
City of Cambridge

Cool Spots: Shade

Information Session
June, 17, 2026



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

CDD
Community
Development



Agenda

- Background
- Timeline
- Selection Process
- Scope
- Q&A

Cool Spots (PB)

- Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where community members can vote to directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.
- 2024 PB project “Shaded seats for hot streets”
- **2025 & 2026 Cool Spots:** Ranging from chairs in shaded areas like parks, to seating along busy streets, Cool Spots are public spaces where community members are encouraged to stop by, rest, and cool off.



Heat Resilience in Cambridge – Shade Structures



CloudHouse, Green Rose Park 2021-2022

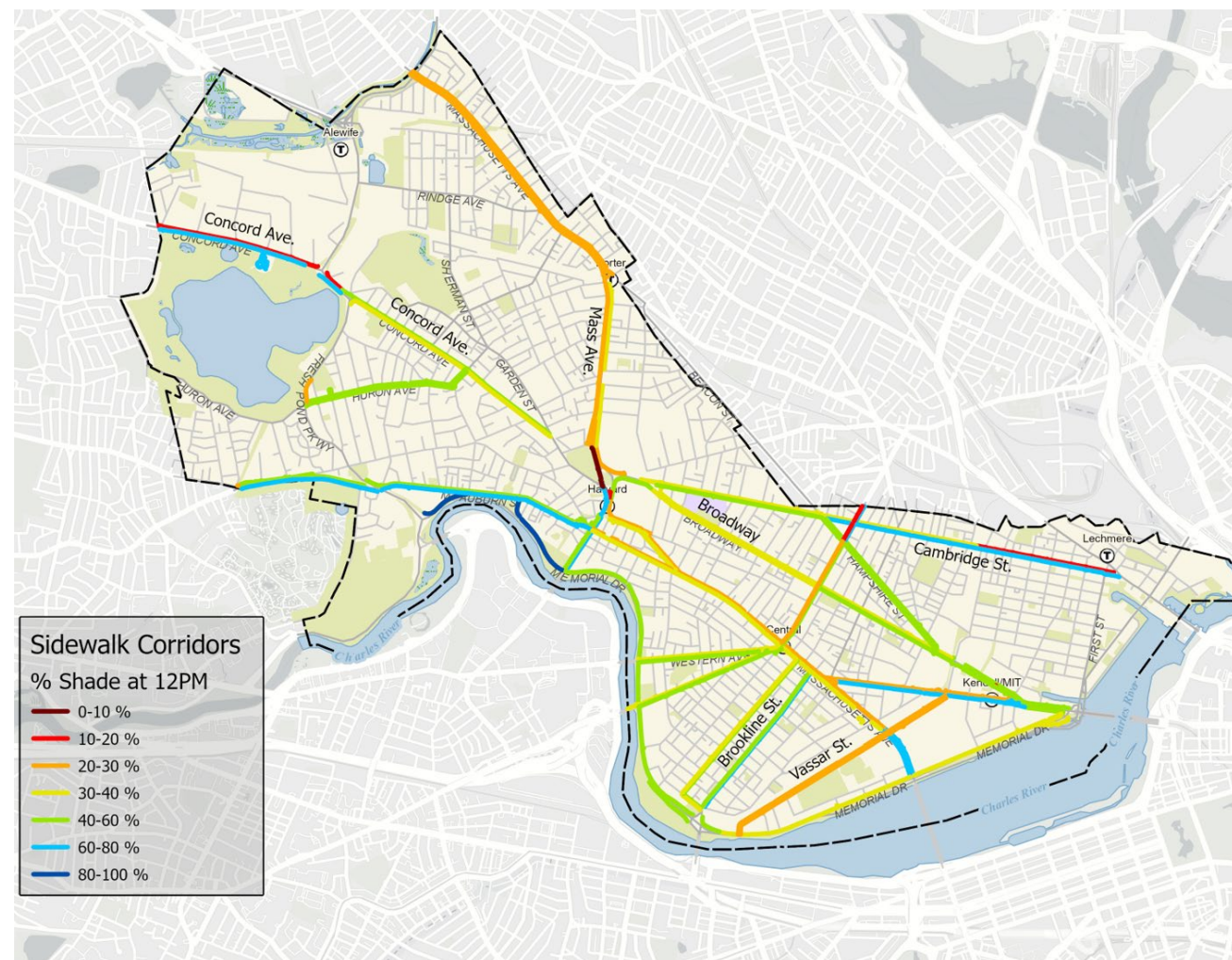
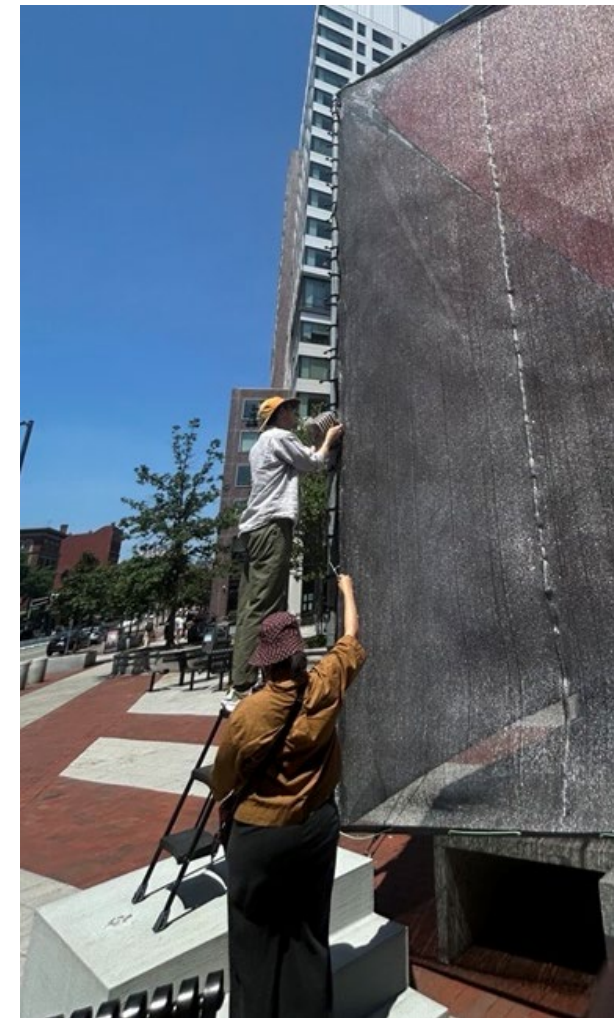


