

# ***Our Parks Our Plan***

Parks & Open Space Planning

## **Visioning Workshop**

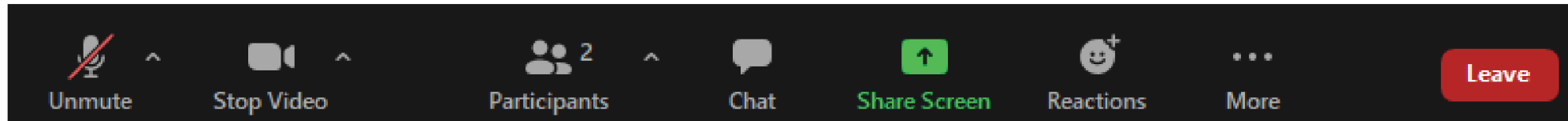
March 24, 2022

City of Cambridge  
Community Development Department



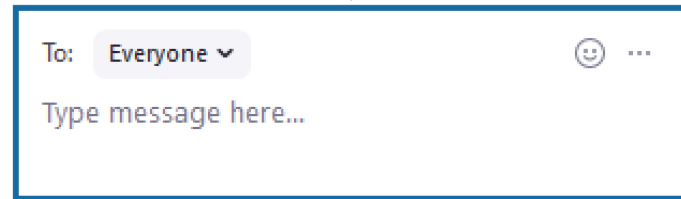


# Getting to Know Zoom

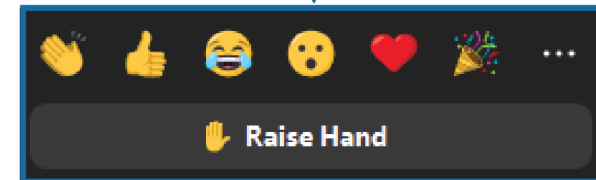


↑ ↑  
Please leave your **audio muted** and video on (if comfortable)

↑  
Click to open the **Chat** box. This will allow you to chat with the Hosts and Participants.



↑  
Click to open the **Reactions** box. This will allow you to give nonverbal feedback.



For Zoom-related questions reach out to Drew Kane via chat or email [dkane@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dkane@cambridgema.gov)



If you're having connectivity issues, call in at 929-436-2866  
Meeting ID: 871 1772 7531



We're recording!

# Closed Captioning

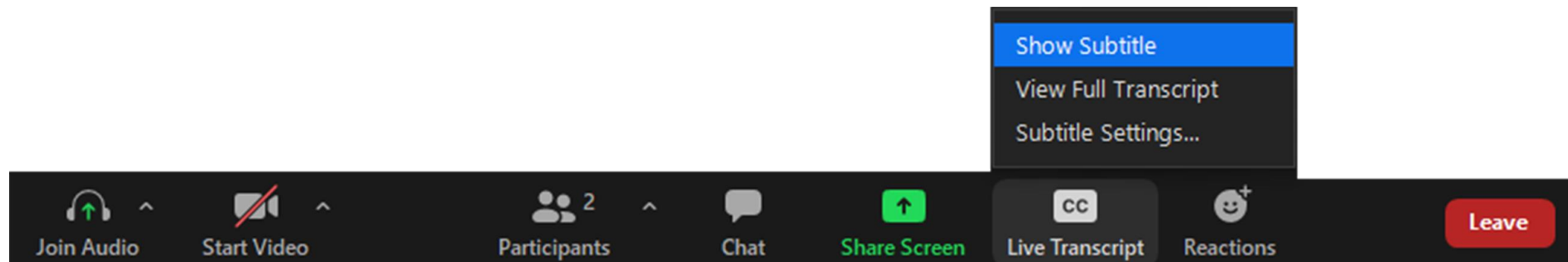
Turn on closed captioning by clicking the **'Live Transcript'** button on the bottom of your screen.

a) Turn on subtitles by clicking on **'Show Subtitle'**

b) View a streaming transcript by clicking on **'View Full Transcript'**

View a streaming transcript in a separate window by clicking the **link in the chat**.

If you require closed captioning for the breakout session, please **raise your hand** or send a private **chat message to the Hosts**.







## Agenda

1. Our Process
2. What We've Heard So Far
3. What is a Community Vision?
4. Visioning Activities
5. Next Steps

# Our Process



# Open Space Planning Process



# Parks and open spaces are a key part of the City's infrastructure for maintaining and increasing quality of life



# Community Core Values

- Livability
- Diversity and Equity
- Economic Opportunity
- Sustainability and Resilience
- Community Health and Well-Being
- Learning





**What We've Heard So Far**

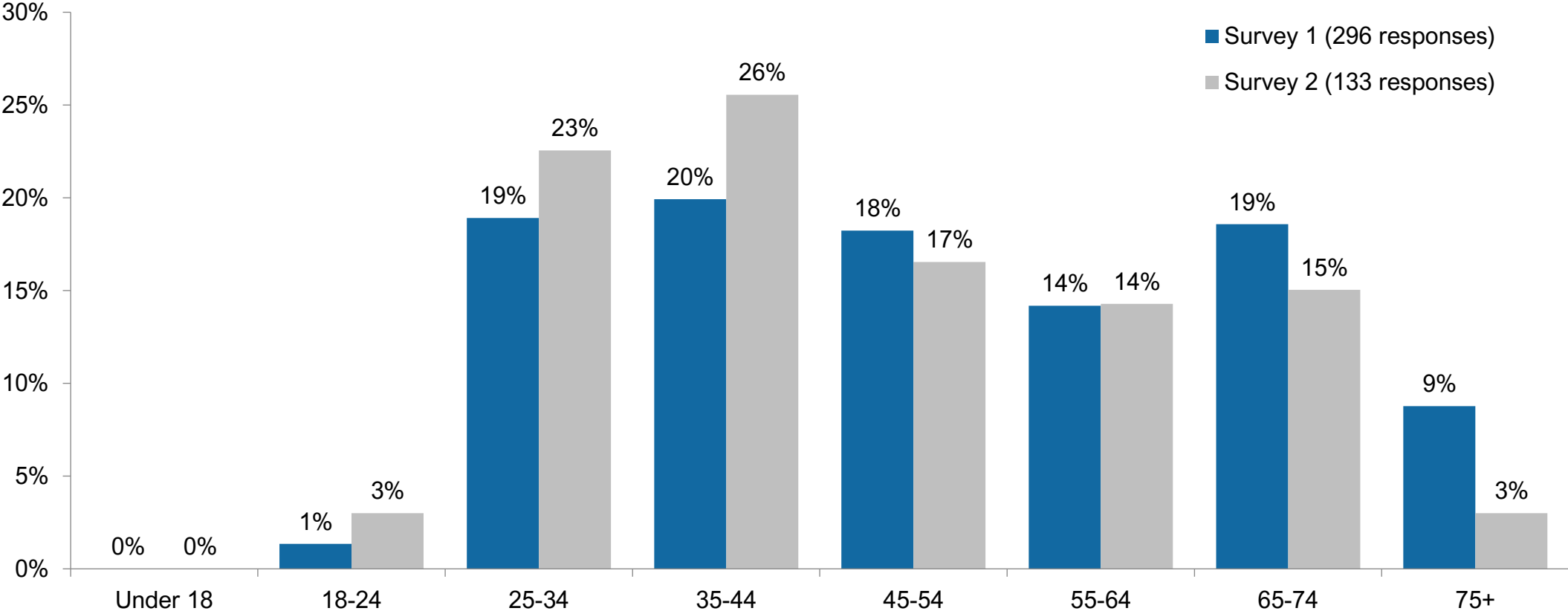
# Community Engagement So Far

- *Tell Us How You Use Parks* online survey ([still open for responses!](#))
- Kickoff Community Meeting
- Community Core Values and Priorities Community Discussion
- *Community Values and Priorities* online survey
  
- Presenting to Neighborhood Groups, Advisory Boards and Committees, and Other Groups ([reach out to us!](#))
- Virtual Office Hours



