Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study

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Summary, Recommendations and Action Plan

City of Cambridge ▪ Community Development Department

Winter 2005

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Special thanks to Penelope Kleespies of the Longfellow Community School for helping to set up and host our meetings.

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Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study

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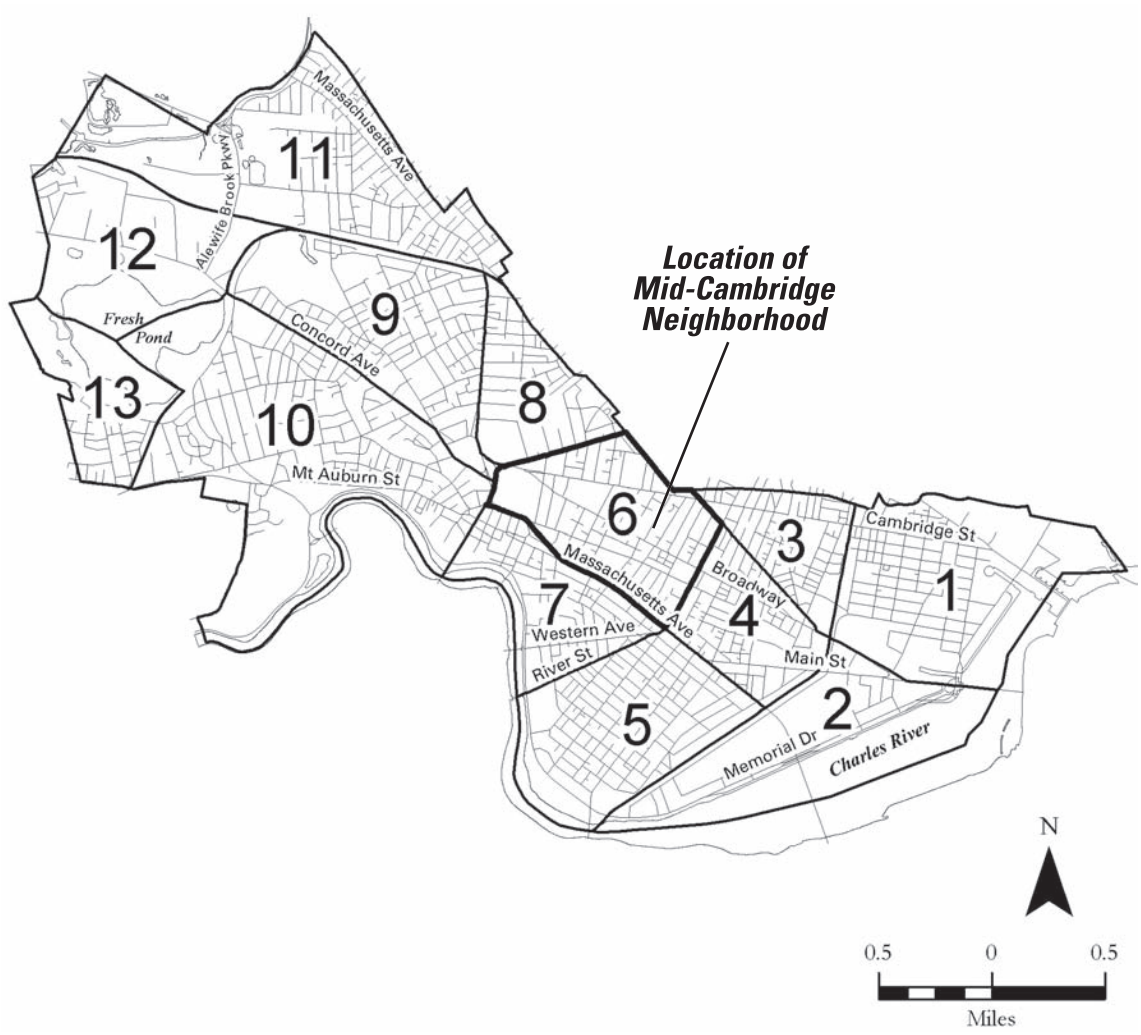
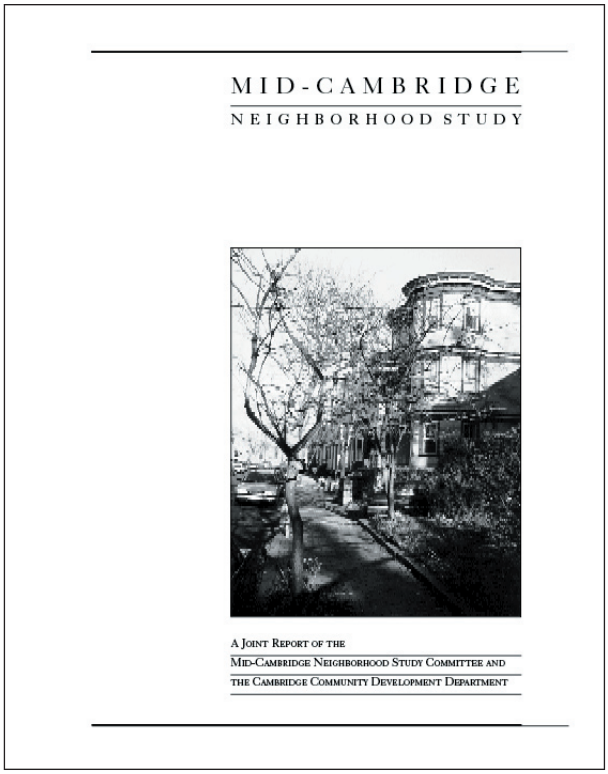
Introduction

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Location Map



History

Since 1988, the Community Development Department (CDD), through its neighborhood planning program, has conducted comprehensive studies in ten of the city's neighborhoods. CDD staff work collaboratively with a citizen committee appointed by the City Manager to identify planning opportunities and make recommendations for a course of action. Recommendations address such issues as traffic and parking, housing affordability and homeownership, neighborhood commercial areas and employment, park maintenance, and rezoning for areas that are inappropriately zoned. As part of each neighborhood study, CDD collects data on demographic changes, as well as changes in housing markets, land use, and development potential in each neighborhood. Where appropriate, the recommendations resulting from the neighborhood studies are incorporated into the work programs of city departments for implementation. In some cases, this implementation takes place over a short period of time, in others it is part of long-term strategic planning. The neighborhood study process has also informed the city's growth policy document, *Towards a Sustainable Cambridge*, which outlines planning assumptions and policies in the areas of land use, transportation, housing, economic development, open space, and urban design.


MID-CAMBRIDGE
NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

A JOINT REPORT OF THE
MID-CAMBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY COMMITTEE AND
THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Neighborhood Study Updates

To ensure that these studies remain current and useful, CDD has begun the practice of periodic study updates. Each neighborhood study will be updated approximately every three to four years. The update process involves a series of public meetings, where community members are invited to comment on the original study recommendations, suggest new items, and prioritize issues. City staff from various departments attend these meetings to give presentations and answer questions as needed.

The end result of the update process is a "Summary, Recommendations, and Action Plan" document that is made available to the public, City Council, and city staff. The update process is intended to ensure that neighborhood studies remain current documents that evolve with the changing times.

The following are the goal and objectives underlying the neighborhood study and update processes:

Goal

To enhance and inform the delivery of municipal services through collaborative planning between citizens, City Council, and city departments.

Objectives

- To create a planning process that has input from community members.
- To inform members of the community by making neighborhood study reports available to the public, in print and online.
- To provide information to department heads and other city staff about community needs and values.
- To assist with the budget and management process.
- To formulate long-term plans for neighborhood improvements.
- To conduct work on a neighborhood level that is reflective of larger citywide planning practices such as the Growth Policy Document and the Report of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee.

Implementation

The goal of these neighborhood studies is to create a strong link between community process and the everyday work done by the city's many departments. It is important that these studies remain an integral part of the strategic management, budgeting, and daily operations of city departments. For this reason, CDD will increase outreach to other departments while developing studies and, once they are completed, will communicate recommendations to relevant departments to be incorporated into their work plans.

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study

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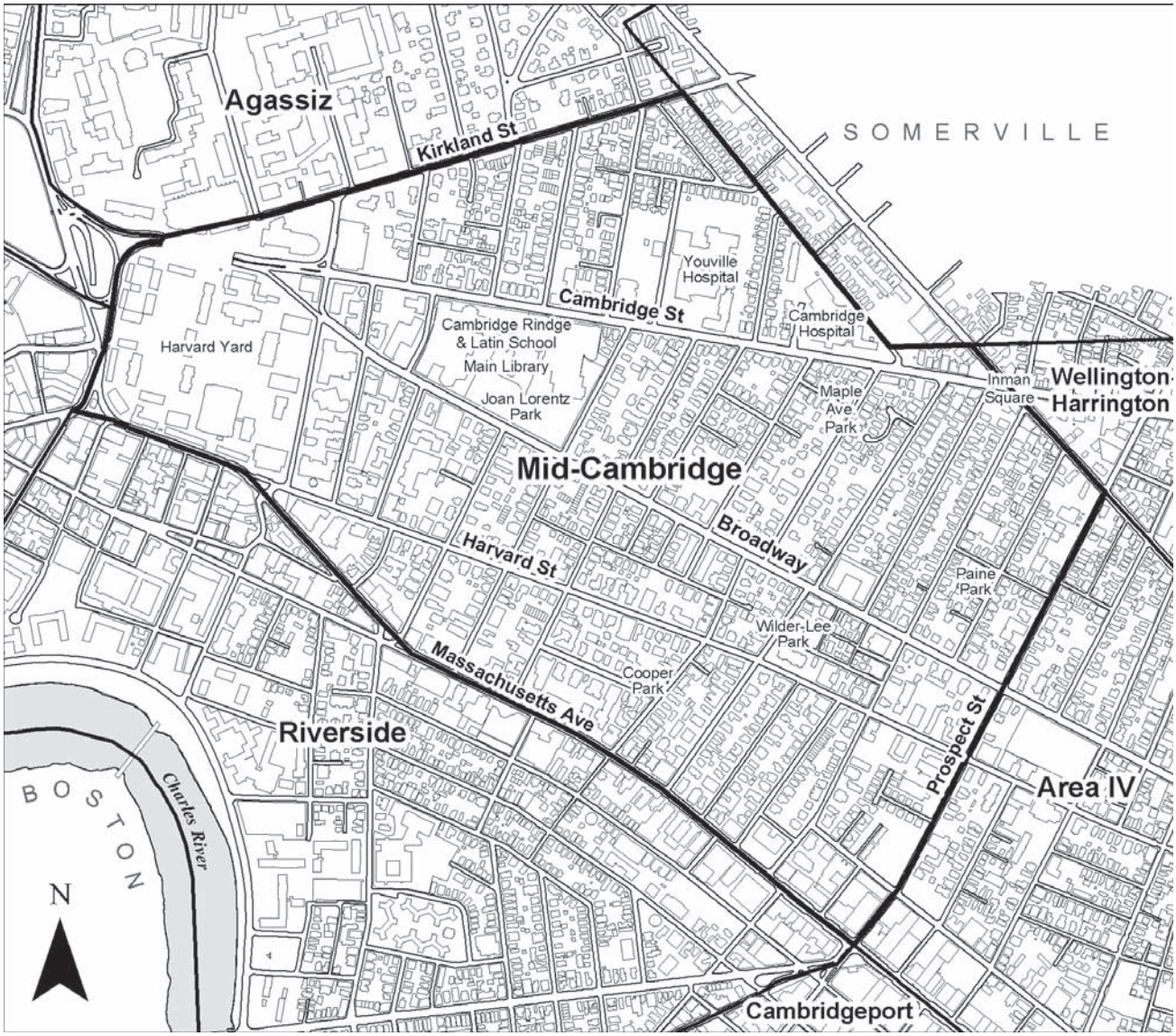
Summary

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Boundaries



Original Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study

The original Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Committee consisted of twelve members of the Mid-Cambridge community, who met regularly between October 1993 and May 1994. During their meetings, this committee discussed a wide variety of issues affecting the neighborhood, heard presentations from Community Development Department staff, and received input from other members of the Mid-Cambridge community. The topics discussed by this study committee include land use, transportation, housing, economic development and employment, and open space. Their effort resulted in a document, the *Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study* (published in 1998), containing an analysis of each of these topics along with recommendations to help guide long-term planning within the neighborhood. These recommendations are listed in the "Recommendations and Action Plan" table in the last section of this document, with an implementation status and progress-to-date summary for each.

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update process involved a series of three public meetings held between May 2002 and February 2003, at which Community Development Department staff described some activities the City has undertaken since 1998 to address land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and open space issues in the neighborhood.

At these meetings, members of the Mid-Cambridge community also discussed the recommendations of the original *Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study* (1998) and made some new recommendations to supplement the original set. These new recommendations are included in the "Recommendations and Action Plan" table in the last section of this document, with an implementation status and progress-to-date summary for each.

Demographics Update

Population and Age Characteristics

According to figures from the US Census, between 1990 and 2000, the population of Mid-Cambridge rose by 4%, to 13,589. During the same time period, the population of the City of Cambridge rose by 6%, to 101,355. Mid-Cambridge remains the most populous neighborhood in the city.

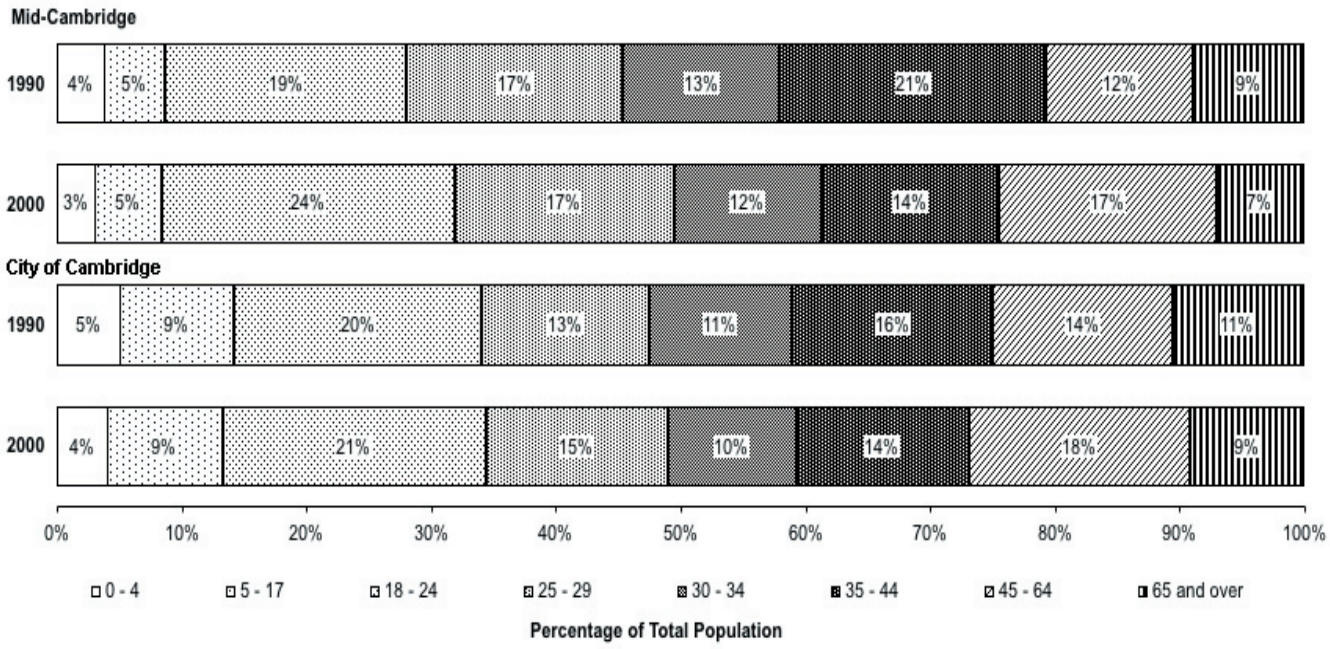
There were a few significant changes to the age distribution in Mid-Cambridge between 1990 and 2000. As shown in the following chart, there was a sizable increase in the number of 18-to-24-year-olds in Mid-Cambridge, a sizable decrease in the number of 35-to-44-year-olds, and a large increase in the number of 45-to-64-year-olds. There were similar changes within the city at large, but they were proportionally smaller than in Mid-Cambridge.

