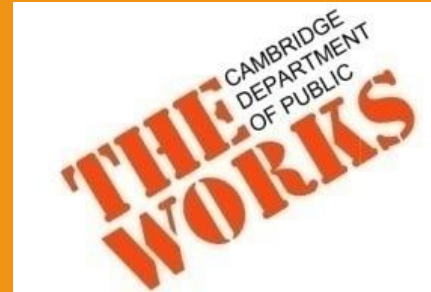


# Central Square Public Toilet

June 2016



# Project Background

- **Public Toilet**

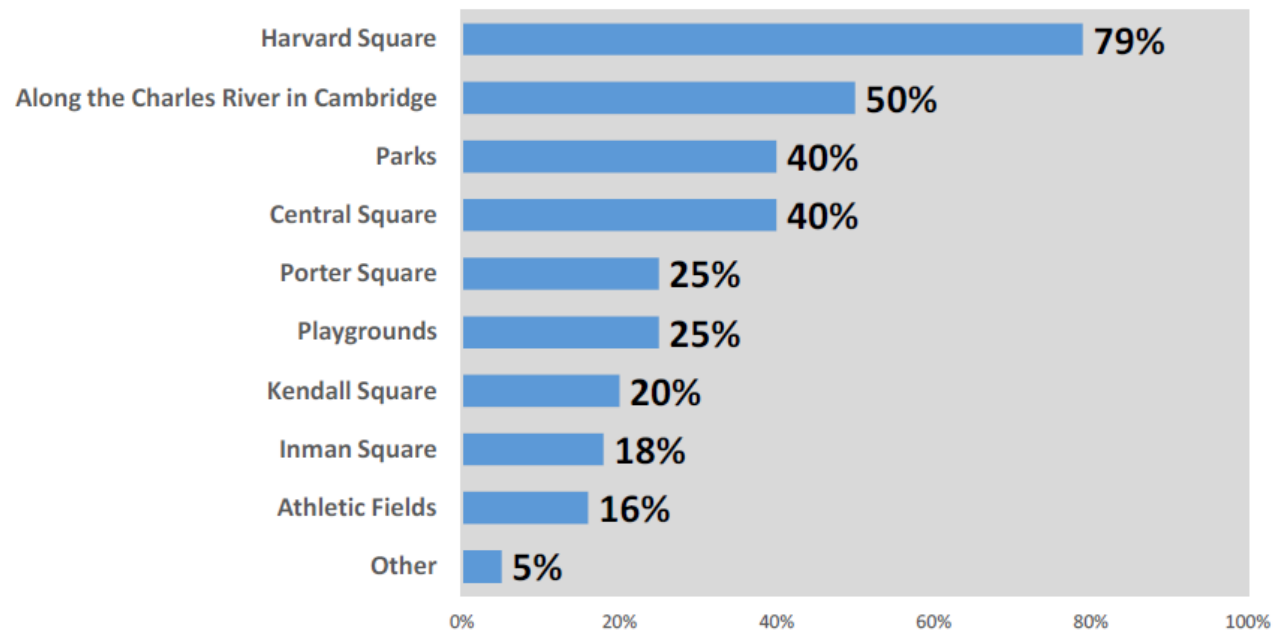
- \$320,000 in FY16 budget for a public toilet in Central Sq.
  - Completion of the public toilet in Harvard Sq, beginning design of Central Sq.
- Identify potential locations that meet criteria
  - Available space (above and below ground)
  - Access to utilities
  - Visibility to ensure that the facility can be easily monitored
  - Proximity to restaurants, transit and pedestrian traffic
- Review locations with community groups.
- Install with the Pearl Street and Mass. Ave sidewalk work.
- Contact: Dan Riviello, Public Works, 617.349.4825 / [driviello@cambridgema.gov](mailto:driviello@cambridgema.gov)



# Survey Findings

When outdoors in Cambridge, where have you experienced the greatest need for public toilets?

