

# Plan & Policy Proposal for Urban Agriculture in Roxbury, MA



Urban Studies Capstone  
Spring 2018

Logan Capone, Ximing Guo, Veridiana Lejeune



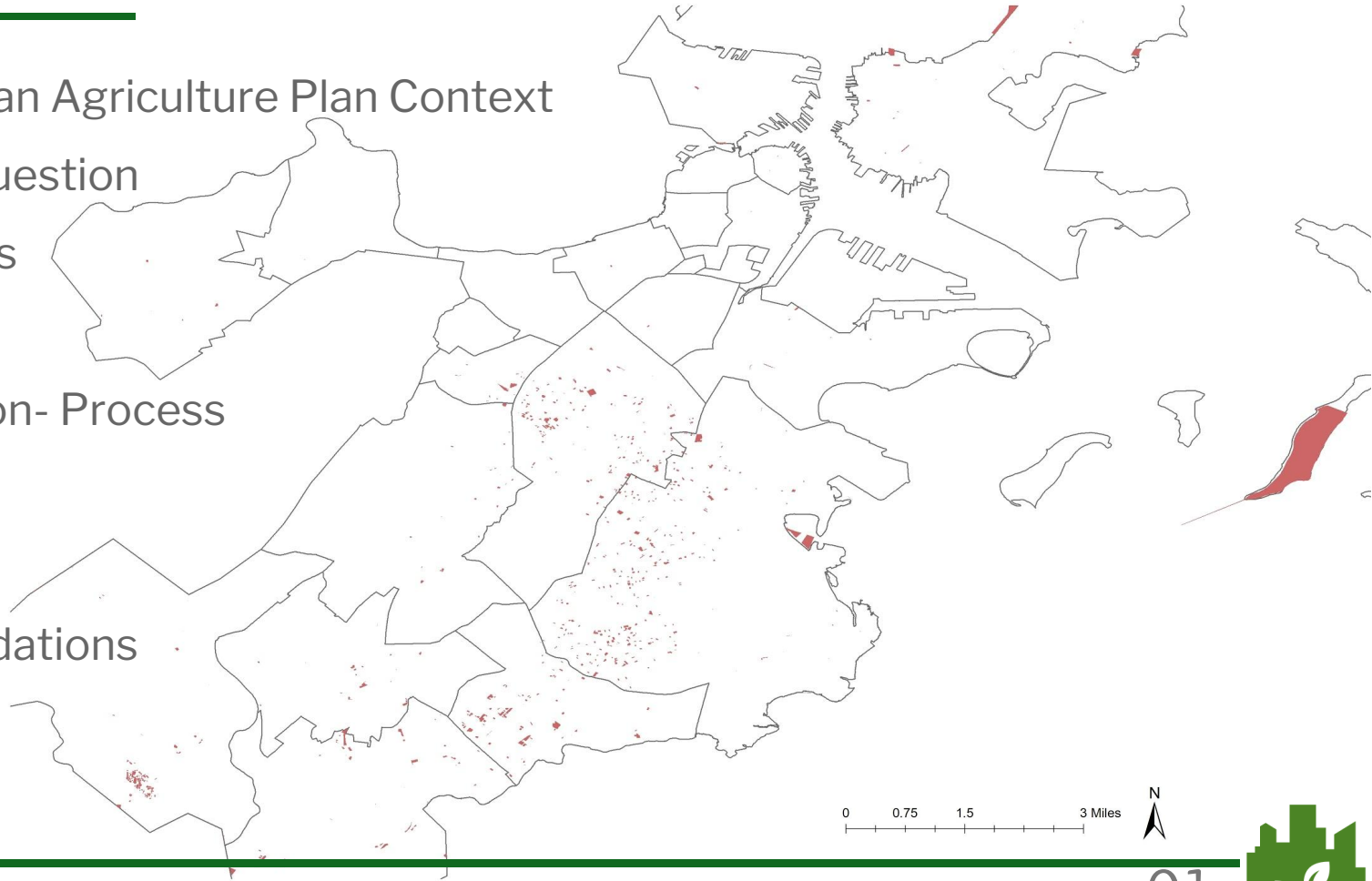
# Urban Agriculture Context

- **Resources to sustain the Urban Agriculture Program/ Plan;**
- **Capacity to keep going with the Program ( sites, infrastructure, design, production);**
- **Motivation/Incentives from stakeholders, city, communities (social and financial).**

