CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2009-2016

City of Cambridge

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The Cambridge Open Space System

Cambridge is a city that is fully developed, densely populated, demographically diverse, and home to many large and small businesses and institutions. It has a variety of public open spaces, most of which have been created by reclaiming land that had previously been used for other purposes. As Cambridge redevelops to accommodate new housing, businesses and institutional uses, the City continues to seek ways to provide new public open space along with protecting the open space that currently exists.

Cambridge has some large parks and reservations, but most open space is in the form of small to medium-sized parks and playgrounds that are embedded into the residential neighborhoods. The city's major natural resource areas, the Charles River, Alewife Brook, and Fresh Pond Reservations, are thoughtfully protected and treasured by the community. Because Cambridge is primarily a walking city, the public realm of streets and sidewalks plays a vital role in the open space system, with many plazas, sitting areas, and landscaped areas found along major streets as well as trees and other streetscape features that make the streets and sidewalks safer, more pleasant and more environmentally friendly. The public system of open spaces is complemented by a smaller set of privately-owned open spaces, many of which allow some degree of public access or enjoyment.

Community Goals

Because of the densely-populated and densely-developed nature of Cambridge, there is a strong focus on quality as well as quantity to ensure that open space resources can be used to their full potential. Community members value open spaces as places to walk, to sit and relax, and to enjoy the benefits of the natural environment as well as places for children to play, for exercise and sports, and for other leisure activities such as gardening and dog-walking. Surveys, discussions and planning studies involving members of the community indicate the following shared goals with regard to the open space system:

1. Increase the amount of usable public open space in Cambridge, with a focus on the priorities identified in the *Green Ribbon Study* and other planning studies. (See Sections 6 and 7.)

2. Work to improve the quality and variety of parks and playgrounds in Cambridge.

3. Protect reservations and natural resources in the city, including water resources outside of Cambridge that contribute to the municipal water supply.

4. Ensure that Cambridge's parks and open spaces are well-maintained, attractive, clean, and free of hazards and pests, and that park equipment and features remain in good repair.

5. Support a robust recreational program that makes use of Cambridge's parks, open spaces and recreational facilities.

6. Work to improve the quality of streets and sidewalks in the city, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists.

7. Increase the availability of park trails and multiuse pathways for pedestrian and bicycle use, with a focus on the priorities identified in the *Green Ribbon Study* and other planning studies.

8. Ensure that the public has good information about the availability of different open space and recreational resources in the city.

Future Open Space Planning

Increasing the amount of open space in Cambridge is challenging because undeveloped private land is virtually non-existent, the cost of developable or redevelopable land parcels in Cambridge tends to be high, the opportunities to purchase usable land are rare, and the costs associated with the clean-up of developed sites can be prohibitive. However, Cambridge pursues opportunities to acquire and expand open space when they arise, and explores other opportunities for expanding open space such as reclaiming small pieces of public land from roadway intersections and parking lots, planning for the phased conversion of underused areas such as railroad rights-of-way to public open spaces and multi-use paths, and working with private developers or institutions to provide land and/or funding for new open space development.

There are a variety of ways in which Cambridge works to improve its open space resources, including the ongoing renovation of existing parks and playgrounds, the enhancement and protection of natural resource areas, and the enrichment of the entire public realm through streetscape improvements, landscaping, traffic calming, and the addition of small sitting areas or passive-use spaces. Open space resources are also improved by incorporating new uses, such as community gardening plots and off-leash dog areas, to serve new and diverse community needs. These improvements are carefully planned, with community involvement, to provide benefits to all community members while also providing a diversity of park types and uses across the open space system to serve users of different ages, abilities and recreational interests.

SECTION 2. INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

Open space planning in Cambridge is an ongoing, collaborative process with participation from a number of different City departments. The Five-Year Open Space Plan provides a "snapshot" of Cambridge's open space planning initiatives at a particular point in time. It is an accumulation and consolidation of the multiple planning efforts that have been undertaken in the past as well as a look forward at initiatives planned to occur during the next five years. The purpose of the plan is to provide useful information about the range of open space resources existing in Cambridge, to describe the goals and objectives that guide the City's investments into these resources, and to describe the planned initiatives that will help to protect and enhance Cambridge's open space resources for the benefit of current and future community members.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Open Space Committee is the central body responsible for coordinating the activities of the different City departments and offices that play a role in the planning, design, maintenance and operation of the open space system. It includes representatives from:

- The City Manager's office, which is directly responsible for the overall administration of the municipal government and takes an active role in seeking opportunities to expand the supply of open space.
- The Community Development Department, which is responsible for open space design and development as well as land use, transportation and environmental planning
- The Recreation Division of the Department of Human Service Programs, which is responsible for coordination of youth sports and other athletic programs as well as management of Danehy Park, the municipal golf course, pools and youth centers
- The Department of Public Works, which is responsible for ongoing maintenance of public parks, schoolyards, street trees and other public plantings as well as the overall civic infrastructure of roads, sidewalks and public utilities
- The Cambridge Water Department, which is responsible for oversight and maintenance of Fresh Pond (the terminal reservoir for the municipal water supply), the surrounding Fresh Pond Reservation and the Cambridge-owned watershed lands that serve the municipal water supply
- The Cambridge Electrical Department, which is responsible for the operation and maintenance of public lighting in parks and along streets and sidewalks
- The Cambridge Conservation Commission, which is responsible for protecting and enhancing the city's natural resources

- The Cambridge Arts Council, which is responsible for managing the city's collection of public art and commissioning new art as an amenity for the citizens of Cambridge

The Open Space Committee coordinates the planning activities of these different departments and collectively undertakes initiatives to improve public information and services with regard to open space. On an annual basis, the Open Space Committee reviews and updates the Open Space Action Plan (see Section 9) and recommends open space projects to be funded in the City's capital budget.

The primary way in which members of the public participate in open space planning is through the neighborhood study and update process. In each neighborhood of the city, the Community Development Department conducts community-based studies that help to create a vision for future planning in that neighborhood, and result in a set of recommendations for future open space plans and improvements. Periodically, these studies are updated through a series of community meetings that results in a list of new recommendations. Updates have been conducted in all Cambridge neighborhoods within the past five years. In addition to these ongoing studies, the City conducts extensive public processes around any planned open space project, such as a park renovation or the design of a new neighborhood open space. These public processes collectively help to inform citywide goals for future open space planning and design. (See Section 6 for more information.)

For the purposes of the Five-Year Open Space Plan, the City hired a research firm to conduct a randomized telephone survey of Cambridge residents. This survey provided valuable information on the recreational pursuits and open space goals of the Cambridge community at large, and helped to solidify future open space planning priorities. The results of this survey reflected the results of the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and provided detail that is specifically applicable to Cambridge. As a supplement to the telephone survey, Community Development Department staff conducted on-site questionnaires of park users at different locations around the city to collect some qualitative information about the opinions of park users. (See Section 6.)

Another important facet of the open space planning process is the planning work that is conducted around specific topics or around specific areas of the city. Past citywide studies have included the Green Ribbon Study (2000), which is the city's primary framework for prioritizing open space acquisition and expansion, and the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan (2002). Some area-specific studies have included the Eastern Cambridge Planning Study (2001) and the Concord-Alewife Planning Study (2006), both of which include open space components. Studies that are currently underway include the Healthy Parks and Playgrounds Initiative, which will help to guide innovations in the design of parks and playgrounds in Cambridge, and a study of the Charles River, which will recommend ways in which Cambridge's waterfront might made more usable and accessible to members of the Cambridge community. Open space planning is also informed by Cambridge's citywide growth policy document, *Towards a Sustainable Future*, which was adopted in 1993 and updated in 2007. (See Sections 6 and 7 for more information.)

The Open Space Plan was prepared by Community Development Department staff with input from all of the departments that are represented on the Open Space Committee.

C. Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

Cambridge is a geographically small city with a diverse community, including people of various ethnicities, races, and incomes as well as a significant immigrant population. The City recognizes that there is significant diversity among neighborhoods and within neighborhoods, and is dedicated to providing a high quality of public services and amenities throughout the city.

Map 3-2 in Appendix IV illustrates Census block groups in Cambridge that meet different Environmental Justice (EJ) criteria, using data from the 2000 U.S. Census. As the map shows, around half of the block groups in the city meet EJ criteria for minority and/or foreign-born populations. About half of the EJ block groups are located on or in proximity to the campus of Harvard University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and may reflect the large student population in Cambridge. Harvard and MIT both have ethnically diverse student bodies, particularly among their graduate students, many of whom are international. Some on-campus areas that house predominantly graduate or undergraduate students also meet income criteria. While open space planning is conducted near university campuses, and the universities themselves serve as partners in some open space planning initiatives, most of the planning work in these areas is deferred to the universities' planning departments and is reviewed by the City and the public through the annual "Town-Gown" reporting process.

Aside from university campuses, areas that meet EJ criteria for income, among other criteria, tend to be areas with sizable public housing developments. These areas include Newtowne Court/Washington Elms in Area Four, the Millers River senior housing complex in East Cambridge, the Inman Square Apartments, Lyndon B. Johnson senior housing in Cambridgeport, and Rindge Towers, Jefferson Park and Daniel F. Burns Apartments in North Cambridge. Only two block groups meet EJ criteria for English proficiency, and the housing in these areas is predominantly public housing. Within the neighborhoods around these developments, as in all Cambridge neighborhoods, there is a diverse mix of high, middle and low incomes, and many different races, ethnicities and national backgrounds.

Much of the open space planning work undertaken within the past five years has focused on these EJ areas. An extensive open space planning process in the Area Four neighborhood resulted in the recent completion of two new public parks directly adjacent to affordable housing developments (Squirrel Brand Park and Greene • Rose Heritage Park). Renovations to Dana Park (completed 2004), the development of a new playground at Russell Field (2005), streetscape and sidewalk improvements along Cambridge Street (2005), the renovation of Gold Star Mothers Park (2006), the creation of a new park space at Trolley Square in North Cambridge (2007), and improvements to Clement Morgan Park (currently underway) have all taken place within EJ areas and have included broad participation from neighborhood residents as well as residents of nearby public housing developments. It is estimated that 300 or more community members have participated in these open space projects over the past five years.

The neighborhood study and update process, previously described, is one of the primary mechanisms for ongoing open space planning in the city. (See Cambridge neighborhoods in Map 6-1 in Appendix IV.)

This process ensures that targeted outreach is conducted in every neighborhood, including those that have areas meeting Environmental Justice criteria, and that the results of the planning process consider the needs and priorities that are specific to those neighborhoods. Neighborhood studies or updates have been completed in every neighborhood that meets Environmental Justice criteria, including Cambridgeport (2003), Riverside (2003), Area Four (2004), Wellington-Harrington (2005), Neighborhood Nine (2005), Mid-Cambridge (2005), East Cambridge (2006), Strawberry Hill (2007) and North Cambridge (2008). It is estimated that 500 or more community members have participated in neighborhood studies and updates taking place in neighborhoods meeting some Environmental Justice criteria over the past five years. Neighborhood study updates in Cambridgeport, Wellington-Harrington and Neighborhood Nine are currently underway.

For all planning processes, outreach is conducted in such a way as to encourage participation from all area residents. Meeting notices and announcements are mailed to every residential address, ensuring that tenants and not just homeowners receive information. City staff members work with the management and/or tenant councils of large public or affordable housing projects to distribute information to tenants. City staff also relies on contact with civic groups and non-profit organizations to help provide planning information to neighborhood residents. The network of community-based organizations in Cambridge, particularly in those neighborhoods with significant minority, foreign-born or low-income populations, is helpful not just as a conduit for information but as a way to gather advice on outreach methods and to gather feedback from constituencies that have difficulty attending public meetings or communicating directly with city staff. It can also be a useful way to learn about the concerns of non-English-speaking or immigrant groups that might not be inclined to participate in government-sponsored public forums. This outreach is in addition to posting information and announcements in public places and in newspapers, as well as outreach through web pages, e-mail networks and other online resources. The City continually works to review and improve outreach methods over time as needs and technological abilities change.

SECTION 3. COMMUNITY SETTING

D. Regional Context

The City of Cambridge is located in Middlesex County, bordered by the Charles River to the south and southwest, Watertown and Belmont to the west, the Alewife Brook and Arlington to the north, Somerville to the northeast and a small portion of the Charlestown section of Boston at the far east. Cambridge's location within the surrounding region is illustrated in Map 3-1.

The areas that make up Cambridge vary greatly in character, and include residential neighborhoods ranging from lower-density single-family to higher-density multifamily housing, lively mixed-use squares, former industrial areas evolving into high-tech employment centers, and a few large open spaces including Fresh Pond and its surrounding reservation as well as the banks of the Charles River. Overall, the feel of Cambridge is that of a densely-populated, urbanized area adjacent to a metropolitan downtown. According to information from the U.S. Census (2000), Cambridge has the third-highest population density among cities and towns in Massachusetts.

Cambridge has also long served as a regional employment center, once for industrial manufacturing and more recently for technological and life sciences businesses. A variety of factors, including proximity to Boston, excellent transportation infrastructure and top-tier academic and research institutions have made Cambridge an attractive location for employers. This status as a regional employment center means that Cambridge faces the challenge of providing high-quality services for a mix of residents, employees, students and visitors alike.

Cambridge is linked with its regional neighbors not just by transportation infrastructure, commerce and education, but also by the larger regional system of open spaces and natural areas. Perhaps the most significant part of Cambridge's "green infrastructure" is the Charles River, which forms part of Cambridge's border while also linking it ecologically and recreationally with Boston and the Boston Harbor to the east, and with up-river communities such as Watertown, Waltham, Newton, Weston, Wellesley, Needham and beyond. While many of the industrial and agricultural threats to river quality faced in the past have diminished, new patterns of development within the thirty-five communities of the Charles River aquifer could have potential impacts on water quality. Likewise, Cambridge is linked to communities in the Mystic River Watershed by way of the Alewife Reservation, so impacts to that watershed have an effect on all communities within it regardless of where the impacts are caused. Moreover, the infrastructure that provides potable water to the Cambridge population draws from watershed areas in Lincoln, Weston, Waltham and Lexington. Cambridge officials confer with other communities on specific issues regarding these shared resources as they arise.

Cambridge also interacts with its neighbors through the Inner Core Committee of the Boston region's Metropolitan Area Planning Council, a group of 20 communities that discusses planning issues of regional interest. While open space is not a frequent topic of discussion, the forum provides an opportunity to share information about common concerns and discuss strategies that could be pursued on a region-wide or state-wide level.

E. History of the Community

Cambridge History

Prior to European settlement, the land that is now Cambridge was an important focal point for Native American activities, especially during the summer when it became a staging area for food gathering. The only surviving features from that time are several trails that have since become major transportation and commercial corridors throughout the city, including Massachusetts Avenue and the Charlestown-Watertown Path, comprising Kirkland, Mason and Brattle Streets. The first European settlement occurred in 1630 when English settlers came to what is now Harvard Square, and which was then the confluence of several major native trails. The settlement, called Newtowne, had been founded to be the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The village quickly became the focal point for all economic, religious and civic activities in the new town. Settlers were not allowed to live outside the village, resulting in a small, nucleated settlement with house lots in town and fields beyond the village. In 1634, Newtowne lost its civic pre-eminence when the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was relocated to Boston. Two years later, Newtowne became the educational center of the colony when Harvard College was established just to the north of the village. The village was renamed Cambridge in 1638, after the esteemed college in England. The original street grid of the 1630s village and the Harvard College Yard remain today.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the town's focus remained in the Harvard Square area, later known as “Old Cambridge.” Drawn by the cachet of Harvard College and the idyllic quaintness of village life, Boston's elite built summer houses along Brattle Street to the west of the square. Elsewhere there were scattered farms and an occasional tavern along a main road.

In the late 18th century the focus of the town's activities began to shift. The construction of the West Boston Bridge (currently the Longfellow Bridge) in 1793 opened the town up to Boston real estate developers and manufacturing concerns. As a result, the beginnings of new villages in East Cambridge, Central Square and Cambridgeport emerged during the early years of the 19th century. Most notably, the developers of East Cambridge persuaded the Middlesex County government to move from Harvard Square to East Cambridge with the promise of a new courthouse. The county seat remains in East Cambridge today.

Cambridge's industries took root in the 19th century, with glassmaking, soap-making and candle-making in East Cambridge, rope-making and tanneries in Cambridgeport. Pipe organs were also manufactured in Cambridge. Industrial growth was slow at first because of the War of 1812, but starting in 1820, the economy boomed. Soap-making and candle-making continued as the leading industries, followed by brick-making in North and West Cambridge and glassmaking in East Cambridge. Carriage manufacturing was supported by numerous lumberyards. Food processing and furniture industries grew during this period as expanding railroad networks provided access to regional and national markets. By mid-century, manufacturing of boilers, engines and heavy machinery as well as industries like ironworks, metal presses and stamping took hold in Cambridge, boosted in part by the Civil War. Industry expanded

into what is now Kendall Square, lower Cambridgeport, parts of Riverside and North Cambridge. During the latter part of the 19th century, refined sugar, candy, caskets, twine and netting, hoses, reinforced concrete, petroleum products and bitulithic pavement were added to the already long list of products manufactured in Cambridge.

Population growth closely followed the industrial boom. Between 1820 and 1830 the number of people living in Cambridge doubled, and between 1830 and 1870 the population increased six-fold. Immigrant groups included the Irish, Polish, Italians, Portuguese and French-Canadians along with other ethnic and national groups. By 1865, 20 percent of Cambridge's population was Irish-born, with the total immigrant population making up about 28 percent of the city. Cambridge became a city in 1846 when Old Cambridge, East Cambridge and Cambridgeport were unified.

Housing development boomed as well. While Old Cambridge retained its status as a quiet home for the intellectual and economic elite, dense new residential development for workers occurred in East Cambridge and Cambridgeport and near the brick yards in North Cambridge and West Cambridge. Little thought was given to open space. Between roughly the 1850s and the 1930s, the Cambridge landscape was dramatically altered as developers filled tidal marshes along the Charles and freshwater marshes at Fresh Pond and Alewife. Central Square, located along the street railroad line from Boston, emerged as the commercial center of Cambridge, and eventually became its civic center when City Hall was built there in 1890. A comfortable middle class suburb developed north of Massachusetts Avenue between Central and Harvard Squares, and a more affluent suburb grew north of Harvard Square on Avon Hill.

Industrial, demographic and residential growth continued almost unabated into the 20th century. World War I gave a substantial boost to Cambridge's already robust industrial base. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology relocated to the Cambridge riverfront in 1916, which in addition to establishing a second educational anchor, began to bring electronic, engineering, scientific instrument and industrial research firms to Cambridge. The household population (not including university students) passed the 100,000 mark during this time, increasing from 91,886 in 1900 to 104,836 in 1910, to 109,694 in 1920, and to its peak of 113,643 in 1930 (Source: Cambridge Historical Commission).

The influx of residents prompted more residential development, which resulted in the city becoming a series of interlocking street grids from east to west, leaving virtually no undeveloped land remaining, and no great expanses of open space. Today's neighborhoods take their architectural character largely from pre-1930 Cambridge. The extension of the subway to Harvard Square in 1912 and trolley lines along major roads resulted in the construction of some larger apartment buildings. The subway extension also allowed Harvard Square to thrive again as a commercial center.

Industrial growth peaked in 1929. The Great Depression stifled industrial development in the city, as the value of goods produced in Cambridge dropped from $175 million in 1929 to $97 million in 1933, then recovered somewhat to $129 million by 1940. Industrial growth was spurred again during World War II and the post-war years, especially for heavy industry producing durable goods. The universities also begin to play a greater role in the economy, particularly through defense-related work at MIT. Advances in electronics and communications, including the development of radar, shaped high technology

industries for the next half-century. The chemical industry also expanded, and the founding of Polaroid made the city notable in the field of photographic equipment. The recovery, however, was short lived, and during the 1950's there was a sharp decline in the value, quantity and diversity of goods produced, as Cambridge fell victim to industrial competition from the suburbs, the South and foreign countries. Both large and small manufacturers closed or moved from Cambridge, and the firms that remained employed fewer and fewer workers.

Population figures similarly began to fall during this period. The household population of Cambridge fell from 113,643 in 1930 to 110,879 in 1940 and to 107,676 in 1950. (In 1950, when the U.S. Census began including university students as part of the city's population, the total population of Cambridge was 120,740, a figure that has not been reached since.) The first major out-migration of people occurred in the early 1950s as working and middle class families left the inner city for the suburbs.

The ethnic and racial composition of the city changed as well. Some new industries, particularly the defense industry, brought many black job-seekers from the South. Portuguese-speaking people from the Azores, Cape Verde and occasionally Brazil migrated to the eastern part of the city, joining extended family networks already in place. Many of those migrating from Cambridge to the suburbs were of European descent, particularly Irish.

By 1960, the declines in population and jobs had resulted in an erosion of the tax base. At that time, Cambridge revised its zoning ordinance to permit taller, more dense development in order to draw development and growth back to Cambridge. Much of the existing industrial fabric of Kendall Square was razed under the federal urban renewal program in the 1960s in hopes of attracting new uses. The federal government had initially planned to locate NASA in this area but ultimately chose Houston, and later a portion of this land became a research center for the U.S. Department of Transportation (now called the Volpe Center). However, as more businesses moved away, the remaining vacant or under-utilized industrial buildings contributed to what was considered to be urban blight. At the time, the state proposed to construct a six-lane expressway (known as the Inner Belt) through the heart of the city. This plan was abandoned in 1972 after much public opposition; however, considerable economic damage had already occurred, especially in Central Square.

As the strength of industry diminished, both the physical size and economic prowess of MIT and Harvard expanded. The system of government-supported defense research pioneered by Vannevar Bush, an MIT professor and science advisor to the President, contributed to university growth and technological advancement. The university research labs, and their technology-based "spinoff" firms, eventually superseded traditional manufacturing as the driving force of the Cambridge economy. Enrollment at Harvard and MIT also grew, fed in part by the "baby boom" of the post-war years and by foreign students seeking an American education. Expansion of ancillary and support services at the universities resulted in them becoming major employers in the city, and commercial and retail operations, especially in Harvard Square, shifted their emphasis to serve the young student population. Meanwhile, the construction of new suburban shopping malls pulled clientele away from Central Square, adding to the disinvestment in the Cambridge's traditional downtown.

With the exception of the major universities, Cambridge continued to suffer from disinvestment and declining growth through the 1970s. In that depressed economic environment, the city began to search for a strategy to revitalize its economy, secure a tax base to ease the burden on homeowners, and stem the decline of the city's financial health. These initiatives formed the foundation for Cambridge's current planning, which are discussed in part "D" of this section, "Growth and Development Patterns."

History of Open Space in Cambridge

For most of the 19th century, the villages of old Cambridge, Cambridgeport and East Cambridge consisted of compact urban settlements surrounded by marshes and fields. People saw little need for public open space until the villages began to grow together after the Civil War. By the end of the 19th century, most of Cambridge was entirely developed.

Early public open spaces in Cambridge were largely created by concerned citizens acting on behalf of the general welfare, and not by the municipality. The movement to enclose and landscape Cambridge Common, which began in the 1820s, was initiated by Old Cambridge residents who accomplished this civic improvement at their own expense; a few years later, some of the same individuals successfully pursued a similar initiative at Winthrop Square. In 1831, members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society pioneered the concept of the "garden cemetery" and made Mount Auburn the most popular pleasure ground in New England. Longfellow Park was set aside by the heirs of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who resided in the adjacent house, in 1883. Lowell Park was protected by the same family in 1898. In Cambridgeport, Sennott Park had been set aside as a burying ground in 1811 and became a public park in 1865. Also, in 1856, Edmund Trowbridge Dana donated the land on Magazine Street that is now called Dana Park; the park was enlarged to its current size after the adjacent Willard School was demolished in 1957.

At the end of the 19th century, the innovative ideas of landscape architect Charles Eliot were put into effect by the Cambridge Park Commission, established in 1892, which carried out one of the greatest municipal park development programs in America at the time. The Commissioners hired Eliot and his firm, Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, to improve existing parks and to plan new ones in the city's working-class neighborhoods. The Park Commission also took responsibility for improved maintenance of open spaces and began to provide public recreation programs.

In 1894, the City acquired the land for Donnelly Field in eastern Cambridge, Rindge Field in North Cambridge, and the entire Cambridge frontage of the Charles River. The new Charles River Park transformed the city. When the City acquired the land by eminent domain, it was 800 acres of mud flat and degraded salt marsh. By 1914, it had been transformed into a linear park running the length of Cambridge. In 1921, Cambridge's riverfront parks were transferred to the Metropolitan District Commission, but the Cambridge Park Commission continued to operate extensive recreational programs at its parks and swimming facilities, along with other facilities throughout the city.

In order to protect the drinking water supply, the City acquired all of the lands surrounding Fresh Pond in 1889. From 1894 to 1909, the area was graded and landscaped under the direction of the Olmsted,

Olmsted & Eliot firm. Other parks that were developed during the tenure of the Cambridge Park Commission included Hoyt Field (created on the site of a mill pond in 1907), Ahern Field (established on a former salt marsh in 1911), Russell Field (acquired in 1912 for high school athletic uses), Glacken Field (created in a section of the Fresh Pond Reservation in 1924) and Tobin Field/Father Callanan Playground (formerly a brick yard, acquired in 1927 and developed in 1938 under the Works Progress Administration). After World War II, the responsibilities of the Park Commission were divided between the Department of Public Works and the present Department of Human Service Programs.

Since the 1940s, a number of new parks have been developed at various points in time. In 1946, the municipal-acquired land that is now St. Peter's Field was transferred to recreational use after it was determined it would not be needed for veteran's housing. Gold Star Mothers Park and the Simoni Staking Rink on Gore Street began development in 1968, having been acquired and constructed with federal grant funding. In the 1980s, the City acquired the land to create Riverside Press Park, Sacramento Field and Clement Morgan Park (Columbia Street). Also for the first time, the City established an agreement with private real estate developers to create several public open spaces as part of the development of the East Cambridge riverfront (now Charles Park, Front Park, Lechmere Canal Park and Centanni Way). Perhaps most notably, the City created the 50-acre Danehy Park in 1992 by covering and converting a former municipal landfill.

F. Population Characteristics

Cambridge is a shifting mosaic of cultural and demographic diversity brought about by decades of immigrants seeking jobs in factories, as well as people from all over the world attracted to the institutions of higher education in the region. Cambridge residents represent a wide range of age groups, races and income levels. Effectively responding to the open space and recreational needs of such a diverse population is a significant challenge for the city.

Population Size and Density

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Cambridge is 101,355, which represents about a 6% growth in population from 1990. Before 1990, the population of the city had steadily declined since its peak of 120,740 in 1950. This long-term decline can be traced to out-migration, especially in the 1950s and 60s, and falling birth rates. Household sizes have also declined, reflecting state and national trends. Population growth in the past decade can be traced to new housing construction and new residents, while increased numbers may also reflect improvements in the counting methods used by the U. S. Census Bureau. The overall population density in Cambridge is approximately 15,942 persons per square mile or 25 persons per acre, which is the third-highest in the state (Source: US Census, 2000).

Table 3-1: Total Population and Population Density of Cambridge 1950 – 2000

Year	Total Population	Population Density (persons/acre)
1950	120,740	29
1960	107,716	26

Year	Total Population	Population Density (persons/acre)
1970	100,316	24
1980	95,322	23
1990	95,802	23
2000	101,355	25

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Household Composition and Size

The U.S. Census defines a "family household" as consisting of a householder plus one or more persons related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Presently, fewer Cambridge households are defined as families than has been the case in the past. In 1950, nearly nine out of ten households were families; according to the 2000 Census, less than 42% of households are now families. Comparatively, in all of Middlesex County, about two thirds of all households are families. Just under 18% of Cambridge households contain children, while people living alone comprise forty-one percent of all households. Most of the remaining households are comprised of roommates, unmarried partners, or couples without children. These changes in household composition may have implications for the open space needs of the population. One the one hand, an increasingly adult population may have less need for open spaces targeted to children. On the other hand, improving open space resources targeted to children may help to draw more families with children into the community.

Table 3-2: Household Composition in Cambridge, 2000

Household Type	Number of Households	Percent of All Households
Total Households	42,615	100.0%
Total Family Households	17,595	41.3%
Families with Children	7,503	17.6%
Couples with Children	4,835	11.3%
Single Parent Families	2,668	6.3%
Families w/out Children	10,092	23.7%
Couples w/out Children	7573	17.8%
Other Family Households	2,519	5.9%
Total Non-Family Households	25,020	58.7%
Roommates	7,371	17.3%
Single Persons Alone	17,649	41.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Decreasing household size has been a trend over the last few decades, reflecting an overall decline in population despite a steadily increasing number of households in Cambridge. The number of persons per household decreased only slightly between 1990 and 2000, from 2.08 to 2.03 persons per household. This could partly result from the trend towards fewer households with children, as well as

from a significant number of new smaller housing units being constructed and an increase in the number of housing units as a result of larger homes being subdivided into multiple units.

Table 3-3: Average Household Size in Cambridge, 1950-2000

Year	Household Population	Number of Households	Persons Per Household
1950	107,676	32,921	3.27
1960	95,778	34,523	2.77
1970	88,502	36,411	2.43
1980	82,888	38,836	2.13
1990	81,769	39,405	2.08
2000	86,692	42,615	2.03

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Age Distribution

Reflecting the trends in household composition, over the past several decades the Cambridge population has seen an overall decline in the percentage of children and teenagers along with a corresponding increase in the percentage of adults and seniors. The proportion of children under age 18 has decreased from 24% in 1950 to 11% in 2000. Perhaps most notably, the proportion of adults in their 20s has increased from 22% to 30%, reflecting the growing size and strength of the university-affiliated population. The proportion of seniors 65 and older in the city has remained fairly stable over the past 50 years.

Table 3-4: Age Structure in Cambridge, 1950 – 2000

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Population	120,740	107,716	100,316	95,322	95,802	101,355
Age 0-9	15 %	15 %	11 %	8 %	9 %	8 %
Age 10-19	13 %	15 %	15 %	14 %	11 %	11 %
Age 20-29	22 %	21 %	31 %	32 %	28 %	30 %
Age 30-39	14 %	12 %	9 %	17 %	20 %	18 %
Age 40-49	12 %	10 %	8 %	6 %	12 %	12 %
Age 50-59	11 %	10 %	9 %	8 %	6 %	9 %
Age 60-69	8 %	9 %	8 %	7 %	6 %	5 %
Age 70-79	4 %	6 %	6 %	5 %	5 %	4 %
Age 80+	1 %	2 %	3 %	3 %	3 %	3 %
Population Under 18	24 %	22 %	17 %	12 %	11 %	11 %
Population 65 and Older	9 %	10 %	10 %	9 %	8 %	8 %
Median Age	30.1	29.6	26.8	28.6	31.1	30.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Income

The median income for family households in Cambridge rose 11% between 1989 and 1999, from $53,604 (adjusted for inflation) to $59,423. Over the same period, the median income for non-family households rose 13%, to $41,458. Despite these increases, lower incomes and poverty continue to be prevalent within Cambridge, particularly for non-white households. As shown in the table below, household income levels vary sharply by race or ethnicity.

Table 3-5: Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity, 1999

Race/Ethnicity of Householder	Median Household Income
White, non-Hispanic	$ 55,474
Black	$ 29,363
Asian	$ 40,452
Hispanic	$ 36,179

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

The table below shows the distribution of income groups in Cambridge, with income groups defined in relation to the area-wide median income determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Since 1980, there have been significant increases in the percentage of upper income households while there have been significant decreases in the percentage of low income households. This has resulted in a distribution in which about one third of Cambridge households are low income, about one third are upper income, and the remaining third are moderate or middle income.

Table 3-6: Distribution of Household Income, 1980 – 2000

Year	1980	1990	2000
Low income households (less than 50% of median)	46 %	35 %	33 %
Moderate income households (50%-80% of median)	24 %	18 %	18 %
Middle income households (80%-120% of median)	16 %	21 %	17 %
Upper income households (more than 120% of median)	14 %	26 %	32 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

There are several areas in Cambridge that are identified by the State as Environmental Justice population areas. The distribution of these areas throughout the city, along with their specific Environmental Justice designations, is illustrated in Map 3-2.

Disability Status

Cambridge is particularly concerned with ensuring that services are equitably available to people with disabilities. The U.S. Census contains statistics on residents with long-lasting conditions that severely limit their vision or hearing, their ability to perform basic physical movements such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying, their learning, memory or concentration, their ability to dress, bathe or get around inside the home, their ability to leave the house alone, or their ability to perform a job. In Cambridge, about 16% of the non-institutionalized population age 5 or older has at least one of these types of disabilities, slightly less but comparable to the nationwide figure of 19%. As might be expected, the percentage is much higher among the elderly population, yet a significant percentage of children and teenagers also have a disability.

Table 3-7: Cambridge Population with a Disability by Age, 2000

Age Group	Total Population	Population with a Disability	Percent with a Disability
Age 5-15	7,755	542	7 %
Age 16-20	3,447	477	14 %
Age 21-64	62,877	8,327	13 %
Age 65 and over	9,051	3,702	41 %
Total age 5 and over	83,130	13,048	16 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

It is also pertinent that Cambridge residents with a disability are more likely to be living below the poverty level than residents with no disability. This trend is characteristic of the overall population but also applies to different age groups, including children.

Table 3-8: Disability Status and Poverty, 2000

	With a Disability	With No Disability
Population age 5 and over	13,048	70,082
… living below poverty level	2,840	7,830
… percentage below poverty level	22 %	11 %
Population age 5 to 20	1,019	10,183
… living below poverty level	318	1,666
… percentage below poverty level	31 %	16 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Employment

The nature of employment and the number of employees in Cambridge are noteworthy factors regarding open space and recreation planning. In the past, most employees in the city were also

Cambridge residents. Today, four-fifths of employees working in Cambridge live elsewhere, and they may utilize open space and recreational facilities in notably different ways than residents.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development, as of 2006 there were 104,668 people employed in Cambridge. The largest employers in Cambridge are Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Businesses are found throughout several areas of the city, including the evolving former industrial areas in the East Cambridge, Kendall Square, Cambridgeport and Concord-Alewife districts, along Massachusetts Avenue, which links MIT, Central Square, Harvard Square and Porter Square, and in small neighborhood commercial districts. Most new employment has been research and development, with many life sciences companies among the city's top employers. As the city has steadily lost traditional manufacturing enterprises, the former facilities of these industries have often been reused by technological or research-oriented employers. These trends are expected to continue, if at a more moderate pace, in the coming years, as new employment will most likely be generated by educational and research institutions, technology-based fields, health care and the service industry.

Open spaces near commercial areas, including the Charles River waterfront and park spaces near Harvard, Central and Kendall Squares, are popular noontime and after-work outlets as places to relax, eat lunch, or sit and talk, as well as more active recreation such as walking, jogging or bicycling, either for exercise or as a mode of transportation. In addition, the presence of the university campuses and the campus-like setting of some commercial areas provide significant passive and active recreational opportunities for employees in the city.

G. Growth and Development Patterns

1. Patterns and Trends

By the mid-1970s, the Kendall Square urban renewal area (described in part "B" of this Section, "History of the Community") remained vacant, and the industrial areas of Cambridgeport, Concord-Alewife and East Cambridge continued to decline. In response, the City undertook a comprehensive effort to revive these areas, in hopes of attracting federal aid, real estate developers and ultimately employment opportunities. Plans and development policies were created for the East Cambridge Riverfront (1978), Alewife (1979) and Cambridgeport (1983). Each plan recommended a specific mix of new uses, including commercial development, housing and open space integrated into an overall urban design plan. It was felt that new development could be accommodated in these areas with the least disruption to existing residential neighborhoods. In addition to rebuilding the commercial tax base, these districts offered the best opportunities to expand residential amenities, such as additional housing and open space, that could not be incorporated into the already dense, fully developed neighborhoods.

These new planning initiatives also reflected a change in public sentiment regarding the scale of development. The new plans gave preference to lower densities than were previously allowed, protection of the existing scale and pattern of development, stabilization of the housing stock, and preservation of the historical character and fabric of the neighborhoods and commercial districts.

Starting in the mid-1970s, successive citizen-sponsored and city-sponsored rezoning petitions have nearly reversed, area by area, the increased density and development potential allowed under the landmark zoning revisions adopted in 1960 (described in part "B" of this Section). These down-zonings occurred in residential, commercial and industrial areas throughout the city, and in some areas were accompanied by the creation of design guidelines and special (discretionary) permit requirements, which expanded the role of the public in reviewing and shaping private development. Two of the most significant special permit provisions were for Planned Unit Development (PUD) districts and for townhouse development.

Another important land use initiative during this time was the special authority sought by Cambridge and granted by the Massachusetts legislature in 1979 to regulate institutional (primarily university) uses in lower density residential neighborhoods. This authority was applied in the Institutional Use Regulations of 1981 and the subsequent creation of special Institutional Use Overlay Districts.

In the 1980s, a strong real estate market resulted in development that reflected these new plans and policies. New development transformed parts of Kendall Square and East Cambridge, and to a lesser extent Cambridgeport and Alewife. Over eight million square feet of new commercial space was created, including offices, research facilities, hotels and light manufacturing. Large-scale development projects included Cambridge Center, undertaken by the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority on land that had been cleared as part of the Kendall Square urban renewal district. Development of the East Cambridge riverfront also resulted in a series of new parks as well as a major retail destination, the Cambridgeside Galleria mall. While the real estate market cooled considerably during the early 1990s, and many projects were stalled due to financial difficulties, the economic boom of the late 1990s and early part of the new millennium led to another round of development. The Cambridge population and the number jobs in the city both increased significantly. After a brief economic downturn that began in 2001, construction and permitting of new projects resumed vigorously in Cambridge through much of the first decade of the 21st century.

Between 1991 and 1993, the City worked to create a citywide growth policy in order to provide a basic framework for regulating future development. The resulting growth policy document, *Toward a Sustainable Future*, recommends sustaining and enhancing Cambridge's current mix of urban form, scale, density and mix of uses in existing neighborhoods and commercial districts, and encouraging new growth to be accommodated by redeveloping older industrial districts into mixed-use areas that reflect the diversity and vitality of Cambridge as a whole. Open space is identified as a vital element of the urban mix, as well planned, well designed, well maintained, and in some cases appropriately programmed open spaces help to mitigate the negative impacts of density on residents and community members as well as helping to enhance the uses that surround them. Cambridge's growth policies relating to open space are listed in Appendix I.

The growth policy was used as a framework for the significant Citywide Rezoning of 2001 and the area-specific Eastern Cambridge Planning Study and associated rezoning that was adopted the same year. It also served as the policy framework for the Concord-Alewife Planning Study and rezoning adopted in 2006. *Toward a Sustainable Future* was updated in 2007 to chronicle the planning and development

changes that have occurred in the city since its initial publication in 1993. The Planning Board and the Community Development Department continue to use these documents as a decision-making tool not only for large-scale planning studies and special permits, but also for smaller plans and projects.

Since the adoption of the growth policy, several areas of the city have experienced transformative development, including University Park in upper Cambridgeport, additional residential and commercial development in Kendall Square, and the completion of development on the East Cambridge Riverfront. The One Kendall Square project in Eastern Cambridge combined new construction with the redevelopment of historic industrial buildings to create a new business, restaurant and entertainment center. Perhaps most notably, a master plan for development of the North Point area in Eastern Cambridge has been approved and construction has commenced, following the regulations and guidelines established in the Eastern Cambridge Planning Study. This development is planned to include over 5 million square feet of mixed-use development, including 2,400–2,700 new housing units. Most of these development areas have included publicly-accessible open space, sometimes as a zoning or special permit requirement, sometimes simply as a way to make the project more attractive and lively. The expansion of university campus facilities has also proceeded over past decades, including expansion of Harvard University facilities in the Agassiz neighborhood and MIT development along the edges of its campus near Kendall Square and Cambridgeport.

2. Infrastructure

Transportation

Cambridge is a city rich in transportation amenities. The availability of different transportation options has resulted in a city that supports a diversity of travel patterns. The close-knit nature of the Cambridge street grid as it has developed over centuries, along with the pedestrian-accessible nature of the built environment, have made walking a primary means of transportation. Public transportation has a long history in Cambridge, predating that of the automobile, and remains a popular transportation alternative. Vehicular traffic in Cambridge can be heavy or light in different areas at different times, and is affected by the travel patterns of Cambridge residents and employees as well as cut-through traffic serving other communities. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, about one-third of Cambridge residents drive alone to their place of work, about one-quarter walk, about one-quarter use public transportation, and the rest use other means. Bicycling is also a mode of transportation that has seen increasing popularity in recent years. Counts conducted by the city indicate that cycling on city streets has increased by about 70% between 2002 and 2006. Major transportation infrastructure and services are shown on Map 3-3, and bicycle facilities are shown on Map 3-4.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) operates both rail and bus service within Cambridge. The city's main transportation artery is the Red Line subway, stopping at Kendall/MIT, Central, Harvard, Porter, Davis (in Somerville, but serving parts of Cambridge) and Alewife. On a typical weekday, about 75,000 passengers take the Red Line from one of these stations (Source: mbta.com). The Green Line trolley terminates at Lechmere station in East Cambridge, and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation is working on plans to extend that line into Somerville and Medford.

The Orange Line station at Bunker Hill Community College is also within walking distance of some parts of East Cambridge. There is a commuter rail station at Porter with service to points as far west as Fitchburg. Over 30 MBTA bus lines serve different parts of Cambridge, including the CT1 and CT2 cross-town busses that are an early phase of implementing a comprehensive "Urban Ring" transit system. The City helps to support the transit system through the installation of bus shelters in partnership with the Cemusa company, and by posting schedules and information along some routes. The City is also part of a public-private partnership that operates the EZ Ride commuter shuttle, connecting Cambridgeport, Kendall, Lechmere and North Station during weekday peak hours.

The few major highways in Cambridge include Route 2, a major commuter corridor from the northwest suburbs into Boston, Route 16, which includes the parkway system of Memorial Drive, Fresh Pond Parkway and Alewife Brook Parkway, and Route 28 or Monsignor O'Brien Highway in East Cambridge. Some of the more local routes in Cambridge also provide connections to the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90) access in Allston and Interstate Route 93 access in Somerville.

Cambridge has strong policies to support and promote sustainable modes of transportation, including bicycling, walking, public transportation and carpooling. These policies are codified in the Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance, the Cambridge Growth Policy document and the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan. City programs intended to achieve these goals include a comprehensive Transportation Demand Management program and a Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Program. In addition, the City's Parking and Transportation Demand Management Ordinance requires certain development projects to achieve specific reductions in single-occupancy vehicle trips to their sites and to report their progress to the City. Measures such as subsidized transit passes, shuttle buses, facilities and amenities for pedestrians and bicyclists, carpooling incentives and vehicle sharing services help to achieve the desired vehicle trip reductions.

The City implements traffic calming measures and other streetscape improvements in its roadway improvement projects, making the streetscape safer, more comfortable and more attractive for pedestrians and bicyclists. The City also implements public information campaigns on subjects such as bicycle safety and the environmental and health benefits of walking. The Pedestrian Committee and Bicycle Committee, composed of Cambridge residents and staff from various City departments, provide advice on the City's programs and activities and undertake initiatives to support and promote walking and bicycling.

A key goal of Cambridge's transportation planning is highlighted in the Climate Protection Plan. This plan was adopted by the City in 2000 and includes a target of a twenty percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2010. In order to reach this target, the recommendations of the plan include achieving a reduction in single-occupancy vehicle commuting, improved facilities for walking and bicycling, reduced motor vehicle travel through promotion and education programs, reduced motor vehicle emissions and the promotion of transit improvements.

The extension of the MBTA Red Line in the mid-1980s, which resulted in new transit stations at Porter Square, Davis Square (in Somerville, but serving parts of North Cambridge) and Alewife as well as

reconstructed stations at Kendall Square, Central Square and Harvard Square, has significantly influenced subsequent development in Cambridge. These new transit stations have increased the desirability of the surrounding areas for residential, commercial and institutional use, resulting in demographic changes and new patterns of development that continue to emerge today. Changes may also be expected as Massachusetts plans to extend the Green Line into Somerville and Medford and plans further development of an "Urban Ring" circumferential transit system, both of which will provide improved transportation access from outlying areas into Cambridge.

Water Supply Systems

Cambridge has its own municipal water supply, although the system is not located solely within the city's municipal boundaries. The Cambridge Water Department's main reservoirs, Stony Brook and Hobbs Brook, along with the watersheds that supply them, are located along Route 128 (Interstate 95) in the municipalities of Waltham, Lincoln, Lexington and Weston. Water is brought from these reservoirs to Fresh Pond in Cambridge, purified, and pumped to the covered Payson Park Reservoir in Belmont for storage, then brought from this reservoir by gravity into the city's water grid. The combined capacity of the up-country reservoirs (including Stony Brook and Hobbs Brook Reservoirs) is 3,095 million gallons. The Fresh Pond Reservoir has a capacity of 1,308 million gallons, and Payson Park has a capacity of 32 million gallons. Given Cambridge's average daily demand of 14 million gallons, and assuming that rainfall remains sufficient, the City's water delivery system will remain reliable.

The most significant recent improvement in the Cambridge water system has been the construction of the Walter J. Sullivan Water Treatment Facility within the Fresh Pond Reservation. This facility has been operating at a high level of efficiency since it came online in 2001, and it helps to ensure that Cambridge's water supply will be compliant with all current and future regulations for the foreseeable future. The Cambridge Water Department has a 20-year long term capital plan for improving gatehouses, dams, valves, pipes and watershed lands.

Sewer Service

The original sewer system was built over 150 years ago as a combined system, in which both sanitary discharge and stormwater drainage were carried in a single pipe. Originally, waste was discharged directly into the rivers. Today, combined sewer flows are integrated into the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) system, which serves 43 communities in the state. Sewer pumping stations are located on State lands in the North Point area (adjacent to the new Central Artery on-ramps) and at the Cottage Hill location on Magazine Beach. These stations serve Cambridge along with communities to the west, and connect to the Deer Island treatment facility. However, during heavy rainfall events, combined sewer overflows can occur and discharge untreated sewage into the Charles River and/or the Alewife Brook.

In the late 1930s, separation of the combined sewer system began. Separated systems convey stormwater drainage to the rivers and sanitary waste to the treatment plant. Currently, the sewer system in Cambridge includes approximately 115 miles of sanitary sewer, 78 miles of stormwater drainage lines, 43 miles of combined sewer and about 10,000 assorted sewer and drainage structures

such as manholes, catch basins, regulators, overflows, etc. About 40% of the system has been separated. Construction and rehabilitation of the sewer and drainage systems has been accomplished through the use of Federal, State and local funds.

Separation of the combined sewer systems continues today. Over the past 20 years, the City's approach to sewer separation and stormwater management has become more rigorous and is expected to continue in the future with large-scale sewer separation and stormwater management projects that address community flooding problems and water quality issues. The goals of Cambridge's sewer separation and stormwater management program include improving the quality of Cambridge's waterways, eliminating and/or reducing combined sewer overflows, alleviating flooding in residential and commercial neighborhoods, and reducing or eliminating sanitary sewer backup problems throughout the city.

3. Long-Term Development Patterns

It is expected that Cambridge will remain an attractive and profitable location for commercial and residential development in the long term. The desirability of Cambridge as a place to live, its connection to the overall region, the availability of public transportation, and the academic and research institutions that support the innovation economy will all help to ensure Cambridge's role as a growth center for population and employment. Ongoing public improvements to infrastructure will help to ensure that development is desirable and sustainable. Cambridge's growth policies and zoning regulations, including the clear and comprehensive nature of its PUD and other project review processes, ongoing attention to Transportation Demand Management, requirements for stormwater management, and carefully crafted design standards and guidelines will also help to ensure that Cambridge is positioned to take advantage of future development as an asset to the community.

The evolving industrial districts of Eastern Cambridge, Cambridgeport and Concord-Alewife are expected to continue to be the primary areas for new growth, and developers continue to seek permits for projects in these areas. These areas are also most likely to be the places where significant new open spaces can be created, as they allow significant flexibility in the future use of lots compared to established residential neighborhoods. At a slower rate, development of a more moderate scale can be expected in moderate-density commercial districts, including Central Square, Porter Square and along Massachusetts Avenue. In addition, university uses can be expected to continue growing, with most Harvard and MIT development occurring within or at the edges of their campuses. Harvard's decision to relocate many of its programs to the Allston neighborhood of Boston will relieve some of the development pressure on Cambridge. Lesley University, which once included only a small residential college, has been expanding its undergraduate and graduate programs and is becoming a greater presence in the Agassiz neighborhood and Porter Square area. The permitted uses and densities allowed by zoning, along with special considerations for urban design review, traffic impact mitigation and open space in evolving areas, reflect and anticipate these development trends. Cambridge's base zoning districts are illustrated in Map 3-5 and base zoning regulations are summarized in Table 3-9.

