



## New Bedford, MA and surrounding area

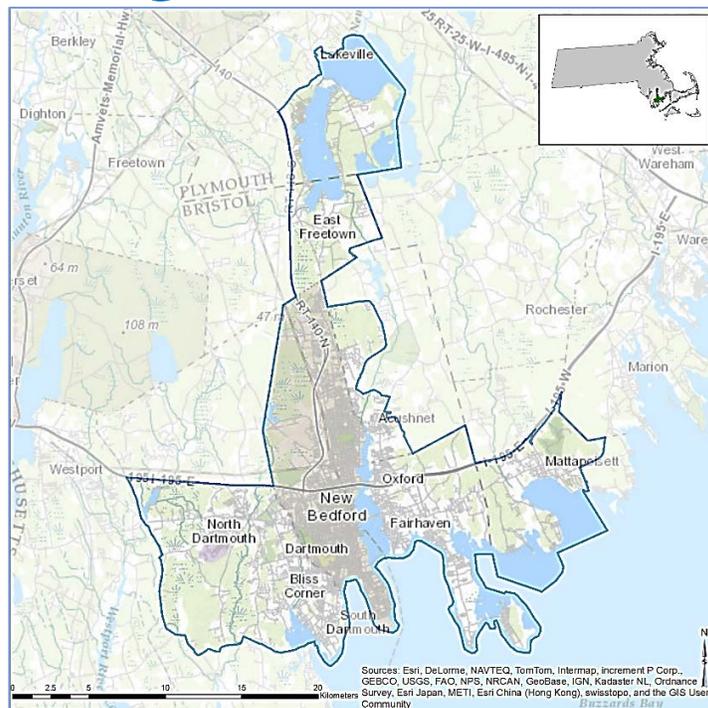
Towns and cities rely on clean air, clean water, green space, and other natural amenities for economic sustainability and quality of life, yet their benefits are not always fully understood or considered in local decisions. EPA and its partners are producing EnviroAtlas to help communities better use environmental assets for public good.

EnviroAtlas includes an online interactive mapping application that anyone can use. The interactive map contains over 200 maps available for the U.S., as well as 100+ fine-scale maps for selected U.S. communities about existing and potential benefits from the local natural environment. The EnviroAtlas community component is based on 1-meter resolution land cover data. Information derived from these data is summarized by census block groups; more spatially explicit map layers are also provided. This fact sheet highlights some of the many community data layers available for the featured area of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

### Background

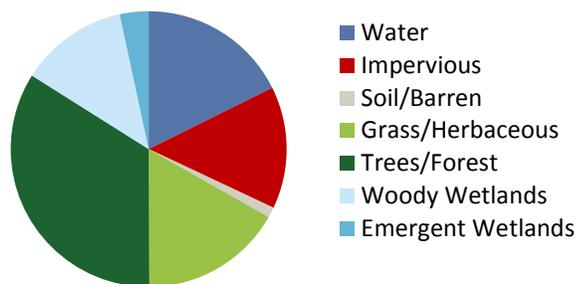
The New Bedford, Massachusetts area was chosen as an EnviroAtlas community because of a health research opportunity with an EPA grantee. It is also a priority area for EPA Region 1. The EnviroAtlas boundary for the New Bedford area was determined using the 2010 Census definition of an Urban Area. In 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, Massachusetts 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 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

Percent Land Cover in Community Area



New Bedford Area Demographics  
2010 Census

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%

distribution of “green infrastructure.”

## Ecosystem Services Overview

In EnviroAtlas, the benefits humans receive from nature are grouped into seven categories that demonstrate the interconnectedness of these ecosystem services:

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

Examples of some of the 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.

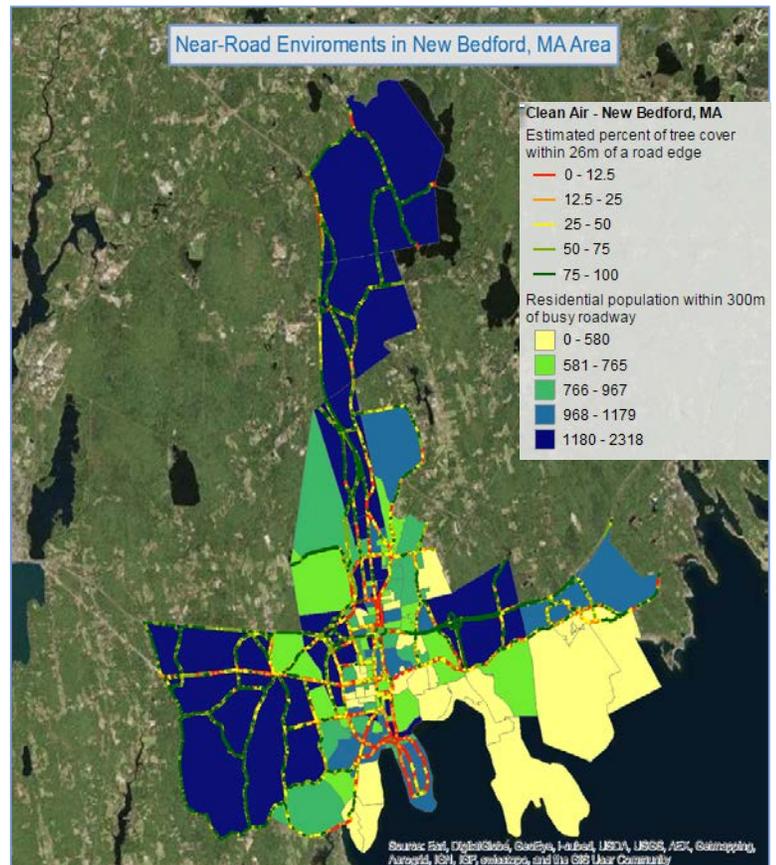
- An estimated 8 percent of the New Bedford area is located within easy walking distance (500 meters) of a park entrance.
- An estimated 14 percent of the New Bedford area does not have a park entrance within 5 kilometers.

### 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.

## EnviroAtlas Tools and Features

- Learn more about and download EnviroAtlas data: <https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-data>
- Search our data layers and access their fact sheets: <https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-dynamic-data-matrix>
- Explore data for the New Bedford community area in our interactive mapping application: <https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-interactive-map>
- Use our Eco-Health Relationship Browser to explore ecosystems, the services they provide, and their benefits to human health and well-being: <https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-eco-health-relationship-browser>
- Contact us with questions about EnviroAtlas: <https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/forms/contact-enviroatlas>



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 New Bedford 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).

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 [www.epa.gov/enviroatlas](http://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas).