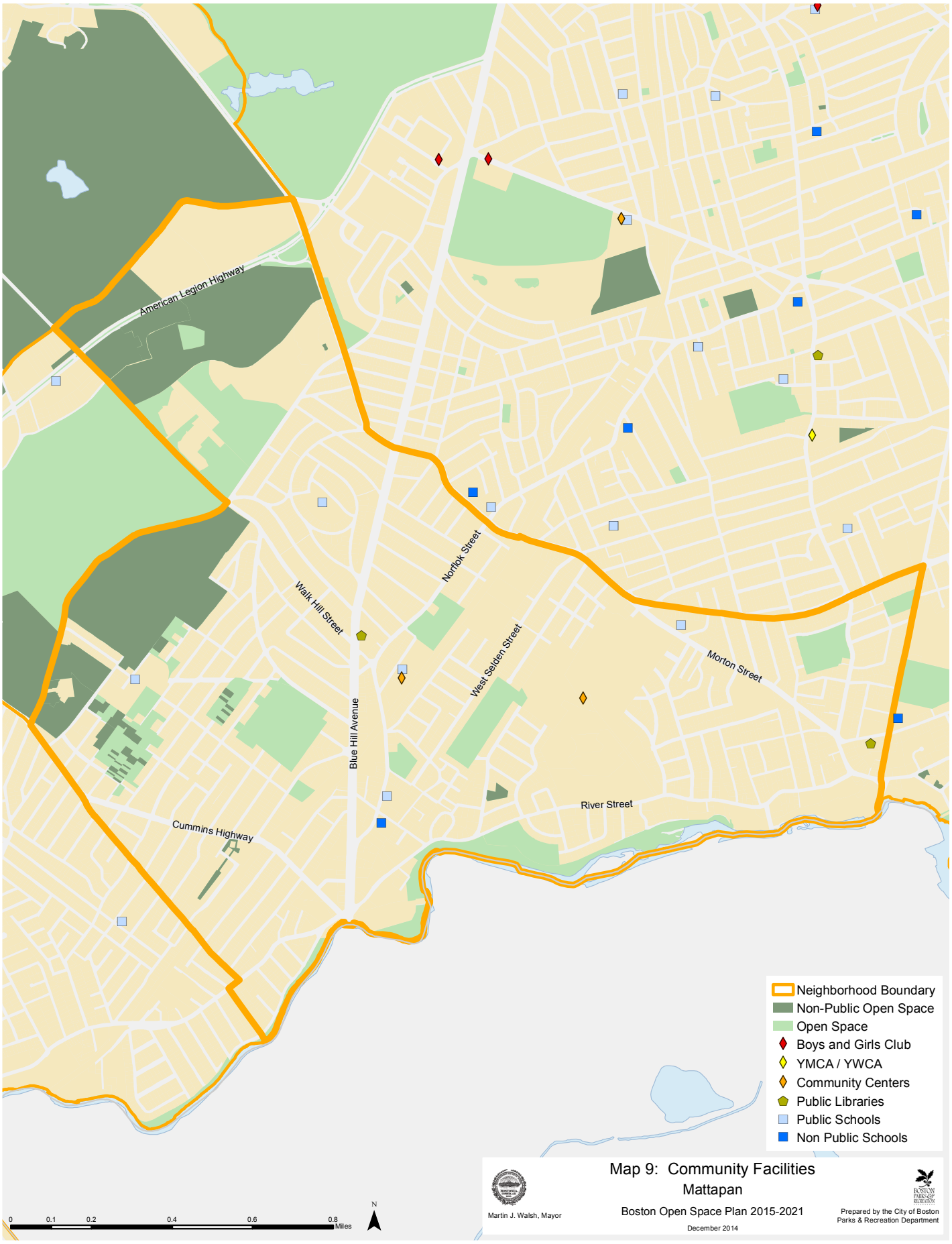
Morton Street
American Legion Highway
Clark/Cooper Community Garden
St Michael's Cemetery
American Legion Highway
Boston Nature Center
Boston Nature Center
Boston Nature Center Visitor Center
State Public Health Campus
Morton Street
Pendergast Preventorium
New Calvary Cemetery
Pendergast Entrance
Currier Woods
Mattahunt School Woods
Walk Hill Street
Norfolk Street
Walker Playground
West Selden Street
Dorchester South Burying Ground
Walsh Playground
Morton Street
Savannah Woods
Almont Park/Hunt Playground
Gladeside I
Harvard-Livermore Tract
Ernst Chery Jr. Playground
Blue Hill Avenue
Babson-Cookson Tract
Mattahunt Woods Buffer
Mattahunt Woods
Woodhaven
Gladeside II
River Street
Cummins Highway
Msgr. Francis A. Ryan Park
Neponset River Reservation
Fairlawn Green
Neponset River Reservation
Kennedy Garden
Kennedy Playground
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

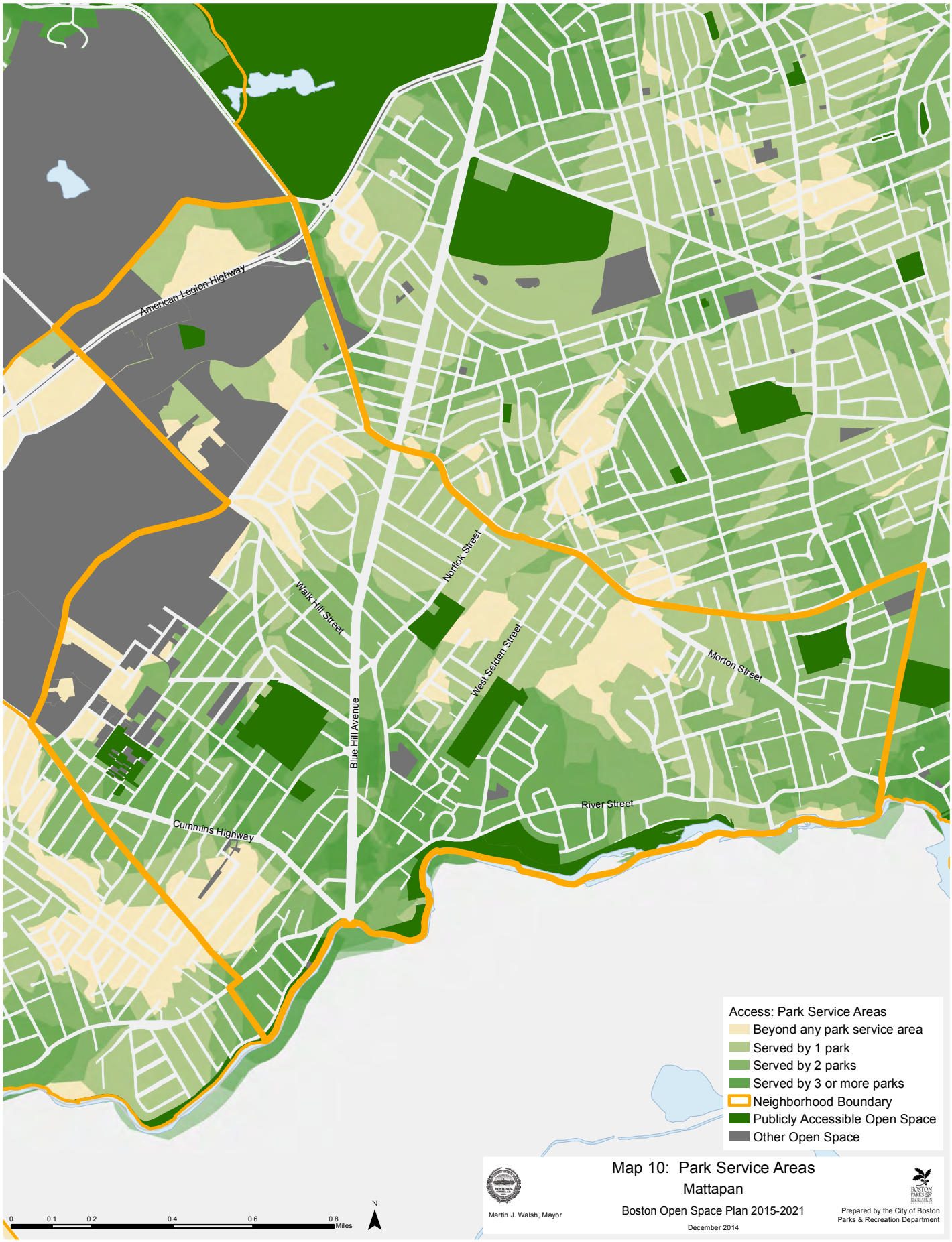
Morton Street
American Legion Highway
Clark/Cooper Community Garden
St Michael's Cemetery
Boston Nature Center
Boston Nature Center Visitor Center
State Public Health Campus
Pendergast Preventorium
New Calvary Cemetery
Pendergast Entrance
Currier Woods
Mattahunt School Woods
Savannah Woods
Almont Park/Hunt Playground
Harvard-Livermore Tract
Ernst Chery Jr. Playground
Mattahunt Woods Buffer
Mattahunt Woods
Woodhaven
Cummins Highway
Fairlawn Green
Walk Hill Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Norfolk Street
Walker Playground
West Selden Street
Gladeside I
Babson-Cookson Tract
Gladeside II
River Street
Msgr. Francis A. Ryan Park
Neponset River Reservation
Kennedy Garden
Kennedy Playground
Dorchester South Burying Ground
Walsh Playground
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N



Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Mattapan


American Legion Highway
Walk Hill Street
Norfolk Street
Walker Playground
West Selden Street
Morton Street
Walsh Playground
Almont Park/Hunt Playground
Blue Hill Avenue
River Street
Cummins Highway
Msgr. Francis A. Ryan Park
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


American Legion Highway
Walk Hill Street
Norfolk Street
West Selden Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Morton Street
River Street
Cummins Highway
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


American Legion Highway
Walk Hill Street
Norfolk Street
Blue Hill Avenue
West Selden Street
Morton Street
River Street
Cummins Highway
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Mattapan
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
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Prepared by the City of Boston
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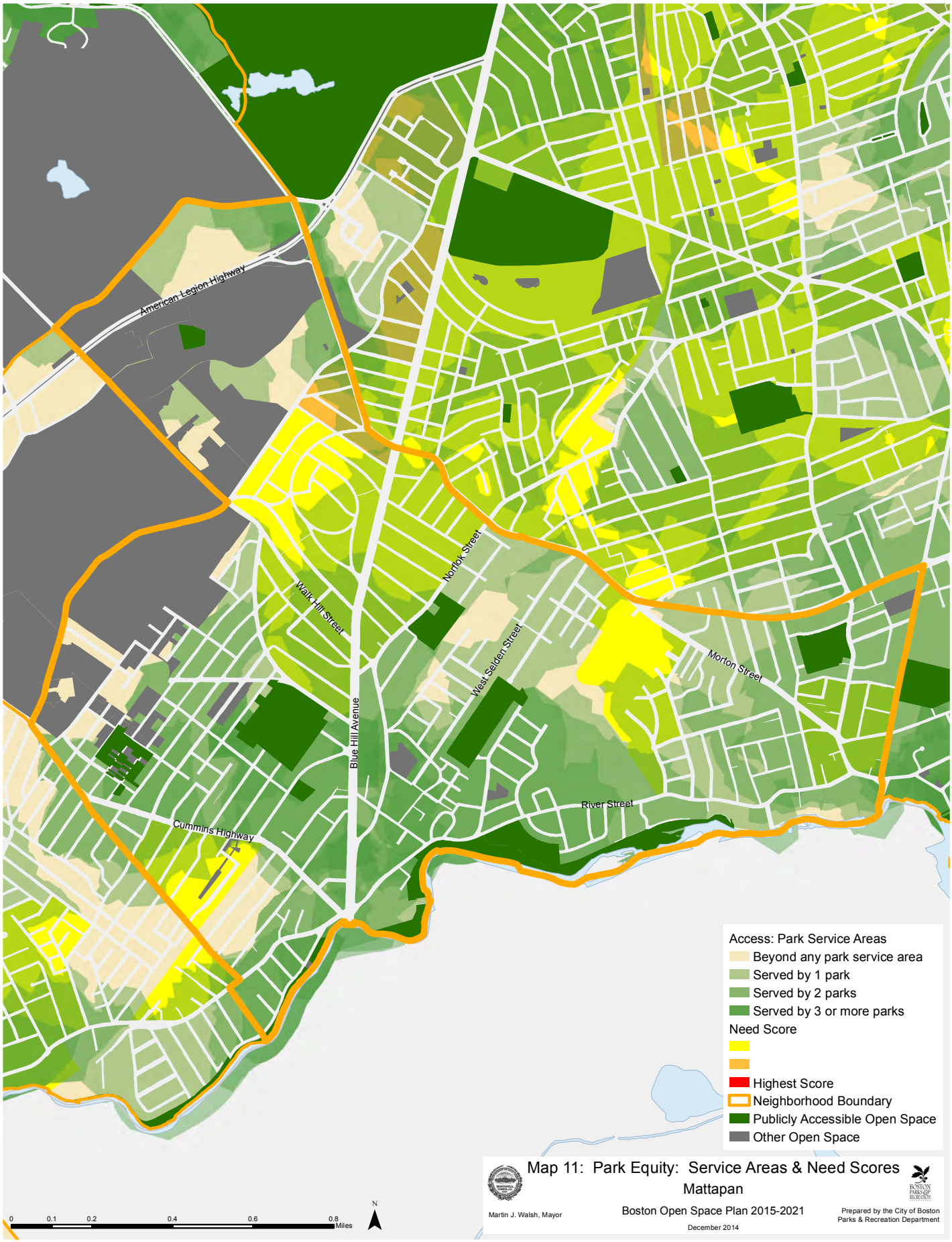

American Legion Highway
Walk Hill Street
Norfolk Street
Blue Hill Avenue
West Selden Street
Morton Street
River Street
Cummins Highway
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Mattapan
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.11:

MISSION HILL

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Mission Hill originally developed as part of the town of Roxbury. During the 1700s, the Parker Hill area was divided into large estates. By the early 1800s, streets encircled lower Parker Hill, houses and farms had proliferated, with many still belonging to the area's early families. Development became dense in the Parker/Tremont Street area. Industry along Stony Brook included dye works and the largest concentration of breweries in Boston.

In the 19th century, the Mission Hill neighborhood gained much of the character and form it retains today during a period which brought rapid growth to Roxbury. Part of lower Parker Hill was laid out with subdivisions before the Civil War. The neighborhood became firmly defined after the war with the annexation of Roxbury by Boston in 1867 and the establishment of the Mission Church on Tremont Street, completed in 1878. The extension of streetcar and sewage service in the period from 1860 to 1880 increased development and population in this area. A new building boom occurred in the 1885 to 1895 period, primarily low-cost wood frame houses.

Today, Mission Hill's residential streetscapes are set among large institutions. After 1900, institutions began to move from cramped downtown locations to this area where low-priced vacant land and public transit accessibility matched their need for larger facilities. The New England Baptist Hospital has been located on top of Parker Hill since 1895 and its present-day Old Main building was constructed in 1924. The Robert B. Brigham Hospital was built in 1914.

The Wentworth Institute of Technology was built in 1916 on a site formerly occupied by cordage works. The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England was built in 1923. The institutions in the Fenway/Longwood community have expanded into some portions of the Mission Hill neighborhood.

Mission Hill has seen several large-scale residential developments in the 20th century: the Mission Main and Mission Extension BHA public housing projects; the Whitney Redevelopment Project, which includes the Charlesbank Apartments, Back Bay Manor, and Franklin Square Apartments; Mission Park, a publicly-subsidized mixed-income project near the Riverway and Huntington Avenue; and the Back of the Hill Development, sponsored by the Boston Bricklayers Union.

The commercial centers of Mission Hill are along Huntington Avenue and Tremont Street, with the heart at Brigham Circle where these two arterials meet. Recent work at the Brigham and Women's Hospital has created a new publicly accessible passive open space that helps define the hospital entrance as well as Brigham Circle.

Open Space Access & Equity/ Future Development

Mission Hill is one of Boston's smallest neighborhoods by acreage, and is also one of its densest (Mission Hill Map 1). Nearly half (48%) of Mission Hill's population is between ages 20–34, many of whom are likely students from one of the neighboring colleges and universities. Population is increasing in Mission Hill, the neighborhood saw a 17% increase between 2000 and 2010. At 1.74 acres of protected open space per 1,000 residents, this community has the second lowest open space ratio in the city, far below the average of 7.59 acres per 1,000 residents.

Nearly all of Mission Hill meets at least one of the state's criteria for Environmental Justice populations. Park need scores are highest in the Boston Housing Authority properties and in the Mission Park development (Mission Hill Maps 2 and 3). Because these properties dominate the land area in this compact neighborhood, it is critical that some of the open space needs for these residents are met within the developments. Active facilities should complement small passive areas.

Public park facilities in this compact neighborhood are not abundant. McLaughlin Playground, Mission Hill Playground, and Gibbons Playground are the three developed public parks. Private open space exists in the large Kevin Fitzgerald Park off of St. Alfonsus Street, Parker Hilltop owned by New England Baptist Hospital (but protected by a conservation restriction), and small pocket parks throughout the public housing properties. Both Mission Hill Playground and Gibbons Playground are well co-located with community facilities along Tremont Street. McLaughlin Playground is at the top of the hill alongside Baptist Hospital and offers long scenic views as well as a diverse mix of activities to park users (Mission Hill Map 4).

There is a need for improved access from Mission Hill to the Emerald Necklace parks; despite their proximity, institutional land owners and the Jamaicaway traffic serve as barriers to this nearby park network. Connections between existing open spaces are achieved along institutional campus woodlands and other non-public lands, though these connections may not be publicly accessible. Woodlands constitute 15 acres of open space in Mission Hill of which only 5.3 acres are protected as Urban Wilds to assure their preservation and continued public access. This green space woven into the fabric of the Mission Hill neighborhood is a distinctive and important neighborhood attribute. The protection of such non-publicly owned open space will be a challenge as development pressures increase for both housing and institutional expansions (Mission Hill Map 6). The potential relocation of Baptist Hospital from their Mission Hill property will offer opportunities to protect, connect and expand open space in this neighborhood.

In 2013, the BRA developed a set of guidelines for review of large development projects in the South Huntington Avenue Corridor, between Huntington Avenue and Perkins Street. This area is experiencing a shift from institutional uses to residential, so the guidelines will assist BRA staff as they oversee individual projects undergoing Article 80 review. The guidelines call for improvements in open space and the public realm to increase

pedestrian and bicycle access from the Mission Hill community to the Jamaicaway and Olmsted Park, reduce potential shadow impacts on these open spaces, add open spaces, and create a wayfinding system.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

MISSION HILL

Population	
2010 Census	16,305
2000 Census	13,935
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**17.0%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	46.5
2000 Census	39.7
Density Change, 2000–2010	**6.8**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	995	6%
10 to 19	2,362	14%
20 to 34	7,832	48%
35 to 54	2,551	16%
55 to 64	1,088	7%
65 and over	1,477	9%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Mission Hill	16,305	721	2.1%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	7,674	47%
Hispanic or Latino	3,211	20%
Black or African American alone	2,558	16%
Asian alone	2,406	15%
Other	456	3%

Median Household Income
$33,291

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

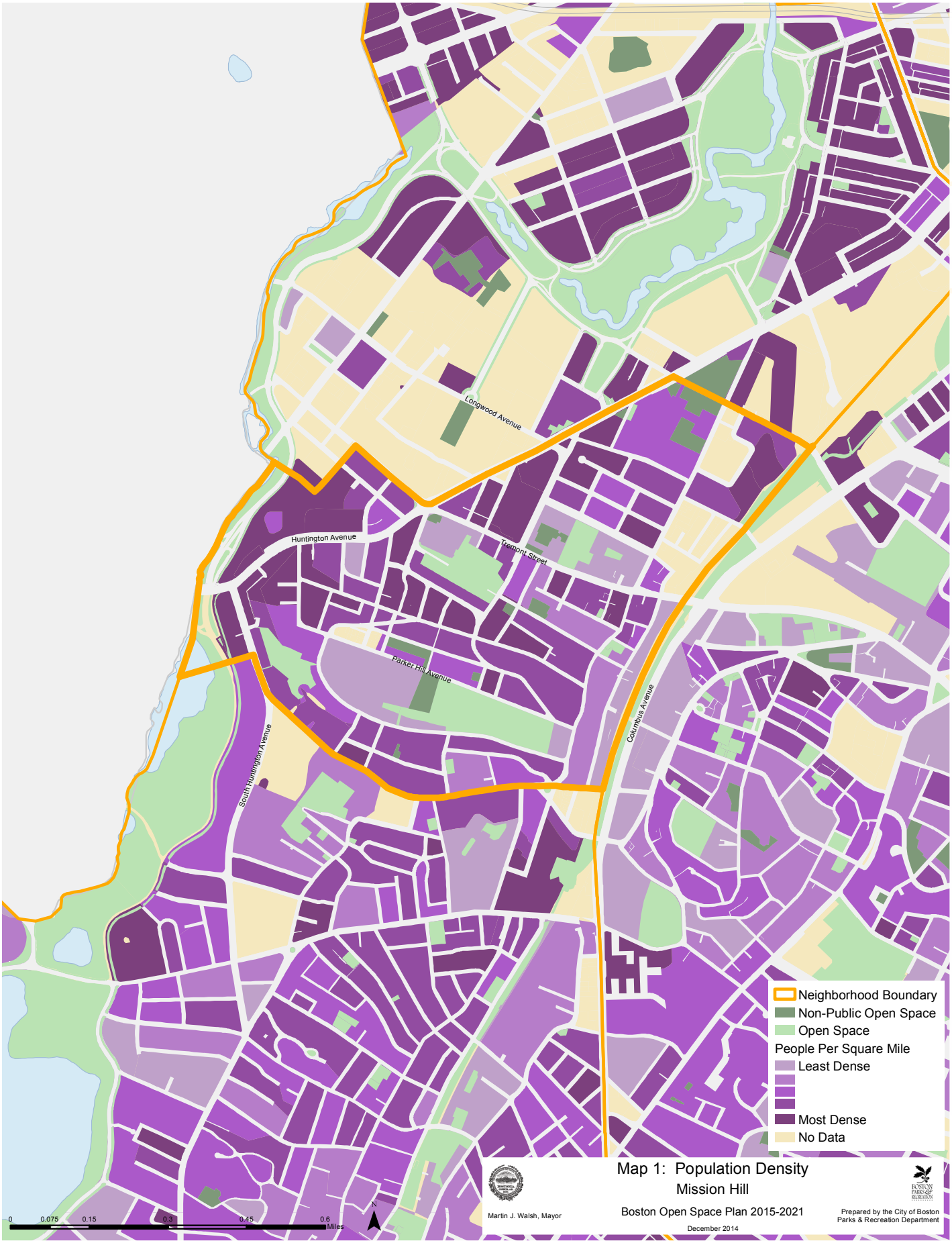
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	52%
1 vehicle	37%
2 vehicles	9%
3 or more vehicles	2%

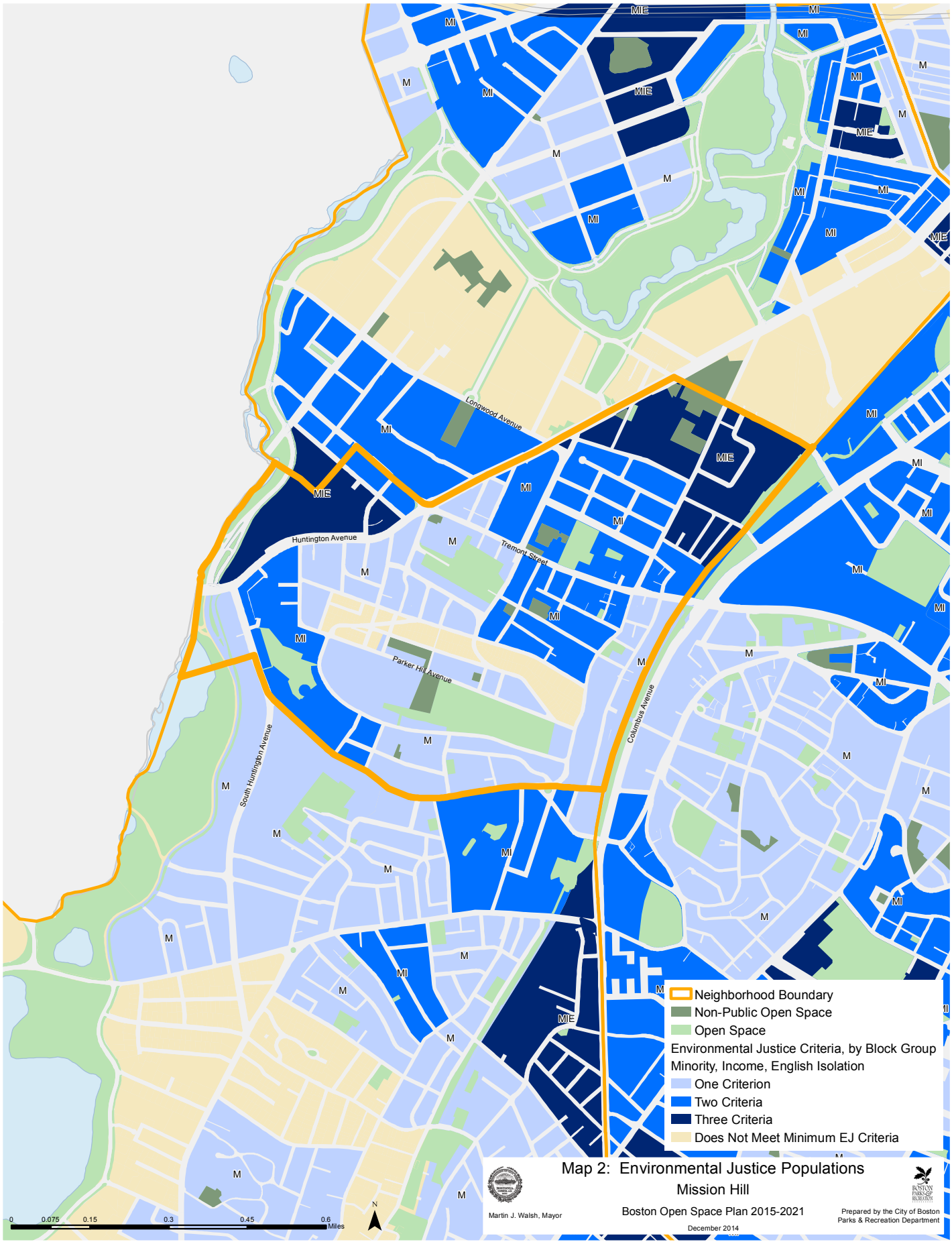
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Mission Hill	1,923	12.1%

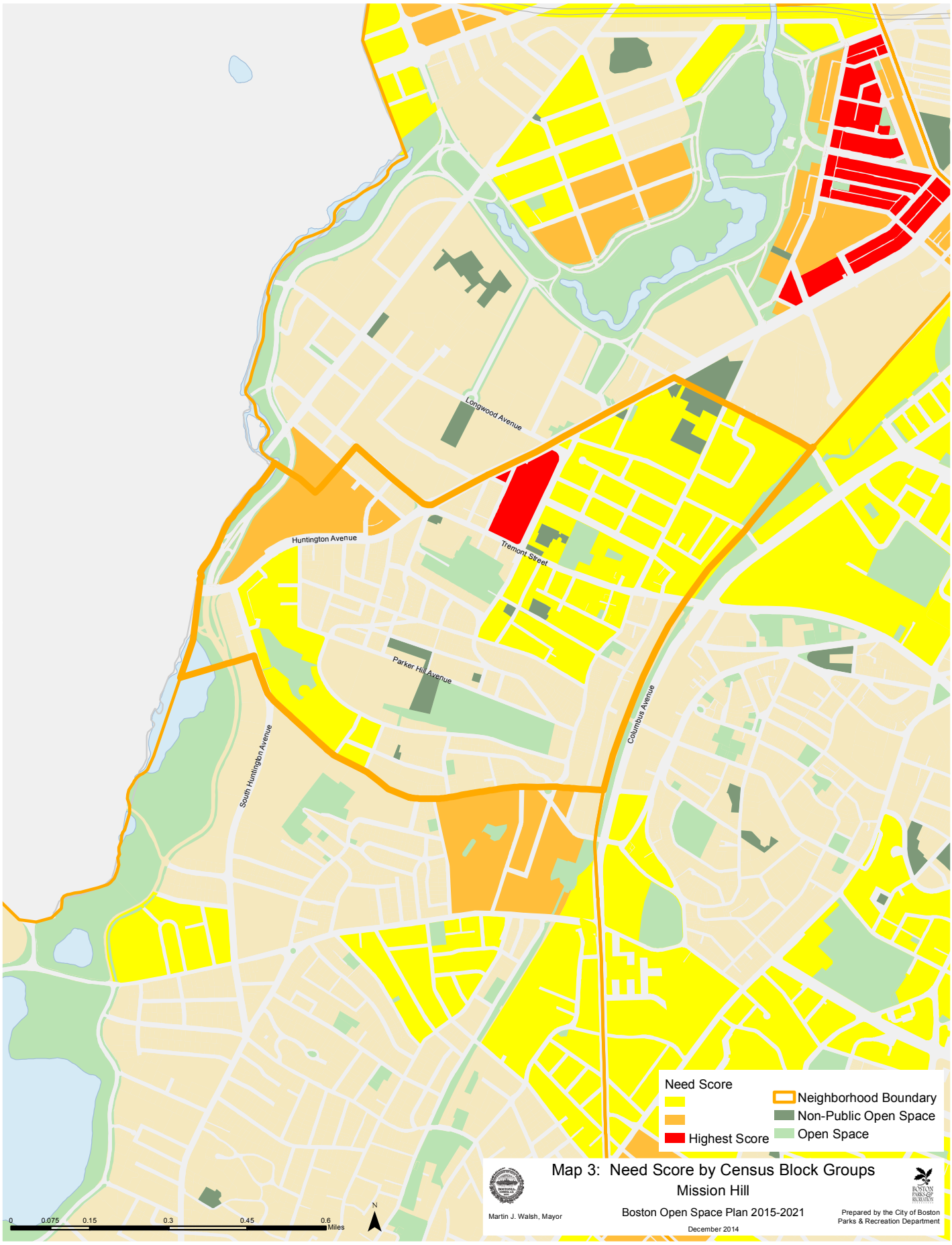
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


Longwood Avenue
Huntington Avenue
Tremont Street
Parker Hill Avenue
South Huntington Avenue
Columbus Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 1: Population Density
Mission Hill
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

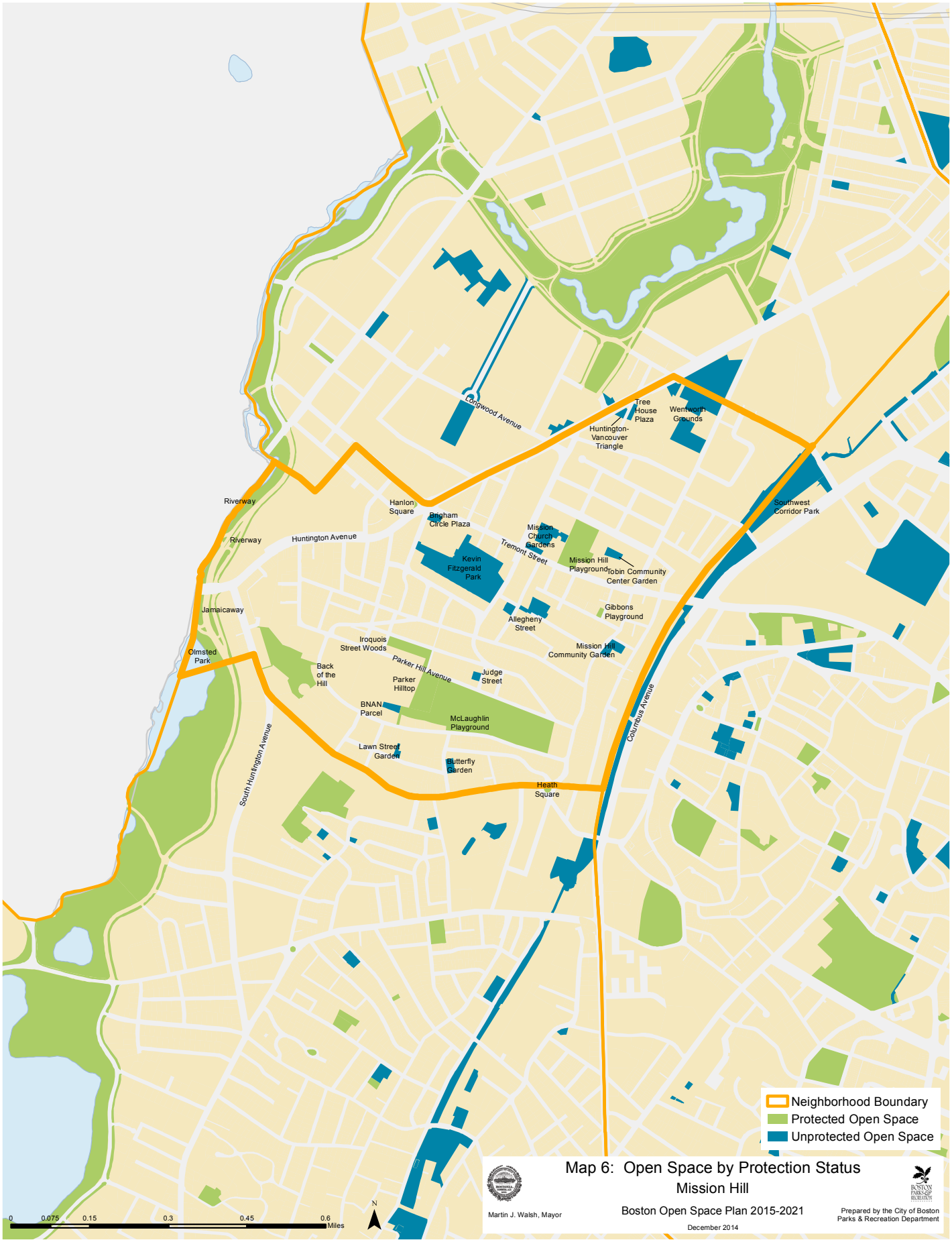


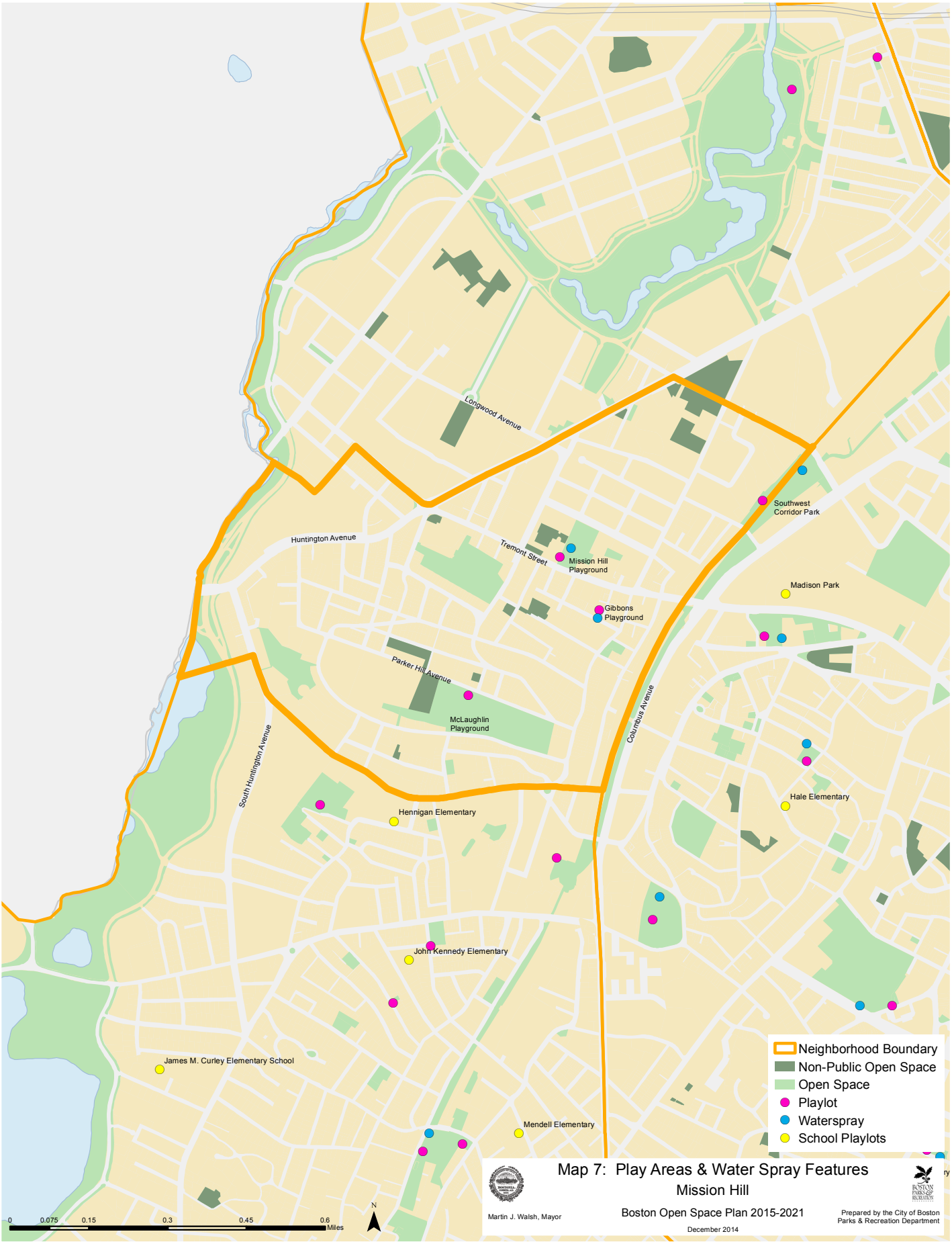
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Mission Hill

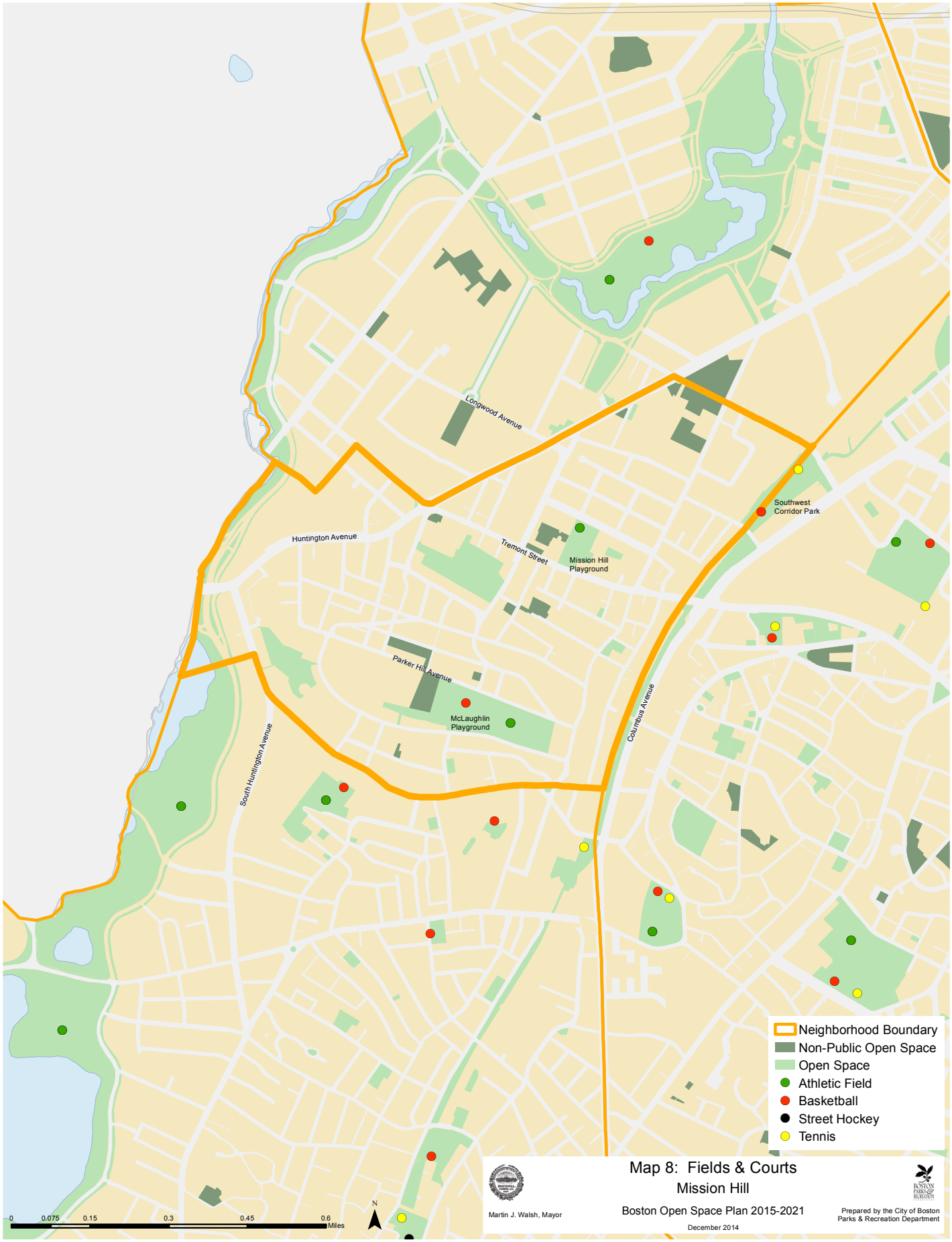

Longwood Avenue
Huntington Avenue
Tremont Street
Parker Hill Avenue
South Huntington Avenue
Columbus Avenue
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0
0.075
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
Miles
N
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Mission Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

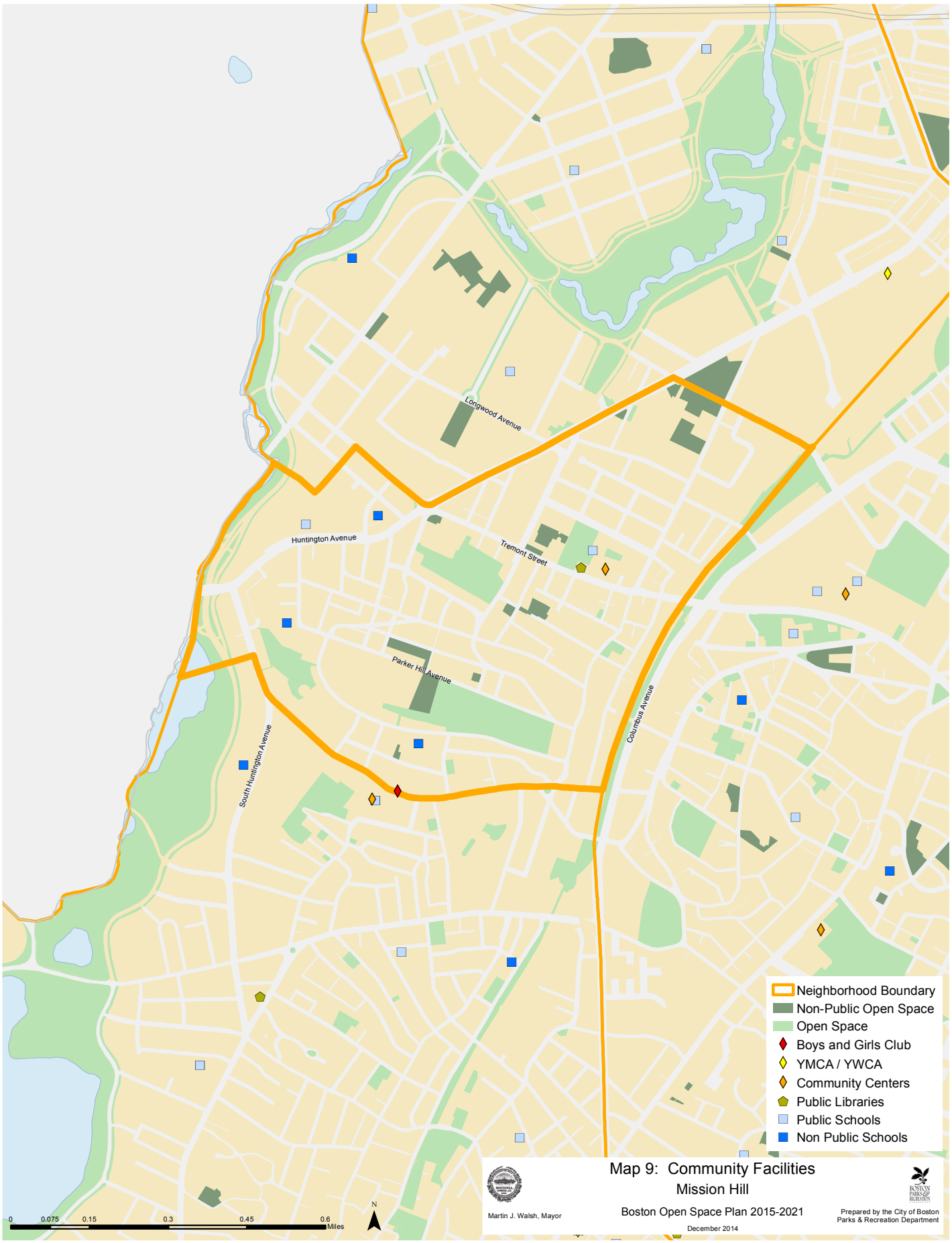
Longwood Avenue
Tree House Plaza
Wentworth Grounds
Huntington-Vancouver Triangle
Riverway
Hanlon Square
Brigham Circle Plaza
Southwest Corridor Park
Riverway
Huntington Avenue
Mission Church Gardens
Tremont Street
Kevin Fitzgerald Park
Mission Hill Playground
Tobin Community Center Garden
Jamaicaway
Gibbons Playground
Allegheny Street
Iroquois Street Woods
Mission Hill Community Garden
Olmsted Park
Back of the Hill
Parker Hill Avenue
Judge Street
Parker Hilltop
BNAN Parcel
McLaughlin Playground
Columbus Avenue
Lawn Street Garden
Butterfly Garden
South Huntington Avenue
Heath Square
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Mission Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

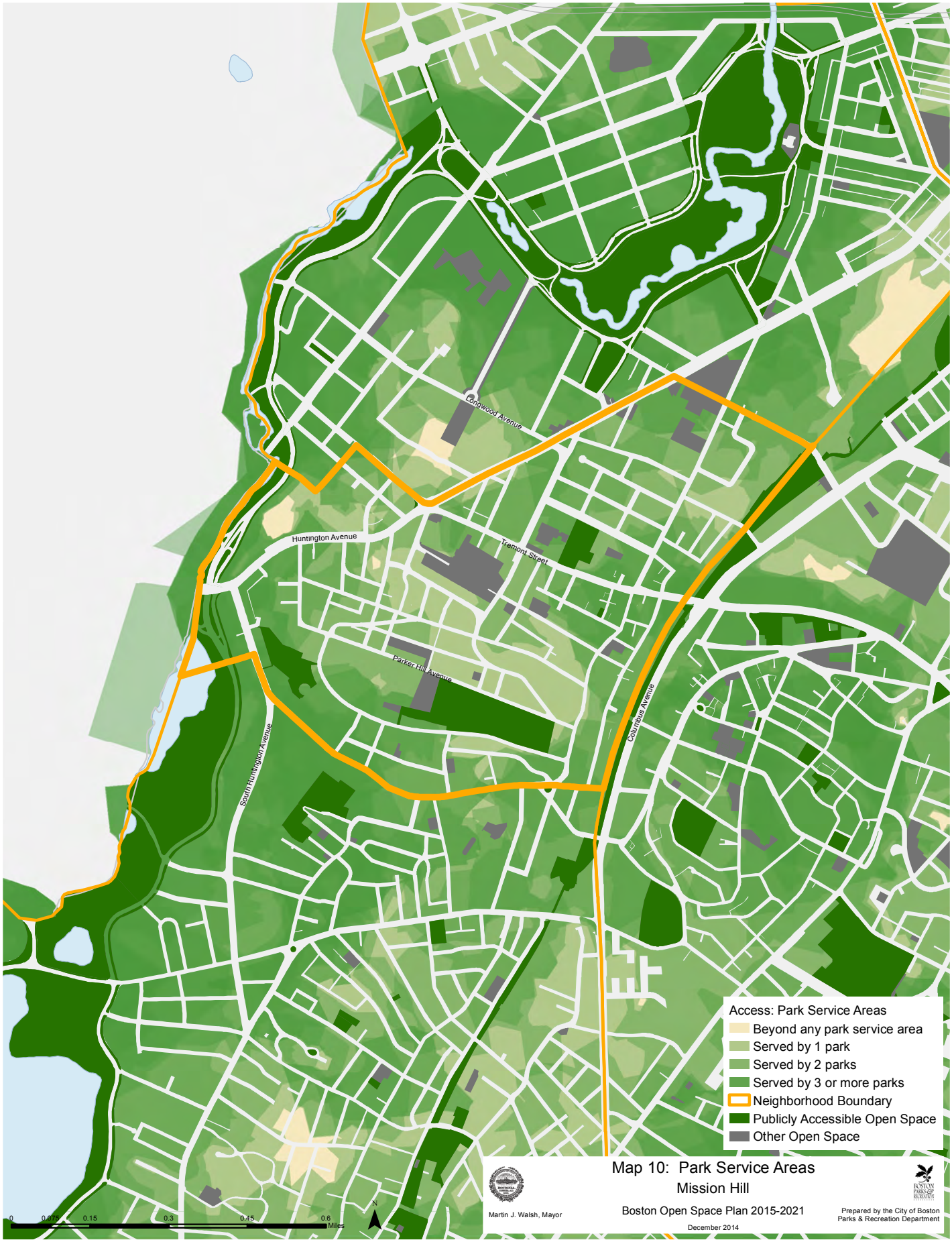
Longwood Avenue
Tree House Plaza
Wentworth Grounds
Huntington-Vancouver Triangle
Riverway
Hanlon Square
Brigham Circle Plaza
Southwest Corridor Park
Riverway
Huntington Avenue
Mission Church Gardens
Tremont Street
Kevin Fitzgerald Park
Mission Hill Playground
Tobin Community Center Garden
Jamaicaway
Gibbons Playground
Allegheny Street
Iroquois Street Woods
Mission Hill Community Garden
Olmsted Park
Back of the Hill
Parker Hill Avenue
Judge Street
Parker Hilltop
BNAN Parcel
McLaughlin Playground
Columbus Avenue
Lawn Street Garden
Butterfly Garden
South Huntington Avenue
Heath Square
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Mission Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

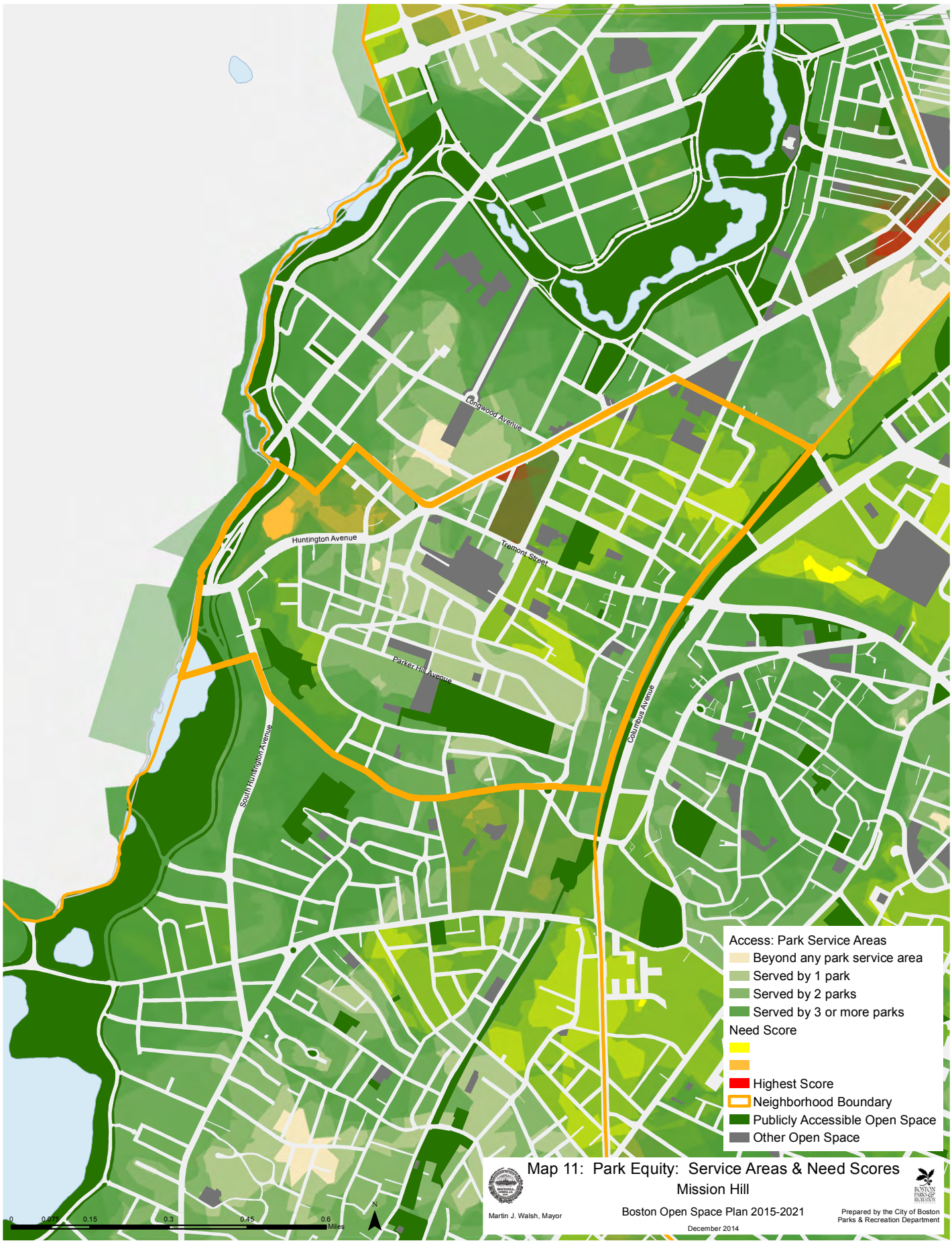

Longwood Avenue
Tree House Plaza
Wentworth Grounds
Huntington-Vancouver Triangle
Riverway
Hanlon Square
Brigham Circle Plaza
Southwest Corridor Park
Riverway
Huntington Avenue
Mission Church Gardens
Tremont Street
Kevin Fitzgerald Park
Mission Hill Playground
Tobin Community Center Garden
Jamaicaway
Gibbons Playground
Allegheny Street
Iroquois Street Woods
Mission Hill Community Garden
Olmsted Park
Back of the Hill
Parker Hill Avenue
Judge Street
Parker Hilltop
BNAN Parcel
McLaughlin Playground
Columbus Avenue
Lawn Street Garden
Butterfly Garden
South Huntington Avenue
Heath Square
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Mission Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Longwood Avenue
Huntington Avenue
Tremont Street
Mission Hill Playground
Southwest Corridor Park
Madison Park
Gibbons Playground
Parker Hill Avenue
McLaughlin Playground
Columbus Avenue
South Huntington Avenue
Hennigan Elementary
Hale Elementary
John Kennedy Elementary
James M. Curley Elementary School
Mendell Elementary
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Playlot
Waterspray
School Playlots
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Mission Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Longwood Avenue
Huntington Avenue
Tremont Street
Mission Hill Playground
Southwest Corridor Park
Parker Hill Avenue
McLaughlin Playground
South Huntington Avenue
Columbus Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Mission Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Longwood Avenue
Huntington Avenue
Tremont Street
Parker Hill Avenue
South Huntington Avenue
Columbus Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Mission Hill
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Longwood Avenue
Huntington Avenue
Tremont Street
Parker Hill Avenue
South Huntington Avenue
Columbus Avenue
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0
0.075
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
Miles
N
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Mission Hill
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Longwood Avenue
Huntington Avenue
Tremont Street
Parker Hill Avenue
South Huntington Avenue
Columbus Avenue
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0
0.075
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Mission Hill
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.12:

ROSLINDALE

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Roslindale became part of Boston through the 1873 annexation of West Roxbury. Its heart is Roslindale Square (aka Roslindale Village), the commercial heart centered around Adams Park. The distinctiveness of this square derives from its history as a classic streetcar suburb. Until the late 1800s extension of mass transit to Roslindale Square, this area was a rural community. The railroad and streetcar made it a garden suburb. Washington Street, running through Roslindale Square, is the commercial spine of Roslindale.

