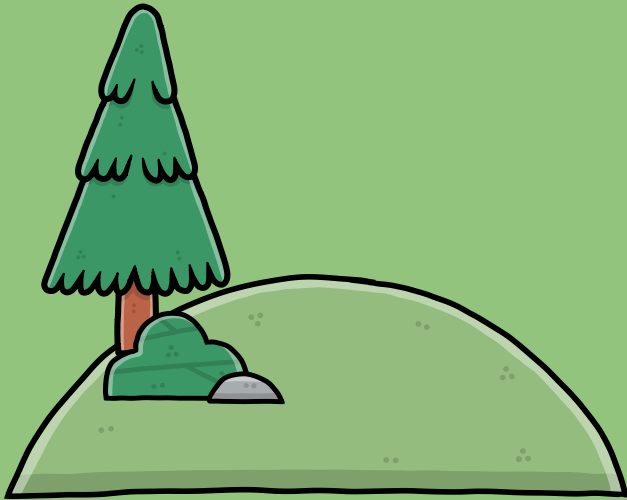


Urban Trees and Environmental Justice

What is an Urban Forest?

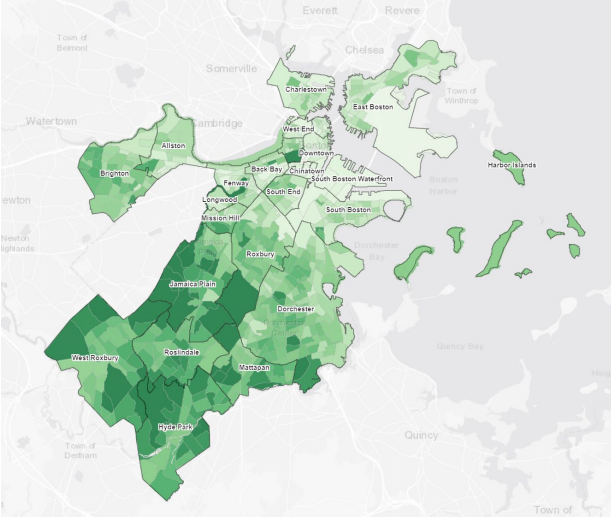


Urban Forest = A forest, or collection of trees, that grow in a city.

Includes:

- Parks
- Streets
- Private Property





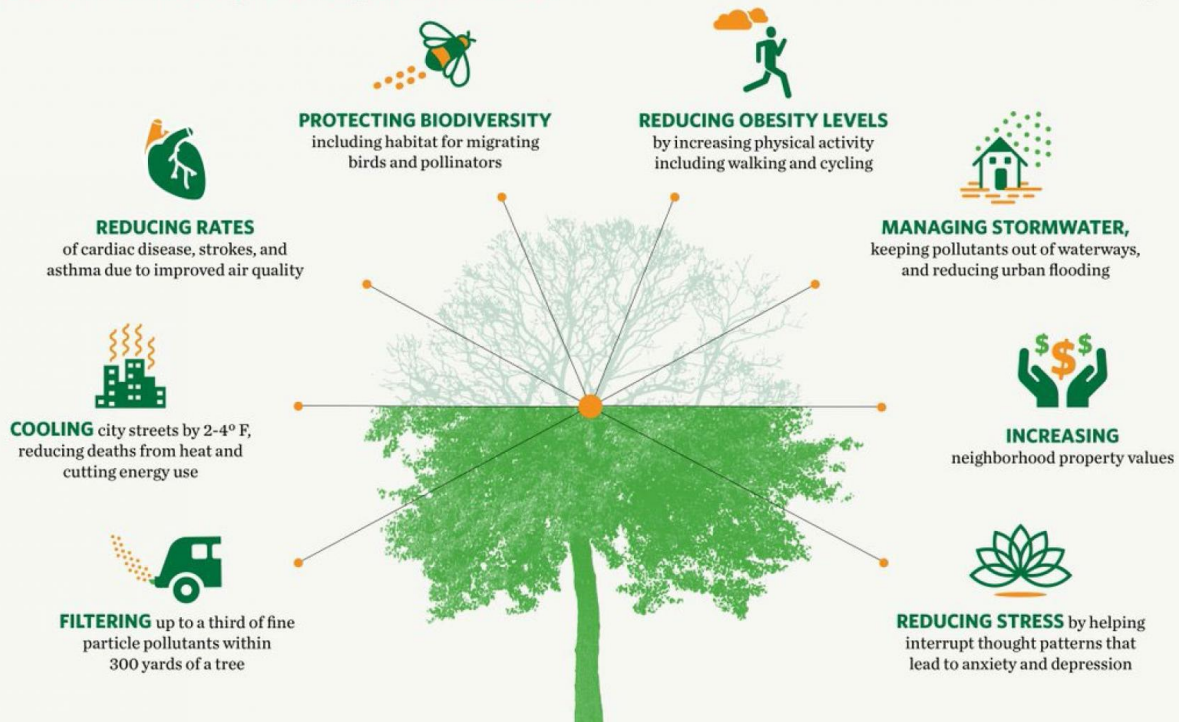
Tree Equity

“Enough trees in specific neighborhoods for everyone to experience the health, economic, and climate benefits trees provide.”

Why do we need trees in our cities?

Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...



REDUCING RATES
of cardiac disease, strokes, and
asthma due to improved air quality



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY
including habitat for migrating
birds and pollinators



REDUCING OBESITY LEVELS
by increasing physical activity
including walking and cycling



MANAGING STORMWATER,
keeping pollutants out of waterways,
and reducing urban flooding



INCREASING
neighborhood property values



REDUCING STRESS by helping
interrupt thought patterns that
lead to anxiety and depression

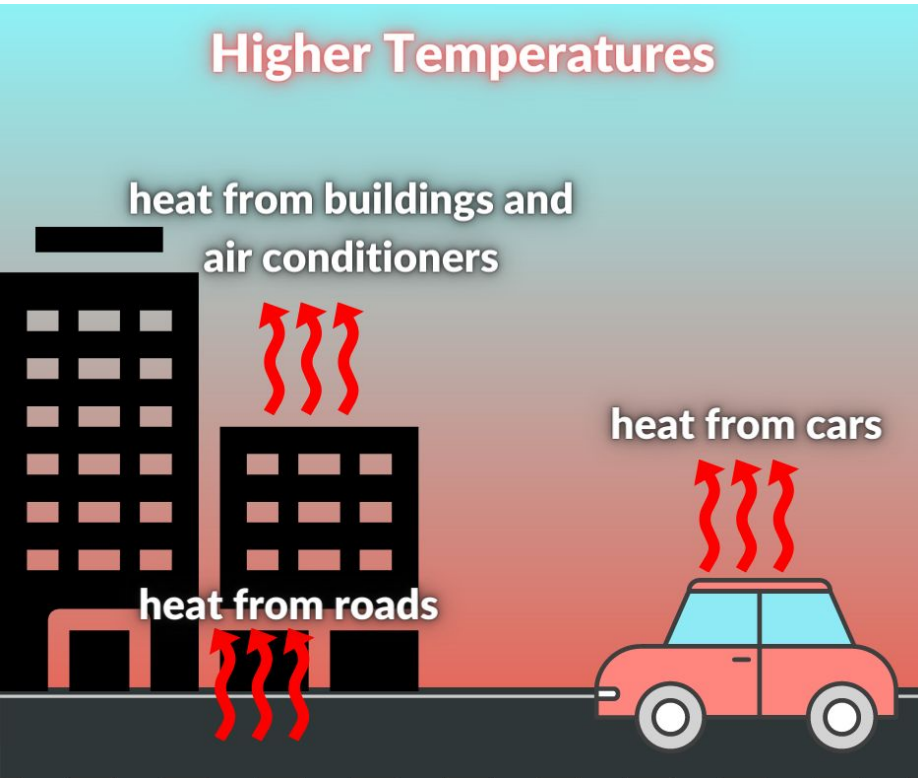


COOLING city streets by 2-4° F,
reducing deaths from heat and
cutting energy use



FILTERING up to a third of fine
particle pollutants within
300 yards of a tree

Urban Heat Island Effect



Urban heat island effect happens because...

