Retail Strategy for the City of Cambridge



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 344 Broadway

Outline

OBJECTIVES

CONSULTANT TIMELINE

OVERALL STATE OF RETAIL

CITYWIDE ANALYSIS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & RECOMENDATIONS

- 1. DRIVE EXPERIENCE
- 2. THRIVE ONLINE
- 3. HELP SMALL BUSINESSES REMAIN COMPETITIVE
- 4. IMPROVE ACCESS
- 5. SUPPORT AND BUILD CAPACITY OF LOCAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS
- 6. FILL GAPS
- 7. ADDRESS REGULATORY BARRIERS

Objectives

Develop best practice policies and programs that will support and enhance the ground level active use and retail environment in Cambridge.

PUBLIC POLICIES/INVESTMENTS: Short and long term strategies for how to meet City's unmet retail needs

MARKETABILITY/VISIBILITY: Actions and best practices that the City might consider to enhance marketability and visibility to retailers

TENANT MIX: Recommendations for appropriate retail mix for each commercial district

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY: Determine roles and responsibilities for advancing retail initiatives

Consultant Timeline

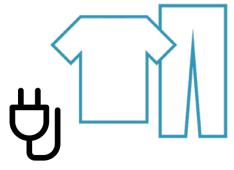


K N_R

Growth of e-commerce and online tools are leading consumers to merge online and offline into a single shopping experience.

People are buying more online

E-Commerce in the US reached nearly **\$395 billion in 2016**. However, this only accounts for **11.7% of total retail** sales. Online sales affect retail categories differently



Computer and Electronics and apparel and accessories accounted for 45% of ecommerce sales. Most retail sales in the US are influenced by digital tools



78% of shoppers research online before heading to a store. At the same time, 72% of shoppers buy digitally after seeing a product in a store.

Changes in Consumer Habits

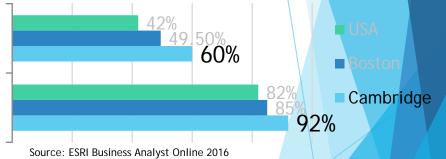
In Cambridge:



A Cambridge business manager revealed that last year over 50% of his total sales were made online

Residents who made a personal purchase online in the last 30 days

Residents who have internet at home



Changes in Consumer Habits



In an interview with a local business in Cambridge, the owner revealed having spikes in visitation and sales after posting new products on Instagram

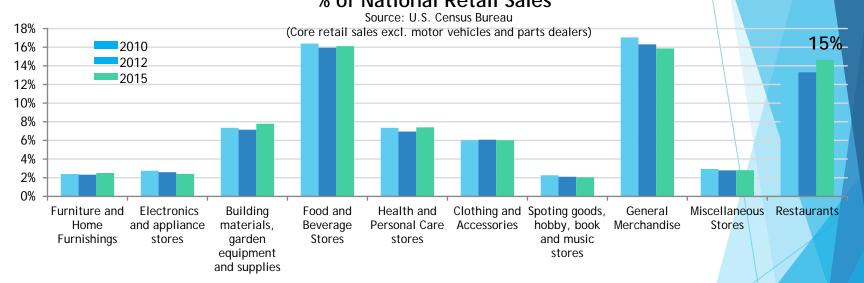
- Online retailers are also opening bricks-and-mortar so they can fulfill orders at different localities
- Retailers are using their stores as fulfillment centers
 - E.g. Target in Central Square features a separate entrance for online order pick ups
- Larger retailers are right-sizing and occupying smaller footprints that can be accommodated in downtown retail spaces

Online Retailer Current no. of bricks and -mortar locations Amazon 10 Warby Parker 50 Bonobos 30 order pickup

Changes in Consumer Habits

Changes in Consumer Habits

The industry is facing fundamental and cross-generational shifts in consumer dining habits % of National Retail Sales



Restaurants make up 15% of all retail sales.

Restaurant sales growth has surpassed all other retail categories since the recession, +19% between 2012 and 2015. Expenditure data shows that U.S. consumers have started spending more on dining in restaurants and meals outside the home (+5%) than on buying groceries and eating in (0%)*

8 in 10 consumers say dining out with family and friends is a better use of their leisure time than cooking and cleaning up**

Changes in Consumer Habits

In Cambridge:

Restaurants are the largest retail category citywide by number of businesses (38% of total retail businesses). Total sales from food services and drinking places in 2016 was \$404,153,691* with a \$133 million surplus* confirming that Cambridge is already a dining destination.

Restaurants are the main retail anchors in Inman and Kendall Squares and provide key complementing anchor functions in Harvard and Central Squares.

Changes in Consumer Habits

Consumers are spending less on products and more on experiences and servicebased retail

Experience-related purchases (travel, sports events, shows) were the top spending category for consumers in the 2016 holiday season.* US 2016 Census shows a decrease in total sales in the past year for retail categories including department stores (-5.6%), electronics and appliances (-3.2%), general merchandise (-1%) and clothing & accessories.



Service-based retail involve inperson interactions and thus can be best transacted at physical locations, for example:

- Restaurants
- Cinemas
- Theaters
- Personal services
- Health and fitness facilities
- Art studios, galleries and stores

Traditional retailers are also adapting store formats to personalize services and offer hands-on, memorable experiences:

Changes in Consumer Habits

Retailer	Experience
Home improvement stores	DIY home décor classes
Electronics and appliance stores	Cooking classes, model kitchens
Sporting goods stores	Rock climbing walls, equipment testing, yoga classes
Café, restaurants	Social gatherings, outdoor dining*

In Cambridge:

Overall net retail establishments declined by approximately 15% from 2001 to 2015. Electronics & Appliance stores and Sporting goods/hobby/book/music stores accounted for ~70% of overall losses**.