As the Cambridge community continues to grow and change in terms of its residential population, employment base and visitors, it will be an evolving challenge to meet the community's needs for open space and other environmental and quality-of-life benefits.

SECTION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Geology, Soils and Topography

Cambridge is located entirely within the Boston Basin, a mostly flat, wedge-shaped lowland area between hilly terrain and the Atlantic Ocean. Apart from the large-scale geological forces which created the Boston Basin, Cambridge's terrain has been shaped primarily by glacial activity and, more recently, by human activity.

Glacial action during the Ice Ages is responsible for some of Cambridge's most significant topographic features. Most of the hills in the city are gentle hills, created either by glacial deposition or as a result of glacial outwash. Mount Auburn, for example, is a kame – it was formed as sediments collected either in a notch in the ice sheet or along its edge. The steep hill along a portion of the southern edge of Fresh Pond is an ice-contact slope, and formed in a similar way. The hill to the south of Fresh Pond that extends into Belmont and Watertown is called the Fresh Pond Moraine, also formed from glacial deposits. Cambridge has no particularly high peaks. Fresh Pond itself is a “kettle-hole,” a pond created when a buried piece of glacier melts. Before the glaciation, a deep valley ran through western Cambridge, directly under present-day Fresh Pond. A river ran through this valley and joined the Charles. Glaciers, however, deposited material in this valley, filling it up to its current elevation.

Bedrock is deeply buried throughout the Boston Basin. In Cambridge, it is generally about 50 feet below the surface. In parts of western Cambridge, due to the aforementioned valley that was filled by glacial deposits, bedrock is reached at 150 feet below sea level. For most kinds of small construction projects, a deep bedrock layer poses no trouble. However, this deep bedrock is significant for larger buildings whose foundations must be supported by bedrock.

Much of the land in Cambridge consists of filled areas. Much of the area along the Charles River, particularly in Cambridgeport and East Cambridge, had been marshes before they were filled for development, as was the former Millers River along the border between Cambridge and Somerville and the Great Swamp surrounding Fresh Pond. Fill areas such as these have resulted in a high water table and in some areas may have produced structurally unstable deposits and clays. For large construction, piles must be driven sufficiently deep, through layers of clay and weak organic deposits, in order to reach material upon which a foundation may be supported. Groundwater drawdown is also a concern. Continuously pumping groundwater from basements in order to dewater them can result in lowering the water table in an area, exposing the support piles of nearby buildings and potentially weakening them. For this reason, Cambridge does not permit permanent dewatering.

In the western parts of Cambridge, underneath the top level of fill is a layer of “sensitive clay,” which at first may appear to be stable, but becomes more like quicksand if it is disturbed. During Cambridge’s industrial era, this clay was mined extensively. More recently, the MBTA encountered this material when building the Alewife extension of the Red Line. It forced them to use some unusual construction techniques to prevent the clay supporting the sides of the subway tunnel from collapsing.

According to the most recent U.S. Soil Conservation Service maps, the soil profile of Cambridge consists mostly of patches of Merrimac, Newport and Scio soil types mixed with extensive "urban land" (parking lots, streets, etc.). Urban land and udorthents (disturbed, fill land) constitute the major soil types in the parts of East Cambridge and Cambridgeport that were created by filling in the Charles River and Millers River marshes. None of these soil types pose particularly difficult challenges for drainage, especially since Cambridge is served by MWRA storm sewer connections. Private septic systems are not used in Cambridge, and can only function properly in certain soils. Siting parks and playing fields on Scio and especially Newport soils, which have slow water infiltration rates and relatively low permeability, may require special construction techniques. Merrimac soils, on the other hand, have rapid permeability and therefore fewer limitations. The part of Cambridge with the most severe land use limitations based on soil type is the Alewife area, particularly around the Little River. This area is characterized by a soil type called "Freetown muck," consisting of highly decomposed organic material over sandy or loamy material. This muck is usually wet, has very low permeability and is usually found in areas where the water table is very close to the surface. Soil types are illustrated in Map 4-1.

Since all buildings in Cambridge are serviced by MWRA sewer lines and by the Cambridge Water Department, soil characteristics suitable for septic systems or private water wells are not essential. Furthermore, most of the city is situated on soils that drain quickly. The exception is the Alewife area, where the slow-draining characteristics of the soil contribute to flooding problems.

B. Landscape Character

The defining character of Cambridge is that of a densely-developed city of largely low-rise residential neighborhoods. As previously noted in Section 3, Cambridge was almost entirely developed by the early 1900s and most of its building stock dates to before 1930. In general, Cambridge neighborhoods are made of close-knit three-story houses, though in many neighborhoods there is substantial variety in the size and style of the housing. Within the neighborhoods are networks of small residential streets, while several longer roads traverse the city, defining the major travel routes, defining the extents of the different neighborhoods and providing commercial services within a walkable distance from the neighborhoods. The major centers for commercial services as well as restaurants and other cultural attractions are primarily the squares along Massachusetts Avenue – Central Square, Harvard Square and Porter Square – while commercial services are also found in Kendall Square, Inman Square and many small commercial nodes throughout the neighborhoods. Also found within the neighborhoods is a collection of parks and playgrounds, most of which were re-claimed from land that was previously developed. These serve as recreational areas and neighborhood gathering points.

There are many unique landscapes within Cambridge that diverge from this general character. These include areas that were once the city's industrial manufacturing centers, but are currently in the process of developing into mixed-use areas with professional offices, commercial research laboratories, moderate-rise to high-rise housing, shopping uses, cultural attractions and other new features. These areas include a "belt" running along the eastern half of the city from East Cambridge to Kendall Square to Cambridgeport, along with the Concord-Alewife district north of Fresh Pond.

Other areas with unique landscape character include the institutional campuses at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While parts of these campuses are integrated into neighborhoods or commercial districts, the central parts of the campuses have a more traditional university campus character with iconic or otherwise distinctive buildings set within areas of open space. Harvard Yard is the most historic and perhaps the most iconic of these traditional campus areas. Another unique area is in the neighborhood around Brattle Street (historically known as "Tory Row"), a collection of mansions that have, on the whole, changed very little since Colonial times.

The major open spaces in Cambridge, while protected from development, are also largely man-made. The character of the Charles Riverfront, perhaps the most important and distinctive open space and recreational resource in the city, is defined by its pathways and open spaces, its recreational resources and the system of historic parkways that run alongside it. Much of this was built in the early 20th century. The Charles River Basin, extending roughly from the Museum of Science to the Boston University Bridge, was constructed around this time through damming and shorewall construction. Gerry's Landing or "Hell's Half-Acre" is a small "urban wild" alongside the river. The Charles River bridges are also defining elements of the riverfront.

Fresh Pond Reservation, which was at one time the location of many industrial uses, was also largely constructed through the efforts of the Cambridge Water Department under the direction of the Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot firm (as described in Section 3). Currently, it is one of the few areas with the character of a natural forest preserve – though it is also home to the municipal golf course. The smaller Alewife Brook Reservation is the other true example of an "urban wild" in Cambridge, as the conditions of the soil have largely prevented development from occurring on the reservation itself; however its character is impacted somewhat by the development that has occurred on abutting sites. The parkway system running along the Charles River, Fresh Pond and Alewife Brook also has a distinctive character, both due to its parkway design and because it is the only set of limited-access highways through the city.

Other open spaces with distinctive character include Mount Auburn Cemetery (located in Cambridge and Watertown), developed in the 1830s as America's first "garden cemetery," and Cambridge Common, one of the oldest continually-protected open spaces in America, which was a communal grazing resource and military training ground until it was designated a public park in the 1830s. Both of these are on the National Register of Historic Places.

C. Water Resources

1. Watersheds

Water resources in Cambridge are shown on Map 4-2. As Cambridge borders the Charles River, most of the city is within the lower Charles River Watershed. The northern section of Cambridge is within the Mystic River Watershed, as the Alewife Brook/Little River connects to the Mystic River farther north. The Fresh Pond Watershed encompasses the immediate area surrounding the Fresh Pond Reservation. In addition to watershed land within Cambridge, the City is concerned with the quality of the up-country watershed that supplies the municipal water system, consisting of over 1,200 acres of Cambridge-owned

land in Waltham, Weston, Lincoln and Weston (shown on Map 4-2A). This system includes the 593-acre Hobbs Brook Reservoir and 74-acre Stony Brook Reservoir, which store water that is piped to Fresh Pond for storage and treatment before entering the city's water grid.

The Environmental Protection Agency designated the lower Charles River with a "B++" water quality rating in 2008. This is its highest grade ever and a significant improvement from its "D" rating in 1995. The improvement reflects efforts by many communities within the watershed to reduce pollution. The Mystic River Watershed, which includes the Alewife Brook and Little River, received a "D" water quality rating in 2008, however there is an expectation that future efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows, stormwater runoff and other sources of pollution will improve this rating in the future. In working to improve the quality of these watersheds, the City cooperates with citizen groups including the Charles River Watershed Association, Friends of Alewife Reservation and Mystic River Watershed Association. Cambridge also participates in the Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge Stormwater Flooding Board, which coordinates stormwater management activities in the area through a joint powers agreement sanctioned by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Fresh Pond, which is managed by the Cambridge Water Department, has an "A" water quality rating. The Cambridge Water Department's comprehensive Source Water Management Program, both for Fresh Pond and the up-country watershed properties, includes water resources monitoring, hazardous materials emergency response planning, partnership development (relationship-building with other parties in the watershed with common goals), proactive site review and monitoring, stormwater management and community outreach. Some of the future initiatives intended to provide additional water quality protection include restoration projects at Fresh Pond Reservation, providing additional protection and restoration to lands in the up-country watershed, and working with the public on education and stewardship programs.

4. Surface Water

The major surface water resources, as described above, are the Charles River, Alewife Brook and Fresh Pond. The "B++" water quality rating for the Charles River indicates that it meets quality standards for boating all of the time and for swimming most of the time. Fish caught in this section of the river are also edible. The Charles has historically been a very popular and active resource for a variety of different types of boating, and remains so today, while in recent years some limited swimming activities have also been allowed. The state's long-term goal is to make the Charles "fishable and swimmable" by 2010.

The Alewife Brook/Little River system, with a "D" designation (as part of the Mystic River Watershed), does not meet swimming standards most of the time and meets boating standards most but not all of the time, and therefore has limited recreational value at the present time. The fish population appears to consist of mainly non-native species, however it is hoped that through restoration efforts, native fish species will return. Canoeing can be a pleasant recreational use when the water quality allows, though culverts and bridges make it difficult to canoe directly to the Mystic River. Most of the Alewife Brook along the Alewife Brook Parkway shows signs of an unfortunate past attempt at flood control by replacing natural banks with concrete. Smaller surface water bodies in or near the Alewife Brook

Reservation include Blair Pond, Perch Pond and Yates Pond, which along with the Alewife Brook Reservation are managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Jerry's Pond, on privately-owned property, which was once a neighborhood swimming area and is now likely contaminated due to its proximity to the former W. R. Grace facility.

As part of the City's water supply, Fresh Pond does not permit active recreational use and is protected by a security fence. It does exist as a visual amenity for recreational users of the Fresh Pond Reservation. There are also smaller ponds within the Fresh Pond Reservation, including Black's Nook, North Pond and Little Fresh Pond. These ponds are within or adjacent to recreational areas including the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Municipal Golf Course and William G. Maher Park, but are too shallow to allow most types of recreational use. They do attract fish and wildlife, and are especially important to the nesting of migratory birds. Also, a "dog beach" was recently established at Little Fresh Pond, providing an additional recreational use.

5. Aquifer Recharge Areas

There are no wells for drinking water in Cambridge, as the entire city is served by the Cambridge Water Department's distribution system. As previously described, the quality of this water system is actively controlled and monitored on an ongoing basis in a number of ways.

6. Flood Hazard Areas

There is no significant problem flooding along the Charles River, with flood hazard zones limited to a few small areas near the river edge, typically within undeveloped parklands. Problem flooding, however, does occur within the Alewife Brook floodplain. Reasons for the flooding include increased stormwater runoff due to new development, the reduced hydraulic capacity of culverts, and the tendency for rising water levels on the Mystic River during large storm events (50-year and worse) to cause a reversal in the direction of flow. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently completed a study which re-examined Middlesex County flood zones and has developed preliminary new flood hazard maps for the Alewife area. These preliminary new flood zones are illustrated on Map 4-2.

The new FEMA maps, which will also affect Cambridge's Floodplain Overlay Zoning policies, will create new restrictions on new development to ensure that it effectively manages floodwater. The City's recent Concord-Alewife Planning Study and its associated rezoning, along with the City's policies on stormwater management in new development, are also expected to result in improvements as sites are redeveloped. Additionally, the City and the State are in the process of developing new public measures that will improve stormwater management, including separation of combined sewer systems to reduce combined sewer overflows and a constructed wetland being planned for within the Alewife floodplain. Coordination with other communities through the Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge Stormwater Flooding Board also aims to improve stormwater and floodwater management in the area.

7. Wetlands

Historically, a significant portion of Cambridge was covered with wetlands and tidal marshes, particularly in Eastern Cambridge along the Charles River Basin and in North Cambridge in the Alewife and Fresh Pond areas. However, after centuries of development, filled land, and the damming of the Charles, there is little remaining natural wetland in the city. The few remaining remnants of wetlands are located predominantly along the Alewife Brook and partly near Fresh Pond. Another significant wetland is the Gerry's Landing or "Hell's Half Acre" area along the Charles River near the Eliot Bridge. With few small exceptions, all wetlands are within existing reservation areas.

D. Vegetation

1. General Inventory

Given the densely developed nature of Cambridge, much of the existing vegetation is the result of deliberate landscaping efforts over time. This includes trees, grasses, shrubs and other decorative plantings on private property as well as along public streets, in public parks and on university campuses. The few reservation areas in Cambridge, including the Charles River, Fresh Pond and Alewife Brook, are exceptions in that they are more likely to contain more wild, native species. The City works to encourage native species in these areas and to remove invasive species where appropriate.

8. Forest Land

The most significant forested areas in Cambridge are found in the Fresh Pond Reservation and Alewife Reservation. Fresh Pond Reservation in particular has a robust deciduous and evergreen forest, with particularly dense woods along the north and south shores of the pond, buffering it from the surrounding activity and bestowing upon it a quiet pastoral quality. The trees and vegetation within these reservations contribute to their wildlife habitat value, particularly for migratory birds, and they are popular locations for nature-watching.

Smaller areas with significant tree growth include some parts of the Charles River Reservation, the "Garden Street Glen" area adjacent to Danehy Park, and the campus of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (once known as "Norton's Woods"), which is privately-owned but allows public access.

9. Public Shade Trees

Street trees are perhaps the most commonly found type of public vegetation in the city. The Parks and Urban Forestry division of the Department of Public Works manages the public "urban forest" consisting of about 12,000 shade trees along public streets and 3,000 trees in public parks and cemeteries. The Urban Forestry program is directed by the City Arborist, who chooses trees that are indigenous to the area, can thrive within the soil conditions found in the city, and have some resistance to pollution. Within public parks, trees and other plantings are also chosen for their hardiness and pollution resistance, along with their aesthetic qualities. A study undertaken by the Community Development

Department estimates that about 20% of the city is covered by the urban tree canopy (including both public and private trees), and that the estimated environmental benefits of this "urban forest" include sequestering or absorbing 148 tons of carbon dioxide and 36 tons of air pollutants annually, as well as mitigating over 28 million gallons of stormwater runoff.

The inventory of street trees includes different varieties of sugar maple, locust, ash, pear, sweet gum, horse chestnut, shadblow, London plane tree, sycamore maple and redwood. There are a limited number of American elm trees in the city's street tree inventory. There are a number of areas that have species not commonly found in the city's open space inventory. Lechmere Canal Park contains cork trees, witch hazel, summer sweet (*Elethra alnifolia*) and shadblow (*Amelanchior*). Among the plantings at Charles Park are a rubber tree, silver bell, katsura trees, red bud, dawn redwood and kousa dogwood. Centanni Park features outstanding wisteria vines on trellises along with Japanese scholar trees (*Sophora japonica*). The Harvard and MIT campuses as well as Mount Auburn Cemetery are also known for their distinctive inventories of tree and shrub species. Harvard Yard in particular is noted for its stand of American elm trees, along with other species.

10. Agricultural Land

No land in Cambridge is used or zoned specifically for agricultural use.

11. Wetland Vegetation

Wetland vegetation is found primarily in the Alewife Brook Reservation and somewhat within the Fresh Pond Reservation. The common reed, *Phragmites*, is the most abundant wetland plant in the Alewife Brook Reservation. This is a non-native, aggressive species, and serves as indication of the disturbed nature of this ecosystem. Most of the other plants at Alewife are either strictly wetlands species or other species that can tolerate wet soils.

12. Rare Species

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife notes only one rare vegetation species observed in recent years. *Cyperus engelmanni* (Engelmann's Umbrella-sedge) was observed in Fresh Pond Reservation along the shore of Black's Nook in 1981. It was most recently observed in 2007 and is considered a Threatened Species in Massachusetts. *Cyperus engelmanni* is particularly susceptible to changes in water level in Black's Nook, as the plant occupies exposed sandy-to-peaty margins of the shore. No growth occurs in high water cycles, and seeds will germinate only on suitable exposed shoreline. All other rare species observed in Cambridge are considered historic. The full list of observed rare species is shown in Table 4-1 below:

Table 4-1: Rare Vegetation Species in Cambridge

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Vascular Plant	*Carex gracilescens*	Slender Woodland Sedge	Endangered	1891
Vascular Plant	***Cyperus engelmannii***	**Engelmann's Umbrella-sedge**	**Threatened**	**2007**
Vascular Plant	*Gentiana andrewsii*	Andrews' Bottle Gentian	Endangered	1854
Vascular Plant	*Isoetes lacustris*	Lake Quillwort	Endangered	Historic
Vascular Plant	*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*	Pale Green Orchis	Threatened	Historic
Vascular Plant	*Potamogeton friesii*	Fries' Pondweed	Endangered	1880
Vascular Plant	*Scirpus longii*	Long's Bulrush	Threatened	1913
Vascular Plant	*Suaeda calceoliformis*	American Sea-blite	Special Concern	1912
Vascular Plant	*Viola brittoniana*	Britton's Violet	Threatened	1843

Source: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2008
(http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_c.htm#cambridge)

13. Unique Natural Resources

Cambridge's unique natural resources have been previously noted in this Section.

14. Vegetation Mapping Projects

Vegetation management plans are prepared for the Charles River Lower Basin by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and approved by both the Cambridge Conservation Commission and the Boston Conservation Commission every three years. Mass. DCR has not yet completed a comprehensive vegetation management plan for the Alewife Reservation, however the Conservation Commission has requested that such a plan be prepared in advance of any major projects taking place in the Reservation.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

1. Inventory

Because natural ecosystems require larger and less disturbed tracts of wilderness, there are few existing areas in Cambridge that support wildlife. The only areas that provide a suitable habitat for fish, birds and other animals are the Charles River, Fresh Pond Reservation and Alewife Brook Reservation.

The Charles River is the site of a significant alewife and blue-back herring anadromous fish run, in addition to smaller smelt and shad runs. The fish population is affected by water quality issues resulting from combined sewer overflows, urban runoff and upstream pollution, but conditions have improved in recent years and are expected to continue to improve. The only remaining potential wildlife habitat area along the Cambridge portion of the Charles is the Gerry's Landing or "Hell's Half Acre" site, which has a variety of wetland types, dense vegetation and proximity to the river. Its small size and isolation from other wilderness limits wildlife activity, however it does have value as a nature-watching area. Several bird species including red-winged blackbirds may be observed in this area.

Most of the wildlife habitat in Cambridge is concentrated near Fresh Pond and the Alewife Brook Reservation, due to their combination of open water, dense vegetation and food. These areas are important stops along migratory routes for over one hundred bird species. The ponds at Fresh Pond Reservation harbor muskrats, turtles and frogs, and the wooded areas contain raccoons and skunks, among other species. The presence of several scattered ponds, dense vegetation and forested areas results in a topography that is well-suited to the feeding and nesting habits of a variety of bird species. The abundance of food items, such as weeds, berries, and other vegetation, along with insects, fish and amphibians, also adds to the importance of Fresh Pond as a bird habitat. Alewife Brook Reservation provides a relatively large, contiguous stretch of potential habitat for wildlife, with the Little River running through it, several ponds, and many acres of woodland and wetland within its limits. However, the poor condition of this habitat limits the types of animals within its boundaries. Fish found in the Alewife Brook and Little River primarily consist of non-native species such as carp. A remnant anadromous fish run still migrates through the Alewife Brook, however only a few hundred blue-black herring and alewife now spawn in the Little Pond/Alewife system.

15. Information on Vernal Pools

There are no known vernal pools existing within Cambridge.

16. Corridors for Wildlife Migration

As previously noted, the Charles River is the site of a significant alewife and blue-black herring anadromous fish run. The fish migration routes through the Alewife Brook and Little River are much smaller, possibly on account of the pollution, sedimentation and eutrophication in these waterways. Also as previously noted, the Fresh Pond Reservation and Alewife Brook Reservation are habitats well suited to birds, and these areas serve as stops along the migration routes of over one hundred bird species.

17. Rare Species

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife notes no rare or endangered species that have been observed in Cambridge more recently than 1940, thus all are considered historic. The full list of observed rare species is shown in Table 4-2 below:

Table 4-2: Rare Wildlife Species in Cambridge

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Amphibian	*Ambystoma laterale*	Blue-spotted Salamander	Special Concern	1917
Amphibian	*Scaphiopus holbrooki*	Eastern Spadefoot	Threatened	1892
Beetle	*Cicindela duodecimguttata*	Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	Special Concern	1932
Bird	*Ammodramus henslowii*	Henslow's Sparrow	Endangered	1871
Bird	*Botaurus lentiginosus*	American Bittern	Endangered	1906
Bird	*Cistothorus platensis*	Sedge Wren	Endangered	1840
Bird	*Gallinula chloropus*	Common Moorhen	Special Concern	1890
Bird	*Ixobrychus exilis*	Least Bittern	Endangered	1890
Bird	*Tyto alba*	Barn Owl	Special Concern	Historic
Butterfly/Moth	*Eacles imperialis*	Imperial Moth	Threatened	Historic
Fish	*Notropis bifrenatus*	Bridle Shiner	Special Concern	1928
Mussel	*Ligumia nasuta*	Eastern Pondmussel	Special Concern	1940
Reptile	*Glyptemis insculpta*	Wood Turtle	Special Concern	Historic
Reptile	*Terrapene carolina*	Eastern Box Turtle	Special Concern	1892
Segmented Worm	*Macrobdella sestertia*	New England Medicinal Leech	Special Concern	1800

Source: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2008
(http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_c.htm#cambridge)

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

1. Scenic Landscapes

The most significant scenic resource in Cambridge is the banks of the Charles River, which borders much of the city and provides numerous views into Boston. Points of interest along the Charles River include: the Lechmere Canal and Broad Canal, which were once parts of the industrial infrastructure of East Cambridge and are now largely of recreational value; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus and particularly Killian Court, MIT's iconic open space overlooking the river; Magazine Beach, which for nearly a century has been a major public recreational resource; the area near Harvard, with its plantings of sycamore trees alongside Memorial Drive and the iconic architecture of the "River Houses;" Longfellow Park, which provides unobstructed views between the historic Longfellow House and the

river; and the aforementioned Gerry's Landing or "Hell's Half-Acre" area, one of the last remaining "urban wilds" in the city. Scenic landscapes and other unique features are shown on Map 4-4.

Fresh Pond Reservation and Alewife Brook Reservation have scenic value primarily as natural preserves that provide a feeling of separation from the developed areas of Cambridge. They also provide opportunities for observing wildlife, such as bird-watching, and ecological study. An area of particular note is Kingsley Point, an elevated point within Fresh Pond Reservation that provides views across Fresh Pond.

Danehy Park, which is elevated due to its being constructed on a former landfill, also provides the opportunity for exceptional views across parts of northwestern Cambridge. Another important landscape is the aforementioned Mount Auburn Cemetery, which by virtue of its carefully designed pathways, vegetation and structures, has been considered one of the most scenic areas in the region for over a century and is still a popular site for walking and passive recreation.

18. Major Geologic Features

There are few significant geologic features in Cambridge, due to its flat topography and abundance of land that is or had once been filled and developed. Notable features have previously been described in part "A" of this Section.

19. Cultural, Archeological, Historic Areas

Cambridge has one of the most comprehensive historic preservation programs in Massachusetts. Many sites within Cambridge are on the National Register of Historic Places, and are thus protected at the state and sometimes federal level, while the City also uses local historic district, landmark and neighborhood conservation district designations to protect individual structures and neighborhoods. Under these ordinances, no change can take place without the approval of the Cambridge Historical Commission. Altogether, Cambridge has over 2,000 listings on the National Register of Historic Places (of which ten percent are individual listings and the rest are in districts), two local historic districts, 26 local landmarks and four neighborhood conservation districts. These areas with historic protections are shown on Map 4-3.

Many of Cambridge's previously described unique landscapes also have historic significance. Cambridge Common is notable for many reasons, perhaps most importantly as the site where General George Washington took command of the first Continental Army in 1775. The site known currently as the Longfellow House was Washington's headquarters in 1775-1776 and later home to poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and is now a National Historic Site administered by the National Park Service. The carefully landscaped gardens surrounding the house are open and accessible to the public, and the adjacent Longfellow Park, owned by the City, was once part of this estate. Other open space sites with historic significance include Fort Washington Park, the site of a three-gun fortification built for the siege of Boston during the Revolutionary War, and Winthrop Square, once the marketplace for Old Cambridge that became one of Cambridge's first protected open spaces in the 1830s. Two civic sites with significant

historic and cultural value are Cambridge City Hall and the Cambridge Main Library, both built in 1889, and both of which are fronted by public open space (the Main Library is currently undergoing renovation and expansion). Mount Auburn Cemetery, Harvard Yard and the entire Charles River Basin are also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cambridge was a summering location for Native Americans prior to European settlement and for some time afterwards. This, along with the characteristics of early 17th century European settlement, indicates the possible existence of archeological sites within the city. However, to date no archaeological sites have been recorded with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and the substantial amount of filling that has taken place in many parts of the city mean that potential sites are likely to have been destroyed in the course of the city's development.

20. Unique Environments (incl ACECs)

All of the significantly unique environments in Cambridge have previously been noted in this Section and illustrated in Map 4-4. The two areas that are considered Areas of Critical Environmental Concern at a statewide level are the Alewife district and the Charles River district. In both cases, the primary concern is the poor water quality and the State-directed goal to make these water resources healthy habitats for vegetation and wildlife as well as recreational resources for residents. Both of these areas are owned and controlled by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, so the primary responsibility for their management lies with the State, however the Cambridge Conservation Commission provides input into the future management plans for these areas and has approval authority over those plans. The City also helps to manage water quality and flooding issues through its sewer/stormwater separation program and other investments aimed toward reducing combined sewer overflows, and through development policies that promote stormwater management and floodwater control.

G. Environmental Challenges

1. Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites

There are over 100 hazardous waste sites in the city, primarily on sites in non-residential areas that once contained industrial uses. The Cambridge Water Department, along with other City staff, conducted an inventory of these sites, and the Water Department monitors the clean-up of sites that are near Fresh Pond.

21. Landfills

There are currently no active landfills in Cambridge. The area that is currently Danehy Park had been Cambridge’s only active landfill active from 1955 to 1970, which had been a clay pit before being acquired by the City. In 1990, the City decided to cover this decommissioned landfill with 40 feet of clean fill and convert it into a 50-acre public recreational facility with playing fields, playgrounds, and other recreational features. It was opened for recreational use in 1992.

22. Erosion

Erosion is a significant consideration in the management of water resources in Cambridge, and the City's plans for Fresh Pond Reservation, along with the State's plans for the Charles River and Alewife Brook Reservations, include shoreline stabilization as a major element of future improvement projects.

23. Chronic Flooding

As described in part "C" of this section, chronic flooding is an issue in the area of the Alewife Brook/Little River system. There are many factors contributing to the flooding, including the soil conditions, issues with stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows, and past development in the area not applying adequate flood storage and stormwater management practices. Recently updated FEMA flood insurance rate maps show the AE zone having expanded considerably. These considerations as well as more recent city policies with regard to flood storage and stormwater management practices are expected to result in future development that will mitigate the flooding problems in this area.

24. Sedimentation

Water pollution resulting from combined sewer overflows, stormwater runoff and other sources is a cause of sedimentation in local waterways including the Charles River and Alewife Brook/Little River system. (See item "7" below.)

25. New Development

As noted in the previous Section, new development is expected to occur mainly in evolving former industrial areas such as the North Point area, eastern Cambridge, Cambridgeport and Concord-Alewife. While these areas are close to open spaces and water resources, new development has the potential to provide environmental benefits by encouraging the clean-up of brownfield sites and the implementation of stormwater management practices. This may be especially beneficial on sites that are largely paved and currently contribute to stormwater runoff. Future development also provides the opportunity to incorporate "green building" techniques in replacing outdated building stock. Moreover, the areas of Cambridge with significant development potential are also the areas that are more likely to see the creation of new open space, as it is integrated into future plans for large-area development.

26. Ground and Surface Water Pollution

Water pollution is a major concern that the City continues to address. During heavy rains, combined sewer overflows discharge untreated sewage into waterways including the Charles River and Alewife Brook/Little River system. Measures such as combined sewer/stormwater separation projects are working to reduce combined sewer overflow events. However, stormwater itself is also a water pollution concern, because it can carry heavy metals and other hazardous chemicals from roads and private properties into waterways and cause sedimentation. Runoff containing excess nutrients is also an issue because it can result in eutrophication, which is a concern especially in the Little River, Blair Pond and Alewife Brook, which are becoming largely incapable of supporting healthy aquatic vegetation

that provides food and cover for fish and other animals. The City of Cambridge has a regular street cleaning program and requires private developers to adopt stormwater detention practices, but it is difficult to eliminate all sources of pollution, especially since much of the runoff entering Cambridge waterways originates in surrounding communities.

27. Impaired Water Bodies

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection maintains a list of impaired water bodies as per the requirements of section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Streams, lakes and ponds are identified as impaired if there is a significant presence of pollutants or if the waterway does not meet water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, fecal coliform bacteria, solids, color and turbidity, oil and grease, or taste and odor. In Cambridge, the Charles River and Alewife Brook are listed as a 303(d) impaired water bodies, along with Blair Pond, Jerry's Pond, Yates Pond and Black's Nook. With the exception of Black's Nook (which is within the Fresh Pond Reservation) all of these waterways are managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The City works to reduce point and non-point source pollution and improve water quality through measures that have been previously described, including stormwater management, reduction of combined sewer overflows and street cleaning.

28. Invasive Species

Invasive species are a particular concern as they affect the Fresh Pond Reservation. The Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan (described in Section 7) and the various projects that are currently being implemented as a result of the plan address the need to remove invasive species of trees, shrubs and undergrowth in order to restore the natural ecosystem in this area.

29. Environmental Equity Issues

Environmental impacts on Cambridge waterways affect the entire Cambridge population, as well as communities outside Cambridge. Most of the hazardous waste and ground pollution issues in Cambridge affect the former industrial districts that are increasingly becoming desirable areas for the development of new housing and commercial uses. The environmental issues that have a greater impact on neighborhoods with lower-income, foreign-born, or minority populations are largely the result of building and development practices that were common at the time when the city's dense, working-class residential neighborhoods were developed. For instance, there tends to be less recreational open space available in neighborhoods that have historically had higher housing densities, because little land was reserved for open space during development, and parks have had to be developed by acquiring and converting developed land over time. (This issue was addressed in the City's "Green Ribbon Study," described in Section 7.) In addition, residential neighborhoods are impacted by lead contamination in the soil due to its historical presence in paint and other common products. Cambridge's Lead-Safe program has addressed this issue since 1994 by providing information to the public about lead risks, assisting with soil testing, and providing financial assistance for de-leading to income-eligible residents.

SECTION 5. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

In Cambridge, the term "open space" typically refers to the system of parks, playgrounds, reservations, and other outdoor spaces that provide greenery and recreational facilities and are enjoyed by the public at large. But within the urban context, "open space" can also represent a broader public realm, the connecting fabric of the city that complements residential , commercial and other private land and ties them together into an integrated community. This public realm includes parks, city streets and sidewalks, small plazas and planted areas, lawns around public buildings, and private open spaces that allow physical or visual enjoyment by the public. It can also include indoor public facilities, depending on their freedom of public access and how they are used by the community. Because open space is such an integrative part of the city, it is important for open space planning to consider not only the quantity of open space in the city, but the quality of open space in relation to its surrounding urban context.

Open space provides many different types of benefits to the community. One category of benefits includes recreational opportunities. Open spaces provide a setting for play, sports and exercise as well as for strolling, relaxing, reading or other more passive, less formally defined activities. Open space also has significant environmental benefits, by providing fresh air and visual appeal to its users and neighbors, and, when appropriately landscaped, by reducing heat from paved surfaces, retaining rainwater, absorbing greenhouse gases and improving air quality. In Cambridge it is also important that open space provide residents with opportunities to travel by foot, bicycle, or other means that avoid the need for single-occupancy car trips, which reduces traffic congestion, parking demand, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Another important benefit is bringing community members together into a shared public experience. This can occur through involvement in common recreational activities, community events, or simply by people seeing each other regularly on the street, in a park or even in their own front yard. Shared open space instills a sense that individuals are part of a larger society.

Because land within the city has potential value for private uses, it is necessary to protect open spaces from private development pressures. There are different degrees of open space protection. Under the state's Article 97 – Amendment 97 to the Massachusetts Constitution – land that has been acquired for conservation or natural resource protection cannot be converted to another use without votes by the Conservation Commission and City Council as well as the Massachusetts Legislature. Most open spaces in Cambridge are not protected under this language because they were acquired or are used for recreational purposes, although a number of parks are protected at the state level because they have received grant funding for their development through state or federal programs. At the municipal level, nearly all publicly-owned open spaces with an official park designation have a special "Open Space" designation under the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. The rules for an "Open Space" zoning district allow only civic or religious uses and a maximum floor area ratio of 0.25, tightly restricting the size and type of structures that might be built. Some spaces also have officially designated historic value (at the local, state or federal level), and any changes to the use of that land would require public review by the Cambridge Historical Commission and/or other agencies. Some public open spaces have been created through the enforcement of zoning provisions on a private development project (such as a Planned Unit

Development or a transfer of development rights) or by requirements on a special permit, therefore they are protected as open space uses under the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance even in cases where the land remains fully or partially in private ownership.

Because of these levels of protection and because the Cambridge community places a high value on open space, it would require a major shift in attitudes to convert public open space to private use. In contrast, the trend over the past several decades has been the conversion of some private, previously developed land to public open space, a slow and often expensive process that requires significant public resources and cooperation from private property owners.

A. Private Parcels

Cambridge is a dense, fully-developed city and lacks the types of privately-owned open spaces that might be found in other cities and towns, such as farmland, privately-owned beaches, forests, water resources, nature preserves or large private estates. Most of the open space in Cambridge is publicly owned and protected land. However, there are some significant privately-owned open spaces, most of which are part of large institutional campuses such as universities, but some of which are found within other areas such as commercial office complexes. The significant privately-owned open spaces are shown on Map 5-1 and described below.

1. Major Institutional Holdings

Educational Institutions

Most of the privately-owned open space in Cambridge is owned by large, not-for-profit institutions. Primarily these are educational institutions, which occupy about 10% of the land area in Cambridge.

The largest private landowners in Cambridge are **Harvard University** and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, both of which have significant amounts of open space on their campuses. Open space on the Harvard campus mainly consists of courtyards, including the historic **Harvard Yard** and **Radcliffe Yard** as well as the **North Yard** and **Radcliffe Quadrangle**. Harvard's athletic field facilities are located on its Allston campus just across the river in Boston. The significant open spaces at MIT include its iconic **Killian Court** along the Charles River, **Kresge Oval** and the **Briggs Field** athletic complex, among other smaller courtyards. With the exception of Briggs Field, these open spaces are generally accessible to members of the public.

A few smaller institutions have significant open space holdings. The **Shady Hill School** and **Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School**, which are respective primary and secondary schools located adjacent to one another, each own several athletic fields in West Cambridge including one large space alongside Fresh Pond Parkway. Some of these fields are also used part of the time by Lesley University, which is Cambridge's third-largest university but does not own any significant open spaces for athletic or recreational use. There is also a field space on the campus of the **Cambridge Friends School**, a private school for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

The campus of the **American Academy of Arts and Sciences**, a 228-year-old independent research center and honorary society, is on a 5-acre parcel of land owned by Harvard University but leased long-term to the Academy, located along the border with Somerville. The facilities for the Academy are within a relatively small building on the site, with the remainder dedicated to open space. This area, once known as "Norton's Woods," is one of the few remaining areas in Cambridge with natural forestation, and is open for passive use by the public during the daytime.

Cemeteries

There are two private cemeteries in Cambridge. One is the historic **Mount Auburn Cemetery**, the oldest "garden cemetery" in the United States, which is a popular spot for walking and bird watching. While most of this cemetery is located within the boundaries of Watertown, there is a 12-acre portion located in Cambridge that includes the main entrance gate. There is also a 7-acre **Roman Catholic Cemetery** located off of Rindge Avenue.

All of the institutionally-owned open spaces are located in residential zoning districts and do not have formal open space protections. Some spaces, including Harvard Yard and Mount Auburn Cemetery, have historic protections. However, given the value of these open spaces to their institutional owners, and given that none of these institutions are expected to dispose of their land, it is not likely that these spaces will be lost to development in the foreseeable future. While large institutions such as Harvard and MIT can be expected to construct new buildings in order to accommodate their growing populations and programs, they are not likely to build on open spaces that have historic or iconic significance, and they are not likely to remove athletic field spaces unless those uses can be accommodated on comparable spaces near their campuses, which may be difficult to find.

30. Private Recreation Lands

There are very few recreational open spaces in Cambridge that are privately owned. Some examples of such spaces are found within mixed-use planned unit development projects that have been constructed in recent years. The zoning regulations for planned unit development projects require that a certain amount of open space be provided, usually as a percentage of the overall land area of the development. Mixed-use projects including **Charles Square** (near Harvard), **Technology Square**, **Cambridge Center**, **University Park** and **Cambridge Research Park** all contain open spaces that are privately owned but accessible to the public. These open spaces are protected because they were required by zoning and by the terms of the special permits that were granted for the development projects. Sullivan Park in the Riverside neighborhood, which contains one of the city's public community gardening areas, was also created as part of a development agreement and is open to the public during certain hours.

Some private open spaces contain unique recreational uses. The plaza at Charles Square is home to a farmer's market during the summer and an outdoor ice skating rink in the winter. At Cambridge Research Park, a new plaza includes a seasonal farmer's market and ice skating rink, and a planned plaza along the Broad Canal will include a public launch for small boats such as canoes and kayaks. University Park contains a central one-acre park with pathways, seating and landscaping. Technology Square also

contains a one-acre open courtyard that is sometimes used for community events. Cambridge Center, developed in the 1980s, includes a few small sitting plazas and a publicly-accessible rooftop garden above a parking garage. The owners of Cambridge Center are also planning to develop part of a planned multi-use park pathway on land that they own along the Grand Junction rail corridor (see Section 7).

In some cases the required open space from a planned unit development is transferred to the City to become public open space. For example, development along the East Cambridge riverfront included the development of Lechmere Canal Park, Front Park, Charles Park and Centanni Way, all of which are now publicly owned. Similarly, the "Central Park" under development within the new North Point project will be transferred to ownership by the City. (See Part "B" of this Section)

A smaller private open space that has been of recent interest to community members is **Shady Hill Square**, an approximately half-acre green space located in the middle of a small cluster of homes on Holden Street. The houses and green space were part of an early 20th-century planned development and have been recommended for landmark designation by the Cambridge Historical Commission. In the past year, there was a proposal by the owner of the green space to build a residential building on that site. Affected neighbors, working with the Historical Commission, are currently seeking to purchase and protect the land so that it may remain open space.

The **Cambridge Skating Club**, a rare example of a private, non-institutionally affiliated outdoor sports facility, is an ice skating and tennis facility located on an approximately one-acre property on Mount Auburn Street adjacent to Longfellow Park. This facility is open to members only, and has a limited number of memberships available. In addition, while the Charles River Reservation is publicly owned, there are a number of private recreational facilities situated along its Cambridge shoreline. From west to east, these include the **American Legion Marsh Post #442**, **Cambridge Boat Club**, Harvard University's **Weld Boathouse**, **Riverside Boat Club**, **Boston University Boathouse**, **MIT Boathouse**, **MIT Sailing Pavilion**, **Charles River Yacht Club**, **Harvard Sailing Center**, and **Charlesgate Yacht Club**. These facilities are typically either institutionally affiliated or members-only, and while they do not interrupt pedestrian or bicycle passage along the reservation, they impose some limitations on public access to the shoreline.

B. Public and Non-Profit Parcels

1. Major Public Open Spaces

About 11% of the land area in Cambridge is classified as protected open space (Source: *Cambridge Demographics and Socioeconomic Profile*, 2006). Most of the open space in Cambridge is part of the city's system of public parks, playgrounds, reservations and other recreational sites, some of which are owned by the City of Cambridge and some of which are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the purview of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (Mass. DCR). The City maintains an inventory of these major public open spaces, currently consisting of 81 unique open space sites, which are shown on Map 5-2 with information provided in Table 5-1. Most of these sites are protected under the city's "Open Space" zoning designation, which allows only open space, civic and religious uses, and allows a very low building density (0.25 maximum floor area ratio). Some spaces also have state or

federal protections. A few small open spaces or portions of open spaces do not have an Open Space zoning designation, but the future use of those sites is expected to remain open space. All public-owned open spaces are open for use by the general public and the vast majority do not charge any fees, with the exception of staffed recreational facilities (pools, golf course), which charge a small fee for use, and field areas, which may require a fee to be reserved by an outside recreation league.

Reservation Areas

Cambridge's reservation areas, described in more detail in Section 4, serve unique conservation and recreation purposes. The Charles River Reservation, Alewife Brook Reservation and Blair Pond Reservation are operated by Mass. DCR. The Fresh Pond Reservation is owned by the City of Cambridge and managed primarily by the Cambridge Water Department, as it contains the terminal reservoir for the municipal water supply system. The City's water treatment facility is located on the Fresh Pond Reservation, as are a few recreational areas including the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Municipal Golf Course, some playgrounds and youth playing fields, and community garden spaces.

Parkways

Associated with the reservation areas is the historic parkways system, consisting of the Alewife Brook Parkway, Fresh Pond Parkway, Greenough Boulevard, Memorial Drive and Edwin Land Boulevard. These parkways have an open space zoning designation and are owned and maintained by Mass. DCR. However, these parkways are currently considered to be of limited recreational use, as their original intended "pleasure driving" use has been superseded by their function as high-capacity, high-speed commuter thoroughfares. The only true recreational use of these parkways occurs on the "Riverbend Park" section of Memorial Drive, which is closed to auto traffic on Sundays during the summer to allow for walking, bicycling and other recreational activity.

Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Facilities

Most of Cambridge's public open spaces are small to medium-sized parks that are located within the fabric of neighborhoods. As described in Section 3, most of these spaces have not always been open space, but had been developed and actively used for another purpose before they were claimed and protected for open space at some point in time.

Cambridge classifies its parks using the basic framework established by the National Recreation and Parks Association. Tot lots are very small parks with playground uses serving children 12 years old and younger. Neighborhood parks have some mix of active and passive uses, such as playgrounds, basketball courts, small playing fields, lawn areas and sitting areas, which serve residents of an area within about a quarter-mile to a half-mile walking radius. Community parks also contain a mix of active and passive uses, but tend to be larger and draw users from a broader area through programmed activities such as youth league sports. These parks may serve a half-mile walking radius, or may serve users traveling to the site by public transportation or by car. Some spaces are classified simply as passive open spaces if they have no specific active use and are located away from residential neighborhoods. Also included

within this set of major open spaces are outdoor public pools, of which one (Gold Star Mothers Pool) is City-owned and the two others are operated by Mass. DCR.

Large urban parks are parks that are especially large in size, contain a wide variety of uses, can accommodate many users and a variety of programmed activities, and generally draw users from across the city and sometimes the greater region. Mayor Thomas W. Danehy Park, which was developed over the site of the former city landfill in 1992, is Cambridge's major public sports and recreation complex. It includes an artificial turf soccer field, 400-meter all-weather track, multiple playing fields for adult and youth sports, two playground areas and one waterplay area, and pathways for walking and bicycling. Adjacent to this complex is St. Peter's Field, which has a full-sized, lighted baseball field and a softball field, as well as Roethlisberger Memorial Park (or Garden Street Glen), a small, wooded passive-use area. Overall, this facility serves as the main site for youth and adult athletic leagues, some high school sports and special community events. There is a plan to construct a new designated off-leash dog area at Danehy Park, with construction to begin in 2009.

Another large urban park is Magazine Beach, which as part of the Charles River Reservation is owned and operated by Mass. DCR. Once the site of a swimmable beach, Magazine Beach now includes a 24-acre park with several youth playing fields, a playground and a public pool.

Parks Under Construction

There are two new public parks currently under development in Cambridge. Both are being developed on land that has been transferred to the City by a private entity, and in both cases the parks are being created as part of agreements associated with large development project proposals.

The developers of the mixed-use North Point district are providing a 5-acre "Central Park" as a component of their development (UC-1 on Map 5-2). This park fulfills the project's zoning requirement for the provision of publicly accessible open space, and the design and construction of the park have been undertaken by the project's developers. This park is intended for passive use, and will also serve as a stormwater retention site and a link in the previously mentioned multi-use path connecting the Somerville Community Path to the Charles River pathways. The park is currently in the late stages of construction, and is required to be maintained as a public park in perpetuity, either by conveyance of the land to the City, or by other legal means such as public easements, deed restrictions, lease agreements or covenants.

The second new park under development is on land owned by Harvard University. As part of an agreement to allow Harvard to develop new graduate student housing in the Riverside neighborhood, Harvard has provided a roughly ¾-acre space above a newly constructed underground parking garage at the corner of Memorial Drive and Western Avenue (UC-2 on Map 5-2).The City is undertaking the design and construction of this new public park, which will include an open lawn, a plaza with a trellis and sitting area, water features and other features meant primarily for passive use. Construction of the parking garage is complete, and construction of the park began in fall 2008. After completion, the new park will be transferred to the City.

Public Cemeteries

The public cemeteries in Cambridge are shown on Map 5-2 and inventoried in Table 5-1. Cambridge Cemetery (C-1), the primary public cemetery in the city, is a 64-acre space located in West Cambridge adjacent to the privately-owned Mount Auburn Cemetery. While this is the only public cemetery that remains in use, the City also owns and maintains the historic Old Burying Ground (C-2) on Garden Street near Harvard Square and the Cambridge Common, which dates back to the 1630s.

Playgrounds and Waterplay

Map 5-2 uses red dots to show the locations of children's play areas. These areas contain a variety of different playground equipment for use by children up to age 12, and they are found in 46 parks throughout the city. There is an effort to provide diverse types of play features that are suited to different age groups, have different visual styles, and provide opportunities for different kinds of movement and play in order to appeal to different users' preferences.

Map 5-2 also uses blue dots to designate the location of waterplay features, which include different sizes and types of sprinkler fixtures that are active during hot weather months. These features are currently present in 24 parks in Cambridge, and more continue to be added as they have become very popular park features.

Community Gardens

Cambridge currently has a public community gardening program that includes about 450 community gardening plots distributed across thirteen locations throughout the city. A new set of community gardening plots is currently in construction at Costa Lopez Taylor Park and will begin operating in 2009. Some community gardens are on land that is owned by the City, in some cases within existing public parks, while other gardens are on privately owned land but are available for use by the public through agreement with the property owner. The community gardening program has also increased in popularity, and there are many residents on a waiting list to reserve use of a gardening plot. Community garden facilities are inventoried in Table 5-2.

Park Trails and Pathways

In Cambridge, park trails typically take the form of multi-use pathways that can be used for walking, running, bicycling, in-line skating and other activities. The most significant pathways in Cambridge are the Paul Dudley White path along the Charles River and Linear Park in North Cambridge. To the west, Linear Park connects with the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway leading through the northwestern suburbs, and with the Belmont Path along the Alewife Brook Reservation that is planned to be rebuilt in the future (See Section 7). To the east, Linear Park connects to the Somerville Community Path, which is planned to extend across Somerville and connect to a new path under development in the North Point area, which will in turn connect to the system of paths along both banks of the Charles River. Other park pathways in Cambridge include a dedicated bike path along part of the eastern edge of the Fresh Pond Reservation and a landscaped pathway connecting the ends of Sixth Street and Ames Street near Kendall Square.