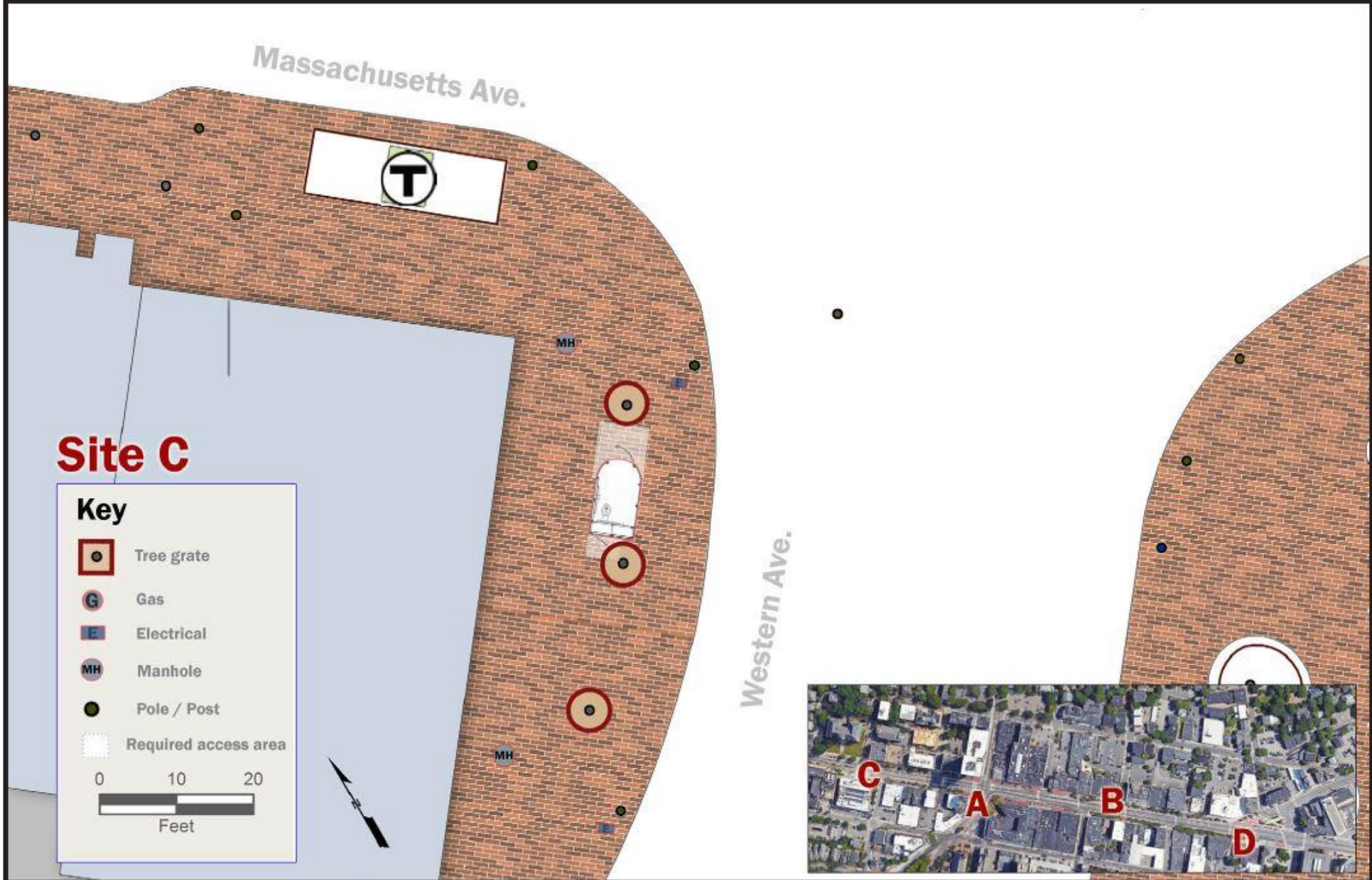
(Answered: 716 people)



Source: Public Toilet Survey: Cambridge Residents, Workers, and Visitors, October 2013



