



***Cambridge Highlands
Neighborhood Study Update***

**City of Cambridge
Community Development Department
March 3, 2011**

2011 Cambridge Highlands Neighborhood Study Update Meeting #1

- Planning in Cambridge
- Thoughts, concerns, and vision for the future
- Dialogue about long-term planning issues –
How will the neighborhood change over 10 years or more?

City Planning

- Facilitating a vision for the city's future
 - Balancing city growth over time with quality of life
 - Creating a more **sustainable** city
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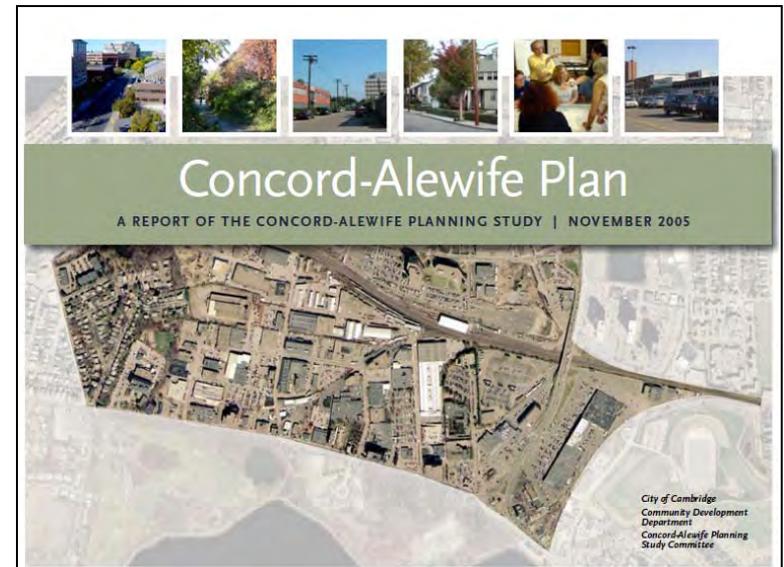
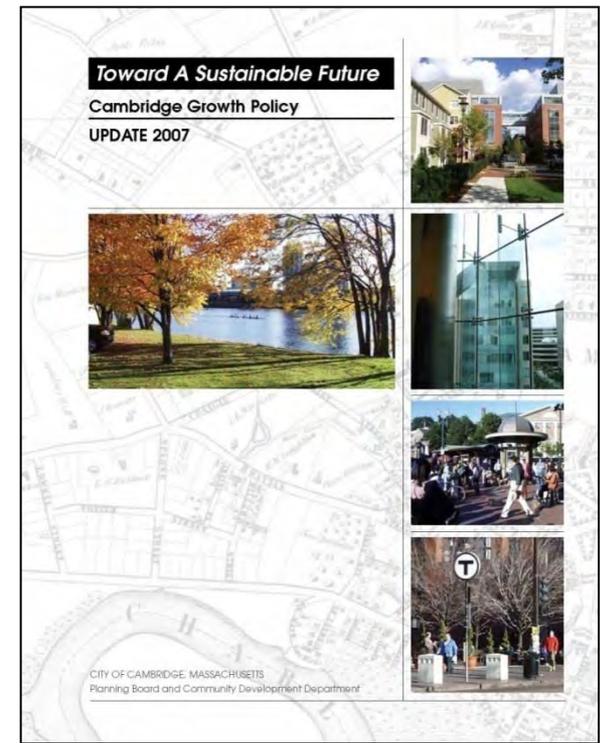
Planning Tools

- City ordinances, policies (Zoning and others)
- Public investment in transportation, open space
- Programs and services

Overall City Goals

- Serve a diverse population
- Good housing, neighborhoods
- Sustainability
- Beautiful parklands and pathways
- Healthy economic base – jobs, retail
- High-quality city services
- Public process to address growth

- Growth Policy (1993, 2007)
- “Citywide Rezoning” (2001)
- Climate Protection Plan (2002)
- Topic-Specific Studies:
 - Green Ribbon Open Space (2000)
 - Green Zoning Task Force (2009)
- Area-Specific Studies:
 - Eastern Cambridge (2001)
 - Concord-Alewife (2006)
- **Neighborhood Studies and Updates (1989-present)**



Neighborhood Study Update Process

- Series of 2-3 community meetings
- Online questionnaire
- Discuss planning in the neighborhood
- Develop recommendations for future planning
- Report: Summary, recommendations and future action steps



Cambridge Highlands:

- Variety of land uses and characteristics
- Smallest neighborhood in terms of population
~ 673 persons (101,355 citywide)



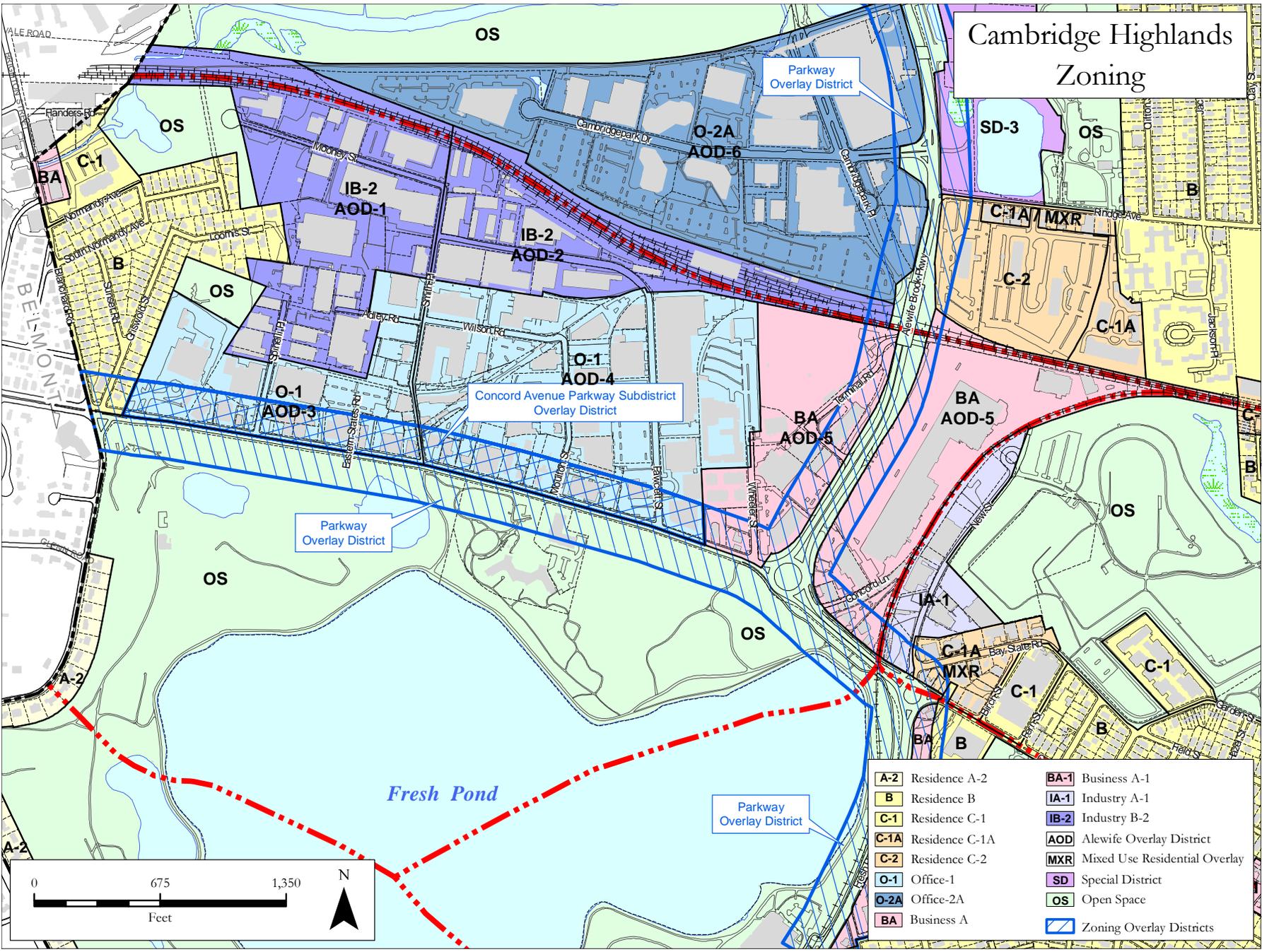


Cambridge Highlands Land Use and Zoning Issues

- Sense of place
- Transitions
- Urban design
- Redevelopment



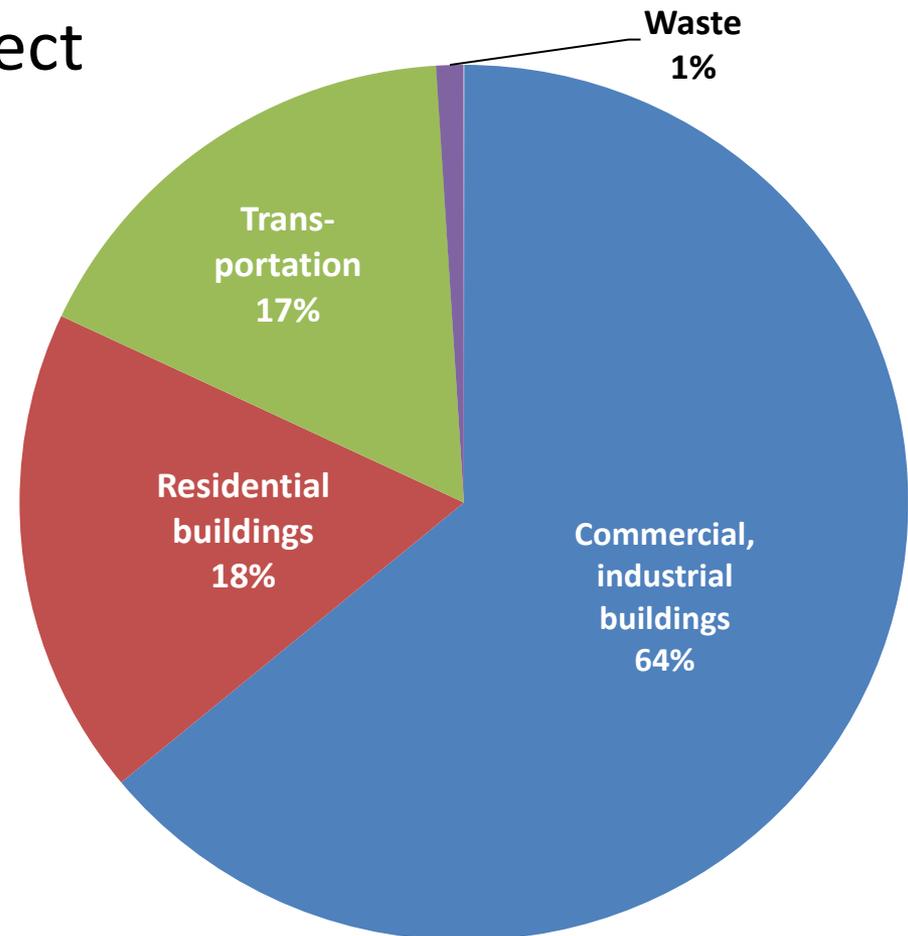
Cambridge Highlands Zoning



| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| A-2 | Residence A-2 | BA-1 | Business A-1 |
| B | Residence B | IA-1 | Industry A-1 |
| C-1 | Residence C-1 | IB-2 | Industry B-2 |
| C-1A | Residence C-1A | AOD | Alewife Overlay District |
| C-2 | Residence C-2 | MXR | Mixed Use Residential Overlay |
| O-1 | Office-1 | SD | Special District |
| O-2A | Office-2A | OS | Open Space |
| BA | Business A | | Zoning Overlay Districts |

Energy and Environment Goals

- Energy efficiency, renewable energy
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Moderating heat island effect
- Stormwater management
- Reducing waste, increasing recycling



Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Cambridge

Source: Community Development Department
(all figures approximate)

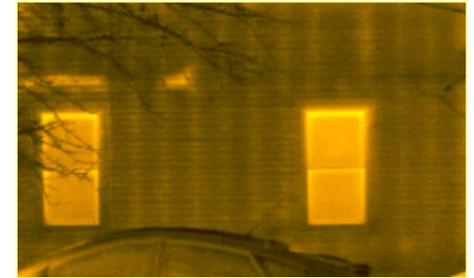
Energy and Buildings



Thermal Scan of Building



Before insulation



After insulation

- Improved energy efficiency for existing buildings (Insulation, efficient appliances and mechanicals)
- “Green Zoning” for new construction
- Renewable Energy – solar, wind

Stormwater and Urban Heat Island



- Vegetation, trees, rain gardens
- Green roofs
- White roofs

Cambridge Highlands Transportation Issues

- Connections to transit and within neighborhood
- Street patterns
- Pedestrian, bicycle environment



Affordable Housing Programs

- Inclusionary Zoning
- Affordable Housing Trust
- Home Improvement Programs
- Homebuyer and Renter Assistance



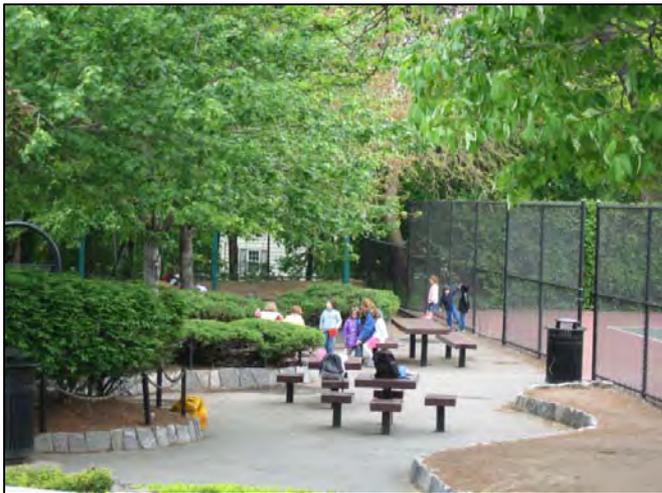
Small Business Support Programs

- Grant programs (façade designs, store renovations)
- Workshops
- SiteFinder service, one-on-one consulting



Open Space Goals

- Maintain and improve what exists
- Provide variety of open space uses
- Expand supply and improve access as appropriate (Green Ribbon Study)
- Support “play” for community health and well-being (not just for kids!)



Neighborhood Planning Questions

- **What do you like about the character of the neighborhood?**
- **What concerns do you have about the neighborhood?**
- **What do you see as opportunities for change and improvement over time?**