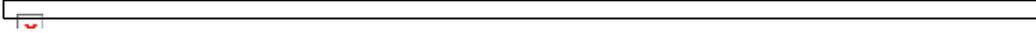




ATHOL

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Athol is a no-nonsense, blue-collar community located in the North Quabbin region of West Central Massachusetts. The town lies between the picturesque Tully Mountains to the North and the Quabbin Reservoir to the South. Athol offers a unique blend of urban and rural characteristics including a traditional downtown shopping district and an abundance of recreational activities such as camping, hunting and fishing.

Settled on the banks of the Millers River in the 1790's as a typical New England mill town, Athol has been a strong metalwork manufacturing hub since the turn of the century. Hence the town's nickname, "Tool Town, U.S.A.", is well earned.

Athol is home to the annual River Rat Race spectacular. What began as a local canoeing event 30 years ago, has evolved into a major tourist and sporting attraction. In early April of each year, the River Rat Race draws contestants from all over the northeastern United States to compete seriously and for fun.

The town is not without its cultural highlights. Each year the Athol Historical Society hosts many outstanding artists, musicians and other prominent people in addition to a very active local performing arts group that brings "Broadway to Town" at least four times a year.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by New Salem and Orange on the west, Royalston on the north, Phillipston on the east, and Petersham on the southeast. Athol is 25 miles west of Fitchburg, 38 miles northwest of Worcester, 72 miles northwest of Boston, and 182 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 33.40 sq. miles

Land Area: 32.58 sq. miles

Population: 11,451

Density: 351 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Tully Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....18.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Athol, Royalston, Orange

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 249-2368

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1762

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number %

Total Registered 5,360

Democrats 1,427 26.6 % Republicans 818 15.3 % Other parties 1 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 3,114 58.1 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Athol town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	11,299	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	11,299	100.0
Male.....	5,469	48.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	222	2.0
Female.....	5,830	51.6	Mexican.....	23	0.2
Under 5 years.....	648	5.7	Puerto Rican.....	143	1.3
5 to 9 years.....	761	6.7	Cuban.....	2	-
10 to 14 years.....	928	8.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	54	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	825	7.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	11,077	98.0
20 to 24 years.....	601	5.3	White alone.....	10,771	95.3
25 to 34 years.....	1,276	11.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,881	16.6	Total population.....	11,299	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,487	13.2	In households.....	11,051	97.8
55 to 59 years.....	535	4.7	Householder.....	4,487	39.7
60 to 64 years.....	417	3.7	Spouse.....	2,204	19.5
65 to 74 years.....	848	7.5	Child.....	3,350	29.6
75 to 84 years.....	757	6.7	Own child under 18 years.....	2,611	23.1
85 years and over.....	335	3.0	Other relatives.....	378	3.3
Median age (years).....	38.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	141	1.2
18 years and over.....	8,424	74.6	Nonrelatives.....	632	5.6
Male.....	3,956	35.0	Unmarried partner.....	340	3.0
Female.....	4,468	39.5	In group quarters.....	248	2.2
21 years and over.....	8,012	70.9	Institutionalized population.....	196	1.7
62 years and over.....	2,180	19.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	52	0.5
65 years and over.....	1,940	17.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	747	6.6	Total households.....	4,487	100.0
Female.....	1,193	10.6	Family households (families).....	2,970	66.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,417	31.6
One race.....	11,132	98.5	Married-couple family.....	2,204	49.1
White.....	10,884	96.3	With own children under 18 years.....	935	20.8
Black or African American.....	74	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	542	12.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	40	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	354	7.9
Asian.....	48	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	1,517	33.8
Asian Indian.....	5	-	Householder living alone.....	1,274	28.4
Chinese.....	9	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	578	12.9
Filipino.....	13	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,520	33.9
Japanese.....	5	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,277	28.5
Korean.....	6	0.1	Average household size.....	2.46	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.00	(X)
Other Asian ¹	10	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	-	Total housing units.....	4,824	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	4,487	93.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	337	7.0
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.....	49	1.0
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.5	(X)
Some other race.....	83	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	8.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	167	1.5	HOUSING TENURE		
<i>Race alone or in combination with one or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	4,487	100.0
White.....	11,042	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,156	70.3
Black or African American.....	103	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,331	29.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	108	1.0	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.60	(X)
Asian.....	69	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.14	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	0.1			
Some other race.....	143	1.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 93

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 38

Federal (Section 8): 58



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 202 and State Route 32, which run N-S from New Hampshire to Springfield and to U.S. Route 20, respectively; State Route 2, which runs E-W across North Central Massachusetts, and State Route 2A.

Rail

The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service. Contact number: (978) 663-1073.

Bus

Athol is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). No fixed service is available, but FRTA provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Orange Council on Aging and through the GMTA.

Other

The Orange Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,000'x 150' and 4,998'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#) **MUSEUMS**
(American Association of Museums)
None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Athol Memorial Hospital

Long Term Care

Quabbin Valley Conv. Center

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Tully Brook Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.