



Neighborhood
Planning
Initiative

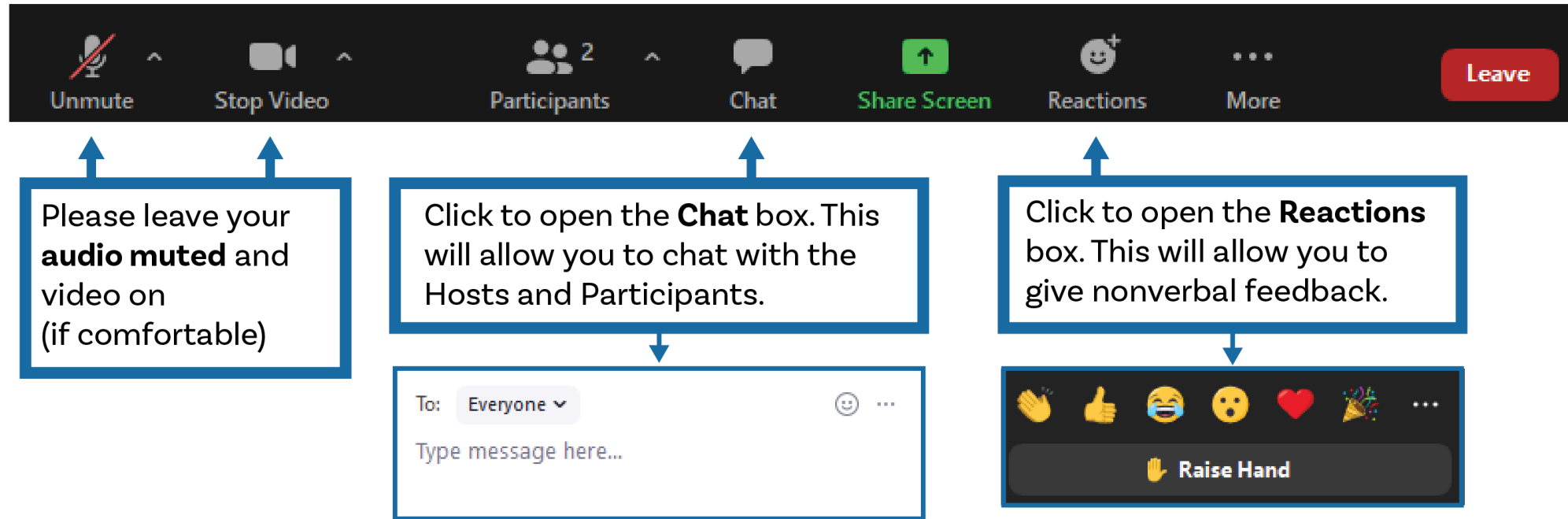
Second Community Meeting

Neighborhood Nine

September 19, 2023



Getting to Know Zoom



The image shows a Zoom toolbar with several icons: Unmute (muted), Stop Video (video off), Participants (2), Chat, Share Screen, Reactions, More, and Leave. Below the toolbar are three callout boxes with arrows pointing to specific icons. The first callout points to Unmute and Stop Video. The second callout points to Chat and has a sub-image of the chat window. The third callout points to Reactions and has a sub-image of the reactions panel.

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 Gary Chan via chat or email gchan@cambridgema.gov



If you're having connectivity issues, call in at 929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 870 8055 6169



We're recording!

Meeting Purpose, Outcome, & Process



PURPOSE (Why)

- Share emerging priorities from engagement so far
- Hear your reactions and ideas!

OUTCOMES (What)

- City staff takes away: refined goals and direction for actions
- Community members take away: Increased awareness of City initiatives and policies, and ideas for actions

PROCESS (How)

- A presentation and 2-part breakout group discussion

Connect with your
neighborhood
planner at City Hall!

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

Outreach & Engagement



We acknowledge that the entire community isn't present tonight

- Project mailings, signage, focus groups, and online engagement will help us reach members of the community who aren't here tonight
- Let us know your suggestions for how to reach a wider audience!

There will be more opportunities to engage!

- Over the coming months, we welcome your feedback, whether online or in-person
- We'll post a recording of tonight's meeting online, including the presentation slides

Connect with your
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Tonight's Agenda



1. Welcome Back + Intro to Neighborhood Planning 10 min
2. What We've Heard So Far 10 min
3. Breakout Discussions 50 min
 - Community and Land Use
 - Mobility (how we travel through the neighborhood)
 - Parks and Public Space
4. Report Back and Next Steps 15 min



Reminder!

Intro to Neighborhood Planning

What is the Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI)?



Cambridge's Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI) gives everyone in Cambridge access to local planning! City staff work with community members to improve the places that are central to daily life.

NPI includes four parts:

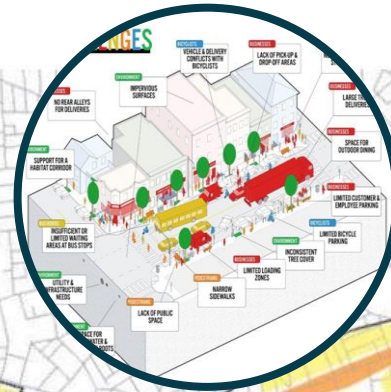
Focus for Tonight!



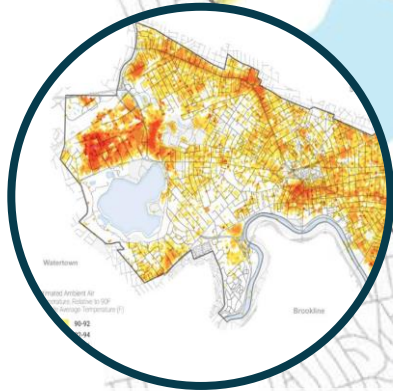
How Neighborhood Planning fits in with other City projects



