

# LOWELL PARK CONCEPT PLANS

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ~

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

~ APRIL 2003

## LOWELL PARK DESIGN CONCEPT

The proposed design creates a small, intimate neighborhood oasis that strikes an appropriate balance between passive and active uses.

- Boundaries between the park, surrounding properties and Mt. Auburn Street have been better defined where appropriate with new fencing and plantings.
- Some hard surfaced play space has been retained in this plan for basketball, ice-skating during the winter, wheeled toys, bikes, skates and even ice skating in the winter.
- In one corner of the park is a climbing structure for kids ages 5-12 years and a nearby swing bench for a parent or caregiver to supervise a child.
- The other end of the park includes a quieter, more contemplative space with flowering trees, perennial plantings, garden furniture, an arbor with bench swing and a small sculpture/water feature, overlooking a central lawn area.
- Better pedestrian and ADA access to this open space from Lowell Street, through the parking lot has been achieved by constructing a brick sidewalk to all areas of the park.
- Public safety has been improved through the addition of new soft illumination pedestrian scale park lighting, an emergency call box and clearer park regulatory signs.
- Natural materials such as sloped granite curb, sitting boulders and blue stone pavers are combined with ornamental grasses, shrub roses, hostas, ferns, flowering vines, azaleas, and other low maintenance ground covers to create a richer visual landscape experience.



**4' Wood Picket Mount Auburn Exterior Fence** - A fence with 3-1/2" inch spacing between pickets will provide positive air flow and sunlight for the new plantings. A lower fence is possible due to re-orientation of the basketball backstop and allows clear views into the park for security. It also matches the proposed 4' wood picket interior park fence. Although a 6" chainlink fence was actively discussed, it is felt that a 4' picket fence will both address the desire for light and air into the park and is an important unifying element in the overall design. This approach is also more consistent with the height and aesthetic standards of the Marsh Neighborhood Conservation District Commission which must also approve the final plan.



**Park Light** - Pedestrian scale fixture providing adequate safety lighting, but not encouraging night time park use.



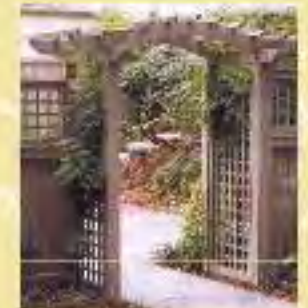
Hostas and Ferns



**Signs** - New pole identification sign with historic background information and other standard City regulatory signs.



**4' Wood Picket Interior Fence** - Provides more well defined border between parking area and park.



**Entrance Arbor** - Clear entry point into park.



**Backstop** - Provide backstop and hard surface area for small bikes, skate-boards, pick up games and ice skating in winter. While adding a second backstop was discussed it is felt that only one backstop can be safely accommodated. Expansion of the hard surface would disturb the central lawn and seating area.



Liriops



**Landscape Materials** - Re use existing plantings and add new perennials, ornamental trees and ground covers to enhance the landscape.



