

Demographic Analysis of Multi-Use Paths around Watertown

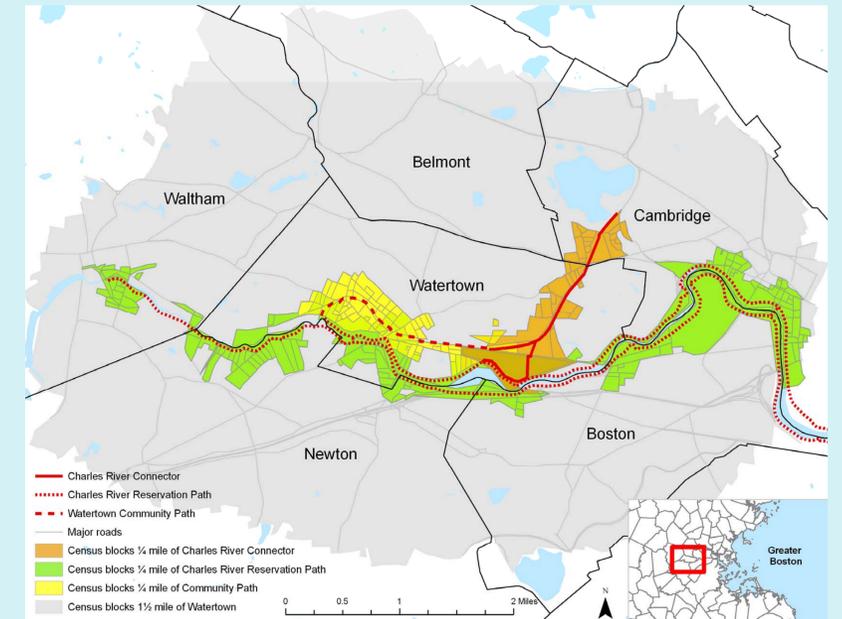
Project description

The goal of this analysis was to determine who has or will have access to multi-use paths in and around Watertown. The paths in this area include the Charles River Reservation Path, the proposed Charles River Connector and the proposed Watertown Community Path. The population within ¼ mile of each of the paths was compared to the population within 1½ miles of Watertown. This revealed whether any sub-population was being disproportionately underserved by any path. The results of this analysis are outlined in detail in the chart below.

Methods

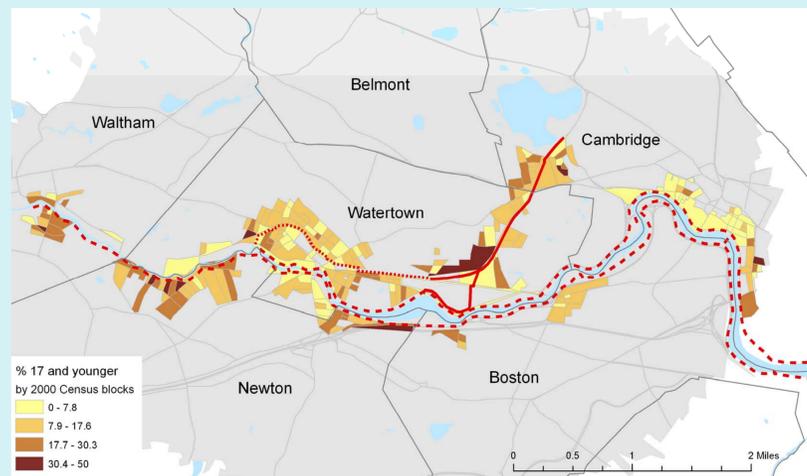
A 1½ mile buffer around Watertown was created, and 2000 Census blocks/block groups within that buffer were selected to determine the demographic makeup of the area. Using the intersect tool, access points on each path were created, and a street network within ¼ mile of those points was then created. Using network analyst, a ¼ mile service area was created around each path. Census blocks/block groups within each service area were selected, allowing for demographic analysis of each area.

