

### PARKS PROJECT PT.2

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 CHARACTERIZING PARK USAGE
  Billings, Christopher, Noyes, Roberts
- CHARACTERIZING PARK USERS
  Billings, Christopher, Noyes, Roberts
- 4 CHARACTERIZING PARK CONTEXT
- 5 CONCLUSION

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### Introduction

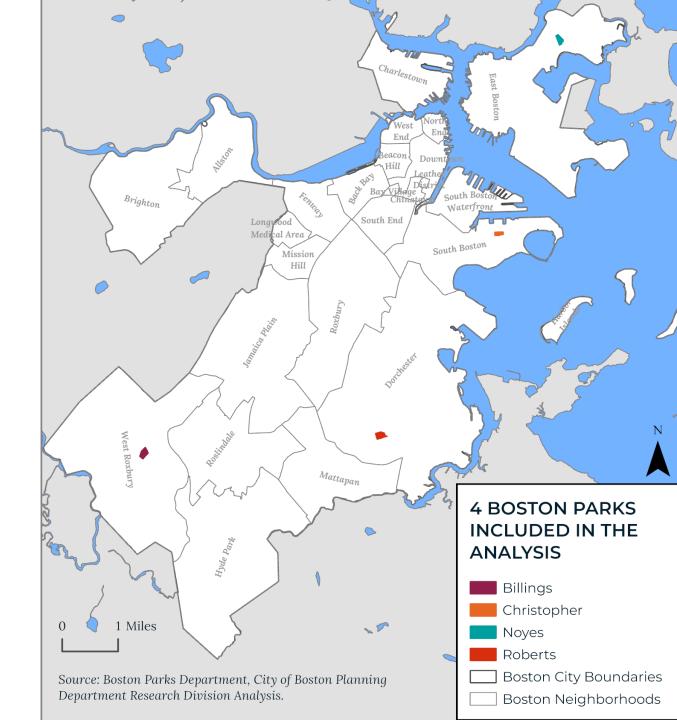
Research Question

## How can we characterize park use?

- How many people visit the park?
- How has park use changed over time?
- How do patterns of park use vary between parks?
- Who uses the park?
- What contextual factors might relate to park use?

Research Project Scope

In Billings, Christopher Lee, Noyes, and Roberts parks?



## Park #1: Billings Field

### Where is it?



- Billings is a family friendly neighborhood park located in West Roxbury.
- Billings is a 10.8 acre park with the following assets:
  - · Athletic fields,
  - Basketball courts,
  - Playground,
  - Tennis courts,
  - Spray play.

## Park #2: Christopher Lee Playground

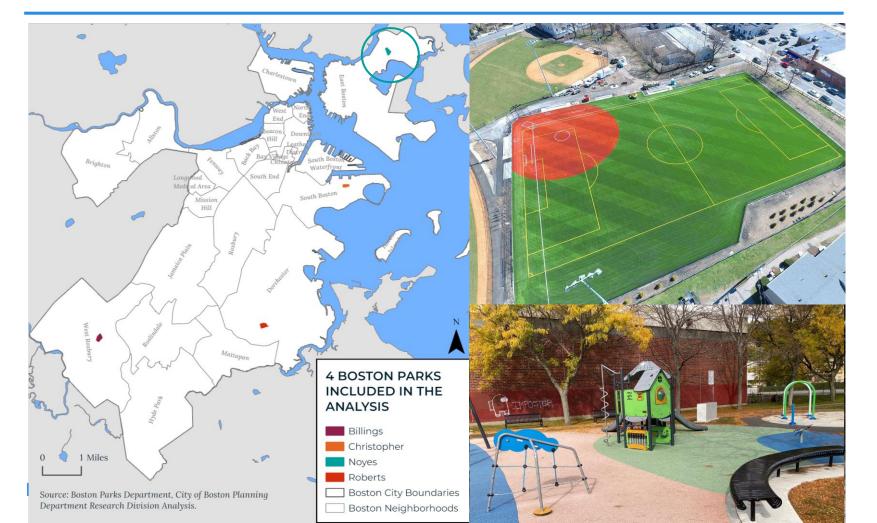
### Where is it?



- Christopher Lee is a pet and family friendly neighborhood park located in South Boston.
- Christopher is a 5.4 acre park with the following assets:
  - · Athletic fields,
  - Basketball court,
  - Playground.

## Park #3: Noyes Playground

### Where is it?



- Noyes is a family friendly neighborhood park located in East Boston.
- Noyes is a 8.3 acre park with the following assets:
  - · Athletic fields,
  - Basketball courts,
  - Playground,
  - Spray play.

## Park #4: Roberts Playground

### Where is it?



- Roberts is a family friendly neighborhood park located in Dorchester.
- Roberts is a 10.2 acre park with the following assets:
  - · Athletic fields,
  - Basketball courts,
  - Playground,
  - Spray play.

### **ABOUT THE DATA**

#### Streetlight

• Used their estimated pedestrian traffic data: modeled data estimate of the average pedestrian traffic in the zone for a typical day/time combination in the time series.

#### Metric: Streetlight Pedestrian Volume

- = the number of pedestrian trips that interact with your zone of analysis.
- Pedestrian trips identified in location data sources (including cellphone mobility data) and differentiated from trips using other modes.
- Streetlight calculates the Pedestrian Volume estimate by:
  - Computing a population factor for each trip and using these factors to weight the pedestrian trip sample by local population.
  - Using the vehicle penetration rate near the target zone to estimate the pedestrian penetration rate.
  - Reducing the Pedestrian Volume estimate by a constant factor to index more closely to permanent pedestrian counters.
- **Demographics** of park users are **estimated** based on their **inferred** home block group locations.
  - Based on the census block groups the inferred home locations are in and how many people come from those block groups, an estimation is made of the demographic breakdown of the park users along various demographic axes: race, income, age, etc., using Census data.

#### **U.S. Census Bureau**

• Used the U.S. Census Bureau API to access demographic data for the relevant block groups (identified via Streetlight for park users and via BPRD-provided walkshed service area shapefile for walkshed comparison) from the 5-year American Community Survey 2017-2021 to reflect the most recent available year of Streetlight data (2021).

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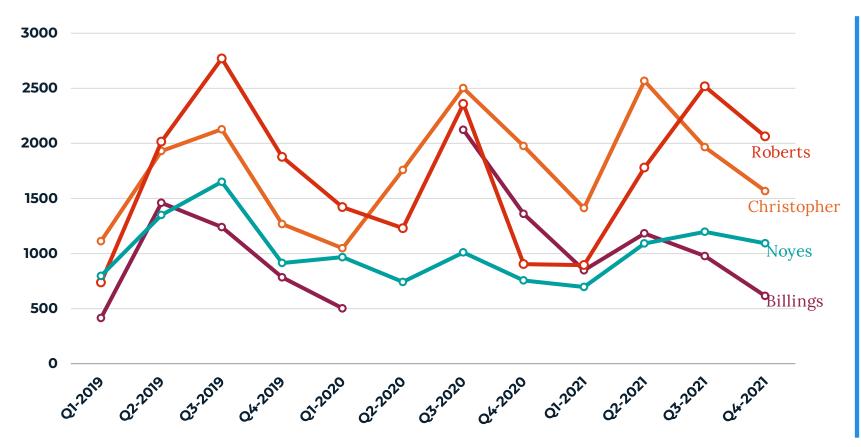
Billings, Christopher, Noyes, Roberts

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# Park Visitorship 2019 -2021 for Roberts, Christopher, Noyes, and Billings Parks

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment, 2019 - 2021

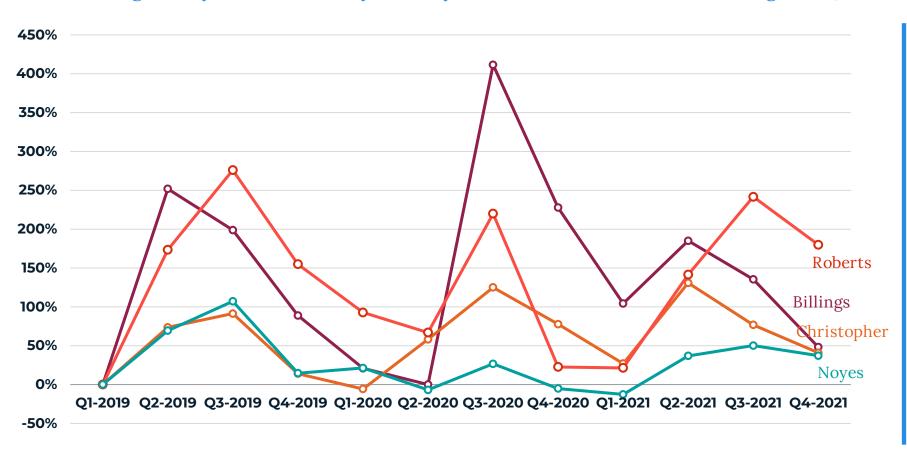


- Christopher Lee
   and Roberts parks
   appear to have the
   highest average
   daily pedestrian
   traffic.
- While all four parks have similar popular (~Q3) and unpopular (~Q1) periods, their usage patterns differ over time.

Note: Billings had missing data for Q2 2020

# Park Visitorship 2019 -2021 for Roberts, Christopher, Noyes, and Billings Parks

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment as a Percentage of Q1 2019, 2019 - 2021



- All 4 parks
   experienced
   increases in
   visitorship relative
   to 2019 in: Q2-Q3
   2019, Q3 2020, Q2
   2021.
- For Billings and Roberts, visitorship never fell below Q1 2019 levels.

Note: Billings had missing data for Q2 2020

## On an average day in 2019 - 2021, Billings saw between ~415-2123 daily visitors

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment, 2019 - 2021



Source: Streetlight Insight. City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis. Note: missing data for Q2 2020.

- Billings saw the highest pedestrian traffic at ~2123 daily park visitors on an average day in July -Sept 2020.
  - The second highest peak was April -June 2019, at ~1460 daily park visitors on an average day.
- The lowest pedestrian traffic was seen in January-March 2019, with an average daily park visitation of ~415.
  - Park visitation was likely lower in Q2-2020, as the sample size was too small to give a modeled value.

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## Park Visitorship 2019 -2021 for Billings

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment as a Percentage of Q1 2019, 2019 - 2021

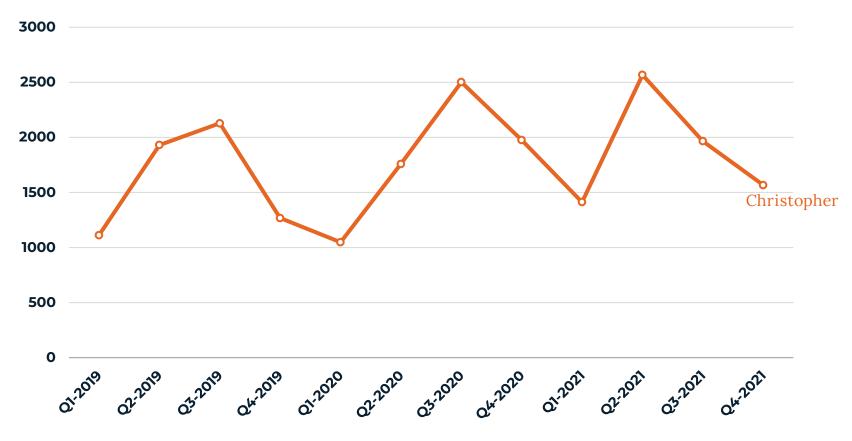


- Billings saw a sharp increase in visitorship relative to Q1 2019 in Q3 2020.
- Visitorship for Billings never dipped below Q1 2019 levels.
- Visitorship remained 20%+ higher than Q1 2019 levels.

Note: missing data for Q2 2020

## On an average day in 2019 - 2021, Christopher Lee saw between ~1050-2500 daily visitors

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment, 2019 - 2021



- Christopher Lee saw the highest pedestrian traffic at ~2567 daily park visitors on an average day in April-June 2021.
  - The second highest peak was July-September 2020, at ~2502 daily park visitors on an average day.
- The lowest pedestrian traffic was seen in January-March 2020, with an average daily park visitation of ~1048.

## Park Visitorship 2019 -2021 for Christopher Lee

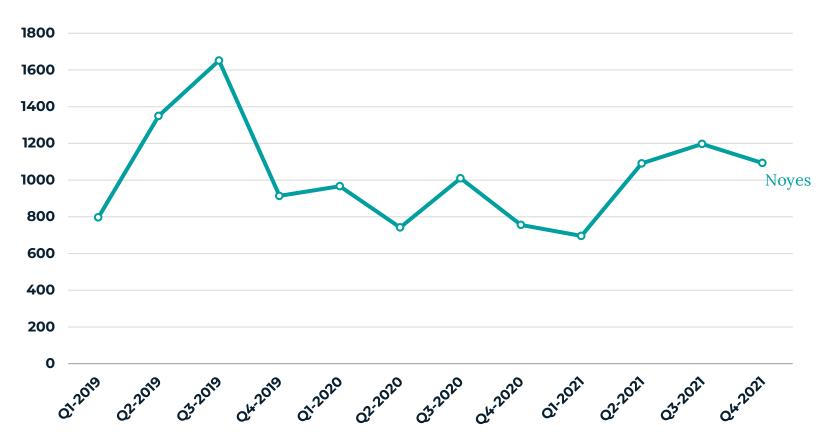
Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment as a Percentage of Q1 2019, 2019 - 2021



- Christopher Lee park saw the sharpest increases in visitorship relative to Q1 2019 in Q3 2019, Q3 2020, and Q2 2021.
- Visitorship dipped below Q1 2019 levels in Q1 2020, otherwise visitorship remained 14%+ higher than Q1 2019 levels.

