Eastern Cambridge/Kendall Square Open Spaces: 

*Binney Street Park and Triangle Park*

June 16, 2016

Kennedy-Longfellow School
Meeting Agenda

• Background
  • Open Space in Cambridge
  • Timeline and Previous Work
  • Eastern Cambridge/Kendall Square Open Space Framework

• Open Space Design Concepts
  • Binney Street Park and Triangle Park

• Discussion and Next Steps
Open Space in Cambridge

![Image of a park with benches and statues]

![Image of people sledding down a snowy hill]

![Image of children playing near fountains]

![Image of children playing soccer in a field]

Open Space in Cambridge

Report of the GREEN RIBBON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
March 2000

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Community Development Department
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Public Open Space per 1000 Persons

This is an update of Figure 3.1 from the March 2000 Report of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee. It includes new data and boundaries from the 2010 Census, as well as updated open space data from the Community Development Department.

Community Development Department
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Open Space in Cambridge

City of Cambridge
HEALTHY PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS
Task Force Report

Fall 2009
Open Space in Cambridge
Timeline and Previous Work

- **2009 and 2012**: Agreements to transfer properties to City
- **2012-2013**: Kendall Square/Central Square (K2C2) Planning Study
- **2012**: Telephone survey on open space use in eastern Cambridge
- **2013-2014**: Eastern Cambridge/Kendall Square Open Space (ECKOS) Study Committee conducts public process to develop open space **Vision** and **Goals** for open spaces
- **2014-2015**: Connect Kendall Square Open Space Competition to develop **open space framework** based on **Vision** and **Goals**
- **2016**: Design of new open spaces guided by framework
- **Winter 2016-2017**: Anticipated Public Bid for Construction
- **2017**: Anticipated construction of new parks
BINNEY STREET PARK

ROGERS STREET PARK

TRIANGLE PARK

POINT PARK
Three New Open Spaces

• Binney Street Park (STOSS Landscape Urbanism)
• Triangle Park (STOSS Landscape Urbanism)
• Rogers Street Park (Landscape Architect TBD) [FUTURE PUBLIC MEETING]

Future Re-imagined Open Space

• Point Park (Extension) (STOSS Landscape Urbanism) [FUTURE PUBLIC MEETING]
Rogers Street Park

- Character of a neighborhood park, with uses such as playground area and dog run
- Flexible open field area that could be used for free play or community events
Point Park

• A gateway to city, and a gathering point at an important juncture in the Kendall Square area
• A place that people move through, but can also linger in
Binney Street Park

• A hub for connections, incorporating Grand Junction Multi-Use Pathway
• A mingling of nature and play
Triangle Park

- A contemplative and flexible space, with a sense of connection to the river
- Connection to nearby residences, and emerging commercial uses
EASTERN CAMBRIDGE OPEN SPACES
JUNE 16, 2016
WHO ARE WE?
WHO ARE WE?
WHO ARE YOU?

DO YOU LIVE IN EASTERN CAMBRIDGE / KENDALL SQUARE?
WHO ARE YOU?

DO YOU LIVE IN EASTERN CAMBRIDGE / KENDALL SQUARE?

DO YOU WORK IN EASTERN CAMBRIDGE / KENDALL SQUARE?
WHO ARE YOU?

DO YOU LIVE IN EASTERN CAMBRIDGE / KENDALL SQUARE?

DO YOU WORK IN EASTERN CAMBRIDGE / KENDALL SQUARE?

