



Neighborhood
Planning
Initiative

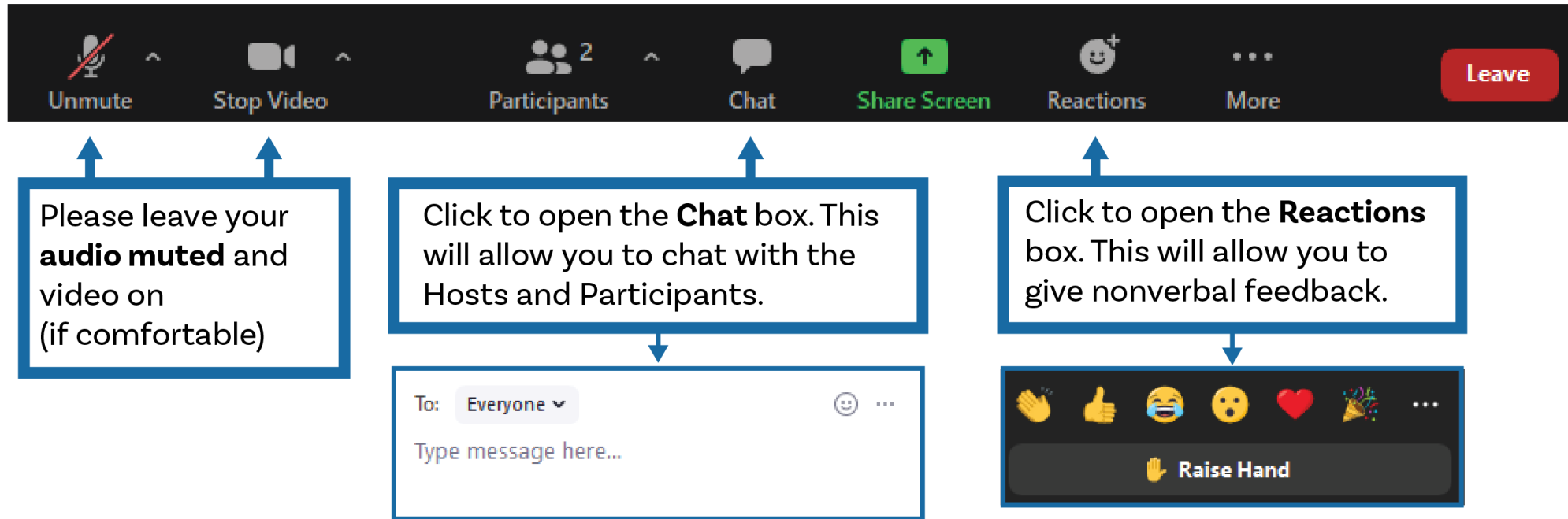
First Community Meeting

Neighborhood Nine

June 15, 2023



Getting to Know Zoom



The image shows a Zoom toolbar with several icons: Unmute (muted), Stop Video (video off), Participants (2), Chat, Share Screen (green), Reactions, More, and Leave (red button). Below the toolbar are three callout boxes with arrows pointing to specific icons. The first callout points to Unmute and Stop Video. The second callout points to Chat and has a downward arrow pointing to a chat window. The third callout points to Reactions and has a downward arrow pointing to a reactions panel.

Please leave your **audio muted** and video on (if comfortable)

Click to open the **Chat** box. This will allow you to chat with the Hosts and Participants.

Click to open the **Reactions** box. This will allow you to give nonverbal feedback.

To: Everyone ▾
Type message here...

👏 👍 😂 😮 ❤️ 🎉 ...
👏 Raise Hand



For Zoom-related questions reach out to Lev McCarthy via chat or email lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov



If you're having connectivity issues, call in at 929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 856 3943 9903



We're recording!

Meeting Purpose, Outcome, & Process



PURPOSE

- Learn from you about day-to-day life in your neighborhood, and discuss your ideas to make the neighborhood better

OUTCOMES

- Help create a neighborhood vision
- Guide the Plan's next steps
- Increase awareness of future opportunities to be involved in neighborhood planning

PROCESS

- A presentation and two breakout group discussions
- Slides and a recording available after the meeting

Connect with your
neighborhood
planner at City Hall!

DANIEL WOLF,
Neighborhood Planner
dwolf@cambridgema.gov
617-349-4618

Outreach



We acknowledge that the entire community isn't present tonight

- Project mailings, signage, focus groups, and online engagement will help us reach members of the community who aren't here tonight
- Let us know your suggestions for how to reach a wider audience!

There will be more opportunities to engage!

- This is the beginning of the engagement process, not the end!
- Over the coming months, we welcome your feedback, whether online or in-person
- We'll post a recording of tonight's meeting online, including the presentation slides

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Agenda



1. Welcome + Introduction to Neighborhood Planning 15 min
2. Getting to Know Neighborhood Nine & Overview of Current Projects 5 min
3. What We've Heard So Far 5 min
4. Breakout Groups: Neighborhood Assets + Needs 20 min
5. Emerging Themes So Far 5 min
6. Breakout Groups: Visioning + Key Themes 20 min
7. Report Back & Next Steps 10 min
8. Questions & Discussion