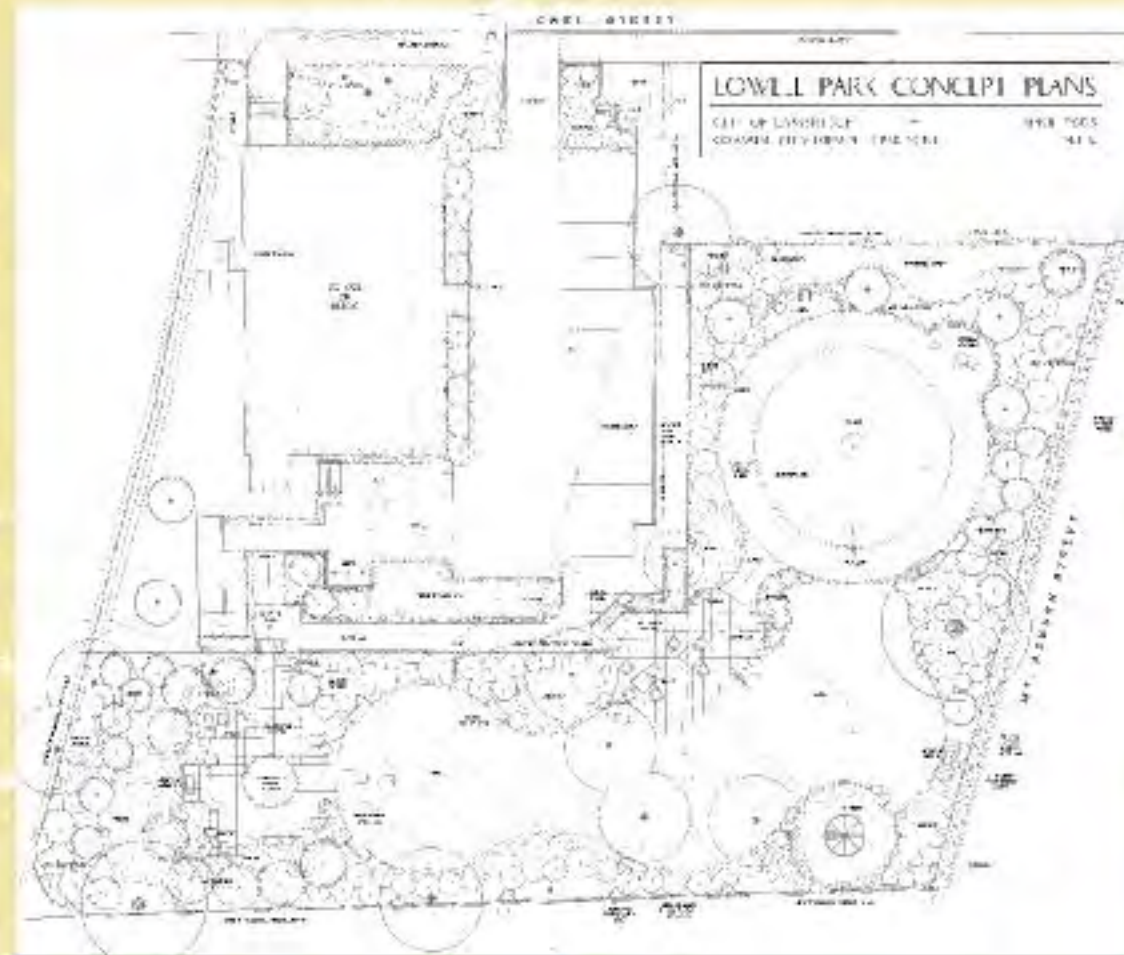
**Trash Storage** - Addressing an unsightly trash problem adjacent to school entrance.



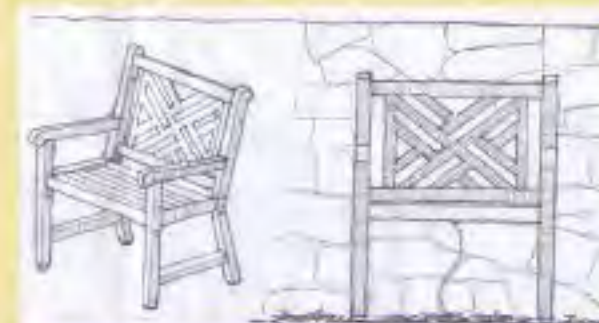
**Arbor Bench with Swings** - A place to be quiet, read, think and observe.



**Water Feature** - A quiet contemplative water element used in harmony with stones and plantings.



Day Lilies



**Garden Furniture** - Garden style, moveable furniture included chairs, side tables and larger picnic tables.



**Garden Bench** - A durable powder coated steel bench used throughout park facing lawn areas.



**Children's Climber** - A unique moveable climbing structure is provided for children ages 5-12 years while not significantly reducing lawn area with safety surfacing.