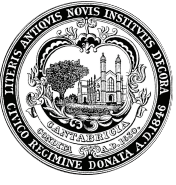


MARCH 2023



# Neighborhood Planning Initiative

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT









# Contents

**PAGE 4**

What is NPI?

**PAGE 6**

How Does NPI Fit With Other City Processes?

**PAGE 8**

Cambridge's 13 Neighborhoods

**PAGE 10**

Neighborhood Action Plans Schedule

**PAGE 12**

Neighborhood Planning Need

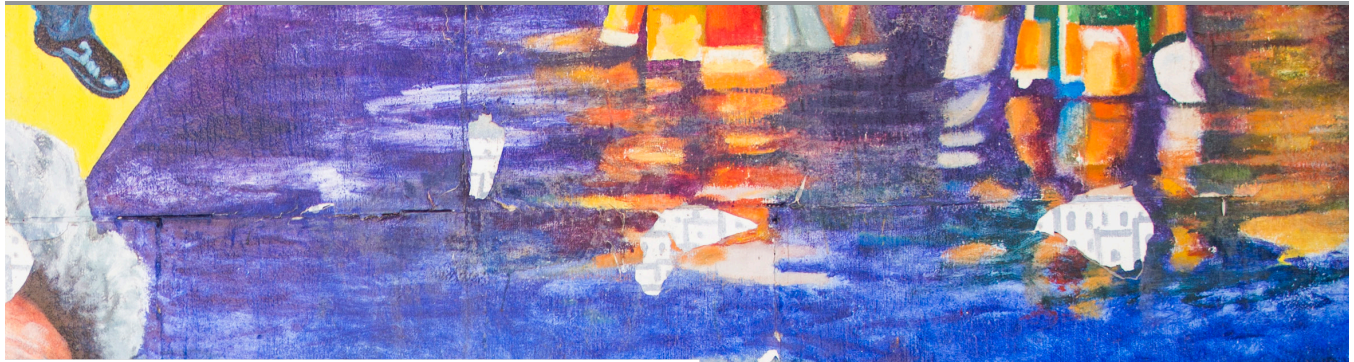
**PAGE 14**

Get Involved!

**PAGE 16**

Neighborhood Snapshots





## What is NPI?

Cambridge's Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI) gives everyone in Cambridge access to local planning! NPI is a City-led process, but we need your help! We will focus on improving the places and activities that are central to your daily life.

NPI includes four community-level efforts that are consistent across Cambridge's 13 neighborhoods:

- Neighborhood Action Planning
- Community Building
- Neighborhood Resources
- Leadership Development

## What is a Neighborhood Action Plan?

A Neighborhood Action Plan is a quick local planning process. City staff work with community members to identify projects and policies to improve day-to-day life. Working at a neighborhood-level lets us focus on details that citywide plans cannot. One Neighborhood Action Plan takes less than a year to complete. This quick schedule means we can update each plan every 4-5 years.



Looking for more info?  
Visit the City's website!

[www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)





**Join together  
to share ideas  
and create  
meaningful  
change in your  
neighborhood.**



---

# How does NPI fit with other City processes?

Envision Cambridge is the City's overarching guide for local policies and plans. This citywide planning process identified six core values that support the City's vision and form a basis for planning work. Any policy direction the City takes is measured by how well it realizes the vision and core values.

1. Livability
2. Diversity and Equity
3. Economic Opportunity
4. Sustainability and Resilience
5. Community Health and Wellbeing
6. Learning

Mixed Use District Plans focus on specific districts identified as part of the Envision Cambridge process. Other planning efforts focus on key locations such as commercial areas, travel corridors, and open spaces.

Neighborhood Action Plans focus on unique planning issues at the local scale. Following a consistent and uniform process, they cover the whole city by focusing on each of Cambridge's 13 neighborhoods. After 3-4 years of implementation, a neighborhood will begin a new action plan. These frequent updates ensure that community priorities are up to date and can inform the other planning efforts.

**Envision  
Cambridge**

**Alewife  
District  
Plan**

This diagram from the Envision Cambridge plan broadly characterizes different parts of the city based on present-day conditions and the potential for future change.



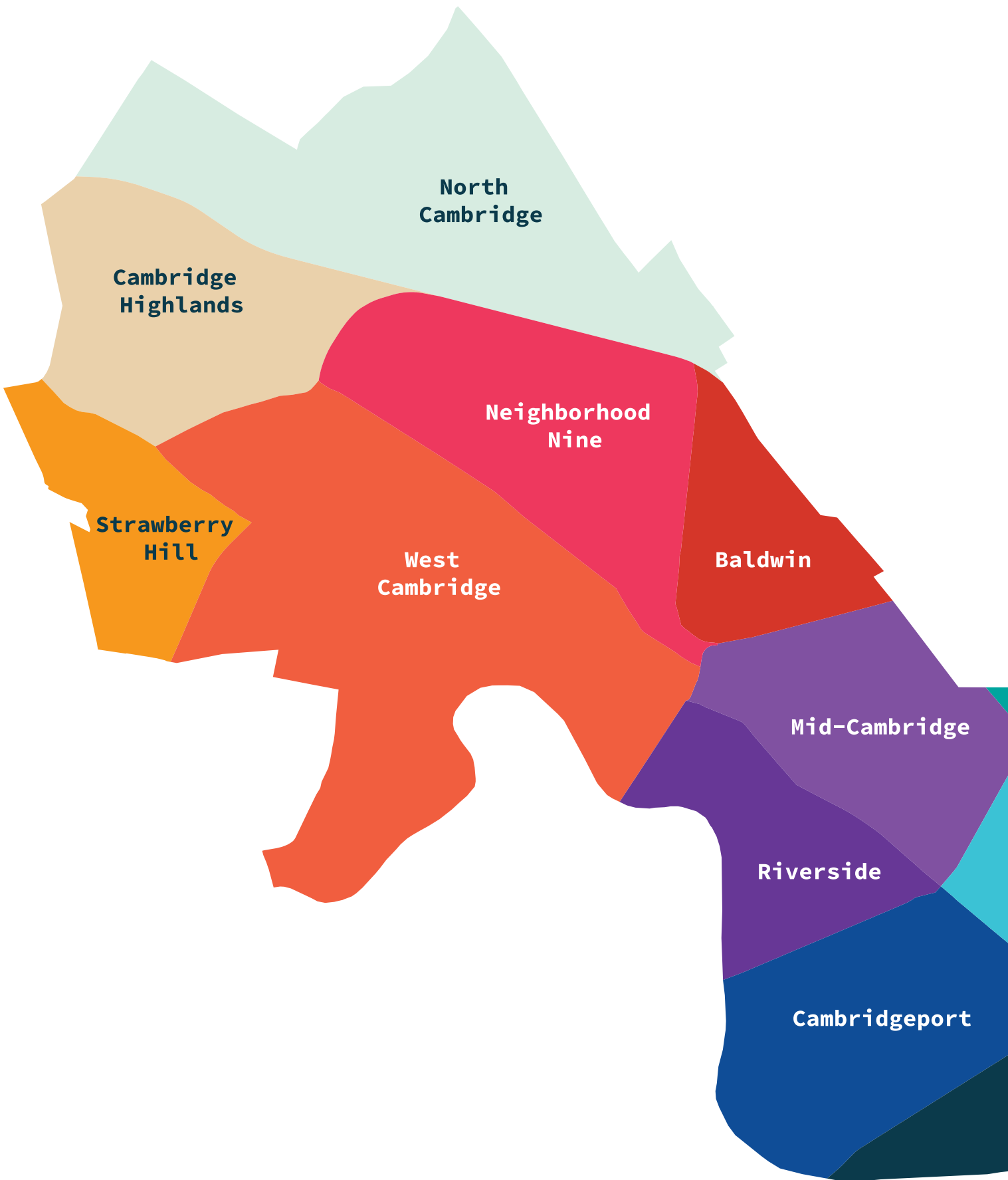


Existing district classification  
(from Envision Cambridge)

- Residential Neighborhoods
- Squares and Major Mixed-Use Corridors
- Higher Education Institutional Areas
- Transition Areas
- Evolving Mixed-Use Districts





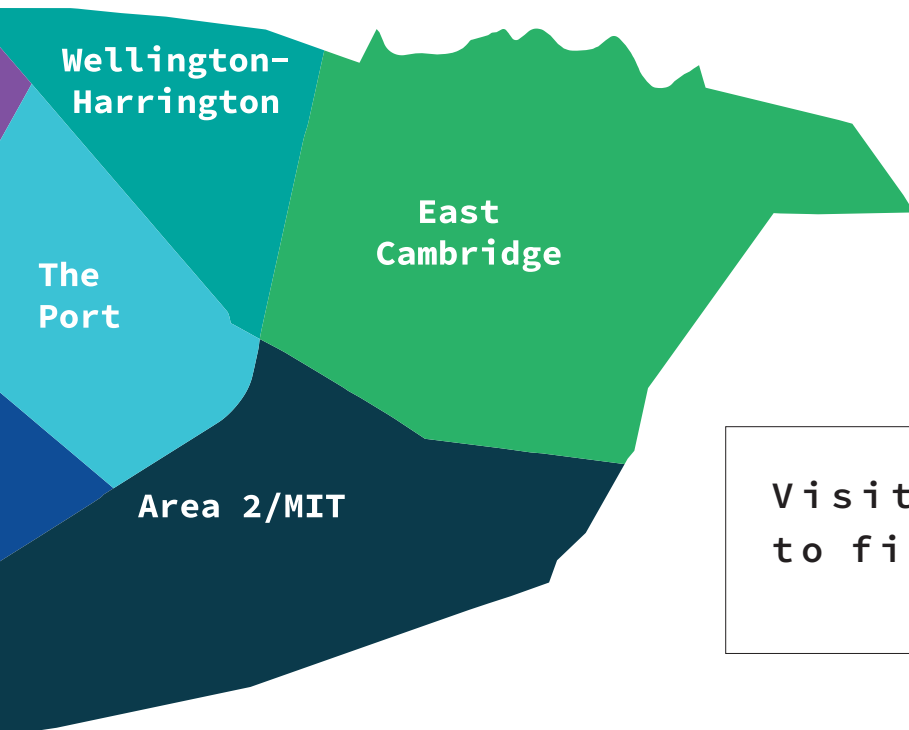




# Cambridge's 13 Neighborhoods

“

Not sure which  
Cambridge neighborhood  
you live in?



”

Visit [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)  
to find out!



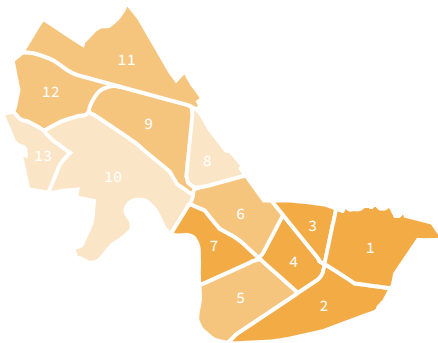
# Neighborhood Action Plans Schedule

It will take 4-5 years to finish a Neighborhood Action Plan for all 13 neighborhoods. How did we set which neighborhoods would go first? We developed data-based indicators of planning need. Envision Cambridge contained six Core Values. We collected data about the 13 neighborhoods, and organized the data by those Envision Cambridge Core Values.