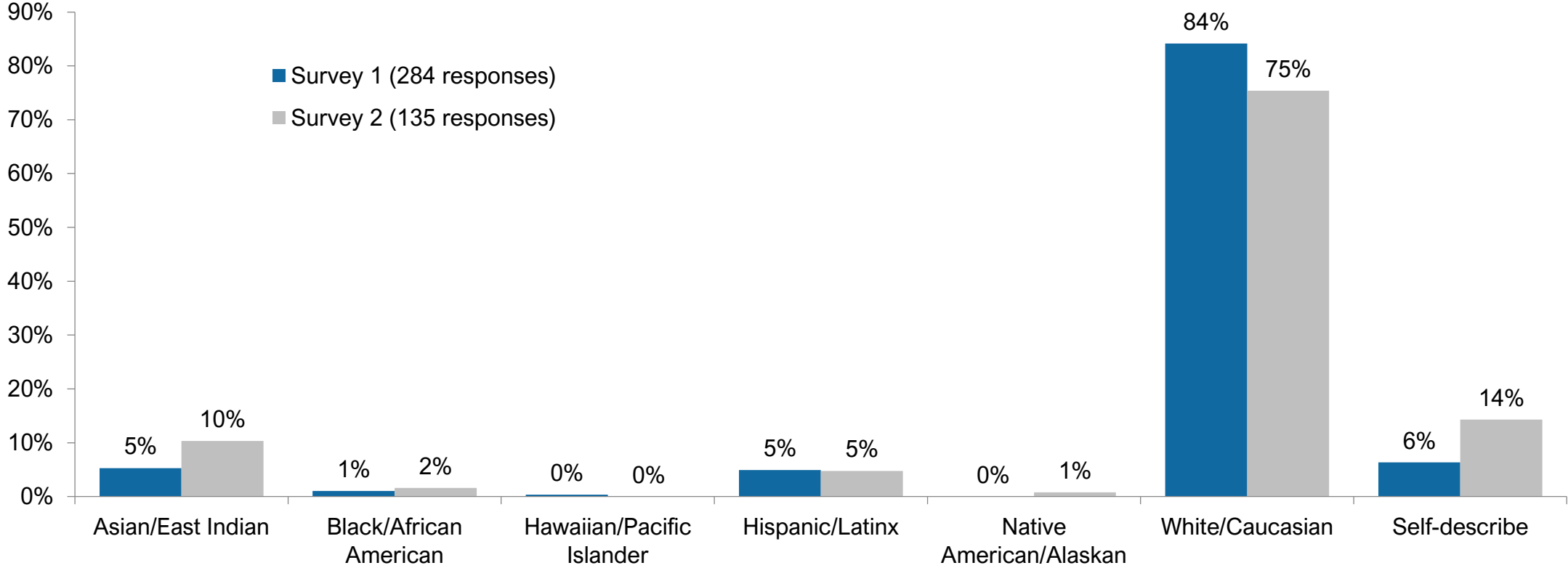
# Who We've Reached

## Age



# Who We've Reached

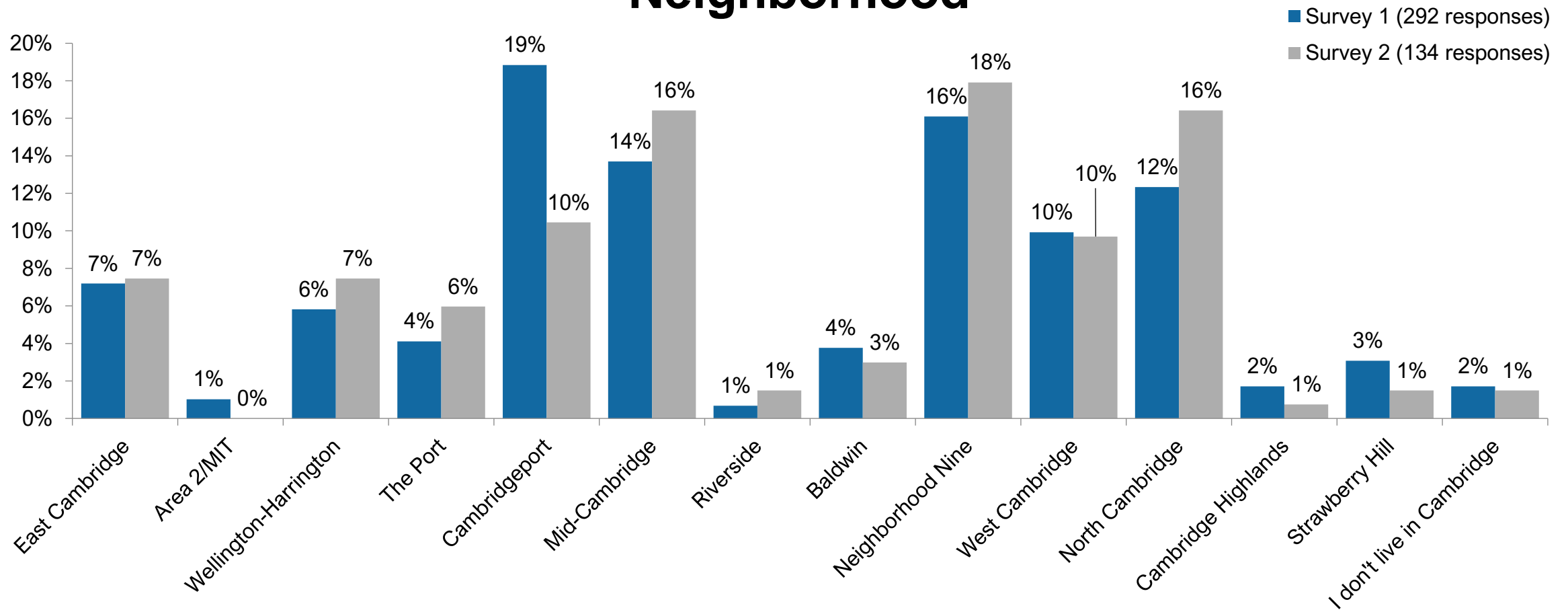
## Race & Ethnicity





# Who We've Reached

## Neighborhood



# What are the most important priorities for our parks and open space?

It is important for people to live **within walking distance** of parks and open spaces

It is important for parks and open spaces to be **accessible without needing to drive**

It is important for parks and open spaces to **provide shade or protection from heat**

It is important for parks and open spaces to be **accessible to users of all abilities**

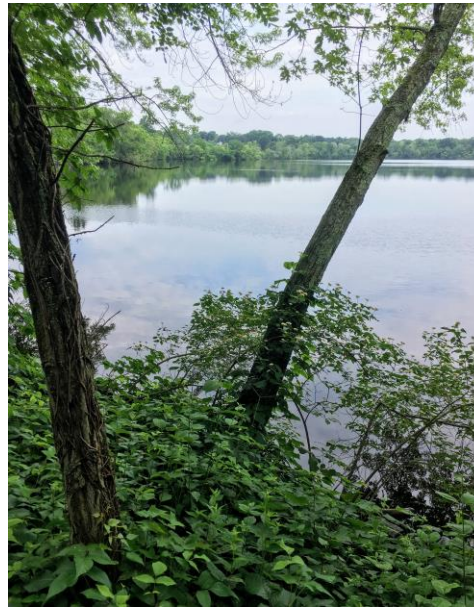


# What is your favorite park in Cambridge?

What do you like most about that park?



