

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





















