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The layout of the new NorthPoint neighbourhood is driven in large part by the desire to structure a contiguous public realm, which is well integrated into the surrounding neighbourhoods. The streets, sidewalks, central park, and green fingers are designed to hold together as a single network, while providing formal and functional variety. The city block structure sets up an urban streetscape to create a hierarchy of uses, clarity of circulation, human scale and an animated public and pedestrian realm. Buildings exhibiting a diversity of architectural expression, establish a comfortable pedestrian scale common to all building types, framing streets and enlivening the sidewalks with entrances, life, and activity.

Design principles used to create the NorthPoint Master Plan emphasize a variety of scale and form to reflect a diversity of experience throughout the 45-acre site. Each parcel is intended to relate to its immediate surroundings as well as the larger context. The larger context is defined by overall image, legibility, cohesiveness, scale, character, connections, and movement. Local context determinants include orientation, solar exposure, parking, views to the surroundings and the central park, definition of unbuilt open spaces, public-private hierarchy, strategic location/program/opportunity, integration of multiple uses and interface with transit. This urban design framework builds on the Eastern Cambridge Design Guidelines and sets out the basic parameters, which will shape built form.

Attached are the Eastern Cambridge Design Guidelines: NorthPoint (“NorthPoint Guidelines”). These guidelines are based on the Eastern Cambridge Design Guidelines for the entire Eastern Cambridge area developed by the City of Cambridge and the ECaPs Committee. The North Point Design Guidelines reflect the Eastern Cambridge Design Guidelines, but are specific to the North Point area and provide additional illustration of design components that may be applicable to North Point.

These Eastern Cambridge Design Guidelines: NorthPoint provide a framework for the design of a livable mixed-use community and will be provided to architects as NorthPoint buildings are designed. These guidelines will be provided to architects of each building or other public space as they are chosen to guide them in their design efforts. The guidelines represent a consensus of attitude regarding the development of the NorthPoint site as derived through several years of planning in East Cambridge by the City of Cambridge, the Eastern Cambridge Design Guidelines as well as the project specific permitting and community outreach processes for the NorthPoint site. In addition, these guidelines are consistent with the parameters of the Special Permit issued by the Cambridge Planning Board in March 2003.

It is understood that the application of these principles, including numerical guidelines, can vary with the context of specific building proposals in ways that, nevertheless, fully respect the policies’ intent. It is intended that proponents of projects and city staff, the Planning Board and the general public, where public review or approval is required, should be open to creative variations from the detailed provisions presented herein as long as the core values expressed are being served.

The attached guidelines consist of six components as described below. Architects and reviewers should refer to additional documents including: the Planning Board Special Permit for NorthPoint and the roadway Network Schematic Plan that will be submitted to the Planning Board for review and approval prior to the issuance of a building permit for the first building at the site. The Guidelines Text is based on the Eastern Cambridge Design Guidelines developed by the City of Cambridge. It provides the dimensional guidelines that should drive the design of buildings and other public spaces at NorthPoint. The Exhibits are graphics that illustrate the concepts described in the Guidelines Text. The Guidelines Text is the controlling component of this guideline package and where there are discrepancies between the guidelines and Exhibits or Specific Block Guidelines, the Guidelines Text will rule.

Part 1: Urban Structure
This section outlines the overall layout of the masterplan and various urban design considerations that create a holistic vision for NorthPoint. The Urban Structure also highlights how the masterplan not only strengthens the connections to the surrounding neighborhoods and creates new green connections within the site.

Part 2: Built Form
The Built-Form section lays out design guidelines for the character of the urban fabric of NorthPoint in terms of scale, massing, ground floor articulation and architectural character.

Part 2: Public Realm
The team has developed a robust set of guidelines to decide the nature of different types of open spaces and streetscapes.

Part 4: Transportation and Public Transit Nodes
This section highlights how the urban design of NorthPoint enhances the user experience from both, green and orange line, T stops into the site. Moreover, it also outlines how the open space network facilitates the East-West bicycle and pedestrian connections.

