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# Open Space Plan 2015-2021

## Section 7

# Analysis of Needs

**Section 7.2.12 Community Open Space &  
Recreation  
ROSLINDALE**

DRAFT

## Section 7.2.12: Community Open Space & Recreation ROSLINDALE

The Community Open Space & 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. This is why we chose to call these areas "communities" rather than neighborhoods.

The six basic components of the Open Space Plan neighborhood needs assessment are:

- What is the neighborhood setting and history?
- Who is the parks and open space system serving in each neighborhood?
- Where in the neighborhood are the populations with the greatest need for access to open space and how well served are these areas?
- Where are the parks and open spaces in the neighborhood and what kinds of facilities are located in these places?
- Can residents easily walk to a public park?
- What planning and development is happening in the neighborhood? What are the potential open space impacts and opportunities associated with those projects?

For further detail on the components of this analysis, see pages 7.2-1, et seq.

### *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 by 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.

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## Needs Analysis

### *Analysis*

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 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 1000 residents which is higher than the city average of 7.64. 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 & 3).

Civic and community facilities are clustered in Roslindale Square in close proximity to Adams Park, which functions as a kind of neighborhood common. The neighborhood 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 should be remedied with the next playground renovation in the neighborhood. Healy Playground includes the recently renovated Flaherty Pool, an indoor facility.

Athletic facilities are located in the same three parks, with Pagel Playground on the border with Jamaica Plain also providing athletic field access (Roslindale Map 8).

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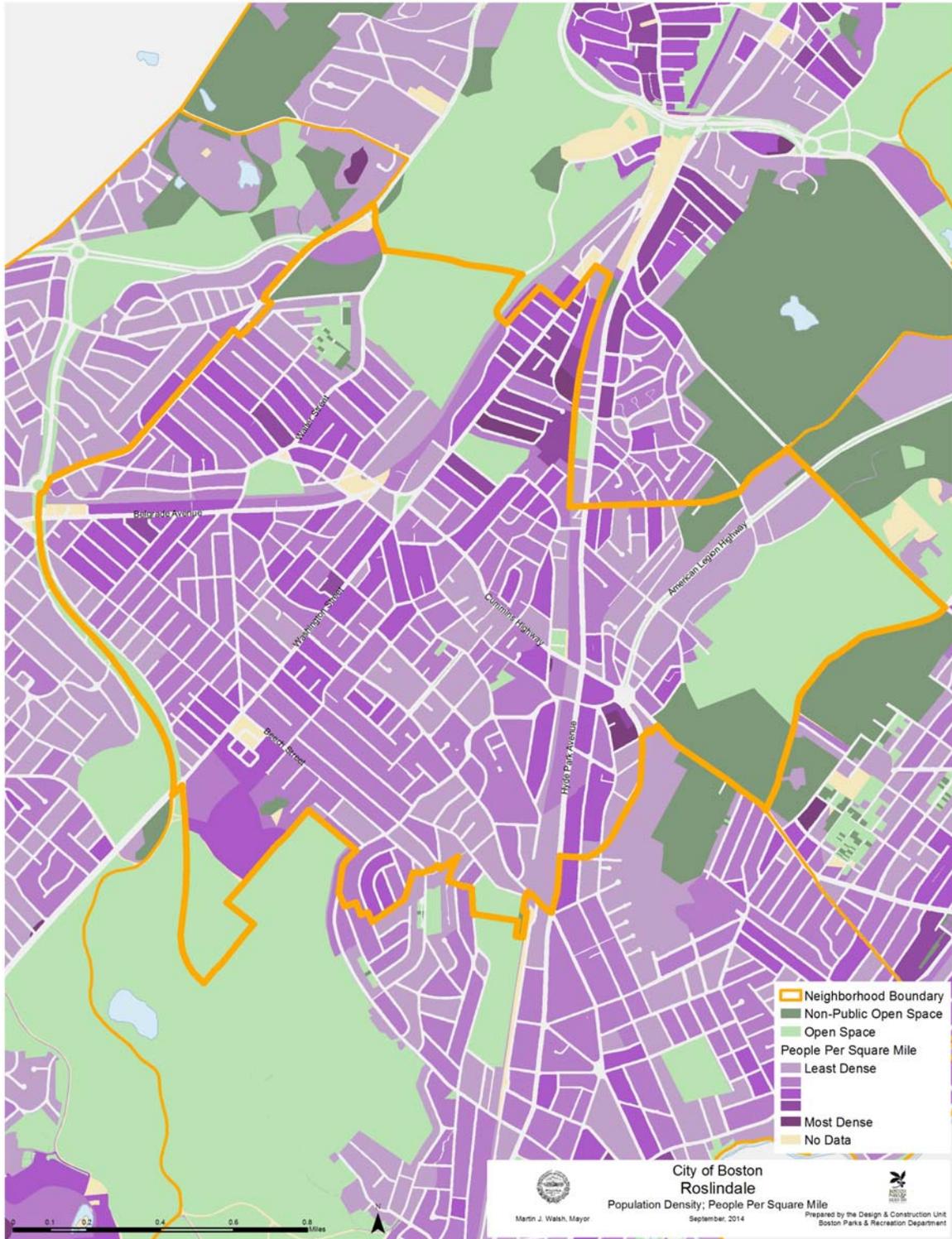
## Needs Analysis

