

# OVERVIEW



Arts and Entertainment in New Haven. Last summer, the Ray Charles concert drew over 30,000 fans to the New Haven Green, more than the average attendance of 14 Major League Baseball teams.



City of New Haven  
John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor



# GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

## Geography

The City of New Haven is located in south central Connecticut at the confluence of the Quinnipiac and Mill Rivers. The City is bounded to the south by Long Island Sound; to the west by the City of West Haven and the Town of Orange; to the north by the Towns of Woodbridge, Hamden and North Haven; and to the east by the Town of East Haven.

New Haven, due to its unique geographic location, is a transportation center. The north / south rail line to Hartford and the east / west rail line between New York and Boston converge in New Haven. The interstate highway system follows the same pattern, with Interstate 91 (north / south inland to Hartford) and Interstate 95 (north / south shoreline) converging in New Haven.

New Haven is the seat of New Haven County, one of eight counties in the State of Connecticut. In addition, New Haven is the central city for the Greater New Haven Transit District, the New Haven Labor Market Area, the New Haven Workforce Investment Area, the New Haven Tourism District and the South Central Regional Council of Governments.

## Physical Setting

The City of New Haven is located at 41° 18' north latitude and 72° 54' west longitude. The City consists of 18.9 square miles, representing approximately 2.2% of the area of New Haven County and .3% of the area of the State of Connecticut.

The land mass is bisected by New Haven Harbor, a long and protected harbor which is approximately four miles long. The width of the Harbor is 1.25 miles at a point between City Point and the East Shore. Water depth varies from very shallow tidal flats, generally along the west side, to the deepwater 35-foot Federal Navigation Channel, which runs north-south through the harbor. The Quinnipiac River, the West River and the Mill River all empty at New Haven Harbor.

Of North America's major geologic divisions, New Haven is located in the outer section of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Atlantic Coastal Plain is a broad belt along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States and the Gulf of Mexico, extending from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Cape Cod. The region is characterized by its sedimentary rock formations, which gradually decline sea level to the continental shelf.

In New Haven, these influences are evident in low, generally level plains found across the City. The elevation at Downtown is just 25 feet. Significant elevations are found only in association with large traprock outcroppings and with elevated glacial outwashes. "Traprock", a locally-used term for cooled volcanic lava and basalt, is a significant landscape features in New Haven. Of note are (a) West Rock, which is located in the northwest corner of the city and rises 405 feet on its southerly elevation; (b) East Rock, which is located in the north central section of the city and in Hamden. East Rock rises to approximately 359 feet; and (c) Forbes Bluff, which is located in the East Shore neighborhood and rises approximately 70 feet.



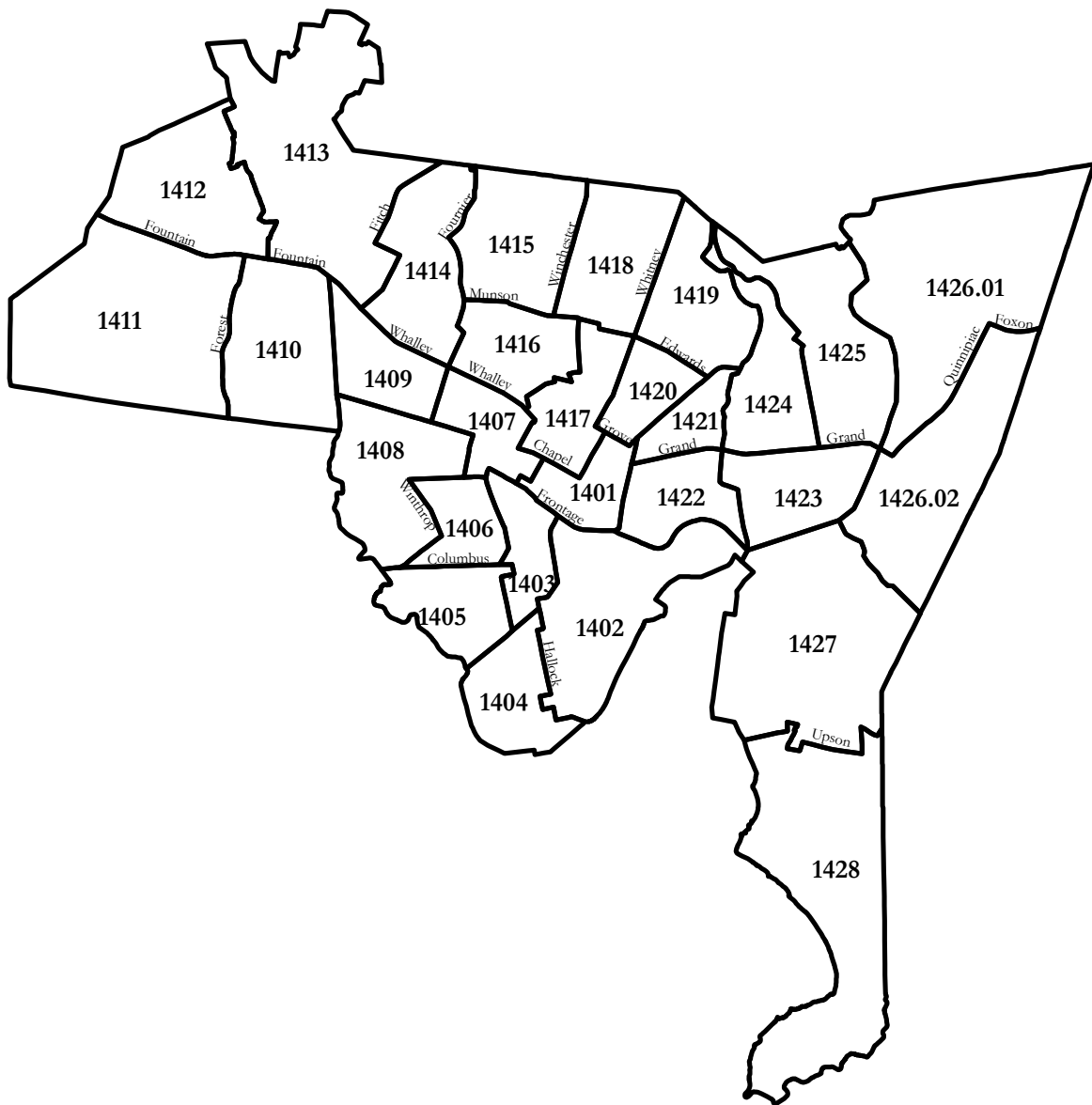
Source: City Plan Department, City of New Haven