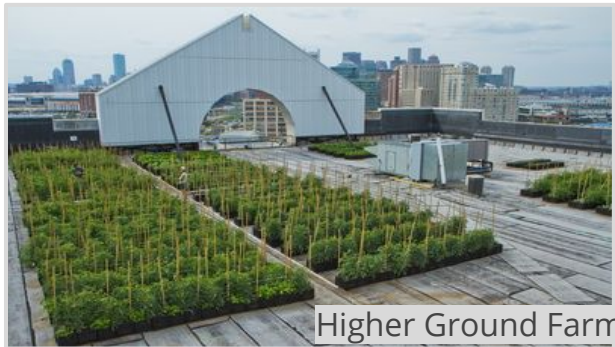


# Agenda

1. Boston Urban Agriculture Plan Context
2. Research Question
3. Case Studies
4. Roxbury
5. Site Selection- Process
6. Proposals
7. Policies
8. Recommendations
9. Conclusion




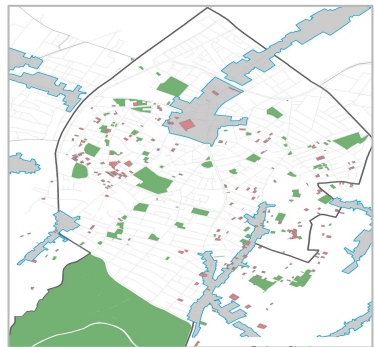
# Boston Urban Agriculture Context



Higher Ground Farm



Urban Farming in Roxbury



**December 2013** A 55,000 square foot rooftop farm on top of Boston Design Center

**September 2015** Vacant Parcel Data- DND owned land available for urban farming

**January 2018**

**Article 89** Zoning codes for urban farming in Boston

**2013**

**Urban Agriculture Vision** A City's Vision for Growing Food, Community and the Economy

**September 2016**

**Comprehensive Plan for Redeveloping Parcels** BU graduate students create Comprehensive Plan for redeveloping vacant parcels in Roxbury



**How can a city redevelop underutilized urban parcels to ensure accessible green space and sustain urban agriculture?**

**Integrate** urban greenspaces into the city fabric

**Environmental resilience**

Increase, enhance, and preserve green spaces

+

**Access**

Foster connections between local businesses, artists, developers, and urban farming networks