Meanwhile, sales have improved in experience-based categories such as food and beverage, personal services, and entertainment retail*.

An increasing number of stores are offering more in-store events and a number of restaurants are seeking to expand and enhance their dining experience by adding rooftop dining.

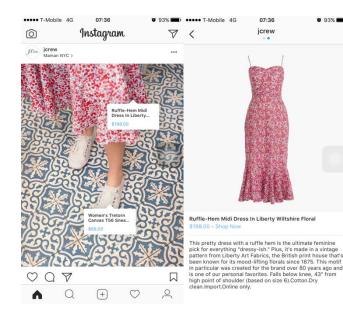


Changes in Consumer Habits

Harvard Book Store holds between 350-450 author readings annually to drive business to the store.

Meanwhile, Schoenhof's Foreign Books closed its physical store and sells online.

Summary



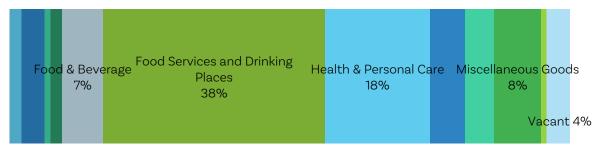




- Growth of e-commerce and online tools are leading consumers to merge online and offline into a single shopping experience
- 2. The industry is facing fundamental and crossgenerational shifts in consumer dining habits
- Consumers are spending less on products and more on experiences and service-based retail

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Retail Mix



Percentage of Total Number of Businesses

- Food Services and Drinking Places is the largest retail category followed by Health and Personal Care Stores.
- General Merchandise <1%

Business Environment

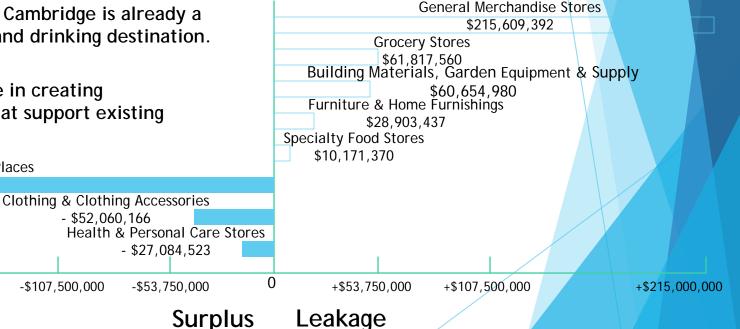
- Motor Vehicles, Parts Dealers & Gas Stations
- Furniture and Home FurnishingS
- Building Material, Garden Equipment & Supplies
- Electronics, Appliance & Telecommunications
- Food & Beverage
- Food Services and Drinking Places
- Health & Personal Care
- Clothing & Clothing Accessories
- Sporting Goods, Art, Books, Music and Hobby
- General Merchandise
- Miscellaneous Goods
- Used Merchandise
- Vacant

Note: Miscellaneous Goods refers to florists, office supplies, stationery and gift stores, used merchandise stores and others. Food & Beverage refers to grocery stores, specialty food stores and beer/wine/liquor stores.

Retail Opportunity

Top Leakage + Surplus Categories (residential)

- General merchandise and grocers likely • looking for opportunities.
- Surplus suggests Cambridge is already a regional eating and drinking destination.
- **Opportunities lie in creating** ٠ environments that support existing retailers.



-\$215,000,000

Food Services & Drinking Places - \$133,282,919

Business Environment

Cost of Doing Business

According to the 2017 Citywide Business Survey and focus groups, there has been an increase in cost of operating businesses, including rents, utilities, and property taxes. According to the survey respondents, the top 3 challenges to the profitability of their businesses are:

- 1. Increase in rent
- 2. Increase in cost of utilities
- 3. Increase in cost of real estate taxes

This is compounded by the fact that many retail properties in Cambridge have Triple Net Leases.



Triple Net Leases require tenants to pay all insurance, maintenance, and taxes.

The 2017 Citywide Business Survey was made available online for 6 weeks and 68 small business owners responded. Find the full survey results online: http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/EconDev/~/media/B0F690EA260F45449CC8E5F3C4B9FDD7.ashx

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Real Estate Landscape

Business Environment

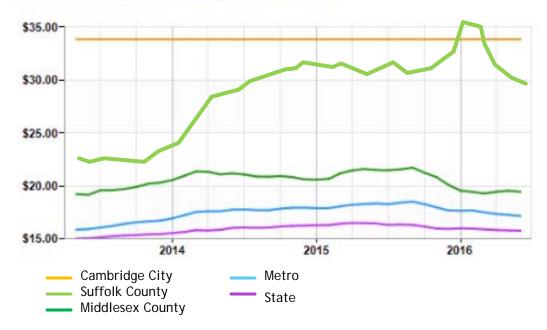
Despite increasing real estate costs, average asking rents are comparable or less than nearby competitive districts.

Fresh Pond/Alewife	Davis Square		nearby competitive	districts.
Average asking rent*: \$30 - \$60/SF	Average asking re \$46/SF	ent:		City of
A STATE OF	/ Upper Mass Union S	•		Cambridge
Averag Huron Village/ S32/SF Observatory Hill Average asking rent:			Average asking rent per SF (excl. utilities +property taxes)	\$43
\$28/SF			Median asking rent per SF	\$31
Harvard Square Average asking rent:	\$26/SF	East Cambridge	Range of spaces available	500 - 6,300 SF
\$106/SF Central Square Average asking re		Average asking rent: \$26/SF	Average space size	2,549 SF
\$42/SF	Kendall Square Average asking rer	nt:	Median space size	1,800 SF
purce: Costar and LoopNet February and Ma	\$35/SF rch 2017; *HR&A 2016 Market			

Davis Squara

Citywide Analysis Real Estate Landscape

Asking Rent Retail for Lease Cambridge, MA (\$/SF/Year)



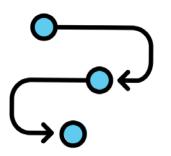
Business Environment

	Jun 16	vs. 3 mo. prior Y-O-Y
= State	\$15.77	-0.8% -4.2%
- Metro	\$17.16	-2.0% -8.5%
- County	\$19.45	+0.8% -9.6%
- City	\$33.84	0.0% 0.0%

The average asking rental rate per SF for Retail Commercial properties as of June 2016 was \$33.84. Rental rates remained unchanged compared to the prior 3 months, with no change yearon-year.

