

KENDALL SQUARE PUBLIC SPACE CENTER PLAN

AS KENDALL SQUARE HAS BEEN ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF CREATING THE FUTURE, WE PROPOSE MAKING KENDALL SQUARE THE PUBLIC SPACE CENTER—BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF EXPERIMENTATION, INNOVATION AND OPTIMISM INTO THE PUBLIC REALM.

KENDALL SQUARE IS WHERE THE FUTURE IS INVENTED.

Kendall Square has always been a place for dreaming big, for exploration, research, innovation and taking risks—from the early industries built on marsh land, to the grand vision of a NASA, and to its abundant of research facilities and innovative businesses located here today. In developing a new framework for Kendall Square, we questioned: how can this heritage of innovation and ideas be continued and leveraged to address opportunities for Kendall Square today?

We need a shift in perspective towards a grand moment of optimism for Kendall Square. People should think of it as a destination in itself, a place to discover, the perfect place to build, to start new ways to participate in public space. Development of a public space framework allows us to ask: "what is this place?" and "how can we be curious and explore again?" while developing new public space fabric for Kendall Square.

As Kendall Square has been on the cutting edge of creating the future, we propose making Kendall Square the Public Space Center—bringing the spirit of experimentation, innovation and optimism into the public realm. Kendall Square, as Public Space Center, can be a global model that joyfully addresses the social and environmental challenges of our era in a forward-looking, healthy and humane neighborhood.

The framework for creating the Public Space Center consists of three layers: The Physical Realm, which incorporates the tangible elements and design of landscapes, buildings and systems; The Participatory Realm, which includes the ideas made visible and the activities that take place in the stage set by the physical realm; and Beautiful Policy, which lays the groundwork for fueling change towards a better public future.

PUBLIC SPACE DIAGRAMS

CURRENT OPENSOURCE

- Rogers Park
- Porkchop Park
- Point Park
- Volpe Center
- Triangle Park

PROPOSED OPENSOURCE

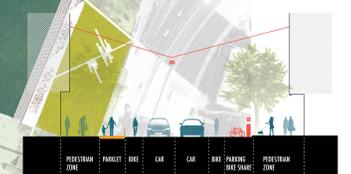
- Volpe Walk
- Canal Trace
- The Web of Streets
- Volpe Backyard
- MIT/Kendall T Station Area
- Junction Park
- Point Park
- Rogers Park
- Front Parks: Triangle Park, Front Park
- Charles Park
- Under Park
- The Riverfront
- The Space Center
- Outposts

Street Typologies

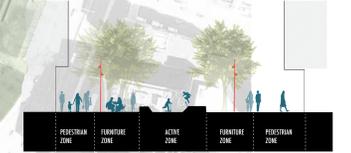
FABRIC STREET



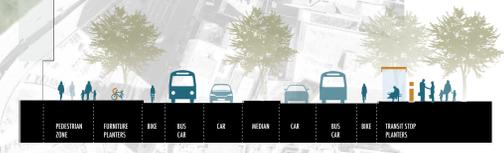
MARKET STREET



PARTICIPATE/BIG MOVE STREET



BOULEVARDS



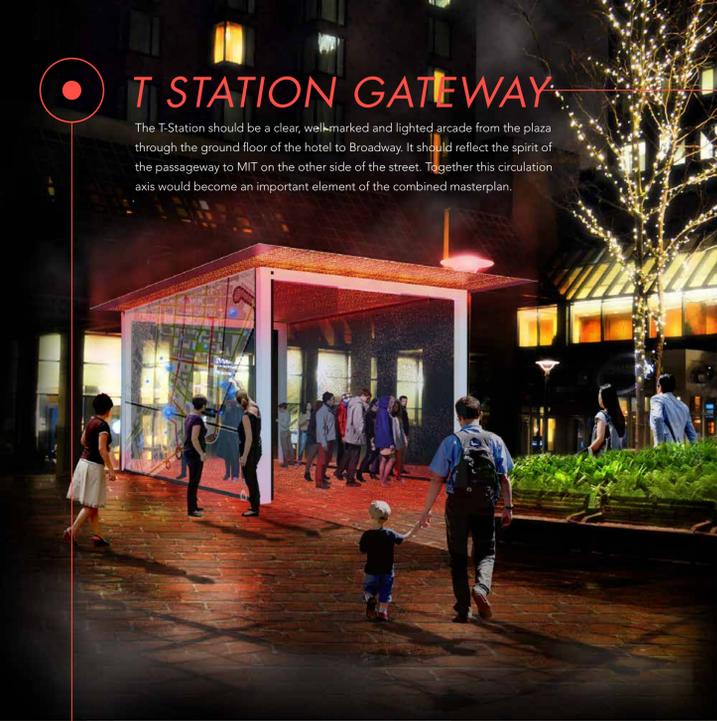
SITE PLAN 1:100

T STATION GATEWAY

The T-Station should be a clear, well-marked and lighted arcade from the plaza through the ground floor of the hotel to Broadway. It should reflect the spirit of the passageway to MIT on the other side of the street. Together this circulation axis would become an important element of the combined masterplan.

