



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

Type of Program	Number in West Roxbury	Number in Boston	% in West Roxbury
Non-Profit	9	155	6%
For Profit	0	18	0%
Boston Public School	2	35	6%
Non-public School	1	15	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>223</b>	<b>5%</b>

single sport or were offered by the Community Centers in West Roxbury. Figure 1 describes the types of programs available in West Roxbury and Boston overall.

As for participation in citywide programs, West Roxbury youth represent about 6% of all youth sports and physical activity participants in Boston, yet comprise 4% of Boston's 95,251 5-18 year olds. This means that West Roxbury youth participate at a higher level than youth from other neighborhoods. Of the many sports and activities offered throughout the city, baseball appears to be the favorite for boys during both the school year and the summer. Girls preferred soccer during the school year and swimming and softball during the summer. In West Roxbury, boys have a higher 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

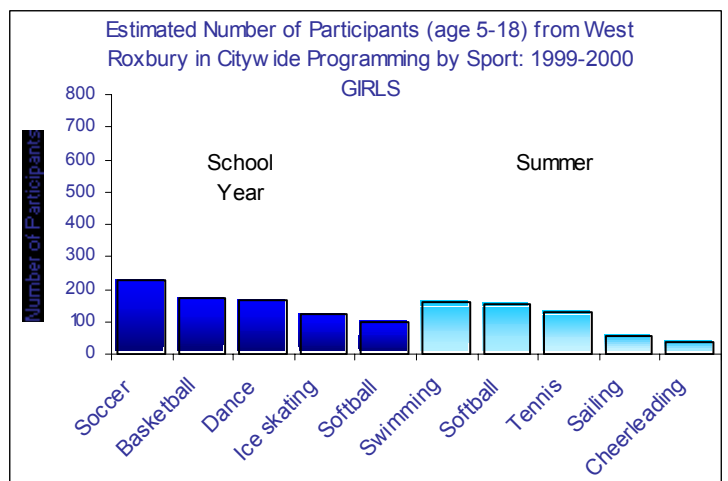
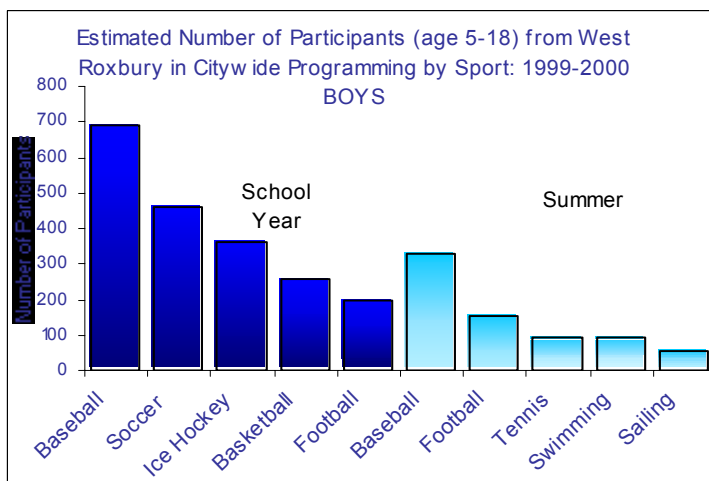
<sup>2</sup> Includes only those programs who responded to the Play Across Boston Survey

**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 **West Roxbury** youth.

### Youth Sports and Physical Activities in West Roxbury

In 1999-2000, 12 different sports and physical activity programs<sup>2</sup> located in West Roxbury responded to the **Play Across Boston** survey. Of those 12 programs, many were non-profit and one-quarter did not charge a participation fee. Of the non-profit programs, most were league sports, comprised of multiple teams playing a