This data helps us inform where planning could be most helpful, and set a schedule for neighborhood action planning across the City.

Every neighborhood will go through an action planning process in the next 4-5 years.

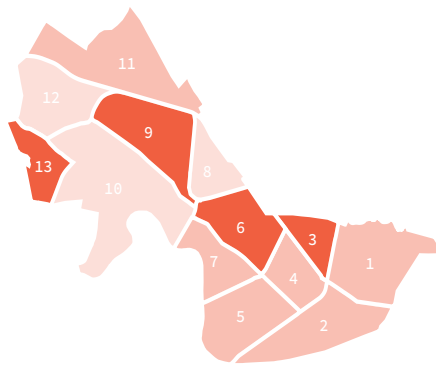
## Diversity & Equity



Areas identified by the state as environmental justice populations,<sup>1</sup> concentrations of minority or older residents, or youth. This category also includes measures of cost burden (higher percentage of income spent on rent) and poverty.



## Livability & Learning<sup>2</sup>



Neighborhoods with fewer community resources,<sup>3</sup> lower voter participation, more population change, or more development.



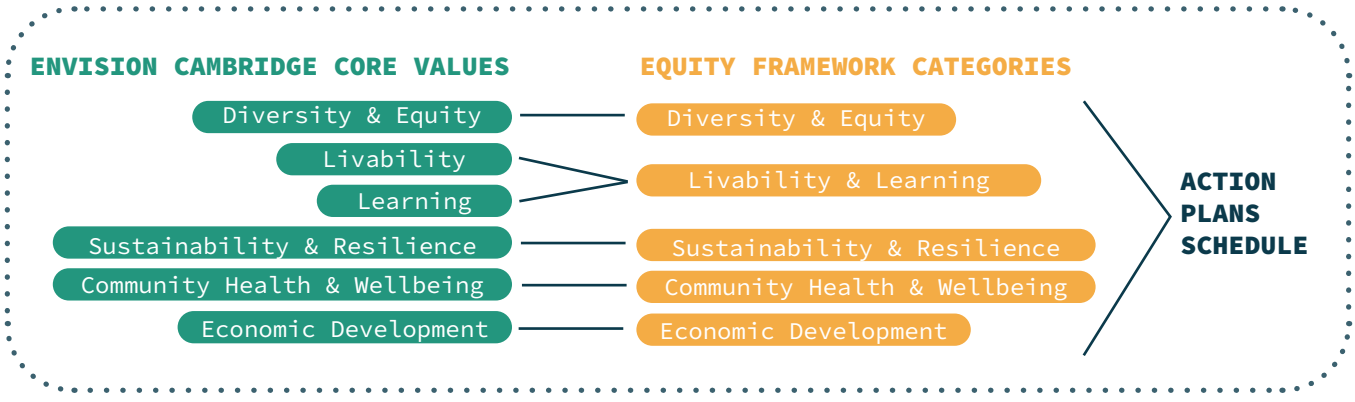
## Sustainability & Resilience



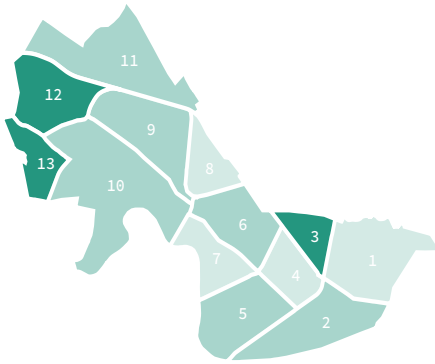
Areas that are more vulnerable to climate change impacts. This includes areas prone to flooding, areas that are hotter than the rest of the city (heat islands), and areas with less tree cover.







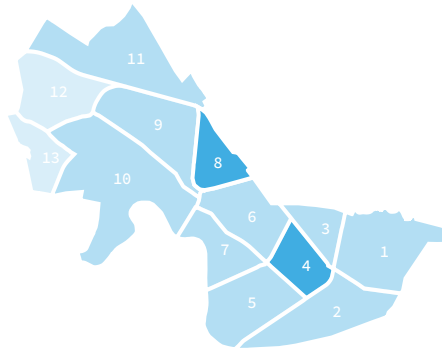
### Community Health & Wellbeing



Physical characteristics such as less access to parks, and lower walkability and bikeability. This category also includes areas with less access to retail food establishments and lower public health measures.



### Economic Opportunity



Areas with lower incomes or lots of recent changes in employment.



## Neighborhood Key

- 1 - EAST CAMBRIDGE
- 2 - AREA 2/MIT
- 3 - WELLINGTON-HARRINGTON
- 4 - THE PORT
- 5 - CAMBRIDGEPORT
- 6 - MID-CAMBRIDGE
- 7 - RIVERSIDE
- 8 - BALDWIN
- 9 - NEIGHBORHOOD NINE
- 10 - WEST CAMBRIDGE
- 11 - NORTH CAMBRIDGE
- 12 - CAMBRIDGE HIGHLANDS
- 13 - STRAWBERRY HILL

Darker colors indicate greater planning need.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>Environmental justice populations are state-identified areas that meet thresholds based on annual median income, presence of minority populations, and lack of English language proficiency.

<sup>2</sup>For the purposes of this analysis, the two Core Values of Livability and Learning were combined into one category.

<sup>3</sup>Community resources include educational facilities, community organizations, public facilities & libraries, public health facilities, food assistance facilities, housing assistance facilities, and places of faith. (based on mapping from 2021 Resilient Cambridge plan)

# Neighborhood Planning Need

## What are some examples of greater planning need?

Neighborhood patterns that might indicate higher urgency for completing a neighborhood plan might include:

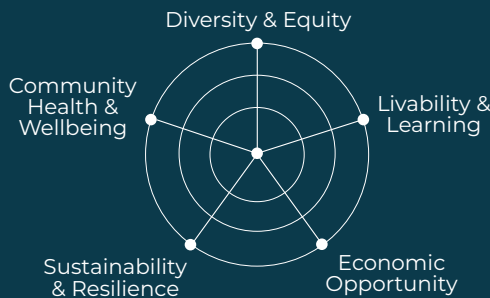
- time since the last neighborhood planning process
- there are particularly high rates of change or a large presence of vulnerable populations (older residents, minority residents, etc)
- the neighborhood shows lower levels of quality of life amenities such as access to open space, access to transit, or walkability.

Certain neighborhoods have characteristics that show they would benefit from early neighborhood planning.

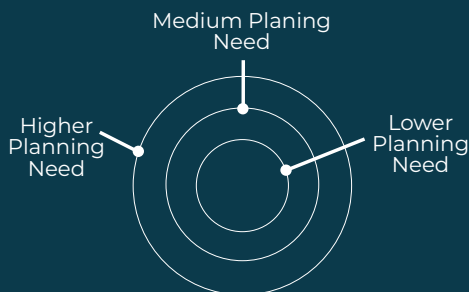
## WHAT DOES PLANNING NEED LOOK LIKE ACROSS NEIGHBORHOODS?

KEY

These charts help to illustrate where each neighborhood falls in terms of planning need for each of the five categories. Each of the five categories is assigned one point along the circle.

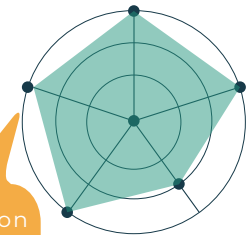


Points closer to the center of each circle indicate relatively lower planning need in that category. Points closer to the outer ring of each circle indicate relatively higher planning need in that category.



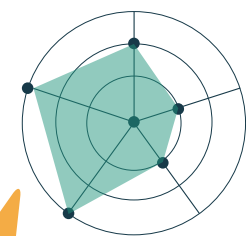
This key explains how to read the diagrams on this page!

### 3. WELLINGTON - HARRINGTON



Wellington-Harrington shows high planning need across four of the five categories

### 12. CAMBRIDGE HIGHLANDS

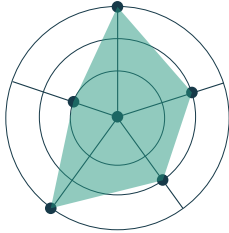


Cambridge Highlands shows high planning need in Community Health & Wellbeing and Sustainability & Resilience

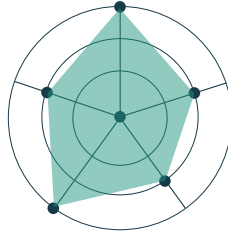


Not sure what this shows? Check the key on the opposite page!

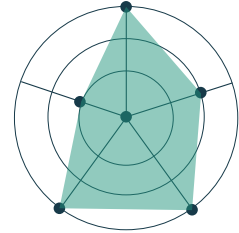
1. EAST CAMBRIDGE



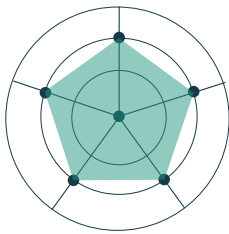
2. AREA 2 / MIT



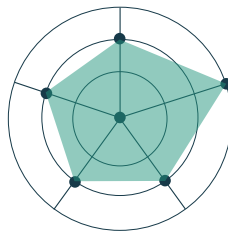
4. THE PORT



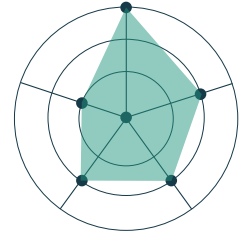
5. CAMBRIDGEPORT



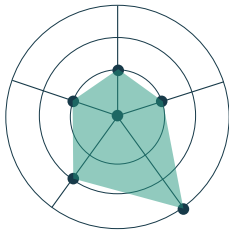
6. MID - CAMBRIDGE



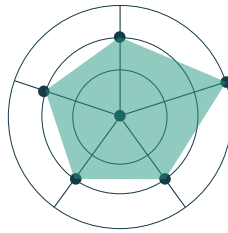
7. RIVERSIDE



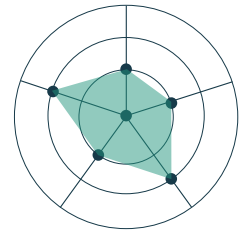
8. BALDWIN



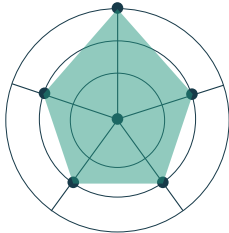
9. NEIGHBORHOOD NINE



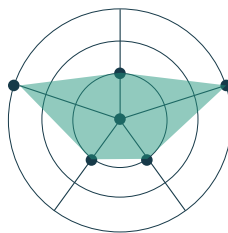
10. WEST CAMBRIDGE



11. NORTH CAMBRIDGE



13. STRAWBERRY HILL



Analysis of planning need highlights the neighborhoods that would most benefit from early neighborhood planning. Other considerations, such as major upcoming projects or allocation of neighborhoods between the City's neighborhood planners, result in a final neighborhood planning schedule.

# What's Next?

## How can YOU be involved?

1

I'D LIKE TO LEARN WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD I LIVE IN!



TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAP ON THE CITY'S NPI WEBPAGE

2

MY NEIGHBORHOOD IS ONE OF THE 3 NEIGHBORHOODS WORKING ON AN ACTION PLAN IN 2023:

NEIGHBORHOOD NINE



MID-CAMBRIDGE



WELLINGTON-HARRINGTON



VISIT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S ACTION PLAN PAGE!

[www.camb.ma/npi/neighborhoodnine](http://www.camb.ma/npi/neighborhoodnine)

[www.camb.ma/npi/midcambridge](http://www.camb.ma/npi/midcambridge)

[www.camb.ma/npi/wellingtonharrington](http://www.camb.ma/npi/wellingtonharrington)



HAVE QUESTIONS? E-MAIL YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNER!

NEIGHBORHOOD NINE: [dwolf@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dwolf@cambridgema.gov)

MID-CAMBRIDGE: [gchan@cambridgema.gov](mailto:gchan@cambridgema.gov)

WELLINGTON-HARRINGTON: [lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov)

LEAVE A COMMENT ON THE INTERACTIVE MAP!

SIGN UP TO HELP SPREAD THE WORD AS A PLAN AMBASSADOR!

LEARN ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS!



For the latest information on how to be involved, visit the City's NPI webpage:

[www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)



3

MY NEIGHBORHOOD IS NOT WORKING ON AN ACTION PLAN IN 2023, BUT I WOULD STILL LIKE TO BE INVOLVED!

I'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MY NEIGHBORHOOD!

REVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOTS & PREVIOUS PLANS

SIGN UP FOR NEIGHBORHOOD EMAIL UPDATES!

I'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NPI!

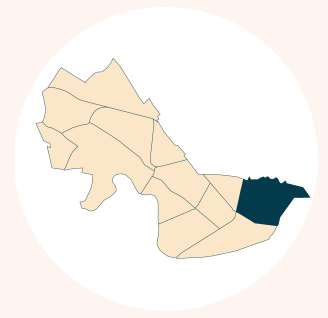
VISIT THE NPI PAGE OF THE CITY'S WEBSITE

I'M INTERESTED IN STARTING A COMMUNITY GROUP OR LEARNING ABOUT OTHER COMMUNITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES!

REVIEW COMMUNITY RESOURCES

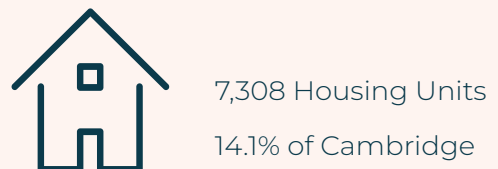
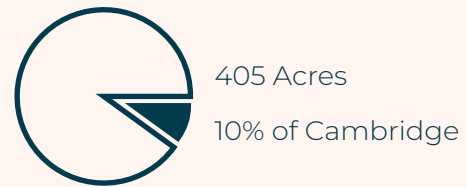
E-MAIL A NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNER AT [lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov)

# 1 | East Cambridge



## Overview

East Cambridge, a neighborhood of about thirteen thousand residents, is bounded by Somerville to the north, the Charles River to the east, the Boston & Albany Railroad tracks to the west, and Kendall Square to the south. The southern part of East Cambridge serves as home to many offices and research labs, as well as several large apartment buildings. The Charles River waterfront contains hotels, luxury apartment buildings, high-tech businesses, a regional shopping mall, and the Boston Museum of Science. The upper part of East Cambridge, bordering Charlestown and Somerville, includes a mixed use development area known as Cambridge Crossing.







## Population Growth

From 2000-2021, East Cambridge saw a **69.6% increase in population.**

## Land Use



East Cambridge has a mix of uses, with about 26% commercial, 21% residential, 9% mixed use, 13% open space, and 11% government or other institution.

## Community Resources

include 14 parks and playgrounds, 2 schools, 1 library, and access to the Charles River.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in East Cambridge include the **East Cambridge Planning Team.**

## What's going on?



Construction is currently underway for **Triangle Park** and **Binney Street Park** in East Cambridge.



## Shopping areas

East Cambridge includes portions of the **North Point**, **East Cambridge**, and **Kendall Square** commercial districts.



## Getting around

East Cambridge is served by **14 Bluebike stations**, the **MBTA Red Line**, and **4 MBTA bus routes.**



## Resilience

The 2018 Cambridge Urban Forest Snapshot identified East Cambridge as having **low levels of tree canopy relative to the rest of the city** (13% tree cover).



## Looking for more?

Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)



## Neighborhood planning

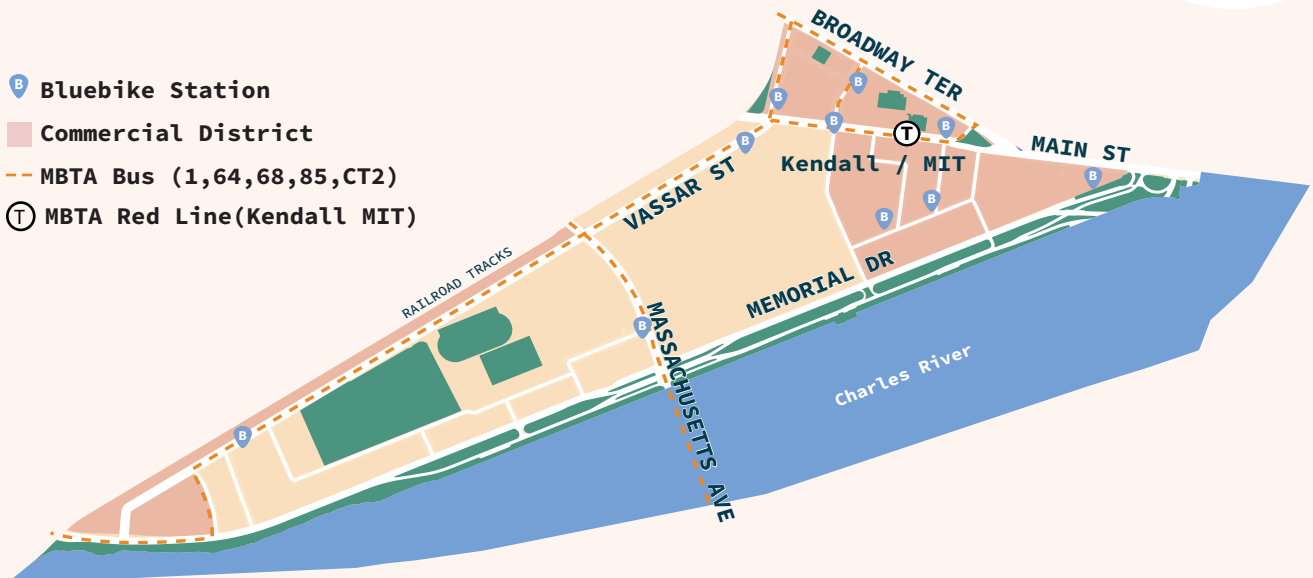
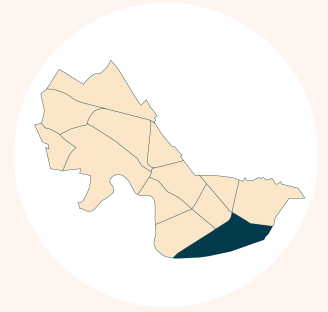
The last neighborhood plan update for East Cambridge was in **2006.**



**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

GARY CHAN, Neighborhood Planner  
gchan@cambridgema.gov 617-349-4603

# 2 | Area 2/MIT



## Overview

Area 2 is bounded to the north by Broadway and Main Streets, to the east by the Charles River and to the west by the Boston & Albany Railroad tracks. It is almost entirely occupied by the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Area 2 contains the core of MIT's academic and research facilities, as well as most of MIT's student housing. The vast majority of the neighborhood's residents are undergraduate or graduate students living in MIT dormitories or fraternities. The major commercial and transit center for the neighborhood is at Kendall Square, and the Charles River Reservation serves as the neighborhood's largest public recreational resource. The Harvard Bridge (Massachusetts Avenue) and Longfellow Bridge (Main Street) connect the neighborhood to the City of Boston.



242 Acres  
5.9% of Cambridge



5,155 Residents  
4.4% of Cambridge



403 Housing Units  
0.8% of Cambridge





## Student Population

Area 2/MIT is home to many students. About 77% of residents are under age 25.

## Land Use



Area 2/MIT is mostly academic institutions, with nearly 80% of its land area made up of institutional uses, 11% commercial, and only 1% residential.

## Community Resources

include 3 public parks and playgrounds. The Charles River Reservation serves as the largest recreational space.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in East Cambridge include the **Alchemists**.

## Renters

Nearly all of the residential dwellings in Area 2 / MIT are occupied by renters.



## Shopping areas



Area 2/MIT includes portions of the **Kendall Square**, **Central Square**, and **Lower Cambridgeport** commercial districts.

## Historic areas

Area 2/MIT is home to the **Fort Washington Historic District**.

## Getting around



East Cambridge is served by **9 Bluebike stations**, the **MBTA Red Line**, and **5 MBTA bus routes**.

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website:  
[www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

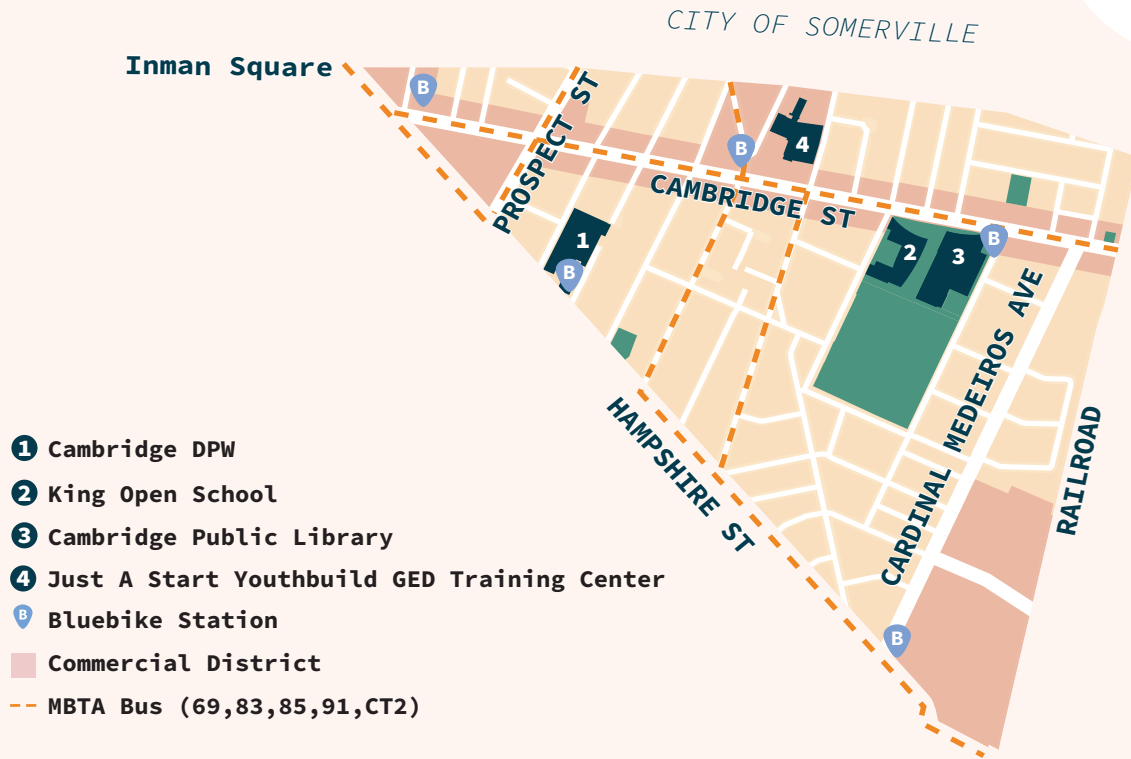
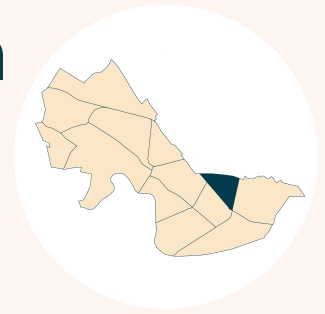
DANIEL WOLF, Neighborhood Planner  
[dewolf@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dwolf@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-4618

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Area 2/MIT was in **2006**.