**Optimize land use**

Designate selected sites for Urban Agriculture



# Case Studies

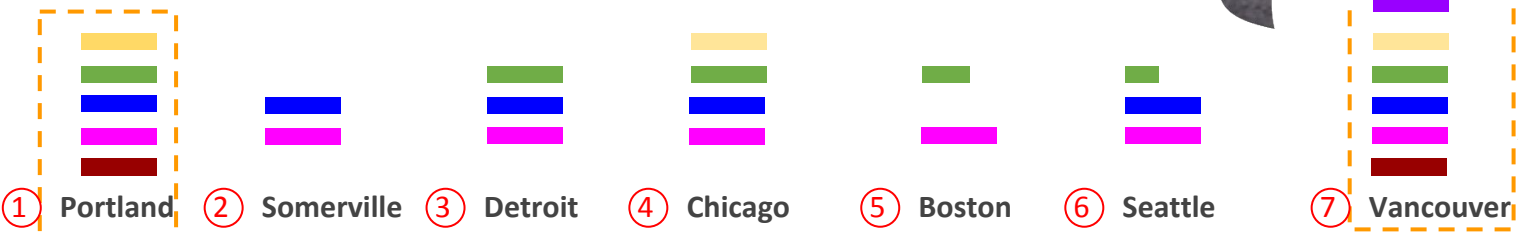


 Track outcomes

 Online Platform



 Land inventory



VANCOUVER  
URBAN FARMING  
CENSUS  
2014 to 2016



## WHY URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ROXBURY?

Land inventory



A growing community

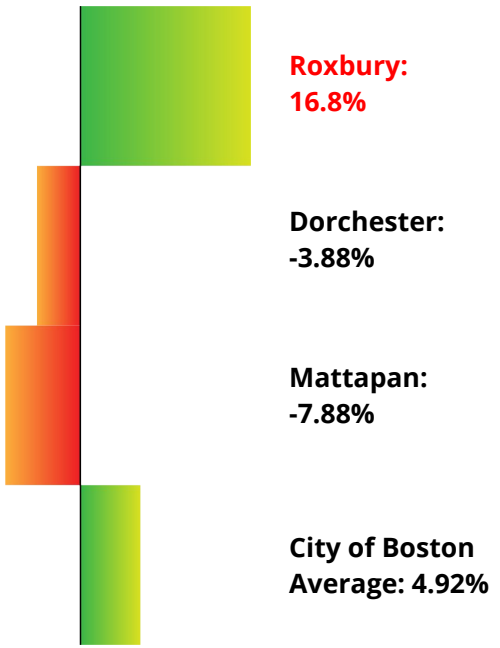


Activate green space



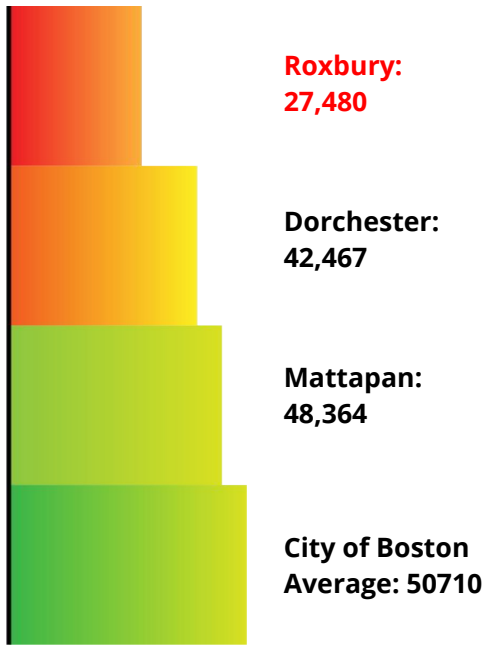
## Population Growth/ Decline 2000-2010

Source: US Census



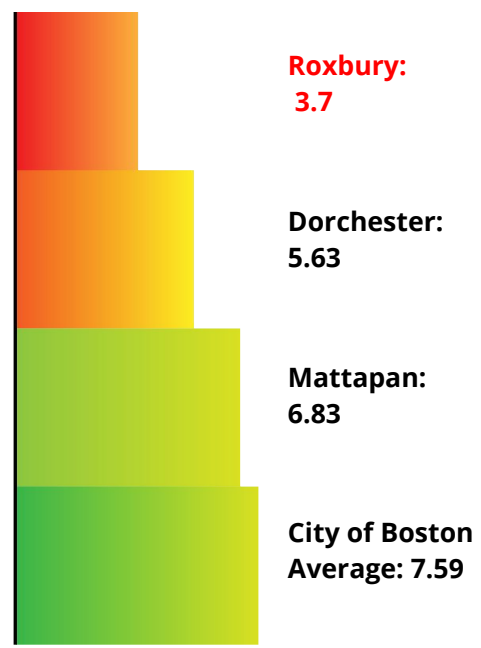
## Median Household income in last 12 month 2010 year