Alewife District Plan



Our Cambridge Street



Resilient Cambridge



Urban Forestry Master Plan

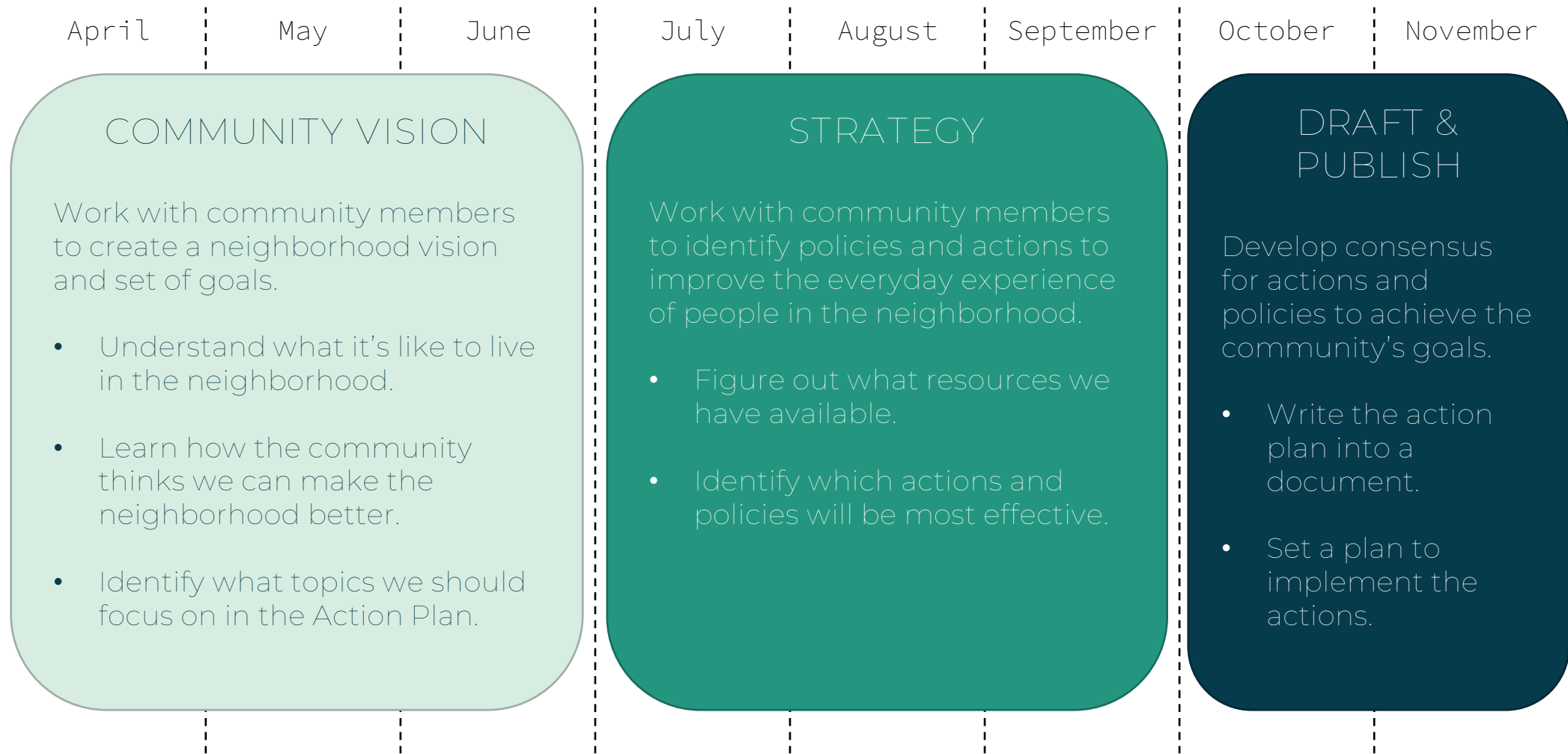


Vision Zero Action Plan

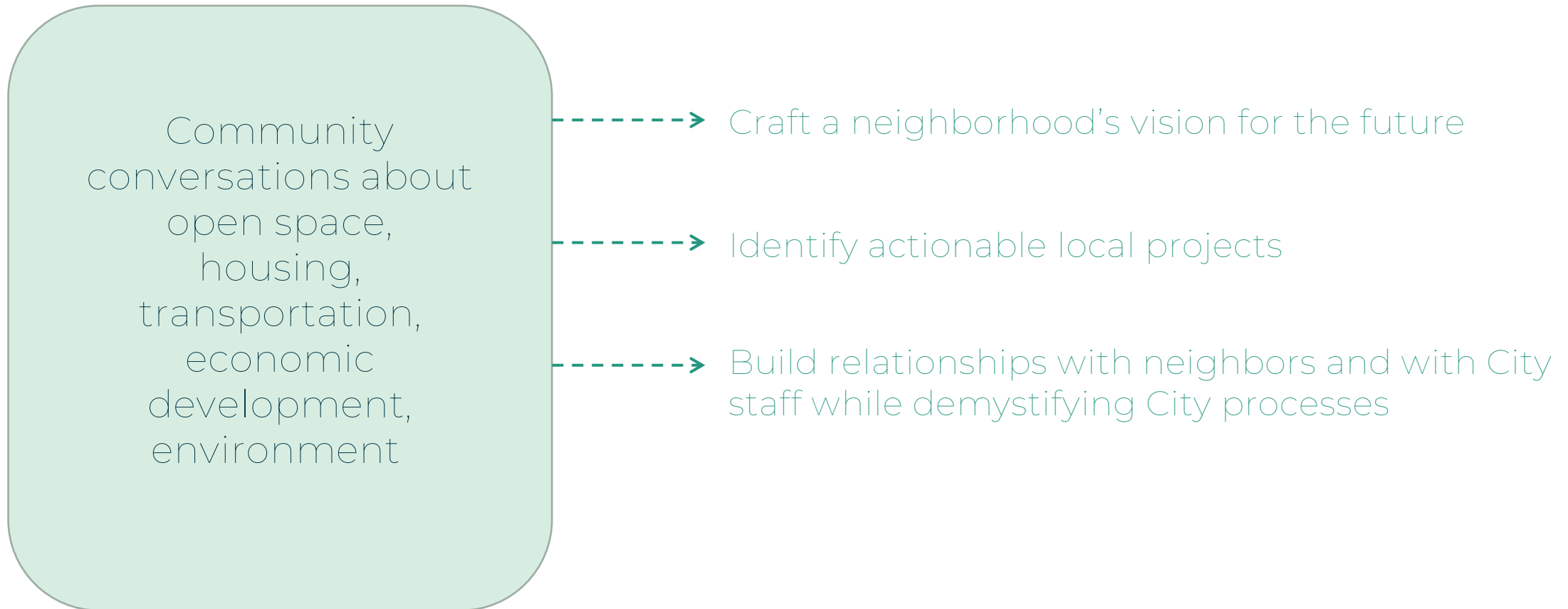
NPI Overall Scheduling



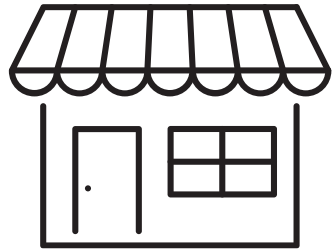
Action Plan Schedule



What Do Action Plans Do?



Example Actions from Past Neighborhood Studies



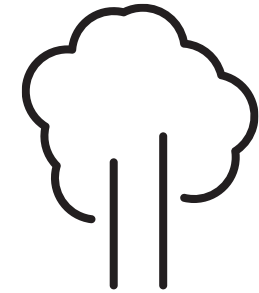
Connect small businesses to financial supports