School Facilities and Youth Centers

School grounds (shown on Map 5-2 and inventoried in Table 5-3) are an integral component of the parks and playgrounds system, both because many schools contain playground facilities that can be used by the community at large, and because school programs are among the primary users of nearby public parks and playgrounds. Nearly all of the elementary schools in Cambridge have play areas on their grounds, and those that do not use playgrounds that are very close by. There is also a playground area within a publicly accessible courtyard at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, the city's public high school. Adjacent to Cambridge Rindge and Latin School is the War Memorial athletic facility, with an indoor pool and exercise center which are available for use by the public.

There are also two facilities that were formerly used as schools but were closed as a result of a consolidation of the school system approved in 2003. One of these facilities, the former Longfellow School (S-14 on Map 5-2), is now used as interim location of the Cambridge Main Library (which is undergoing expansion) and some programs affiliated with the high school. This facility also includes play areas for young children and an interior courtyard for half-court basketball and other hardcourt games. The other former school facility, the former Graham and Parks School (S-13 on Map 5-2), is currently not used and has no usable playgrounds or open space.

Youth centers are also integral to the open space system since they are regular users of open space facilities and are often located within or next to major public open spaces. The five youth centers operated by the Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs are shown on Map 5-2 and inventoried in Table 5-3. A new facility for the West Cambridge Youth Center is currently under construction on Huron Avenue opposite Fresh Pond Reservation.

Park Condition Ratings

Cambridge's Open Space Committee, which includes representatives from the Department of Public Works, Community Development Department, Department of Human Service Programs, Conservation Commission and other City offices, regularly reviews the inventory of major open spaces and assesses their overall condition. The factors for assessing condition include the age of equipment and materials, visual appearance, functionality of equipment, the presence of hazards or other safety concerns, the health of plantings, turf and other landscape elements, and accessibility, among other factors. These condition ratings help to set priorities for future investments into park maintenance and renovation.

The Open Space Committee uses an "A-B-C-D" rating scale to summarize the overall condition of parks as well as specific elements within parks. An "A" rating is given to parks that are in excellent condition, typically parks that have been recently built or renovated, while a "B" rating is assigned to parks or facilities that are not brand new but remain attractive and in good usable condition. A "C" rating means that while many elements of the park may be in good condition, there are some problems that should be addressed. A "D" rating indicates that a facility is sufficiently old or worn, or has enough issues with its equipment or materials, that it should be a priority for renovation or replacement. However, a "D" rating does not imply that a park or facility is unsafe or otherwise unfit for use.

In 2001, the City adopted a policy of replacing park and playground equipment made with pressure treated lumber containing Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) due to health concerns. This type of lumber is characteristic of playground equipment that was installed in the 1980s and early 1990s. This equipment has been removed and replaced in all but a few of the City's playgrounds. The remaining pressure treated wood play structures are assigned a "D" rating as they are a priority for replacement.

About 80% of Cambridge parks have been designated as being in either "A" or "B" condition. The parks that have received a "C" or "D" rating, and are therefore expected to be renovated or replaced in a short-range or medium-range timeframe, are listed below:

Park Name	Rating	Condition Notes
Alberico Park	D	Pressure treated wood play equipment
Cambridge Common	D	Pressure treated wood play equipment, pathways in worn condition, some drainage issues, some turf areas and plantings need improvement
Clarendon Avenue Playground	C	Play equipment aging
Clement G. Morgan Park	C	Pressure treated wood play equipment has a "D" rating; other park features in good condition
David Nunes Park	C	Pressure treated wood play equipment has a "D" rating; other park features in good condition
Flagstaff Park	C	Turf in worn condition; lighting needed
Fort Washington Park	C	Turf in worn condition
Fulmore Park	C	Pressure treated wood play equipment has a "D" rating; other park features in good condition
Glacken Field	C	Playground, water play, bleachers and other elements in worn condition
Hurley Park	C	Play equipment aging
Kingsley Park	C	Turf, pathways, play equipment in worn condition
Linear Park	C	Paved pathway in worn condition
Pacific Street Open Space	D	No irrigation, needs dog run surfacing, furniture
Sacramento Field	C	Play equipment, turf in worn condition; access issues
Sennott Park	C	Turf in worn condition

In addition to these parks, there are also issues with the condition of some elements of Danehy Park and St. Peter's Field, though these facilities remain in good condition overall. In the short term, replacement of drainage structures is needed to address problems around a stairway leading from St. Peter's Field to the higher elevations of Danehy Park. Also, the waterplay area at Danehy Park (called the Wheeler Water Garden) is outdated and in need of an upgrade to more modern equipment. In addition, the ornamental fencing in certain areas of the park is in need of replacement. Within about the next three years, the artificial turf soccer field and the track will both be in need of resurfacing.

Accessibility Program

The City's priorities for accessibility for persons with disabilities, considered along with the condition ratings, are also a major factor in determining priorities for future investments into park improvement. In 1995, Cambridge's Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in cooperation with other City departments, completed a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Recreational Areas. This process involved surveying all publicly owned or operated parks, playgrounds and other open space facilities and determining which facilities were necessary to achieve "program accessibility" as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The objective of this plan was to identify and evaluate a set of facilities that would provide a range of recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities that is comparable to the opportunities available to the general public. Factors taken into account included the geographic distribution of open space facilities, the activities and programs operated at each location, and an evaluation of the current level of accessibility at each site. As a result, 17 parks and open space areas were identified as being essential for program accessibility compliance.

Meeting or exceeding current standards for accessibility is an integral component to all new park design projects as well as park and playground improvement projects. Since the time of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, all but one of the 17 parks identified on the City's program accessibility list have received significant upgrades to comply with accessibility standards. Cambridge Common, currently the top priority for accessibility upgrades, is planned for playground renovation in 2009 and improvements to pathways and furniture within the next two to three years. Three other parks, Glacken Field, Sacramento Field and Sennott Park, should be considered priorities for accessibility improvements. The 17 accessibility program parks are identified in Table 5-1 in Appendix V of this document, and detailed information on the City's ADA Access Self-Evaluation in included in Appendix IV.

31. Pocket Parks, Street Trees and other Streetscape Features

While open space planning in Cambridge focuses primarily on parks, reservations and other outdoor recreation areas, there is also a larger outdoor public realm, including roadways, sidewalks and public squares, which provides open space benefits to the Cambridge community. Community members interact with the streetscape as much if not more than with parks, so the quality of these environments may have a similar impact in terms of environmental, aesthetic, community-building and even recreational benefits (primarily with regard to walking and biking). Also, since community members

must use public streets and sidewalks to access parks and other open spaces, the quality of the streetscape has an impact on the success and enjoyment of the entire open space system.

Two aspects of the streetscape that are especially important to future open space planning are street trees and plazas or "pocket parks" that may be found along the edges of sidewalks and in public squares. These features are illustrated on Map 5-3. There are also a variety of streetscape features throughout the city that are meant to help beautify the environment, including planted areas, smaller-scale street furniture, decorative pavers and more attractive lighting fixtures.

Some more general aspects of the streetscape that relate to the quality of the open space environment include the quality and design of sidewalks and roads, the availability of bicycle lanes, and "traffic calming" features such as raised crossings and curb bump-outs, intended to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrian travel. Cambridge is also beginning to explore innovative ideas that begin to blur the distinction between transportation infrastructure and open space. One such idea is the "shared street," on which landscape features are included to make entire roadways pedestrian-friendly while still allowing vehicles to pass at very limited speeds or at limited times. Thus far the City has installed these features on two streets, Palmer Street and Winthrop Street, both in the Harvard Square district.

Street Trees

Street trees are important elements of the public realm of Cambridge that provide a number of benefits, including shade, beautification, improvements to air quality and environmental health, reduction of the urban heat island effect, and some water retention benefits.

The City of Cambridge owns and maintains approximately 12,000 public street trees along with the approximately 3,000 trees currently in public parks and cemeteries. Each year, the City plants a number of additional trees based on the availability of locations for planting and the availability of funding resources. With funding assistance from a Massachusetts Urban Forestry Inner City Planning and Education Grant, the City recently completed a digital inventory of street trees that includes information on their location, species, size and condition. This has aided in maintenance as well as in planning for future tree planting locations. The locations of street trees from this inventory are shown on Map 5-3.

Seasonal Planting Areas

Within Cambridge there are often small "leftover" spaces along roadways and sidewalks that do not serve a direct transportation purpose. These include small roadway medians, wide-radius corners and the aforementioned curb "bump-outs" that help to slow traffic. The City's Department of Public Works has installed planters in many of these spaces and uses them for seasonal plantings meant to improve the overall appearance of the streetscape. There are currently about 40 of these planting sites throughout Cambridge, and the City continues to install them as part of roadway projects when appropriate areas are identified.

Pocket Parks

The City pursues opportunities to identify small public spaces along the edges of sidewalks and improve them to be used as small landscaped areas, often with benches and tables, plantings, public art and other beautifying elements. The Open Space Committee refers to these as "pocket parks," they may range from about 3,000 to 6,000 square feet in size, and they may be found along major roads, at the edges of parks, or near other public facilities. They may also be called "plazas" where they are found in major public squares. In many cases they have been created as part of the redesign of intersections in an effort to reduce the area devoted to vehicular use and enlarge the pedestrian-oriented realm. Where they are appropriately designed and maintained, these spaces tend to be very well used and enjoyed by members of the community. Some, including the space at Bishop Allen Drive and Main Street and the MBTA-owned Porter Square Plaza, have had little attention in recent years and tend not to be as well used. These spaces are an important complement to the city's system of larger parks and open spaces.

32. Other Public Lands

Other public facilities and lands are shown on Map 5-4 and inventoried in Table 5-4. On the whole, these facilities have little open space benefit, however there are notable open space features associated with some of these facilities. The front lawn of City Hall is a popular passive-use open space, and occasionally the section of Massachusetts Avenue in front of City Hall is closed to create a large open space for community gatherings and celebrations. Several spaces have adjacent "pocket parks," such as the City Hall Annex at 344 Broadway and the Valente Branch Library "Reading Garden." Some public facilities feature very small open areas in front of them with benches or plant beds. Some facilities, such as the municipal parking garage on First Street, have small spaces that could potentially be beautified or turned into sitting areas. In addition, one of the municipal parking lots in Central Square is used as the site of a seasonal farmers' market.

SECTION 6. COMMUNITY GOALS

A. Description of Process

Community open space goals are identified in several different ways. The determination and prioritization of open space goals is an ongoing process that occurs through neighborhood studies and other community-based planning initiatives that are conducted on an ongoing basis. Sometimes more specific studies or initiatives are undertaken in order to focus on a particular area or a particular issue with regard to open space. For the Open Space Plan, the process of identifying and describing community goals has also been informed by the implementation of a telephone survey.

Open Space Telephone Survey

The City of Cambridge hired Opinion Dynamics Corporation to conduct a random telephone survey of Cambridge residents. The purpose of this survey was to gather data on residents' usage of open space, their overall satisfaction with the open space system and their opinions about future improvement. The survey questions were prepared by members of the City's Open Space Committee. In April, 2008, Opinion Dynamics conducted interviews and gathered responses from 400 individuals, and reported the information gathered to the City in May, 2008. The full report on the survey results is included in Appendix II.

The purpose of the random telephone survey was to receive information from a sample that is statistically as representative of the general Cambridge population as possible. However, there was still some self-selectivity in the sample, since the respondents were limited to those with active, Cambridge-based land phone lines and, among those, limited to those who chose to answer the survey when contacted. Comparing the profile of survey respondents with the Census profile for Cambridge residents, there were a few significant differences. The most significant were that homeowners (versus home-renters) seemed to be overrepresented in the survey as compared to Census data, and households with children also tended to be overrepresented in the survey. These issues have been noted in the analysis of the survey results.

The introduction to the survey asked respondents for their favorite open space and why it is their favorite, as a simple way of getting some basic information about the respondents' opinions on open spaces. Respondents could name public or private open spaces. The responses varied widely, but the most commonly named spaces were the **Charles River**, **Fresh Pond**, **Danehy Park** and the **Harvard Square/Harvard Yard** area. Fresh Pond was particularly popular among residents who own their home and own cars, while Harvard Square/Yard tended to be more popular among respondents who live in rental housing. The most commonly noted reasons for liking their favorite spaces included that they are **big**, are **nice for running/walking/biking**, are **beautiful or scenic**, have **playgrounds or activities for children**, are **close to water**, have lots of **sports or other activities**, have qualities of the **natural environment** and are **clean or well-maintained**. The most commonly noted reason why residents like the Charles River is that it is close to water, while the most commonly noted reason why residents like Fresh Pond is that they can take their dogs there.

In order to collect data on what residents like to do in outdoor spaces, respondents were asked whether certain outdoor activities are considered "very important," "somewhat important," or "not important" to members of their household.

In terms of importance, the "top tier" activities – those that more than 90% of respondents considered very important or somewhat important – were **enjoying the natural environment** (81% "very important"), **walking as a means of travel** (78% "very important"), **sitting and relaxing outdoors** (69% "very important") and **informal socializing with friends and neighbors** (65% "very important). **Walking, jogging or running for exercise** was considered "very important" by a majority of respondents (61%) but "not important" to some (11%). **Children's playground use** was considered "very important" by a majority of respondents (65%) but "not important" by a large group of respondents (23%), as would be expected, since some surveyed households had children and some did not.

The next grouping of outdoor activities include those that were "very important" to less than half of respondents but also "not important" to less than half of respondents. These included **playing in sprinklers during hot weather**, **outdoor swimming**, **organized sports for children or teenagers**, **organized community events and gatherings**, **gardening**, **dog walking or play**, **bicycling as a means of travel**, **bicycling for exercise** and **boating**. Community events and gatherings are notable in that only 39% of respondents considered them "very important" but 40% considered them "somewhat important," meaning that almost four out of five respondents considered them important in some way. Outdoor swimming and playing in sprinklers were both "very important" to at least half of home-renters as well as at least half of respondents with children in their household. Interestingly, bicycling (both for travel and for exercise) tended to be more important to homeowners than to home-renters. Gardening was also more important to homeowners, perhaps reflecting the higher likelihood that homeowners would have private garden space.

The listed activities that were considered "not important" to more than half of respondents included activities such as **skateboarding, roller skating** and **freestyle bicycling** along with **pick-up or informal group sports** and **organized sports for adults**. However, pick-up sports and organized adult sports were both much more important to home-renters than to homeowners, with each being considered "very important" or "somewhat important" to about 60% of home-renters.

Respondents who noted any kind of sports as "very important" or "somewhat important" were asked to name the specific sports were important. Among children's sports, the most commonly noted sports were **soccer**, **baseball**, **basketball** and **tennis** (in descending order). Among sports for adults (either pick-up or informal), the most commonly noted were **soccer**, **basketball**, **softball/baseball**, **tennis** and **frisbee**. Respondents who noted boating as important were also asked to specify which types of boating. About the same number of respondents noted **canoeing**, **kayaking** and **rowing** as the most popular boating activity, while fewer respondents noted **sailing**.

Few respondents named other activities that were considered important, but multiple respondents noted **winter sports**, **picnicking/cookouts** and **outdoor plays, concerts, or dancing**. When asked to name important outdoor activities that respondents could not do in Cambridge but wished they could,

many respondents noted **mountain, street or trail biking**, **outdoor swimming** and **hiking or rock climbing**, while some noted **ice skating**, **barbecuing/picnicking**, **fishing** and **skiing**.

A large majority (73%) of survey respondents indicated visiting a public park in Cambridge at least once per week. The statistics for park usage are similar across categories, except that respondents with children in their household tended to visit much more often than those without children, and respondents with seniors in their household tended to visit significantly less often. Over 90% of respondents say they regularly walk to get to parks. Respondents less regularly use a car, bicycle, or public transportation, probably depending on what transportation options are available.

Satisfaction with parks is high throughout the city, with about 71% of respondents rating their satisfaction with Cambridge parks as a "4" or "5" on a 1-to-5 scale, and 70% of respondents rating their satisfaction with parks in their neighborhood as a "4" or "5". There are some small differences in satisfaction by neighborhood when comparing the percentage of respondents rating their satisfaction as "4" or "5" versus "1" or "2". In West Cambridge this comparison is 83%/5%, in North Cambridge it is 75%/12%, in the area around Harvard Square and Agassiz it is 66%/9%, in Cambridgeport and Riverside it is 79%/9%, in the area around Central Square and Mid-Cambridge it is 60%/21% and in East Cambridge it is 59%/15%. Some of the reasons for lower satisfaction in some neighborhoods include a feeling that parks are too small or are not kept clean.

Respondents were asked to indicate which they thought where the first and second most important benefits of open space among recreation, play and exercise, relaxation and fresh air, environmental benefits such as trees, shade and water, beautification of the neighborhood, or social interaction and community gathering. More than a quarter of respondents said that they are all equally the most important, and among the others there was no clear favorite. 45% said relaxation and fresh air were most or second-most important, 39% said recreation, play and exercise, 35% said environmental benefits, 25% said social interaction and 24% said beautification.

Finally, respondents were asked to indicate which would be most and second-most beneficial choices from a list of ways in which the City could improve its open space system. Surprisingly, a top choice was **improving streets and sidewalks with trees, small sitting areas** and other features, with 52% of respondents choosing that as most or second-most beneficial. 40% of respondents chose **acquiring additional land for open space** as most or second-most beneficial, and 40% also chose **improving maintenance of existing open spaces** as most or second-most beneficial, though these were mostly second choices. Somewhat smaller percentages chose **renovating or beautifying existing parks and open spaces**, **expanding the variety of recreational opportunities in parks and playgrounds**, and all choices equally.

Neighborhood Studies and Updates

The Community Development Department has conducted comprehensive community-based neighborhood studies in each of Cambridge's residential neighborhoods. Community planning staff collect information on demographic changes, changes in housing markets, land use and development

potential in the neighborhood, and then staff members work with a committee of neighborhood residents to identify planning opportunities and make recommendations for future action. Recommendations address land use and zoning, transportation, housing, economic development in commercial areas, parks and open space, and sometimes special topics unique to that neighborhood. Recommendations range from specific items that can be addressed in the short term to broad issues that require ongoing attention or coordinated, long-term strategic planning.

The Community Development Department also conducts ongoing updates to the neighborhood studies, working to update each study about every four years. The update process involves community meetings at which planning staff present a summary of information from the neighborhood study and describe work that has been done in the neighborhood since the study. Community members are invited to comment on the original study recommendations, suggest new recommendations and prioritize issues.

The boundaries for each of Cambridge's neighborhoods are shown in Map 6-1. Appendix III lists the open space neighborhood study recommendations for each neighborhood study or update that has been conducted in the period between 2003 and 2008. (No neighborhood study has been conducted for Neighborhood 2, which includes only the MIT campus. Neighborhood 12, which is primarily commercial except for the "Cambridge Highlands" area to the far west, was included in the Concord-Alewife Planning Study described in Section 7.)

Many neighborhood study recommendations focus on specific park projects, most of which have either been completed or are planned to occur in a short, medium, or long range timeframe. There are also recommendations that express community members' broader opinions about future open space planning. The following is a list of six themes that have appeared in many or most neighborhood study/update recommendations, in descending order of priority (based on about how often they tend to appear):

- Creating new public open space in neighborhoods and expanding existing parks.
- Providing more open spaces for sitting, by adding more tables and benches to parks, creating plazas and pocket parks and adding benches to sidewalks.
- Improving access to open spaces for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Planting additional street trees and performing maintenance on existing trees.
- Improving the feeling of safety in certain parks and open spaces, through measures such as improved visibility, lighting and emergency phones.
- Improving park maintenance.

Other topics that have arisen in multiple neighborhood studies include dog use of parks – including creating designated areas for dogs as well as managing dog waste clean-up in all parks – as well as providing space for community gardens, exploring ways to improve public access to privately-owned

open spaces, improving public parks with features such as better trash receptacles and community bulletin boards, and providing play spaces for different age groups such as older children and teenagers.

Open Space Projects

The City conducts periodic park renovation or development projects at sites throughout Cambridge. Typically, about two or three such projects are started and completed each year. These projects include an initial planning phase in which the scope and budget of the project are determined, a design phase in which staff develop a design for the new or renovated park with input from community members, and a construction phase in which the design is implemented. The public design phase of the project provides an opportunity for staff to learn about community members' goals and vision for open space in the neighborhood. While much of the discussion is specific to the site itself, there are some broader goals that tend to recur across a variety of different park processes. These goals largely reflect the ideas that have emerged from the open space telephone survey and the neighborhood studies.

Since 2003, the City has conducted renovation projects for Bergin Park, Lopez Street Park, Maple Avenue Park, Franklin Street Park, Kennedy-Longfellow School Playground, Fletcher-Maynard Academy Playground, Dana Park, Donnelly Field, Lowell School Park, Charles Park, Russell Field, Gold Star Mothers Park, Alden Park and Father Callanan Playground. In addition, the City has completed projects to expand Harvard Street Park (now Greene • Rose Heritage Park) and Costa Lopez Taylor Park, and a design process has been completed for a new public park at Memorial Drive and Western Avenue. Over the past five years, there have also been ongoing renovation and restoration projects within Fresh Pond Reservation as per the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan. Each of these projects has involved extensive public design review with participation from a variety of neighbors and interested community members.

A number of recurring themes have emerged from among these different processes and discussions. Probably the most common theme is the desire among community members for more passive-use space, with an emphasis on green landscaping and park furniture such as benches and tables, providing places to sit and relax as well as spaces for community gathering. Another common theme is shade trees, with an emphasis on preserving existing trees wherever possible and planting new trees where they might be reasonably accommodated. Walkways within parks are a major concern for community members, many of whom use parks as an attractive and convenient way to travel through neighborhoods. Safety is often a concern among community members as well, and many park projects have included a desire to have improved lighting and emergency phones available in all parks. Some of the other issues that have arisen include a desire for amenities such as drinking fountains and community bulletin boards, as well as the incorporation of public art installations that help to beautify spaces and give them a distinctive character.

Many of the recent park renovation projects have included the redesign of playground areas. For these projects, there has also been a set of recurring themes. Along with the desire for passive-use sitting areas, there has been an expressed need for seating for parents and caregivers who are supervising their children's play, as well as ensuring good visibility across play areas for safety. There has been an

increased interest in providing waterplay features for use during hot weather seasons. Many parents at playground renovation meetings have expressed an interest in play equipment that is focused on particular age groups, with some parents commenting that certain play equipment is not appropriate for young children and other parents commenting that some play equipment is not challenging or interesting enough for older children. Like in all parks, providing shade is also a major concern within playgrounds.

On-Site Questionnaires and Interviews

The feedback gathered from the telephone survey, neighborhood studies and park design processes is supplemented by occasional on-site questionnaires conducted by City staff. These qualitative surveys are not necessarily as representative as the telephone survey, but they do capture a diverse cross-section of Cambridge park users and are helpful in soliciting feedback from park users who might not be inclined to participate in public meetings. In the summer of 2007, City staff conducted about 50 such interviews in 15 different City-owned public parks, all taking place at a variety of different days (weekdays, weekends) and times (morning, afternoon, evening). Park users were asked a set of open-ended questions such as why they came to the park, what they like about it, what they don't like about it, and how they might like to see Cambridge improve its open space.

In the questionnaires, park users were asked what they liked most about a particular park. Some of the most common responses included that it is green or grassy, clean, quiet and relaxing, has trees and shade, or is a place where there are friendly people. In some parks, users said that they like it because it is big and has lots of open space, and in other parks users said they like it because it is close to their home or to other attractions within the city. In parks with playgrounds, a large number of park users said they like waterplay, which may be expected since most interviews were conducted in August. Playground users also said they liked areas that are enclosed and gated, sand play, a variety of different features, features for different age groups and rubber safety surfacing.

When asked what users don't like about that park, the most common response by far is "nothing." Some of the issues that park users did note include that it is dirty and has too much trash or litter at times, that there needs to be more shade, that dogs are not cleaned up after, that equipment sometimes is broken or does not work, that puddles collect, or that the neighborhood feels unsafe. Some users noted desirable features that the particular park does not have, such as grass, plantings and flowers, or an emergency call box. Users in some playgrounds said that the play equipment was not good for younger children, while in other playgrounds they said that the play equipment was not good for older children. Some playground users noted that they would like more enclosed play areas for younger children, do not like wood chip surfacing, and would like to have more swings.

When asked how Cambridge might improve its open space, the most common responses were to keep the parks clean, include more trees and gardens, and improve bike paths and bike lanes. Many users also said that the areas should be safe, that the trash should be managed better (with larger receptacles, covered receptacles, or by emptying them more often), and that they should have variety to appeal to all types of people. Some park users said they would like to see more benches, picnic areas, bathrooms

and drinking fountains. Other notable suggestions included more "city fairs" (community events and celebrations), opportunities for skateboarding and fishing, wi-fi internet access, treehouses and water slides, and complementary commercial activities such as cafés and ice cream shops next to or within parks.

Green Ribbon Study

The most recent major planning study identifying future community open space needs was the study of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee, completed in 2000. This City-appointed committee collected information on the existing uses and distribution of open space in Cambridge, on demographic characteristics such as population density, income, and population of children throughout the city, and programmatic needs such as youth sports and school activities. The committee then discussed this information and determined which areas were most in need of additional open space, and which of these areas would be the top priorities for future open space expansion in the city.

The final Green Ribbon Study recommended the following "Top Priority" locations and categories of new open spaces. These locations are illustrated on Map 6-2.

1. New "Tot Lot" playgrounds in the Porter Square area and the Inman Square / Wellington-Harrington area.

2. New parks to serve the Fletcher School [now the facility for the Cambridgeport School], the Graham and Parks School [which has relocated since 2000], the Longfellow School [which has also relocated since 2000] and the Maynard School [now the Fletcher-Maynard Academy].

3. New "Neighborhood Parks" in the Area Four neighborhood, the Inman Square area, the Massachusetts Avenue / Central Square area and the Porter Square area.

4. New "Community Parks" in the Area Four neighborhood, the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood, the Agassiz neighborhood near Porter Square and the Cambridgeport neighborhood.

5. New "Park Trails" along the Grand Junction Railroad pathway, along the "Watertown Branch" to provide a direct connection from Fresh Pond Reservation to Danehy Park, and connecting Linear Park to the Charles River paths (this pathway alignment is mostly in Somerville, with a portion going through the "North Point" area in eastern Cambridge).

6. Three or four new multipurpose playing fields to accommodate sports such as soccer, field hockey and lacrosse (about 70 by 120 yards in size), located in the eastern half of Cambridge where possible.

7. One additional full-size high school baseball field in the city.

8. Additional "passive use" areas in the city, which could be accommodated as components of larger parks or in small "pocket park" areas.

The Green Ribbon Study also identified additional areas of need for tot lots, school parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and additional park trails connecting various open spaces (illustrated on Map 6-2). The study noted the desirability of a significant "Large Urban Park" in the eastern half of Cambridge, but prioritized the creation of new neighborhood-scale and community-scale parks and the expansion of existing open spaces, due to the practical infeasibility of acquiring large parcels of land in developed neighborhoods. Furthermore, the study noted the importance of community gardens as a component of the open space system, and noted a possible interest in developing a "stunt park" for skateboarding, roller skating/in-line skating, and trick bicycling.

Section 7 describes the progress that has been made in addressing the specific recommendations of the Green Ribbon Study.

Cambridge Climate Protection Plan

In 1999, Cambridge joined the international Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) initiative and formed a Climate Protection Task Force to assess greenhouse gas emissions in the city, develop a target for reduced emissions, and produce and implement a plan for achieving these reductions. The resulting Climate Protection Plan, adopted in 2002, sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. The plan recommended ways to achieve these reductions, including reducing building energy use, supporting sustainable transportation, promoting sustainable land use policies and green building practices, and improving waste management. The plan notes the importance of unpaved open space and vegetation as a way of absorbing excess carbon dioxide and reducing the urban heat island effect, which causes developed areas with abundant paved surfaces to have higher overall air temperatures.

Specific measures supported by the Climate Protection Plan include acquiring and preserving open space as per the Green Ribbon Study, creating vegetated pocket parks in small spaces, encouraging more varied vegetation in lawn areas around commercial buildings, developing rooftop gardens, conserving and restoring existing natural areas, maximizing the tree canopy cover, and using energy-efficient and water-efficient plantings and maintenance practices.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Combining the information gathered from the community-based processes described above, a broad set of goals can be defined that will help to direct open space planning over the next five years and beyond. This broad set of goals is carried into Section 8, which establishes a set of more specific five-year objectives associated with each goal, and Section 9, which lists the anticipated five-year action items associated with each goal.

1. Open Space Acquisition and Expansion

Expanding the amount of publicly usable open space in Cambridge remains a major community goal. Community members appreciate the open space resources that are available, but in many cases feel that open spaces are too small or that there are not enough of them. Seeking opportunities to create

new parks as well as to expand the size of existing parks are both important ways to enhance the open space resources available to community members. Converting small public spaces into "pocket parks" is also a way to improve the availability of open space, particularly for passive uses such as sitting, relaxing and gathering for social purposes, which are seen as important activities by virtually the entire Cambridge community.

Community members are in favor of expanding open space resources throughout the city. In making decisions about future investments, the City should continue to focus on the top priority recommendations and the areas of need identified in the Green Ribbon Study. However, as opportunities may arise unexpectedly in any part of the city, all possibilities should be investigated and evaluated for their potential benefits and costs.

33. Open Space Quality and Variety

Identifying a set of goals and a vision for the quality of future open spaces is important to the design of new open spaces as well as the renovation and improvement of existing open spaces over time. While community members tend to be satisfied, on the whole, with the quality of parks and open spaces in Cambridge, much of the feedback received from surveys, interviews, neighborhood studies and especially park improvement projects suggest some very strong community opinions regarding future priorities in open space planning and design.

In general, there seems to be a set of open space qualities that have emerged as "universal," in that they are important to virtually all community members and have been noted in virtually every park development project in recent years:

- Plantings and natural features
- Good walking paths
- Comfortable, quiet places to sit and relax
- Opportunities for social gathering and community events
- Feeling of safety

Some of the specific design elements that help to support these qualities include more grass, flowers and shrubs, shade trees as well as ornamental trees, accessible pathways and attractive entrances, benches and tables, community bulletin boards, improved lighting and emergency phones. Special attention should be paid to these features in all future park development and improvement projects.

In addition to the "universal" qualities, there is a set of qualities that are considered important or very important to many but not all community members. These are features that are or should be included in many parks, in some cases most parks, but not necessarily all parks:

- Play opportunities, including a variety of features for children of all ages and waterplay features in particular
- Sports facilities and resources, especially for youth, with a focus on soccer, baseball, softball, basketball and some opportunities for tennis.
- Opportunities for recreational walking, jogging and running
- Resources for bicycling
- Dog play opportunities
- Gardening opportunities

These are among a number of other specific open space opportunities that are valued by some community members but not as many, such as opportunities for skateboarding, boating (especially canoeing, kayaking, rowing), ice skating, rock climbing and outdoor events. With regard to these features that are important to most, many, or some community members, the goal should be to provide appropriate amounts of these resources in spaces throughout the city but not necessarily to make them a standard feature of every park. This will help to provide a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the open space system, while allowing each open space resource to have its own set of features and its own unique character.

34. Natural Resources

In surveys and studies, community members indicate that the Charles River and Fresh Pond are two of the most often visited and most well-liked open spaces in Cambridge. While community members' opinions tend to focus more on recreational use than on natural resource protection, it can be inferred that protection of these open space resources is a major community priority. In particular, community members appreciate these spaces for their natural landscapes and scenery, their large size and expansiveness, their feeling of separation from the urban environment, and their open water resources. Many neighborhood studies have expressed the goal of improving pedestrian and bicycle access to these open space amenities. In the case of the Charles River Reservation, some community members feel that the space should be "activated" to make it feel safer and more enjoyable to community members without compromising its natural and environmental qualities. Community members in some neighborhoods also view Magazine Beach as an important recreational resource with significant quality and access issues that need to be addressed.

In contrast, the Alewife Brook Reservation is not as commonly noted as a favorite or frequently visited open space resource among community members. Perhaps this indicates a need for improving access to the space and enhancing the entrances and edges to make it a more inviting place to visit. Due to its direct proximity to Alewife Station, the reservation could be a desirable location for passive recreational use, particularly for nature-watching and some kinds of boating. Future improvement plans (described in Section 7) have the potential to improve bicycle access to the area, which also helps to fulfill a more

general need for recreational bicycling opportunities. However, as with the Charles River Reservation, any future improvements should not compromise the environmental qualities of the space, particularly in light of the serious water quality issues throughout the river system.

35. Maintenance

Community members feel that proper maintenance and up-keep are very important to ensuring a good open space system. In general, most community members seem to be reasonably satisfied with the level at which parks are maintained, however many feel that some areas could use improvement. In particular, the presence of litter or overflowing trash receptacles have been noted as issues that can detract from community members' enjoyment of parks that are otherwise in good condition. Improved management of trash and waste might make parks more attractive and usable to individuals and families. Related to trash management is the issue of pests such as rodents, squirrels and pigeons, which can also negatively impact the use of parks. Many community members also feel that the prevalence of dog waste can deter families from bringing children to parks and playgrounds.

Other issues that are sometimes noted include trimming and maintenance of trees and other plantings, as well as ensuring that park equipment such as playground features and drinking fountains remain in good working order. The future goal for Cambridge should be to continue proactively addressing maintenance needs, including both preventative and corrective maintenance, and to continually explore new practices for improved maintenance as community needs and available technologies change over time.

36. Recreational Opportunities and Programs

Youth sports and other organized activities are a very important aspect of the open space system to many Cambridge residents. Cambridge already supports a robust set of youth recreational opportunities, through City-affiliated sports leagues, youth centers, after-school programs and camps, among other programs. While some community members have expressed a desire to expand this set of opportunities, the community's main priority is to expand the amount of open space that is available for youth sports, as noted in the Green Ribbon Study. A smaller set of community members note the importance of sports opportunities for adults, but these programs seem to be well served by existing resources.

Aside from athletic uses, one programmed use of open space that has been noted as important to many community members is organized community events. City departments, community schools and other groups currently use open spaces for public events and gatherings, and the City has a process for permitting special events in public spaces. These help to serve the community-building function of open spaces, allowing residents to meet their neighbors and become engaged in the neighborhood or citywide community. The City should continue to explore opportunities for hosting community events and activities in parks, and should encourage community groups and other private entities to organize, host, or support these types of events as well.

37. Streets, Sidewalks and the Public Realm

It is illuminating, though perhaps not surprising, to learn that so many community members feel that areas such as streets, sidewalks and plazas are important aspects of the open space system. Given that the most important outdoor activities to residents include walking, sitting and relaxing, and enjoying nature and fresh air, it is understandable that sidewalks, street trees and street furniture would be significant to their enjoyment of the outdoors, especially since they are the most pervasive public spaces in the city. The open space portions of many neighborhood studies recommend planting street trees and developing "pocket parks" as part of the vision for improving open space in the neighborhood.

Cambridge's current practices for designing, upgrading and maintaining roadways emphasize the inclusion of trees, landscaping, furniture and other features that improve the safety, attractiveness and usability of the public realm for all community members. However, there are still many opportunities throughout the city to improve the public realm by calming traffic and incorporating these types of features, and these should be pursued where feasible and appropriate. While streetscape improvements and "pocket parks" may be smaller in scale than larger open spaces, in many cases these types of improvements can involve substantial investments in order to improve the infrastructure and ensure accessibility, and therefore they should be planned strategically.

38. Park Trails

While still not as pervasive an activity as walking, survey results as well as counts conducted by the City indicate that bicycling in Cambridge has been an increasingly popular activity and is considered very important to a substantial part of the Cambridge community. Recreational bicycling in particular is an activity that benefits from having facilities that are separated from city streets. In addition, park trail facilities are noted as an important type of open space in the Green Ribbon Study, in that they provide a range of recreational opportunities (walking, running, bicycling and in-line skating, among others) as well as transportation alternatives for many commuters. Therefore, continuing to pursue opportunities to create new park trails should be a future open space goal.

39. Information

An additional goal to be inferred from community feedback is the need to provide information about open space resources in the city. However, this particular goal does not appear as prominently in survey results or neighborhood studies. It could be the case that more of the participants in these surveys and studies tend to be long-time Cambridge residents with sufficient knowledge of the city and its open spaces, and are therefore do not have as much need for this kind of information. However, a few survey responses indicated that some new Cambridge residents do not use parks very often because they do not have much information about them. Also, members of the City's Open Space Committee know that open space map publications are popular among Cambridge residents based on the rapid rate at which they disappear when they are distributed. New internet-based resources are also helping to provide better information to wider segments of the community. New residents comprise a substantial portion

of the population of Cambridge, and therefore providing improved information about open space resources to the community should be a major goal for future open space planning.

SECTION 7. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

There are two main categories of resource areas included in Cambridge's open space planning. One category is municipal water supply resources owned and operated by the City, consisting of Fresh Pond and its surrounding reservation and the "Up-Country Watershed" system contained within the City of Waltham and the Towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Weston. The other category is Massachusetts DCR-operated reservations, which includes the Charles River Reservation and Alewife Brook Reservation.

Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan

Conservation and recreation planning for Fresh Pond is guided by the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan, completed by an advisory committee of City officials and residents in 1999, and now in its ninth year of implementation. The plan includes strategies for shoreline restoration and stabilization, wetland restoration and preservation, appropriate plantings and removal of invasive species, ongoing stewardship and maintenance programs, educational programs, and policies taking into account land use, access, and recreational needs. Implementation of the plan is overseen by the Cambridge Water Department along with a Fresh Pond Advisory Board of City officials and Cambridge residents.

Implementation items anticipated to occur within the next five years include various drainage and habitat improvement projects, slope stabilization projects, restoration of scenic vistas, and circulation and access planning. Ongoing initiatives continuing over the next five years will include landscape maintenance, resource assessment and analysis, stewardship, education, and outreach programs. In recent years, the funding for Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan implementation projects has primarily come from Community Preservation Act funds and water fees. Within the next five years, there will be anticipated needs for consultant services, completing public procurement for restoration maintenance contracts, and filling staff vacancies.

Up-Country Watershed Protection Plan

The Cambridge Water Department manages a comprehensive program to protect reservoirs and watershed areas outside of Cambridge that serve the municipal water supply. Over the next five years, anticipated projects in these watershed areas include a habitat and ecological study of the Hobbs Brook headwaters area as well as an up-grade of the Hobbs Brook Reservoir gatehouse. The Water Department also plans to coordinate on an ongoing basis with the Mass. Highway Department and private property owners on construction and maintenance that might impact watershed lands, to coordinate with the Mass. DCR on protection of the public rights-of-way along the pipeline leading from Stony Brook Reservoir to Fresh Pond Reservoir, and to coordinate with the US Geological Survey on real-time water quality monitoring stations.

Past projects related to the Up-Country Watershed, such as the acquisition and improvement of watershed land in Lincoln in 2005, have been funded through water fees, City tax funding, Community Preservation Act sources and Massachusetts Self-Help Program grants. Within the next five years, the

anticipated needs will be for consultant services such as construction document preparation and design and restoration project planning.

Charles River Reservation

As noted in the Community Goals section, the Charles River is possibly the most important open space in Cambridge, as it is among the most visited and most well-liked open spaces among residents. While the Charles River Reservation is owned and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (Mass. DCR) and extends far beyond the boundaries of Cambridge, the City works to coordinate with Mass. DCR on resource protection and improvement projects within the Cambridge portion of the reservation.

Future planning for the reservation in Cambridge is guided by the Master Plan for the Charles River Basin, completed by the Metropolitan District Commission (now part of Mass. DCR) in 2002. Implementation of the plan is overseen by Mass. DCR. Future implementation items include "Phase 2" of the Historic Parkways Initiative Demonstration Project along Memorial Drive between the Longfellow and BU Bridges, restoration and maintenance of vegetation in coordination with the Charles River Conservancy, and planning for future renovation of bridges. Also included is a plan to renovate Magazine Beach, which includes shoreline reconstruction and stabilization, pathway improvements, a stormwater detention basin, reconstruction of the playing fields, construction of a playground and water play area, fencing improvements, improvements to the parking and drop-off area, and landscaping. The City of Cambridge has already undertaken some shoreline reconstruction and pathway improvements at Magazine Beach as part of a combined sewer overflow project. Reconstruction of the playing fields will begin this year with funding provided by the City. Additional work, to be implemented by DCR, is not funded and the timeline for implementation is unknown.

The City of Cambridge also works to improve water quality in the Charles River through its long-term sewer/stormwater separation and stormwater management program, which aims to reduce the risk of pollution caused by combined sewer overflows. This program, which is overseen by the Department of Public Works, includes converting existing combined sewer lines into separate underground storm drain and sanitary sewer lines, as well as the development of retention systems such as constructed wetlands, and requirements that private developers include stormwater detention systems in large construction projects. Ongoing programs such as regular street cleaning also help to prevent contamination of the river.

In addition, the City is currently conducting a study of the Charles River waterfront in Cambridge to create a coordinated vision for how development can better relate to the riverfront and to capitalize on opportunities to create stronger physical design relationships that may be lost without a focused plan for improvement. The underlying goal is to expand the formal and informal use of the riverfront while maintaining its environmental and historical attributes. The recommendations from this study may include identifying opportunities for new and improved connections to the river, enhancing the usability of existing parks and open spaces that will make the riverfront a more desirable place for visitors to

spend time, and establishing building design guidelines that will create and maintain view corridors, among other measures.

Alewife Brook Reservation

The Alewife Brook Reservation is also managed by Mass. DCR, with the City coordinating on long-term planning and resource protection. Long-term planning is guided by the Alewife Master Plan, completed in 2003. Implementation items anticipated over the next five years include completion of the former MDC parking lot restoration, habitat and ecological improvements, and planning for the creation of a multi-use path to Belmont and a multi-use path along the Alewife Brook to the Mystic River. Projects are dependent on the availability of funding. Some of the implementation will require public/private partnerships as well as ongoing coordination with stewardship groups such as the Friends of Alewife Reservation (FAR) and Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) for educational and stewardship programs, as well as coordination with other communities through the Arlington, Belmont, and Cambridge (ABC) Stormwater Flooding Board.

As with the Charles River, the City's ongoing efforts to control combined sewer overflows play an important role in reducing potential causes of pollution for the Alewife Brook and Little River. In particular, the City will be coordinating with the DCR to construct a stormwater treatment wetland area along the Little River behind the buildings along Cambridgepark Drive. This project is expected to begin within the next one to two years. City departments including the Department of Public Works, Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Department may have needs including consultant services and staffing to fulfill the scope of work.

B. Summary of Community's Needs

1. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The most recent SCORP report, *Massachusetts Outdoors 2006*, prepared by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, provides information about statewide needs for open space and recreational resources. It also analyzes needs within the different regions of the state, placing Cambridge within the Metropolitan Boston region, consisting of communities along and within the Route 128 corridor. The conclusions of this study are largely consistent with those identified in the studies and surveys conducted by the City of Cambridge. The SCORP report helps to clarify, reinforce and supplement identified citywide needs and places them within a larger regional context.

As in Cambridge's Open Space Survey, the SCORP survey results show that walking is the most prevalent outdoor activity statewide and within the Metro-Boston region. Across the region, passive recreational uses such as sightseeing, picnicking and sunbathing are identified as some of the more popular outdoor activities, consistent with Cambridge's survey results showing that passive recreation can be as important to residents as more active uses. Among active uses, biking, swimming and playground activity are identified as important statewide and regionally as well as citywide, while fishing and golf appear to be more popular across the region than in Cambridge in particular (p. 87).

The statewide resource needs identified in the SCORP reflect those in Cambridge, with an emphasis on walking and bicycling as important outdoor activities and the need for facilities that support those activities. Swimming and playground resources were also noted as statewide needs (48). Priorities were similar across the region, with facilities for walking, biking, swimming, playgrounds, and athletic uses such as fields, basketball courts and tennis courts emerging as most important (91). These priorities align closely with those indicated in Cambridge's Green Ribbon Study.

The SCORP conclusions show that among the most strongly supported investment needs statewide are "improvements to and maintenance of existing sites" along with "further acquisition of new sites" (38). Across the region, the top priorities identified in descending order were maintaining existing facilities, restoring and improving existing areas, improving access, and purchasing new areas (54). Other high priorities for improving open space across the region included public transportation access and providing "interpretive maps and information" (91). These are largely consistent with the citywide priorities in Cambridge identified through the Open Space Survey and the Green Ribbon Study, though Cambridge residents tend to prioritize acquiring new open spaces more highly.

Among the major statewide issues identified, the SCORP notes that elderly residents tend to be less likely to visit neighborhood parks (34), and that disabled persons are also less likely to use parks and playgrounds (37). The study presumes that the latter is due to inaccessible areas and resources. It goes on to say that "The most pressing need among Metropolitan Boston residents is improved access for people with disabilities" (91). The inclusion of persons with disabilities as well as improved resources for seniors are major priorities for Cambridge, and consideration for these groups is a major component of every open space project undertaken by the City. The ways in which these priorities are addressed are described further in this Section.

2. Open Space Expansion and Acquisition

As reflected in the results of the open space survey, one of the highest priority open space goals in Cambridge is the expansion of the open space system by creating new parks. In Cambridge this is a particularly challenging task for a number of reasons. High land prices and a competitive real estate market make it difficult to acquire land through direct purchase. In addition, since there is virtually no undeveloped private land in Cambridge, the creation of a new park would most likely entail the demolition and clean-up of a site before constructing park elements, resulting in a significantly higher cost than creating a park on undeveloped land. The process of creating a new park relies not only on sufficient funding resources but on the ability to take advantage of timely opportunities, coordination among various City departments and other public agencies, and often collaboration with private or institutional land owners. Despite these challenges, the City has created long-range plans for open space expansion and continues to actively pursue opportunities as they arise.

Green Ribbon Study

The Green Ribbon Study (described in Section 6) acknowledged that the implementation of its recommendations would depend on making thoughtful and creative use of opportunities as they arise. The study suggested a variety of ways in which the priorities could be pursued, including purchasing new land for parks, expanding existing open spaces by acquiring adjacent parcels or by closing adjacent roads, enhancing existing open spaces with new types of features and uses to expand their usability, improving access to existing parks, and requiring private developers to provide publicly accessible open space as part of large, multi-site projects in order to mitigate the impacts of increased density in an area.

In the eight years since the completion of the Green Ribbon Study, a number of accomplishments have played a part in the implementation of the study recommendations. The locations of these projects are highlighted on Map 6-2.

- In 1999, the City acquired a half-acre property in Area Four adjacent to an existing tot-lot, tennis court, and community garden area. This land has been redeveloped and a new neighborhood park, the Greene • Rose Heritage Park, opened in 2008. This park contains open green space, new playground and water play equipment, a renovated tennis court and community gardens, and passive use sitting areas. The park serves the neighborhood and the Fletcher-Maynard Academy.

- The City acquired a property on Broadway in Area Four, the former Squirrel Brand candy factory, and developed it into an affordable housing project with a passive use park and community gardening area in front of the building. This open space was completed in 2005.

- The City was granted a 1.4-acre green space at Pacific Street and Sidney Street from MIT in 2003. Currently it is used for youth soccer and a dedicated off-leash dog area. While this space is within a top priority area for a community park, the space remains underdeveloped as a park use. Additionally, there are adjacent parcels (currently commercial or light industrial use) that might enhance the space if they could be incorporated at some point in the future.

- A new playground was created at Russell Field in 2005 as part of the renovation to that space. This is in an identified area of need for tot lots.

- A 5,000-square-foot parcel in East Cambridge was donated to the City by a commercial real estate developer in 2000 as mitigation for a project in the neighborhood. This space has been connected to nearby Costa Lopez Taylor Park by closing a section of road, and is being developed to include a passive use area and community gardening space. This will result in an expanded and enhanced neighborhood park within an identified area of need.

- A new 8-acre State park and tot lot were completed along the waterfront of the “North Point” area in East Cambridge in 2007, as part of the Central Artery project. In addition, a 5-acre park is under construction by the private developer of the North Point residential and commercial complex. Both of these parks serve an identified area of need, and are also providing a portion of the top priority park trail planned to connect through Somerville to Linear Park in North Cambridge. There is

additional state-owned undeveloped land in this area, which is planned to include a large skate park, tennis courts, and possibly other recreational uses in the future.

- A new youth soccer field has been created at Fresh Pond Reservation, within the new William G. Maher Park that opened in 2007.
- The City has developed or redeveloped a number of plazas and "pocket parks" throughout the city to provide passive recreational space, including Vellucci Plaza at Inman Square, the Valente Library Reading Garden, Millers River Pocket Park, Matignon Plaza (adjacent to the City Hall Annex building), Shapiro Family Plaza at Porter Square, Trolley Square Park, Lafayette Square Plaza (dedicated as Jill Brown-Rhone Park) and a pocket park at the intersection of Waverly and Erie streets.
- The City is constructing a new ¾-acre park at the corner of Memorial Drive and Western Avenue in the Riverside neighborhood. It is being built above a Harvard University underground parking garage on land currently owned by Harvard, and will be transferred to the City when construction is complete. It will contain sitting areas, lawns, gardens, a plaza, and water features.