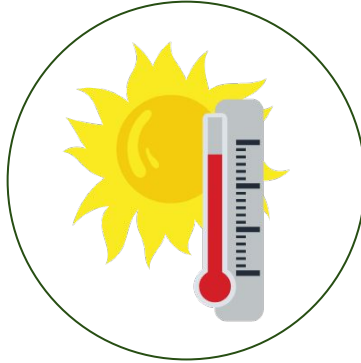
- Cities use a lot of **impervious surfaces**
- Cities release greenhouse gases and other air pollutants that make it hotter

The cities will have higher temperatures than nearby areas that are more rural.

Trees help prevent heat-related health issues!



Reduced ambulance
calls during extreme
heat events



Reduced risk of heat
stroke

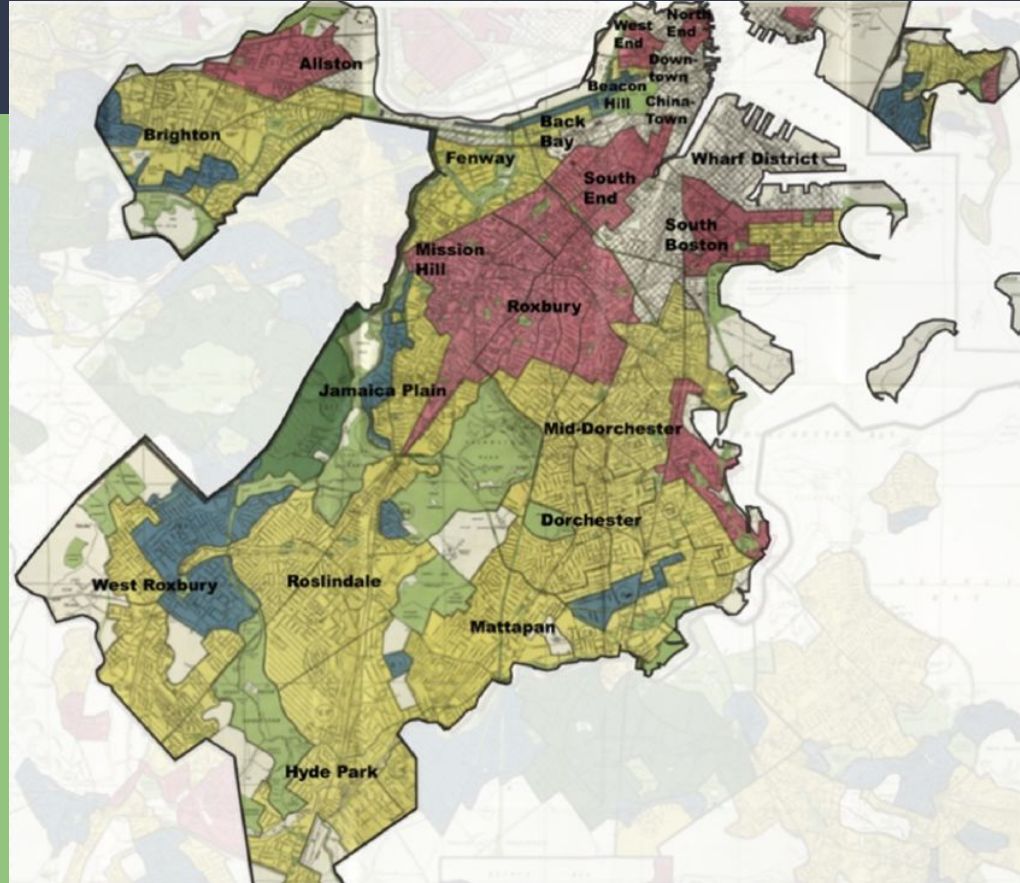


Projected to reduce
heat-related mortality in
future heat events