CHANGE IN POPULATION BY AGE

	Mid-Cambridge			*City of Cambridge*		
	1990	*2000*	*Change*	*1990*	*2000*	*Change*
Total Population	13,020	13,589	+ 4%	95,802	101,355	+ 6%
4 years old and younger	494	409	- 17%	4,759	4,125	- 13%
5-17 years old	640	732	+ 14%	8,853	9,322	+ 5%
18-24 years old	2,507	3,203	+ 28%	18,997	21,472	+ 13%
25-29 years old	2,258	2,376	+ 5%	12,852	14,721	+ 15%
30-34 years old	1,641	1,613	- 2%	11,013	10,481	- 5%
35-44 years old	2,784	1,925	- 31%	15,430	13,942	- 10%
45-64 years old	1,532	2,372	+ 55%	13,827	18,010	+ 30%
65 years old and older	1,164	959	- 18%	10,071	9,282	- 8%

As illustrated in the chart below, the age distribution for Mid-Cambridge in 2000 is similar to the citywide age distribution, with slightly fewer children and more 18-to-24-year olds.

AGE DISTRIBUTON



Race, Ethnicity, and National Origin

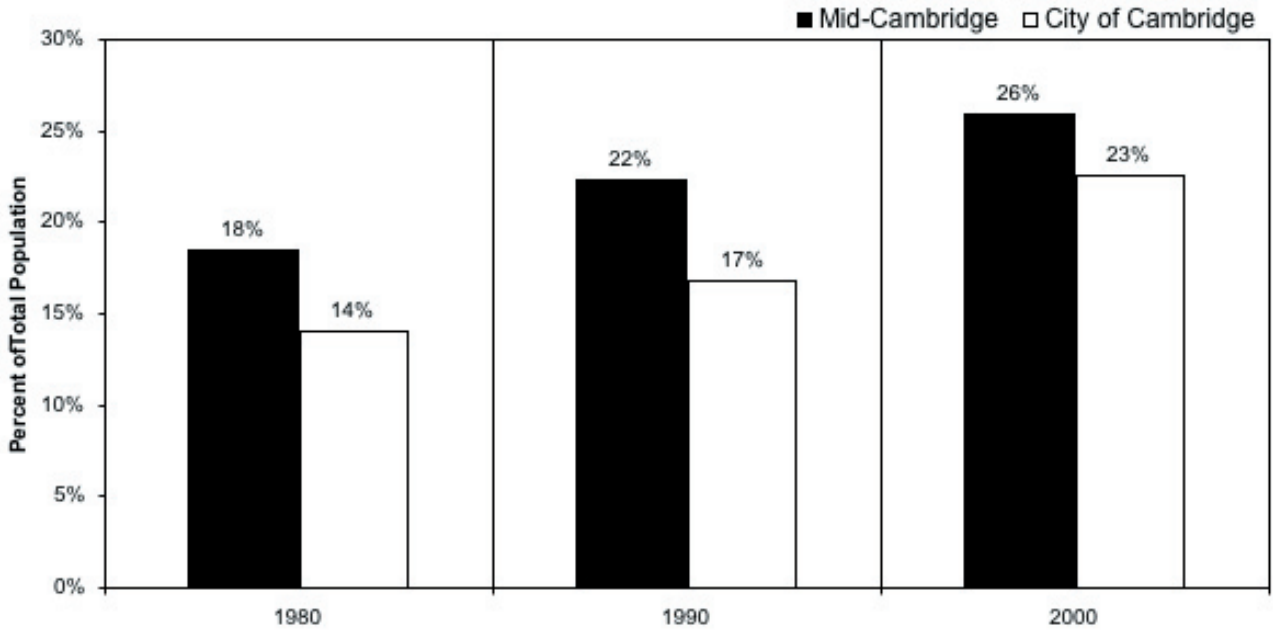
The most significant change to the racial composition of Mid-Cambridge between 1990 and 2000 was a 33% increase in the Asian/Pacific Islander population, mirroring a 50% citywide increase in that demographic. There was also an increase in the number of residents identifying themselves as an "other" race, and there were some residents who identified themselves as "two or more races" (which was included as an option for the first time on the 2000 Census form). In the 2000 Census, 5% of Mid-Cambridge residents and 8% of Cambridge residents identified themselves as a race other than White, Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Native American. There was a slight decrease in the number of residents identifying themselves as White or Black, but in 2000 the neighborhood still had a higher proportion of White residents and a lower proportion of Black residents than the city at large. Finally, the number of residents of Hispanic ethnicity (which could include persons of any race) increased by about 32% in Mid-Cambridge and by about 15% citywide, though the proportion of Hispanic residents remains slightly lower in Mid-Cambridge than in the city at large.

RACIAL DISTRIBUTION

	Mid-Cambridge		*City of Cambridge*	
	1990	*2000*	*1990*	*2000*
Total Population	13,020	13,589	95,802	101,355
White	84%	78%	75%	68%
Black	5%	5%	14%	12%
Asian / Pacific Islander	9%	12%	8%	12%
Native American	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Other Race	1%	2%	2%	3%
Two or More Races	N/A	3%	N/A	5%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	4%	5%	7%	7%

The foreign-born population of Mid-Cambridge also increased between 1990 and 2000. As shown in the chart below, while the percentage of foreign-born residents in the city has grown steadily between 1980 and 2000, Mid-Cambridge has maintained a significantly larger percentage of foreign-born residents than the city at large.

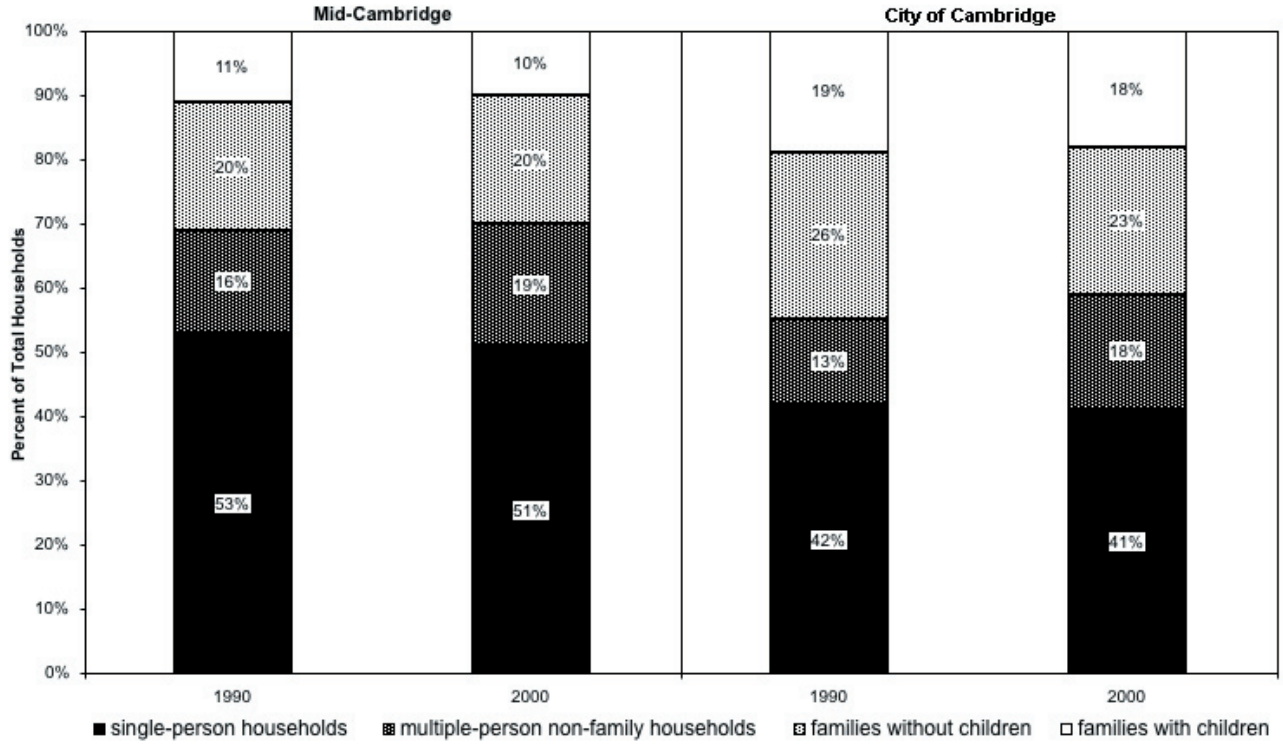
FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION



Households, Families, and Group Quarters Population

The household composition of Mid-Cambridge changed very little between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, Mid-Cambridge still had a smaller proportion of family households (households consisting of at least two related persons) than the city at large, with 30% versus 41%, and only 10% of households in Mid-Cambridge consisted of families with children, compared to 18% citywide.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION



People living in group quarters residences, such as dormitories or hospitals, are considered "non-household persons" by the US Census and are not counted among the household population. In Mid-Cambridge, about 18% of the population in 2000 was living in group quarters, compared to 14% citywide. Mid-Cambridge has the fourth-highest percentage of group quarters residents of all neighborhoods in the city, behind MIT/Area 2 (70%), Riverside (34%), and Agassiz (33%).

NON-HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

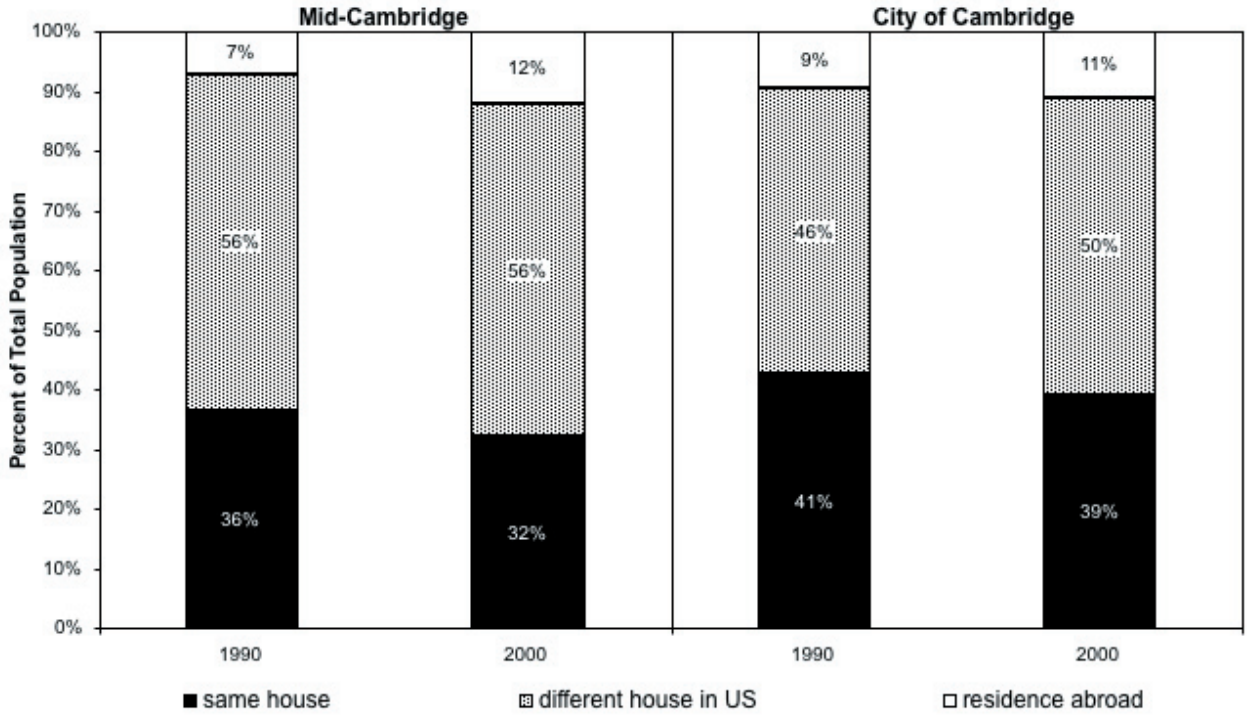
	Mid-Cambridge		*City of Cambridge*	
	1990	*2000*	*1990*	*2000*
Total Population	13,020	13,589	95,802	101,355
Population residing in group quarters	2,527	2,384	14,033	14,663
Percentage residing in group quarters	19%	18%	15%	14%

Housing Units, Tenure, and Transience

The number and type of housing units in Mid-Cambridge have also changed very little between 1990 and 2000. The total number of housing units in Mid-Cambridge increased by 6%, compared to a 7% increase citywide. About 5% of the housing units in Mid-Cambridge were vacant in 2000, and of the occupied units, about one-third were owner-occupied and about two-thirds were renter-occupied. These figures are much the same as the figures for Mid-Cambridge in 1990, and for the City of Cambridge in 2000 as well.

