



IMPORTANT NOTICE OF UPCOMING PARKING CHANGES **Fairmont Street / Rockwell Street**

Dear Cambridgeport Neighbor:

As part of the upcoming reconstruction of **Fairmont and Rockwell Streets**, we will be starting to implement permanent changes to the layout of on-street parking spaces. These changes were developed and presented to the community during the design process for the Fairmont/Rockwell/Laurel/Kelly Sidewalk and Street Improvements Project. (see [Fairmont Rockwell Laurel Kelly Sidewalk and Street Improvements Project - City of Cambridge, MA \(cambridgema.gov\)](https://www.cambridgema.gov/transportation/fairmont-rockwell-laurel-kelly-sidewalk-and-street-improvements-project) for more information)

Fairmont Street changes

- Fairmont Street will continue to operate as a One-Way Street, with traffic flowing from Magazine towards Pleasant and River Streets.
- Parking will remain on the Odd side between Magazine Street and about the west end of the #9 Fairmont building (Cambridge Housing Authority). The driving lane will be along the left-hand curb as it is today.
- **West of the CHA building, parking will switch to the Even side the rest of the way to Pleasant Street and also between Pleasant and River Streets. The driving lane will be along the right-hand curb and parking will be on the left.**
- Curbed bumpouts will be constructed to guide drivers at the location where parking and driving lanes switch from one side to the other. This is called a “chicane”, and has the additional benefit of discouraging speeding.

Rockwell Street changes

- Rockwell Street will continue to operate as a One-Way Street, with traffic flowing from River towards Pleasant Street.
- **Parking will switch to the Odd side for this entire block. The driving lane will be along the right-hand curb and parking will be on the left.**

Why are parking changes being made on Fairmont and Rockwell Streets?

An important goal of street reconstruction is to bring sidewalks into compliance with State and Federal Accessibility Standards. On streets with narrow sidewalks, bringing a street into compliance with these standards often involves eliminating substandard “pinch points”. These pinch points are often located where features which we want to keep, such as large mature trees, constrict the sidewalk width below required accessibility standards.

On narrow streets, our strategy at tree pinch-points is to “bump out” the sidewalk around the tree into the parking lane. (See photo). Of course on streets which only have parking on one side, we can only do this on the “parking side” of the street.



Example of sidewalk bumpout around large tree

We know that maintaining as much on-street parking as possible is important to neighbors, so for each street in the project we looked at two options to see what would give the most parking:

- Keeping parking “as-is” and providing the required bumpouts on the current parking side OR
- Switching parking, in whole or in part, to the opposite side of the street, and providing the required bumpouts on this “new” side of parking.

Our analysis showed that for Fairmont Street and Rockwell Street, the way to retain the most parking, given the location of pinch-points, driveways, etc. would be to make changes to the parking layouts, as described above.

When will these changes be happening?

The actual installation of new curb, sidewalks, and permanent parking regulation signs will take place this summer. However, we would like neighbors and visitors to get used to the new parking layouts ahead of this construction. We will therefore be installing temporary signage in the coming weeks which will effectively implement these changes. **Please be on the lookout for these signs, as well as other temporary parking signs related to the upcoming paving work on your street.**

For Information and Assistance During Construction

Cambridge DPW staff will be on-site during this time and will be available to respond to questions and concerns.

In addition, if you have general questions or concerns about these changes you may contact Kristen Kelleher, DPW Community Relations Manager at (617) 349-4825 or kkelleher@cambridgema.gov.

We know these changes will take some getting used to, and we will try to minimize any confusion. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,

Kristen Kelleher
Community Relations Manager