Currently, the Porter Square and Inman Square areas and portions of the Agassiz, Wellington-Harrington, and Mid-Cambridge neighborhoods remain top open space priorities that have yet to be addressed, along with the provision of multipurpose playing fields in the eastern half of the city and the provision of one additional baseball field.

Eastern Cambridge Planning Study

Some planning studies have been conducted for evolving areas of Cambridge, generally former industrial areas that are expected to experience residential and economic growth in the future. These studies addressed future open space needs along with the considering new housing, commercial uses, and transportation systems.

The Eastern Cambridge Planning Study, completed in 2001, was a comprehensive planning analysis focusing on areas including North Point, Kendall Square, and commercial/industrial areas along Binney Street and First Street. The study created a vision for future land use patterns that would support the following goals: improving the quality of life in residential neighborhoods; expanding housing opportunities for a wide range of residents; addressing the needs of small and start-up businesses and people in need of jobs and public services; shifting transportation patterns toward more walking, bicycling, and transit use; meeting the open space needs of current and future residents; enhancing the urban design character of residential neighborhoods; creating a more lively, pedestrian-friendly public realm in mixed-use districts; providing more attractive and convenient pedestrian connections between every part of Eastern Cambridge.

This study resulted in zoning policy and design guidelines requiring large-scale developers to provide public open space, particularly in the North Point area and at the site of the US Department of Transportation facility in Kendall Square. It also identified opportunities for open space in the transition areas between the residential neighborhoods and Kendall Square. In addition, the new area-wide design

guidelines emphasize the provision of pedestrian connections between open spaces throughout the neighborhood. Open space recommendations from this study are illustrated in Map 7-1.

Several Planned Unit Development projects that have been permitted in this area will include publicly accessible open space. Most significantly, the North Point development area includes a 5-acre open space, currently under construction, that will become a public park when completed. Opportunities for public open space will continue to be encouraged along with proposed development projects in this area. Also, earlier in 2008, a private land owner proposed a zoning amendment that would allow increased height and density for commercial development in this area in exchange for providing a 2-acre public park. This petition is under consideration by the City.

Concord-Alewife Planning Study

In 2005 the City completed the Concord-Alewife Planning Study, focusing on the western part of Cambridge near the Alewife MBTA Station, north of Concord Avenue and south of the Alewife Brook Reservation. Similar to the Eastern Cambridge Planning Study, it created a vision for a vibrant, mixed-use area while respecting the area's industrial history and its importance as an incubator of new businesses. The goals for this area include: creating a people-oriented sense of place; achieving a mix of uses throughout the area, including housing, office/R&D, industry, retail, possible municipal uses, and open space; structuring allowed development density to respond to available infrastructure; developing a neighborhood "heart" for people who live, work, play, and shop in the area; overcoming barriers and establishing much-needed connections to create a walkable neighborhood; transforming Concord Avenue into a great street; and enhancing the natural environment.

This study resulted in an infrastructure plan for establishing new roads and pedestrian connections throughout the area as well as new public open spaces. The main priority is the creation of a significant, centrally located park area that would perform a stormwater management function, which is important as this area is within a flood zone. As an approach to implementing this infrastructure plan, new zoning regulations allow property owners to transfer or sell development rights from some parcels to others, making the parcels donating their development rights available to be used for transportation or open space. The zoning regulations and design guidelines resulting from this study also require increased open space and permeability for all future private development in the area. The goals from this plan are illustrated in Map 7-2.

The City is currently in the process of conducting a "nexus study" to determine the appropriate resource contributions that private developers should provide towards implementing the infrastructure plan.

Community Gardens

Community gardening has been popular in Cambridge and its popularity continues to grow. The community gardening program is administered by the Director of the Cambridge Conservation Commission and is coordinated largely through the volunteer efforts of the gardeners (a "garden coordinator" is chosen from among the gardeners at each location). Operation of the garden facilities includes the assignment of plots to individuals or households who have applied for gardening space, as

well as regular upkeep of the area and maintaining a supply of common-use materials. A gardener is typically assigned a plot for about one to five years, allowing a natural turnover of gardeners over time to ensure that new gardeners can have an opportunity to participate. When a plot has been vacated, it is offered to a new applicant from a waiting list.

All of the 450 community gardening plots maintained by the City are being used, and there are about 80 individuals or households on the waiting list. Therefore the City is pursuing efforts to expand the number of community gardening locations and plots. As is the case with open space acquisition for other purposes, acquiring new land for community gardening is opportunity-based and might occur through public acquisition of small parcels of land, creating new garden plots in existing open spaces, or agreements with property owners, developers, or institutions to provide for public use of a private space.

Park Trails and Pathways

Park trails and pathways are an important element of Cambridge's open space system as well as its transportation infrastructure. They provide opportunities for active recreation, links between other parks and open spaces within the city, and even commuting alternatives for some Cambridge residents and workers. The Green Ribbon Study highlighted some of the areas where new park trails may be desirable. Based on these recommendations and other priorities, the City has created a list of desired future pathway projects.

- *Alewife Path.* This path is currently a trodden track extending from Brighton Road in Belmont to the Route 2 access road at the back of the Alewife T station. It provides an important connection to transit from Belmont and the Blanchard Road area in Cambridge, and also borders and provides access to the Mass. DCR-managed Alewife Reservation. The path is in the final stages of design and will be built by the Mass. Highway Department as part of a larger project.

- *Purrington Spur.* This multi-use path will follow an unused rail spur along the extension of Waverly Street from Erie Street to Pacific Street. It will provide connections from Fort Washington Park to housing and employment at University Park. A portion of the path will be constructed by MIT as a mitigation measure for the construction of an adjacent new dormitory. The City has $100,000 in development mitigation funds to put toward completing the path, but additional funds will be required.

- *Grand Junction Rail-With-Trail.* This path will follow the Grand Junction Railroad right-of-way and extend from the Charles River near the Boston University Bridge to North Point, connecting with the Somerville Community Path extension. It is the top priority open space path identified in the Green Ribbon Study and will be an important connection to Kendall Square, eastern Cambridge, the Charles River, and other regional multi-use paths. A feasibility study has been completed (available at http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/et/infra/gj/gj.html) and opportunities are being pursued for implementing the path in stages.

- *Cambridge Common/Flagstaff Park Path.* As part of a recently completed Harvard Square Design Study, a recommendation was made to build a multi-use path through Flagstaff Park (adjacent to Cambridge Common) to create better multi-modal connections for cyclists and pedestrians coming from Harvard Square and traveling north on Massachusetts Avenue. This will occur along with improvements to the pathways on Cambridge Common. A portion of the funding is already in place, with a combination of Community Preservation Act funds from the City, federal transportation funds, and additional funding programmed as part of the state Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY11.

- *Watertown Branch.* A path along the Watertown Branch rail line was identified as a priority in the Green Ribbon Study to create connections from the Minuteman Bikeway to the Charles River paths. The Watertown Branch rail is still active but with only 1-2 trains per week. Pinch points along the right-of-way make it impossible to construct a multi use path alongside the rail without either reconstructing those areas or waiting until the rail is no longer used for trains. In the meantime, the right-of-way has been zoned as open space to discourage future development.

- *Fitchburg Line Path.* This path would extend from Porter Square, within the Fitchburg Commuter Rail shared-use corridor, to the Alewife station. It would pass under the Walden Street Bridge and a recently restored brick archway under the bridge that was historically used a passage for cows to cross Walden Street. A portion of the path near Porter Square may need to be cantilevered. Preservation of some necessary right-of-way has taken place with certain property owners along the route but significant additional right-of-way may be needed to construct this path.

40. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

Quality of Parks and Open Spaces

As noted in the Green Ribbon Study, Cambridge's open space resources can be enhanced not just through the acquisition of new open space, but through the improvement of existing open spaces as well. Whether a new park is being developed or an existing park is being improved, the City works to achieve a high level of quality. Guidance on how to achieve this level of quality is provided in a number of different ways. There are professional standards for the quality of different open space equipment and features. There are regulatory and industry standards for safety as well as for accessibility by persons with disabilities. There are also community standards that are defined and redefined on an ongoing basis through public park design projects, surveys, neighborhood studies, and other community-based processes. In addition, there are planning considerations that focus broadly on Cambridge's entire system of parks and open spaces, considering the distribution, availability, and variety of different types of open space resources and features throughout the city.

The following list summarizes some of the general principles that guide the City's current thinking about the quality of open spaces:

- Choose park equipment and features with a proven track record of performance, safety, aesthetic quality, durability, and maintainability. This applies to landscaping, playground equipment, water

play features, surfacing, pathways, fencing, furniture, drinking fountains, signage, and lighting, among other features. New equipment should be evaluated over time in order to make thoughtful judgments regarding whether standards should be adjusted over time.

- Ensure that parks meet the current standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act at a minimum, and work towards achieving a system of parks and open spaces that provides true universal accessibility for children and adults of all levels of ability.

- Work to enhance the natural feel and environmental benefits of a space with plantings and other landscaping, to improve the experience for active and passive park users.

- Focus on the aesthetic quality and accessibility of pathways, to serve the many community members who enjoy walking through parks as a leisure activity or as a way of getting to another destination in the neighborhood.

- Give attention to the quality and attractiveness of entrances and park edges as a means of improving the look and feel of the overall neighborhood in which an open space is located.

- Provide opportunities for sitting, including benches and tables as well as informal places to sit like lawns, low walls or rocks. This makes spaces more attractive for passive uses such as relaxing, reading, people-watching, and picnicking, as well as providing comfort to active users such as child play supervisors and playing field users. It also helps to support community gathering and interaction.

- Maintain an expansive variety of open space resources and experiences throughout the city. Ensure that spaces are unique while still achieving a uniform high standard of quality. Parks should be different in order to serve the different needs and tastes of diverse users with a variety of different lifestyles and backgrounds.

Park Improvement Projects

The City pursues an ongoing program of capital investments to improve existing open spaces, usually renovating a small number of parks each year as the budget allows. The Open Space Committee relies on the park age and condition information previously described in Section 5 of this report, along with other factors, to prioritize which parks are due for improvements. The 16 parks that have a “C” or “D” rating are included in the City’s short-range (1-3 years) or medium-range (4-7 years) park improvements plan, along with elements of some major parks that are in good condition overall but have significant elements in need of renovation. These planned projects are listed in Section 9 of this report.

Park improvement projects primarily aim to bring park equipment and features up to current standards, but also work to enhance the use and enjoyment of the space for the variety of community members who use it. For most improvement projects, the City goes through a design process, with input from community members, to learn about what aspects of the park are most appreciated by community members and what new features or improvements would help to make the space better for park users,

for the neighborhood, and for the city as a whole. The principles described above reflect general comments that are often heard by community members in public park design processes, while community members may also provide feedback that is unique to a specific open space.

Occasionally, park improvement projects also provide the opportunity to expand the size of a park, by incorporating newly-acquired public land, or in some cases by incorporating parts of an existing roadway or sidewalk if it is feasible to do so without significantly impacting pedestrian or vehicular travel or parking. An example is the newly expanded and rededicated Greene • Rose Heritage Park, which joined a small existing playground and an acquired abutting parcel with the closing of a block of roadway to create a 1.6 acre park facility. Another example is at Costa Lopez Taylor Park in East Cambridge, where the park is being expanded by closing a section of roadway and incorporating a new parcel of land that was acquired by the City. Sometimes opportunities arise to collaborate with owners of adjacent property to enhance park edges and connections. An example of this is a recent improvement to Gold Star Mothers Park in East Cambridge, where the City worked with the managers of the adjacent State-owned Simoni Skating Rink to improve pathway connections and to provide more seamless transitions from one property to the other. While such opportunities are not always available, the City explores what options might be available with each project and actively pursues them where appropriate.

Healthy Parks and Playgrounds

The City has recently undertaken a "Healthy Parks and Playgrounds" initiative to study the quality of parks and playgrounds specifically as they relate to the health, learning, and overall development of children, their families, and their communities. In 2007, the City assembled a Healthy Parks and Playgrounds Task Force of city officials and community members with special knowledge in the areas of childhood health and development, education, youth sports and recreation, open space planning and design, and the arts. While the original focus of the group was on improving overall health and counteracting childhood overweight and obesity issues, the discussion expanded to include ways in which play helps to enhance development of motor skills and coordination, creative abilities, cognitive reasoning skills, understanding of the natural environment, development of confidence and self-esteem, improved social and community-building skills, and a happier and healthier life overall.

The task force released its report in fall 2009. The report provides a broad definition of play and why it is important not just to children but to all community members. It provides a set of goals for future play environments to be integrated spaces that encourage challenge, adventure, risk-taking, curiosity, creativity, imagination, physical activity, a range of movement-based activities, and community-building. It also sets goals of making play opportunities available year-round to people of all ages, ability levels and interests. The report also lists recommendations for the future design, operation and evaluation of open spaces to support the goals of healthy play. The recommendations cover short-range, medium-range, and long-range timeframes, with much of the implementation to occur over time as open spaces are developed and renovated.

Charles River Study

The City is currently conducting a study of the Charles River waterfront in Cambridge to create a coordinated vision for how development can better relate to the riverfront and to capitalize on opportunities to create stronger physical design relationships that may be lost without a focused plan for improvement. The underlying goal is to expand the formal and informal use of the riverfront while maintaining its environmental and historical attributes. The recommendations from this study may include identifying opportunities for new and improved connections to the river, enhancing the usability of existing parks and open spaces that will make the riverfront a more desirable place for visitors to spend time, and establishing building design guidelines that will create and maintain view corridors, among other measures.

Planning for Aging

The Community Development Department is currently undertaking a "Planning for Aging" study in response to an interest in promoting opportunities for older Cambridge residents to continue living independently in the community as they age. Working with community members and service providers, the study will make planning recommendations for how the built environment might better accommodate older residents.

While the study covers a broad range of planning topics, it includes examining whether Cambridge's open space resources are appropriately addressing the needs of its older residents. Issues to be considered include accessibility to parks and open spaces for people with limited mobility, the availability of quiet outdoor spaces for passive use, the availability of recreation and exercise opportunities for older residents, and standards for furniture that is comfortable and usable by seniors. The recommendations of this study are not yet completed.

Dog Use Areas

Cambridge's current policy allows dogs to be walked in public parks, with the exception of some areas such as fenced playgrounds that are exclusively for child play. However, nearly all parks require dogs to be kept on-leash at all times. In recent years there has been increased public interest in providing opportunities for dog owners to have their pets off leash in public parks in the city, as well as addressing issues such as dog waste, park maintenance associated with dog walking, and potential conflicts with other park uses.

The City is currently exploring two approaches to address these issues. On approach is creating dedicated off-leash spaces or "dog runs," specific areas where the primary purpose is to allow dog owners to have their dogs off leash. These areas are generally fenced in to avoid potential conflicts with other users or passerby and to control where dogs may go. Another approach is establishing "shared use" areas where dogs are allowed off-leash in areas that are not necessarily separated from other uses and activities, often during designated hours.

In 2007, a dedicated off-leash area was created at the Pacific Street Park in the Cambridgeport neighborhood. There is another dedicated off-leash area planned for a portion of Danehy Park closest to

the New Street parking lot. Fresh Pond Reservation in West Cambridge and Fort Washington Park in Cambridgeport are two examples of shared use areas in Cambridge.

The City is exploring the idea of establishing a pilot program to create additional shared use locations that would be available for off-leash dog use during certain hours only. Time-limited shared use programs are considered a reasonable way to accommodate dog owners who desire periods for off-leash activity at regular times. Areas considered for shared use include public open spaces that are not parts of school grounds, children's playgrounds, or heavily used athletic facilities, and by virtue of their layout would not necessarily require additional fencing or significant physical changes to park grounds. Geographic distribution of potential shared use spaces throughout the City has also been considered.

No decision has yet been made regarding the establishment of shared use pilot programs at any parks. A series of five public meetings were held throughout the city during the spring of 2008. The information gathered from these meetings will be used to make recommendations in the near future.

Lighting Design

Improved lighting is included as a major feature of all park development and major renovation projects. Currently, a Lighting Design Study is being undertaken by a committee of City staff from various departments supported by a consultant firm specializing in lighting. The goal of this study is to create an overall strategy for the City's inventory of public lighting fixtures, including pedestrian-scale and roadway street lights, lighting in parking lots, parks, and plazas. This study will also recommend appropriate fixtures and develop standards and guidelines addressing optimal light levels, urban design, historic context, energy efficiency, and ease of maintenance. While the focus of this study is much broader than open spaces, the recommendations may influence future standards and needs for lighting in public parks.

41. Streetscape, Plazas and Trees

While it is managed separately from the formal system of parks and open spaces, the system of public streets and sidewalks is seen to play a vital role in the overall open space experience in Cambridge, as described in Sections 5 and 6. As Cambridge is a densely developed city, most of the outdoor public space in the city consists of streets and sidewalks. Also, streets and sidewalks are the part of the public realm with which most community members interact on a regular basis, when they travel to home, work, school, or even parks and playgrounds. Additionally, like parks, safe and attractive streets can help to promote health by encouraging walking and bicycling, to beautify entire areas of the city, and to build a sense of community by encouraging an active public street life. This understanding is reflected in the discussion of community goals in Section 6, and particularly in the recent open space survey, in which residents indicated that Cambridge's open space system would benefit greatly from improvements to streets, sidewalks and plazas.

Tree Plantings

One of the major ways of improving streets and sidewalks is through the planting of additional street trees. There are a number of different circumstances under which new street trees might be planted. The Parks and Urban Forestry division of the Department of Public Works manages a Client Street Tree Program through which residents or property owners can request that trees be planted along the sidewalk near them, and can contribute a portion of the planting cost. In addition, the City typically funds the planting of approximately 250 street trees per year. Due to the large number of requests for street trees, the number of street trees planted was increased to 350 this year. In addition, new tree plantings are included in most major roadway reconstruction projects, and the City sometimes conducts focused tree planting projects along major streets with high foot-traffic, such as the recent tree plantings on Prospect Street that were partially funded through an Urban Forestry Challenge Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Street tree planting has become a major priority for the City, and resources will continue to be needed to fund the planting and maintenance of new trees in the future.

The Department of Public Works also recently implemented a "Back of the Sidewalk" Tree Planting Program. The program is designed to further improve Cambridge's urban tree canopy through public/private partnerships. Through this program, the City will plant trees on private property alongside the sidewalk (up to 20 feet off the public way) for interested property owners. The program provides another means of planting trees in difficult areas with narrow sidewalks and/or overhead utilities.

Street and Sidewalk Improvements

The City undertakes street and sidewalk improvements in a variety of different ways and through a variety of different programs. However, common to all improvement projects is an effort to improve the environment for pedestrians and bicyclists by improving the safety, comfort, accessibility, and attractiveness of the streetscape. Measures to accomplish this may include "traffic calming" features such as raised crossings, curb extensions and chicanes, street trees, benches, more attractive lighting fixtures with pedestrian-oriented lighting, and more decorative paving along the edges of sidewalks. In some cases, where possible, vehicular travel lanes are narrowed and widened sidewalks or bicycle lanes are added. An example is Brookline Street, which is planned to begin construction in 2009 with the addition of traffic calming features, a wider sidewalk and a bicycle lane.

Large-scale roadway reconstruction projects are often conducted as part of a coordinated "bottom-up" process that begins with major underground utility work such as separation of sewer and storm drain lines, then proceeds to full-depth reconstruction of the road surface, and finally the reconstruction of sidewalks and streetscape features. These projects often include participation and funding from many City departments and State agencies such as the Massachusetts Highway Department, and are the types of projects that will typically incorporate all of the types of improvements mentioned above. The Community Development Department also funds an ongoing program of traffic calming improvements, typically focused on small residential streets in neighborhoods. These projects focus on installing traffic calming devices for the purpose of reducing vehicular speeds in areas where excessive speeds are

negatively impacting pedestrian safety and resident's quality of life. . Finally, basic roadway and sidewalk improvements, such as repairing damaged areas and bringing sidewalks and crossings to standards for persons with disabilities, are undertaken by the Department of Public Works on an ongoing basis. The Department of Public Works maintains a 5-Year Street and Sidewalk Plan prioritizing road and sidewalk improvement projects, which is available for public viewing on the City's website at http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks.

"Pocket Parks" and Planted Areas

Improvements to streets and sidewalks may also result in improvements to small pieces of land adjacent to sidewalks. Many roadway projects have included the creation of plazas or "pocket parks", small areas with seating and landscaping that allow for passive use, contribute to beautifying the nearby area, and sometimes supporting nearby businesses. The new public plazas in Inman Square, along Cambridge Street, in Porter Square, and most recently at Lafayette Square have all resulted from roadway improvement projects. At the latter two, roadway space was consolidated and space was created for these two plazas. This represents another way in which roadway projects contribute to the availability and enjoyment of open space. In addition, pocket parks have been developed as part of public facility projects such as the renovation of the City Hall Annex at 344 Broadway. A new pocket park was created in 2007 at Trolley Square, the major intersection of Linear Park with Massachusetts Avenue, in association with a City-supported affordable housing project that was developed at that location. In addition, the Department of Public Works continues to install planters and with seasonal landscaping in small public spaces that are too small or otherwise inappropriate for sitting areas.

Based on the strong community interest in passive-use open spaces, the City has in recent years made an effort to identify locations where new pocket parks may be desirable and appropriate. A few locations have been identified as priorities and other opportunities have been suggested through neighborhood studies and other public planning processes. However, unless the pocket park projects can be associated with roadway projects or other public projects, there has been limited availability of resources to develop these types of spaces.

In addition, the Department of Public Works has hired a Landscape Administrator for Public-Private Partnerships in order to facilitate the building of partnerships with residents and businesses around public planting and maintenance. Recent examples include new planting areas on Upland Road associated with roadway reconstruction, the Harvard Square hanging basket program, and the planting and maintenance of Central Square's Carl Barron Plaza, all highly visible landscaped areas. The City is currently in the process of developing a program to formally recognize these partnerships.

C. Management Needs

1. Maintenance

This Cambridge Department of Public Works, through its division of Parks and Urban Forestry, is responsible for the maintenance and care of over 127 municipal and school properties, including parks,

playgrounds, squares, plazas, medians and public building grounds. The City is divided into three parks maintenance districts each with its own crew, ensuring that both routine and preventative maintenance continues to be assertive and comprehensive. In addition, the division of Parks and Urban Forestry is responsible for maintaining the City's approximately 12,000 public street trees and 3,000 trees in public parks and cemeteries. The Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs is responsible for the maintenance of Danehy Park, St. Peter's Field, and the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Golf Course at Fresh Pond.

Expanding Park Maintenance Needs

One of the major issues faced by the Parks and Urban Forestry division is maintaining an open space system that is continually growing and changing. As noted throughout this report, the City is on an ongoing basis pursuing the goals of increasing the number of parks and open space facilities, upgrading equipment to meet current standards for performance and safety, and increasing the variety of uses to serve broader segments of the population. The increased amount of space that must be managed, as well as the addition of new types of equipment and landscaping, may result in greater demands on staffing and on material resources such as replacement parts and specialized maintenance tools.

One of the ways in which the City plans to address these issues is through the establishment of an inventory of park assets. This inventory would include components such as benches, pathway surfaces, fencing materials, playground equipment, drinking fountains, and other elements in a consolidated list. The location of these components throughout the park system would be noted, and the inventory would include descriptions and manufacturer information to facilitate in their repair or replacement.

In addition, the City will continue to establish estimated maintenance costs in the process of planning and designing new or renovated parks. This will include ongoing assessments of needs for in-house and contracted labor as well as materials and equipment that will be needed for the maintenance of more demanding landscapes, structures, and playing fields.

Pest Control

The City of Cambridge recognizes that public agencies should be a model of environmentally responsible practices. Employing an integrated pest management (IPM) policy allows the City to accrue the financial benefits of planning, prevention and responsible management, while reducing the use of pesticides that pose a health risk to people directly through breathing, drinking, ingesting or skin absorption of toxic products or via delayed exposures from contaminated soil, food, air, water utensils, and toys.

Over a decade ago, the City of Cambridge adopted a pesticide policy which embraced the practices of IPM. We are currently in the process of reviewing, updating and refining the original policy. The purpose of developing an IPM policy is to formalize and institutionalize the current practices and to provide general guidance in the creation of integrated pest management policies and site-specific plans in compliance with the requirements of the Act to Protect Children and Families from Exposure to Harmful Pesticides, Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2000.

The Department of Public Works is also in the process of installing rodent-proof, solar powered trash compactor barrels in parks which should help make parks less attractive to rodents and reduce the daily trash pick-up needs in heavily used spaces.

Tree Pruning and Maintenance

The Parks and Urban Forestry division continues to prune street trees and park trees on a regular cycle, ensuring that every tree is pruned about every four years. Regular tree pruning has significantly reduced the incidence of safety hazards and property damage caused by falling limbs and the number of calls that require immediate maintenance from arboreal staff. In addition, the regular pruning of park trees includes more crown thinning and reduction techniques which are intended to enhance tree health. The City will have a continued need for resources to maintain this pruning and maintenance program, especially as the number of public trees increases through additional plantings.

42. Recreation Programs

Organized Sports and Recreation Programs

Cambridge provides a wide range of athletic programs to youth and adults. Outdoor youth sports leagues include Little League and Babe Ruth League Baseball, Cambridge Girls Softball, Cambridge Youth Soccer, Pop Warner Football, and Flag Football, which are served at parks throughout the city. There are also youth sports clubs that use public facilities, such as the Cambridge Jets Track Team that uses the Danehy Park track, and Cambridge Youth Hockey that uses the Simoni Memorial Rink. In addition, there are school-sponsored sports including the full high school athletics program at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, which uses facilities at Danehy Park, St. Peters Field, Russell Field, Rindge Field, and the golf course at Fresh Pond. In total, there are about 14,000 hours of permitted field use time dedicated to youth sports programs, distributed across about 17 different public facilities. In addition, there are 15 outdoor basketball facilities in the city.

Supplementing the use of sports fields by organized youth leagues, there is permitted field use for adult softball at seven locations (seasonal), adult soccer or frisbee at four locations, and adult baseball at two locations. Youth sports leagues have first priority in reserving field time. There are about 4,000 hours of permitted field use time for adult sports each year.

As noted in the *Green Ribbon* report, it is a goal of the city to provide about three or four additional multipurpose playing fields in order to accommodate sports such as soccer, field hockey and lacrosse that can use spaces of a similar size and shape. Preferably these would be located in the eastern half of the city, where the population density tends to be higher and the existing open spaces tend to be smaller. It might also be desirable to create some fields with artificial turf surfacing, as was installed at Russell Field, in order to better accommodate heavy sports use.

On the programming side, the City has recently established the Cambridge Youth Sports Commission to coordinate the various youth sports leagues operating in Cambridge. The purpose of this group is to provide a clearinghouse for sports and fitness providers, share resources, and help parents take

advantage of the wide variety of activities available to children. Some of the initiatives for which future resources may be required include developing an online youth sports and fitness directory, creating opportunities for joint training programs and supply purchasing, coordinating schedules in order to increase participation opportunities, and generally promoting nutrition and fitness for children of all ages and abilities.

While sports programs are the most intensive open space users, there are a variety of other programs that make use of parks. Many parks are used for school recess, and some areas such as parts of Fresh Pond are incorporated into outdoor science and ecology programs as part of the school curriculum. There are also community schools, other after-school programs, and summer camp programs that use parks. The "Arts in the Park" program uses open spaces as a setting for visual, musical, and dramatic arts programs for youth. Organized community events and gatherings are also commonly located in public parks, including City-sponsored programs such as "Screen on the Green" movie nights as well as neighborhood-organized events. The expanding set of programmed uses will require not only staff resources to coordinate, but additional design and maintenance attention to ensure that park spaces can be flexibly used for a variety of activities.

The City's recreation programs also occupy a set of outdoor facilities, including outdoor swimming pools (one managed by the City and two managed by Mass. DCR), an indoor swimming pool and fitness center at the War Memorial facility adjacent to Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, an indoor skating facility (owned by Mass. DCR and operated by FMC Arenas), and five youth centers. In many cases these facilities are adjacent to open spaces, and planning and programming for these facilities is often coordinated with open space planning and programming. Many of these facilities have recently been renovated and some are currently undergoing renovation or new construction. Resources will continue to be needed to maintain and renovate these facilities over time.

43. Planning and Coordination

The responsibilities for development, design, maintenance, and operation of open space in Cambridge are distributed among a number of different departments. Coordination of these activities, as well as planning and prioritization of open space projects and initiatives, is managed through the Open Space Committee, which has representatives from the City Manager's office, Community Development Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Human Service Programs (Recreation Division), Water Department, Electrical Department, Conservation Commission, Arts Council, and Commission for Persons with Disabilities. In the future, the Open Space Committee will continue to collaborate on the ongoing open space work of different departments and the upkeep of the Open Space Plan.

44. Public Information

In recent years an effort has been made to improve the methods of providing information to the public about open space resources in Cambridge and communicating with the public on open space projects and initiatives. The ongoing development of the Public Parks, Playgrounds and Recreations Map and

Waterplay Locations Map since 2003 has resulted in a resource that is now widely-distributes, well-used and appreciated by the community. Staff resources are dedicated to reviewing and updating these maps on an annual basis.

Recently, attention has been turned towards web and online resources that could provide greater amounts of useful information in a way that is interactive and user-friendly. Cambridge has developed a web-based CityViewer application that allows the public to interactively map buildings and resources within the city, and this year has released a "ParksViewer" that allows members of the public to locate parks and interactively find information on park uses, hours, contact information, and links to related sites. The success of the ParksViewer will rely on monitoring and refinement on an ongoing basis, based on issues that arise and feedback from users.

The City has also increasingly used web and e-mail resources to provide information about open space projects, including construction or maintenance projects being conducted by the Department of Public Works and design projects being conducted by the Community Development Department. Design materials and information are typically posted to the web, and community members can sign up online to receive e-mail updates. In some cases, web-based or e-mail based community surveys have been used to gather feedback on a specific project, as a supplement to community discussions and mail-based survey tools.

In the future, as new communication technology becomes available and as the public's familiarity with the technology increases, the City will continue trying new ways to improve the delivery of information and the collection of feedback, with the goal of increasing the ease by which community members can learn about open space and participate in planning and development. However, the City will also continue to make efforts to fully include members of the public who do not have access to or familiarity with e-mail, the web, or other new types of communication technology.

SECTION 8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following open space goals and objectives are based on the community goals described in Section 6 and the needs described in Section 7. An additional goal (#9) has been added to the community goals, as its purpose is to help direct the planning work of the City of Cambridge and its constituent agencies.

GOAL	OBJECTIVES
1. Increase the amount of usable public open space in Cambridge, with a focus on the priorities identified in the *Green Ribbon Study* and other planning studies.	• Identify opportunities for the purchase of land that could be converted to open space use • Identify opportunities to convert public land from other uses, such as roadway sections, parking lots, or unused former public facilities, into usable open space. • Identify opportunities to collaborate with large private developers or institutions to provide land and/or funding for the provision of public open space. • Endeavor to provide a variety of active and passive use spaces, including recreational and facilities as well as areas with more natural landscaping.
2. Work to improve the quality and variety of parks and playgrounds in Cambridge.	• Expand the size and/or improve the usability of spaces where possible to accommodate a greater range of users of all ages and interests. • Work to include more features that have been identified as important to park users but are not widely available, such as natural planted areas, sitting areas, community gardens, and dedicated dog areas. • Continue to upgrade park equipment and features that are in old or worn condition (See Section 5), and include equipment and features of high quality, durability, and maintainability. • Ensure that public open spaces are accessible to persons of all levels of ability, focusing on the City's ADA accessibility program plan (See Section 5). • Consider ways in which parks can better enrich the overall health and well-being of the community, to be articulated in the future recommendations of the "Healthy Parks and Playgrounds Initiative" and the "Planning for Aging" study.

GOAL	OBJECTIVES
3. Protect reservations and natural resources in the city, including water resources outside of Cambridge that contribute to the municipal water supply.	• Continue to pursue the protection and ecological restoration of areas around municipal water supply resources including Fresh Pond as well as the Hobbs Reservoir, Stony Brook Reservoir, and the rest of the Up-Country Watershed. • Coordinate with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation on the protection of resources such as the Charles River Reservation and the Alewife Brook Reservation. • Continue to employ measures to reduce contamination of water resources from stormwater runoff and other potential contamination sources.
4. Ensure that Cambridge's parks and open spaces are well-maintained, attractive, clean, and free of hazards and pests, and that park equipment and features remain in good repair.	• Conduct routine and preventative maintenance that is both assertive and comprehensive. • Work to ensure that maintenance practices can support the installation of new types of landscaping and park features that may have specialized maintenance needs. • Provide opportunities for residents to play a more active role in the ongoing upkeep of neighborhood parks. • Develop landscape partnership program with residents and businesses around the design and maintenance of planting areas.
5. Support a robust recreational program that makes use of Cambridge's parks, open spaces and recreational facilities.	• Continue to provide a range of youth sports opportunities for a variety of age ranges and inclusive to children of all levels of ability. • Continue to expand the opportunities for different types of activities in parks and open spaces, such as community events, arts programs, and nature/ecology programs.

GOAL	OBJECTIVES
6. Work to improve the quality of streets and sidewalks in the city, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists.	• Provide and maintain an ample supply of street trees to provide shade, comfort, and environmental benefits. • Implement "Back of Sidewalk" Tree Planting Program. • Improve the safety, accessibility, and attractiveness of sidewalks and street crossings, particularly those that provide access to parks and other public facilities. • Identify opportunities to create small landscaped spaces and/or sitting areas as appropriate at key locations along sidewalks, such as major intersections and public transportation nodes, near public buildings, or the edges of parks. • Enhance and add to the bicycle facility network, to encourage cycling and make it more comfortable for all users.
7. Increase the availability of park trails and multiuse pathways for pedestrian and bicycle use, with a focus on the priorities identified in the *Green Ribbon Study* and other planning studies.	• Identify opportunities to convert unused or underused rights-of-way to multi-use pathways, using mechanisms such as land acquisition, easements, zoning protections, and collaboration with private developers or institutions. • Work with Mass. DCR on opportunities to enhance their pathway network and ensure that it is accessible and available to users on a year-round basis.
8. Ensure that the public has good information about the availability of different open space and recreational resources in the city.	• Continue to develop information resources, such as maps of parks and playgrounds, locations of special facilities such as water play and community gardens, and online tools. • Continue to explore ways to broaden community participation in open space projects.
9. Engage in planning initiatives that advance the creation, understanding, and implementation of future open space priorities for the community.	• Continue efforts such as the "Healthy Parks and Playgrounds Initiative" and the "Planning for Aging" study, and pursue other topics that may be of concern to community members in the future.

SECTION 9. SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The following list summarizes the action items currently anticipated in Cambridge's seven-year Open Space Plan. It includes a combination of clearly-defined projects that the City plans to undertake within the next seven years as funding is available, ongoing programs that are considered significant components of the City's open space planning and are expected to evolve over the next seven years, and long-range initiatives that do not have a definite scope or timeline because they rely on uncertain factors such as land acquisition opportunities, coordination with other public entities, or partnership with private developers or institutions.

The action items are grouped under the Goal to which they most strongly relate, though some actions serve multiple goals. The description, status and timeline of each item is summarized, along with the lead city department(s) or agency(-ies) responsible for implementation and the funding source if determined or anticipated. Additional information about each is contained within the supporting material in the earlier sections of this document.

GOAL 1: Increase the amount of usable public open space in Cambridge, with a focus on the priorities identified in the *Green Ribbon Study (2000)* and other planning studies.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
New Riverside Neighborhood Park: Space for public park provided by Harvard University above parking garage at Western Ave / Memorial Drive.	Design completed, construction underway.	Expected complete 2010	CDD	City and Harvard U.
Shady Hill Square: Community members have been working with the City to purchase and provide protections for a half-acre green space in the Agassiz Neighborhood.	The Community Preservation Act Committee has voted to provide a portion of the funds to purchase the land as a Historic Preservation initiative.	1-2 years	Historical Comm.	CPA
Community Gardens: Identify opportunities for the addition of about 80 new gardening plots.	37 plots opened at Costa Lopez Taylor Park in 2009. Undertaking improvements to add plots at Fresh Pond Reservation. Exploring possibilities for adding plots to existing parks or acquiring small land parcels or easements.	1-3 years	Cons. Comm.	Not yet determined

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Eastern Cambridge: Identify opportunities to create open spaces as identified in the Eastern Cambridge Planning Study (see Map 7-1); also consider undeveloped state parcel planned to be open space as part of Central Artery project (29F).	Public parkland being developed as part of "North Point" development project. Current zoning allows for transfer of development rights to create open space.	Park at North Point near completion Otherwise longer range	CDD, OS Cmte	Private developer
Rogers Street Park: New 2-acre city park to be built on land in East Cambridge contributed by Alexandria Real Estate.	Land and funding contribution required as part of private development master plan; master plan not yet permitted.	3-5 years	CDD, OS Cmte	Private developer
Porter Square Area: Identify opportunities to create a new community park and "tot lot" playground.	The City, along with community members, continues to explore opportunities for new open space on an ongoing basis, including the future use of the MBTA plaza.	Longer range	CDD, City Mgr, OS Cmte	Not yet determined
Wellington-Harrington/Inman Square: Identify opportunities to create new neighborhood and/or community parks.	Exploring possibilities on ongoing basis.	Longer range	CDD, City Mgr, OS Cmte	Not yet determined
Central Square/Mid-Cambridge /Area Four: Explore opportunities to create new neighborhood and/or community parks.	Exploring possibilities on ongoing basis.	Longer range	CDD, City Mgr, OS Cmte	Not yet determined
Playing Fields: Identify opportunities for the development of 3-4 multi-purpose playing fields, especially in eastern half of city, possibly including artificial turf fields.	Exploring possibilities through developer agreements and other mechanisms.	Longer range	CDD, City Mgr, DHSP, OS Cmte	Not yet determined
Concord-Alewife: Identify opportunities for the creation of a stormwater retention park as a collaborative effort with future private developers (see Map 7-2).	Developing "nexus study" to determine appropriate levels of contribution.	Longer range	CDD, City Mgr, DPW, OS Cmte	Developer partnerships (anticipated)

GOAL 2: Work to improve the quality and variety of parks and playgrounds in Cambridge.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Cambridge Common: Project components include replacement of pressure-treated wood playground; redesign and renovation of pathways, furniture, lighting, plantings for entire Common (incl. Flagstaff Park).	Playground funded for 2009 (partly with Mass. Urban Self-Help Grant); designed 2008, completed summer 2009. Design process for entire Common ongoing.	Playground completed 2009 Entire Common 2-3 years	CDD DPW, CDD, Historical	City and Urban Self-Help Grant CPA, federal funds, TIP
Clement G. Morgan and Pine Street Parks: Replacement of pressure-treated wood playground, addition of furniture and other improvements.	Funded for 2009. Construction underway.	Expected complete 2010	CDD	City and CDBG
Magazine Beach: Phase 1A includes restoration of portion of riverbank, new pathway, addition of boat launch; 1B includes reconstruction of playing fields, drainage items; Phase 2 includes remaining riverbank restoration, new playground, water play, furniture, fencing, landscaping, and other items.	Phase 1A completed by City in 2007. Phase 1B restoration and maintenance funded by City, work conducted by Mass. DCR (Cambridge recreation programs will have priority for use of field space). Phase 2 at 90% design but not funded (est. $1.5M).	Phase 1A complete Phase 1B completed 2009 Phase 2 longer range – unknown	DCR DCR DCR	City City and State Not yet determined
Danehy Park: Planned improvements include addition of off-leash dog area; drainage structure replacement; water play replacement; ornamental fence replacement; track and artificial turf soccer field resurfacing.	Off-leash dog area completed. Drainage structure, water play replacement, fence replacement, and track and soccer field resurfacing included in City three-year capital plan.	Off-leash dog area completed 2009 Improvement projects to take place over 1-3 years	DHSP	City
Hoyt Field: Renovation of basketball courts.	Completed in 2009.	Completed 2009	DHSP	City

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Dedicated Dog Parks: A committee of City officials and residents is exploring possibilities for dedicated dog areas in the city.	Dedicated off-leash areas established at Pacific Street Open Space in 2007, Danehy Park in 2009 (see above). Pilot "shared use" program underway at Gold Star Mothers Park and Raymond Park.	1-2 years	CDD, DHSP, City Mgr.	Not yet determined
Alberico Park: Replacement of pressure treated wood playground, other park improvements.	Not funded – included in City three-year capital plan.	1-3 years	CDD	In City capital plan; not yet funded
David Nunes Park: Replacement of pressure treated wood playground, other park improvements.	Not funded – included in City three-year capital plan.	1-3 years	CDD	In City capital plan; not yet funded
Fulmore Park: Replacement of pressure treated wood playground, other park improvements.	Not funded – included in City three-year capital plan.	2-3 years	CDD	In City capital plan; not yet funded
Glacken Field: Improvements to playground and water play, new irrigation system, athletic field re-grading and sodding, new fencing, parking lot improvements.	Not funded – included in City three-year capital plan.	2-3 years	DHSP, CDD	In City capital plan; not yet funded
Pacific Street Park: Development of park features as per community design; placement of new surfacing for dedicated dog area; expansion possibilities if adjacent land becomes for sale.	Not funded – included in City three-year capital plan.	2-3 years	CDD	In City capital plan; not yet funded

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Linear Park: Improvements to pathway paving, introduction of new Mass Ave signalized crossing and raised crossing of Cameron Ave.	Mass Ave crossing in draft Transportation Improvement Program, funded by Mass Hwy Dept, design nearly complete. Repaving not yet funded.	Mass Ave x-ing construction expected 2009-2011 Repaving 4-7 years	CDD, DPW, OS Cmte	Mass Hwy Not yet determined
Sacramento Field: Replacement of worn play equipment and surfacing, improved entrances into space, other park improvements.	Not in three-year capital plan.	4-7 years	CDD	Not yet determined
Sennott Park: Replacement of worn field turf, other park improvements.	Not in three-year capital plan.	4-7 years	CDD	In City capital plan; not yet funded
Clarendon Avenue Playground: Replacement of aging playground equipment, other park improvements.	Not in three-year capital plan.	4-7 years	CDD	Not yet determined
Hurley Park: Replacement of aging playground equipment, other park improvements.	Not in three-year capital plan.	4-7 years	CDD	Not yet determined
Elm/Hampshire Plaza: Enhancement of passive use area, possible addition of more active recreation uses.	Not in three-year capital plan.	4-7 years	CDD	Not yet determined
Additional Playground Renovation Some playgrounds may need replacement within 7 years. Includes Rafferty Park, Cooper Park, Gannet/Warren Pals Park, Gibbons Park, Market Street Park, Hoyt Field.	Not in three-year capital plan.	5-10 years	CDD	Not yet determined

GOAL 3: Protect reservations and natural resources in the city, including water resources outside of Cambridge that contribute to the municipal water supply.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Implementation of Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan: Drainage and habitat improvement projects, landscape maintenance, natural resources monitoring, education and outreach programs, stewardship programs, restoration of scenic vistas, slope stabilization projects, on-going resource assessment and analysis, and circulation and access planning.	Ongoing improvements funded primarily through water rate and CPA funds.	Ongoing over 7+ years	Water Dept.	CPA and Water Rate
Implementation of Up-Country Watershed Protection Plan: Projects include ecological study of Hobbs Brook headwaters area, monitoring public and private construction projects that abut the watershed, up-grades to the Hobbs Brook Reservoir gatehouse, developing real-time monitoring stations, protecting public rights-of-way along pipeline from Stony Brook Reservoir to Fresh Pond Reservoir.	Coordinating with other municipalities and State agencies.	Ongoing over 7+ years	Water Dept.	CPA and Water Rate
Alewife Brook Reservation: Ongoing conservation/recreation projects: • Area adjacent to "Discovery Park" development being restored to wetland • New stormwater-retaining wetland • Multi-use path to Belmont • Multi-use pathways along Alewife Brook Pkwy north of Route 2 intersection	Private developers responsible for restoration in "Discovery Park," ongoing with development plans. New stormwater-retaining wetland by city DPW; to begin construction in short range. Pathway projects by Mass. DCR. in coordination with Cambridge Cons. Comm., stewardship groups, community boards.	Belmont path and constructed wetland to begin construction in 2010. Other projects are funding-dependent.	DCR ConsCom DPW	State, city, private developer

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Charles River Reservation projects include: • Charles River Master Plan Phase 2 Demonstration Project between Longfellow Bridge and BU Bridge • Magazine Beach improvements (above) • Drainage improvements, restoration and maintenance according to the approved Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) • Reconstruction of road bridges • Pedestrian bridges in "North Basin" area and skate park • Researching public amenities at privately operated boathouses	Mass. DCR has responsibility for Charles River Master Plan implementation in coordination with city Cons. Comm. Phase 2 project to begin construction 2010. Reconstruction of bridges by MassDOT to begin in 1-2 years. Pedestrian bridge from North Point to Charlestown and skate park funded by state through ARRA; to begin construction in 1-2 years. Cons. Comm. undertaking research on public amenities at boathouses.	Varies	DCR DOT ConsCom	State, ARRA
Sewer/Stormwater Separation: An ongoing program to reduce combined sewer overflows to the Charles River and Alewife Brook by separating stormwater systems from combined sewer systems.	Sewer /stormwater separation is a continuous on-going program. To date in excess of 30% of the city has been separated.	Ongoing over 7+ years	DPW	Chapter 90 program

GOAL 4: Ensure that all of Cambridge's parks and open spaces are well-maintained and attractive, and that park equipment and features remain in good repair.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Park Asset Inventory: Develop consolidated list of specific components such as benches, pathways, fencing materials, playground equipment, drinking fountains, including manufacturers and descriptions.	Internal departmental meetings are on-going.	Ongoing 1-3 years	DPW	City

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Integrated Pest Management: Currently in the process of reviewing, updating and refining the original policy. The purpose of developing an IPM policy is to formalize and institutionalize the current practices and to provide general guidance in the creation of integrated pest management policies and site-specific plans.	Currently in draft form.	Ongoing	DPW	City
Established Maintenance Costs: Determining, on an ongoing basis, the costs of labor and materials for maintenance of new park facilities including landscapes, structures, and athletic fields.	Internal departmental meetings are on-going.	Ongoing 1-3 years	DPW	City

GOAL 5: Support a robust recreational program that makes use of Cambridge's parks, open spaces and recreational facilities.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Inclusionary Programs: Provide sports and recreation opportunities for children of all ages and levels of ability.	City-run programs are made to be inclusive to children with various types of disabilities through staff training, suitable equipment, and use of additional staff when needed.	Ongoing	DHSP	City

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Cambridge Youth Sports Commission: Group formed to coordinate among youth league sports providers to optimize scheduling of field space, facilitate joint purchasing of supplies, providing training opportunities for volunteers, provide information to the public, and other initiatives.	Group began meeting in 2006 with support from Department of Human Service Programs Recreation Division.	Ongoing	DHSP	City
Community Events: Ongoing development of programs that encourage community-wide gathering in public parks.	In 2007, City began a "Screen on the Green" program of movie nights in parks, youth centers and school facilities.	Ongoing	DHSP	City

GOAL 6: Work to improve the quality of streets and sidewalks in the city, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Street Tree Planting Program: Plant new trees in existing empty wells or in new sidewalk or back of sidewalk locations, prioritizing major streets and neighborhood sites.	Program budgeted for about 250 tree plantings per year.	Ongoing annually over 7+ years	DPW	City and private funds (Client Tree program)
Street and Sidewalk Improvements: Plan for ongoing improvements to upgrade areas that are in poor condition, to meet accessibility codes, and to reconstruct streets to current standards following sewer /stormwater separation projects.	5-Year Street and Sidewalk Plan completed by Department of Public Works and available to the public. Projects ongoing.	Ongoing over 7+ years	DPW	Chapter 90 program

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Traffic Calming Program: Neighborhood street improvements such as curb extensions and raised crossings intended to reduce vehicular speeds and increase safety, with a priority on areas near schools and public parks.	Ongoing action plan tied to 5-Year Street and Sidewalk Plan.	Ongoing over 7+ years	CDD	City
Pocket Parks: Develop landscaped sitting areas where possibilities are identified. Possibilities include: • Corner of Broadway and Norfolk Street (Sennott Park); • Corner of Main Street and Bishop Allen Drive (existing sitting area)	Some projects associated with roadway improvements or other public improvement projects. • Corner of Sennott Park being done with CDBG funding. • Not funded.	Ongoing as opportunities arise Longer range	CDD, DPW	CDBG (for Sennott Park) Not determined
Landscape partnerships: Implement a program to involve residents and businesses in the creation and maintenance of small, landscaped areas in public spaces.	Department of Public Works has hired a Landscape Administrator for Public/Private Partnerships; some discussions with property owners and businesses.	Ongoing as opportunities arise	DPW	Private partnerships

GOAL 7: Increase the availability of park trails and multiuse pathways for pedestrian and bicycle use, with a focus on the priorities identified in the Green Ribbon Study and other planning studies.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Community Path (to Somerville): Create connection from North Point to proposed extension of Somerville Community Path, in turn connecting to Linear Park, Alewife Station, and Minuteman Bikeway.	Connection to Somerville being constructed by North Point Developers; yet to be transferred to City. Connections to riverfront incorporated into North Point Park completed in 2007.	Nearing completion	CDD	Developer requirement

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Alewife Path: Convert dirt path to multi-use pathway along the edge of the Alewife Reservation connecting Alewife MBTA Station to Belmont.	Path in final stages of design. To be built by Mass. Highway Dept. as part of a larger project. Federal funding through state TIP.	1-3 years	Mass Hwy	State and Federal funds
Purrington Spur: Convert inactive rail spur right-of-way to multiuse path connecting Fort Washington Park to University Park development area.	MIT developing part of path through construction mitigation for an adjacent project; remainder to be funded by mitigation funds from City.	1-3 years	CDD	City, MIT
Grand Junction Rail-With-Trail: Create multi-use path next to active rail line, from area near the Boston University Bridge to Somerville.	Feasibility study completed; opportunities being pursued for implementing the path in stages. First stage (Main St – Broadway) being undertaken by Cambridge Redevelopment Authority with private funding and federal funds through state TIP.	First stage 1-2 years Entire project longer range	CDD	City, Federal and private developer partnerships
Flagstaff Park Path: Create improved multi-modal connections for pedestrians and cyclists moving through Harvard Square to northern Mass Ave.	Part of Harvard Square Design Study; federal transportation funding through the state TIP.	2-4 years	DPW, CDD	Federal funds
Watertown Branch Path: Route desired for conversion from rail right-of-way to multi-use path.	Zoning modified to protect open space; line is inactive but must be officially designated “abandoned”; funding needed for land acquisition.	Possibly 3-5 yrs (or longer range)	CDD Water Dept.	Not yet determined
Fitchburg Line Path: Create multi-use path next to active rail line, connecting Porter Square to Alewife Station.	Preservation of some necessary right-of-way has occurred; additional right-of-way necessary.	Longer range	CDD	Not yet determined

GOAL 8: Ensure that the public has good information about the availability of different open space and recreational resources in the city.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Open Space Maps: Continue to provide updated maps of open space resources.	Available maps include Parks, Playgrounds and Reservations Map and Waterplay Locations Map. Community Gardens map recently completed.	Maps updated annually	CDD, OS Cmte	City
ParksViewer: Online application including interactive map with clickable park information and photos.	Viewer has been in test mode for about one year; recently released for public use.	Viewer reviewed and updated on a regular basis	CDD, OS Cmte	City
Community Involvement: Development of new ways to inform a broad base of community members of park and open space projects.	Recent projects have utilized surveys, on-site presentations, and websites to get information to community members and to get feedback.	Ongoing	CDD, OS Cmte	City

GOAL 9: Engage in planning initiatives that advance the creation, understanding, and implementation of future open space priorities for the community.