Part 5: Specific Block Guidelines
The NorthPoint team has developed examples of how the guidelines are applied to each building block. These will be provided to each building architect and include approximate size, height and use of the buildings on each block, as well as recommended locations for pedestrian and vehicular entries. The Specific Block Guidelines also highlight the unique characteristics particular to each block of which architects should be aware. These may include items such as proximity to the Central Park, integration with the MBTA transit station or requirement for a connection to the Gilmore Bridge.

Part 6: Model Images and Renderings
This section consists of graphics that illustrate the NorthPoint model and artist’s renderings from different viewing perspectives.

Note: All exhibits and images in the Guidelines are illustrative examples only. Designs will be subject to detailed design review and approval by the Planning Board.
5.1 PARCEL A

Parcel Size: 65,373 sq ft
Permitted GFA: 231,610 sq ft
Uses: Residential
Parking: TBD

Parcel A is a residential building that is located at the western most end of NorthPoint. It is a highly visible gateway building as one enters NorthPoint via Green Line extension and Community Path from Somerville.

- Create a special visual articulation to celebrate the western entry into NorthPoint using visual articulation.
- Ground floor of the building should engage West Boulevard
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are important in defining character of West Boulevard
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the north with the rail-yards
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Above-grade garage should be screened with residential units along West Boulevard
- Relationship to Parcel B and Zinc building should be carefully studied in creating a comfortable pedestrian experience.
- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.

Site Plan 1" = 100'

Building Envelope 1"=150'

Sample Massing 1"=150'

EXHIBIT: 54  PARCEL A ILLUSTRATIVE DRAWINGS
5.2 PARCEL B

Parcel B is a residential building that is located at the terminus of park at the west end of Water Street at the intersection of West Boulevard, Dawes Street and pocket park to the east.

- Create a special visual terminus to park at the west end of Water Street using visual articulation.
- Ground floor of the building should engage Dawes Street and West Boulevard
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of West Boulevard
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the north with the rail-yards
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Above-grade garage should be screened with residential units along Dawes Street and West Boulevard
- Relationship to Parcel C and Zinc building should be carefully studied in creating a comfortable pedestrian experience.
- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
5.3 PARCEL C

Parcel Size: 69,003 sq ft
Permitted GFA: 348,000 sq ft
Uses: Mixed-use
Parking: TBD

Parcel C is a mixed-use building located prominently at the western end of Dawes Street and at the visual terminus of Water Street. The parcel enjoys an important edge of park at the west end of Water Street to the south and pocket park to the west.

- Create a special visual terminus to Water Street using visual articulation.
- Ground floor of the building should engage Dawes Street and the pocket park to the west.
- The design of the building should recognize its significant presence on Parcel I open space.
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the north with the rail-yards.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- The tower portions should be set back by at least 10 ft. from the Dawes Street facade.
- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
5.4 PARCEL D

Parcel D is a residential building that also includes MBTA parking above grade. The parcel is located directly behind Parcel I and along Dawes Street.

- The tower portions should be set back by at least 10 ft. from the Dawes Street facade.
- Ground floor of the building should engage Dawes Street.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Dawes Street (refer to Dawes Street Guidelines 3.2.2).
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the north with the rail-yards.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Above-grade garage should be screened with residential units along Dawes Street.
- Relationship to Parcel I building should be carefully studied in creating a comfortable pedestrian experience along Dawes Street.

Parcel Size: 59,838 sq ft
Permitted GFA: 340,000 sq ft
Uses: Mixed-use
Parking: TBD
Maximum Height: 220'
Lot Coverage: 72%
Primary pedestrian access: Dawes St
Vehicular access: Dawes St

Site Plan 1”=100’
Building Envelope Axonometric
Sample Massing 1”=50’
Key Map
Sample Massing Axonometric
5.5 PARCEL EF

Parcel EF is a commercial building on Dawes Street with one of its corners located prominently at the visual terminus of North First Street and at its intersection with Dawes Street. The other corner of this building also enjoys a prominent location on pocket park north of Baldwin Park.