Open Space Access & Equity

While its acknowledged boundaries are not distinct, the Roslindale community is bounded by expansive open spaces, which serve as a vital greenbelt containing development. To the east are the large institutional campus of the former Boston State Hospital, which includes the Boston Nature Center, and several large cemeteries such as Forest Hills and Mount Hope; to the north are the Arnold Arboretum and the Walter Street Tract; to the west is the West Roxbury Parkway; and to the south are the George Wright Golf Course and parts of the Stony Brook Reservation.

The census data shows that Roslindale lost about 5.5% of its population between 2000 and 2010, but it appears to be gaining currently—or just gaining in popularity. This neighborhood has about the same total population as the neighboring communities of Hyde Park and West Roxbury, but Roslindale is a more compact neighborhood, so the overall population density is greater (more akin to Jamaica Plain and Mattapan) (Roslindale Map 1). Children and teens make up nearly 25% of the population.

Roslindale has 9.16 acres of open space per 1,000 residents which is higher than the city average of 7.59. This measurement includes the Peters Hill section of the Arboretum and a portion of the George Wright Golf Course, each of which is located at the edge of the neighborhood boundary and offers limited developed recreational facilities. Most of Roslindale meets the state's criteria for Environmental Justice populations with the exception of the Longfellow sub-neighborhood. The two Boston Housing Authority properties, Archdale and Washington/Beech, score the highest of any areas in terms of park need (Roslindale Maps 2 and 3).

Civic and community facilities are clustered in Roslindale Square in close proximity to Adams Park, which functions as a kind of neighborhood common. Roslindale has only three parks with active recreation facilities within its boundaries (Healy Playground, Fallon Field and DCR's Weider Park). School playlots provide additional access to children's play structures and these facilities are well distributed, though hours of access for public use are not comparable to a public park (Roslindale Map 7). The importance of these school playgrounds should not be discounted, as they provide walkable open space destinations for much of this neighborhood. None of the parks in Roslindale include water spray features, a condition that will be remedied with the renovation of Fallon Field playground in 2015. Healy Playground is adjacent to the recently renovated Flaherty Pool, an indoor public pool facility.

Athletic facilities are located in the aforementioned three parks, with Pagel Playground, on the border with Jamaica Plain, also providing athletic field access (Roslindale Map 8). With so few parks in the neighborhood, significant areas, especially on the eastern side of Roslindale, have limited walking-distance access to developed open space facilities (Roslindale Map 10). Land acquisition for the development of a new park should be considered to address this deficiency.

The area around Washington and Beech Streets is considered high need, and is immediately adjacent to the open space at the Stony Brook Reservation and George Wright Golf Course (Roslindale Map 3). The limited access into these spaces and lack of developed facilities reduce their value to nearby residents. What these vast green spaces do provide are walking trails/paths, wildlife habitat, expansive woodlands and scenic views.

The American Legion Highway corridor includes a mix of large undeveloped or underdeveloped parcels which could function as an open space resource to this community if access and connectivity between parcels is addressed. The Boston Nature Center and Canterbury Brook, which winds through this area, could become the organizing elements of this potential open space improvement.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

ROSLINDALE

Population	
2010 Census	28,680
2000 Census	30,351
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**-5.5%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	17.1
2000 Census	18.1
Density Change, 2000–2010	**-1.0**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	3,567	12%
10 to 19	3,543	12%
20 to 34	6,133	21%
35 to 54	8,696	30%
55 to 64	3,264	11%
65 and over	3,477	12%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Roslindale	28,680	2,156	6.4%	7.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	13,390	47%
Hispanic or Latino	7,415	26%
Black or African American alone	6,213	22%
Asian alone	774	3%
Other	888	3%

Median Household Income
$62,538

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

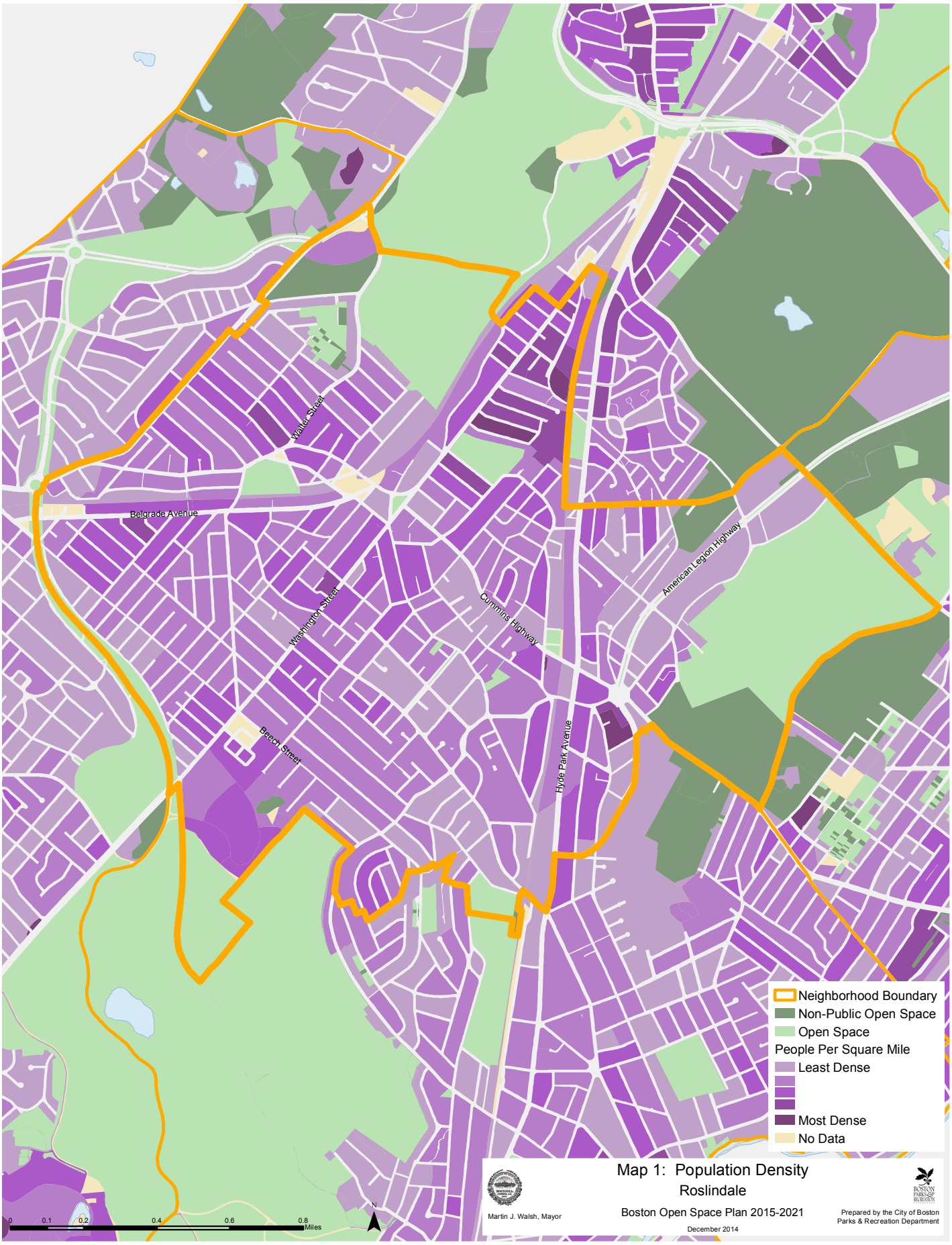
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	18%
1 vehicle	44%
2 vehicles	30%
3 or more vehicles	8%

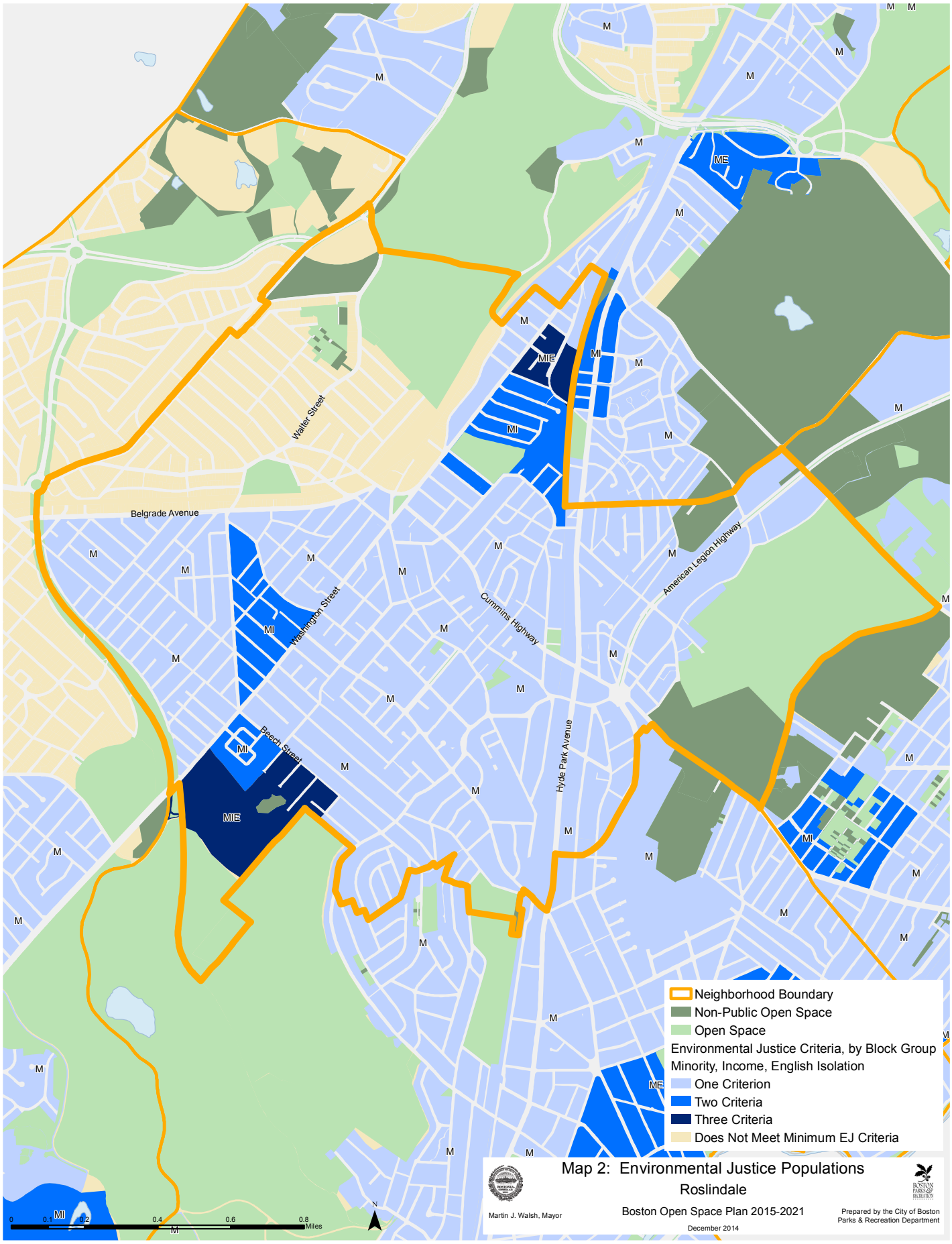
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

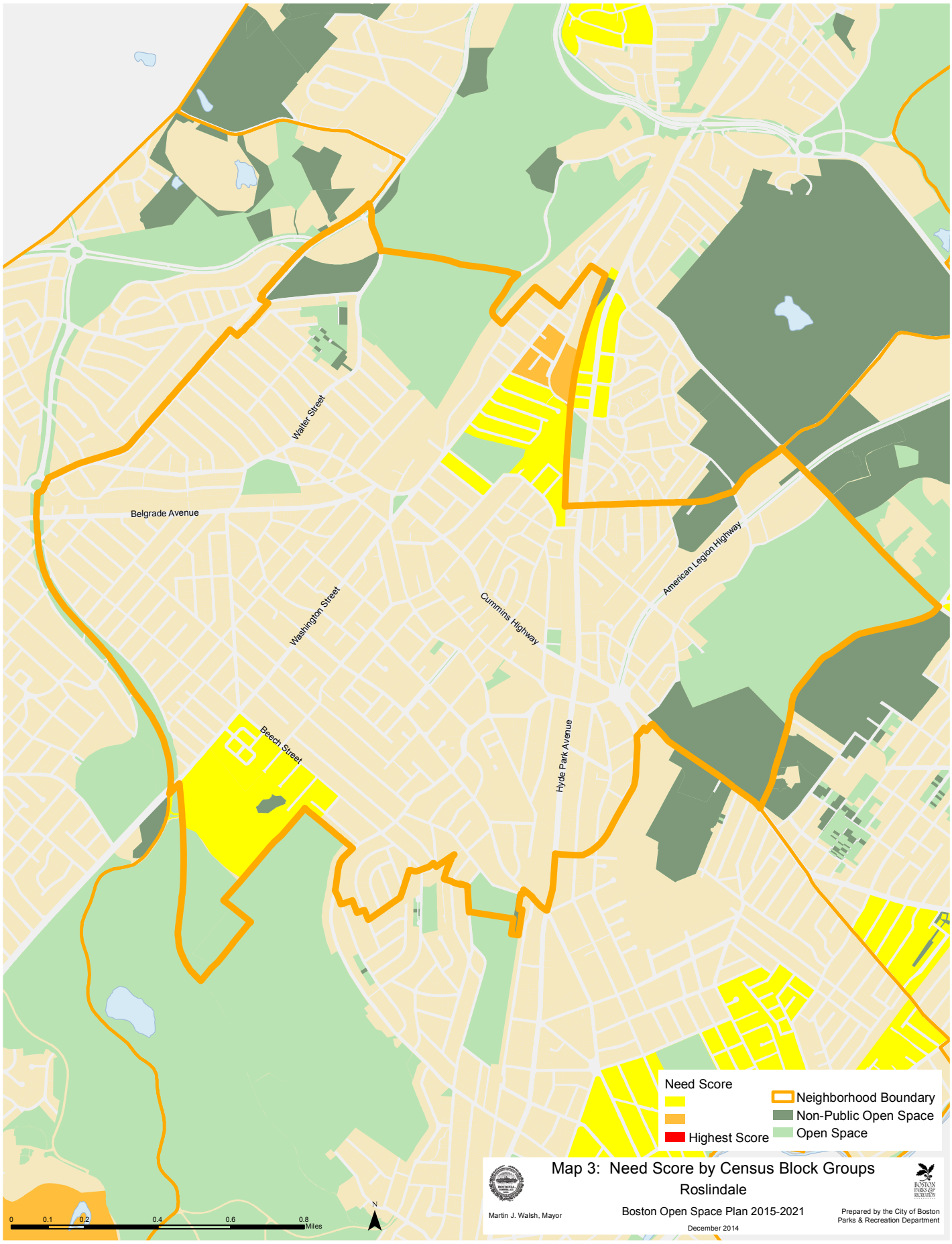
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Roslindale	3,499	12.5%

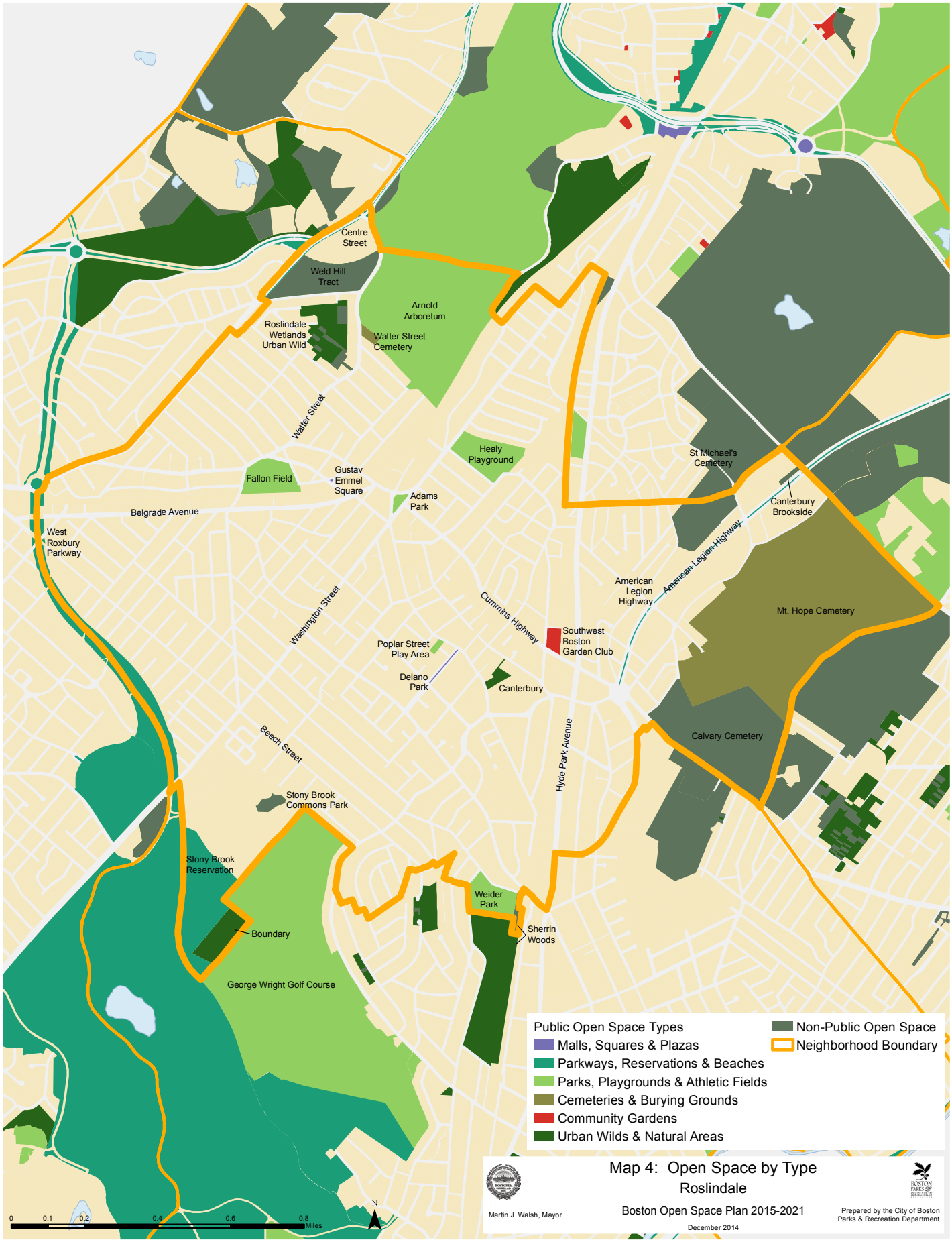
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


Walter Street
Belgrade Avenue
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
American Legion Highway
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 1: Population Density
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

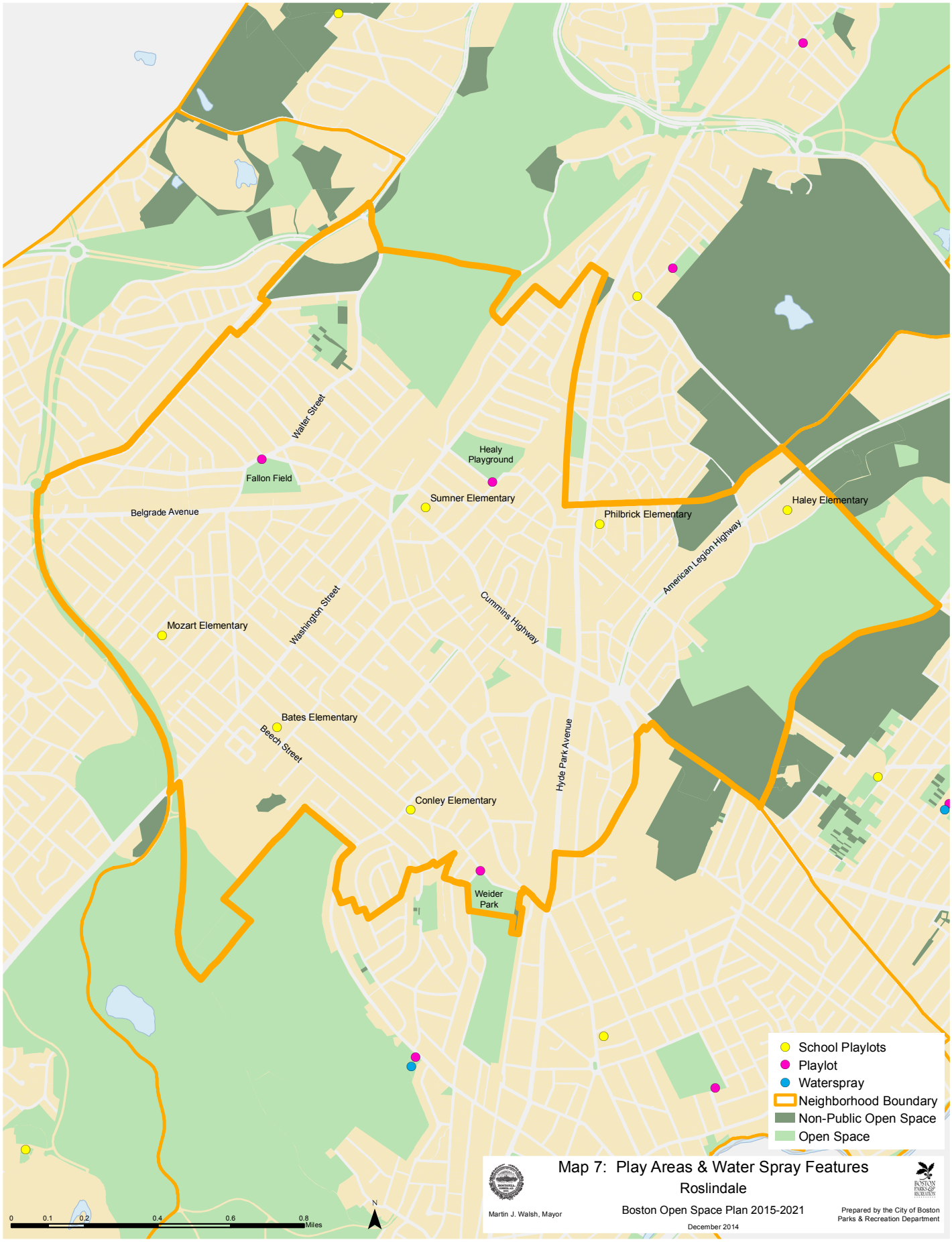

Walter Street
Belgrade Avenue
Washington Street
Beech Street
Cummins Highway
Hyde Park Avenue
American Legion Highway
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N

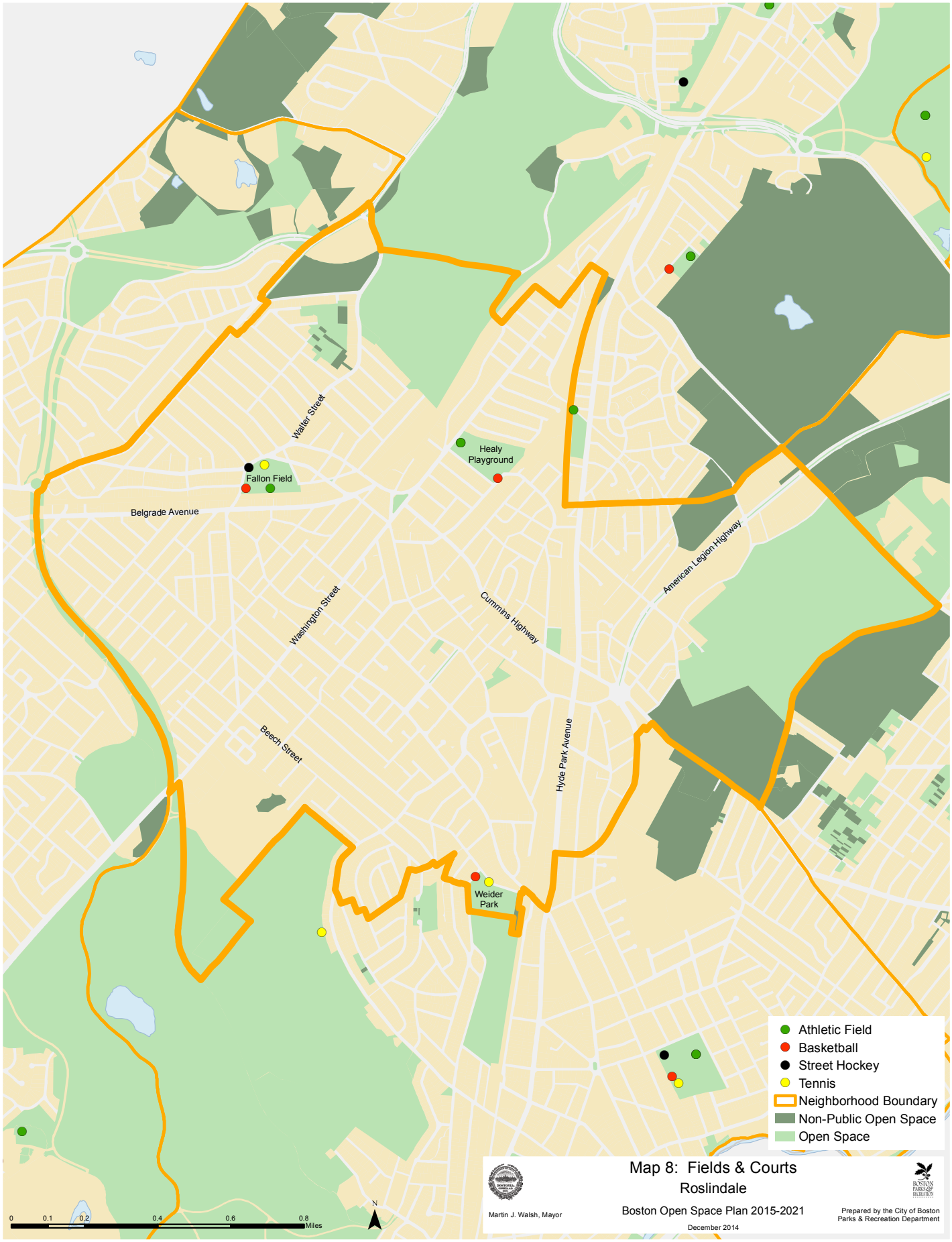

Walter Street
Belgrade Avenue
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
American Legion Highway
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

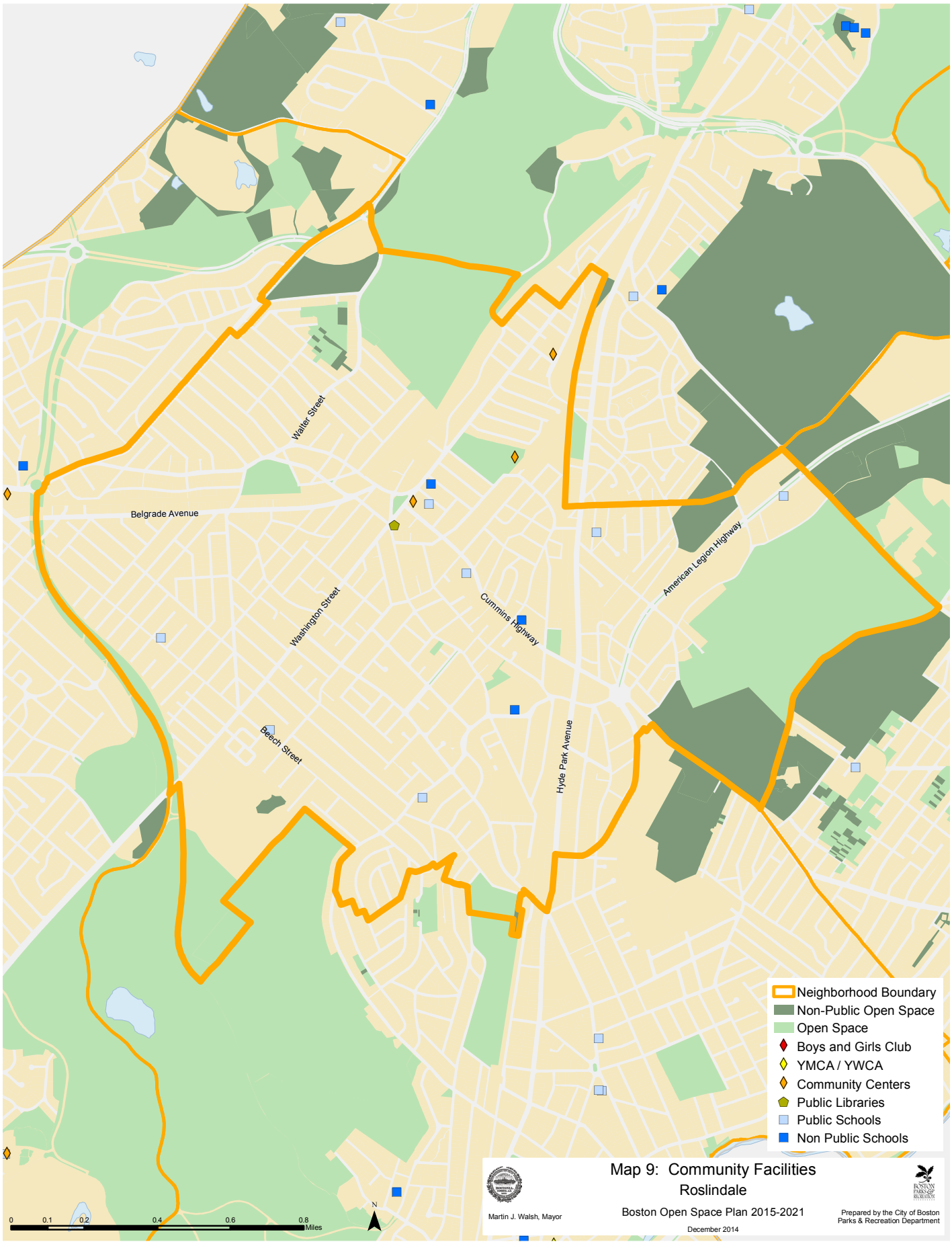

Centre Street
Weld Hill Tract
Arnold Arboretum
Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild
Walter Street Cemetery
Walter Street
Healy Playground
St Michael's Cemetery
Fallon Field
Gustav Emmel Square
Adams Park
Belgrade Avenue
Canterbury Brookside
West Roxbury Parkway
American Legion Highway
American Legion Highway
Mt. Hope Cemetery
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
Southwest Boston Garden Club
Poplar Street Play Area
Delano Park
Canterbury
Calvary Cemetery
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Stony Brook Commons Park
Stony Brook Reservation
Weider Park
Sherrin Woods
Boundary
George Wright Golf Course
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Centre Street
Weld Hill Tract
Arnold Arboretum
Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild
Walter Street Cemetery
Walter Street
Healy Playground
St Michael's Cemetery
Fallon Field
Gustav Emmel Square
Adams Park
Belgrade Avenue
Canterbury Brookside
West Roxbury Parkway
American Legion Highway
American Legion Highway
Mt. Hope Cemetery
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
Southwest Boston Garden Club
Poplar Street Play Area
Delano Park
Canterbury
Calvary Cemetery
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Stony Brook Commons Park
Stony Brook Reservation
Weider Park
Sherrin Woods
Boundary
George Wright Golf Course
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Roslindale
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Centre Street
Weld Hill Tract
Arnold Arboretum
Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild
Walter Street Cemetery
Walter Street
Healy Playground
St Michael's Cemetery
Fallon Field
Gustav Emmel Square
Adams Park
Belgrade Avenue
Canterbury Brookside
West Roxbury Parkway
American Legion Highway
American Legion Highway
Mt. Hope Cemetery
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
Southwest Boston Garden Club
Poplar Street Play Area
Delano Park
Canterbury
Calvary Cemetery
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Stony Brook Commons Park
Stony Brook Reservation
Weider Park
Sherrin Woods
Boundary
George Wright Golf Course
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Walter Street
Healy Playground
Fallon Field
Sumner Elementary
Belgrade Avenue
Philbrick Elementary
Haley Elementary
American Legion Highway
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
Mozart Elementary
Bates Elementary
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Conley Elementary
Weider Park
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Waller Street
Healy Playground
Fallon Field
Belgrade Avenue
American Legion Highway
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Weider Park
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Walter Street
Belgrade Avenue
Washington Street
Cummins Highway
American Legion Highway
Beech Street
Hyde Park Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
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Prepared by the City of Boston
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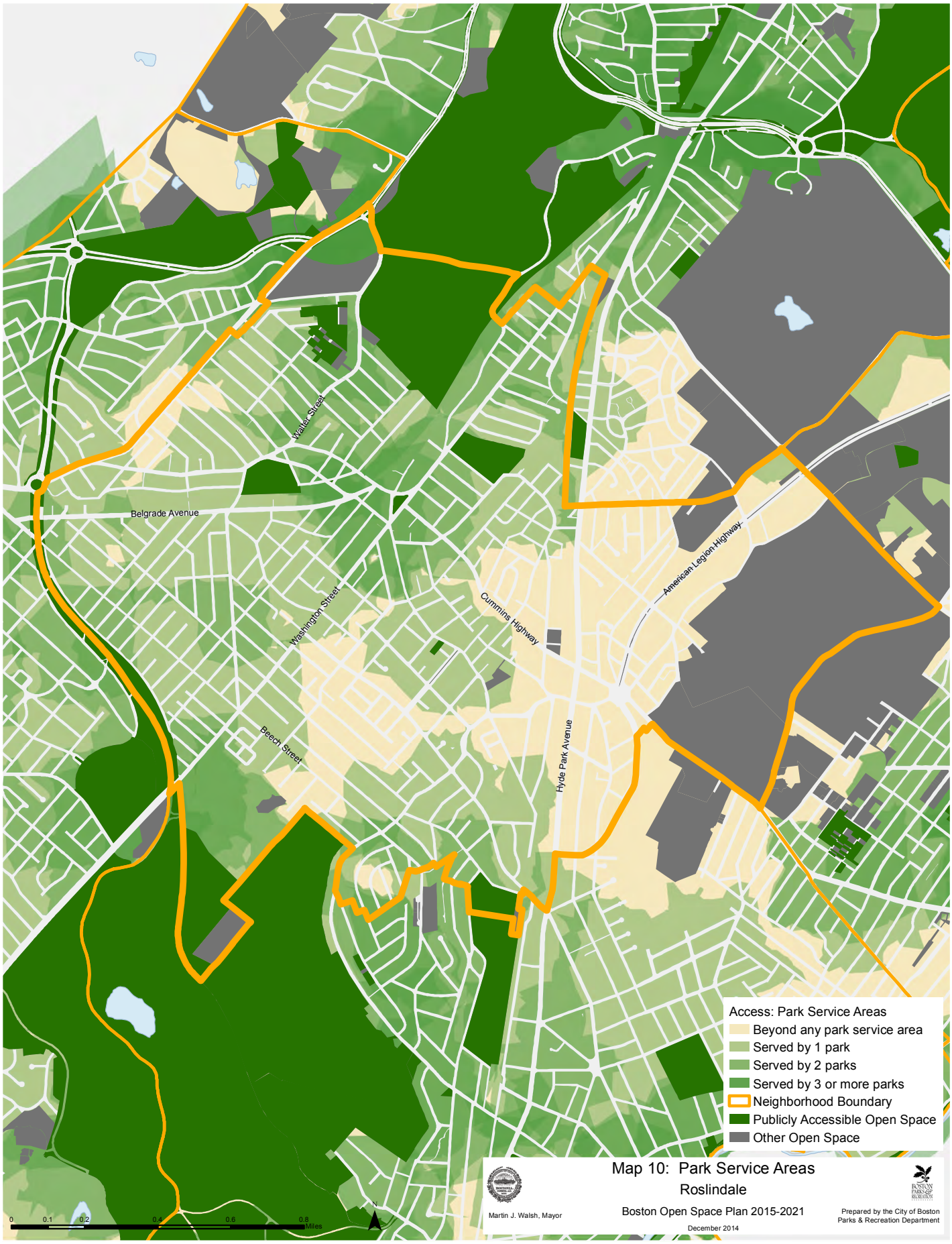
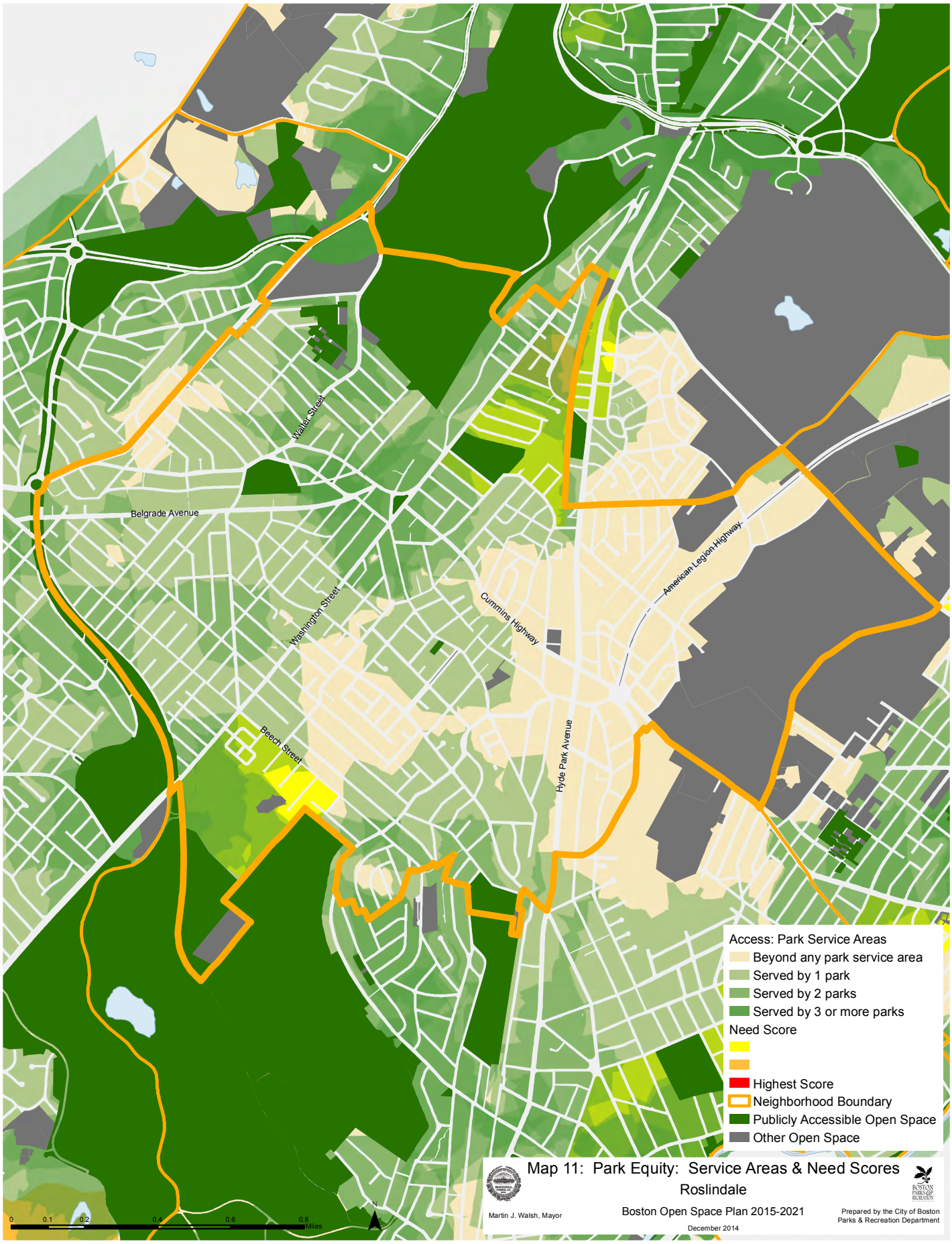

Walter Street
Belgrade Avenue
Washington Street
Beech Street
Cummins Highway
Hyde Park Avenue
American Legion Highway
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Roslindale
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Belgrade Avenue
Walter Street
Washington Street
Beech Street
Cummins Highway
Hyde Park Avenue
American Legion Highway
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Roslindale
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.13:

ROXBURY

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony established a village in Roxbury in 1630. By the 18th century, rural homes and country estates of Boston's wealthy families occupied this area. Roxbury farms provided fresh produce to Boston, which had become a dense settlement specializing in maritime commerce.

By the 19th century, Roxbury's rural character began to change. When the Boston and Providence Railroad built a commuter line down the Stony Brook Valley in 1834, housing construction began for people commuting to Boston. By the mid-19th century, Roxbury's northern section, Lower Roxbury, was a full-fledged industrial mill town providing jobs for the new Irish and German immigrants. In exchange for new gas, water, and sewer lines, Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1868. By the late 1800s, with electric streetcar service now penetrating Roxbury, residential development was rapid and extensive.

In the late 1800s, the Boston parks movement began to influence Roxbury. Roxbury alderman Hugh O'Brien urged that Boston's "country" park, comparable to Central Park in New York, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, and Mount Royal Park in Montreal, be built in the newly annexed Roxbury. The city broke ground on the construction of this country park in 1885, during Hugh O'Brien's tenure as mayor. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Franklin Park was one of the destinations of choice on a Sunday afternoon for Boston residents in the late 19th century. Franklin Park became the location of Boston's first sports field called the Playstead, and the nation's first municipal golf course.

The 20th century erosion of Boston's industrial base affected Roxbury adversely, as did the flight of middle class residents to the less dense suburbs surrounding Boston. The 1960s saw a major urban renewal effort in the residential Washington Park area of Roxbury. The Washington Park urban renewal program, begun in 1963, doubled the size of the historic Washington Park (now Malcolm X Park), and added an indoor recreation center, pool, and ice rink.

With the abandonment by the late 1960s of much housing and many businesses, vacant land became abundant. The availability of land helped provide the opportunity for a strong grassroots community gardening movement, which is still an important feature of community revitalization efforts. Another community preservation effort was the campaign to stop the extension of I-95 through Roxbury into downtown Boston. Ultimately, this campaign generated the Southwest Corridor Park in 1987, Boston's first major new open space since Carson Beach was opened in South Boston in 1924. Other lands acquired for the highway right-of-way along Columbus Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard are now beginning to be developed. It is hoped that this development will contribute to a further economic revival in Roxbury, enhanced by the Southwest Corridor Park and the South Bay Harbor Trail pedestrian and bicycle paths along Melnea Cass Boulevard.

Open Space Access & Equity

Roxbury has the highest percentage of residents under the age of 20 of any community in the city (30.7%). Teenagers make up 8.9% of the neighborhood population which is among the highest percentage in the city (along with Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park). Roxbury has 3.7 acres of open space per 1,000 residents which is about half the city average of 7.59 acres per thousand. Roxbury's population has grown significantly—16.8%—between 2000 and 2010.

While Roxbury is dense, its landscape character is distinctly different from its more inner core neighbors. Most of the city's inner core communities are built on fill or leveled hills, so topography and natural landscape characteristics are almost non-existent through the Back Bay, South End, Central Boston, and large portions of South Boston and the Seaport District. In Roxbury, that is not the case. This community is defined by its Roxbury puddingstone outcroppings, many of which are now distinct features in its parks and urban wilds. Fort Hill remains a prominent feature in Boston's landscape, particularly with Highland Park and its iconic water tower at its summit.

All of Roxbury meets at least one of the state's Environmental Justice criteria, in most places for multiple criteria. These criteria, combined with the prevalence of families with children and overall neighborhood density result in high scores for park need (Roxbury Maps 2 and 3).

Roxbury possesses great variety in its many acres of protected open spaces, though many of the facilities in Roxbury parks are distributed in clusters. For example, around Dudley Square and along Blue Hill Avenue, playgrounds and waterspray features are abundant. Similarly, in the southern part of the neighborhood Walnut Park, Crawford Street Park, Trotter School Playground, Laviscount Park, and Holborn Street Playlot are all within a block or two of each other. The multi-use parks that can accommodate active recreation are primarily located in the northern portion of the neighborhood where urban renewal resulted in the creation of larger consolidated open spaces. In the middle of the neighborhood, where outcroppings have limited the development of some parcels, passive parks and urban wilds are predominant. These patterns are understandable but not necessarily desirable from the perspective of park use and facilities access. This arrangement also accentuates the importance of access to the larger recreational parks on the edges of the neighborhood (Roxbury Maps 4, 7 and 8).

The abundance of parks—even small ones in Roxbury—means that most residents have one or more parks that can be easily accessed in a 5 or 10 minute walk (Roxbury Map 10). The Grove Hall neighborhood is close to the city's largest park, Franklin Park, but the Franklin Park Zoo occupies much of the Seaver Street park frontage which limits access and proximity to park

amenities for these neighbors. Grove Hall is a dense, high need area and improved access to park facilities here should be explored (Roxbury Map 11).

Future Development

In 2004, the BRA released the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan which called for several strategies to improve open space in the Roxbury community. The first was to revive the Roxbury Heritage State Park, which includes the Dillaway-Thomas House and the land surrounding it. The most significant advance is the selection by DCR of Roxbury Heritage State Park as the recipient of one of six Signature Park Project awards by the state. The project began in 2013 and is currently awaiting finalization for funding for construction.

Another strategy in the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan is to improve connections between parks and open spaces to provide opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle recreation. One major project to advance this item is the Boston Transportation Department managed redesign of Melnea Cass Boulevard to allow for potential future bus rapid transit lanes within a corridor that accommodates vehicular travel, a generous pedestrian realm, a bike way (called the South Bay Harbor Trail), and street trees. Redesign of Malcolm X Boulevard / Dudley Street as a Complete Street will further advance this goal.

Dudley Square has been the focus of infill and redevelopment in recent years including significant public investment in municipal facilities and transportation improvements. Sustained development in this area, like the reuse of the former Bartlett Yards site, will strengthen the neighborhood and bring new users to existing open space amenities. Not far from Dudley Square, development sites along Tremont Street have the potential to bring a mix of uses to the area between the Roxbury Crossing and Ruggles Orange Line stations. This community, currently anchored by Roxbury Community College and the Boston Police Headquarters, will be transformed with new infill projects. Pedestrian scale amenities and connections should be emphasized with these projects to shift this neighborhood away from its automobile oriented, large block character to one that encourages walkability and active streets.