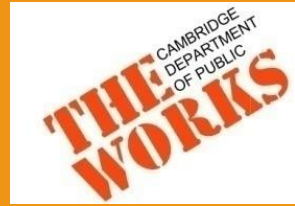
Opt. A



Opt. A



# Option A



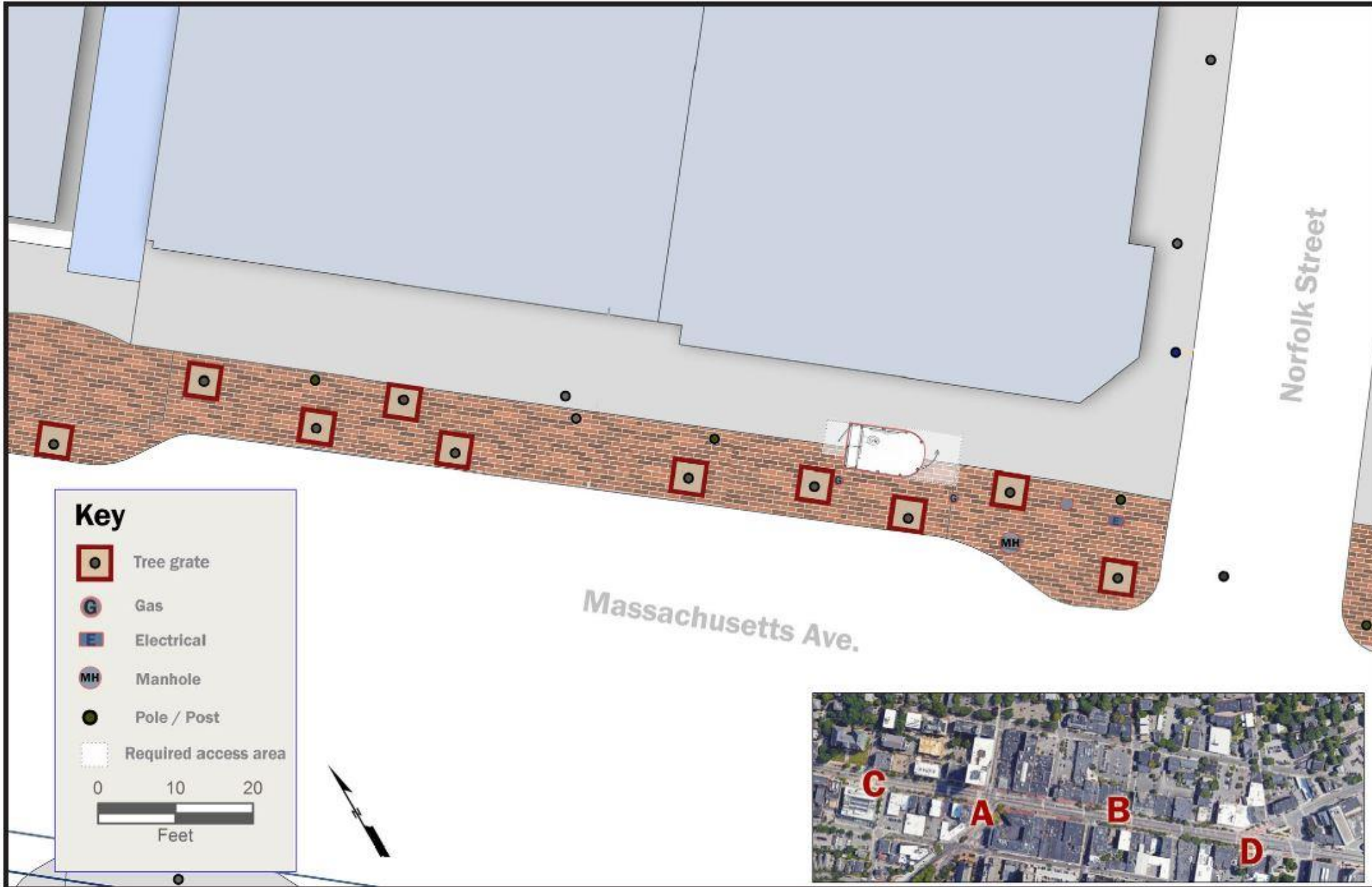
- **Pros**

- Located in the center of Central Square
- Large enough public sidewalk to not make the structure feel cramped or “jammed in” to the space
  - Not blocking access or too close to businesses
- Visual to passersby as well as police during patrols

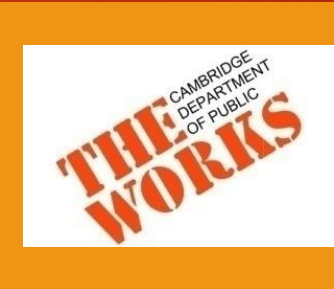
- **Cons**

- Below-grade space/access to utilities may be difficult due to MBTA tunnel, etc.