As shown in the chart below, the rate of turnover among residents continues to be higher in Mid-Cambridge than in the city at large. In 2000, only 32% of Mid-Cambridge residents were living in the same house as they were five years prior, compared to 39% citywide. This figure fell between 1990 and 2000, while the proportion of residents who had moved into the neighborhood from abroad within the past five years rose substantially, from 7% to 12%.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS PRIOR TO CENSUS

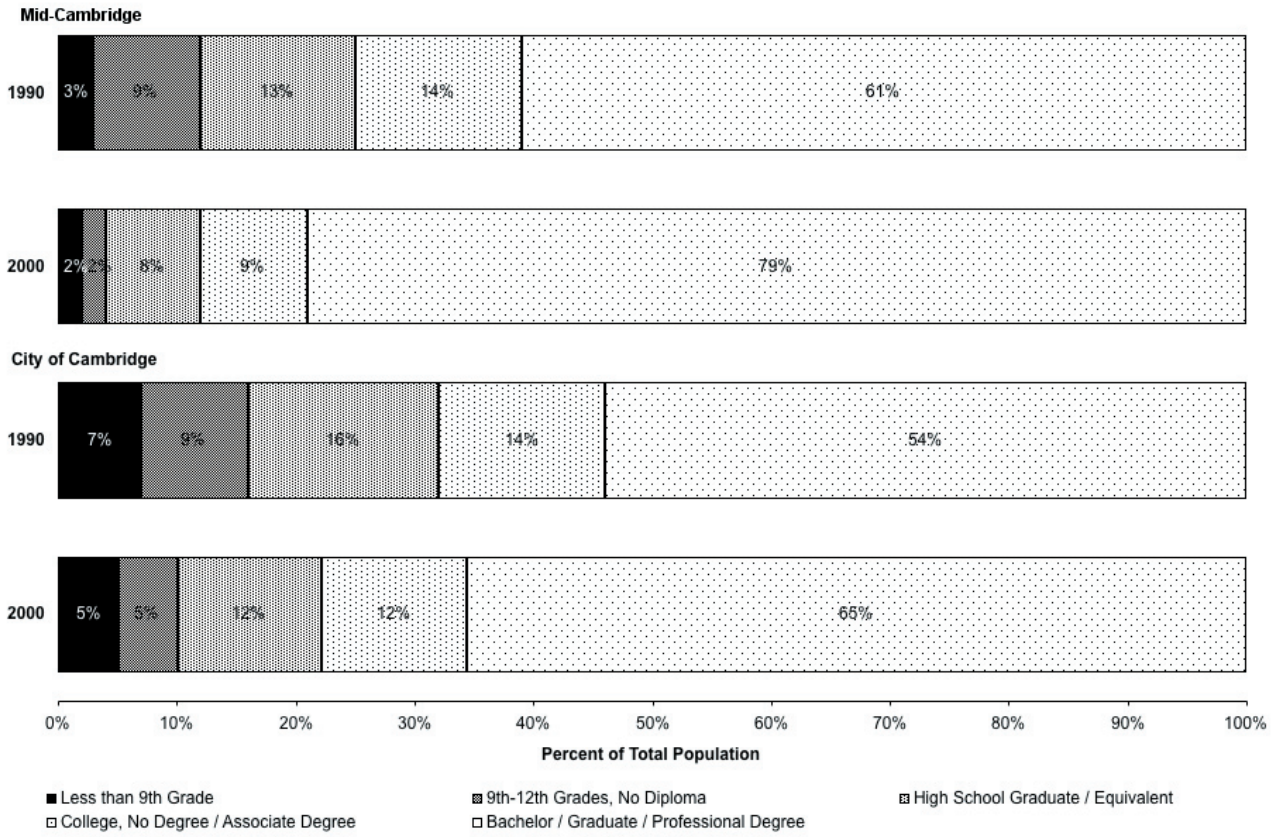


Education

Since the neighborhood includes part of the Harvard University Campus, Mid-Cambridge has a large number of residents who are currently enrolled at a university. According to the 2000 Census, about 31% of the Mid-Cambridge population attends college or graduate school, compared to about 26% of the citywide population.

Mid-Cambridge also has a very high level of educational attainment among its residents. Nearly 80% of Mid-Cambridge residents age 25 and older had a bachelors, graduate, or professional degree in 2000, compared to 65% citywide. Moreover, as shown in the chart below, the educational attainment of both the Mid-Cambridge and the citywide populations have been improving.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINMENT ACHIEVED



Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study

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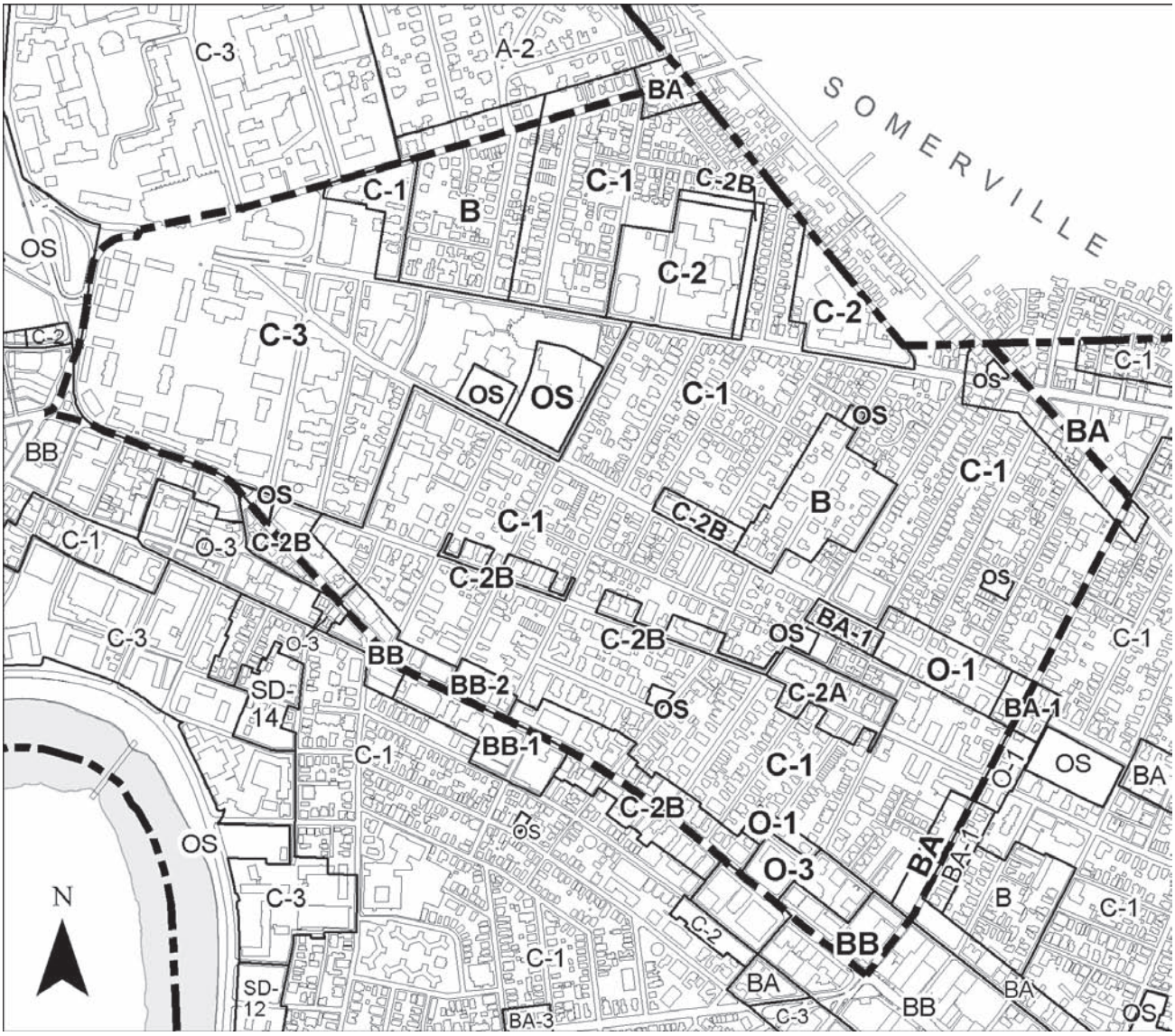
Recommendations and Action Plan

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Zoning Map



Zoning Districts

B	Residence B	**O-1**	Office 1	**IA-1**	Industry A-1
C-1	Residence C-1	**BA**	Business A	**IA-2**	Industry A-2
C-2	Residence C-2	**BA-1**	Business A-1	**IB**	Industry B
C-2B	Residence C-2B	**BB**	Business B	**MXD**	Mixed Use Development
C-3	Residence C-3			**OS**	Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Since the publication of the *Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study* in 1998, many of the recommendations from that study have been addressed. Some have been addressed through completed actions or are being addressed through the ongoing programs of city departments. Others will be addressed through future actions, which could take place within a short-range, medium-range, or long-range timeframe. In some cases, recommendations are being addressed through actions taking place on a citywide scale.

The following "Recommendations and Action Plan" table provides a list of all recommendations, old and new, along with an implementation status and progress-to-date summary for each. Items that are part of the City's present or future action plan are denoted by a ■ symbol. An estimated timeframe is also provided for each action item, describing whether it is expected to occur within a short-range (less than 2 years), medium-range (2-6 years), or long-range (6-10 years) period.

LAND USE, URBAN DESIGN AND ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
LU1	Examine potential of infill under current zoning. Conduct analysis including figure ground map	***Analysis Conducted as Part of Rezoning Process*** In 1998, a "Backyard Rezoning" was proposed that would limit the amount of infill development allowed in established residential districts by reducing allowed density and increasing the required amount of open space on a lot. As part of this process, the Community Development Department performed an analysis to determine how much infill development might be allowed under the existing and proposed zoning.
LU2	Conduct analysis towards the means of reducing excessive infill, and include in that consideration the following possible techniques: a. Consider increasing Zoning's open space requirement. b. Consider changing C-1 residential district to C residential districts. c. Examine the Conservation District's guidelines.	***New Zoning Regulations in Effect*** In 1999, Cambridge adopted a "Backyard Rezoning" petition that changed some of the C-1 district regulations. The allowed dwelling unit density was decreased, from one dwelling unit per 1,200 square feet of lot area to one unit per 1,500 square feet of lot area. This rezoning also raised the required amount of open space on a residential lot, from 15% of the lot area to 30% of the lot area.
LU3	Lower height limits to 45' in the C-2 and C-3 residential districts on Harvard Street.	***New Zoning Regulations in Effect*** The Harvard Street C-2 and C-3 districts have been rezoned to C-2B and C-2A, which have height limits of 45 feet and 60 feet respectively. Certain portions of the C-2 and C-3 district have been rezoned to Residence C-1, which has a height limit of 35 feet.
LU4	Consider requiring real estate agencies/mortgage lenders to provide prospective property owners with basic zoning information.	***Zoning Information Available to the Public*** The Community Development Department (CDD) publishes a *Zoning Guide*, which contains a basic overview of the zoning process and summary of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. This document, along with the Zoning Ordinance, is available to the public (including realtors and prospective property owners) and can be obtained in print or can be downloaded from the CDD website at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD. CDD staff will also consult with property owners or prospective owners on request. Call 617-349-4651 for information.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
LU5	Support the City's efforts to create better pedestrian areas and to improve bicycle access to public streets through the Street Enhancement Initiative. Install neck-downs at busy intersections: a. Massachusetts Avenue. b. Broadway. c. Cambridge Street.	***Project Completed*** A full set of roadway improvements were completed along Massachusetts Avenue as part of the implementation of the Central Square Master Plan in 1997. ***Project Completed*** Modifications have also been made along Broadway to allow for safer bicycle travel, including an "edge line" that divides the automobile travel lane from the shared bicycle/parking/breakdown lane. ***Project Completed*** A reconstruction of Cambridge Street, including the installation of curb extensions at intersections, a brick sidewalk edging strip, street furniture, lights, trees, and bicycle parking facilities, was completed in fall 2004. ***Pedestrian and Bicycle Programs Ongoing*** It is the City of Cambridge's policy to make its road system safe, attractive, and accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. As one way of working towards this goal, Cambridge has a traffic calming program, which involves roadway modifications such as curb extensions, raised crosswalks, raised intersections, chicanes, and crossing islands, meant to slow traffic and allow for safer pedestrian crossings. Also, bicycle lanes are provided on major roadways, and bicycle-locking posts are provided throughout the city. Aesthetic improvements, such as lighting and street furniture, also improve the experience of pedestrians and bicyclists. For more information, visit the website of the Community Development Department's Environmental and Transportation Planning Division at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/et.
LU6	Support the improvement of streetscapes on major pedestrian spines: a. Harvard Street. b. Streets that serve as pedestrian pathways to the Charles River. c. Massachusetts Avenue. d. Increase renewal of missing or dying street trees, as well as maintenance and watering of existing street trees.	***No Planned Action*** Improvements to Quincy Square, at the end of Harvard Street, were completed in spring 1997. There are no streetscape projects planned for the near future on other parts of Harvard Street. ***Project Completed*** A full set of roadway improvements were completed along Massachusetts Avenue as part of the implementation of the Central Square Master Plan in 1977. ***Care of Street Trees Ongoing*** The Parks and Urban Forestry Division of the Cambridge Department of Public Works, which includes the City Arborist, Forestry Supervisor, and two forestry maintenance crews, is responsible for the planting and care of public trees, reviewing plans for tree planting and tree removal, and educational outreach. For information on Urban Forestry, call (617) 349-4880 or visit www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/departments/parks/forestry.html Also, in selected areas such as Central Square and near the municipal offices at 344 Broadway, irrigation for street trees has been installed.

LAND USE, URBAN DESIGN AND ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
LU7	Include edge districts in planning analysis: a. Support regional planning initiative to encourage planning across Somerville – Cambridge line. Consider establishing a bi-lateral commission to discuss cross-border issues. Consider establishing a non-binding review for zoning issues such as the Beacon - Hampshire edge. b. Work with Area 4 on improvements to Prospect Street.	Recent planning studies in Porter Square have included Somerville residents and municipal officials, and there have also been informal discussions between staff in Somerville and Cambridge on a number of issues, including development at North Point and inter-city bikeways. ■ ***FUTURE ACTION – Short Range*** The Community Development Department expects to perform a planning study of the Prospect Street corridor beginning in 2005-2006.
LU8	Establish better transition rules between commercial and residential zones covering height limits, landscaping, screening, lighting and parking, especially along: a. Massachusetts Avenue. b. Prospect Street. c. Hampshire Street.	***New Zoning Regulations in Effect*** As part of a citizen rezoning petition in 1998, portions of Massachusetts Avenue were rezoned from office districts to residential districts, reducing the allowed building height. Also, in the Business A (BA) district in Inman Square, height limits have been reduced from 85' to 45'. According to Article 19 of the Zoning Ordinance, adopted as part of the Citywide Rezoning in 2001, certain large development projects now require a Project Review Special Permit. To obtain this permit, the proposed project must undergo a design review and public hearing to address the impacts the new development might have on existing nearby properties.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