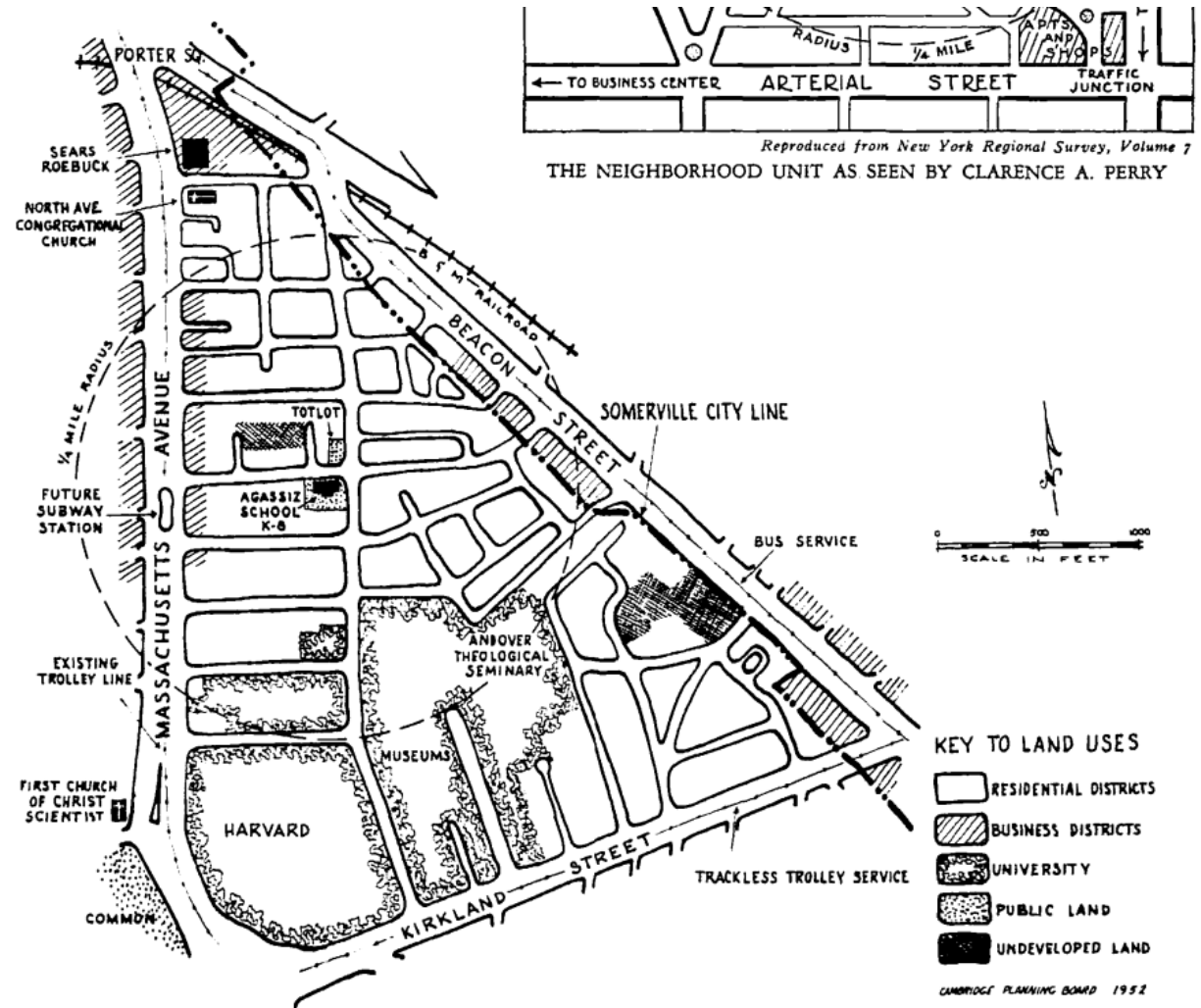


Intro to Neighborhood Planning

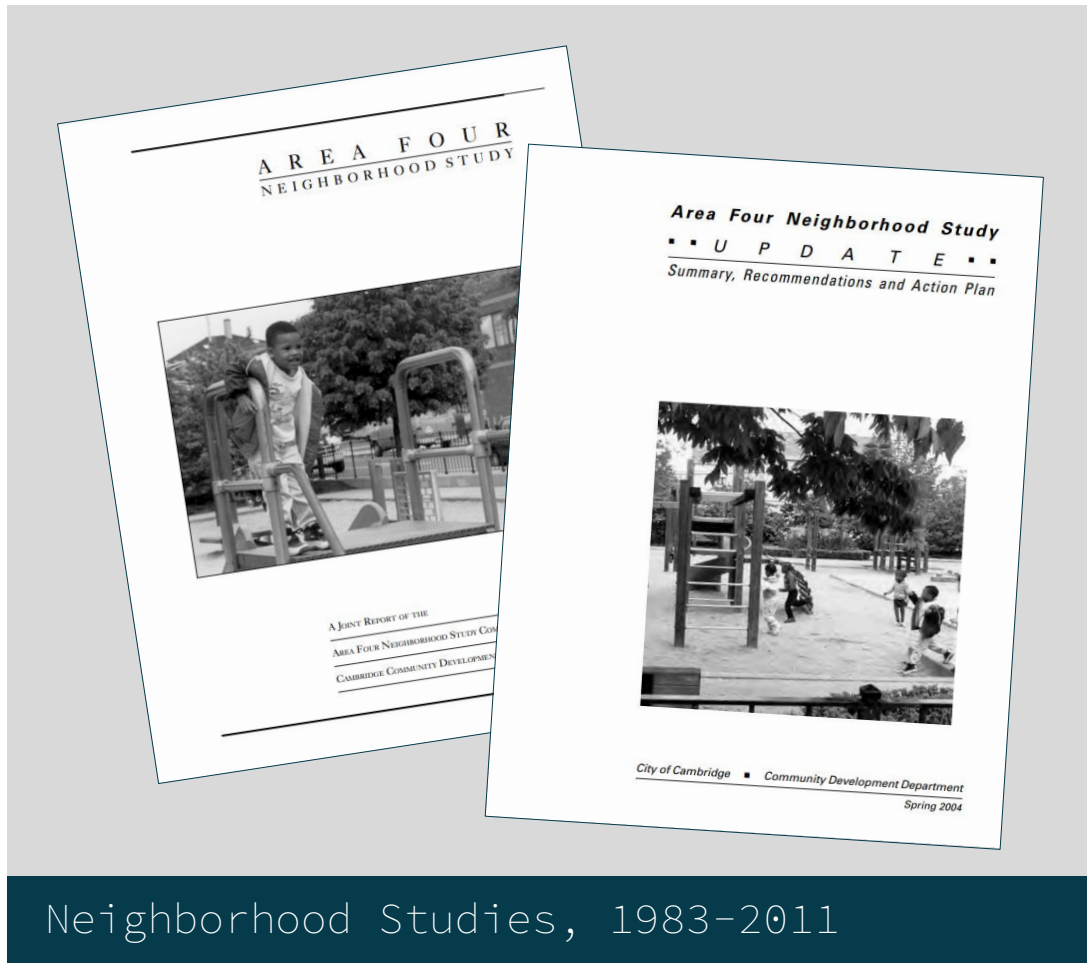
Neighborhood Planning in Cambridge



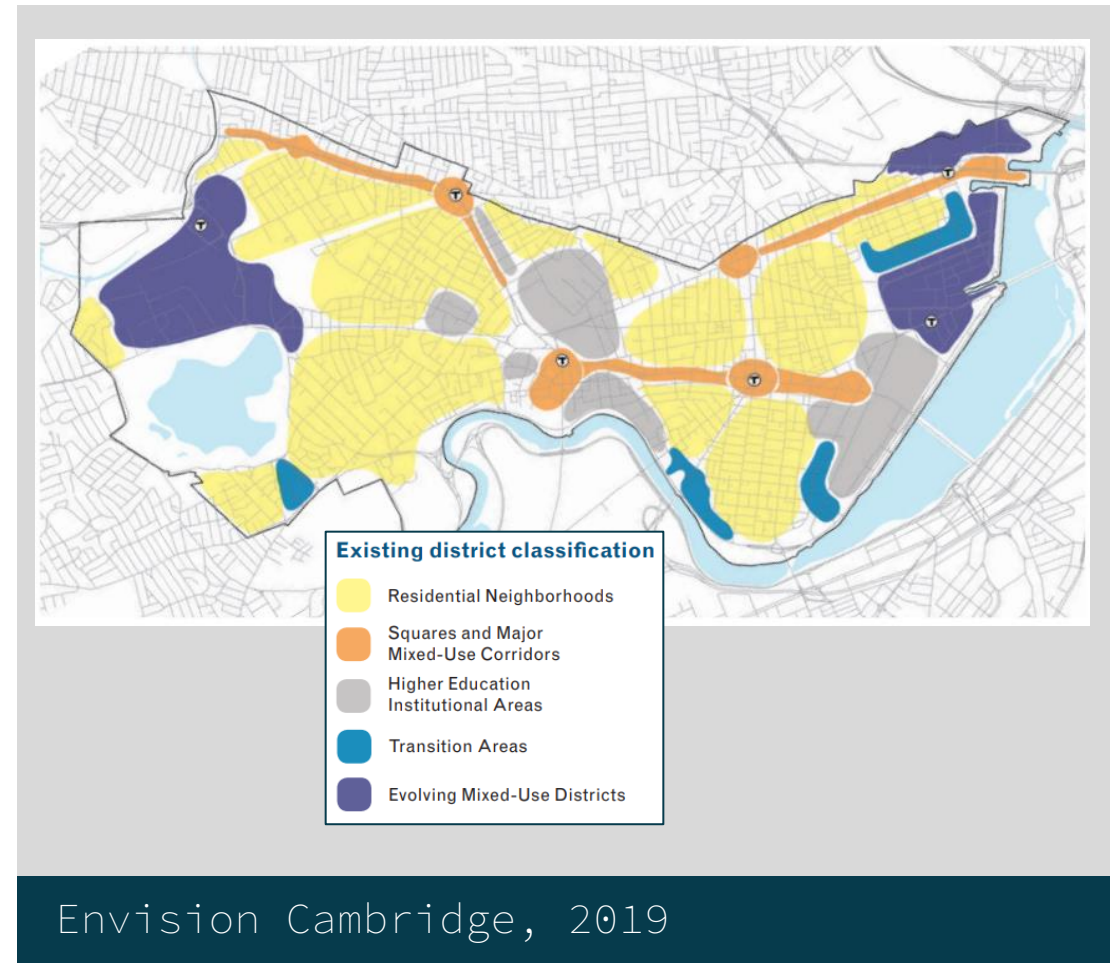
- “Neighborhood unit”



Neighborhood Planning Initiative Builds on Past Work



Neighborhood Studies, 1983-2011



Envision Cambridge, 2019

Envision Cambridge Core Values



Livability

- Vibrant built & natural environment
- Sustainable transportation
- Affordable & convenient access to daily needs & recreational resources

Diversity & Equity

- Welcoming community
- Celebrate our diversity
- Ensure access to affordable housing choices & opportunities to succeed

Economic Opportunity

- Access to quality jobs
- Workforce development and training
- Livable wages that support a high level of services