With so few parks in the neighborhood, large areas, especially on its 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).

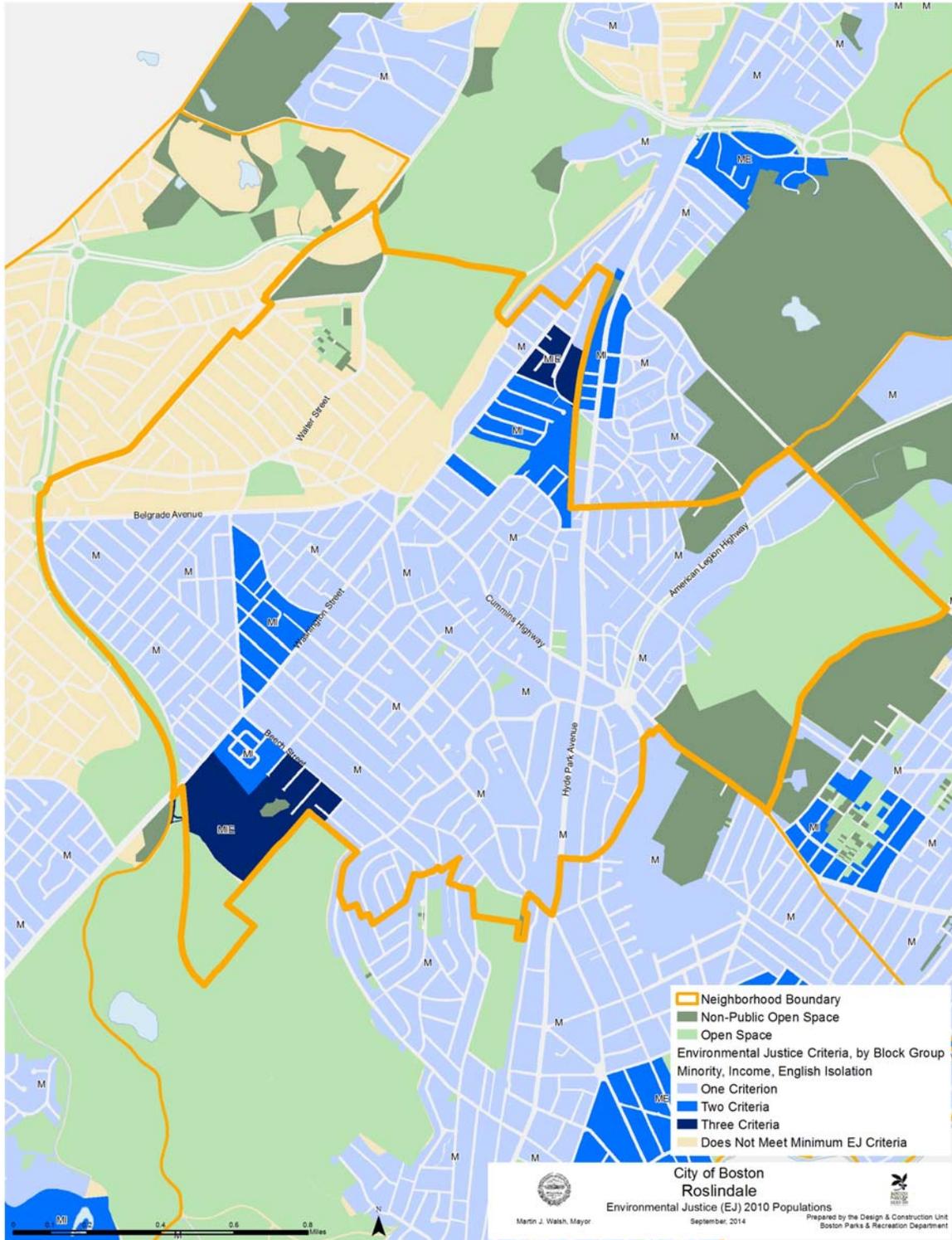
Many of Roslindale's parks and open spaces are located on major connector streets, and these thoroughfares link up to open spaces outside the neighborhood. These streets offer an opportunity to ameliorate some of Roslindale's need for additional active open space areas by providing critical links beyond the neighborhood. Southward, the Stony Brook Reservation, Mother Brook, the Neponset River, and the Reservation Road, Beethoven, and Draper Playgrounds are available. Westward, Millennium Park can be accessed via the West Roxbury and VFW Parkways. Northward, the Emerald Necklace, the Southwest Corridor Park, and Allandale Woods can be reached via Centre Street, the Jamaica Way, and Washington Street. Eastward, Morton Street, Franklin Park, and the Neponset are regional destinations for Roslindale. A focus on strengthening these links in the coming years will help address Roslindale's needs for open space opportunities.

