

ROXBURY

Play Across Boston

Active Facts



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

Type of Program	Number in Roxbury	Number in Boston	% in Roxbury
Non-Profit	22	155	14%
For Profit	2	18	11%
Boston Public School	8	35	23%
Non-public School	2	15	13%
Total	34²	223	15%

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 **Roxbury** youth.

Youth Sports and Physical Activities in Roxbury

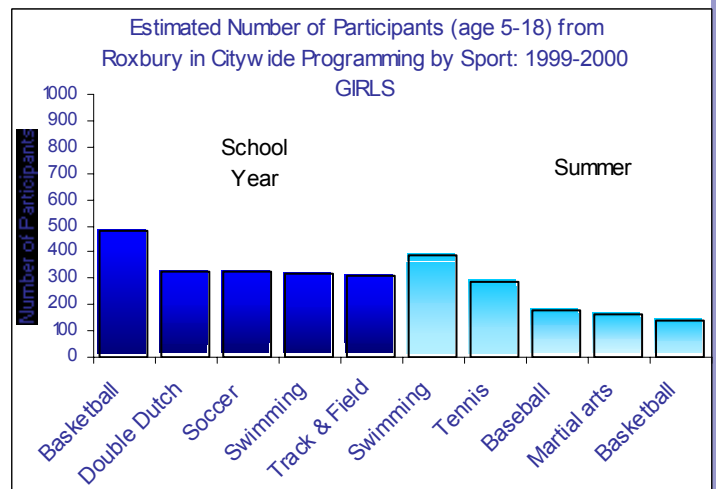
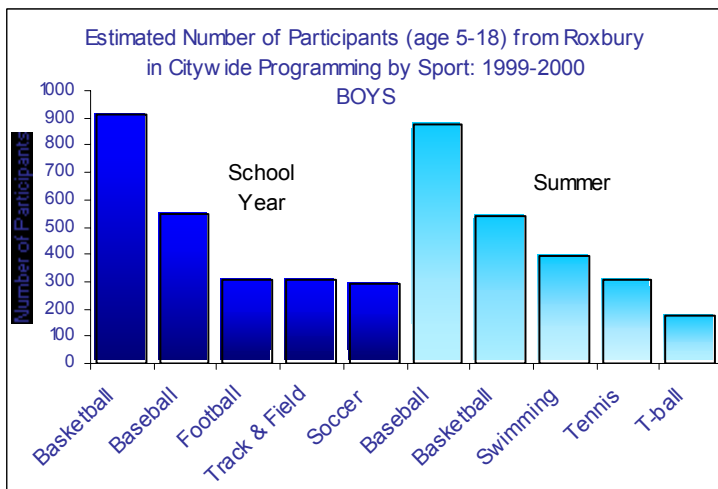
In 1999-2000, 34 different sports and physical activities programs² located in Roxbury responded to the **Play Across Boston** survey. Of those 34 programs, many were non-profit and over half did not charge a participation fee. Of the non-profit programs, most offered a single

sport. Figure 1 describes the types of programs available in Roxbury and Boston overall.

As for participation in citywide programs, Roxbury youth represent about 12% of all youth sports and physical activity participants in Boston, yet comprise 16% of Boston's 95,251 5-18 year olds. This means that Roxbury 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 preferred basketball during the school year and swimming during the summer. In Roxbury, boys have a higher level of sports 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



Parks, Playgrounds and Athletic Facilities in Roxbury

As one of Boston's oldest and most historical neighborhoods, Roxbury is filled with many parks, playgrounds and other facilities for youth sports and recreation. In 2000-2001, PAB surveyed 35 different public complexes in Roxbury to document the types of facilities and amenities available. These sites included 25 parks and playgrounds operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, 3 parks, 1 pool, and 2 rinks operated by the former MDC, currently the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), 3 Community Centers and 1 Boston Community School (community center housed within Boston Public Schools). In total, these complexes housed 35 basketball courts (33 full basketball courts), 23 playgrounds, 20 tennis courts, 11 softball fields, 5 baseball fields, 1 Little League field, 2 football fields, 4 soccer fields, 1 golf course, 2 tracks and much more! In addition, several other facilities in Roxbury host youth sports activities, including the Roxbury Boys & Girls Club and the Roxbury YMCA. Unfortunately, assessments of playground quality indicate that Roxbury playgrounds ranked low.