Danehy Park



Fresh Pond



Cambridge Common

“*The beautiful always changing scenery.*”

“*Size, variability, diversity of folks who use it.*”

“*It beautifully serves many uses and its spaciousness allows one to view a great expanse of the sky.*”



# Which urban park(s) are particularly memorable to you?



**Rittenhouse Square**  
Philadelphia, PA



**Central Park**  
New York City, NY



**Lincoln Park**  
Somerville, MA

# Are there topics or issues you'd be interested in learning about or discussing?

*"...in light of ongoing concerns about our city and climate, we must preserve and add to these spaces at all costs."*

*"Cambridge is an urban space, which can handle more density and people, and we need to find homes for many, many residents. Open space should not take priority over that."*

*"...Not all kids want to play football, baseball, soccer and lacrosse. Open spaces and parks offering less intensive activities are also of critical importance. Keep a balance."*

*"...Keep integrating elements that encourage natural curiosity, active engagement with nature, play, relaxation, exercise, and beauty on all sensory levels. visual, physical, social... you get the idea!"*

*"I think it's important to have a plan for how to keep parks and open spaces clean and well-maintained..."*

# Are there topics or issues you'd be interested in learning about or discussing?

*"...Please think about how our open spaces could encourage more interaction, particularly for intergenerational encounter and provide older people with more social engagement...."*

*"I'd be interested in learning more about plans to make the playgrounds and parks more accessible."*

*"Bring more LIFE to all parks. When I walk in Cambridge I like to walk through the different parks. Seeing people there is important. Bring in the arts!"*

*"How can open spaces (both in quality and quantity) be equitably distributed across the City"*

*"I'd like to see reading groups under trees in the park. Meeting for discussions for adults at park tables."*

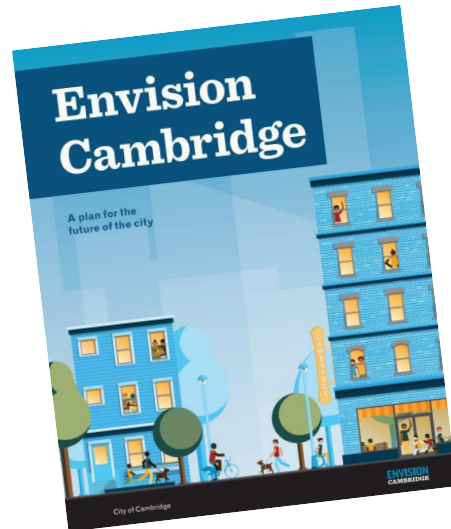
*"More than the physical improvements of parks, I will be interested in the different engagement process and new community activities proposals around the parks."*



# What Is A Community Vision?

# What is a Community Vision?

- Both a process and a statement
- **Process:** Discover the future we want. What does the community want our parks and open spaces to be like in 7 – 10 years?
- **Statement:** The vision statement is then used to guide the planning process.



“(In 2030,) Cambridge is a forward-thinking, welcoming, and diverse city. We enjoy a high quality of life and thrive in a sustainable, inclusive, and connected community.”