Needs Analysis



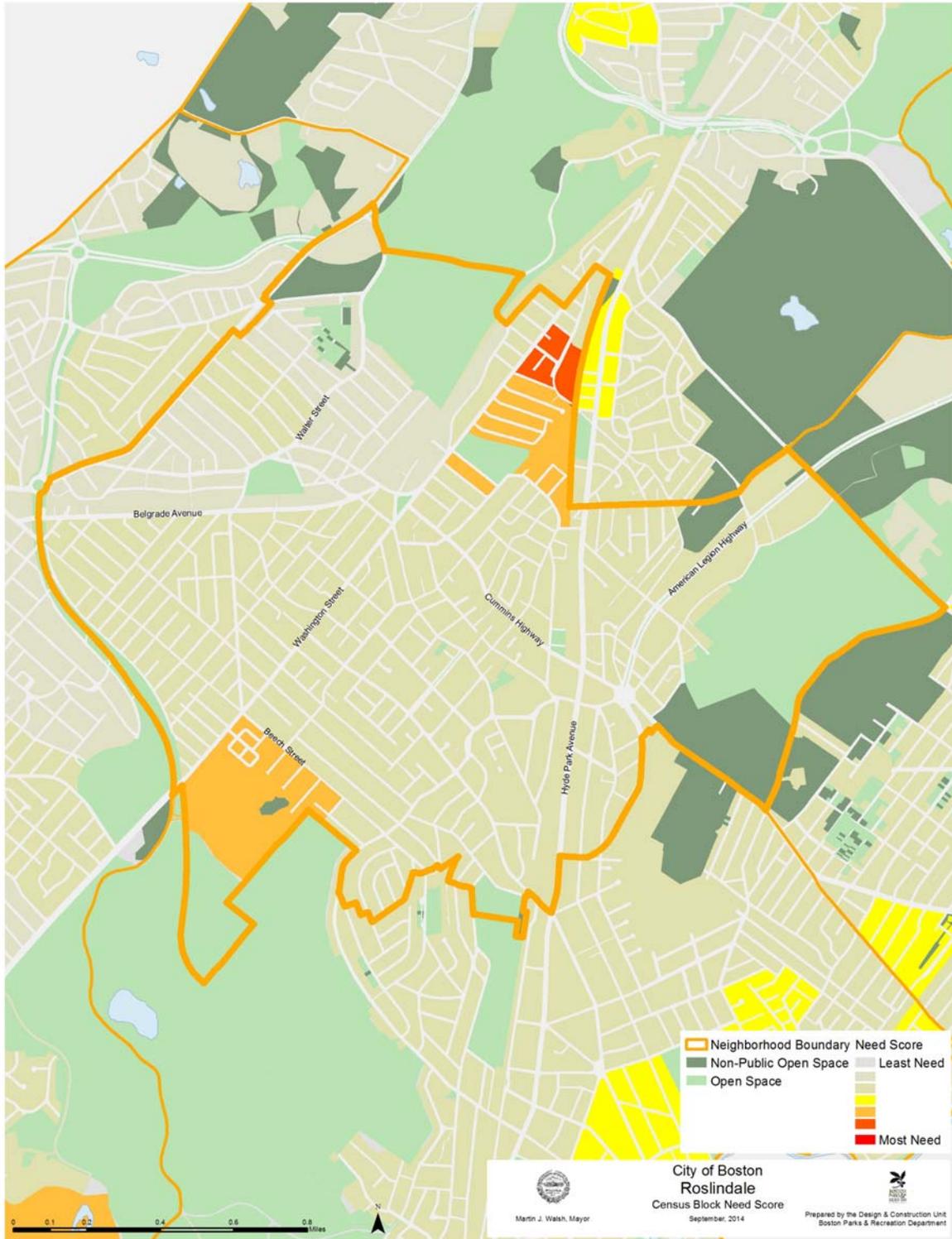
Map 1: Population Density, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



