

HYDE PARK

Play Across Boston

Active Facts



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 neighborhoods¹. For more detailed information, please refer to the full Play Across Boston Report (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 **Hyde Park** youth.

Youth Sports and Recreational Activities in Hyde Park

In 1999-2000, 14 different sports and physical activity programs² based in Hyde Park responded to the **Play Across Boston** survey. Of those 14 programs, many were non-profit and nearly half did not charge a participation fee. Of the non-profit programs, most were league sports, comprised of multiple teams playing a

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

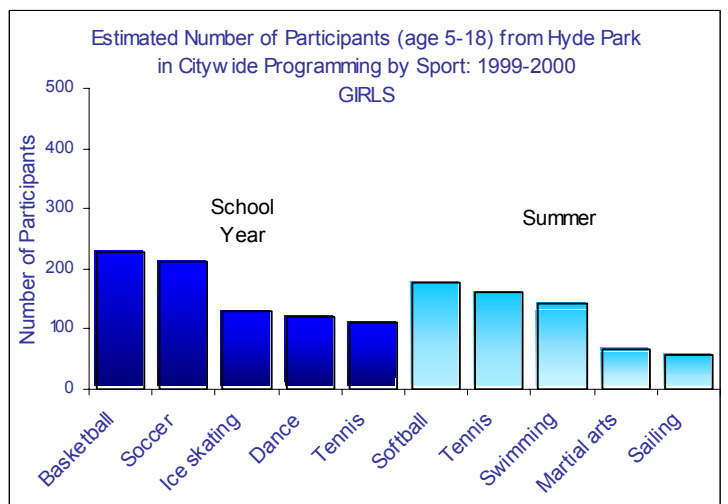
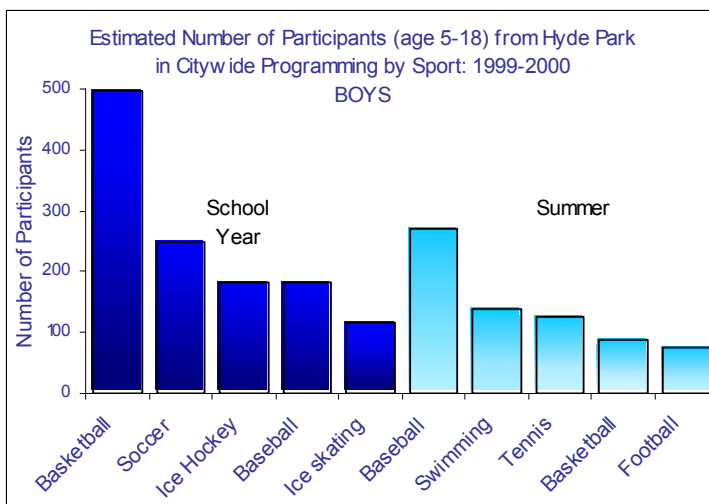
Type of Program	Number in Hyde Park	Number in Boston	% in Hyde Park
Non-Profit	9	155	6%
For Profit	2	18	11%
Boston Public School	2	35	6%
Non-public School	1	15	7%
Total	14²	223	6%

single sport. Figure 1 describes the types of programs available in Hyde Park and Boston overall.

As for participation in citywide programs, Hyde Park youth represent about 5% of youth sports and physical activity participants in Boston yet comprise 7% of Boston's 95,251 5-18 year olds. This means that Hyde Park youth participate at a lower level 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 baseball appears to be the favorite during the summer. Girls also favored basketball during the school year and preferred softball during the summer. In Hyde Park, boys have a higher level of sports and participation than girls.

¹ Data for some Boston neighborhoods were combined for the purposes of the Play Across Boston Report