Sustainability

- Reduce our impact on the environment
- Build a resilient city & strong community

Community Health & Wellbeing

- Promote healthy & active lifestyles
- Supportive, safe community
- Diverse opportunities to connect with our neighbors & engage in civic life

Learning

- Embrace lifelong learning
- Celebrate the pursuit of knowledge
- Celebrate our culturally rich & creative community

Why Focus on Neighborhoods?



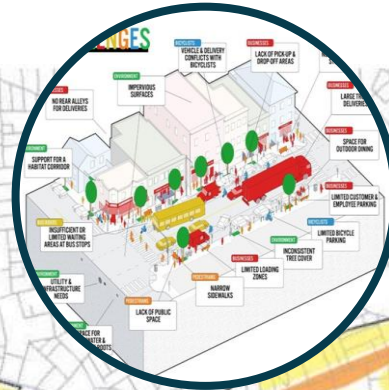
- Venue for discussions that aren't planned for as part of other City initiatives
- Understand how Citywide topics relate to neighborhoods
- Small scale allows for community-led project ideas
- Foster connections
- Focus on day-to-day



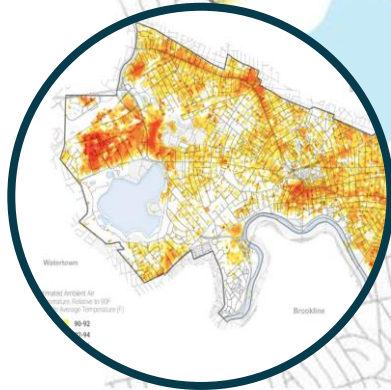
How NPI fits in with other City projects