DESCRIPTION	STATUS/PROGRESS	TIMELINE	AGENCY	FUNDING
Healthy Parks and Playgrounds: Task Force of city staff and knowledgeable community members met to discuss the role of play in public spaces and how it supports overall health, development and learning.	Report released in fall 2009. Short-range recommendations include: • Forming an Advisory Committee • Observing and evaluating open spaces to see how well they support play • Developing design guidelines to incorporate "play" into open spaces • Public education and outreach on the meaning and value of play • Build resources by partnering with businesses, organizations, &c. Medium- and long-range recommendations involve incorporating "play" goals into open space projects on an ongoing basis.	Short-range 1-2 yrs Medium-to-long range ongoing over 3-10 yrs	CDD, DHSP, City Mgr, Schools	City
Planning for Aging: Planning staff working with community members to explore planning issues specifically affecting elderly population, including issues of open space and pedestrian access for persons with limited mobility.	Process currently underway.	To be completed 2010	CDD	City
Charles River Study: City planning staff studying ways to improve access to river and create more activity along river.	Community process currently underway	Study to occur over 1-2 yrs	CDD	City
Open Space Plan: Revise action plan on a regular basis for budgeting purposes; begin process of developing new seven-year plan.	Open Space Committee with representatives from various departments meets monthly to discuss action items and priorities.	Action plan updated with annual budget; new plan in 6 yrs	CDD, OS Cmte	City

SECTION 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan was referred to the following individuals, agencies and groups for review and comment:

- The Honorable E. Denise Simmons, Mayor of the City of Cambridge.
- Cambridge Conservation Commission, Kaki Martin, Chair.
- Cambridge Planning Board, William Tibbs, Chair.
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Marc Draisen, Executive Director.

Comments are included on the following pages.

The Open Space Plan is available to the general public by request from the Cambridge Community Development Department and on the web at: http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/parks.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor E. Denise Simmons

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

January 22, 2009

Dear Ms. Cryan,

I am writing to convey my strong support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan the Cambridge Open Space Committee has submitted for approval for the City of Cambridge. I truly appreciate all of the careful thought and deliberation that went into crafting this proposal. This brings us one step closer to achieving the key objectives of improving essential services and increasing public information with regard to open space.

The draft Five-Year Open Space plan provides a comprehensive approach to addressing both the enrichment and the protection of the City's open space resources. The appropriate management of the Cambridge's open space resources remains a priority of my office, and I believe that this proposal is both thoughtful and constructive. I therefore endorse the Open Space and Recreation Plan submitted by the Cambridge Open Space Committee.

On behalf of the citizens of Cambridge, I am grateful to the professionalism and commitment of those who have worked tirelessly on bringing this draft-proposal forward for discussion. I very much look forward to the next stages of this discussion, and I trust that everyone's hard work shall ultimately leave us with a much improved Cambridge. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mayor E. Denise Simmons

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
(617) 349-4321 FAX (617) 349-4320 TTY/TDD (617) 349-4242 EMAIL: dsimmons@cambridgema.gov

Jennifer Wright
Conservation Commission Director

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
344 Broadway
Cambridge, Massachusetts
02139

February 23, 2009

Melissa Cryan
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston. MA 02114

Re: City of Cambridge
5-Year Open Space Plan

Ms. Cryan:

On behalf of the Cambridge Conservation Commission. I am writing to inform you that the Commission has reviewed the above referenced plan and voted unanimously to support its adoption. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kaki Martin

Kaki Martin, Chair
Cambridge Conservation Commission

Cc: File

Telephone: 617. 349. 4680 *Facsimile: 617. 349. 4633*

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

PLANNING BOARD

CITY HALL ANNEX, 344 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Melissa Cryan
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

December 17, 2008

Dear Ms. Cryan,

This letter is to confirm that the Cambridge Planning Board has reviewed the City of Cambridge's Draft Five-Year Open Space Plan and to express the Board's approval of the current draft. We would like to commend the good work that has gone into assembling such a thorough review of Cambridge's open space planning efforts.

This plan appropriately reflects the multi-faceted nature of Cambridge's open space planning, which includes large-scale, long-range planning efforts to expand the supply of open space along with more detailed efforts to maintain and improve the quality of existing public facilities. The plan addresses multiple needs and reflects the perspectives of many different individuals, departments and organizations in a holistic manner. All of these diverse facets are vital to ensuring a high-quality open space system, and it is appropriate for the Cambridge Open Space Committee to consider all of them in a coordinated way.

For the Planning Board,

William Tibbs (JCR)

William Tibbs, Chair

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
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March 25, 2009

Stuart Dash
Director of Community Planning
City Hall
City of Cambridge
344 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Dash:

Thank you for submitting your draft Open Space and Recreation Plan dated December 8, 2008 to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

Recommended revisions to the plan

The following are MAPC's recommendations for amendments to the Cambridge Open Space and Recreation Plan that will serve to bring a more regional perspective to the plan.

The Subregion – The open space plan does not mention that Cambridge is a member of the Inner Core Committee (ICC) which is one of eight MAPC subregions. ICC is a group of twenty communities that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest and is an excellent forum for discussing regional open space issues and opportunities.

Surrounding Communities - Within the discussion of the regional context, there should be mention made of the open space planning activities and open space plans of surrounding communities. Connections between those communities and the open space needs and objectives of Cambridge should be explored. We encourage all communities to consult with their neighbors concerning their open space plans and initiatives, especially since open space parcels and similar resources often occur near municipal boundaries and can be influenced by the actions of neighbors.

Environmental Justice – We note that the plan does mention the issue of environmental justice as required by the new 2008 guidelines for preparing an open space plan, but we feel that the plan is not as thorough as it could be in this area. We suggest that the City review the guidelines

as spelled out in more detail in the Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook and discuss these new requirements with the staff at the Division of Conservation Services. The workbook is on-line at http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/pdf/osrp_workbook.pdf).

Consistency with MetroFuture

MetroFuture as the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistent with the requirements of MGL Ch. 40B. The plan includes goals and objectives as well as thirteen detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities to become familiar with the plan by visiting the web site at http://www.metrofuture.org/.

The following comments are provided to help your community understand how your plan fits within the *MetroFuture* framework and to give you ideas of areas you may want to consider as you move forward with finalizing your plan and its implementation. Overall, we see many positive connections between your draft plan and *MetroFuture.*

Bring Strategic and Regional Perspectives to Local Open Space Planning (Strategy 7A) – The Open Space and Recreation Plan does a good job of discussing regional resources such as the Charles River and the Alewife Reservation. We suggest more emphasis on how the City can work with its neighbors to collaborate on projects.

Increase bicycle, pedestrian and transit accessibility and safety (Strategy 6 D13) – The plan is very strong in the way it integrates these concerns.

Increase the urban tree canopy (Strategy 6 F19) – The plan shows concerted effort towards enhancing the urban tree canopy.

Expand urban farms and community gardens (Strategy 6 F20) – Community gardens are emphasized in the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

cc: Susanne Rasmussen, MAPC Representative, City of Cambridge
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Services

SECTION 11. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I: Open Space Policies included in Cambridge Growth Policy, Toward a Sustainable Future (1993)

Policy 63	Open space and recreational facilities serving a wide range of functions and clientele, including the elderly and special needs populations, should be encouraged, either through expansion of the existing inventory, through multiple use of existing facilities, or through creative programming of those facilities.
Policy 64	Conservation lands and other environmentally sensitive areas are a vital part of the city's open space system and should be maintained and protected appropriately. Public access to and use of these areas must be carefully planned and balanced with preservation of these resources.
Policy 65	Expansion of Cambridge residents' opportunities to use regional recreational facilities (those owned by the Metropolitan District Commission *[now the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation]* and the Commonwealth) located in the city should be encouraged, particularly where the adjacent residential community is underserved by local recreational facilities, and when the legitimate regional use of that facility would not be unduly restricted. In addition, there should be increased coordination of recreation programming and planning between the local and regional levels.
Policy 66	New open space facilities, including larger ones for organized activities, should be considered for those private developments where the size of the development, the amount of land area and/or the ownership patterns provide the flexibility to accommodate such a facility without loss of economic value for other uses.
Policy 67	Acquisition of publicly owned or administered open space should be made in those dense residential areas clearly deficient in all forms of open space, but only where significant fiscal resources are provided through federal or state acquisition programs or a substantial portion of the cost is borne privately; facilities of modest size and flexible in use characteristics, located close to the homes of the persons for whom they are intended should be encouraged.
Policy 68	Only under extraordinary circumstances should existing open space facilities be eliminated from the city's inventory for other uses; small, passively or merely visually used facilities, should not be undervalued in this regard merely for lack of intensive or active recreational use.
Policy 69	The city should encourage the permanent retention and protection of useful, effective, attractive private open space whether publicly accessible or not. Community use of private recreational and open space facilities in the city should be encouraged at reasonable levels where the private function of those facilities would not be impaired and where the recreational activity provided by the private facility is not well served in available public facilities.
Policy 70	Repair, maintenance and timely upgrading of existing facilities should be the City's highest fiscal priority with regard to open space and recreational facilities. The City should explore, and adopt as appropriate, mechanisms whereby the private sector can reasonably provide, assist in and/or contribute to the maintenance of publicly useable open spaces and recreational facilities.

APPENDIX II: Results of 2008 Open Space Telephone Survey

The City of Cambridge contracted with Opinion Dynamics Corporation of Waltham, MA to conduct a random telephone survey of Cambridge residents to gather resident opinions on pertinent open space issues. The interview questions were prepared by City of Cambridge staff in consultation with Opinion Dynamics, and the following report was prepared by Opinion Dynamics Corporation.

This memorandum reports the results of a survey of 400 respondents regarding their opinions about open space in Cambridge and their current usage of it. Interviews were completed by telephone between the dates of March 26-31, 2008. When looking at results from the overall, 400-member sample, results are reliable to within ±4.9% at the mid-range of the 95% confidence interval. That is, when conducting 100 similar surveys, 95 of them will yield results that fall—at worst—4.9 points on either side of a given percentage.

Background

Respondents who participated in the study were asked a series of demographic questions in order to conduct a full subgroup analysis. The responses to those questions are shown in the chart below. Due to rounding, some figures do not add to 100%.

Profile

Have child 4 or under in household:	14%	Employed full time	55%
Have child 5-12 in household:	19%	Employed part time	14
Have child 13-18 in household:	13%	Student/Homemaker	8
Have adult 19-64 in household:	81%	Retired	15
Have adult 65 or over in household:	22%	Unemployed/Other/Refused	6
Age: 18 to 34	20%	Own home	65%
35 to 44	27	Rent	32
45 to 54	16	Refused	3
55 to 64	17		
65 or over	17	Own car/Household car	81%
Refused	3	Don't have car	17
		Refused	2
Education: HS or less	6%		
Some college	8	Harvard Square/Agassiz	20%
College graduate	26	North Cambridge	17
Advanced/Graduate degree	57	Cambridgeport/Riverside	16
Refused	2	Central Square/Mid-Cambridge	15
		West Cambridge	14
Income: $50,000 or less	13%	East Cambridge	12
$50,000-75,000	13	MIT	1
$75,000-100,000	17	Other/Don't Know/Refused	5
$100,000 or more	25		
Refused	32	Race: White	78%
		Black	5
Gender: Female	55%	Other	10
Male	45	Refused	5

The following chart shows the demographic profile of Cambridge from U.S. Census data. Comparing the Census profile to the profile of survey respondents shows differences in some categories, most notably the homeowner/renter mix, households with/without children, households with/without seniors, and households with/without cars. There are a host of methodological reasons why differences may occur between the two data sets—one is a representative survey; the other a governmental head count. Also, homeowners may be more likely to respond to surveys because they have longer-term ties to the city, while renters may be less likely to respond if they have not lived in the city for as long. Also, renters may be less likely to have an active land-line phone. It should be noted that the Census data is from 2000, and not all categories are in sync with those used for this study. Due to the time difference and variations in methodology, direct comparisons between the two profiles should be made cautiously. Due to rounding, some figures do not add to 100%.

Cambridge Census Data (2000) and Survey Data (2008)

	Census 2000	Survey 2008		Census 2000	Survey 2008
Race: (multiple responses allowed)			HH member 18 or under	19%	40%
White	68%	78%	HH member 19-64	na	81
Black	12	5	HH member 15-34	37	na
Other/Refused	20	17	HH member 35-44	20	na
			HH member 45-54	17	na
Education: HS or less	23%	6%	HH member 55-64	11	na
Some college	12	8	HH member 65 or over	16	22
College graduate	65	83			
Refused	na	2	East Cambridge	7%	12%
			West Cambridge	na	14
Do not own car	27%	17%	Harvard Square/Agassiz	na	20
Own car	73	81	MIT / Area 2	5	na
Refused	na	2	MIT	na	1
			Wellington Harrington	7	na
Owners	31%	65%	Area IV	7	na
Renters	68	32	Cambridgeport/Riverside	21	16
Refused	na	3	Central Square/Mid-Cambridge	na	15
			Mid-Cambridge	13	na
Income: Less than $40,000	35%	na	Agassiz	5	na
Less than $50,000	na	13%	Neighborhood 9	12	na
$40,000-$74,999	24	na	Neighborhood 10	8	na
$50,000-$75,000	na	13	North Cambridge	11	17
$75,000-$99,999	13	17	Cambridge Highlands	-	
$100,000+	27	25	Strawberry hill	2	
Refused	na	32	Other/Don't know/Refused	na	5
Female	51%	55%			
Male	49	45			

The demographic characteristics of homeowners and renters vary among respondents. For instance, homeowners are more likely to live in West Cambridge, own a car and have a household income over $75,000, while renters are more likely to live near Harvard Square, not own a vehicle and have a household income under $50,000. Also, the survey results show that there were some variations in the opinions of these two groups in their responses to questions regarding open space. As an appendix to

this report, supplemental charts are included that show the survey results cross-tabulated for homeowners and for renters. The supplemental charts also show results cross-tabulated based on whether or not a household has a person 18 or under, whether or not a household has a person 65 or older, and whether or not the respondent or another person in the household owns a car.

Executive Summary

The results from this survey suggest that respondents are high volume users of the city's open space and are generally quite satisfied with their experiences. About three-quarters of our sample say they (or members of their household) visit a Cambridge park or open space at least once a week. Moreover, when rating their experience on a 5-point intensity scale ("5" being the most positive), they assign a high mean (or average) score of 3.93 for neighborhood parks and open space, and 3.98 for citywide parks and open space.

Fresh Pond and the Charles River seem to be the favorite open spaces for most Cantabridgians—with the most important benefits seen as recreation, relaxation and a general appreciation for the environment. Interestingly, walking toward a given destination through Cambridge open spaces is also seen as a key value. Among those who use open space and parks for organized sports, soccer and baseball predominate the list of activities.

About four-in-ten respondents say there are some activities they feel they can't do in Cambridge parks or open space—primarily centered on specialty biking activities (like mountain biking). When asked for a "to do" list for Cambridge parks and open space, acquisition of more open space land tops the list, followed by general improvement of streets and sidewalks in the city and improvement of existing parks and open space.

All in all, these data show that respondents of Cambridge utilize and appreciate their parks and open space—and want more of it.

Summary of Findings

All respondents were read the following brief explanation of the study:

The following questions are meant to gather information about the full range of outdoor spaces in the city, including parks and playgrounds, reservation areas, outdoor plazas, sidewalks and city streets. In your responses, please think about your experience with all outdoor public spaces.

To start off, respondents were asked (in an open-ended question) for their favorite outdoor space in Cambridge. While there is little consensus among the answers, the *Charles River* is mentioned most often, with about one-sixth (17%) of respondents calling it their favorite spot. *Fresh Pond* is the next most common response (14%), while various *public spaces or parks* are the favorite spots of about one in ten respondents (11%).

Danehy Park is considered a favorite by 8% of respondents, and 7% are partial to *Harvard Square or Harvard Yard*. Other spaces that are mentioned by less than five percent include *Cambridge Common* (4%), *Mount Auburn Cemetery* (3%), *memorial Drive* (3%), *Dana Park* (3%) and *Magazine Beach* (3%).

What would you consider to be your favorite outdoor space in Cambridge, public or private?

Charles River	**17%**
Fresh Pond	**14**
Public spaces/parks	**11**
Danehy Park	**8**
Harvard Square/Yard	**7**
Cambridge Common	**4**
Mount Auburn Cemetery	**3**
Memorial Drive	**3**
Dana Park	**3**
Magazine Beach	**3**
Hancock Park	**2**
My Backyard	**2**
Raymond Park	**2**
Kennedy Park	**1**
Radcliff Park	**1**
Gold Star Mothers Park	**1**
Alewife Reservation	**1**
Cambridge Park	**1**
Longfellow Park	**1**
(Other)	**9**
(Don't know/refused)	**8**

- *The Charles River* is mentioned as a favorite by those 45 and over (22%) more often than those under 45 years old (12%).
- Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to mention *Harvard Square or Harvard Yard* as a favorite spot; 19% of 18-34 year olds, compared to 4% of those 35 and over.
- Over one-quarter (27%) of those with a child between the ages of 13 and 18 say *public spaces or parks* is their favorite outdoor space in Cambridge.
- Almost one-fifth (18%) of homeowners consider *Fresh Pond* to be their favorite outdoor space in Cambridge, compared to 6% of renters.

- Fourteen percent of renters say they prefer *Harvard Square or Yard*, while 3% of homeowners agree.

Respondents were then asked what they like best about their favorite outdoor space. In general, the most common reasons for partiality include *lots of open space or is big* (20%), *nice for running or walking or biking* (17%), being *beautiful or scenic* (15%) and having *nice playgrounds or activities for children* (15%). The chart below shows a complete listing of all comments made about preferred open spaces.

Briefly, what do you like about that space?

Lots of open space/big	**20%**
Nice for running/walking/biking	**17**
Beautiful/scenic	**15**
Nice playgrounds/activities for children	**15**
Close to water	**13**
Lots of sports/activities	**13**
Natural environment	**12**
Clean/well-maintained	**9**
Take doG there/Great for dogs	**8**
Quiet/peaceful/relaxing	**8**
Convenient/Close by	**7**
Retail stores	**3**
Socializing/People around	**3**
Away from city	**2**
Safe	**2**
Benches/Areas to sit	**1**
Never crowded	**1**
Historic	**1**
(Other)	**4**
(Don't know/Refused)	**1**

- Respondents without children (21%) are more likely than those with children (11%) to mention a space is *nice for running, walking or biking*.

- Twenty-nine percent of those with children mention *nice playgrounds or activities for children,* compared with 5% of those without children. Half of respondents with children aged 0-4 mention *nice playgrounds or activities for children.*

- One-quarter of those with children between the ages of 13 and 18 mention *lots of sports or activities*.

- Seventeen percent of car owners mention *nice playgrounds or activities for children*, while 3% of those without a car agree.

When looking at the subset of respondents who chose the Charles River as their favorite (17% of the overall sample), 39% say they like being *close to the water*, while a little over one-quarter (28%) say it is *nice for running or walking or biking*. Twenty-eight percent describe it as being *beautiful or scenic*, while 21% say it has *lots of open space or is big*. About one in ten (11%) say it is *quiet, peaceful or relaxing,* and another 11% like the *natural environment*. All other reasons are mentioned by less than 10% of this subset of respondents who prefer the Charles River.

Briefly, what do you like about the Charles River? (n=69)

Close to water	**39%**
Nice for running/walking/biking	**28**
Beautiful/scenic	**28**
Lots of open space/big	**21**
Quiet/peaceful/relaxing	**11**
Natural environment: trees, flowers, birds etc.	**11**
Convenient/close by	**8**
Lots of sports/activities	**6**
Socializing/around lots of people	**5**
Clean/well-maintained	**4**
Away from city/feels like you are miles aware from city	**3**
Safe	**2**
Nice playgrounds/activities for children	**1**
(Other)	**1**
(Don't know/refused)	**2**

When looking at the subset of respondents who prefer *Fresh Pond* (14% of the overall sample of respondents), over one-quarter (28%) say it is their favorite spot because it is *great for dogs*. Twenty-four percent like it because it is *nice for running or walking or biking*, while another 24% mention *lots of open space or is big*. Fifteen percent say they like the *natural environment*, and 14% say it is *beautiful or scenic.* No other reasons are given by more than 10% of this subset of respondents.

Briefly, what do you like about Fresh Pond? (n=55)

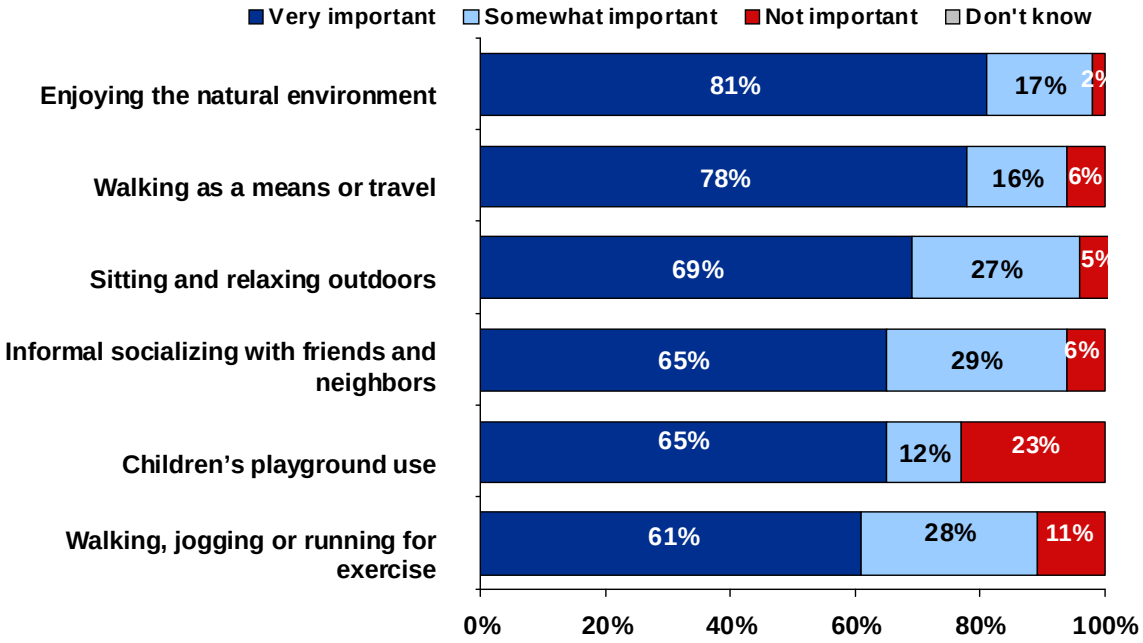
Take dog there/great for dogs	28%
Nice for running/walking/biking	24
Lots of open space/big	24
Natural environment: trees, flowers, birds etc.	15
Beautiful/scenic	14
Close to water	9
Clean/well-maintained	9
Convenient/close by	6
Away from city/feels like you are miles aware from city	5
Socializing/around lots of people	4
Quiet/peaceful/relaxing	4
Lots of sports/activities	2
Safe	2
(Other)	5
(Don't know/refused)	-

Respondents were then asked for reasons why some members of their household may not frequent Cambridge parks. Almost half (47%) of respondents say they don't know why, or refused to answer the question. Fifteen percent say it is because they are *busy or lack the time*, while 8% say there are *no parks close by or it is inconvenient*. Seven percent say they avoid parks in *bad weather*. No other reasons were mentioned by more than 5% of respondents.

A majority (81%) of respondents say *enjoying the natural environment* is a very important outdoor activity to members of their household. Over three-quarters (78%) say *walking as a means of travel* is very important to their household, and 69% say the same about *sitting and relaxing outdoors.*

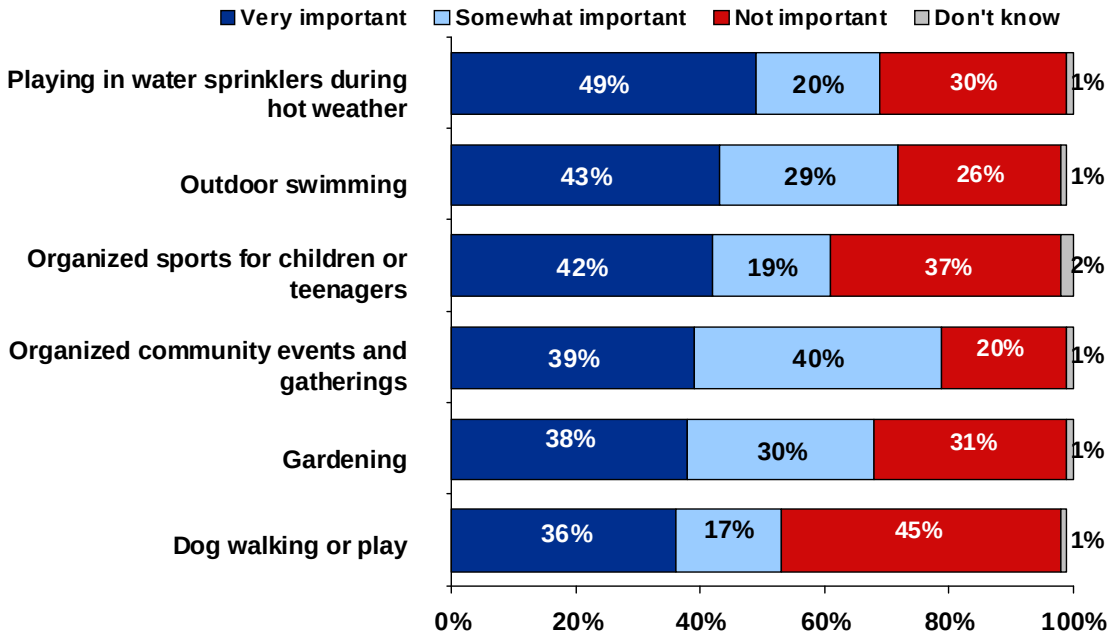
Almost two-thirds (65%) say *informal socializing with friends and neighbors* is very important, while another 65% agree when it comes to *children's playground use*. Sixty-one percent of respondents say *walking, jogging or running for exercise* is very important to their household.

I'm going to read you a list of some common outdoor activities. For each one, please tell me whether you consider that particular outdoor activity to be very important, somewhat important or not important, to members of your household.



- Eighty-six percent of those with children say *children's playground use* is very important, compared to 51% of those without children in their household.
- Almost all (95%) of those with children between the ages of 0-4 say *children's playground use* is very important, while the same is true of 86% of those
- *sprinklers during hot weather* is very important to their household, while 43% say the same about *outdoor swimming*. *Organized sports for children or teenagers* are considered to be very important by 42% of respondents, and 39% say *organized community events and gatherings* are very important. Over one-third say *gardening* (38%) and *dog walking or play* (36%) are very important to their household.

I'm going to read you a list of some common outdoor activities. For each one, please tell me whether you consider that particular outdoor activity to be very important, somewhat important or not important, to members of your household.



- Half of households with children say *organized sports for children or teenagers* are very important, compared with 36% of households without children.
- *Organized sports for children or teenagers* are especially important to those with children between the ages of 5-12 (59% very important) and 13-18 (57%).
- Sixty-five percent of those with children say *playing in water sprinklers* is very important, while 38% of those without children agree.
- *Playing in water sprinklers* is especially important to those with younger children; 83% of those with 0-4 year olds say it is very important, while the same is true of 65% of those with 5-12 year olds and 45% of those with children aged 13-18.
- Respondents without children (42%) are more likely than those with children (27%) to say *dog walking or play* is very important.¶
- Respondents who do not own a car (54%) are more likely than car owners (41%) to say *outdoor swimming* is very important.
- About half (51%) of renters consider *outdoor swimming* to be very important, while the same is true of 40% of homeowners.
- Car owners (56%) are more likely than those without a car to say *dog walking or play* is very or somewhat important.

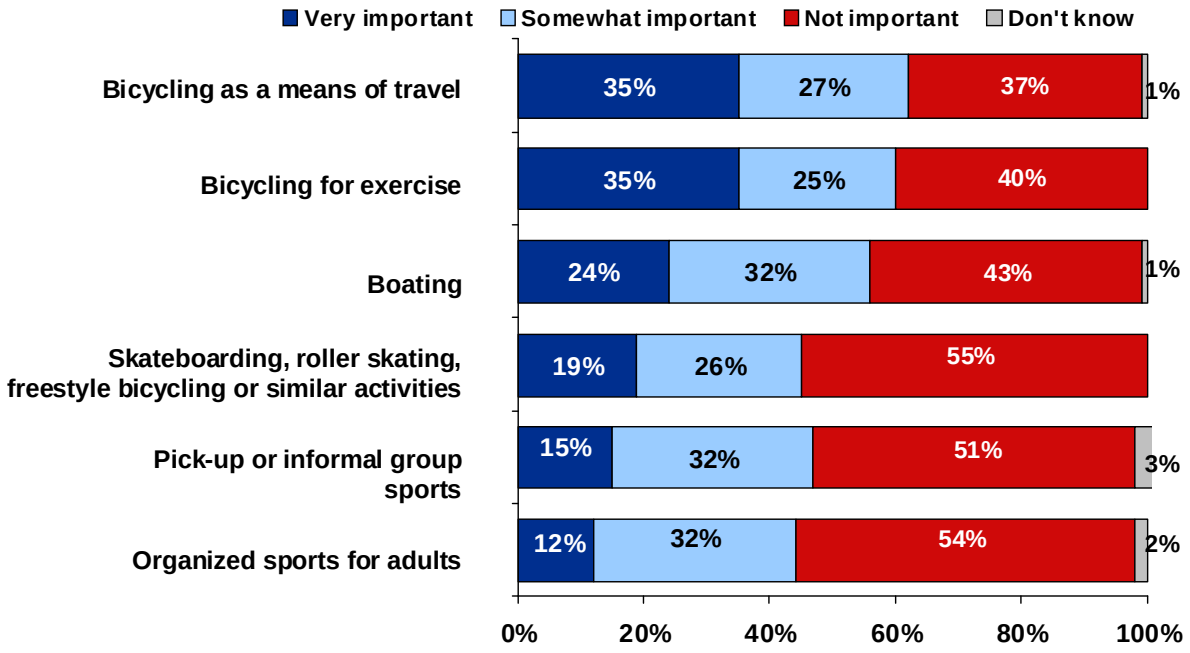
- *Gardening* is very important to 41% of homeowners and about one-third (30%) of renters.

Those who say *organized sports for children or teenagers* are either very or somewhat important (60% of the overall sample, n=241) were then asked to say which sports are important to their household. Almost one-half (54%) of this subset mentions *soccer*, while 35% say *baseball* is very important. Twenty-six percent say *basketball* is very important to their household, and 11% say the same of *tennis*. No other sports are mentioned by more than 10% of this subset.

- Sixty-four percent of respondents with children mention *soccer*, which is named by 45% of those without children.

About one-third (35%) say *bicycling as a means of travel* is very important to their household, while another 35% say the same about *bicycling for exercise*. Almost one-quarter (24%) say *boating* is very important, and about one-fifth (19%) say *skateboarding, roller skating, freestyle bicycling or similar activities* are very important to their households. In general, respondents consider organized or social sports to be more important for children than for adults. Less than one-fifth say *pick-up or informal group sports* (15%) and *organized sports for adults* (12%) are very important to their household members.

I'm going to read you a list of some common outdoor activities. For each one, please tell me whether you consider that particular outdoor activity to be very important, somewhat important or not important, to members of your household.



- Respondents over 55 (51%) are more likely to say *gardening* is very important than younger respondents (31%).

- Over half of households with seniors say *bicycling as a means of travel* (56%) and *bicycling for exercise* (55%) are not important.
- Fifty-seven percent of those with children between the ages of 13 and 18 say *bicycling for exercise* is very important, compared to 33% of those without children in those age ranges.
- Forty percent of homeowners say *bicycling for exercise* is very important; one-quarter of renters say the same.
- Sixty-five percent of car owners say *traveling by bicycle* is either very or somewhat important, while half of those who do not own a car agree.
- Renters (20%) are more likely than owners (8%) to say *organized sports for adults* are very important.
- Twenty-two percent of renters say *pick-up or informal group sports* are very important, while 11% of homeowners agree.
- Car owners (17%) are more likely than those without cars to say *pick-up or informal group sports* are very important.
- About one-quarter (26%) of car owners say *boating* is very important, while 13% of those who do not own a car agree.

Over one-half (56%) of respondents say *boating* is either a very or somewhat important outdoor activity. These respondents were asked to specify which type of boating they consider to be important. Forty-six percent mention *canoeing*, while 46% choose *kayaking*. *Rowing* is important to 45% of respondents, and *sailing* is far behind at 16%. Three percent say they like *all kinds of boating*, while 2% prefer *motorized boating*.

Respondents who say *pick-up or informal group sports* are either very or somewhat important to their household (46% of the overall sample, n=185) were asked to specify which sports are important. *Soccer* tops the list again with 39%, while another 39% say *basketball* is important to their households. Eighteen percent consider *baseball* an important informal sport, and 16% choose *softball*. *Frisbee* is considered important to 12% of households, and 11% consider *tennis* an important informal sport. No other sports are mentioned by more than 10% of these respondents.

Among those respondents who say *organized sports for adults* are either very or somewhat important (44% of the overall sample, n=176), about one-quarter (26%) say *soccer* is important to members of their household. Twenty-three percent say *basketball* is very or somewhat important, while 18% say the same of *softball*. *Tennis* is important to 16% of this subset of respondents, and *baseball* is important to 13%. No other sport is mentioned by more than 10% of this subset.

A majority (70%) say there are no other outdoor activities that are important to their households. Of those who do mention other activities, the most common include *winter sports* (3%), *tennis* (3%), *picnicking or cook-outs* (3%), and *outdoor concerts, plays or dancing* (3%).

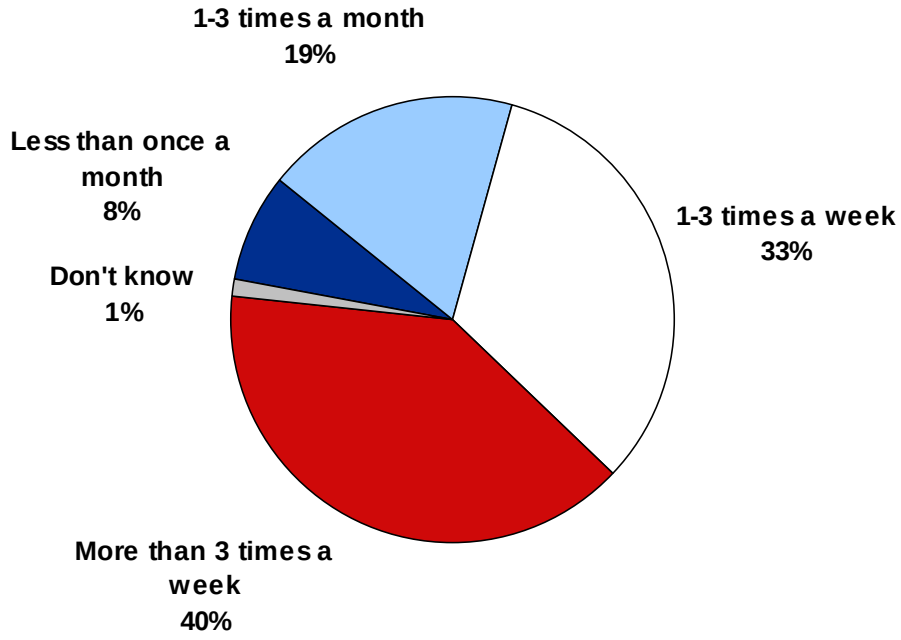
Over one-third (38%) of respondents say there are outdoor activities that can't be done in the city. Sixty-two percent declined to name any activities that are not available in Cambridge.

- Respondents under 35 (53%) say there are outdoor activities they cannot do in Cambridge more often than older respondents (35%).

Of the 38% who could think of activities that cannot be done in Cambridge, almost one-fifth (19%) mention different forms of *biking* (mountain, recreational, street and trail). There is little consensus on the remaining activities that respondents believe cannot be done in Cambridge. Thirteen percent mention *outdoor swimming*, while 10% say *hiking and rock climbing* is something they cannot do in Cambridge. Other activities include *ice skating* (6%), *barbecuing or picnicking* (5%), *fishing* (5%) and *skiing* (4%).

Almost three-quarters (73%) of respondents say they visit a public park or open space in Cambridge at least once a week. Nineteen percent say they visit such areas 1-3 times a month, and 8% say they do so less than once a month.

On average, about how often do members of your household visit a public park or open space in Cambridge?



- A little over half (54%) of those with children in their households say they visit parks or open spaces in Cambridge more than three times a week, compared to 30% of those who do not have children in their house.

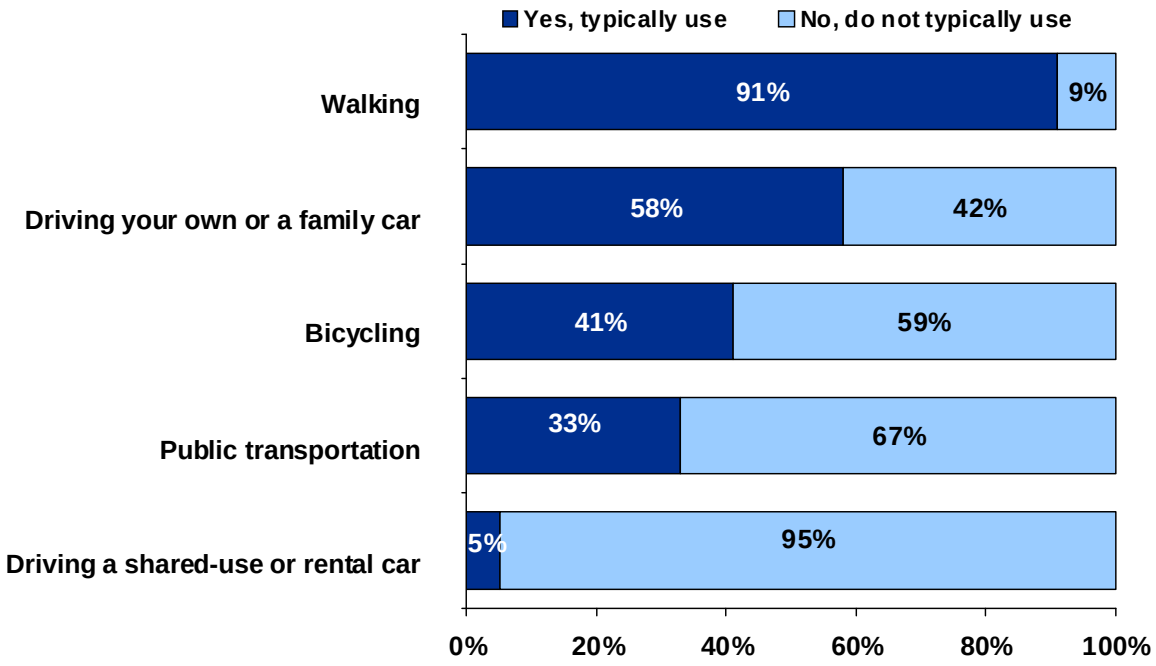
- One-quarter of respondents over the age of 65 say they visit open spaces less than once per month, while the same is true of 4% of younger respondents.
- Car owners are three times as likely as those who don't own cars to visit open spaces in Cambridge 1-3 times per month. One-fifth (21%) of car owners visit parks or open space in Cambridge about 1-3 times per month, while 7% of those without cars say the same.
- One-quarter (25%) of renters say they visit open spaces in Cambridge 1-3 times per month, while 15% of homeowners visit open spaces in Cambridge 1-3 times per month.

When asked for specific places that members of their household visit often, the two most popular destinations are Fresh Pond Reservation (26%) and the Charles River (26%). Seventeen percent say they often visit Danehy Park, and 15% go to Cambridge Common. Nine percent frequent Dana Park, and 8% often visit the Harvard Square area. Six percent of respondents say they go to Raymond Park or Corcoran Field on a regular basis, 5% visit Memorial Drive, and another 5% are regular visitors to Magazine Beach. Other locations are mentioned by less than 5% of respondents.

- Homeowners (31%) are more likely than renters (19%) to visit Fresh Pond.
- Respondents with cars (30%) are more likely than those without (12%) to frequent Fresh Pond.
- Car owners (19%) are more likely than those without cars (7%) to visit Danehy Park often.
- About one-quarter (27%) of respondents who do not own cars say they visit Cambridge Common often, while the same is true of 13% of car owners.

The most popular method of transportation to public parks or open spaces is on foot; a majority of respondents (91%) say they walk to these locations. Fifty-eight percent typically drive the family car, and 41% use a bicycle. About one-third (33%) use public transportation when visiting public parks or open spaces, and 5% use a shared or rental car.

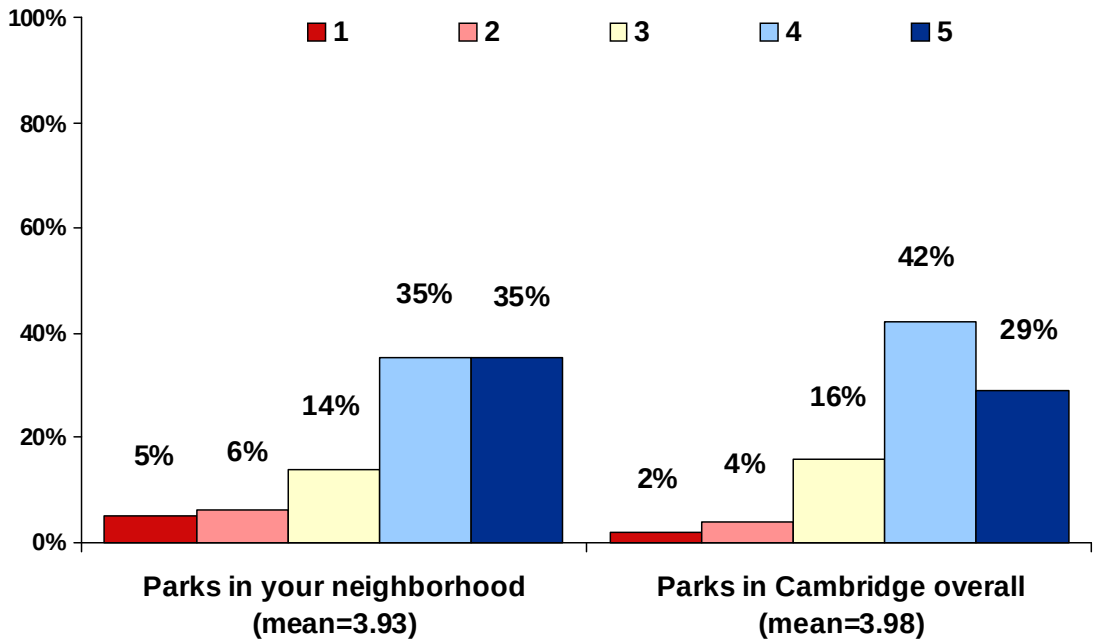
Please tell whether or not you or members of your household typically travel to public parks or open spaces by way of each of the following methods:



- Sixty-five percent of those with children in their households travel to parks or open spaces by car, while the same method of transportation is used by 53% of those who do not have children.
- Homeowners are more likely to say they travel to open spaces by car (62%) or bicycle (49%) than those who rent (49% drive a car, 29% bicycle).
- Almost half (48%) of respondents under 35 say they take public transportation to parks or open spaces, compared with 29% of those aged 35 and over.
- Renters (43%) are more likely than homeowners (27%) to use public transportation to get to parks and open spaces.
- A little more than half (55%) of those who do not own a car travel to parks by public transportation; the same is true of 28% of car owners.

Respondents were then asked to rate their experience both with parks in their neighborhood and parks in Cambridge overall. Using a scale of 1, meaning *not at all good*, to 5, meaning *very good*, respondents give their neighborhood parks an average rating of 3.93, while parks in Cambridge overall get an average rating of 3.98.

On a scale from 1=not at all good and 5=very good
How would you rate your experience with:



- Respondents aged 55 and over (42%) are more likely to say parks in their neighborhood are *very good* than younger respondents (29%).
- Older respondents are also more likely to say parks in Cambridge are *very good*; 36% of those aged 55 and over say they are *very good*, compared with 24% of those under 55.

About one-half (45%) of those who gave the top rating of 5 to parks in their neighborhood (n=139) say it is because the parks are *well maintained or clean*. Eighteen percent say it is *close or accessible*, and 15% made general positive comments. Thirteen percent say it is *nice or beautiful* while others say it is *safe* (10%) or *family friendly* (10%). In general, among those who give parks in their neighborhood lower ratings, popular reasons include the *parks are too small* or *they should be cleaner*.

About one-third (35%) of those who gave parks in Cambridge overall a top rating of 5 (n=116) say it is because they are *well maintained or clean*, while 11% say they are *safe*. Among those who give lower ratings, comments include that parks are *too small*, or there are *not enough parks.*

When looking at the ratings for parks in particular neighborhoods, the highest mean (average) score goes to West Cambridge (4.30), followed by North Cambridge (4.02). The next areas with the highest average ratings include Harvard Square/Agassiz (3.97) and the Cambridgeport/River area (3.91). The lowest average ratings go to East Cambridge (3.73) and Central Square/Mid Cambridge (3.55).

On a scale from 1=not at all good and 5=very good
How would you rate your experience with parks in your neighborhood?

Area	Mean rating	Not at all good 1	2	3	4	Very good 5
West Cambridge	4.30	4%	1	10	28	55
North Cambridge	4.02	4%	8	10	37	38
Harvard Square/Agassiz	3.97	6%	3	13	32	34
Cambridgeport/River	3.91	6%	3	12	51	28
East Cambridge	3.73	8%	7	21	26	33
Central Square/Mid Cambridge	3.55	3%	18	16	42	18

When looking at the reasons behind the ratings, there are few significant differences by area. However, respondents in the Harvard Square/Agassiz area (30%) are more likely than those in Central Square/Mid-Cambridge (15%) to mention the parks or open spaces are *well-kept, maintained or clean*. Respondents in both the Cambridgeport/River (12%) and Central Square/Mid-Cambridge (12%) areas are more likely than those from other areas to say parks are *too small.*

Around one-quarter (27%) say they cannot choose between which benefit of open space (recreation, relaxation, environmental benefits, beautification and social interaction) is more important to their household. About one-quarter (24%) say *recreation, play and exercise* is most important, while 18% choose *relaxation and fresh air*.

