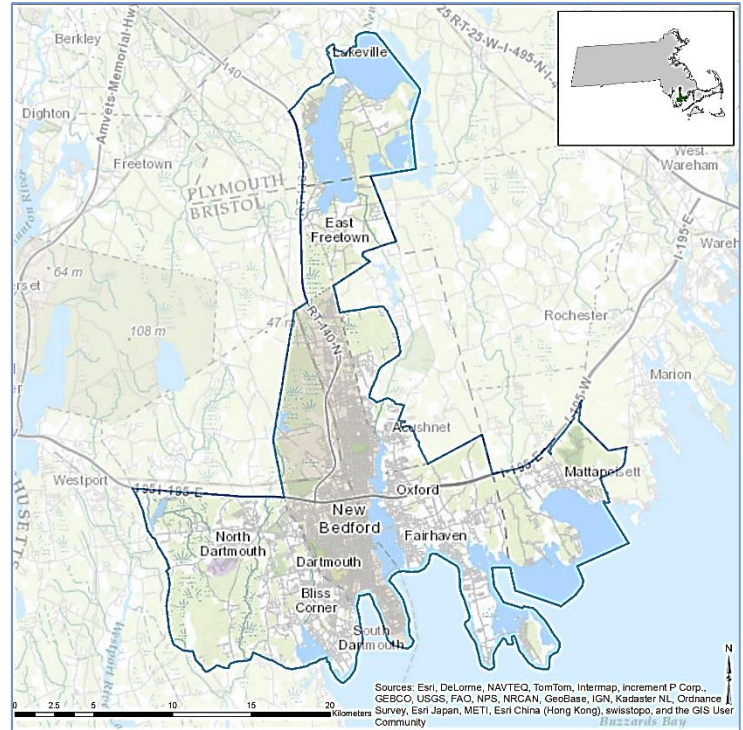# New Bedford, MA and surrounding area

EnviroAtlas combines maps, graphs, and other analysis tools, fact sheets, and downloadable data into an easy-to-use, web-based educational and decision-support tool. EnviroAtlas helps users understand the connections between the benefits we derive from ecosystem services and the natural resources that provide them. For more information, please visit our website.

For selected U.S. communities, EnviroAtlas includes fine-scale maps and other information about existing and potential benefits from the local natural environment. This fact sheet highlights some of the many community data layers available.
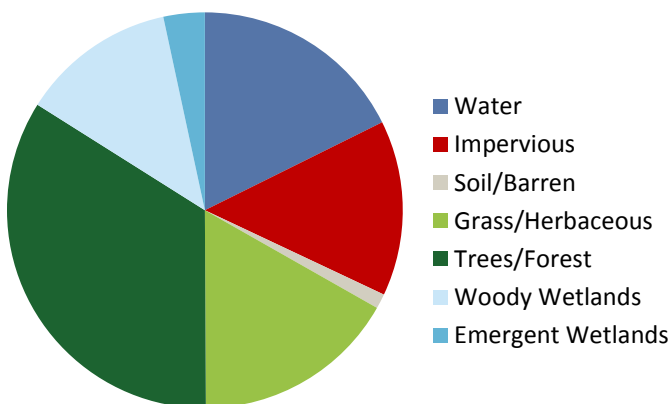
Background

The New Bedford, MA area was chosen as an EnviroAtlas community because of a health research opportunity with an EPA grantee. It is also a priority area for EPA Region 1.The EnviroAtlas boundary for the New Bedford area was determined using the 2010 Census definition of an Urban Area. In addition to New Bedford, it includes portions of Dartmouth, East Freetown, and Mattapoisett, as well as additional towns within Bristol and Plymouth Counties. The area measures 258 square kilometers, and encompasses 128 census block groups.

The New Bedford, MA area is in the Northeastern Coastal ecoregion. It has a severe, humid, mid-latitude climate with warm summers and severe winters. The region is vegetated

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

primarily with oak and oak-pine forests; there is also significant urban and suburban development. The leading industries are fishing and manufacturing, although healthcare is rapidly growing in the area. St. Luke's and Southcoast Hospitals, Titleist, and Riverside Manufacturing are among largest employers in the area. The demographics of the New Bedford community area indicate that the potential exists for income and other disparities in the distribution of environmental assets. EnviroAtlas includes demographic maps that can help screen for potential health and well-being disparities resulting from disproportionate distribution of "green infrastructure."