DO YOU LIVE + WORK IN EASTERN CAMBRIDGE / KENDALL SQUARE?
REGIONAL BUSINESS, INSTITUTION + RESIDENTS
10 MINUTE WALK
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PROGRAM
FRAMEWORK PROGRAM
BINNEY STREET PARK
EXISTING SITE
BINNEY STREET PARK
EXISTING FEATURES

[ PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION]

[ CONSTRUCTION STAGING ]

[ OPEN-PROGRAM LAWN AREA ]
BINNEY STREET PARK
FRAMEWORK PLAN

PARK CONNECTION TO GRAND JUNCTON TRAIL AND ONE KENDALL SQUARE

LANDFORM WITH UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PATHS

BRIDGE ELEMENT - ADA COMPLIANT

ENTRY PLAZA WITH TIMBERS AND CLIMBING WALL

RESHAPED GALLILEO GALLILEI WAY

LARGE LANDFORMS TO PROVIDE SENSE OF SCALE

ZIP LINE

INFILTRATION POTENTIAL

PARK CONNECTION TO BIKE PATH AND BROADWAY PLAZA

PARK ENTRY POINTS

IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS

SUGGESTED PARK PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

CHARACTER
BINNEY STREET PARK: FEATURES
FRAMEWORK PLAN

[ENTRY POINTS]
• North and South ends of Land Boulevard

[IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS]
• North-South Grand Junction Community Bike Path passes along the park
• Unites pedestrian traffic between One Kendall and Kendall Square
• Bicycle lane portal at southern boundary connects to regional bicycle route

[SUSTAINABLE FEATURES]
• Porous paving
• Below grade rainwater storage + infiltration for net zero run off
• Deciduous tree canopy for shade

[CHARACTER]
• A rough rock walled play valley, its floor strewn with stumps and fallen logs
• Vertical enclosure within a valley
• Grove of trees at ridge and edges of park
• Glade as park narrows along zip line
BINNEY STREET PARK: SUGGESTED PROGRAM
FRAMEWORK PLAN

[A ZIP LINE]
descends down the north south ridge of the park, intended for people of all ages.

[HITCHING POSTS FOR HAMMOCKS]
are scattered within the tree grove plantings of the park.

[A “PLAY VALLEY”]
equipped with a scatter of light movable timbers laid over tree stumps and fallen tree logs that afford the making of improvised play environments for children.

[ROCK CLIMBING WALLS]
hung in places with climbing nets.

[A ROPE BRIDGE]
spans the valley and is accessible by climbing the valley walls and by sloped ADA accessible paths.
TRIANGLE PARK
EXISTING SITE
TRIANGLE PARK
EXISTING FEATURES

[ PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION ]

[ TEMPORARY PARKING ]

[ CONSTRUCTION STAGING ]

[ OPEN-PROGRAM LAWN AREA ]
TRIANGLE PARK
FRAMEWORK PLAN

- Reconfigured Lawn Area New Paths
- "Stepping Stone" Corner
- Iconic Beacon Elements to Visually Link Parks Together
- Overlook / Sunbathing Platform Kayak Dock
- Landforms to Provide Buffering from Land Boulevard
- Potential Area for Infiltration

PARK ENTRY POINTS

IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS

SUGGESTED PARK PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

CHARACTER
TRIANGLE PARK: **FEATURES**

**FRAMEWORK PLAN**

**[ENTRY POINTS]**
- North and South ends of Land Boulevard

**[IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS]**
- New intersection ‘stepping stone’ used to link Triangle and Front Parks
- Proposed one-way section of first Street south of Binney Street reduces vehicular traffic, allows greater pedestrian movement

**[SUSTAINABLE FEATURES]**
- Porous paving
- Lawn to retain rainwater in the root zone and minimize summer irrigation
- Rainwater re-charge garden to manage the infiltration of rainwater recharge

**[CHARACTER]**
- Undulating topography
- Art program and sculptural beacons
- Protective mounds and plantings
- Ameliorate the traffic disturbance
- Gateway eastward to the river and westward to the Binney Street corridor
TRIANGLE PARK: SUGGESTED PROGRAM
FRAMEWORK PLAN

[ PLAZA AND LAWN ]
providing flexible spaces for relaxation and play.

[ PARKING FOR FOOD TRUCKS ]
is encouraged along First Street.

[ OUTDOOR SEATING AREA ]
to take advantage of the adjacent restaurant in the new building and also Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts on First Street.

[ SUMMER OUTDOOR CINEMA ON THE LAWN ]
with views of Boston’s Back Bay in the background.