As stated previously, at its current density, Roxbury only provides 3.7 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. With its attractive housing stock, proximity to downtown and the Longwood Medical Area, and vibrant community, Roxbury will continue to be a desirable for development. Retaining an appropriate balance between park space and park users will be essential as this neighborhood densifies.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

ROXBURY

Population	
2010 Census	48,454
2000 Census	41,484
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**16.8%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	28.5
2000 Census	24.4
Density Change, 2000–2010	**4.1**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	6,502	13%
10 to 19	8,376	17%
20 to 34	12,468	26%
35 to 54	11,957	25%
55 to 64	4,963	10%
65 and over	4,458	9%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
Roxbury	48,116	4,260	12.6%	8.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	5,431	11%
Hispanic or Latino	13,316	27%
Black or African American alone	25,100	52%
Asian alone	1,291	3%
Other	3,316	7%

Median Household Income
$27,480

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

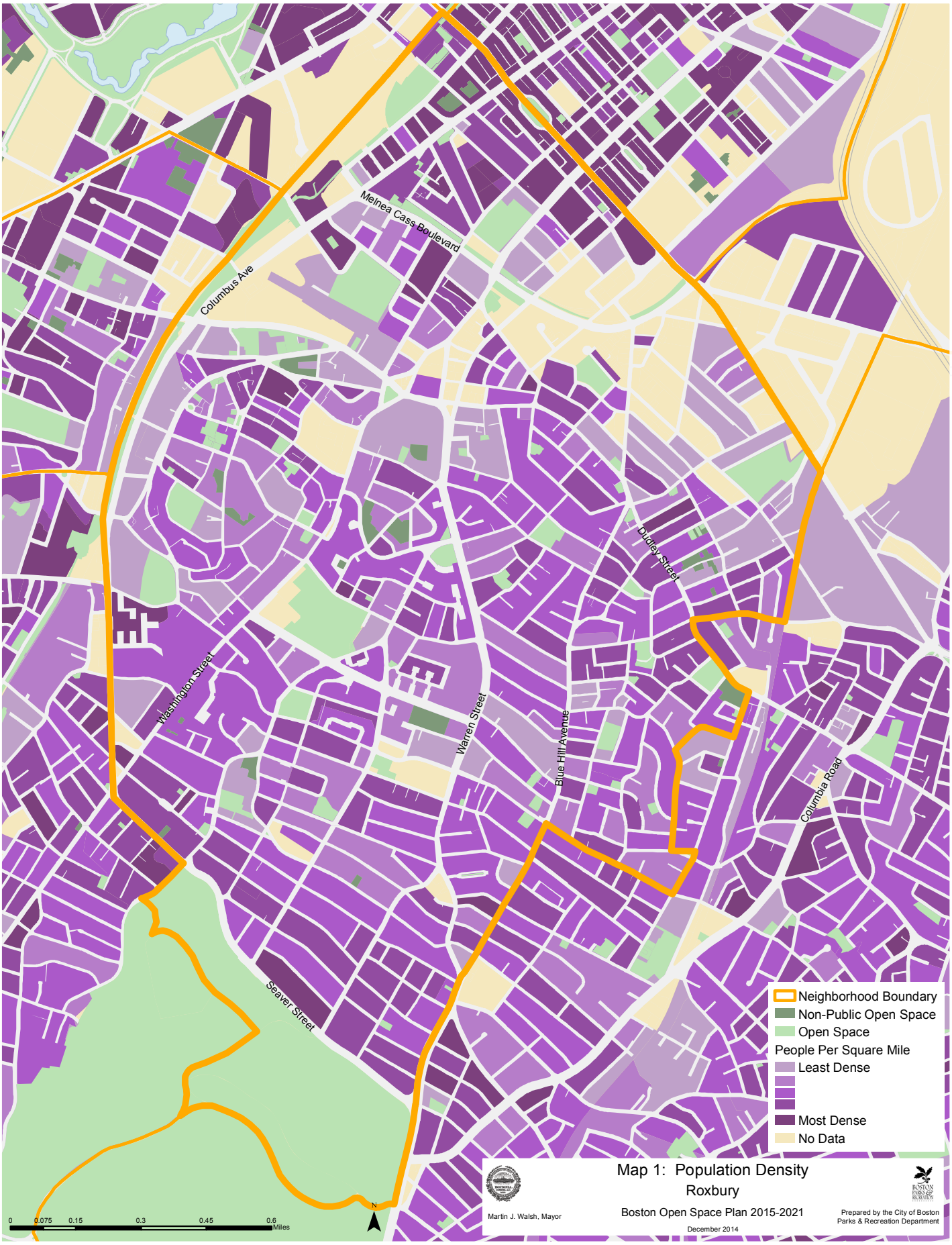
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	44%
1 vehicle	42%
2 vehicles	11%
3 or more vehicles	3%

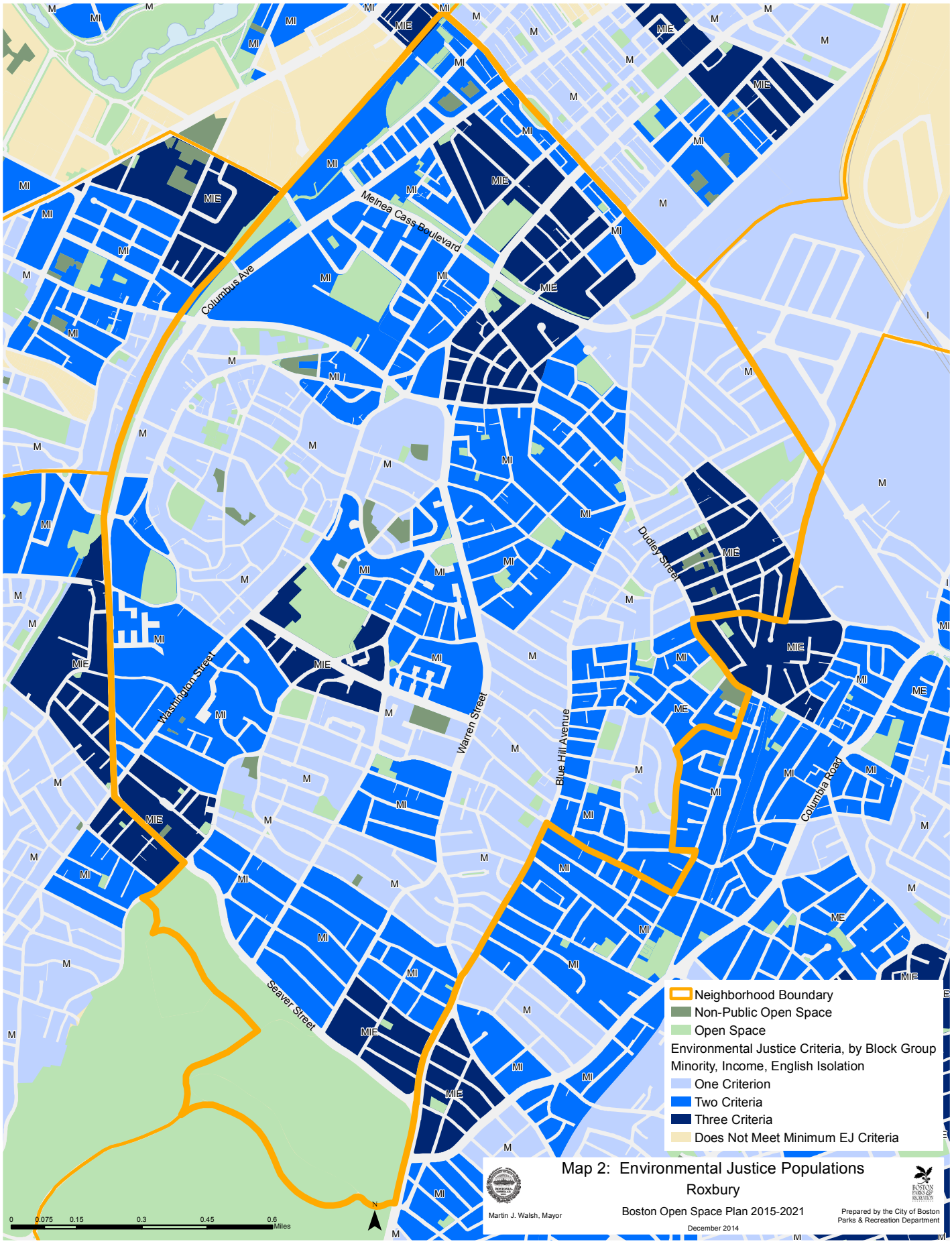
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
Roxbury	8,363	18.0%

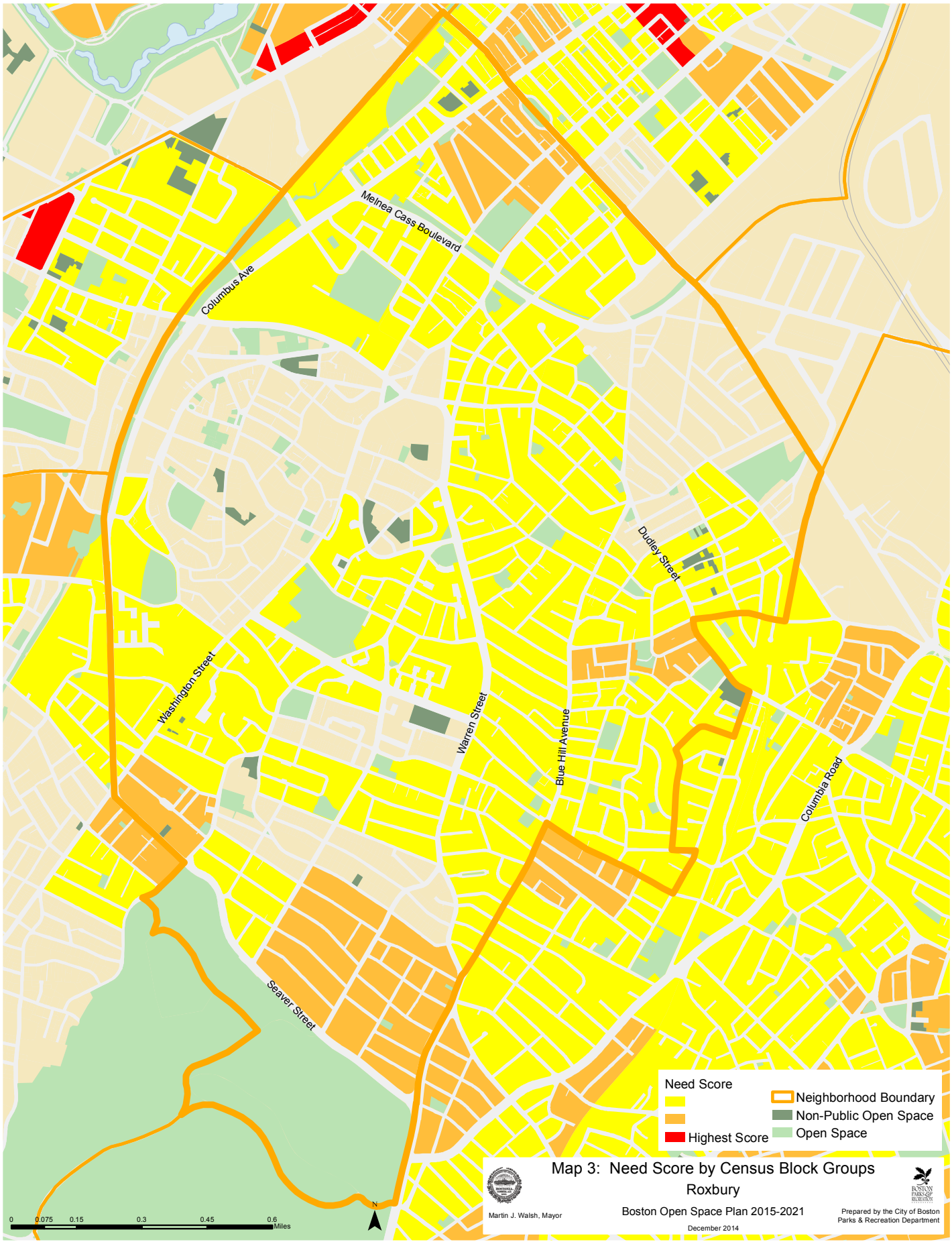
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


Melnea Cass Boulevard
Columbus Ave
Washington Street
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Dudley Street
Columbia Road
Seaver Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 1: Population Density
Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department



Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
Roxbury


Melnea Cass Boulevard
Columbus Ave
Dudley Street
Washington Street
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Columbia Road
Seaver Street
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

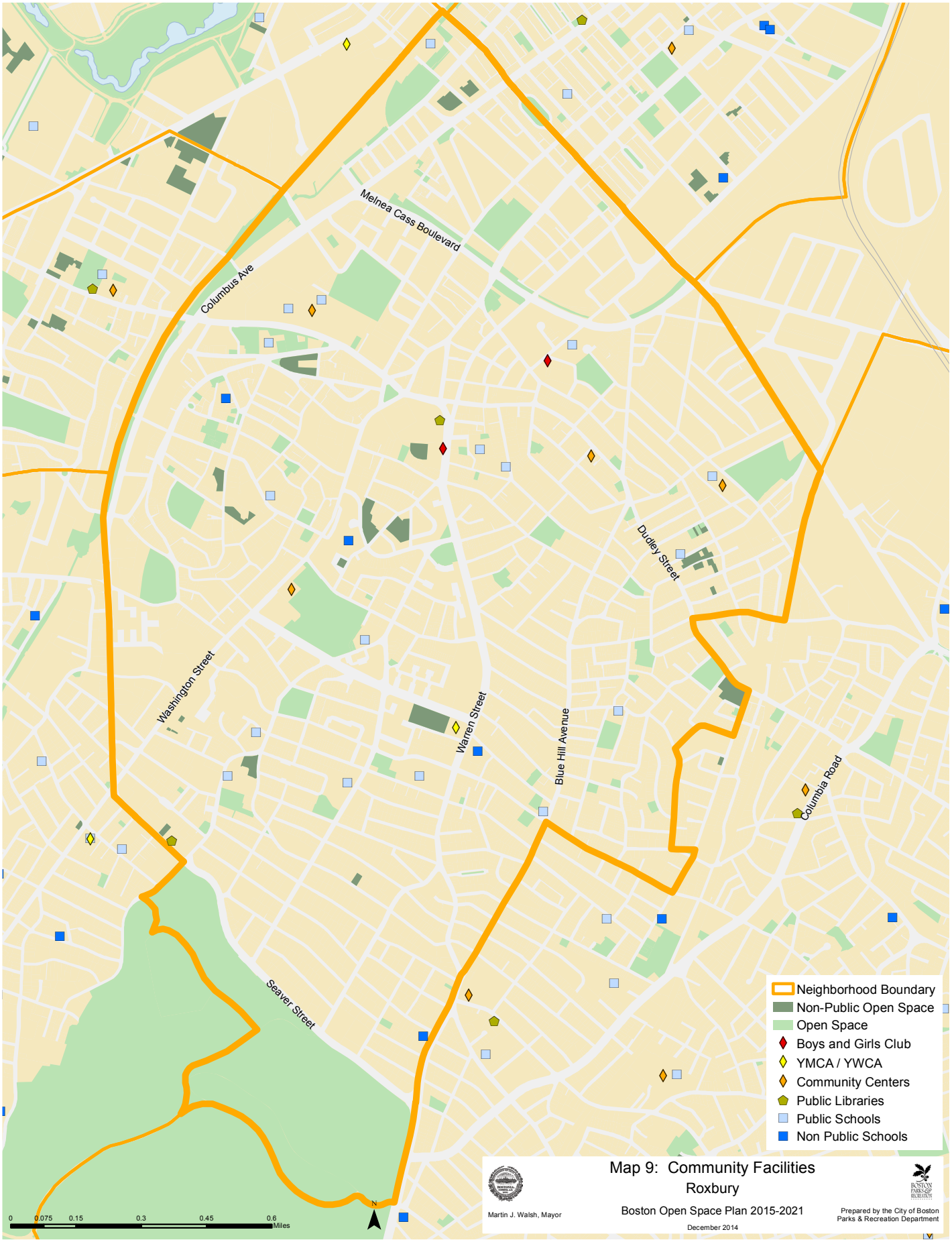
Carter School Grounds
Saranac/New Castle Garden
Piano Craft Garden
Chester Park
Carter Playground
Frederick Douglass Green
Frederick Douglass Peace Garden
Kendall & Lenox Streets Garden
Massachusetts Avenue Malls
Schroeder Plaza
Bessie Barnes Garden
Bessie Barnes Park
United Nbhd of Lower Roxbury CG
Northhampton St Community Garden
Melnea Cass Boulevard
Ramsay Park
Whittier Playground
Southwest Corridor Park
Columbus Ave
Madison Park H.S. Athletic Fields
Eliot Burying Ground
Roxbury Heritage State Park
Jeep Jones Park
Roxbury Heritage State Park
Madison Park Village CG
King Street Play Area
John Eliot Square
First Church Yard
John Eliot Square Urban Wild
Edna V. Bynoe Park
Centre Place Garden
Highland Avenue Community Garden
Justice Gourdin Park
Linwood Park
Kittredge-Linwood Parcel
Alvah Kittredge Park
Phyllis Wheatley/ Warren Place
Highland Park 400 Garden
Cedar Street Garden
Lambert Avenue Playground
Boys Club Park
Boston Evening Academy Garden
Mt. Pleasant Play Area
Dudley Town Common
Margaret Wright Memorial Garden
Allan Crite Garden
Rockledge Street Urban Wild
St James Street Park
Winthrop Street Garden
Clifford Playground
St. Monica's
Nuestra Playground
Highland Park
Nancy Kafka Reserve
Cedar Square
Alpine Street
Magazine Street Garden
Dudley Town Common
Warren Gardens Community Garden
The Food Project Lot #1A
The Food ProjectLot #1B
Cedar-Juniper Natural Area
Howes Playground
Dudley Street
Shirley-Eustis House Grounds
St. Joseph's Garden
Warren Gardens/ Gendrot Trust
Marcella Playground
Dennis Street Park
The Food Project Lot #3
Wakullah St. CG
Little Scobie Playground
Malcolm X Park
The Food Project Lot #2
Laurel Street Green
Hannon Playground
Julian, Judson, Dean Garden
Salvation Army Field
Washington Street
Horatio Harris Park
Magnolia & Woodford Streets Garden
YMCA Athletic Field
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Higginson Schoolyard
Winthrop Playground
Laviscount Park
NCAAA Museum Grounds
Savin/Maywood Street Garden
Beauford Play Area
Waldren Road Garden
Ellis School Play Yard
Holborn Street Playlot
ELC Playlot
Dacia/Woodcliff Community Garden
Sargent Street Park
Columbia Road
Crawford Street Playground
Trotter School Playground
Quincy Street Play Area
Egleston Community Garden
Walnut Park Play Area
Wolf Square
Denton Square
Elm Hill Park
59 Crawford Street Playground
Franklin Park
Grove Hall Plaza
White Stadium
Seaver Street
Maple-Sonoma Streets CommunityPark
Franklin Park Zoo
Franklin Park
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

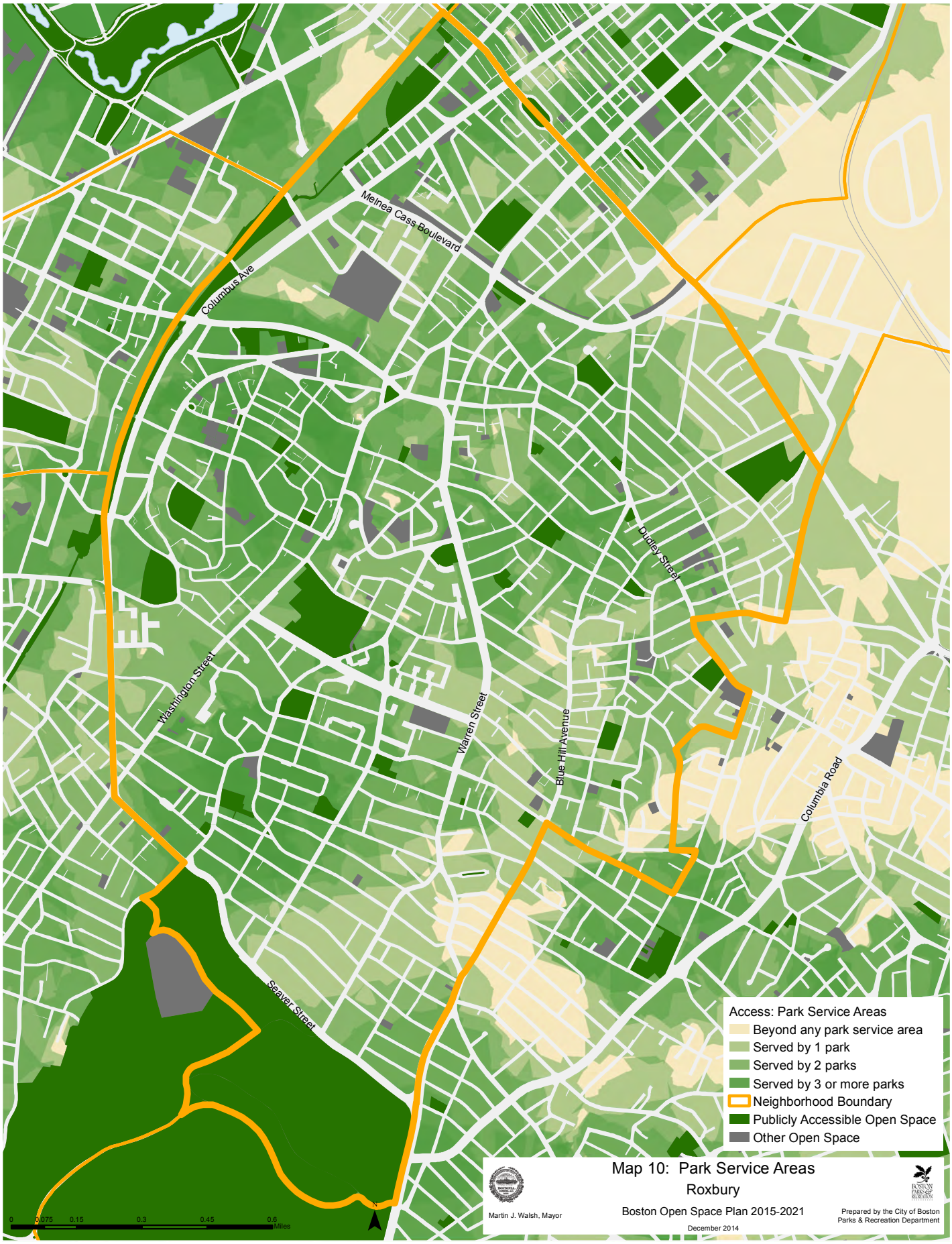
Carter School Grounds
Saranac/New Castle Garden
Piano Craft Garden
Chester Park
Carter Playground
Frederick Douglass Green
Frederick Douglass Peace Garden
Kendall & Lenox Streets Garden
Massachusetts Avenue Malls
Schroeder Plaza
Bessie Barnes Garden
Bessie Barnes Park
United Nbhd of Lower Roxbury CG
Northhampton St Community Garden
Melnea Cass Boulevard
Ramsay Park
Whittier Playground
Southwest Corridor Park
Columbus Ave
Madison Park H.S. Athletic Fields
Eliot Burying Ground
Roxbury Heritage State Park
Jeep Jones Park
Roxbury Heritage State Park
Madison Park Village CG
King Street Play Area
John Eliot Square
First Church Yard
John Eliot Square Urban Wild
Edna V. Bynoe Park
Centre Place Garden
Highland Avenue Community Garden
Justice Gourdin Park
Linwood Park
Kittredge-Linwood Parcel
Alvah Kittredge Park
Phyllis Wheatley/ Warren Place
Highland Park 400 Garden
Cedar Street Garden
Lambert Avenue Playground
Boys Club Park
Boston Evening Academy Garden
Mt. Pleasant Play Area
Dudley Town Common
Margaret Wright Memorial Garden
Allan Crite Garden
Rockledge Street Urban Wild
St James Street Park
Winthrop Street Garden
Clifford Playground
St. Monica's
Nuestra Playground
Highland Park
Nancy Kafka Reserve
Cedar Square
Alpine Street
Magazine Street Garden
Dudley Town Common
Warren Gardens Community Garden
The Food Project Lot #1A
Cedar-Juniper Natural Area
The Food ProjectLot #1B
Howes Playground
Dudley Street
Shirley-Eustis House Grounds
St. Joseph's Garden
Warren Gardens/ Gendrot Trust
Marcella Playground
Dennis Street Park
The Food Project Lot #3
Wakullah St. CG
Little Scobie Playground
Malcolm X Park
The Food Project Lot #2
Laurel Street Green
Hannon Playground
Julian, Judson, Dean Garden
Salvation Army Field
Washington Street
Horatio Harris Park
Magnolia & Woodford Streets Garden
YMCA Athletic Field
Warren Street
Higginson Schoolyard
Winthrop Playground
NCAAA seum Grounds
Laviscount Park
Savin/Maywood Street Garden
Beauford Play Area
Waldren Road Garden
Ellis School Play Yard
Holborn Street Playlot
ELC Playlot
Dacia/Woodcliff Community Garden
Sargent Street Park
Columbia Road
Crawford Street Playground
Trotter School Playground
Quincy Street Play Area
Egleston Community Garden
Walnut Park Play Area
Wolf Square
Denton Square
Elm Hill Park
59 Crawford Street Playground
Franklin Park
Grove Hall Plaza
White Stadium
Seaver Street
Maple-Sonoma Streets CommunityPark
Franklin Park Zoo
Franklin Park
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

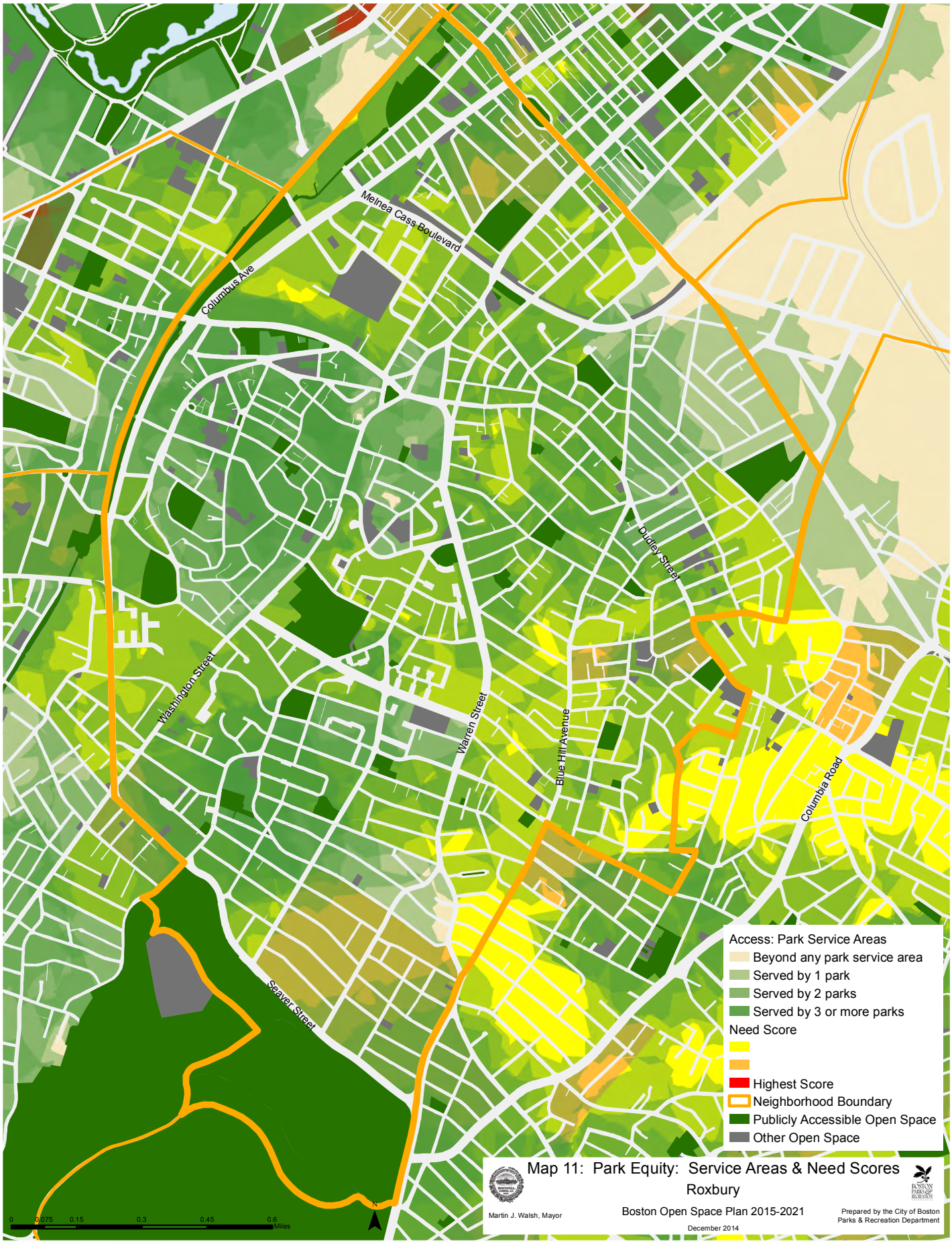
Carter School Grounds
Saranac/New Castle Garden
Piano Craft Garden
Carter Playground
Frederick Douglass Green
Chester Park
Frederick Douglass Peace Garden
Kendall & Lenox Streets Garden
Massachusetts Avenue Malls
Schroeder Plaza
Bessie Barnes Garden
Bessie Barnes Park
United Nbhd of Lower Roxbury CG
Northhampton St Community Garden
Melnea Cass Boulevard
Ramsay Park
Whittier Playground
Southwest Corridor Park
Columbus Ave
Madison Park H.S. Athletic Fields
Eliot Burying Ground
Roxbury Heritage State Park
Jeep Jones Park
Roxbury Heritage State Park
Madison Park Village CG
King Street Play Area
John Eliot Square
First Church Yard
John Eliot Square Urban Wild
Edna V. Bynoe Park
Centre Place Garden
Highland Avenue Community Garden
Justice Gourdin Park
Linwood Park
Kittredge-Linwood Parcel
Alvah Kittredge Park
Phyllis Wheatley/ Warren Place
Highland Park 400 Garden
Cedar Street Garden
Lambert Avenue Playground
Boys Club Park
Boston Evening Academy Garden
Mt. Pleasant Play Area
Dudley Town Common
Margaret Wright Memorial Garden
Allan Crite Garden
Rockledge Street Urban Wild
St James Street Park
Winthrop Street Garden
Clifford Playground
St. Monica's
Nuestra Playground
Highland Park
Nancy Kafka Reserve
Cedar Square
Alpine Street
Dudley Town Common
Magazine Street Garden
Warren Gardens Community Garden
The Food Project Lot #1A
Cedar-Juniper Natural Area
The Food ProjectLot #1B
Dudley Street
Howes Playground
Shirley-Eustis House Grounds
St. Joseph's Garden
Warren Gardens/ Gendrot Trust
Marcella Playground
Dennis Street Park
The Food Project Lot #3
Wakullah St. CG
Little Scobie Playground
Malcolm X Park
The Food Project Lot #2
Laurel Street Green
Hannon Playground
Julian, Judson, Dean Garden
Salvation Army Field
Washington Street
Horatio Harris Park
Magnolia & Woodford Streets Garden
YMCA Athletic Field
Warren Street
Higginson Schoolyard
Winthrop Playground
NCAAA Museum Grounds
Laviscount Park
Savin/Maywood Street Garden
Beauford Play Area
Waldren Road Garden
Ellis School Play Yard
Holborn Street Playlot
ELC Playlot
Dacia/Woodcliff Community Garden
Sargent Street Park
Columbia Road
Crawford Street Playground
Trotter School Playground
Quincy Street Play Area
Egleston Community Garden
Walnut Park Play Area
Wolf Square
Denton Square
Elm Hill Park
59 Crawford Street Playground
Franklin Park
Grove Hall Plaza
White Stadium
Seaver Street
Maple-Sonoma Streets CommunityPark
Franklin Park Zoo
Franklin Park
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N

Carter Playground
Melnea Cass Boulevard
Ramsay Park
Southwest Corridor Park
Columbus Ave
Madison Park
Jeep Jones Park
Edna V. Bynoe Park
Lambert Avenue Playground
Mt. Pleasant Play Area
Dudley Town Common
Clifford Playground
Hale Elementary
St James Street Park
Nuestra Playground
Howes Playground
Dudley Street
Emerson Elementary
Marcella Playground
Dennis Street Park
Little Scobie Playground
Malcolm X Park
Hannon Playground
Washington Street
Winthrop Elementary
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Winthrop Playground
Laviscount Park
Beauford Play Area
Ellis Elementary
Trotter Elementary
Holborn Street Playlot
Blue Hill Ave EEC
Columbia Road
Trotter School Playground
Walnut Park Play Area
Franklin Park
Seaver Street
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Carter Playground
Melnea Cass Boulevard
Ramsay Park
Southwest Corridor Park
Columbus Ave
Madison Park H.S. Athletic Fields
Jeep Jones Park
Edna V. Bynoe Park
Mt. Pleasant Play Area
Clifford Playground
Dudley Street
Marcella Playground
Little Scobie Playground
Malcolm X Park
Hannon Playground
Washington Street
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Winthrop Playground
Columbia Road
Crawford Street Playground
Trotter School Playground
Quincy Street Play Area
Seaver Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 8: Fields & Courts
Roxbury
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Melnea Cass Boulevard
Columbus Ave
Dudley Street
Washington Street
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Columbia Road
Seaver Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Melnea Cass Boulevard
Columbus Ave
Washington Street
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Dudley Street
Columbia Road
Seaver Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 10: Park Service Areas
Roxbury
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Melnea Cass Boulevard
Columbus Ave
Washington Street
Warren Street
Blue Hill Avenue
Dudley Street
Columbia Road
Seaver Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
Roxbury
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.14:

SOUTH BOSTON

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

First connected by bridge to Boston Proper in 1805, the South Boston peninsula soon began the gradual process of reaching its current shape through landfilling. At that time the street grid was laid out and wealthy Yankee investors began to build wooden houses near Telegraph Hill. With the opening of the Old Colony railroad, the northern marshes began to be filled in to accommodate a thriving timber and foundry industry. Further landfilling created space for larger railroad yards, linking the rail system to the waterfront as the South Boston port developed into one of the busiest in the country.

By the end of the 19th century South Boston's residential development included many simple row houses and detached three-family dwellings. The early part of the 20th century saw the completion of Frederick Law Olmsted's vision to create a grand open space system along the water's edge to be enjoyed by residents.

The industrial waterfront's decline began after World War II as Boston's maritime industry was adversely affected by changing freight transportation technologies. Many of the piers were abandoned or turned into parking lots. However, in recent decades there has been an increase in maritime commercial use with trucking and containerized shipping utilizing the remaining piers. Investments by agencies like EDIC and Massport have revitalized the remaining port area.

Three major developments in the 1990s catalyzed reinvestment in the former industrial port area, remaking it as a new urban frontier. One was the decision by the federal government to construct a new federal courthouse on the Fan Pier. This provided a destination and an attraction—including a large, new open space on the waterfront—that gave people a reason to come across Fort Point Channel.

Another major decision was the one by the MBTA to construct a transitway that would connect the South Boston piers area with South Station. This transitway has created a mass transit line, now known as the Silver Line, from hubs in downtown Boston out to Logan Airport via South Boston, making this area more accessible and the surrounding land more attractive for development.

The third major decision was to develop a joint city-state project: the new Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and a companion hotel in the industrial area south of the waterfront. The Center, the largest convention venue in the northeastern U.S. with a building footprint of 1.6 million square feet, was completed in 2004.

Given such factors, the City through the BRA developed a plan for the South Boston Waterfront District, understanding that a major opportunity for growth of the city lay in this area. In 1999, the BRA released The Seaport Public Realm Plan to outline the potential public realm assets of this newly emerging neighborhood that should be preserved or developed in the proposed build-out. The 2000 South Boston Waterfront Municipal Harbor Plan's primary goal is to ensure that the public has meaningful access to Boston Harbor along the Seaport's coastline.

The Fort Point area was first developed in the 1830s by the Boston Wharf Company and through the 20th century was one of the principal marketplaces for wool in the United States. Manufacturing and warehousing have since declined in Boston, but the buildings have been preserved as a Landmarks District. Artists have moved into the area, converting many of the structures to studios and lofts. The area is also home to the Boston Children's Museum, the Boston Fire Museum, as well as art galleries and design studios.

Open Space Access & Equity

South Boston—including the new waterfront-oriented Seaport District—is a transforming neighborhood. Between 2000 and 2010, the neighborhood population increased by 11.7%, and that growth is likely to be sustained as new high density residential development continues to come into the Seaport District. Adults between the ages of 20–54 are 67% of the community population, while only 14.7% are children or teens.

Population density is currently greatest in the older, established residential areas, but this may very well change in the coming years (South Boston Map 1). The current ratio of 5.97 acres of open space per 1,000 residents is somewhat lower than the city average of 7.59.

Current park need scores and equity maps indicate that the existing populations in greatest need for park access are centered in the Old Colony, Mary McCormack, and West Broadway Boston Housing Authority developments (South Boston Map 3). Each of these developments incorporates open space areas and recreational facilities on their property which are not included as part of the city's park inventory. As these developments are renovated, retention or expansion of these facilities is crucial.

Civic and community facilities are arrayed through the center of South Boston, on or near the Broadway corridor (South Boston Map 9). New development in the Seaport does not yet include many community facilities, which will limit the cohesive character of this as a neighborhood long term. Connectivity between the Seaport and the rest of South Boston will be important to develop and sustain over time.

Play areas at Buckley, Sweeney, Flaherty Parks (and likely the newly opened A Street Park as well) are high demand/high use facilities. These parks are all modestly sized and continued growth in this community will add pressures to these highly valued spaces. (South Boston Map 7)

Athletic field space in South Boston is largely provided at Moakley Park, which is a destination facility for park users citywide. Given the limited field space throughout Central Boston, and the opportunities afforded in South Boston with the redevelopment of large parcels not available elsewhere in the

city, development of athletic field space must become a priority in the planning and development efforts in this community. (South Boston Map 8)

Future Development

South Boston's greatest open space asset is its waterfront, the majority of which is publicly accessible. The beaches and reservations along Day Boulevard to Castle Island provide several miles of linear parklands within reasonable walking distance for many of the long-established South Boston residential areas.

The West Broadway, St. Vincent's, Fort Point Channel and Seaport communities are not as well served by this established interconnected system (South Boston Map 10). As residential and commercial development transforms these areas, creation of new open space resources needs to be considered in planning and development decisions. Because the South Boston neighborhood is already below the city average for open space acreage per thousand residents, it is important to be cognizant of the impacts that adding new residents will have on the quality of life in this neighborhood if creation of open space isn't prioritized.

New development the Seaport District have resulted in the creation of two new small parks with active recreation elements: A Street Park with a half basketball court and a children's play area, and Q Park, which is privately owned but publicly accessible, with a half basketball court, a small children's play area, and a lawn. Both of these new parks include off-leash dog recreation spaces which help meet a significant need for dog-owners in this community.

Additional active recreation space is necessary to meet the current and future needs of this growing district. The 100 Acres Master Plan provides a framework for transforming the existing surface parking lots to a vibrant 24-hour, mixed-use neighborhood anchored by over 11 acres of new public open space and almost 5.9 million square feet of development.

The expansion of the Conley Terminal and the development of a dedicated freight corridor by Massport is to be accompanied by the proposed development of a buffer open space along the northern side of West First Street, across from Christopher Lee Playground. Per 2010 state legislation, this 5.4-acre buffer open space is to be protected under Article 97, and built and managed by Massport. It will contain a multi-use pedestrian/bicycle path along most of its length that will connect to the Harborwalk, and enable this more interior part of the South Boston community, which is separated from the water (Reserved Channel) by a Designated Port Area, to reach the portions of the South Boston waterfront that are publicly accessible. Massport anticipates that construction of this new park will be completed in 2016. Once completed, the park will mitigate the effects of the port expansion on this southern section of the South Boston community.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

SOUTH BOSTON

Population	
2010 Census	35,200
2000 Census	31,514
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**11.7%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	17.1
2000 Census	15.3
Density Change, 2000–2010	**1.8**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	2,642	8%
10 to 19	2,537	7%
20 to 34	14,760	42%
35 to 54	8,853	25%
55 to 64	3,114	9%
65 and over	3,294	9%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
South Boston	35,200	1,442	4.3%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	26,869	76%
Hispanic or Latino	3,803	11%
Black or African American alone	2,279	6%
Asian alone	1,657	5%
Other	592	2%

Median Household Income
$72,024

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	27%
1 vehicle	49%
2 vehicles	20%
3 or more vehicles	3%

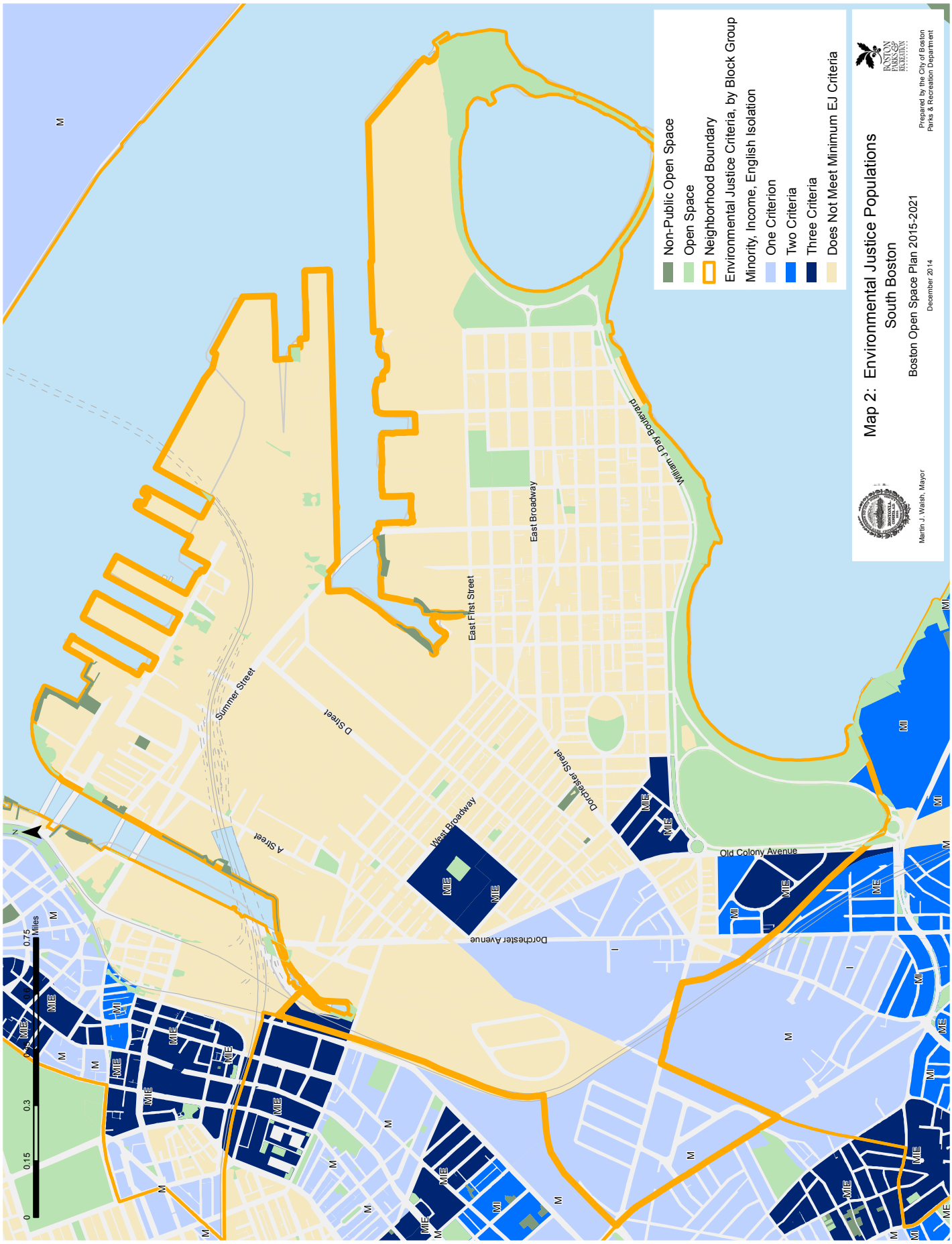
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

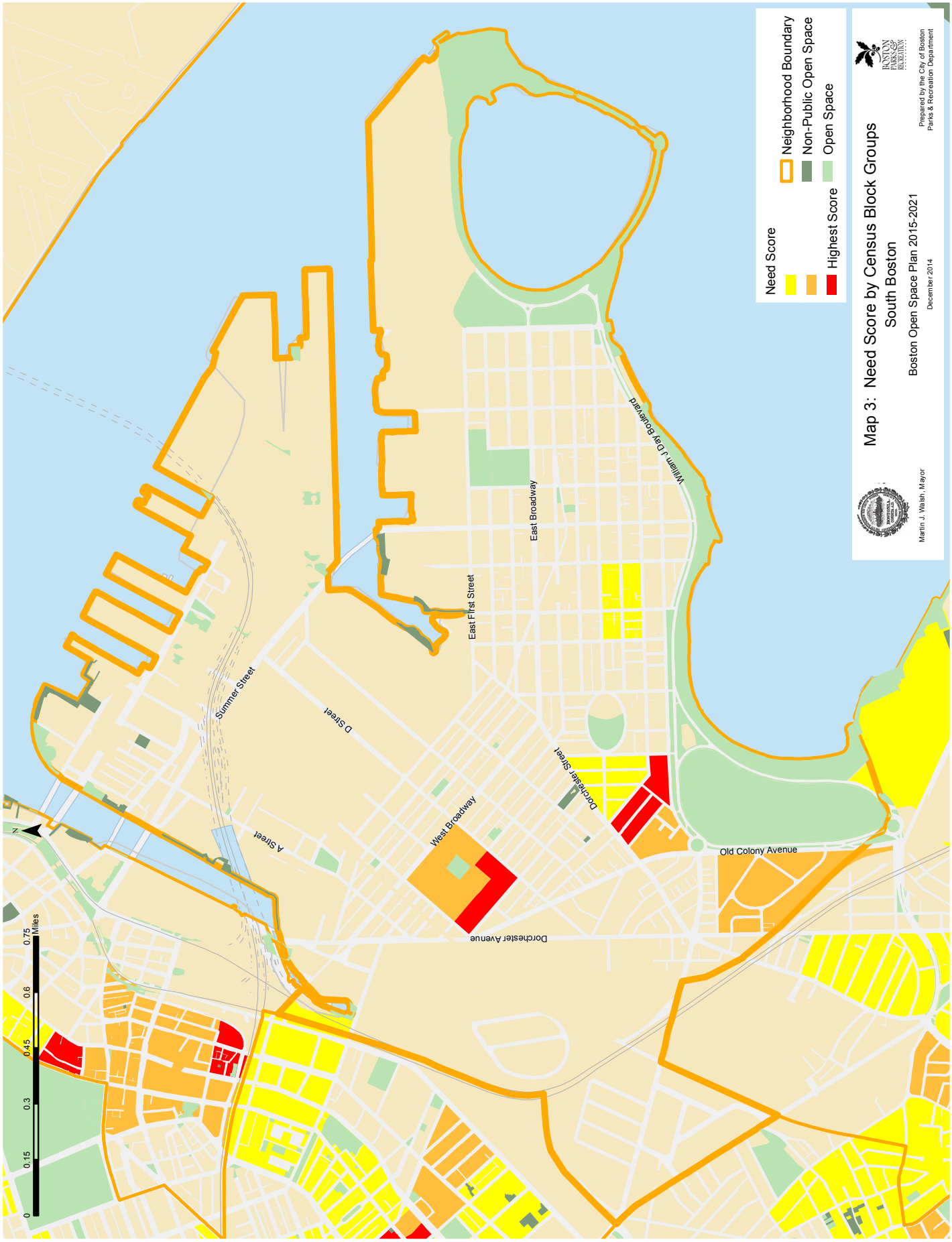
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
South Boston	3,271	9.3%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted

Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
Map 1: Population Density
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
William J Day Boulevard
East Broadway
East First Street
Summer Street
D Street
A Street
West Broadway
Dorchester Street
Old Colony Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
N
0
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
0.75
Miles

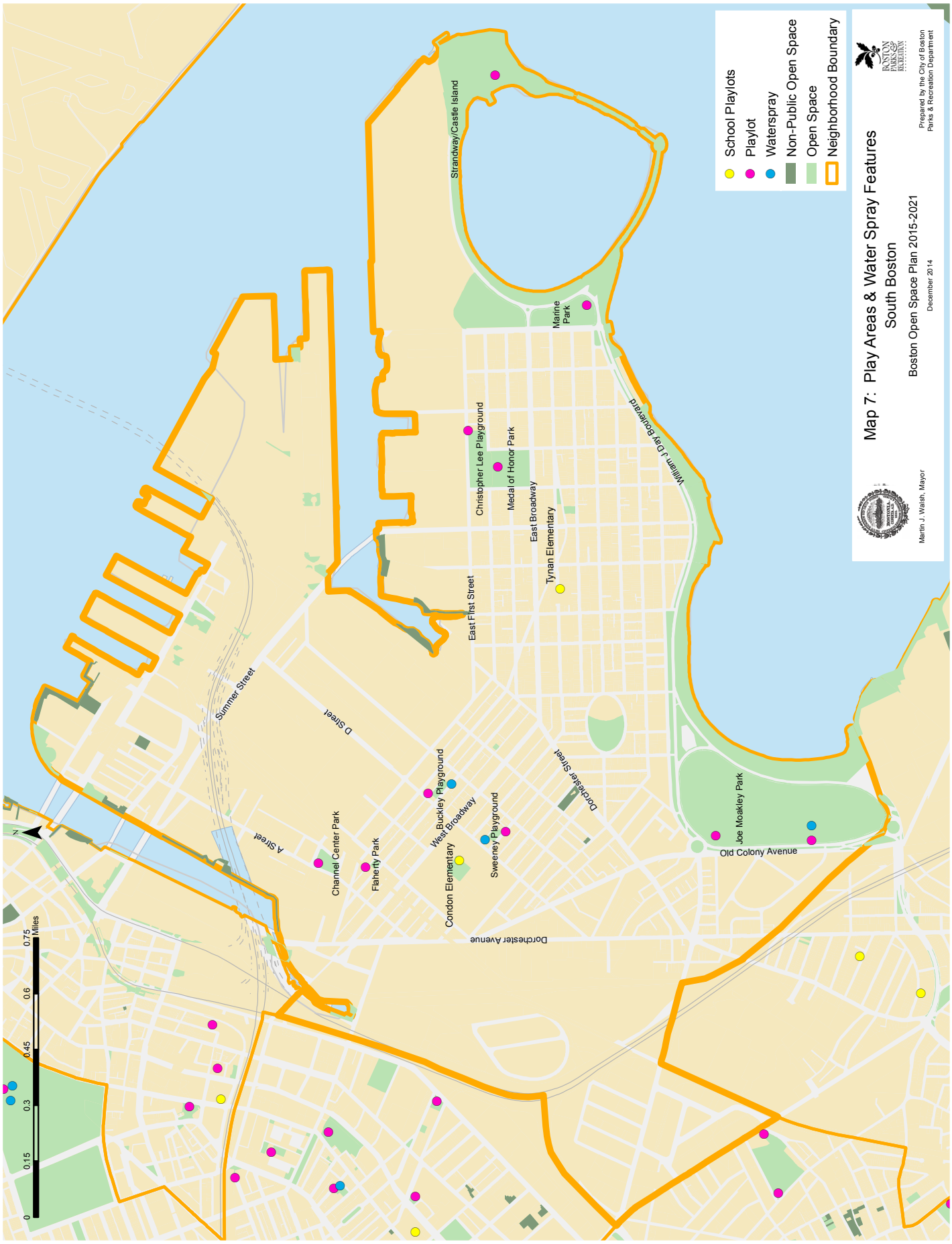

Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.75 Miles
N
Summer Street
D Street
A Street
East First Street
East Broadway
West Broadway
Dorchester Street
Dorchester Avenue
Old Colony Avenue
William J Day Boulevard
M
I
MI
ME
MIE


Need Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Highest Score
Open Space
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
William J Day Boulevard
East Broadway
East First Street
Summer Street
D Street
A Street
Dorchester Street
West Broadway
Dorchester Avenue
Old Colony Avenue
0
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
0.75
Miles
N

Map 4: Open Space by Type
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Neighborhood
0
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
0.75
Miles
Strandway/Castle Island
Marine Park
Marine Park
Pier 10 Mall
Dry Dock Plaza
Boston Design Center Plaza
Tunnel Harborwalk
Williams Tunnel Portal Park
Marine Industrial Park Entrance
Reserved Channel Harborwalk
Christopher Lee Playground
Medal of Honor Park
East Broadway
Lincoln Square
Hawes Burying Ground
East First Street
Dorchester Heights NHS
Dorchester Street
St. Augustine Burying Ground
St. Augustine Park
Foster's Nook CG I
Sweeney Playground
West Buckley Playground
Orton Field
Flaherty Park
Channel Center Park
Fourth Street Park
Rolling Bridge Park
Fort Point Channel Harborwalk
Binford Street Park
Fort Point Channel Harborwalk
Wormwood Park
Summer Street
Eastport Park
South Boston Maritime Park
Podium Plaza
Q Park
Children's Museum Plaza
The Park at Fan Pier
Pier Four Harborwalk
ICA Pier Walk
Fan Pier Harborwalk
Fan Pier Plaza
Children's Wharf Park
Children's Wharf Harborwalk
D Street
A Street
Dorchester Avenue
Columbia Road/Day Boulevard
Carson Beach
Joe Moakley Park
Old Colony Avenue
Old Harbor Easement
L Street Beach
William J. Day Boulevard

Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Non-Public Open Space
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Massport
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 0.75 Miles
Strandway/Castle Island
Marine Park
Marine Park
Pier 10 Mall
Dry Dock Plaza
Boston Design Center Plaza
Tunnel Harborwalk
Williams Tunnel Portal Park
Marine Industrial Park Entrance
Reserved Channel Harborwalk
East First Street
Christopher Lee Playground
Medal of Honor Park
East Broadway
Lincoln Square
Hawes Burying Ground
Williams Day Boulevard
M Street Beach
L Street Beach
Carson Beach
Old Harbor Easement
Joe Moakley Park
Old Colony Avenue
Columbia Road/Day Boulevard
Dorchester Heights NHS
Dorchester Street
St. Augustine Burying Ground
St. Augustine Park
Foster's Nook CG I
Sweeney Playground
Orton Field
West Broadway
Buckley Playground
Flaherty Park
Channel Center Park
Dorchester Avenue
Fourth Street Park
Rolling Bridge Park
Fort Point Channel Harborwalk
A Street
Binford Street Park
Fort Point Channel Harborwalk
Wormwood Park
Summer Street
D Street
Q Park
Children's Museum Plaza
Children's Wharf Harborwalk
Children's Wharf Park
The Park at Fan Pier
Fan Pier Plaza
Fan Pier Harborwalk
ICA Pier Walk
Pier Four Harborwalk
Podium Plaza
Eastport Park
South Boston Maritime Park

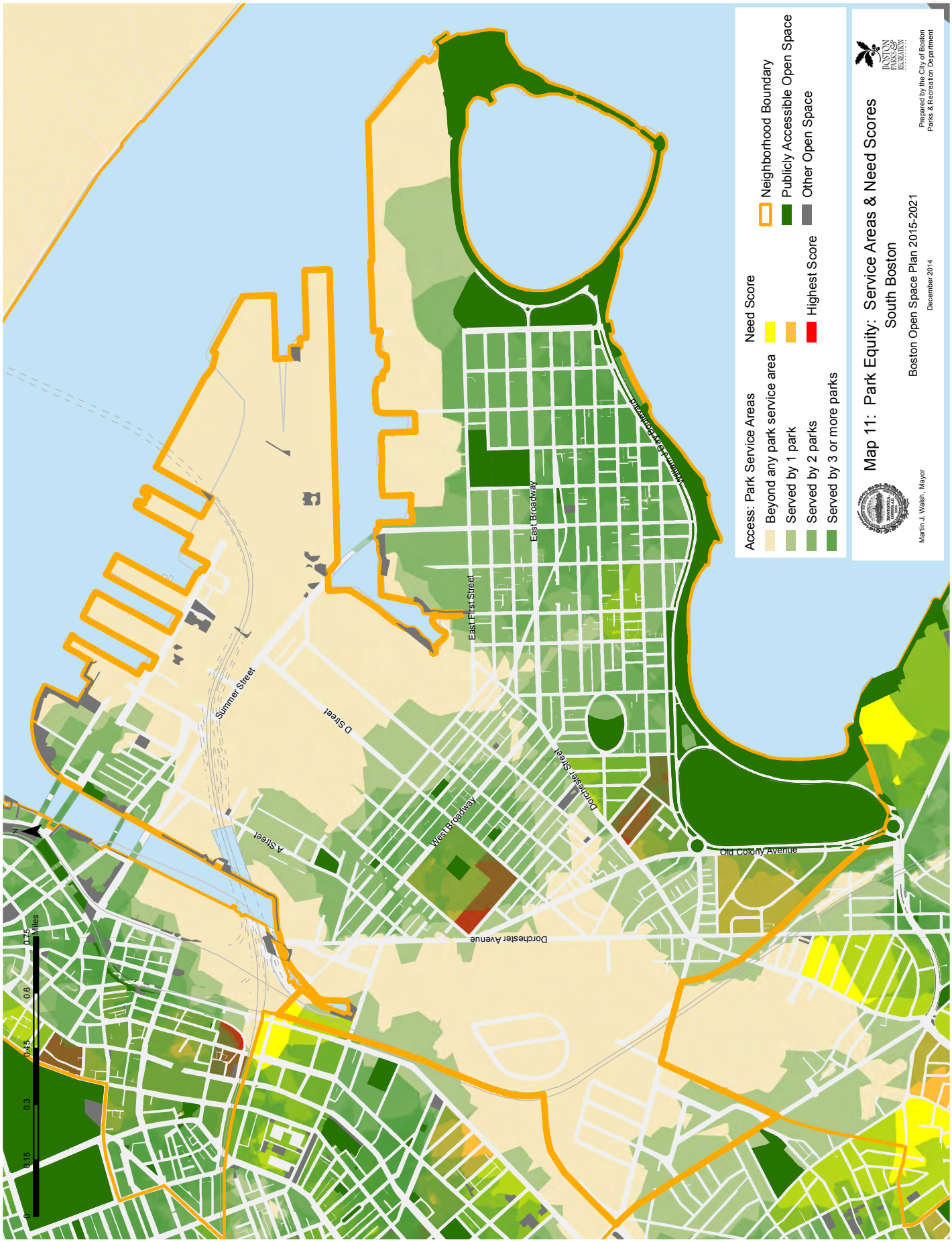
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 0.75 Miles
Strandway/Castle Island
Marine Park
Marine Park
M Street Beach
Pier 10 Mall
Dry Dock Plaza
Boston Design Center Plaza
Tunnel Harborwalk
Williams Tunnel Portal Park
Marine Industrial Park Entrance
Reserved Channel Harborwalk
East First Street
Christopher Lee Playground
Medal of Honor Park
East Broadway
Lincoln Square
Hawes Burying Ground
L Street Beach
William J Day Boulevard
Fan Pier Harborwalk
ICA Pier Walk
Pier Four Harborwalk
Fan Pier Plaza
The Park at Fan Pier
Children's Wharf Park
Children's Wharf Harborwalk
Children's Museum Plaza
Q Park
Podium Plaza
Eastport Park
South Boston Maritime Park
Summer Street
Wormwood Park
Fort Point Channel Harborwalk
Binford Street Park
A Street
D Street
Fort Point Channel Harborwalk
Rolling Bridge Park
Fourth Street Park
Channel Center Park
Flaherty Park
West Broadway
Buckley Playground
Orton Field
Sweeney Playground
Foster's Nook CG I
St. Augustine Burying Ground
St. Augustine Park
Dorchester Street
Dorchester Heights NHS
Dorchester Avenue
Columbia Road/Day Boulevard
Carson Beach
Joe Moakley Park
Old Colony Avenue
Old Harbor Easement


Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
Strandway/Castle Island
Marine Park
Christopher Lee Playground
Medal of Honor Park
East Broadway
Tynan Elementary
East First Street
William J. Day Boulevard
Summer Street
D Street
A Street
Channel Center Park
Flaherty Park
West Buckley Playground
Condon Elementary
Sweeney Playground
Dorchester Street
Joe Moakley Park
Old Colony Avenue
Dorchester Avenue
0
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
0.75
Miles
N

Map 8: Fields & Courts
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
Athletic Field
Basketball
Ice Rink
Street Hockey
Tennis
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
0.75
Miles
Marine Park
Christopher Lee Playground
East Broadway
East First Street
William J Day Boulevard
Summer Street
D Street
A Street
Channel Center Park
West Buckley Playground
Broadway
Orton Field
Sweeney Playground
Dorchester Street
Dorchester Avenue
Veterans Memorial Park
Joe Moakley Park
Old Colony Avenue

Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
Map 9: Community Facilities
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Summer Street
D Street
A Street
West Broadway
East First Street
East Broadway
Dorchester Street
Dorchester Avenue
Old Colony Avenue
William J Day Boulevard
0
0.15
0.3
0.45
0.6
0.75
Miles
N

Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 10: Park Service Areas
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION
Dorchester Avenue
Old Colony Avenue
West Broadway
East Broadway
East First Street
Dorchester Street
D Street
A Street
Summer Street
0 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 0.75 Miles


Access: Park Service Areas
Need Score
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
South Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Dorchester Avenue
Old Colony Avenue
Dorchester Street
West Broadway
East Broadway
East First Street
A Street
D Street
Summer Street
Dorchester Avenue
0 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 0.75 Miles
N

Section 7.2.15:

SOUTH END

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

As originally conceived in the 1850s, the South End was to be a neighborhood of townhouses for wealthy merchants. In laying out the streets, the planners followed the English park model of residential squares, each with a large oval grass plot defining the center of the street. At the turn of the century, however, the more affluent residents had become more attracted to the fashionable Back Bay. The South End instead became the port-of-entry to more than 35 distinct linguistic groups as the dense residential fabric was inherited by wave after wave of primarily working class immigrants. The neighborhood maintains much of this richly diverse and complex character.