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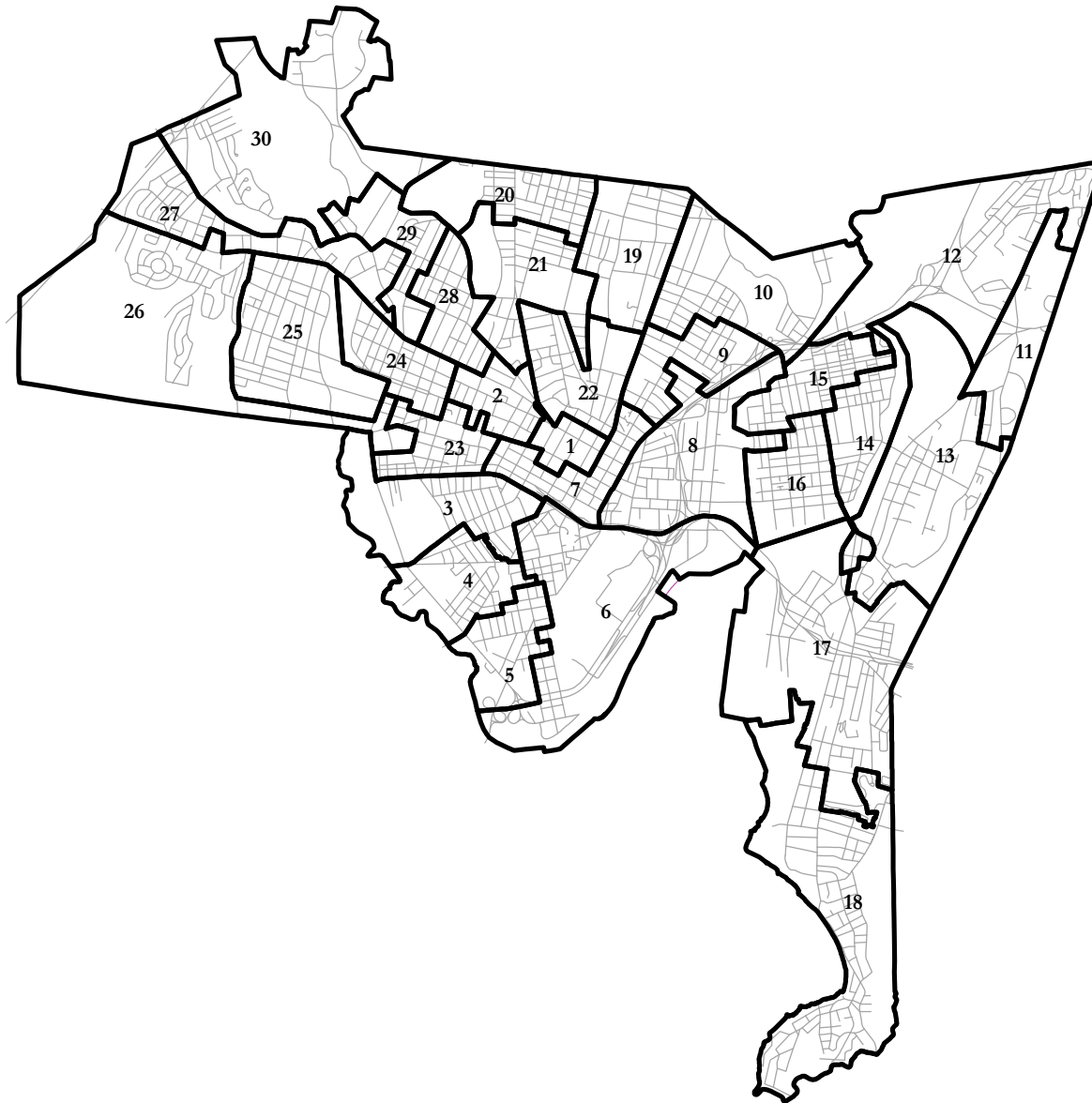


2000 0 2000 4000 Feet

Source: US Census Bureau







2000 0 2000 4000 Feet

Source: City Plan Department, City of New Haven





**The South Central Region**

The South Central Regional Council of Governments consists of 15 municipalities in south central Connecticut. These towns are considered the "region" in this report.

Source: City Plan Department, City of New Haven