Opt. B

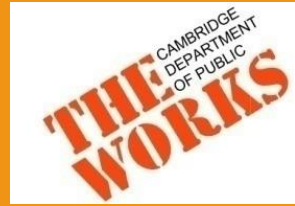


Opt. B



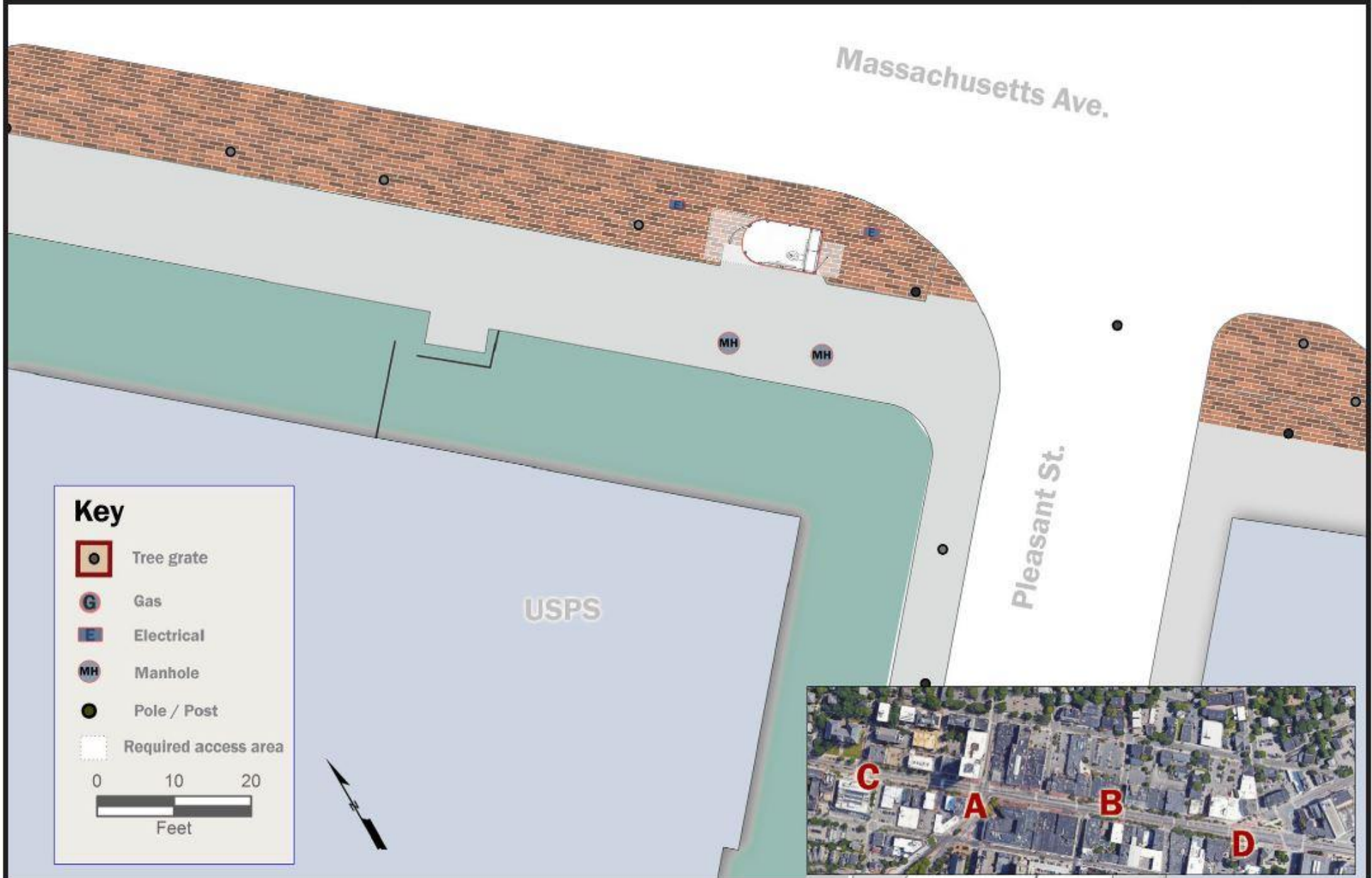


# Option B

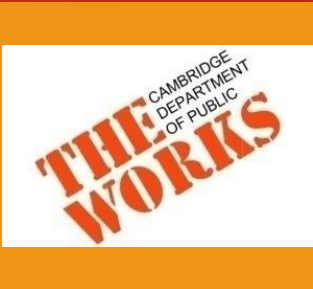


- **Pros**
  - Located near the center of Central Square
  - Visual to passersby as well as police during patrols
- **Cons**
  - Sidewalk is not wide, may be too large for the space
  - Visually blocks businesses from Mass Ave
  - Property owners may not like the proximity of a public toilet to the entrance of their businesses