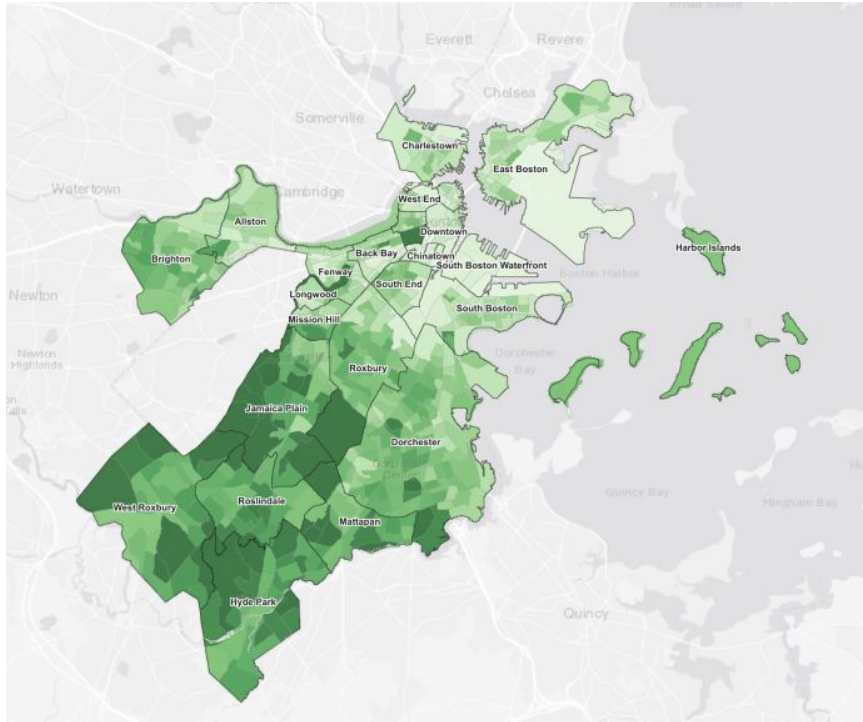
Environmental Justice: What is Redlining?

- Redlining = A discriminatory policy that withholds resources and funding from neighborhoods considered “hazardous” to investment. Designed to harm racial and ethnic minorities and low-income residents.
- One of the negative outcomes in redlined neighborhoods is having significantly fewer trees and green spaces.

Environmental Justice: What is Redlining?



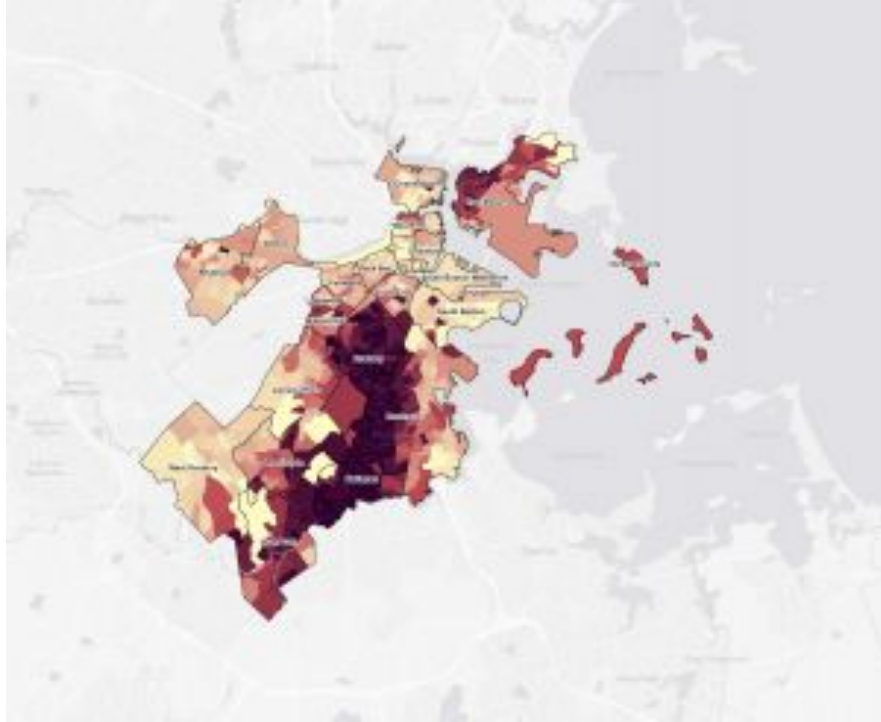
Who has access to these tree benefits?