Source: US Census



## Open Space Ratio (acres per 1000 residents)

Source: US Census

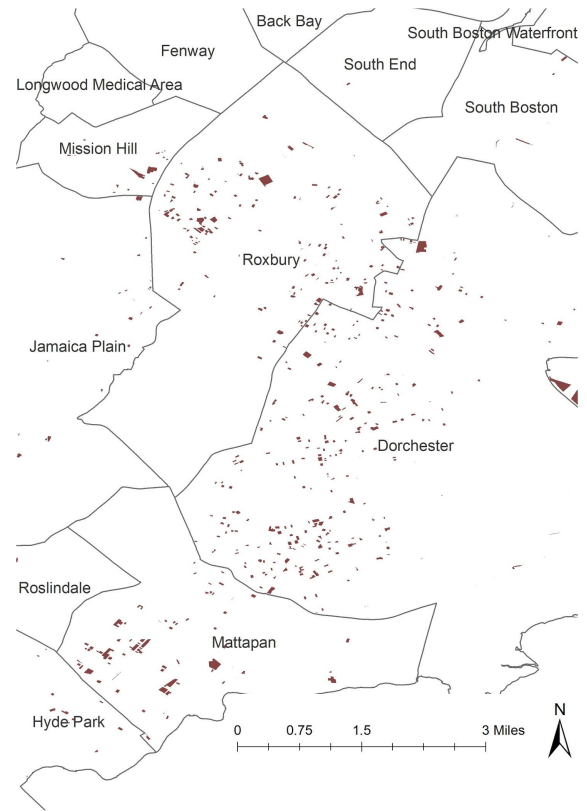


Source: Boston Open Space & Recreation Plan 2015- 2021

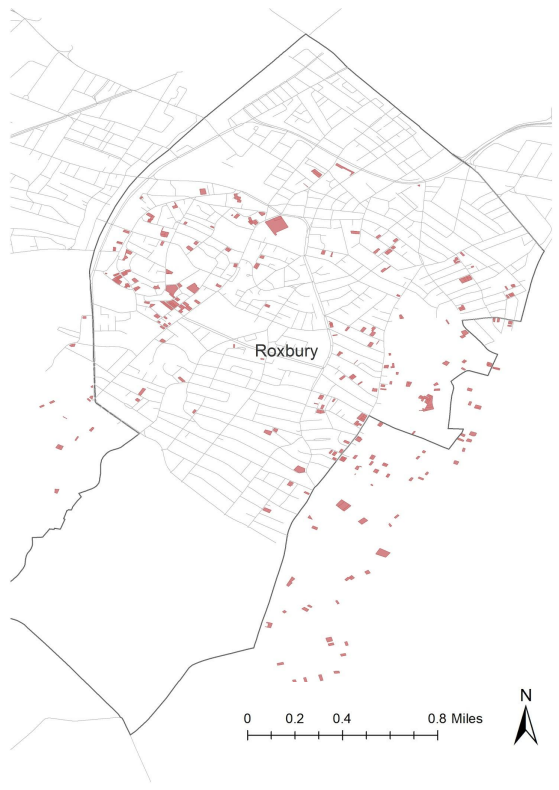




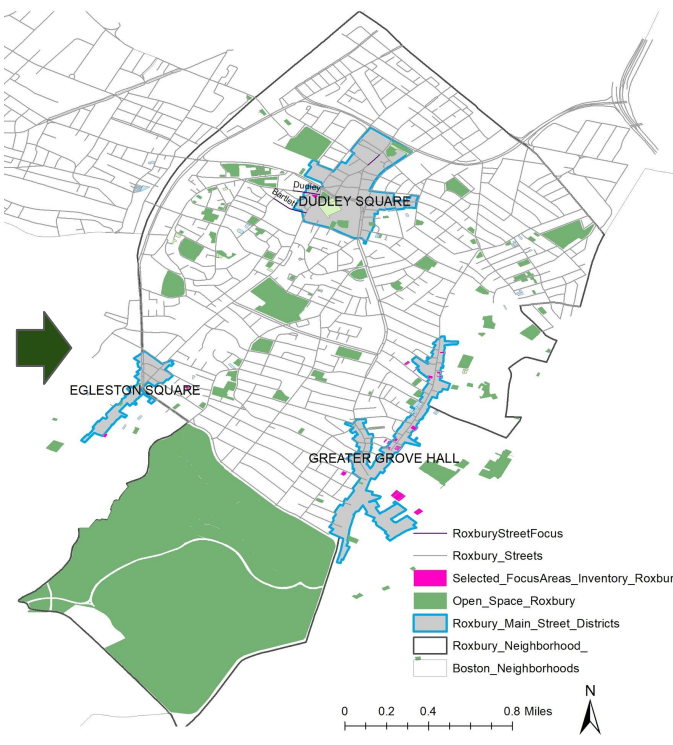
# Site Selection



Boston: 1,300



Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan: 800



Roxbury: 360

Selected:



# Site Selection

## Main Street Districts

Total: 25 sites  
130,000sqft



Green Corridor : Blue Hill Avenue



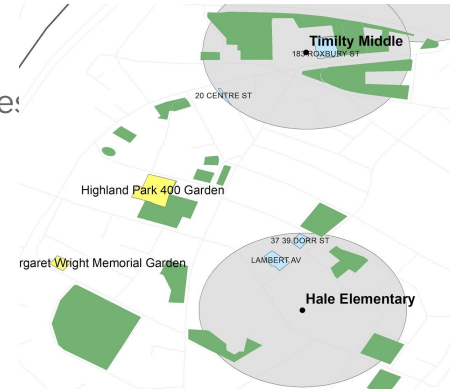
## Enhance Open Spaces

Total: 6 sites  
~42,000 sqft



## Public/ Charter School Gardening Programs

Total: 22 sites  
~30,000



# Open Space



<b>Parcel number:</b>	1100500001
<b>Address:</b>	66 Fort Ave
<b>Square ft.</b>	8400
<b>Zoning:</b>	
<b>Public Transportation:</b>	14 and 41 Bus line
<b>Existing Condition:</b>	Site cleaned, fenced covered with grass and a few medium size trees
<b>Environmental Justice Criteria:</b>	Zone 1
<b>Surroundings:</b>	Adjacent from community garden
<b>Potential Use:</b>	Add garden and park infrastructure