[ OUTDOOR SCULPTURE GALLERY ]
where the art works and their placement orient and guide visitors through the three spaces. They form directional beacons guiding circulation through the three parks and also provide interactive play opportunities with the works.
POINT PARK
EXISTING FEATURES

[ PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION ]

[ PLAZA ]

[ FOUNTAIN / PUBLIC ART ]

[ SEATING ]

[ OPEN-PROGRAM LAWN AREA ]
POINT PARK
FRAMEWORK PLAN
**POINT PARK: FEATURES**

**FRAMEWORK PLAN**

**[ENTRY POINTS]**
- North and South ends of Land Boulevard

**[IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS]**
- Pedestrian connection between the Red Line Station and commerce on Third Street
- Dedicated vehicular route from Third Street to Main Street
- Woonerf connecting the plaza and commerce of adjacent buildings
- Visual connection between Main Street and the Longfellow Bridge

**[SUSTAINABLE FEATURES]**
- Porous paving
- Below grade rainwater storage + infiltration for net zero run off
- Deciduous tree canopy for shade

**[CHARACTER]**
- Calm pedestrian refuge within the rush of traffic
- Continuous plane of unit paving, light grove, and seating
- Sculptural Icon / Beacon
POIN PARK: **SUGGESTED PROGRAM**
**FRAMEWORK PLAN**

**[ PLAZA AS OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM ]**
that is occupied throughout the day and into the evening. It is a place to sit, relax, work or walk through on the way to office, laboratory, school, home or entertainment.

**[ A WIND VANE SCULPTURE ]**
that acts as a beacon for the plaza signaling its strategic location as an entry to Kendall Square. The wind vane rotation turns two facing carousel benches that encourage informal sociability or the spontaneous joy of a child.

**[ SWING BENCHES ]**
that can sit individuals, couples and small groups. The benches also function as integral lighting elements for the plaza.

**[ INTERNET ENABLED PLAZA ]**
to enhance its role as an outdoor room in a 21st century city.
ROGERS STREET PARK
EXISTING SITE
ROGERS STREET PARK
EXISTING FEATURES

[ OPEN - PROGRAM LAWN AREA ]
FENCED DOG PARK AREA

TRICYCLE + SCOOTER LOOP

OPEN FIELD FOR FLEXIBLE RECREATION AND GATHERING

SLEDDING + PLAY HILL

LANDFORMS WITH DECIDUOUS TREES

SPEED TABLE TO WINTER GARDEN + CAFE

ROGERS STREET PARK
FRAMEWORK PLAN
ROGERS STREET PARK: FEATURES
FRAMEWORK PLAN

[ENTRY POINTS]
• Provide open, inviting corner entrances
• Entries from the north for East Cambridge
• Access from Second and Third streets

[IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS]
• Visual connection across Rogers Street to housing at South end
• Raised table mid-block across Rogers Street
• Access from the office building to the north

[SUSTAINABLE FEATURES]
• Porous paving
• Lawn to retain rainwater in the root zone and minimize summer irrigation
• Rainwater re-charge garden to manage the infiltration of rainwater recharge

[CHARACTER]
• Undulating topography
• Green outdoor rooms, partial seclusion
• Inward-looking park space
• Canopy trees, groves of understory trees
ROGERS STREET PARK: SUGGESTED PROGRAM
FRAMEWORK PLAN

[ WATER PLAY AND ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND ]
employing principles of natural play.

[ BIKE / ROLLER BLADE / SKATE BOARD LOOP ]
around the perimeter of the open field.

[ A TRICYCLE LOOP ]
as a safe place for residents to teach their children how to ride bicycles.

[ A FENCED DOG PARK ]
with small and large dog facilities with an open shelter for dog owners to informally meet while their dogs play.