Make streets safer to cross with signal improvements

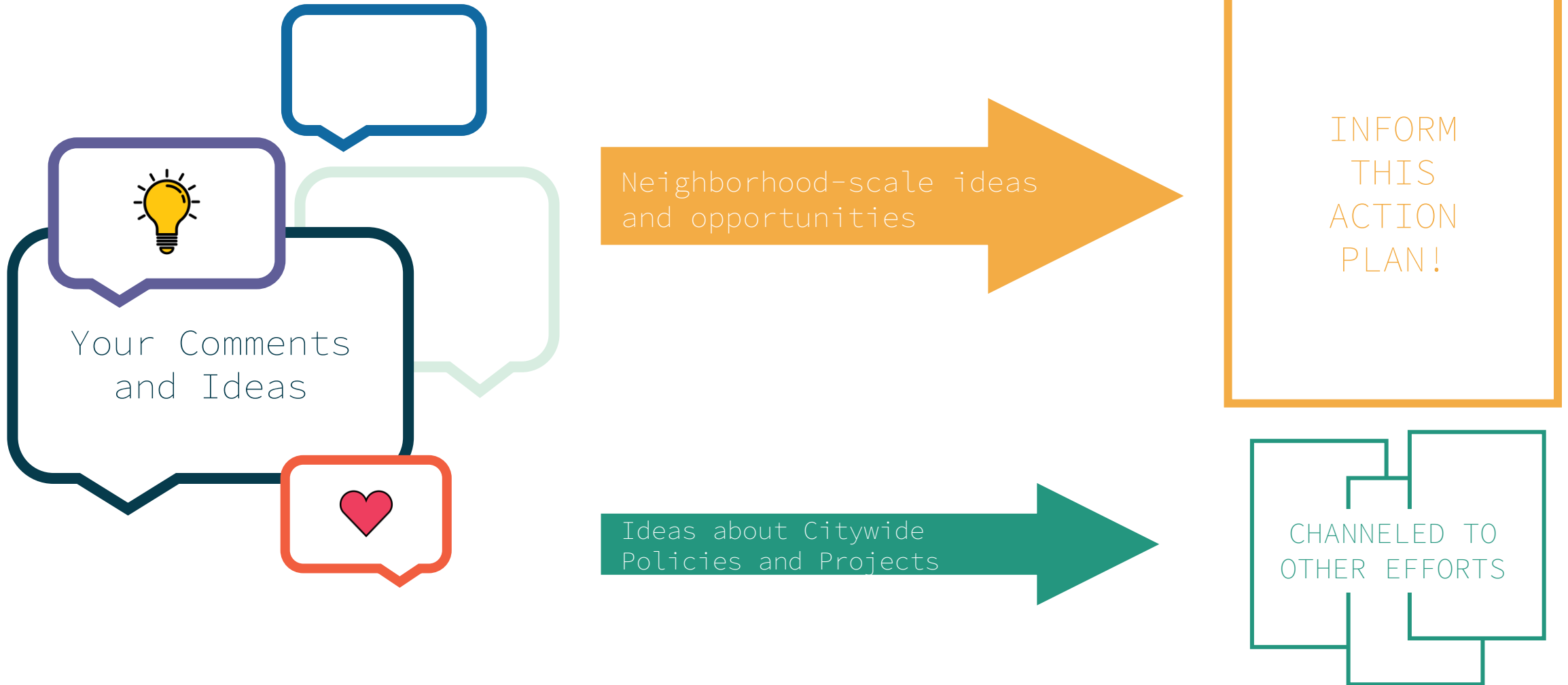


Encourage more family-sized housing through the permitting process



Improve parks and make better access to parks

What's the Focus of the Neighborhood Planning Initiative?





Neighborhood Nine

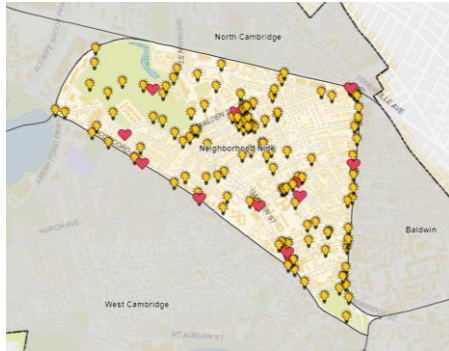
What We've Heard So Far



Neighborhood Nine

- 1** Graham & Parks School
- 2** Cambridge Public Library - Boudreau Branch
- 3** Cambridge Montessori School
- 4** Cambridge Friends School
- 5** Cambridge Montessori - Elementary School
- B** Bluebike Station
- Commercial District**
- MBTA Bus (1,64,68,69,83,86,91)**
- T** MBTA Red Line (Harvard, Central)

Your Input So Far



278 Idea Map
Comments &
Responses

Pop-ups & Focus
Group Input

1st
Public
Meeting
June 15,
2023

336 Online Survey
Responses

2nd
Public
Meeting
Sept. 19,
2023



↑
We're Here Now!

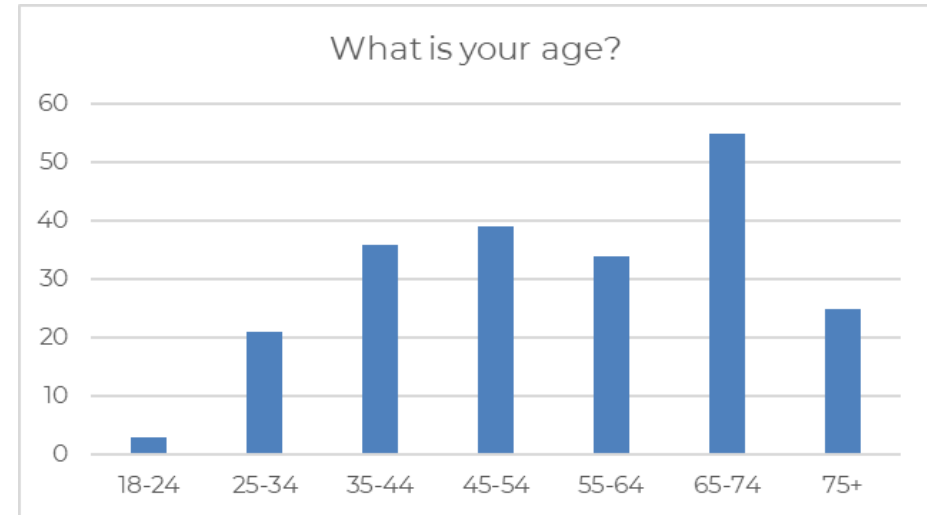
Who We're Hearing From – Survey Highlights



Different Methods Reach Different Audiences

76% of respondents indicated this survey is their first time engaging with this project

A Mix of Ages



Many residents

90% of respondents indicated they live in Neighborhood Nine

Highly-educated

95% of respondents who indicated education have a Bachelor's or Graduate degree.

Maintain and/or improve existing community spaces and parks

Make the neighborhood more beautiful and climate resilient by supporting existing trees and planting more.

Support a thriving local business environment.

Expand affordable housing opportunities.

Make it safer and more comfortable for people to bike in the neighborhood.

Make it more comfortable and convenient for people to walk in the neighborhood.

Slow and reduce traffic through the neighborhood and at key intersections.

Improve waste management and rodent control in parks and around homes.

Build more community through neighborhood activities such as block parties and neighborhood events.

3 Categories



Parks and Public Space

Maintain and/or improve existing community spaces and parks

Make the neighborhood more beautiful and climate resilient by supporting existing trees and planting more.

Improve waste management and rodent control in parks and around homes.

Community and Land Use

Support a thriving local business environment.

Expand affordable housing opportunities.

Build more community through neighborhood activities such as block parties and neighborhood events.

Mobility (How we move through the neighborhood)

Make it more comfortable and convenient for people to bike in the neighborhood.

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Slow and reduce traffic through the neighborhood and at key intersections.



BREAKOUT GROUPS: Let's Discuss!

- Community & Land Use
- Mobility
- Parks & Public Space

50 minutes

You will spend time with TWO topics of your interest

Respond to the Poll – Choose 2 Topics!



Parks and Public Space

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Community and Land Use

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Mobility (How we move through the neighborhood)

Make it more comfortable and convenient for people to bike in the neighborhood.

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Slow and reduce traffic through the neighborhood and at key intersections.

Today's Discussion



Let's dig in deeper on each of these goals!

- What do actions to support these goals look like in Neighborhood Nine?
- What City programs could be expanded in this neighborhood?
- What models can the City look to from other areas?

15 min

Group Discussion Guidelines



- Be respectful, be kind
- Embrace diverse points of view
- Avoid debates and interruptions, one person speaks at a time
- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Take away stories, not names
- All stereotyping and hateful comments are not tolerated

Community & Land Use



1. Support a thriving local business environment
2. Expand affordable housing opportunities
3. Build more community through neighborhood activities such as block parties and neighborhood events

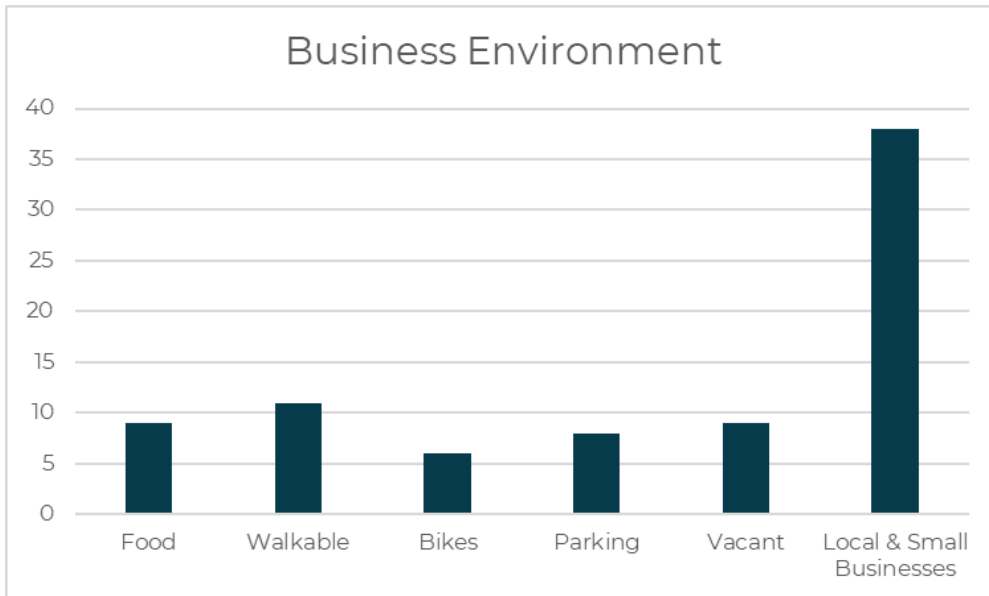
15 min

1. Support a Thriving Local Business Environment



What we've heard so far...