Alewife District Plan



Our Cambridge Street



Resilient Cambridge

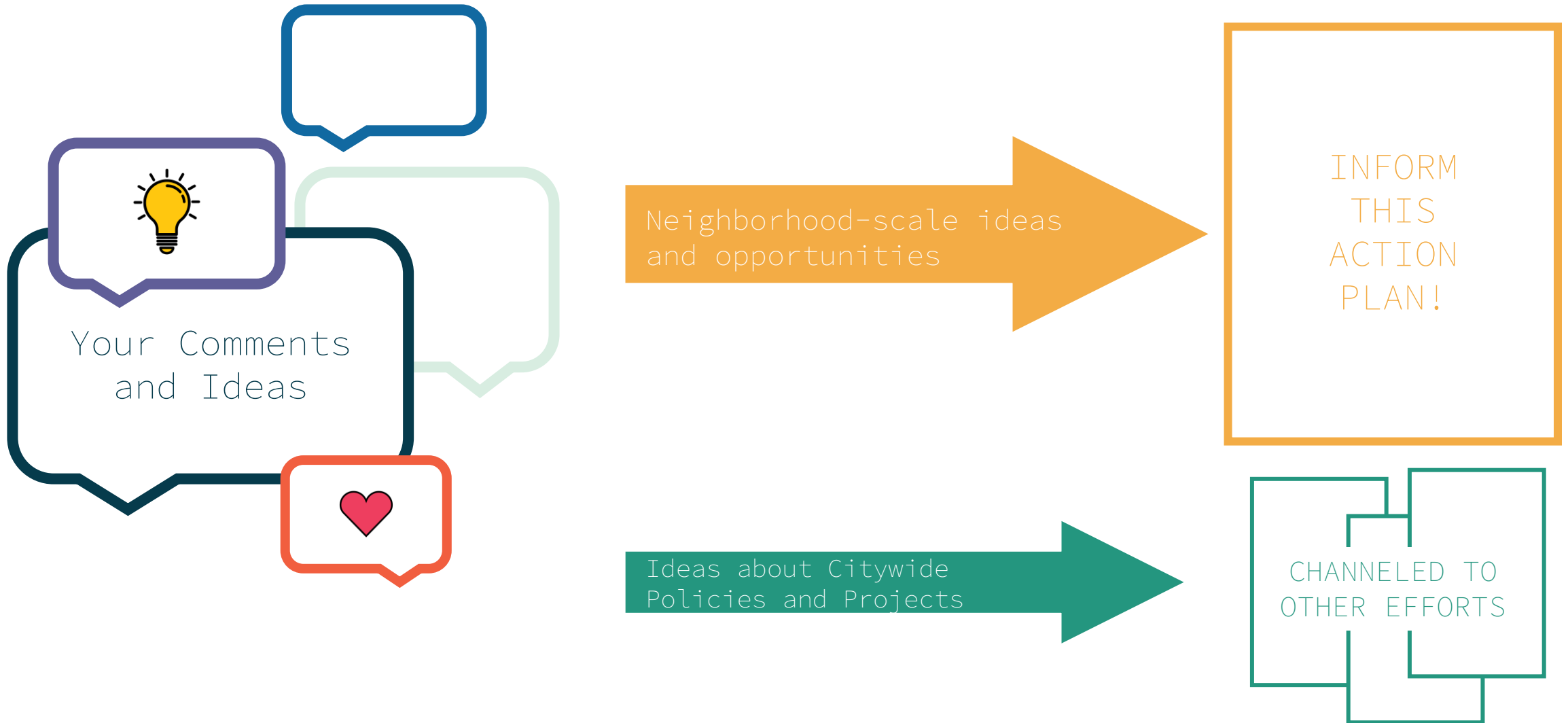


Urban Forestry Master Plan



Vision Zero Action Plan

What's the Focus of Neighborhood Planning?



What is the Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI)?



Cambridge's Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI) gives everyone in Cambridge access to local planning! City staff work with community members to improve the places that are central to daily life.

NPI includes four parts:



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NPI includes four parts:

Focus for Tonight!



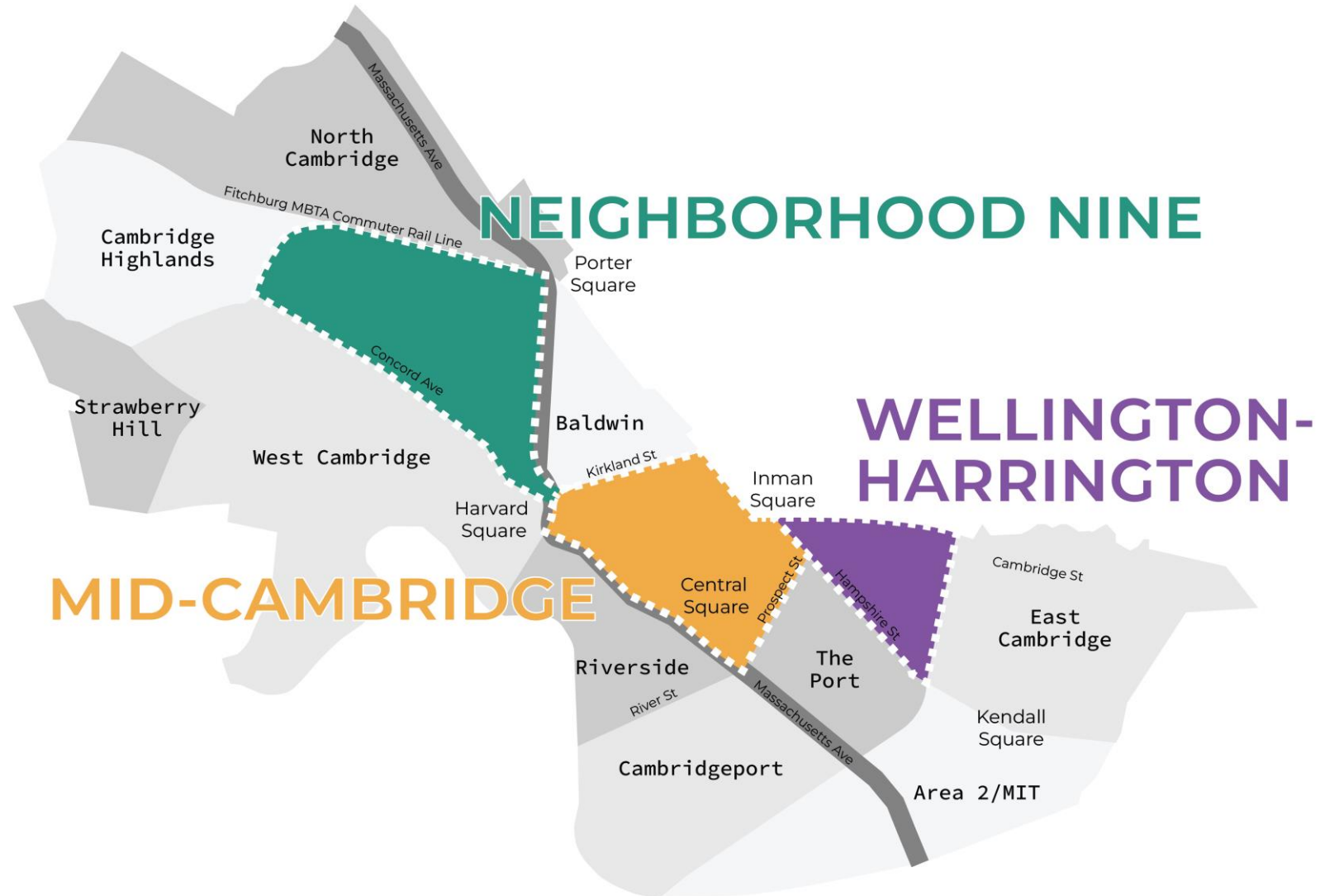


A one-year planning process to identify neighborhood priorities.