# On an average day in 2019 - 2021, Noyes saw between ~696-1651 daily visitors

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment, 2019 - 2021



- Noyes saw the highest pedestrian traffic at ~1651 daily park visitors on an average day in July -Sept 2019.
  - The second highest peak was July -Sept 2021, at ~1197 daily park visitors on an average day.
- The lowest pedestrian traffic was seen Jan - Mar 2021, with an average daily park visitation of ~696.

## Park Visitorship 2019 -2021 for Noyes

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment as a Percentage of Q1 2019, 2019 - 2021



- Noyes park saw the sharpest increases in visitorship relative to Q1 2019 in Q3 2019.
- Visitorship dipped below Q1 2019 levels in Q2 and Q4 2020 and Q1 2021, otherwise visitorship remained 15%+ higher than Q1 2019 levels.

## On an average day in 2019 - 2021, Roberts saw between ~730-2770 daily visitors

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment, 2019 - 2021



- Roberts saw the highest pedestrian traffic at ~2771 daily park visitors on an average day in July -Sept 2019.
  - The second highest peak was July-Sept 2021, at ~2518 daily park visitors on an average day.
- The lowest pedestrian traffic was seen in January-March 2019, with an average daily park visitation of ~737.

## Park Visitorship 2019 -2021 for Roberts

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment as a Percentage of Q1 2019, 2019 - 2021



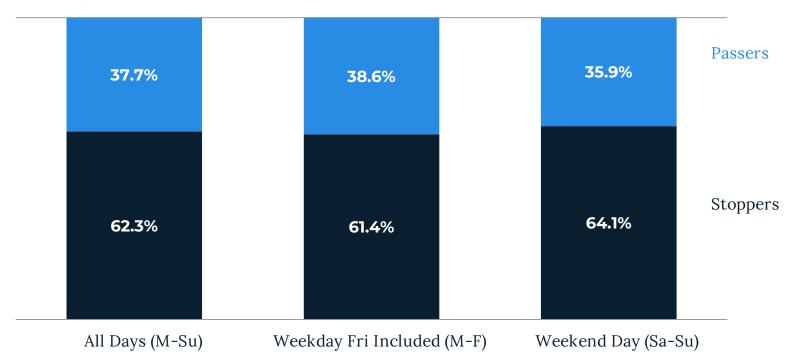
- Roberts park saw the sharpest increases in visitorship relative to Q1 2019 in Q3 2019, Q3 2020, and Q3 2021.
- Visitorship never dipped below Q1 2019.
- Visitorship remained 21%+ higher than Q1 2019 levels.

## Most Billings Field Users are Stoppers

How do people use the park?

### PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS

Billings Field, 2021 by Day Type



- Overall, Billings is mostly used as a stopping park.
- On a typical Mon-Sun day, **1 in 3 park users stop** in Billings park.
- On weekends, the proportion of stoppers is slightly higher than on weekdays.

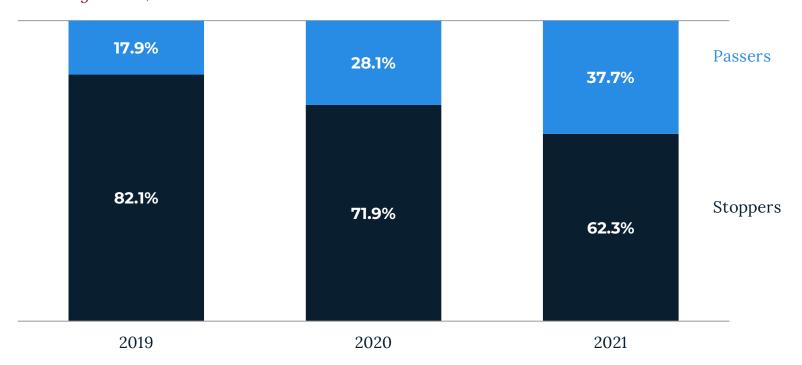
Source: Streetlight Insight, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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## Proportion of stoppers decreased over time

How do people use the park?

### PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS ON MON-SUN DAY Billings Field, 2019 - 2021



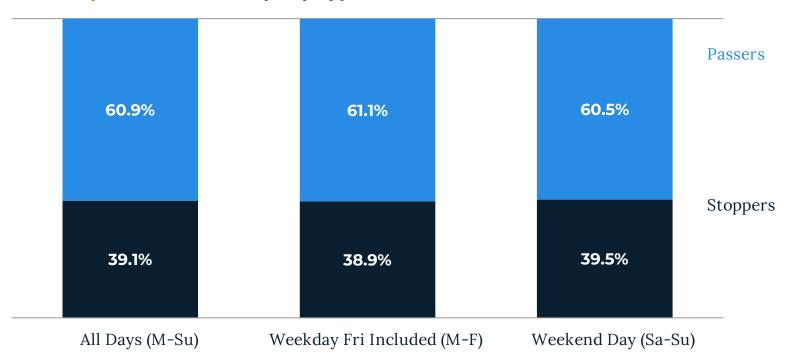
- For all 3 years, the proportion of stoppers is larger than proportion of passers.
- 2021 saw the lowest proportion of stoppers.
- 2019 saw the highest proportion of stoppers.

### Most Christopher Lee Park Users are Passers

How do people use the park?

#### PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS

Christopher Lee Park 2021 by Day Type

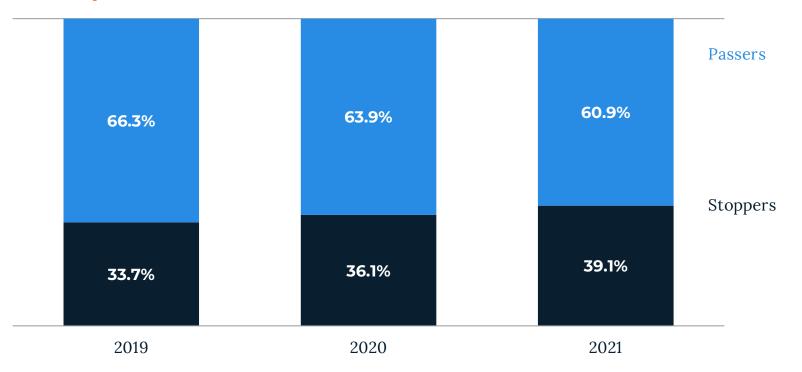


- Overall, Christopher Lee is mostly used as a pass-through park.
- On a typical Mon-Sun day, 6 in 10 park users pass through Christopher Lee park.
- On weekends, the proportion of stoppers is slightly higher than on weekdays.

## **Proportion of stoppers increased 2019-21**

How do people use the park?

### PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS ON MON-SUN DAY Christopher Lee Park, 2019 - 2021



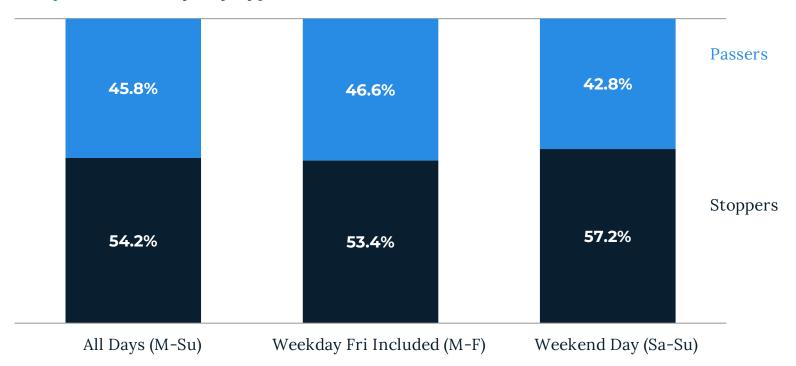
- For all 3 years, the proportion of passers is larger than the proportion of stoppers.
- 2021 saw the highest proportion of stoppers.
- 2019 saw the lowest proportion of stoppers.

## Noyes Playground Users are Slightly More Likely to be Stoppers

How do people use the park?

#### **PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS**

Noyes Park 2021 by Day Type



- Overall, Noyes is used as a stopping park.
- On a typical Mon-Sun day, about half of park users stop in Noyes park.
- On weekends, the proportion of stoppers is slightly higher than on weekdays.

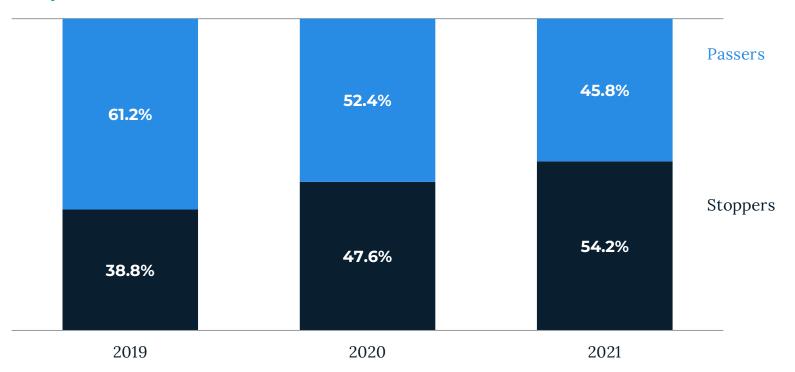
Source: Streetlight Insight, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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## **Proportion of stoppers increased 2019-21**

How do people use the park?

#### PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS ON MON-SUN DAY Noves Park, 2019 - 2021



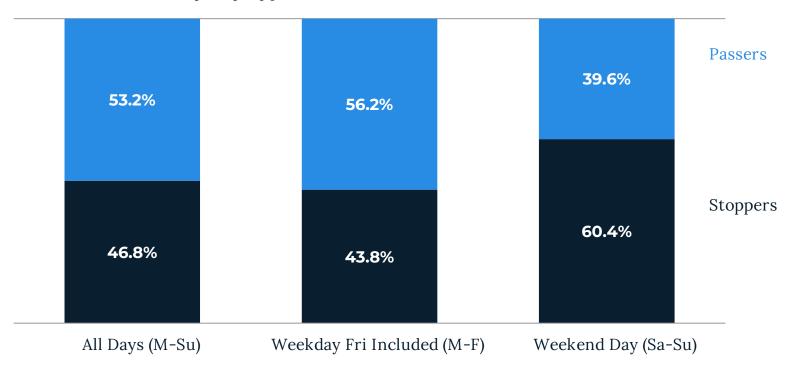
- While in 2019 and 2020 more Noyes park users passed through than stopped, in 2021 more stopped.
- 2021 saw the largest proportion of stoppers.
- 2019 saw the largest proportion of passers.

# Roberts park users use the park differently depending on the day type

How do people use the park?

#### **PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS**

Roberts Park 2021 by Day Type



- On a typical Mon-Sun day, about half of park users stop in Noyes park.
- On weekends, the proportion of stoppers is significantly higher than on weekdays.

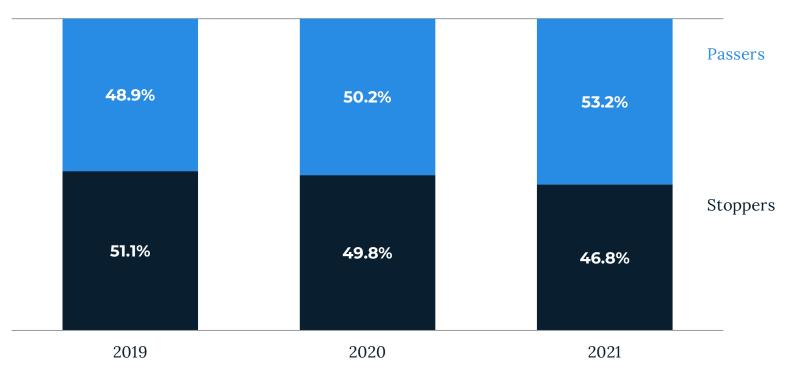
Source: Streetlight Insight, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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## Proportion of passers increased 2019-21

How do people use the park?

### PROPORTION OF STOPPERS VS PASSERS ON MON-SUN DAY Roberts Park, 2019 - 2021



- While in 2019 more Roberts park users stopped in the park, in 2020 and 2021 more passedthrough.
- 2021 saw the largest proportion of passers.
- 2019 saw the largest proportion of stoppers.