Structural Challenges

Permitting process is onerous



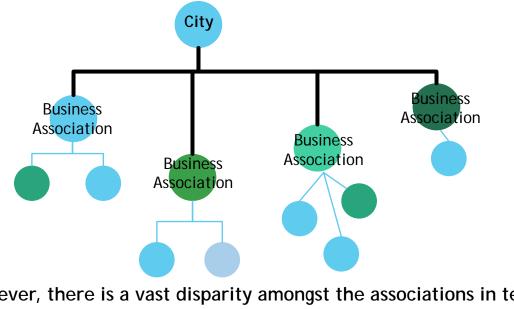
Described by many business owners as **long** and **uncertain**. Zoning and Table of Uses do not reflect new business dynamics

Special permit requirement/ variances for 'fast food' establishments is a hurdle to entry for new local businesses (food to go options) and other regulations constrain experience-based retail. Parking requirements ignore impacts of weather, special needs groups, and business needs

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Walking and biking is less
conducive to extreme weather
conditions and to the needs of
seniors and people with
disabilities. Parking
requirements disregards the
needs of employees who do
not live in transit accessible
places.
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Administrative Capacity

Cambridge has a large number of neighborhood and business associations that deliver key services to businesses and commercial districts and provide key links between the City and businesses.



Economic Development Division of Department of Community Development connects businesses to resources but has limitations on what they can do and provide directly to businesses due to Massachusetts State laws.

However, there is a vast disparity amongst the associations in terms of budget and operating capacity which leads to imbalance support and services for businesses of various districts.

Budget Range Less than \$2k to \$600k Staff Size Range 0 - 3.5 full-time

Guiding Principles

- 1. DRIVE EXPERIENCE
- 2. THRIVE ONLINE
- 3. HELP SMALL BUSINESSES REMAIN COMPETITIVE
- 4. IMPROVE ACCESS
- 5. SUPPORT AND BUILD CAPACITY OF LOCAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS
- 6. FILL GAPS
- 7. ADDRESS REGULATORY BARRIERS

Drive experience

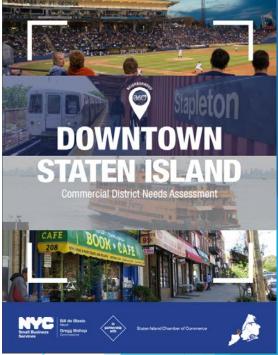
K N_R Recommendation: Build experience of the diverse districts through necessary public improvements and local activities

STRATEGY

 Assess physical conditions of the city's commercial districts and promote necessary public improvements

ACTION

Creating district needs assessment for at least one commercial district per year. FY2018 - Central Square.



Recommendation: Encourage districtwide events + activities

STRATEGY

- Encourage stewardship and revenue generation through the activation of public spaces
- Consider providing competitive funding for events & programming held by local business organizations

ACTION

Small Business Challenge ("Challenge") program is designed to foster neighborhood engagement with the local business community and to support small business associations and groups of neighborhood businesses.



Thrive Online

REAL REVIEWS.

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Υ.

REAL PEOPLE.

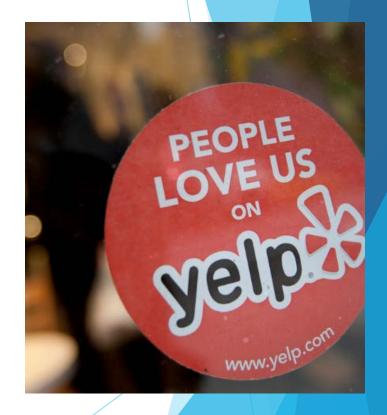
Recommendation: Develop a city-wide effort to establish online marketing presence

STRATEGY

 Offer technical assistance and training to business associations and businesses on how to have a presence on review platforms

ACTION

Continue the Small Business Enhancement Program, and offer workshops on creating/developing online presence for businesses. Currently developing interpreter services and translating our Steps to Starting a Business Guide.



5 Help small businesses remain competitive

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Recommendation: Enhance business storefronts

STRATEGY

 Continue Storefront Improvement Program and determine if additional funding will enable allow for greater use

ACTION

- Storefront Improvement Program is a successful business assistance grant program that leverages publicprivate investment.
- Using some CDBG funds to offer legal assistance for commercial lease review.



Lamplighter is a recipient of Cambridge Storefront Improvement Grant

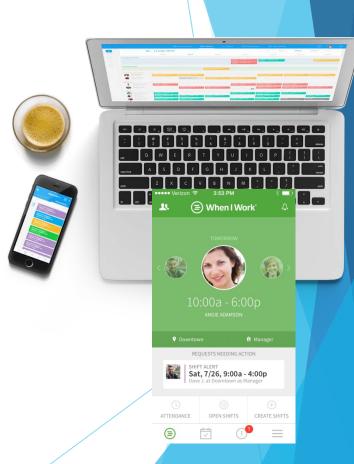
Recommendation: Offer other support for small businesses

STRATEGY

Provide additional support for small businesses.