- Create a special visual terminus to North First Street using visual articulation.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the Dawes Street and the pocket park north of Baldwin Park.
- Special corner treatment should be considered at Dawes Street and pocket park north of Baldwin Park to create a visual relationship from NorthPoint Common.
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the north with the rail-yards.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Taller elements of the building should be set back from pocket park north of pocket park north of Baldwin Park to create a comfortable scale.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Dawes Street (refer to Dawes Street Guidelines 3.2.2).
- Relationship to Parcel JK building should be carefully studied in creating a comfortable pedestrian experience along Dawes Street.
- Parking and Service uses should be located on service streets to the west.
- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
- Refer to Section 2.1 regarding the length of the facade.
Parcel G is a commercial building located on Dawes Street. The western corner of this building enjoys a prominent location on pocket park north of pocket park north of Baldwin Park.

- Special corner treatment should be considered at Dawes Street and pocket park north of Baldwin Park to create a visual relationship from NorthPoint Common.

- Ground floor of the building should engage the Dawes Street and the pocket park north of Baldwin Park.

- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the north with the rail-yards.

- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.

- Taller elements of the building should be set back from pocket park north of Baldwin Park to create a comfortable scale.

- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Dawes Street (refer to Dawes Street Guidelines 3.2.2).

- Relationship to Parcel L and M buildings should be carefully studied in creating a comfortable pedestrian experience along Dawes Street and skyline identity.

- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
Parcel H is a commercial building prominently located on Gilmore Bridge, the Brian P. Murphy Memorial Staircase and at the end of Child’s Street Park.

- Create a special visual terminus to Child’s Street Park using visual articulation and welcoming ground floor programs such as lobbies.
- Iconic presence of the building on Gilmore Bridge from the City of Boston and regional transit ways should be carefully considered.
- Engagement with and activation of Brian P. Murphy Stair should be carefully considered.
- Ground floor of the building should engage Dawes Street, The Brian P. Murphy Memorial Staircase and the Gilmore Bridge.
- The building design should also consider the northeast corner to be inviting to pedestrians and bicycles arriving from Community College Orange Line Station.
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the north with the rail-yards.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Taller elements of the building should be set back from Child’s Street Park to create a comfortable scale.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Dawes Street (refer to Dawes Street Guidelines 3.2.2).
- Relationship to Parcel N and G buildings should be carefully studied in creating an overall skyline identity.

- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
5.8 PARCEL I

Parcel I is the most prominent building in NorthPoint situated at the lynch pin intersection of North First Street, NorthPoint Boulevard, NorthPoint Common and Dawes Street. This residential building also consists of the retail plaza and park at the end of Water Street.

- The building on Parcel I should resolve multiple geometries that converge on this site to create an iconic tower that also becomes a visual landmark for NorthPoint.

- In designing the tower, its presence as it is seen from First Street in East Cambridge, NorthPoint Common and Water Street Park should be considered.

- Ground floor of the building should engage the park at the end of Water Street, North First Street, Dawes Street and Retail Plaza.

- Retail frontage should be maximized along North First Street and Retail Plaza.

- The configuration should positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.

- Taller elements of the building should be set back from Retail Plaza to create a comfortable scale along the plaza and in relationship to small retail buildings.

- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Dawes and North First Street.

- Relationship to Parcel JK and O buildings should be carefully studied in creating an overall skyline identity.

- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
5.9 PARCEL I RETAIL

Parcel I small retail buildings are an important component of NorthPoint public realm. They are created to activate the public realm and also create a sense of human scale that will balance the scale of adjacent buildings. Further they are important elements in enhancing east west connectivity between NorthPoint Common and Water Street Park, while defining North First Street as a retail corridor.