# Park usage patterns of passers vs stoppers differ between the 4 parks

Summarizing Patterns in Park Use, 2019 - 2021

3	<b>,</b>			
	BILLINGS West Roxbury	CHRISTOPHER South Boston	NOYES East Boston	ROBERTS  Dorchester
<b>%</b> Passers 2021	37.7%	60.9%	45.8%	53.2%
% Passers 2019-21	increased	decreased	decreased	increased
Avg Traffic 2019-21	decreased	increased	decreased	decreased
Most Popular	July - Sept	July - Sept	July - Sept	July - Sept
<b>Least Popular</b>	Jan - Mar	Jan - Mar	Jan - Mar	Jan - Mar

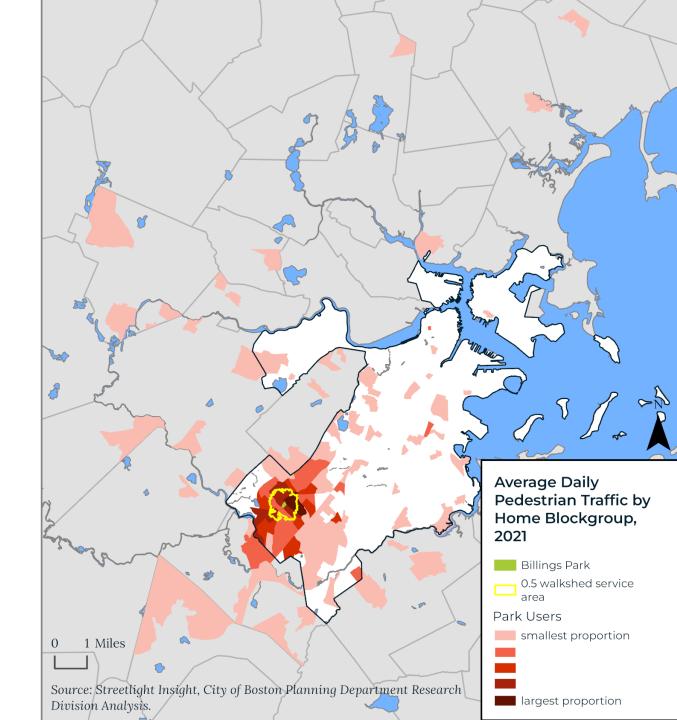
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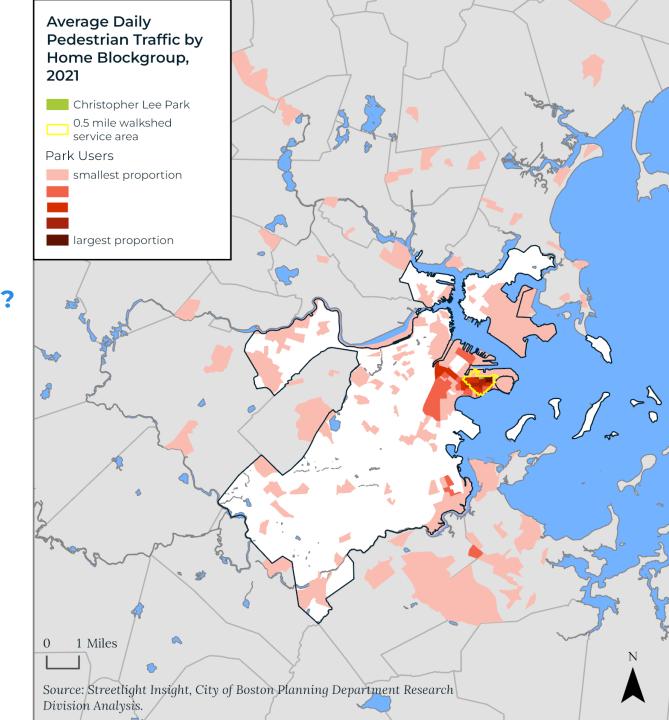
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Where do Billings Field users live?

57% of Billings Field users\* live within the users\* live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area

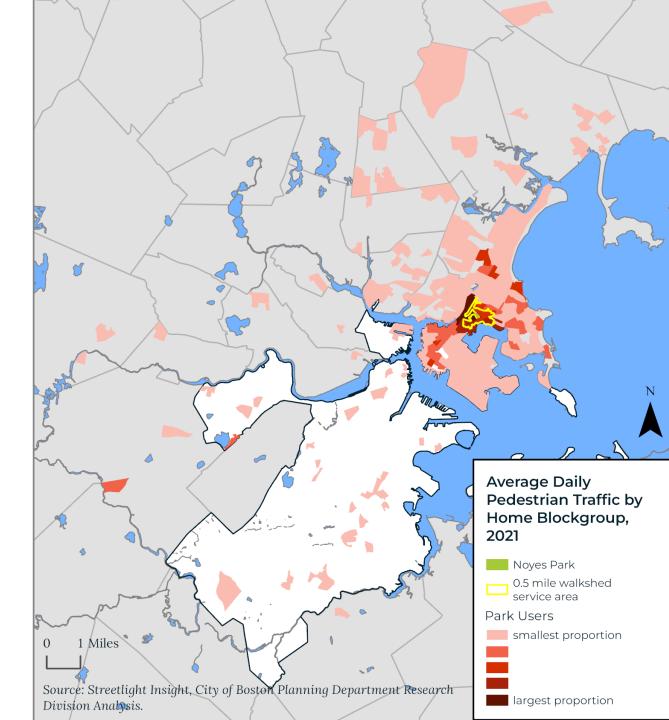


Where do Christopher Park users live?
60% of Christopher Lee
Park users\* live within
the 0.5 mile walkshed
service area



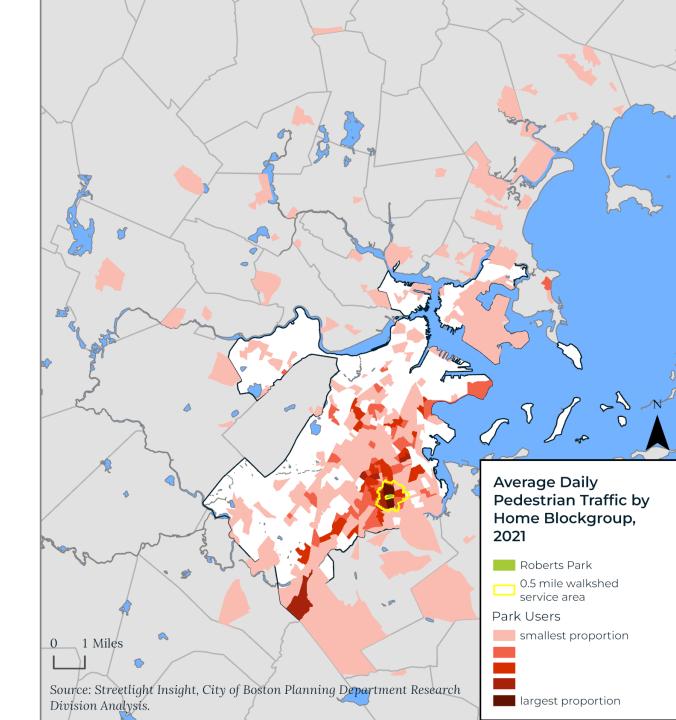
Where do Noyes Park users live?

34% of Noyes Park
users\* live within the
0.5 mile walkshed
service area



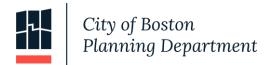
Where do Roberts Park users live?

31% of Roberts Park users\* live within the users\* live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area



## COMPARING DEMOGRAPHICS

Walkshed Residents vs Inferred Park User Home Locations



## **BILLINGS FIELD**

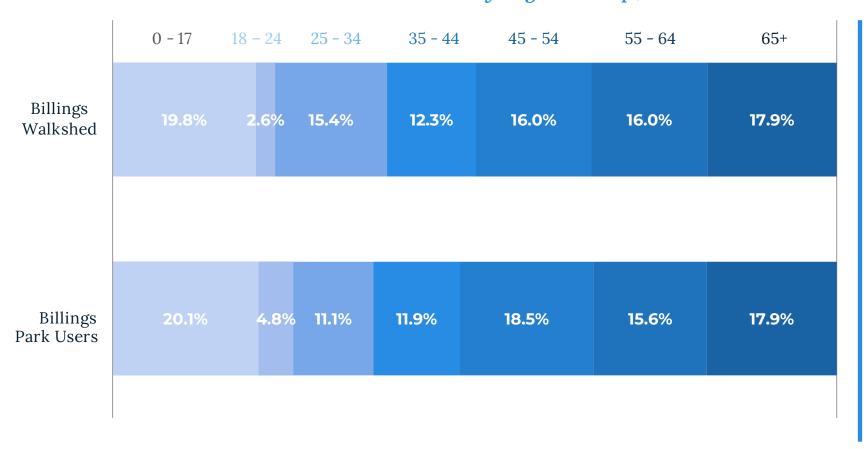
Demographic Comparison of Walkshed Residents and Park Users



#### **BILLINGS FIELD**

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS' AGE DISTRIBUTION WAS SIMILAR TO PARK USERS'

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Age Group, 2021



- Residents living in the 0.5 mile walkshed surrounding Billings were most likely aged 0-17 or 65+
- Billings park users were most likely aged 0 - 17 or 45 - 54 years.

Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE CHILDREN THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Composition Type, 2021



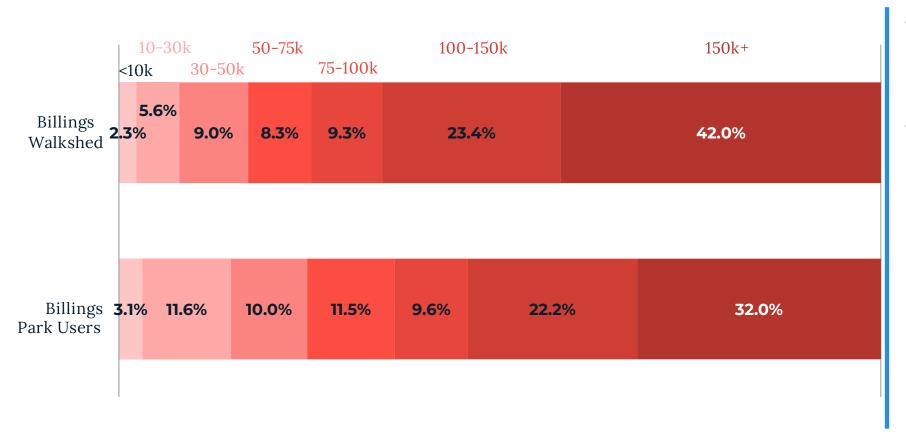
- 3 in 4 residents surrounding Billings Park did not have children.
- Slightly more than 2 in 4 Billings park users did not have children

Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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## WALKSHED RESIDENTS TENDED TO HAVE HIGHER INCOMES THAN PARK USERS

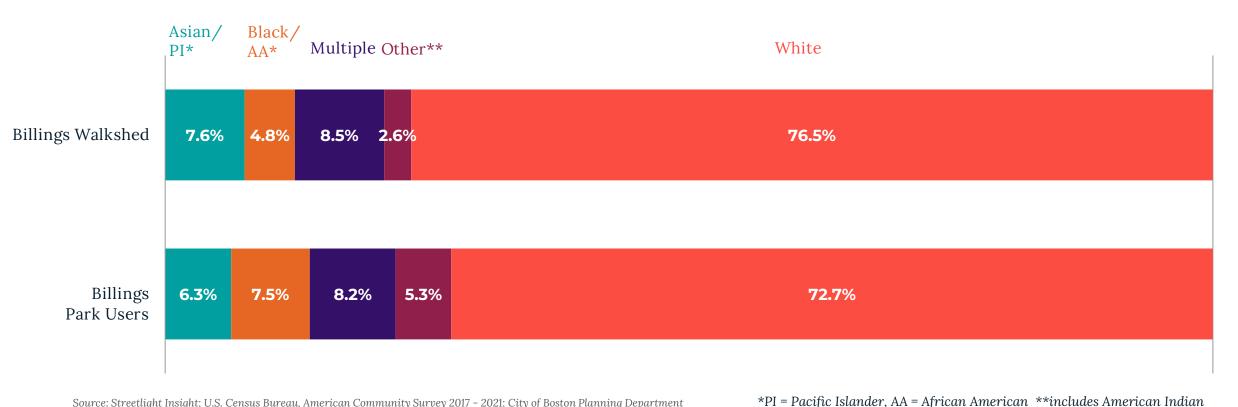
Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Income Group, 2021



- Half of Billings park users report annual household incomes of 100k+ a year
  - 1 in 3 report 150k+ a year
- Nearly 2 in 3 Billings
   walkshed residents reported
   an annual household income
   of 100k+ a year
  - Nearly half reported household incomes of 150k+ a year

### WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE WHITE OR ASIAN THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Race, 2021



Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Note: As Streetlight tabulates Hispanic ethnicity separately, individuals identifying as Hispanic are included in the stated racial groups.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED**