When asked for the second most important benefit, 27% choose *relaxation and fresh air*, while 21% opt for *environmental benefits*. About one-fifth (19%) say the second most important benefit is *social interaction*, and 15% choose *recreation, play and exercise*. Fourteen percent say *beautification of the neighborhood* is the second most important reason, while only 2% say all benefits are equal.

Of the following benefits provided by open space, please tell me which one you think is the most important to members of your household. Which one benefit would you say is second most important?

	Most important	Second most important
All equally	**27%**	**2%**
Recreation, play and exercise	**24**	**15**
Relaxation and fresh air	**18**	**27**
Environmental benefits, such as trees, shade, and water	**14**	**21**
Beautification of the neighborhood	**10**	**14**
Social interaction and community gathering	**6**	**19**
None/Don't know	**1**	**2**

- Almost half (46%) of those who have a child between the ages of 0 and 4 say *recreation, play and exercise* is the most important benefit, while 20% of those who do not have a young child agree.
- Nineteen percent of those who do not have children consider the most important benefit of open space to be *environmental benefits* (compared to 8% of those with children).
- About one-third (33%) of those with children in their household say *social interaction* is the second most important benefit of parks or open spaces, a sentiment that is shared by 9% of those without children.
- One-fifth of those who do not have children say *beautification of the neighborhood* is the second most important benefit of parks and open spaces, while 5% of those with children agree.
- About one-quarter (27%) of car owners say *recreation, play and exercise* is the most important benefit, while 14% of those without cars agree.
- Twenty-six percent of renters say *relaxation and fresh air* is the most important benefit, an opinion that is shared by 13% of homeowners.
- Homeowners (17%) are more likely than renters (8%) to say *environmental benefits* are the most important benefit provided by open space.

One-quarter of respondents agree that *acquiring additional land for open space* would be best option for Cambridge to improve its open space. Almost as many (24%) believe the city would benefit from improving *streets and sidewalks with trees, small sitting areas and other features*. Seventeen percent think the city would benefit the most from improving the *maintenance of existing open spaces*, and 11% think it would be best to *renovate or beautify existing parks and open spaces*. About one-in-ten (11%) cannot decide between the given options. No other options are chosen by more than 10% of respondents.

Of the following ways in which Cambridge might improve its overall open space system, please tell me which one you think would be the most beneficial. Which one would you say is the second most beneficial?

	Most beneficial	Second most beneficial
Acquire additional land for open space	25%	15%
Improve streets and sidewalks with trees, small sitting areas, and other features	24	28
Improve maintenance of existing open spaces	17	23
Renovate or beautify existing parks and open spaces	11	18
All equally	11	1
Expand the variety of recreational opportunities in parks and playgrounds	8	9
Bike paths/expand bike paths	1	1
None	1	2
Don't know	1	1

- About one-third of those with a senior in the household say the most beneficial way to improve Cambridge's open space would be to *improve streets and sidewalks*, while 21% of those without a senior in the house agree.
- Almost half (45%) of those with a child between the ages of 13 and 18 in the household say the second most beneficial way to improve Cambridge's open space is to *improve streets and sidewalks*.
- Over one-quarter (28%) of car owners say *acquiring additional land for open space* would be the most beneficial, while 15% of those who do not own a car agree.
- Twenty-eight percent of those who do not own a car believe *improving the maintenance of existing open space* would be the best improvement, compared to 14% of car owners.

Appendix: Supplemental Charts

What would you consider to be your favorite outdoor space in Cambridge, public or private?

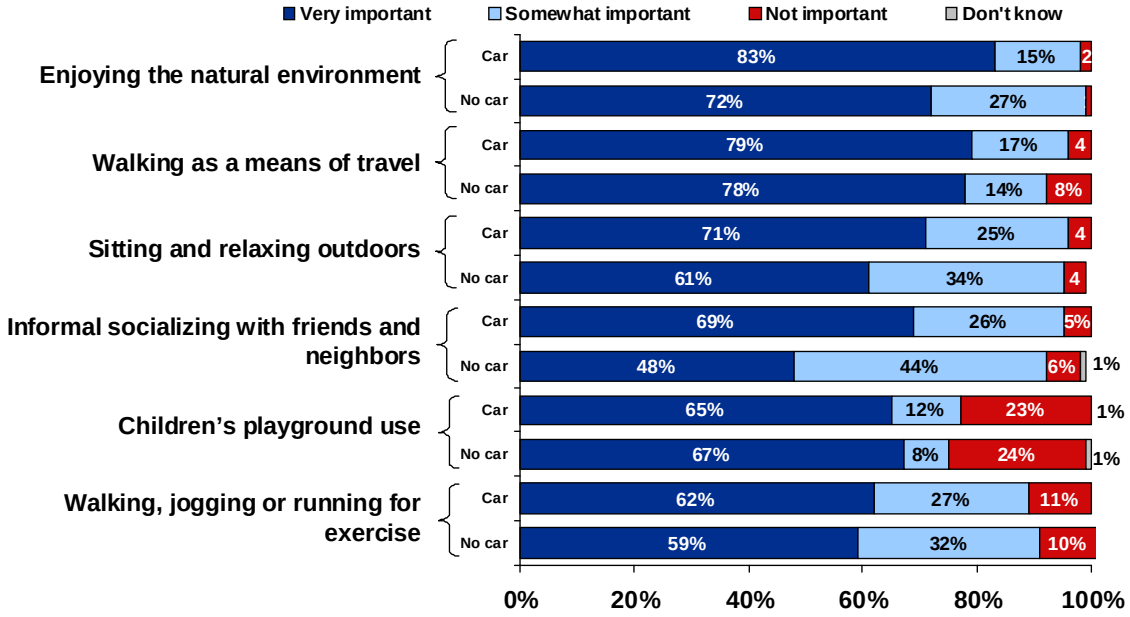
		Residence		Children in HH		Senior in HH		Own a car	
	Overall	Own	Rent	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Charles River	17%	19%	14%	13%	20%	18%	17%	16%	22%
Fresh Pond	14	18	6	10	16	15	14	15	7
Public spaces/parks	11	11	12	16	9	6	13	13	5
Danehy Park	8	9	8	11	7	10	8	8	11
Harvard Square/Yard	7	3	14	6	7	9	6	5	15
Cambridge Common	4	5	2	4	4	2	4	3	6
Mount Auburn Cemetery	3	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	2
Memorial Drive	3	2	5	1	4	6	2	4	2
Dana Park	3	3	1	5	1	1	3	3	1
Magazine Beach	3	1	5	1	4	1	3	3	1
Hancock Park	2	1	3	4	-	-	2	2	-
My Backyard	2	2	1	-	3	3	1	2	2
Raymond Park	2	-	3	4	-	1	2	1	-
Kennedy Park	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3
Radcliff Park	1	-	2	1	1	2	-	-	3
Gold Star Mothers Park	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	1	-
Alewife Reservation	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Cambridge Park	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Longfellow Park	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
(Other)	9	10	6	13	6	8	9	10	3
(Don't know/refused)	8	5	13	6	9	8	8	6	16

Briefly, what do you like about that space?

		Residence		Children in HH		Senior in HH		Own a car	
	Overall	Own	Rent	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Lots of open space/big	20%	19%	25%	20%	21%	15%	22%	21%	18%
Nice for running/walking/biking	17	20	11	11	21	15	18	17	19
Beautiful/scenic	15	14	15	10	18	17	14	16	7
Nice playgrounds/activities for children	15	14	17	29	5	4	18	17	3
Close to water	13	12	14	11	14	11	13	12	16
Lots of sports/activities	13	14	11	17	10	9	14	13	12
Natural environment	12	10	15	8	15	16	10	12	10
Clean/well-maintained	9	11	7	10	9	11	9	11	4
Take dog there/Great for dogs	8	8	8	6	9	6	9	9	5
Quiet/peaceful/relaxing	8	9	7	7	9	11	7	8	9
Convenient/Close by	7	8	6	11	5	4	9	6	15
Retail stores	3	2	7	7	1	8	2	1	14
Socializing/People around	3	4	2	3	3	1	4	3	4
Away from city	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	-
Safe	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1
Benches/Areas to sit	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2
Never crowded	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-
Historic	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
(Other)	4	4	7	3	6	7	4	4	5
(Don't know/Refused)	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2

Results by Car ownership

I'm going to read you a list of some common outdoor activities. For each one, please tell me whether you consider that particular outdoor activity to be very important, somewhat important or not important, to members of your household.



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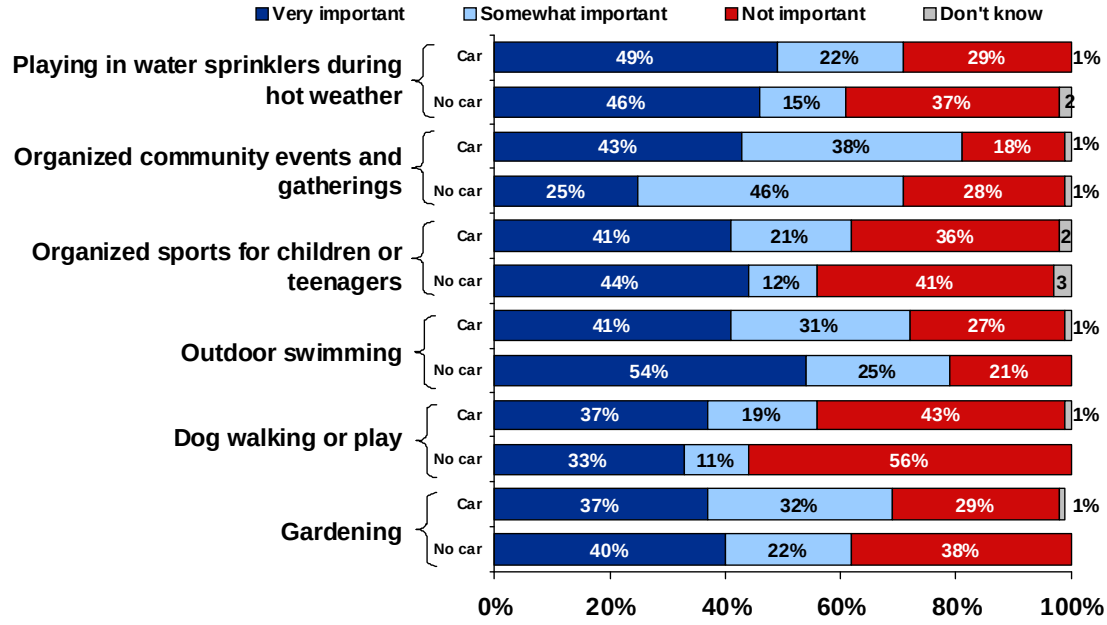

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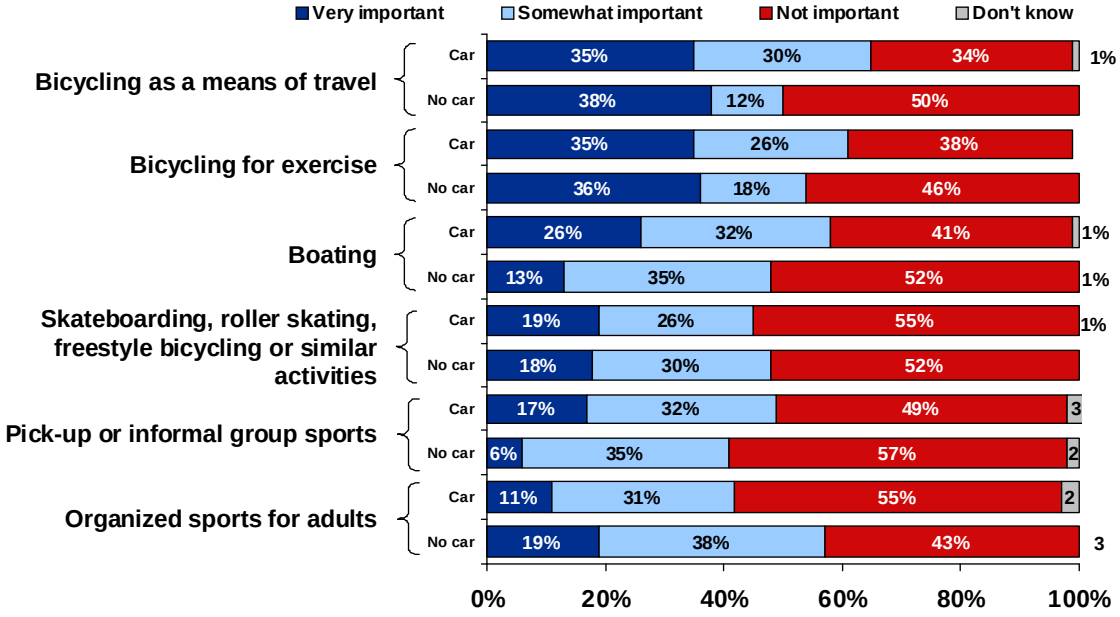
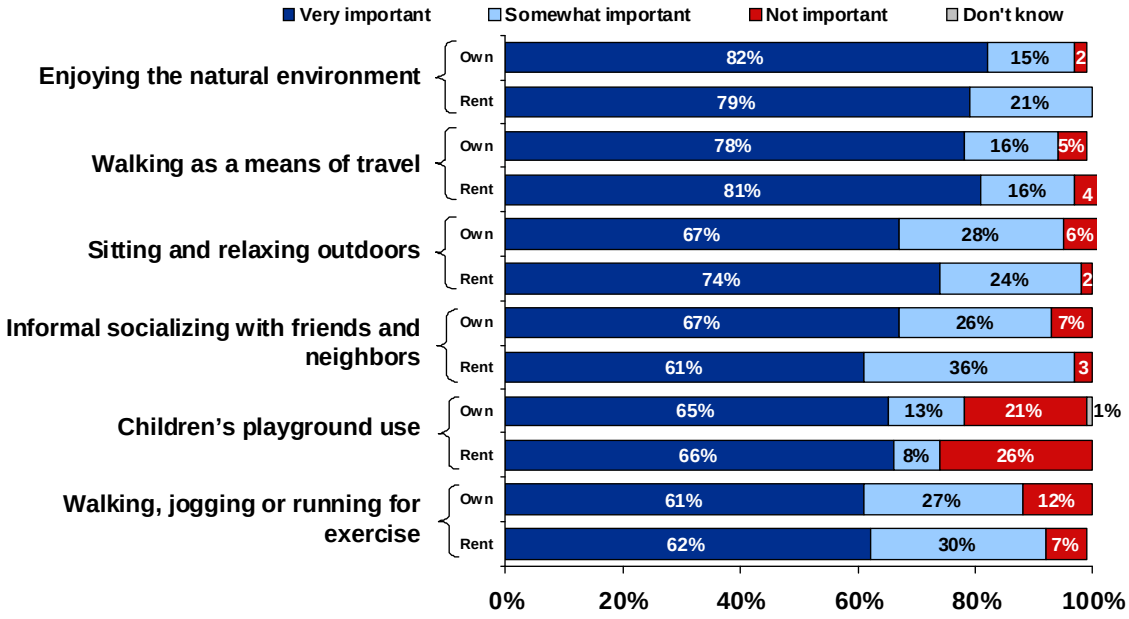


Results by Home ownership

I'm going to read you a list of some common outdoor activities. For each one, please tell me whether you consider that particular outdoor activity to be very important, somewhat important or not important, to members of your household.



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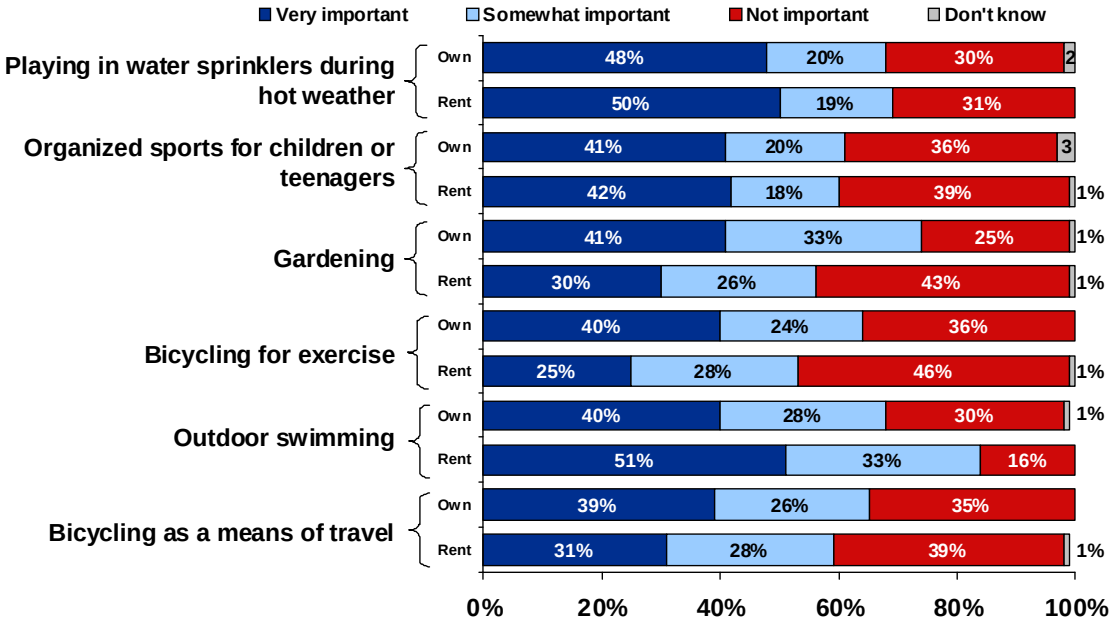

Results by Home ownership

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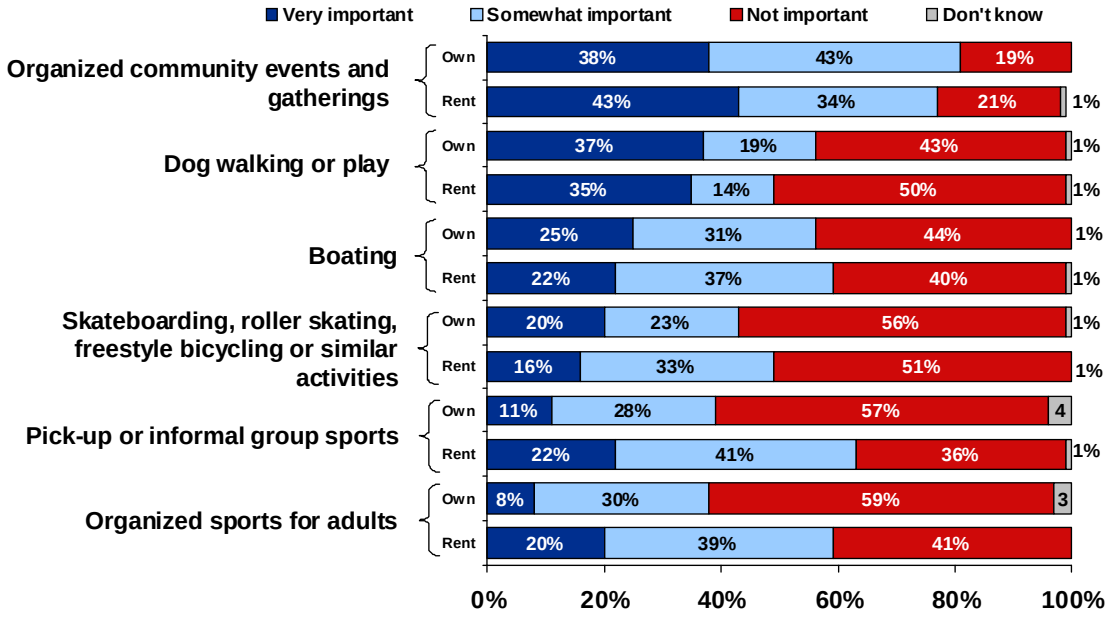
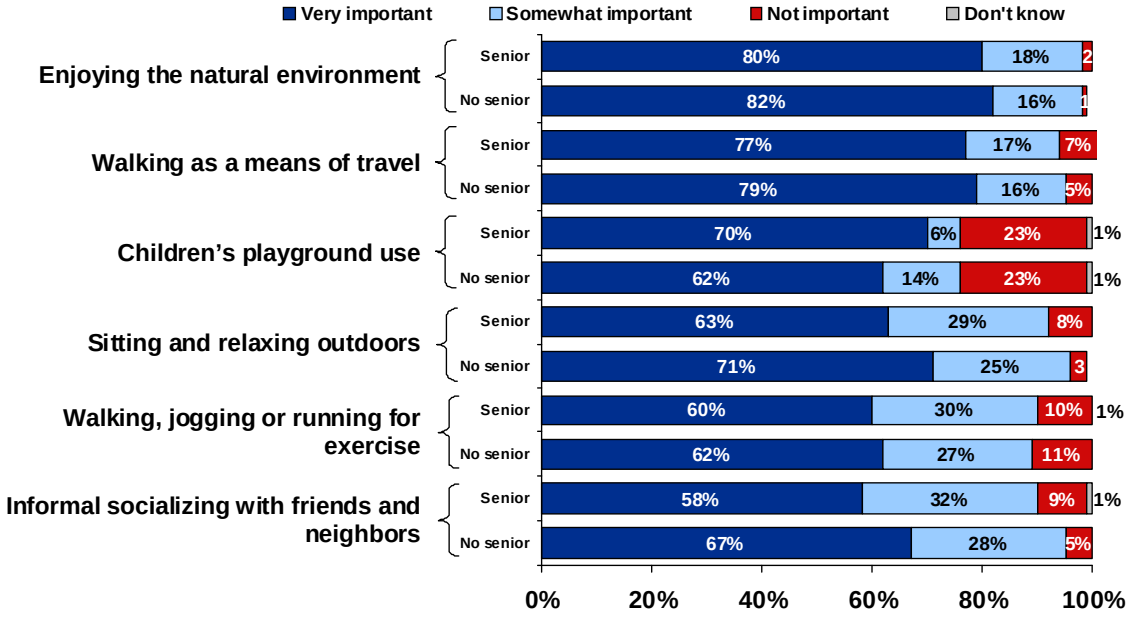


Results by presence of Senior citizen in household

I'm going to read you a list of some common outdoor activities. For each one, please tell me whether you consider that particular outdoor activity to be very important, somewhat important or not important, to members of your household.



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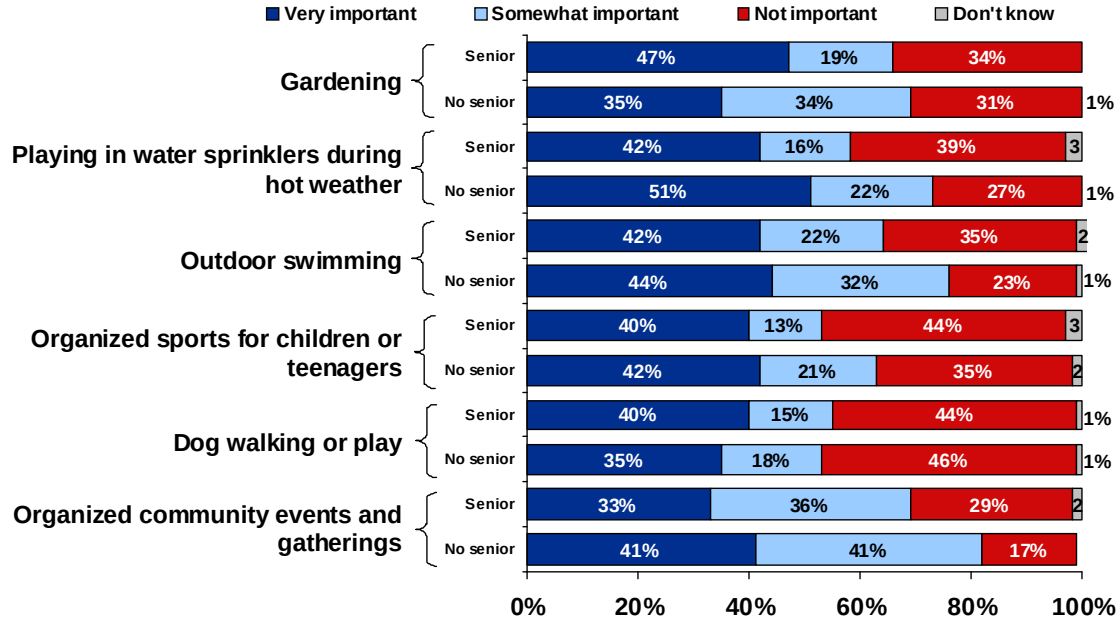

Results by presence of Senior citizen in household

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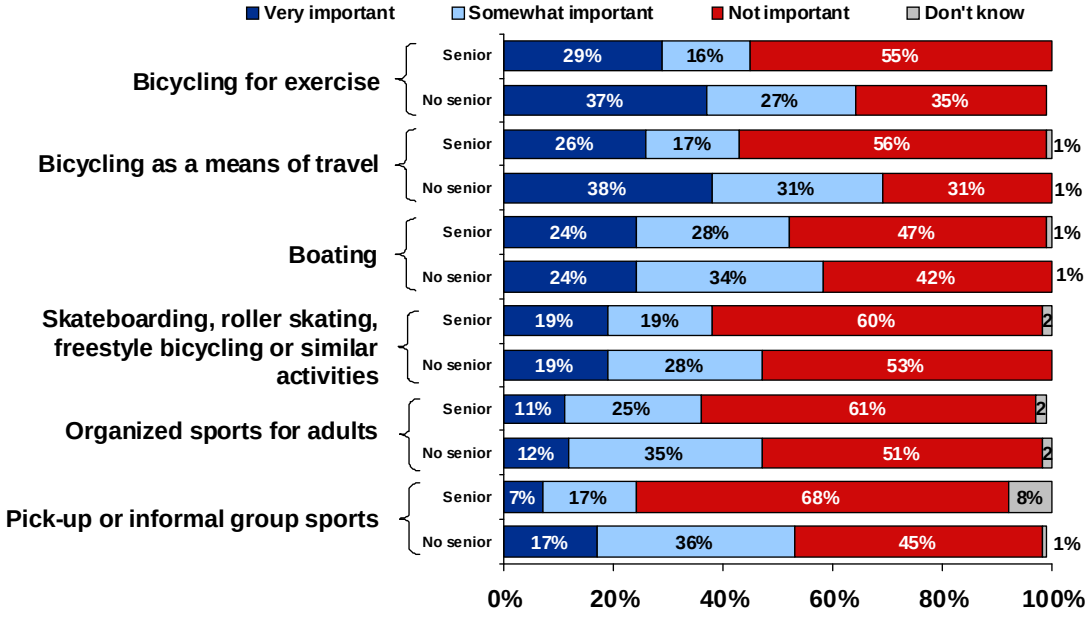
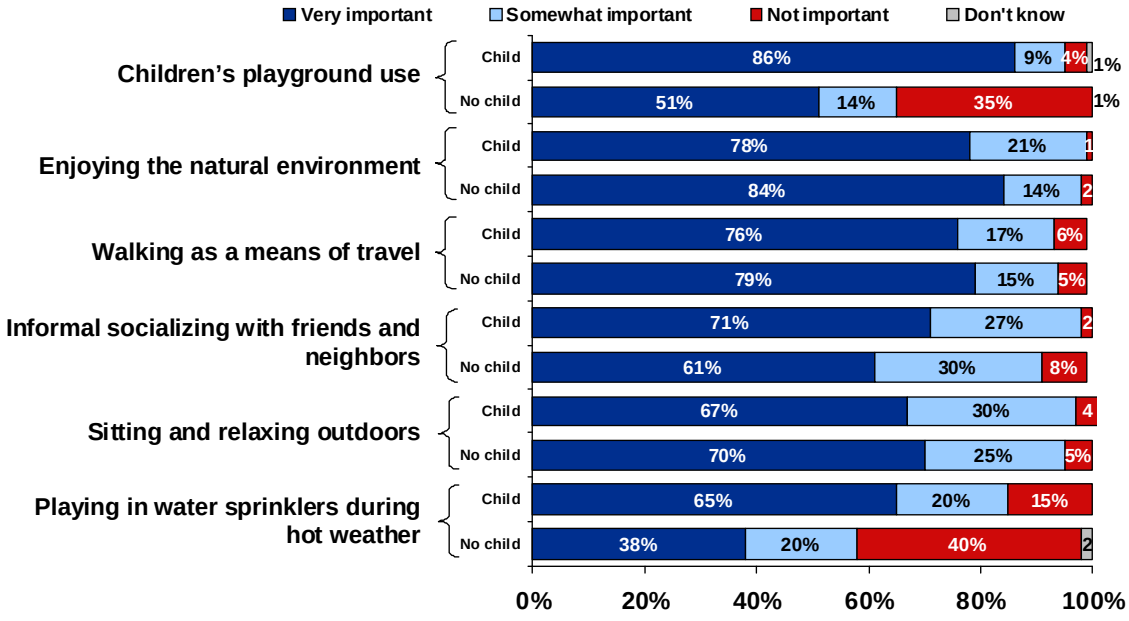


Results by presence of Child under 18 in household

I'm going to read you a list of some common outdoor activities. For each one, please tell me whether you consider that particular outdoor activity to be very important, somewhat important or not important, to members of your household.



Results by presence of Child under 18 in household

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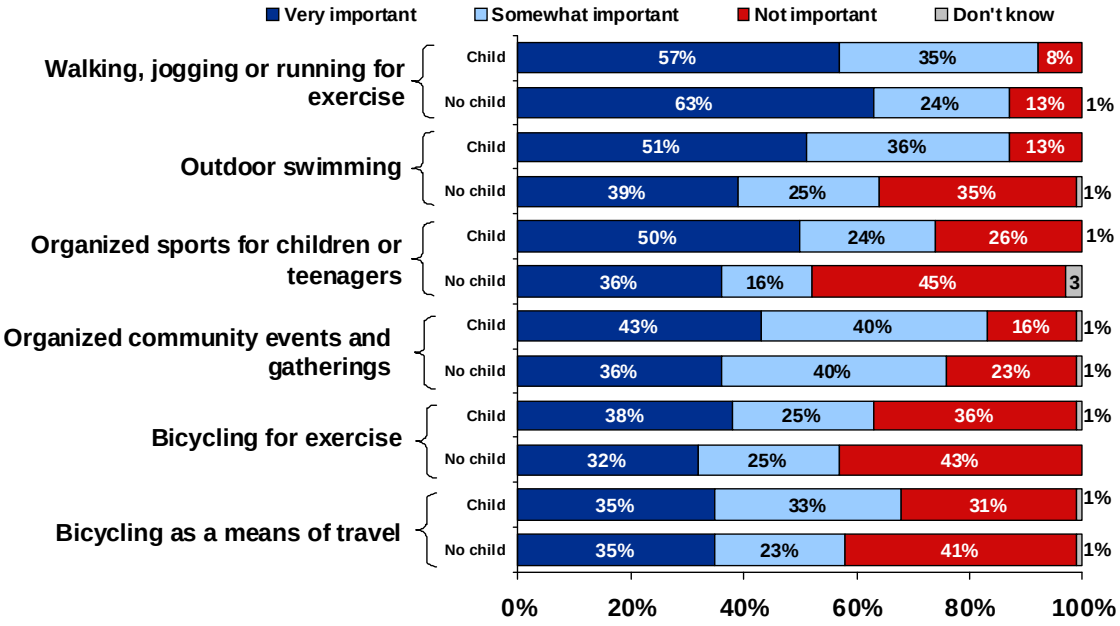

Results by presence of Child under 18 in household

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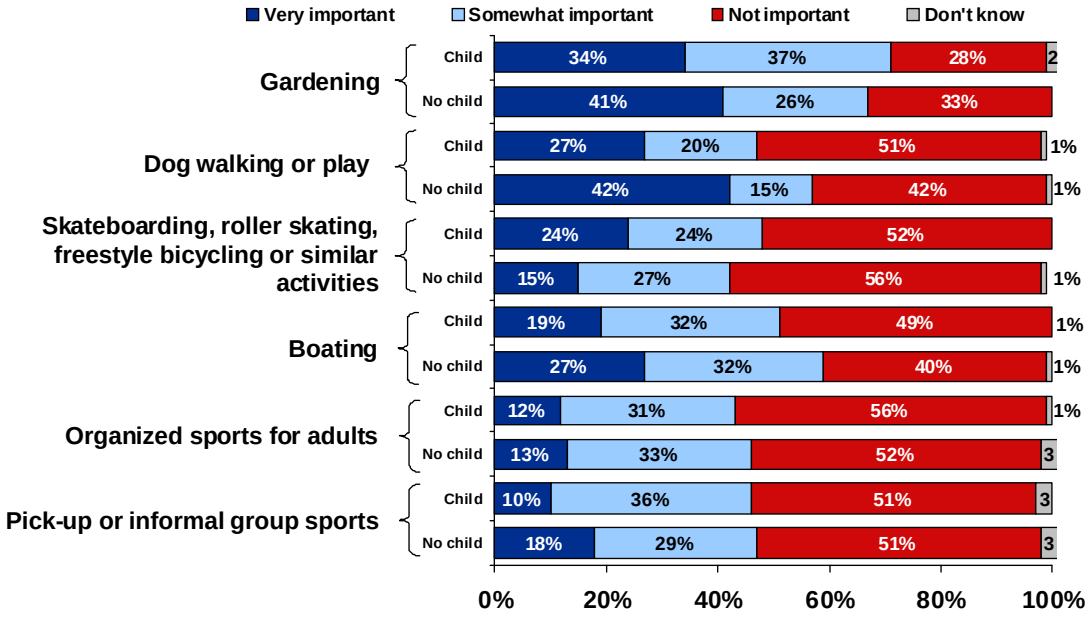
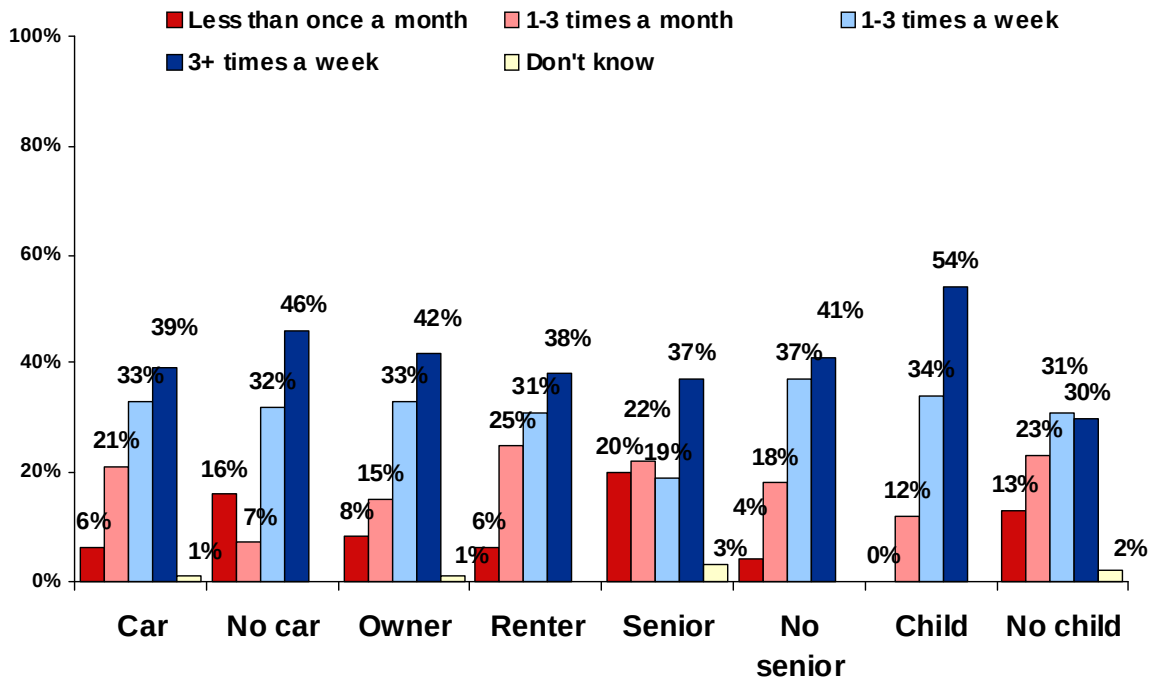
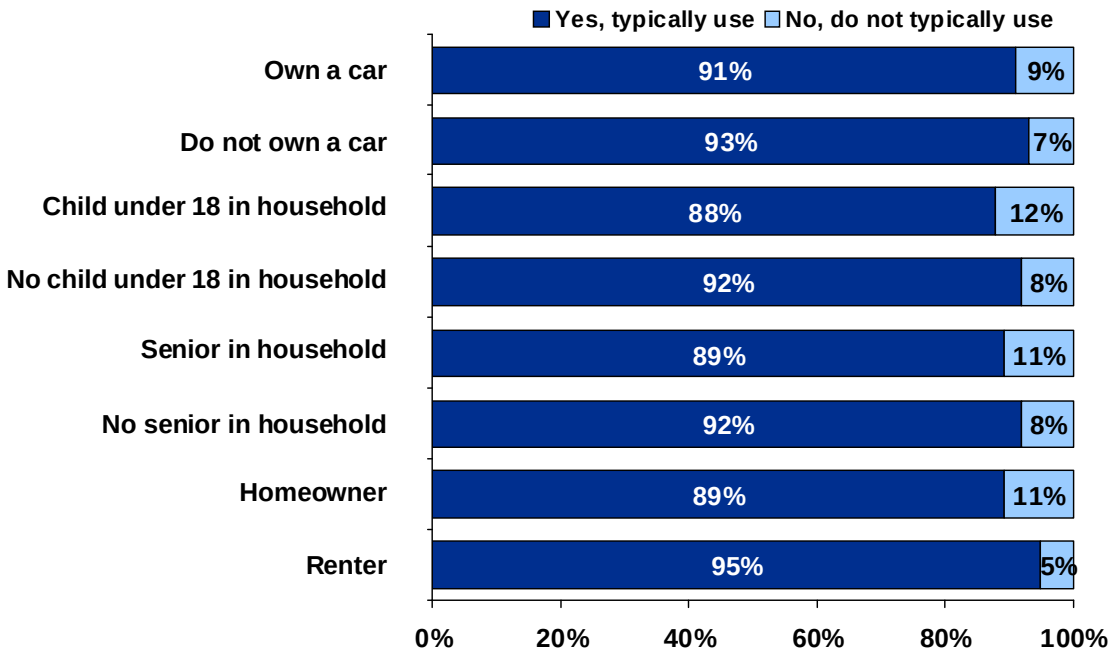


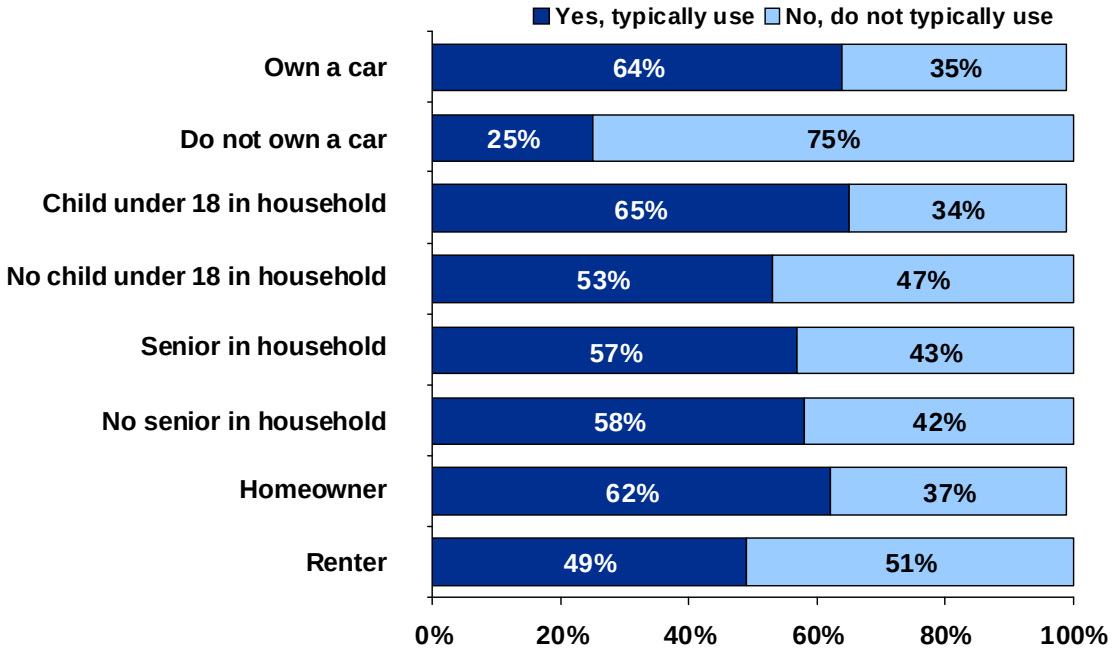
On average, about how often do members of your household visit a public park or open space in Cambridge?



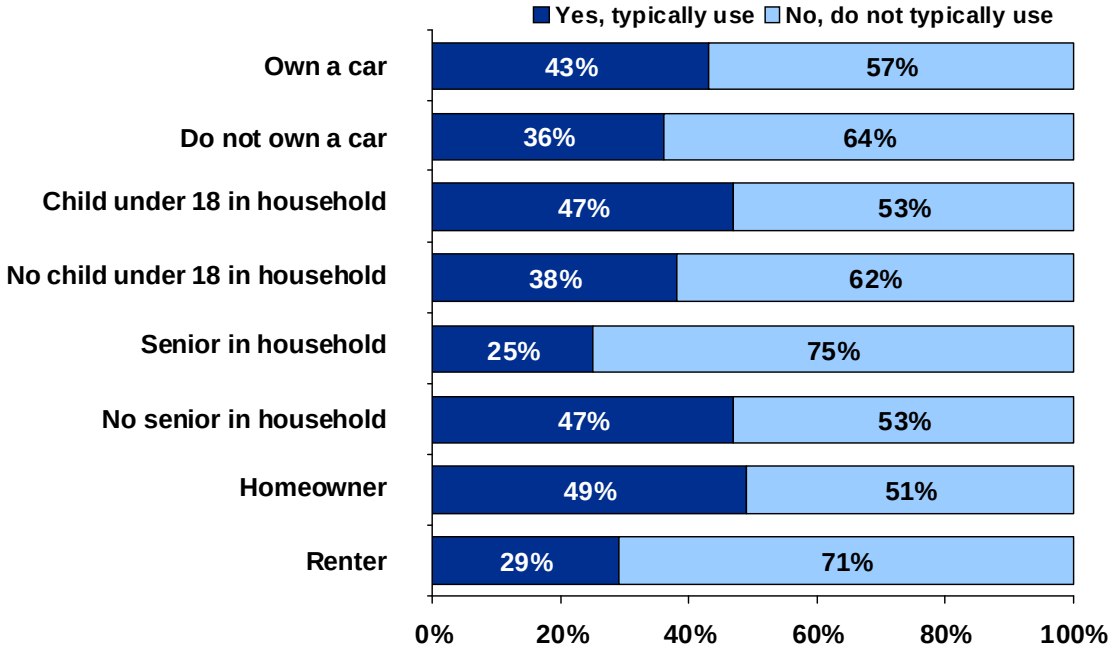
Do you or members of your household typically travel to public parks or open spaces by walking?



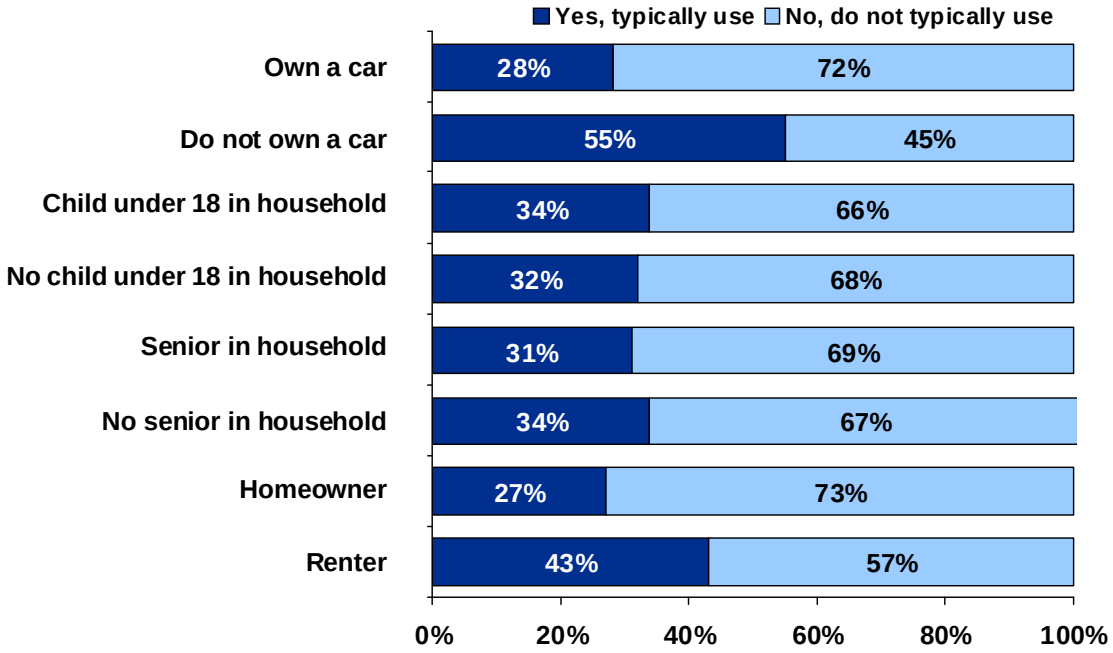
Do you or members of your household typically travel to public parks or open spaces by driving your own or a family car?



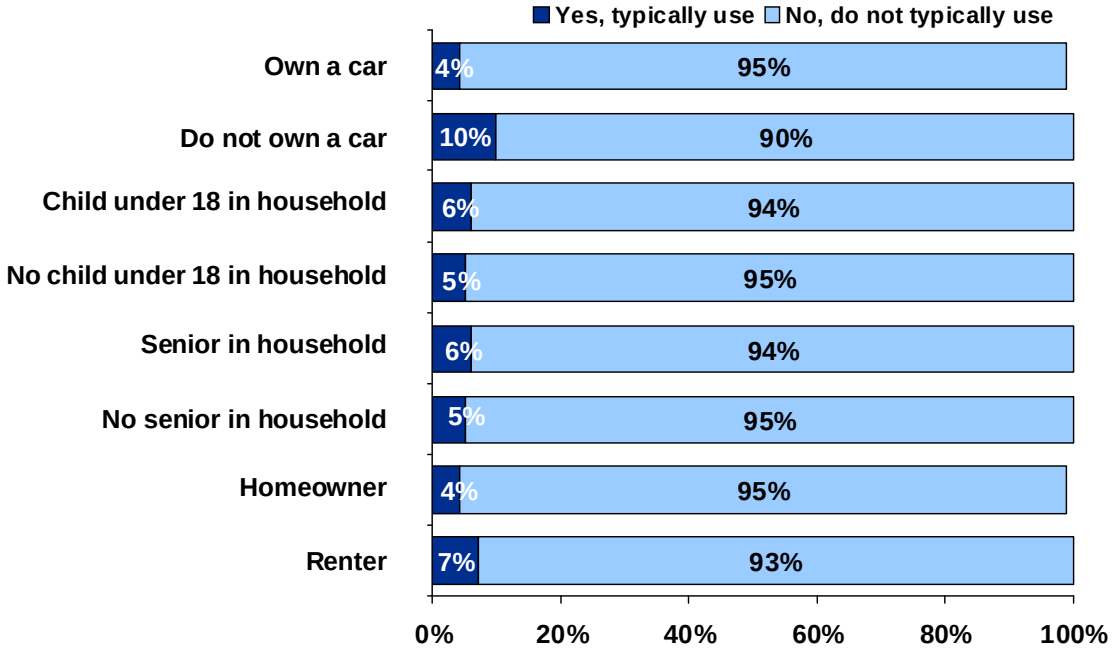
Do you or members of your household typically travel to public parks or open spaces by bicycling?



Do you or members of your household typically travel to public parks or open spaces by public transportation?



Do you or members of your household typically travel to public parks or open spaces by driving a shared-use or rental car?



Of the following benefits provided by open space, please tell me which one you think is the most important to members of your household. Which one benefit would you say is second most important?