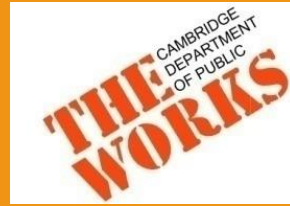
Opt. C



Opt. C



# Option C



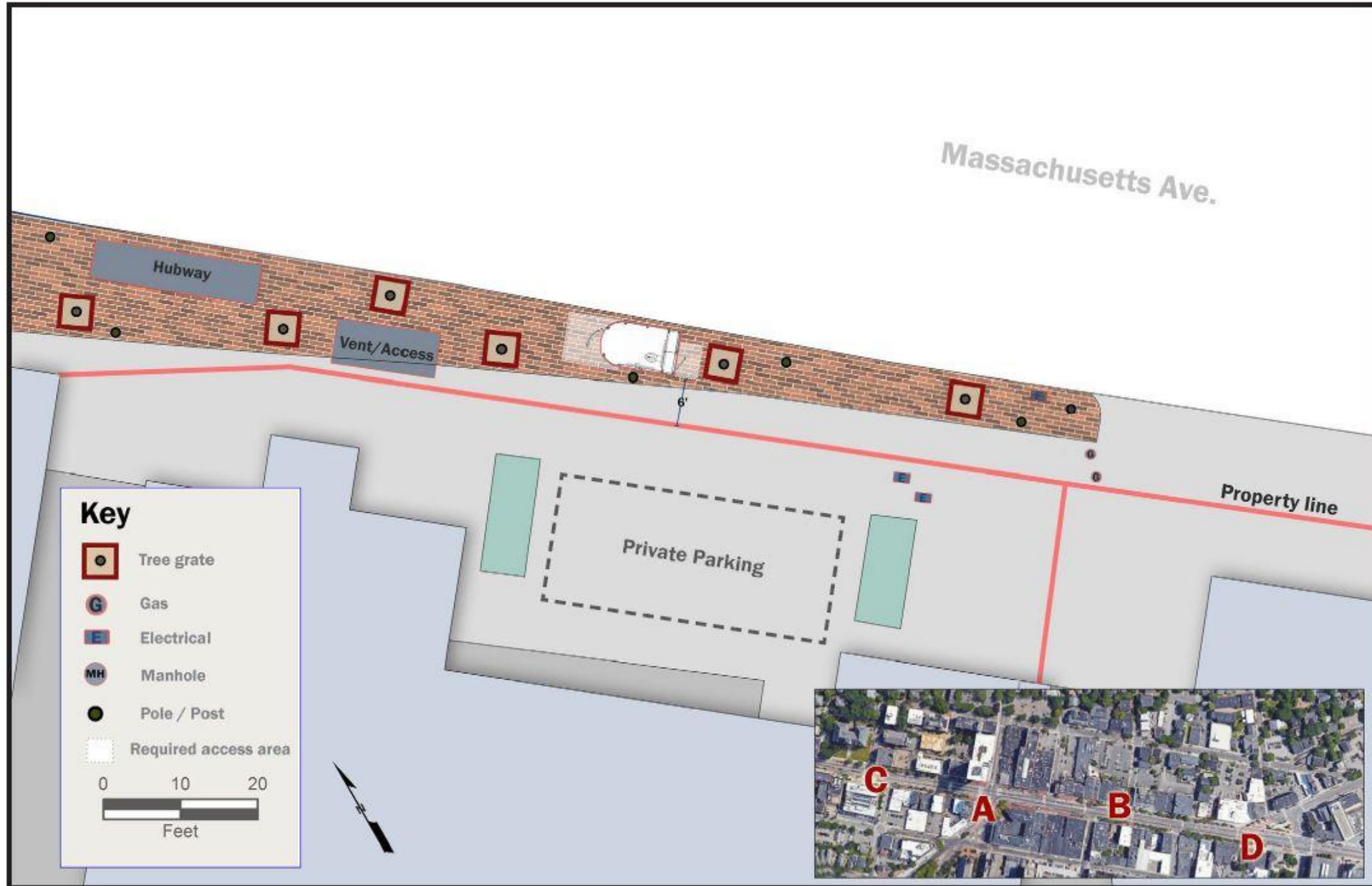
- **Pros**

- Adequate sidewalk space to accommodate the structure
- Located in front of a public building that would not visually or otherwise impact businesses
- Visual to passersby as well as police during patrols