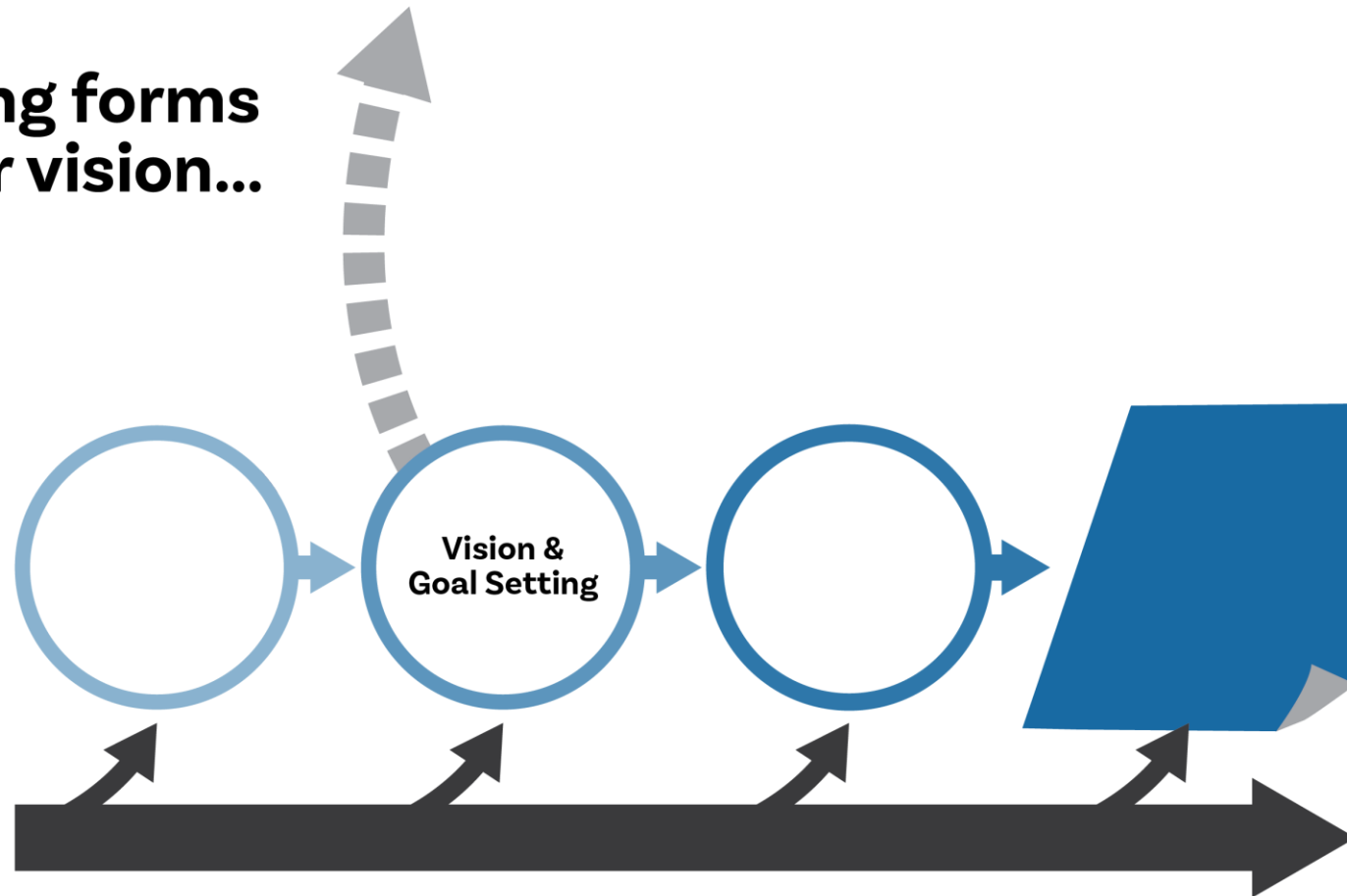
- Envision Cambridge

# PARKS & OPEN SPACE VISION



# PARKS & OPEN SPACE VISION

**Visioning forms  
our vision...**

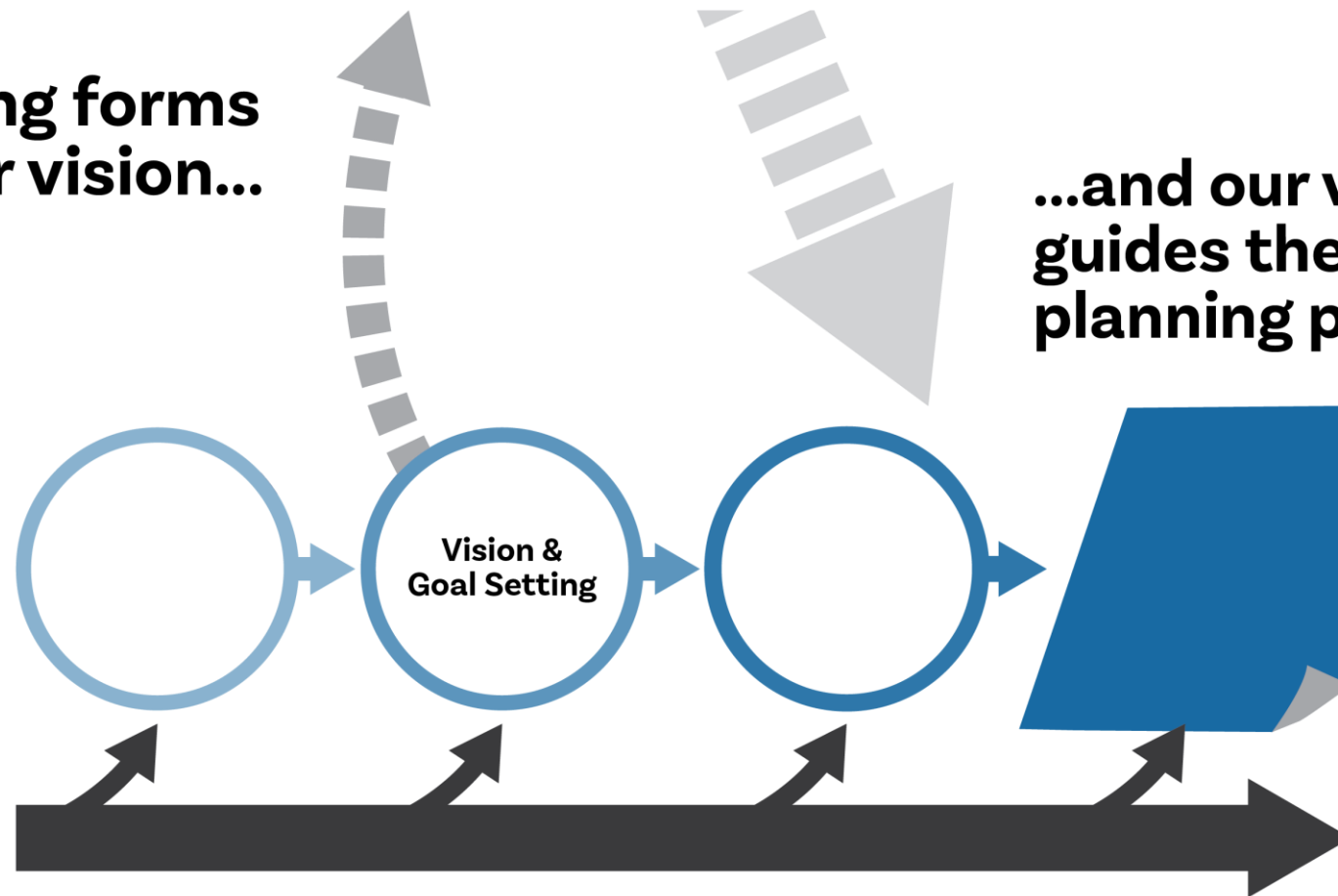




# PARKS & OPEN SPACE VISION

**Visioning forms  
our vision...**

**...and our vision  
guides the  
planning process**



**What is YOUR vision?**

**What would our parks and open spaces be like if you could make them any way you wanted?**

# **Visioning - Brainstorm**

# Multiple ways to participate

1. Go to **www.menti.com**  
and enter the code **4731 3285**  
or check the chat for link
2. Use the **Chat** feature in Zoom to submit responses to everyone, or just the hosts

