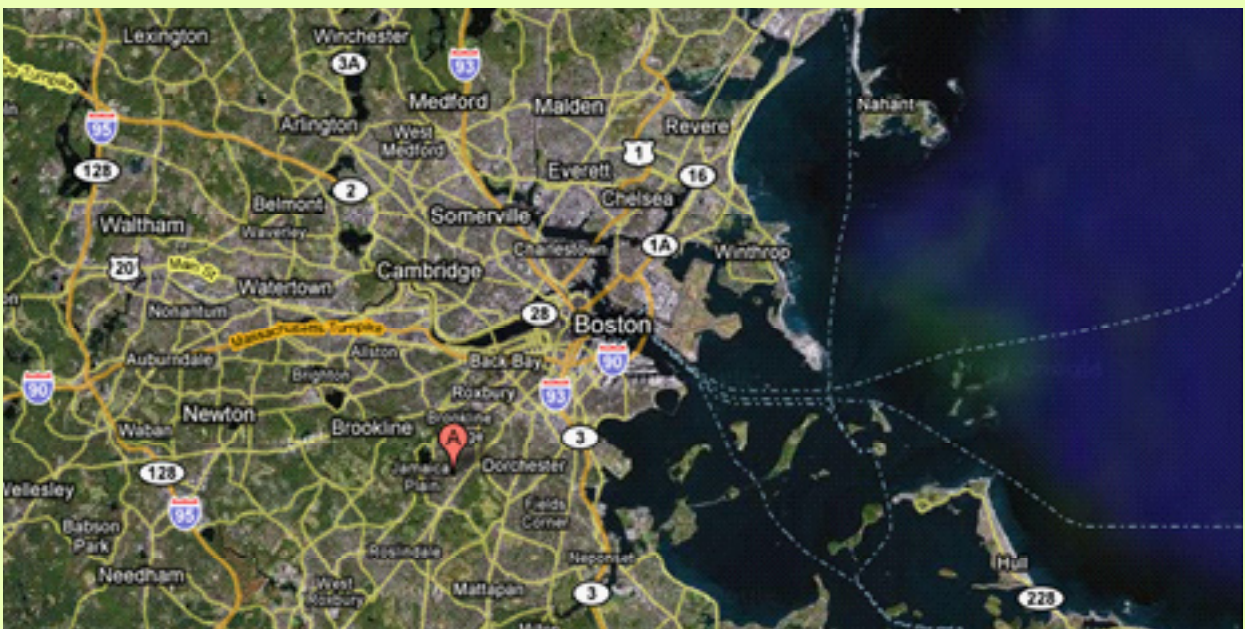