- The small retail buildings should be designed to have a visual presence from First Street as well as Water Street Park.
- N-S through connections from NorthPoint Boulevard/Multi-use trail to the Retail Plaza should be maintained.
- The design of these buildings should carefully follow Multi-Use path guidelines in Section xx.
- In designing the tower, its presence as it is seen from First Street in East Cambridge, NorthPoint Common and Water Street Park should be considered.
- Transparency is highly encouraged to enable views through the retail buildings.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the water street Park and the retail plaza and retail frontage should be maximized along all sides.
- Second floor terraces for restaurant seating is encouraged.
- The design of the retail buildings should carefully follow ‘Multi-Use path guidelines in Section xx.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- The design of the retail buildings should maintain clear physical and visual lines of sight between NorthPoint Common/Parcel W and Water Street Parks.
- These structures should have interesting roofscape as they will be highly visible from majority of the buildings at NorthPoint.

- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
5.10 PARCEL JK

Parcel JK is a prominent building in NorthPoint situated on North First Street at North Street. This commercial building also enjoys a presence on Baldwin Park and NorthPoint Common.

- The building on Parcel JK will be highly visible from North First Street and also presents a broad facade along the Park. The opportunity to create an iconic presence should be balanced with massing and scale of the building.
- In designing this building, its presence as it is seen from North First Street, NorthPoint Common and Baldwin Park should be carefully considered.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the North First Street, North Street and Baldwin Park.
- Retail frontage should be maximized along North First Street and western portion of North Street.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Dawes and North Street.
- Relationship to Parcel EF and I buildings should be carefully studied in creating an overall skyline identity.

- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
- Refer to Section 2.1 regarding the length of the facade.
Parcel L is a residential building located at the corner of NorthPoint Common and Baldwin Park on North Street.

- In designing this building, its presence as it is seen from NorthPoint Common, Child Street and Baldwin Park should be carefully considered.
- Ground floor of the building should engage North Street, Dawes Street, Child Street and Baldwin Park.
- Retail frontage should be focused at the corner of Baldwin Park and North Street.
- Special treatment should be considered on Baldwin Park and Child Street.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Dawes and North Street and Baldwin Park.
- Relationship to Parcel G and M buildings should be carefully studied in creating an overall skyline identity.

- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.
5.12 PARCEL Q1

Parcel Size: 11,584 sq ft
Permitted GFA: 14,000 sq ft

Uses: Commercial
Parking: TBD

Maximum Height: 85'
Lot Coverage: 79%

Primary pedestrian access: First St, North Point Blvd
Vehicular access: North Point Blvd

Parcel Q is an important corner retail building at the critical intersection of North First Street and NorthPoint Boulevard. Unlike the two other small retail buildings on Parcel I and W, which are a part of the public realm, Parcel Q should be treated as an urban street corner building.

- The design of the building should recognize its significant presence on the corner of North First Street and NorthPoint Boulevard.
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the MBTA Green line viaduct to the south.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Special corner treatment should be considered on NorthPoint Boulevard.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the water street Park and the retail plaza and retail frontage should be maximized along all sides.
- Second floor terraces for restaurant seating is encouraged.
- These structures should have interesting roofscape as they will be highly visible from majority of the buildings at NorthPoint.
5.13 PARCEL Q2

Parcel Q is a commercial building located on NorthPoint Boulevard. The parcel enjoys a very important edge of park at the end of Water Street and a pocket open space immediately to the east (between Q1 and Q2).

- Create a special visual terminus to Water Street using visual articulation of base/middle and top.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the NorthPoint Boulevard, Water Street and the pocket park to the east.
- The design of the building should recognize its significant visual presence on Parcel I open space.
- Retail frontage should be maximized along NorthPoint Boulevard and the pocket park.
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the MBTA Green line viaduct to the south.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Special corner treatment should be considered on NorthPoint Boulevard.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of NorthPoint Boulevard.
- The design should recognize that the building on this parcel abuts public open space, and take into consideration views, shadows, sound and the public character of these open spaces.