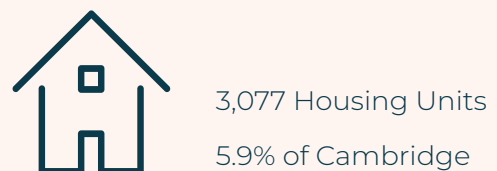
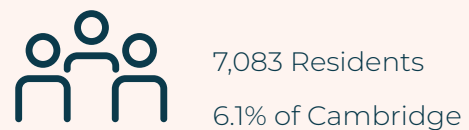
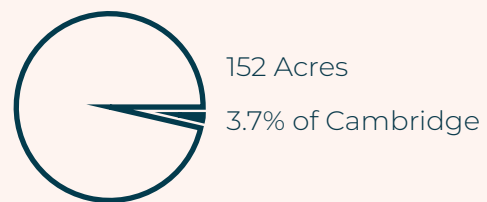
# 3 | Wellington-Harrington



- 1 Cambridge DPW
- 2 King Open School
- 3 Cambridge Public Library
- 4 Just A Start Youthbuild GED Training Center
- B Bluebike Station
- Commercial District
- MBTA Bus (69,83,85,91,CT2)

## Overview

Wellington-Harrington is the smallest neighborhood in Cambridge, but very dense with a population of approximately seven thousand residents. It is bordered by the City of Somerville to the north, Hampshire Street to the south, and the Grand Junction railroad to the East. The neighborhood includes Inman Square, other commercial areas along Cambridge Street, and the One Kendall Square complex providing a range of retail stores and office space.





## Density



At more than **47 residents per acre**, Wellington-Harrington is one of the densest areas of Cambridge.

## Land Use



Wellington-Harrington is a predominantly residential neighborhood, with about 56% residential, 17% commercial, 15% institutional or government uses, and 1% open space.

## Community Resources

include 5 public parks and playgrounds, 2 schools, and 1 library.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in Wellington-Harrington include the **Inman Square Neighborhood Association** and the **Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Association**.

## What's going on?



The **Our Cambridge Street Plan** finished in 2023 and the **Inman Square Intersection Improvements Project** is underway.



## Shopping areas



Wellington-Harrington includes portions of the **Inman Square** and **Kendall Square** commercial districts.

## Getting around



Wellington-Harrington is served by **5 Bluebike stations** and **5 MBTA bus routes**.

## Resilience



Wellington-Harrington has the highest percentage of **Heat Islands** and among the lowest tree canopy cover in Cambridge.

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website:  
[www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!

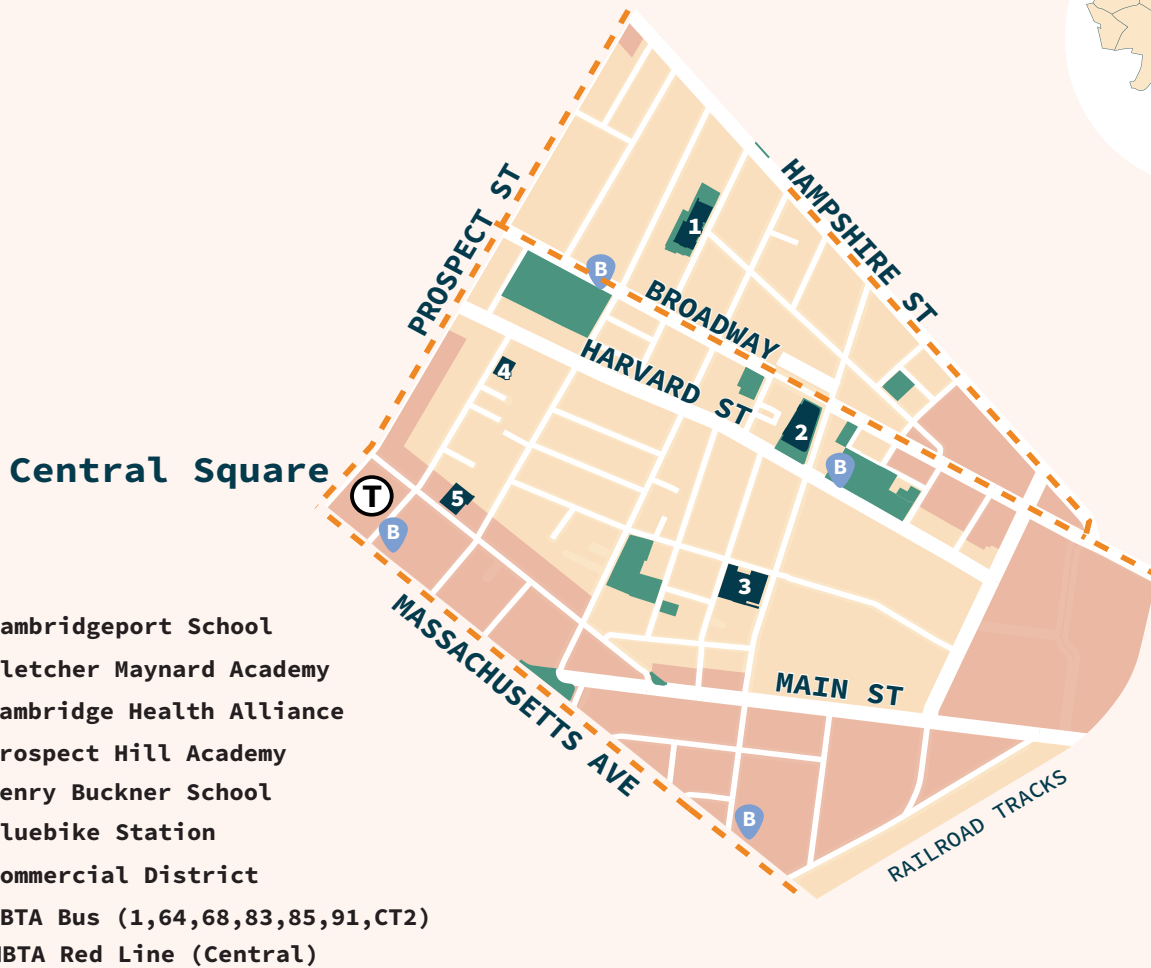
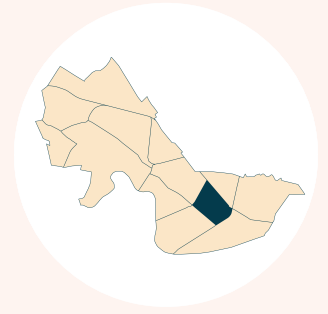
LEV MCCARTHY, Neighborhood Planner  
[lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-9164

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Wellington-Harrington was in **2009**.

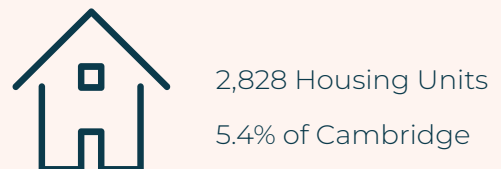
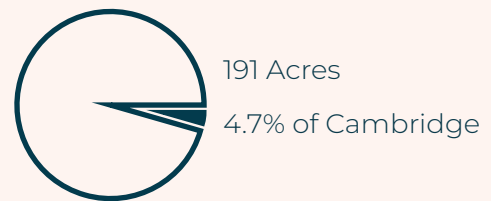


# 4 | The Port



## Overview

The Port, formerly known as Area Four, is a high-density residential neighborhood with around seven thousand residents, bounded by Hampshire Street to the north, the Boston & Albany Railroad to the east, Prospect Street to the west, and Massachusetts Avenue to the south. The major commercial center and transit center of The Port lies in Central Square with the main commercial strip along the Massachusetts Avenue edge, while smaller commercial areas exist along Main Street, Prospect Street, and Hampshire Street. Most of The Port is residential in character, with some areas toward the southern part of the neighborhood home to high-tech labs and offices as well as facilities for the neighboring Massachusetts Institute of Technology.





## Density



The Port is one of the densest neighborhoods in Cambridge, with about **34 persons per acre.**

## Land Use



The Port is a predominantly residential neighborhood, with about 52% residential, 26% commercial, 9% institutional or government uses, and 4% open space.

## Community Resources

include 8 public parks and playgrounds, 4 schools, and the Cambridge Health Alliance.

## Getting around

The Port is served by **4 Bluebike stations**, the **MBTA Red Line**, and **7 MBTA bus routes.**



## What's going on?



Active projects include the **Port Infrastructure Project** and the **Hampshire Street Safety Improvement Project.**



## Shopping areas

The Port includes portions of the **Central Square**, **Osborn Triangle**, and **Kendall Square** commercial districts.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in the Port include the **Tremont Street Neighborhood Association** and the **Essex Street Neighbors.**

## Resilience



84% of the Port neighborhood was identified in the 2021 Resilient Cambridge Plan as **'heat islands'** (areas that are hotter than the areas around them, often due to low tree cover and lots of paved surfaces).