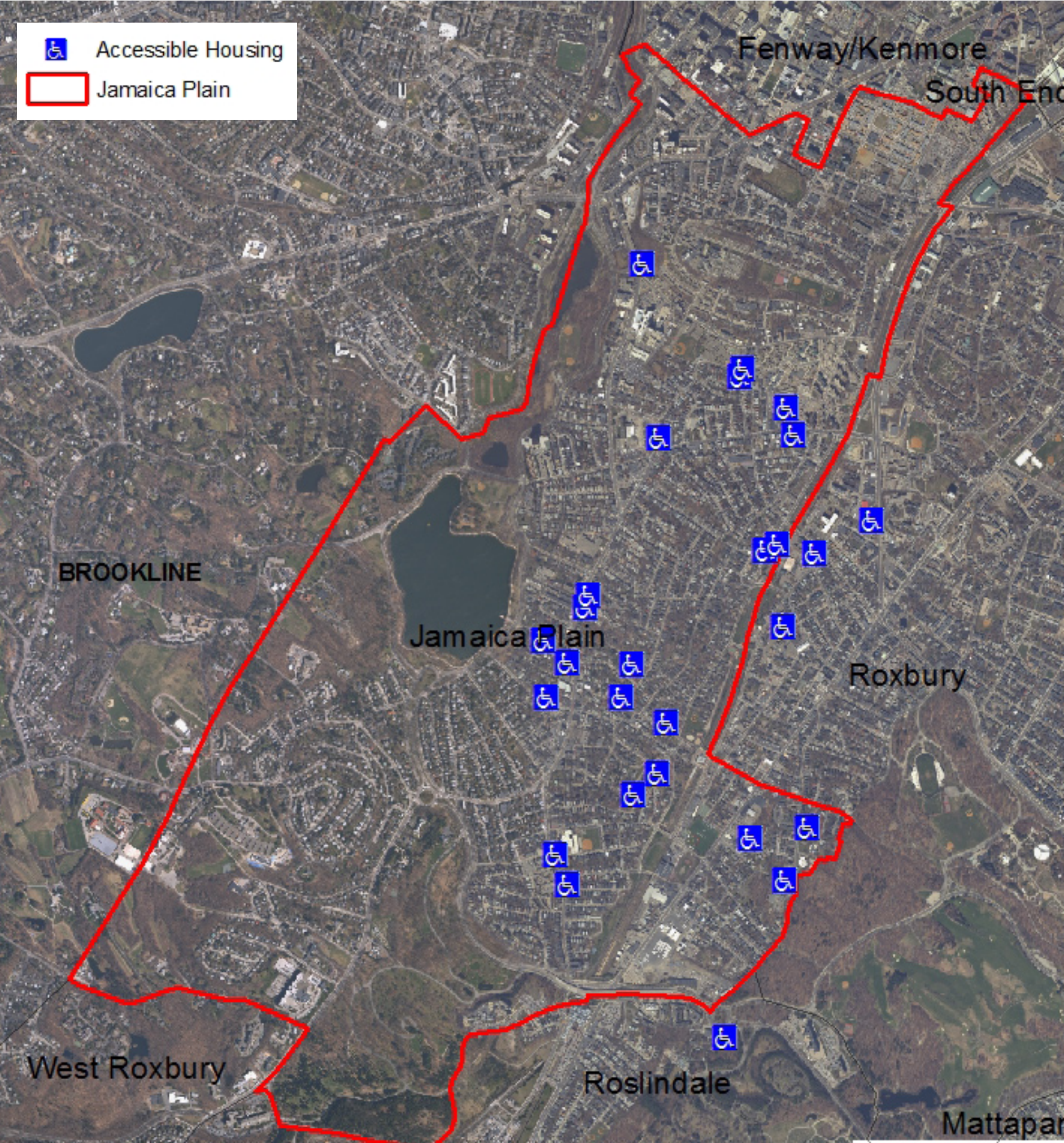