LAND USE, URBAN DESIGN AND ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
LU9	The City should work to protect existing small businesses and promote new small businesses within Mid-Cambridge. This might be accomplished through zoning or design guidelines (especially of locations with desirable non-conforming uses on Broadway and Cambridge Streets). Some areas that could be considered for this type of zoning would be the Skenderian Apothecary site and the former Savenours site. The City should look for additional appropriate locations.	■ ***FUTURE ACTION – Short Range*** The Community Development Department expects to discuss possible zoning changes in Mid-Cambridge that will support small businesses in the neighborhood, starting in 2005. ***Small Business Support Programs Ongoing*** The Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department provides many services to support and assist small, diverse retail. These services include counseling programs and façade improvement assistance for income-eligible business owners, as well as a site-finder database that helps businesses, small businesses in particular, find commercial leasing opportunities that meet their needs. Information on such programs is available in the brochure Guide to Cambridge Economic Development Programs. Information is available at 617-349-4637 or www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/ed.
LU10	The City should provide better information and outreach to the public about its Growth Policies and Zoning, especially recent changes that occurred through the Citywide Rezoning process	■ ***PUBLICATIONS UPDATES UNDERWAY – Short Range*** The Community Development Department (CDD) is in the process of updating the *Zoning Guide*, which contains a basic overview of the zoning process and summary of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, and is also producing a new version of the Zoning Map for public distribution. CDD will discuss an outreach and distribution plan when the publications are complete. Information on zoning can currently be found on the web at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD. Additionally, Article 19 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, adopted in 2000, requires that large development projects undergo varying levels of public review depending on the scale and type of project.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
I1	Conduct longer term planning relative to institutional issues. Continue work with institutions on long range planning, and increase communication with neighborhoods on Institution's long-range plans.	■ ***REVISED "TOWN-GOWN" REPORTING UNDERWAY – Short Range*** Currently, each of the colleges and universities in Cambridge is required to submit an annual "Town-Gown Report" to the Cambridge Planning Board, along with a public presentation. The Planning Board, working with the Community Development Department, has recently revised the Town-Gown questionnaire to focus more specifically on long-range planning issues. These changes will be reflected in the Town-Gown reports submitted in winter 2005.
I2	Consider the publication/distribution of an informational handbook for residents of Cambridge outlining services and resources of the City's institutions. Combine Cambridge School Department, other City Departments, Harvard University, and Hospital informational materials into one publication.	***Handbook of City Services Available*** In 2003, the city began publishing a brochure called *Living in Cambridge - A Guide to City Resources & Services*, which contains information and telephone contacts for a wide range of services to Cambridge residents, including schools, healthcare, libraries, and all other city-sponsored services. This brochure can be obtained from City Hall or by calling the Public Information Office at 617-349-4339. This brochure, along with comprehensive and detailed information on many resident services and resources, are all available on the City of Cambridge website at www.cambridgema.gov
I3	Increase public education of events/services: a. Cable television. b. Open houses. c. More news in newspapers. d. Citywide Internet.	***Public Information Improvements Ongoing*** Since 1998, there has been a general increase in the amount of information available regarding services and events offered by the City and its institutions. This is largely due to the use of the City of Cambridge website (www.cambridgema.gov) and the websites of the city's various institutions. The City Manager's Office also produces CityView, a semi-annual newsletter describing the City's activities, which is mailed to all Cambridge households. Information is still made widely available through newspapers, brochures, and the municipal information cable channel (Channel 8).
I4	Consider requiring informational public meetings for large construction projects. If residents must rely on neighborhood civic organizations to disseminate information of on-goings in the neighborhood, then the City needs to support these groups financially and equally.	***Notification Procedures in Effect*** As adopted in the Citywide Rezoning Petition in 2001, a special permit project review is required for development projects greater than 50,000 square feet. All such project reviews are open to the public and require a public hearing. Notices of public meetings are mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the project, along with being posted on-site, published in newspapers, and advertised on the city's website.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
I5	Improve communication to residents of publicly accessible Harvard/MIT other institutions facilities/ resources (i.e. library): a. Examine ways to provide mailings to every household (possible piggy-back mailings with City agencies). b. Column in local newspapers on institutional events open to the public: The Boston Globe, City Section; The Boston Herald; The Cambridge Tab; The Cambridge Chronicle. c. Include information in neighborhood newsletters.	A calendar listing of events is published in the Harvard Gazette, available for free on campus, by mail for a subscription fee, and online at www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar. More information about Harvard's community programs is available from the Office of Government, Community Affairs and Public Affairs, 617-495-4955. Harvard also publishes a catalog called *Harvard in the Community: A Directory of Harvard University Community Service Programs*, which lists ongoing events and facilities open to the public. MIT events are listed at events.mit.edu and are listed in its weekly Tech Talk newsletter, which is also available for free on campus, by mail for a subscription fee, and by e-mail subscription. Individual sponsors of public events at Harvard, MIT, or other institutions may also advertise those events in local newspapers where appropriate.
I6	Consider improving City and institution notification procedures for actions falling under Institutional Overlay District guidelines.	***Notification Procedures Ongoing*** Projects requiring a special permit under the Institutional Overlay District regulations require a public hearing. Notices of public meetings are mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the project site, posted on site, listed in the Cambridge Chronicle, posted at the City Clerk's office, and posted on the web. In addition, interested citizens may request to receive copies of Planning Board agendas.
I7	Have institutions provide an annual report to the neighborhood; annual report to the Planning Board.	***Annual Town-Gown Reports Ongoing*** Every year, universities submit a "Town-Gown Report" and give a public presentation of that report to the Planning Board. The reports are made available to the public through the Community Development Department website at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD.
I8	Examine locations available for an agreed upon place of posting for all information relevant to neighborhood (e.g. Broadway Market, Tot Lots, Library).	Members of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association have developed a system of posting important neighborhood information on yard signs. The City of Cambridge also installs bulletin boards as part of every park renovation
I9	Regarding Harvard University: Resolve potential conflicts with face-to-face discussions in a joint planning process, as outlined in the Town-Gown Report.	***Institutional Planning Procedures Ongoing*** Every year, universities submit a "Town-Gown Report" and give a public presentation of that report to the Planning Board. These presentations allow the public to understand and respond to universities' future plans. The next set of Town-Gown presentations will occur in winter 2005. Additionally, conflicts related to specific projects or initiatives are sometimes addressed through joint university-neighborhood working groups.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
I10	Work with Harvard to establish a planning process/timeline for addressing each of Harvard's priority projects identified in their Capital Campaign.	***Institutional Planning Procedures Ongoing*** Harvard University, as is the case with all colleges and universities in Cambridge, submits an annual "Town-Gown Report" and gives a public presentation of that report to the Planning Board. The Town-Gown Report asks specific questions regarding Harvard's future capital projects and the anticipated timeline for their completion. In addition, Harvard has continued to voluntarily update the Planning Board on its future planning as it has progressed. ■ ***REVISED "TOWN-GOWN" REPORTING UNDERWAY– Short Range*** The Planning Board, working with the Community Development Department, has recently revised the Town-Gown questionnaire to focus more specifically on long-range planning. These changes will be reflected in the Town-Gown reports submitted in winter 2005.
I11	Consider examining the effects of Harvard housing more of its students (new net units) on neighborhood housing prices.	***No Planned Action*** No study is presently being considered. However, the City's Growth Policy explicitly encourages universities to provide on-campus housing for its students, and Harvard, MIT, and Lesley University have all continued to make significant progress in increasing the supply of student housing.
I12	Consider establishing public review for Harvard's visitor parking program.	The City has established the administrative process of Parking and Transportation Demand Management to review and regulate the parking demand created by commercial and institutional uses
I13	Improve mechanisms for enforcement of construction agreements between Harvard University and neighborhoods - request the Joint Neighborhood-Harvard Committee examine ways to enforce these agreements.	An agreement between an institution and a neighborhood group is only enforceable by the City of Cambridge if its provisions are included in a special permit issued by the Planning Board or Board of Zoning Appeal, or if it has been adopted as part of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. Only the courts may enforce private contractual agreements between an institution and neighborhood residents.
I14	Regarding Harvard University: Improve monitoring of compliance with City regulations/laws.	***Compliance Monitoring Ongoing*** The Inspectional Services Department and the Community Development Department ensure that all development projects adhere to city policies and ordinances.
I15	Explore ways in which residents can use Harvard shuttle services	The "m2" shuttle, serving Harvard, Central Square, MIT, the Back Bay, and the Longwood Medical Area, may be used by the general public. Fare and schedule information can be obtained by calling 617-632-2800 or on the web at www.masco.org/transit/ptsM2.htm.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
I16	Regarding Harvard University: Maintain a viable transition between institutional uses and surrounding uses.	***Large Project Review Ongoing*** As a result of the Citywide Rezoning in 2001, institutional development projects that are greater than 50,000 square feet and within 100 feet of a public way, or which involve the creation of at least 150 new parking spaces or the relocation of at least 250 existing parking spaces, must undergo a Large Project Review in order to receive a special permit from the Planning Board. As part of the review, the Planning Board hears comments from the public and works to ensure that neither the design of the new development nor the traffic generated by the new development will have an adverse impact on the surrounding neighborhood
I17	Regarding Harvard University: Avoid excessive concentrations of impermanent institutional populations in dense urban settings, taking into account scale, concentration and mix weighed against the need for University to house affiliates.	The Cambridge Citywide Growth Policy acknowledges the need to balance a number of objectives in addressing institutional growth, including: maintaining the prevailing density and scale of residential neighborhoods; limiting institutional growth to their traditional campuses or adjoining areas of an appropriate character; and encouraging universities to provide housing for their student, faculty, and staff populations.
I18	Keep the Cambridge Public Library in Mid-Cambridge	***Library Site Selection Completed*** The City of Cambridge underwent a site selection process from 1998 to 2000, considering over thirty different potential sites for the Cambridge Public Library Main Branch. In 2000, the City Council voted to expand the library on its current site in Mid-Cambridge. The design of the expanded library wing has been underway since 2001, and has been granted a permit by the Cambridge Planning Board.
I19	Improve the maintenance of library grounds (e.g. picking up litter, snow removal).	***Park Maintenance Programs Ongoing*** The organizational structure of the Parks and Urban Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) has changed in recent years to include new specialized staff positions, increased training, and sector maintenance crews responsible for different districts of the city.
I20	Explore ways to reduce derelicts hanging out near the library	As part of the library expansion, a new wing will be constructed and the existing building will be renovated. The design for the expansion specifies open, well-lit exterior areas that should encourage pedestrian flow and discourage inappropriate or illicit behavior. Specific problems regarding inappropriate behavior in public areas should be referred to the Cambridge Police Department.
I21	Publicize Cambridge Rindge and Latin School events to residents (e.g. plays, sporting events, etc.) as an opportunity to bridge gap and improve understanding between adults without children and teens.	The Cambridge Public Schools Department uses a variety of methods to publicize events, including the internet and print media. A calendar of school events is posted on the Cambridge Public Schools website at www.cpsd.us.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
I22	Advertise volunteer opportunities for wide range of interests. Request that School Department publish a wish list of the type of things volunteers could provide such as speakers for career days	The non-profit organization Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc. works to recruit, train, place, and support volunteers in the Cambridge Public School system. Information about programs and opportunities is available on their website at www.csvinc.org or by calling 617-349-6794
I23	Utilize Longfellow School as a good centralized location to base community meetings and programming. Consider additions to or improvements in space to address need for large meeting/auditorium facilities.	***School Facility Re-Programming Completed*** As of 2003, the Longfellow School has been closed as part of a consolidation of the Cambridge Public Schools. The former school building has since been programmed for other uses, including the high school extension program, the Longfellow Community School, and a temporary home for the Cambridge Public Library while the main branch undergoes renovation and expansion.
I24	The Committee recommended that the ongoing process between the Cambridge Hospital and the MCNA should be the primary guide for working with the issues concerning the Cambridge Hospital expansion.	***Cambridge Hospital Expansion Completed*** The Cambridge Hospital expansion process was guided by an agreement signed by the Hospital and the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association. The hospital expansion is now complete.
I25	Cambridge Handbook would improve residents' knowledge of institutions such as Youville and the services that they provide	The City of Cambridge publishes Living in Cambridge – A Guide to City Resources and Services, which contains information about a wide range of resident services including hospitals and health care centers. This booklet is available at City Hall, or by contacting the Public Information Office at 617-349-4339, or on the web at www.cambridgema.gov/deptann.cfm?story_id=71.
I26	Plan for possible effects on the character/nature of Inman Square as The Cambridge Hospital expands its services and additional small doctor's offices move into the area.	***No Planned Action*** The expansion of Cambridge Hospital has been completed, and there does not seem to have been a significant impact on the character of businesses in Inman Square
I27	Ensure that the agreement is enforced with The Cambridge Hospital and the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association, especially parking. Explore zoned parking (e.g., parking with time limits outside of home zone).	The expansion of The Cambridge Hospital has been completed according to the terms of the agreement between the hospital and the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association. However, the City did not play an active role in enforcing this agreement because it was a private agreement established between two independent organizations (The Cambridge Hospital is now independent of the City of Cambridge). A development agreement between an institution and a neighborhood group is only enforceable by the City of Cambridge if its provisions are included in a special permit issued by the Planning Board or Board of Zoning Appeal, or if it has been adopted as part of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
I28	Explore zoning which would prohibit the establishment of group medical practices in residential zones.	***Zoning Regulations in Effect*** Private medical practices are currently prohibited in all of the residential zoning districts found in Mid-Cambridge. However, small, home-based offices are permitted.
I29	Address parking by users of City Hall - it becomes problematic on near-by residential streets. Establish a parking lot/shuttle system/trip reduction efforts to reduce parking needs of City employees.	The City has a policy of trying to reduce automobile use by employees, through subsidizing T passes and arranging for free employee use of the EZRide shuttle. The City also offers reduced-cost parking in the Green Street garage for employees who do drive.
I30	City of Cambridge: Establish places for community use.	***Community Meeting Room Planned*** The expanded Main Branch of the Cambridge Public Library will include a community room available for after-hours meetings.
I31	Study the feasibility of making [the municipal office buildings at] 51 and/or 57 Inman Street into residential use, especially as uses change in City buildings.	***No Planned Action*** These buildings continue to be used as municipal offices
I32	Examine parking increase in new development at Cambridge College.	***PTDM Requirements Ongoing*** Cambridge College is subject to Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) provisions, which require businesses and institutions to submit a plan to reduce their share of single-occupancy vehicle trips by 10%. Cambridge College had to present a PTDM plan as part of its lease of the 80 Prospect Street building.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
I33	Coordinate with Harvard University regarding the planned Knafel Center and main library expansion, in order to minimize negative impacts on the neighborhood during construction	Harvard has implemented a comprehensive construction mitigation program for its building projects, which includes a staff of two construction mitigation managers, regular meetings with neighborhood groups, a call center for questions and complaints, a web site, and an e-mail list to which people can subscribe to receive weekly updates. The construction mitigation call center number is 617-496-0857, and the web site for project information and e-mail list subscription is www.construction.fas.harvard.edu.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
T1	Consider establishing a Traffic and Transportation Problems group to meet monthly with the City Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to review and prioritize parking, traffic and transportation problems in Mid-Cambridge.	Staff from the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department (617-349-4700) are available to meet with groups on request to discuss issues that are of concern to the neighborhood. In addition, requests to consider traffic calming on particular roadways can be referred to the Environmental and Transportation Planning Division of the Community Development Department at 617-349-4655.
T2	Have upcoming projects and updates on ongoing projects by DPW listed in the newspaper.	***Project Notification Procedures Ongoing*** The Department of Public Works (DPW) distributes flyers for upcoming construction work to residents who are in the project area, and posts signs when work will temporarily restrict parking in the area. For certain large projects, DPW may also erect on-site bulletin boards with project information, hold a public meeting, or issue a press release. Weekly construction updates are also posted on the DPW website: www.cambridgema.gov/theworks.
T3	Keep neighborhood informed on the progress of the Quincy Square improvements.	***Improvements Completed*** The Quincy Square improvements were completed in spring 1997.
T4	Work with Area Four to coordinate traffic and transportation issues on Prospect Street.	■ ***PLANNING IN PROGRESS - Short Range*** The Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department has done an analysis of all the Prospect Street corridor signals. A traffic signal with a countdown pedestrian signal has been installed at the intersection of Prospect Street and Bishop Allen Drive. Signal timing changes will be implemented in the near future.
T5	Request that MBTA post schedules of bus routes at bus stops.	The MBTA currently posts schedules along high-frequency bus routes, such as the #1 route. ■ ***PLANNING IN PROGRESS – Short Range*** As a pilot program, the City of Cambridge plans to install a system of posted schedules and maps for the #68 (Broadway) MBTA bus route by early 2005. If successful, this system may be implemented along other Cambridge bus routes.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
T6	Have snow emergency route maps available to the public	***Snow Emergency Procedures Ongoing*** The Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department works to ensure that its website (www.cambridgema.gov/traffic) contains up-to-date information on snow emergency parking, including a list of streets where parking will be prohibited during a snow emergency, the order in which those streets will be towed, and which garages will be free for resident parking in the meantime. Generally, during a declared snow emergency, parking is prohibited on both sides of all major arterial roads and on one side of many other streets. Signs are posted anywhere that such a parking prohibition exists. Residents can also call 617-349-4700 for information.
T7	Work with the Department of Traffic and Transportation to identify abuses of Visitor Parking Permits, with specific attention to streets within close proximity to the Central and Harvard Square MBTA Redline Stations. Restricting hours of use, imposing time limits on use, and designating visitor parking spaces should be considered. Consider larger permits with a calendar on the permit for ease of enforcement.	***Visitor Permit Policies Ongoing*** The Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department is aware of Visitor Parking Permit abuse, and is monitoring the problem on an ongoing basis, looking for ways to improve enforcement. A calendar permit design has been considered, but was not found to be effective. Households are now issued only one visitor permit instead of two.
T8	Address parking congestion problems associated with construction projects	***Construction Review Processes Ongoing*** Both the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the Department of Public Works have improved their construction permitting processes. Departments engage in much closer collaboration with developers, including weekly construction meetings between staff and construction companies planning to do work in the City. This meeting is mandatory for the companies, who must submit their plans in advance.
T9	Snow Emergency Parking: a. When the opportunity exists, establish alternative parking for snow emergencies – use parking structures as temporary parking sites. b. Consider providing snow emergency street maps. c. Consider a system for plowing streets like street cleaning.	***Snow Emergency Procedures Ongoing*** The Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department works to ensure that its website (www.cambridgema.gov/traffic) contains up-to-date information on snow emergency parking, including a list of streets where parking will be prohibited during a snow emergency, the order in which those streets will be towed, and which garages will be free for resident parking in the meantime. Generally, during a declared snow emergency, parking is prohibited on both sides of all major arterial roads and on one side of many other streets. Signs are posted anywhere that such a parking prohibition exists. Residents can also call 617-349-4700 for information.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T10	To reduce parking by commuters, consider parking sticker by zone which allows unlimited parking near place of residence, two-hour limit elsewhere in Cambridge	***No Planned Action*** There has not been strong support for the implementation of a zoned parking system.
T11	***Institutional Parking*** a) Increase parking enforcement in neighborhood areas, especially in areas according to specific problem and time of day, e.g.: Extension School in the evening; Cambridge Hospital during the day. b) Continue to work with the Cambridge Hospital to prepare for traffic and parking problems inherent to its expansion plans, consistent with its agreement with the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association.	***Parking Enforcement Procedures Ongoing*** Parking enforcement personnel are currently assigned to specific routes throughout the city. The level of enforcement in particular areas is sometimes adjusted if there are perceived problems or large numbers of complaints in those areas. The expansion of The Cambridge Hospital has been completed according to the terms of the agreement between the hospital and the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association.
T12	***Resident Parking*** a) Consider identifying areas of parking which may be able to allow resident parking at meters evenings and Sundays. b) Consider the creation of special parking districts for residents in those areas under intense parking pressure.	Metered spaces are located where turnover is needed during the day, and are available for resident use in the evenings and on Sundays. ***Parking Enforcement Procedures Ongoing*** Parking enforcement personnel are currently assigned to specific routes throughout the city. The level of enforcement in particular areas is sometimes adjusted if there are perceived problems or large numbers of complaints in those areas.
T13	Address parking problems for small business - consider informational brochure e.g., "Where to park in Cambridge".	It is Cambridge's policy to encourage residents and visitors to use alternative means of transportation. The main source of information on transportation in the city is "How to Get Around in Cambridge", a map of roadways, pedestrian routes, and public transportation services. ***Map Completed*** The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department has recently produced a map of city-owned public parking garages and off-street metered lots. In the future, information on privately-owned public parking garages may be included as well. The map is available on the web at www.cambridgema.gov/traffic/OffStreetParking.cfm.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T14	Address pedestrian street crossing facilities at the following locations:	
	a. Improve crosswalk striping at Massachusetts Avenue from Dana Street to Putnam Square.	***a. Project Completed*** New zebra stripes have been painted at crosswalks on Massachusetts Avenue from Dana Street to Putnam Square.
	b. Increase visibility of pedestrian crossing at Bishop Allen Drive and Prospect Street. Consider light at Bishop Allen Drive to allow pedestrian crossings.	***b. Project Completed*** A signal with a countdown pedestrian light has been added to the intersection of Bishop Allen Drive and Prospect Street.
	c. Consider adding crosswalk across Broadway at Dana Street. d. Increase visibility of crosswalk across Broadway at Ellery.	***c, d. Traffic Calming Project Completed*** As part of traffic calming on Broadway, a crosswalk has been added at Dana Street and the crosswalk at Ellery Street has been made more visible through curb extensions and zebra striping.
	e. Consider adding a crosswalk across Cambridge Street at the Harvard Community Health Plan facility.	***e. Project Completed*** A crosswalk has been installed across Cambridge Street at Roberts Road.
	f. Improve crosswalk striping in Inman Square at all corners.	***f. Project Completed*** All of the crosswalks in Inman Square were improved in fall 2004 as part of the Cambridge Street reconstruction project.
	g. Improve narrow sidewalk on east side of Prospect Street.	***g. No Planned Action*** The public right of way on Prospect Street is too narrow to allow the City to widen the sidewalk at this time.
	h. Improve safety for high school students crossing Cambridge Street and Broadway.	***h. Project Completed*** To improve pedestrian crossings at the high school, a push-button signal has been installed on Cambridge Street and a curb extension has been added on Broadway.
T15	When the opportunity exists, improve lighting on Inman Street between Harvard Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Trim trees to allow additional light to sidewalk and street level.	***Tree Pruning Ongoing*** The Parks and Urban Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for the care of public trees, and is dedicated to pruning every public tree, both on the street and in parks and cemeteries, every four to five years. Tree pruning is scheduled to occur in Mid-Cambridge in 2005.
T16	Examine ways to reduce speed of vehicles and traffic volume on Inman Street.	***Improvements Completed*** Improvements have been made to sidewalks and roadways on Inman Street, most recently in 2002, between Hampshire Street and Broadway. Also, an "edge line" was painted on Inman Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Broadway, creating a slightly narrower traffic lane and a safer road shoulder for bicyclists. During the road reconstruction process, neighborhood residents indicated that further traffic calming measures were not preferred because they would reduce the number of on-street parking spaces.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T17	Improve the condition of sidewalks: a. Improve sidewalk maintenance so that repair schedule is consistent with the type of traffic, the volume of traffic, the existence of trees, and type of paving materials. (Consider charting sidewalk condition.) b. Improve condition of Dana Street sidewalks. c. Improve enforcement of the snow removal ordinances.	***a, b. Sidewalk Maintenance Ongoing*** In 2004, the Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) implemented an improved Sidewalk Inspection and Minor Repair Program that provides a systematic approach to maintaining the city's sidewalks, allowing for sensible and efficient use of resources. By identifying areas needing improvement, prioritizing, and tracking repairs, DPW is better able to provide for pedestrian safety. DPW undertakes sidewalk improvements in three different ways: repairs by in-house street maintenance crews, reconstruction of sections of sidewalks through a sidewalk and ramp repair contract, and reconstruction during more significant roadway and utility improvement projects. Cambridge is committed to preserving and enhancing its urban tree canopy as well as its historic brick sidewalks, which means that unevenness in sidewalk areas will inevitably occur. Because of the constricted space within sidewalk tree pits and along public ways, tree roots may extend into gaps that appear over time between pavement and compacted soil underneath. As roots grow in size, they raise sidewalks and may create uneven surfaces. DPW is committed to providing a reasonable response to these situations, which requires balancing the health and stability of trees against the need to keep sidewalks reasonably uniform. DPW encourages members of the public to make use of the Street and Sidewalk Repair Hotline (617-349-4854) and the reporting form available online at www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks. Suggestions on how to improve this new program are also welcome. ***c. Snow Removal Enforcement Ongoing*** Property owners are ticketed for not following the Snow Removal Ordinance. Residents can report unshoveled or icy sidewalks by calling the Snow Hotline at 617-349-4903.
T18	Increase bicycle safety through increased use of bicycle lanes and pathways with appropriate signage for autos, bicycles and pedestrians.	***Bicycle Facility Programs Ongoing*** The Cambridge approach to bicycle transportation planning is to work to make every road in the city as safe and comfortable as possible for bicycling. Specific improvements vary depending on street type, use, and physical conditions. Bicycle lanes are usually created on arterial and major collector streets, but may be created on residential streets where appropriate, such as where they would link main travel routes. Bicycle lanes are usually created when other street reconstruction is being done. Anytime work is anticipated, the street will be evaluated for improvements that might enhance bicycle and pedestrian travel. In Mid-Cambridge, there are dedicated bicycle lanes on Ellery Street, Trowbridge Street, Quincy Street, Mount Auburn Street, and parts of Massachusetts Avenue. The rest of Massachusetts Avenue, along with Broadway, Inman Street, and Cambridge Street, have "edge lines" to allow for bicycling on the side of the roadway. For more information about Cambridge bicycle facilities, see www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/et/bike.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
T19	Provide information on bicycle safety.	Information on bicycle safety is provided by the Community Development Department's Environmental and Transportation Planning Division through publications, events, and on the web at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/et/bike.
T20	Enforce traffic laws for bicyclists, and motorists sharing the road with bicyclists.	***Enforcement Ongoing*** Police now ticket bicyclists as well as motorists in violation of traffic laws.
T21	Provide more speed limit enforcement, post speeds more frequently.	***Enforcement Ongoing*** This effort is ongoing on the part of the Police Department.
T22	Provide school zone sign on Fayette Street near Longfellow School.	***Project Completed*** The Traffic Department had instituted a school zone with a 20 mph speed limit and signage on Antrim and Fayette Streets. However, the signage was removed in 2003 when the Longfellow School was closed as part of a consolidation of the Cambridge Public Schools.
T23	Examine ways to reduce speed of vehicles on Kirkland Street between Quincy and Beacon Streets.	***Project Completed*** Improved crosswalks with zebra striping were installed on Kirkland Street in 2002, and were most recently repainted in October 2003.
T24	Improve the safety at the Bread and Circus Market parking lot on Prospect Street - consider right turn only out of parking lot from 5 to 7 p.m.	The Whole Foods Market (formerly Bread and Circus) parking lot is a private driveway and is not subject to city traffic enforcement. However, the owners may, as they have in the past, choose to hire a police detail in order to manage traffic and ensure safety.
T25	Discourage increased traffic volume on Harvard Street and restrict tour bus use.	***No Planned Action*** Cambridge cannot legally restrict tour buses from Harvard Street, but does discourage them from using that route.
T26	Investigate the occurrences of vehicles backing down Bishop Allen from Inman to Prospect Street.	***No Planned Action*** The frequency of this type of occurrence appears to have substantially reduced in recent years.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T27	Address vehicular safety at the following intersections:	
	a. Consider traffic light at Bishop Allen Drive and Prospect Street. Balance with safety concern of slowing traffic in close proximity to Mass. Ave.	***a. Project Completed*** During the neighborhood study process, a signalized intersection with pedestrian countdown feature was added at the intersection of Prospect Street and Bishop Allen Drive.
	b. Improve left turn onto Massachusetts Avenue off Dana Street.	***b. No Planned Action*** Improving the left turn onto Massachusetts Avenue from Dana Street is not planned, as it would likely increase the level of traffic on Dana Street.
	c. Improve enforcement of left turn only and right turn only lanes at Massachusetts Avenue from Inman Street across to Pleasant Street.	***c. Enforcement Ongoing*** Enforcement of traffic violations is an ongoing effort of the Police Department.
	d. Improve merge/lane markings on Peabody Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street. e. Improve merge/lane markings on Massachusetts Avenue between Cambridge and Garden Streets.	■ ***d,e. PLANNING IN PROGRESS*** City staff worked with the Harvard Square Design Committee (2002 – 2004) to develop a master plan of recommendations for transportation, lighting, and landscaping improvements in Harvard Square. The high priority improvements will be constructed beginning in the spring of 2005. Improvements on Peabody Street near the Johnson Gate are part of the high priority improvements and will improve traffic movement on Peabody Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street.
	f. Clarify turning lanes/markings on Quincy between Broadway and Cambridge Street.	■ ***f. FUTURE ACTION – Short Range*** The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department will clarify the left-turn lane markings along Quincy Street at Cambridge Street and Kirkland Street in 2005. Previously, the lane markings were repainted and a bicycle lane was added on Quincy Street as well.
	g. Improve visibility of light at Dana and Harvard Streets. (e.g. prune trees on approaches, and/or add blinking light over street)	***g. Project Completed*** The approach to the intersection at Dana Street and Harvard Street has been made more visible by restricting on-street parking along Harvard Street near the intersection.
	h. Improve snow plowing on small streets.	***h.*** A system of salting, plowing, and sidewalk clearance has been established over time that divides the city into three districts each with a designated supervisor and crew of in-house staff and contractors. Because the primary objective of snow removal is clearing streets for emergency vehicles (police, ambulance, and fire), major arteries are cleared of snow first, then crews move on to clear smaller streets, then major pedestrian ways.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T28	Explore the use of shuttle services/ paratransit services and extend bus routes to improve accessibility to all parts of Cambridge. (e.g., City Circle Shuttle)	***Transportation Service Study Completed*** The City of Cambridge commissioned a "Transportation Service Study," completed in 2000, to explore possible transit service improvements such as expanding MBTA service or operating shuttle services. This study employed data on current service usage and demographics as well as a telephone survey and a series of community meetings. The study concluded that there seemed to be limited demand for additional shuttle services, while there was more demand for improvements to existing MBTA service. In 1998, the MBTA reinstated the #68 bus route, traveling through Mid-Cambridge from Kendall Square to Harvard Square along Broadway. In addition, the #69 bus route from Harvard Square to Lechmere Square via Inman Square now runs for most of the day with a frequency of about 2 to 4 buses per hour.
T29	Increase public transportation service to Inman Square.	As part of the Cambridge Street improvements, bus signage and stops around Inman Square have been improved. Inman Square is served by the MBTA #69 bus, which runs along Cambridge Street from about 5:30AM to about 1:00AM every day with a frequency of about 2 to 4 buses per hour, with a slightly lower frequency on Sunday. Inman Square is also served by the #83 and #91 buses, which connect Inman Square to Central Square, Somerville, and North Cambridge.
T30	Improve public transportation services for elderly or disabled persons. Transit routes should serve shopping/cultural areas throughout the city.	***Taxi Programs Ongoing*** In 2004 the City of Cambridge launched the Accessible Cambridge Taxi (ACT) program, under which all accessible taxis in the city are managed by a single company and can be hailed by calling one number: 1-800-6161-ACT (1-800-616-1228). Cambridge also runs a Taxi Discount Service, which provides taxi discount coupons to senior citizens and people with disabilities. These programs are co-sponsored by the Council on Aging (617-349-6220 / TTY 617-349-6054) and the Commission for Persons with Disabilities (617-349-4692 / TTY 617-492-0235). The Council on Aging also promotes a grocery shuttle and other shuttle services. The MBTA offers THE RIDE, a paratransit shuttle service available to people with disabilities. For more information, call 617-222-5123 / TTY 617-222-5415 or visit the MBTA website for descriptions of transit services for elderly and disabled people: www.mbta.com/traveling_t/disability_index.asp.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
T31	Provide a shuttle service or express bus route serving Harvard Square and the Back Bay of Boston.	The MBTA #1 bus connects Harvard Square to Boston's Back Bay, while the CT1 and CT2 buses provide express service between the Central Square area and different parts of Boston.
T32	Explore the possibility of an employee shuttle system for City employees and large, private businesses. The system could be shared and funded by both interests.	***New Shuttles in Operation*** The City of Cambridge, along with a number of Cambridge businesses and institutions, supported the creation of the EZRide shuttle service, which began operating in 2002. This shuttle connects parts of Cambridgeport to North Station via MIT, Kendall Square, and Lechmere Square, with weekday peak-hour service. The adult fare is $1.00, child fare is $.50, and it is free to employees and affiliates of sponsoring organizations. In addition, many private companies and institutions in Cambridge fund their own shuttle services to connect people to public transportation.
T33	Examine the truck management plan proposed by Harvard University as part of the expansion of Memorial Hall.	The Memorial Hall expansion is complete. The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department continues to review the traffic management and truck routing plans for major construction projects.
T34	Reduce traffic congestion on Inman Street at Massachusetts Avenue.	***No Planned Action*** Changing the light cycle to reduce traffic congestion on Inman Street is not planned because it would reduce the amount of time allowed for pedestrians to cross. The City of Cambridge continually works to reduce the number of automobile trips citywide, as outlined in the Parking and Transportation Demand Management Ordinance and the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan.
T35	Explore ways to provide adequate transportation to the airport from Central Square.	The plan for the MBTA Silver Line bus route includes a link from South Station directly to the Logan Airport terminals. When this is completed (expected in 2005), it will be possible to ride from Central Square to the airport while making only one transfer.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
T36	Address the abuse of visitor parking permits.	***Visitor Permit Policies Ongoing*** The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department is aware of visitor permit abuse, and is monitoring the problem on an ongoing basis. Households are now issued only one visitor permit, not two as in the past.
T37	Use hand held computerized devices to monitor parking.	■ ***FUTURE ACTION – Short Range*** The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department is preparing to begin using computerized monitoring devices in 2005.
T38	Give neighborhood residents more leniency at parking meters in the early morning hours.	In some areas, including a small portion of Cambridge Street, residents and businesses have agreed to change the meter start time to 9:00AM. Agreement on the part of the local business community, as well as area residents, is necessary to make such a change. Residents interested in pursuing such an arrangement should contact the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, which will review each case on an individual basis.
T39	Mark spaces for more efficient parallel parking, while taking into account the location of trees and poles along the street.	When designing new streets, the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department works to make the most efficient street layout possible. With existing streets, changes are made on a case-by-case basis. Existing infrastructure and trees are taken into account when making changes to parking on existing streets.
T40	Continue or increase support for the Zip Car system.	***Support for Car Sharing Programs Ongoing*** There are several Zipcar parking spaces located in City-owned parking garages and lots. Most recently, the City worked with Zipcar to locate a hybrid-electric vehicle on Inman Street near the municipal offices at 344 Broadway. There are currently about 26 Zipcar vehicles located in and around Mid-Cambridge, including a few at the Green Street Garage in Central Square, and there are plans to add additional vehicles as parking becomes available. Zipcar also participates in many of the City's transportation fairs, and the City's website has links to www.zipcar.com.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T41	Explore less intrusive ways to undertake street cleaning, which currently adds to parking problems in the neighborhood.	***Street Cleaning Ongoing*** In addition to improving the cleanliness and appearance of streets, monthly street cleaning plays an important role in keeping local waterways clean. It does this by removing vehicle-related particles and chemicals from the roads that may be flushed into the stormwater system when it rains. In addition, it helps to prevent catch basins from becoming clogged with dirt and debris, and allows crews to schedule annual cleanings of the city's 5,000+ catch basins. While the Department of Public Works recognizes the challenges created by parking restrictions during street cleaning, there is no feasible and effective alternative to mechanized sweeping up to the curb line.
T42	Develop better signage and additional traffic calming devices on Broadway.	***Traffic Calming Completed*** The City recently completed a repaving of Broadway and the painting of an "edge line", which narrows the roadway and provides a wider road shoulder for cyclists. Curb extensions have also been installed at crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety.
T43	Address noise generated by car radios, skateboarders, and ventilation systems of nearby buildings.	***Noise Ordinance in Effect*** The City of Cambridge has adopted a Noise Ordinance (Chapter 8.16 of City Ordinances), which regulates the level of noise that can be emitted from buildings and vehicles. This ordinance is enforced by the Inspectional Services Department. ***Other Prohibitions in Effect*** In July 2004, the City Council enacted a prohibition of motorized scooters (two-wheeled motorized vehicles that are too small to qualify as motorcycles under state law) from operating after dark. In August, the City enacted an ordinance prohibiting skateboarding on all public property except designated skateboard parks.
T44	Provide better information about the EZ Ride shuttle services to residents, such as schedules and the location of stops.	***Informational/Promotional Activities Ongoing*** Signage has been improved at stops along the EZRide route, with posted schedules and route maps. Maps and schedules are also available on brochures distributed by the City of Cambridge, and on the web at www.ezride.info. The City has also implemented other strategies to increase awareness of the EZRide shuttle, including "free ride" post cards sent to City residents and distributed in stores and restaurants.