- 45% of survey comments about Business Environment mention Local & Small Businesses
- People would like to see support for existing neighborhood businesses



[Sad about] José's restaurant closing

Sherman St
Playground Pop Up

I love being able to walk around to different cafes, shops, and restaurants.

Goals Survey

City could help fill up empty storefronts on Mass Ave with small business support or art

June Public Meeting

Small businesses should get support on Concord

June Public Meeting

1. Support a Thriving Local Business Environment



Here are some things the City is doing, and some ideas from nearby. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else should be done?



★ Boosting Business Blocks Grant



★ Direct Business Grants



Master Lease Model for Affordable Rents
Japantown Task Force, SF



2. Expand affordable housing opportunities

What we've heard so far...

- 50% of survey comments about Affordable Housing focus on the high cost of living
- There is desire for more affordable housing in the neighborhood

Housing costs are so extreme that life-long residents are being forced to leave.

Goals Survey

Families are being priced out of Cambridge.

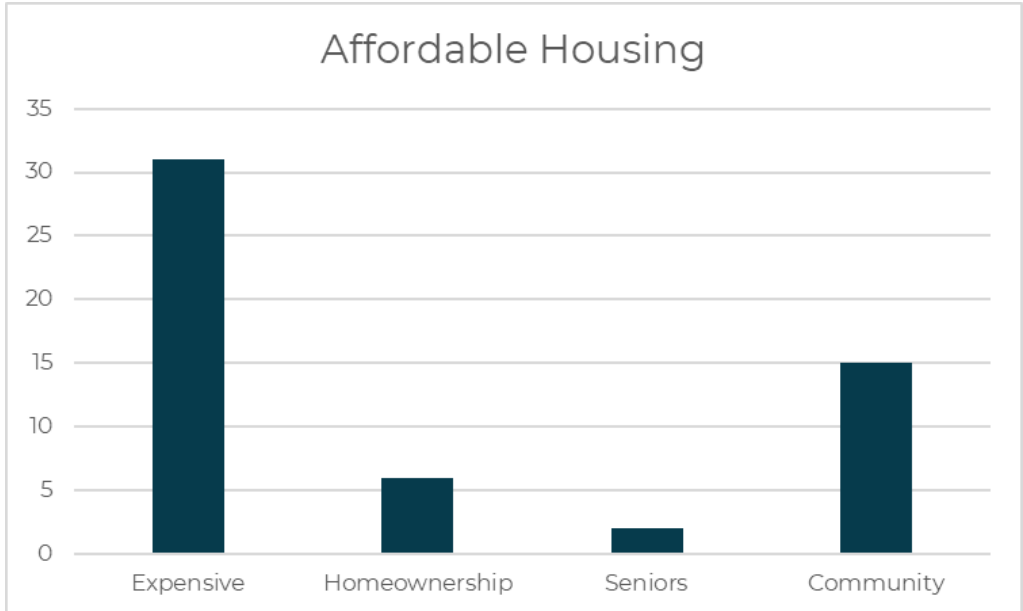
Goals Survey

Affordable housing for older adults

June Public Meeting

Dry cleaner site - vacant, might use federal grant funds to clean up site and construct affordable housing

June Public Meeting



2. Expand affordable housing opportunities

Here are some things the City is doing. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else should be done?

Housing
[CDD](#) > [Housing](#) > [For Homebuyers](#) > Homebuyer Education

Housing Development and Preservation

For Applicants

For Homebuyers

Homebuyer Education

Credit 101 Workshop

Downpayment Assistance

HomeBridge

Affordable Mortgage Products

Limited Equity Cooperatives

Homebuyer FAQ

For Homeowners

For Renters

Inclusionary Housing

For Developers and Property Managers

For Owners of Multi-Family Properties

Affordable Housing Trust

Resources and Additional

Homebuyer Education

First-Time Homebuyer Class

Are you tired of renting? Is your goal this year to own a home but the process seems overwhelming? The City of Cambridge can help.

The Housing Division offers a free four-week workshop which provides participants with an overview of the homebuying process from professionals that are involved in the process. Classes include a combination of presentations by City homebuyer counselors and local real estate professionals.

Topics Include:

- Budgeting and Credit
- The Housing Search Process
- Obtaining a Mortgage
- Legal Issues
- Home Inspections
- Insurance
- Successful Homeownership
- Financial Assistance Programs

Classes are open to everyone, including non-Cambridge residents. You do not need to be eligible for other City housing programs to attend the class. Space is limited and preregistration is required. The City of Cambridge offers the First-time Homebuyer Workshop several times each year.

Registration for First-time Homebuyer Class

★ Homebuyer Classes & Affordable Housing Education

100% Affordable Housing Zoning Overlay
 Why It's Needed & What It Will Do

Housing in Cambridge is getting less affordable.

A family must earn over \$125,000 per year to afford to rent a 2-bedroom home at market rate.

Affordable Housing helps:
 Teachers • Healthcare workers
 Senior citizens • Social workers
 Small business owners
 Non-profit staff
 Maintenance workers

How Affordable Housing Is Built

Affordable Housing Partners (Just-A-Start, Homeowner's Rehab Inc, Cambridge Housing Authority) + City Funding & Funding from Other Sources + Available Land & Buildings = Affordable Housing for the Cambridge Community

Current Challenges

- Cuts in federal funds for affordable housing
- Rising prices of land & buildings
- Competition between affordable housing developers & market-rate developers (who can afford to pay more)
- Multi-family housing cannot be built in all areas of the city, limiting the supply of affordable units
- Many residents are forced to leave Cambridge as rents continue to rise

★ 100% Affordable Housing Zoning Overlay



★ Attend 100% AHO Project Public Meetings

3. Build more community through neighborhood activities such as block parties and neighborhood events



What we've heard so far...

- 54% of survey comments about Community Events ask for more ways to get to know neighbors
- Neighbors would like to see more community events, such as events that close the streets to vehicles
- Neighbors would like to see more indoor community spaces

I think having more of the street gatherings where the block is closed off so that people can just meet and eat and get to know one another.

There is one in Neighborhood Nine called the Buena Vista Social Club. That happens every autumn. A few more would be nice too.

Neighborhood Focus Group

I don't know my neighbors!

Goals Survey

Grow/increase the number of indoor community spaces

June Public Meeting

Close the street for community events (similar to East Cambridge business association events)

June Public Meeting

3. Build more community through neighborhood activities such as block parties and neighborhood events



Here are some things the City is doing, and some ideas from nearby. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else should be done?



★ Play Streets

City of Cambridge
DANEHY PARK FAMILY DAY 2023
Saturday, September 23, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Rain Date: Sunday, September 24

Free Event for All Ages!

- Activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Amusement Rides
- Food & Giveaways (while supplies last)

CHILDREN'S STAGE:	ROVING PERFORMERS:
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ▶ Trend N Motion Hip Hop Dancers	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ▶ Colorful Stiltwalker
12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ▶ Peter Panic Juggler	12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ▶ Chinese Lions
1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ▶ Magician Darren Yong	12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. ▶ Trend N Motion Hip Hop Dancers
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ▶ Vibe Check	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. ▶ Balloon Artist
	12:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. ▶ Grooverstury Drum Band
	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ▶ Spirit of Africa Trio

★ Festivals in Neighborhood Parks



Indoor Play at The Well
Milton, PA

Recap



For each topic:
What new or existing action is this group most interested in? Why?