ACCESSIBLE HOUSING UNITS IN JAMAICA PLAIN, MA

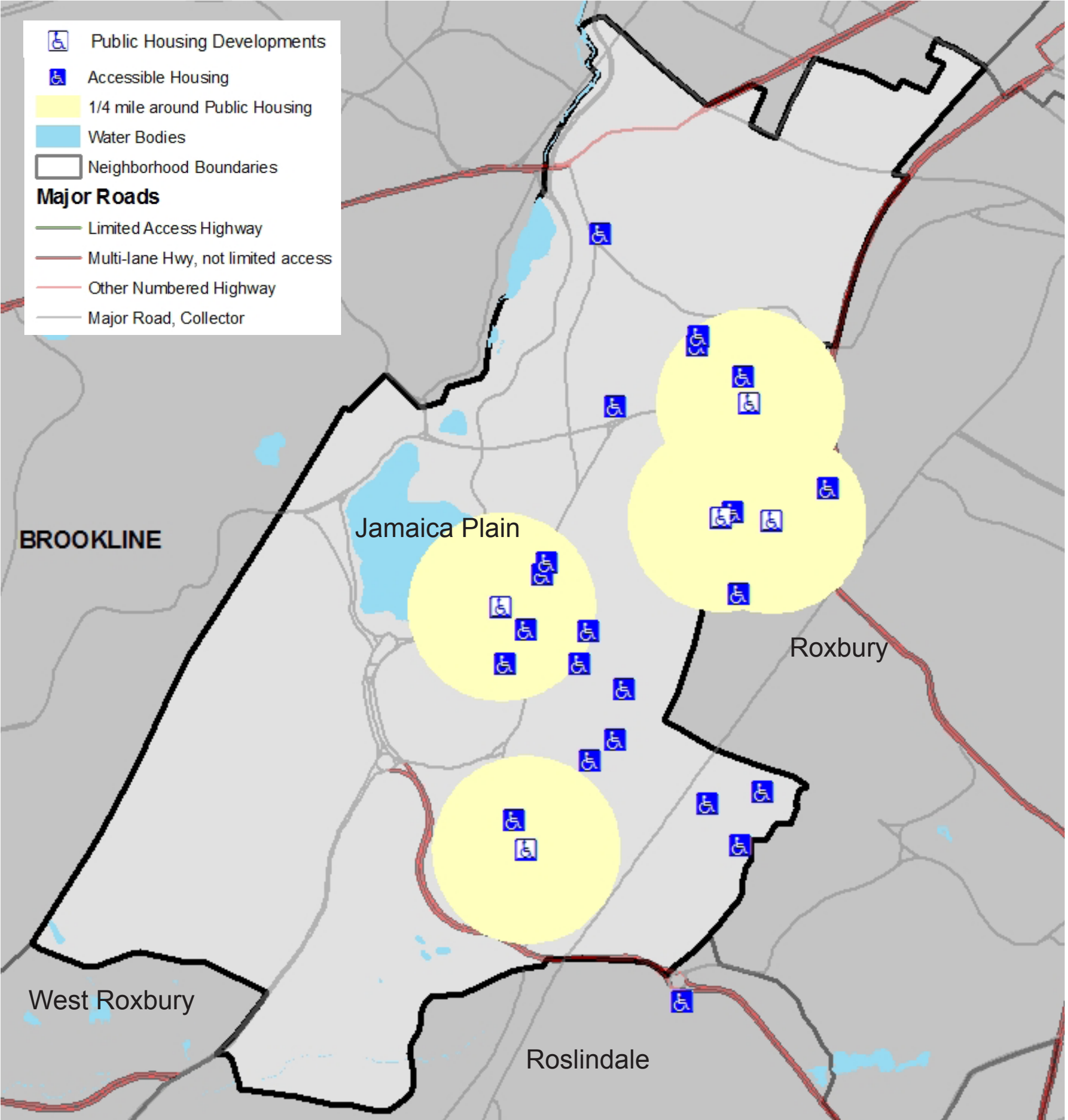
DANA McQUILLIN - INTRODUCTION TO GIS - FALL 2008