Growing Shade, Russell Field 2024



Sunblock, Central Square 2024-2025

Heat Resilience in Cambridge - Analyses



City/MIT Heat Sensing and ClimateWalks

Shadescape Analysis

Timeline

- June 2026 Announce Call for Designers
- **June 17, 2026** **Information session**
- July 2, 2026 [Application closes](#)
- Late July 2026 Review of applications
- August 2026 Interview finalists and award contract(s)
- Summer-fall 2026 Design Development
- Fall-winter 2026 Community engagement, detail design development, review/approval process, fabrication
- Spring-summer 2027 Installation of shade structures

Selection Process

- Interested designers apply through SlideRoom.
- A technical panel will recommend finalists based on qualifications, which we define as past work and experience.
- An interviewing panel composed of city staff and community members will conduct interviews with the finalists. City staff will provide interview assistance to the finalists.
- The panel will recommend one designer or design team to deliver one or more Cool Spot installations next summer.

Scope

- Create Cool Spots that provide shade and serve as places for community gathering
- The budget for each commissioned artist is anticipated to be between \$80,000 to \$95,000.
- Budget is inclusive of all costs, including, but not limited to, designer's fee, engineering, fabrication, insurance, installation, and deinstallation.
- If project is designed for more than one season, scope should include storage.

Q&A

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