Map 3: Need Score by Census Block Groups, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



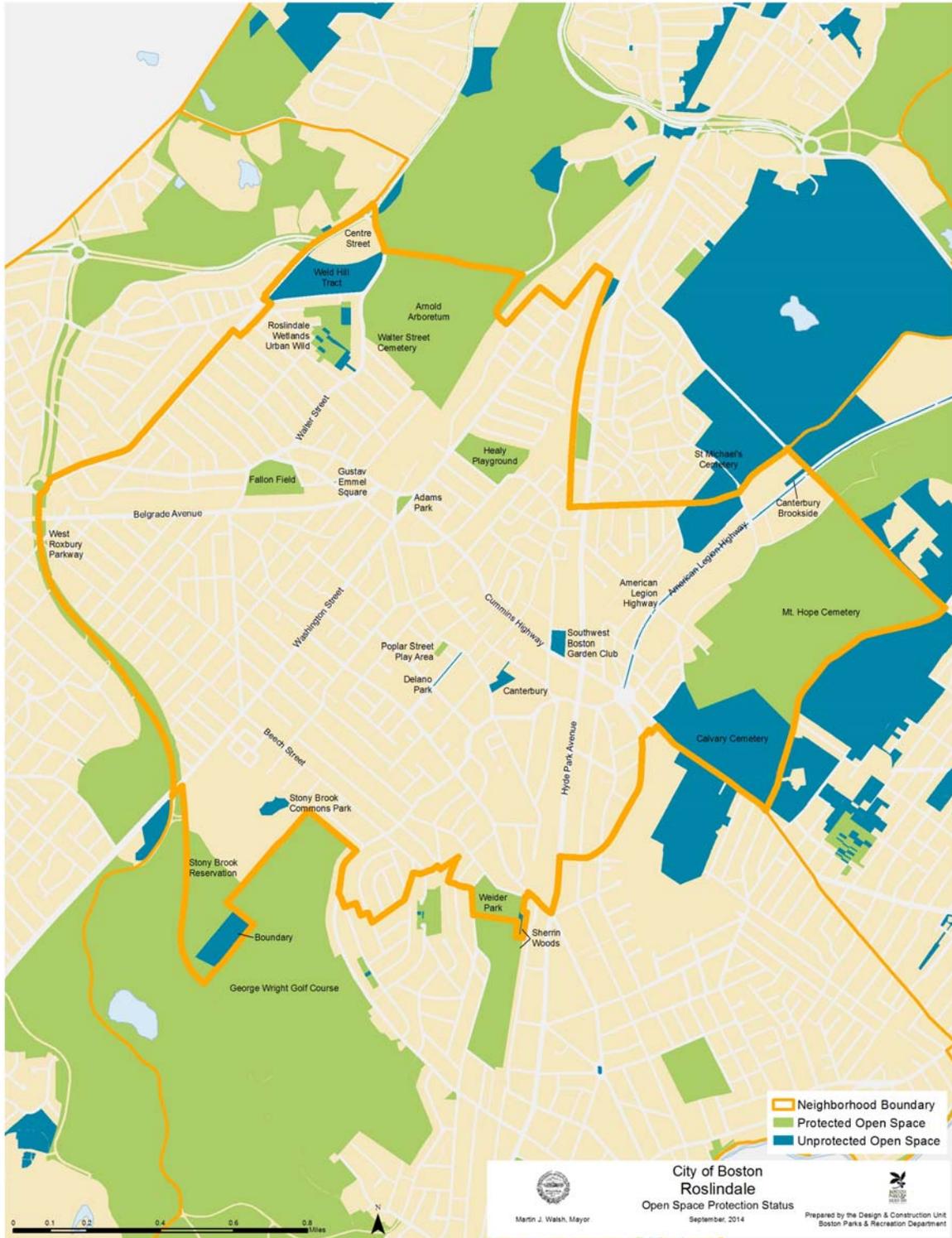
Map 4: Open Space by Type, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



Map 5: Open Space by Ownership, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



Map 6: Open Space by Protection Status, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