ACTIONS

- Educate business owners about shift-sharing platforms and tools to coordinate business activity (e.g. business hours, programming, employees roles and availability)
- Dozens of business improvement workshops some moving to web-based
- Grant programs Small Business Enhancement, Small Business Challenge, Interior Accessibility, Storefront Improvement Program.
- Other programs: Cambridge Entrepreneurship Assistance Program; Small Business Coaching Program, and 10 –week Cambridge Business Planning Program





Recommendation: Mitigate impacts of construction projects on small businesses

STRATEGY

- Continue supporting wayfinding and promotion strategy for businesses in affected areas
 - Assist businesses in procuring additional signage
 - District-wide promotion and marketing during construction periods

ACTION

- Placing Banners in impacted neighborhoods
- Coordinating with DPW on future construction impacts starting Spring 2018



Support and build capacity of local business associations

Recommendation: Strengthen the role of local business associations in managing and promoting their commercial districts

ACTION

- Support efforts of local business association(s) in Business Improvement District Formation
- > Researching variety of training opportunities for business association leadership

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A DISTRICT MANAGEMENT ORG?

A 10-year Philadelphia study found a demonstrable correlation between the presence of a district management organization with sustainable funding and retail sales growth over time.

Fill Gaps

Recommendation: Encourage short term/ pop-up uses

STRATEGY

Activate and add amenities to public spaces, expand entrepreneurial opportunities and provide diverse food options

ACTION

- Launched Cambridge New Food Truck Pilot Program
- Researching Vacant Storefronts Pilot



Address regulatory barriers



Recommendation: Adapt commercial land use classification to allow for flexible retail formats

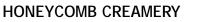
ACTION

Adopt recommendations from the 2015 Commercial Land Use Classification study for retail

HOW IS THE CURRENT TABLE HURTING SMALL BUSINESSES?

PRACTICE SPACE

Classes triggered higher parking requirements (Educational Institution)



ZINNEKEN'S BELGIAN WAFFLES

LAMPLIGHTER BREWING CO.



Classified as fast food; required a variance Change of Use triggered a variance or special permit

No classification; required variance



Administrative Capacity

Roles & Responsibilities

City of Cambridge	Business Association	Business	
Citywide	District-level/Outside the Store	Inside the Store	
Regulatory/Zoning	Promotion/Marketing	Operations	
Clean/safe	Placemaking	Merchandise	
Public realm	Technical Assistance	Customer Service	
improvement	Outreach/Advocacy	 Marketing 	
Technical Assistance			
Education			

Thank you! www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/ EconDev/retailstrategicplan

APPENDIX







District-Level

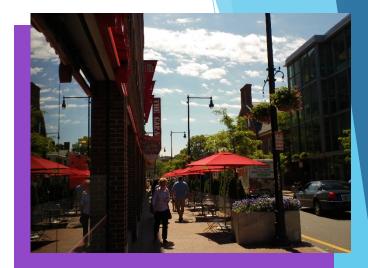
Analysis



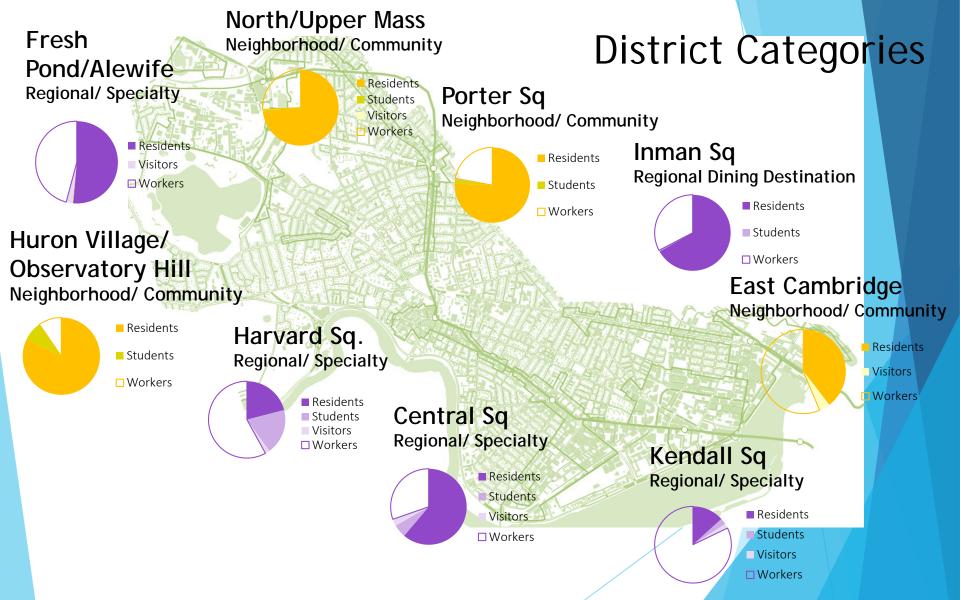
District Categories

Regional/ Specialty Commercial District

- High worker to resident ratio
- Higher number of businesses/retail offerings
 Neighborhood/ Community
 Commercial District
- Serving mostly local residents
- Lower number of businesses/retail offerings







Regional/ Specialty

	Harvard Square	Central Square	Kendall Square	Inman Square	Fresh Pond/ Alewife
No of businesses	210	119	65	69	46
Total Population*	16,165	24,788	7,018	21,244	6,495
Population Density (per sq mi	le) 20,462	31,377	12,017	26,891	8,222
Total No. of Workers	23,379	11,277	36,303	10,291	5,779
Worker-Resident Ratio	1.4:1	2:1	5:1	0.5:1	1:1
MHI	\$65,380	\$73,057	\$62,118	\$75,162	\$43,951
Grocery	\checkmark		\checkmark		
general Merchandise	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	
General Merchandise General Merchandise Building/ Garden Materials Clothing & Accessories	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	
Clothing & Accessories		\checkmark		1	✓
Furniture & Home Furnishir	ngs		\checkmark		
Upcoming retail SF	-	41,916	212,853	1,546	13,428
Surplus/Leakage	Surplus	Leakage	Surplus	Leakage	Surplus