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website:  
[www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

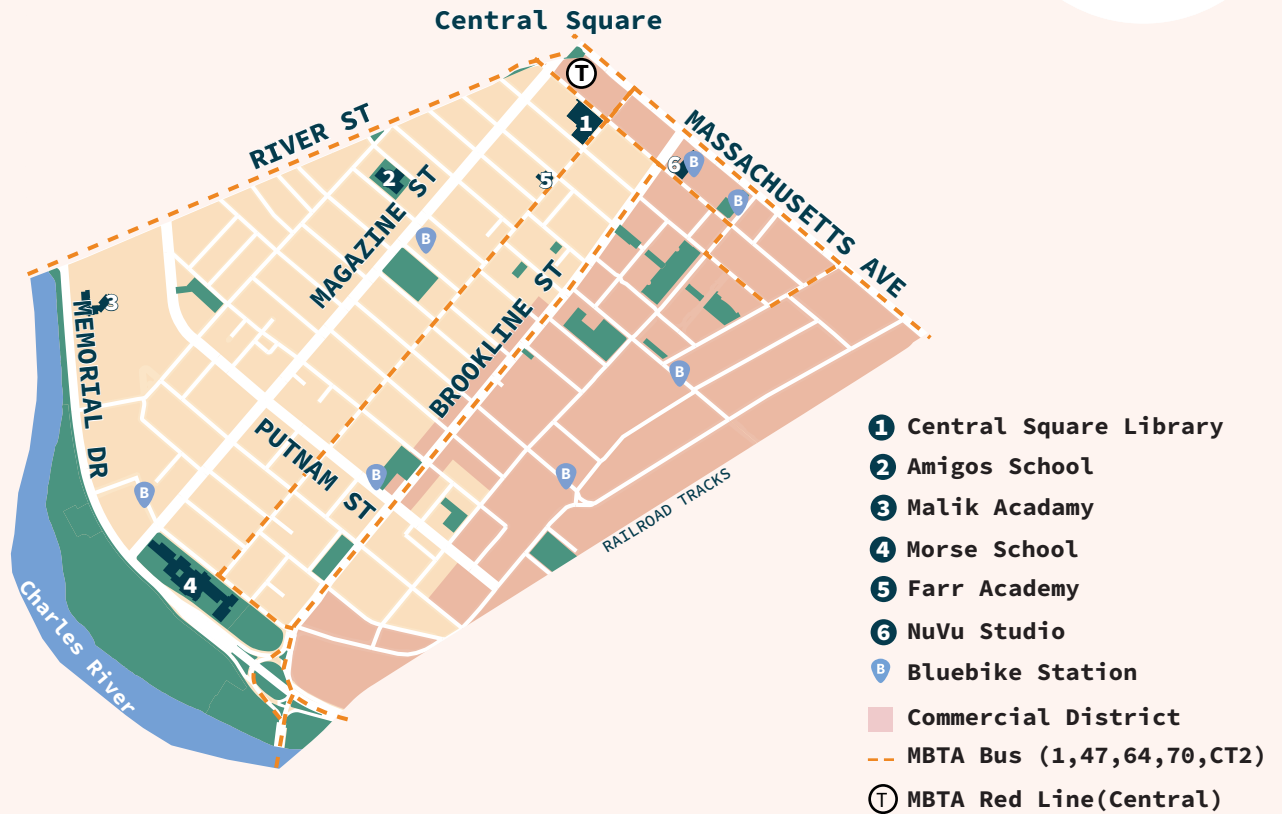
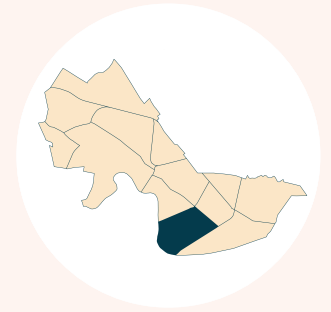
LEV MCCARTHY, Neighborhood Planner  
[lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-9164

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for the Port was in **2010.**

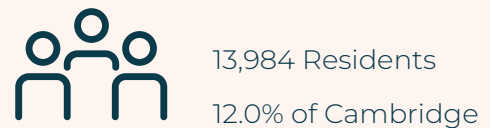
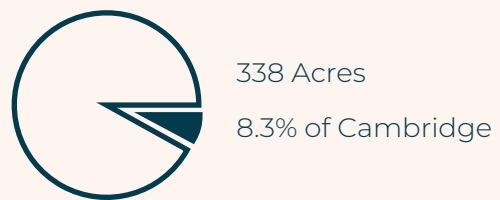


# 5 | Cambridgeport



## Overview

Cambridgeport is a dense and diverse neighborhood consisting of approximately fourteen thousand residents, abutting MIT on to the east, bounded by Massachusetts Avenue to the north, River Street to the west, and the Charles River to the south. Central Square, the main neighborhood commercial center, includes an MBTA Red Line station and serves as a hub for many MBTA bus routes. A significant amount of new development, including new retail, office/laboratory, residential, and institutional uses, has taken place within the former industrial area along the southeastern edge of the neighborhood.



## Built Fabric



Nearly half of the dwellings in Cambridgeport are buildings that are **more than 26 units in size**.

## Land Use



Cambridgeport has a mix of uses and a lot of public open space, with about 46% residential, 20% commercial, 14% open space, 11% institutional or government uses, and 3% mixed use.

## Community Resources

include 13 public parks and playgrounds, 5 schools, and 1 library.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in Cambridgeport include the **Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association**.

## What's going on?



Active projects include the **Grand Junction Multi-use Path, River Street Reconstruction, and Charles River Bridges Reconstruction**.



## Shopping areas

Cambridgeport contains portions of the **Central Square** and **Lower Cambridgeport** commercial districts.



## Getting around

Cambridgeport is served by **7 Bluebike stations, the MBTA Red Line, and 5 MBTA bus routes**.



## Central Square Planning

Recent planning efforts for Central Square include the **Central Square Market Profile (2021)**, and the **Central Square Small Retailers and Restaurants Map (2020)**, and the **Central Square District Assessment Report (2018)**.

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

DANIEL WOLF, Neighborhood Planner  
[dewolf@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dewolf@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-4618

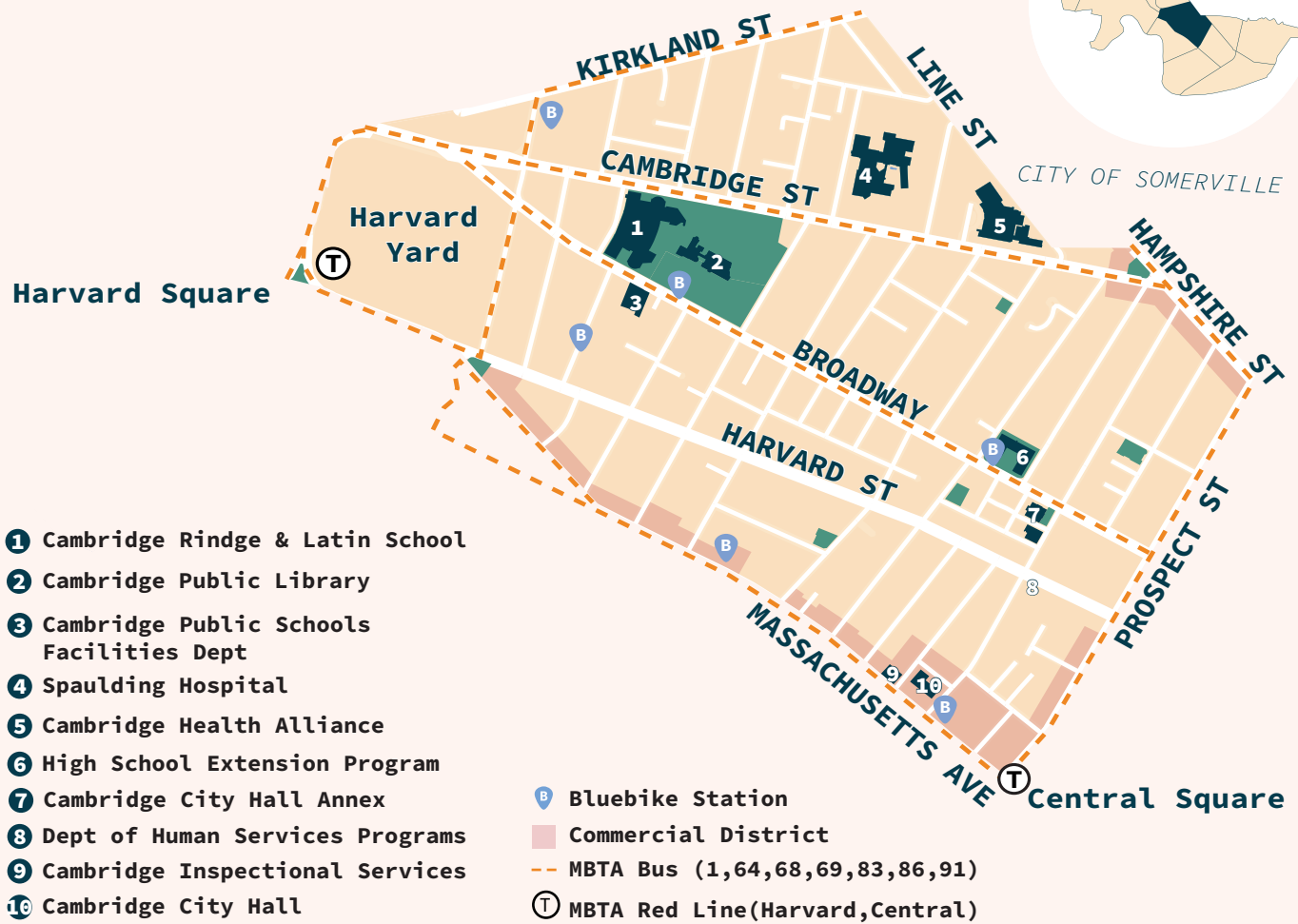
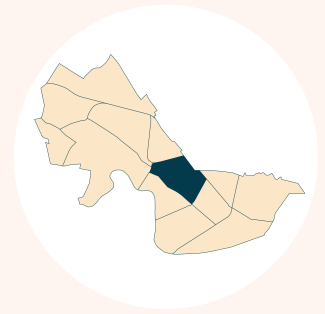
## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Cambridgeport was in **2010**.



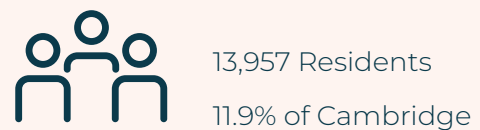
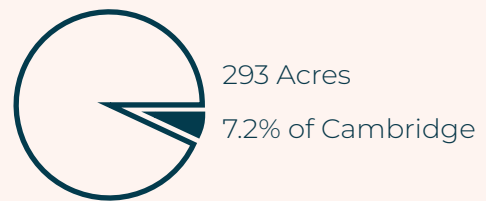


# 6 | Mid-Cambridge



## Overview

Mid-Cambridge is a large, high-density residential neighborhood with around fourteen thousand residents, bordered by Prospect Street to the east, Kirkland Street to the west and Massachusetts Avenue to the south and the City of Somerville to the north. Major commercial centers lie at three corners of the neighborhood: Central Square, Harvard Square, and Inman Square. Central Square and Harvard Square also serve as major transit stations. Massachusetts Avenue, which connects the two squares, is a major travel route and commercial spine. Many institutions have a presence in Mid-Cambridge, including Harvard University, Cambridge Hospital, Youville Hospital, the Cambridge Public Library, and Cambridge City Hall.



## Density



At more than **48 residents per acre**, Mid-Cambridge is one of the densest areas of Cambridge.

## Land Use



Mid-Cambridge is a predominantly residential neighborhood with many government, hospital, and university facilities. About 60% is residential, 31% government or institutional uses, 2% mixed use, and 1% open space.

## Community Resources

include 5 public parks and playgrounds, 2 schools, 1 library, health services, and City Hall buildings.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in Mid-Cambridge include the **Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association**.

## Historic areas

Mid-Cambridge is home to portions of the **Old Cambridge Historic District** and the **Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District**.

## Shopping areas

Mid-Cambridge includes portions of the **Harvard Square**, **Central Square**, and **Inman Square** commercial districts.



## Getting around

Mid-Cambridge is served by **6 Bluebike stations**, the **MBTA Red Line**, and **7 MBTA bus routes**.