**Key Map**

**Site Plan**

**Building Envelope Axonometric**

**Sample Massing Axonometric**

EXHIBIT 66  PARCEL Q2 ILLUSTRATIVE DRAWINGS
5.14 PARCEL R

Parcel R is a small, but a very important gateway building to NorthPoint. This residential building located prominently on North First Street, East Street and NorthPoint Boulevard. The parcel enjoys a very important frontage on NorthPoint Common.

- In designing this building, its presence as it is seen from North First Street, Msgr. O’Brien Highway and NorthPoint Common should be carefully considered.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the North First Street, NorthPoint Boulevard and East Street.
- Retail frontage should be maximized along North First Street and NorthPoint Boulevard.
- Special consideration should be made to the relationship to the MBTA Green line viaduct to the south.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Special corner treatment should be considered on NorthPoint Boulevard.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of North First Street and NorthPoint Boulevard.

Parcel Size: 46,343 sq ft
Permitted GFA: 148,945 sq ft
Uses: Mixed-Use
Parking: TBD

Maximum Height: 85’
Lot Coverage: 48%

Primary pedestrian access: First St, North Point Blvd
Vehicular access: East St

EXHIBIT 67  PARCEL R ILLUSTRATIVE DRAWINGS
5.15 PARCEL U

Parcel U is a commercial building prominently located on Gilmore Bridge and on NorthPoint Boulevard. The parcel enjoys a very important frontage on NorthPoint Common.

- Iconic presence of the building on Gilmore Bridge from the City of Boston and regional transit ways should be carefully considered.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the NorthPoint Boulevard, Leighton Street and the Gilmore Bridge.
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Taller elements of the building should be set back from NorthPoint Common to create a comfortable scale.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of NorthPoint Boulevard.
- Relationship to Parcel Tango and Archstone should be carefully studied.
**5.16 PARCEL V**

Parcel V is an important parcel that integrates NorthPoint closely with East Cambridge neighborhood. It also forms a gateway to the neighborhood and Cambridge Street retail. This parcel will be a residential use and will also house a public market.

- Iconic presence of the building from Msgr. O’Brien Highway and Lechmere Station should be carefully considered
- Scale transition to smaller-scale buildings to the west should be carefully considered
- Ground floor of the building should engage the North First Street Cambridge Street and Msgr. O’Brien Highway
- The configuration shall positively use the orientation and exposure to sun and minimize shadows on parks and surrounding buildings.
- Massing and articulation of the base/middle/top and horizontal articulation of the length of the facade are critical in defining character of Cambridge Street
- Elements of the existing MBTA Green line shed or architectural character should be maintained along Cambridge Street

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**Parcel Size:** 60,006 sq ft  
**Permitted GFA:** 199,855 sq ft  
**Uses:** Residential  
**Parking:** TBD  
**Maximum Height:** 35'/65'  
**Lot Coverage:** 58%  
**Primary pedestrian access:** Cambridge St  
**Vehicular access:** Cambridge St

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**Site Plan**  
1”=100’

**Building Envelope**  
1”=150’

**Sample Massing**  
1”=150’
5.17 PARCEL W

Parcel Size: 20,743 sq ft
Permitted GFA: 18,000 sq ft
Uses: Commercial
Parking: TBD

Parcel Q small retail buildings are an important component of NorthPoint public realm and are planned to activate NorthPoint Common. They are important in establishing human scale in NorthPoint – but also enhance east west connectivity between NorthPoint Common and Parcel I.

- In designing these buildings, it is important to shape them to maintain visual connections to NorthPoint Common from First Street and Retail Square.
- The small retail buildings should be designed to have a visual presence from First Street and the train station.
- The design for the retail plaza should explore shading devices such as pergolas or canopies that create an important visual identity for Parcel W as an important component of NorthPoint’s public realm.
- Transparency is highly encouraged to enable views through the retail buildings.
- Ground floor of the building should engage the water street Park and the retail plaza and retail frontage should be maximized along all sides.
- Second floor terraces for restaurant seating is encouraged.
- These structures should have interesting roofscape as they will be highly visible from majority of the buildings at NorthPoint.