Neighborhood/ Community

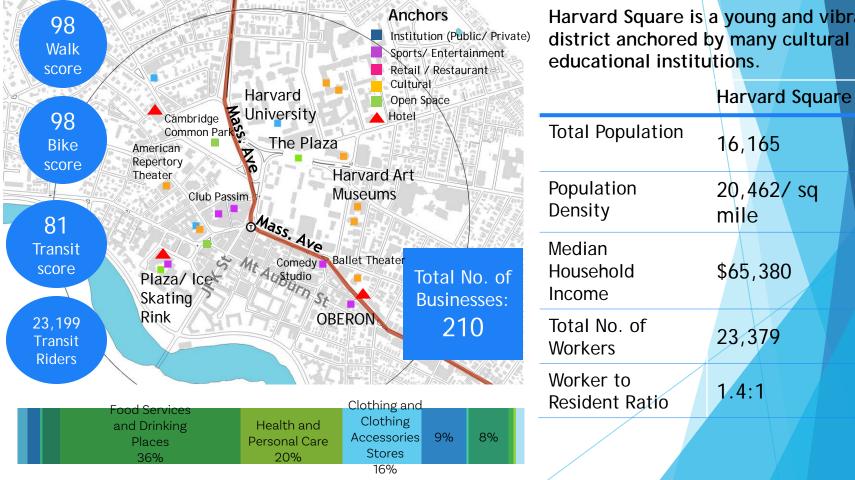
		East Cambridge (Cambridge St)	Porter Square	North/ Upper Mass	Huron Village/ Observatory Hill
No of I	businesses	55 (excl/ Galleria)	39	52	33
Total F	Population	11,989	16,887	13,235	12,528
Popula mile)	ition Density (per sq	15,176	21,376	16,753	15,858
Total N	No. of Workers	16,992	4,832	4,612	1,329
Worke	r to Resident Ratio	1.5:1	0.3:1	0.3:1	0.1:1
MHI		\$67,931	\$85,990	\$79,381	\$101,017
e co	Grocery	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
akag ories	General merchandise			\checkmark	 ✓
Top Leakage Categories	Building/ Garden Materials		\checkmark	\checkmark	
F	Clothing & Accessories		\checkmark	V	
	Food/ Drinking Places				\checkmark
Upcom	ning retail SF	36,440	9,293	480	-

Harvard Square

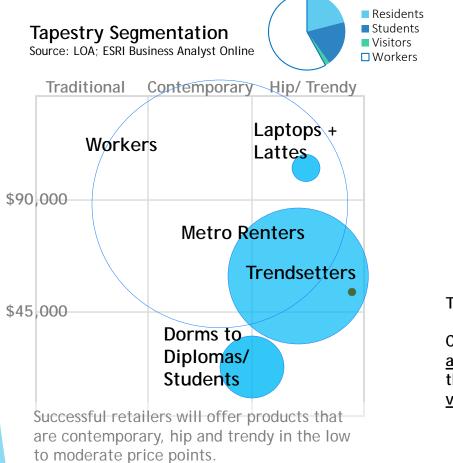
RUSSELL

Photo: Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (via Flic

Harvard Square



Harvard Square is a young and vibrant district anchored by many cultural and educational institutions.





venues and specialty retail.

Central Square

Photo: Google Map

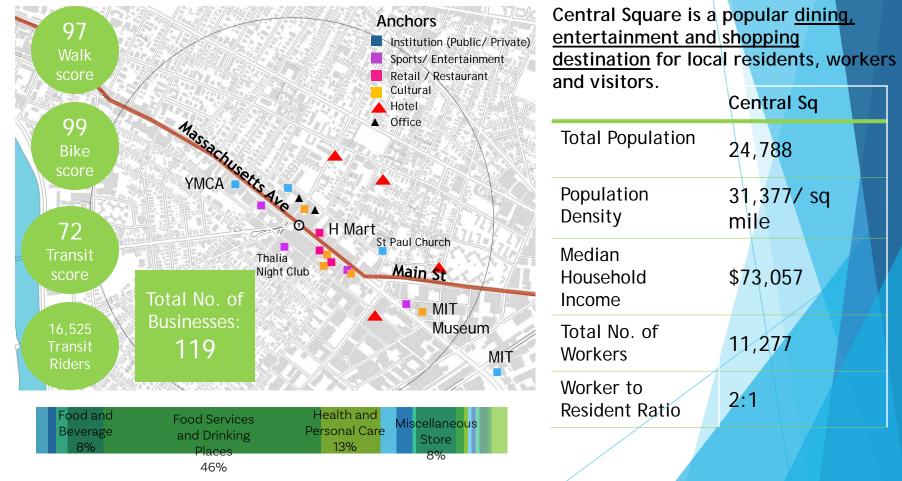
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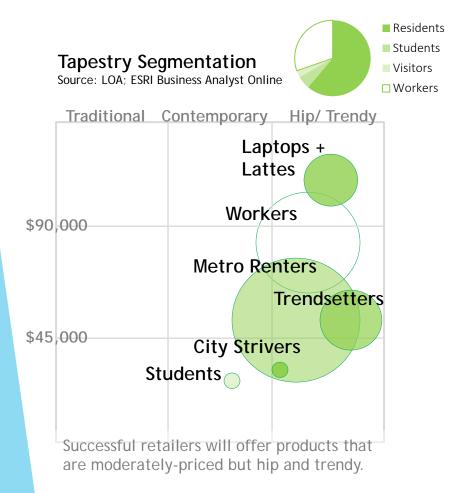
Photo: Christopher Schmidt via Flickr