# Greener Corridors



- RoxburyStreetFocus
- Roxbury\_Streets
- Selected\_FocusAreas\_Inventory\_Roxbury
- Roxbury\_Main\_Street\_Districts
- Roxbury\_Neighborhood\_
- Boston\_Neighborhoods

By: Logan Capone (Boston University UA805) 3/12/18



# Public Schools



# How can a city redevelop underutilized urban parcels to ensure accessible green space and sustain urban agriculture?

Category	Policy	Goal
<b>Community Access</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invest in existing small scale community gardens</li> <li>2. Enhance existing open spaces with garden infrastructure</li> <li>3. Provide training and education opportunities for the local community</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracting community members and local business to participate in urban agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>Resiliency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designate DND parcels for urban agriculture</li> <li>2. Develop and distribute an inventory management plan</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelop DND parcels to increase the amount and distribution of green spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Land Use</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement Pilot Projects for community gardens and farmer's markets</li> <li>2. Incentivize businesses by providing low-cost land to those who will develop mixed-use gardens and open spaces with public access</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alliances among stakeholders leading to new opportunities &amp; support</li> </ul>
<b>Feasibility / Finances</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage non-profits to partner with businesses, institutions such as hospitals and universities, local artists, &amp; philanthropic organizations</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the redevelopment of land for urban farming affordable</li> </ul>

01

Create an online platform

- Maps for community gardens, farmers markets, and land inventory
- Connect artists, restaurants, businesses, farmers, residents
- Accessible resources on how to grow, volunteer, and support

02

Track & publish outcomes

- Metrics: Land inventory for Urban Agriculture, Food production, Employment
- Online Platform
- Urban Agriculture Census

03

Emphasize urban agriculture in climate initiative

- Increase activated green space
- Local food production makes a resilient and sustainable city
- Mitigate impacts of climate change such as heat island effect and flooding



# Thank you

## **Jordan Deasy**

Project Manager, Real Estate  
Management & Sales  
Department of Neighborhood  
Development  
jordan.deasy@boston.gov

Madhu Dutta-Koehler, PhD

Yesim Sungu

And to all of our classmates!