[ WINTER SLEDDING HILL ]

[ SUMMER PLAYFIELD ]

[ A FLEXIBLE OPEN FIELD ]
accommodating a range of sports and community activities.
**PROPOSED PROGRAM AREA**

**FRAMEWORK PLAN**

- **TRIANGLE PARK**
  - Landform and infiltration area: 0.4 acres
  - Cinema lawn area: 0.17 acres

- **BINNEY STREET PARK**
  - Landform and park: 0.73 acres
  - Infiltration area: 0.15 acres
  - Entry landform: 0.23 acres
  - Zip line: 318 ft
  - Log pile: 17 ft x 180 ft

- **POINT PARK**
  - Plaza area: 0.36 acres
  - Landform with turf: 0.09 acres
  - Plaza area: 0.36 acres
  - Play area: 0.24 acres
  - Play hill: 0.19 acres
  - Open field area: 1.14 acres

- **ROGERS ST PARK**
  - Water play area: 0.26 acres
  - Dog park: 0.15 acres
CAMBRIDGE PARKS SCALE COMPARISON

- Front Lawn of Cambridge City Hall
  - 0.38 acres
- Lafayette Square, Mass Ave + Main St.
  - 0.29 acres
- Squirrel Brand Park, Broadway + Boardman St.
  - 0.43 acres
- The Plaza at Harvard University, Harvard University
  - 2 acres
- Joan Lorentz Park (Cambridge Public Library)
  - 3 acres
Triangle Parcel
0.83 acres

TRIANGLE PARK
REGIONAL BUSINESS, INSTITUTION + RESIDENTS
CIRCULATION
TRIANGLE PARK

PROPOSED PROGRAM AREA

FRAMEWORK PLAN

land form and infiltration area: 0.4 acres

cinema lawn area: 0.17 acres
**Triangle Park**

**Stoss Program Exploration**

**Theater**

200 people

**Performance**

300 people

Stage

18’ x 34’

**Market Tent**

10’ x 10’

61 tents

**Event Tent**

30’ x 120’

2 tents
TRIANGLE PARK
STOSS PROGRAM EXPLORATION

Group Yoga
135 people

Event Tent
90’ x 90’
1 tent

Wedding
100 people

Outdoor Café
44 Tables
Food Trucks
5 Trucks
PRECEDENTS - WATER

KOGOD COURTYARD / GUSTAFSON GUTHRIE NICHOL
CITY DECK / STOSS
SILENCE / TADAO ANDO
Binney Park Parcel
1.5 acres
REGIONAL BUSINESS, INSTITUTION + RESIDENTS
CIRCULATION
BINNEY STREET PARK

PROPOSED PROGRAM AREA

FRAMEWORK PLAN

infiltration area: 0.15 acres
zip line: 318 ft
landform and park: 0.73 acres
entry landform: 0.23 acres
log pile: 75 ft x 180 ft
BINNEY STREET PARK
STOSS PROGRAM EXPLORATION

Theater
330 people

Performance
500 people
Stage
18’ x 34’

Market Tent
10’ x 10’
134 tents

Event Tent
30’ x 120’
3 tents

Binney Street Parcel
1.5 acres
**BINNEY STREET PARK**

*STOSS PROGRAM EXPLORATION*

- **Group Yoga**
  - 240 People

- **Event Tent**
  - 90’ x 90’
  - 1 tent

- **Wedding**
  - 225 People

- **Outdoor Café**
  - 60 Tables
  - 5 Trucks

**Binney Street Parcel**

- 1.5 acres
DYMAXION SLEEP / JANE HUTTON + ADRAIN BLACK
SAFE ZONE / STOSS
DRAPER'S FIELD / KLA
PRECEDEENTS – INTERACTIVITY + PLAY

BRAZIL PAVILION / STUDIO ARTHUR CASAS

SCULPTURAL PLAYGROUND / ANNABAU

BRAZIL PAVILION / STUDIO ARTHUR CASAS
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HAVE WE MISSED ANY IDEAS FROM THE FRAMEWORK PROCESS?
DO THE PROPOSED ELEMENTS AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THEM SEEM RIGHT?
WHO DO YOU THINK THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USERS OF THESE SPACES WILL BE?

WHAT TIME OF DAY ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO USE THESE SPACES?