Map 7: Play Areas and Water Spray Features, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



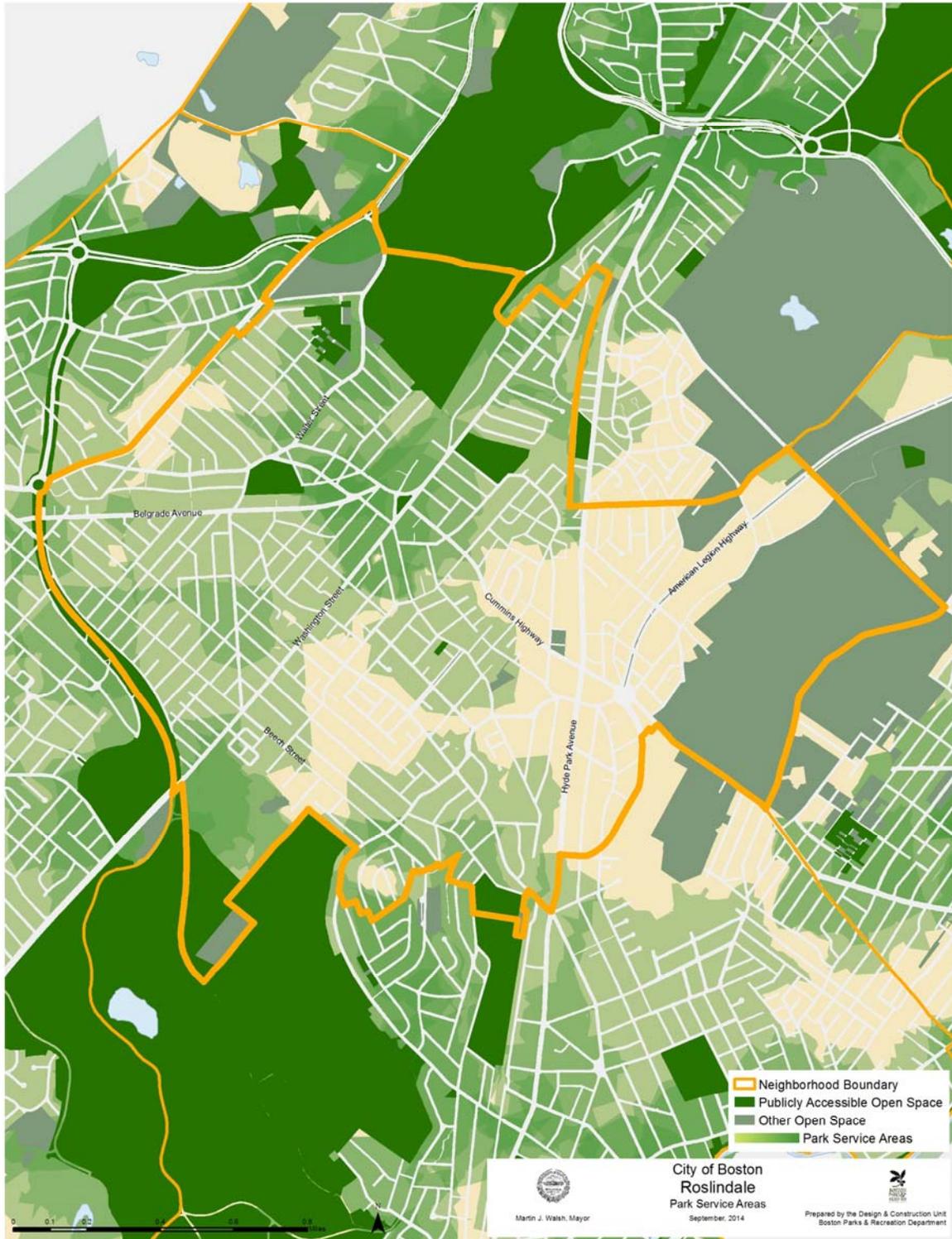
Map 8: Fields and Courts, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