1369 COFFEE HOUSE

MUI

Central Square







Kendall Square

Photo: Google Map

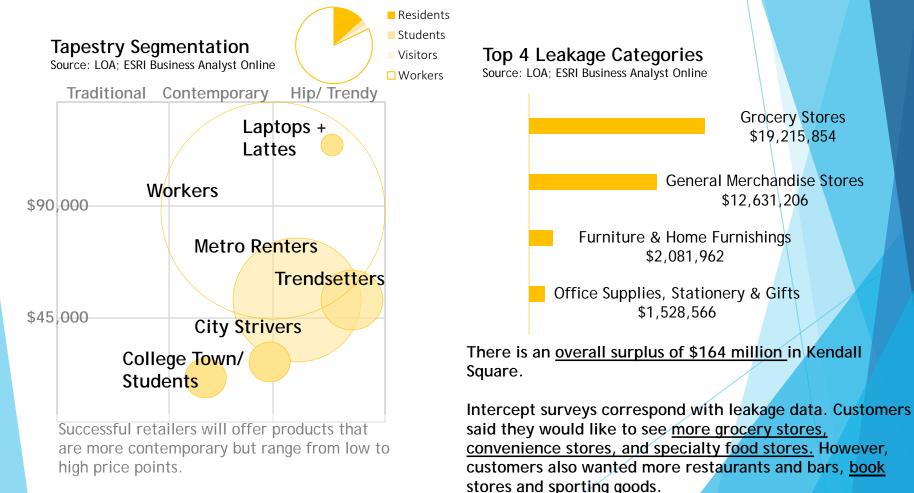
Kendall Square

Kendall Square is a rapidly developing district with a large daytime worker population. The tech employment rved by aces.

Sq

/ sq

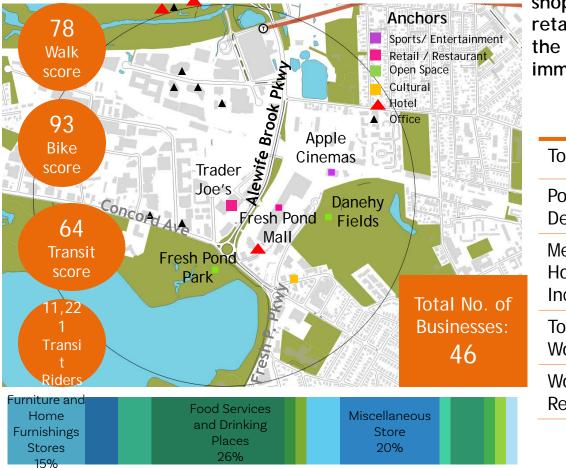
88 Walk score	Landmark Cinema		Anchors Institution (Public/ Private) Sports/ Entertainment Retail / Restaurant	population. The <u>te</u> <u>center</u> is currently restaurants and dr	y well-serve
	One Kendall		Cultural Open Space		Kendall S
99 Bike score	Broadway	Plaza/ tce Skating Rink	Hotel Office	Total Population	7,018
75	Broad InstituteGOOGI	Cambridge Innovation Broad Center Canal		Population Density	12,017/ : mile
Transit score	Institute	Microsoft Main Si	Total No. of	Median Household Income	\$62,118
3 Transi t	PE-S		Businesses: 65	Total No. of Workers	36,303
Riders				Worker to Resident Ratio	5:1
	Food Services and Drinking Places 72%		Fitness/ Gym		



Fresh Pond/ Alewife

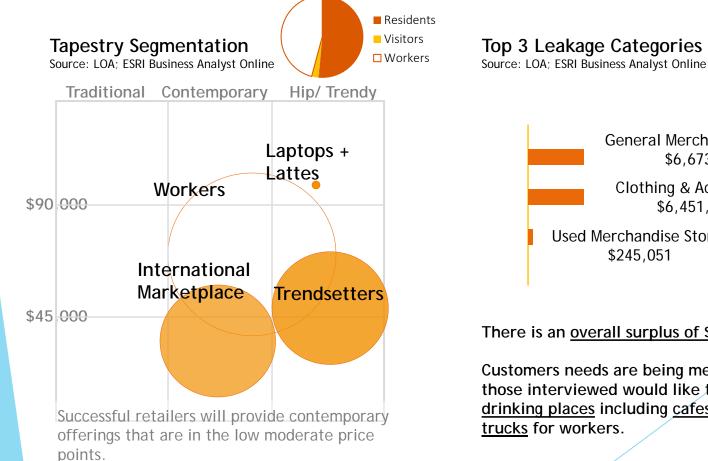
Photo: Google Map; Yelp

Fresh Pond/ Alewife



Fresh Pond/ Alewife is a car- centered shopping district. It has convenience retail offerings at low prices to meet the needs of the lower income immigrant community.

	Fresh Pond/ Alewife
Total Population	6,495
Population Density	8,222/ sq mile
Median Household Income	\$43,951
Total No. of Workers	5,779
Worker to Resident Ratio	1:1



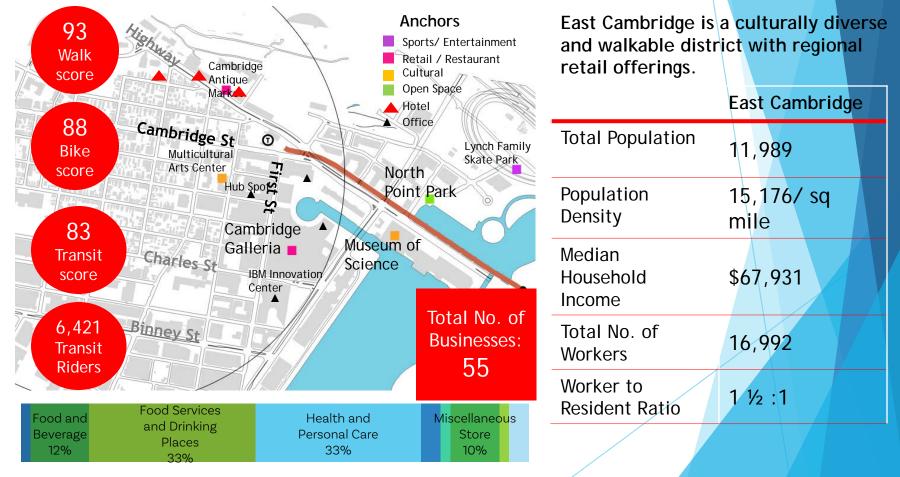
General Merchandise Stores \$6,673,769 Clothing & Accessories \$6,451,875 **Used Merchandise Stores**