## Institutions

Major landmarks include **Cambridge City Hall**, the main branch of the **Public Library**, **Cambridge Hospital**, **Harvard University**, and the City's public high school, **Cambridge Rindge and Latin**.

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

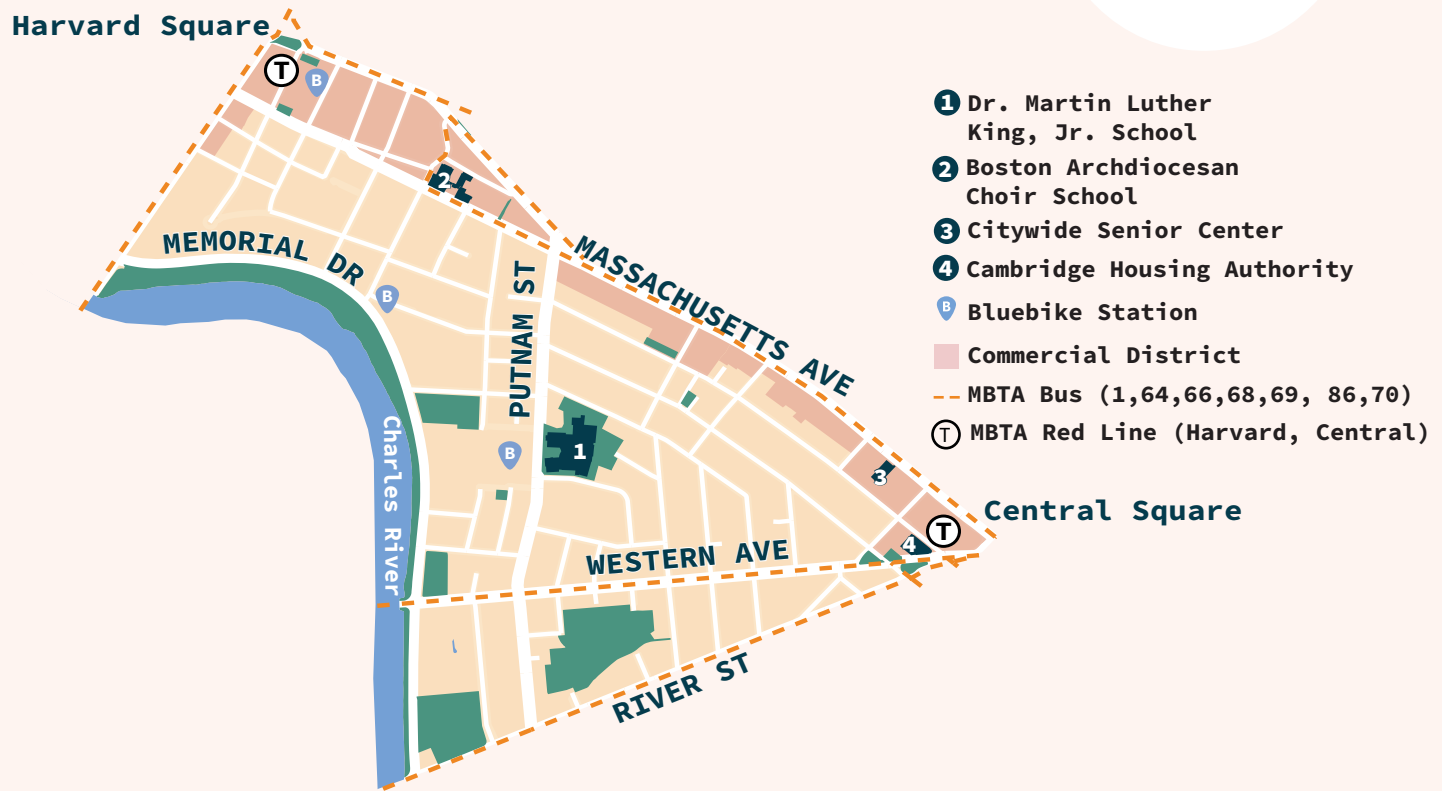
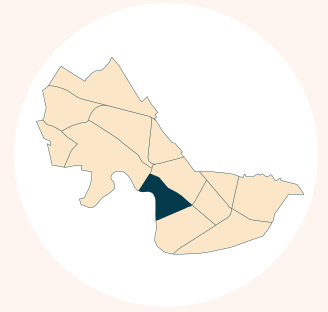
GARY CHAN, Neighborhood Planner  
gchan@cambridgema.gov 617-349-4603

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Mid-Cambridge was in **2011**.

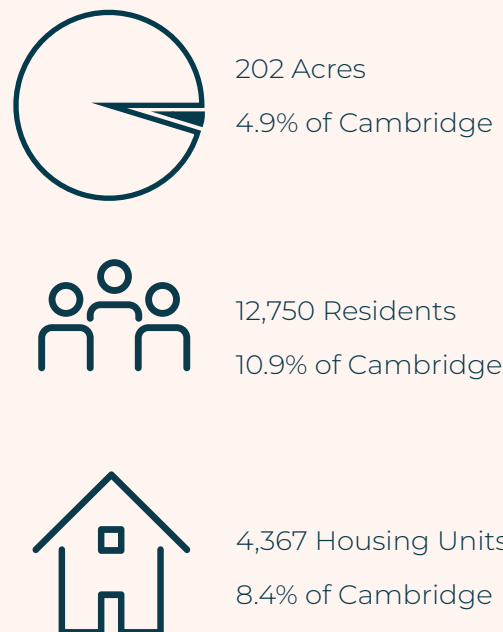


# 7 | Riverside



## Overview

Riverside is a residential neighborhood located along the Charles River, which includes some of the oldest, settled parts of Cambridge. Harvard Square and Central Square, both major commercial and transit centers, lie at either end of the neighborhood. Massachusetts Avenue, which connects the two squares, serves as the neighborhood’s retail center. Smaller commercial areas exist along Putnam Avenue, Western Avenue and River Street. Much of Harvard University’s student housing is located in Riverside. Riverside is also home to some of Harvard’s academic facilities and the primary academic and administrative facility for Cambridge College.





## Density



At approximately **63 residents per acre**, Riverside is Cambridge's densest neighborhood.

## Land Use



Riverside is a predominantly residential neighborhood, with about 41% residential, 30% government or institutional uses, 12% open space, 8% commercial, and 6% mixed use.

## Community Resources

include 6 public parks and playgrounds, 2 schools, 1 Senior Center, and 1 Housing Authority.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in Riverside include the **Riverside Neighborhood Association**.

## Renters

Approximately **70%** of Riverside residents rent their homes.



## Shopping areas

Riverside includes portions of the **Harvard Square** and **Central Square** commercial districts.



## Getting around

Riverside is served by **4 Bluebike Stations, the MBTA Red Line, and 7 MBTA bus routes.**



## Historic areas

Riverside contains some of the oldest settlements in Cambridge. It includes portions of the **Harvard Square Neighborhood Conservation District**.

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

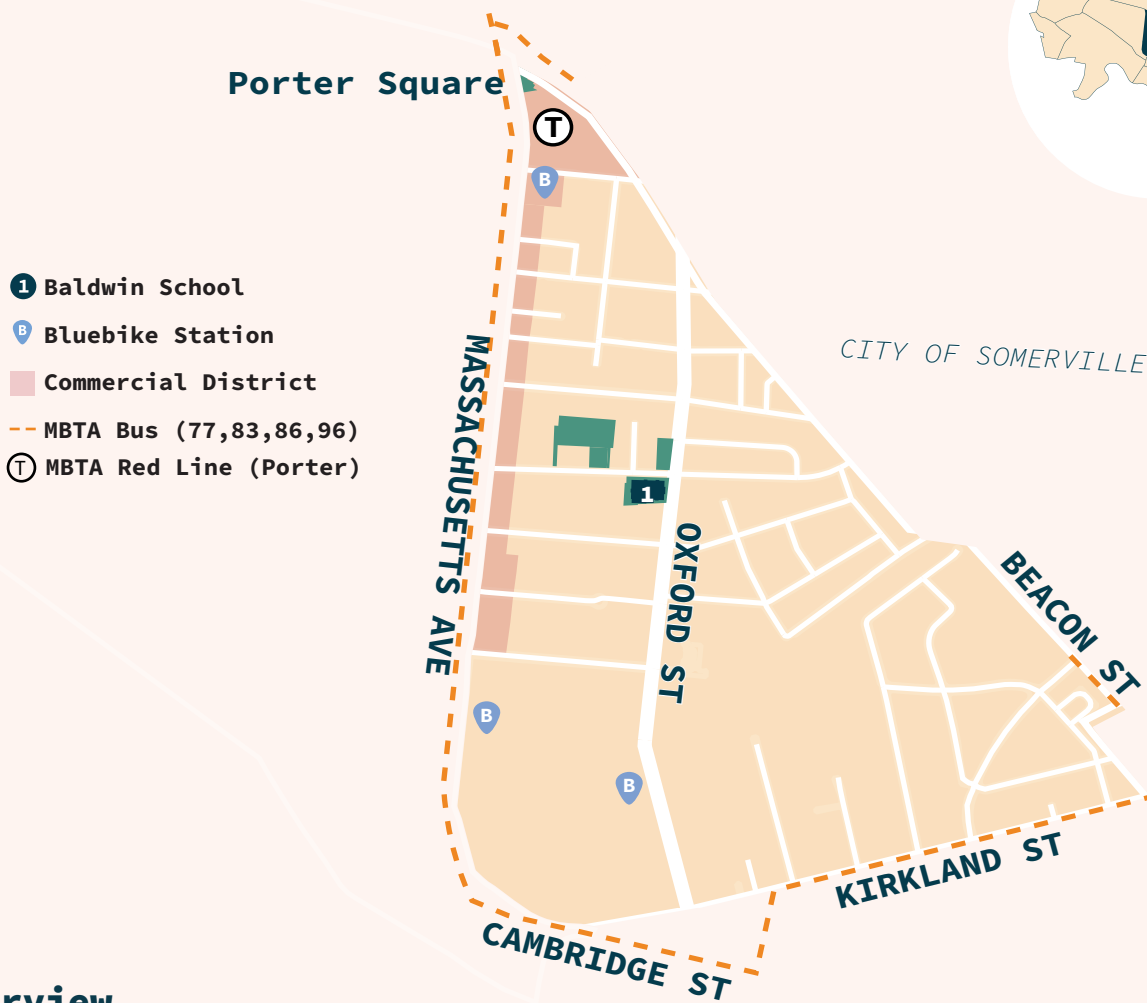
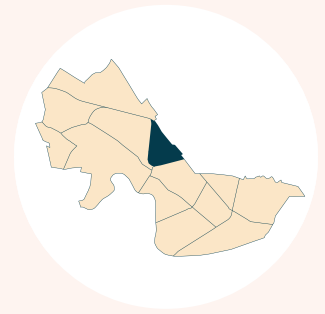
DANIEL WOLF, Neighborhood Planner  
 dwolf@cambridgema.gov 617-349-4618

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Riverside was in **2011**.