Try to come to a consensus on one action for each topic!

Select one person from the group to share.

5 min

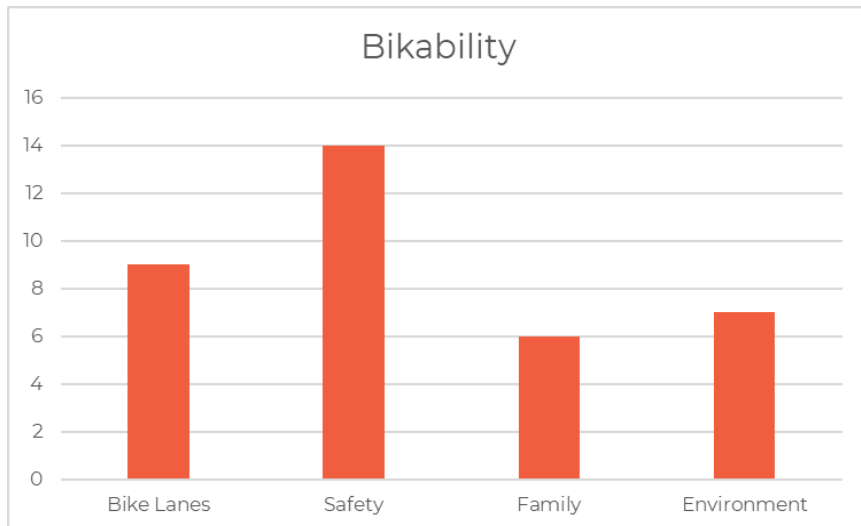
1. Make it safer and more comfortable for people to bike in the neighborhood
2. Make it more comfortable and convenient for people to walk in the neighborhood
3. Slow and reduce traffic through the neighborhood and at key intersections



1. Make it more comfortable and convenient for people to bike in the neighborhood

What we've heard so far...

- 45% of survey comments about Bikability are about cyclists' safety
- There is appreciation for existing bike connections and protected bike lanes but a call for more safe biking areas



Cambridge has improved biking infrastructure in many ways (which is greatly appreciated), but there are still many gaps on streets with no protected bike lanes.

Goals Survey

I love the protected bike lanes. Much easier to drive, better air quality. Plus, safety!

Sherman St Playground Pop Up

Bicycle safety is important! But the unintended consequences should be addressed

June Public Meeting

[Happy about future] bike connection from Danhey Park to Porter Sq

Kemp Playground Pop Up

1. Make it more comfortable and convenient for people to bike in the neighborhood

Here are some things the City is doing, and some ideas from nearby. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else could be done?



★ On-Bike Skills Clinic and Group Ride Series



★ Blue Bike Access & Discount Programs



★ Curb Extension/Traffic Calming Program



2. Make it safer and more comfortable for people to walk in the neighborhood

What we've heard so far...

- Community members share concerns about pedestrian safety due to busy traffic and bike lanes
- Neighbors would like to see improvements in sidewalk conditions



Many of us around here don't have cars. Let's make our towns more walkable.

Goals Survey

The brick sidewalks in some places are so broken up it is really dangerous to walk on

Goals Survey

It's scary to be a senior walker

Goals Survey

Tree roots impacting the brick sidewalks

June Public Meeting

Close Garden St during drop-offs

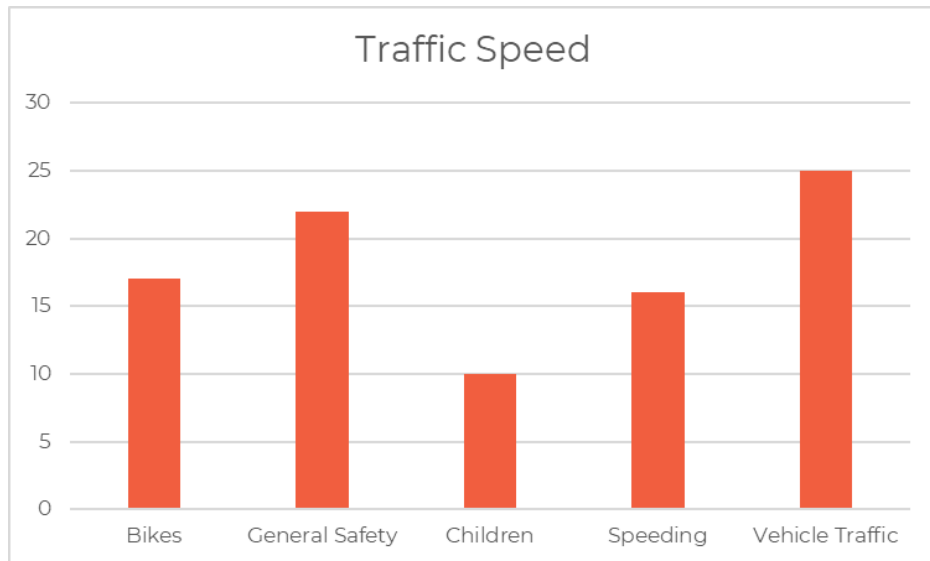
June Public Meeting



3. Slow and reduce traffic through the neighborhood and at key intersections

What we've heard so far...

- 40% of survey comments about Traffic Calming concern general safety and 45% concern vehicle traffic
- There is a desire for traffic calming at important intersections in the neighborhood



People are driving too fast around the neighborhood

Goals Survey

Expanded bus service, including an east-west connection between Huron Village and Porter Square could help reduce some car trips

Goals Survey

Less motor vehicle traffic

June Public Meeting

Corner of Shepard and Walker - traffic calming needed

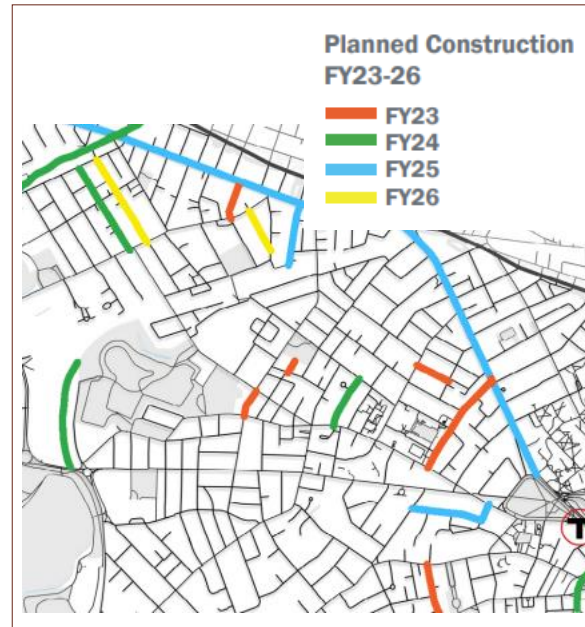
June Public Meeting

2. Make it safer and more comfortable for people who walk in the neighborhood
3. Slow and reduce traffic through the neighborhood and at key intersections

Here are some things the City is doing, and some ideas from nearby. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else should be done?



★ Cambridge 2023 Street Code



★ Five Year Plan for Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction



★ **Curb Extension/Traffic Calming Program**

★ Indicates City of Cambridge Example

Recap



For each topic:
What new or existing action is this group most interested in? Why?

Try to come to a consensus on one action for each topic!

Select one person from the group to share.