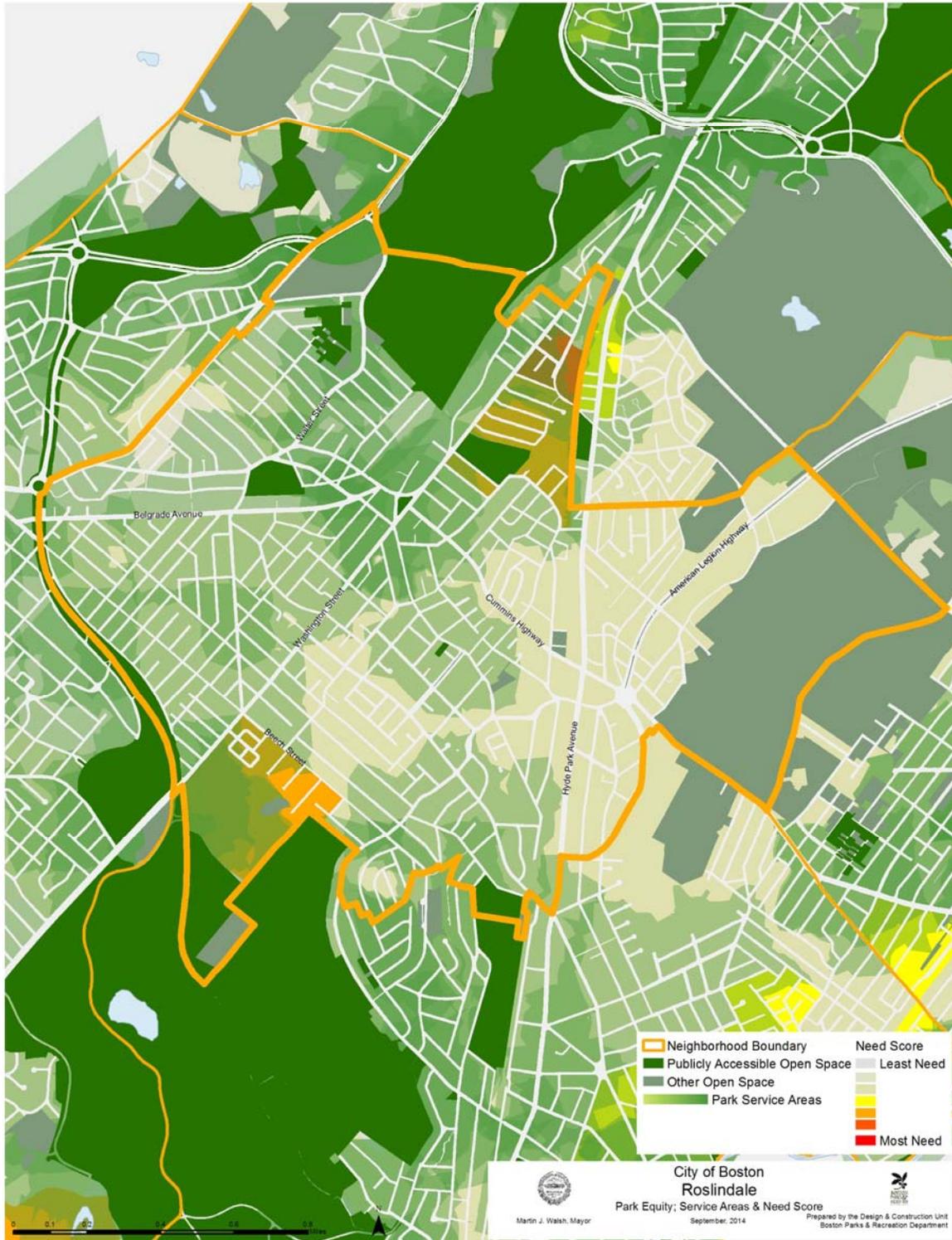
Map 9: Community Facilities, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



Map 10: Park Service Areas, Roslindale

Needs Analysis



Map 11: Park Equity: Service Areas and Need Scores, Roslindale

## Needs Analysis

<b>Population</b>	
2010 Census	28,680
2000 Census	30,351
Population growth/decline, 2000-2010	-5.5%

<b>Age</b>		
Under 9	3,567	12.4%
10-19	3,543	12.4%
20-34	6,133	21.4%
35-54	8,696	30.3%
55-64	3,264	11.4%
65 and over	3,477	12.1%

<b>Race</b>	
	<b>% of Total Population</b>
White Alone	46.7%
Black or African American alone	21.7%
Asian Alone	2.7%
Other	3.1%

<b>Latino Status</b>	
	<b>% of Total Population</b>
Not Hispanic or Latino	
Hispanic or Latino	25.9%

<b>Population Density</b>	
	<b>Persons Per Acre</b>
2010 Census	46.5

<b>Median Household Income</b>	
	\$64,174

<b>Household by Number of Vehicles Available</b>	
No Vehicle	17.8%
1 vehicle	43.6%
2 vehicles	30.3%
3 or more vehicles	8.3%