Percent Land Cover in Community Area

- Water
- Impervious
- Soil/Barren
- Grass/Herbaceous
- Trees/Forest
- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Wetlands

New Bedford Area Demographics	
Total population	151,164
Under 13 years old	15.00%
Over 70 years of age	11.66%
Other than white/non-Hispanic	22.69%
Below twice the poverty level	32.38%

Ecosystem Services Overview

In EnviroAtlas, ecosystem services are organized into seven benefit categories:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Natural hazard mitigation
  Climate stabilization
- Recreation, culture, and aesthetics
- Biodiversity conservation
- Food, fuel, and materials (data available only in select communities)

EnviroAtlas helps users understand the connections between the benefits we receive from ecosystem services and the natural resources that provide them. Examples of some of the environmental data included in EnviroAtlas are detailed below:

Access to Parks

Parks provide access to green space, encourage physical activity, and improve the livability and aesthetics of urban areas. Those who live closer to parks may be more likely to receive multiple benefits associated with this proximity.
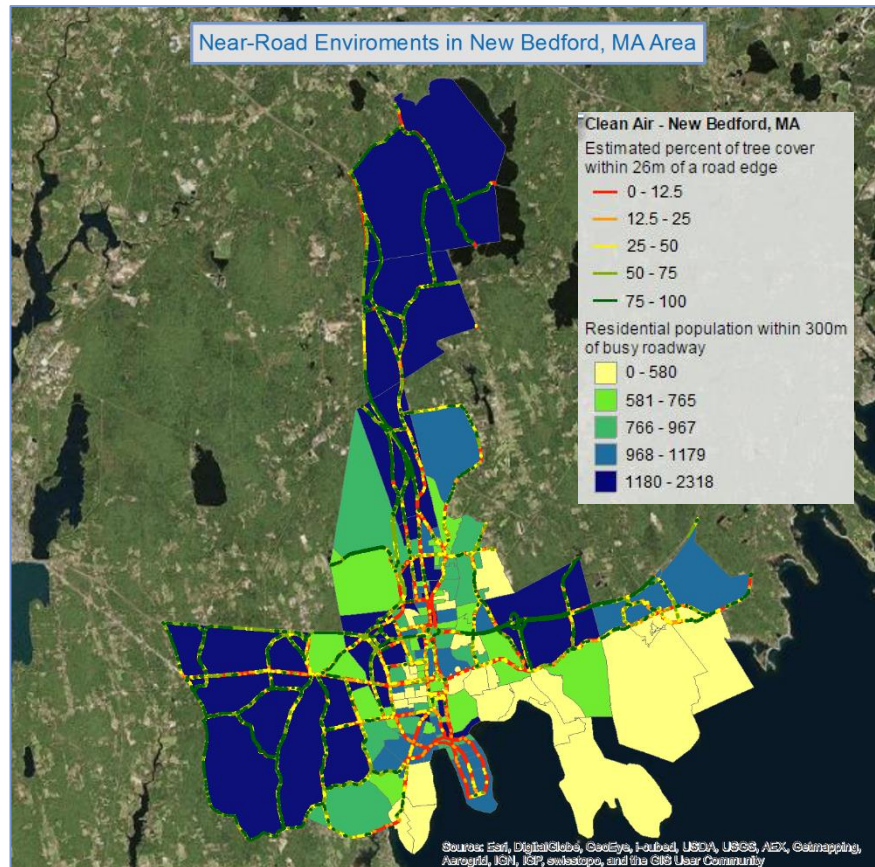
- An estimated 8 percent of the New Bedford area is located within easy walking distance (500 meters) of a park entrance.
- An estimated 14 percent of the New Bedford area does not have a park entrance within 5 kilometers.

Near-Road Environments

Studies indicate that the capacity of trees to filter air may reduce the health impacts of vehicular pollution. In EnviroAtlas, you can find analyses of tree coverage near busy roads.

The distribution of tree cover near busy roadways

- An estimated 77 percent of the New Bedford area population lives within 300 meters of a busy roadway (yellow to blue block groups in the figure above)
- 67 percent of the estimated population lives within 300 meters of a roadway that has less than 25% tree buffer (roadways indicated by red and orange lines in the figure above).

In addition to the Clean Air benefit category, near-road vegetation data layers can also be found under Biodiversity Conservation, and Recreation, Culture and Aesthetics in the interactive map's table of contents.

EnviroAtlas Tools and Features

- EnviroAtlas Community Component: data layers based on 1-meter land cover summarized to the block group scale.
- EnviroAtlas National Component: data layers based on 30-meter land cover summarized to the watershed scale.
- EnviroAtlas Interactive Map: go directly to the interactive map.
- EnviroAtlas Fact Sheets: Describe the project, each community, and each data layer in detail.
- Eco-Health Relationship Browser: An interactive relational tool that explores ecosystems, the services they provide, and benefits to human health and well-being.
- Contact the EnviroAtlas Team: Please contact us if you have any questions about EnviroAtlas

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