5 min

Parks and Public Spaces



1. Maintain and/or improve existing community spaces and parks
2. Make the neighborhood more beautiful and climate resilient by supporting existing trees and planting more
3. Improve waste management and rodent control in parks and around homes

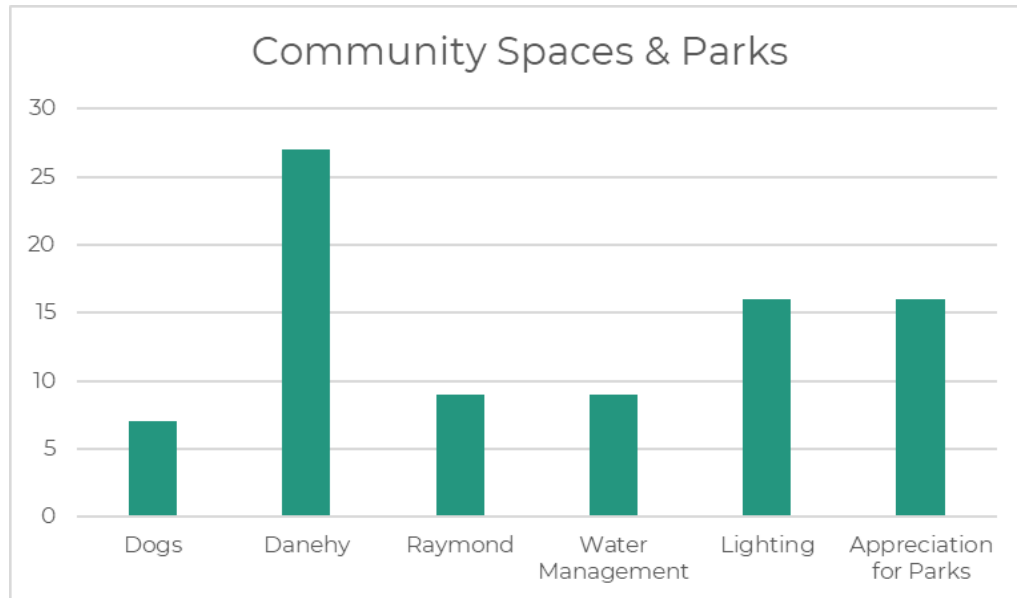
15 min

1. Maintain and/or improve existing community spaces and parks



What we've heard so far...

- Neighbors enjoy existing green spaces and activities in parks
- There is desire for improved park maintenance & infrastructure



Raymond Park - This once lovely, green park needs some attention...

Neighborhood Action Plan Idea Map

We love Danehy, would like better lighting so it feels safer at night

Goals Survey

Love Raymond Park for dogs. Made lots of friends here.

June Public Meeting

Green spaces are one of the appealing parts of the neighborhood, including the spaces maintained by Harvard

June Public Meeting

1. Maintain and/or improve existing community spaces and parks

Here are some things the City is doing, and some ideas from nearby. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else should be done?



★ Capital Planning for Danehy Park



★ Raymond Park Improvements Pollinator/Meadow Plantings



2. Make the neighborhood more beautiful and climate resilient by supporting existing trees and planting more



What we've heard so far...

- 34% of survey comments about Trees & Plants mention Climate Change
- Community members would like to see more trees & improved condition of existing trees



More trees are not only good for the environment, but make for cooler streets and homes and a more beautiful experience overall.

Goals Survey

Plant + care for a LOT more trees!

Raymond Park
Pop Up

Edible fruit trees

June Public
Meeting

Danehy Park - Please replace all the trees that were lost last summer and make sure there is a new irrigation system in place.

Neighborhood Action
Plan Idea Map

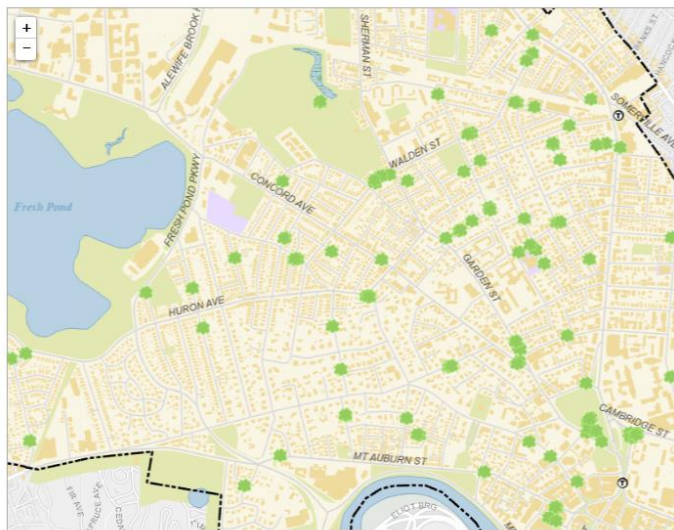
2. Make the neighborhood more beautiful and climate resilient by supporting existing trees and planting more



Here are some things the City is doing, and some ideas from nearby. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else should be done?

Scheduled 2023 Planting Locations

Locations and species are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.



★ **Urban Forestry Plan & Tree Planting Programs**



★ **Cambridge Urban Forest Friend**



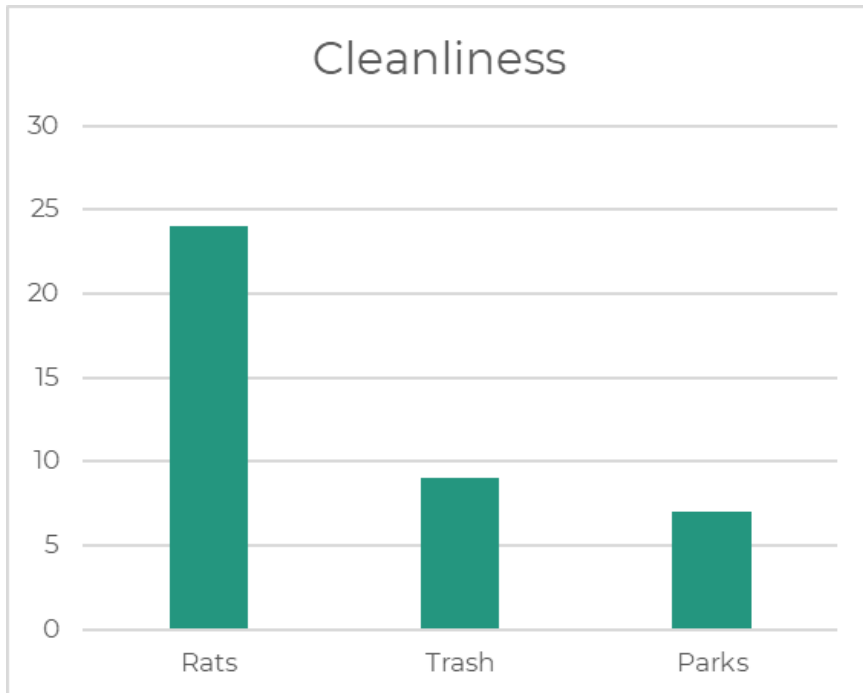
Adopt-a-Plot/Plant Bed Program

3. Improve waste management and rodent control in parks and around homes



What we've heard so far...

- 71% of survey comments about cleanliness mention rats.



I see rats everywhere when I'm out at night.

Goals Survey

I would like clean streets

Goals Survey

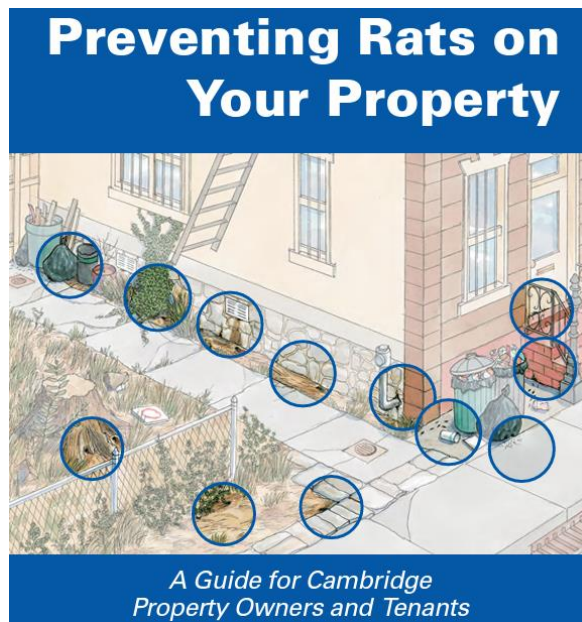
Help manage/clean the park a bit more around the sports fields