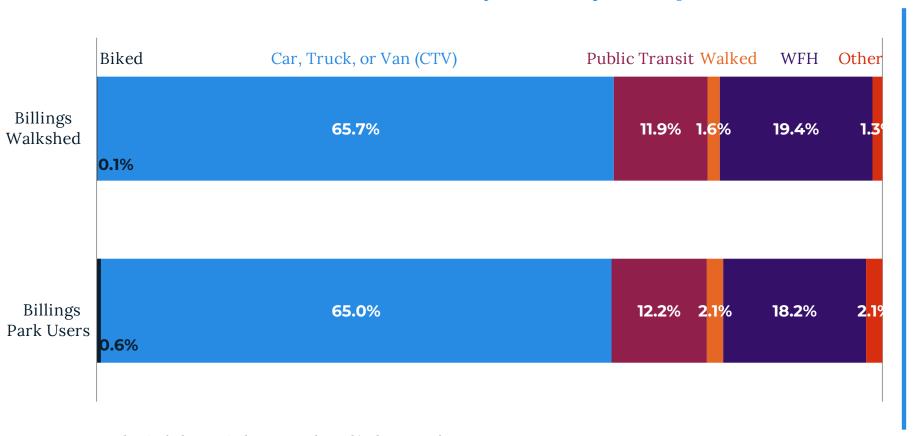
Walkshed Residents vs Park Users

	WALKSHED Residents	BILLINGS Park Users
Foreign Born	19.2%	19.7%
English Level Speaking English "less than very well"	6.3%	1%
Hispanic Ethnicity	7.9%	10.6%
Renters	24.8%	30.6%
Disability	9.6%	10.9%

- Walkshed residents were less likely to:
  - Be foreign born
  - Be hispanic
  - Rent
  - Have a disability
- Walkshed residents were more likely to:
  - Speak English less than very well

### WALKSHED RESIDENTS USED SIMILAR MEANS TO GET TO WORK AS PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Means of Transportation to Work, 2021

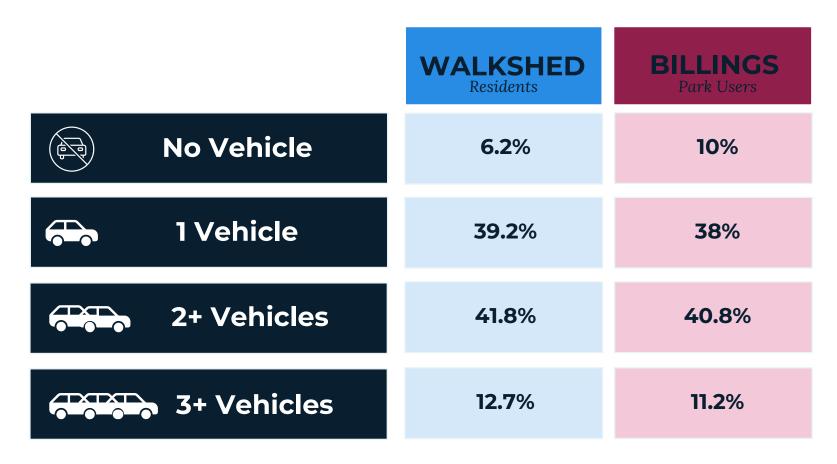


### Compared to park users:

- Walkshed residents were slightly more likely to:
  - Take a Car, Truck, or Van to work
  - Work from Home
- Walkshed residents were slightly less likely to:
  - Take public transit,
  - walk, or
  - take other means of transportation to work

Note: Other includes: Taxicab, Motorcycle, and 'Other means'.

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS HAD GREATER VEHICLE ACCESS THAN PARK USERS



- Walkshed residents were less likely to have access to no vehicle than park users.
- Walkshed residents were more likely to have access to 1, 2, or 3 or more vehicles than park users.

### PARK USERS VS WALKSHED RESIDENTS

### **PARK USERS**

- Users are most likely to be aged 0-17, White, make 150k+ a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and own their own home.
- **57%** live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area.
- Park users were more likely than walkshed residents to:
  - Be foreign-born or Hispanic
  - Rent
  - Take public transit or walk to work
  - Have access to 0 vehicles
  - Have children
  - Have a disability

### WALKSHED RESIDENTS

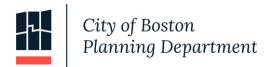
- Walkshed users' most likely demographic groups were the same as park users (see left)
- Walkshed residents were more likely than park users to:
  - Be White, Multiracial, or Asian/PI
  - Be aged 25-44 or 55 -64
  - Have a high annual household income
  - Speak English less than very well

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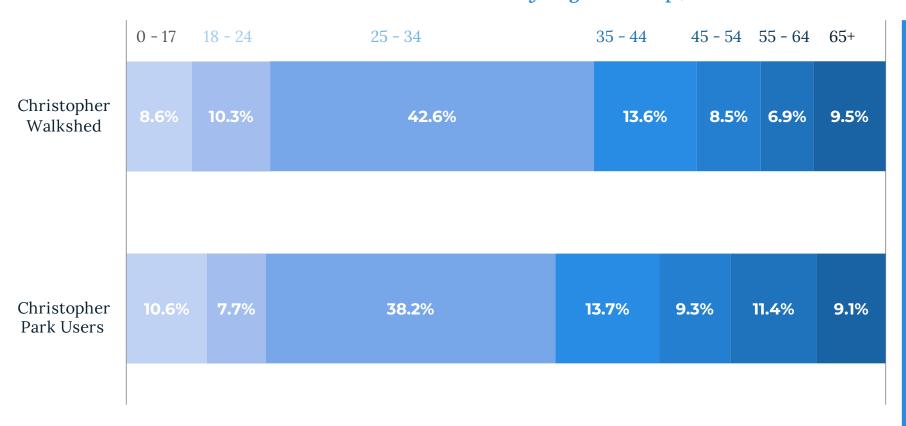
### CHRISTOPHER LEE

Demographic Comparison of Walkshed Residents and Park Users



## WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE AGED 25-34 THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Age Group, 2021



- Christopher Lee park users were overall slightly older than Christopher Lee walkshed residents
- Residents living in the 0.5 mile walkshed surrounding Christopher Lee were most likely aged 25-34
- Christopher Lee park users are most likely aged 25 - 34 years.

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE CHILDREN THAN PARK USERS

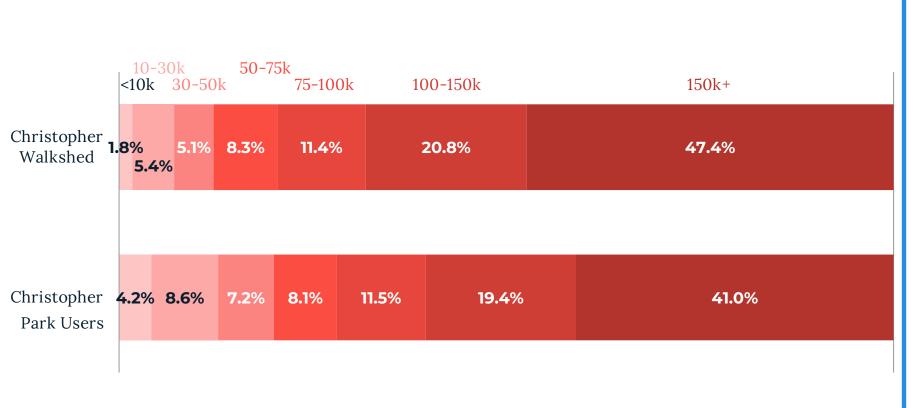
Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Composition Type, 2021



- Nearly 90% of Christopher Lee park walkshed residents do not have children in their household
- More than 1 in 3
   Christopher Lee park users have children in their household

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS TENDED TO HAVE HIGHER INCOMES THAN PARK USERS

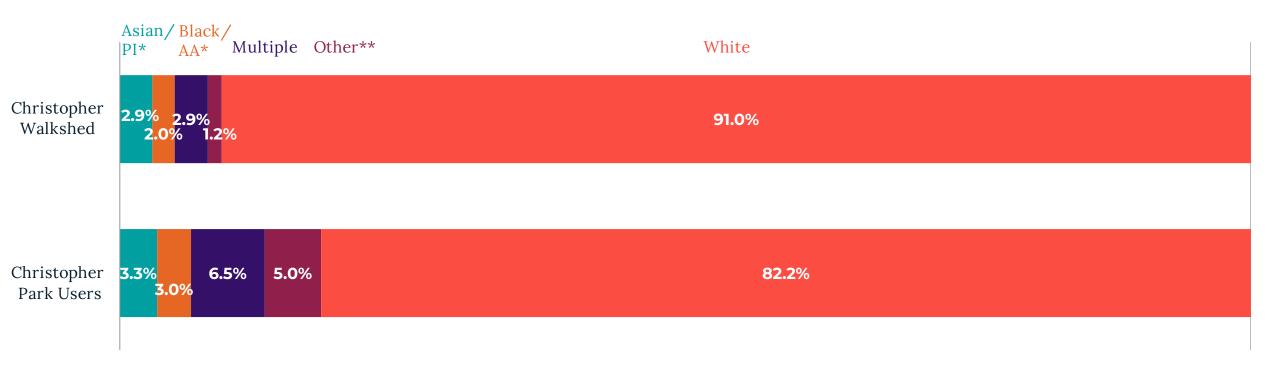
Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Income Group, 2021



- Nearly half of Christopher Lee walkshed residents reported household incomes of 150k+ a year
  - 2 in 3 reported an income of 100k+ a year
- 60% of Christopher Lee Park users report household incomes of 100k+ a year
  - 2 in 5 report 150k+ a year

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE WHITE THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Race, 2021



Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis. \*PI = Pacific Islander, AA = African American \*\*includes American Indian Note: As Streetlight tabulates Hispanic ethnicity separately, individuals identifying as Hispanic are included in the stated racial groups.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED**

Walkshed Residents vs Park Users

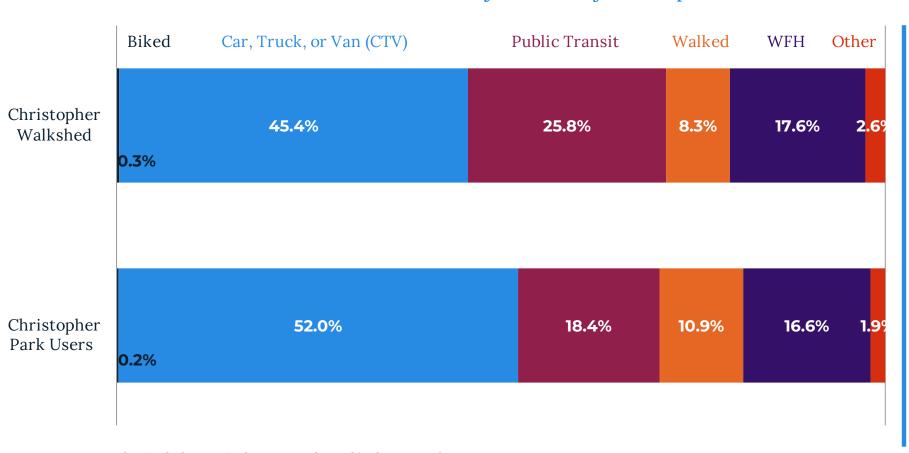
	<b>WALKSHED</b> Residents	CHRISTOPHER LEE Park Users
Foreign Born	6.2%	10.7%
English Level Speaking English "less than very well"	1.5%	0.5%
Hispanic Ethnicity	4.1%	6.6%
Renters	<b>47.9</b> %	49.4%
Disability	6.4%	8.5%

- Walkshed residents were less likely to:
  - Be foreign born
  - Be Hispanic
  - Rent
  - Have a disability
- Walkshed residents were more likely to:
  - Speak English less than very well

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## WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSIT TO WORK

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Means of Transportation to Work, 2021

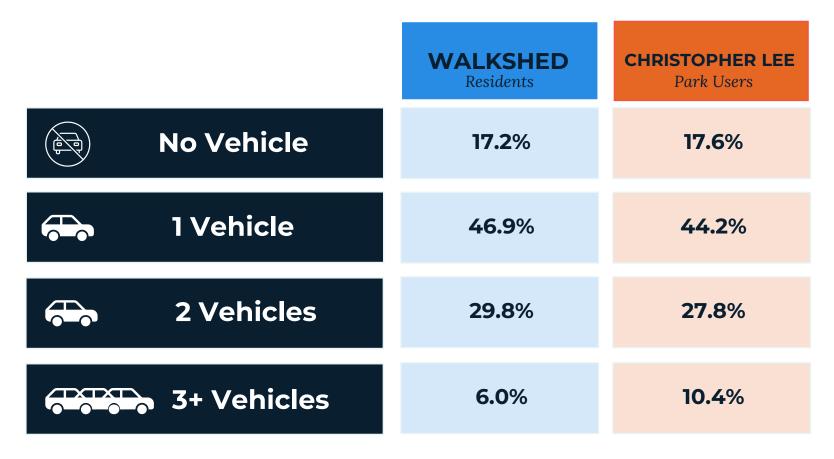


### Compared to park users:

- Walkshed residents were more likely to:
  - take public transit or other means of transportation to work or
  - work from home
- Walkshed residents were slightly less likely to:
  - take a car, truck, or van or
  - walk to work

Note: Other includes: Taxicab, Motorcycle, and 'Other means'.

# WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE SLIGHTLY LESS LIKELY TO HAVE ACCESS TO NO OR 3+ VEHICLES



- Walkshed residents were less likely to have access to no vehicle or 3+ vehicles.
- Walkshed residents were more likely to have access to 1 or 2 vehicles than park users.

### PARK USERS VS WALKSHED RESIDENTS

### **PARK USERS**

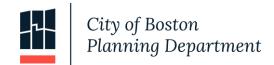
- Users are most likely to be aged 25-34, White, make 150k+ a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and own their own home.
- 60% live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area.
- Park users were more likely than walkshed residents to:
  - Be foreign born, Hispanic, or renters
  - Take a car, truck, or van or walk to work
  - Have access to no vehicle or 3+ vehicles
  - Have a disability

### **WALKSHED RESIDENTS**

- Walkshed users' most likely demographic groups were the same as park users (see left)
- Walkshed residents were more likely than park users to:
  - Be white and aged 25-34
  - Have a high annual household income
  - Not have children
  - Speak English less than very well
  - Take public transit to work or work from home
  - Have access to 1 or 2 vehicles

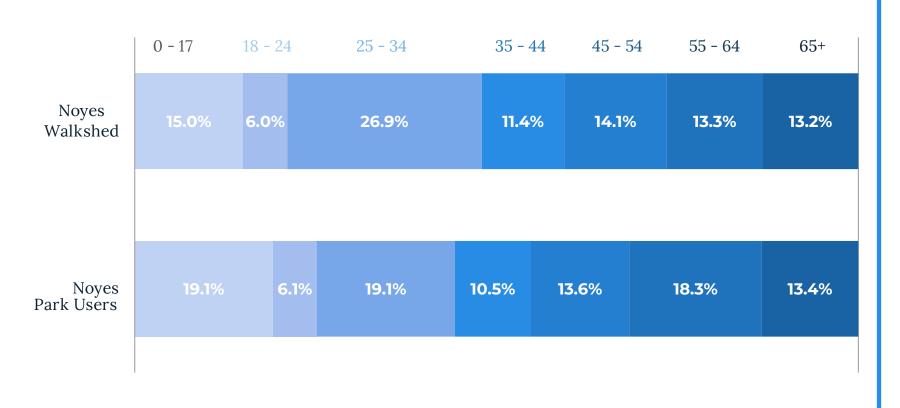
### **NOYES**

Demographic Comparison of Walkshed Residents and Park Users



## WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE AGED 25-34

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Age Group, 2021



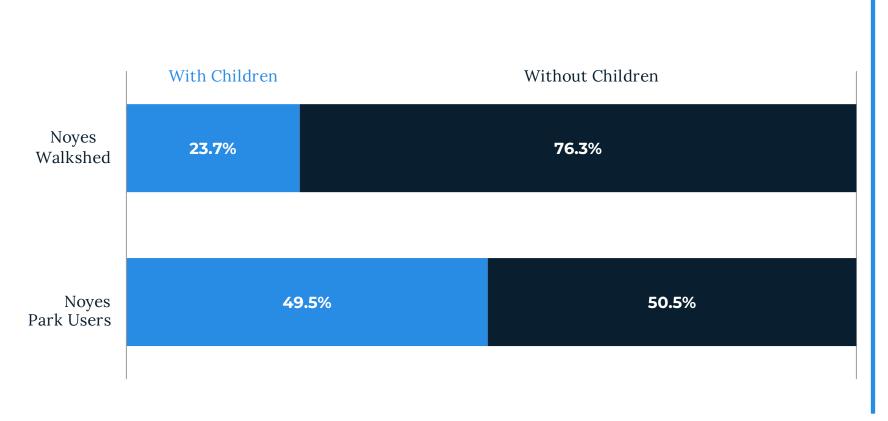
- Residents living in the 0.5 mile walkshed surrounding Noyes were most and more likely than park users to be aged 25-34
- Noyes park users are most likely aged 0 – 17 or 25 – 34.

Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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## WALKSHED RESIDENTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE CHILDREN THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Composition Type, 2021



- 3 in 4 Noyes walkshed residents do not have children in their household
- Half of Noyes park users do not have children

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS TENDED TO HAVE HIGHER INCOMES THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Income Group, 2021



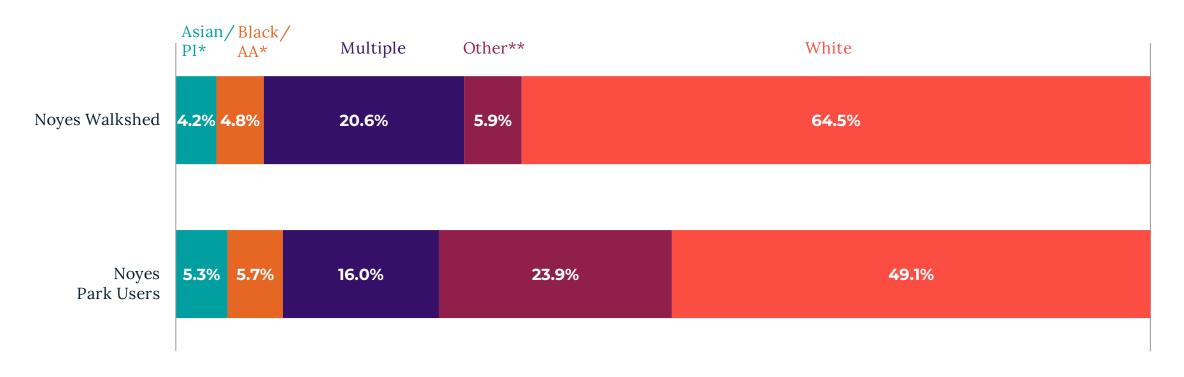
- 66% of Noyes walkshed residents report annual household incomes of 50k or greater
  - 1 in 3 report household incomes less than 50k
- Over half of Noyes park users report household incomes of 75k a year or lower.
  - 40% report household incomes less than 50k

Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

**RESEARCH DIVISION** 

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS MORE LIKELY TO BE WHITE OR MULTIRACIAL

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Race, 2021



Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

\*PI = Pacific Islander, AA = African American \*\*includes American Indian

Note: As Streetlight tabulates Hispanic ethnicity separately,
individuals identifying as Hispanic are included in the stated racial groups.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED**

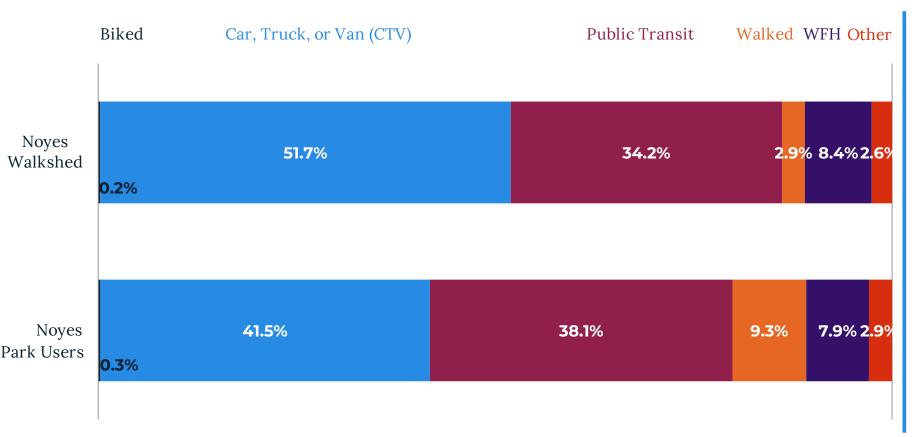
Walkshed Residents vs Park Users

	WALKSHED Residents	NOYES Park Users
Foreign Born	39.9%	35.7%
English Level Speaking English "less than very well"	31.6%	29%
Hispanic Ethnicity	44.6%	38.6%
Renters	64.5%	60.3%
Disability	11.0%	12.3%

- Walkshed residents were less likely to:
  - Have a disability
- Walkshed residents were more likely to:
  - Be foreign-born
  - Speak English less than very well
  - Be Hispanic
  - Rent

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE A CTV TO WORK OR WFH

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Means of Transportation to Work, 2021

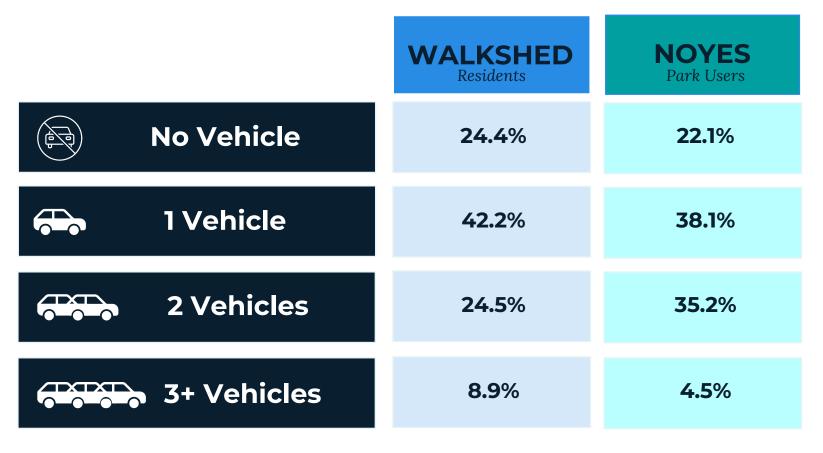


### Compared to park users:

- Walkshed residents were more likely to:
  - Take a car, truck, or van to work
  - Work from home
- Walkshed residents were slightly less likely to:
  - Take public transit or other means of transportation to work
  - Walk to work

Note: Other includes: Taxicab, Motorcycle, and 'Other means'.

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE ACCESS TO 2 VEHICLES



- Walkshed residents were less likely to have access to 2 vehicles
- Walkshed residents were more likely to have access to no vehicle, 1 vehicle, or 3+ vehicles

### PARK USERS VS WALKSHED RESIDENTS

### **PARK USERS**

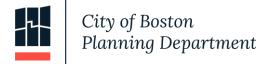
- Users were most likely to be aged 0-17, White, make 10-30k a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and rent.
- **34%** live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area
- Park users were more likely than walkshed residents to:
  - Have a disability
  - Take public transit or walk to work

### WALKSHED RESIDENTS

- Walkshed residents were most likely to be aged 25-34, White, make 150k+ a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and rent.
- Walkshed residents were more likely than park users to:
  - Be White, Multiracial, foreign-born, Hispanic, or aged 25-34
  - Have a high household income and no children
  - Speak English less than very well
  - Take a car, truck, or van to work or work from home
  - Have access to 0, 1, or 3+ vehicles
  - Rent

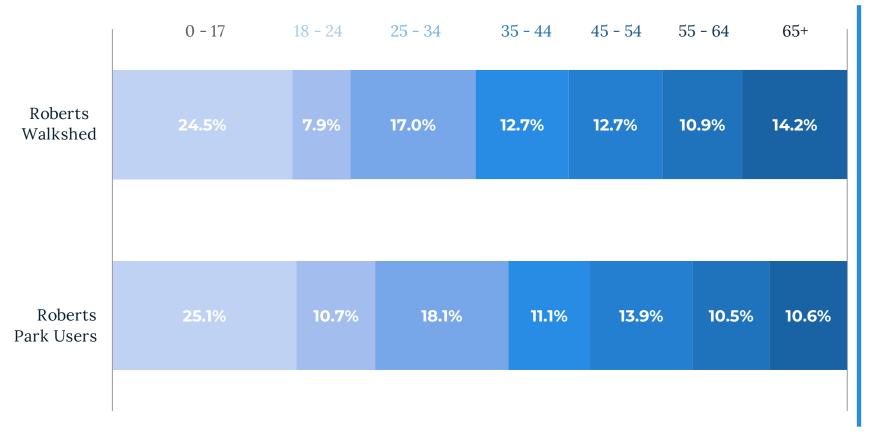
### ROBERTS

Demographic Comparison of Walkshed Residents and Park Users



## WALKSHED RESIDENTS' AGE DISTRIBUTION WAS SIMILAR TO PARK USERS'

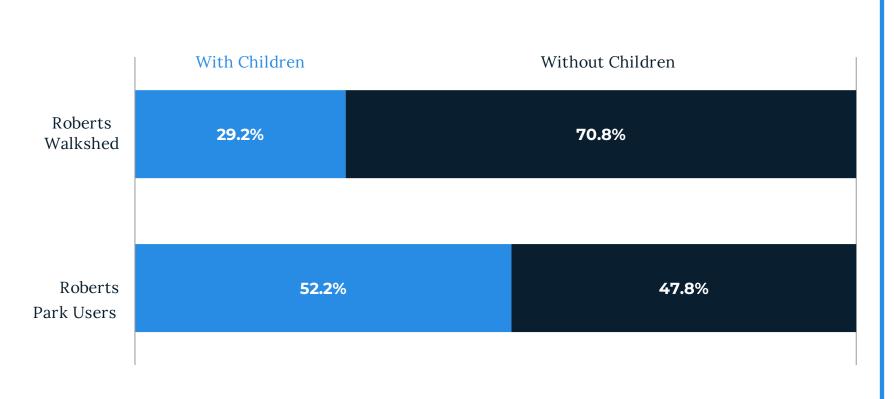
Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Age Group, 2021