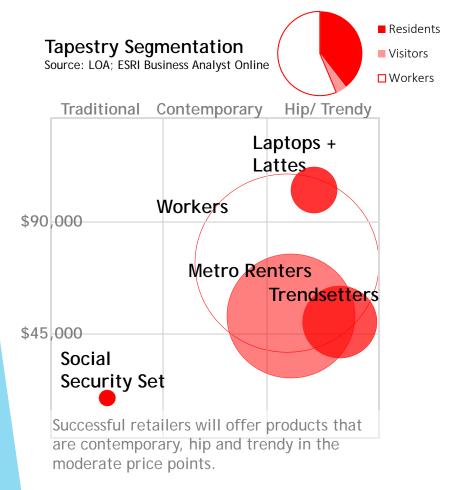
There is an overall surplus of \$50 million in Fresh Pond.

Customers needs are being met in most categories but those interviewed would like to see more food and drinking places including cafes and bakeries, and food



East Cambridge/ North Point



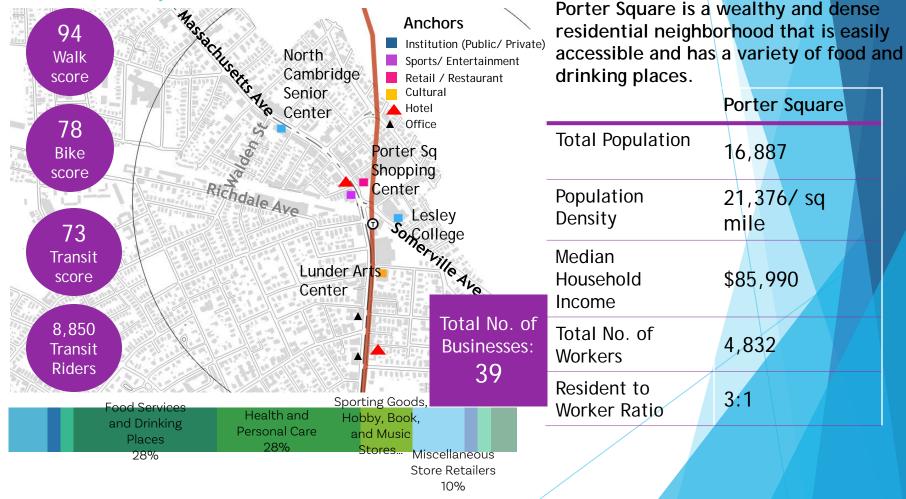


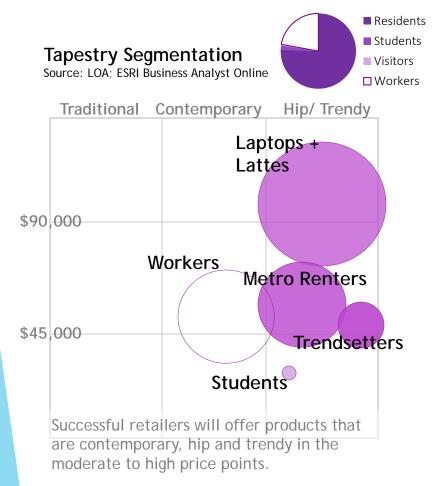


Intercept surveys suggest that customers would like to see more <u>restaurants and bars</u>, <u>coffee shops and bakeries</u>, and <u>hobby stores</u>. Aligned with leakage data, they would also like more <u>fresh produce options</u>.



Porter Square/ Lower Mass. Ave.





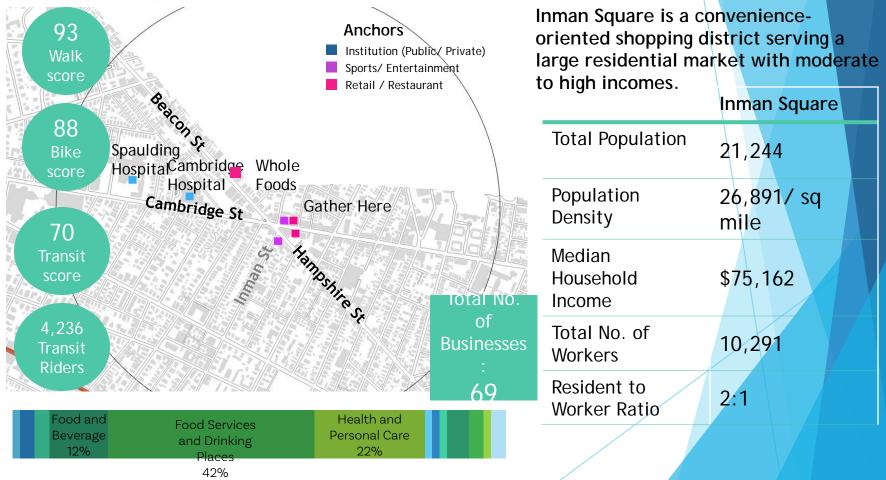


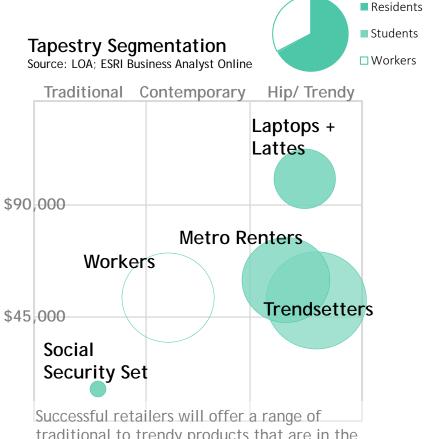
Inman Square

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Photo: Google Map; Chris Devers (Flickr

Inman Square





traditional to trendy products that are in the low to moderate price points.