June Public Meeting

2. Improve waste management and rodent control in parks and around homes



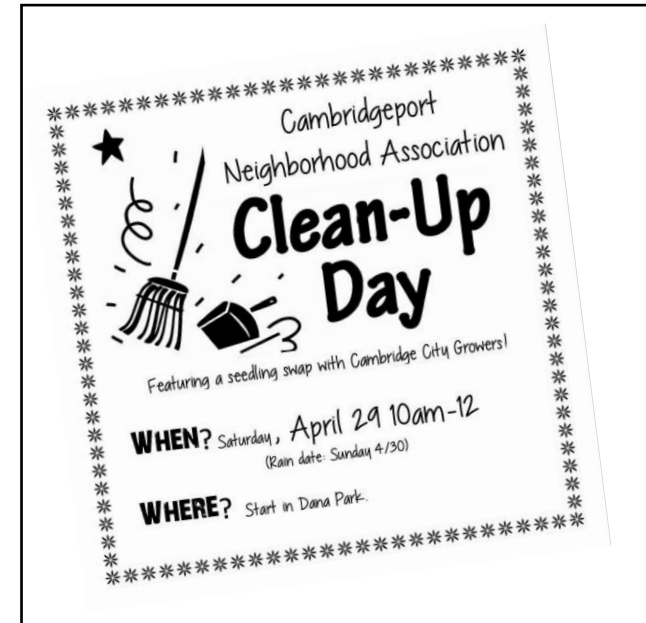
Here are some things the City is doing, and some ideas from nearby. What would you like to see in Neighborhood Nine? What else should be done?



★ **Community Education and SeeClickFix for Reporting**



★ **Waste Receptacles**



Community Clean-up Days

Recap



For each topic:
What new or existing action is this group most interested in? Why?

Try to come to a consensus on one action for each topic!

Select one person from the group to share.

5 min



REPORT BACK

One highlight for each topic

10 minutes

Recap



For each topic:

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5 min



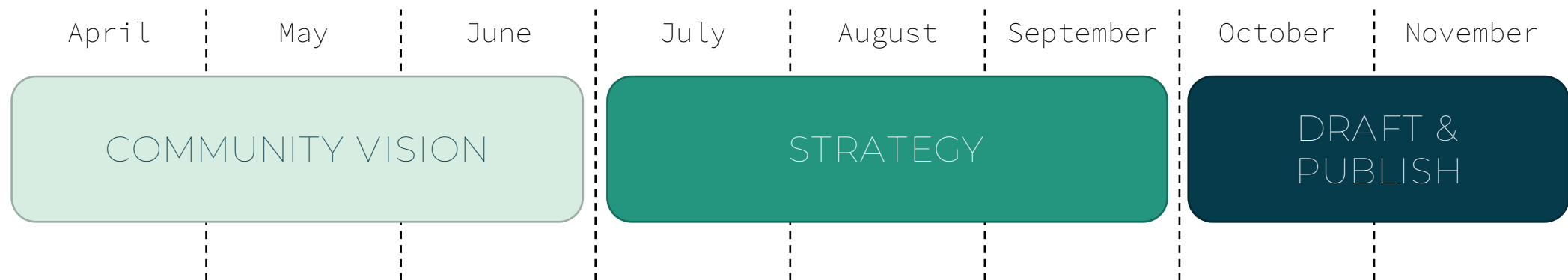
NEXT STEPS

2 minutes

What's Next?



- We will share your input with other relevant City processes, where applicable
- Refine Action Items
- Draft Neighborhood Action Plan for Neighborhood Nine
- Public review period for comments on draft plan



Contact Us



Connect with your neighborhood planner at City Hall!

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





Neighborhood
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Thank You!

June 21, 2023

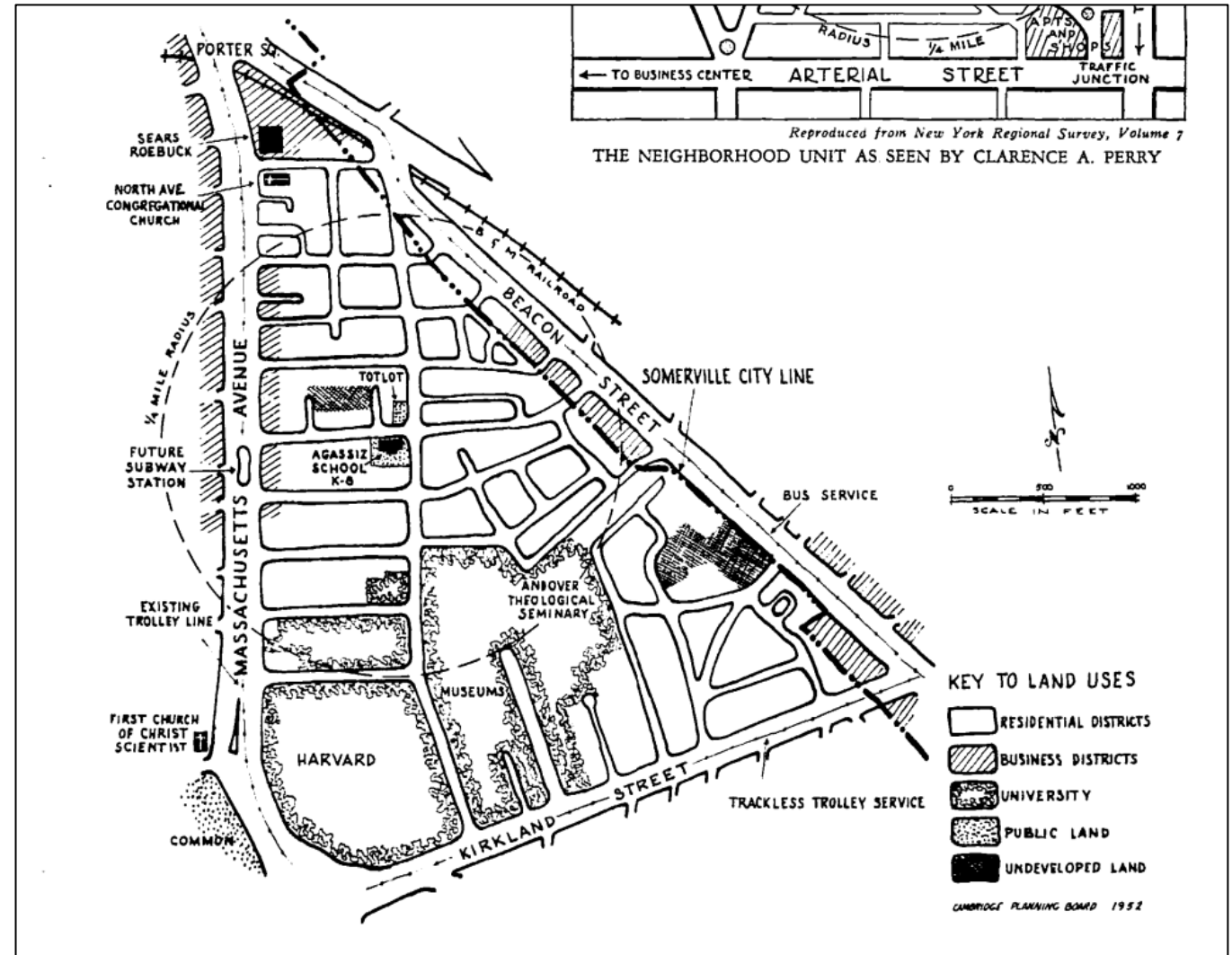


APPENDIX

Neighborhood Planning in Cambridge



- Cambridge's 13 "official" neighborhoods date back to a 1953 Planning Board report
- These neighborhood boundaries likely don't align with lived experience, and that is okay



A map of the Baldwin neighborhood from the 1953 *Thirteen Neighborhoods, One City Planning Board* report