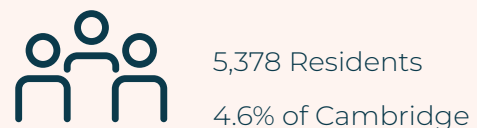
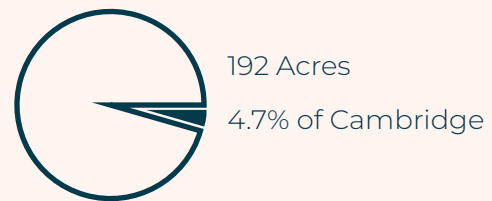
# 8 | Baldwin



## Overview

Baldwin is a small, moderate-density residential neighborhood with around five thousand residents. Harvard Square and Porter Square, both major commercial and transit centers, lie at either end of the neighborhood. Massachusetts Avenue, which connects the two squares, serves as the neighborhood’s retail center. To the east, Baldwin shares a border with the City of Somerville.

In 2021 the Agassiz neighborhood was renamed as Baldwin.




## Density



Baldwin is a moderate-density neighborhood, with approximately **28 residents per acre**.

## Land Use



Baldwin is home to many Harvard University facilities, with about 50% government or institutional uses, 44% residential, 3% mixed use, 1% commercial, and 1% open space.

## Community Resources

include 2 public parks and playgrounds and 1 school.




## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in Riverside include the **Baldwin Neighborhood Council** and the **North of Harvard Neighbors**.

## Historic areas

Baldwin is home to portions of the **Old Cambridge Historic District**.


## Shopping areas



Baldwin contains portions of the **Lower Mass. Ave** commercial district.

## Getting around

Baldwin is served by **2 Bluebike stations, the MBTA Red Line, and 4 MBTA bus routes**.



## Universities

Universities are a major presence in the Baldwin neighborhood, which contains academic and student housing facilities for both **Harvard University** and **Lesley University**.

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!  
 DANIEL WOLF, Neighborhood Planner  
 dwolf@cambridgema.gov 617-349-4618

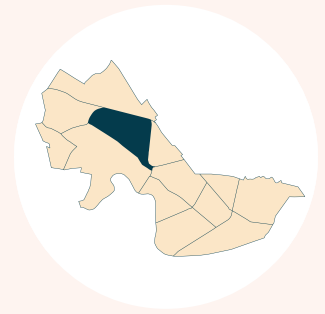
## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Baldwin was in **2008**.





# 9 | Neighborhood Nine



## Overview

Neighborhood Nine is a moderate-density residential neighborhood with around thirteen thousand residents. Harvard Square and Porter Square, both major commercial and transit centers, lie at two corners of the neighborhood. Massachusetts Avenue, which connects the two squares, is one of the neighborhood's main commercial areas. The Fresh Pond Shopping Center provides a regional commercial area to the western edge. A smaller commercial strip exists along Concord Avenue. Harvard University is a presence in the neighborhood, with both academic and student housing. Danehy Park, a 50-acre park built on the site of the former city landfill, is also located in Neighborhood Nine.



410 Acres  
10.0% of Cambridge



12,937 Residents  
11.1% of Cambridge



5,851 Housing Units  
11.3% of Cambridge

## Density



Neighborhood Nine is a moderate-density neighborhood, with approximately **32 residents per acre**.

## Land Use



Neighborhood Nine is a predominantly residential neighborhood with large park areas, with about 61% residential, 22% open space, 9% government or institutional uses, 4% commercial, and 1% mixed use.

## Community Resources

include 7 public parks and playgrounds and 4 schools.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations include the **Porter Square Neighbors Association**, **Taylor Square Neighborhood Association**, and 3 listservs: Buena Vista Social Club, Richdale Avenue, and North Commons.

## Renters+Owners

Neighborhood Nine is a mix of owners and renters. Approximately **60%** of units are renter-occupied and approximately **40%** are owner-occupied.



## Shopping areas

Neighborhood Nine includes portions of the **Concord Alewife/Fresh Pond**, **Huron Village/Observatory Hill**, **Porter Square/North Mass. Ave**, and **Lower Mass. Ave** commercial districts.



## Getting around

Neighborhood Nine is served by **5 Bluebike stations**, the **MBTA Red Line** and **7 MBTA bus routes**.



## Historic areas

Neighborhood Nine is home to historic landmarks, including Revolutionary War memorials in Cambridge Common. It includes portions of the **Old Cambridge Historic District** and the **Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District**.

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Neighborhood Nine was in **2010**.



## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

DANIEL WOLF, Neighborhood Planner  
[dwolf@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dwolf@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-4618

# 10 | West Cambridge



- 1 Cambridge Water Dept
- 2 John M. Tobin School
- 3 Cambridge Public Library - Collins Branch
- 4 Mt. Auburn Hospital
- 5 Cambridge Cemetery
- 6 BB&N Upper School
- 7 Shady Hill School
- 8 BB&N Elementary School
- 9 Saint Peter's Elementary School
- 10 BB&N Middle School
- 11 New School of Music
- B Bluebike Station
- Commercial District
- MBTA Bus (71,73,74,75,78)
- T MBTA Red Line (Harvard)



## Overview

West Cambridge, also referred to as Neighborhood Ten, is a relatively low-density residential neighborhood with about eight thousand residents. The major commercial and transit center in West Cambridge is Harvard Square, while smaller commercial areas exist along Huron Avenue, Concord Avenue, and Mt. Auburn Street. The neighborhood is located west of Harvard Square and bordered by Concord Avenue, the Charles River, Fresh Pond Reservation, and a portion of the CSX railroad line. Historic Mount Auburn Cemetery is located at the southwestern edge of the neighborhood.



679 Acres  
16.6% of Cambridge



7,982 Residents  
6.8% of Cambridge



4,006 Housing Units  
7.7% of Cambridge



## Density



At approximately 12 **residents per acre**, West Cambridge is one of the least dense areas of Cambridge.

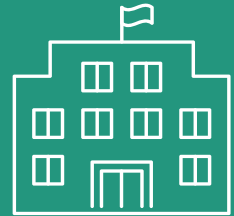
## Land Use



West Cambridge is a predominantly residential neighborhood with large areas of open space, with about 47% residential, 20% open space, 13% government or institutional uses, and 5% commercial.

## Community Resources

include 11 public parks and playgrounds, 7 schools, the Water Department, and Mt. Auburn Hospital.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in West Cambridge include the **Fresh Pond Residents Alliance** and the **Harvard Square Neighborhood Association**.

## Historic areas

West Cambridge is home to many historic landmarks and portions of the **Old Cambridge Historic District**.

## Shopping areas

West Cambridge includes portions of the **Harvard Square**, **Huron Village/Observatory Hill**, and **Concord Alewife/Fresh Pond** Commercial Districts.



## Getting around

West Cambridge is served by **6 Bluebike stations**, the **MBTA Red Line**, and **5 MBTA bus routes**.



## Tree Canopy

At **37%**, West Cambridge has the highest rate of tree canopy of any Cambridge neighborhood.



## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!

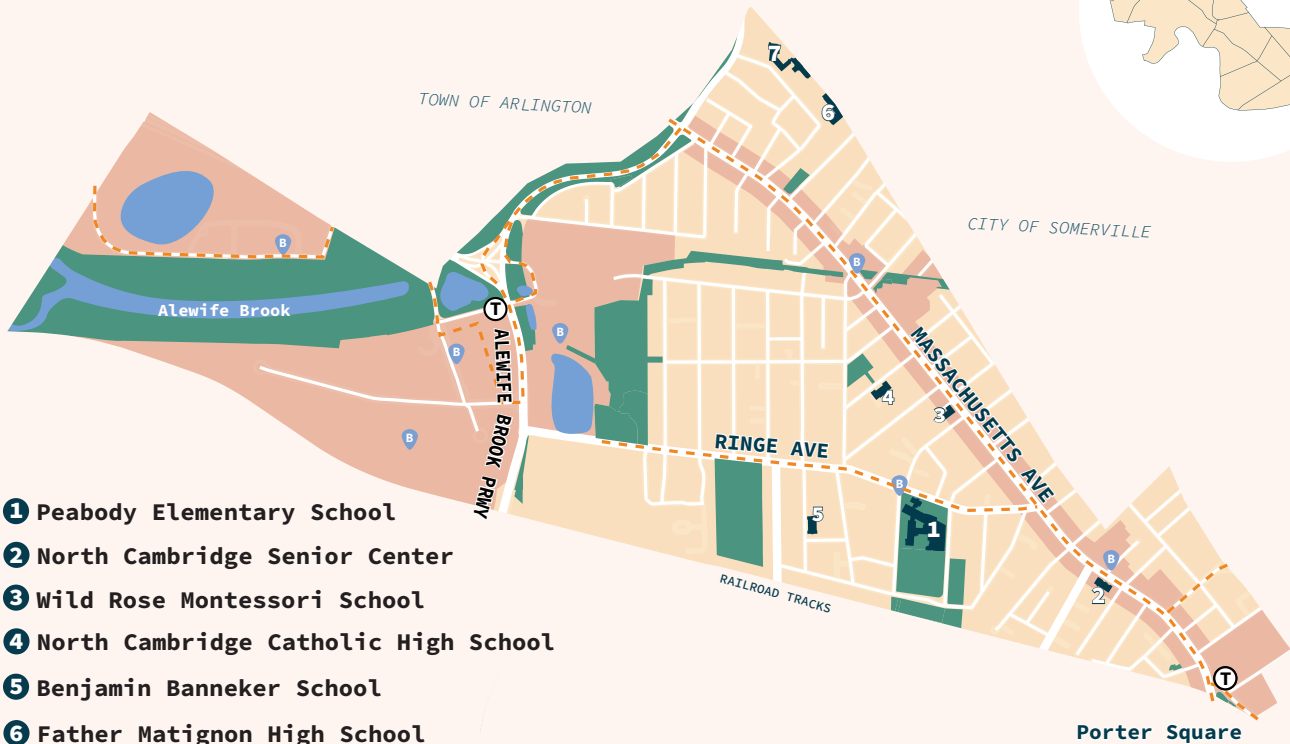
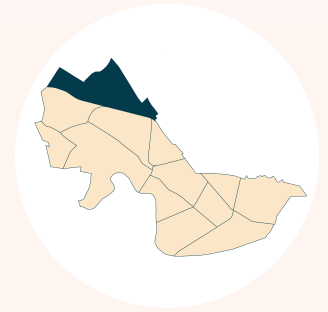
LEV MCCARTHY, Neighborhood Planner  
[lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-9164

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan for West Cambridge was in **2007**.



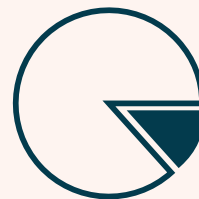
# 11 | North Cambridge



- ① Peabody Elementary School
- ② North Cambridge Senior Center
- ③ Wild Rose Montessori School
- ④ North Cambridge Catholic High School
- ⑤ Benjamin Banneker School
- ⑥ Father Matignon High School
- ⑦ International School of Boston
- B Bluebike Station
- Commercial District
- MBTA Bus (62,67,76,77,83,96,350)
- T MBTA Red Line (Alewife,Porter)

## Overview

North Cambridge, located at the northernmost part of the city bordering Somerville, Arlington, and Belmont, is a neighborhood of approximately fourteen thousand residents living in housing types ranging from single and multi-family homes to large apartment buildings. Porter Square, at the southeastern corner of the neighborhood, is a main commercial and transit center with Red Line, commuter rail and bus stations. The main avenue through North Cambridge is Massachusetts Avenue, which extends from Porter Square to the Arlington border and features a variety of retail, office, and residential uses and types. At the western end of the neighborhood is the MBTA Alewife Red Line station and an adjacent office/industrial area along Cambridgepark Drive.