Urban renewal in general and the Prudential Center and Copley Place developments in particular, attracted powerful market forces to the South End. Starting in the mid-1960s, gradual smaller-scale private reinvestment and an accompanying gentrification resulted. Along with market developments, innovative projects like the Villa Victoria housing development, the Southwest Corridor Park, and Tent City have had a positive impact on the quality of life in the community. With the location of biotechnology-related light manufacturing in the area, the expansion of the Boston Medical Center, and the re-focusing on Washington Street resulting from the City's Main Streets program and the MBTA's Silver Line project, the more eastern sections of the South End have seen a revitalization that is likely to continue into the near future.

Open Space Access & Equity

The South End is the densest of any city community, yet with just over 18 acres, has the least amount of protected open space. The ratio of 0.74 acres of open space per 1,000 residents is dramatically lower than the city-wide average of 7.59. These numbers reflect the reality that the South End neighborhood doesn't have any large parks within its boundaries (as currently drawn by the BRA).

Much of the neighborhood meets the state's criteria for environmental justice populations and some sections of the neighborhood meet all of the criteria. The neighborhood has seen 12.27% growth from 2000-2010 and this growth will continue as large portions of the Harrison/Albany corridor are redeveloped. (South End Maps 1, 2 and 3).

The South End's open space system is dominated by small passive parks and squares, and the few active recreational, mixed-use facilities are in such high demand that they are subject to overuse. This is exacerbated by the fact that most of the neighborhoods adjacent to the South End (Lower Roxbury is the exception) are lacking in active recreation facilities as well. The limited larger active facilities tend to be located at the fringes of the South End, while the residential squares tend to be more fully integrated into the fabric of the neighborhood.

The South End's population of children and teens is fairly low compared to other city neighborhoods. Distribution of playgrounds is favorable throughout the established residential portions of the neighborhood (South End Map 7). There are a high number of passive squares and pocket parks that contribute to character of the neighborhood but only support passive uses (and in some cases have limited or no public access). Eight ornamental fountains outnumber two children's water play features which is a proportion unmatched elsewhere in the city.

There is only one regularly accessible athletic field in the neighborhood, the baseball field at Peters Park, which cannot possibly meet all of the field needs of this community. Rotch Playground, which is currently maintained by Emerson College, accommodates some neighborhood use, but is largely permitted by Emerson. Public basketball courts are reasonably abundant (given the neighborhood's overall open space constraints) and some additional publicly accessible courts are located at Blackstone Community Center and the D-4 Police Station (South End Map 8).

Park service areas and equity show great walkable access to parks throughout the neighborhood in the established residential areas (South End Maps 10 and 11). Where more recent redevelopment is occurring, along Harrison Avenue and Albany Street where industrial uses are being converted to residential uses, there is insufficient existing open space. These new residents will have no choice but to vie for the facilities in Peters Park, which is already oversubscribed. Small scale private open spaces can be provided within these new developments with roof decks, balconies or courtyards. These are meaningful private amenities, but the pressure on shared, active, public facilities will continue to be an issue until a large (1 acre +) space is designated for public open space needs.

Future Development

As the South End's population of young adults continues to increase there will be excessive demand on existing limited park facilities. There is a need to identify new sites for active recreation as public and private housing developments are planned and as the number of organized leagues and clubs increase. Car ownership in this neighborhood is lower than in many outer core neighborhoods, which re-emphasizes the importance of providing close-to-home recreation opportunities for South End residents.

The 2011 BRA Harrison-Albany Corridor Strategic Plan looks at this corridor as a means for expanding housing opportunities as the industrial properties convert to residential uses. While it recognizes the need to create pedestrian/bicycle corridors to connect to the rest of the community, it provides little guidance to address the need for new sites for active recreation for the population growth it is encouraging. The small passive parks throughout the neighborhood and lively street network help sustain a high quality of life in the South End, but cannot wholly satisfy active recreational needs. The quality of existing open spaces will be increasingly challenging to sustain as the continued influx of new users add new demands on limited resources.

Improvements to the South Bay Harbor Trail will help with South End residents' need to access open spaces in other communities, such as South Boston and the Fenway/Longwood area, just as the Southwest Corridor Park currently provides access to Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

SOUTH END

Population	
2010 Census	30,446
2000 Census	28,755
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**5.9%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	52.1
2000 Census	46.4
Density Change, 2000–2010	**5.7**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	1,974	8%
10 to 19	1,453	6%
20 to 34	8,303	34%
35 to 54	7,665	31%
55 to 64	2,571	10%
65 and over	2,611	11%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
South End	24,577	845	2.5%	3.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	13,574	55%
Hispanic or Latino	3,276	13%
Black or African American alone	3,083	13%
Asian alone	3,982	16%
Other	662	3%

Median Household Income
$57,669

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

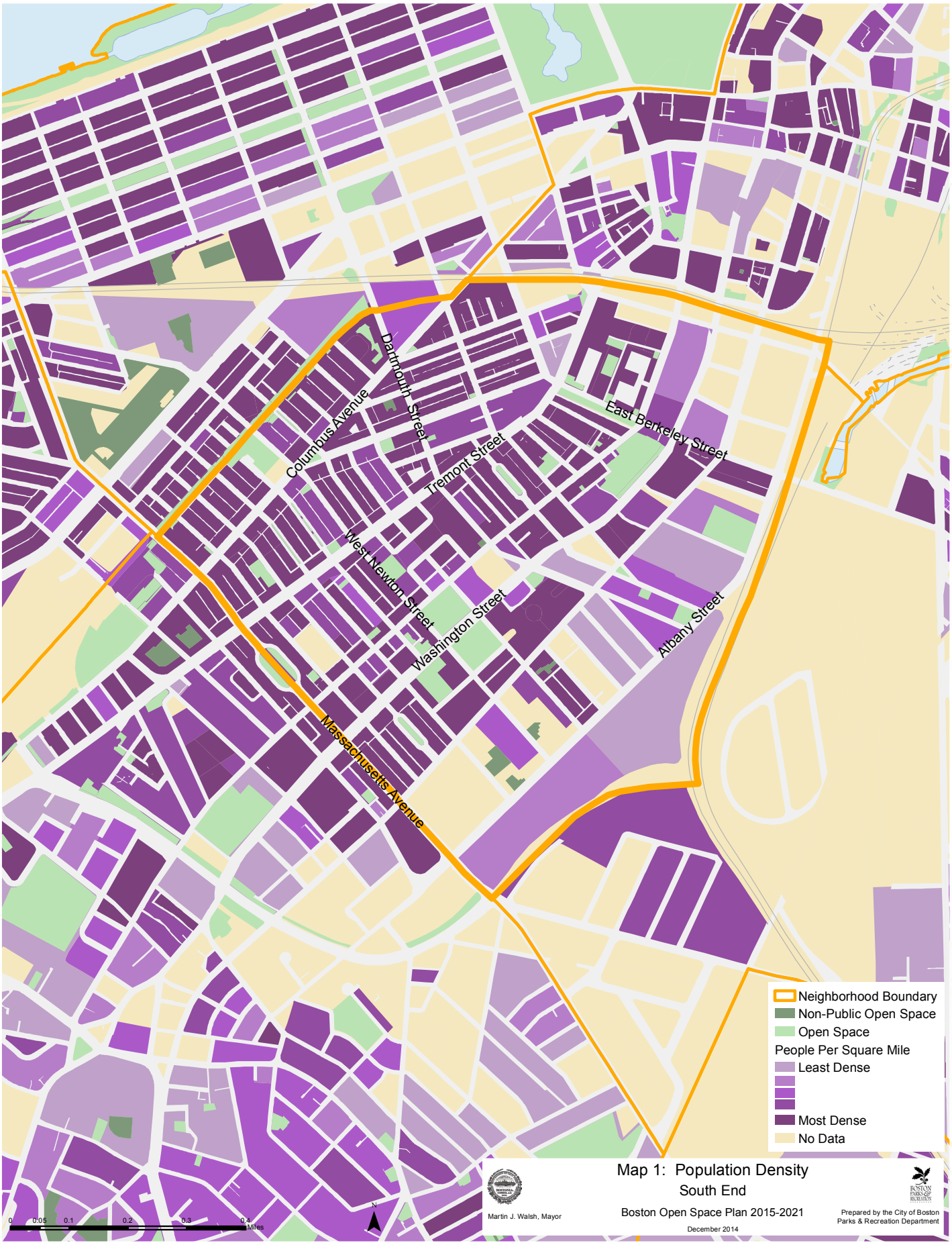
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	45%
1 vehicle	45%
2 vehicles	8%
3 or more vehicles	2%

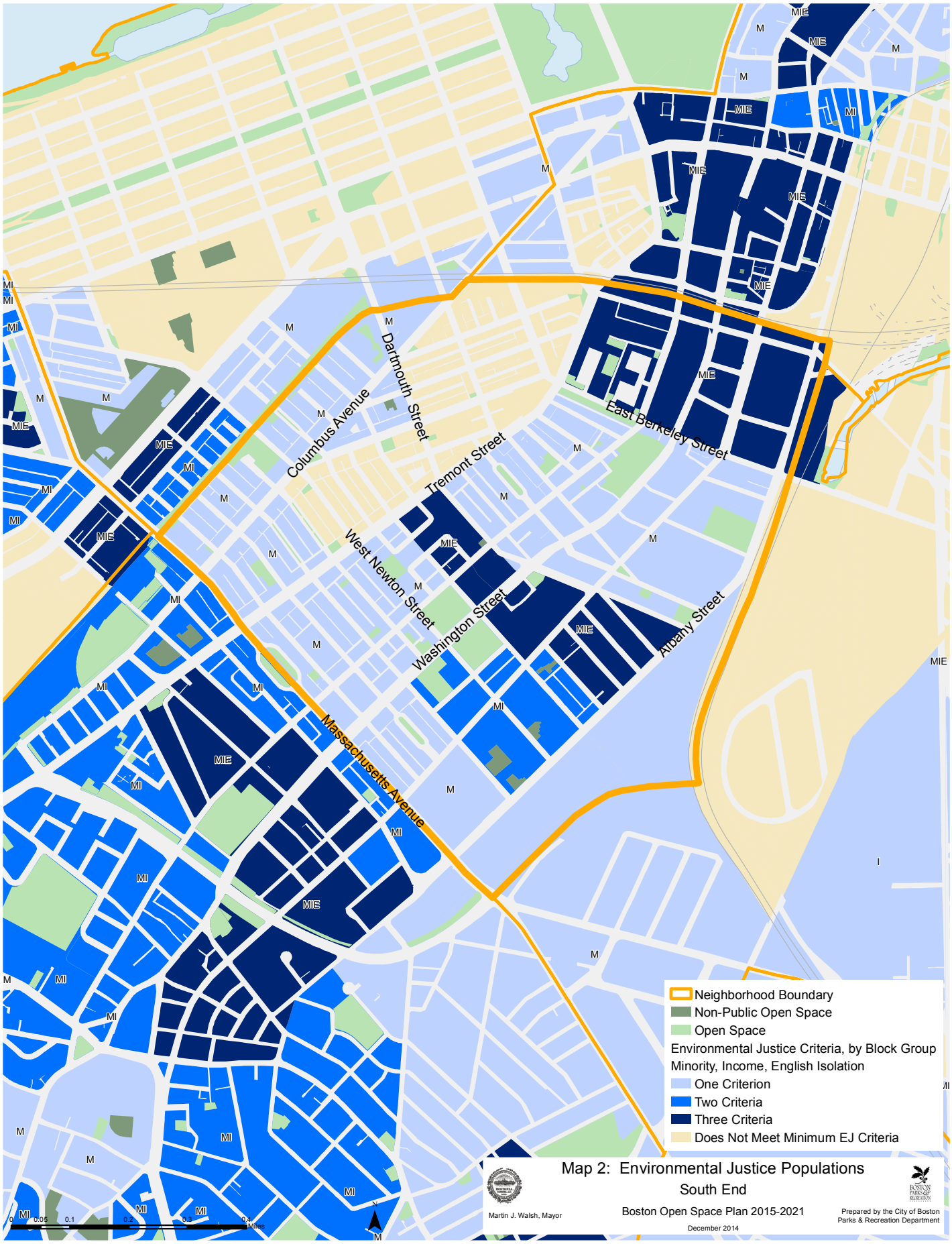
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

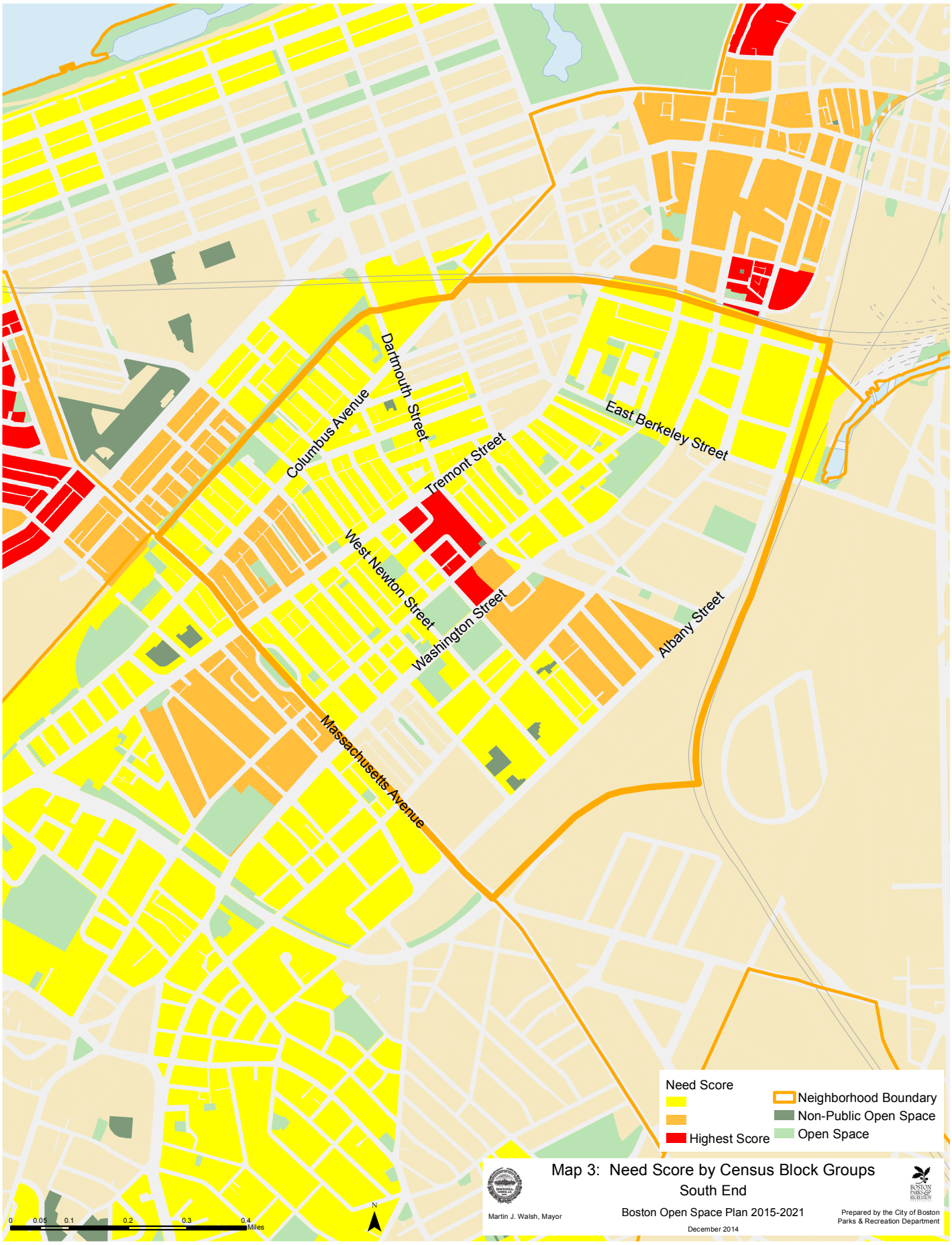
Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
South End	3,551	11.4%

*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted


Columbus Avenue
Dartmouth Street
Tremont Street
East Berkeley Street
West Newton Street
Washington Street
Albany Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 1: Population Density
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Columbus Avenue
Dartmouth Street
Tremont Street
East Berkeley Street
West Newton Street
Washington Street
Albany Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Environmental Justice Criteria, by Block Group
Minority, Income, English Isolation
One Criterion
Two Criteria
Three Criteria
Does Not Meet Minimum EJ Criteria
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles


Columbus Avenue
Dartmouth Street
Tremont Street
East Berkeley Street
West Newton Street
Washington Street
Albany Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
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Southwest Corridor Park
Chandler/Tremont Plaza
Tent City Courtyards
Childe Hassam Park
Dartmouth Street
Castle Square Parks
Warren & Clarendon Streets Garden
Braddock Park Garden
Braddock Park
Dartmouth Square
Columbus Avenue
Berkeley Street Garden
East Berkeley Street
Hayes Park
Dartmouth Garden
Watson Park
Titus Sparrow Park
Harriet Tubman Square
Tremont Street
Ringgold Park
Peters Park
Union Park
Hiscock Park
Bradford Street Play Area
Wellington Common
Rutland Square
Concord Square
Rotch Playground
Unity Towers Garden
Wellington Green
South End Library Park
West Newton Street
O'Day Playground
Waltham Square
Worcester Street Garden
Rutland Green
St Helena's Park
Msgr. Reynolds Playground
Newland Street Park
Blackstone Square
Washington Street
Union Park Street Playground
Albany Street
Rutland's Haven Community Garden
Rutland/Washington Community Garden
Franklin Square
Chester Park
Harrison Urban Garden
West Springfield Garden
Washington Manor Community Garden
South End South Burying Ground
Massachusetts Avenue
Worcester Square
Boston Medical Center Campus
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
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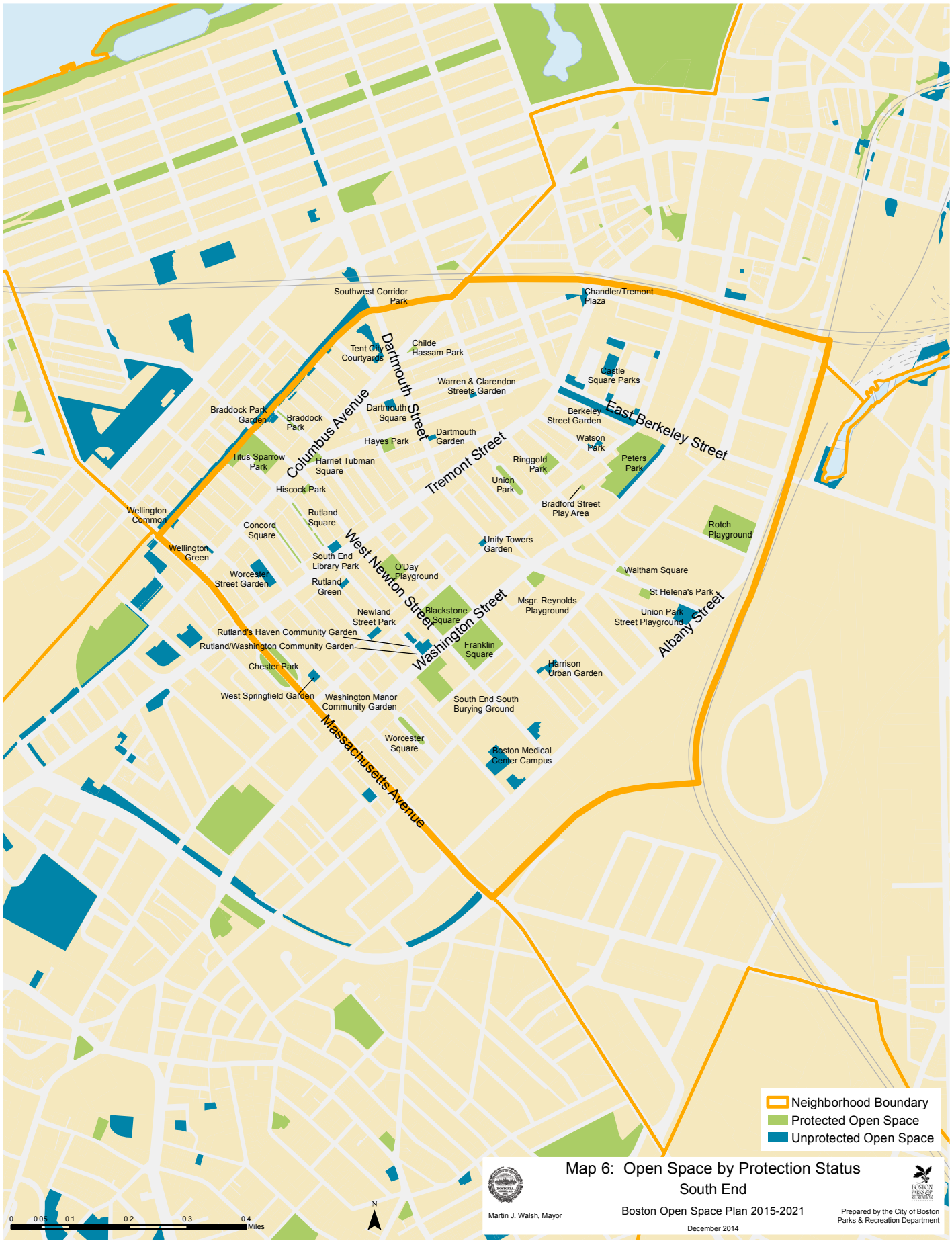
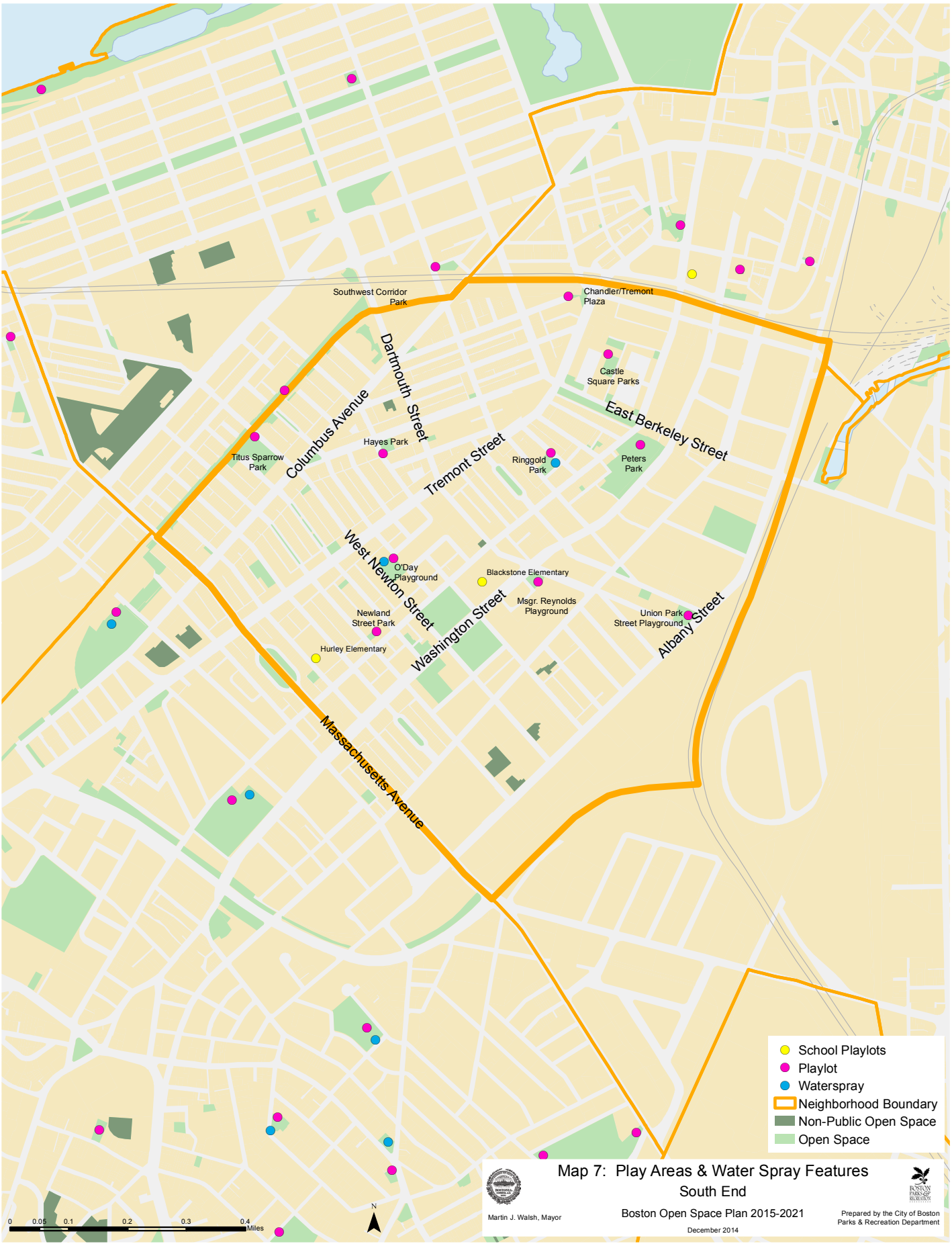
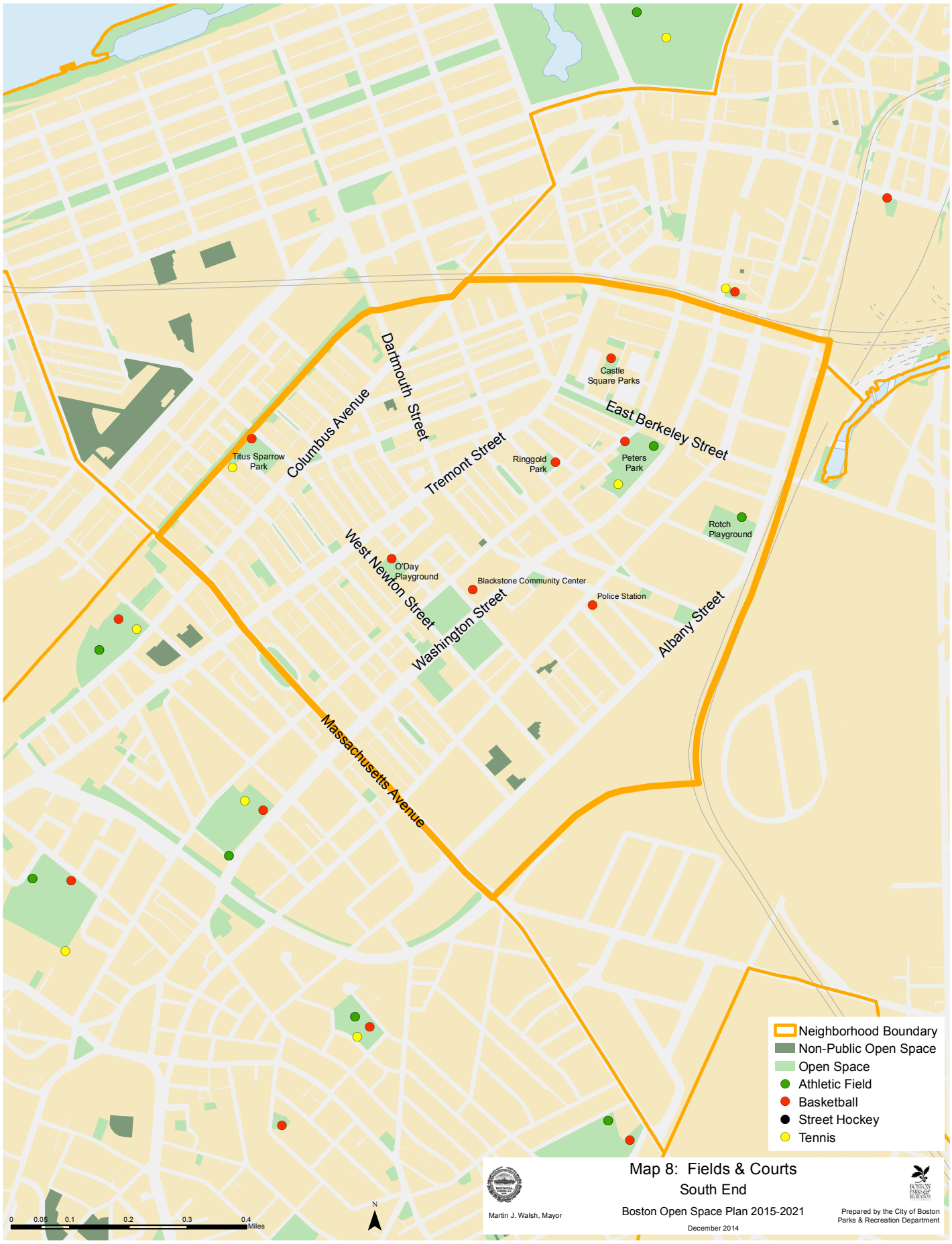
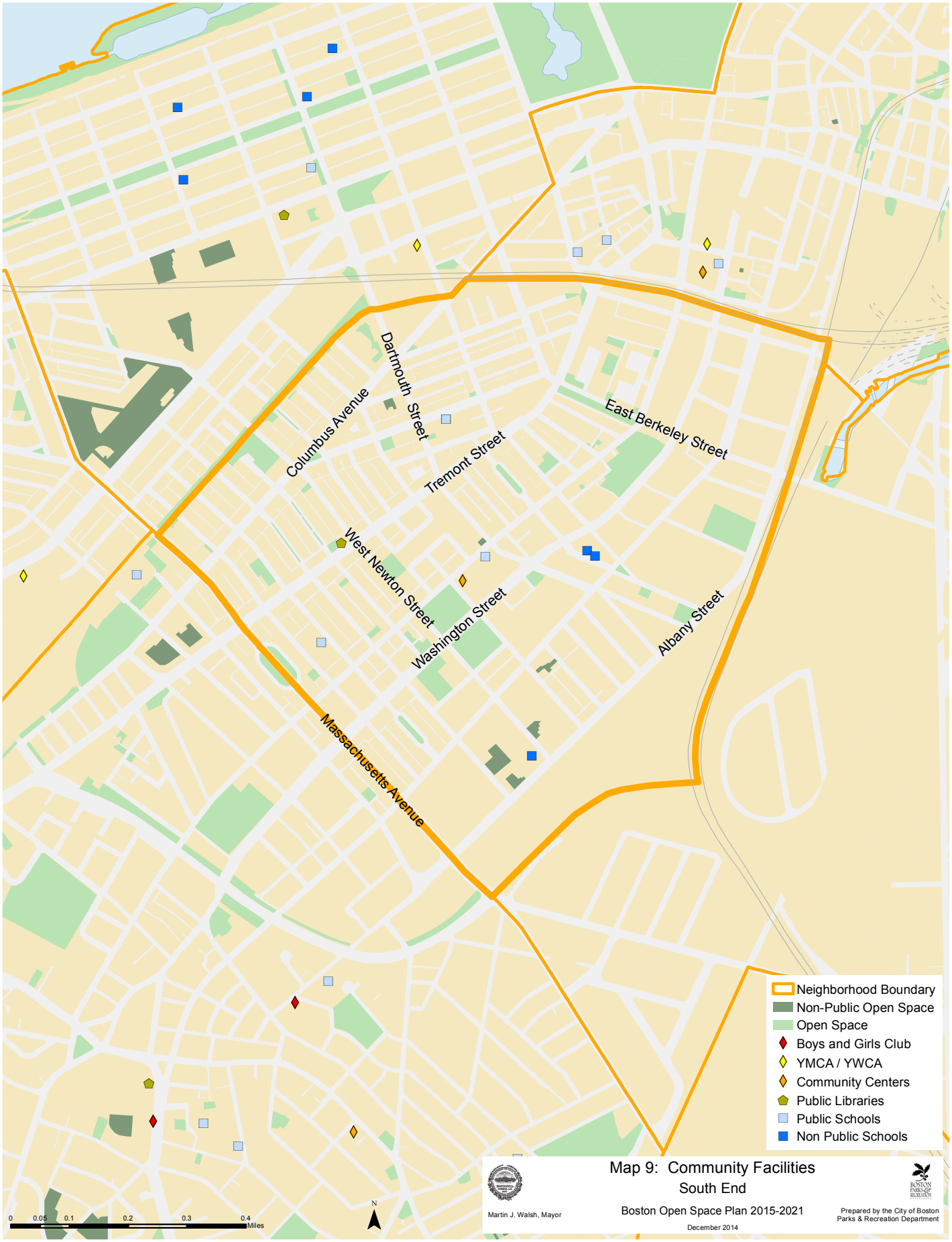
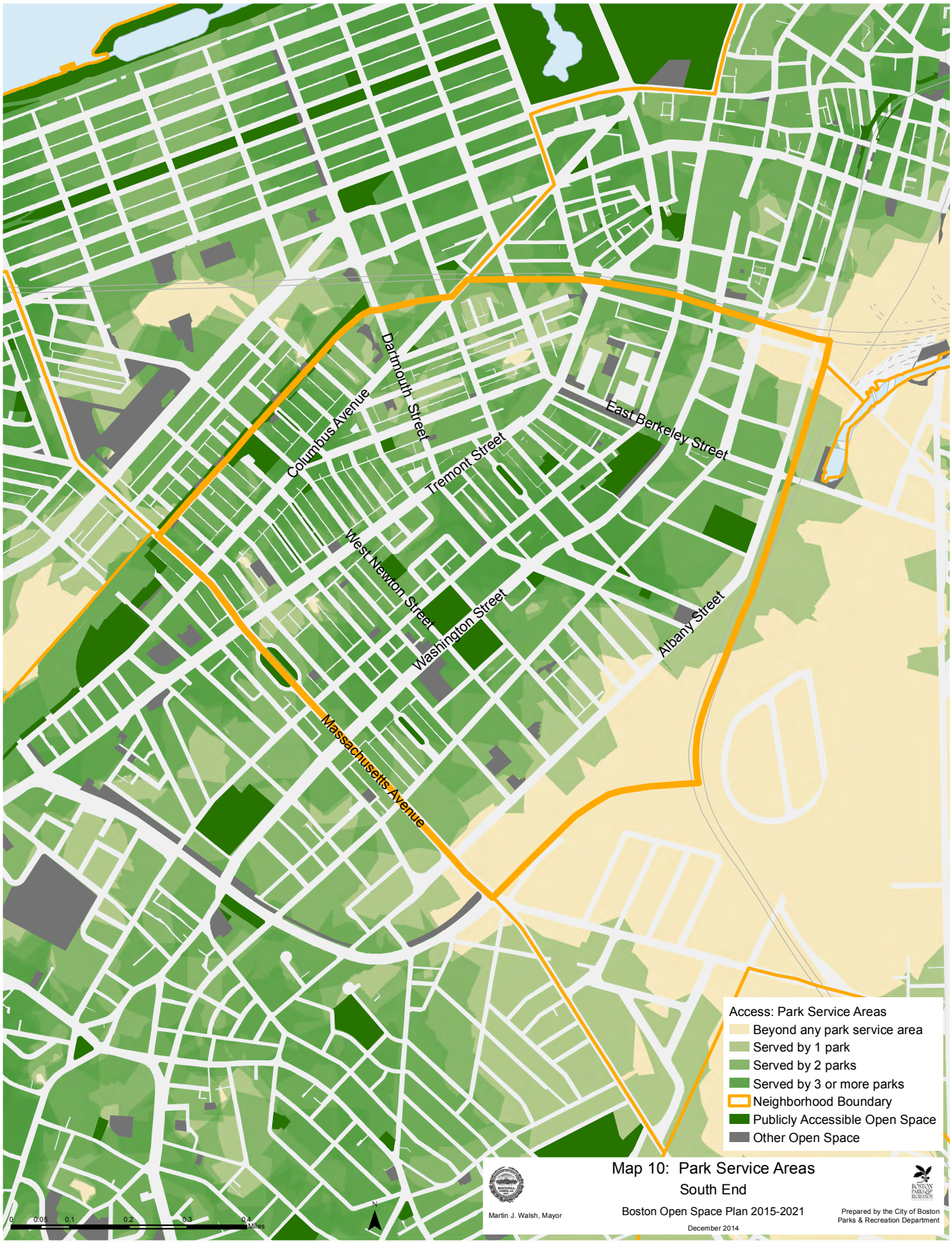
Southwest Corridor Park
Chandler/Tremont Plaza
Tent City Courtyards
Childe Hassam Park
Dartmouth Street
Castle Square Parks
Warren & Clarendon Streets Garden
Braddock Park Garden
Braddock Park
Dartmouth Square
Columbus Avenue
Berkeley Street Garden
East Berkeley Street
Hayes Park
Dartmouth Garden
Watson Park
Titus Sparrow Park
Harriet Tubman Square
Tremont Street
Ringgold Park
Peters Park
Union Park
Hiscock Park
Bradford Street Play Area
Wellington Common
Rutland Square
Concord Square
Rotch Playground
Unity Towers Garden
Wellington Green
South End Library Park
West Newton Street
O'Day Playground
Waltham Square
Worcester Street Garden
Rutland Green
St Helena's Park
Msgr. Reynolds Playground
Newland Street Park
Blackstone Square
Union Park Street Playground
Albany Street
Rutland's Haven Community Garden
Rutland/Washington Community Garden
Washington Street
Franklin Square
Chester Park
Harrison Urban Garden
West Springfield Garden
Washington Manor Community Garden
South End South Burying Ground
Massachusetts Avenue
Worcester Square
Boston Medical Center Campus
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

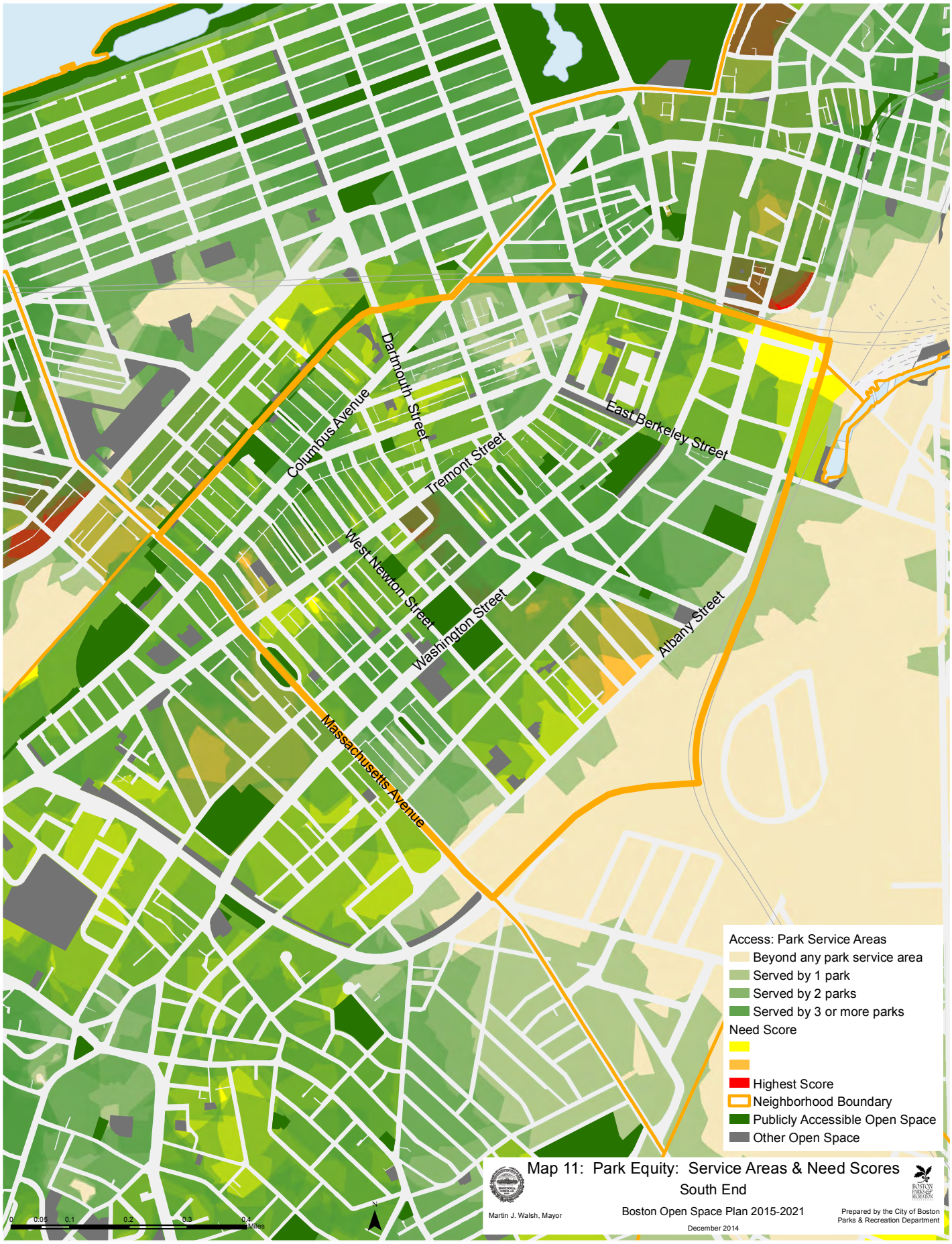

Southwest Corridor Park
Chandler/Tremont Plaza
Tent City Courtyards
Childe Hassam Park
Dartmouth Street
Castle Square Parks
Warren & Clarendon Streets Garden
Braddock Park Garden
Braddock Park
Dartmouth Square
Columbus Avenue
Berkeley Street Garden
East Berkeley Street
Hayes Park
Dartmouth Garden
Watson Park
Titus Sparrow Park
Harriet Tubman Square
Ringgold Park
Peters Park
Tremont Street
Union Park
Hiscock Park
Bradford Street Play Area
Wellington Common
Rutland Square
Concord Square
Rotch Playground
Unity Towers Garden
Wellington Green
South End Library Park
West Newton Street
O'Day Playground
Waltham Square
Worcester Street Garden
Rutland Green
St Helena's Park
Msgr. Reynolds Playground
Newland Street Park
Blackstone Square
Washington Street
Union Park Street Playground
Albany Street
Rutland's Haven Community Garden
Rutland/Washington Community Garden
Franklin Square
Chester Park
Harrison Urban Garden
West Springfield Garden
Washington Manor Community Garden
South End South Burying Ground
Massachusetts Avenue
Worcester Square
Boston Medical Center Campus
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Southwest Corridor Park
Chandler/Tremont Plaza
Castle Square Parks
Dartmouth Street
Columbus Avenue
East Berkeley Street
Hayes Park
Titus Sparrow Park
Tremont Street
Ringgold Park
Peters Park
West Newton Street
O'Day Playground
Blackstone Elementary
Msgr. Reynolds Playground
Newland Street Park
Union Park Street Playground
Albany Street
Hurley Elementary
Washington Street
Massachusetts Avenue
School Playlots
Playlot
Waterspray
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
South End
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Dartmouth Street
Columbus Avenue
Tremont Street
East Berkeley Street
West Newton Street
Washington Street
Albany Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Castle Square Parks
Titus Sparrow Park
Ringgold Park
Peters Park
Rotch Playground
O'Day Playground
Blackstone Community Center
Police Station
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 8: Fields & Courts
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Columbus Avenue
Dartmouth Street
Tremont Street
East Berkeley Street
West Newton Street
Washington Street
Albany Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 9: Community Facilities
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Columbus Avenue
Dartmouth Street
Tremont Street
East Berkeley Street
West Newton Street
Washington Street
Albany Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
South End
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department


Columbus Avenue
Dartmouth Street
Tremont Street
East Berkeley Street
West Newton Street
Washington Street
Albany Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
N
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
South End
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

Section 7.2.16:

WEST ROXBURY

For an explanation of the organization, content and maps in this section, please see the Introduction to Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation (page 160).

Background

Originally part of the town of Roxbury, West Roxbury broke off to form its own town government in 1851. In the same year, rail service was extended to rural West Roxbury, allowing people to live in the new town but work in Boston. With the annexation to Boston in 1874, a second wave of housing construction began in the late 19th century. Despite this early settlement, over ¾ of West Roxbury's current housing units were built after 1920.

The original West Roxbury village formed along Centre Street near Spring Street. The Roxbury Latin School, the oldest private school in America (1645), was built near the location of the old village and still operates there. A 19th century utopian experimental community that attracted many noted American intellectuals, Brook Farm, was located in the western reaches of West Roxbury near Saw Mill Brook and the Charles River.

Open Space Access & Equity/ Future Development

West Roxbury is the most suburban of Boston's neighborhoods. Density decreases here, with an abundance of single-family homes and backyards (West Roxbury Map 1). The neighborhood is rich with open space, boasting a ratio of 20.68 acres per 1,000 residents, nearly three times the city average of 7.59 acres. West Roxbury's population grew by almost 6% between 2000 and 2010, though the prospect of continued growth at that pace seems unlikely given the limited development sites in the neighborhood. West Roxbury has a high percentage of residents over age 65 (18%), which is significantly higher than the surrounding neighborhoods' average in this demographic of around 12–13%.

Private open space is significant in West Roxbury, composed largely of cemeteries (six private cemeteries within the neighborhood limits) and private school campuses and athletic fields. Part of the Stony Brook Reservation is within West Roxbury as is Millennium Park, the capped Gardner Street landfill site, which meets the Charles River at Boston's western boundary. The two parkways that weave through the neighborhood (VFW and West Roxbury Parkway) provide visual amenities to all who use them, but currently offer little recreation value (West Roxbury Map 4).

West Roxbury's active recreational facilities are distributed among four parks (Hynes Field, Billings Field, Draper Playground and Millennium Park) which are well spread out within the neighborhood. The largest neighborhood recreational complexes (sometimes shared with Boston Public Schools facilities) Ohrenberger, West Roxbury High School and Millennium Park are all too remote from the residential areas in the neighborhood to be accessed by walking—these are destination facilities that neighborhood residents and others must drive to for access.

Billings Field is the most centrally located park, next to the commercial core along Centre Street and adjacent to the YMCA both of which are great park activity generators (West Roxbury Maps 7 and 8).

Because the parks in West Roxbury tend to be larger in size, each accommodates multiple facilities and features. Nonetheless, certain facilities, like tennis courts, are limited. The park service area maps illustrate this story; large portions of the neighborhood do not have a park within a 10 minute walking distance (West Roxbury Map 10). In a neighborhood with such low population densities, no areas are identified as in high need of park access. Many residents have access to private back yards that can provide the small scale amenities that many other city residents are reliant on public parks to provide, like children's play structures and shade trees.

The West Roxbury Quarry is a large highly scarred and disturbed landscape area in the middle of this neighborhood which could have significant impacts on the landscape character and density of the community if it was ever closed and redeveloped. Options and desirability for retaining this area as long-term open space should be explored.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

WEST ROXBURY

Population	
2010 Census	74,997
2000 Census	69,648
Population Growth/Decline, 2000–2010	**7.7%**

Population Density	Persons per Acre
2010 Census	8.7
2000 Census	8.2
Density Change, 2000–2010	**0.5**

Age	Persons	Percent of Population
0 to 9	3,845	13%
10 to 19	2,944	10%
20 to 34	5,346	18%
35 to 54	8,900	29%
55 to 64	3,935	13%
65 and over	5,476	18%

Teens, City to Community Comparison	Total Population	Total Children 12-17	% of Boston's Children 12-17	Children 12-17 as % of Neighborhood Population
Boston	617,594	33,920	100.0%	5.5%
West Roxbury	30,446	1,848	5.4%	6.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, BRA Research Division Analysis

Race/Ethnicity/ Latino Status	Persons	Percent of Population
White alone	22,303	73%
Hispanic or Latino	2,573	8%
Black or African American alone	2,959	10%
Asian alone	1,969	6%
Other	642	2%

Median Household Income
$71,286

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

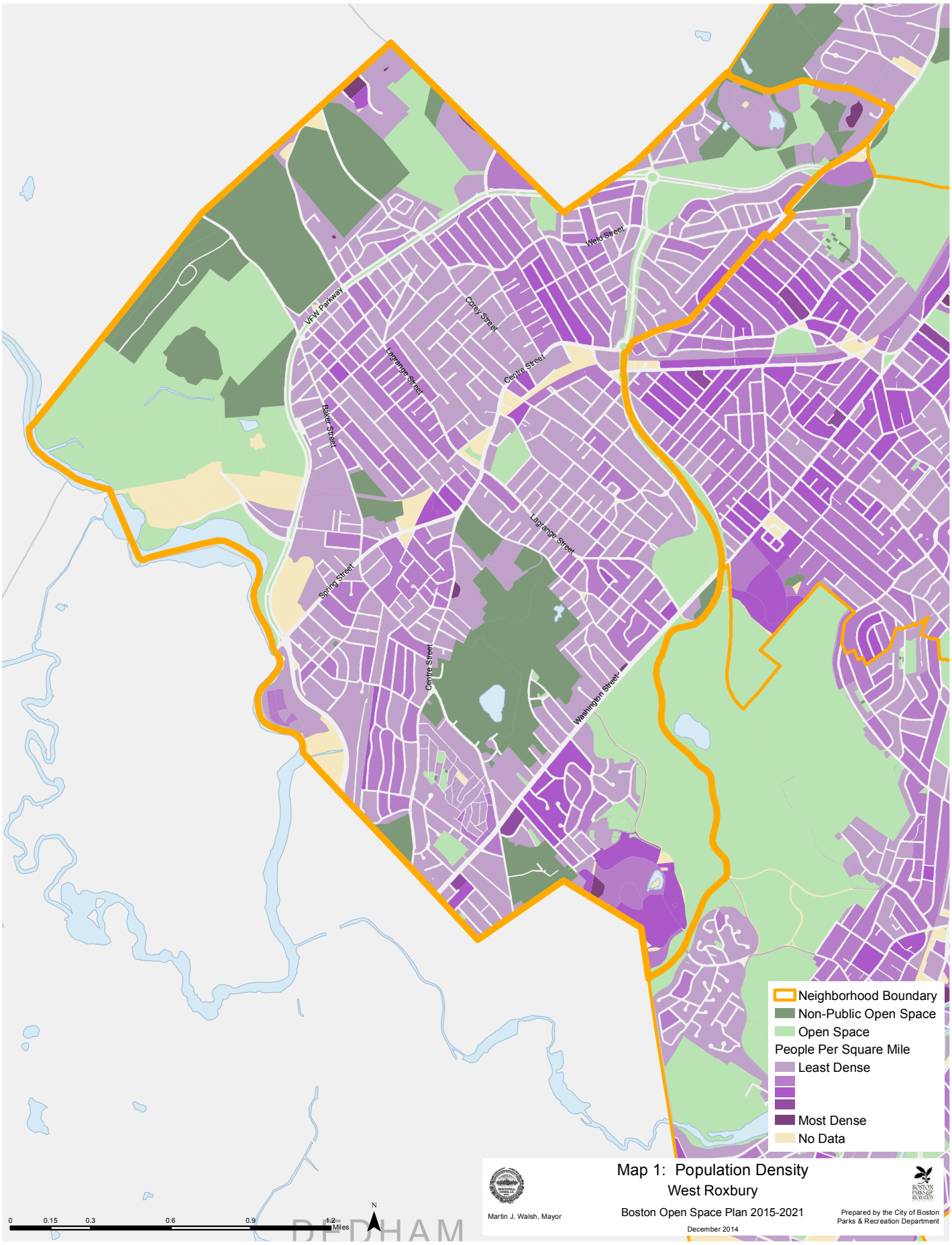
Percent of Households by Number of Vehicles Available	
No vehicles	10%
1 vehicle	44%
2 vehicles	38%
3 or more vehicles	9%

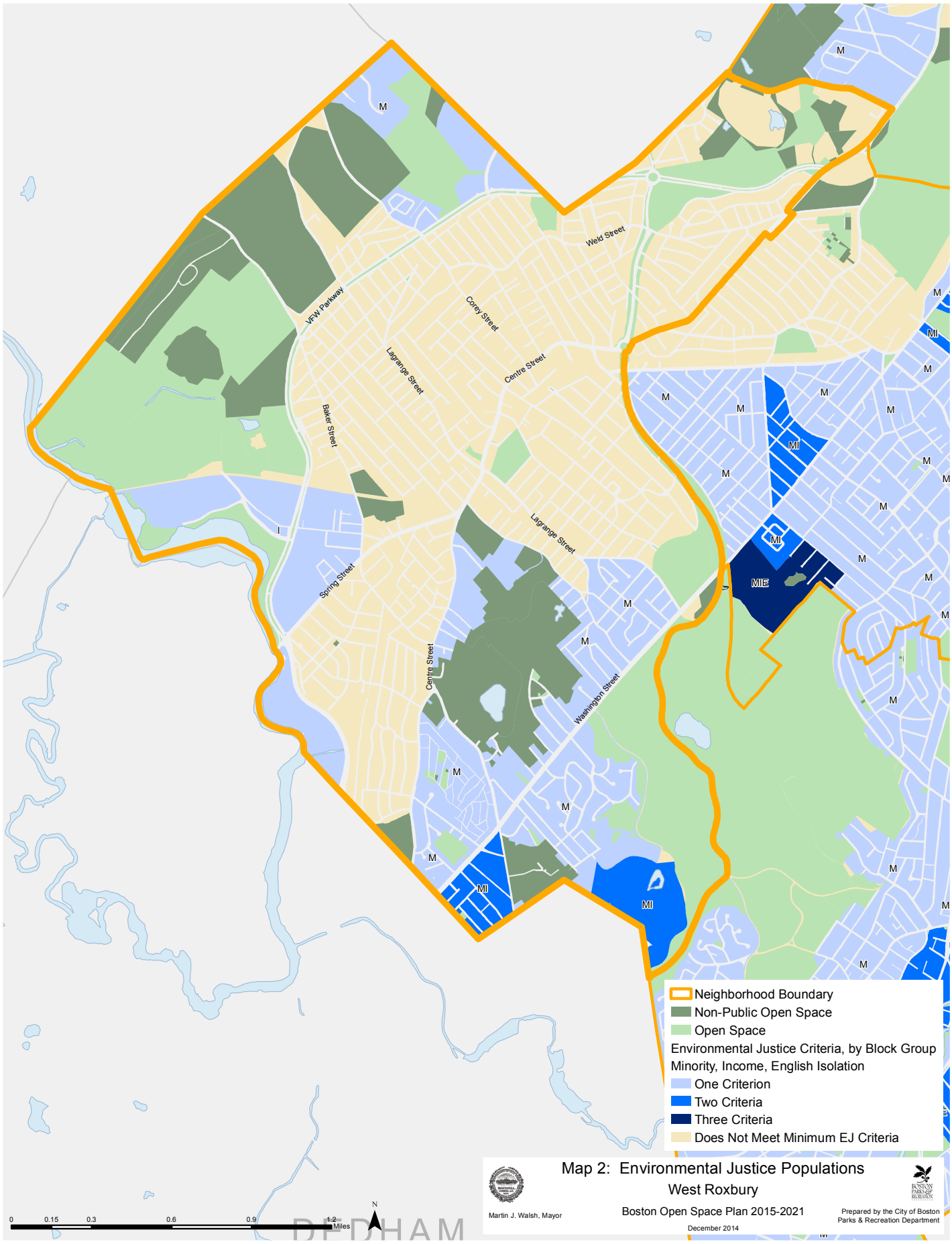
Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; BRA Research Division Analysis