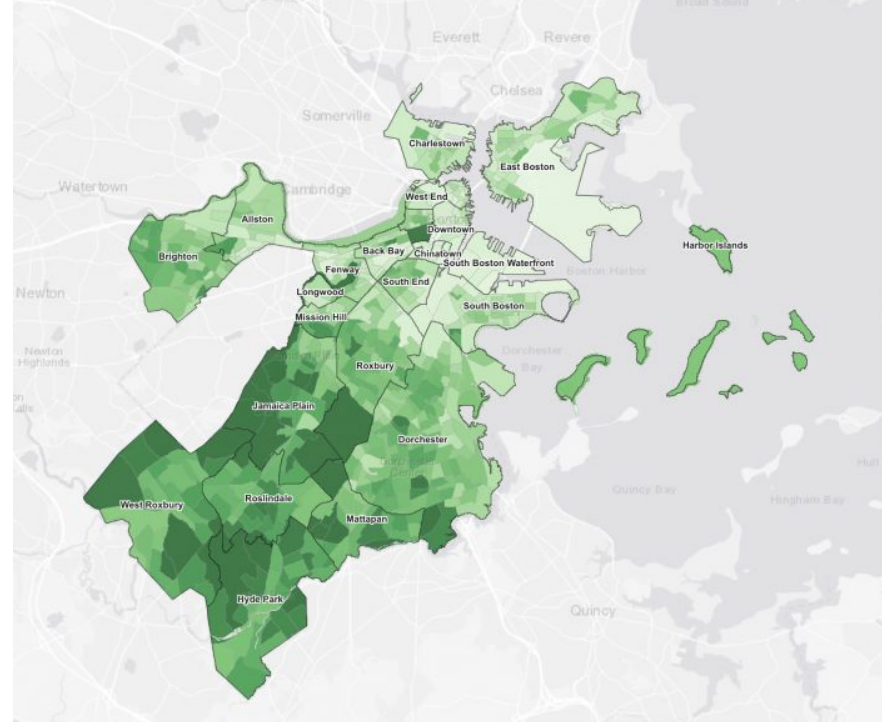
Darker green = More trees, Lighter green = Less trees

- Trees give us all these amazing benefits, but everyone doesn't experience them equally.
- Not all neighborhoods, even in the same city, have the same number of trees.

Who has access to these tree benefits?

