

# ALLSTON-BRIGHTON

## Play Across Boston

### Active Facts



Figure 1: Types of Programs in Allston-Brighton Offering Sports and Physical Activities to Youth (1999-2000)

Type of Program	Number in Allston-Brighton	Number in Boston	% in Allston-Brighton
Non-Profit	8	155	5%
For Profit	3	18	17%
Boston Public School	4	35	11%
Non-public School	1	15	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>223</b>	<b>7%</b>

**Play Across Boston (PAB)** is a project of the Harvard Prevention Research Center at the Harvard School of Public Health undertaken in collaboration with Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society and a broad-based Community Advisory Board. PAB has worked since 1999 to describe youth sports and physical activity programs in Boston. Due to limited documentation of the local challenges to physical activity and sport promotion, **Play Across Boston** conducted a comprehensive community-based assessment of physical activity resources for Boston youth. In addition, we collected data concerning the presence and condition of publicly accessible parks, facilities and playgrounds in 12 Boston neighborhoods<sup>1</sup>. For more detailed information, please refer to the full Play Across Boston Report ([www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc)).

As we work with our partners toward creating greater opportunities, **Play Across Boston** data provide a solid basis upon which to achieve our goals of improving community health and reducing disparities in physical activity access and participation. This **Active Facts** outlines the types of recreational programs and facilities available to **Allston-Brighton** youth.

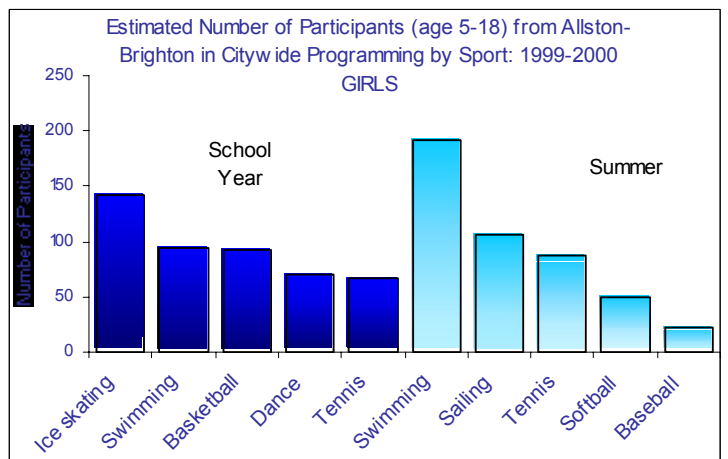
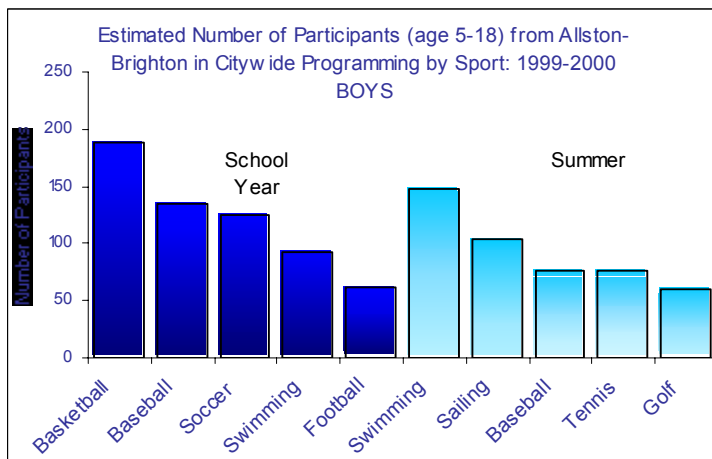
### Youth Sports and Physical Activities in Allston-Brighton

In 1999-2000, 16 different sports and physical activity programs<sup>2</sup> located in Allston-Brighton responded to the **Play Across Boston** survey. Of those 16 programs, many were non-profit and over one-third did not charge a participation fee. Of the non-profit programs, most offered a single sport. Figure 1 describes the types of programs available in Allston-Brighton and Boston overall.

As for participation in citywide programs, Allston-Brighton youth represent about 3% of all youth sports and physical activity participants in Boston, yet comprise 6% of Boston's 95,251 5-18 year olds. This means that Allston-Brighton youth participate at lower levels than youth from other neighborhoods. Of the many sports and activities offered throughout the city, basketball appears to be the favorite for boys during the school year and swimming was the favorite for boys during the summer. Girls preferred ice-skating during the school year and swimming during the summer. In Allston-Brighton, boys have a greater level of sports participation than girls.