Top 5 Leakage Categories

Source: LOA; ESRI Business Analyst Online

General Merchandise Stores \$40,924,896

Clothing & Accessories \$30,165,299

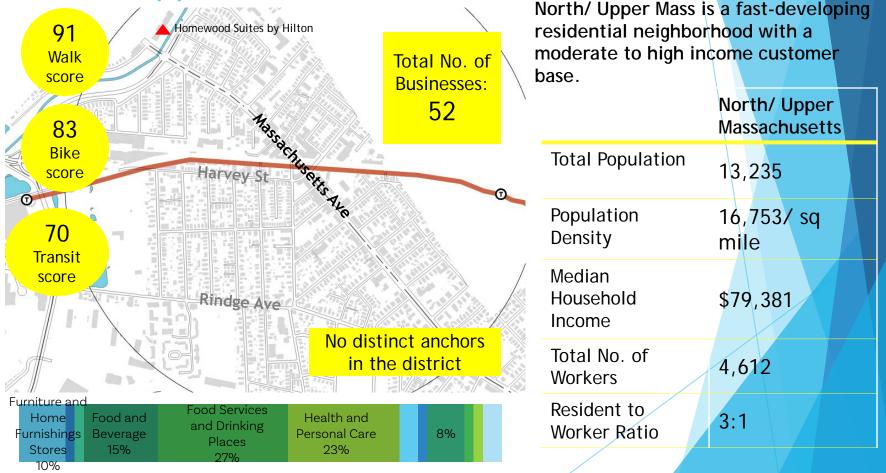
Health & Personal Care \$16,936,504 Building Materials & Garden Equipment \$16,910,014 Food Services & Drinking Places \$13,460,880

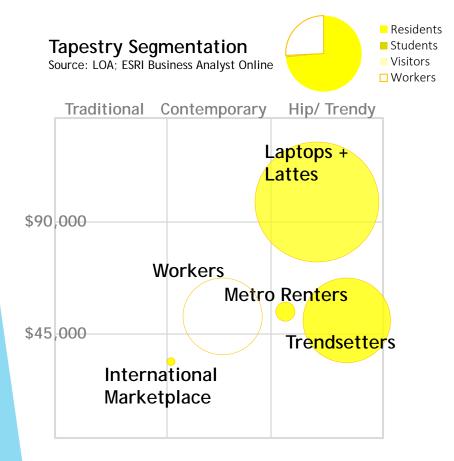
In addition to these retail categories, customers would like more <u>affordable grocery</u> and <u>specialty retail</u> stores. The <u>hip and trendy customer</u> base would also enjoy <u>special events</u> organized in the district.

North/ Upper Mass. Ave.

HRIR CO & C

North/ Upper Mass. Ave.







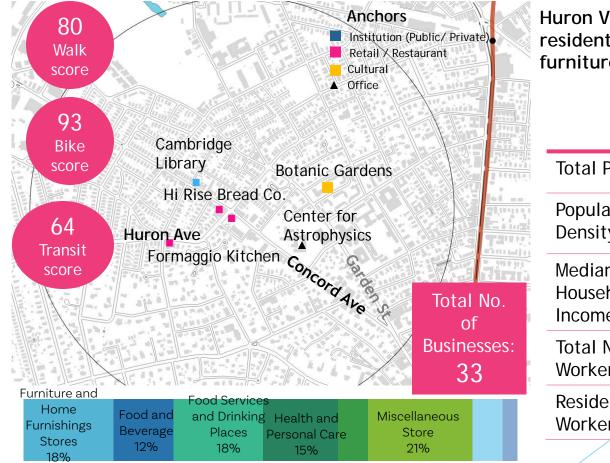
North/ Upper Mass still has the opportunity to build its offerings in categories such as grocery stores, building materials & garden equipment, and hobby stores in the moderate to high price range.

Blue Hills Bank

Huron Village/ Observatory Hill

Photo: LOA

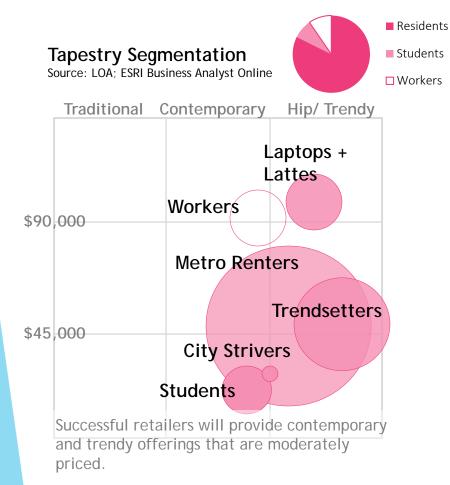
Huron Village/ Observatory Hill



Huron Village is a very wealthy, residential neighborhood with a home furniture retail niche.

Lluron Villogo

	Huron Village/ Observatory Hill
Total Population	12,528
Population Density	15,858/ sq mile
Median Household Income	\$101,017
Total No. of Workers	1,329
Resident to Worker Ratio	10:1





the city of Cambridge. However, there are <u>no available</u> retail spaces for lease in the area.