550 Acres  
13.5% of Cambridge



14,466 Residents  
12.4% of Cambridge



7,336 Housing Units  
14.1% of Cambridge

## Density



At approximately **26 residents per acre**, North Cambridge is a moderately-dense neighborhood.

## Land Use



North Cambridge is a predominantly residential neighborhood, with about 49% residential, 17% open space, 13% commercial, and 3% government or institutional uses.

## Community Resources

14 public parks and playgrounds, 6 schools, and 1 Senior Center.



## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in North Cambridge include the **North Cambridge Stabilization Committee** and the **Alewife Study Group**.

## Getting around

North Cambridge is served by **7 Bluebike stations**, the **MBTA Red Line**, and **7 MBTA bus routes**, as well as the start of the **Minuteman Bike Path**.



## Shopping areas

North Cambridge includes portions of the **Concord Alewife/Fresh Pond** and **Porter Square/North Mass. Ave** commercial districts.



## What's going on?



Active projects include **improvements to the Belmont, Cambridge, Somerville paths**. The **Alewife District Plan** was completed in 2019 and drives the vision for the Alewife area.

## Resilience



The 2021 Resilient Cambridge plan identified North Cambridge as one of the city's neighborhoods most likely to be impacted by **sea level rise / flooding**.

## Looking for more?



Visit the **City's neighborhood planning website**: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

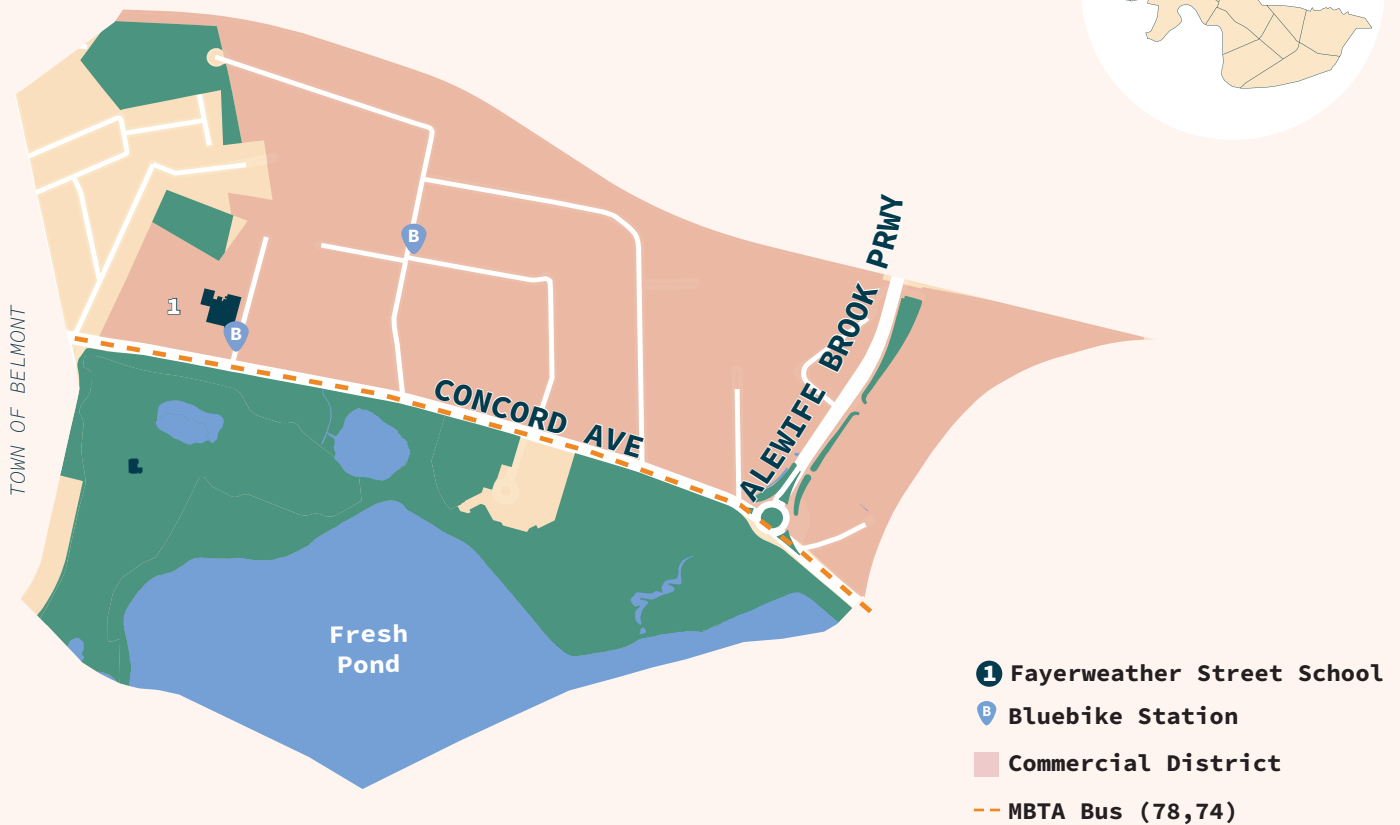
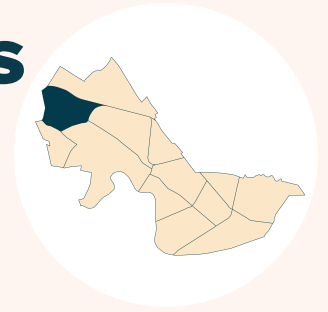
GARY CHAN, Neighborhood Planner  
gchan@cambridgema.gov 617-349-4603

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for North Cambridge was in **2008**.

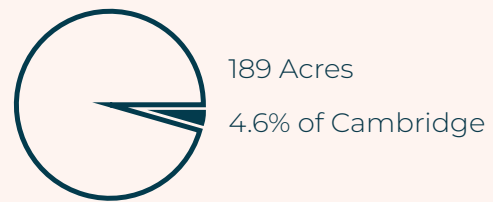


# 12 | Cambridge Highlands



## Overview

The Cambridge Highlands neighborhood, located on the northeastern edge of the city, is comprised of two distinct areas. The eastern part consists of mostly commercial and light industrial uses. A strip mall-style regional retail center is located here, alongside the Alewife Brook Parkway (State Route 2) and near the MBTA Alewife Red Line Station in North Cambridge. A wide corridor of railroad lines is the northern border of the neighborhood, which divides the adjacent office/industrial area into two parts, known as the “Triangle” (officially part of North Cambridge) and the “Quadrangle” (officially part of the Cambridge Highlands). The residential core of the neighborhood lies at its western end, bordering Belmont. The Fresh Pond Reservation borders the neighborhood to the south.





## Density



At approximately 9 **residents per acre**, Cambridge Highlands is one of the least dense areas of Cambridge.

## Land Use



With Fresh Pond a large section of the neighborhood, Cambridge Highlands is about 47% open space, 20% commercial, 13% residential, and 3% government or institutional use.

## Community Resources

include 4 parks and playgrounds, including Fresh Pond Reservation and 1 school.



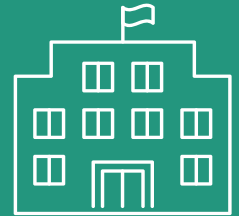
## Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood organizations in Cambridge Highlands include the **Cambridge Highlands Neighborhood Association**.

## What's going on?



Active projects include the **Belmont, Cambridge, and Somerville bike path projects**.



## Shopping areas

Cambridge Highlands includes portions of the **Concord Alewife/Fresh Pond** commercial district.



## Getting around

Cambridge Highlands is served by **2 Bluebike stations** and **2 MBTA bus routes**.



## Renters

The majority of Cambridge Highlands residents are renters. Approximately **75%** of housing units are renter-occupied and approximately **25%** are owner-occupied.

## Looking for more?



Visit the City's neighborhood planning website:  
[www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

**Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!**

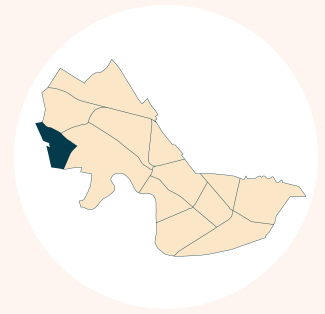
GARY CHAN, Neighborhood Planner  
[gchan@cambridgema.gov](mailto:gchan@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-4603

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Cambridge Highlands was in **2011**.



# 13 | Strawberry Hill



- 1 Fresh Pond Golf Course
- 2 West Cambridge Youth Center
- 3 Haggerty Preschool
- B Bluebike Station
- Commercial District
- MBTA Bus (71,73,75)

## Overview

Strawberry Hill is a mostly residential neighborhood of about two thousand residents that includes multifamily homes and a few apartment buildings. There is a small commercial area along Mount Auburn Street that extends into Belmont and Watertown, both of which border the neighborhood. Mount Auburn Street and Huron Avenue are at the southern and northern edges, respectively, and serve as the main thoroughfares through the neighborhood. Across Huron Avenue from the residential neighborhood is the Fresh Pond Reservation and part of the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Municipal Golf Course. Four MBTA bus routes serve Strawberry Hill, with connections to Harvard and Watertown Squares.



244 Acres  
6.0% of Cambridge



2,733 Residents  
2.3% of Cambridge



1,178 Housing Units  
2.3% of Cambridge

## Youth Residents


Nearly **21%** of Strawberry Hill residents are under age 18, compared to 12% citywide.

## Land Use

About 60% of Strawberry Hill is open space, 34% is residential, 1% is government or institutional, and less than 1% is commercial.

## Community Resources

include 3 public parks and playgrounds, Fresh Pond and the golf course, 1 Youth Center, and 2 schools.



## Getting Around

Strawberry Hill is served by **1 Bluebike station** and **3 MBTA bus routes**.

## What's going on?

The **Watertown Cambridge Greenway** was completed in 2022 and the **Glacken Field & Playground renovation** was completed in 2021.

## Shopping areas

Strawberry Hill does not have any officially-designated commercial districts, but there is a small commercial area along **Mt. Auburn Street**.

## Density

With a density of **11 people per acre** compared to the City average of 29, Strawberry Hill is one of the least dense areas of Cambridge.

## Tree Coverage

The Strawberry Hill neighborhood benefits from abundant natural areas at Fresh Pond and has the **second-highest rate of tree coverage** of all Cambridge neighborhoods.

## Looking for more?

Visit the City's neighborhood planning website: [www.camb.ma/npi](http://www.camb.ma/npi)

Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!

LEV MCCARTHY, Neighborhood Planner  
[lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lmccarthy@cambridgema.gov) 617-349-9164

## Neighborhood planning

The last neighborhood plan update for Strawberry Hill was in **2007**.