Population around paths

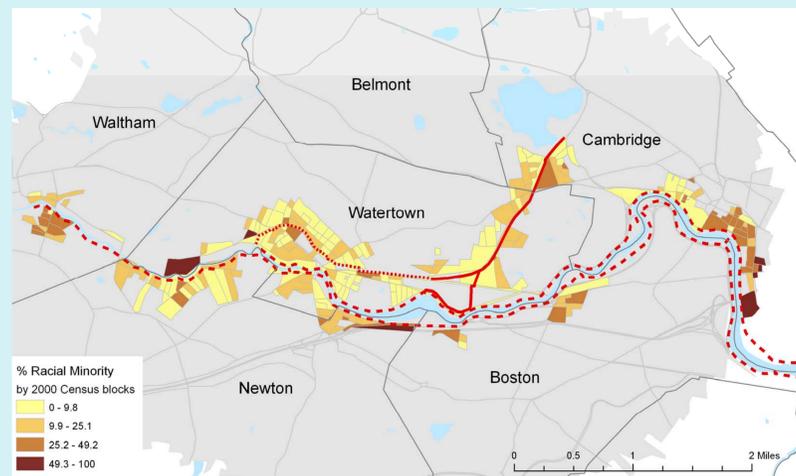


According to the 2000 Census, 234,718 people live within the area 1½ miles of Watertown. Approximately 2.7% of that population (6,360 people) lives within ¼ mile of the proposed Watertown Community Path, 1.5% (3,487 people) live within ¼ mile of the proposed Charles River Connector, and 8% (18,725 people) live within ¼ mile of the Charles River Reservation Path.

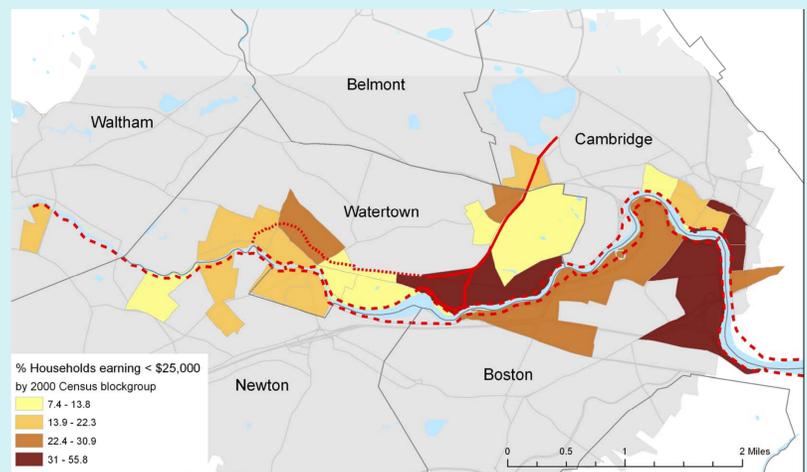
Youth



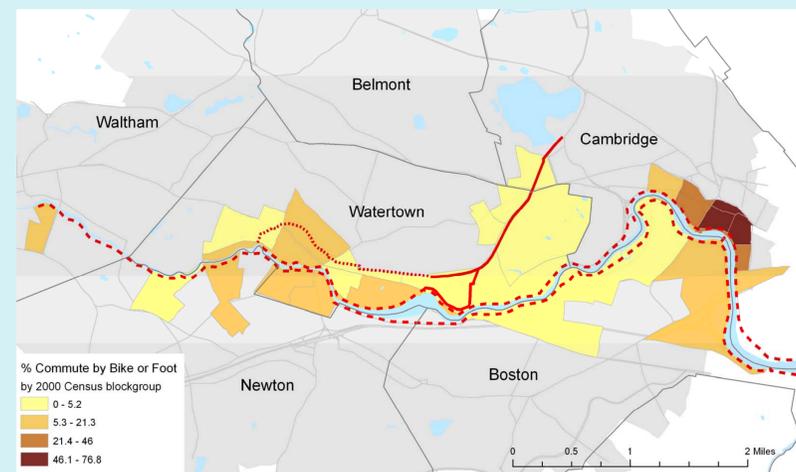
Racial minorities



Low-income households



Workers who commute by foot or bike



	¼ mile of Watertown Community Path	¼ mile of Charles River Connector	¼ mile of Charles River Reservation Path	¼ mile of three paths combined*	Area within 1½ miles of Watertown
17 and under population					
Total	634	485	1,915	2,747	33,623
Percentage	10%	13.9%	10.2%	10.5%	14.3%
Racial minority population					
Total	757	431	5,181	6,138	46,443
Percentage	11.9%	12.3%	26.7%	23.5%	19.8%
Low-income households					
Total	626	520	2,013	2,971	22,569
Percentage	21.9%	22.7%	26%	25.3%	23.6%
Workers who commute by bike or foot					
Total	224	74	3,425	3,638	12,862
Percentage	6.3%	3%	29.5%	22.8%	10.2%

* The totals and percentages for the "three paths combined" are often smaller than the sum of the populations near the three individual paths because people living in one census block may have access to two different paths, so they are counted more than once. The "three paths combined" does not include any overlapping populations or census blocks/block groups.