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
T45	When parking must be restricted in areas during temporary work (such as tree pruning or construction), the restriction should only be in effect during work hours. A 3 PM to 7 AM easing of this type of restriction would be helpful to local residents.	Unless night work is being conducted, the City restricts parking only during designated work hours.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H1	Improve public information on housing repair and construction, including the permitting process, asbestos and lead removal safety.	***Information on Housing Programs Available*** The City's Housing Department publishes *A Guide to Affordable Housing Programs in Cambridge,* a brochure that contains references for information on many types of housing programs, including home improvement loans. This brochure is now being made available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. For information, call 617-349-4622. Information can also be found on the City of Cambridge website at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/hsg. The Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department offers a brochure called *Step By Step Guide to Building Permits,* which contains an overview of the process of obtaining a permit for the construction or repair of a building. Information is available at 617-349-4637 or www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/ed. The Cambridge LeadSafe program offers resources for lead abatement and removal. Information is available at 617-349-LEAD (617-349-5323) or www.cambridgema.gov/~LeadSafe. .
H2	Work with realtors to establish improved house sale fact/information to prospective/new owner.	***Public Information Available*** The City of Cambridge produces a range of information about the city and its neighborhoods, including demographic information, housing market information, resident services, zoning and other regulations, health and safety programs, arts and entertainment, and other features. The central source for this information is the City of Cambridge website, www.cambridgema.gov. The City also produces many brochures that are free to the public, including to realtors, upon request. This information is managed by the Public Information Office, which can be contacted at 617-349-4339.
H3	Support diversity in access to affordable housing according to the Fair Housing Program: a. Elderly persons. b. Handicapped persons. c. Families with children. d. Non-White populations.	The City offers many programs to support income-eligible households seeking affordable housing. All City-sponsored affordable housing units are marketed openly and affirmatively to ensure that they are accessible to all segments of the public. The Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, a group established in 1988, supports non-profit housing developers and the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) in the acquisition, development, and renovation of affordable housing. One of the Trust's criteria for evaluating projects it might support is the number of family-size units created, while the Trust has also supported projects that include units for elderly and disabled persons.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H4	Establish a long-term plan for anticipated increase in the elderly population: a. Examine and improve transportation services for the elderly. Support a combination of shuttle systems. Consider a subsidy program which would encourage taxi companies in the City to serve the elderly community more efficiently. b. Explore changes to building code to encourage new housing construction that is easily adaptable for elderly needs (e.g. wider doors, etc.). c. Consider better routine sidewalk maintenance and enforcement of the snow removal ordinance. d. Examine transportation and services for elderly and building to elderly standards when renovating or constructing new housing, even if voluntary, as part of long term plan.	***Services for Elderly / Disabled Persons Ongoing*** The Council on Aging (617-349-6220 / TTY 617-349-6054) and the Commission for Persons with Disabilities (617-349-4692 / TTY 617-492-0235) address issues of concern to the elderly and disabled population in Cambridge. The Council on Aging provides a variety of services, including a housing assistance program, medical transportation, shopping shuttle, home safety programs, and trash/recycling/snow exemptions. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities provides information, referral, coordination, and technical assistance to public and private entities interested in providing access to persons with disabilities, and promotes a more accessible community for persons with disabilities by advancing universal design and barrier removal activities. ***Housing Programs Ongoing*** Housing development supported by the City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Housing Authority often includes units that are designed for elderly or disabled persons. All development adheres to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. ***Taxi Programs Ongoing*** In 2004 the City of Cambridge launched the Accessible Cambridge Taxi (ACT) program, under which all accessible taxis in the city are managed by a single company and can be hailed by calling one number: 1-800-6161-ACT (1-800-616-1228). Cambridge also runs a Taxi Discount Service, which provides taxi discount coupons to senior citizens and people with disabilities. ***Sidewalk Maintenance Ongoing*** Sidewalk maintenance and snow removal are managed by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Maintenance requests can be made by calling the DPW 24-Hour Operations Center at 617-349-4800. Residents can report unshoveled or icy sidewalks by calling the Snow Hotline at 617-349-4805.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H5	Explore property tax abatements for landlords renting to lower-income households to improve access to affordable housing for low-income households.	***Affordable Housing Programs Ongoing*** The City supports a number of incentives to property owners who make their housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households. For instance, the non-profit group Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services (CNAHS), which is supported financially by the City, provides technical assistance and low-interest loans for the rehabilitation of multifamily properties if rents are kept affordable to low- and moderate-income tenants. The City also supports Housing Improvement Programs operated by non-profit groups Just-A-Start and Homeowners Rehab, Inc., which provide similar benefits for one- to four-unit houses that are owner-occupied. Also, the City's Preservation of Expiring Use Restriction Properties Program provides technical and financial assistance to tenants and landlords of federally assisted rental housing that is in danger of being converted to market rate housing, and the City's Lead-Safe program provides loans to property owners for lead abatement, provided they maintain the deleaded unit as affordable during the duration of the loan. More information is available at 617-349-4622 or www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/hsg.
H6	Consider affordable housing development in the form of artist lofts with private spaces or bedrooms with communal recreation/TV room, bathroom and showers, and kitchen.	***No Planned Action*** There are currently no projects involving artist lofts or housing of this type in Mid-Cambridge.
H7	Encourage owner occupancy. Continue affordable housing repair programs such as the HIP Program.	***Home Improvement Programs Ongoing*** Homeowners Rehab Inc. (HRI) and Just-A-Start (JAS) offer low-interest rehabilitation loans for low and moderate-income, owner-occupied, one- to four-unit buildings through their Home Improvement Programs. Upon making improvements, the owner must keep rents affordable. These programs are supported by funding from the City's Community Development Block Grant and the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust. Also, Just-A-Start's Home Improvement Program has secured a 3% Home Improvement Revolving Loan through Cambridge Savings Bank.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H8	Rental Housing: a. Consider establishing a rental clearinghouse for low and moderate income people similar to Harvard's "waiting list" for rent-controlled units (e.g., by matching units to those on the Cambridge Housing Authority waiting list). b. Request that Harvard (and other major/ or all landlords) allocate a percentage or give priority to their rental units for low to moderate-income households. c. Encourage tenants to pool resources for housing opportunities. d. Provide information and financial assistance for first-time-buying groups.	***Affordable Housing Database In Use*** The Community Development Department maintains a list of households interested in obtaining affordable housing. Interested households receive mailings when opportunities become available. Please call 617-349-4622 for information. This database is not the same list that is used for public housing maintained by the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA). For information on CHA housing, call 617-497-4040. ***Inclusionary Zoning Regulations in Effect*** The Inclusionary Zoning provision in the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance requires developers of any new or converted residential development with 10 or more units to provide 15% of the units as affordable to low- and moderate-income households. In exchange, the developers receive a 30% increase in allowed density. ***Transfer of Affordable Units Completed*** After rent control in Cambridge was discontinued in 1995, Harvard transferred 100 of its previously rent-controlled units to the non-profit organization Homeowners Rehab, Inc., which has rehabilitated the units and continues to own and manage them. ***First-Time Homebuyer Resources Available*** The City offers First-Time Homebuyer Classes that are free and open to all Cambridge residents. After taking these classes, low- and moderate-income households may be eligible for different types of financial assistance and low-interest loans. Information is available from the Housing Information Line at 617-349-4622 or online at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/hsg.
H9	Consider issues of excess infill (construction which causes significant neighborhood loss of open space) when new housing construction is planned. Support requirement for minimum open space through zoning.	***Zoning Regulations in Effect*** In 1999, Cambridge adopted a "Backyard Rezoning" petition that changed some of the regulations in the Residence C-1 district, which includes most residential parts of Mid-Cambridge. The allowed dwelling unit density was decreased, from one dwelling unit per 1,200 square feet of lot area to one unit per 1,500 square feet of lot area, thus lowering the overall number of housing units that can be built but not changing the amount of floor space that can be built. The rezoning also increased the required amount of open space on a residential lot, from 15% of the lot area to 30% of the lot area, so almost one third of a house's lot must remain open yard space (parking does not count as open space).