Population* with Disability	Persons	Percent of Population
Boston	72,390	11.6%
West Roxbury	3,199	10.6%

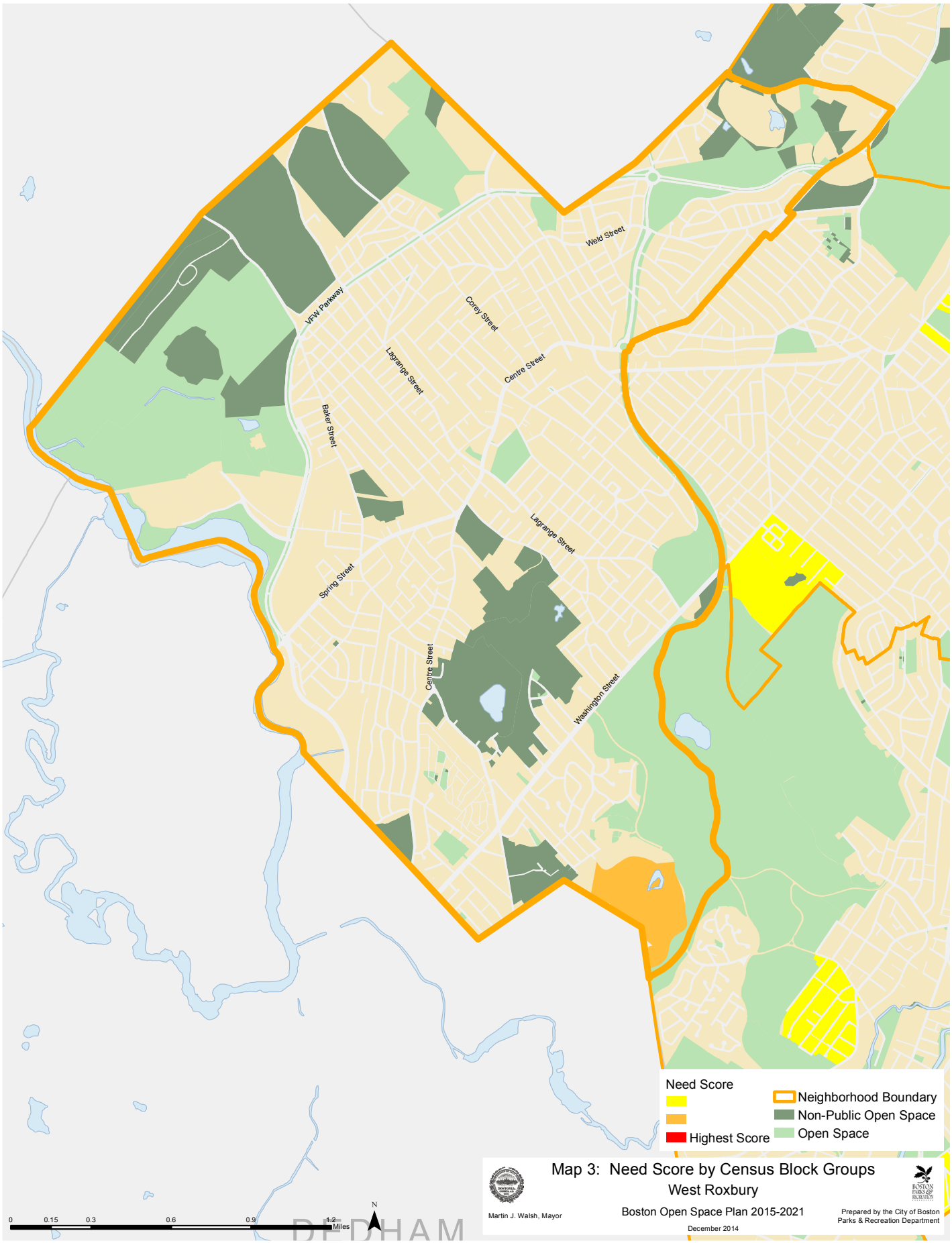
*Civilian Noninstitutionalized
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

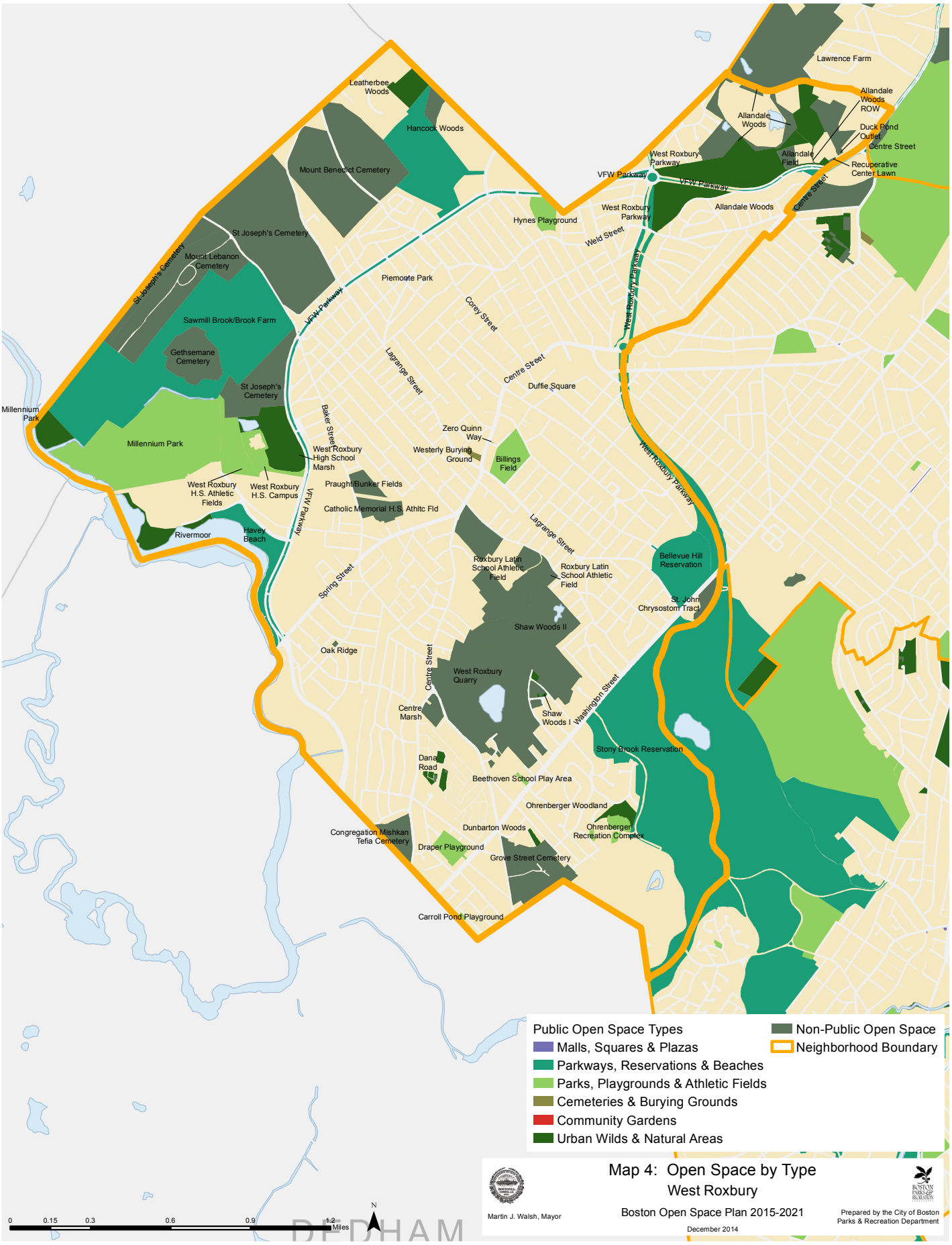
N.B.: "0%" means "less than 1%"
All Tables 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, unless otherwise noted

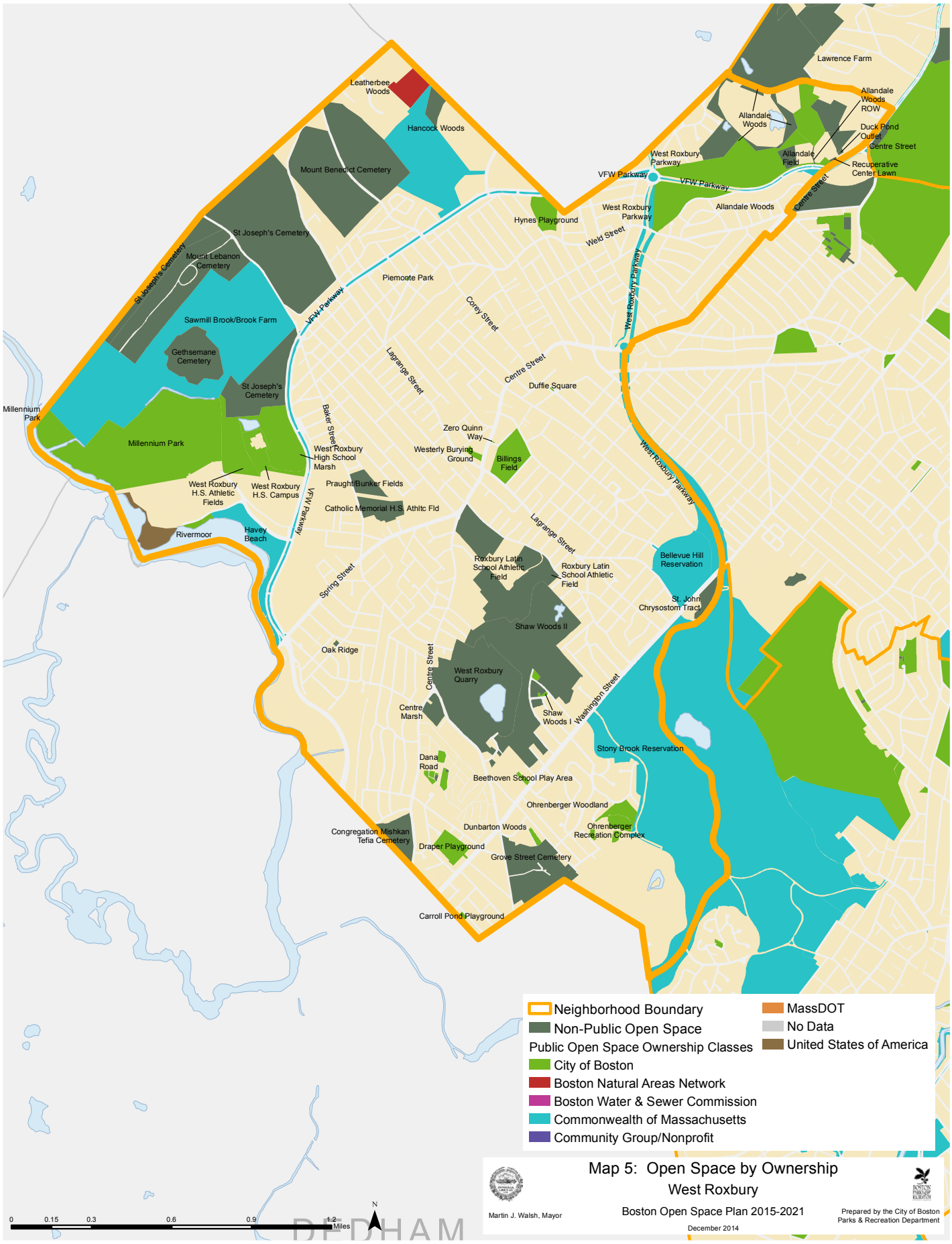

Weld Street
VFW Parkway
Corey Street
Lagrange Street
Centre Street
Baker Street
Lagrange Street
Spring Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
People Per Square Mile
Least Dense
Most Dense
No Data
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
DEDHAM
Map 1: Population Density
West Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

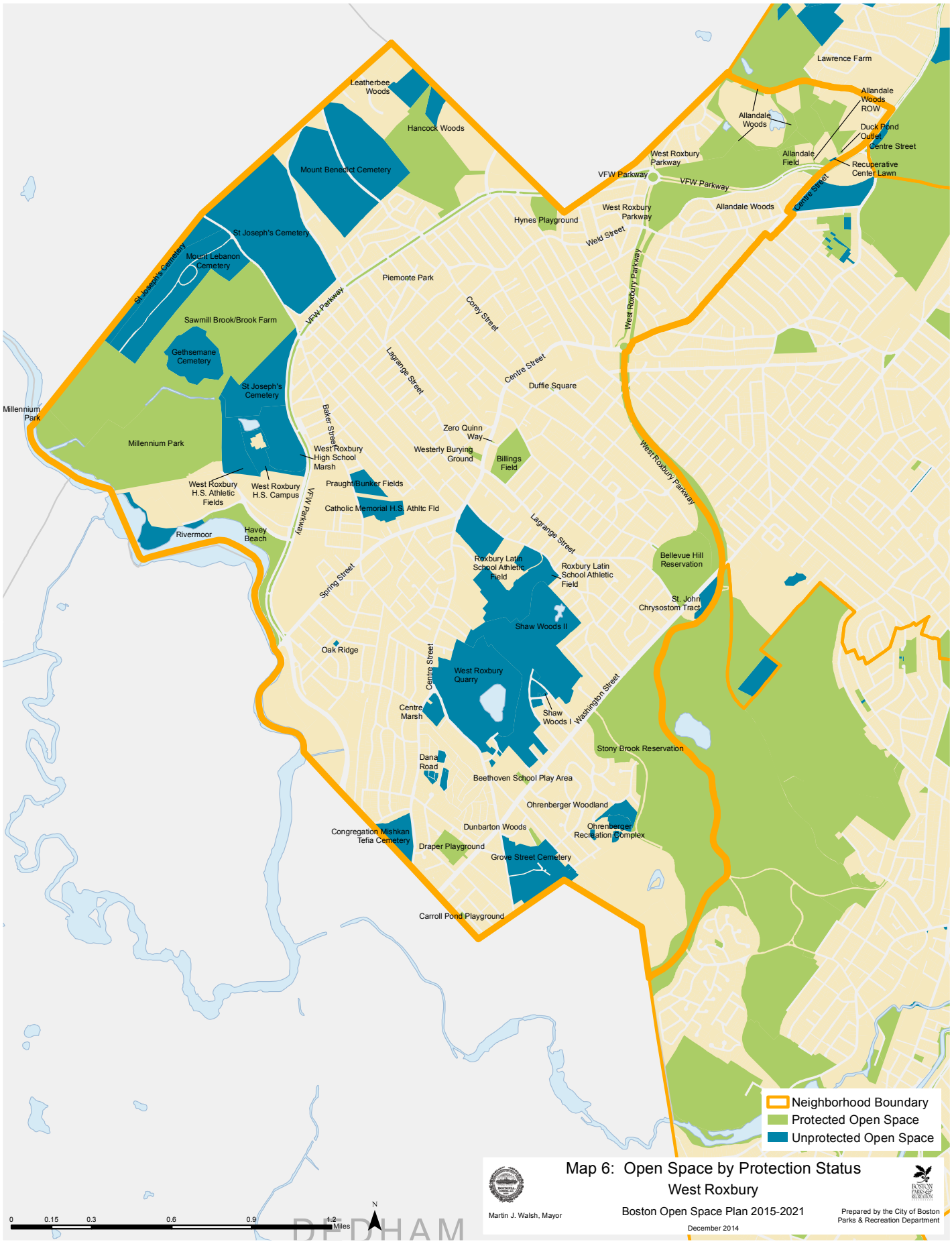


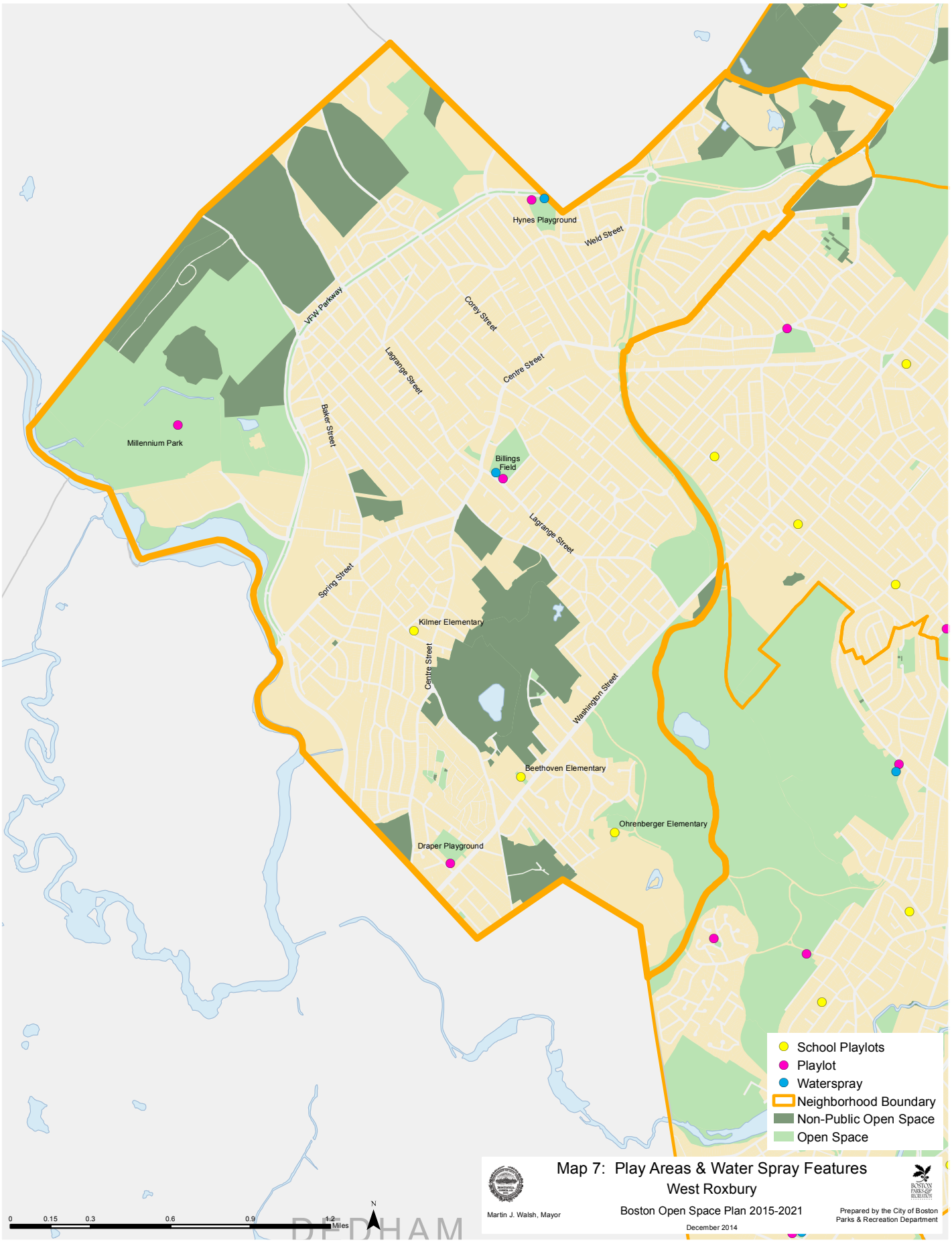
Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations
West Roxbury


Weld Street
VFW Parkway
Corey Street
Lagrange Street
Centre Street
Baker Street
Lagrange Street
Spring Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
DEDHAM
Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups
West Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

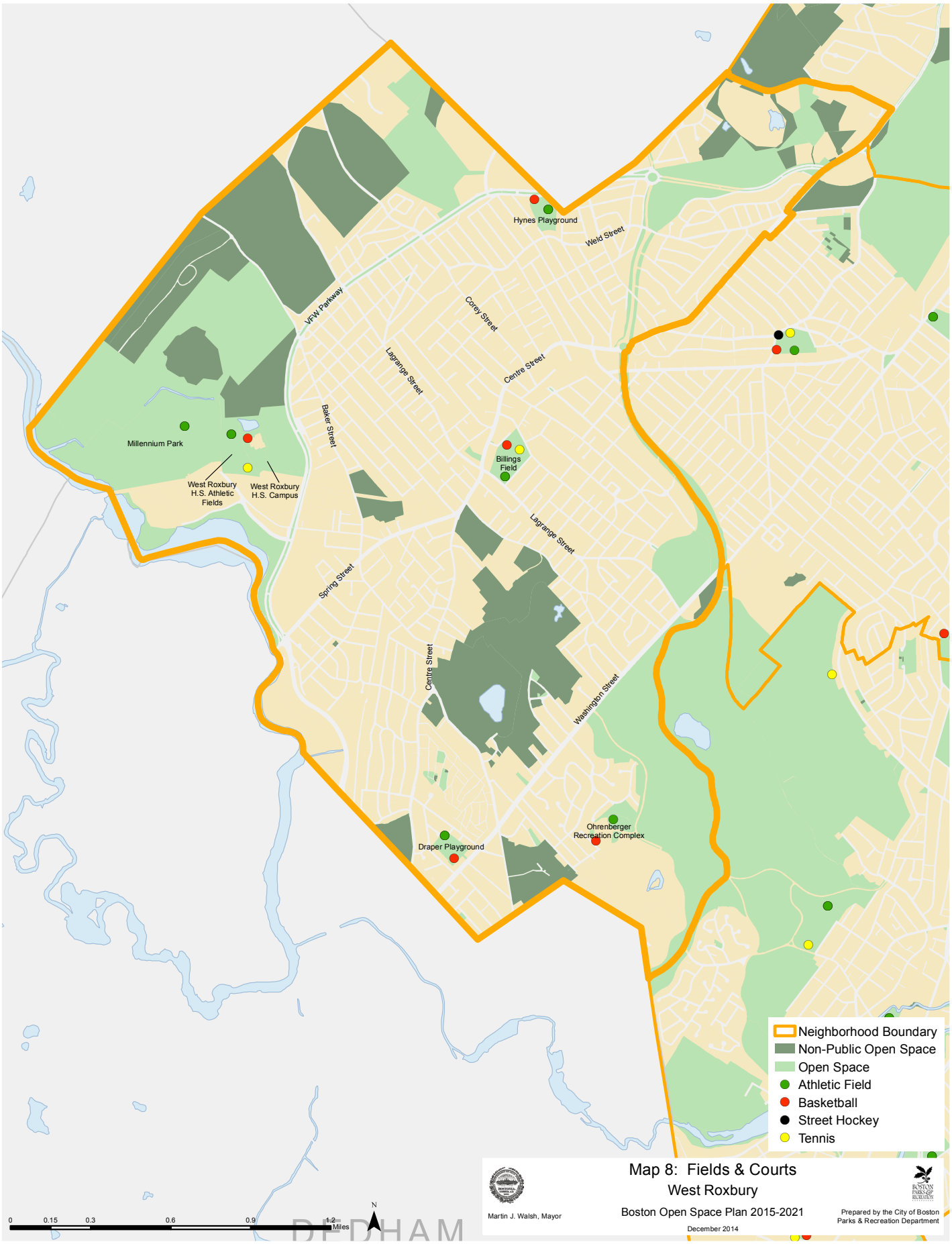

Lawrence Farm
Allandale Woods ROW
Allandale Woods
Duck Pond Outlet
Centre Street
Allandale Field
Recuperative Center Lawn
West Roxbury Parkway
VFW Parkway
Allandale Woods
Leatherbee Woods
Hancock Woods
Mount Benedict Cemetery
Hynes Playground
Weld Street
St Joseph's Cemetery
Mount Lebanon Cemetery
Piemonte Park
Corey Street
Sawmill Brook/Brook Farm
Gethsemane Cemetery
Lagrange Street
Duffie Square
Millennium Park
Baker Street
Zero Quinn Way
Westerly Burying Ground
Billings Field
West Roxbury High School Marsh
Millennium Park
West Roxbury H.S. Athletic Fields
West Roxbury H.S. Campus
Praught/Bunker Fields
Catholic Memorial H.S. Athltc Fld
Rivermoor
Havey Beach
Roxbury Latin School Athletic Field
Bellevue Hill Reservation
Spring Street
St. John Chrysostom Tract
Shaw Woods II
Oak Ridge
West Roxbury Quarry
Centre Marsh
Shaw Woods I
Washington Street
Stony Brook Reservation
Dana Road
Beethoven School Play Area
Ohrenberger Woodland
Ohrenberger Recreation Complex
Congregation Mishkan Tefia Cemetery
Dunbarton Woods
Draper Playground
Grove Street Cemetery
Carroll Pond Playground
DEDHAM
Public Open Space Types
Malls, Squares & Plazas
Parkways, Reservations & Beaches
Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
Community Gardens
Urban Wilds & Natural Areas
Non-Public Open Space
Neighborhood Boundary
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 4: Open Space by Type
West Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

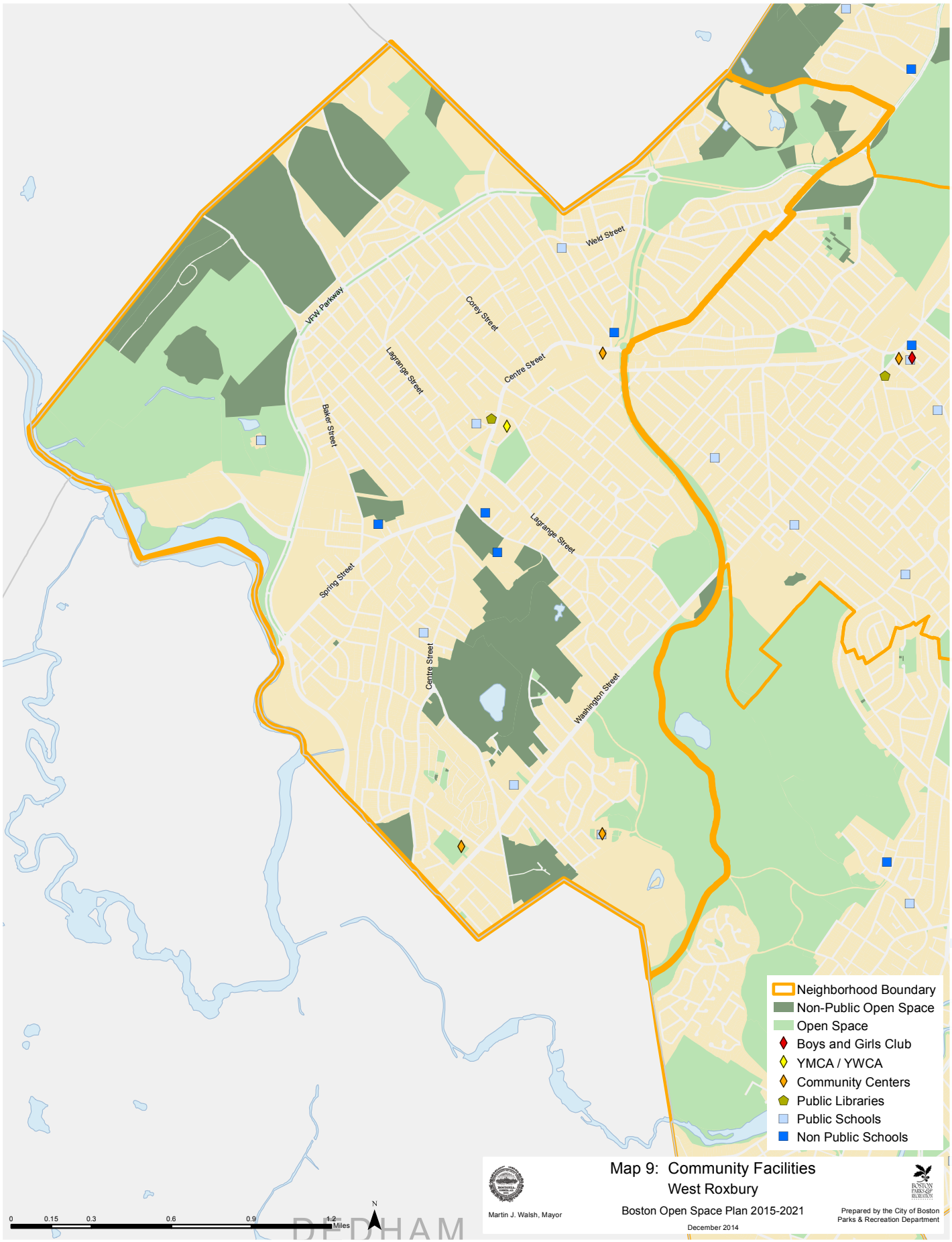

Leatherbee Woods
Hancock Woods
Mount Benedict Cemetery
St Joseph's Cemetery
Mount Lebanon Cemetery
St Joseph's Cemetery
Sawmill Brook/Brook Farm
Gethsemane Cemetery
St Joseph's Cemetery
Millennium Park
Millennium Park
West Roxbury H.S. Athletic Fields
West Roxbury H.S. Campus
Rivermoor
Havey Beach
West Roxbury High School Marsh
Baker Street
VFW Parkway
Piemonte Park
Corey Street
Lagrange Street
Centre Street
Duffie Square
Zero Quinn Way
Westerly Burying Ground
Billings Field
Praught/Bunker Fields
Catholic Memorial H.S. Athltc Fld
Spring Street
Oak Ridge
Roxbury Latin School Athletic Field
Roxbury Latin School Athletic Field
Shaw Woods II
West Roxbury Quarry
Centre Marsh
Shaw Woods I
Washington Street
Dana Road
Beethoven School Play Area
Ohrenberger Woodland
Ohrenberger Recreation Complex
Dunbarton Woods
Congregation Mishkan Tefia Cemetery
Draper Playground
Grove Street Cemetery
Carroll Pond Playground
Hynes Playground
Weld Street
West Roxbury Parkway
VFW Parkway
West Roxbury Parkway
West Roxbury Parkway
Allandale Woods
Allandale Woods
Lawrence Farm
Allandale Woods ROW
Duck Pond Outlet
Centre Street
Allandale Field
Recuperative Center Lawn
Centre Street
Bellevue Hill Reservation
St. John Chrysostom Tract
Stony Brook Reservation
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Public Open Space Ownership Classes
City of Boston
Boston Natural Areas Network
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Community Group/Nonprofit
MassDOT
No Data
United States of America
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
DEDHAM
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 5: Open Space by Ownership
West Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department

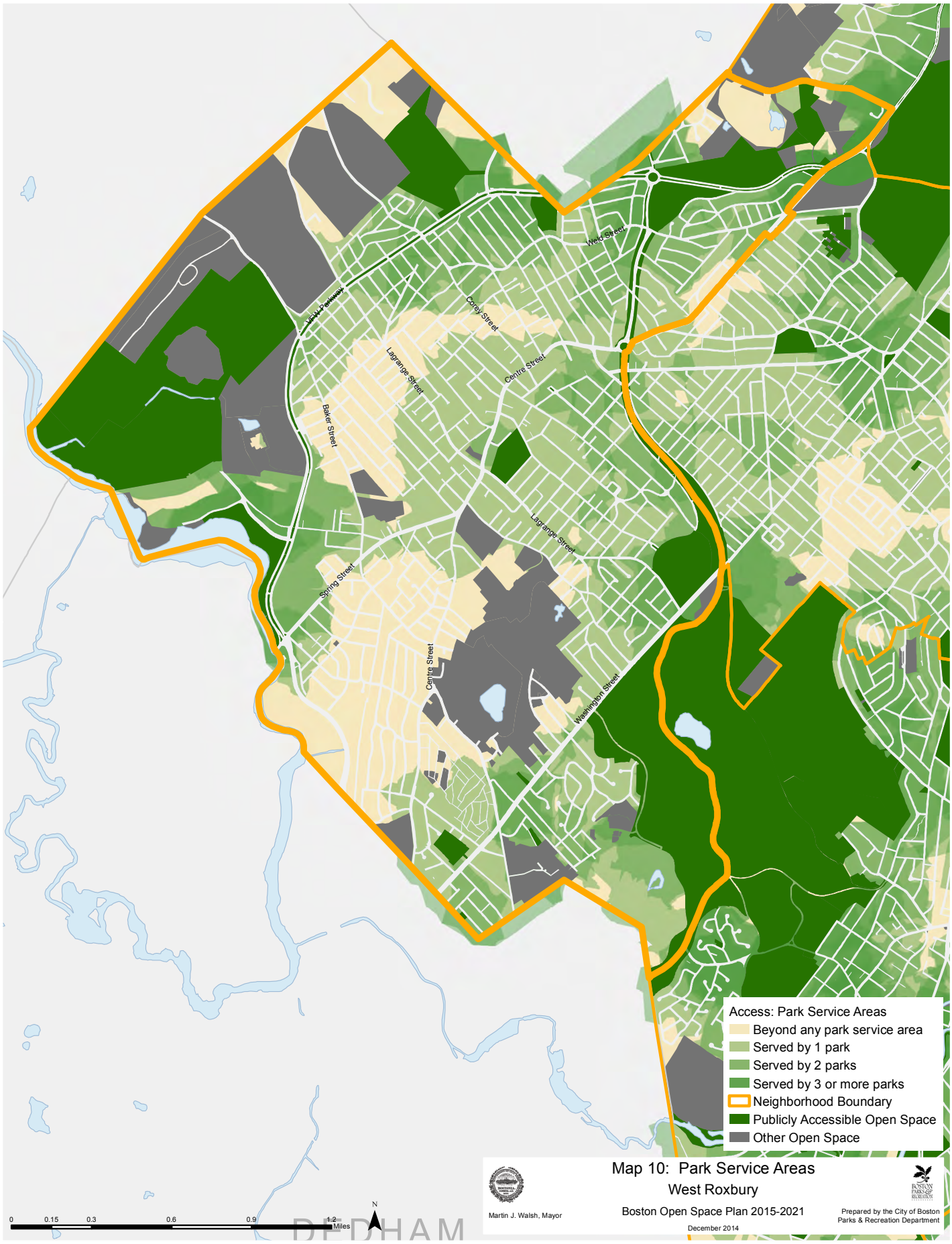

Leatherbee Woods
Hancock Woods
Mount Benedict Cemetery
St Joseph's Cemetery
Mount Lebanon Cemetery
St Joseph's Cemetery
Sawmill Brook/Brook Farm
Gethsemane Cemetery
St Joseph's Cemetery
Millennium Park
Millennium Park
West Roxbury High School Marsh
West Roxbury H.S. Athletic Fields
West Roxbury H.S. Campus
Rivermoor
Havey Beach
VFW Parkway
Piemonte Park
Corey Street
Lagrange Street
Baker Street
Zero Quinn Way
Westerly Burying Ground
Billings Field
Praught/Bunker Fields
Catholic Memorial H.S. Athltc Fld
Spring Street
Oak Ridge
Centre Street
West Roxbury Quarry
Centre Marsh
Dana Road
Hynes Playground
Weld Street
West Roxbury Parkway
VFW Parkway
Duffie Square
Roxbury Latin School Athletic Field
Roxbury Latin School Athletic Field
Shaw Woods II
Shaw Woods I
Washington Street
Beethoven School Play Area
Ohrenberger Woodland
Ohrenberger Recreation Complex
Dunbarton Woods
Congregation Mishkan Tefila Cemetery
Draper Playground
Grove Street Cemetery
Carroll Pond Playground
Stony Brook Reservation
Bellevue Hill Reservation
St. John Chrysostom Tract
Allandale Woods
Allandale Woods ROW
Allandale Field
Lawrence Farm
Duck Pond Outlet
Centre Street
Recuperative Center Lawn
Neighborhood Boundary
Protected Open Space
Unprotected Open Space
Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status
West Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
DEDHAM



Map 7: Play Areas & Water Spray Features
West Roxbury


Hynes Playground
Weld Street
VFW Parkway
Corey Street
Lagrange Street
Centre Street
Baker Street
Millennium Park
West Roxbury H.S. Athletic Fields
West Roxbury H.S. Campus
Billings Field
Lagrange Street
Spring Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Ohrenberger Recreation Complex
Draper Playground
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Athletic Field
Basketball
Street Hockey
Tennis
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
DEDHAM
Map 8: Fields & Courts
West Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department


Weld Street
VFW Parkway
Corey Street
Lagrange Street
Centre Street
Baker Street
Lagrange Street
Spring Street
Centre Street
Washington Street
Neighborhood Boundary
Non-Public Open Space
Open Space
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA / YWCA
Community Centers
Public Libraries
Public Schools
Non Public Schools
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
N
DEDHAM
Map 9: Community Facilities
West Roxbury
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department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Centre Street
Lagrange Street
Baker Street
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Washington Street
Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles
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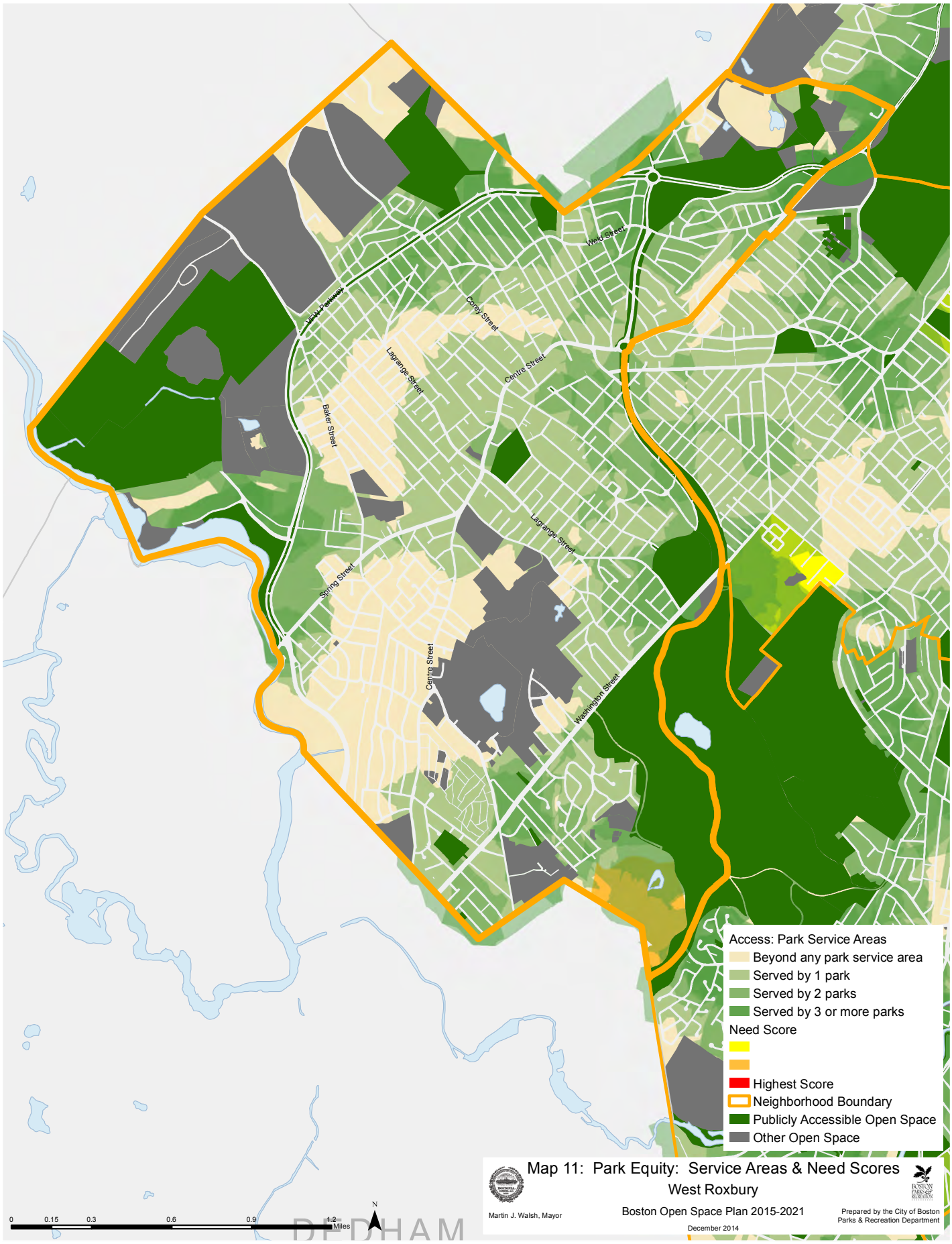
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Map 10: Park Service Areas
West Roxbury
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department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Access: Park Service Areas
Beyond any park service area
Served by 1 park
Served by 2 parks
Served by 3 or more parks
Need Score
Highest Score
Neighborhood Boundary
Publicly Accessible Open Space
Other Open Space
Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas & Need Scores
West Roxbury
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
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Section 7.3

Analysis of Needs: Open Space Systems Management

Section 7.3.1:

CEMETERIES

Overview

Boston's historic cemeteries are important examples of the city's early landscape, linking contemporary Boston with a rich historical and developmental legacy. The city's 16 historic burying grounds and three larger garden-style cemeteries date between 1630 and 1892 and are located in 13 Boston neighborhoods. The burying grounds house a rich collection of historic artifacts that tell many stories about Boston's cultural heritage. Gravestones, tomb markers, and monuments honor the many founding members of the community including Revolutionary heroes and men and women of national and international fame. The city's collection of grave markers embodies the distinguished art of many local stone carvers. These stones afford a rare glimpse into Puritan life in the heart of a modern city, where little else remains in context. Collectively they reflect evolving views of life and death. Since their landscapes remain relatively unchanged, they also act as important open spaces in local neighborhoods, often in areas that are densely built with no other available open space.

Boston's burying grounds are important historical sites for a national constituency of academics, descendants, and tourists who visit Boston. Four burying grounds—Granary, King's Chapel, Copp's Hill, and Central—are located along Boston's Freedom Trail and attract an estimated one million visitors annually. Ten historic burying grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; two sites, Central and Walter Street, are National Historic Landmarks. Central is a designated Boston Landmark, as is Dorchester North; the Granary lies within the Beacon Hill Architectural District; the South End Burying Ground is located within the South End Landmark District; and the Eliot (Eustis Street) Burying Ground lies within the Eustis Street Architectural Conservation District.

Historic Burying Grounds Initiative

The Historic Burying Grounds Initiative (HBGI) is an effort of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to restore the city's historic cemeteries. Combining public and private funding, community support, advocacy, and public education, the Initiative is the largest cemetery restoration program undertaken by a municipality in the United States.

The Initiative grew out of an awareness voiced in the mid-1970s by several local preservation agencies that the effects of age, environment, and deferred maintenance posed an imminent threat of loss to the city's historic burying grounds and thus to the heritage of Boston, New England, and the nation. Acknowledging the historical and artistic importance of these sites in the city's landscape, the Parks Department, the Boston Landmarks Commission, and the Bostonian Society began a collaborative effort to inventory over 15,000 markers and assemble a master plan addressing structural, landscape, and masonry conservation measures in the historic cemeteries. The original HBGI master plan, completed in 1985, guided capital improvements, private fundraising, and partnerships up until the creation of a new historic burying grounds master plan in 1998 by Walker-Kluesing Design Group. During the first phase, activities primarily focused on protection, stabilization, preservation, and restoration of historic artifacts, tomb structures, and retaining walls. These efforts have prevented significant deterioration of these valuable resources and reduced risk to visitors. The Initiative invested over $7 million in improvements since the establishment of the program. Over $1.5 million in restoration and repair projects have been completed since the beginning of 2008.

Active Cemeteries Revitalization

The City of Boston, through the Parks Department, operates three public cemeteries (Mount Hope in Mattapan, Fairview in Hyde Park, and Evergreen in Brighton) for Boston residents, particularly those individuals who cannot afford a more expensive, private cemetery. The Cemetery Division makes approximately 1,000 burials each year. The Cemetery Division has completed Phase II of its expansion plan adding 1,800 double crypt vaults and approximately five to six years of burial space at Fairview Cemetery. Recent improvements include construction of a maintenance facility at Mount Hope, rehabilitation to the administration building and construction of a maintenance building at Fairview Cemetery, and ongoing memorial restoration.

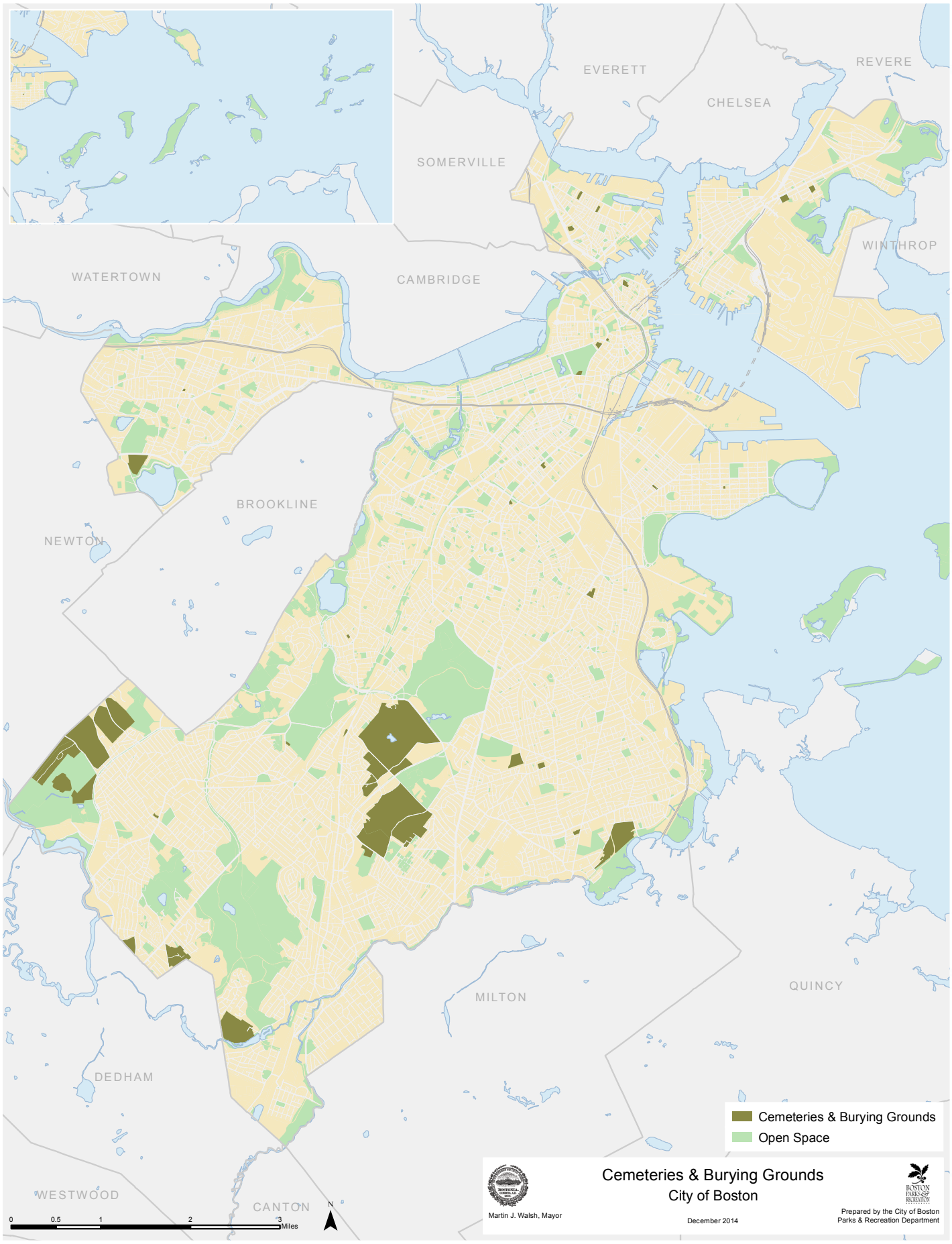
The Next Seven Years

General Accomplishments and Recommendations

The master plans for both the City's historic and active cemeteries guide the implementation of restoration and rehabilitation projects. The primary focus of the previous master plan was on protecting, stabilizing, preserving, and restoring the gravestones, tombs, and physical structures. The new master plan continues these efforts but also devotes more resources toward making improvements for visitors. The plans, however, may be modified or expanded over time in order to reflect changed site conditions and availability of funding.

There has been a new emphasis on disseminating information electronically, primarily through the City of Boston's website. This effort has included creation of a biannual newsletter, reworking of old site maps and the scanning of over 12,000 pages of grave-marker survey sheets. We are currently working with the City's Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to develop several publicly accessible applications including a database containing pertinent information about individual gravestones and an interactive feature using the burying ground maps. The Department will work with DoIT to develop a bid to build a computerized database for active cemetery records as well.

Grant funding has been an integral part of our ability to undertake major preservation projects stretching beyond our annual budget. Projects utilizing grant funding from 2008 to 2014 include conservation of above-ground tombs in Eliot Burying Ground, landscape restoration in Granary Burying Ground, and historic fencing restoration in Copp's Hill Burying Ground. A continued effort must be sustained to search for more grant funding.


EVERETT
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WESTWOOD
CANTON
Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
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Cemeteries & Burying Grounds
City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
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While the historic and active cemeteries have their individual needs suited to particular issues and elements of their landscapes, the following categories of recommendations should guide those issues shared commonly by all 19 sites:

- Continue to implement recommendations for rehabilitation and conservation projects as recommended in the historic and active cemetery master plans.
- Nurture and accentuate landscape features, where appropriate, to provide a more comprehensive experience for public appreciation beyond the gravestones. Improve tree maintenance.
- Continue improvements in information dissemination by working with the Department of Information Technology to complete new burying ground application. Finish updating all site maps. Continue writing of newsletter. Research further use of technology to increase public knowledge of burying grounds.
- Improve conservation knowledge by analyzing success of previous methods and seeking to develop best practices.
- Target improvements designed to encourage visitation. This should include landscape issues related to lawns and plantings, path systems, site amenities, fences and gates, lighting, and an informational and interpretive sign system.
- Using the model of signs recently installed, create signs in other burying grounds where appropriate.
- Continue to seek private funding to complement City capital funding.
- Continue to facilitate use of sites for educational programs and to spread public awareness. Encourage use of historic and active cemeteries as educational resources for schools, the Freedom Trail, and other tourism efforts.
- Implement an historic preservation plan for the three active cemeteries, including marker inventories and landscape restoration plans.
- Implement planting plans for active cemeteries, particularly for new burial areas and expansion areas.
- Accommodate City policy to provide burial space for Boston residents by seeking land within Boston to provide for long-term availability of burial space.

Site-Specific Descriptions and Recommendations

Bennington Street Cemetery, East Boston, 1838

The three-acre Bennington Street Cemetery was laid out five years after Noddle's Island became East Boston. Originally overlooking Boston Harbor, the cemetery now faces Logan Airport and provides an open space in an area dominated by airport and highway traffic. Nineteenth-century markers record the names of East Boston's early residents, including many Eastern European immigrants.

Major repair work was completed in 2009 on the above-ground tomb structures and wall at the northwest corner of the site. Financial limitations prevented us from repairing the above-ground tomb structures along the eastern border of the site.

Recommendations

- Make priority structural repairs to the eastern above-ground tomb structures.
- Restore landscape features such as the pathway system, lawn, the pruning and fertilizing of existing trees, and the addition of new trees.
- Improve site map.
- Continue to support educational and fund-raising efforts in this site.

Bunker Hill Cemetery, Charlestown, 1807

Located on Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown's second cemetery is a reflection of Charlestown's rapid growth during the early 19th-century Irish immigration. The property lies on the site crossed by British fortifications in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The following projects have been completed at Bunker Hill: completion of Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory form in 2009 as a precursor to a nomination for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; site map reworked and digitized in 2012; and repairs to granite piers and front gate in 2013.

Recommendations

- Prepare nomination for inclusion on National Register of Historic Places.
- Conserve and reset gravestones.
- Repoint stone wall at base of fence.
- Work with the Charlestown Preservation Society, the Charlestown Historical Society, and the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to support educational programs and advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements.

Central Burying Ground, Boston Common, 1756

Located on Boylston Street between Tremont and Charles Streets, Central Burying Ground was established in Boston to alleviate overcrowding in the three older burying grounds. It contains the graves of British common soldiers who died during the Revolution, foreigners who died while in Boston, Roman Catholics, Freemasons, American patriots from the battle of Bunker Hill and the Boston Tea Party, painter Gilbert Stuart, and composer William Billings. The large freestanding tomb structure, "The Dell," along the west edge of the burying ground, houses the remains of 200 graves disturbed by street construction.

Repairs to the entrance tomb and some tombs on east perimeter occurred in 2009. Two unusual grave markers were conserved in 2012. The northern site wall and tomb entrances were repaired in 2012, including the conservation of a tomb plaque. An underground tomb along the west perimeter was repaired in 2013.

Recommendations

- Improve site map.
- Reset gravestones that are leaning significantly and those that are lying flat on the ground.
- Install interpretive signs like those in other Freedom Trail sites.
- Renovate lawn areas by filling in depressions and eliminating bare spots.

Copp's Hill Burying Ground, North End, 1659

One of seven 17th century historic burying grounds in Boston, Copp's Hill was a stronghold from which the British shelled Charlestown in 1775. Interred here are Cotton Mather, minister and theologian; Edmund Hart, builder of Old Ironsides; and more than 1,000 African-Americans who constituted the 18th century New Guinea community. One of the few green spaces in the densely built North End, the two-acre burying ground complements Copp's Hill Terrace next door. Together they offer stunning views over Boston Harbor to Charlestown.

Some areas of the brick pathway were repaired in 2009. In 2009 and 2010 the Mather tomb was restored with funding from descendants. In 2013 the Charter Street cast-iron fence was restored, along with three plot fences and the 1840s drinking fountain. The trees in the sites were pruned in 2014.

Recommendations

- Continue preservation efforts of gravestones, repair broken stones, and reset tilted headstones.
- Repoint Snow Hill Street wall.
- Install replica solar lanterns in two gateways.
- Provide further necessary repairs to brick walkways as required due to settlement and frost heaving.
- Continue to work with the Friends of Copp's Hill Burying Ground and the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association to support advocacy for the burying ground, educational programs, and to raise funds for project implementation.

Dorchester North Burying Ground, Upham's Corner, 1633

Located at the corner of Columbia Road and Stoughton Streets, the eight-acre Dorchester North Burying Ground was the town of Dorchester's only cemetery for two centuries. Generations of prominent Dorchester families are represented as well as William Stoughton, Chief Justice during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692; Richard Mather, minister and progenitor of the Mather family; and John Foster, Boston's first printer. Dorchester North contains early slate gravestones of particular artistic merit, including the 17th century John Foster stone, currently exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts. Nineteenth-century maple and oak trees planted by local horticulturist Samuel Downer remain, but large elm trees have succumbed to Dutch elm disease over the past three decades.

In 2012 the row of above-ground tombs along the eastern wall were repaired along with several underground tombs throughout the site.

Recommendations

- Continue grave marker conservation and resetting.
- Repair two piers and gatepost at the Stoughton Street perimeter wall.
- Take steps to restore the landscape to the Victorian-period style. This should include building a new perimeter path system with selected crossing paths. Renovate lawn areas. Prune and fertilize trees. Restore the former Victorian-period walkway signs.
- Work with the Dorchester Historical Society and community groups to encourage neighborhood involvement and advocacy, special projects, fundraising, and development of education programs.