<sup>1</sup> Data for some Boston neighborhoods were combined for the purposes of the Play Across Boston Report

<sup>2</sup> Includes only those programs who responded to the Play Across Boston Survey



## Parks, Playgrounds and Athletic Facilities in Allston-Brighton

As one of Boston's most diverse residential neighborhoods, Allston-Brighton is filled with many parks, playgrounds and other facilities for youth sports and recreation. In 2000-2001, PAB surveyed 19 different public complexes in Allston-Brighton to document the types of facilities and amenities available. These sites included 13 parks and playgrounds operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, 2 parks, 2 playgrounds and 2 pools operated by the former MDC, currently the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and a Boston Community School (a community center housed within Boston Public Schools). In total, these complexes housed 7 softball fields, 4 baseball fields, 5 Little League fields, 15 full basketball courts, 11 playgrounds, 6 tennis courts, 5 soccer fields, 2 pools, 2 ice rinks, 1 football field and much more! In addition, several other facilities in Allston-Brighton host youth sports activities including the Allston/Brighton Family YMCA and the West End House. Assessments of playground quality indicate that Allston-Brighton playgrounds ranked average.

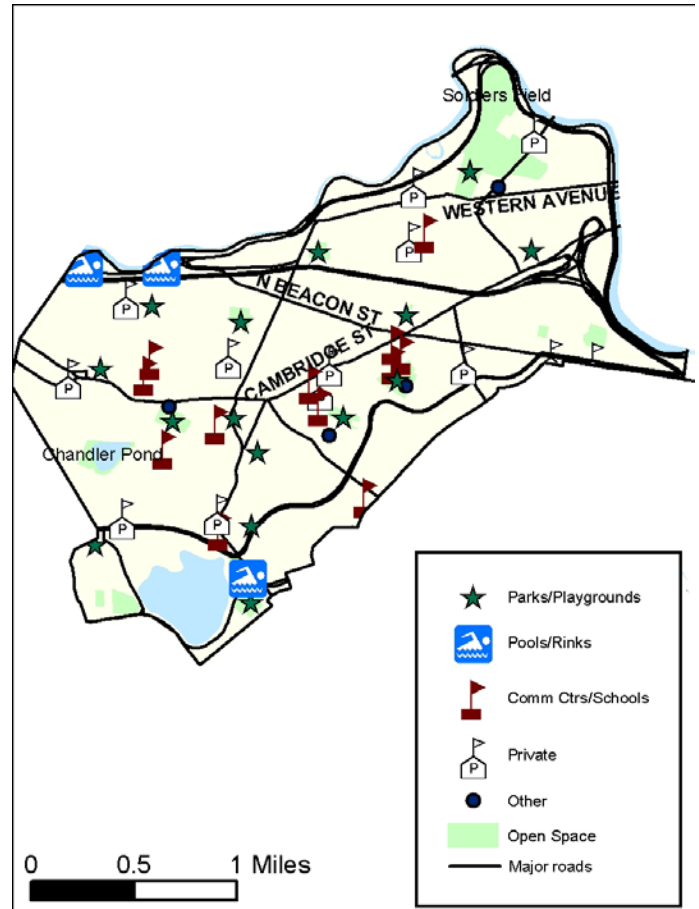
### Allston-Brighton has...

- 15 Basketball courts
  - 11 Playgrounds
  - 6 Tennis Courts
- ... and more!

## Public Recreational Facilities in Allston-Brighton

	Allston-Brighton	Boston	% in Allston-Brighton
<b>Overall Recreational Complexes</b>	19	230	8%
<b>Ball Fields</b>			
Baseball	4	36	11%
Softball	7	69	10%
Little League	5	46	11%
Football	1	11	9%
Soccer	5	33	15%
Other Field	1	9	11%
<b>Ball Courts</b>			
Tennis	6	92	7%
Basketball (Full)	15	155	10%
Street Hockey	2	17	12%
<b>Other Recreational Facility Types</b>			
Pool	2	28	7%
Ice Rink	2	13	15%
Studio	1	7	14%
<b>Playgrounds</b>			
Playgrounds	11	155	7%
Schoolyard Initiative Sites	4	29	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>8%</b>

## Recreational Facilities in Allston-Brighton



## Future Directions in Allston-Brighton

Allston-Brighton ranks high out of the 12 Boston neighborhoods<sup>1</sup> in its facilities per youth ratio. This indicates that relative to other neighborhoods in Boston, in Allston-Brighton there are more facilities available per 100 youth. However, Allston-Brighton ranks low in participation rates in sports and physical activity programs. Thus, in the future to improve the opportunities for youth sports in Allston-Brighton, Play Across Boston recommends that additional resources be allotted to encourage more youth, especially girls, to participate in available programs.

Information for this publication was obtained from Play Across Boston, Census 2000, and the City of Boston's website.

For more information on programs available in your neighborhood, please contact:  
 Boston Centers for Youth & Families  
 617-635-4920  
[www.cityofboston/bcyf](http://www.cityofboston/bcyf)  
 or  
 The Mayor's Youthline  
 617-635-2240  
[www.bostonyouthzone.com](http://www.bostonyouthzone.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 HARVARD PREVENTION  
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