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H10	Support multi-family rehabilitation programs: a. Small Property Owners Program. b. Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services loan programs. c. De-leading programs.	***Housing Rehabilitation Programs Ongoing*** The Home Improvement Programs offered by Homeowners Rehab Inc. and Just-A-Start, which offer low-interest rehabilitation loans for owner-occupied, one- to four-unit houses with affordable rents, are supported by funding from Cambridge's Community Development Block Grant and the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust. Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services (CNAHS), which offers low-interest rehabilitation financing to owners of multi-family properties who keep rents affordable, has funding support from the same sources. For more information, call 617-349-4622. ***Lead-Safe Program Ongoing*** The City of Cambridge's Lead-Safe program provides loans to property owners for lead abatement, provided they maintain the deleaded unit as affordable during the duration of the loan. For more information, call 617-349-LEAD (617-349-5323).
H11	Support affordable rental and non-profit ownership development.	***Affordable Housing Development Programs Ongoing*** Non-profit developers of affordable housing, such as Just-A-Start, Homeowners Rehab, Inc., and CASCAP, are supported through a number of City-managed funding sources, including city tax funds, the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Community Development Block Grant. ***Inclusionary Zoning Regulations in Effect*** The Inclusionary Zoning provision in the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance requires developers of any new or converted residential development with 10 or more units to provide 15% of the units as affordable to low- and moderate-income households. In exchange, the developers receive a 30% increase in allowed density.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H12	Support affordable housing programs: a. Limited equity housing. b. Conversion of existing buildings or construction of new buildings. c. Financial assistance for first-time-buyers.	***Affordable Ownership Programs Ongoing*** To promote affordable housing, the City of Cambridge provides funds to construct, rehabilitate or reduce the purchase price of ownership units throughout the city. This allows households of low or moderate income to purchase homes at a reduced price. A buyer of such a property enters into an Affordable Housing Agreement with the City requiring that the buyer occupy the unit as their principal residence, maintain the unit according to the standards of government-assisted affordable housing, and sell the unit only to another income-eligible buyer. The City of Cambridge has the right of first refusal on all sales and must be notified when an owner intends to sell. The price that the unit can be sold for is restricted to the lesser of (a) fair market value of the unit as affordable housing, or (b) the amount the owner has invested in it (equity) plus interest. These requirements are enforced through a deed restriction on the property that is held by the City of Cambridge and remains on the property with each subsequent owner. ***Affordable Housing Development Programs Ongoing*** Non-profit developers of affordable housing, such as Just-A-Start, Homeowners Rehab, Inc., and CASCAP, are supported through a number of City-managed funding sources, including city tax funds, the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Community Development Block Grant. ***First-Time Homeownership Programs Ongoing*** The City offers a number of homeownership programs directed towards low-income, moderate-income, and even middle-income households. These include the First-Time Homebuyer Classes (free and open to all Cambridge residents) as well as financial assistance and special mortgage programs. For information, call the Housing Information Line at 617-349-4622 or visit the Housing web site at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/hsg.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H13	Increase City facilitated housing services: a. First-time-buyer classes. b. Access to affordable housing. c. Tenant ownership. d. Home ownership.	***First-Time Homebuyer Classes Ongoing*** The City offers First-Time Homebuyer Classes that are free and open to all Cambridge residents. After taking these classes, low- and moderate-income households may be eligible for different types of financial assistance and low-interest loans. For information, call 617-349-4622 or visit the Housing web site at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/hsg. ***Affordable Housing Services Ongoing*** The City publishes information about its affordable housing programs in a brochure called *A Guide to Affordable Housing Programs in Cambridge*, which is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. One of the services offered by the City is maintaining a list of households interested in obtaining affordable housing, and sending mailings to interested households when opportunities become available. For information, call 617-349-4622. ***Homeownership Programs Ongoing*** The City offers a number of homeownership programs directed towards low-income, moderate-income, and even middle-income households, including financial assistance and special mortgage programs for certain individuals who have completed the First-Time Homebuyer Classes.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
H14	Address the amount of time it takes to get affordable housing.	The amount of time it takes for people to find affordable housing is largely a result of a very high demand for affordable housing and a limited supply. The City's support for programs that create and preserve affordable housing helps to reduce the time it takes for eligible households to obtain an affordable unit by increasing the supply of affordable units.
H15	The City should conduct a comprehensive analysis of the housing situation in Cambridge. This should include a description of the availability and location of affordable units, as well as any potential or recent losses to the affordable housing stock. This information should be made available to the public.	***Housing Information Available*** Information on housing-related topics can be obtained from the Community Development Department (CDD) website at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/hsg or by calling the Housing Information Line at 617-349-4622. Since 1995, the City's efforts have helped to create over 2600 new affordable housing units. Information on the affordability of market-rate housing in Cambridge can be found in the Community Development Department's Housing Market Information report, available on the website or by calling the Housing Information Line.
H16	The Cambridge Housing Authority should provide better oversight of the Section 8 Program, to prevent abuses by landlords and tenants.	Oversight of the Section 8 program is ongoing by the Cambridge Housing Authority. The Cambridge Housing Authority is one of the highest performing public housing authorities in the country.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED1	Economic and employment development should be as much as possible accomplished without creating new traffic and parking problems. a. Improve truck policy to restrict truck traffic on interior neighborhood streets; b. Improve truck policy so that economic development does not necessarily mean more truck traffic; c. Consider requiring development to provide own parking/other mitigation to offset parking pressure on neighborhood streets.	The City of Cambridge, along with surrounding communities, MassHighway, trucking associations, the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), completed a regional truck study in the summer of 2002 and recommended that Cambridge apply for 11PM-to-6AM truck bans on all streets, except for JFK Street and the State Route system: Massachusetts Avenue (Route 2A); Fresh Pond Parkway/Aberdeen Avenue (Route 16); and Monseignor O'Brien Highway (Route 28). Twenty-four-hour bans were also recommended for Cardinal Medeiros, Warren, and Putnam Streets. MassHighway has not yet approved the citywide bans. ***Parking-Related Regulations in Effect*** The Cambridge Zoning Ordinance requires that a minimum number of off-street parking spaces be provided along with most types of new development (the number varies with the type and size of the development). Also, the special permit project review process (Article 19 of the Zoning Ordinance) requires a transportation impact study be completed for development projects greater than 50,000 square feet, and the Cambridge Planning Board may require mitigation where appropriate. The additional traffic and parking demand generated by new development is addressed through the City's Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Ordinance. Before new development is permitted, large businesses and institutions are required to have a PTDM plan approved by the Cambridge's Environmental and Transportation Planning Division. This plan must outline clear measures that will result in a reduced number of single-occupancy vehicle trips, such as incentives for using public transit, shuttle services, and carpooling.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED2	Establish minimum standards of operation for developments in neighborhood areas which addresses: a. Garbage pickup; b. Short term parking; c. Hours of operation; d. Size of store	The Cambridge License Commission enforces garbage collection hours. Different areas have different time restrictions. A noise investigator can address complaints and adjust hours of operation in an area as needed. The Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation regulates short-term, on-street parking. Under most circumstances, off-street parking requirements are regulated by the Board of Zoning Appeal and the Cambridge License Commission. The Cambridge License Commission can place any reasonable restriction on a business that requires a license. Restrictions on hours of operation are made on a case-by-case basis, and can be made upon the initial issuing of a license or in response to complaints about an existing business. ■ ***FUTURE ACTION – Short Range*** The Community Development Department expects to discuss possible zoning changes in Mid-Cambridge that will support small businesses in the neighborhood, starting in 2005.
ED3	Institutions should: a. Institute small job training programs for jobs they know they can offer; b. Create in-High School training programs for those jobs; c. Conduct training for jobs as part of a public service program; d. Create a liaison from institutions to job service; e. Maintain an outreach program for those with handicaps or mental illness, e.g. supermarket jobs.	Cambridge's Office of Workforce Development (OWD) builds partnerships between schools, institutions, community-based organizations, and the business sector to expand employment and training opportunities for Cambridge residents. ***Youth Employment Programs Ongoing*** OWD oversees the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, which links teenagers to jobs at businesses and institutions. It also operates the Youth Employment Center at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, which provides youths with referrals to employment and development programs. ***Biomedical/Healthcare Careers Programs Ongoing*** The City of Cambridge provides funding for the Cambridge Biomedical Careers Program, operated by the non-profit organization Just-A-Start, which prepares adults for entry-level jobs in the biomedical field and is free to individuals meeting certain income guidelines. Cambridge also provides funding for the Cambridge Health Alliance's Healthcare Career Advancement Program, which provides job training to Cambridge Health Alliance employees meeting certain qualifications who are seeking career advancement in the healthcare professions. Some private companies and non-profit organizations also provide career training in healthcare fields, however, many healthcare jobs require advanced and specialized skills that only higher education (community colleges, universities) can provide. Information on a range of employment and job training programs is listed in *Cambridge Works and Learns,* a directory published by the Office of Workforce Development. This can be obtained by visiting the Office of Workforce Development at 51 Inman Street, or by calling 617-349-6234.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED4	Examine ways to increase support for home-based businesses/small entrepreneurs: a. Consider a program on splitting resources (e.g. sharing employees, equipment). b. Examine the benefits of shared resources over neighborhood lines. c. Consider conducting a survey to home based businesses to find out about needs, number and type. d. Streamline zoning to help home-based businesses. e. Consider establishing a home-based business center.	Information on a wide range of business support programs is available in the brochure *Guide to Cambridge Economic Development Programs,* produced by the Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department. The Economic Development Division also offers one-to-one counseling and technical assistance to small businesses and individual entrepreneurs. Information is available at 617-349-4637 or online at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/ed. The City of Cambridge supports the Center for Women and Enterprise, which offers classes called "Starting Your Own Business" and "Minding Your Own Business" to provide instruction to new entrepreneurs and existing small business owners. Each involves a series of two classes that will be taught in spring 2005. The center will also be offering a training course on financial literacy in the spring. Information is available at 617-536-0700 or online at www.cweboston.org. In all residential parts of the city, residents are allowed to operate a professional office (e.g. lawyer, doctor, architect) or "customary home occupation" (e.g. studio, workshop) in their own home under certain conditions outlined in the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED5	Consider increasing support for neighborhood scale/small business: a. Monitor small business coming and going. b. Establish a quick response on business leaving/disaster (e.g. Savenours). c. Encourage appropriate small business activity in small areas, (e.g. tables and chairs in commercial areas, outside at 1000 Mass. Ave. and Bay Square). d. Consider allowing pushcarts as part of the retail mix. e. Make a distinction in the liquor license cap between restaurants and bars (i.e. allow more restaurant beer and wine licenses without allowing more bars). f. Address parking issues for small businesses (e.g., booklet "Where can you park in Cambridge?").	***Small Business Support Programs Ongoing*** The Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department provides many services to support and assist small retail, including counseling programs, façade improvement assistance, and a site-finder database that helps businesses find commercial leasing opportunities that meet their needs. Information is available in the brochure *Guide to Cambridge Economic Development Programs,* by calling 617-349-4637, or online at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/ed. ■ ***BUSINESS INVENTORY UNDERWAY – Short Range*** Currently, the Economic Development Division is developing an inventory of businesses in the city. ***Central Square Improvements Completed*** The Central Square Design Committee, including a representative from Mid-Cambridge, worked for two years to shape the Central Square Master Plan. This plan recommended improvements to the streetscape of Central Square, including new sidewalks, traffic calming measures, bicycle facilities, trees, landscaping, and furniture. These improvements were completed in 1997. The improvements have allowed for outdoor seating at several Central Square restaurants. Pushcarts were also considered as a possibility following the improvements, but thus far a pushcart management program has not been feasible to implement. ***Licensing Policies Ongoing*** Store hours and liquor licenses are regulated by the Cambridge Licensing Commission (CLC). Information about the policies of the CLC is available by calling 617-349-6140. It is Cambridge's policy to encourage residents and visitors to use alternative means of transportation. The main source of information on transportation in the city is *How to Get Around in Cambridge,* a map of roadways, pedestrian routes, and public transportation services. Also, the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department has recently produced a map of city-owned public parking garages and off-street metered lots. In the future, information on privately-owned public parking garages may be included as well. The map is available on the web at www.cambridgema.gov/traffic/OffStreetParking.cfm.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED6	Inman Square: a. Work with landlords to create more neighborhood service businesses. b. Improve bus service to the square (e.g. make the #69 bus more frequent all day). c. Continue work on implementing the recommendations of the Inman Square Task Force for improvements to Inman Square.	***Small Business Support Programs Ongoing*** The Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department provides many services to support and assist small, neighborhood-oriented retail. One such service is a site-finder database that helps businesses find commercial leasing opportunities that meet their needs. Information about this and other programs is available in the brochure *Guide to Cambridge Economic Development Programs,* by calling 617-349-4637, or online at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/ed. The Community Development Department also provides staff support to the newly re-established Inman Square Business Association. The MBTA #69 bus currently runs from about 5:30AM to about 1:00AM every day with a frequency of about 2 to 4 buses per hour, with a slightly lower frequency on Sunday. ***Project Completed*** The Cambridge Street reconstruction project was completed in fall 2004. This project included reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalks with the addition of curb extensions, street furniture, lighting, and trees, as well as the improvement of small open spaces such as Vellucci Community Plaza in Inman Square. In addition, several businesses along Cambridge Street have taken part in the Community Development Department's Façade Improvement Program.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED7	Central Square: a. Continue increased Mid-Cambridge involvement with Central Square issues. b. Mitigate perception of crime problem with increased employment, recreation and parks. c. Revisit City policy differences with other areas (e.g., street performers allowed in Harvard Square, no street performers allowed in Central Square). d. Continue work with neighborhood on specific issues (e.g., liquor store - later opening, less nips and cheap wine). e. Continue working with the Central Square Advisory Committee on recommendations for Central Square.	***Central Square Improvements Completed*** The Central Square Design Committee, including a representative from Mid-Cambridge, worked for two years to shape the Central Square Master Plan. This plan recommended improvements to the streetscape of Central Square, including new sidewalks, traffic calming measures, bicycle facilities, trees, landscaping, and furniture. These improvements were completed in 1997. The Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department continues to support improvements to Central Square through its façade improvement program, which provides matching grants for improvements to commercial storefronts. ***Community Policing Ongoing*** Since 1995, the Police Department has addressed crime in Cambridge neighborhoods through a Community Policing Program, which relies on an overall strategy of partnerships and problem solving with the community. ***Licensing Policies Ongoing*** Store hours and liquor licenses are regulated by the Cambridge Licensing Commission (CLC). For information call the CLC at 617-349-6140. Street performers are licensed by the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) as detailed in the Cambridge Street Performer Ordinance. For information call the CAC at 617-349-4380 or visit www.cambridgeartscouncil.org/permits.html on the web. Some street performers currently operate in Central Square. ***Advisory Committee Ongoing*** The Central Square Advisory Committee continues to perform advisory project reviews for development in the Central Square Overlay District. One representative from the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood serves on the committee.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
ED8	Explore the feasibility of pushcarts in Central Square. While pushcarts could provide a desired increase in retail activity, they could also result in overcrowded sidewalks and an increase in litter. One alternative would be to permit pushcarts in less crowded edge areas of Central Square, such as the soon to be renovated Lafayette Square. Another would be to encourage more seasonal street festivals or events (similar to the farmer's market), to be able to better manage the impacts of sidewalk retailing.	Since the implementation of streetscape improvements to Central Square in 1997, some neighborhood residents and businesses have shown an interest in allowing pushcart vendors to operate. However, the management of pushcarts would raise a number of unaddressed issues, including licensing, storage, cleaning, and security. It would also be necessary to ensure that pushcart businesses not interfere with the business of existing Central Square stores. Providing for pushcart vendors would require strong support from the Central Square business community. The City continues to allow and encourage seasonal events and street festivals in Central Square, such as the Central Square World's Fair in July 2004, which involved the closing of Massachusetts Avenue so that vendors could operate from tents on the street.
ED9	Improve litter removal, maintenance, and beautification in Central Square in order to create a more pleasant experience.	***Maintenance Ongoing*** The Department of Public Works' street cleaning program includes monthly sweeping of all streets from April to December, as well as more frequent treatment of major squares. Daily hand-vacuuming and litter collection is also done in major squares.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
OS1	Increase publicity by the School Department and the Department of Human Services on programs: Publicize CRLS and War Memorial Pool activities to increase use by neighborhood residents.	***Publicity Ongoing*** The Recreation Division of the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) provides classes and activities for adults and children at the War Memorial facility in the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. A catalog of seasonal programs is mailed out to all past participants, and is distributed at libraries and city buildings. There is also information about War Memorial programs on DHSP web site at www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2. The management of the War Memorial can be contacted at 617-349-6279.
OS2	Improve communication between the neighborhood and the City regarding problems with park use and/or design (e.g., basketball court at Paine Park causing problems for neighbors).	***Contact Information On-Site*** The City has begun to produce standard park signs that are installed as parks are renovated. These signs provide specific contact information for reporting various problems. ***Public Processes for Park Redesign Ongoing*** In addition, when a park is renovated, public meetings are conducted to review potential problems that might be corrected through new park design. For example, during the Paine Park renovation, particular attention was paid to the basketball court. It was decided to make this a half court, making it less likely to be a popular gathering space.
OS3	Consider an inventory of total open space in Mid-Cambridge including private open space, to enable both better park and open space planning and possible acquisition of new open space.	***Open Space Study Completed*** The 2000 *Report of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee,* published by the Community Development Department, presented an analysis of existing public and private open space that was used to establish priorities for the acquisition of new open space. Copies of this report are available by calling the Community Planning division at 617-349-4651 or online at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/cp/parks/grrib.
OS4	Renovate and improve Library Park Tot Lot: a. Address safety concerns. b. Install play equipment that maintains kids' interest. c. Use Cambridge Common park as a model. d. Possibly enlarge.	■ ***PLANNING IN PROGRESS – Short Range*** The tot lot at Joan Lorentz Park will be fully replaced following the library expansion project. During the construction of the library expansion, the tot lot will be temporarily relocated to a nearby place on Broadway. The views and concerns of neighborhood residents will be taken into consideration in the design process for the new tot lot.
OS5	Renovate Cooper Playground (Hancock Street).	***Project Completed*** A renovation to Cooper Playground was completed in 1998. The renovations included new play structures, water play, rubberized play surface, landscaping and plantings, and signage.