Dorchester South Cemetery, Lower Mills, 1814

Opened in 1814 to alleviate overcrowding in the Dorchester North Burying Ground, Dorchester South became a noteworthy early example of the garden cemetery movement that began in 1831 with Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Samuel Downer, a prominent businessman and horticulturist, designed the landscape as a botanical park with ornamental trees and shrubbery.

Grave markers throughout the site were reset in 2008. The site map was reworked and digitized in 2012. An inventory sheet for the Massachusetts Historical Commission was completed in 2009 and a nomination for National Register status was submitted in 2013.

Recommendations

- Address structural problems of the perimeter walls.
- Repair and paint south and west perimeter fence.
- Repair mound tombs at the interior driveway and at the north edge.
- Reset fallen obelisks.
- Work with community groups such as the Dorchester Historical Society and local schools to encourage programmed use of Dorchester South.

Eliot (Eustis Street) Burying Ground, Roxbury, 1630

Eliot Burying Ground was the town of Roxbury's first graveyard, named after John Eliot, preacher to 17th century Native Americans. Also interred here are generations of local Roxbury families such as Seaver, Ruggles, Williams, Gridley, and Dudley. Today, the burying ground lies within the Eustis Street Architectural Conservation District.

In 2010 the table tombs and above-ground monuments were repaired and conserved.

Recommendations

- Renovate lawn areas by eliminating crabgrass, weeds, and moss. Fill in depressions.
- Reconstruct the path system in the current location and width.
- Install interpretive signage.
- Work with community groups such as the Roxbury Latin School, Historic Boston Incorporated, Discover Roxbury!. and Dudley Square Main Streets to encourage programmed use of Eliot Burying Ground.

Evergreen Cemetery, Brighton, 1848

The Town of Brighton purchased land from the Aspinwall family in order to create a second town cemetery in the newly emerging "garden style." Since parks were not yet part of the public realm at the time, residents used Evergreen's 13.88 acres for passive recreation. Today, it is one of three active City-owned cemeteries in Boston. A monument to Brighton's Civil War

soldiers designed by George Meacham, architect of Boston's Public Garden, is found there. Like Fairview and Mt. Hope, a new name sign was installed here.

Recommendations

- Renovate and repair the administration building.
- Rehabilitate the Civil War Monument and its immediate landscape, correcting erosion problems.
- Reconstruct the roadways.

Fairview Cemetery, Hyde Park, 1892

Fairview reflects the development of the Hyde Park neighborhood. It is the final resting place for James Monroe Trotter, the U.S. Army's first black commissioned officer; Hippolitus Fiske and Charles Jenny, founders of Hyde Park; and John Joseph Enneking, an important member of American painting's turn-of-the-20th century Boston School. The hilly contours of Fairview cemetery lend it an attractive natural quality, and magnificent views of the Blue Hills can be seen from the top of Cedar Grove Road.

Fairview Cemetery is currently the primary location for city burials in Boston. Fairview now also has a columbarium for cremated remains. With Phase II of the expansion plan completed, it has approximately five to six years of burial space left

Recommendations

- Reset and restore grave markers.
- Repair roadways.
- Make landscaping improvements to City Poor Lot and install permanent grave numbering system.
- Follow through on construction of new maintenance building currently being designed.
- Begin Phase II expansion planning for more burial space.
- Reconstruct backside wall.

Granary Burying Ground, Downtown, 1660

Taking its name from the 18th century town grain storage building, the Granary was part of Boston Common when it was established. Today, the two-acre burying ground is enclosed on three sides by tall office and institutional buildings. The Egyptian Revival entry gate and Tremont Street wall were designed by Solomon Willard and built circa 1840. The Granary contains a particularly rich collection of 17th and 18th century gravestone carving, and markers exist here for prominent Bostonians Sam Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere, as well as for Benjamin Franklin's family, and, according to legend, Mother Goose.

A collapsed underground tomb was repaired in 2009. Minor fencing repairs were made in 2011. A major landscape restoration was completed in 2012, including widening pathways, providing standing areas for tour groups, installing a new rear path, installing post-and-chain fencing, and tree pruning. Three archaeological test pits were completed in 2013 to determine the construction of the front wall and tombs.

Recommendations

- Restore front cast-iron fence, clean and repair granite wall and entryway.
- Continue to implement grave marker conservation projects.
- Continue good relations with abutters and historical organizations to support educational programs, advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements, and to develop maintenance agreements.
- Continue to support programming through historical organizations.

Hawes/Union Cemeteries, South Boston, 1816/1841

This site is actually contains two cemeteries. John Hawes, a wealthy South Boston resident donated the Hawes portion on Emerson Street. The Union Cemetery on Fifth Street is separated from Hawes by a row of tombs. Prominent local citizens buried in Hawes/Union include John Hawes, Cyrus Alger, and Daniel Simpson.

In 2009 the fences along Emerson and East Fifth Streets were repainted. An inventory for the Massachusetts Historical Commission was completed in 2009.

Recommendations

- Submit nomination for inclusion on National Register of Historic Places.
- Reset the remaining leaning and fallen gravestones.
- Rebuild the transverse mound tombs and reset iron doors. Remove trees adjacent to tombs to avoid deplacement or encapsulation of stone tomb elements.
- Repoint and rebuild brick walls along west boundary. Repoint granite walls along west boundary.

King's Chapel Burying Ground, Downtown, 1630

King's Chapel Burying Ground is the oldest cemetery in Boston and is said to be part of the estate of Isaac Johnson, an esteemed early settler. Royal Governor Andros seized a portion of this property in 1686 to construct the first Anglican Church in Boston. Prominent individuals buried here are John Winthrop, William Dawes, Robert Keayne, founder of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and Mary Chilton, the first woman to step from the Mayflower in Plymouth.

Minor tomb repairs took place in 2009. The Tremont Street fence was repaired and repainted in 2010 and 11. Tree pruning was undertaken in 2013.

Recommendations

- Address landscape issues in the burying ground.
- Provide minor maintenance work at tombs, including repairing sidewalls, and resetting and conserving tabletops.
- Repair front gate.
- Continue good relations with abutters and historical organizations to support educational programs, advocacy for fundraising, and capital improvements.

Market Street Burying Ground, Brighton, 1764

Market Street Burying Ground was Brighton's primary cemetery until the 1850s when Evergreen Cemetery was established. It had been associated with the Third Church of Cambridge until 1807, when Brighton became a separate town.

The tomb at the rear corner was repaired in 2011. Volunteer growth was removed from the south perimeter in 2012. A site map was created in 2014.

Recommendations

- Reset leaning gravestones, conserve broken stones and stabilize tomb to the left of the entrance.
- Prune trees, renovate lawn areas as required.
- Repoint north wall Market Street wall. Remove calcium carbonate deposits on Market Street wall.

Mount Hope Cemetery, Mattapan, 1851

Mount Hope is the largest of all City-owned cemeteries. Its 125 acres contain burial plots for veterans of all wars since the Civil War; members of a variety of organizations such as the Elks, Odd Fellows, and Masons; the oldest burial area for Boston's Chinese immigrants; and a monument to the Irish patriot, John E. Kelly. Influenced by Mount Auburn and Forest Hills Cemeteries, Mount Hope's landscape design is based on the garden-style cemetery. Curvilinear tree-lined roads and two man-made ponds grace its rolling landscape.

Recent work here includes an entrance renovation (2010 to2011) and the restabilization of the chapel (2011 to 12).

Recommendations

- Inventory, repair, and replace decorative path and walk signs.
- Prune, fertilize, and otherwise maintain the older tree stocks at Mount Hope through a $70,000-per-year program for the removal of dead and diseased trees and the pruning of healthy trees.
- Resurface and repair roadways.
- Restore chapel to enable its use by the public.

Phipps Street Burying Ground, Charlestown, 1630

One of the few vestiges of 17th century Charlestown after the British leveled the town during the Revolution, Phipps Street Burying Ground also contains some of the finest early gravestone carving to be found in the eastern United States. A granite obelisk memorializes John Harvard, founder of Harvard College and Charlestown resident, and a plaque marks the burial location of Nathaniel Gorham, a signer of the U.S. Constitution.

A new site map was created for the site in 2012. In 2013 repairs were made to tomb entrances and the beginning phase of Japanese Knotweed eradication was started.

Recommendations

- Continue Japanese Knotweed eradication program until removal is complete.
- Conduct grave marker conservation project.
- Clean, prime and paint perimeter and Harvard Monument fence. Repair gate at Harvard Monument.
- Straighten perimeter fence posts and pickets. Repair access gate.
- Repair existing path.
- Work with the Charlestown Preservation Society, the Charlestown Historical Society, and the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to support educational programs and advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements.

South End Burying Ground, South End, 1810

Known as the workingman's burying ground, most burials in this South End cemetery are not marked, and successive filling of the marshy site permitted burials in several tiers. A plan for the site guided the construction of walled tombs around the perimeter of the cemetery that today dominate the site. Once square in shape, the burying ground is now L-shaped, indicating that a quarter of the original site has been acquired by abutters.

The site map was updated in 2012. Some minor masonry repairs were carried out in 2013.

Recommendations

- Prune existing trees, and plant new trees according to the master plan.

Walter Street Burying Ground, Roslindale, 1711

The Walter Street Burying Ground was originally created as part of the Second Church of Christ of Roxbury in a site adjoining the Peter's Hill area of the Arnold Arboretum. Prominent local families interred there include Baker, Chamberlain, Weld, Child, and Mayo. A marker indicates burial here of American Revolutionary War soldiers who died from war wounds or disease at the Greenough House in Jamaica Plain. An inventory form was done for the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Recommendations

- Repair entrance stairways by replacing the missing stones, repointing steps, and painting handrail.
- Submit nomination for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Westerly Burying Ground, West Roxbury, 1683

Westerly Burying Ground gave inhabitants of Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury a nearby place to bury their dead and served as the West Roxbury graveyard for 268 years. The burying ground provides a visual record of three centuries of early settlers, and examples of local gravestone carving.

The large Wiggins monument and three other grave markers were conserved in 2008. The ornamental cast-iron plot fence was conserved and repaired in 2009.

Recommendations

- Reset gravestones and repair mound tombs.
- Repair and repoint north and south walls.
- Prune existing trees.
- Clean and paint Centre Street fence and gate.

Section 7.3.2:

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Introduction

Boston has 175 community gardens located in 11 Boston neighborhoods. Not many decades ago, they numbered a handful. The growth of community gardens across the city demonstrates a strong commitment for these special forms of green space. An integral part of the open space network of parks, playgrounds, natural areas, and unbuilt spaces in the city, these community gardens are perhaps the most personal and directly representative green spaces in their neighborhoods.

Community gardens are vital focal points in many Boston neighborhoods and unique among the city's open space types. Most began and continue as food-producing plots used by people of limited means but have also grown to serve as important social and educational centers for gardeners, their families, and neighbors. Gardens facilitate the empowerment of residents by involving them in community planning processes that define an appropriate balance of open and built spaces. Community gardens also serve to welcome newcomers to existing neighborhoods and offer neighbors common goals of healthy active living. The work involved in creating and preserving community gardens has brought many residents together, whether or not they are gardeners, to both protect neighborhood character and provide the space necessary for gardening and gathering.

Usefulness, self-sufficiency, beauty, productivity, cooperation, and education are some positives that grow out of community gardens in addition to the food and flowers raised. Well-managed gardens are a source of community pride, while flourishing gardens contribute to the perception of gardens and their environs as secure, healthy spaces within Boston's neighborhoods. Residents use community gardens as safe meeting places, and by virtue of the variety of cultures represented by the city's gardeners, these spaces are also a common meeting ground for shared neighborhood experiences.

The community gardens of Boston range in size from the Clark-Cooper Community Garden at the Massachusetts Audubon Nature Center (the former Boston State Hospital lands in Mattapan) and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Richard Parker Victory Gardens in the Fenway, each with more than 300 individual garden plots, to tucked-away places developed on corner vacant house lots with as few as ten plots. In these varied gardens, approximately 15,000 residents harvest a wide array of food annually, generating fresh, healthy produce that in turn contributes significantly to the household budgets of low- to moderate-income families. Gardens are located in almost every city neighborhood and are owned by city and state agencies and a variety of non-profit entities. Community gardens are located on parkland, the grounds of public housing developments, and school and social service agencies. Many, particularly those owned by non-profits, are located on formerly abandoned or undeveloped lots. Community gardens also reflect the city's diverse ethnic make-up with significant representation of Asian, Caribbean, Eastern European, African-American, and Hispanic populations.

This plan is a summary of information and goals defined by the many agencies and organizations instrumental in the development, support, maintenance, funding, and advocacy for community gardens in Boston. The plan's overall intent is to set realistic goals for the next seven years, goals that will sustain a larger and more long-term vision for the gardens.

History and Development

Historically, Boston has one of the oldest and largest community gardening systems in the United States. In the 1890s, with the onset of an economic depression, vacant lots and city land were set aside for food production by individuals. During World War I, community gardening surfaced again in Boston as "Victory Gardens," providing food for local consumption as much of the nation's commercial food supply was allocated for shipment abroad. During World War II, community gardening again became a critical component of the war effort by significantly buttressing domestic food production.

The Fenway Victory Garden (later named the Richard D. Parker Memorial Victory Gardens) is one of the few Victory Gardens in the country that dates from World War II. However, in the 1970s additional community gardens arose from vacant house lots created by arson, abandonment, and demolition, especially in the most economically distressed neighborhoods. Strong grassroots efforts toward community development, self-help, and state legislation resulted in the creation of many new gardens.

Other early efforts such as Boston's Revival Program resulted in 30 new community gardens during the 1970s. In 1976, Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) was founded as a non-profit organization to further the interests of gardening groups. With their support, community gardening emerged from the 1970s as a solid neighborhood-based system.

In the 1980s, community gardens faced important battles for property rights in a climate of aggressive development and re-zoning. Because the city faced extreme financial cutbacks, the Boston Natural Areas Fund—now known as Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN)—purchased at gardeners' request and protected 16 of the Revival Gardens from the City of Boston. The South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust (SELROSLT) was established and formalized in 1991. A Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) contract was established with the national non-profit Trust for Public Land and Boston Urban Gardeners to assist with the formation of SELROSLT. This effort permanently protected 16 community gardens and pocket parks owned by the BRA.

To address continuing concerns for ownership, investment and support, Garden Futures was formed in 1994 by BUG, BNAN, SELROSLT and Dorchester Gardenlands Preserve. These groups collectively undertook a study of their 60 non-profit owned gardens in order to better able to understand capital and human infrastructure needs related to long-term sustainability. The report was issued in early 1997 and recommended new efforts toward education, networking, and public outreach.

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REVERE
CHELSEA
SOMERVILLE
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
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By 2012, Garden Futures, the gardens owned by BUG (which had closed its doors in 2000), and SELROSLT were acquired by BNAN making it the single largest non-profit owner of community gardens in Boston. In addition to its protection of 59 community gardens, BNAN expanded its capacity to provide garden education and resources for all of the city's 175 gardens and serves as a central home for all Boston's community garden information.

In recognition of its growth and expanded work, in 2001, the organization's name was updated to Boston Natural Areas Network. In the last ten years, BNAN's staff and the annual budget have grown fivefold. In recognition of the growing demands and responsibilities that rest with the organization, BNAN became a division of the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) in 2006. The Trustees of Reservations is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving properties of scenic, historic, and ecological value throughout Massachusetts. The affiliation of a state-wide and city-wide organization will bring unprecedented conservation capacity and create a new paradigm for how such work is done in the City of Boston and in Massachusetts; bringing together the complementary strengths of each organization.

In 2014, BNAN has formally integrated into TTOR, so that it will be the Boston Region of TTOR. This means that many support functions that BNAN performed for itself will now be provided by TTOR, leaving more time, resources, energy, and efficiency for delivering on the core mission.

Ownership, Investment, and Support

Public Ownership and Support

The City of Boston owns many community garden properties through the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the Boston School Department, the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), and the Parks Department, which owns six community gardens within public parkland. The DND plays a crucial role in garden ownership as the agency that manages land that became City-owned through abandonment and foreclosure: many of these are vacant lots. Some of these properties have been allocated for community gardens. In addition, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) provides community gardening opportunities at a number of its residential developments citywide.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, via the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), also owns land in Boston where community gardens are located. Public support for community gardens is evidenced through the Parks Department's outreach through its community outreach coordinator and its Maintenance Division, working with other community garden service providers, and supporting spring and fall garden clean-ups with trash pickups. The Department's Park Partners program includes community gardens in its growing list of open spaces and their advocates.

The DND administers the Grassroots Program, which competitively awards federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to neighborhood groups for converting vacant land into community gardens. Through Grassroots, existing gardens have been improved and new gardens created.

Over the last five years, the Grassroots Program has awarded approximately $1.9 million of federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program. These grants were directed toward community-sponsored, nonprofit-developed projects in Boston's low and moderate income neighborhoods. The Grassroots Program has also worked to renovate and expand some of the city's largest community gardens including Leyland Street Community Garden in Dorchester, Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester, and Rutland Washington Community Garden in Roxbury. The program will continue to support opportunities to revive older community gardens and expand the number of plots in existing community gardens especially where there are opportunities to use city owned land to do so. In total, over 26 community gardens, 2 new urban farms and 9 other projects in the development stage have been assisted by the Grassroots program from 2007–2014.

Along with continuing to support the City's community gardens, the Grassroots program continues to assist in the creation and strengthening of long-term community assets. Two examples are the renovation and expansion of Revision Urban Farm which included a new greenhouse, retaining wall, and learning amphitheater for its youth training programs; and the construction of the Roxbury Community College Garden, which is integrated into the college's entrepreneurship courses, and assisted by the school's greenhouse, so as to assist in its food production and access programming.

The Grassroots Program has also worked on collaborative projects with other City agencies, namely the Urban Agriculture Pilot Program in association with the BRA and the Mayor's Office of Food Initiatives. The 2010 pilot resulted in the development of two new urban farms in Dorchester, the Tucker Callendar Street Urban Farm managed by Revision House/Victory Programs, and the Glenway Bradshaw urban farm managed by City Growers/Urban Farming Institute. These new farms were key to the development of Boston's Article 89 Urban Agriculture Zoning approved in November 2013.

In addition, Grassroots funded the design and construction of two community gardens at Boston Housing Authority's Old Colony and West Broadway developments working with South Boston Grows and the South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation. The BHA and Grassroots will continue to consider other possible opportunities to develop community gardens.

Through an open Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the Grassroots Program has also conveyed property to nonprofit grantees. The Boston Natural Areas Network received land and funding for the creation of two gardens in Dorchester and the renovation and expansion of another in Roxbury. Other organizations such as The Cooper Center in Roxbury, the Nonquit

Neighborhood Association, the NUBIA Center and the Egleston Community Orchard (via the Commonwealth Land Trust) also were conveyed land for open space use.

Finally, the state provides some resources to urban community gardeners. The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture facilitates the establishment of farmers' markets.

Private and Non-Profit Ownership and Support

While the Commonwealth and the City own the land of several community gardens in Boston, most are owned by private and non-profit entities.

Among these non-governmental organizations, BNAN stands out for its longevity and ability to adjust to changing circumstances and opportunities. It supports and owns 59 community gardens and advocates for new ones, particularly in lower income areas. As the newest region of the statewide land preservation group The Trustees of Reservations, BNAN helps sustain the current levels of support for community gardens while planning for future growth.

The Next Seven Years

Since the 1970s, community gardens have emerged as an integral element of Boston's open space system. Today community garden space is in demand in a number of city neighborhoods, yet stability and permanency remain issues for many established sites. Recommendations should respect the delicate balance between external support services and self-sufficiency. The following list delineates areas of focus over the next seven years:

- Community Gardens and Community Development
- Acquisition and Protection
- Maintenance and Support
- Capital Investment
- Education, Training, and Programming
- Management
- Productivity
- Resource Development

Community Gardens and Community Development

Community gardens serve many functions in a neighborhood: as sources of fresh food; as gathering areas facilitating communication among neighbors; as a recreation resource (annual Gallup Polls continually show gardening to be one of the most popular leisure activities); and as crime-free areas which can provide an extra measure of security to neighboring homes. In short, a flourishing community garden can help grow not only healthy foods, but a more livable neighborhood as well.

Goals

- Involve neighborhood organizations, residents and youths in planning, building, and maintaining community gardens.
- Support community-based initiatives to develop new gardens and improve existing ones.
- Target neighborhoods where community garden improvements will help leverage other funding and support other community development initiatives.

Recommendations

- Provide publicly funded grant programs to support garden capital, operating, and programming needs.
- Continue and expand DND Grassroots program to create new and update existing community gardens owned by non-profit organizations
- Encourage gardeners and their leadership to participate in neighborhood-wide organizations.
- Advocate for a balance of open space and built areas in both publicly and privately funded development projects.
- Develop sources of financial support for community-based organizations to be able to assume long-term responsibility for maintaining community gardens.
- Encourage community participation in public agency neighborhood development projects to ensure that community garden interests are promoted and incorporated into project plans.

Acquisition and Protection

The local food movement has grown substantially over the last seven years. The public is more aware today of what they are eating and are looking for fresh, safely grown and prepared food. This interest in growing and eating fresh produce means that more people are looking for space for their own garden. In a dense city, this interest can generate a dramatic demand for community garden space.

Great strides have been made to secure established community garden lands in Boston through purchase by non-profit organizations. Yet some community gardens remain unprotected or threatened by development, whether owned privately or by an agency of the City of Boston or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As the City of Boston and non-profit groups plan for Boston's open space, the important need for gardens should be considered when setting priorities for acquisition.

There is a need for more land trusts as the number of nonprofits and neighborhood groups interested in developing community gardens has greatly increased.

Goals

- Provide long-lasting protection to community gardens.
- Encourage the establishment of new community gardens and encourage other non-profit organizations and groups, such as CDCs, to become garden owners or partners with a public agency owner.
- Engage private multifamily residential housing and low and moderate housing owners in the development of community gardens on their property.
- Develop more public support for land trusts through resources and training on their structure and organization.
- Continue to evaluate community gardens as candidate sites in the City's Open Space Acquisition Program.

Recommendations

- Develop a defined process to secure and manage long-term community gardens through the coordination of public, non-profit, and community resources. Develop mechanisms for long-lasting protection while allowing for flexibility to respond to future needs should community gardening interest wane in particular areas.
- Establish efficient processes by which public agencies, non-profit groups such as CDCs, and multi-service centers can become community garden owners.
- Make private multifamily residential housing owners aware of opportunities to acquire land for community gardens to provide financial and health benefits for their residents.
- Assess needs for new community gardens and new models for community garden types.
- Evaluate opportunities for incorporating community garden space on public recreational land through the appropriate agency's capital redevelopment process.
- Encourage the creation of more small land trusts in order to hold, own, and manage land for community garden use.

Maintenance and Support

Community gardeners, as volunteers, manage most day-to-day maintenance and operations within the 175 individual community gardens. Training for maintenance skills on both public and private land is also provided by non-profit organizations such as BNAN. In addition, City agencies such as the Parks Department and the Public Works Department contribute to this effort.

Maintenance activities are, therefore, spread among both gardeners, garden support groups and garden owners. Technical assistance and education from organizations such as BNAN, help small garden groups to accomplish realistic maintenance goals. Larger or more complex needs such as waste removal, utilities, emergency repairs and delivery of compost, soil, woodchips, or manure are best addressed with a scale of support represented by the Parks Department, Public Works Department, and the Water and Sewer Commission. The importance of public sector maintenance support is critical to the success of the community gardens across Boston and needs immediate attention by City agencies

Goals

- Reinforce and systematize basic maintenance services to community gardens citywide.
- Encourage environmentally sound and efficient gardening practices such as composting and water conservation.

Recommendations

- Encourage materials recycling, including composting, by the gardens, garden support entities, and public agencies. Build on city mandate for restaurant composting to increase the availability of low cost local compost/soil.
- Continue removal of seasonal clean-up trash by the Parks Department and expedite a program for the Public Works Department to include such items in its regular contracted waste removal process, so that garden waste is picked up as part of residents' trash pickup.
- Continue to provide and deliver compost—with the compost tested annually for possible contaminants—to community gardens.

Capital Investment

Building a garden can be a process that radically transforms an area from a derelict wasteland into a source of pleasure and pride. A garden encourages neighbors to be outdoors, to talk with each other, and to get involved. A garden that is built by a community will reflect its spirit—the uniqueness of each site, the characteristics of the larger community, and the talents and efforts of the individuals involved.

Capital items such as water systems, soil enhancement, and equipment are essential elements in the life of a community garden. Investing in new gardens or improving existing ones may be the first step toward investment in other neighborhood facilities.

Areas of potential need for capital funding encompass land (discussed above in "Acquisition and Protection"), initial garden construction, and ongoing re-investments:

- **Water —** Install hook-ups, including meters and backflow prevention devices; upgrade and repair watering systems.
- **Development —** Design services for a community-determined plan for the garden infrastructure; contractor, engineering, technical assistance, and project management services needed to build infrastructure; programs to train new gardeners and establish long-term maintenance strategies.
- **Materials —** Supplies and hardware necessary to construct and sustain a garden.
- **Equipment —** Tools for initial construction but more crucially, the hoes, rakes, shovels and other tools needed for day-to-day gardening.

Goals

- Develop permanent, rolling funding stream for capital investments in new and renewing community gardens.
- Reduce the capital costs of developing community gardens by encouraging the co-development of community gardens with residential, institutional, and other developments.
- Support ongoing funding from the US DHUD Community Development Block Grant Program for the Grassroots Program.

Recommendations

- Provide financial support for ongoing community garden capital assessments.
- Continue to earmark through DND's Grassroots program a substantial portion of federal Community Development Block Grant funds for development of community gardens.
- Work with gardening organizations, along with appropriate public and private sector representatives, to help enable local garden groups to plan and pay for water system installations, upgrades, and subsequent water charges themselves.
- Encourage a streamlined process for the engineering and permitting of water line construction at community gardens by

non-profits. Pair this with more research and cost assessment of onsite water retainage systems.
- Develop a marketing campaign to local nonprofits on the virtues of including community gardens in their development plans.

Education, Training, and Programming

Community gardens have both a great need for and the substantial promise of education and training that will ultimately enhance their communities. Appropriate educational programs can assist gardeners of all ages in a mutual quest to grow nutritious food, beautify neighborhoods through site improvement, and manage gardens equitably.

Several grassroots organizations that pursue goals directly or indirectly related to nourishing community gardens are already in place.

The Master Urban Gardener Program (MUG) offered by BNAN, meets many of these community garden education and training needs. The program includes 30 hours of classroom instruction, discussions and hands-on demonstrations of gardening skills that range from plant propagation to establishing community garden rules. Those who

complete the MUG Program agree to give back at least 30 hours of garden volunteer time. Since MUG was initiated, over 500 gardeners have completed the program. They have, in turn, generated more than 150,000 hours of volunteer time for Boston's community gardens.

The annual Boston Gardeners Gathering—meeting for 38 years—provides an opportunity for many gardeners to attend workshops and learn from each other. Northeastern University has become a valuable community gardening resource through offering classrooms and technical support for the MUG program and also hosting the Gardeners Gathering on its campus.

The Food Project operates two "urban farms" in Boston to develop youth leadership skills where produce is raised for city markets and city youth are trained and utilized in all phases of growing food.

Since 2011, when the Earthworks organization closed its doors, BNAN has taken over the management of the Urban Orchard Project in conjunction with the City's Grow Boston Greener program and support from MA DCR. The Urban Orchard Project establishes and cares for productive fruit-bearing plantings in undeveloped open spaces, schoolyards, housing developments, and other sites which integrate community gardening with fruit, berry, and nut growing.

The ReVision House in Dorchester is a shelter for homeless young women and their children. Part of their program includes an urban micro-farm that grows a wide variety of food crops on three reclaimed lots totaling one acre for shelter residents, sale to the public, and to restaurants. Internships provide training to shelter residents and local students in hands-on gardening skills.

Community gardens can also lead to neighborhood efforts beyond the garden gate. Leadership development training is the basis of the MUG Program and community support activities of BNAN and its member organizations. Gardeners are increasingly being encouraged to provide greening projects, education, food donations, and other services to their neighborhoods.

Goals

- Continue to form partnerships with and provide resources to organizations such as BNAN and its member non-profit organizations to further training.
- Support training programs in landscape skills, gardening, and leadership to promote both the proper uses of materials and environmental awareness.
- Continue the efforts of the Boston Garden Council, a gardener-operated advocacy, information, networking, and awareness organization working to strengthen community gardens.
- Enhance skills, experience, and confidence of gardeners as open space advocates, community planners, and stewards.

Recommendations

- Establish a broad-based advisory group to strengthen, expand, and coordinate with the environmental education efforts for children and youth in all areas of Boston.
- Develop expanded opportunities for field trips, hands-on training, environmental education, and awareness for the Boston Youth Fund.
- Continue to support the annual Gardeners Gathering and the Boston Garden Council, both of which strengthen the network of community gardeners citywide and highlight urban gardening techniques.
- Support BNAN's Master Urban Gardener (MUG) program and other initiatives that provide leadership training for community gardeners and include current leaders as resources.

Management

Efficient management of community gardens comes from the strong leadership of coordinators who are typically responsible for most garden-wide functions. Leadership, however, must empower gardeners rather than create dependency. It is essential to the creation and continued existence of such leadership that there be strong outreach and support from a network of public and non-profit agencies.

The preferred management structure is a leadership team that includes a liaison/contact who collects plot fees, calls for services, and coordinates clean-ups and special efforts.

As noted in an earlier section, BNAN's MUG Program now addresses many of these concerns. Coursework includes classes related to garden coordinators, their various roles, and how they can create leadership teams to better accomplish the multiple tasks involved with managing a community garden open space.

Goals

- Identify strong leadership in gardens and increase the percentage of gardeners involved in garden leadership and maintenance.
- Sustain the network of agencies and community organizations committed to the support of community gardens as a permanent part of the city's open space.

Recommendations

- Support and expand programs such as the MUG Program that develop leaders and formalize a support network among them on both a citywide and neighborhood basis.
- Support organizations such as BNAN that institutionalize a support network of city and state agencies, landowners, non-profit organizations, and garden leaders by identifying relevant organizations, defining their contributions, and developing their commitments to gardens.
- Provide weather-resistant bulletin boards within each community garden to facilitate the dissemination of information pertinent to garden management and for general informational purposes as well as a place to display BNAN's list of Good Gardening Practices.

Productivity

The influx of immigrants from gardening and farming cultures along with others of lesser means results in many people turning to gardening as a vital source of nutrition for their families. Garden plots in the city are generally small and there are not enough to meet the demand from new gardeners each year. Thus, only by increasing productivity can more food be made available to more people.

Another issue related to productivity is soil condition: often it is shallow, lacking in organic matter, and must be tested for lead and other pollutant toxicity. There is also a lack of topsoil to compensate for erosion and years of intense growing and the necessary organic matter is either unavailable or too expensive for most gardeners.

Goals

- Develop and implement an educational program that emphasizes safe, low-cost intensive gardening techniques.
- Provide materials and equipment that will increase productivity.
- Reduce the capital costs of developing community gardens by supporting key elements as primary city infrastructure such as water lines and compost/soil.

Recommendations

- Design new gardens and redesign older ones to promote intensive production of food.
- Deliver tested compost to gardens annually where significant erosion has occurred or enhancement is needed. Build on city mandate for restaurant composting to increase the availability of low cost local compost/soil.
- Educate gardeners on organic gardening methods, closer spacing, improved varieties, spot placement of fertilizer, advantages of mulching and compost making, use of season extenders and preventive measures, and prompt action for pest control.
- Support non-profit organizations such as BNAN and its member organizations to create demonstration gardens at locations throughout the city, emphasizing safe, low-cost intensive gardening techniques.
- Educate gardeners to eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides for the good of the public, the environment, and their own health.

Resource Development

The mosaic of support for community gardens is broad and complex, combining government, voluntary, and private support for maintenance, materials, labor, and special projects. The need exists to further develop this support network so as to achieve all the goals of the community gardening system.

Goals

- Develop, through the initiative of garden support agencies and organizations, private/public partnerships and expanded private financial support to assist community garden programs, special initiatives, and vocational training efforts.

Recommendations

- Continue to commit substantial portions of DND's Grassroots Program for community garden land development by non-profit organizations. Maintain DND planning for Grassroots program grants as a public/private process involving neighborhood residents and garden support entities.
- Develop sources of low-level funding as a means for providing grants to community groups for community gardens.

Section 7.3.3:

THE EMERALD NECKLACE

Overview

The Emerald Necklace is an internationally renowned 19th century linear park system as well as a nationally significant work of landscape architecture, sanitary engineering, and city planning. Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., the leading landscape architect of the era, created this system to expand the open spaces of Boston Common, the Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall into Boston's growing neighborhoods. His vision sought to solve a difficult series of public health and civil engineering problems with verdant scenery that brought "peace and refreshment to the city dweller."

> We want a ground to which people may easily go after their day's work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour seeing, hearing and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the street. We want, especially, the greatest possible contrast with the restraining and confining conditions which compel us to walk circumspectly, watchfully, jealously, which compel us to look closely upon others without sympathy.
>
> - F.L. Olmsted, 1870

Olmsted created a progression of landscapes connecting to the downtown parks that culminated in an extensive "country park." He designed landscapes evocative of New England's natural scenery with carefully composed valleys, meadows, and woodlands. Olmsted re-envisioned a tidal marsh in the Back Bay Fens, sculpted a river ravine known as the Muddy River, preserved Jamaica Pond, designed the Arnold Arboretum grounds, and transformed farmlands into the inspired Franklin Park. In 1893, Olmsted wrote to his partners John Charles Olmsted and Charles Eliot, "Nothing else compares in importance to us with the Boston work … I would have you decline any business that would stand in the way of doing the best for Boston all the time."

The nearly 1,000 acres of the Emerald Necklace represent a model park system inspired by the civic-mindedness of the late 19th century. At that time, the concept of public parks took hold in American cities to provide healthful relief from urbanization and the associated pollution, noise, and overcrowding. The Necklace gave the pedestrian, equestrian, or carriage rider an hour's or a day's recreation without leaving Boston. Age, natural selection, and successive changes in landscape fashions and levels of care have diminished Olmsted's rich composition of plants. However, these Olmsted-designed parks continue to offer scenic enjoyment, a respite from city life, and wildlife habitat in the midst of a highly urbanized region, as well as storm water management in the Muddy River basin.

The Emerald Necklace directly serves eight of Boston's neighborhoods with numerous and varied places for quiet contemplation, enjoyment of scenery, and active play – regardless of a park user's recreational interest, economic status, or cultural identity. These places provide the settings for families and individuals to walk, run, play ball, birdwatch, use tot lots, picnic, golf, cross country ski, fish, skate, toss a frisbee, fly a kite, rent a boat, or just sit and enjoy these restful green spaces in the city. For Greater Boston, the Necklace is an important regional recreational destination for everything from fund-raising walks and the Franklin Park Zoo to the Boston Common holiday tree-lighting ceremony and collegiate cross-country running races. The system attracts national and international attention as city planners, landscape architects and designers study historic solutions to contemporary challenges like stormwater management and multi-modal access.

All parks (including parkways) within the Necklace are designated Boston Landmarks with the exception of Arnold Arboretum. All are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Boston Common, the Public Garden, and Arnold Arboretum are additionally designated as National Historic Landmarks, the highest tier of the National Register.

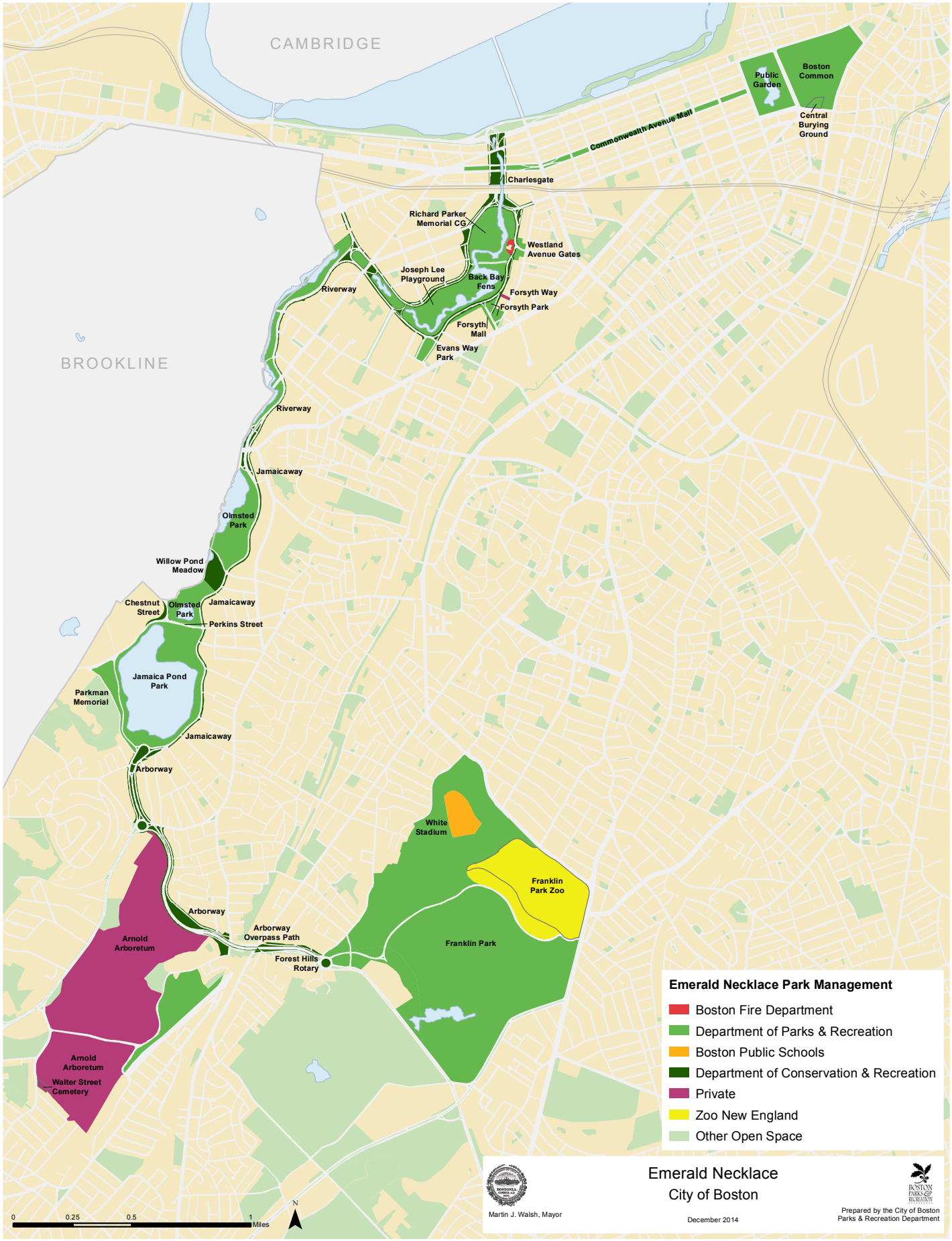
Comprehensive Planning

The Emerald Necklace is made up of nine parks: Boston Common, the Public Garden, Commonwealth Ave Mall, Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, the Arnold Arboretum, and Franklin Park. It includes Boston's oldest park, its largest park, its most heavily-used parks, its most venerable collection of public woodlands, an early model for an urban sanitary system, and one of the world's most respected arboretum collections. Their protection and ongoing rehabilitation are guided by a collection of master plans. These master plans present an array of recommendations that seek to restore the historic integrity of each park while accommodating contemporary uses.

The genesis of these plans came from organized support for the protection of this park system. The Friends of the Public Garden sought to protect Boston Common from overuse. It could no longer be "all things to all people," and needed a management plan to structure its use. The Massachusetts Association of Olmsted Parks (now incorporated into Preservation Massachusetts) championed the Olmsted firm's role in planning and design for 280 municipal public parks statewide, which resulted in historic park planning and revitalization initiatives.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) launched the statewide Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program in 1984. Through this program, Boston participated in two plans: the Franklin Park Master Plan 1990 and the Emerald Necklace Master Plan for Jamaica Pond, Olmsted Park, the Riverway and the Back Bay Fens (final draft completed in 1990, updated and published in 2001).

Each plan for the Emerald Necklace parks has synthesized historic information, contemporary activities, and input from extensive community processes. The result is a series of master plans that provide a flexible framework for action. At any time new information can be factored in and considered with each master plan's guiding principles and recommendations. For elements such as planting, fencing, lighting, statuary, paths, furnishings, signs, and structures there are clear directives based upon historic documents, design precedents, and preservation guidelines. Over the


CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
Public Garden
Boston Common
Central Burying Ground
Commonwealth Avenue Mall
Charlesgate
Richard Parker Memorial CG
Westland Avenue Gates
Joseph Lee Playground
Back Bay Fens
Forsyth Way
Forsyth Park
Forsyth Mall
Evans Way Park
Riverway
Riverway
Jamaicaway
Olmsted Park
Willow Pond Meadow
Chestnut Street
Olmsted Park
Jamaicaway
Perkins Street
Jamaica Pond Park
Parkman Memorial
Jamaicaway
Arborway
White Stadium
Franklin Park Zoo
Franklin Park
Arborway
Arborway Overpass Path
Forest Hills Rotary
Arnold Arboretum
Arnold Arboretum
Walter Street Cemetery
Emerald Necklace Park Management
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Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Emerald Necklace
City of Boston
December 2014
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department

next seven years as projects are identified, staff will assess needs, analyze existing conditions, and seek community input during the process that leads to final project design.

Recent Capital Investments

The City of Boston has been able to proceed with capital investments using multiple resources, such as monies administered by the Office of Budget Management and the Trust Office. The parks also receive support from by many private sector parties, including neighbors, local institutions, and extraordinarily dedicated parks friends groups.

Principles, Goals and Recommendations

The sections below summarize the recommendations from the various published master plans. For more extensive explanations, please refer to the master plan documents. General principles, goals, and recommendations are listed first, followed by park-specific descriptions and recommendations. These plans guide Emerald Necklace revitalization efforts.

General Goals for the Emerald Necklace

Historic Landscape Integrity. Rehabilitate each park's historic character and features to sustain overall historic integrity while serving contemporary uses.

Unity and Access. Improve connections to make the system more unified and legible as a whole, facilitate use, improve public safety, and increase appreciation. Examples include better routing and signage, pedestrian signals and curb cuts, and continued implementation of the systemwide sign program.

Awareness and Education. Foster interpretive and educational programs and continue to strengthen Boston Park Ranger presence. Foster increased programming to reach children and adults, residents and visitors. Coordinate interpretive efforts by all groups to assure fullest possible coverage without duplication of services.

Safety and Security. Continue to work closely with the Boston Police and community groups to address and avoid problems. Exercise the limited enforcement powers of the Boston Park Rangers to create an atmosphere of security and safety.

Trees. Provide improved care for all trees. Develop and implement planting plans consistent with historic design intent and tree care standards. Coordinate the efforts of agencies, community groups, and potential donors to ensure that all trees—new and existing—receive adequate maintenance.

Shrub Plantings. Replant Olmsted-inspired shrub beds in specific areas to regain lost scenic artistry conveyed by their variety, textures, and colors. Use plantings to combat problems such as desire paths that cause soil compaction and erosion. Adapt plant materials as needed to address security, environmental, maintenance, and wildlife management factors while respecting historic design intent. Coordinate the efforts of agencies, community groups, and potential donors to ensure that all plantings—new and existing—receive adequate maintenance.

Woodlands. Develop a regeneration plan to improve the woodland ecology. Collaborate with partners on response to disease and infestations including Asian Longhorned beetle, Hemlock Wooly Adelgid, Dutch Elm, etc. (See Trees, above.)

Wildlife Management. Protect wildlife habitats when making decisions regarding rehabilitation efforts. Strive to enhance nesting and feeding areas.

Water Quality. Advocate for, support, and participate in efforts to improve water quality in Scarborough Pond and the Muddy River from Ward's Pond to the Charles River. Follow master plan guidelines regarding bank stabilization, replanting, and perimeter paths. (Please refer to the Muddy River section of this chapter.)

Infrastructure. Rehabilitate water, drainage, electrical, road, and path systems as needed, observing applicable city, state, and federal regulations along with current planning guidelines. Maintain fountains, lights, paving, and other elements for public safety and protection of capital investments.

Structures. Rehabilitate walls, bridges, shelters, buildings, terraces, and other structural features that contribute to the design of the parks to the maximum extent feasible. Replace intrusive structures that have necessary functions with structures of more suitable design.

Existing Art Work and Memorials. Maintain existing public art and memorials in accordance with the jurisdiction of other City agencies. Encourage ongoing efforts by the City's Adopt-a-Statue Program. Continue the moratorium on new artwork and memorials in Boston Common and the Public Garden.

Memorials and Gifts. Avoid the proliferation of non-contextual memorials and artwork. Encourage contributions to Parks Department planned or approved projects on a case-by-case basis. Work with partners and others to ensure proposed donations are consistent with all applicable plans, regulations and community needs. Encourage proponents to meet with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for guidance early on in planning for any proposed gifts to parks. Coordinate through the Parks Department the review of proposed projects in accordance with the jurisdiction of other City agencies, primarily the Art, Conservation, and Landmarks Commissions.

Intrusive Elements. Remove or mitigate the effects of structures, buildings, furnishings, or features that conflict with the visual character of Emerald Necklace parks or compromise the protection and preservation of these parks.

Fundraising and Collaborative Efforts. Continue efforts to secure outside funds given the special needs of Emerald Necklace parks and government fiscal limitations. Work with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Friends of the Public Garden and other advocacy organizations in their collaborative and fundraising efforts. Support the Conservancy's Emerald Necklace endowment fund named for the late Boston Parks Commissioner

Justine Mee Liff. Foster partnerships and collaborations to support maintenance, capital, and programming projects for preservation and revitalization.

Maintenance. Continue efforts to ensure a high level of maintenance to meet the high demands and historic significance of Emerald Necklace parks. Continue to upgrade equipment and increase human resources. Further develop partnerships that provide extraordinary care.

Project Review and Approvals. All capital projects shall undergo community review led by the Parks Department for city projects. Projects proposed by park partners shall also go through a community review process with the participation of the Parks Department. Secure all other applicable city, state, and federal review and approvals for city projects and participate in securing outside approvals for projects by partners. Meet with Parks Department staff at the early planning stage for any project not initiated by the Parks Department which will directly affect Emerald Necklace parks and for any development, building, or improvement project proposed that will have direct or indirect impacts on, or that is within 100 feet of, Emerald Necklace parkland. Provide direction and oversight for the planning and design of outside projects through Parks Department staff.

Park Specific Descriptions and Recommendations

Boston Common

Boston Common was formed in 1634 to provide pasturage and other shared needs for the town, based upon the English concept of common land. As the country's oldest public open space, Boston Common reflects events important to the history of the city and nation. Since Revolutionary times, the Common has been the city's favorite outdoor place for public assembly.

By 1830 the town had become a city, the sophisticated State House looked down upon a Common bordered by rows of trees, and cows were banned by municipal decree. Throughout the 19th century and into the early 20th century, Boston Common gained paved walks, statues, memorials, and ornamental fences, becoming an urban park in form as well as function. Today the five-sided, 48-acre Common is admired as much for its landscape features of mature shade trees and rolling lawns as for its historic structures, artwork, and Frog Pond.

While serving as Boston's front lawn to all visitors, the Common is also the favored location for large outdoor gatherings and a neighborhood park for downtown, Chinatown, Bay Village, Beacon Hill, and the Back Bay. Active recreation facilities consist of two tennis courts, a softball field, a Little League field, a children's play area, as well as a summer water spray pool and winter ice-skating rink at the Frog Pond.

Recommendations

All policies, projects, and programs for the Common will continue to recognize the need to preserve it as the primary green oasis in downtown Boston, protecting against incursions or degradation to its environment of shade trees and expansive lawns.

- Concentrate on trees and turf as well as general cleanliness, recognizing that the Common receives exceedingly high use and stress.
- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, and site furnishings, as well as soiland plant health.
- Make general water, drainage, and path systems rehabilitation a priority to be implemented both as independent projects and as opportunities are presented by other projects that will disrupt the Common, such as the reconstruction of the underground garage and the rehabilitation of Tremont Street.
- Continue partnership efforts with the Friends of the Public Garden and other involved agencies such as the MBTA and the Boston Landmarks Commission, as well as with neighbors and developers.

The Public Garden

The Public Garden is the oldest public botanical garden in the United States and the formal, passive recreation companion to Boston Common. These side-by-side parks together serve as a major green oasis in central Boston.

When the Public Garden was established in 1837, the site was marshland at the foot of the Common and the water's edge of the Back Bay. When the land was filled in, the Public Garden's design evolved from a plan by George Meacham published in 1859. The picturesque style of the 25-acre park centers on the central lagoon with its signature bridge, Swan Boats, and willow trees, as well as surrounding specimen trees, serpentine paths, ornamental fountains, sculpture, and planting beds.

Recommendations

The essential style and character of the Public Garden shall be preserved and reinforced through capital projects, maintenance activities, and administrative policies.

- Make a high priority repairs to the tool shed, fountain restorations, and pathway improvements.
- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, and site furnishings, as well as soil and plant health.
- Continue Boston Landmarks Commission and Art Commission (if applicable) review of proposed improvements to ensure that the historic character of the Public Garden is maintained.
- Look for ways to expand educational opportunities in this passive park to increase enjoyment of horticultural and artistic elements.
- Continue to retrofit fountains to recirculate water.
- Continue the Parks Department's above-standard level of horticultural and general maintenance for this public botanical garden. Continue supplemental care via partnerships, such as with the Friends of the Public Garden.

Commonwealth Avenue Mall

Commonwealth Avenue Mall was built by advancing westward from the Arlington Street edge of the Public Garden from 1856 to 1888. As the Back Bay was filled in, Commonwealth Avenue became its spine. The design for Boston's version of a grand Parisian boulevard is credited to Arthur Gilman.

These 32 acres stretch from Arlington Street to the MBTA subway and bus terminal at Kenmore Square, interrupted by the Massachusetts Avenue underpass, the Muddy River, and the Casey overpass at Charlesgate. Many of the Mall's elms have died from Dutch Elm Disease. To avoid future vulnerability to any single species, the elms have been replaced with a variety of trees. The central path features statuary.

Recommendations

The Parks Department will continue its partnership with the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee and neighbors to pursue funding and complete ongoing projects.

- Complete the tree replacement plan. Maintain established trees through institutionalized care such as cyclical pruning and inoculation of elms. Continue to provide extraordinary care for trees and bedded plants through the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee.
- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, and site furnishings, as well as soil and plant health.
- Complete lighting for the other remaining memorial statuary as lighting designs are approved.
- Install ornamental fences on Fairfield and Gloucester Streets consistent with the fencing on the cross streets from Arlington to Dartmouth.

The Muddy River

The Muddy River, the 3.5-mile spine of the Emerald Necklace, is an historic urban waterway that flows through the Riverway and Fens. Its glades, dells, sweeping vistas, reflecting pools, and ponds are an integrated composition of civil engineering and landscape art.

Flood damage in 1996 and 1998 brought civic leaders, politicians, and community groups together to collectively re-examine the condition of this natural treasure and its importance to the metropolitan area. The result: the City of Boston and the Town of Brookline are working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the US Army Corps of Engineers to provide flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration. The Muddy River rehabilitation project will significantly reduce flood impacts while also provides a unique opportunity to restore areas of the Emerald Necklace.

Boston and Brookline envision that the public funds invested in this project will inspire and attract additional private monies for future historic landscape rehabilitation projects, which will ultimately lead to the completion of the Emerald Necklace rehabilitation. The first Phase of the project including daylighting a section of the river at the former Sears parking lot and providing challenge improvements. The second phase of the project is now being designed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Challenging problems face this national historic resource. Moderately heavy rains activate emergency measures to contain stormwater and reduce back-ups in Fenway/ Longwood-area colleges, universities, and medical institutions, and numerous Brookline businesses and residences. Acres of mature Phragmites (tall invasive reeds) choke the river and diminish its flood-carrying capacity. The weeds have displaced other plant species, keeping the ecology out of balance, undermining bio-diversity, and obstructing historic landscape rehabilitation. Contaminants in the river sediment continue to degrade water quality as the sediments get re-suspended into the water, limiting the number of vertebrate and invertebrate species that could contribute to a balanced ecology.

One hundred years ago, Frederick Law Olmsted believed that nature could restore the human mind and spirit. He conceived the unique urban landscape called the Emerald Necklace to bring a natural regenerative experience to city dwellers. Like their 19th century predecessors, today's civic leaders and citizens must commit to stewardship for future generations and sustain a legacy worthy of Olmsted and his peers.

The vision for this project is far-reaching: rehabilitation of the Muddy River will protect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens, re-establish the Olmsted scenery to approach its former glory, and reinvigorate the overall park experience. The municipalities are committed to exploring new and innovative ways to maintain the parks in perpetuity, and protect and preserve the public sector's investment. The park owners (Boston, Brookline, and the DCR), the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and the Muddy River Maintenance Management and Oversight Committee have signed a landmark agreement to create a five-member cabinet that will ensure the long-term maintenance of the completed project. Boston and Brookline will continue to pursue partnerships with private industry and cultural institutions, and examine organizational models that could inform park maintenance and management practices. The project exemplifies a renewed appreciation of the Emerald Necklace and the reinforced political will to commit to the rehabilitation of this world-class park system.

The Back Bay Fens

The Back Bay Fens dates from 1879, and is the first of the five properties Frederick Law Olmsted designed and built to create a linear system of pastoral parks in Boston. Here the Muddy River originally met the Charles River in a brackish marsh.

Of Olmsted's Emerald Necklace parks, the Fens is the most changed and one of the most active. Meadows and lawns replaced marsh after the Charles River was dammed in 1910. Without tidal action, the shallow pools had become stagnant. In the nineteen teens and twenties, landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff redesigned the park, creating more groomed and formal design than Olmsted's original. It now features the popular Kelleher Rose Garden, the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials, and the Joseph Lee playground—a cluster of recreational facilities that includes Roberto Clemente ball field. The Henry Hobson Richardson-designed Boylston

Street Bridge is the most dramatic of all the stone bridges in the Necklace. It is now obscured from the Charles River side due to the addition of the Bowker Overpass ramp from Storrow Drive.

The Fens provides essential neighborhood parkland for the Fenway, Kenmore, and Longwood areas, and serves as the "front lawn" for several of the city's venerable cultural institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts and the Gardner Museum. It also includes the Richard Parker Memorial Victory Garden, Boston's oldest community garden.

Recommendations

The Boston Parks Department will continue to manage competing uses for active and passive recreation while preserving the Fens.

- Improve the watercourse and adjacent landscape through the Muddy River Rehabilitation Project.
- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, and site furnishings, as well as soil and plant health.
- Designate quiet/passive recreation areas.
- Continue the partnership agreement with the Fenway Alliance and Fenway Garden Society.