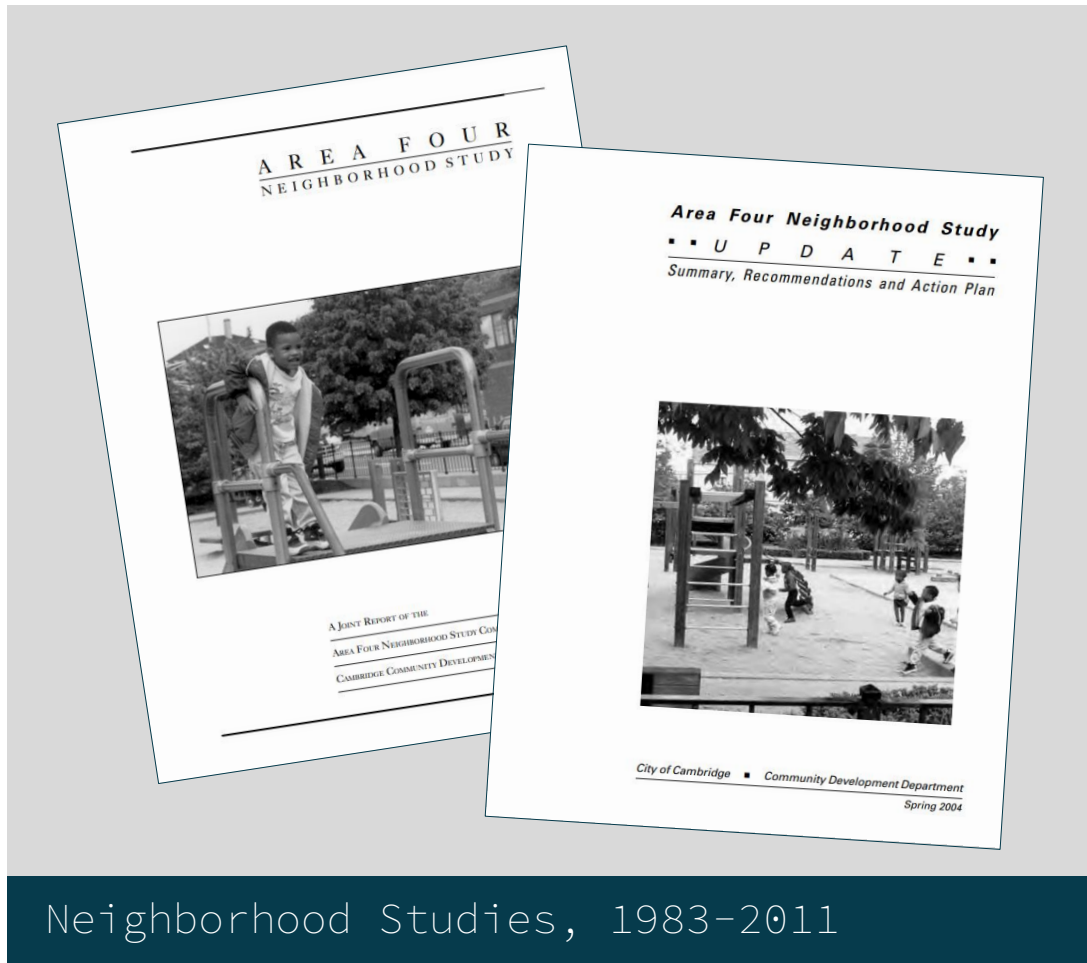
Why Focus on Neighborhoods?



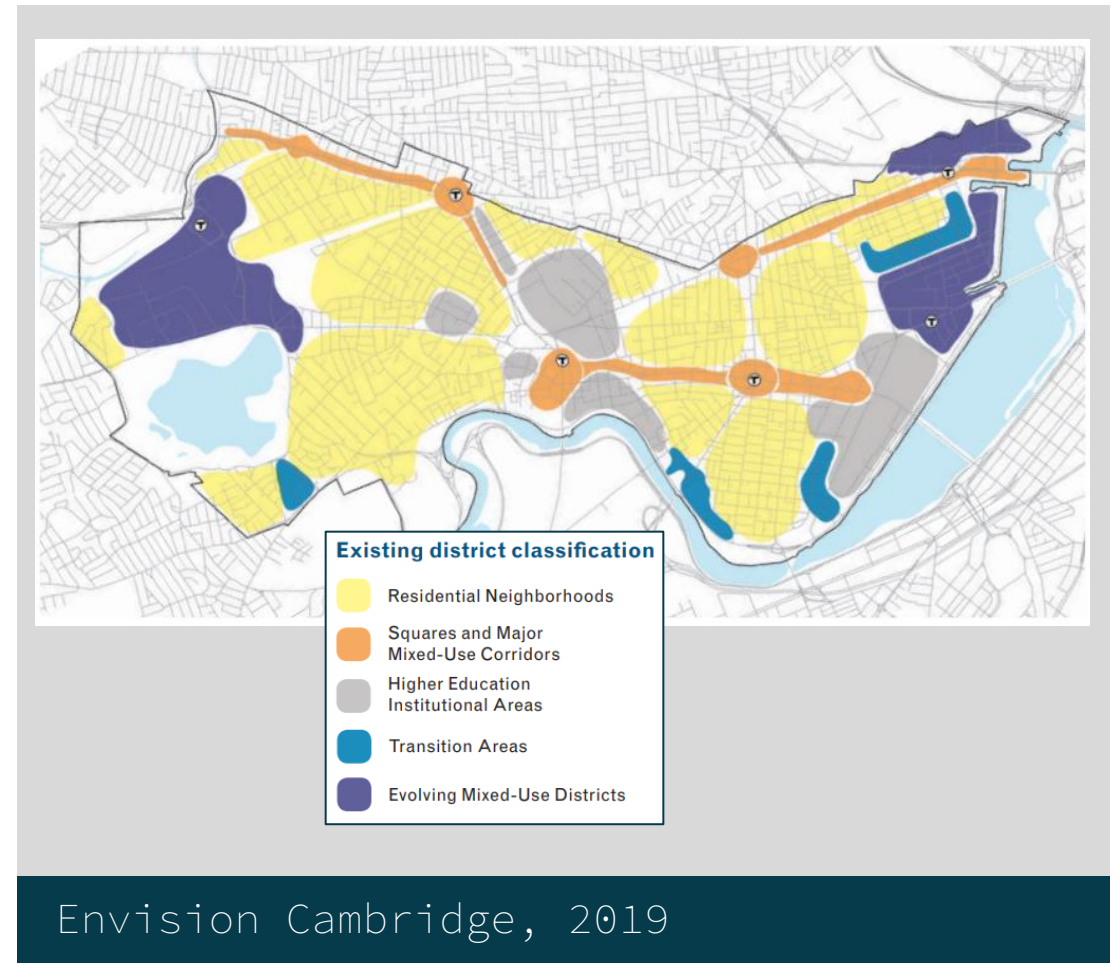
- Venue for discussions that aren't planned for as part of other City initiatives
- Understand how Citywide topics relate to neighborhoods
- Small scale allows for community-led project ideas
- Foster connections
- Focus on day-to-day



Neighborhood Planning Initiative Builds on Past Work



Neighborhood Studies, 1983-2011



Envision Cambridge, 2019

Envision Cambridge Core Values



Livability

- Vibrant built & natural environment
- Sustainable transportation
- Affordable & convenient access to daily needs & recreational resources

Diversity & Equity

- Welcoming community
- Celebrate our diversity
- Ensure access to affordable housing choices & opportunities to succeed

Economic Opportunity

- Access to quality jobs
- Workforce development and training
- Livable wages that support a high level of services

Sustainability

- Reduce our impact on the environment
- Build a resilient city & strong community

Community Health & Wellbeing

- Promote healthy & active lifestyles
- Supportive, safe community
- Diverse opportunities to connect with our neighbors & engage in civic life

Learning

- Embrace lifelong learning
- Celebrate the pursuit of knowledge
- Celebrate our culturally rich & creative community

2023 Action Plan Neighborhoods