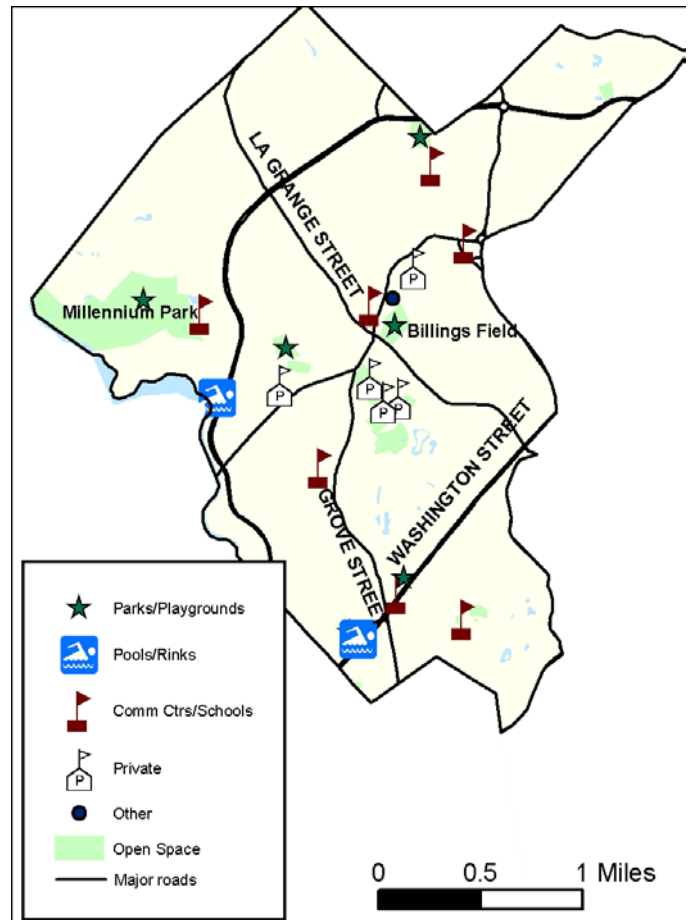
## Recreational Facilities in West Roxbury

### Parks, Playgrounds and Athletic Facilities in West Roxbury

As one of Boston's neighborhoods with a suburban feel in an urban setting, West Roxbury is filled with many parks, playgrounds and other facilities for youth sports and recreation. In 2000-2001, PAB surveyed 11 different public complexes in West Roxbury to document the types of facilities and amenities available. These sites included 3 playgrounds, 1 park, 1 field, and 1 pool operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, 1 park and 1 rink operated by the former MDC, currently the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), 1 Community Center and 2 Boston Community Schools (community centers housed within Boston Public Schools). In total, these complexes housed 10 basketball courts (6 full basketball courts), 6 playgrounds, 6 tennis courts, 4 softball fields, 2 baseball fields, 5 Little League fields, 3 soccer fields, 2 pools, 1 football field, 1 ice rink, 1 track and more! In addition, several other facilities in West Roxbury host youth sports activities, including the West Roxbury—Roslindale Boys & Girls Club. Assessments of playground quality indicate that West Roxbury playgrounds ranked high.

#### West Roxbury has...

- 10 Basketball Courts
- 6 Playgrounds
- 2 Swimming Pools ... and more!



### Future Directions in West Roxbury

West Roxbury ranks high out of the 12 Boston neighborhoods<sup>1</sup> in its facilities per youth ratio, indicating that relative to other neighborhoods in Boston, there are more facilities available per 100 youth. Furthermore, West Roxbury ranks among the highest in youth participation rates in sports and physical activity programs. Thus, the facilities and playgrounds are plentiful for the youth in West Roxbury and Play Across Boston recommends that resources be allotted to maintain these facilities and to encourage youth, especially girls, to participate in existing programs.

### Public Recreational Facilities in West Roxbury

	West Roxbury	Boston	% in West Roxbury
<b>Overall Recreational Complexes</b>	11	230	5%
<b>Ball Fields</b>			
Baseball	2	36	6%
Softball	4	69	6%
Little League	5	46	11%
Football	1	11	9%
Soccer	3	33	9%
Track	1	8	13%
Other Field	1	9	11%
<b>Ball Courts</b>			
Tennis	6	92	7%
Basketball (Full)	6	155	4%
Basketball (1/2 -court)	4	29	14%
<b>Other Recreational Facility Types</b>			
Pool	2	28	7%
Ice Rink	1	13	8%
Other Recreational Facility	1	35	3%
<b>Playgrounds</b>			
Playgrounds	6	155	4%
Schoolyard Initiative Sites	2	29	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>6%</b>

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  
 RESEARCH CENTER  
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