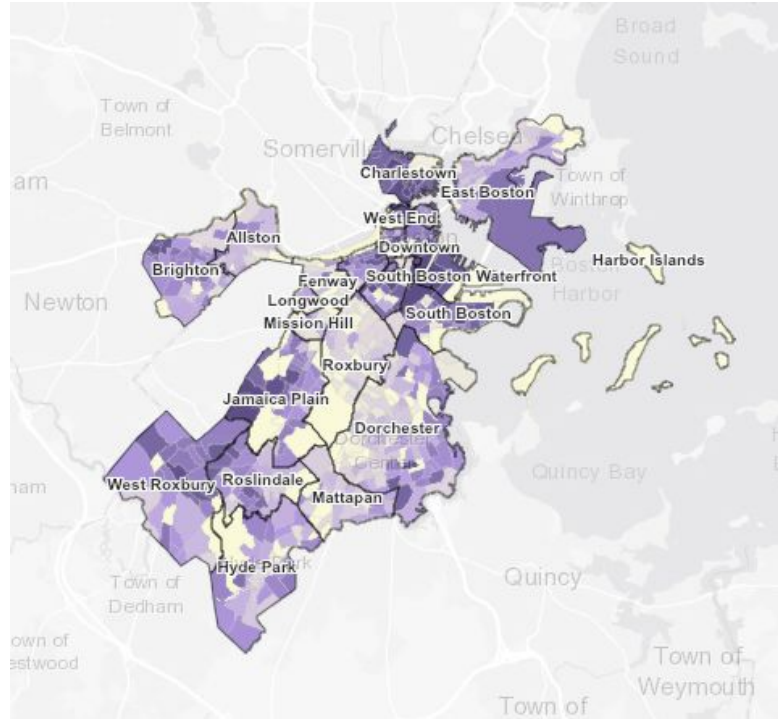


Dark Red = Higher minority population, Lighter = Lower Population

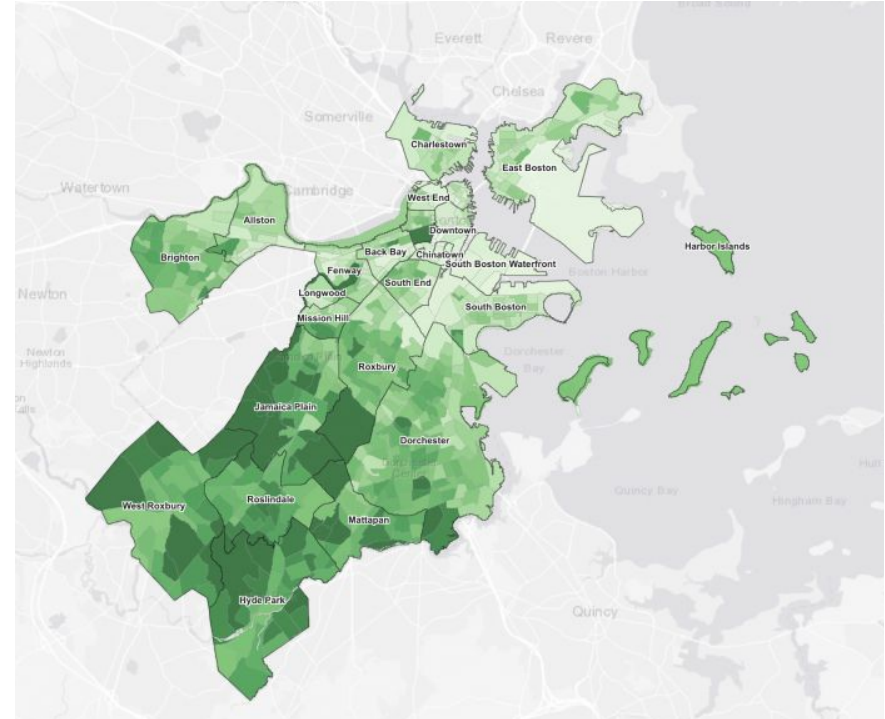


Darker green = More trees, Lighter green = Less trees

Who has access to these tree benefits?