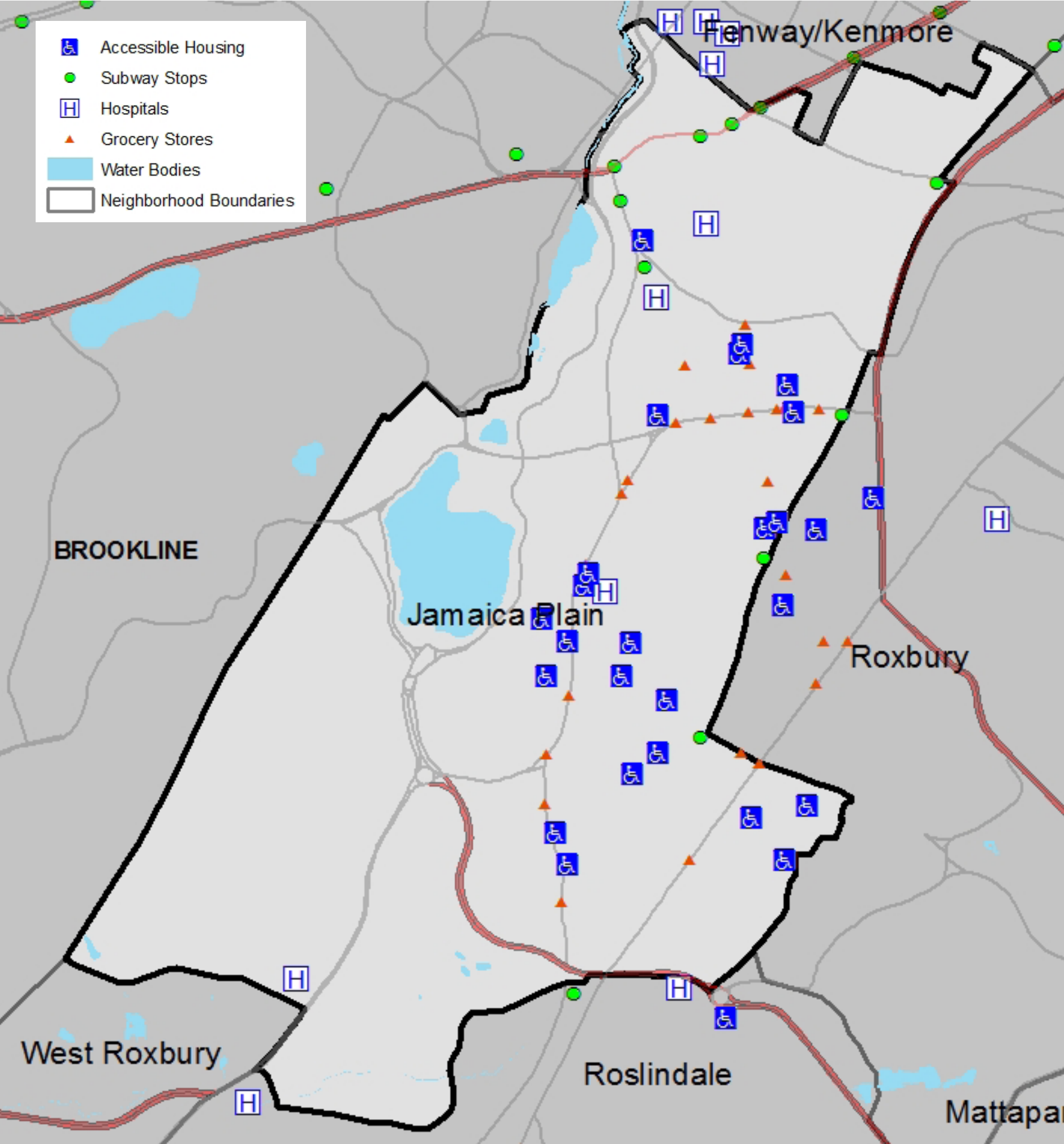
JP ACCESSIBLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATION



ACCESSIBLE HOUSING UNIT PROXIMITY TO PUBLIC HOUSING



JP ACCESSIBLE HOUSING UNIT PROXIMITY TO AMENITIES



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

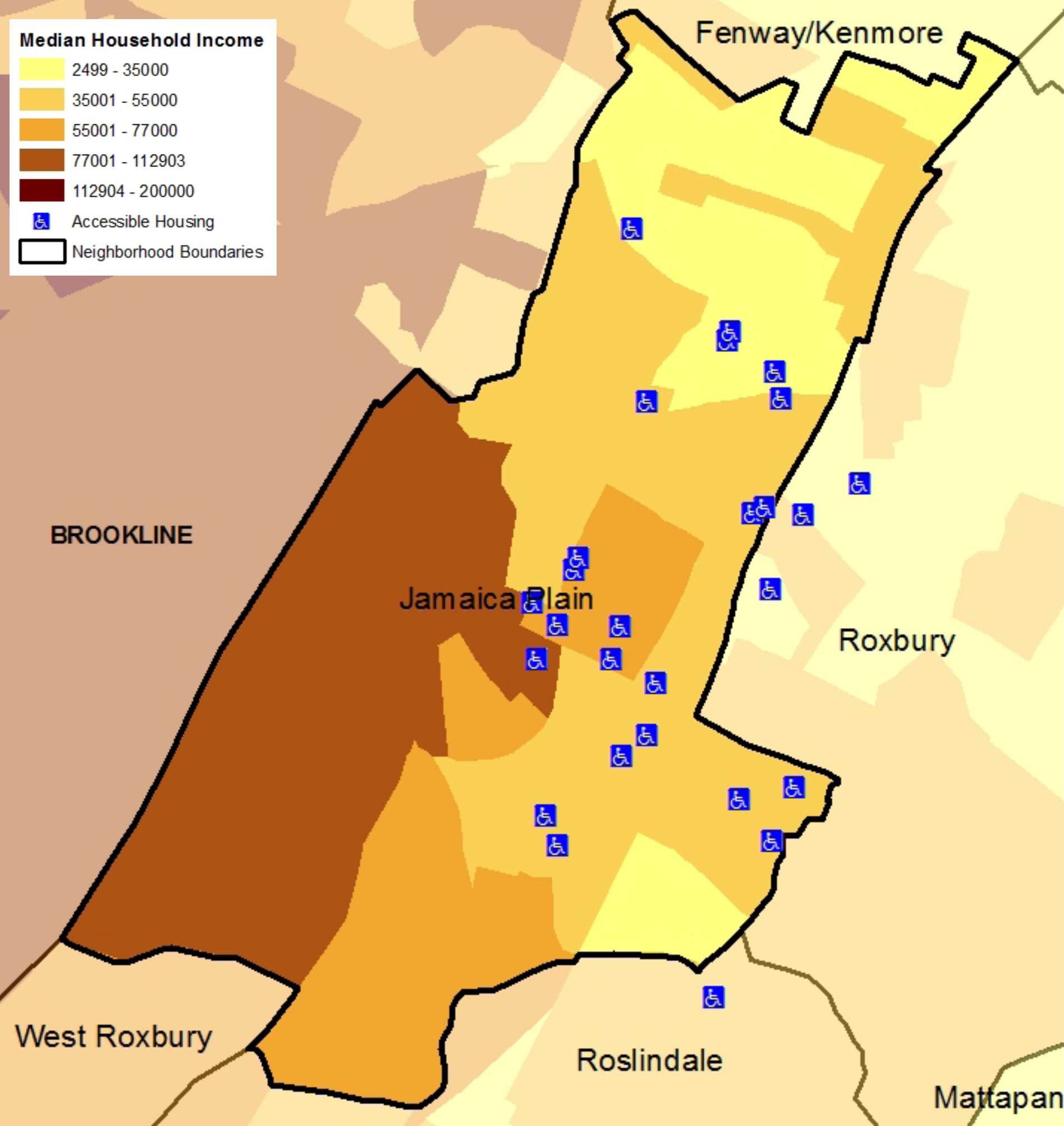
Programs such as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) have been used to increase affordable housing choices for low income people and people with disabilities by allowing them to rent apartments in the private market. It can be argued, however, that significant barriers still exist, especially in cases where an individual or family is in need of an apartment with accessibility features. In Massachusetts, landlords are required to register all accessible units with the MassAccess online housing registry. Using information from the MassAccess database, an exploratory study was completed to determine if the location of affordable, accessible housing units in the Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain could limit the housing choice of people with disabilities. The spatial questions addressed include: where are affordable and accessible housing units located; where are market rate accessible housing units located; what are the demographic characteristics of the neighborhoods where accessible units are located; are accessible housing units located in proximity to public housing developments or other low-income housing; and, are accessible housing units located near important services, including public transit, healthcare facilities, and grocery stores.

RESULTS SUMMARY:

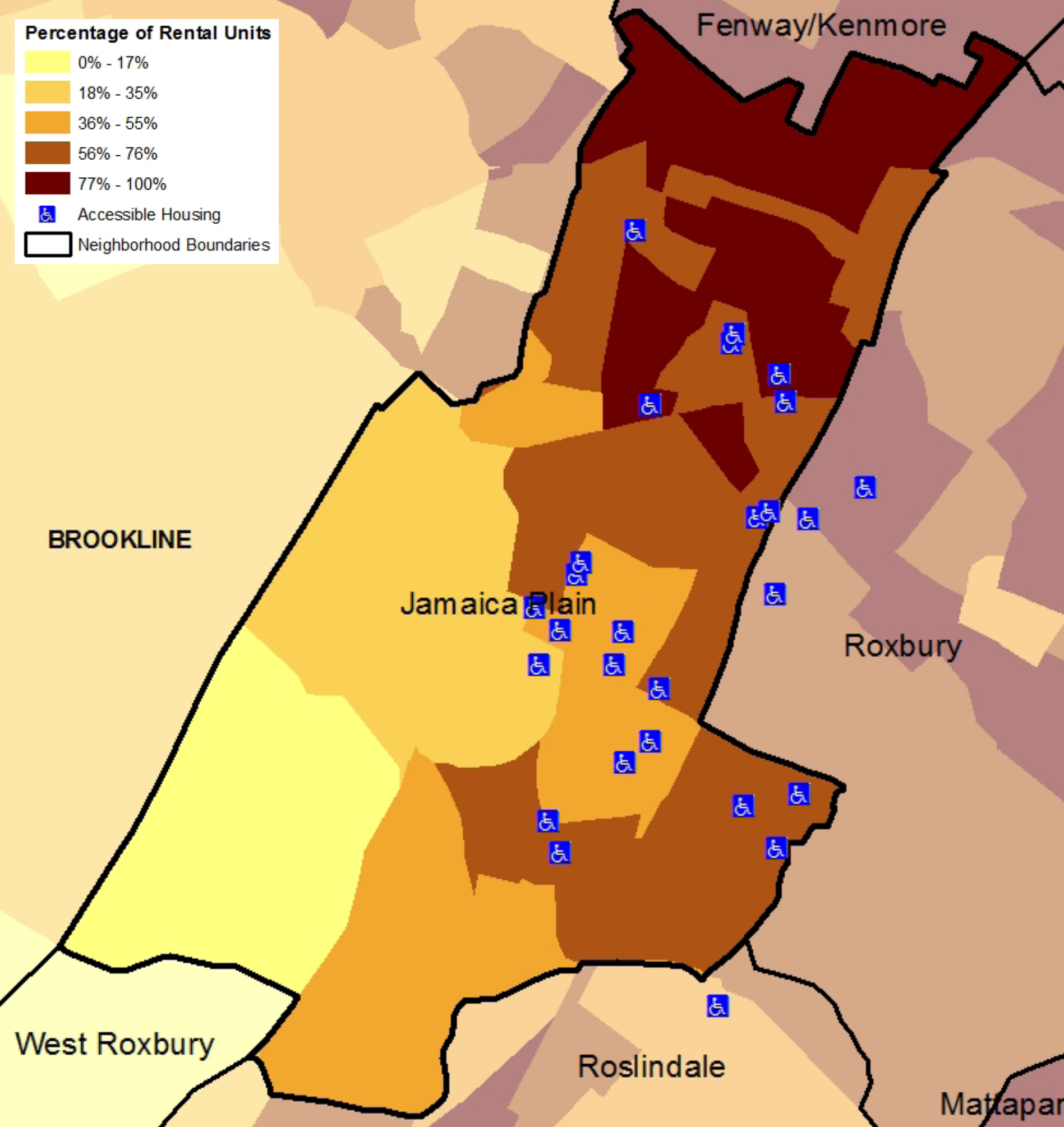
There are 307 accessible units available in Jamaica Plain. These units are located primarily in low to moderate income areas and areas with moderate to high rates of people below the poverty line. Additionally, there are very few market-rate units available to people with disabilities, and those that do exist can only be found within larger, mixed-income developments. There are also very few opportunities for people with disabilities to rent accessible apartments in block groups with the highest median income and the highest rates of owner occupied units.

Five of the sites with accessible units are actually Boston Housing Authority owned public housing developments. It was also found that nearly 60% of all sites with accessible units were located within 1/4 mile of these public housing developments. While many accessible housing units were located near amenities such as public transportation, grocery stores, or area hospitals, only one of the sites was located within 1/4 mile of all three amenities.