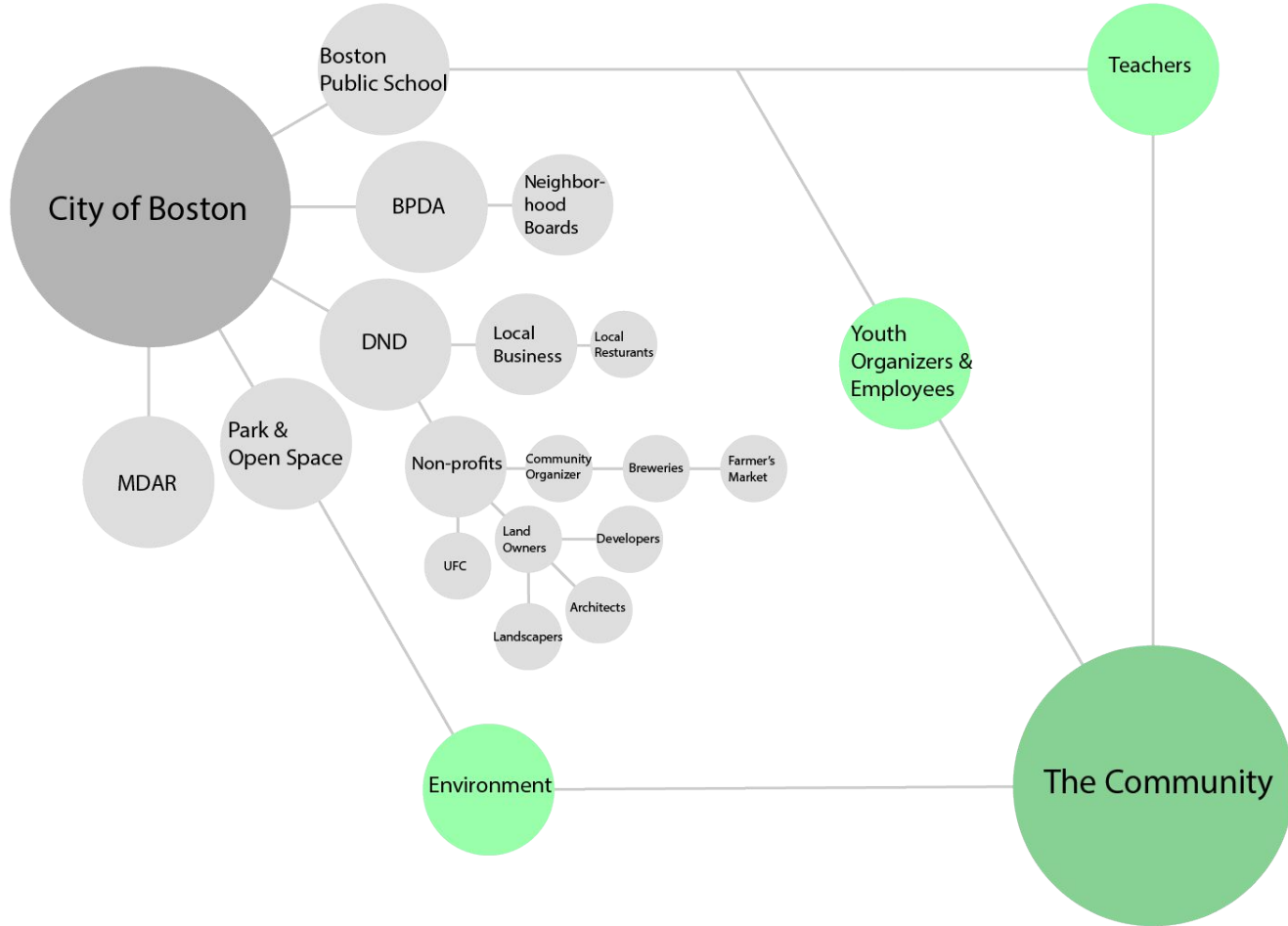
## **Barbara Knecht, R.A.**

Urban Farming Institute of  
Boston - Project Leader for Site  
Farm Development  
Harvard University  
barbara@strategiesforcities.com





Direct stakeholders



Indirect stakeholders

# References

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Balmer, K., Gill, J., Kaplinger, H., Miller, J., Peterson, M., Rhoads, A., ... & Wall, T. (2005). The diggable city: Making urban agriculture a planning priority.

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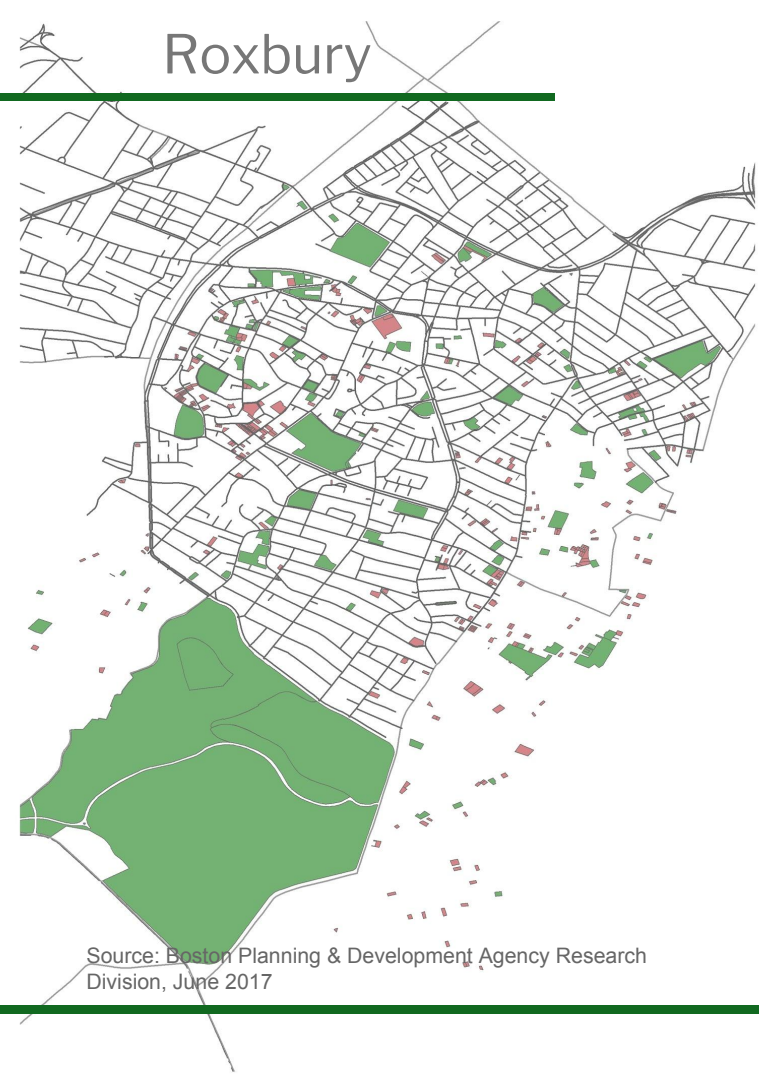
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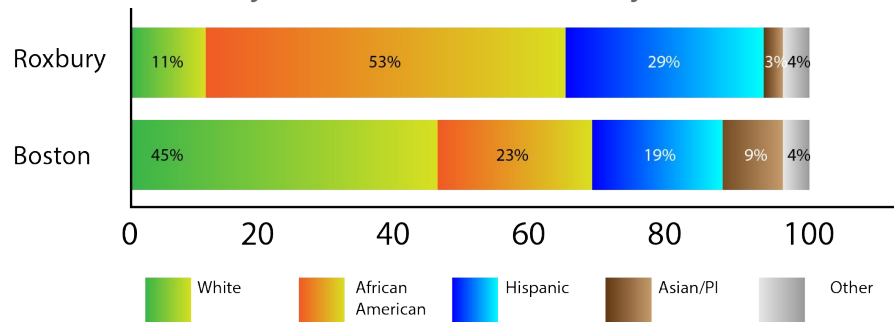