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
OS6	Replace dangerous equipment in Maple Avenue tot lot (i.e., metal horses on springs).	***Project Completed*** Full renovations to Maple Avenue Park, including all new play equipment, were completed in summer 2004. The new design for Maple Avenue Park was developed through a community process that took place during the fall and winter of 2002-2003.
OS7	Use Science Center's stone fountain as a model for open space ideas that are attractive to all people and ages.	The City's landscape architect works to create park spaces that are unique and attractive to a variety of user groups. This has included increased use of water in several parks, including Maple Avenue Park, Cooper Park, Paine Park, and Sennott Park. In addition, the renovations to Franklin Street Park in the nearby Riverside neighborhood incorporated a creative use of both water play and public art.
OS8	Install water facilities for play and cooling where possible/feasible: a. Lee Street Park. b. Paine Playground.	***Projects Completed*** A renovation to Paine Park, which included a small water play feature, was completed in spring 2002. Lee Street Park was renovated in 1999, but does not include a water play feature. In addition, Cooper Playground on Hancock Street has a large water play feature and Maple Avenue Park includes a small water play feature appropriate for young children. In nearby Area Four, Sennott Park has had a water play feature installed.
OS9	Support community gardens. (Although there are not any in the neighborhood, empty lots should be identified as possible site for such gardens.) Improve use of existing City land in parks, vacant lots, etc., to integrate into city park.	***Public Community Garden Program Ongoing*** While there are no publicly-owned community gardens in Mid-Cambridge, the City has acquired and renovated the formerly privately-owned community garden at Broadway and Boardman Street in the nearby Area Four neighborhood. Any Cambridge resident may apply for a plot in one of the city's publicly-owned community gardens. For information, contact the Cambridge Conservation Commission at 617-349-4680 or visit online at www.cambridgema.gov/~CCC.
OS10	Install artwork in parks where possible. (Support the City's 1% for art program).	***Projects Completed*** Through the city's "one percent for art" program, part of the Cambridge Public Art Ordinance, public art projects have been installed at Longfellow School, Paine Park, and Cooper Park. There is also a significant public art component in the newly renovated Franklin Street Park in the nearby Riverside neighborhood.

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
OS11	Support performances or activities in parks for adults during afternoons and evenings.	Neighborhood groups are most likely to sponsor events in neighborhood parks. For example, the Longfellow Neighborhood Council, which is supported by Cambridge's Community Schools program, sponsors "Park Days," a series of events in the summer that feature activities for children in the mornings, musical ensembles and interactive theater in the afternoons, and potluck desserts in the evenings. These events occur primarily at Cooper Park and Maple Avenue Park. Other park events in Mid-Cambridge are sponsored by the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association and the Neighbors of Paine Park.
OS12	Provide for more multiple use spaces (e.g., parking garage as concert space or tennis court).	The City of Cambridge works to support a system of public open spaces that can accommodate a broad range of recreational activities and events. These include smaller parks and playgrounds that can host neighborhood events (see above), along with larger community parks and city-wide parks that can host larger events, such as the "Family Day" festival held at Danehy Park The open space system also includes "pocket park" areas, such as Vellucci Plaza at Inman Square and the park outside the municipal offices at 344 Broadway, for informal recreation and gatherings. The City works to provide open space as part of its public building and transportation projects, and works to encourage private developers to do the same.
OS13	When possible create "pocket-parks": a. Seek land for acquisition. b. Sidewalk benches/sitting areas.	■ ***ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION – Medium Range*** The City is actively seeking to develop small "pocket park" areas for sitting and passive recreation as part of its overall open space strategy. Examples of seating areas that have recently been renovated in Mid-Cambridge include Monagle Plaza, near the recently renovated municipal office building at 344 Broadway, and Vellucci Community Plaza in Inman Square. The Community Development Department, working with the Open Space Committee, expects to seek funding for the development of more such pocket parks in the future.
OS14	Encourage private developers to create open spaces that are accessible by the public.	***Large Project Review Ongoing*** Through the Large Project Review provisions, adopted as part of the 2001 Citywide Rezoning, the City of Cambridge works with private developers to create public open space as part of large developments.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
OS15	Examine the feasibility of providing a park for the Longfellow School.	***No Planned Action*** The Longfellow School playground was redesigned and renovated in 1999 to include play elements on both sides of the building and a basketball court. However, the Longfellow School was closed in 2003 as part of the Cambridge Public Schools consolidation, and the former school building is being programmed for other uses.
OS16	Increase park maintenance and coordination of functions.	***Park Maintenance Programs Ongoing*** The organizational structure of the Parks and Urban Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) has changed in recent years to include new specialized staff positions, increased training, and sector maintenance crews responsible for different districts of the city. In addition, certain parks are maintained through a private maintenance contract.
OS17	Work with the existing Mid-Cambridge City Park Committee to consider the following: a. Preserve the "openness" of field to accommodate lounging, relaxing, sunning. b. Encourage use by all ages, maintain a passive sitting area atmosphere. c. Consider the installation of seating to better serve the elderly population and encourage extended use of the park in inclement weather. d. Consider performances or activities for adults during afternoons and evenings, consistent with park regulations. e. Explore the possibility for a facility for outside performances that would not encroach onto the field, possibly a gazebo or bandshell. f. Consider supplementing existing plantings and professional horticultural maintenance for all plantings.	■ ***PLANNING IN PROGRESS – Short Range*** The Mid-Cambridge City Park, now called Joan Lorentz Park, will be renovated as part of the expansion of the Cambridge Public Library. The design for the expansion is intended to promote a feeling of openness, light, and visibility around the library façade. Joan Lorentz Park will remain as a large passive use area in front of the library that encourages sitting and relaxation.

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Original Study (1998)

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
OS18	Consider the Charles River as a source of recreation or relaxation for Mid-Cambridge residents: a. Increase public programming and publicity for recreation and access to the river itself. b. Expand MDC and City programming and publicity for recreation along the Cambridge side of the Charles River, including boating and canoeing. c. Develop programs that invite the public to use the river, and/or increase public awareness of existing programs.	■ ***RENOVATIONS PLANNED – Short Range*** In fall of 1999, the City and the MDC reached an agreement to renovate the Magazine Beach facility. The City has agreed to provide $1.5 million for renovations to Magazine Beach and $100,000 annually for the maintenance and upkeep of this facility. Cambridge youth athletic teams will have priority scheduling the use of the playing fields. ***Boat Launch Planned*** As part of the special permit for Cambridge Research Park at Kendall Square, private developers have agreed to construct a canoe and kayak launch for the Charles River Basin. The Cambridge side of the Charles River also hosts a number of special events throughout the year. One such event is the annual River Festival, sponsored by the City of Cambridge, which provides an opportunity for groups to conduct outreach about their programs.
OS19	Add softer play surfaces in some area of Cooper Park.	***Project Completed*** A rubber safety surface was added to Cooper Playground on Hancock Street as part of the playground renovation in 1998.
OS20	Follow recommendations of Inman Square Task Force on improvements for Vellucci Plaza.	***Renovations Completed*** As part of the Cambridge Street improvements, Vellucci Plaza has been fully renovated as a passive use "pocket park" area. The plaza re-opened in fall 2004.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
OS21	The City should continue to acquire open space. It is particularly important to acquire spaces in locations that lack open space, such as the Longfellow School.	***Open Space Study Completed*** In 2000, the Community Development Department published the *Report of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee,* which used a variety of criteria to set priorities for open space creation across all of Cambridge. This study identified many parts of Mid-Cambridge and neighboring Area Four as top priority areas for developing neighborhood parks and larger community parks. Recent open space acquisitions in Area Four include 238 Broadway and the Squirrel Brand site at Broadway and Boardman Street. ***No Planned Action*** As of 2003, the Longfellow School has been closed as part of a consolidation of the Cambridge Public Schools. The playground at that school remains in use.
OS22	The following improvements are suggested for Cooper Park: a. Better enforcement of rules for appropriate use of water play equipment; b. Evaluation of whether the screening effect of plant material encourages inappropriate behavior on the interior edge of the park; and, c. Regular pruning and thinning of trees.	***Park Maintenance Programs Ongoing*** The Parks and Urban Forestry Division of the Cambridge Department of Public Works performs maintenance in public parks on an ongoing basis. At Cooper Park, DPW crews have been working to keep the evergreen shrubs along Hancock Street trimmed. Parks and Urban Forestry is also responsible for the care of public trees, and is dedicated to pruning every public tree, both on the street and in parks and cemeteries, every four to five years. For information, call 617-349-4880 or visit www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/departments/parks.
OS23	Close Cambridge Street or Broadway at certain times to provide more recreation space. This would be similar to the occasional closures of Memorial Drive during the summer.	If there were consensus among surrounding residents and businesses that such a closure would be appropriate and the traffic restrictions would be acceptable, the City would work with residents to discuss how to implement such a program.
OS24	The City should create an inventory of private open spaces. This inventory should provide an overview of which spaces are open to the public as well as those that are not open to the public but provide visual and environmental benefits to the city. It should be noted whether any of these spaces might be lost to development.	***Review Completed*** Besides publicly-owned open space, there are some private open spaces in the city that are required to be open to the public as part of a special permit stipulation. The Community Development Department has surveyed these spaces for their current use and level of public accessibility. This survey did not include university campus open spaces, which are typically open to the public as well.

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	*Recommendation*	*Status and Progress to Date*
OS25	Protect Joan Lorentz Park during the main library expansion. The expansion is an opportunity to look into ways of enhancing this space, such as providing benches.	■ ***PLANNING IN PROGRESS – Short Range*** Joan Lorentz Park will be preserved and renovated as part of the expansion of the Cambridge Public Library. The design for the expansion is intended to promote a feeling of openness, light, and visibility around the library façade. Joan Lorentz Park will remain as a large passive use area in front of the library that encourages sitting and relaxation.
OS26	Provide air conditioning at War Memorial facilities.	■ ***PLANNING IN PROGRESS*** Improvements to the HVAC systems are part of the overall master plan for the renovation of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and the War Memorial facility. The renovations will occur after funding has been secured.
OS27	Promote pedestrian and bicycle access to the Charles River. The river is the most important recreational resource available to Cambridge residents, and is difficult to access because of high traffic volumes on Memorial Drive.	***Improvements Made Along Memorial Drive*** The Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the Metropolitan District Commission) has been working on the river edge of Memorial Drive to improve the experience of pedestrians and cyclists along the Charles River Basin. Improvements thus far have included narrowing the Memorial Drive roadway and widening the park edge of the river, as well as installing a traffic light and crosswalk at Memorial Drive and Endicott Street, near MIT. A traffic light has also been installed at the intersection of Memorial Drive and Massachusetts Avenue.
OS28	There should be greater enforcement of dog restrictions throughout the City's park system. Bags and trash barrels should be provided to help owners clean up after their dogs.	***Enforcement of Dog Rules Ongoing*** The Cambridge Animal Commission patrols parks on a regular basis and issues violation notices to owners of dogs that are not leashed, not licensed, or in a prohibited area. Patrols are more frequent in areas that receive high numbers of complaints. For more information or to report violations, call the Cambridge Animal Commission at 617-349-4376. Bags and trash receptacles for dog waste are currently provided in most parks.
OS29	Safety at Magazine Beach is a major concern. The City and the Commonwealth's Division of Conservation and Recreation should come to agreement over whose police force has jurisdiction there, and how safety can be improved.	Police service for Magazine Beach is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. However, Cambridge Police will also respond to calls in that area.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years; Long Range - 6-10 years

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
OS30	The condition of street trees should be evaluated and improved throughout the city. In Mid-Cambridge, there is particular concern about the health of large trees on Kirkland Street.	***Tree Planting and Maintenance Ongoing*** The Parks and Urban Forestry Division of the Cambridge Department of Public Works, which includes the City Arborist, Forestry Supervisor, and two forestry maintenance crews, is responsible for the planting and care of public trees. Around Kirkland Street, some dead trees have recently been removed, and replanting of trees in this area is currently taking place. For information, call 617-349-4880 or visit www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/departments/parks/forestry.html ■ ***ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION*** The Parks and Urban Forestry Division is considering conducting a citywide inventory and evaluation of public trees.

■ ***ACTION ITEM - Timeframe***

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

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