City staff work with community members to identify projects and policies to improve day-to-day life.

Action Planning

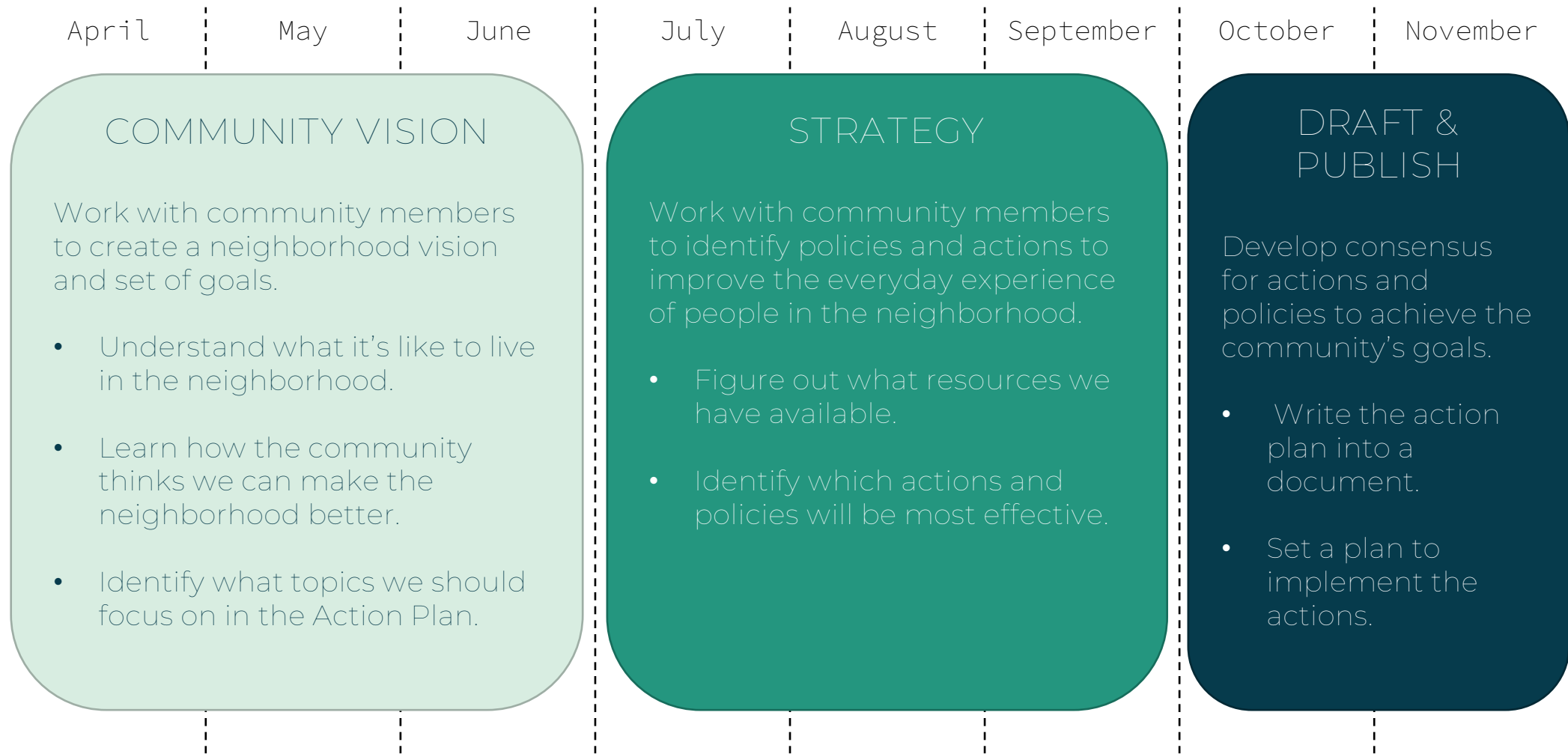
2023 Action Plan Neighborhoods



NPI Overall Scheduling



Action Plan Schedule



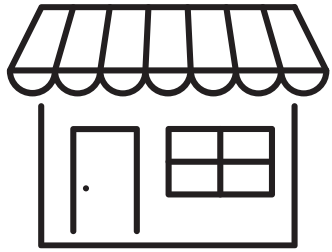
What Do Action Plans Do?



Community conversations about open space, housing, transportation, economic development, environment

- > Craft a neighborhood's vision for the future
- > Identify actionable local projects
- > Build relationships with neighbors and with City staff while demystifying City processes

Example Actions from Past Neighborhood Studies



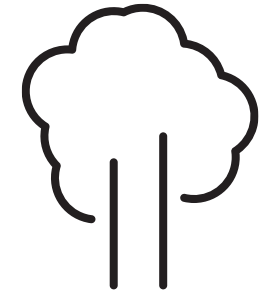
Connect small
businesses to
financial supports



Make streets
safer to cross
with signal
improvements



Encourage more
family-sized
housing through
the permitting
process



Improve parks
and make
better access
to parks



Getting to Know Neighborhood Nine!



Neighborhood Nine

- 1** Graham & Parks School
- 2** Cambridge Public Library - Boudreau Branch
- 3** Cambridge Montessori School
- 4** Cambridge Friends School
- 5** Cambridge Montessori - Elementary School
- B** Bluebike Station
- Commercial District**
- MBTA Bus (1,64,68,69,83,86,91)**
- T** MBTA Red Line (Harvard, Central)