The Riverway

The Riverway, established in 1890, begins at Brookline Avenue, Park Drive, and the Fenway parkway, on land that was formerly the Sears parking lot, just west of the Fens. From the Park Drive/Riverway intersection southward to Route 9, the Muddy River is open and flows through a gentle ravine. Steep wooded banks insulate the park from the city. These banks are also a vital component of this tightly engineered landscape. They are flood control berms that hold stormwater in the park until it can be safely and slowly discharged downstream though the Charles River to Boston Harbor.

The Riverway offers one of the most idyllic and best-preserved experiences of Frederick Law Olmsted's designs. Three stone bridges span the water and the boundary between Boston and Brookline. The Riverway is popular with walkers, birders, bicyclists, and people seeking a contemplative refuge. Neighbors from the Audubon Circle, Fenway, Longwood, and Mission Hill areas and Brookline use this park. Many workers from neighboring hospitals and cultural institutions enjoy walks in the shade of the parks towering oaks.

Recommendations

The Parks Department will continue structural rehabilitation and replanting to fully reinstate the scenic glory of the Riverway.

- Foster joint projects between Boston and Brookline to implement preservation projects.
- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, and site furnishings, as well as soil and plant health.
- Restore the former Sears parking lot to open waterway as part of the Muddy River Project.
- Improve the watercourse and adjacent landscape through the Muddy River Project.

Olmsted Park

Olmsted Park, originally named Leverett Park, was established in 1891 at the upper end of the Muddy River as a succession of ponds set in mix of woodlands and open fields. In many areas the fields have been lost either to development of athletic facilities or expansion of wooded areas. The deep-set basin of Ward's Pond is nestled in a wooded bowl from which the Babbling Brook leads to a series of small ponds becoming a brook again as it flows into Leverett Pond, the park's largest body of water. The long pond shapes the more open north end of the park.

The water system demarcates the Boston-Brookline boundary, as the Muddy River does in the Riverway. While invisible to most park users Olmsted Park is divided between three jurisdictions: the more formal park and pathways on the Brookline side of the waterway; the wooded areas and fields in Boston; and a Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owned parcel near the center of the park. Once the home of a large Quonset hut covering a skating rink, the DCR parcel includes an area that stretches from opposite Castleton Street on the Jamaicaway to the town line with Brookline to Willow Pond Road. The woods, clearings, ponds, and streams are interrupted by Willow Pond Road and then curve around two very heavily-used ball diamonds at Daisy Field. Olmsted Park retains several original stone pedestrian bridges and a stone headwall at Leverett Pond. The Route 9/Huntington Avenue overpass, separating Olmsted Park and the Riverway, was built in the 1930s. Olmsted Park is a very popular neighborhood open space resource for Mission Hill and Jamaica Plain, as well as Brookline.

Recommendations

The Parks Department will focus its rehabilitation efforts on woodland management and the restoration of Ward's Pond and other park water bodies.

- Work in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Town of Brookline and the community on the design and implementation of waterway improvements as part of the Muddy River Project Phase II.
- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, and site furnishings, as well as soil and plant health.
- Correct drainage at Daisy Field to improve conditions at Leverett Pond.
- Further improve the Ward's Pond landscape. Restore understory plantings. Restore the pedestrian path all around the water's edge.
- Support the efforts by the DCR and the Conservancy to manage the state-owned former Kelly Rink site as a meadow and their protection of Spring Pond.

Jamaica Pond Park

Jamaica Pond Park, situated between Perkins Street and the Arborway, was established in 1892. This 50-foot deep pond is the source of the Muddy River. From a formal entrance at Pond Street with a boat house and bandstand, the vista presents a green-fringed blue water sheet against tree-covered Hellenic Hill. Olmsted did little to change the landscape.

Jamaica Pond is one of the city's most heavily-used neighborhood parks. Visitors come from Boston, Brookline, and other communities in the metropolitan area. Walkers and joggers circle the 1.4-mile perimeter of the pond. Sailboats and rowboats are available for rent at the Boathouse, which also has a snack concession.

Recommendations

The Parks Department must continue to carefully protect this park and its surroundings to balance heavy user demands with the preservation of historic features and natural systems.

- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, and site furnishings, as well as soil and plant health.
- Continue programming with community participation. Emphasize activities singularly suited to Jamaica Pond such as gatherings at the bandstand and the current environmental education and boating programs.
- Work with the owners and the community to preserve Hellenic Hill, a BRA-designated urban wild owned by Hellenic College and an essential component of the scenery and ecosystem of Jamaica Pond.

The Arnold Arboretum

The Arnold Arboretum was established in 1872. Located south of Jamaica Pond, the Arboretum is managed by Harvard University under a 999-year lease with the City of Boston that was signed in 1882, thus establishing a longstanding partnership. Within its 273 acres, the landscape's informal character provides a country park experience including dramatic views from atop Bussey Hill and Peters Hill. The artful and studious planting of the Arboretum collection results from the collaboration between Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Sprague Sargent. The legacy of earlier estate owners is retained by name in such features as the Walter Street Burying Ground, Bussey Brook, and Weld Street.

The Arboretum is bordered by the neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and West Roxbury. Known worldwide for its scientific collection of trees and shrubs, it also serves as a favorite regional and neighborhood passive park.

Recommendations

The Parks Department encourages ongoing collaboration between the staffs of the Arboretum and the Department.

- Continue to rehabilitate pathways, roads, walls, and other infrastructure components with input from the Arnold Arboretum staff.
- Support the opportunity to interpret the South Street Tract as an urban wild.
- Monitor the Institutional Master Plan revision to insure that future developments are consistent with the intent of the lease from the Parks Commission.

Franklin Park

Franklin Park accounts for more than half of the land area of the Emerald Necklace park system and approximately one-quarter of the total parkland owned by the City of Boston. Landscape historians and designers have hailed it as one of the finest public parks ever built. Franklin Park's design dates from 1885. Its 484 acres, arranged in a diamond shape, touch the neighborhoods of Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Mattapan, and Dorchester. A century after its creation, Franklin Park is still a much-needed refuge from the city. It suffered a severe decline in the 1960s and 1970s, but is now significantly rehabilitated and well visited. With its broad views, 65-acre Wilderness woodland area, and peaceful Scarborough Pond, the park still magically suggests a rural retreat. There are picturesque ruins of a shelter and terrace on Schoolmaster Hill above the meadow and the remains of the Playstead Overlook Shelter.

Designed as the active part of the park, the Playstead has versatile, popular playing fields and White Stadium. The revitalized Franklin Park Zoo, managed by Zoo New England, and the William Devine Golf Course (in Olmsted's Country Meadow) bring thousands of visitors annually. In 1998, the City completed a golf course clubhouse that was inspired by the Olmsted-designed Playstead Overlook Shelter which had been lost to fire in the mid-20th century.

Because it accounts for approximately one-quarter of the City of Boston's parkland, its maintenance and capital improvement needs continue to be substantial, particularly because a significant amount of the park's vegetation, structures, and infrastructure is a century old.

Recommendations

In Boston, the median size of a park is less than 1.5 acres. As the largest park in the Parks Department's system at 484 acres and an internationally recognized historic landscape design achievement, Franklin Park poses many challenges today. While the downtown parks high level of use means higher than standard wear and tear and higher than standard investment, the sheer scale of Franklin Park means it requires a different level of investment than is typical for a City park. Neighborhood and active park user needs must be addressed, while respecting the historic and regional significance of this "country park."

- Increase neighborhood partnerships such as with the Franklin Park Coalition. Coordinate activities with the Zoo, White Stadium, and others.
- Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, site furnishings as well as soils and plant health.
- Respond where needed to neighborhood needs by rehabilitating ball fields, improving basketball facilities, and providing or retaining picnic tables in suitable locations.
- Continue to implement the Franklin Park Maintenance Yard Master Plan for reorganization and revitalization of the existing yard.
- Oversee preparation of a water quality assessment and treatment plan for Scarborough Pond, funded with state participation. Phase in its implementation.
- Continue coordination with and among agencies and community groups to avoid user conflicts and to assist with maintenance, programming, and fund-raising.

Section 7.3.4:

PUBLIC SHADE TREES

Introduction

Boston's public shade trees—those lining its streets and avenues, and those found in its public parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, urban wilds, and squares—help make Boston a beautiful city. The city recognizes trees as aesthetic and social resources as well as a critical component of the city's green infrastructure. The public shade tree goals for Boston are to provide stewardship to the existing legacy of mature trees and to plan for future planting and maintenance needs.

The aesthetics of the urban forest can be pictured easily: The stately elms of Mt. Vernon Street, the newly replenished boulevards of Huntington Avenue, the woodlands dotted throughout Franklin Park and the Emerald Necklace, the informal and formal park plantings ranging from Dorchester Park to Post Office Square. These are the trees that make up our urban forest.

The urban forest as a beneficial ecosystem has been documented through research for many years. Trees return oxygen to the air, filter dust, pollution, and the harmful rays of the sun, provide shade, protect people and property from wind and weather, reduce air conditioning and heating costs for adjacent buildings, help filter storm water, and generally contribute to the physical well-being of the city's residents. Street trees also link highly developed spaces with more forested areas. They act as a green corridor that physically and emotionally connects us to nature.

Further, trees consume and store carbon through absorption of carbon dioxide, and produce oxygen. By this carbon sequestration, the return of carbon to the atmosphere is slowed, especially if the tree is long-lived. Thus, the urban forest can help contribute to the slowing of global warming.

The urban forest, as a social resource, is a less tangible quality that must be defined by a series of processes. Trees help residents to define their neighborhood and its special character. The most popular request at the Parks Department is for tree pruning and planting. In many cases neighborhoods have organized to plant missing trees. The planting of trees fosters community spirit and helps some neighborhoods to rebuild their image and sense of identity. They also contribute to improved property values and reductions in the heat island effect, while helping decrease noise pollution.

Current Initiatives

The city of Boston Climate Action Plan has established a target of reaching 35% tree canopy coverage in the city by 2030. To meet this goal, a detailed, actionable, Tree Canopy Plan that incorporates the City of Boston's Comprehensive Public Shade Tree Policy must be developed by government agencies and our non-profit and private sector partners.

Substantive tree canopy expansion can only be achieved through coordinated efforts to develop new policies that will better protect existing trees, both public and private, as well as grown and sustain new trees. The Boston Urban Forest Council, a group of non-profit, city, state, and federal organizations working to improve the urban forest ecosystem, public health, and the quality of life for Boston's residents, can play a key role in advancing tree canopy goals in the city.

The Next Seven Years

The Parks Department is the agency with regulatory and operational responsibilities for city-owned shade trees in the street right-of-way. The ability to develop policy and day-to-day management plans in the same organization, the Parks Department, is a key part of the framework to ensure that the future of Boston is green.

Tree policy issues are sorted into the following three categories:

- Statutory Responsibility and Regulations
- Inventory, Planting, and Maintenance
- Community Involvement and Programming

Based on these categories, the following sections summarize both city policy and recommendations that will be acted upon in the next seven years.

Statutory Responsibility and Regulations

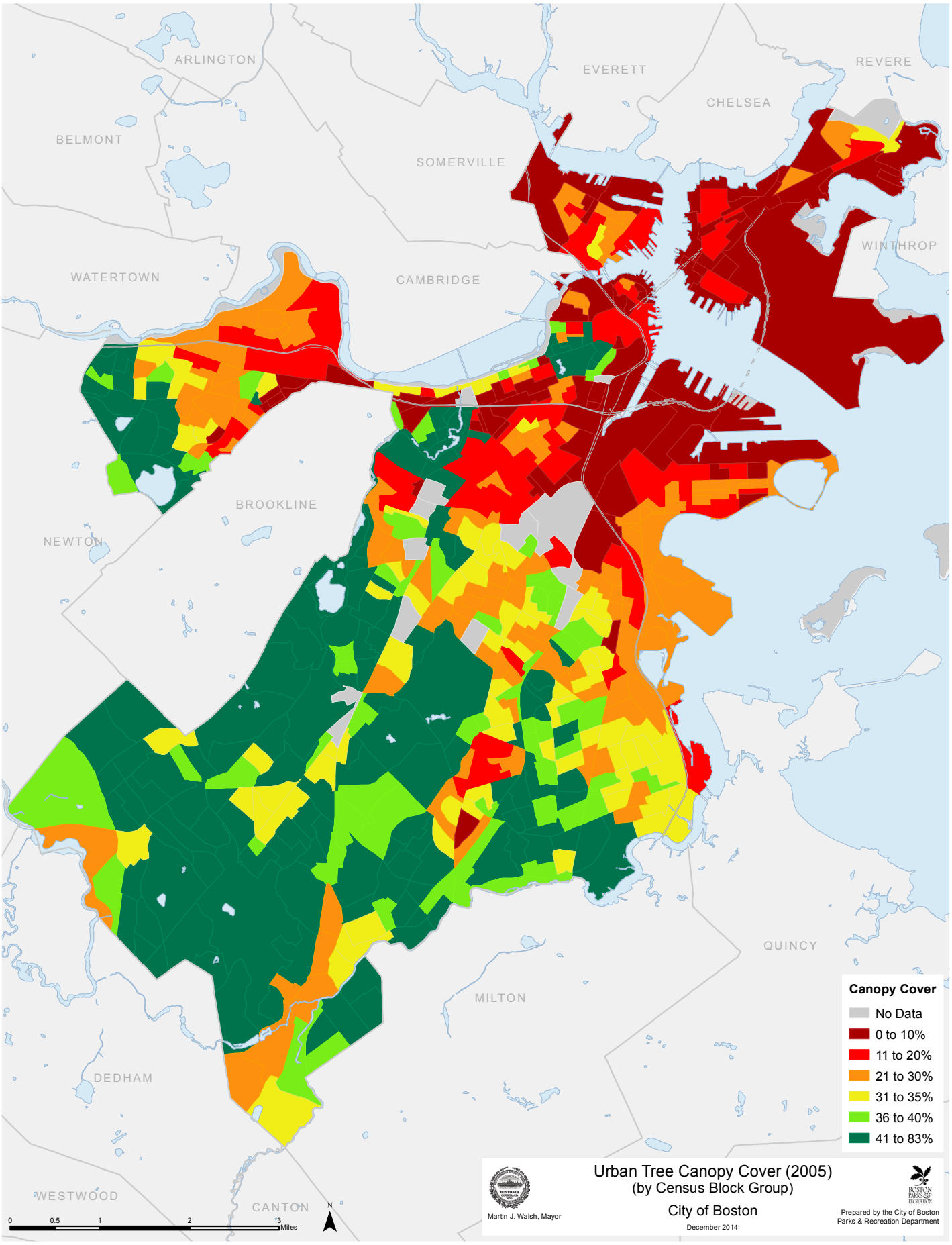
The Parks Commissioner is by statute (Chapter 87, Massachusetts General Laws) the Tree Warden of the city. Together with the Superintendent of Trees, the Commissioner is responsible for establishing a work plan for trees within the statutes and regulations that have already been established.

The City is in the process of revising its public shade tree policy, in order to make all regulations, technical specifications, operations, and programs current.

By virtue of its mandate to maintain public shade trees, it is essential that the Parks Department be involved in all decision-making regarding planting and care of trees on public land by city agencies.

The support of Boston's Public Improvements Commission (PIC) is key for continued communication between all of the city departments that manage land within Boston. This commission approves all development and construction projects that affect any street, road, or thoroughfare, including the public street trees thereon. The participation of the Parks Department on this Commission allows the department to exercise the power of the mandate that it maintain public shade trees.

Currently all public shade trees are protected under Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws.


ARLINGTON
EVERETT
REVERE
CHELSEA
BELMONT
SOMERVILLE
WINTHROP
WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE
BROOKLINE
NEWTON
QUINCY
MILTON
DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
Canopy Cover
No Data
0 to 10%
11 to 20%
21 to 30%
31 to 35%
36 to 40%
41 to 83%
Urban Tree Canopy Cover (2005)
(by Census Block Group)
City of Boston
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
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Recommendations

- Complete review and implement the new Comprehensive Public Shade Tree Policy through existing and new programs and operations to carry out regulations and technical specifications and processes
- Develop strategies to improve the tree canopy cover throughout the city with targeted efforts in those neighborhoods with the lowest existing canopy coverage
- Strengthen communication with other city agencies to help improve efficiency
- Develop stronger planting programs for residents to take more responsibility for the trees that are planted on and/or around their property
- Implement increased penalties for removing or damaging public shade trees
- Continue to research and develop new and innovative policies to protect and build our overall urban tree canopy
- Establish and implement clear planting targets and guidelines for all new streetscape projects city-wide.

Inventory, Planting, and Maintenance

Over the Parks Commission's 130-year history the tree inventory has been replenished through budget expenditures on improvements to streets and parks. With the exception of the Emerald Necklace, little data existed to substantiate a sense among advocates that the inventory contains too few young trees relative to the percentage of mature trees. A visual inspection of streets provided subjective confirmation; however, the exact number, condition, and age of the canopy was unknown.

Inventory

With increasing competition for funding, the ability to identify critical problems quickly and efficiently has become crucial for the Parks Department. Through the use of inventory analysis, the city foresters can identify problems, or potential problems, easily and develop and implement precise and accurate management plans. The most recent street tree inventory was compiled in 2007.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy drafted the Emerald Necklace Tree Inventory, Conditions Assessment and Management Plan for 7000 trees across 630 acres of the Emerald Necklace parks in 2014. This significant undertaking complements existing inventories of the trees in the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

A city-wide canopy assessment using remote sensing data was completed by Boston University in 2014 using imagery from 2005–2007 and 2009.

Planting

A major goal of the Parks Department's Urban Forestry Unit is to spread the benefits of tree planting—heat-island effect-reduction, water quality and air quality improvements, increase in well-being and property values—to all neighborhoods, especially those with a lower percentage of tree canopy cover, thus making it an environmental justice initiative.

On streets where sidewalk widths limit the viability of street trees, the city's front yard tree planting program can help achieve the public benefits of street tree plantings using private property. Expansion of this program can help meet the city's tree canopy goals over the next 16 years.

In fiscal year 2014, the Urban Forestry Unit anticipates planting 1350 street and front lawn trees (fall 2013 and spring 2014 planting seasons).

Maintenance

The Maintenance Division's Urban Forestry Unit is responsible for the pruning and removal of all trees under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. In addition they supervise specialized treatments for disease such as Dutch Elm Disease and respond to such emergencies as snowstorms and hurricanes. The Department pruned over 2,106 trees, removed 681 trees, responded to 3155 maintenance requests, and answered 927 emergency tree calls in calendar year 2013.

Recommendations

- Explore measures to increase the maintenance and planting capacity of the present workforce.
- Develop and implement planting strategies that provide favorable growing conditions for new trees
- Develop a citywide street tree, parkland, and private property planting and maintenance plan based on opportunities identified in the baseline canopy coverage analysis to help meet the Climate Action Plan 35% tree canopy coverage goal.
- Integrate current work order software to utilize tree inventory data.
- Add GIS mapping capability to current management software.
- Implement management plans that have been developed for the Emerald Necklace.
- Continue to inventory and develop management plans for city parks and public land.
- Develop a street-by-street pruning plan/rotation.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive urban forestry training program for Department staff.
- Seek private and public funding sources to supplement city allocations for planning, planting and maintenance.

Community Involvement and Programming

The Department has outlined a new community forestry project which aims to provide Boston residents with straightforward information with regards to tree planting and care, basic ecology, and environmental ethics. The goal of this project is the development and practice of urban forestry by residents. This can be accomplished through a tangible and consistent public education program that enables communities to set planting and maintenance priorities, undertake local educational programs, and raise funds for local projects. The informational unit of the project includes development of a street tree brochure as well as planting and pruning doorknob hanger brochures. The Department has a website for its Street Trees/Urban Forestry unit, which is constantly updated: http://www.cityofboston.gov/parks/streettrees.

Public/private partnerships are a consistent ingredient in successful community-based environmental management programs. A balance is struck between what each partner offers to the whole, whether it is financial or social capital. The new community forestry effort will allow the Parks Department to direct its fiscal, technical, and physical resources towards supporting functioning groups. Efforts will also be directed towards building neighborhood capacity in neighborhoods that lack effective leadership. In order to use community participation to restore and maintain Boston's urban forest, the Department will sponsor educational programs to include seasonal tree walks, and lectures.

The Department also sponsors special programs in tree planting. Arbor Day has become an annual event in the Department's Urban Forestry Unit This arbor day celebration is done in conjunction with the Massachusetts Arborists Association's "Arbor Day of Service" where local tree care companies donate their time and expertise to do tree work in our parks.

Recommendations

- Continue participation with the Boston Urban Forest Council in Arbor Day planting and education events. Expand Arbor Day and other urban tree programming, including education for all ages.
- Support community efforts to establish partnerships to advocate for and support tree issues in Boston.
- Continue to implement the educational strategy in the Lagan constituent response management system to acquaint citizens and public agency personnel, specifically Parks Department, Public Works, BRA, EDIC, and Boston Transportation Department, with basic Parks Department procedures for care of trees.

Section 8

Goals & Objectives

1. Steward the exceptional open space system that the City of Boston has inherited.

1.1. Revitalize and renovate parks according to facility life-cycles.

1.2. Maintain Boston's parks at the highest level feasible.

1.3. Manage the unique challenges and opportunities with historic parks and sites.

1.4. Actively manage the City's natural areas to provide safe and welcoming areas for the public to explore nature and recreation.

1.5. Develop and maintain sustainable funding sources.

1.6. Build partnerships to enhance Boston's parks system.

1.7. Provide programming that promotes wellness, environmental stewardship, and builds a sense of community.

1.8. Implement policies and best practices to protect and improve the resources of Boston's park system for positive park use.

1.9. Permit use of the parks in an efficient, effective and accessible manner.

2. Envision and create an accessible and equitable open space system for Boston's future.

2.1. Expand and improve open space access for all existing and projected city residents.

2.2. Actively engage and build relationships with Boston's diverse population.

2.3. Acquire new property to expand the parks system in a financially sustainable manner that balances the need for recreation with the capacity to maintain additional facilities.

2.4. Work within the regulatory framework to balance development and density in the city with the provision of open space.

3. Enhance the urban natural environment and improve quality of life and well-being in the city.

3.1. Implement and evaluate sustainable strategies for park design and maintenance to ensure that parks are prepared for climate change.

3.2. Restore the ecological function of our natural resource areas.

3.3. Develop best practices for green infrastructure within the parks system.

3.4. Promote creativity, arts and culture in the parks, as key elements of vibrant urban environments.

3.5. Advance leadership role in protection, promotion and enhancement of Boston's unique landscape heritage.

Note: Objectives are organized in priority order.

Section 9

Seven-Year Action Plan

Goal 1: Steward the exceptional open space system that the City of Boston has inherited

Objective 1.1: Revitalize and renovate parks according to facility life-cycles.

	Action	Responsibility/ Funding Source	Timeline for Completion
a.	Develop a new 5 year Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Boston park system. Update annually.	BPRD	2015
b.	Design flexible, multi-functional park spaces that maximize park quality and use.	BPRD	Ongoing
c.	Renew focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure including paths, drainage systems, site furnishings and soil to keep parks in consistently good to excellent condition.	BPRD	Ongoing
d.	Improve universal access within the park system to expand recreation opportunities for park users of all abilities.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.2: Maintain Boston's parks at the highest level feasible.

a.	Create a plan and budget for maintenance and operations to better meet the expected level of service in the park system.	BPRD	2015
b.	Expand park maintenance and hours of operation as feasible to better correlate with times of peak park use.	BPRD	TBD
c.	Invest in the City's infrastructure of staff, equipment, fleet and facilities (such as the greenhouses) in order to expand productivity.	BPRD	Ongoing
d.	Invest in soils heath to improve quality of natural features including trees, turf and ornamental plantings.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.3: Manage the unique challenges and opportunities with historic parks and sites.

a.	Update management, maintenance, and interpretive plans for historic resources to protect their value to city residents and visitors.	BPRD	2015–2021
b.	Rehabilitate each park's historic character and features to sustain overall historic integrity while supporting contemporary uses, programs and facilities.	BPRD	Ongoing
c.	Restore and maintain existing public art and memorials in cooperation with Boston Arts Commission.	BPRD/BAC	Ongoing
d.	Remove or mitigate the effects of structures, buildings, furnishing or features that conflict with the visual character of historic parks or which compromise the protection and preservation of these parks. Avoid proliferation of non-contextual memorials and artwork.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.4: Actively manage the City's natural areas to provide safe and welcoming areas for the public to explore nature and recreate.

a.	Develop a consistent, year-round operations plan for maintaining natural areas that relies less heavily on volunteers.	BPRD	2015–2016
b.	Invest in basic site improvements which include the installation, repair and replacement of signage, fences, walls, and pathways, and vegetation management.	BPRD	Ongoing
c.	Develop multi-year landscape restoration plans for priority sites, particularly those already containing, or contiguous with, intact native plant communities and healthy natural systems.	BPRD	2016–2021
d.	Develop plans for remediation and habitat restoration of degraded natural areas that have a high potential conservation and recreation value.	BPRD	2017–2021

Objective 1.5: Develop and maintain sustainable funding sources.

a.	Increase the budget of the Parks Department through the city budget and external funding.	BPRD	2015–2021
b.	Create a reasonable and predictable formula for community contributions for open space, through the Article 80 process, looking to other communities nationwide that have implemented such programs.	BPRD /BRA	2015
c.	Develop a funding plan for philanthropic gifts, government and foundation grants, and private/public partnerships in order to sustain recreation programs, the Park Arts programs, tree lightings, concerts and other events.	BPRD/BRA	2015

Objective 1.6: Build partnerships to enhance Boston's parks system.

a.	Sustain and expand the the Park Partners program to strengthen partnerships with non-profit "Friends" groups.	BPRD	Ongoing
b.	Create a "how-to" book to encourage and guide the development of Friends groups.	BPRD	2016
c.	Expand the roster of public / private partnerships to assist in the maintenance and management of parks.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.7: Provide programming that promotes wellness, environmental stewardship, and builds a sense of community.

a.	Create a plan for recreational and special event programming that includes goals, target audiences, needs served, resources needed, and funding sources.	BPRD	2015–2016
b.	Engage with the Boston Public Health Commission, and other partners with compatible missions, to promote the positive health impacts of access to open spaces, and to determine ways to increase public health programming in the parks and urban wilds.	BPRD/BPHC	Ongoing
c.	Support and promote programming that welcomes people of all abilities.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.8: Implement policies and best practices to protect and improve the resources of Boston's park system for positive park use.

a.	Increase the capacity of the Park Rangers, and strengthen partnerships between the Park Rangers, the Boston police, community leaders and service providers to provide proactive, visible and dedicated law enforcement throughout the park system.	BPRD	2015–2016
b.	Review and offer suggestions for revision of the City Ordinance on dog recreation spaces to address the demand for dog facilities.	BPRD	2015–2016
c.	Review the policy of bicycle usage in the park system for possible updates.	BPRD	2015
d.	Develop a vending policy for commerical activities in parks.	BPRD	2015

Objective 1.9: Permit use of the parks in an efficient, effective and accessible manner.

a.	Create an online permitting process that is efficient, effective and accessible.	BPRD	2015–2016
b.	Schedule "open field time" that allows casual, unscheduled time at park facilities, as well as scheduled times.	BPRD	2015
c.	Work with the BRA to ensure that universities provide adequate athletic fields on their own campuses within their Institutional Master Plans.	BPRD/BRA	Ongoing
d.	Engage with Boston Public Schools and Charter Schools to ensure an equitable scheduling of playing field time.	BPRD/BPS	2016

Legend (in order of appearance):

BPRD Boston Parks and Recreation Department
DoIT Department of Innovation and Technology (City of Boston)
BAC Boston Arts Commission
BRA Boston Redevelopment Authority
BPHC Boston Pubic Health Commission
BPS Boston Public Schools (aka Boston School Department)

Goal 2: Envision and create an accessible and equitable open space system for Boston's future.

Objective 2.1: Expand and improve open space access for all existing and projected residents.

	Action	Responsibility/ Funding Source	Timeline for Completion
a.	Plan to increase the quantity and proximity of parks in high need and underserved areas in the city.	BPRD	2015–2021
b.	Evaluate and improve the distribution of recreational facilities across the park system.	BPRD	2015–2012
c.	Utilize the Accessibility Self-Assessment of City of Boston parks to identify areas that require improvements to increase park accessibility. Address deficiencies through the City's Capital Improvement Program.	BPRD	2015–2012
d.	Consider the feasibility of connecting parks with green streets and parkway links to expand our linear systems.	BPRD	2015–2021

Objective 2.2: Actively engage and build relationships with Boston's diverse population.

a.	Develop and implement a comprehensive outreach plan for the open space system to engage and inform all park users.	BPRD	2015–2018
b.	Coordinate with the City's Commission on Persons with Disabilities to promote inclusive design and programming.	BPRD/CPD	Ongoing
c.	Coordinate with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Service and the Office of Civic Engagement to increase community input on park projects.	BPRD/ONS	Ongoing

Objective 2.3: Acquire new property to expand the parks system in a financially sustainable manner that balances the need for recreation with the capacity to maintain additional facilities.

a.	Evaluate and update the current Park Acquisition Policy, develop a strategy for identifying key open space acquisitions, and a plan for taking action on those proposed acquisitions.	BPRD	2015
b.	Seek opportunities for open space to be permanently protected through the city's planning and development review process.	BPRD/BRA	2015/Ongoing
c.	Encourage the use of conservation restrictions, where approriate, for unprotected woodlands and wetlands and other significant open spaces, to protect these lands for future city residents.	BPRD/ Conservation Commission	Ongoing
d.	Develop partnerships with private entities to support the maintenance of open space as part of the acquisition process.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 2.4: Work within the regulatory framework to balance development and density in the city with the provision of open space.

a.	Partner with the BRA to enhance open space design review criteria for all project and plan reviews.	BPRD/BRA	Ongoing
b.	Engage with adjacent municipalities and federal and state agencies on the protection of shared natural resources, particularly waterfronts, greenways and large landscapes.	BPRD/BRA	2015–2016
c.	Partner with ongoing city initiatives working to improve the public realm such as Complete Streets, Green Links, Safe Routes to Parks, and Boston Bikes.	BPRD/BTD/PWD	Ongoing

Legend (in order of appearance):

BPRD Boston Parks and Recreation Department
CPD Commission on Persons with Disabilities (City of Boston)
ONS Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (City of Boston)
BRA Boston Redevelopment Authority
BTD Boston Transportation Department
PWD Public Works Department (City of Boston)

Goal 3: Enhance the urban natural environment and improve quality of life and well-being in the city.

Objective 3.1: Implement and evaluate sustainable strategies for park design and maintenance to ensure that parks are prepared for climate change.

	Action	Responsibility/ Funding Source	Timeline for Completion
a.	Develop green infrastructure performance measures; evaluate park improvements to determine if they are performing as intended.	BPRD/ Environment	2015–2021
b.	Apply the City's climate impact assessment tools to parks—evaluate shade/ heat; risk/resilience; energy consumption and waste production. Use this assessment to inform design, construction and maintenance decisions.	BPRD/ Environment	Ongoing
c.	Implement smart energy use in park improvements and improve access to the City's recycling system in public spaces.	BPRD/PWD	2015
d.	Consider opportunities to create open space in coastal areas and flood zones that can also serve as protective infrastructure as the climate changes.	BPRD/DCR	Ongoing

Objective3.2: Restore the ecological function of our natural resource areas.

a.	Maximize ecological functioning, conservation value and recreational flexibility by developing priorities for acquisition and restoration where significant protected open space is already clustered and connected.	BPRD	Ongoing
b.	Improve the quality of ecosystems in the city by understanding existing functionality and establishing benchmarks related to climate preparedness, habitat and biodiversity, and human access.	BPRD	2016–2017
c.	Engage with adjacent municipalities on climate change, invasive species, pest control and other issues that cross boundaries.	City of Boston & other municipalities	Ongoing
d.	Institute programs to address invasive species throughout the open space system.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 3.3: Develop best practices for green infrastructure within the parks system.

a.	Support the development of green infrastructure throughout the city through public realm improvements, expansion of open space and/or restoration of existing degraded sites.	All City Depts.	Ongoing
b.	Develop and adopt a city-wide maintenance program for green infrastructure projects that addresses the shared costs and benefits of these improvements.	All City Depts.	2015–2016
c.	Develop a plan for management and expansion of the City's public shade trees in order to increase urban tree canopy coverage.	BPRD	2015–2016

Objective 3.4: Promote creativity, arts and culture in the parks, as key elements of vibrant urban environments.

a.	Partner with the Boston Arts Commission to create a vision and plan for the incorporation of public art in city parks, which identifies locations, process, resources and roles.	BPRD/BAC	Ongoing
b.	Ensure every neighborhood has a park with the necessary infrastructure to support community events and performances. Identify and correct deficiencies through Capital Improvements.	BPRD	2015–2021
c.	Consider the feasibility of establishing a "fairground" type amenity to serve large scale events in the City, and relieve some of the permitting pressures on the downtown parks.	BPRD	2015–2021

Objective 3.5: Advance leadership role in protection, promotion and enhancement of Boston's unique landscape heritage.

a.	Work with leaders in preservation and the Boston Landmarks Commission to ensure that the character defining features of significant landscapes are rehabilitated and maintained.	BPRD/BLC	2015–2021
b.	Explore opportunities to enhance the diversity, beauty and ecological benefit of parks through restoration and rehabilitation of historic plantings. Improve water quality and wetland diversity by adapting historically appropriate wetland edge plantings.	BPRD	2015–2021
c.	Enhance public value and stewardship of the city's historic green infrastructure by expanding informational tools and programs that explain and promote the benefits of these landscapes.	BPRD	2015–2021

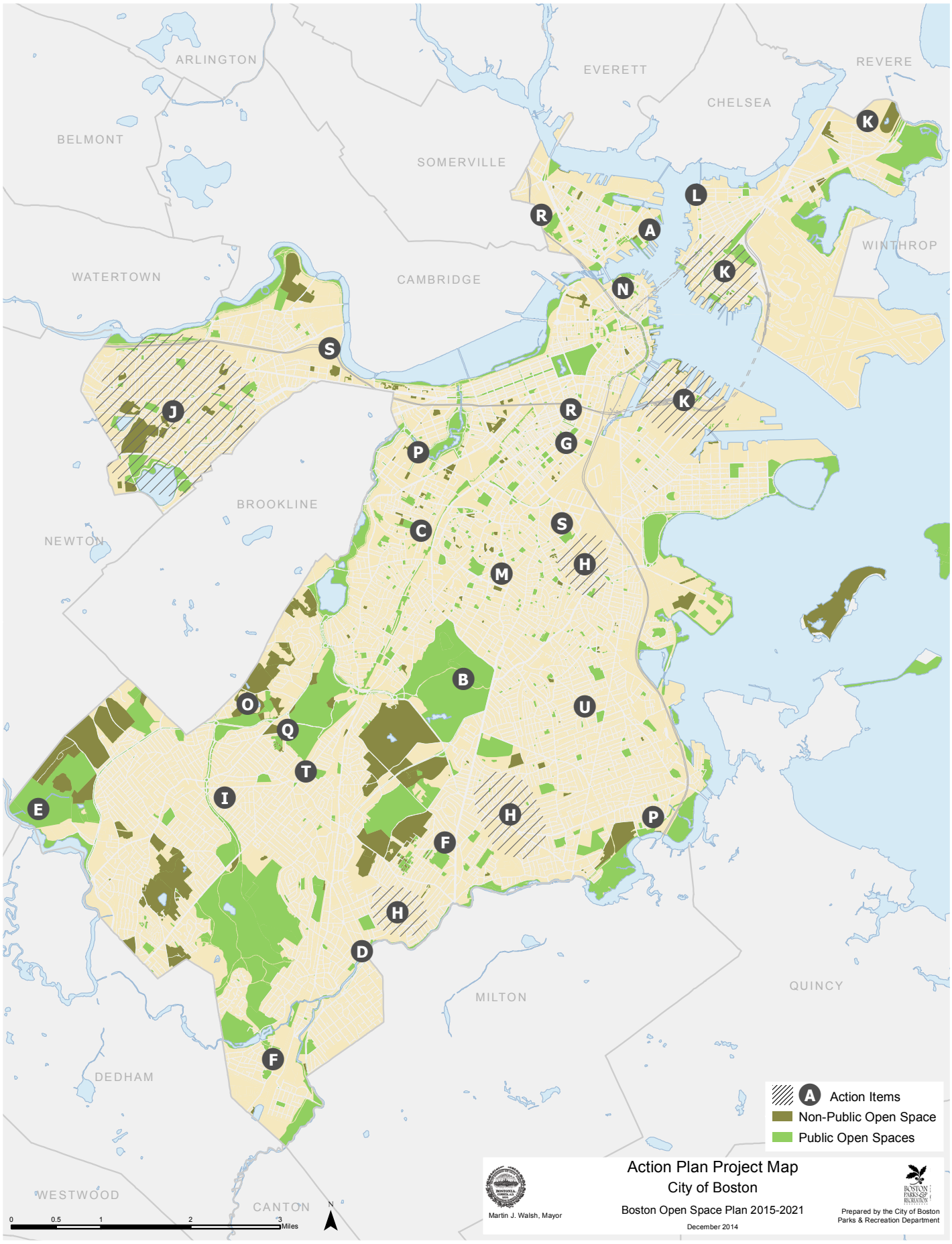
Legend (in order of appearance):

BPRD Boston Parks and Recreation Department
Environment Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet (City of Boston)
PWD Public Works Department (City of Boston)
DCR Department of Conservation and Recreation (Commonwealth of Massachusetts)
BAC Boston Arts Commission
BLC Boston Landmarks Commission

Project Map Key

Map ID	Objective			Map Location
A	1.1	d.	Use Menino Park as a model to improve universal access within the park system.	Menino Park
B	1.3	b.	Rehabilitate each park's historic character and features to sustain overall historic integrity while supporting contemporary uses, programs and facilities.	Franklin Park
C	1.3	c.	Restore and maintain existing public art and memorials in cooperation with Boston Arts Commission.	McLaughlin Playground
D	1.4	a	Develop an operations plan for maintaining natural areas that relies less heavily on volunteers.	West Street Urban Wild
E	1.4	d.	Develop plans for remediation and habitat restoration of degraded natural areas that have a high potential conservation and recreation value.	Millennium Park
F	1.7	b.	Engage with compatible initiatives that promote physical activity and spending time outdoors for health.	Iacono / Hunt Almont
G	1.8	b.	Build on experiences with existing dog parks to create more opportunites for dog recreation spaces throughout the city.	Peters Park
H	2.1	a	Plan to increase the quantity and proximity of parks in high need and underserved areas.	Selected Key Areas
I	2.1	d.	Consider the feasibility of connecting parks with green streets and parkway links to expand our linear systems.	West Roxbury Parkway or Millennium Park/VFW Parkway
J	2.3	c.	Encourage the use of conservation restrictions for unprotected ecologically significant open spaces.	Brighton
K	2.4	a.	Ensure that open space impacts and opportunities are considered in every planning and development decision.	Selected Key Areas
L	2.4	c.	Engage with adjacent municipalities and federal and state agencies on the protection of shared natural resources.	Condor Overlook/ Mystic River/ Chelsea Creek
M	2.4	c.	Partner with ongoing city initiatives working to improve the public realm.	Little Scobie Playground
N	3.1	c.	Implement smart energy use in designing new park improvements.	Puopolo/ Langone Parks
O	3.2	a.	Maximize ecological functioning by prioritizing restoration where significant open space is clustered and connected.	Allandale Woods
P	3.2	b.	Improve the quality of ecosystems in the city by understanding existing functionality and establishing benchmarks related to climate preparedness, habitat and biodiversity, and human access.	Muddy River Neponset River
Q	3.2	d.	Institute programs to address invasive species throughout the open space system.	Roslindale Wetlands
R	3.3	a.	Support the development of green infrastructure throughout the city.	Sullivan Square/ Elliot Norton Park
S	3.3	d.	Increase tree canopy coverage throughout the city.	Selected Key Areas
T	3.4	b.	Utilize Adams Park as a model for park infrastructure expansion to support neighborhood events and performances.	Adams Park
U	3.4	a.	Partner with the Boston Arts Commission to create a plan for the incorporation of public art in city parks.	Doherty Gibson Playground

Note: The Action Plan Map portrays representative projects and areas of the city that could be affected by Action Plan items. Therefore, not all areas that could be affected by an action are shown on this map.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DEDHAM
WESTWOOD
CANTON
Action Items
Non-Public Open Space
Public Open Spaces
Action Plan Project Map
City of Boston
Boston Open Space Plan 2015-2021
December 2014
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Prepared by the City of Boston
Parks & Recreation Department
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Section 10

Public Comments

CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

MARTIN J. WALSH
MAYOR

Commissioner Christopher Cook
Boston Parks and Recreation Department
1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Commissioner Cook:

Our mutual goal is to provide an open space system that promotes the health and well-being of the people of Boston and our environment. The Open Space and Recreation Plan is an important tool to build the foundation for that system.

We see the Open Space and Recreation Plan as a key part of the new General Plan for the City that will help ensure that open space, parks and recreation are not an afterthought, but an equal partner in building strong, healthy, and innovative neighborhoods. We look forward to integrating the Open Space and Recreation Plan into the General Plan and achieving the goals of both.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is the result of extensive data gathering and analysis with contributions from numerous agencies and the many residents who participated in meetings and submitted comments. With the wholehearted support of this Administration and the public, I look forward to the successful implementation of this plan and to maintaining Boston's leadership role in open space, parks and recreation.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Boston Redevelopment Authority

Boston's Planning & Economic Development Office

Martin J. Walsh, *Mayor*
Timothy J. Burke, *Chairman*
Brian P. Golden, *Director*

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Boston, MA 02201-1007
Tel 617-722-4300
Fax 617-248-1937

October 15, 2015

Christopher Cook
Commissioner
Boston Parks & Recreation Department
1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Commissioner Cook,

The Boston Redevelopment Authority staff has had the opportunity to review and comment on your Department's most recent draft update of the City's Open Space Plan for 2015-2021. The Plan's goals and objectives are well informed and reflect the considerable time and effort made by you and your staff to solicit input from the many public and private stakeholders, advocates, and citizens within the City.

We especially appreciate your efforts in crafting this plan, as we intend that it will serve, with many other City Departmental plans, as the foundation of our thinking for the *Imagine Boston 2030* general plan, the first city-wide comprehensive plan for Boston in 50 years. Beginning in Fall 2015, the primary principals of *Imagine Boston 2030* are to preserve wisely, enhance equitably, and grow intelligently so that we can ensure that our neighborhoods and the city as a whole remain thriving, healthy, and innovative as we approach our 400th birthday and beyond. We believe that your plan is aligned in its approach to thinking specifically about the City's parks and open spaces.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority would like to offer our support for this new Open Space Plan and look forward to our continued collaboration in planning a bright future for Boston.

Sincerely,

John "Tad" Read
Acting Director of Planning

cc: Brian Golden, Director, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Austin Blackmon, Chief of Environment, Energy & Open Space

Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer / Equal Housing Opportunity

MAPC
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL
SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

October 22, 2015

Chris Cook
Commissioner
Boston Parks and Recreation Department
1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Commissioner Cook:

Thank you for submitting the draft "City of Boston Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015-2021" to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

The plan contains all of the elements that MAPC looks for in order to determine consistency with *MetroFuture*. The Boston plan has a very comprehensive treatment of regional open space issues, and you are to be congratulated for incorporating this perspective. Additionally, it includes an extensive analysis of environmental justice and equity with regard to access to open space and recreation resources across the City, an issue that is a priority for both DCS and MAPC.

MAPC enjoyed working with the City of Boston on the staff workshop to develop the Seven Year Action Plan. Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan is very thorough and it should serve the city well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

Cc: Chris Cook, Commissioner, Boston Parks and Recreation Department
John Barros, MAPC Representative, City of Boston
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Resources
Timothy Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Intergovernmental Relations

Lynn Duncan, President | **Keith Bergman**, Vice President | **Taber Keally**, Treasurer | **Shirronda Almeida**, Secretary | **Marc Draisen**, Executive Director
Metropolitan Area Planning Council | 60 Temple Place | Boston, Massachusetts 02111 | 617–933–0700 | 617–482–7185 fax | **mapc.org**

Section 11

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Appendices

Appendix A

ADJACENT LAND USES AND SHARED OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Boston is linked with its regional neighbors by infrastructure, commerce and education, and also by the larger regional system of open spaces and natural areas. The summary below of land uses in Boston and adjacent communities specifically notes natural and environmental resources that are shared between communities.

The benefits and impacts of land uses between neighboring communities were determined through consultation of land use maps for the neighborhoods of Boston, and land use, zoning and open space maps for the municipalities adjacent to Boston.

City of Boston

The City of Boston does not currently have a Master Plan. The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has produced a series of neighborhood land use maps that were consulted for this analysis.

Town of Winthrop

The Town of Winthrop's *2014–2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan* notes that the town has a layout that reflects its location as a peninsula and the influence of railroads. The town is made up of village and transit-oriented residential neighborhoods with a mix of single family homes, 2–4 family houses and mid-sized multifamily housing. New growth occurs through limited redevelopment and infill and expansion of existing structures. The *2005 Open Space Plan* noted that Winthrop has the lowest percentage of developable land in the metropolitan area.

The 2006 Town of Winthrop Street and Zoning Plan indicates a community of primarily residential development with several nodes of business districts interior to the peninsula. Large open spaces include Ingleside Park, Coughlin Park, Fisherman's Bend, Winthrop Shore Reservation, Yirrel Beach, the Winthrop Golf Club, and several cemeteries. The portion of Winthrop that faces East Boston across Belle Isle Inlet includes large conservation properties owned by DCR and the town including the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, the Fort Banks Playground, and a cemetery.

The BRA's 2014 map of the *Neighborhood of East Boston* indicates that the portion of East Boston that faces Winthrop across Boston Harbor includes large open spaces of Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, Constitution Beach, and Wood Island Bay Marsh. The remainder of the property use closest to Winthrop is Logan Airport.

City of Revere

The City of Revere's *2010–2017 Open Space Plan* notes that the city covers 10 square miles. Of its entire area, 4.1 miles are open water and wetlands and not suitable for development. Of the 5.9 miles of developed land, 70% is used for housing. Revere is subject to extensive traffic each day as it serves as the "gateway" between downtown Boston and the North Shore. Approximately 1,500 retail and service related businesses are located in Revere. Revere Beach is three miles of uninterrupted crescent shaped beach, the first public beach in America.

The *2010 Zoning Map of Revere* indicates a largely residential community, with industrial uses to the north, and a commercial corridor along Route 107. Large conservation areas include the Rumney Marsh Reservation and the Revere Beach Reservation. The land use adjacent to East Boston is zoned for a Technology Enterprise District, and a Planned Development District. Two areas in Revere across the Belle Island Inlet and the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation in East Boston are city-owned open space. Suffolk Downs racetrack straddles the border of Revere and East Boston. At the time of this writing, the Mohegan Sun casino is proposed to be located on the Revere side of the site in close proximity to Belle Isle Marsh.

The BRA's 2014 map of the *Neighborhood of East Boston* indicates that the portion of East Boston that is adjacent to Revere includes the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. The remainder of the land use in East Boston closest to Revere is primarily related to Suffolk Downs. A residential neighborhood lies near the boundary with Revere.

City of Chelsea

The City of Chelsea's *2010–2016 Open Space Plan* notes that the city is a highly urbanized, densely populated community with significant industrial uses. It is essentially built out with very little open land left. New development occurs through redeveloping existing land. Chelsea plays an important role in providing access to a number of industries due to its proximity to the airport, Boston Harbor, and significant roadways. The Chelsea Creek waterfront is occupied by petroleum tank farms, a bulk salt storage area, airport-related trucking services, and parking for airport employees. Forbes Industrial Park comprises a group of older industrial buildings at the mouth of Mill Creek, which are currently under redevelopment for residential use.

The *2008 City of Chelsea Zoning Districts Map* indicates that the land that faces East Boston across the Chelsea River is zoned Waterfront Use, with Industrial Use behind. The portion of East Boston that faces Chelsea across the river primarily includes residential and open space uses. The portion of land that faces Charlestown across the Mystic River is zoned for Waterfront uses, and Naval Hospital uses, with residential uses behind.

The BRA's 2013 map of the *Neighborhood of Charlestown* indicates that the portion of Charlestown that faces Chelsea across the Mystic River is industrial waterfront uses.

City of Everett

The City of Everett's *2010–2017 Open Space Plan* notes that it is a fully developed inner core city in the Boston Metro area. Everett is roughly two thirds residential and one third industrial, with more than 50 acres of parks throughout. The Revere Beach Parkway / Route 16, is a heavily traveled road that divides the residential and industrial areas. Everett's Mystic River frontage is a Designated Port Area and is characterized by heavy industrial uses.

The *2003 Everett Waterfront Assessment* indicates that the waterfront across the Mystic River from Charlestown is Maritime Industrial use. The *2013 Proposed Zoning Map for the Proposed Lower Broadway Economic Development District and Resort Casino*

Overlay District indicates that the land adjacent to the Alford Street Bridge is designated to be developed for Waterfront Mixed Use, Commercial, Employment and Residential uses. This is the site of the proposed Wynn Everett casino.

The BRA's 2013 map of the *Neighborhood of Charlestown* indicates that the portion of Charlestown that faces Everett across the Mystic River includes industrial waterfront uses. Ryan Playground is on the waterfront. The Alford Street Bridge connects Sullivan Square to Everett. The MBTA garage sits on the waterfront north of the bridge seawall. The currently planned realignment of the roads around Sullivan Square will free up seven parcels for redevelopment in the future.

City of Somerville

The City of Somerville's *2008–2013 Open Space Plan* notes that only a few parks were created before significant residential development at the turn of the 20th century. In the 1870s, two parcels were dedicated as permanent open space: Central Hill Park and Broadway Park. Private estates were mostly sold for development, and only one tract of land was donated to the City for public use—Nathan Tufts Park in 1890.

Somerville is a largely residential community with 50% of the current housing stock dating between 1890 and 1910. By 1900, only 52 acres (4.7%) of Somerville's land were dedicated to parks or playgrounds. The City dedicated two parks during this time of rapid residential growth—Lincoln Park (1900) and Trum Field (1903). The rest of the City's parks, playgrounds, and open spaces were constructed with little master planning, and were fit into the residential subdivision of land. For this reason, many of Somerville's open spaces are less than a half-acre in size, and scattered throughout the city in an irregular pattern.

The *2010 City of Somerville Zoning Map* indicates that the boundary along Charlestown is divided into three uses: the upper portion along the Mystic River is the Assembly Square Mixed Use Area. The middle portion is residential. The lower third along boundary with Boston is industrial land with a business district.

The BRA's 2013 map of the *Neighborhood of Charlestown* indicates that the portion of Charlestown that abuts Somerville includes the MBTA Bus Barn which sits on the riverfront adjacent to Assembly Square. The middle portion of land along the boundary is residential use in the Sullivan Square area, against the same use in East Somerville. The southern portion of land along the boundary is commercial and industrial uses that abut the same type of land uses in Somerville.

City of Cambridge

The City of Cambridge's *2009–2016 Open Space Plan* notes that the city is a densely populated, urbanized area adjacent to a metropolitan downtown. The land uses in the city vary from low-density single-family neighborhoods, higher-density multifamily housing, institutions, mixed-use squares and commercial areas, former industrial areas that are evolving into high-tech employment centers, and a few large open spaces including Fresh Pond and the banks of the Charles River.

The Open Space Plan notes that an influx of residents in 1910–1930 prompted residential development, which resulted in the city becoming a series of interlocking street grids from east to west, leaving virtually no undeveloped land remaining, and no great expanses of open space.

Cambridge is linked with its regional neighbors by transportation infrastructure, commerce and education, and also by the larger regional system of open spaces and natural areas. The most significant part of Cambridge's "green infrastructure" is the Charles River, which links it ecologically and recreationally with Boston and the Boston Harbor to the east, and with upriver communities.

The 2013 map of *Zoning Districts for Cambridge* indicates that the waterfront along the entire Charles River waterfront, across from Boston's Downtown, Back Bay and Allston/Brighton neighborhoods, is zoned as open space with primarily residential uses behind.

The BRA's 2013 map of the *Neighborhoods of Downtown*, 2013 map of the *Neighborhood of Back Bay*, 2014 map of the *Neighborhood of Fenway*, and 2012 map of the *Neighborhoods of Allston and Brighton* indicate the uses along the Charles River across from Cambridge.

The length of this riverfront in Boston is predominantly open space of the Charles River Reservation. At the north end, institutional uses such as the Museum of Science lie within this landscape, while Mass General hospital is just beyond. Storrow Drive follows this landscape, with the residential uses of Beacon Hill beyond. The Boston Common and the Public Garden connect to the Commonwealth Mall, creating the start of the Emerald Necklace.

Continuing west, the residential uses of Back Bay abut the Charles River Esplanade. Institutional uses at Boston University and Harvard's Allston Campus are along the river. Soldier's Field Road follows the Charles River Reservation, across from Cambridge and Watertown.

Town of Watertown

The Town of Watertown's most recent Open Space Plan dated 2005–2010 was extended, and expired in October 2013. The *2013 Comprehensive Plan* notes that Watertown has more than four miles of frontage on the Charles River, and therefore strongly identifies itself with the river which provides a natural setting that includes waterfront parks, trails, and recreational opportunities. The plan notes that this system of parks and open space has helped define the development pattern in the town, which is primarily residential with some industry.

The *2008 Zoning Map of Watertown* indicates that the land use across the Charles River from Boston is entirely green space. The Arsenal Mall, Perkins School for the Blind, and residential neighborhoods lie beyond.

The BRA's 2012 map of the *Neighborhoods of Allston and Brighton* indicates that the land use across the Charles River from Watertown includes commercial and industrial uses set into the green space along the Charles River Reservation.

City of Newton

The City of Newton's *Recreation and Open Space Plan Update 2013–2019* notes that Newton was one of the country's first railroad suburbs. Its location close to Boston, contributed to its density and Boston's economy created development pressures and escalated land values in Newton.

The increasing residential, commercial, and institutional development over the past century has led to increased traffic and the loss of open space. Newton's land area is nearly built out—less than 3% of the land area is undeveloped and unprotected.

Newton is a "Garden City" with portions that were designed and laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted and Alexander Wadsworth. Newton has established village centers, generally surrounded with a mix of single- and multi-family dwellings, with generous protected open space. A portion of the Charles River runs through the city.

The *2010 Zoning Map of Newton* and the *2012 Land Use Map of Newton* indicate that the land uses adjacent to Brighton are institutional (Boston College), residential, and open space. The BRA's 2012 map of the *Neighborhoods of Allston and Brighton* indicate that the land uses adjacent to Newton are primarily institutional (Boston College), residential, and the open space of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir and nearby open spaces such as Cassidy Playground, Reilly Playground, Evergreen Cemetery, Saint John's Seminary, Chandler Pond, and The Cenacles.

The *2010 Zoning Map of Newton* and the *2012 Land Use Map of Newton* indicate that the land uses adjacent to West Roxbury are residential and open space. The BRA's 2012 map of the *Neighborhood of West Roxbury* indicates that the land use along the boundary of Newton is almost entirely open space, with a few areas of residential. This land includes Leatherbee Woods, Hancock Woods, Mount Benedict Cemetery, St. Joseph's Cemetery, Mount Lebanon Cemetery, Gethsemane Cemetery, Brook Farm, and Millennium Park.