# Roxbury

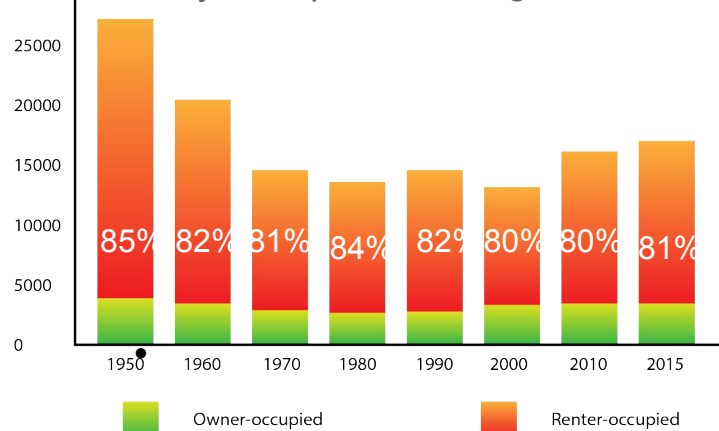


Source: Boston Planning & Development Agency Research Division, June 2017

## Roxbury & Boston Residents by Race 2015

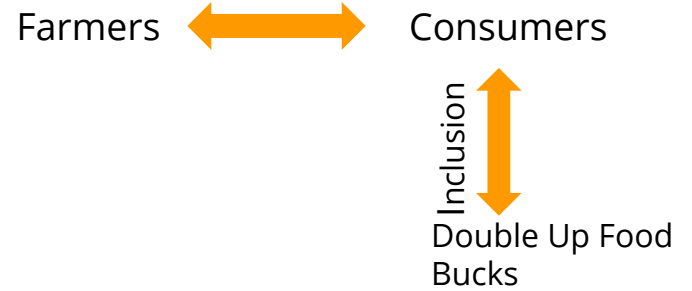


## Roxbury Occupied Housing Units 1950-2015





## Community Supported Agriculture Program:



Source: [www.portlandcsoa.org/what-is-csa](http://www.portlandcsoa.org/what-is-csa)





- **Greenest City Action Plan:** Increasing the impact of urban agriculture through the development of new community gardens and urban farms
- **Tracking Outcomes:**

VANCOUVER  
URBAN FARMING  
CENSUS  
2014 *to* 2016

## Join a community garden in your neighbourhood

Vancouver has over 110 community gardens in city parks, in schoolyards, and on private property. There's even a community garden at City Hall.

Source: <http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/community-gardens.aspx>