Snapshot Highlights



410
Acres

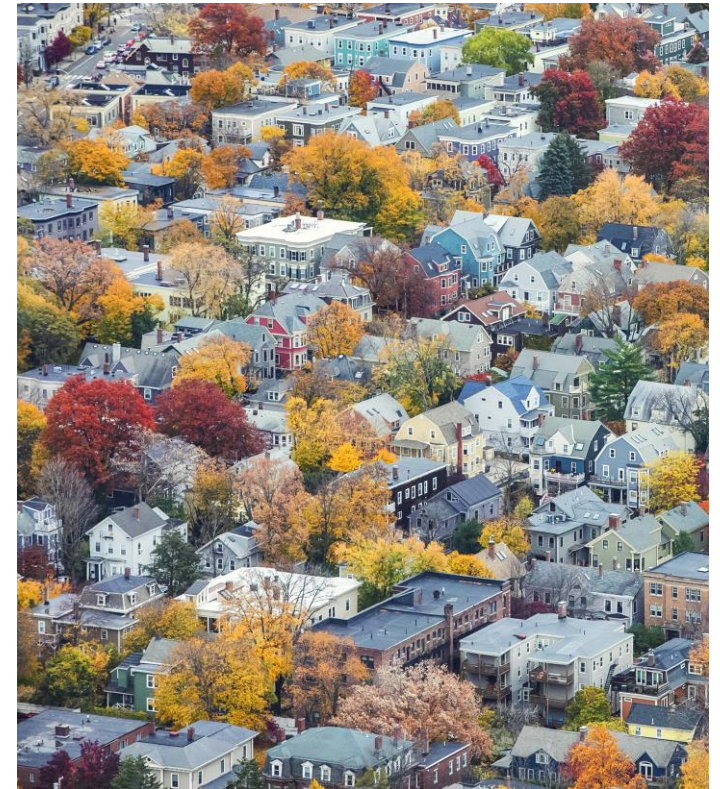
10% of Cambridge

12,937
Residents

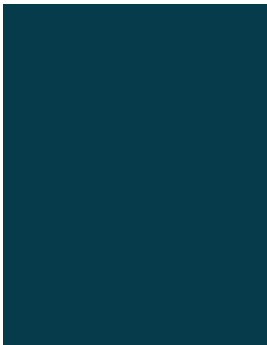
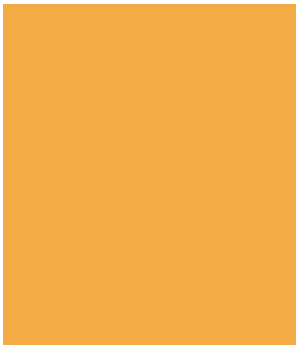
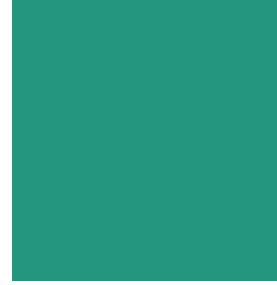
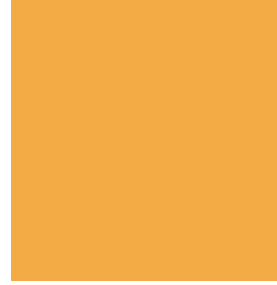
11% of Cambridge

Moderately-dense
neighborhood

Made up of about 60%
renters and 40%
owners.



22% Open Space, including Danehy Park



Activity Centers



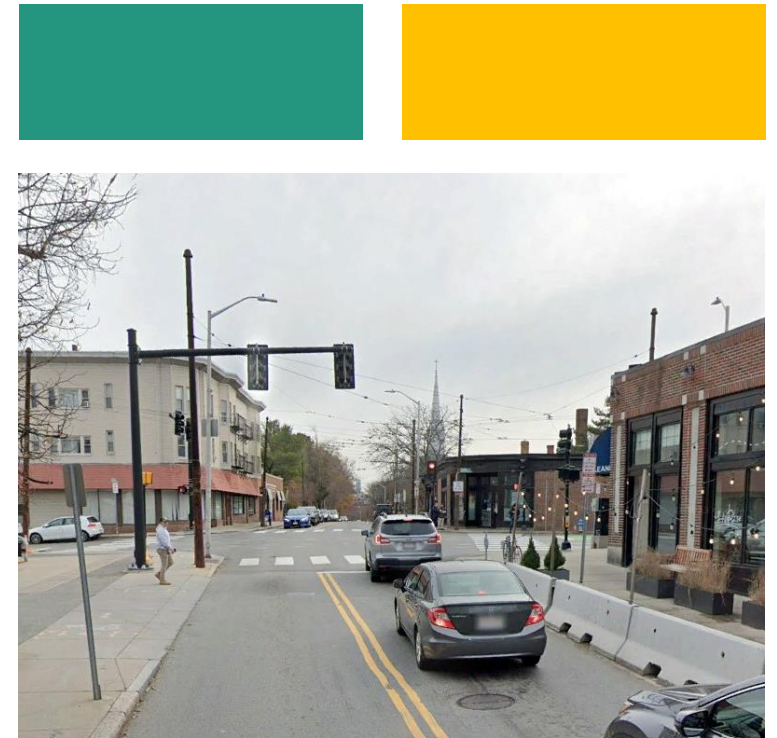
Mass Ave connecting
Harvard & Porter Squares



Fresh Pond Mall



Observatory Hill, businesses
on Concord Ave



Neighborhood Nine Projects

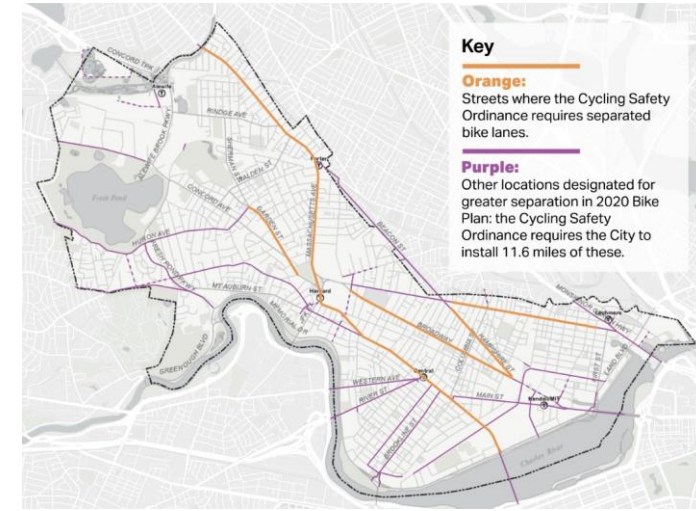


Current and Upcoming Projects:

- Danehy Gateway Pavilion Project
- Danehy Park Connector / New Street Path
- Danehy Park Capital Improvement Plan
- Fitchburg Line Rail Crossing Feasibility Study
- Harvard Square Kiosk
- Cycling Safety Ordinance
 - Harvard Sq Bus Stops on Mass Ave
 - Mass Ave Partial Construction – Harvard Sq to Alewife Brook Pkwy
- Raymond Park Improvements

Citywide Policies and Plans:

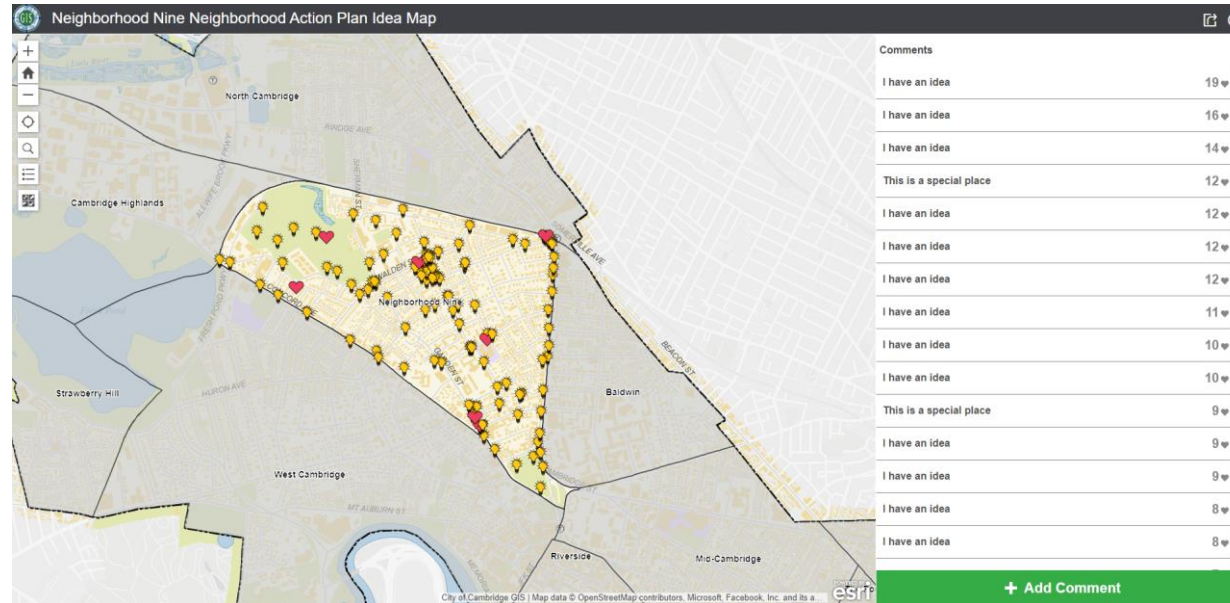
- Envision Cambridge
- Resilient Cambridge
- UFMP and Healthy Forest, Healthy City
- Our Parks, Our Plan (Open Space Plan Update)
- Cambridge Bicycle Plan
- 5-Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan





What We've Been Hearing So Far

Your Input So Far!



What is NPI?
Cambridge's Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI) gives everyone in Cambridge access to local planning! Together, we will work to improve the places and activities that are central to your daily life.



Your Input So Far!

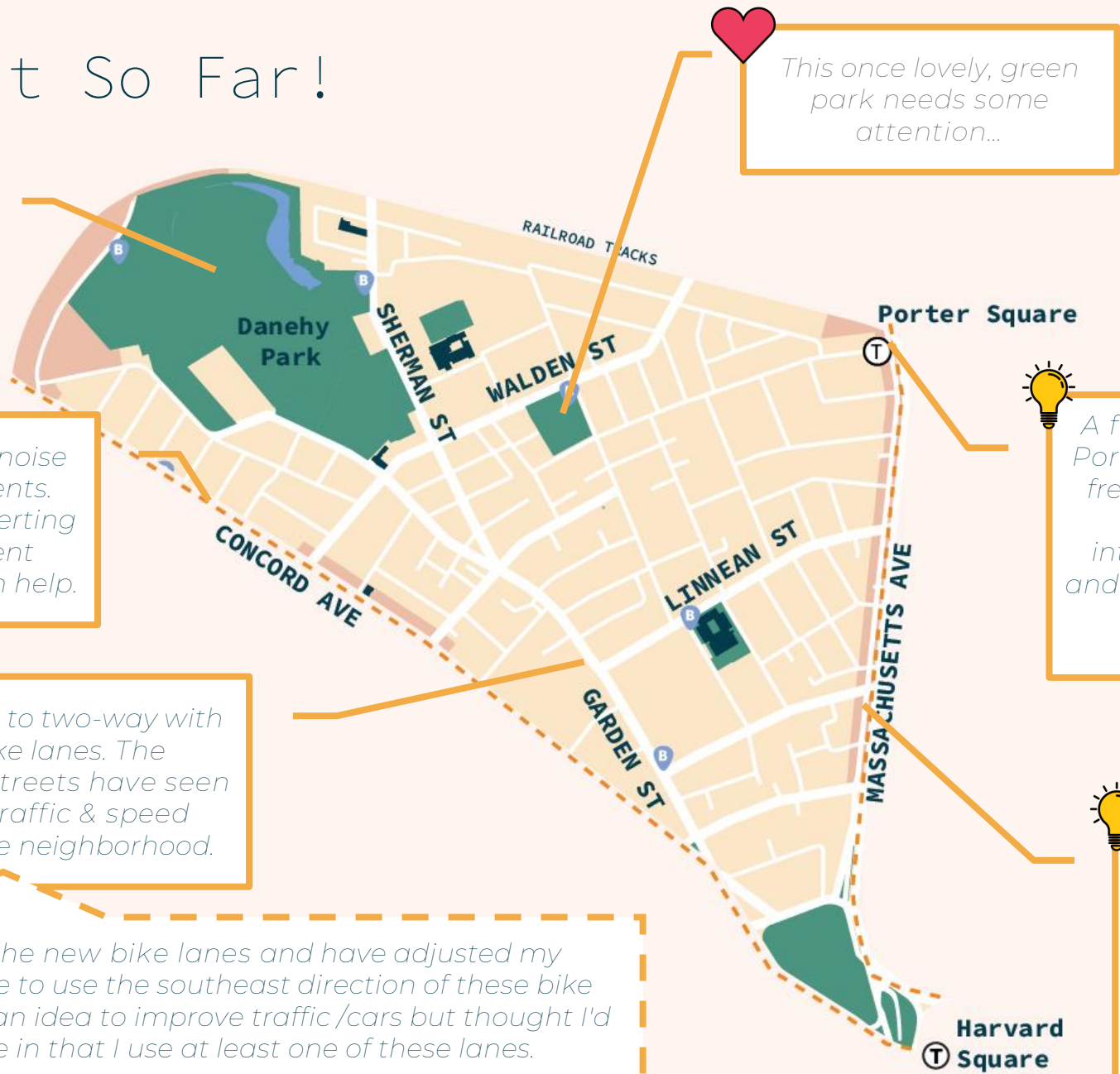


Please replace all the trees that were lost last summer and make sure there is a new irrigation system in place.