	Residence				Children in HH				Senior in HH				Own a car			
	Own		Rent		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
All equally	26%	2%	29%	3%	23%	4%	29%	1%	27%	2%	26%	2%	27%	2%	27%	1%
Recreation, play & exercise	26	13	23	19	37	12	15	17	13	14	28	15	27	16	14	11
Relaxation & fresh air	13	29	26	24	17	26	18	28	27	22	15	29	16	30	24	15
Environmental benefits, such as trees, shade, & water	17	23	8	17	8	20	19	22	16	30	14	19	13	21	19	24
Beautification of the neighborhood	12	13	7	12	7	5	12	20	12	12	10	13	10	13	11	17
Social interaction & community gathering	5	19	8	22	7	33	6	9	4	15	7	21	7	17	4	32
None/Don't know	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	1	4	-	1	-	2	1	-

Of the following ways in which Cambridge might improve its overall open space system, please tell me which one you think would be the most beneficial. Which one would you say is the second most beneficial?

	Residence				Children in HH				Senior in HH				Own a car			
	Own		Rent		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Acquire additional land for open space	25%	14%	27%	16%	26%	15%	25%	15%	13%	14%	30%	16%	28%	16%	15%	10%
Improve streets and sidewalks with trees, small sitting areas, and other features	25	29	20	30	18	30	28	27	34	24	21	30	24	31	23	18
Improve maintenance of existing open spaces	14	24	22	21	22	19	13	26	22	22	15	23	14	21	28	32
Renovate or beautify existing parks and open spaces	13	17	8	20	9	18	12	18	8	29	12	15	11	15	14	32
All equally	11	-	12	2	10	2	12	1	12	1	11	1	12	1	12	2
Expand the variety of recreational opportunities in parks and playgrounds	7	10	10	7	10	11	6	8	8	6	8	10	9	10	5	5
Bike paths/expand bike paths	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
None/Other	2	5	-	1	3	3	-	4	1	3	2	3	2	4	-	-
Don't know	2	-	1	2	-	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	-

APPENDIX III: Open Space Recommendations from Neighborhood Studies and Neighborhood Study Updates

	East Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2005)	Status Summary
OS1	Explore opportunities to create new public open space in the neighborhood. This may be accomplished both by publicly acquiring land for new open space as well as by requiring private developers to provide land or funding to be dedicated to open space.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS2	Improve Ahern Field / Kennedy-Longfellow School Playground by expanding the recreational open space to the other side of Fulkerson Street. Also consider ways to make the area feel more safe; the area feels less safe because there are few "eyes" watching the park.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS3	Create a multi-use path along the Grand Junction Railroad line with pedestrian crossings to connect neighborhoods.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)
OS4	Required open spaces in private developments should be carefully designed to be accessible to the public, not located within enclosed internal courtyards.	Ongoing practice
OS5	Create a park space on the vacant lot across from Costa Lopez Taylor Park.	Completed (2008)
OS6	Ensure that there are pedestrian connections across O'Brien Highway to the new park at North Point, and between the North Point area and Charlestown.	Underway
OS7	Provide open space facilities to meet the needs of all neighborhood residents of all ages. Particular facilities that are seen as being needed in East Cambridge include playing fields (for youth soccer and other informal sports use) and tennis courts.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS8	The following improvements should be made to existing open spaces: a) The "Sixth Street extension" walkway needs improved lighting and emergency call box. b) Front Park needs an emergency call box. c) Park areas along the river need improved lighting and trash receptacles.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)
OS9	Explore the possibility of creating an off-leash dog park in the neighborhood. Attention should be paid to ensuring that such an area is kept clean and well cared-for. Perhaps require dog owners who use the park to assume responsibility for some of the park's maintenance activities.	In OS Plan (Medium Range)

	East Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2005)	Status Summary
OS10	Address problems with maintenance and snow removal in open spaces required of new housing developments.	Ongoing practice
OS11	Support the creation of a public canoe / kayak launch at Lechmere Canal.	In OS Plan (at Broad Canal)

	Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Study (1996) and Update (2004) Recommendations	Status Summary
OS1	The City should commit itself to increasing open space in Wellington-Harrington through purchasing land and developing parks and playgrounds whenever opportunities exist. The Committee felt that the need for open space is more acute between Prospect and Columbia Streets and from Hampshire Street to the Somerville line.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS2	The Elm Street Park/Hampshire Street sitting area should be redesigned to incorporate an active playground for children. The Committee recommends that the new sitting area include fencing and benches to make the space more inviting. A new shade tree and water fountain should be added. The Committee suggests that a neighborhood workshop be conducted around the redesign of the space.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS3	The City should allocate more funds towards park maintenance and attach a service contract to all newly constructed parks.	Ongoing practice
OS4	Redesign Donnelly Field for better definition of play spaces.	Completed (2004)
OS5	Upgrade and improve maintenance of Gold Star Mother's Pool. The Committee recommends that the pool should be enclosed to allow use throughout the year.	Completed (2006, not enclosed)
OS6	Street trees should be planted on Cambridge Street, Columbia Street, and on Norfolk Street in the area abutting the DPW site.	Completed and Ongoing
OS7	Street cleaning on Cambridge Street should be done more frequently, particularly around bars and restaurants.	Ongoing practice
OS8	Create play spaces for older children, rather than focusing exclusively on tot lots. One recreation resource that is needed is a skateboard park.	In OS Plan (Charles River)
OS9	Create good pathways to existing and future open spaces that border Wellington-Harrington, like North Point's parks and Grand Junction Railway linear park.	In OS Plan (Medium Range)

	Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Study (1996) and Update (2004) Recommendations	**Status Summary**
OS10	Look for opportunities to renovate small pocket parks whenever possible. Some sites that might be renovated include: • The corner of Windsor and Lincoln Streets • The corner of Windsor and Hampshire Streets • The corner of Webster Avenue and Hampshire Streets (across from the CDM building) • The old trucking company site on Binney Street • Site on Winter Street (in East Cambridge)	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)
OS11	The Department of Transportation Building site in East Cambridge could provide an opportunity to create new open space.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS12	The City should acquire land across the street from the Kennedy School's Ahern Field. While not located in the Wellington-Harrington neighborhood but in nearby East Cambridge, this is an important open space for a large number of students and local residents.	In OS Plan (Long Range)

	Area Four Neighborhood Study (1995) and Update (2004) Recommendations	**Status Summary**
OS1	Allocate more funds towards park maintenance. The Committee supports the allocation of more City resources towards park maintenance. The community also recommends that a service contract be attached to all park renovation projects in the neighborhood.	Ongoing practice
OS2	Renovate Harvard Street Park. The Committee strongly recommends that Harvard Street Park be renovated as a primary priority of the open space recommendations.	Completed (2008, with expansion)
OS3	Upgrade Area Four Community Garden on Broadway. The Committee would like to see the garden on Broadway upgraded. The improvements should include attractive fencing around the garden, better design for the individual plots, and sidewalk improvements to Boardman Street, next to the garden.	Completed (2005)
OS4	Design and construct a small sitting area in Sennott Park. The Committee recommends the design of a sitting area within Sennott Park. The sitting area is to be located on the part of the park next to Broadway and Norfolk Street, away from abutting houses. The Committee envisions such an area to be surrounded by small hedges for a sense of enclosure, and to include sitting benches and chess tables.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)

	Area Four Neighborhood Study (1995) and Update (2004) Recommendations	**Status Summary**
OS5	Plant a shade tree in the Hampshire/Elm Sitting Area. The sitting area is not in Area Four proper, but is located in the Wellington-Harrington neighborhood. The Committee suggests the Wellington-Harrington Study Committee consider recommending planting a shade tree in the sitting area.	Ongoing
OS6	Explore the possibility of adding the following sites to the neighborhood's open space system. • 206-210 Broadway • 164 Harvard Street • 197 Harvard Street All the sites are privately owned. The Committee felt that the vacant parcel at 165 Harvard Street was too small to be considered appropriate for housing. The Committee felt that 206-210 Broadway would be appropriate as open space. The Committee recommends that the Department of Public Works (DPW) should notify the owners about cleaning their property. If the owners fail to comply, DPW should clean the lots at the owners' expense.	In OS Plan (General OS acquisition)
OS7	Schedule street trees for periodic trimming so that tree branches do not obstruct street lights.	Ongoing practice
OS8	The City should continue the ongoing community process surrounding the Squirrel Brand open space. This space should continue to have a large community garden component, while at the same time including space for members of the public (especially youth) to interact and enjoy the site.	Completed (2005)
OS9	While the final status of the 238 Broadway site has yet to be determined, any open space on the site should reflect the plan developed through the community process.	Completed (2008)
OS10	Parks should be designed to encourage safety and discourage illicit activity. Existing parks should be continually monitored to ensure that they are clean, well-maintained, safe, and being used for appropriate activities. The parks can and should serve an important role in providing positive activities for youth.	Ongoing practice
OS11	The City should work to more effectively link youth educational and recreational organizations to existing park and recreation facilities. In order to do this, City departments concerned with these issues (including Community Development, Human Services, and Recreation) should conduct a comprehensive recreational needs analysis of local youth. Increased activity should be balanced with concerns about increased noise (especially amplified) by local residents.	Ongoing practice
OS12	The City should work to improve the quality of lawns and fields throughout the park system.	Ongoing practice

	Area Four Neighborhood Study (1995) and Update (2004) Recommendations	Status Summary
OS13	The City should establish a process for informing the public about changes in use to athletic facilities. Residents expressed concern with the lack of notice about the change at Sennott Park from baseball to soccer.	Ongoing practice

	Cambridgeport Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2003)	Status Summary
OS1	The Study Committee supports the efforts of the Friends of Magazine Beach and encourages the MDC to continue their community process with respect to the redesign of the Magazine Beach facility.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS2	The Study Committee recommends that the following parks in Cambridgeport should be zoned as Open Space: Hastings Square, Alberico Park on Allston Street, Lopez Street Tot Lot and Fullerton Park between Peters Street and Sidney Street. This change was not made in the previous citywide rezoning and this omission should be corrected.	Completed
OS3	The Study Committee recommends that the city pursue the option of expanding the park at 82 Pacific Street to include adjacent parcels.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)
OS4	The Study Committee supports the creation of an Open Space Acquisition Trust, to be used to buy land for the sole purpose of creating more open space in Cambridge.	Community Preservation Act adopted
OS5	The Study Committee recommends that the city add 4 or 5 picnic tables to Dana Park.	Completed (2004)
OS6	The Study Committee recommends that DPW add bulletin boards to all the parks in Cambridgeport that don't already have them. The bulletin boards should be of a standard size and construction and resemble the one recently placed in Sennott Park in Area Four.	Ongoing practice
OS7	In general, there are some changes that need to be undertaken for all the parks in Cambridgeport. The Study Committee recommends that trash cans be located near entrances/exits to the park and at a minimum should be emptied weekly. In addition, it is also recommended that maintenance be improved, especially ensuring that the water fountains are in working condition. Finally, small bags should be made available for dog owners to help them clean up after their dogs.	Ongoing practice

	Cambridgeport Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2003)	**Status Summary**
OS8	Open space is scarce resource. Imaginative ways need to be utilized to provide both passive and active open space in the neighborhood. The Study Committee recommends that the City explore the idea of utilizing any additional space along sidewalks for the placement of benches and other amenities. Resident sponsorship of these sidewalk amenities could help to ensure that these benches would be used properly by giving local residents a sense of ”ownership” in their neighborhood.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)
OS9	The Study Committee recommends that the city pursue the idea of requiring developers to link open spaces in urban developments to other open spaces in both the residential portion of Cambridgeport and other urban developments.	Ongoing practice (design review)

	Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2004)	**Status Summary**
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.	In OS Plan (General OS acquisition)
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; c. Regular pruning and thinning of trees.	Ongoing practice
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.	Ongoing programs
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.	In OS Plan
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.	Underway
OS26	Provide air conditioning at War Memorial facilities.	Completed (2008)
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.	Ongoing programs

	Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2004)	**Status Summary**
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.	Ongoing practice
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.	Ongoing coordination
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.	Ongoing practice

	Riverside Neighborhood Study Recommendations (2003)	**Status Summary**
	[Open space objectives for site at Western Ave and Memorial Drive] • Provide views of the river • Provide an incentive to encourage open space on site • Expand neighborhood connection to river	New open space in development
	The Study Committee recommends that the City develop a strategy for enhancing the pedestrian environment in Riverside, both through public improvements and through cooperative agreements with Harvard University and other key property owners.	Planning and coordination ongoing
	The Study Committee recommends that the City work with the [Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation] to improve maintenance of the Charles River parkland and bridges.	Ongoing coordination

	Agassiz Neighborhood Study Recommendations (2003)	**Status Summary**
OS1	The City of Cambridge should work with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to explore the feasibility of constructing a park over the commuter rail line adjacent to the Porter Square T stop. If that fails, we recommend putting one of the many parking lots in the square underground and using the above ground area for a park. Porter Square is the location in Cambridge that is furthest from any parks, and creating a park over one of these locations is our most visionary and most expensive recommendation.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS2	The City of Cambridge should pursue the open space preservation funds available through the Community Preservation Act.	Community Preservation Act adopted

	Agassiz Neighborhood Study Recommendations (2003)	**Status Summary**
OS3	The Committee recommends enhancing the recreational use, especially the passive recreational use, of Sacramento Field. • The City of Cambridge should consider renaming Sacramento Field to Sacramento Park. • New signage should be placed at the main entrance to Sacramento Field on Sacramento Street. • The recently re-opened second public access route to Sacramento Field/Park should be maintained.	In OS Plan (Medium Range)
OS4	Encourage the closing of Oxford Street for community celebrations.	Ongoing programs
OS5	Encourage prompt removal of all graffiti by property owners - including City street signs and U.S. mailboxes.	Ongoing practice
OS6	Encourage the Agassiz Neighborhood Council to continue its tree-sponsorship program.	Ongoing programs
OS7	Encourage residents to take advantage of the City's sidewalk tree program.	Ongoing programs
	Agassiz Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2008)	**Status Summary**
OS1	Explore ways to increase the amount of public open space in the neighborhood.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS2	Explore ways to improve open space that is privately-owned but usable by the public. Some possibilities include making these spaces more physically accessible by improving public pathways and crosswalks, increasing awareness of these areas among neighborhood residents, and encouraging institutions to use these spaces for community events. Examples include the space surrounding the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the open space in the new Harvard North Yard development area.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS3	Encourage new development to include small open spaces that may or may not necessarily be public. Possibilities include open space above underground parking, rooftop open spaces, open "vistas" through developed areas, and open space created by allowing the shifting of development rights onto adjacent lots.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)
OS4	Trees are important to the neighborhood. Explore ways to improve the planting and maintenance of public street trees. Possibilities include an "Adopt a Tree" program or increased information to residents and property owners about tree planting and maintenance.	In OS Plan and Ongoing practice
OS5	Sacramento Field is important to the neighborhood as its primary large public park. Work to improve the space by clarifying and beautifying the entrance and by adding benches and other seating.	In OS Plan (Medium Range)

	Agassiz Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2008)	**Status Summary**
OS6	Explore possibilities for new open space in the Porter Square area. Possibilities may include open space in future plans for the Porter Square Station air rights, or as part of Lesley University's plans for the North Prospect Church site (which currently includes private open space that is used by neighbors).	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS7	Work with the MBTA to improve the Porter Square Station plaza by making it feel safer, discouraging sleeping in the plaza, and moving trash receptacles away from benches.	Ongoing coordination
OS8	Explore whether there is demand for additional community gardening space in the neighborhood and whether there might be opportunities to provide more.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS9	Explore the possibility of a farmers' market for the Porter Square area.	Under consideration
OS10	Address the issue of groups loitering in Alden Park at night.	Ongoing practice
OS11	Describe the planned improvements to Cambridge Common.	Underway

	Neighborhood Nine Study Update Recommendations (2004)	**Status Summary**
OS1	Management/administration/maintenance: Encourage Department of Public Works employees to be more vigilant about picking up spilled trash on scheduled trash removal day.	Ongoing practice
OS2	Add dog-waste receptacles in parks and along streets in the neighborhood.	Ongoing practice
OS3	Encourage the creation of an "Adopt-A-Park" program in neighborhood parks.	Under consideration
OS4	Neighborhood organizations and residents groups should organize a neighborhood clean-up day in conjunction with the Department of Public Works.	Ongoing practice
OS5	Encourage neighborhood organizations and residents groups to organize a trustee's organization for the major parks in the neighborhood. (These organizations would serve as conduits to raise funds on a charitable basis to enhance the utility and aesthetic quality of the parks.)	Under consideration
OS6	Planning, programming, design and construction: Mitigate water pollution due to runoff into Alewife Brook/Little River and the Alewife Reservation.	Ongoing programs
OS7	Seek opportunities to increase community open space. Add sites for community gardens and recreational use.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)

	Neighborhood Nine Study Update Recommendations (2004)	Status Summary
OS8	Study current policy of scheduling adult leagues in City fields/parks.	Ongoing practice
OS9	Railroad crossing: Convert open lot next to railroad tracks at Walden Square into a passive park along with the renovation of the tunnel.	No action
OS10	Improve railroad underpass.	Completed (2006)

	Neighborhood Ten Study Recommendations (2007)	Status Summary
OS1	The Study Committee recognizes that adequate access is an important part of public open space and supports efforts to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety and access as part of open space improvements.	Ongoing practice
OS2	The Study Committee supports efforts to acquire and or create new public open space in Neighborhood Ten.	In OS Plan (Long Range)
OS3	The addition of tables and benches to Larch Road Park should be considered, while taking into account the original park design public process and community preferences.	Under consideration
OS4	Tables and benches should be added to Kingsley Park in Fresh Pond Reservation while taking into account the recommendations of the Fresh Pond Master Plan.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS5	The tennis courts at Glacken Field should be improved. Although the courts are in the Strawberry Hill neighborhood, the Study Committee notes that Neighborhood Ten residents use the courts extensively.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS6	Neighborhood Ten children and families should have opportunities for public indoor recreational activities especially during colder months. This could be part of a new facility or through arrangements with existing public and private facilities in the neighborhood, such as expanded community use of the Tobin Elementary School or the National Guard Armory.	Under consideration
OS7	The City should actively pursue strategies for increased maintenance and improvements on State owned parkland, specifically at Lowell Park and open space associated with the Charles River, which are maintained through the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Lowell Park, in particular, could become more of a destination for the neighborhood, through improvements such as the additions of tables and benches.	Ongoing coordination
OS8	The section of Lowell Park below Fresh Pond Parkway may be appropriate for a dog park.	Ongoing coordination

	Neighborhood Ten Study Recommendations (2007)	Status Summary
OS9	The City should explore taking over maintenance and improvements at Lowell Park, possibly in return for an agreement for increased maintenance by the State on the Charles River.	Ongoing coordination

	North Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2008)	Status Summary
OS1	There should be additional street trees on Route 16, as well as tree replacement on Cameron Avenue and also on Alewife Brook Parkway.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS2	Explore planting trees along Route 2 to help screen the neighborhood from idling automobiles.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS3	Tree wells throughout the neighborhood should be beautified and maintained.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS4	There should be more street trees throughout the neighborhood.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS5	The corner of Rindge Avenue, Pemberton Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue should be enlarged to accommodate additional tree plantings there.	Under consideration
OS6	Developers should be required to plant trees at development sites (i.e. the new Dunkin Donuts site).	Under consideration
OS7	Ensure that Linear Park is adequately maintained during the winter months.	Ongoing programs
OS8	A number of safety and maintenance issues at Alewife reservation should be addressed, in particular regarding homeless populations, trash, and safety of visitors.	Ongoing coordination
OS9	There should be new incentives for green developments.	Under consideration
OS10	There should be more open space opportunities at Trolley Square.	Completed (2007)
OS11	The City should consider purchasing Jerry's Pit.	Not planned
OS12	The City should work with the MBTA on liability issues in order to facilitate the improvement of the public spaces at the Porter Square Plaza.	Ongoing coordination
OS13	There should be more informal plazas for people to sit.	In OS Plan (Short-to-Long Range)
OS14	Any new development at the Fawcett / Norberg site should include rich landscaping.	Ongoing practice

	North Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2008)	Status Summary
OS15	There should be opportunities for dogs to be off leash. One location that should be explored is a section of Russell Field near Harvey Street.	In OS Plan (Short Range, but not at Russell Field location)

	Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study Update Recommendations (2007)	Status Summary
OS1	There should be a plan to add more street trees in the neighborhood, especially at locations where trees had been previously removed. Trees that are currently dead or decaying should also be replaced.	Ongoing programs
OS2	The bleachers at Glacken Field should be repaired or replaced.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS3	The current access to the Glacken Field tot lot should be improved and made more stroller friendly. Currently, access is too steep and the gate is not user friendly.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS4	Address graffiti problems at the Glacken Field Park and replace any play equipment that may be removed.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS5	Improve access to the Fresh Pond Reservation path from Glacken Field.	In OS Plan (Short Range)
OS6	Enforce trimming of shrubs that hang excessively over sidewalks.	Ongoing practice

APPENDIX IV: ADA Access Self-Evaluation

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Recreational Areas for the City of Cambridge was completed April 10, 1995 and subsequently approved. The following section contains some revised information submitted as part of the City of Cambridge Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2009-2016.

Introduction

As required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (hereafter "ADA") and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (hereafter “504”), this is the self-evaluation and transition plan for recreational spaces in the City of Cambridge. Currently, the administrative and legal requirements of ADA and 504, as they pertain to the City of Cambridge, are essentially identical. Hence, this document serves as both ADA and 504 compliance plan. Specifically, this document describes how the City of Cambridge intends to comply with ADA and 504 in providing access to its recreational programs for persons with disabilities. Volume I of this document contains a description of the administrative, employment and program access requirements pertaining to ADA/504. Volume II contains detailed summaries of the inventories conducted at each of the recreational facilities under the jurisdiction of the City of Cambridge.

The central component of this document is an analysis of the City of Cambridge's program access requirements under ADA/504 and an inventory of the recreational areas – parks, playgrounds, tot lots, active recreation areas and passive open spaces – where these programs are conducted. This inventory does not include facilities under the jurisdiction of the Cambridge School Department, Metropolitan District Commission, or other ADA/Title II entities within Cambridge. Nor does this inventory include any of Cambridge's many privately owned recreation areas, such as those owned by Harvard University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

For each recreation area within the jurisdiction of the City of Cambridge, a detailed assessment was conducted to determine what barriers existed that might limit or prevent participation by persons with disabilities. The assessments were conducted by interns and staff from the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Cambridge Community Development Department, and the Cambridge Department of Public Works. Special thanks are extended to Sheri Glazer, Edward Leahy and Derrick McDonnell for their invaluable assistance.

Part I: Administrative Requirements

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator

Michael Muehe, Executive Director of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, has served as the ADA Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator for the City of Cambridge since 1994. See attached letter dated May 31, 1994, which is still in effect.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 31, 1994

To whom it may concern:

Effective today, and pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101), I appoint Michael Muehe as the ADA Coordinator and the 504 Coordinator for the City of Cambridge. Mr. Muehe will continue to serve in this capacity so long as he is Executive Director of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, or until such time as I appoint a replacement.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

2. Grievance Procedures

The City of Cambridge has a single ADA/504 grievance procedure which is available to anyone, including applicants, employees and program participants that may have a complaint about a City action, policy or procedure:

The City of Cambridge hereby adopts an internal grievance procedure in order to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice regulations implementing Title I and Title II of the Americans v.ith Disabilities Act. Title I makes it "… unlawful for a covered entity to discriminate on the basis of disability against a qualified individual with a disability in regard to … employment." Title II states, in part, that "… no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of such disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination ..." in programs or activities sponsored by a public entity.

It is the goal of this procedure, in accordance with the ADA, to provide locally an investigation and mediation of complaints alleging violation of the ADA. This procedure will supplement independent administrative and judicial enforcement procedures created by the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, M.G.L. c. IS1B, and the City of Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance.

Complaints should be addressed to Michael Muehe, 51 Inman Street, Cambricge, MA 02139, (617) 349-4692 (voice) or (617) 492-0235 (TTY/TDD), who has been designated as the City's ADA Coordinator, charged with coordinating ADA compliance efforts in the City.

1. *A complaint may be filed orally or in writing and shall contain the name and address of the person filing it and a brief description of the alleged violation of the regulations.*

2. *A complaint must be filed within one hundred and eighty (180) days after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation.*

3. *Following the filing of a complaint with the ADA Coordinator, the complainant shall be referred to the Cambridge Human Rights Commission for investigation and mediation, which shall be conducted by the Executive Director or his or her designee. The investigation and mediation procedure performed by the Executive Director or his or her designee pursuant to this Grievance Procedure shall be separate and distinct from the general complaint process created by the City's Human Rights Ordinance. The Executive Director or his or her designee shall, during the course of the investigation and mediation hereunder, proceed in accordance with the Commission's general rules and procedures, except that the conclusion of this Grievance Procedure shall be either successful mediation by agreement of the parties or counseling to the complainant regarding additional processes and remedies. During the course of this grievance procedure, the Executive Director or his or her designee shall consult with the Personnel Director on any matter relating to employment practices of the City.*

4. *The Executive Director or his or her designee shall make a good faith effort to mediate the complaint to the satisfaction of the parties and, if necessary, to complete the process within ninety (90) days.*

5. *A written statement describing the mediated resolution, if any, shall be issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee and a copy forwarded to the parties and the ADA Coordinator no later than ninety (90) days after the filing of the complaint. If no resolution is reached, the Executive Director or his or her designee shall notify the ADA Coordinator that the complainant has been advised of additional processes and remedies and the grievance procedure hereunder shall be deemed completed and closed.*

6. *The ADA Coordinator shall maintain a written record of each complaint filed, the action taken, and the disposition of the complaint.*

7. *The right of a person to prompt an equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of an ADA complaint with the responsible federal department or agency. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.*

3. Public Notification Requirements

In compliance with ADA and 504 requirements, the City of Cambridge has notified the public of its nondiscrimination policy. Publications produced by the City of Cambridge are available in alternative formats, including large print, audio tape, and Braille, for persons with communication disabilities.

The City of Cambridge does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities. The City of Cambridge does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the City of Cambridge's designated ADA Coordinator:

Michael Muehe, ADA Coordinator
Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities
51 Inman Street, Second floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 349-4692 (Voice)
(617) 492-0235 (TTY/TDD)

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids such as sign language interpreters, amplification devices, readers or taped materials for effective communication in programs and services of the City of Cambridge are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

This notice is available in alternative formats, including audio tape, computer diskette and Braille.

4. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community

Development of this document was supervised by Michael Muehe, Executive Director of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities and ADA/504 Coordinator for the City of Cambridge (see attached copy of official designation signed by Robert W. Healy, chief municipal officer for the City of Cambridge). Mr. Muehe is an individual with a disability and has over twelve years' experience working in the field of disability policy and civil rights for persons with disabilities. Also assisting in the production of this document was Jennifer Rudd, Disability Project Coordinator for the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Ms. Rudd is an individual with a disability, has over five years' experience working with persons with disabilities and has a law degree from Suffolk University.

Established by city ordinance in 1979, the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities serves as a centralizing force within the City of Cambridge on issues relating to access for persons with disabilities. Ongoing activities of the Commission include providing information, referral and technical assistance on disability matters to Cambridge residents, consumers, family members, employers, architects, developers, and businesses. Monitoring compliance with the ADA, 504, and other federal and state accessibility laws, both within City government and in the private sector, continues to be a top priority of the Commission.

Part II: Program Accessibility

1. Facility Inventory

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
1	Ahern Field	• The route of travel is NOT stable, firm, and slip-resistant. Replace gravel with hard top. The pavement leading to the field is packed gravel so it is not wheelchair accessible. • Rebuild curb cut at crosswalk so that the slope does not exceed 8.3%. • There are 40 parking spaces available and there are no accessible spaces. There should be at least 2 accessible parking spaces available. There is no signage. Restripe lot so that at least two accessible parking spaces are available, including one accessible van space. • There are no access aisles that are a part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalks. • Add International Symbol of Accessibility signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • Implement a policy to check periodically for accessible parking violators and have them reported. • There are no signs at inaccessible entrance to field indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. • The bleachers are not accessible. Provide accessible seating area. • There is no accessible rest rooms except in the Kennedy School weekdays ONLY from 8am - 3pm. • There are no public phones available.	✓ Field and playground renovated in 2002. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone is available.
2	Alberico Park	• There are no accessible parking spaces available. Reconfigure so that there is at least one accessible space is available. • The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip resistant. Repair uneven paving in picnic area. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • There are no public telephones available. • The route of travel to the drinking fountain has an uneven pavement of stone and concrete. Repair breaks and cracks with beveled pavement. • There are no rest rooms available.	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.
3	Alden Park	• There is not a reasonable number of accessible parking spaces available. Reconfigure a	✓ Renovated in 2006 to meet

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. Parking by permit only. • There is a ramp in the path of travel that is too steep. If possible, level off and add double handrails to the ramp. Lengthen the ramp to decrease the slope. • There are two picnic benches that are not accessible. Reconfigure to allow accessible seating at picnic tables. Remove picnic tables and put accessible picnic tables in its place. • There is a 30" path of travel from tree with brick around it to the wooden post around tot lot. Widen path of travel by rearranging equipment. • There is only 29" from tree stump to tire equipment in the path of travel. Rearrange equipment to allow a path that is 36" wide. • Other equipment is in sand area which is not accessible to people who use wheelchairs. Rearrange equipment for accessibility. • There is not a 5 foot circle or a T-shaped space for a person using a wheelchair to reverse direction. Rearrange furnishings, displays, and equipment. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no public telephones available.	ADA standards. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone is available.
4	Anderson Courts	Included with **Bergin Park**.	See **Bergin Park**.
5	Bergin Park	• Directional signs should be installed for the accessible entrance to the playground. • Walkways need to be paved over due to some cracks that could prove to be a nuisance. • Playground area is non-accessible on one side although the other side is okay. • Ramp to playground equipment is too steep. Redesign to conform.	✓ Renovated in 2003 to meet ADA standards.
6	Cambridge Common	• No spots designated for handicapped, permit only, and some metered spots. • Monument has 30' wide cobblestone walkway, that makes travel to the fence, for a better view of the scripture on the statue, difficult. Remove cobblestones in this area to make an accessible path of travel. • Repair the walkways that surround the park. There are various breaks in the bricks where damage has occurred.	■ Future renovations to walkways included in 5-year action plan; playground renovations underway. Accessible parking spaces available.
7	Centanni Way	• There is a lip on the curbs. Repair lip. • There is a ramp but the double hand rails need to be lengthened on both sides of the ramp.	✓ Not essential for ADA/504 program accessibility compliance. If renovated in

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• The access aisles are not part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalk. • There is a long route from the accessible parking spaces to the entrance of the park. If possible, add another accessible entrance to park. • The accessible spaces are not closest to the accessible entrance. Reconfigure spaces. • There are no signs leading to accessible entrance. Add signs. • There are no picnic tables available.	the future, barriers will be removed consistent with ADA/504 accessibility standards.
8	Charles Park	• No accessible parking available. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are no accessible spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs. Place signs so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There is no enforcement procedure to ensure that accessible parking is used only by those who need it. Implement a policy to check periodically for violators and report them to the proper authorities. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no drinking fountains available. Provide at least one fountain with clear floor space of at least 30" by 48" and with a spout no higher than 36" above the ground. • Add drinking fountain controls that are mounted on the front or on the side near the front edge, that is operable with a closed fist. • There are no public phones available.	✓ Playground renovated in 2005 to meet ADA standards. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone is available.
9	Clarendon Avenue Playground	• There are no accessible parking spaces available. Parking by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of accessible spaces by repainting stripes. • The curb cuts are not stable, firm, and slip resistant. The curb cuts are red brick. Repair curb cuts. • All the play equipment is located in sand area. Relocate equipment to accessible area. Add an alternative route of travel to play equipment. • The route of travel is all red brick. Repair cracks and buckling. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no public telephones available. • There are no drinking fountains available.	✓ Renovated in 1995 to meet ADA standards. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available. ■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
10	Clement G. Morgan Park	• There is an accessible entrance but one entrance has a 31" width. If possible, widen the entrance. • There is a 7 degree curb cut. Add a small ramp up to curb or lower the slope of the curb cut. • There is a ramp that leads to play equipment area. The play equipment is located in sand area. Add railings to ramp leading to play equipment. Provide play equipment in another location that does not have sand underneath for wheelchair accessibility. • There is no accessible parking spaces available. Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are no 16' wide spaces, with 98" of vertical clearance available for lift-equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • The access aisles are not part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalk. • There are no accessible spaces closest to the accessible entrance. Reconfigure spaces. • There is no spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. There are no signs reading "Van Accessible" at van spaces. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There is one entrance that is 31" wide. The standard width for a door is 32" wide. If possible, widen entrance. • There is one curb cut that is 7.8 degrees. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • There are various level gradients on the path of travel from park entrance to basketball court area. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • There are no picnic tables available for wheelchair seating. If possible, add picnic tables that provide 36" aisles and allow room for wheelchairs in seating areas throughout the area. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no public telephones available.	✓ Renovations to park, pathways, playgrounds and street crossings underway to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone will be installed.
11	Comeau Field	• There is no parking designated for the disabled but there is a lot close by. Paint spots available for persons with disabilities, also spots available for van parking with lifts. • Most areas surrounding the field's edge are covered in grass or gravel pathways which is not ideal for wheelchair mobility. Pave walkways and designate spots for a disabled	✓ Renovated in 2006 to meet ADA standards. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones and

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		person to either coach a team or watch the games from the sidelines. • There is no public phone. • There is no public restroom facilities. • There is no water fountain.	restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.
12	Cooper Park	• Some uneven areas surrounding the tot lot should be leveled out. • Not all areas of the playground are accessible because of sand. Remove sand and replace with rubberized mats. • Parking by permit only. There are no designated accessible parking spaces available. Reconfigure to allow a reasonable number of accessible parking spaces. • There is no accessible seating available. Install accessible picnic tables. • The drinking fountain is not accessible. Replace with an accessible drinking fountain.	✓ Renovated in 1997 to meet ADA standards.
13	Corporal Burns Park	• There are no accessible parking spaces available. Reconfigure so that there is at least one accessible space is available. • The entrance has a threshold that is more than 0.5". Remove it or add a bevel. • There are many cracks in the pavement. Repair pavement. • All public spaces are not on an accessible route of travel. Provide access to all public spaces along an accessible route of travel. Repair pavement. • The benches are not accessible. Relocate benches to accessible area on the route of travel. • The tot swings have concrete underneath them. Install rubber padding. • There is a step up to the sheltered picnic area. Rearrange tables to allow wheelchair access throughout the area. • There are no public telephones available. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are no rest rooms available.	✓ Renovated in 1999 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
14	Costa Lopez Taylor Park	• There are no accessible parking spaces available. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. Parking is by permit only. • There are no 16' wide spaces, with 98" of vertical clearance, available for lift-equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • There are no access aisles that are part of the accessible route to the accessible	✓ Playground renovated in 1995 to meet ADA standards. Pathways, sidewalks and entrances renovated, community

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalk. • There is no accessible spaces located near an accessible entrance. Reconfigure spaces. • There are no accessible spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There is no enforcement procedure to ensure that accessible parking is used only by those who need it. Implement a policy to check periodically for violators and report them to the proper authorities. • Inaccessible entrances do not have signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance Install signs before inaccessible entrances so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • Accessible entrance has a 1" lip. Reconstruct entrance or make lip less than 0.5". If there is a 0.75" high threshold, remove it and add a bevel. • The tops of the picnic tables are 20" high. The table top should be between 28" and 34" high. Replace or remove tables. • There are stairs that do not have a non-slip surface. Add non-slip surface to treads. • There are no rails on both sides of stairs. Add or replace handrails if possible within the existing floor plan. • There are no rest rooms available. • There is not one fountain with a clear floor space (30" x 23"). There should be at least 30" x 48" in front of drinking fountain. Clear more room by rearranging or removing furnishings • The spout of the drinking fountain is missing. Replace spout. • The drinking fountain protrudes more than 4 inches into the circulation space. Place a planter or other cane-detectable barrier on each side at floor level. • There are no public phones available.	gardens added 2008 (including wheelchair-accessible community gardening plot). Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone will be installed.
15	Dana Park	• Path of travel to jungle gym is 28" widen to conform to 36" rule. • There is a ramp with a step at the end, lengthen ramp to conform. • Add a railing to both sides of the ramp. • Remove sand from ramps to make safer for travel. • There are no accessible parking available. Permit parking only. Reconfigure parking spaces to make accessible parking available. Install proper parking signage for van	✓ Renovated 2004 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		accessible spaces. • Curb ramps should be installed in various places. • Install directional signs for accessible entrance approach. • Drinking fountain conforms to code, but there is a concrete underneath spout which violates clear pathway of travel. Remove concrete block to allow accessible approach to fountain. • Public phone available but it does not work. Contact phone company to repair or remove. Volume controls, hearing aid, signage, and text telephone not available.	
16	Danehy Park	• There is a lip on the curb cut leading from the parking lot to the route of travel. Re-level to surface of path of travel. • There is no signs leading to the accessible rest rooms. Install signs. • The bleachers are located in grass area. Relocate bleachers for wheelchair accessibility. • There is no accessible "dug out" benches for the team members of the team. Place concrete for wheelchair accessibility.	✓ Renovated in 2001.
17	David Nunes Park	No issues noted.	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.
18	Donnelly Field	• There is a 15% slope on the ramp. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. Relocate ramp. If space is limited, reconfigure ramp to include switchbacks. • All ramps are no longer than six feet and do not have railing on both sides. Add railings • The adequate number of accessible parking spaces is not available (8 feet wide for a car plus 5 foot striped access aisle). No specific spots for disabled but designated spots for faculty of school designed. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are no 16-foot-wide spaces, with 98 inches of vertical clearance, available for lift-equipped vans. • Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • There are no accessible spaces close to the accessible entrance. Reconfigure spaces. • There are no accessible spaces marked with the international symbol of accessibility. There are no signs reading "Van-accessible" at van spaces. Add signs. Place signs so they are not obstructed by cars.	✓ Renovated in 2004 to meet ADA standards. Accessible bleachers and seating included. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• There is no enforcement procedure to ensure that accessible parking is used by those who need it. Implement a policy to check periodically for violators and report them to the authorities. • There are no stairs at the accessible entrance. If it is not possible to make the main entrance accessible, create a designated alternate accessible entrance. • All inaccessible entrances need signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. Install signs in order to locate the nearest accessible entrance. • The threshold level at the entrance is greater than 1/2". Remove it or add a bevel to even it out. • There are no public spaces on an accessible route of travel. There is no signage leading to an accessible route of travel. • The spaces for wheelchair seating is not distributed throughout. Rearrange tables to allow room for wheelchairs in seating areas throughout the area. • There are no public telephones.	
19	Elm/Hampshire Plaza	• Curb cuts have a slope greater than 8.3% on the route of travel. Install curb cut. Add small ramp up to curb. • There are no adequate number of accessible parking spaces available. Parking by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are no 16-foot-wood spaces, with 98 inches of vertical clearance available for lift -equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • The access aisles are part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps and reconstruct sidewalk. • The accessible spaces are not close to the accessible entrance. Reconfigure the spaces. • The accessible spaces are not marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. The signs do not read "Van Accessible" at van spaces. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are no public phones available.	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.
20	Father Callanan Playground	• The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip resistant. There are cracks in path of travel and a big crack on the basketball court. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps	✓ Renovated in 2008 to meet ADA standards.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		and breaks with beveled patches. • There are no signs directing to accessible entrance. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars or equipment. • There is a lip at the entrance to the tot lot. Make entrance level. • There is a zebra that is not accessible without assistance. Lower zebra or add another piece of equipment that is accessible. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are no accessible benches available. Remove dirt around benches. Relocate benches to an accessible area.	
21	Flagstaff Park	• There is a lip greater than 0.5". If there is a 0.75" high threshold, remove it or add a bevel. • The light post is in the path of travel. Relocate light or widen path. • Route of travel is not 32" wide. Widen route of travel. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are no accessible benches available. • There are no public phones available. • There are no public rest rooms available.	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.
22	Fort Washington Park	• The route of travel requires the use of a step onto the sidewalk. There are no curb cuts to get to grassy area. • The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip-resistant. Repair uneven paving. Fill small breaks with beveled patches. • There is no route of travel that is at least 36" wide. Change landscaping to allow a path of travel into area. • Add small ramp up to curb. Bevel to level ground. The path of travel is all red brick until the entrance of the park. Accessibility stops at the entrance. • A ramp should be added to make entrance to park accessible to persons using wheelchairs. • There is no accessible parking available. Permit parking only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are no 'Van accessible" available for lift-equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces.	✓ Not essential for overall ADA/504 program accessibility compliance. If renovated in the future, barriers will be removed consistent with ADA/504 accessibility standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in City parks.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• The access aisles are not part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. • Add curb ramps. • There are no parking spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • All inaccessible entrances do not have signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. Install signs before inaccessible entrances so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • There are no·park benches available. Add benches in the area. • Provide access to all public spaces along an accessible route of travel. • The accessible route is not 36" wide. Widen the route. Move furnishings, such as benches to make more room. • There is no wheelchair seating distributed throughout park. Rearrange tables to allow room for wheelchairs in seating areas throughout the area. • Install ramps to all areas. Post clear signs directing people along an accessible route to ramps. • There are no public rest rooms available. • There are no public accessible fountains available. • There are no public telephones available.	
23	Franklin Street Park	• The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip-resistant. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • There are too many steps available. Install a ramp as an alternative route on level ground. • There are no accessible parking spaces available. Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure at least one accessible parking space. • There are no 16' wide spaces available for lift equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van accessible spaces. • The access aisles are not part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalk. • There are no signs marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There is not an alternative entrance with a ramp. Create a dignified alternate accessible	✓ Renovated in 2003 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		entrance to the park. Add signs to accessible entrance. • There is no alternative accessible entrance that can be used independently. Eliminate as much as possible the need for assistance. • There is a threshold level that is greater than 0.5" high. Add a short ramp. • The accessible entrance does not provide direct access to the main level. Add ramps. Make another entrance accessible. • All public spaces are not on an accessible route of travel. Provide access to all public spaces along an accessible route of travel. • There is no 5' circle or a T-shaped space for a person using a wheelchair to reverse direction. Rearrange furnishings, displays, and equipment. • There are no designated signs to permanent rooms and spaces, such as rest room signs that comply with the appropriate requirements for tactile signage. • There is just brick seating areas. Add benches ·and picnic tables that allow room for wheelchairs in seating area. • The stairs do not have treads with a non-slip surface. Add non-slip surface to treads. • Stairs do not have rails on both sides, with extensions beyond the top and bottom stairs. Add or replace handrails if possible within existing floor plate. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no telephones available. • There are no drinking fountains available.	
24	Fresh Pond Reservation	No issues noted.	■ Pathways/access plan for reservation included in five-year action plan.
25	Front Park	• There is 5 steps present in path of travel. Add a ramp if the route of travel is interrupted by stairs. • There is no parking available. Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • Add curb ramps and reconstruct sidewalk to make access aisles part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance to the passive park. • Add accessible parking spaces closest to the entrance of the park. • All accessible spaces should have signs with the International Symbol of Accessibility	✓ Not essential for overall ADA/504 program accessibility compliance. If renovated in the future, barriers will be removed consistent with ADA/504 accessibility standards. Public phones and

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • If it is not possible to make the main entrance accessible, create a dignified alternate accessible entrance. If parking is provided, make sure there is accessible parking near all accessible entrances. • Install signs before inaccessible entrances so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • There are no public rest rooms available. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are no public phones available.	restrooms not generally available in City parks.
26	Fulmore Park	• No parking designated for persons with disabilities. Permit parking only • Seating placed in areas of travel, not an ideal design and should be removed. Alternate routes available. • No public phones or restrooms.	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.
27	Gannett/Warren Pals Park	• There is play equipment that is 6'8" protruding into the route that cannot be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane. Move or remove protruding objects. Add a cane-detectable base that extends to the ground. Place a cane-detectable object on the ground underneath as a warning barrier. • There are no accessible parking spaces available. Permit parking only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are no 16-foot-wide spaces with 98 inches of vertical clearance, available for lift-equipped vans. There are no available handicapped parking spaces. Reconfigure to a reasonable number of van accessible spaces. • Access aisles are not part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalk. • The accessible spaces are not close to the accessible entrance. Reconfigure spaces. • The accessible spaces are not marked with International Symbol of Accessibility. There are no signs which read 'Van Accessible" at van spaces. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There are no stairs, ramp or lift, or any alternative accessible entrance. There is no public building available for same. If it is possible to make the main entrance accessible create a designated alternate accessible entrance. If parking is provided, make sure	✓ Renovated in 1997 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		there is accessible parking near all accessible entrances. • There are no restrooms. • There are no telephones.	
28	Garden Street Glen/Roethlisberger Memorial Park	• There is a ramp that is too steep. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • The rest rooms are located in Danehy Park which is a long distance from Roethlisberger Park. • Relocate the rest rooms. Make at least one rest room accessible. • There are no public telephones available. Call the phone company and install push button telephone. Make sure the telephone has volume control and the appropriate signage.	✓ Not essential for overall ADA/504 program accessibility compliance. If renovated in the future, barriers will be removed consistent with ADA/504 accessibility standards. Public phones not generally available in City parks.
29	Gibbons Park	• There is no parking designated for persons with disabilities. There is parking available alongside the road. • There is no sidewalk or curb. All areas of the park are grass which limits the travel of persons in wheelchairs. Install sidewalk to access park and designate pathway through program area for accessibility. • Reconfigure the layout of the play equipment to conform to the clear pathway regulations of 36" in width between the fixed objects. • There is no public pay phone. • There is no public restroom. • There is no water fountain.	✓ Renovated in 1997 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
30	Glacken Field	• Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There is a threshold (lip) that is greater than 0.5". Repair lip. • There are wood pieces under equipment. The wood pieces do not allow people who use wheelchairs an accessible path of travel to the equipment. Relocate equipment to an accessible area. • There is a sprinkler in path of travel. • The bleachers for the ball field are in grass area. If possible, relocate bleachers to	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		concrete area. • There is no route of travel from street to ball field. Add an alternative route on level ground. • There is no accessible parking spaces in tennis court parking lot. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. Add signs marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility so that they are not obstructed by cars. • Tennis courts do not have stable, firm, and slip resistant surface. Repair tennis court surface. There are weeds growing in the cracks. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no public telephones available.	
31	Gold Star Mothers Park	• There is an 8.9% sloped ramp to tot-lot equipment on the path of travel. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • There are no railings on both sides of the ramp. Add railings. • There is sand on the ramp leading to equipment. Add non-slip surface material to ramp. • There is a parking lot that can hold 25 cars, but there is no stripes on the side of the MDC hockey rink. There are no accessible spots in surrounding area. The only place to park is on the side of the MDC hockey rink. There is accessible parking in the Star Market parking lot behind the park, but the accessible parking is not located close to an entrance to the park. Reconfigure a reasonable number of accessible spaces by repairing stripes on side of MDC hockey rink. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van accessible spaces. • Add signs at accessible spaces and place them so that they are not obstructed by cars. • Implement a policy to check periodically for violators and report them to the proper authorities. • Install signs before inaccessible entrances to the park so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • Accessibility ends at the entrance to the equipment. The equipment is not accessible. Install ramps to make equipment accessible. Relocate the equipment to an accessible area. Post clear signs directing people along an accessible route to ramps. • There are no rest rooms available. Use the rest rooms in the MDC hockey rink. • The only public phone available is in the MDC hockey rink.	✓ Renovated in 2006 to meet ADA standards. Indoor spaces not applicable to open space. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
32	Gold Star Mothers Pool	Not applicable to open space	✓ Renovated in 2007 to meet ADA standards.
33	Greene • Rose Heritage Park	• No designated parking available for disabled persons. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • The entrance to the park is 32" in width. Widen to a minimum of 34". There are alternate routes available but they are not marked properly. • All program areas are accessible (play ground areas have rubberized mats) • There are surface variations in the path of travel. Repave designated areas. • At the corner of the tennis courts there is a catch basin with its surface warped up above ground level. • There are no public phones available. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are no rest rooms available.	✓ Expanded and renovated in 2008 to meet ADA standards. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.
34	Hastings Square	• There is a route of travel that does require the use of stairs. Walkway needs re-paving. Tiny purple rocks-not paved. Add an alternative route on level ground. • The route is not travel stable, firm and slip resistant. Replace gravel with hard top. • The route is 33" and not 36" wide at one spot on route of travel. • There is not an adequate number of accessible parking. spaces available (8 feet wide for car plus 5-foot striped access aisle). It is by Permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • The 16 foot wide spaces with 98 inches of vertical clearance is not available for lift-equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • There is no access aisles part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. • Reconfigure sidewalk. • There is no accessible spaces close to the accessible entrance. Reconfigure spaces. • There are no accessible spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility and there are no signs which read ''Van Accessible" at van spaces. Add signs placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There is no enforcement procedure to ensure that accessible parking is used only by those who need it. Implement a policy to check periodically for violators and report them to the proper authorities.	✓ Not essential for overall ADA/504 program accessibility compliance. If renovated in the future, barriers will be removed consistent with ADA/504 accessibility standards. Brookline Street sidewalks being renovated for ADA/AAB compliance. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in City parks.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• There are no public spaces on an accessible route of travel. Provide access to all public spaces along an accessible route of travel. • The accessible route to all public spaces are 36 inches wide, but at one point along the path of travel it is 33 inches wide. This should be fixed to comply with standards. • There is no 5 foot circle or a T-shaped space for a person using a wheelchair to reverse direction. Rearrange furnishings, displays and equipment. • There are no water fountains. • There are no public telephones.	
35	Hoyt Field	• The ramp that is longer than 6' do not have railings on both sides. Add railings. • There are no rest rooms available.	✓ Renovated in 1995 to meet ADA standards. Restrooms not generally available in city parks.
36	Hurley Park	• There are lots of cracks in the pathway of travel. There are surface variations in excess of 5" due to tree roots. Add an alternate route on level ground. • Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • There are objects protruding into the route that cannot be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane. Change or move landscaping, furnishings, or other features that obstruct the route of travel. • There is a 9.1 % sloped curb cut at the corner of street. Add small ramp to curb or repair curb cut. There are curb cut variations throughout the park. • There is a 10.5% sloped ramp in the park. If available space is limited, reconfigure ramp to include switchbacks. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. Remodel or relocate ramp. • There are no railings on both sides of the ramp. Add railings. • The ramp is slippery. Add non-Slip surface material. • There are not an adequate number of accessible parking spaces available. • Reconfigure a reasonable number of accessible and van accessible spaces by repainting stripes. All parking is by permit only. • There are no access aisles as a part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps or reconstruct sidewalk. • There are no parking spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs placed so that they are not obstructed by cars.	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• There is only one entrance to Hurley Playground. The main entrance is not accessible. If it is possible to make the entrance accessible, create an alternate accessible entrance. • There are threshold levels more than 0.25" and. beveled pavement more than 0.5". Remove thresholds. Add bevels. • There are no rest rooms available.	
37	Interim Main Library Playgrounds	• Entrances from the street to the school are uneven and need to be paved. Signage is okay though. • Curb cut at drop off area should be repaired. Slope is greater than maximum acceptable • Ramp leading to the courts from the school has various slopes. Redesign for ease of travel. • The only parking lot has no designated parking spaces. Re-stripe spaces for better parking availability • The only other spaces are permit spaces on the street. • Install signs showing accessible spaces. • Install signage in interior of the building to direct to accessible programs. • Install accessible restroom directional signs. • Play equipment mounted on concrete surface is okay but not ideal, a safer design would be to place rubberized mats.	■ Long-term use of facility not determined.
38	Joan Lorentz Park	• Lip at bottom of ramp to tennis courts needs to be beveled (3") • Walkways need to be repaved in certain areas because of variations in the grade. • The play-lot entrance has a width of 32" which is too small. Widen the entrance to the lot. • The lot is non-accessible in certain areas due to the sand. It should be removed and the rubberized mats should replace them to make the lot completely accessible. The walkways surrounding the play equipment should be swept regularly to ease travel for wheelchair-bound persons. • 77" clear head space in the play lot where the monkey bars cross the path of travel. Raise or remove objects that are protruding. • Curb cuts are needed in certain areas of the play-lot, preferably near the disabled vehicle parking spaces.	✓ Renovations underway to meet ADA standards.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
39	Kingsley Park	• The garbage cans are not located near the route of travel. Relocate garbage cans. • The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip-resistant. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • The swings are not accessible. There is only one swing left for public use. Relocate swings in an accessible area. Replace missing swings. • Benches are located in the middle of a grass area. Relocate benches so they are in an accessible area. • There is a 10.2% ramp in the path of travel. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • There are no public telephones available. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no drinking fountains available.	■ Renovations included in 5-year action plan.
40	Larch Road Park	• There is no curb cut in route of travel. Add curb cut. • The path of travel is not stable, firm, and slip resistant. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • Rubber mats underneath equipment are movable. Secure rubber mats for accessibility. • There is a drinking fountain with a burm (wood stump) underneath so not wheelchair accessible. • There is a 1" lip to the ramp that leads to sand area. Repair lip. Add hand rails to ramp. • Equipment located in sand area. If possible, relocate equipment to accessible area. • There is a storm grate in the basketball court with wide spaces so that a wheelchair could get stuck. Replace storm grate. • There are no public telephones available. • There are no rest rooms available.	✓ Renovated in 2001 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.
41	Lechmere Canal Park	• There is a 16% sloped ramp. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • There is more than 0.5" lip leading to ramp. Bevel or lengthen ramp. • There are no adequate accessible parking spaces available. Parking by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • All public spaces are not on an accessible route of travel. The play equipment is located in sand. Add ramp for wheelchair accessibility. • There is packed gravel surface on route of travel. Provide access to all public spaces	✓ Not essential for overall ADA/504 program accessibility compliance. If renovated in the future, barriers will be removed consistent with ADA/504 accessibility standards. Public phones and