- Residents living in the 0.5 mile walkshed surrounding Roberts were most likely to be aged 0-17
- Roberts park users are most likely aged 0-17

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE CHILDREN THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Composition Type, 2021



- Nearly 3 in 4
   Roberts walkshed
   residents do not
   have children in
   their household
- Around half of Roberts park users have children in their household

Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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## WALKSHED RESIDENTS TENDED TO HAVE HIGHER INCOMES THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Household Income Group, 2021



- 44% of Roberts
   walkshed residents
   report household
   incomes of 75k a year or
   higher
  - 44% report household incomes of less than 50k
- 38% of Roberts park users report household incomes of 75k a year or higher.
  - Nearly half report household incomes of less than 50k

Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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# WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE BLACK/AA OR ASIAN/PI\*

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Race, 2021



Source: Streetlight Insight; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - 2021; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

\*PI = Pacific Islander, AA = African American \*\*includes American Indian

Note: As Streetlight tabulates Hispanic ethnicity separately,
individuals identifying as Hispanic are included in the stated racial groups.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED**

Walkshed Residents vs Park Users

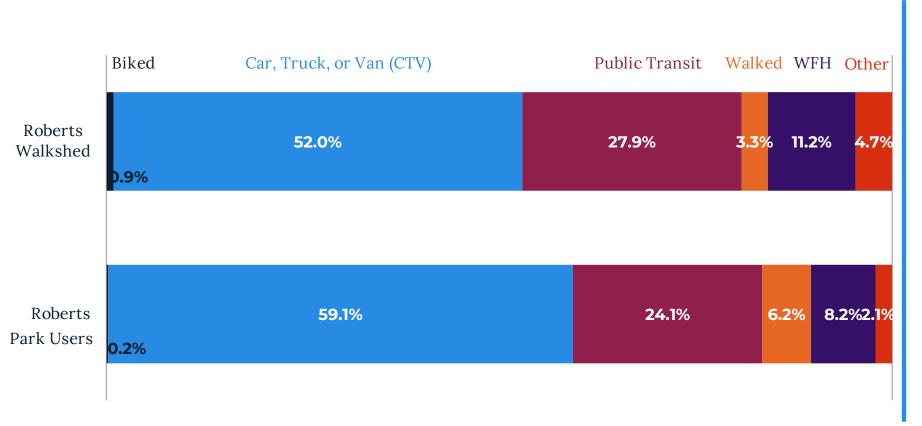
	WALKSHED Residents	ROBERTS Park Users
Foreign Born	32.4%	30.8%
English Level Speaking English "less than very well"	16.8%	19%
Hispanic Ethnicity	15.9%	23%
Renters	56.2%	61.8%
<b>Disability</b>	18.5%	15.7%

- Walkshed residents were less likely to:
  - Speak English less than very well
  - Be Hispanic
  - Be Renters
- Walkshed residents were more likely to:
  - Be foreign-born
  - Have a disability

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### WALKSHED RESIDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSIT TO WORK THAN PARK USERS

Walkshed Residents and Park Users by Means of Transportation to Work, 2021

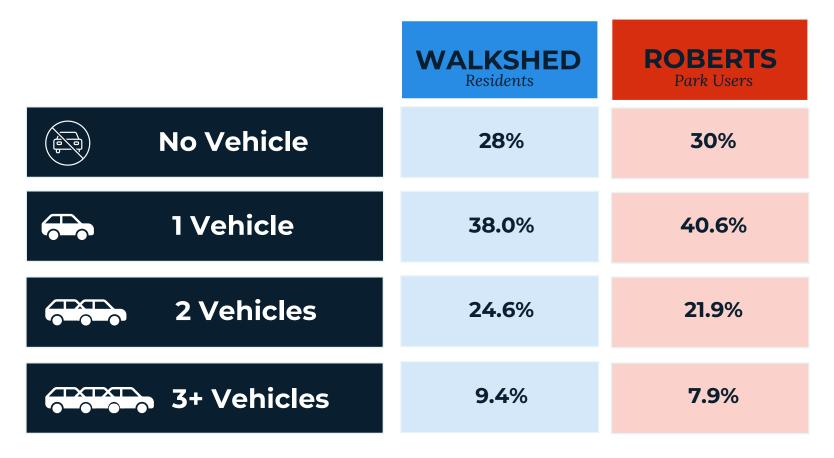


### Compared to park users:

- Walkshed residents were slightly more likely to:
  - Take public transit or bike to work
  - Work from home
- Walkshed residents were slightly less likely to:
  - Take a car, truck, or van to work
  - Walk to work

Note: Other includes: Taxicab, Motorcycle, and 'Other means'.

## WALKSHED RESIDENTS HAD ACCESS TO MORE VEHICLES THAN PARK USERS



- Walkshed residents were less likely to have access to 0 – 1 vehicles than park users.
- Walkshed residents were more likely to have access to 2 or 3+ vehicles than park users.

### PARK USERS VS WALKSHED RESIDENTS

### **PARK USERS**

- Users are most likely to be aged 0-17, Black or African American, make 10-30k a year, have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and rent.
- 31% live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area
- Park users were more likely than walkshed residents to:
  - Be Hispanic
  - Rent
  - Speak English less than very well
  - Take a car, truck, or van to work
  - Have children

### WALKSHED RESIDENTS

- Walkshed residents were most likely to be aged 0-17, Black or African American, make 10-30k or 150k+ a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and rent.
- Walkshed residents were more likely than park users to:
  - Be Black, Asian, or foreign-born
  - Have a high household income and no children
  - Take public transit or work from home
  - Have access to 2 or 3+ vehicles
  - Have a disability

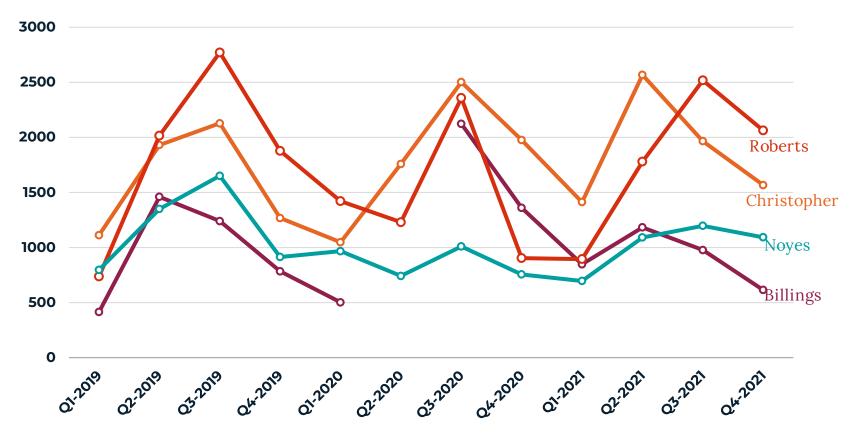
### PARKS PROJECT PT.2

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 CHARACTERIZING PARK USAGE
  Billings, Christopher, Noyes, Roberts
- CHARACTERIZING PARK USERS
  Billings, Christopher, Noyes, Roberts
- **CHARACTERIZING PARK CONTEXT**
- 5 CONCLUSION

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# Park Visitorship 2019 -2021 for Roberts, Christopher, Noyes, and Billings Parks

Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 Mo Increment, 2019 - 2021



Christopher Lee
 and Roberts parks
 appear to have the
 highest average
 daily pedestrian
 traffic.

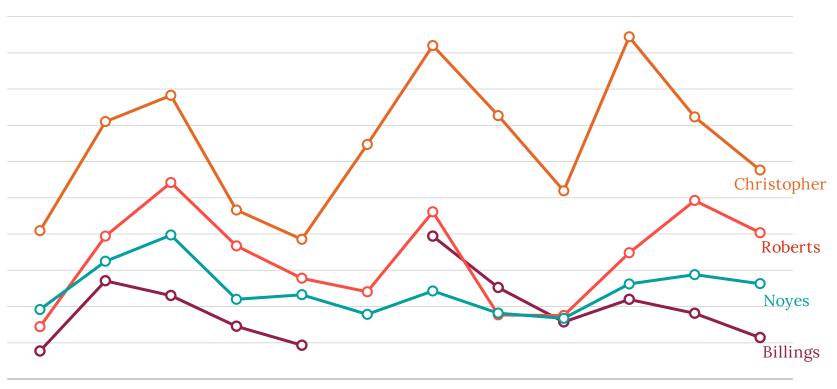
Note: Billings had missing data for Q2 2020

Source: Streetlight Insight. City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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# Christopher Lee Playground is the most used when adjusted for size

Acreage-Adjusted Average Daily Zone Traffic by Year by 3 mo increment, 2019 - 2021



Q1-2019 Q2-2019 Q3-2019 Q4-2019 Q1-2020 Q2-2020 Q3-2020 Q4-2020 Q1-2021 Q2-2021 Q3-2021 Q4-2021

- When adjusted for size, Christopher Lee has the most activity, followed by Roberts, then Noyes and Billings.
- Christopher Lee appears significantly more trafficked when adjusted for size.
- Measuring park usage by average daily zone traffic (stoppers & passers), Christopher Lee park is the most used'

Note: Billings had missing data for Q2 2020

Source: Streetlight Insight, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

### **Internal Park Context and Usage**

What does the literature say about how internal park aspects may relate to usage patterns?

٦

# **Recreation Facilities**

Playgrounds, dog parks, spray play, etc.

2

#### **Inclusiveness**

Accessibility ramps, benches, drinking fountains, restrooms

3

## **Green & Blue Infrastructure**

Landscaping, presence of water, tree canopy coverage, etc.

4

# Flexibility of Movement

Number of entrances, paths, etc.

# Movement Flexibility, Green & Blue Infrastructure

	<b>BILLINGS</b> West Roxbury	CHRISTOPHER South Boston	<b>NOYES</b> East Boston	ROBERTS  Dorchester
Tree Canopy Coverage	22.1%	3.2%	8.1%	10.6%
Water Coverage	0%	0%	0%	0%
Water Feature	<b>1</b> Spray Play	0	<b>1</b> Spray Play	<b>1</b> Spray Play
# Entrances	4	5	6	6

Sources: BPRD, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

### **Recreational Facilities**

Map of Park Assets



	Christopher Lee	Billings
Basketball Courts	1	2
Athletic Fields	3	4
Spray Play	0	1
Play grounds	1	1
Dog Parks	0	0
Tennis Courts	0	4
Total Facilities	5	12

### **Recreational Facilities**

Map of Park Assets



Source: BPRD, City of Boston Planning Department Research

	Robert	Noyes
Basketball Courts	2	2
Athletic Fields	2	3
Spray Play	1	1
Play grounds	1	1
Dog Parks	0	0
Tennis Courts	0	0
Futsal	0	1
Total Facilities	6	8

### Inclusiveness

#### Map of Park Assets



	Christopher Lee	Billings
Benches Benches	3	16
Player Benches	8	9
Drinking Fountains	0	2
Tables	0	2
Restrooms	0	0
Total Assets	11	29

### Inclusiveness

#### Map of Park Assets



#### **Park Assets**



Athletic Field





Basketball





Players Bench











	Roberts	Noyes
Benches	11	8
Player Benches	11	13
Drinking Fountains	3	2
Tables	4	3
Restrooms	0	0
Total Assets	29	26

### **External Park Context and Usage**

What does the literature say about how external park context may relate to usage patterns?

٦

### Surrounding Land Use

% commercial, % multi-family residential, %single-family, etc.

2

### Surrounding Open Space

Presence of other open spaces near the park

3

### Transportation Infrastructure

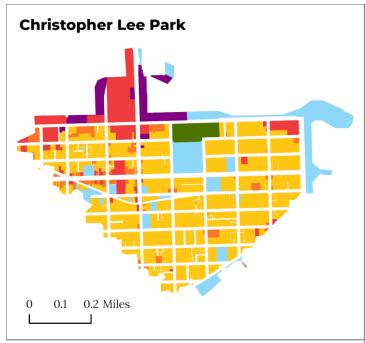
# of transport modes to get to there, bus stops, subway, light rail nearby 4

#### Pedestrian Oriented Design

Sidewalks, bike routes, tree canopy

### **Surrounding Land Use Mix**

FY2023 Land Use Categories by Park Walkshed, 2021









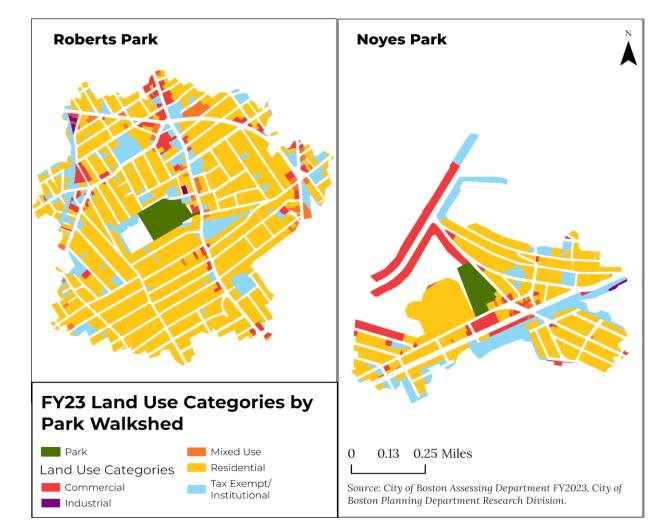
Boston Planning Department Research Division.