POINT PARK

The character of Point Park draws on the retail nature of the juncture as a plaza space for people to meet in the course of the day's activities. The design includes iconic overhead light canopies that are colorful and lit in the evening. They help visually connect Point Park with the Kendall/MIT station as part of a larger pedestrian node and also acts as an entryway from Boston.



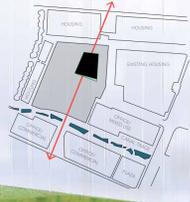
THE CROSSING

The Crossing is envisioned as a major new open space at the intersection of the Canal Trace and Volpe Walk. The crossing of the two "big move" routes is significant in the hierarchy of Kendall Square as an enticing place and as a signature location in terms of intuitive wayfinding.



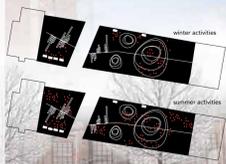
VOLPE BACKYARD

The Backyard is located inside the Volpe site. It is designated as a Childsafe Zone, with a discovery playground and children's garden, this would be safe place for young people to be able to participate in self-directed play away from areas with traffic. The Volpe site gives an opportunity to create a true mixed-use environment serving a variety of inhabitants, creating an unusually synergistic heart to the Kendall neighborhood.



ROGERS PARK

Rogers Park is well located for larger scale activities that bring together East Cambridge residents with the Kendall Square community. Its location is also key to the success of the Foundry Building Demonstration Project. A very attractive synergy between the STEAM activities and the park is possible, but the proposed new development between the Foundry and Third Street would significantly reduce that potential.



WARMING OUTPOST



JUNCTION PARK

The "porkchop" shaped open space between Binney and the Grand Junction right-of-way's new park could be a beautiful and functional junction that supports safe and pleasant commutes by bicycle, with facilities for cyclists including bike storage, repair and showers. Should there be passenger transit on the route in the future, the site takes on an even stronger use as a junction. The Station is located at the south end of the park near Broadway.

The other interesting junction is below ground—the combined sewer main is just north of the park. We propose diverting stormwater from the main and pre-treating it through bioretention and/or a filter media device or hydrodynamic separator. This treated water is aerated by being pumped to a "water wall" visible from across Binney, and directed to the Canal Trace.



CANAL UNDERPARK

Access to the Charles River is a key contextual component of an open space system, however the opportunities to engage with the river are surprisingly sparse. We propose avoiding the traffic barriers by going under the bridges to the river. From the existing walkway a ramp would lead to a path, suspended from the beams above. This would first take us to a new park at the median of the two bridges. This land between the two bridge structures slopes down to the water, and currently has lovely, mature trees. Steps attached to the masonry piers would connect to this existing green space above.



CANAL TRACE

Canal Trace begins at the Junction Park Waterworks, taking cleansed water through the heart of Kendall to the Broad Street Canal. It is one of the new signature connections defining the new neighborhood.



FRONT PARK TRIANGLE

Our framework looks at the collection of parks near the river—Front Park, Charles Park, the riverfront, the existing but currently disconnected parcel described as the Under Park, and the newly acquired triangle of land as an assembly of Front Parks. Front Park Triangle draws on the culinary art school as inspiration for growing food and bringing the people together around a common dining table. Herbs and edible plants grow in raised beds along the south end of the park, with a slight incline to diminish the effects of the traffic along Land Boulevard. The north side emphasizes the connection diagonally across Land Boulevard to the existing Front Park.



RIVERFRONT

Reconnecting Cambridge and the Charles River is one of the most exciting aspects of the Connect Kendall Square project. People will be drawn to the river via the Under Pass or the improved crossings associated with the Front Parks. Along the riverfront itself, people can choose to be on the lower boardwalk, close to the water, or upland along the Cambridge Park(way). The Riverfront walkway connects from MIT through Cambridge over to Boston, making a continuous pathway.