Heavy traffic here causes noise and air pollution for residents. Also restricts bike use. Converting to one way to complement Garden St and/or Huron can help.

Return this section to two-way with 2 protected bike lanes. The surrounding side streets have seen an increase in traffic & speed creating an unsafe neighborhood.

I am a fan of the new bike lanes and have adjusted my commuting route to use the southeast direction of these bike lanes. Don't have an idea to improve traffic/cars but thought I'd add my voice in that I use at least one of these lanes.



A fresh coating on the famous Porter Square kite statue would freshen up the whole area and make the T station and intersection look more vibrant and cared for. This stretch of Mass Ave. is doing great, let's emphasize that!

The parking setup was reorganized here 3+ years ago and a tarmac triangle of dead space was effectively created – it would be great to see this turned into a greenspace with some seating...

Your Input So Far!



[Sad about] José's restaurant closing

Sherman St Playground
Pop Up

I'd love for sidewalks to be spray-cleaned and swept in urban areas regularly. Also easier for mobility!

Sherman St Playground
Pop Up

we need: community mtg spaces (inside)

Raymond Park
Pop Up

Make Garden Street 2 way. Current arrangement forces, heavy traffic on two small neighborhood streets during the afternoon rush-hour

General Comment Form

I love the protected bike lanes. Much easier to drive, better air quality. Plus, safety!

Sherman St Playground
Pop Up

[Happy about future] bike connection from Danhey Park to Porter Sq

Kemp Playground
Pop Up

I think having more of the street gatherings where the block is closed off so that people can just meet and eat and get to know one another. There is one in Neighborhood Nine called the Buena Vista Social Club. That happens every autumn. A few more would be nice too.

Neighborhood Focus Group

Plant + care for a LOT more trees!

Raymond Park
Pop Up

Group Discussion Guidelines



- Show respect to all that participate
- Embrace diverse points of view
- Avoid debates and interruptions
- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Do not engage in personal attacks
- All stereotyping and hateful comments are not tolerated



BREAKOUT GROUP 1: Neighborhood Assets + Needs

20 minutes

Choose someone to report back on a quick summary of what you talked about!

Envision Cambridge Core Values



Livability

- Vibrant built & natural environment
- Sustainable transportation
- Affordable & convenient access to daily needs & recreational resources

Diversity and Equity

- Welcoming community
- Celebrate our diversity
- Ensure access to affordable housing choices & opportunities to succeed

Economic Opportunity

- Access to quality jobs
- Workforce development and training
- Livable wages that support a high level of services

Sustainability

- Reduce our impact on the environment
- Build a resilient city & strong community

Community Health & Wellbeing

- Promote healthy & active lifestyles
- Supportive, safe community
- Diverse opportunities to connect with our neighbors & engage in civic life

Learning

- Embrace lifelong learning
- Celebrate the pursuit of knowledge
- Celebrate our culturally rich & creative community

Emerging Topics in Neighborhood Nine



Livability

- Frustration/concern and appreciation for the new Garden St. separated bike lanes and vehicle traffic changes
- Maintenance at Raymond Park, notably: trash and flooding
- New/improved uses at Raymond park, such as: exercise equipment and dog management

Diversity and Equity

- Housing affordability

Economic Opportunity

- Vacant retail spaces and restaurant closings

Sustainability

- Pollinator gardens and pocket parks along Mass Ave

Community Health & Wellbeing

- Gathering space in Porter Sq
- Roadway safety for people walking and biking

Learning

- Refresh existing public art in Porter Sq

Let's Discuss!
What do these core values look like in your neighborhood?

Emerging Themes in Neighborhood Nine



- Transportation and safety on our streets and sidewalks
- Parks and recreation
- Community building and places to gather



Let's Discuss!
What do you think?
What's missing?



BREAKOUT GROUP 2:

What 3 words describe your neighborhood today and in 10 years?

20 minutes

Choose someone to report back on a quick summary of what you talked about!



REPORT BACK

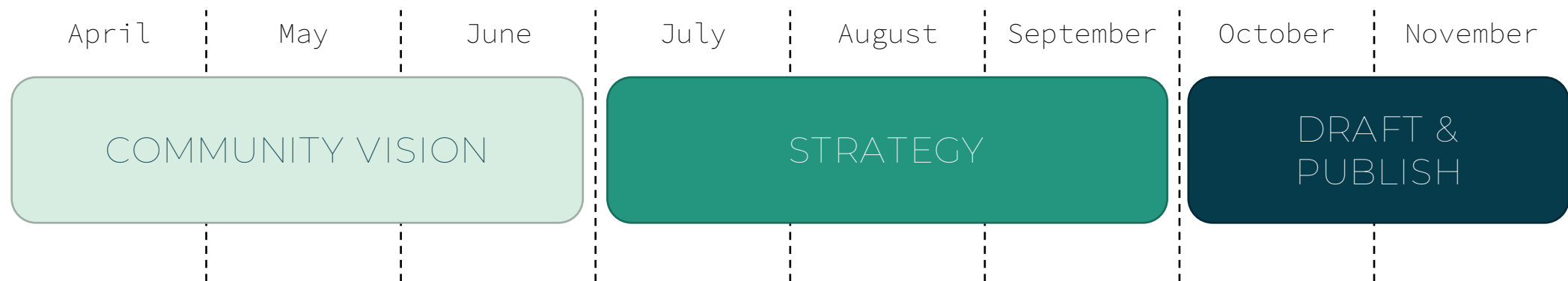
Share a couple of themes from your group's discussion!

5 minutes

What's Next?



- Summarize what we've heard so far
- Identify key themes / priorities for Neighborhood Nine
- Move from Vision to Strategy! Start to identify specific policies and actions
- More opportunities to engage!
 - Online survey and office hours
 - Next round of pop-ups/drop-ins and focus group discussions
 - Share feedback at our next workshop in September!



Contact Us



Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!

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Upcoming City Meetings & Events for Neighborhood Nine



*Pedestrian and Bicycle Crossing Over the
MBTA Commuter Rail tracks in North
Cambridge*

June 21 (5:30 p.m.) online

[Register Here](#)

Cambridge Plays – Boston HarpDuo

June 22 (4 p.m.) in front of 1771 Mass Ave.

[Event Information](#)





Neighborhood
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Thank You!

June 15, 2023