- The two parks exhibit a high degree of residential land use in their vicinity.
- Commercial and tax-exempt properties like schools or other parks are near the two parks, with clear commercial corridors.

Question for future research: What insights can land use within walking distance of parks provide for Boston's park system planning or site-specific work?

### **Surrounding Land Use Mix**

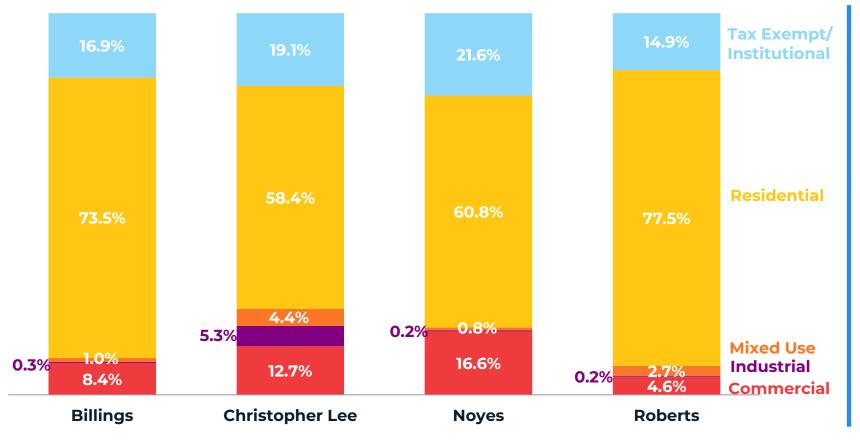
FY2023 Land Use Categories by Park Walkshed, 2021



- Roberts and Noyes also exhibit a high degree of residential land use directly around their vicinity.
- Noyes's walkshed contains a relatively higher degree of tax exempt/institutional land and commercial land than Roberts.
- Roberts and Noyes park are near commercial street areas.

### **Surrounding Land Use Mix**

FY2023 Land Use Category by Park Walkshed Parcel Land Area, 2021



- Note: Includes park parcels. Source: City of Boston Assessing Department FY2023; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.
- **RESEARCH DIVISION**

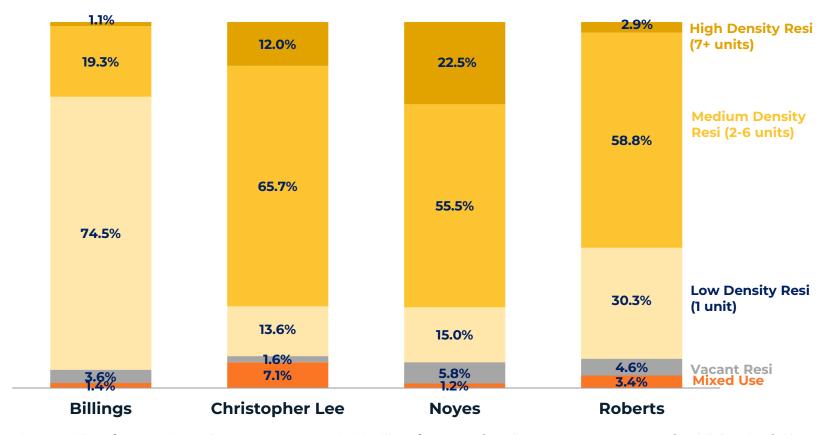
- Christopher Lee and Noyes parks' walksheds contain relatively more tax exempt and commercial land.
- Christopher Lee has the largest % of mixed use and industrial land.
- Roberts has the largest % of residential land.

Questions for future research:
How might land use mix influence
usage patterns?
How does land use mix inform how

we think of neighborhood parks in their urban context?

### Surrounding Land Use Mix: Residential

FY2023 Residential Land Use Categories by Park Walkshed Parcel Land Area, 2021



Source: City of Boston Assessing Department FY2023; City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

- Christopher Lee and Noyes park have the most diverse surrounding residential land use mix.
- Billings park has the least diverse surrounding residential land use mix.
- Noyes park has the largest proportion of higher-density residential

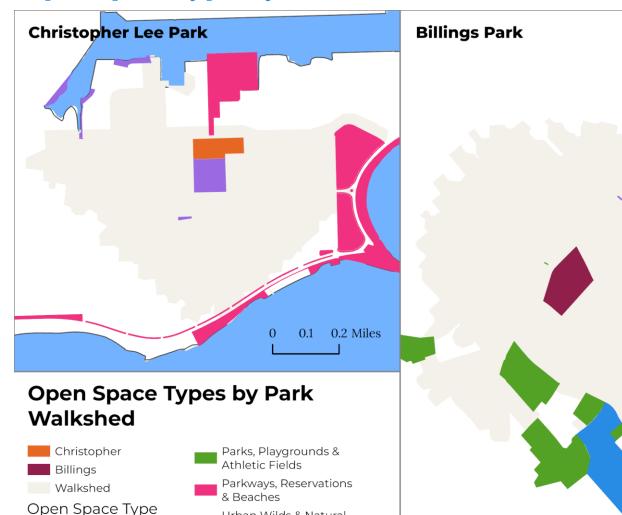
Question for future research: How might residential population density in Boston be related to patterns in park visitorship?

### Surrounding Open Space

Source: Analyze Boston, City of Boston Planning Department

Research Division.

Open Space Types by Park Walkshed, 2021



Urban Wilds & Natural

Malls, Squares & Plazas

**Total Open Space\* Intersecting Park Walkshed** 

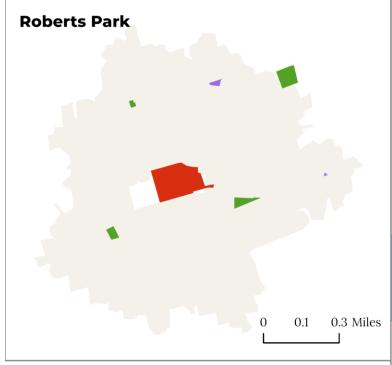
	Christopher	Billings
Acres	116.2	103.5
Number	9	7
Types	3	4

\*includes Christopher and Billings park respectively

Question for future research: How might a network of open space within a walkshed impact park visitorship?

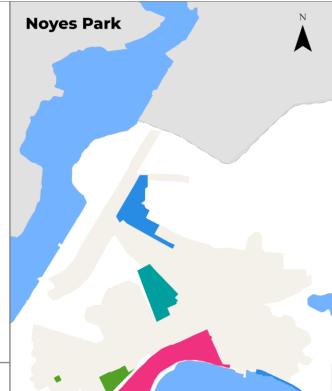
### Surrounding Open Space

Open Space Types by Park Walkshed, 2021



#### Open Space Types by Park Walkshed





Source: Analyze Boston, City of Boston Planning Department

Research Division.

Total Open Space\* Intersecting Park Walkshed

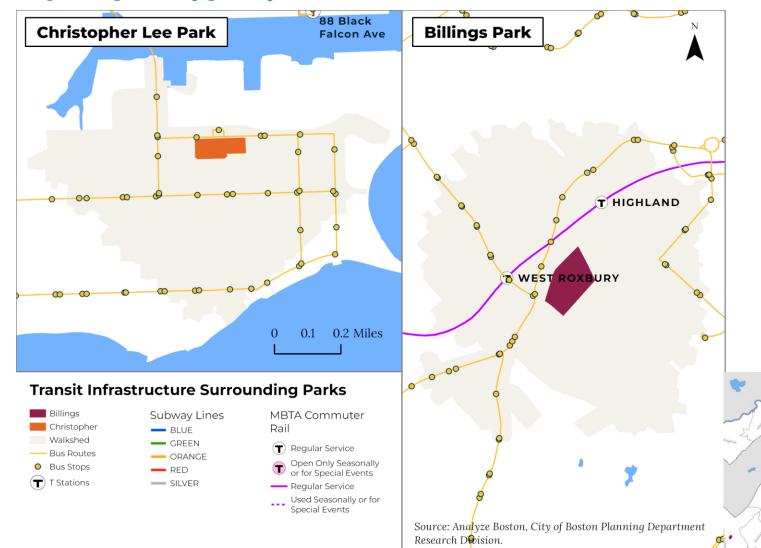
	Roberts	Noyes
Acres	14.8	43.4
Number	7	6
Types	2	3

\*includes Roberts and Noves park respectively

Question for future research: How might open space access fall along axes of inequality and impact visitorship and demand?

### Transportation Infrastructure

Open Space Types by Park Walkshed, 2021



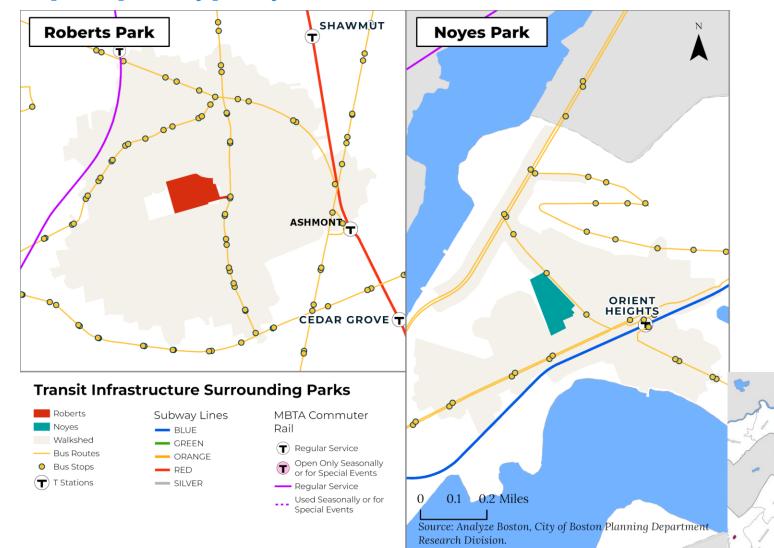
#### # of Stops in Walkshed

	Christopher	Billings
Bus	36	36
Rapid Transit	0	0
Commuter Rail	0	2

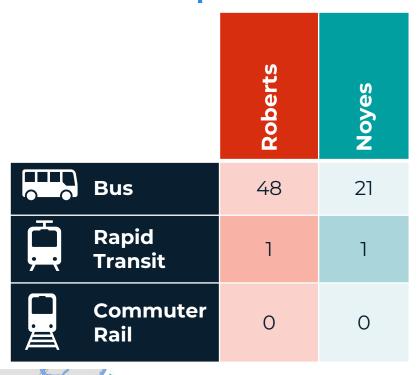
Question for future research: How does a park's surrounding transit network impact visitorship patterns in Boston?