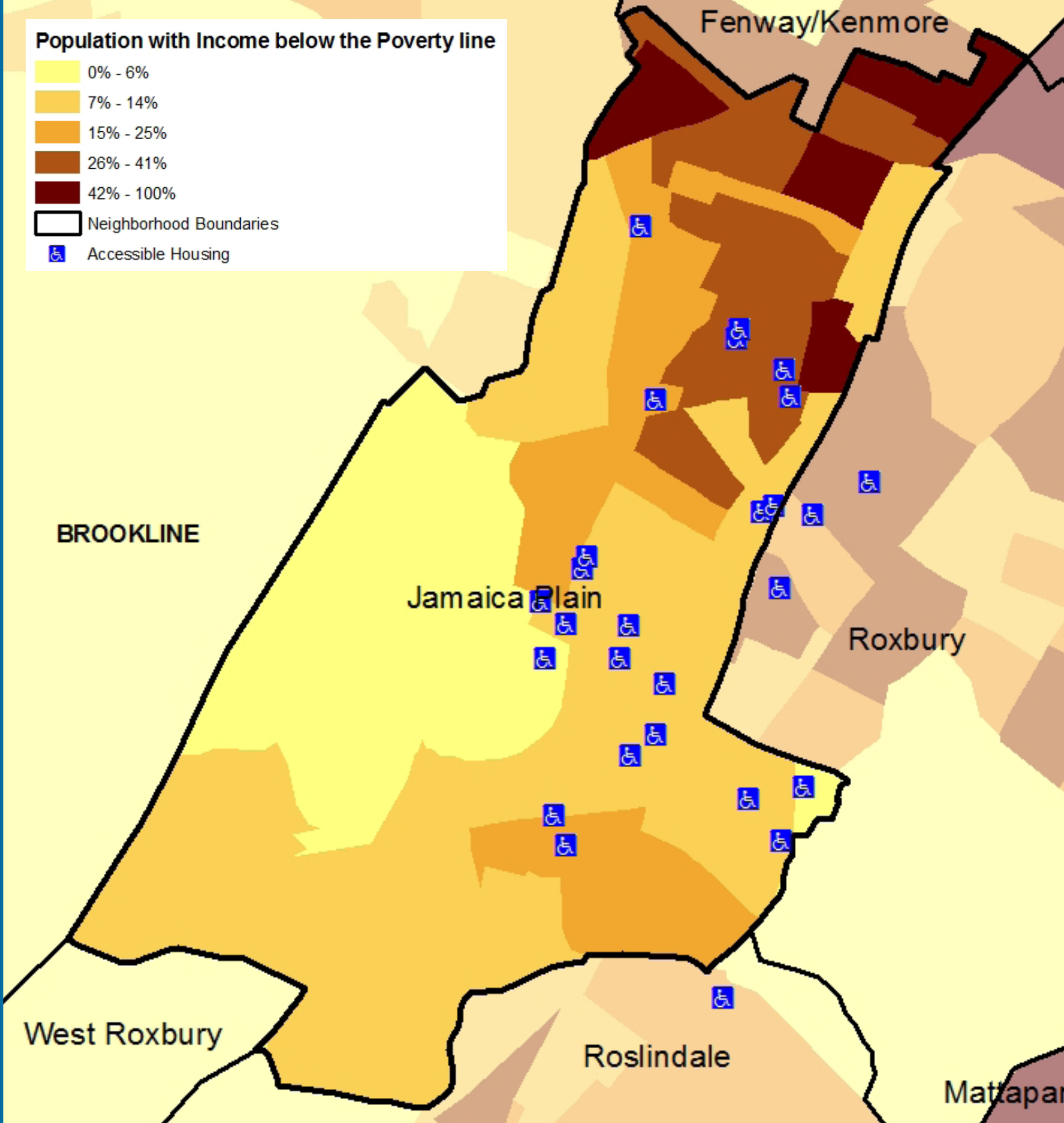
JP MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



JP RENTER OCCUPIED UNITS



JP POPULATION BELOW THE POVERTY LINE



JP QUICK FACTS:

Population:	38,074
Poverty Rate:	20.9%
Median Household Income:	\$41,524
Median Gross Rent:	\$808
Total Housing Units:	16,536
Total People with Disabilities:	13,983
Physical Disabilities (age 16-64)	1,623
Total Accessible Units:	307

*Data derived from 2000 Census data and the MassAccess registry of Accessible Housing.

Data Sources:
MassGIS 2005 Orthophotos
MassGIS Census 2000 Data
City of Boston and BRA Data
MassAccess Accessible Housing Registry (2008)

MAP SCALE - 1:24,000