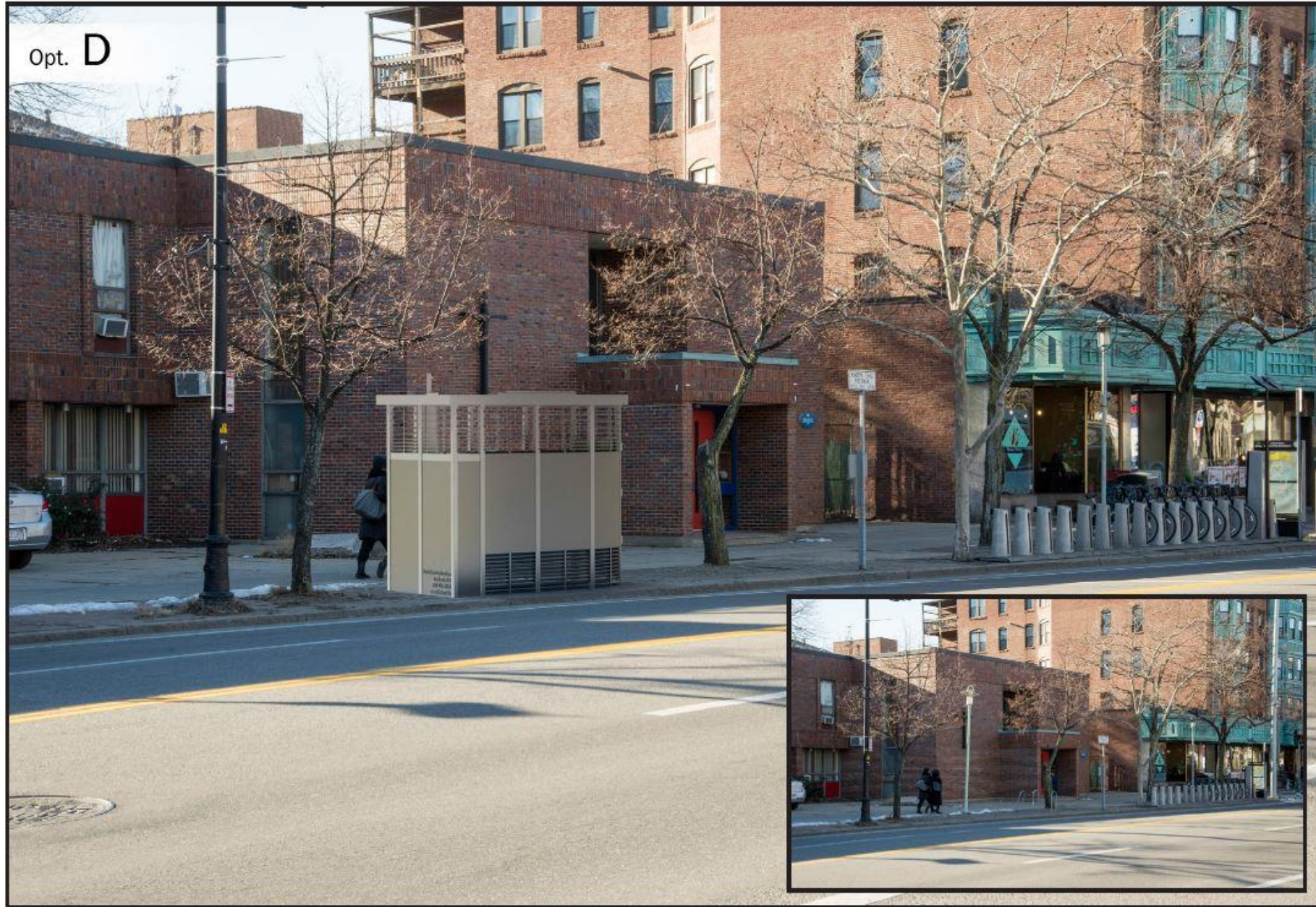
- **Cons**

- Public toilets already available across the street at City Hall during business hours
- Outside of the center of Central Square
- Would displace a heavily-used Hubway bike station

Opt. D



Opt. D



CAMBRIDGE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC  
**THE  
WORKS**

# Option D



- **Pros**

- Adequate sidewalk space to accommodate the structure
- Located in areathat would not visually or otherwise impact businesses
- Visual to passersby as well as police during patrols

- **Cons**

- Outside of the center of Central Square
- May have opportunity for another facility with public restroom access at a development across the street in the future

# Recommendation

- After meeting with stakeholders and soliciting feedback from the Cambridgeport Neighbors Association, Central Square Businesses Association, Central Square Advisory Committee, and others, the City is recommending to site the Central Square Public Toilet on Western Ave just past the intersection with Mass Ave (Option A).
- Next steps include drilling “test pits” at the location to determine below-grade space, access to utilities, etc. to ensure the location is viable.