Town of Brookline

The *2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Brookline* notes that the town was originally named Muddy River. It was settled in 1630 and incorporated as a town in 1705. At this time, the Charles River was tidal for nine miles upstream to Watertown, where a dam was built. There were mud flats in the Back Bay of Boston and between the Charles and Muddy Rivers. Extensive wetlands, ponds, and streams in Brookline were filled, drained or channeled through culverts into the 20th century. South Brookline was developed around extensive wetlands; wetland issues continue to be significant in this area.

In 1871, Brookline created the first public playing fields in the country, Cypress Field and Boylston Street Playground, and in 1885, built the first public pool. Many of the existing public parks and recreation areas were acquired by 1930. At present, just over 14% of Brookline's 4,355 acres of land is devoted to public parks, open space and recreational facilities.

In 1914, the Town's first Planning Board was established with Chairman Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., co-author of the nation's first planning enabling legislation and son of the designer of the Emerald Necklace park system. In the past 40 years, the overall trend has been to reduce the amount of development allowed.

The *2008 Land Use Map for the Town of Brookline* indicates that the land use along the boundary with Brighton is predominantly multi-family residential and retail. The BRA's 2012 map of the *Neighborhoods of Allston and Brighton* indicate that the land use along the boundary with Brookline is single and multi-family residential.

The *2008 Land Use Map for the Town of Brookline* indicates that the land use along the boundary shared with Mission Hill is entirely open space of the Emerald Necklace. The BRA's *Map of Mission Hill* indicates that the land use along the boundary shared with Brookline is entirely made up of the Emerald Necklace, specifically the Riverway and Olmsted Park.

The *2008 Land Use Map for the Town of Brookline* indicates that the land uses along the boundary with Jamaica Plain are predominantly single family residential with some vacant land, religious affiliation use, municipal open space, educational, charities, nursing homes and hospitals, agricultural and recreation land, and multi-family uses.

The BRA's 2013 map of the *Neighborhood of Jamaica Plain* indicates that the land uses along the boundary shared with Brookline is largely the Emerald Necklace including Olmsted Park and Jamaica Pond, as well as the open space created by the privately owned Hellenic College. Some single family residential neighborhoods abut Brookline. Open space associated with the Showa Institute, Daughters of Saint Paul, Lawrence Farm and Allandale Woods is also along this boundary.

The *2008 Land Use Map for the Town of Brookline* indicates the uses along the boundary with West Roxbury include multi-family and municipal open space. The BRA's 2012 map of the *Neighborhood of West Roxbury* shows that the land use along the boundary of Brookline is residential with open space at Leatherbee Woods, Hancock Woods, and Mount Benedict Cemetery.

Town of Dedham

The Town of Dedham's *2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan* notes that Mother Brook, a man made canal, was constructed by 1640 to connect the Charles River to the Neponset River to provide power for a corn mill. In 1831, the Boston and Providence Railroad was chartered and Dedham was included on the route. Dedham's natural landscape was changed with embankments, railroad cuts, massive quantities of fill, grade crossings, and new bridges. Construction of Route 128 occurred in 1947–1956, which encouraged the location of technology companies. The consequent demand for residential land drove development to agricultural areas and wetlands. The uplands along Routes 1 and 128 were almost completely developed by the late 1970s. Strip malls and shopping centers along the main roads increased traffic problems. East Dedham underwent urban renewal and lost historic context.

The *2012 Zoning Map for the Town of Dedham* indicates that the land uses along the boundary with Boston are entirely residential uses. The Charles River follows the northern boundary between the municipalities.

The BRA's 2012 map of the *Neighborhood of West Roxbury* indicates that the land use along the boundary of Dedham includes the Charles River. Nearby open space includes Brook Farm and Millennium Park, public playgrounds, private cemeteries, and the nearby West Roxbury Quarry. The Stony Brook

Reservation and the Mill Pond Reservation at Mother Brook are near the boundary with Dedham. The remaining land uses are residential along the West Roxbury and Hyde Park boundaries.

Town of Milton

The *2013 Town of Milton Master Plan* states that "Milton's open landscapes, grand estates and attractive residential neighborhoods are highly valued by community members. In visioning sessions, participants noted that rural and residential character are top priorities for preservation. In addition to Milton's distinctive homes, the expanse between homes, the pervasive tree canopy throughout town, the town's protected open spaces and the seamless integration of the New England style campuses are fundamental to Milton's identity and appeal."

The *2002 Town of Milton Zoning Districts* map indicates that the land uses along the Neponset River boundary with Boston are residential with two small business nodes at the northwest boundary and the northeast boundary along the Neponset River Reservation. The Blue Hills Reservation is an open space of regional significance located along the southwest town border.

The BRA's 2014 map of the *Neighborhood of Hyde Park* indicates that the Neponset River Reservation straddles the southeast border with Milton. An area of single family residential use follows the river north, bordered by the Neponset River Reservation on the Boston side, and the West Street Urban Wild and Euclid Street Urban Wild. The large swath of green space in Boston continues with the Pope John Paul II Park, Cedar Grove Cemetery and Dorchester Park.

City of Quincy

The City of Quincy's *2012–2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan* indicates that Quincy has 27 miles of shoreline and contains several flowing bodies of water, including the Neponset River, Furnace Brook, Town Brook, Town River, and Black's Creek. These resources have made Quincy an excellent location for fisheries, shipbuilding, and marine transportation.

The landscape of Quincy has benefited and been harmed by its proximity to Boston. The city has been a desirable manufacturing location over time, but its proximity has also caused it to be affected by problems such as water pollution, sewage treatment issues, and public transit problems.

The beaches of Quincy Bay have long been impaired by their connection to Boston Harbor and the City's role in the Metropolitan Water Resource Area potable and waste water treatment systems. The primary waste water treatment plant on Nut Island was demolished after 100 years of discharges to Quincy Bay. In 1998, the Nut Island Headworks, a sewage screening facility, went into service. The ocean around Quincy and in Boston Harbor is remarkably cleaner and continues to improve.

The *City of Quincy Zoning Map* indicates that the land uses across the Neponset River from Boston predominantly include business development. The Blue Hills Reservation is an open space of regional significance which is located along the southwest town border. Significant open spaces are located along Boston Harbor.

The BRA's 2014 map of the *Neighborhood of Dorchester* indicates that green space is the predominant land use across the Neponset River from Quincy, including the Pope John Paul II Park, Garvey Playground and Tenean Beach. Savin Hill Beach, Malibu Beach and William T. Morrissey Boulevard are green spaces along Dorchester Bay at the tip of Quincy. Moon Island (owned by the City of Boston) is accessed from Quincy.

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2008 City of Chelsea Zoning Districts Map

2003 Everett Waterfront Assessment

2013 Proposed Zoning Map for the Proposed Lower Broadway Economic Development District and Resort Casino Overlay District in Everett

2010 City of Somerville Zoning Map

2013 Zoning Districts for Cambridge

2008 Zoning Map of Watertown

2010 Zoning Map of Newton

2012 Land Use Map of Newton

2008 Land Use Map for the Town of Brookline

2012 Zoning Map for the Town of Dedham

2002 Town of Milton Zoning Districts

City of Quincy Zoning Map

Appendix B

OPEN SPACE PLANS OF NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

The documents below were reviewed for this Open Space Plan, for potential park partners, programs, planning and projects.

Town of Winthrop

Winthrop's *2014–2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan* has the following goals, which include coordinating its recreation and open space planning with adjacent communities.

1. Protect and enhance the quality and integrity of all conservation land and open space for public use and enjoyment.
2. Provide ample recreational opportunities for all residents.
3. Preserve the scenic quality of the town.
4. Promote public awareness of conservation and recreation, use of recreation areas and programs offered.
5. Coordinate Winthrop's recreation and open space planning activities with those of neighboring communities, as well as regional, state and federal activities.
6. Protect coastal areas.
7. Protect wildlife and wild plants to preserve the diversity and health of natural community ecosystems.
8. Promote cooperation between boards with jurisdiction over open space and recreational areas and work towards implementation.
9. Develop a walking and biking network linking public open space, and civic and commercial resources.

City of Revere

Revere's *2010–2017 Open Space Plan* has the following goals, which include developing partnerships and regional collaboration to maximize limited resources and develop regional open spaces.

1. Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.
2. Protect and preserve Revere's natural resources.
3. Develop facilities and programs that promote fitness and health.
4. Improve stewardship of the parks.
5. Develop partnerships and engage in regional collaboration to maximize limited resources and develop regional open spaces.
6. Ensure that the plan includes environmental justice and equity.

City of Chelsea

Chelsea's *2010–2016 Open Space Plan* has the following goals:

1. Provide active and passive recreational and fitness opportunities suited to Chelsea's urban population. Provide a full range of recreational opportunities appropriate to citywide and neighborhood recreation needs and age groups.
2. Take advantage of Chelsea's environmental, historic, and scenic resources. New and existing parks should enrich the experience of residents.
3. Integrate the open space system into the city fabric. There is a relationship between open spaces and surrounding residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Open space should tie neighborhoods together, provide buffers against incompatible uses, and add value to surrounding properties.

City of Everett

Everett's *2010–2017 Open Space Plan* has the following goals, which include to establish community and regional partnerships.

1. Maintain, enhance, and maximize the utility and quality of recreation areas.
2. Establish community and regional partnerships to expand open space and recreational assets to residents and coordinate recreational programs to improve citizen participation.
3. Support Energize Everett, a city-wide wellness program.
4. Implement the recommendations of the 2003 Everett Waterfront Assessment and the Lower Mystic River Corridor Strategy.

City of Somerville

Somerville's *2008–2013 Open Space Plan* has the following goals:

1. Renovate existing parks and open spaces to improve the condition of Somerville's recreational areas and ensure attractive, safe, and accessible public lands.
2. Acquire more land to expand Somerville's total open space acreage and ensure open space in every neighborhood.
3. Analyze and improve access for persons with disabilities to parks and open space, as part of ongoing ADA compliance.
4. Increase tree canopy and green spaces to improve urban health, promote sustainability, and reduce the heat-island effect.
5. Increase Off-Leash Recreational Area and skate boarding opportunities throughout the city, and create a new skate park.
6. Raise the bar for sustainable design and building practices in parks and open spaces.
7. Reduce brownfields and convert to more desirable uses.

The 2011 *City of Somerville Comprehensive Plan Technical Report #5* notes that public and private open space constitutes approximately 6.75% of the total city land area. Of this, only 112 acres are protected in perpetuity. The report notes that Somerville residents have access to regional open space, the closest of which is primarily owned by the DCR.

City of Cambridge

Cambridge's 2009–2016 Open Space Plan has the following goals:

1. Increase the amount of usable public open space in Cambridge.
2. Improve the quality and variety of parks and playgrounds.
3. Protect reservation and natural resources in the city.
4. Ensure that Cambridge's parks and open spaces are well-maintained, attractive, clean, and free of hazards and pests, and that park equipment and features remain in good repair.
5. Support a robust recreational program.
6. Work to improve the quality of streets and sidewalks in the city.
7. Increase trails and multi-use paths for pedestrians and bicycles.
8. Ensure that the public has information about the availability of different open space and recreational resources in the city.
9. Engage in planning initiatives that advance the creation, understanding and implementation of open space priorities.

Town of Watertown

Watertown's most recent Open Space Plan dated 2005–2010 was extended, and expired in October 2013. The open space goals in the Town's *2013 Comprehensive Plan* follow:

1. Identify opportunities to create new parks in underserved neighborhoods, while improving accessibility and the overall condition of Watertown's recreational resources.
2. Preserve, protect, and enhance publicly owned conservation, passive, and active open space.
3. Encourage private land owners to preserve open space.
4. Create new opportunities for recreational access along the Charles River.
5. Promote active and healthy lifestyles.

City of Newton

Newton's *Recreation and Open Space Plan 2013–19* has these goals:

To recognize, preserve, and maintain the City's important natural assets and resources.

1. To ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space for both public benefit and biodiversity.
2. To integrate compatible recreation and conservation uses.
3. To explore the action necessary to protect and preserve large open spaces remaining, including the golf courses and other significant parcels owned by institutions and private entities.
4. To undergird the City's capacity for stewardship of its open space.

Town of Brookline

The *2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan* for the Town of Brookline includes a comprehensive set of goals and priorities. Most relevant to this Open Space Plan is the goal to encourage regional planning, including devising management strategies that address current environmental challenges including climate change and non-native invasive species.

A second goal that applies to Boston is to communicate with staff and/or environmental advocates in neighboring communities to form strategies to strengthen connections between green spaces.

Other categories include "resource protection" which includes goals for unprotected open space, green corridors, wetlands, watersheds, green infrastructure, habitat and wildlife, parks and recreation, and urban forests. The category of "meeting community goals" addresses recreation, education, outreach and advocacy, and financing of open space initiatives. The category of "creating management goals" includes goals to facilitate better municipal coordination, comply with storm water regulations, and create public-private partnerships.

Town of Dedham

Dedham's *2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan* notes that "Open space planning does not stop at a town's boundaries. Coordination with neighboring communities will be important for Dedham to achieve its Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives."

1. Protect the Town's biological diversity, watersheds and ecosystems.
2. Promote sound environmental management of open spaces.
3. Encourage development that protects open space systems and enhances natural resources.
4. Provide recreation facilities and programs that serve the Town's needs.
5. Provide universal access to recreation properties and programs.
6. Support Town efforts to protect and manage open space.
7. Coordinate and support protection of private open space.

One of the action items applicable to Boston's Open Space Plan is to coordinate with neighboring towns to create contiguous natural areas. Another action is to design a greenway system that connects open space and recreation lands and links to neighboring communities. Another action is to meet with neighboring towns to coordinate open space acquisition and management along the borders and waterways.

Town of Milton

Milton's 2013 Master Plan has the following open space actions:

Natural and Cultural Resources – An inventory and assessment of the town's natural resources, their condition and functional significance. This element identifies particularly sensitive and "at-risk" areas as well as potential or known sources of resource degradation that may warrant special attention. This element should identify and assess management and regulatory approaches to ensure that new development preserves natural resources to the extent possible and considers traditional development patterns and historic resources.

Open Space and Recreation – A quantitative and qualitative inventory of open space and recreational facilities that identifies strategies for advancing community open space and recreation goals. This element should identify the contributions of private open space to community character and quality of life and assess potential impacts of a reduction of this resource; and consider the impacts of shifts in demographics on the need for open space and recreation facilities and programs.

City of Quincy

Quincy's *2012–2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan* has these goals:

1. Identify funding sources for open and recreational spaces.
2. Identify and protect available and useful open space parcels.
3. Maintain and upgrade conservation lands, parks, and recreational facilities, including downtown pocket parks.
4. Encourage public access to waterfront areas.
5. Expand recreational opportunities to reflect Quincy's diversity.
6. Offer education on park resources and educational programs.
7. Make open and recreational spaces more accessible to people.
8. Investigating new recreational opportunities that reflect Quincy's diverse ethnic populations.

References

Town of Winthrop, *2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan*

Town of Winthrop, *2014–2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan*

City of Revere, *2010–2017 Open Space Plan*

City of Chelsea, *2010–2016 Open Space Plan*

City of Everett, *2010–2017 Open Space Plan*

City of Somerville, *2008–2013 Open Space Plan*

City of Somerville *Comprehensive Plan Technical Report #5, 2011*

City of Cambridge, *2009–2016 Open Space Plan*

Town of Watertown, *Open Space Plan 2005–2010*, extended and expired in 2013

Town of Watertown, *2013 Comprehensive Plan*

City of Newton, *Recreation and Open Space Plan 2013–2019*

Town of Brookline, *2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan*

Town of Dedham, *2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan*

Town of Milton, *2013 Master Plan*

City of Quincy, *2012–2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan*

Appendix C

REGIONAL WATERSHED PLANNING EFFORTS

Regional watershed planning efforts include those of the Boston Harbor Watershed, the Mystic River Watershed Association, the Charles River Watershed Association, and the Neponset River Watershed Association.

The documents below were reviewed for applicability to this Open Space Plan, for potential partnerships, programs, planning and projects.

Mass Bays Program

The Massachusetts Bays Program is a cooperative venture of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Mass Bays Program for the Metro Boston Region has the following goals:

- Develop habitat specific restoration targets for Boston Harbor.
- Protect and restore eelgrass habitat.
- Restore degraded salt marsh and protect salt marsh habitat.
- Protect and restore diadromous fish habitat.
- Prepare for and understand the impacts to estuarine habitats from climate change.

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

The Massachusetts Bays Program completed the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) in 1996 and updated it in 2003. This plan includes steps to restore and protect the Massachusetts Bays ecosystem, and addresses the following areas that are potentially relevant to Boston's Open Space Plan:

- Protecting and Enhancing Coastal Habitat
- Enhancing Public Access and the Working Waterfront
- Planning for a Shifting Shoreline
- Managing Local Land Use and Growth

Priorities for the Boston Harbor Watershed

The Boston Indicators Project notes that the cleanup of Boston Harbor began in the mid-1980s in response to a law suit by the Conservation Law Foundation. It took more than a decade and almost $4 billion to complete. The Office of Water Policy at EOEEA lists the following priorities for the Boston Harbor Watershed:

- Expand watershed association, citizen monitoring programs, and the remediation/enforcement of water quality problems;
- Continue stream flow assessment and water supply planning in the Neponset and Weir River Watersheds and work to resolve flood control issues in the Mystic River Watershed;
- Evaluate current land use and the possibility of future development within the watershed;
- Restore sensitive habitat areas by managing dams to allow for fish passage, restoring wetlands, improving the health of the harbor, and controlling invasive species of aquatic plants; and
- Reduce/eliminate sewer overflows and extreme fecal coliform and nutrient levels.

Boston Harbor Watersheds 2004–2009 Action Plan

The Boston Harbor Watersheds 2004–2009 Action Plan includes the individual action plans for the Boston Inner Harbor Watershed, and the watersheds of the Neponset, Fore Back and Weir Rivers. The recommendations in the plan were intended to protect or restore the water quality, watershed hydrology and water supply, physical habitat and open space and outdoor recreation.

The document provides action plans specific to each watershed, as well as priorities common to all of the watersheds serving Boston Harbor: Sewer System Maintenance, Improvements, and Extensions; Stormwater Management and Groundwater Recharge; Septic Management; Management of Landscaped Areas; Water Supply and Stream flows; Riverine Habitat; Public Access to Waterways; Watershed Assessment; and Boating Initiatives.

Open space planning can influence many of the above priorities. However, the following recommendations are highlighted because of public access to waterways.

The Boston Harbor Watersheds 2004–2009 Action Plan notes that public access to navigable and potentially swimmable waters is limited in these watersheds. Public access along the shore is also very limited. Recommended actions for State and Municipal Governments related to open space include the following:

- Expand public walkways and parks on public and private property through Chapter 91 licensing and other incentives;
- Develop shoreline access plans at a parcel level of detail;
- Expand public amenities, handicapped access, and public programs on waterfronts;
- Connect waterfront walkways to transit and other public lands;
- Prepare an inventory of potential boat launch and canoe launch sites and an action plan for their development;
- Expand the number of public boat ramps, canoe launching areas, water shuttles and other water-related activities; and
- Restore amenities and water quality at public beaches.

Greening Boston's Infrastructure

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) was required to minimize the discharge of sewage and other pollutants into the water bodies in and around Boston, as a result of a consent decree between the EPA and BWSC in 2005. This settlement led to the incorporation of green infrastructure, low impact development, and other controls to help reduce discharges into the rivers and improve the health of Boston Harbor.

Chelsea Creek Waterfront Study and Plan

The 2005 *Chelsea Creek Waterfront Study* examined the development potential of key areas along Chelsea Creek and Mill Creek. The study found that the head of Chelsea Creek offers an opportunity to create a system of publicly accessible open spaces. The study concluded that public access should be a critical component of future planning efforts. The 2007 *Chelsea Creek Waterfront Plan* acknowledges that open space and public access to the creek are limited. One goal was to suggest public access linkages that do not conflict with water-dependent uses.

Mystic River Watershed Assessment and Action Plan

The Mystic River Watershed Association released the *Mystic River Assessment and Action Plan* in 2006 which looked at environmental and recreational resources and preservation needs. Priorities relevant to the Boston Open Space Plan include:

3.1 Investigate opportunities to use the Blue Cities criteria developed by the Charles River Watershed Association for redevelopment that improves watershed functioning.

3.3 Develop consensus Smart Growth principles for projects in urban areas that consider the need to reclaim open space, repair inadequate sewer infrastructure, control flooding, and address traffic and other community concerns.

3.4 Support improvement of relevant municipal ordinances and zoning to promote smart growth. Catalog current municipal ordinances in the watershed. Compile model ordinances.

3.5 Develop a plan for parks and pedestrian/bike paths for the Lower Watershed that identifies all on-going waterfront redevelopment and planning, and identifies areas where coordination among plans would enhance the value.

3.7 Implement critical next steps from previous planning efforts.

3.9 Investigate options for improving public access in Designated Port Areas, consistent with regulations and security.

4.5 Continue efforts to complete key links in the pedestrian paths and bikeways throughout the watershed, in concert with regional efforts to enhance the network of paths. High priorities for action include the Bike to the Sea path, pedestrian and bike access through the MBTA property near Sullivan Square, the Chelsea Creek Riverway, the East Boston Greenway, extension of the paths along the Mystic River, the Charles River/Minuteman Connector, River and connecting to the Boston Harbor Walk through Charlestown.

4.7 Identify locations for improved public canoe and kayak access.

Mystic River Corridor Strategy

EPA New England gave the Mystic River a grade of D for water quality in 2007 because it met bacterial standards for swimming 52% of the time and boating standards 67% of the time. The EPA then began an initiative to improve the water quality in the Mystic River watershed.

MAPC initiated the *Mystic River Corridor Strategy* in 2008, including six cities on the Lower Mystic River. The vision is a waterfront that serves as a vibrant area for residents to use and enjoy. This will be achieved by improving existing open space on the river, developing new open space, and connecting spaces by a trail network. The *Mystic River Corridor Strategy* includes ideas relevant to this Open Space Plan:

1A: MAPC and the six cities will advocate for the completion of the open space system, with a focus on eleven high priority open space initiatives.

3E: MAPC and the six cities will work to complete the gaps in the multi-use path system along the Mystic.

- MAPC and the six cities will work to further multi-use path projects already identified in Strategy #1.
- MAPC and the six cities will work with DCR to ensure that the Mystic River Master Plan and subsequent capital improvements will ensure a complete path system.

4C2: MAPC and the six cities will work with DCR to expand its master plan to all land owned by DCR along the Mystic and its tributaries and to ensure that there is sufficient funding for capital improvements and maintenance activities.

The Lower Mystic River Corridor Strategy

The Lower Mystic River Corridor Strategy was prepared for the cities of Boston, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford and Somerville by MAPC in 2009. The vision is that the waterfront serves as a vibrant area where residents live, work and play. This vision will be achieved through improving access to open space along the river, and connecting those spaces with a trail network that makes the river easily accessible by foot, bike, transit and water shuttles. The strategies from that plan that are relevant to the City of Boston's Open Space Plan are as follows:

1: Acquire, protect, enhance and link regionally significant open space parcels [the BRA did not identify any parcels for inclusion on this list due to the difficulties of implementing open space projects within the Designated Port Areas. Open space projects may be identified in the future as further work is done on the DPA]

- MAPC and the cities will work cooperatively to advocate for the completion of the open space system with a focus on the high priority open space initiatives listed in the plan.
- MAPC will work with the six cities to ensure that city open space plans fully address Mystic issues as identified in this strategy.

2: Enhance and encourage sustainable development and redevelopment within the Corridor

A. Guide development to follow a unified set of principles
B. Advance sustainable development projects within the corridor
C. Explore development and open space opportunities in Designated Port Areas

3: Improve access to and along the river through the development of water transportation, public transit, roadway improvements, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

- MAPC and the six cities will work cooperatively to advocate for the completion of sixteen high priority transportation projects.
- MAPC and the six cities will work to support regional water transportation initiatives.
- MAPC will work with the cities and neighborhood groups to improve transit and pedestrian access to the Mystic River.
- MAPC and the six cities will continue to work with the Mystic Valley Active and Safe Transportation Network (Mystic VAST-NET) on action items that are complementary to the Corridor Strategy.
- MAPC and the six cities will work to complete the gaps in the multi-use path system along the Mystic River.

Mystic River Master Plan

The Mystic River Master Plan was completed by the DCR in 2009. The study area includes the Mystic River Reservation and encompasses approximately 370 acres. The master plan focuses on improvements to the Mystic River Reservation, including creation of a connected trail system along its length. The plan sets the following goals:

- MAPC
- Restore river banks and edges to promote both increased recreational use and the river's ecological health.
- Develop a continuous multi-use pathway system along both banks of the Mystic River.
- Determine areas most suitable/desirable for recreation, education and preservation.
- Protect and enhance wildlife habitat by improving natural areas.
- Increase opportunities for water-related activities, including fishing and non-motorized boating.
- Strengthen the open space network with links to adjacent public open space and neighborhoods
- Develop guidelines for management and operation of park land.

Mystic River Active Transportation Initiative/2010 Active Transportation

Boston joined with Somerville, Chelsea, Everett, Malden and Medford, and the MAPC and DCR, as well as numerous non-profits, to create a coalition focused on active transportation along the Mystic River. Specific goals of the initiative include:

1. Create safe routes to transit and "Trails to Transit" programs.
2. Create a trail network for bicyclists along the lower river.
3. Improve waterfront access in order to support revitalization of adjoining neighborhoods and business areas.
4. Establish an urban river ring linking the Charles River, Alewife Brook and the Mystic River.
5. Connect to statewide and national trail systems.
6. Realization of health benefits of bicycle and pedestrian transportation within the Mystic River Communities.

Clean Charles River Initiative

The Charles River historically suffered from pollution due to sewage and industrial wastes. The *Clean Charles River Initiative* was launched in 1995 by the EPA in conjunction with federal, state and local agencies, citizens, nonprofit groups and private institutions. It established the goal of making the lower Charles River "fishable" and "swimmable" from Watertown to Boston Harbor.

Since 1995, the initiative has achieved significant improvements in the water quality. In 1995, the river met boating standards 39 percent of the time, and swimming standards 19 percent of the time. In 2006, the lower Charles achieved boating standards 90 percent of the time, and swimming standards 62 percent of the time. This recovery is due to innovative storm water management and water-sensitive development.

In 2011, the Thiess International Riverprize was awarded to the Charles River Watershed Association for its management of the Charles River, now one of the cleanest urban waterways in the world. The $350,000 award is the most prestigious river prize in the world.

Neponset River Watershed Action Plan

The *Neponset River Watershed Action Plan* augments the *Common Action Plan for All Boston Harbor South Watersheds* in the *Boston Harbor Watersheds 2004–2009 Action Plan*. The actions are mainly about water quality. The issue of public access to waterways includes one action item for State Government that may have applicability to the City of Boston's Open Space Plan – that is the recommendation to develop a new open space needs and opportunities plan for the watershed as a whole.

References

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan of the Massachusetts Bays Program

EEOEA's Priorities for the Boston Harbor Watershed

2004–2008 Boston Harbor Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report

Boston Harbor Watersheds 2004–2009 Action Plan

Greening Boston's Infrastructure

2002–2006 Charles River Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report

Clean Charles River Initiative

Chelsea Creek Waterfront Study and Plan

The Lower Mystic River Corridor Strategy

Mystic River Watershed Assessment and Action Plan

Mystic River Corridor Strategy

Mystic River Master Plan

Mystic River Active Transportation Initiative

Neponset River Watershed Action Plan

Appendix D

REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

Below is a review of Federal, State, Regional, and Municipal planning initiatives that inform the creation of the City of Boston's Open Space Plan. The documents below were reviewed for applicability to this Open Space Plan, for potential partnerships, programs, planning and projects.

America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations (AGO)

The Obama Administration's *America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations* (AGO) was produced in February 2011. Particularly applicable to Boston is a goal to "create and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible great urban parks and community green spaces."

Recommendation 6.1 – Establish the Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces initiative by targeting increased funding for the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund to leverage investment in new and enhanced urban parks and community green spaces.

Action Item 6.1b – Increase the number of urban parks and community green spaces by working with partners to develop criteria within the LWCF program for new urban parks and green spaces. Project criteria should include, but not be limited to:

- demonstrated need for and benefits of the project;
- alignment within a strategic conservation plan;
- partnerships, collaboration, leverage, and community support;
- demonstrated sustainability and stewardship of the project;
- demonstrated plan to provide for safe and accessible routes;
- maximized employment opportunities for young people that connect them to the outdoors;
- multiple benefits, such as ecosystem connectivity, flood control, economic revitalization, heritage tourism, and recreation;
- opportunities for outdoor education, and place-based learning.

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) presents the available recreational resources and needs in the state. It is prepared by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and is used as a basis to distribute federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) and state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) funding to projects that will fulfill the state's recreational needs.

The City of Boston must have a current Open Space Plan in order to be eligible to apply for LWCF funds through a competitive process. Eligible projects include the acquisition of conservation or recreation land, the development of a new park, or the renovation of an existing park.

When conservation land or parkland receives LWCF funding, it is protected in perpetuity under Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act and Article 97 of the Massachusetts State Constitution. This

means that the land cannot be converted to non- conservation or recreation use without the approval of the National Park Service (NPS) and the state legislature.

The NPS and the EEA also require that land be provided in compensation for the converted parcel. This is to ensure that the land remains a recreational resource to the public in perpetuity.

The AGO called for the guidelines for SCORPs to align with AGO priorities. A recommendation of the AGO was that more emphasis should be placed on developing or renovating spaces that are closer to where people live, work, and play. This is also a priority of the LWCF, and the 2012 SCORP.

The 2012 Massachusetts SCORP has the following goals that will meet the needs of residents and the goals of the federal AGO:

1. Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation.
2. Increase the availability of water-based recreation.
3. Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home.
4. Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.

Statewide Land Conservation Plan

The *Statewide Land Conservation Plan* was a comprehensive planning effort completed in 2002 that identified priority areas for conservation based on biodiversity, ecological habitat, water resources, working farms and forests, greenways and outdoor recreation sites, and urban parks. Now outdated, it forms the basis of plans that inform this document.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administers the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) program in order to identify, inventory, and ensure stewardship of outstanding natural resource areas. The city of Boston contains portions of three ACECs—Rumney Marshes, Neponset Estuary, and Fowl Meadow/Ponkapoag Bog.

BioMap 2

BioMap 2: Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World (2012) is a product of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy. It is intended to create a plan to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of climate change. Protection and stewardship of core habitat and critical natural landscape is essential to safeguard the diversity of species and their habitats, ecosystems, and resilient natural landscapes. In Boston, the Species of Conservation Concern, Priority and Exemplary Natural Communities are:

- Insects: Orange Sallow Moth
- Amphibians: Northern Leopard Frog, Blue-spotted Salamander
- Fishes: Threespine Stickleback
- Birds: Upland Sandpiper, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-heron, Snowy Egret, Common Tern, Least Tern, Barn Owl, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow
- Plants: Long's Bulrush

The BioMap2 document identifies areas for protection of identified species. There are 2,341 acres of Core Habitat in Boston, of which 1,108 acres are protected. There are 540 acres of Critical Natural Landscape in Boston, of which 401 acres are protected. In broad terms, these areas include Stony Brook Reservation, the entirety of Logan Airport, and many of the Boston Harbor Islands.

Massachusetts Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan

The Massachusetts Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan was prepared in 2007 by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and its partners. This plan complies with federal requirements for funding for the protection of important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses.

Priority is given to lands that can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value. The following attributes were used to help identify priorities for Massachusetts:

- shoreline environments,
- coastline environments within a 2,000-foot buffer of the shore,
- state identified "core habitats" for rare species,
- large relatively undisturbed natural habitats, and
- buffer zones along fresh surface waters and trails/greenways.

MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan for FY2014–FY2018

MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan for FY2014–FY2018 outlines how the state will spend about $12.4 billion over the next five years as investment in public transit, bike paths, paratransit, roads, bridges, airports and railroads. The plan seeks to fund investments that will enhance mobility, improve safety, stimulate economic growth and protect the environment. The plan acknowledges that the Big Dig crowded out most other projects outside of Boston. The plan recognizes that regional equity is critical, and improvements will be made that consider residents with no or limited access to public transit and decent roads. The specifics of this plan are discussed later in this section.

Commonwealth Connections

Commonwealth Connections (2002) is a greenway and conservation initiative of DCR, the National Park Service, and over fifty trail and land conservation agencies and non-profit organizations. The initiative was designed to create "a coordinated greenway and trail network that will help conserve important resources, provide recreation and alternative transportation opportunities close to where people live, and connect communities throughout Massachusetts."

The goals of the initiative specific to Boston include:

- protecting water quality, natural resources, and recreational opportunities along the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset Rivers;
- creating a network of interconnecting bicycle paths and trails through Boston and its suburbs;
- completing the Bay Circuit Trail;
- creating the HarborWalk and the East Boston Greenway;
- creating a multi-use greenway from Boston to the Berkshires along the route of the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail; and
- completing the Boston section of the East Coast Greenway.

Massachusetts Bicycle Transportation Plan

The *Massachusetts Bicycle Transportation Plan* was prepared for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation in September 2008. The plan seeks to improve conditions for bicycling in Massachusetts by identifying and prioritizing improvements to existing infrastructure and by promoting supportive policies.

Paths to a Sustainable Region

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) created a long range transportation plan called *Paths to a Sustainable Region* to consider changes through 2035. This plan's "Vision for the Environment" is that human and environmental health is considered in transportation decision-making.

Environmental factors that the MPO reviews during its project selection process include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wetlands, Water Supply Areas, Protected Open Space (levels of protection: perpetuity, limited, term-limited, and none) and Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Priority Habitats.

The transportation project design process is intended to avoid or minimize negative impacts to wetlands, soil, water, and other environmental resources. Context-sensitive design principles are to be implemented to protect communities' cultural, historic, and scenic resources, community cohesiveness, quality of life, and aesthetic environments. Transportation agencies will work with environmental and cultural resource agencies to achieve the following policies:

- Improve transportation in areas of existing development, which will reduce pressure to develop green fields.
- Protect community character and cultural resources.
- Protect natural resources by planning early to avoid or mitigate impacts on storm water or groundwater and on other resources.
- Protect public health by reducing air pollutants. Avoid funding projects that increase exposure of at-risk populations.
- Promote a context-sensitive design philosophy.

The Boston Region's Pedestrian Transportation Plan

MAPC's 2010 *Boston Region Pedestrian Transportation Plan* addresses the importance of walking, describes existing pedestrian infrastructure in the region, and recommends policies to facilitate walking as a convenient, practical and safe mode of transportation.

The specific action item regarding Greenways is relevant to this open space plan: "Communities should consider developing a mapped and signed pedestrian route system that combines sidewalks on low traffic streets, paths, and scenic or recreational facilities that makes these transportation corridors ideal for walking. Communities should work together to connect their respective walkways and pathways and strive to keep this type of pedestrian route system separate from vehicles."

Sustainable Development Principles

The Patrick Administration released a set of Sustainable Development Principles that guide the creation and implementation of state agency policies and programs, as well as investments in land and infrastructure. Municipalities are also asked to modify their planning, regulatory, and funding actions to achieve consistency with the principles.

Principle #4 is relevant to Boston's Open Space Plan: Protect Land and Ecosystems. Protect and restore environmentally sensitive lands, natural resources, agricultural lands, critical habitats, wetlands and water resources, and cultural and historic landscapes. Increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces and recreational opportunities.

Smart Growth Principles

The MAPC adopted Smart Growth Principles in 2003. Many of these principles are related to the provision of open space. The most specific are as follows:

- Promote distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserve open space, farmland and critical environmental resources.
- Take advantage of compact development design and create walkable neighborhoods.
- Promote economic development in ways that produce jobs, strengthen low and moderate income communicates and protect the natural environment.
- Promote more transportation choices through the appropriate development of land.

Health Needs Assessment of People with Disabilities in Massachusetts

The *Health Needs Assessment of People with Disabilities in Massachusetts 2013* was conducted by the UMass Medical School and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in order to present comprehensive information about the unmet health needs and priorities of the disability community in Massachusetts. The report concludes that this population is more likely to experience poor physical and mental health, compared to individuals without disabilities in Massachusetts.

Relevant to this Open Space Plan, 45% of the respondents rated the ability to locate an accessible gym as a "Big Problem." Though not specifically stated, the issue of locating accessible gyms could relate to the ability to find other accessible amenities for physical activity, such as playgrounds and parks.

A Profile of Health among Persons with Disabilities in Massachusetts

A Profile of Health among Persons with Disabilities in Massachusetts 2008–2011 was compiled by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The report presents information on middle and high school students and adults with disabilities, and their socio-economic characteristics, health risk behaviors, health care, quality of life, and health status.

The report concludes that Massachusetts residents with disabilities are more likely to have: excess weight, reduced physical activity, chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke, and poor emotional and physical health. The report reveals the need for public health efforts to improve the health of people with disabilities. The report calls for health and disability professionals across Massachusetts to improve the health status and overall well-being of Massachusetts residents with disabilities.

Metro North Land Use Priority Plan

The Metro North Land Use Priority Plan is a regional planning study that is currently underway. It is a collaboration of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, MassDOT, municipal officials, local planners, and local and regional stakeholders. It includes nine municipalities: Boston (East Boston and Charlestown), Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop.

The plan will identify appropriate locations for open space, housing and job growth. It will recommend the infrastructure, zoning and permitting necessary to help advance the goals of the plan. MAPC worked with each community's staff to identify key locations that could meet these needs, and compiled a list of Regionally-Significant priority areas. The state agencies are currently in the process of determining which sites will make the list of state Priority Development Areas and Preservation Areas.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

Boston is one of 101 municipalities that are served by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is the regional land use planning agency for the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). MAPC provides a forum for state and local leaders to address issues of regional concern and collaborate in the development of comprehensive plans and recommendations in areas of population and employment, transportation, economic development, regional growth and the environment. MAPC works to achieve smart growth results through implementation of its land use plan, *MetroFuture*.

The Inner Core Committee

Boston is a member of the MAPC's Inner Core Committee (ICC), made up of high density cities of Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Revere, Everett, and Chelsea as well as more residential streetcar suburbs inside Route 128. The ICC meets regularly to discuss matters of regional interest. Regional open space was discussed on April 7, 2010.

MetroFuture

MetroFuture is the land use plan created by the MAPC in 2008 for Greater Boston. Below are the goals of the *MetroFuture* plan that are applicable to this Open Space Plan:

Goal 3

Brownfields and other polluted sites will be cleaned up and re-used for parks or development. Metro Boston is the location of 28 Superfund sites in Massachusetts. *MetroFuture* prioritizes the remediation of sites that pollute the environment and have negative impacts on neighboring real estate.

Goal 3 Objectives include the following:

- Existing 21E or Superfund sites will be remediated by 2020.
- New 21E or Superfund sites will be remediated within 10 years.

Goal 12

Communities will work together to plan for growth and share resources. A stronger regional identity will grow from increased communication and coordination across municipal boundaries. Through planning, joint services, and revenue sharing, cities and towns will be more efficient and protective of infrastructure and the environment.

Goal 12 Objectives include the following:

- The region will have an increasing number of inter-municipal planning efforts such as regional open space, economic development, public safety, or housing plans.

Goal 23

All neighborhoods will have access to safe and well-maintained parks, community gardens, and appropriate play spaces for children and youth. Even as density increases, *MetroFuture* will protect and enhance access to open space. The region will… focus on areas currently underserved by open space and in compact growth areas. More residents will have access to nearby parks and community gardens, including seniors living in compact development in suburban town centers.

Goal 23 Objectives include the following:

- No more than 20% of the region's households will have limited access to open space (<50 acres per 1,000 people, at the TAZ level)
- The acreage of community gardens in urban areas will increase.
- Reported crimes in public parks will decrease.

Goal 25

Most residents will build regular physical activity into their daily lives. *MetroFuture* will enable residents to be more active, through clustered land use and improved bicycle and pedestrian connections. Complete sidewalk networks would allow more students to walk to nearby schools. The region would have completed 200 miles of off-road multi-use trails, and residents would use this network for commuting and recreation. Seniors who live in new housing near city and town centers will be able to stay active by walking to nearby shops and services.

Goal 25 Objectives include the following:

- All public and private schools will be accessible by sidewalk for children living within one mile.
- An increasing proportion of adults will have at least one 30-minute session of physical activity per week, across all Community Types.

Goal 62

The region's rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds will have sufficient clean water to support healthy populations of native fish and other species, as well as recreational uses.

Goal 62 Objectives include the following:

- Fewer of the region's waterways will be impaired due to pollution.
- 100% of combined sewer lines in the region will be separated and 100% of CSO outfall points will be closed.
- Stream flow levels measured by USGS gauges will be comparable to historical stream flow patterns.
- There will be zero violations of safe swimming standards in the region's rivers, lakes, and beaches.

Goal 63

The ecological condition of wetlands will improve, and fewer wetlands will be lost. The Metro Boston area has over 250,000 acres of wetlands, 32% of which contain rare or endangered species. Nearly 40% of the region's wetlands are not permanently protected.

Goal 63 Objectives include the following:

- There will be no net loss of wetland acreage.

Goal 64

The region will retain its biodiversity, and will have healthy populations of native plants and animals, and fewer invasive species. *MetroFuture* directs growth away from areas designated as "core" and "supporting" habitat for rare and endangered species. The region's open space network would allow for more movement of wildlife.

Goal 64 Objectives include the following:

- There will be no loss of core habitat for rare and endangered species.

Goal 65

A robust network of protected open spaces, farms, parks, and greenways will provide wildlife habitat, ecological benefits, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty. Compact growth and more coordinated land acquisition would ensure that the region's important open spaces are not lost, and will be joined in a network. This will allow for corridors for animal use and migration, and recreation.

Goal 65 Objectives include the following:

- 139,000 acres of developable land identified as a high priority by the State Land Conservation Plan will be permanently protected.

The State of Equity in Metro Boston

The State of Equity in Metro Boston (2011) is the first in a series of indicator reports that will monitor the region's progress towards achieving goals set out by the *MetroFuture* plan. Equity-related goals are highlighted first, because meeting them is crucial to achieving a vibrant region.

The *MetroFuture* goals evaluated for the equity report include Goal #23: All neighborhoods will have adequate access to safe and well-maintained parks, community gardens, and appropriate play spaces for children and youth. This will help meet Goal #25: that the region's residents build more physical activity into their lives.

The State of Equity in Metro Boston notes that low quality or inadequate access to open space impacts the region negatively in terms of health care costs related to a lack of physical activity, increased driving to get to recreation areas, and disparities in property values, which are higher near recreational areas or open space vistas. Disparities in open space resources can also limit recreational options for residents. Areas with excellent open space acreage nearby are more likely to also offer diversity of open spaces, giving residents options of quiet parks, playgrounds, sports fields, community gardens, and more.

The State of Equity in Metro Boston notes that physical access to open space is not the only factor to consider when looking at a child's ability to play. Other factors include safety of the equipment in a playground, and of the neighborhood in which it is situated.

When local researchers found that neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of youth had the largest number of playgrounds, but offered the least safe playground equipment. Areas with higher concentrations of Black/African American residents, higher rates of youth poverty, and higher percentages of residents without high school degrees were also much more likely to have playgrounds with unsafe equipment than were areas with richer, Whiter, more highly educated populations.

Boston Complete Streets Initiative

The City of Boston has developed the *Complete Streets Initiative*, which requires that green infrastructure be incorporated into street designs. Green infrastructure includes greenscapes, such as trees, shrubs, grasses and other lands cape plantings, as well as rain gardens and vegetative swales, in filtration basins, and paving materials and permeable surfaces.

Mayor Walsh's Transition Team Report 2014

Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Energy, Environment, and Open Space Transition Committee discussed and solicited input from Boston residents, businesses and other groups.

A focus of the Transition Report was #2 Public Open Space: Protect and expand parks, beaches and other open space areas for recreation and enjoyment. The intent is to reinvent and restructure Boston's parks and open spaces for 21st century living by:

1. Making Boston a world leader in the quality, scope, and innovation of its public open spaces;
2. Utilizing all outdoor resources—city and state owned parks, bikeways, streets and sidewalks, playgrounds and

schoolyards, transportation corridors, community gardens, plazas, vacant lots, green roofs, institutional and commercial open spaces, urban wilds, and the Harbor, HarborWalk, islands and public beaches in East Boston, South Boston, and Dorchester—to bring a wide range of outdoor opportunities and experiences to all Bostonians; and

3. Increasing investment in our parks and open space planning, programming, operations, and capital needs through all possible funding avenues.

   The recommendations below are relevant to this Open Space Plan:

   - Fully utilize the Mayor's existing tools to improve the quality of Boston parks and open spaces.
   - Pass the Community Preservation Act.
   - Simplify procedures for turning vacant DND and BRA (Boston Redevelopment Authority) lots into open space. The current system is unwieldy and non-transparent.
   - Create a special Boston Public Schools schoolyard maintenance fund.
   - Eliminate bureaucratic barriers to make it easier for park partners to bring resources, maintenance, and capital improvements to Boston's open spaces, parks and beaches.
   - Make the 2014 Open Space Plan a specific, action-oriented document to drive future parks and open space creation and restoration.

   Quick and Visible Improvements:

   - Bring park permitting online.
   - Focus park capital improvements in areas with high levels of income disparities and chronic disease.
   - Recycling in Parks
   - Promote Urban Farming.
   - Make full use of City Hall Plaza to lessen the impact of big events on parks, especially the Boston Common and Franklin Park.

   Ensure new open spaces will be built in the future: While development pressures are cyclical, recent experience demonstrates how quickly a neighborhood (e.g., the Seaport) can change in a boom economy. Immediate plans should be undertaken for:

   a. The Waterfront: Commission a group of city planning and design experts, independent of the BRA, to recommend optimal open space and active recreational uses of the few remaining undeveloped waterfront parcels, especially in the Seaport, East Boston, North End, and the Harbor Islands, and to protect view corridors to the harbor in these areas.

   b. Allston Projects: Harvard expansion and Mass. Pike relocation: Develop a comprehensive plan and implementation strategy, including government funding and Harvard's promised Public Realm Flexible Fund, for open spaces related to I-90 improvements and Harvard expansion (e.g., Rena Park, Smith Field, and the grove of trees at the Charlesview development site).

   c. Fairmount Line Corridor: Plan new open spaces in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park; host a competition to create outdoor "living rooms" as destinations for neighbors and transit riders.

4. Continue and accelerate major park and open space improvement projects, including but not limited to:

   - The South Bay Harbor Trail: This project connects Roxbury with the waterfront which is 40% complete, with 100% of the design completed and all funds allocated.
   - Muddy River Phase II: Advocate for continued full federal funding of Phase 2 of the Muddy River restoration project in the Fenway.
   - East Boston Greenway: Complete the final section to Constitution Beach.

   Invest a minimum of 1% of the city budget (currently at .7%) for parks and open space to properly fund operations, innovative planning, and capital projects.

   - Make parks more livable. Install fountains in every park. Add lighting and play fountain where feasible. Build bathroom facilities in parks. Add bike racks.
   - Community Gardens: Commit to support and expand gardens through Parks Department staff and funding. Hire a community garden liaison.
   - Urban Wilds: Provide maintenance, capital and program resources to realize the potential of these unique areas.

   Work with other levels of government to fully realize the potential of parks, such as:

   - Department of Conservation and Recreation parks
   - Harbor Island Parks
   - Rose Kennedy Greenway
   - Charles River Underpasses

   Tackle Big Ideas, Projects and Improvements:

   - Uncover Charlesgate, the connection between the Emerald Necklace and the Esplanade.
   - Keep building and add to linear parks like Harborwalk and the Neponset River Greenways.
   - Hire dedicated park managers for the largest, most populous parks. Craft management plans for individual city parks.

   Environmental Justice

   - Establish neighborhood green standards and report card: Create standards and scorecards to ensure equitable access for every neighborhood to green assets: gardens, parks, trees, bike paths, etc.

Boston Indicators Project

The Boston Indicators Project notes that the city is among the most vulnerable in the US to climate change and rising seas. Models of ice-free status in the Arctic by 2050 are being revised to project open seas in a decade. Projections are for a 7 foot rise in sea level in a century. The Northeast coast is at a disproportionate risk compared to other coasts in the nation and world.

Boston's Climate Action Plan

The City of Boston's 2007 Executive Order on Climate Action calls for the City to have a climate action plan that is updated every three years. The Climate Action Plan serves as Boston's blueprint for reaching its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, and making sure the city is prepared for climate change impacts.

A 2014 update to the Climate Action Plan is currently being developed and will create a climate preparedness plan, re-evaluate strategies, and measure progress.

Sparking the Climate Revolution 2010

Sparking Boston's Climate Revolution contains recommendations for reducing Boston's contribution to climate change, addressing changes that can't be avoided, and engaging the entire community. The document states that Boston should continue to strengthen its existing programs for green stormwater management and infiltration, in particular by protecting and, wherever possible, expanding green infrastructure, including parks, urban wilds, wetlands, and green roofs that can aid storm water management.

A Climate of Progress

In 2011, the City of Boston released *A Climate of Progress*, which called for meeting the goal of 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emission by 2020. The document calls for this Open Space Plan to include an explicit analysis of climate change risks and appropriate responses. It notes that the BPRD is concerned with the health of trees and urban ecosystems under its jurisdiction and calls for this Open Space Plan to include climate change considerations, including heat and rainfall patterns into the selection of tree species and other vegetation.

Stormwater Best Management Practices

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission produced the *Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Proposal and Guidance Document* in January 2014. Relevant to this Open Space Plan, this document calls for Green Infrastructure that uses storm water runoff management practices to mimic the natural hydrologic cycle. Site planning includes reducing the amount of directly-connected impervious areas, fitting the proposed improvements to the site terrain, preserving and using the natural drainage systems, and replicating pre-development hydrology. The Commission is currently working on the implementation of demonstration projects at Audubon Circle (Beacon Street/Park Drive area), Central Square in East Boston, and City Hall Plaza.

Health of Boston Report 2012-2013

The *Health of Boston Report 2012–2013: A Neighborhood Focus* by the Boston Public Health Commission provides statistical data on select health conditions, risk behaviors, and social determinants of health for Boston. This report does not make recommendations, but does provide extensive information on health factors that should be consulted in creating policy and determining areas of need for the provision of parks.

This report does not look into open space and green space in depth. But it does note that one of the most important determinants of health is the physical environment in which one lives, works and plays. The report observes that resources that promote health are distributed unevenly across Boston, and follow patterns of racial segregation and poverty concentration. An inequitable distribution of resources, together with residential segregation, results in people of color often living in neighborhoods where there is less access to conditions and opportunities that promote health—including open space and green space.

Boston Public Health Commission Development Review Priorities

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) created development review priorities in 2013. These include the following objectives pertinent to this Open Space Plan.

- Ensure that all residents have access to public spaces. Include access to open and green space, parks and recreation facilities. Ensure equitable access to active and passive recreational spaces. Improving connections to public and open spaces improves equitable access to these resources. Children who live shorter distances to parks tend to be more active.
- Design parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities to complement the cultural preferences of the local population, to accommodate a range of activities and age groups and to support social connection. People of different ages have different health needs, and people from different backgrounds and ethnic groups have different physical activity preferences and attitudes toward nature. Involving people in the planning stages also gives them a sense of ownership in their park.

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Stormwater Best Management Practices 2014
Mayor Walsh's Transition Team Report 2014

Appendix E

METADATA FOR THE MAPS IN SECTIONS 7.2.1 TO 7.2.16

"Metadata" is "data about data," per Wikipedia. In this case we describe here where we found the data that underlies the 10 maps we used in each of the neighborhood chapters in Section 7.2, Community Open Space and Recreation.

Map 1, Population Density

Persons per Unit Area, displayed by census block, based on U.S. Census, 2010.

Map 2, Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations

U.S. Census block groups that represent areas with high minority (>= 25% of block group total population), non-English speaking (>= 25% of block group total households have no member over age 14 who speak English very well), and/or low-income populations (block groups where median household income was =< $40,673 [65.49% of the 2010 Massachusetts median household income]). Data in this map was compiled from the American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010 5 year estimates tables by MassGIS (2012). Shading variation shows number of EJ population criteria met by a particular block group. Letters shown within block groups indicate which critieria that block group meets; M = Minority criterion; I = Income criterion; E = English Linguistic Isolation.

Map 3, Need Score by Census Block Groups

Using a model that factors in population density, population under age 18, population over age 69, and the three EJ criteria of high minority population, low-income population, and linguistically isolated households, variation in park need is displayed by color shading. Only the three classes with the highest scores out of a seven-class scale are shown, in yellow, orange, and red.

Map 4, Open Space by Type

Displays public open spaces regardless of ownership by land use-oriented types. Non-public open space is not distinguished by type on this map.

Map 5, Open Space by Ownership

Displays public open spaces by general classes of ownership. For example, a Boston Department of Neighborhood Development open space is classed as owned by the City of Boston, as are open spaces under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department, the Boston Conservation Commission, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and so on, except where noted in the map legend. Non-public open space is not distinguished by owner on this map.

Map 6, Open Space by Protection Status

Protected open spaces are those which are held by public agencies for park, recreation, and conservation purposes, either in fee or by a deed restriction, or by some other legal means that would make conversion to a non-open space use extremely difficult.

Map 7, Play Areas and Water Spray Features

Areas with features designed for use by children ages 2–12 and areas with water spray features. Some are located on public school property. All non-school features are found on public property.

Map 8, Fields and Courts

Locations of athletic fields (baseball type fields, football and or soccer fields, multi-use athletic fields) and courts (basketball, street hockey, and tennis) on public property, including public schools.

Map 9, Community Facilities

Locations of community facilities that typically have users who may also use open space and recreational facilities. Legend is self-explanatory, except "Community Centers" refers to such facilities operated by the Boston Centers for Youth and Families, a municipal agency in the Human Services Cabinet of the City of Boston.

Map 10, Park Service Areas

Displays the park service areas of parks and open spaces denoted in the legend "Publicly Accessible Open Space." Areas served by one or more such parks are denoted by a shade of green shown in the legend. The size of the service area based on the size of the park or open space, as described in the introduction to Section 7.2, Community Open Space and Recreation. The distance is developed using a "network" mapping program that imitates pedestrian movements, rather than the simple linear ("as the crow flies") distances around each property that ignores obstacles such as railroad corridors, interstate highways, non-gridded street networks, etc. that pose barriers to pedestrian movement. "Other Open Space" do not have service areas shown on this map.

Map 11, Park Equity: Park Service Areas and Need Scores

Displays both the Park Service Areas (as shown in Map 10) and the Need Scores (as shown on Map 3) on the same map. Areas being served by few or no parks, yet with higher need scores as shown in yellow, orange, and red, have those need score colors more clearly displayed. Such areas of higher need not well served by parks and open space have less park equity than areas with equal or lower need which are better served by parks and open spaces.