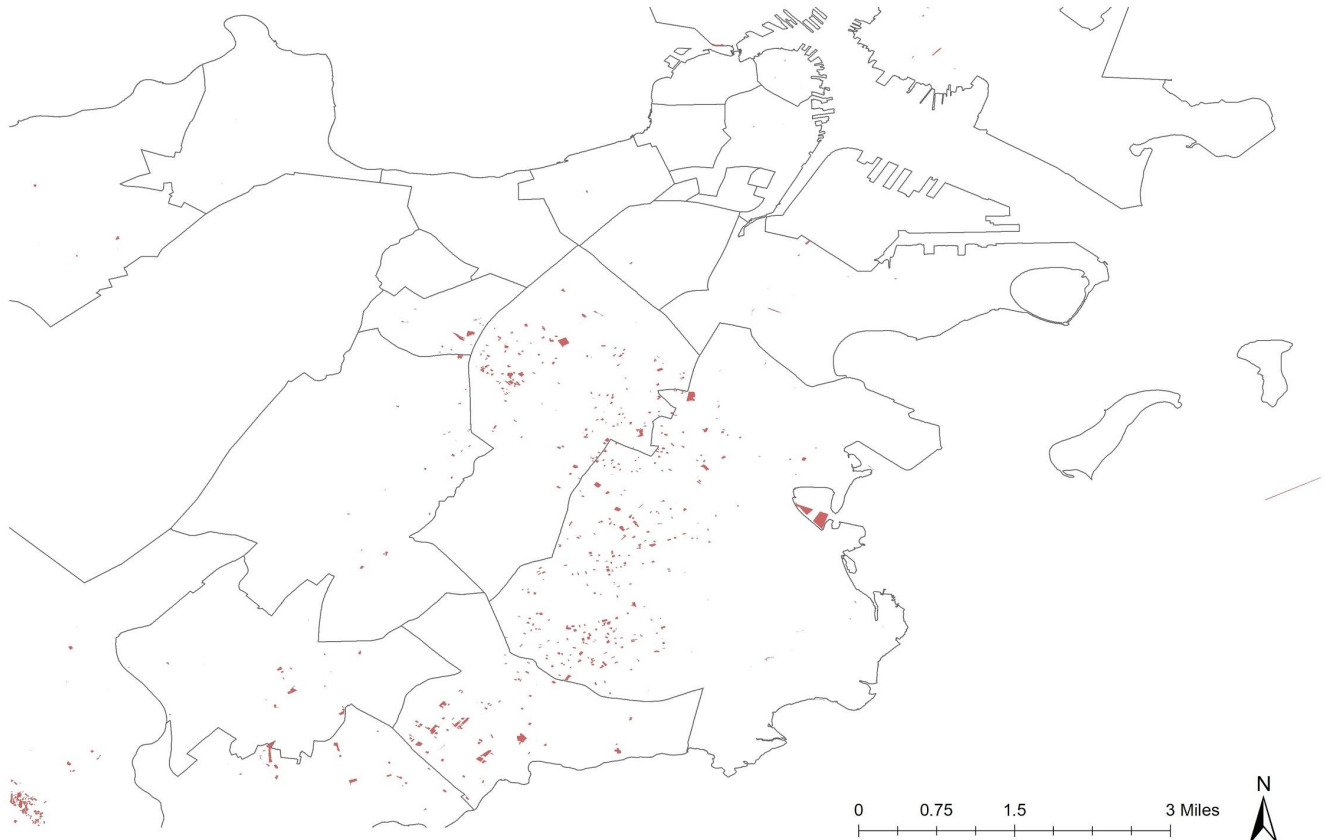
# What is Urban Agriculture?

Urban Agriculture is the practice of growing fruit, vegetables, and raising animals in a urban environment.

Types of Urban Agriculture:

- Community gardens
- School Garden
- Urban farming
- Urban orchards
- Rooftop farms
- Freight Farming

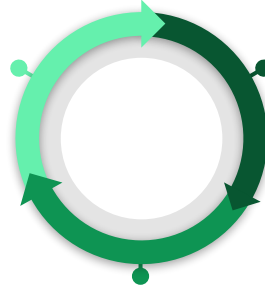




# Review

Access to healthy food for communities

*Food security, food education, smart-growth*



Create new business opportunities and job growth

*Rooftop farms, farmers markets, restaurants, entrepreneurs*

Resilience to climate change

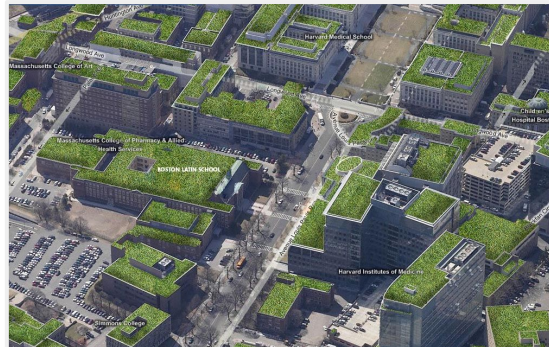
*Reduce heat island effect, increase green space, shorten 'farm to fork' distance*



(Source: Article 89 City of Boston)



(Source: Article 89 City of Boston)



(Source: Studio G Architects)