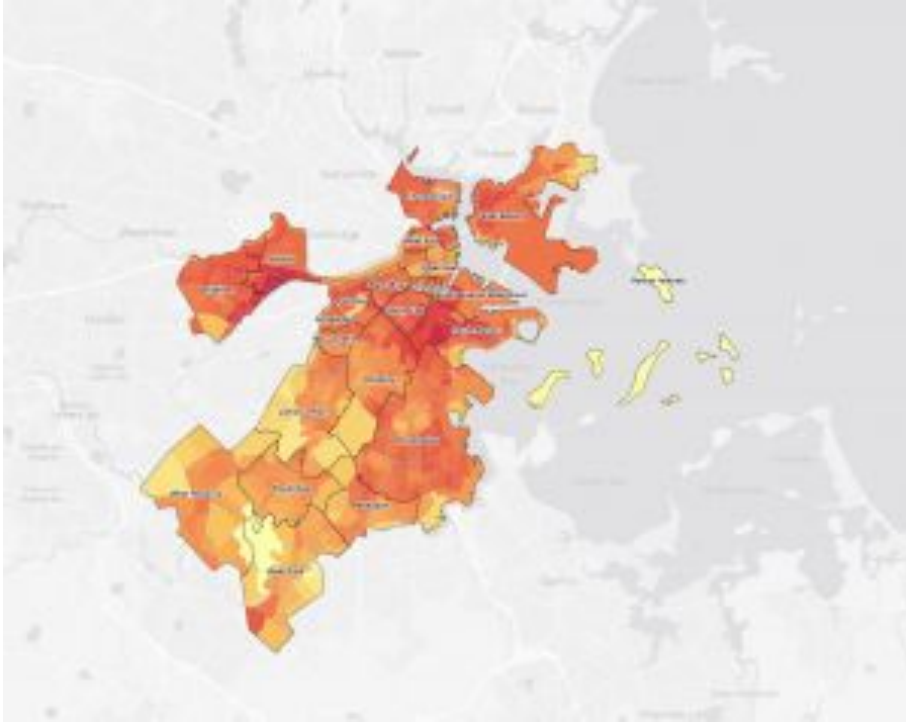


Darker Purple = Higher income, Lighter = Lower Income

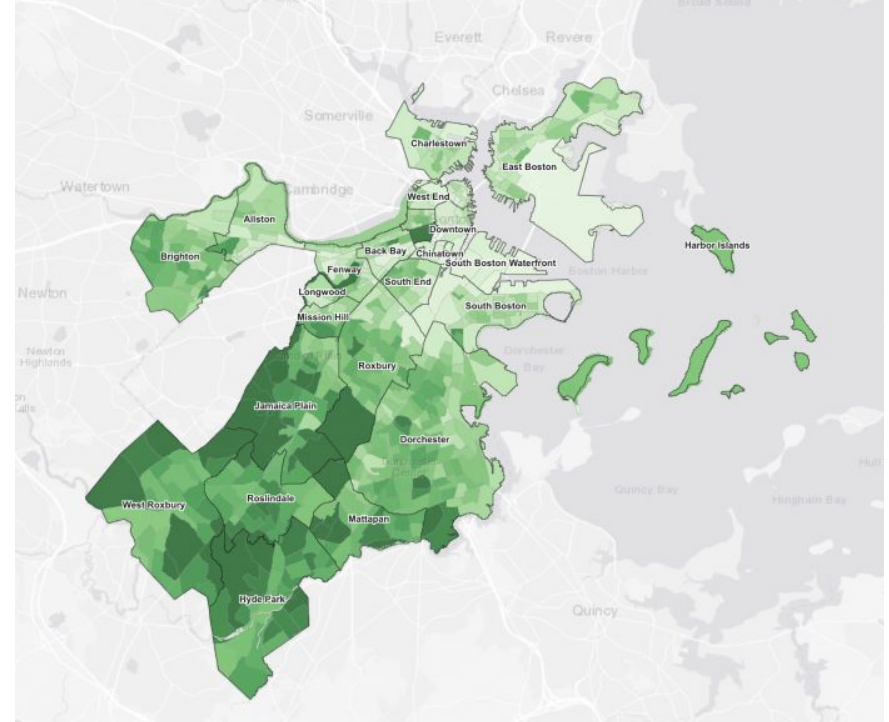


Darker green = More trees, Lighter green = Less trees

Who has access to these tree benefits?



Dark Red = Higher Surface Temperatures, Lighter = Lower Temperatures



Darker green = More trees, Lighter green = Less trees

Activity Time!

Take some time to sketch out the trees and green spaces in your neighborhood! Make sure to highlight:

- Areas with good tree coverage
- Areas without good coverage
- Where trees could be placed
- Use our [Tree Equity Maps](#), too, for more info on you neighborhood's canopy



Share Your Neighborhood!