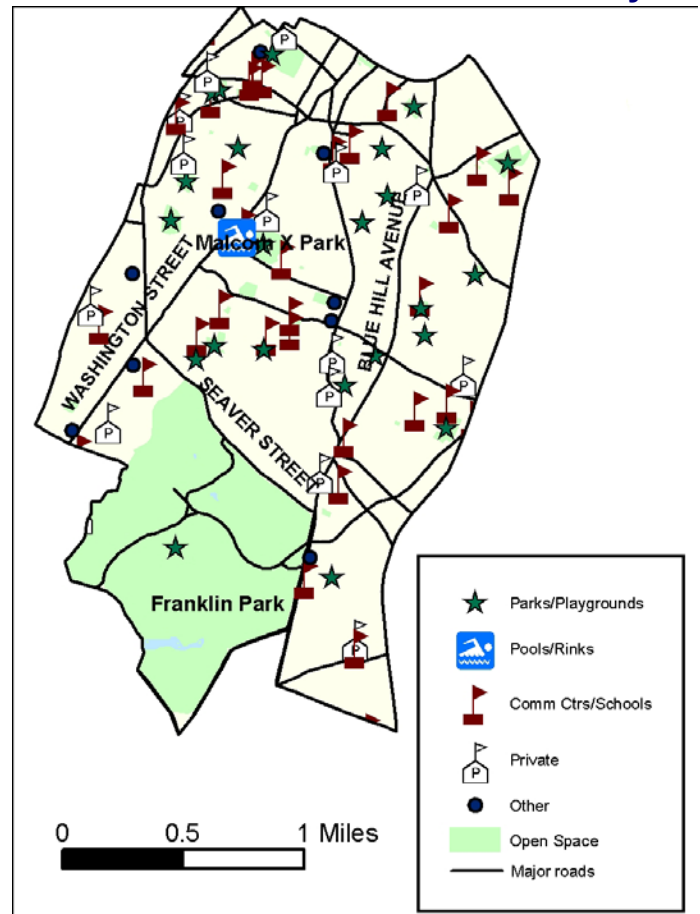
Roxbury has...

- 35 Basketball Courts
 - 23 Playgrounds
 - 20 Tennis Courts
- ... and more!

Public Recreational Facilities in Roxbury

	Roxbury	Boston	% in Roxbury
Overall Recreational Complexes	35	230	4%
Ball Fields			
Baseball	5	36	14%
Softball	11	69	16%
Little League	1	46	2%
Football	2	11	18%
Soccer	4	33	12%
Cricket	1	5	20%
Track	2	8	25%
Other Field	1	9	11%
Ball Courts			
Tennis	20	92	22%
Basketball (Full)	33	155	21%
Basketball (1/2 -court)	2	29	7%
Other Recreational Facility Types			
Pool	4	28	14%
Golf Course	1	2	50%
Ice Rink	2	13	15%
Studio	1	7	14%
Other Recreational Facility	5	35	14%
Playgrounds			
Playgrounds	23	155	15%
Schoolyard Initiative Sites	8	29	28%
Total	126	809	16%

Recreational Facilities in Roxbury



Future Directions in Roxbury

Despite the resources available to its youth, Roxbury ranks average out of the 12 Boston neighborhoods¹ in its facilities per youth ratio, indicating that relative to other neighborhoods in Boston, each facility in Roxbury serves a greater number of youth. Furthermore, Roxbury ranks low in participation rates in sports and physical activity programs. Thus, in the future to improve the resources available to Roxbury's youth, Play Across Boston recommends that additional resources be allotted to increase the number of facilities available, to encourage more youth, especially girls, to participate in sport and physical activity programs and, more importantly, to maintain the condition of the existing facilities.

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