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		along an accessible route of travel. • There are no accessible rest rooms available. • The only phones available is in the Galleria Mall. The public phones in the Mall are accessible.	restrooms not generally available in City parks.
42	Lindstrom Field	• There are no ramps longer than 6' which have railings on both sides. Add railings • There is not an adequate number of accessible parking spaces available for a car. It is permit parking only reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There is no 16' wide spaces, with 98" of vertical clearance, available for lift-equipment vans. Reconfigure spaces. • No accessible spaces are marked with the international symbol of accessibility. There are no signs reading "van-accessible" at van spaces. Add signs placed so that they are not blocked in view by cars. • All inaccessible entrances have no signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. Install signs. • There is a threshold in excess of 1/2". Level it out. • All public spaces are not on an accessible route of travel. Bleachers and benches are not accessible. Provide access to all public spaces along an accessible route of travel. The gate onto the ball field is inaccessible. • The accessible route to all public spaces is not conforming to the 36" minimum. Move objects in the path of travel. • There is no 5' circle or a T-shaped space for a person using a wheelchair to reverse direction. Rearrange furnishings, displays, and equipment. One piece of equipment very close to the fence. • The doors into public spaces do not have a 32" clear opening. The gate leading to the ball field is not functional (stuck in mud). Install offset (swing clear) hinges. • There is a memorial that is in the path of travel and needs cane-detectable barriers. • Install a public phone with hearing aid capability. • Install a public phone with volume control. • Add proper signage to phones. • Install a public telephone with text capabilities and properly signed.	✓ Renovated in 2001 to meet ADA standards. Accessible parking spaces available. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
43	Linear Park	• No parking spaces available	✓ Renovations to “Trolley

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• No restrooms • No water fountains • No public phones • Seating is available but none are designated for disabled. • This park is just a pathway between two roads used for jogging and bike riding there isn't much else to do.	Square" in 2007 included accessible drinking fountains, table. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone is available. ■ Pathway renovations included in 5-year action plan.
44	Longfellow Park	• There is two hour parking on Mount Auburn Street. There are no accessible parking spaces closest to the entrance of the park. Reconfigure to allow a reasonable number of accessible parking spaces. • There are stairs in the path of travel. Install a ramp if the route of travel is interrupted by stairs. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no public telephones available. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are stairs leading to benches. Install a ramp leading from path of travel to the benches.	✓ Not essential for overall ADA/504 program accessibility compliance. If renovated in the future, barriers will be removed consistent with ADA/504 accessibility standards. Different levels of park accessible via sidewalks. Accessible parking available. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in City parks.
45	Lopez Street Park	No issues reported.	✓ Renovated in 2003 to meet ADA standards.
46	Lowell School Park	• There is no signs with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs, so that they are not obstructed by cars. • There is permit parking only. Reconfigure at least one space by repainting stripes. • There are cracks in the pavement of the basketball court. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches.	✓ Renovated in 2004 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• The swings are not accessible. Relocate swings for accessible approach. • There are three white round picnic tables that are not accessible for people who use wheelchairs. Install accessible picnic tables. • There is no stable, firm, and slip resistant route of travel from parking to park. The park is all grass. Add an alternative route of travel on level ground. • There are no drinking fountains available. Install accessible drinking fountains. • There are no public telephones available. Install public telephone.	
47	Maple Avenue Park	• Curb cuts are in violation of slope requirements. Repair to meet requirements. • Playground has a sloped pathway of travel. Add double hand rails along pathway. • The only parking available is permit only and no other accessible spots are available. • Designate spots for handicapped vehicles (paint spots and install signage) • Install signs directing to accessible entrance. • Concrete design in pathway of travel should be leveled or path widened for ease of travel. • All play equipment is located in the sand - Remove the sand and install rubberized mats for accessibility. • No phones, restrooms, or drinking fountains.	✓ Renovated in 2004 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
48	Market Street Park	• Bollards located on sidewalk in path of travel reducing width to 30". Remove them. • Curb cuts are okay with slope, but at the top of the cut there is a fence not level ground, to the right and left the ground is level because of the sidewalks (curb cut is directly at corner) not an ideal design. • Parking is permit only non designated for disabled. • Accessible entrance not designed well (bollards block nearest ramp to tot lot entrance) there is an alternate entrance but it is further away and the ramp is a driveway. • There is a 1/2" lip at the entrance that should be leveled out. • There are no rest rooms or public phones available.	✓ Renovated in 1997 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
49	McMath Park	Included with **Bergin Park**.	See **Bergin Park**.
50	Pacific Street Open Space	• No parking is designated for persons with disabilities. There is parking on the street. Designate spots for parking paint, stripe, and properly signify them. • Entrance to the park is okay but there is no walkways to suit the path of travel of a	■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		person in a wheelchair. The park is all grassy. Seems to be in the planning stages of construction. Install walkways to access program areas for the disabled. • Design a signage system in order to inform persons of the desired direction of their needs. • There is no public telephone. • There is no water fountain. • There are no public restrooms.	
51	Paine Park	• The entrance to the park is blocked by bollards and the space between them is only 33" (36" min.). • Install signs and stripe parking spaces for accessible parking. • Install signage for directing from inaccessible entrance to accessible ones. • Railings needed for ramp to tot-lot. • Some areas of the tot-lot are sand covered. Replace sand with rubberized mats. • Catch basin is warped upwards and is hazardous to visually impaired and impassable to wheelchair bound persons. Level out surfaces. • No seating, public phones, restrooms, or water fountains available.	✓ Renovated in 2002 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.
52	Pine Street Park	• The route of travel requires the use of stairs. Add a ramp if the route of travel is interrupted by stairs. Add an alternative route on level ground. • The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip-resistant. Repair uneven paving. Fill small breaks with beveled patches. • The route of travel is not at least 36" wide. Change or move landscaping, furnishings, or other features that narrow the route of travel. Widen route. • The curb cut on the street leading to the park has more than 0.5" lip and has a 10 degree slope. Add small ramp up to curb. Bevel to level ground. • A ramp should be added to make entrance to park accessible to persons using wheelchairs. • There is no accessible parking available. Permit parking only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. . • There are no "Van Accessible" spaces available for lift-equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • The access aisles are not part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add	✓ Renovations to park, pathways, playgrounds and street crossings underway to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone will be installed.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		curb ramps. • There are no spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs. Place signs so that they are not obstructed by cars. • All inaccessible entrances do not have signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. Install signs before inaccessible entrances so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • Park benches are in the path of travel. Rearrange the benches in the area. • There is a step down into the sand to reach play equipment. Add a ramp. • The accessible route is not 36" wide. Widen the route. Move furnishings, such as benches to make more room. • There is no wheelchair seating distributed throughout the park. Rearrange tables to allow room for wheelchairs in seating areas throughout the park. • Install ramps to all areas. Post clear signs directing people along an accessible route to ramps. • There are no accessible public rest rooms available. • There are no accessible drinking fountains available. • There are no accessible public telephones available.	
53	Rafferty Park	• There are no accessible parking spaces available. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are wood pieces underneath play equipment. Relocate some equipment in an accessible area. Install a ramp from route of travel to play equipment. Add hand rails if installing a ramp. • The ball field does not have an accessible route of travel. Reconstruct an accessible route of travel to ball field. • There are no bleachers in ball field area. Add bleachers. • There are no team benches in ball field area. Add team benches - "dugout". • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no public telephones available. • There are no drinking fountains available.	✓ Renovated in 1997 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
54	Raymond Park/Corcoran Field	• There are no curb cuts. Install curb cuts. • The sidewalk has cracks in the path of travel. There is no route of travel that is firm,	✓ Renovated in 1999 to meet ADA standards. Public

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		stable, or slip-resistant. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with leveled ground. • The ramp to the bleachers is too steep. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. If available space is limited, reconfigure ramp to include switchbacks. • Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There is a broken curb cut. Install curb cut or fill with beveled patches. • There is a brick water fountain that is not accessible. Clear more room by rearranging or removing furnishings. Provide cup dispensers for fountains with spouts that are too high. • All equipment is located in a sand box. This is not accessible for people who use wheelchairs. • Provide a ramp to reach equipment. If possible, relocate play equipment. • There is not an accessible path of travel to swings. Clear path of travel to allow. • There is no level ground leading up to the benches. Install a path of travel. • There is a 1.5" lip to sand area where tot swings are located. Remove obstacles. Rearrange to clear aisles. • There is not enough clear space to maneuver a wheelchair between picnic benches. Rearrange to allow clear aisles. • There is a lip greater than 0.5" at entrance from Walden Street. There is slope of 8.5 degrees on the path of travel. Remove threshold. Add bevels. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • The farm area is not on the path of travel. Install a path of travel to farm area. • There are no public telephones available. • There are no rest rooms available.	phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
55	Reverend Williams Park	• There is permit parking only available at this park. Redesign a few parking spaces to allow for accessible parking. Add the correct signs indicating designated accessible parking spaces. • The play equipment is surrounded by gravel and not easily accessible by a person using a wheelchair. Rubber mats would be an ideal solution. • There is no seating designated for disabled persons.	✓ Renovated in 2001 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• There is no water fountain, restrooms, or public phone available within the park. • There is no seating available for persons with a disability • There are uneven surfaces in some areas of the path of travel which need to be repaired.	
56	Rindge Field	• Directional signs should be installed for the accessible entrance to the playground. • Walkways need to be paved over due to some cracks that could prove to be a nuisance. • Playground area is non-accessible on one side although the other side is okay. • Ramp to playground equipment is too steep. Redesign to conform.	✓ Renovated in 2002 to meet ADA standards.
57	Riverside Press Park	• There is a circular ramp with a slope of 8.1 degrees. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. If available space is limited, reconfigure ramp to include switchbacks. • The ramp leading to the park is 7.6 degrees. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • There are bricks removed on the route of travel near the sculpture. Repair brick in route of travel. • There is a 0.75" lip near play equipment area. Remove threshold or add a bevel. • The play equipment is located in sand box. Install a ramp to equipment. Relocate equipment on level ground. • There are cracks in pavement on the route of travel. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • There are no accessible parking spaces available. Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure at least one accessible parking space. • There are no 16' wide spaces available for lift equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van accessible spaces. • The access aisles are not part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalk. • There are no signs marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. • The picnic tables are located in the sand box area. Relocate picnic tables to accessible area for wheelchair seating. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no public telephones available.	✓ Renovated in 2001 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• The spout of the drinking fountain is 37" high. Provide cup dispensers for fountains with spouts that are too high. • There are no controls mounted on the front or on the side near the front edge that are operable with one closed fist. Replace the controls.	
58	Russell/Samp Field	• Football fields are linked by pathways behind the bleachers which limit the path of travel to and from the seating areas. The pathways should be redesigned to better accommodate handicapped persons. • The baseball and soccer fields are not very close to the path of travel. There is some distance to cover from the paved walkway to the fields edge which makes the view of the field not ideal for a person in a wheelchair. • There are no restrooms, drinking fountains, and public phones available. The bleachers do not a person in a wheelchair.	✓ Renovated in 2006 to meet ADA standards. Public phones generally not installed in city parks, but push-button emergency phone is available. Restrooms not generally available in city parks.
59	Sacramento Field	• This playground is under construction. • There is no path of travel from the parking lot to the field. There is only gravel and rocks in the parking lot. Repave and make an accessible path of travel from parking lot to field. • There is no designated parking spaces in parking lot. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There are no 16 foot wide spaces with 98" of vertical clearance available for lift equipped vans. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • There are no accessible spaces closest to the accessible entrance. Reconfigure spaces. Add signs marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility, so that they are not obstructed by cars. • All inaccessible entrances do not have signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. Install signs before inaccessible entrances so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • As of March 22, 1995, there was no equipment, park benches, picnic tables, etc. placed in the park. Make sure all public spaces are on an accessible route of travel. • All aisles and pathways to materials and services should be at least 36" wide. • There are no rest rooms available. • There are no fountains available.	✓ Accessible playground added 1995; accessible community gardening plot added 2006. ■ Future renovations included in 5-year action plan.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• There are no public telephones available.	
60	Sennott Park	• The monkey bars are 75" tall and is too low to the ground. The monkey bars must be at a minimum height of 80". Remove protruding objects or adjust height to meet standard. • The ramps that are longer than 6 feet have no railings on both sides. Add railings (double rail and continuous handrails at parallel on back entrance of Youth Center) • There is no sign that is marked 'Van Accessible" underneath international symbol of accessibility. Add signs placed so that they are not obstructed by cars. Paint diagonal lines for van lifts, and add van parking signage. • There is no enforcement procedure to ensure that accessible parking is used only by those who need it. Implement a policy to check periodically for violators and report them to the proper authorities. • All inaccessible entrances do not have signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. Install signs before inaccessible entrances so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • The alternate accessible entrance cannot be used independently. There are no handrails. Add them.	✓ Playground renovated to meet ADA standards in 1997. ■ Some pathway renovations and addition of furniture planned for 2010.
61	Silva Park	• The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip-resistant. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • There is a warped bollard base at the entrance. The entrance has a width of 32". Widen the entrance to 36". • There are curb variations into the street. Install new curb cut or lengthen curb cut to decrease slope. • There are no accessible parking spaces available. Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • There is no van-accessible parking available. Reconfigure to provide a reasonable number of van-accessible spaces. • There are no access aisles that are a part of the accessible route of travel to the accessible entrance. Add curb ramps. Reconstruct sidewalk. • There are no accessible spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars.	✓ Renovated in 2001 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• There is no enforcement procedure to ensure that accessible parking is used only by those who need it. Implement a policy to check periodically for violations and report them to the proper authorities. • If it is not possible to make the entrance to other play equipment accessible, create a dignified alternate accessible entrance to the equipment. • Inaccessible entrances do not have signs indicating that location of the nearest accessible entrance. Install signs before inaccessible entrances so that people do not have to retrace the approach. • There is a lip of more than 0.25" high leading to rubber mats under the "see-saw". Add a bevel. • All public spaces are not on an accessible route of travel. Provide access to all public spaces along an accessible route of travel. • At least three entrances have curb cuts above 9.1 % slope to the entrance. Add ramps or lifts. Make another accessible entrance. • There are no public rest rooms available. • There is a 4" step directly under the drinking fountain. Clear more room under the drinking fountain by removing step or provide cup dispensers for fountains with no clear space. • The controls mounted on the front or on the side near the front edge of the drinking fountain are not operable with one closed fist. Replace controls. • The fountain protrudes more than 4" into the circulation space. Place a planter or other cane-detectable barrier on each side at the floor level. • There are no public phones available.	
62	Squirrel Brand Park	No issues reported	✓ Built in 2005, meets ADA standards.
63	St Peter's Field	• There is a lip more than OB' at the entrance to the play equipment area. Add curb ramp. Relevel surface. • The equipment is located in sand area. Relocate equipment to an accessible area. • The accessible picnic table is located on the grass. Relocate picnic table. • There is dirt underneath benches "dug out" on the field. If possible, place concrete surface.	✓ Renovated 2002 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks, but push-button emergency phone available.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		• There are no public telephones available. • There are rest rooms in Danehy Park which is on the other side of the ball fields. Make rest rooms available near Saint Peter's Field.	
64	Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Municipal Golf Course	• Parking is by permit only. Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting stripes. • Reconfigure a reasonable number of spaces by repainting spaces. • There is a 7.9% sloped ramp from parking lot to entrance of the building. Lengthen ramp· to decrease slope. • There is no volume control on public phone located in cafe, lower level. Contact the phone company to replace with hearing-aid compatible phone and volume control. • The ramp to the first hole is through back door of building. There is a ramp that needs hand rails leading from building to first hole. Add hand rails. Repair pavement of the ramp. • The ramp has a 12.5% slope. Lengthen ramp to decrease slope. • Hand rails on ramp adjacent to stairs do not extend the full length of the ramp. Add hand rails to full length of ramp. Hand rails should be between 30" and 38" high. • There are no drinking fountains available. There is a soda machine. • The concession stand was not open on March 23, 1995. Check the height of the concession stand. • There are no accessible picnic tables. Replace picnic benches with at least one accessible picnic table.	✓ Renovated in 2005. Meets standards for an accessible golf course.
65	Tobin Field	• The route of travel is not stable, firm, and slip resistant. There are cracks in path of travel and a big crack on the basketball court. Repair uneven paving. Fill small bumps and breaks with beveled patches. • There are no signs directing to accessible entrance. Add signs, placed so that they are not obstructed by cars or equipment. • There is a lip at the entrance to the tot lot. Make entrance level. • There is a zebra that is not accessible without assistance. Lower zebra or add another piece of equipment that is accessible. • There are no drinking fountains available. • There are no accessible benches available. Remove dirt around benches. Relocate	✓ Renovated in 2008 to meet ADA standards.

Code	Name	Self-Evaluation Notes	Update
		benches to an accessible area.	
66	Wilder-Lee Park	• Repair lip at curb cut (1") • Route of travel is unstable and uneven level out or repave. • Add railings to the entrance ramp of the playlot • Parking by permit only. There are no designated parking spaces available. Reconfigure for accessible parking. Install signs for accessible parking spaces. • Install signs for direction to the accessible entrance. • Level out lip at entrance to the playlot. • Sand surrounding playground equipment should be replaced with rubberized mats for ease of travel. • No seating, restrooms, drinking fountain, or public telephone	✓ Renovated in 1997 to meet ADA standards. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.
67	William G. Maher Park	No issues noted.	✓ Built in 2007, meets ADA standards.
68	Winthrop Square	• There is no accessible parking spaces available. Metered parking only. Reconfigure to allow at least one accessible space. • The pavement is all red brick. Repair uneven pavement. • There are no rest rooms available except in neighboring stores and restaurants. • There is no public telephones available. • There are no drinking fountains available.	✓ Sidewalk and street reconstructed, pathways repaired in 2008. Public phones and restrooms not generally available in city parks.

2. Transition Plan

The City of Cambridge provides a number of recreational programs to Cambridge residents of various ages and abilities. After conducting surveys of all of the recreational facilities, an analysis was conducted to determine which facilities were necessary for program access within the meaning of ADA and 504. Factors which were taken into account included geographical distribution of the facilities, programs offered at each location, and the current state of accessibility at each site. Overall, the goal of this analysis was to produce a list of facilities deemed necessary for program access while providing a range of recreational services and geographical locations comparable to that available to the general public. The facilities deemed necessary for ADA/504 program access are included in a table on the following page. Specific barrier removal recommendations for each of these facilities can be found in the table on previous pages, and their geographical locations can be found in Map 5-2 (by referencing the Code number of the facility). Facilities that are not included in this table have been deemed to be nonessential for ADA/504 program access. Therefore, implementation of the accessibility recommendations for such nonessential facilities, as detailed in Volume II of this document, will not be performed by the City of Cambridge as part this ADA/504 transition plan.

Based upon the analysis described above, the City of Cambridge will prioritize the seventeen facilities contained in the table below to receive accessibility improvements. Barrier removal efforts will be directed first at the facilities which lack adequate site access, then at the facilities which lack adequate access to the recreational elements within each site. To accomplish this, the City of Cambridge will utilize general operating funds, as well as capital improvement funds targeted for barrier removal projects. The City will also aggressively pursue state and federal funding sources for accessibility improvements.

Compliance with all relevant state and federal accessibility standards is an essential part of all open space renovation and improvement processes undertaken by the City. Additionally, the City will continue to use non-structural methods to provide program access for persons with disabilities, such as reassigning programs to accessible locations. Reasonable modifications in the policies and procedures of the City's recreational programs will be made where necessary to maximize integration of and participation by persons with disabilities.

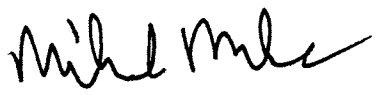
Table of Recreation Areas Necessary for Program Access Under ADA/504

Code	Facility Name	Recreational Uses	Status
1	Ahern Field	Playground, Water Play, Basketball, Street Hockey, Playing Fields	Renovated 2003
6	**Cambridge Common**	**Passive Use, Playground, Playing Field**	**Playground renovated 2009; top priority for additional pathway upgrades**
13	Corporal Burns Park	Playground, Water Play, Basketball, Street Hockey	Renovated 1999
16	Danehy Park	Playing Fields, Exercise Circuit, Track, Playgrounds, Water Play	Renovated 2001
18	Donnelly Field	Little League Baseball, Softball, Playground, Water Play, Basketball	Renovated 2004
20/65	Father Callanan Playground / Tobin Field	Playgrounds, Basketball, Little League Baseball	Renovated 2008
30	**Glacken Field**	**Playground, Water Play, Playing Fields, Basketball, Tennis**	**Priority for accessibility upgrades**
31	Gold Star Mothers Park	Playground, Water Play, Playing Field, Basketball	Renovated 2006
35	Hoyt Field	Playgrounds, Water Play, Playing Field, Basketball, Tennis	Renovated 1995
42	Lindstrom Field	Little League Baseball, Playground, Basketball	Renovated 2001
53	Rafferty Park	Little League Baseball, Playground, Basketball	Renovated 1997
56	Rindge Field	High School Baseball, Playground	Renovated 2002
58	Russell/Samp Field	High School Football, Playing Fields	Renovated 2006
59	**Sacramento Field**	**Playground, Basketball, Playing Field, Community Gardens**	**Established 1980, play equipment added 1995; priority for accessibility upgrades**
60	**Sennott Park**	**Playground, Water Play, Basketball, Playing Fields**	**Renovated 1997; planned for upgrades**
63	St Peter's Field	High School Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Playground	Renovated 2002
64	Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Municipal Golf Course	Golf	Renovated 2005

Part III: Employment Practices

The City of Cambridge is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability and to taking affirmative action to ensure fair and representative participation at all levels of the City government workforce by the various segments of the community and to enhance the employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Procedures have been established for reasonable accommodations for job applicants and employees with disabilities (see page 9 for copies of the City's reasonable accommodation policies). These policies are in effect throughout all aspects of employment within the City of Cambridge, including recruitment, selection, hiring, benefits, and promotion. Throughout the City of Cambridge's workforce, staff from the Commission for Persons with Disabilities provide training on ADA/504 and related disability matters to supervisory staff and to direct service staff whose jobs involve contact with members of the public.

Staff from the City's Personnel Department and Commission for Persons with Disabilities have reviewed the City's policies on recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exam/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements, wage and salary administration, and related policies to ensure that qualified employees with disabilities are not subject to discriminatory treatment. Similarly, training programs offered by the City have been examined to ensure that they are administered in a manner that allows equal participation by qualified employees with disabilities. City testing and examination procedures have also been assessed to ensure that they are job-related and consistent with business necessity. In cases where medical examinations have been determined to be necessary, such examinations are administered to job applicants only after a conditional offer of employment is made by the relevant City department.



Michael Muehe
ADA/504 Coordinator, City of Cambridge, MA

APPENDIX V: Maps and Tables

Table 5-1: Inventory of Major Public Open Spaces

Code	Name	Cell	Type	Owner	Agency	Acres	Zoning	Protections	Recreational Uses and Potential Uses	Condition	Year Est'd	Renovated	ADA
1	Ahern Field	H2	Community Park	City	DPW	2.6	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Basketball, Street Hockey, Playing Fields	A	1911	2003	☑
2	Alberico Park	F4	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.5	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Basketball	D	Not avail.	1991	☐
3	Alden Park	E2	Tot Lot/School Playground	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	A	1948	2006	☐
4	Anderson Courts	C2	Community Park	City	DPW	1.6	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Basketball, Tennis	A	Not avail.	2003	☐
5	Bergin Park	C2	Community Park	City	DPW	1.1	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play	A	Not avail.	2003	☐
6	Cambridge Common	E3	Community Park/Historic Site	City	DPW	8.2	OS	Granted for enclosure "to be forever appropriated to public use only, as a public park, promenade, and place for military parade;" Urban Self-Help Grant funding; zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use, Playground, Playing Field	D	1830	1990	☑
7	Centanni Way	H2	Park Trail/Pathway	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use	B	1989	Not avail.	☐
8	Charles Park	I2	Passive Open Space/Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.9	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use, Playground	B	1986	2005	☐
9	Clarendon Avenue Playground	B1	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.4	BA-2/B	Taken for "recreational open space purposes;" public ownership/use	Playground	C	Not avail.	1995	☐
10	Clement G. Morgan Park	G3	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	1.0	OS	Taken for "recreational open space purposes;" zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Basketball	A	1983	2010	☐
11	Comeau Field	B2	Community Park	City	DPW	2.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Little League Baseball	A	Not avail.	2006	☐
12	Cooper Park	F3	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.2	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play	A	Not avail.	1997	☐
13	Corporal Burns Park	F4	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	1.4	OS	Zoning, public ownership/use, historic register	Playground, Water Play, Basketball, Street Hockey	A	Not avail.	1999	☑
14	Costa Lopez Taylor Park	H2	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.7	OS/C-1	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Basketball, Community Gardens	B	1937	2008	☐
15	Dana Park	G4	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	1.4	OS	Deeded with the condition that the City forever occupy the property as a park; zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Basketball	A	Not avail.	2004	☐
16	Danehy Park	C2	Large Urban Park	City	DHSP	49.0	OS	Urban Self-Help Grant funding; zoning; public ownership/use	Playing Fields, Exercise Circuit, Track, Playgrounds, Water Play	A	1992	2001	☑
17	David Nunes Park	G4	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.9	OS	Taken to "lay out and maintain and improve as a public park or parks;" zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Basketball, Street Hockey	C	Not avail.	1989	☐
18	Donnelly Field	G2	Community Park	City	DPW	7.1	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Little League Baseball, Softball, Playground, Water Play, Basketball	A	1896	2004	☑
19	Elm/Hampshire Plaza	G3	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use - Potential for active uses, e.g. community gardens	B	Not avail.	1985	☐

Managing Agencies DPW = Cambridge Department of Public Works; DHSP = Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs; CWD = Cambridge Water Department
DCR = Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; NPS = U.S. National Park Service

ADA = Open space included in ADA Program Accessibility Plan

Table 5-1: Inventory of Major Public Open Spaces

Code	Name	Cell	Type	Owner	Agency	Acres	Zoning	Protections	Recreational Uses and Potential Uses	Condition	Year Est'd	Renovated	ADA
20	Father Callanan Playground	C3	Tot Lot/School Playground	City	DPW	0.4	OS	Urban Self-Help Grant funding; zoning; public ownership/use	Playgrounds, Basketball	A	1938	2008	☑
21	Flagstaff Park	E3	Passive Open Space	City	DPW	1.2	OS	Deeded for use as a public park; zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use	C	Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
22	Fort Washington Park	G4	Passive Open Space/Historic Site	City	DPW	1.0	OS	Deeded with the condition that Washington Square "remain suitable enclosed and shall forever remain open for light, air and ornament for the owners of the new Pine Grove estates and the public generally;" zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use	C	1856	1989	☐
23	Franklin Street Park	F3	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.1	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use, Water Play	A	Not avail.	2003	☐
24	Fresh Pond Reservation	B3	Reservation Area	City	CWD	85.2	OS	Taken for use as a "reservoir/storage basin;" zoning; public ownership/use	Pathways, Passive Use, Community Gardens	B	1889	Ongoing	☐
25	Front Park	I2	Passive Open Space	City	DPW	0.9	OS	Taken for "recreation open space purposes;" zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use	B	1985	Not avail.	☐
26	Fulmore Park	G4	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.4	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	C	Not avail.	1991	☐
27	Gannett/Warren Pals Park	G2	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.3	C-1	Public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play	B	Not avail.	1997	☐
28	Garden Street Glen/Roethlisberger Memorial Park	C3	Passive Open Space	City	DHSP	1.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use	A	1990	Not avail.	☐
29	Gibbons Park	B1	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.2	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	B	Not avail.	1997	☐
30	Glacken Field	B4	Community Park	City	DPW	2.1	OS	Contained within Fresh Pond Reservation with subsequent use permitted for "playground purposes"; zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Playing Fields, Basketball, Tennis	C	1924	1994	☑
31	Gold Star Mothers Park	H2	Community Park	City	DPW	3.6	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Playing Field, Basketball	A	1968	2006	☑
32	Gold Star Mothers Pool	G2	Outdoor Swimming Pool	City	DHSP	0.1	C-1	Public ownership/use	Swimming	A	Not avail.	2006	☐
33	Greene • Rose Heritage Park	G3	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	1.6	OS	Portions taken for "recreation open space purposes" and "municipal open space purposes;" zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Tennis, Community Gardens	A	1985	2008	☐
34	Hastings Square	G5	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.7	OS	Deeded with the condition that Hastings Square "remain suitably enclosed and shall forever remain open for light, air and ornament for the owners of the Pine Grove estates and the public generally;" zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use	B	Not avail.	1995	☐
35	Hoyt Field	F4	Community Park	City	DPW	4.7	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playgrounds, Water Play, Playing Field, Basketball, Tennis	B	1907	1995	☑

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Table 5-1: Inventory of Major Public Open Spaces

Code	Name	Cell	Type	Owner	Agency	Acres	Zoning	Protections	Recreational Uses and Potential Uses	Condition	Year Est'd	Renovated	ADA
36	Hurley Park	H2	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Basketball	C	Not avail.	1994	☐
37	Interim Main Library Playgrounds	F3	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.3	C-1	Public ownership/use	Playground, Basketball	B	Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
38	Joan Lorentz Park	F3	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	2.9	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use	B	Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
39	Kingsley Park	B4	Community Park	City	DPW	9.8	OS	Contained within Fresh Pond Reservation; zoning; public ownership/use	Walk/Bike/Run Paths, Passive Use	C	Not avail.	2005	☐
40	Larch Road Park	C4	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.4	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Basketball	A	Not avail.	2001	☐
41	Lechmere Canal Park	I2	Community Park	City	DPW	4.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use, Playground	A	1987	Not avail.	☐
42	Lindstrom Field	G5	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	1.4	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Little League Baseball, Playground, Basketball	A	Not avail.	2001	☑
43	Linear Park	B1	Park Pathway	City	DPW	3.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Walk/Run/Bike Paths, Passive Use	C	1985	2007	☐
44	Longfellow Park	D3	Passive Open Space	City	DPW	2.0	OS	Taken for memorial park with conditions that 1) the roadway surrounding the park could be expanded if necessary, and 2) no building be permitted in the park except for that of a memorial to Mr. Longfellow; zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use	B	1883	Not avail.	☐
45	Lopez Street Park	G4	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.1	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	A	Not avail.	2003	☐
46	Lowell School Park	D4	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.8	OS	Taken for "improvement as a public park or parks;" zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Playground	A	Not avail.	2004	☐
47	Maple Avenue Park	F3	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.1	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	A	Not avail.	2004	☐
48	Market Street Park	G3	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	B	Not avail.	1997	☐
49	McMath Park	C2	Community Park	City	DPW	0.5	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use, Community Gardens	B	Not avail.	1998	☐
50	Pacific Street Open Space	G4	Active Use Open Space	City	DPW	1.4	OS/SD-8	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playing Field, Off-Leash Dog Area - Potential additional uses, e.g. playground	D	2003	Not avail.	☐
51	Paine Park	F3	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Basketball	A	Not avail.	2002	☐
52	Pine Street Park	G3	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.1	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play	A	Not avail.	2010	☐
53	Rafferty Park	A3	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	2.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Little League Baseball, Playground, Basketball	B	Not avail.	1997	☑
54	Raymond Park/Corcoran Field	C2	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	2.8	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Playing Field, Basketball, Community Gardens	B	Not avail.	1999	☐
55	Reverend Williams Park	C1	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.8	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Basketball	A	Not avail.	2001	☐
56	Rindge Field	C2	Community Park	City	DPW	3.4	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	High School Baseball, Playground	A	ca. 1900	2002	☑
57	Riverside Press Park	F4	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	3.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Basketball, Tennis	B	1980	2001	☐
58	Russell/Samp Field	B2	Community Park	City	DPW	7.1	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	High School Football, Playing Fields	A	1912	2006	☑

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Table 5-1: Inventory of Major Public Open Spaces

Code	Name	Cell	Type	Owner	Agency	Acres	Zoning	Protections	Recreational Uses and Potential Uses	Condition	Year Est'd	Renovated	ADA
59	Sacramento Field	D2	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	1.3	OS	Taken for "recreation open space purposes;" zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Basketball, Playing Field, Community Gardens	C	1980	Not avail.	☑
60	Sennott Park	G3	Community Park	City	DPW	2.4	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground, Water Play, Basketball, Playing Fields	C	1865	1997	☑
61	Silva Park	H2	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	A	Not avail.	2001	☐
62	Squirrel Brand Park	G3	Neighborhood Park	City	DPW	0.3	C-1	Public ownership/use	Community Gardens, Passive Use	A	2004	Not avail.	☐
63	St Peter's Field	C2	Large Urban Park	City	DHSP	7.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	High School Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Playground	A	1947	2002	☑
64	Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Municipal Golf Course	A4	Golf Course	City	DHSP	50.0	OS	Contained within Fresh Pond Reservation with subsequent use permitted for golf course; zoning; public ownership/use	Golf	A	Not avail.	2005	☑
65	Tobin Field	C3	Community Park	City	DPW	3.4	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Little League Baseball	A	1938	2008	☐
66	Wilder-Lee Park	F3	Tot Lot	City	DPW	0.2	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground	B	Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
67	William G. Maher Park	B3	Community Park	City	CWD	3.5	OS	Contained within Fresh Pond Reservation with subsequent use permitted for park; zoning; public ownership/use	Pathways, Playing Field, Community Gardens	A	2007	Not avail.	☐
68	Winthrop Square	E3	Passive Open Space	City	DPW	0.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use	C	1834	2003	☐
69	Alewife Brook Reservation	A2	Reservation Area	State	DCR	48.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Walk/Run/Bike Pathways, Passive Use		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
70	Blair Pond	A3	Reservation Area	State	DCR	5.7	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
71	Charles River Basin, Charles River	N/A	Reservation Area	State	DCR	73.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Walk/Run/Bike Pathways, Passive Use		1914	Not avail.	☐
72	John F. Kennedy Memorial Park	E4	Passive Open Space	State	DCR	1.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Passive Use		1985	Not avail.	☐
73	Longfellow National Historic Site	D3	Public Historic Site	Federal	NPS	1.9	A-1	Public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use, Building Tours		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
74	Lowell Park	C4	Passive Open Space	State	DCR	3.2	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Passive Use		1898	Not avail.	☐
75	Magazine Beach	F5	Large Urban Park	State	DCR	24.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	Little League Baseball, Playing Fields		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
76	McCrehan Memorial Pool	B2	Outdoor Swimming Pool	State	DCR	1.7	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Swimming		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
77	Memorial Drive Tot Lot	D4	Tot Lot	State	DCR	3.6	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Playground		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
78	North Point Park	J1	Community Park	State	DCR	8.0	NP	Public ownership/use	Passive Use, Playground, Water Play		2007	Not avail.	☐
79	Riverbend Park	D4	Large Urban Park	State	DCR	15.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Bicycling, Jogging, Walking, Passive Use		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
80	Simoni Memorial Rink	H2	Indoor Skating Rink	State	DCR	1.3	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Ice Skating		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐

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81	Veterans Memorial Pool	F5	Outdoor Swimming Pool	State	DCR	0.2	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	Swimming		Not avail.	Not avail.	☐
C-1	Cambridge Cemetery	D5	Cemetery	City	DPW	66.0	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use	None Allowed		ca. 1853	N/A	☐
C-2	Old Burying Ground	E3	Cemetery	City	DPW	1.9	OS	Zoning; public ownership/use; historic register	None Allowed		ca. 1635	N/A	☐
UC-1	North Point "Central Park"	J1	Passive Open Space (Under Construction)	Private	N/A	5.3	NP	Developer requirement	Passive Use, Stormwater Retention		N/A	N/A	☐
UC-2	New Riverside Park (Mahoney's Site)	F4	Neighborhood Park (Under Construction)	Private	N/A	0.8	SD-12	Developer requirement	Passive Use, Water Features		N/A	N/A	☐

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DCR = Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; NPS = U.S. National Park Service

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Table 5-2: Inventory of Community Gardens

Code	Name	Location	Cell	Owner	Agency	Adjacent Public Open Space (s)	Year Est'd	Renovated	Number of Plots
G-1	Whittemore Avenue Garden	25 Whittemore Ave	B1	Private	ConsComm	None	Not avail.	Not avail.	65
G-2	William G. Maher Park Community Garden	650 Concord Ave	B3	City	ConsComm	William G. Maher Park	2007	N/A	44
G-3	Fresh Pond Reservation/Parkway Garden	250 Fresh Pond Pkwy	B3	City	ConsComm	Fresh Pond Reservation	Not avail.	Not avail.	16
G-4	McMath Park Community Garden	109 Pemberton St	C2	City	ConsComm	McMath Park/Rindge Field	Not avail.	Not avail.	30
G-5	Corcoran Park Community Garden	112 Raymond St	C2	City	ConsComm	Raymond Park/Corcoran Field	Not avail.	Not avail.	28
G-6	Sacramento Street Community Garden	21 Sacramento St	D2	City	ConsComm	Sacramento Field	Not avail.	Not avail.	64
G-7	Field of Dreams Garden	27 Elmer St	F4	Private	ConsComm	None	Not avail.	Not avail.	35
G-8	Green Street Neighborhood Garden	607 Green St	F3	Private	ConsComm	None	Not avail.	Not avail.	20
G-9	Peggy Hayes Memorial Garden	12 Watson St	G4	City	ConsComm	None	Not avail.	Not avail.	38
G-10	Emily Garden	3 Emily St	G4	Private	ConsComm	None	Not avail.	Not avail.	22
G-11	Squirrel Brand Community Garden	12 Boardman St	G3	City	ConsComm	Squirrel Brand Park	2004	N/A	34
G-12	Moore Street Community Garden	89 Moore St	G3	City	ConsComm	Greene • Rose Heritage Park	Not avail.	2008	29
G-13	Costa Lopez Taylor Park Community Garden	69 Charles St	H2	City	ConsComm	Costa Lopez Taylor Park	2008	N/A	37

Managing Agencies ConsComm = Cambridge Conservation Commission (ConsComm administers community gardening plots; gardeners are responsible for the upkeep of their own individual plots and for the gardening area collectively; Cambridge Department of Public Works is responsible for overall park maintenance)

Table 5-3: Inventory of Schools and Youth Centers

Code	Name	Location	Cell	Owner	Agency	Adjacent Public Open Space (s)	Facility Est'd:	OS Built/Renovated
S-1	Baldwin School	28 Sacramento St	E2	City	CPSD	Alden Park	Not avail.	2006 (Alden)
S-2	Cambridge Rindge & Latin School and War Memorial	459 Broadway	F3	City	CPSD	On-site playground, War Memorial Indoor Pool and Gym	Not avail.	2009 (playground, pool and gym)
S-3	Cambridgeport School	89 Elm St	G3	City	CPSD	On-site Playground	Not avail.	2000 (sch. playground)
S-4	Fletcher/Maynard Academy	225 Windsor St	G3	City	CPSD	On-site Playground, Greene • Rose Heritage Park	Not avail.	2002 (sch. playground)
S-5	Graham and Parks School	44 Linnaean St	D3	City	CPSD	On-site Playground	Not avail.	2001 (sch. playground)
S-6	Haggerty School	110 Cushing St	B4	City	CPSD	On-site Playground	Not avail.	1997 (sch. playground)
S-7	Kennedy/Longfellow School	158 Spring St	H2	City	CPSD	On-site Playground and Water Play, Ahern Field	1990	2002 (sch. playground)
S-8	King School	100 Putnam Ave	F4	City	CPSD	On-site Playground and Water Play	Not avail.	2002 (sch. playground)
S-9	King Open School	850 Cambridge St	G2	City	CPSD	Donnelly Field	Not avail.	2005 (Donnelly)
S-10	Morse School	40 Granite St	F5	City	CPSD	Lindstrom Field	Not avail.	2001 (sch. playground)
S-11	Peabody School	70 Rindge Ave	C2	City	CPSD	On-site Playground, Rindge Field, Bergin Park	Not avail.	2001 (sch. playground)
S-12	Tobin School	197 Vassal Ln	C3	City	CPSD	Father Callanan Playground, Tobin Field	1970	2008 (sch. playground)
S-13	Former Graham & Parks School (facility closed 2003)	15 Upton St	F4	City	CPSD	None	Not avail.	N/A
S-14	Former Longfellow School (interim high school use)	359 Broadway	F3	City	CPSD	On-site Playgrounds	Not avail.	Not avail.
Y-1	Area IV Youth Center	243 Harvard St	G3	City	DHSP	Sennott Park	1980	1997 (Sennott)
Y-2	Frisoli Youth Center	61 Willow St	G2	City	DHSP	Donnelly Field	1997	2005 (Donnelly)
Y-3	Gately Youth Center	70R Rindge Ave (Peabody School)	C2	City	DHSP	Rindge Field, Peabody School Playground, Bergin Park	Not avail.	2002-3 (Rindge, Bergin)
Y-4	Willis D. Moore Youth Center	12 Gilmore St	F4	City	DHSP	Hoyt Field	1975	1995 (Hoyt)
Y-5	West Cambridge Youth Center	688 Huron Ave	B4	City	DHSP	Fresh Pond Reservation, Glacken Field	2009	1993 (Glacken)

Managing Agencies CPSD = Cambridge Public School Department (responsible for building operations and maintenance; outdoor playgrounds are maintained by the Cambridge Department of Public Works)

Table 5-4: Inventory of Other Public Facilities

Code	Name	Location	Cell	Open Space Uses
C-1	City Hall	795 Massachusetts Ave	F3	Front Lawn
C-2	City Hall Annex	344 Broadway	F3	Side Pocket Park
C-3	Department of Human Service Programs	51 Inman St	F3	Side Pocket Park (at City Hall Annex
C-4	Department of Public Works	147 Hampshire St	G2	Flower Beds
C-5	Michael J. Lombardi Municipal Building	831 Massachusetts Ave	F3	None
C-6	Former Police Headquarters (relocated 2008)	5 Western Ave	F3	None
C-7	Robert W. Healy Public Safety Facility	125 Sixth St	H2	None
C-8	Walter J. Sullivan Water Treatment Facility	250 Fresh Pond Pkwy	B3	Fresh Pond Reservation
F-1	Fire Headquarters and Engine #1	491 Broadway	E3	None
F-2	Engine #2 - Lafayette Square	378 Massachusetts Ave	G3	Plaza Across Street, Adjacent Privat Open Space
F-3	Engine #3 - East Cambridge	175 Cambridge St	H2	None
F-4	Engine #4 - Porter Square	2029 Massachusetts Ave	D1	None
F-5	Engine #5 - Inman Square	1384 Cambridge St	F2	None
F-6	Engine #6 - Southside-Cambridgeport	176 River St	F4	None
F-8	Engine #8 - Taylor Square	113 Garden St	C2	None
F-9	Engine #9 - Lexington Avenue	167 Lexington Ave	C3	None
L-1	Main Library	449 Broadway	F3	Front Lawn, Joan Lorentz Park
L-2	Boudreau Branch Library	245 Concord Ave	C3	Flower Beds
L-3	Central Square Branch Library	45 Pearl St	G3	None
L-4	Collins Branch Library	64 Aberdeen Ave	C4	None
L-5	O'Connell Branch Library	48 Sixth St	H2	Front Benches
L-6	O'Neill Branch Library	70 Rindge Ave	C2	None
L-7	Valente Branch Library	826 Cambridge St	G2	Pocket Park/"Reading Garden"
P-1	Municipal Parking Lot #2	110 Mount Auburn St	E3	None
P-2	Municipal Parking Lot #9	9 Pleasant St	F3	None
P-3	Municipal Parking Lot #8	375 Green St	F3	None
P-4	Municipal Parking Lot #14	15 Springfield St	F2	None
P-5	Green Street/Franklin Street Municipal Parking Garage	240 Green St	G3	None
P-6	Municipal Parking Lot #4	96 Bishop Allen Dr	G3	None
P-7	Municipal Parking Lot #5	84 Norfolk St	G3	Seasonal Farmers' Market
P-8	Municipal Parking Lot #11	1010 Cambridge St	G2	None
P-9	Municipal Parking Lot #6	48 Bishop Allen Dr	G3	None
P-10	Municipal Parking Lot #12	7 Warren St	G2	None
P-11	First Street Municipal Parking Garage	51 First St	H2	Small Adjacent Public Open Space