This is how your screen should look





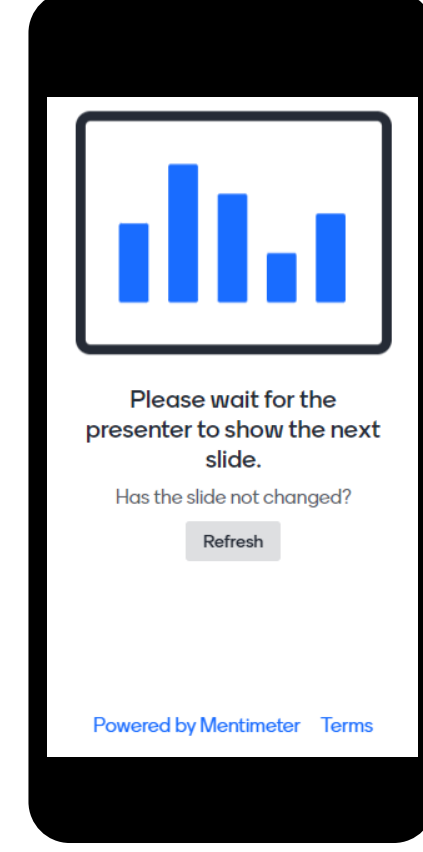
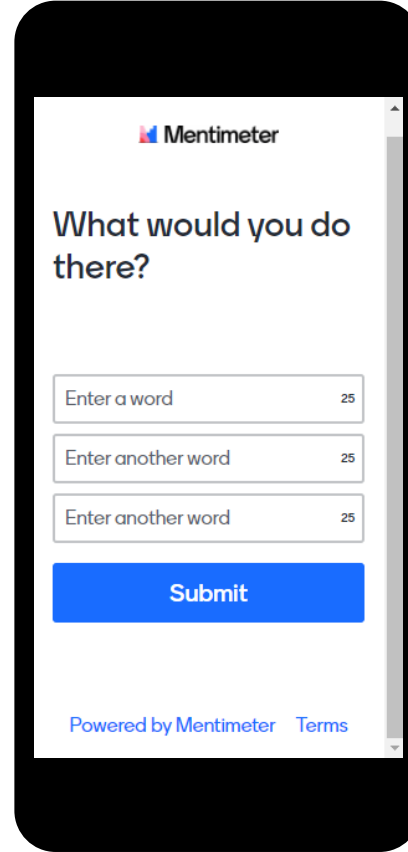
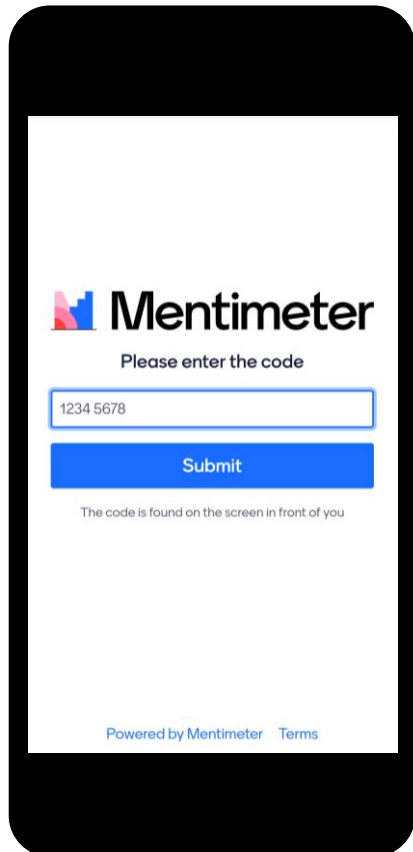
# Mentimeter How-To

## 1. Log in

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)  
and enter the code **4731 3285**

## 2. Share your ideas

## 3. See everyone's ideas



# Multiple ways to participate

1. Go to **www.menti.com**  
and enter the code **4731 3285**
2. Use the **Chat** feature in Zoom to submit responses to everyone, or just the hosts

This is how your screen should look



# *Our Parks, Our Plan* Visioning Activity





**Imagine what our parks and open spaces would be like if you could make them any way you wanted**



Now imagine you're visiting an ideal  
single park or open space







# How do you get there?









# What do you see?





# What do you hear?







Thank you!



# **Visioning – Group Discussions**

**What is YOUR vision?**

**What would our parks and open spaces be like if you could make them any way you wanted?**

# Group Discussion Guidelines

- Show respect to all that participate
- Embrace diverse points of view
- Avoid debates and interruptions
- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Do not engage in personal attacks
- All stereotyping and hateful comments are not tolerated

# Next Steps



# What's Next



# How you can be involved

- **Keep the discussion going:**
  - Mentimeter Link: [www.menti.com/t48j77ynb1](https://www.menti.com/t48j77ynb1)
  - Office hours – signup link on the project page
  - Survey *3 Park Uses and Activities* will be launched in early April
- **Sign up for email updates**
- **For more information:**
  - Visit [cambridgema.gov/openspaceplan](https://cambridgema.gov/openspaceplan)
  - Contact Gary Chan at [gchan@cambridgema.gov](mailto:gchan@cambridgema.gov)