### Transportation Infrastructure

Open Space Types by Park Walkshed, 2021

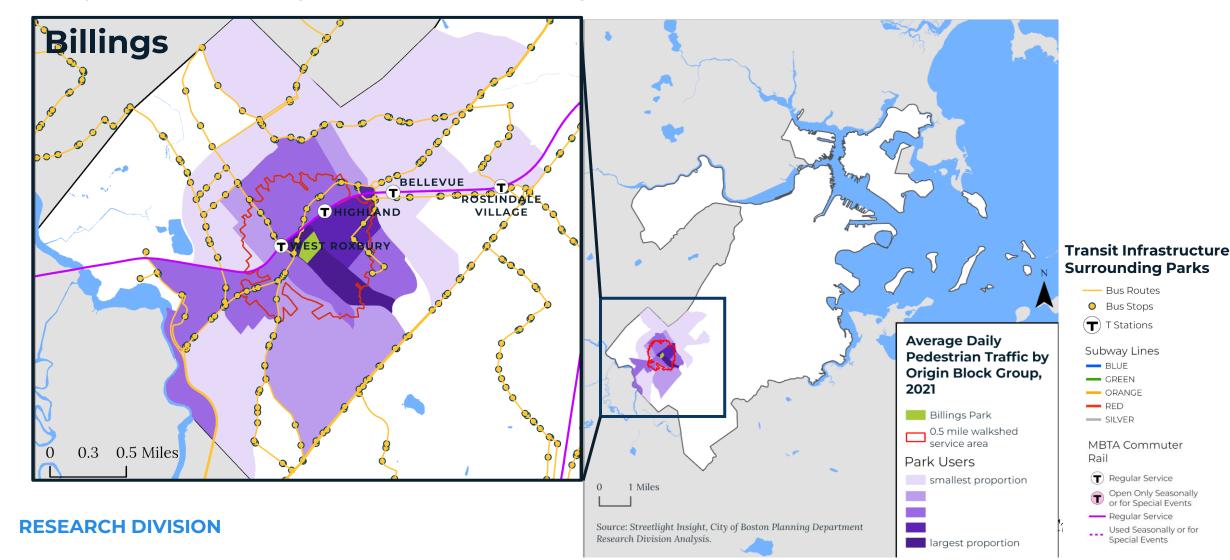


#### # of Stops in Walkshed

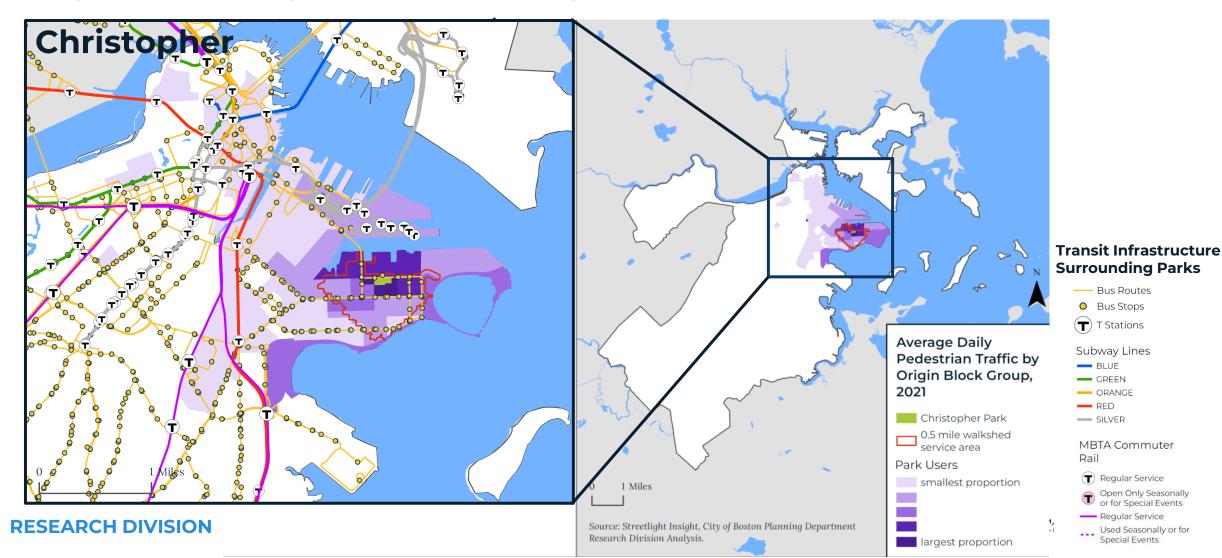


Question for future research: How does a park's surrounding transit network impact visitorship patterns in Boston?

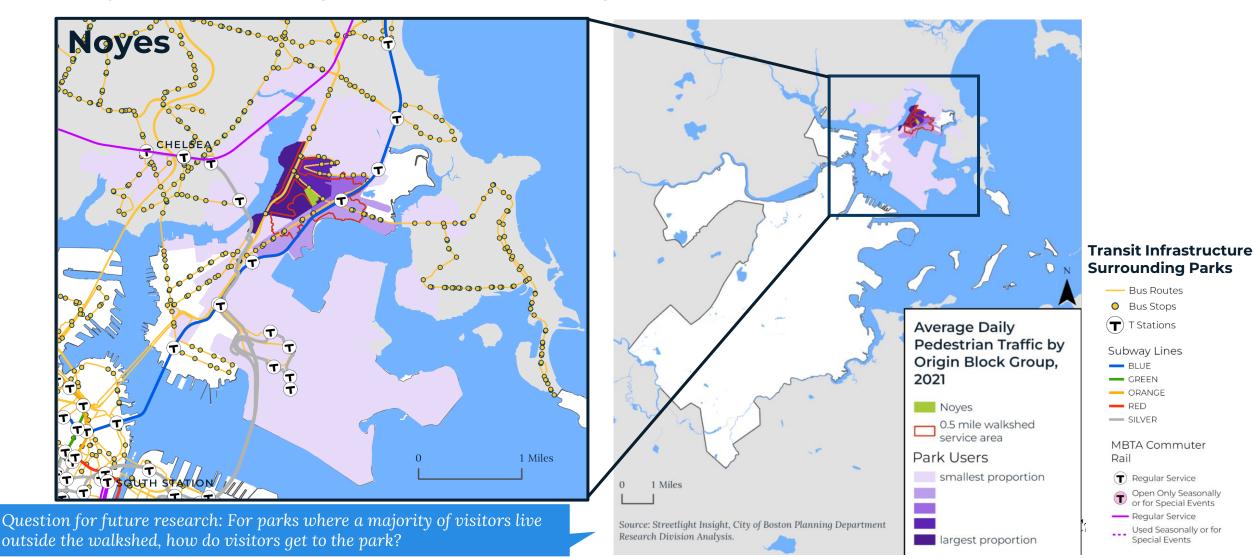
### Transportation Infrastructure



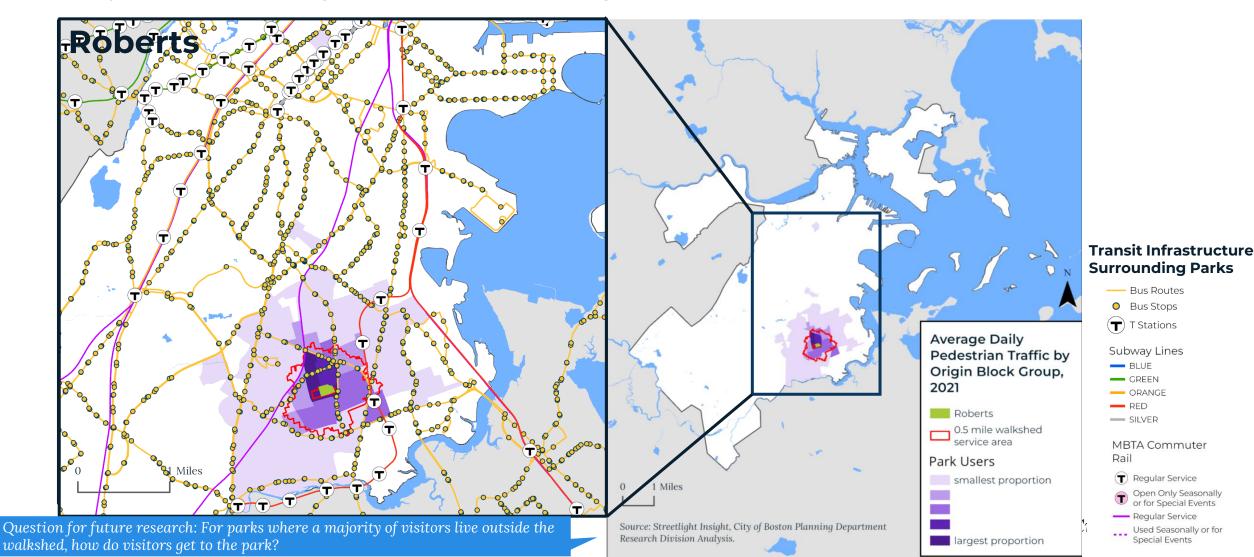
### Transportation Infrastructure



### Transportation Infrastructure



### Transportation Infrastructure



### PARKS PROJECT PT.2

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 CHARACTERIZING PARK USAGE
  Billings, Christopher, Noyes, Roberts
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  Billings, Christopher, Noyes, Roberts
- 4 CHARACTERIZING PARK CONTEXT
- 5 CONCLUSION

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### **Characterizing Park Usage**

What we've learned about how these 4 Boston parks are used

(1) Billings

- Around 3 in 10 park users pass through the park
- The proportion of passers has increased over time
- In 2021 average traffic down from 2019

- ChristopherLee
- Around 6 in 10 park users pass through the park
- The proportion of passers has decreased over time
- In 2021 average traffic up from 2019

3 Noyes

- Around 5 in 10 park users pass through the park
- The proportion of passers has decreased over time
- In 2021 average traffic down from 2019

(4) Roberts

- Around 5 in 10 park users pass through the park
- The proportion of passers has increased over time
- In 2021 average traffic down from 2019

### **Characterizing Park Users**

#### What we've learned about who uses these 4 Boston parks

(1) Billings

- 57% of users live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area.
- Users are most likely to be aged 0-17, White, make 150k+ a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and own their own home.

- Christopher Lee
- 60% of users live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area.
- Users are most likely to be aged 25–34, White, make 150k+ a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and own their own home.

3 Noyes

- 34% of users live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area.
- Users are most likely to be aged 0-17, White, make 10-30k a year, not have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and rent.

ig(4ig) Roberts

- 31% of users live within the 0.5 mile walkshed service area.
- Users are most likely to be aged 0-17, Black or African American, make 10-30k a year, have children, take a car truck or van to work, have access to 1 vehicle, and rent.

### **Characterizing Walkshed Residents**

#### What we've learned about who lives near these 4 Boston parks

(1) Billings

- Walkshed residents were less likely than park users to be foreign born, Hispanic, to have children, to rent, to take public transit or walk to work, to have access to 0 vehicles, and have a disability.
- Walkshed residents were more likely to be White, Multiracial or Asian/PI, be aged 25-44 or 55-64, have a high annual household income, and speak English less than very well.

- ChristopherLee
- Walkshed residents were less likely than park users to be foreign born or Hispanic, to rent, to take a car, truck, or van to work, to have access to 0 or 3+ vehicles, to have children, and have a disability.
- Walkshed residents were more likely to be White and aged 25-44, have a high annual household income, speak English less than very well, take public transit to work or WFH, and have access to 1-2 vehicles.

3 Noyes

- Walkshed residents were less likely than park users to have a disability, to have children, and take public transit or walk to work.
- Walkshed residents were more likely to be White, Multiracial, foreign-born, Hispanic, or aged 25-34, have a high household income, speak English less than very well, take a car, truck or van to work or WFH, have access to 0, 1, or 3+ vehicles, to rent.

(4) Roberts

- Walkshed residents were less likely than park users to be Hispanic, renters, speak English less than very well, to have children, or take a car truck, or van to work.
- Walkshed residents were more likely to be Black, Asian, or foreign-born, have a high household income, take public transit or work from home, have access to 2 or 3+ vehicles, and have a disability.

### Questions for Future Research

#### **All Boston Parks**

How can we expand this analysis of visitorship to other Boston parks?

#### **In-person Data Validation**

How does the data compare to real observed park usage? How does it compare to other datasets?

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Given patterns we have identified through descriptive and cartographic analysis, further statistical analysis to understand relationships and co-relating factors impacting visitorship and evaluating walkshed representativeness.

RESEARCH DIVISION City of Boston

#### Level of Service Analysis

Strategically assess facility and programmatic needs across the city to inform capital improvement priorities using data and metrics, community input, and planning.

Research is tailored to assist the Parks Department in allocating resources and developing or clarifying policies to meet the needs of residents.

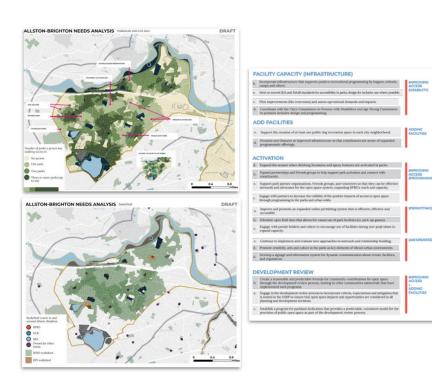
This analysis may recommend approaches to: partnerships, permitting, investment, programming, maintenance, design, and Article 80 development review.

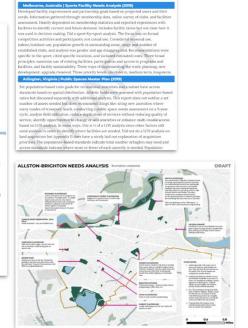




#### Level of Service Analysis

- 2023-2029 OSRP research and action plan
- Spaces for You research
- Park visitorship analysis
- Case study review
- Preliminary geospatial analysis
- Staff interviews
- Facility briefs







# Planning and Research at Boston Parks and Recreation



Planning near-term and long-term studies



Acquisition expanding the park system through land acquisition and protection



Data Science developing critical data tools and metrics



# Thank you ©



### APPENDIX: ABOUT THE DATA

#### **Streetlight**

- Used their estimated pedestrian traffic data: modeled data estimate of the average pedestrian traffic in the zone for a typical day/time combination in the time series.
- Metric: Streetlight Pedestrian Volume
  - = the number of pedestrian trips that interact with your zone of analysis.
  - Pedestrian trips identified in location data sources (including cellphone mobility data) and differentiated from trips using other modes.
- Streetlight calculates the Pedestrian Volume estimate by:
  - Computing a population factor for each trip and using these factors to weight the pedestrian trip sample by local population.
  - Using the vehicle penetration rate near the target zone to estimate the pedestrian penetration rate.
  - Reducing the Pedestrian Volume estimate by a constant factor to index more closely to permanent pedestrian counters.

#### **U.S. Census Bureau**

• Used the U.S. Census Bureau API to access demographic data for the relevant block groups (identified via Streetlight for park users and via BPRD-provided walkshed service area shapefile for walkshed comparison) from the 5-year American Community Survey 2017-2021 to reflect the most recent available year of Streetlight data (2021).