² Includes only those programs who responded to the Play Across Boston Survey



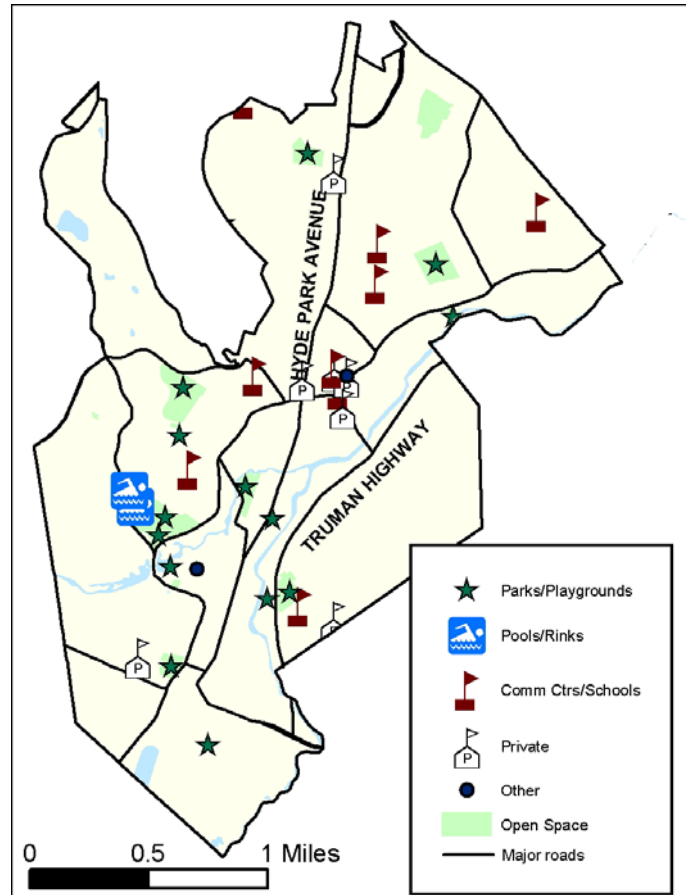
Recreational Facilities in Hyde Park

Parks, Playgrounds and Athletic Facilities in Hyde Park

Known for its suburban feel and open spaces, Hyde Park is filled with many parks, playgrounds and other facilities for youth sports and recreation. In 2000-2001, PAB surveyed 18 different public complexes in Hyde Park to document the types of facilities and amenities available. These sites included 3 playgrounds and 1 park operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, 7 playgrounds, 3 parks, 1 rink, 1 pool and The Thompson Center operated by the former MDC, currently the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and 1 Community Center. In total, these complexes housed 13 tennis courts, 6 softball fields, 3 baseball fields, 4 Little League fields, 12 playgrounds, 9 basketball courts (8 full courts), 2 pools, 2 ice rinks and more! In addition, several other facilities in Hyde Park host youth sports activities, including the Hyde Park YMCA. Assessments of playground quality indicate that Hyde Park playgrounds ranked average.

Hyde Park has...

- 13 Tennis Courts
- 12 Playgrounds
- 9 Basketball Courts ... and more!



Public Recreational Facilities in Hyde Park

	Hyde Park	Boston	% in Hyde Park
Overall Recreational Complexes	18	230	7.8%
Ball Fields			
Baseball	3	36	8.3%
Softball	6	69	8.7%
Little League	4	46	8.7%
Football	1	11	9.1%
Soccer	3	33	9.1%
Lacrosse	1	2	50.0%
Other Field	1	9	11.1%
Ball Courts			
Tennis	13	92	14.1%
Basketball (Full)	8	155	5.2%
Basketball (1/2 -court)	1	29	3.4%
Street Hockey	1	17	5.9%
Other Recreational Facility Types			
Pool	2	28	7.1%
Ice Rink	2	13	15.4%
Other Recreational Facility	1	35	2.9%
Playgrounds			
Playgrounds	12	155	7.7%
Schoolyard Initiative Sites	1	29	3.4%
Total	60	809	7.4%

Future Directions in Hyde Park

Despite the resources available to its youth, Hyde Park ranks average out of the 12 Boston neighborhoods¹ in its facilities per youth ratio, indicating that some neighborhoods of Boston have more facilities per youth and others have fewer. Furthermore, Hyde Park ranks low in participation rates in sports and physical activity programs. Thus, in the future to improve the opportunities for youth sports in Hyde Park, improvements are possible in all areas, particularly in increasing the participation rates in youth sports and physical activities, especially for girls.

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
 or
 The Mayor's Youthline
 617-635-2240
www.bostonyouthzone.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 HARVARD PREVENTION
 RESEARCH CENTER
 677 HUNTINGTON AVE
 7TH FLOOR
 BOSTON, MA 02115
 (617) 432-3840
play@hsph.harvard.edu
www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc