

Cambridge Riverfront: Connecting People to the Charles



Cambridge Community Development Department
February, 2010

Vision

Create an accessible riverfront – a public, vital, gathering place – fulfilling Eliot & Olmsted’s ideal of a place for people.

- Provide **increased opportunities** for active or passive **recreation**
- **Improve connections** between Cambridge neighborhoods and the river
- Identify remaining **(re)development opportunities** and reinforce better relationship to the City and the river.
- **Work cooperatively** with Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and individual property owners and institutions to create a more vibrant riverfront



Elements of the Vision

Enhanced Connections:
identifying and strengthening the streets, sidewalks, pathways that enable people to access the riverfront

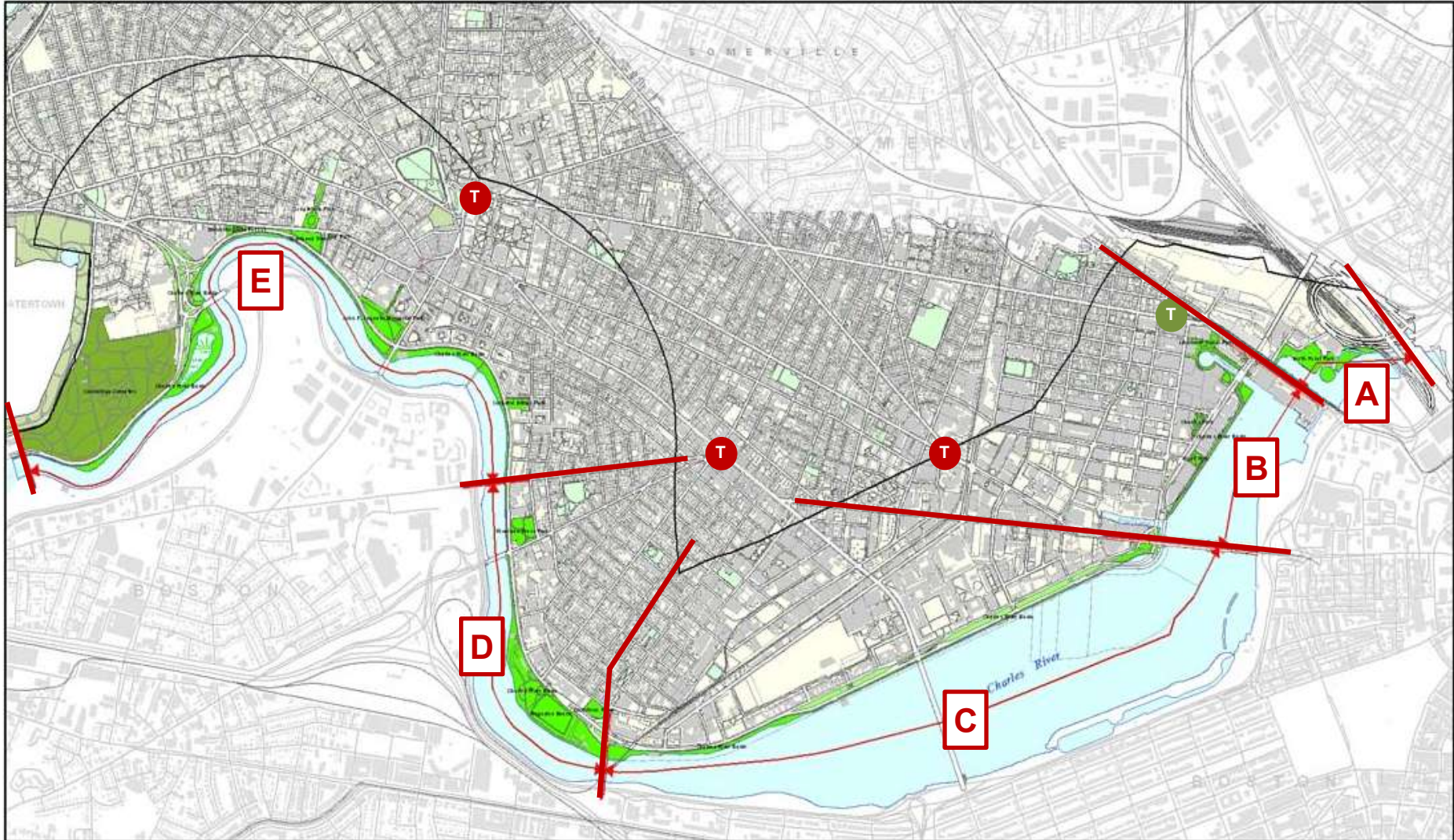


More and better opportunities for active and passive recreation: linear spaces and parks that form nodes of activity

Focus on opportunities for positive change via site and building redevelopment

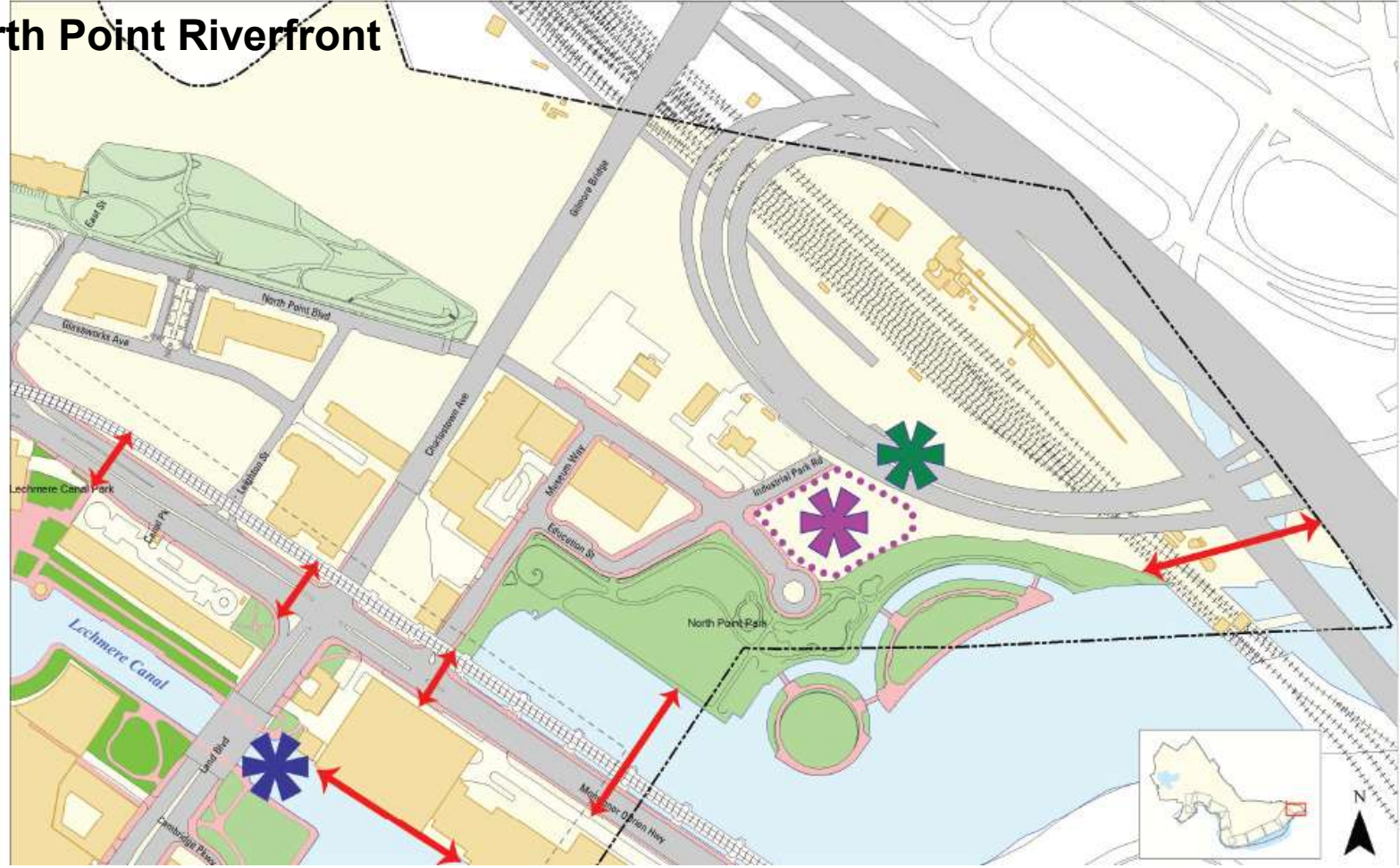
Five Sections of the Cambridge Riverfront

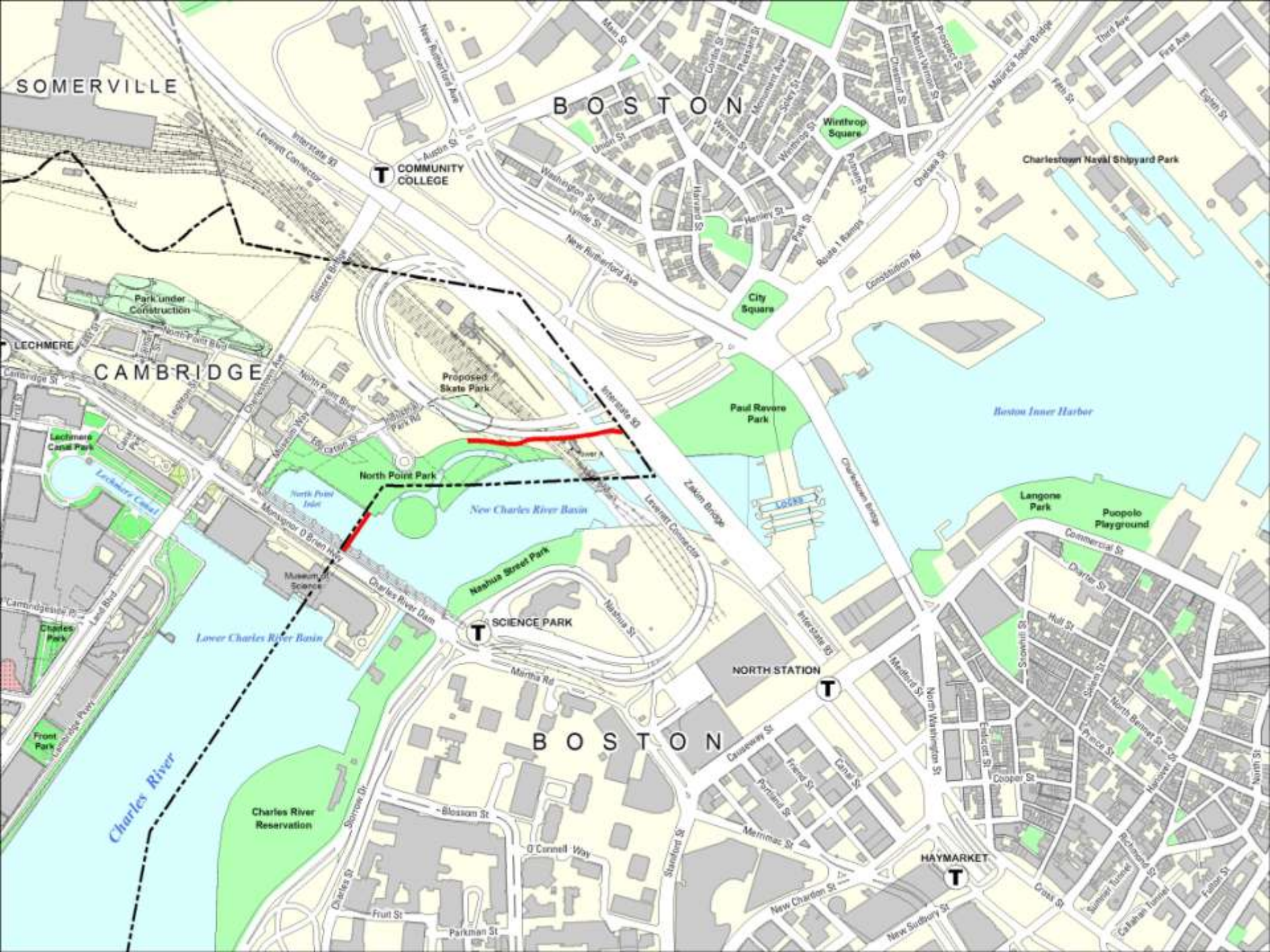
- A.** North Point Riverfront
- B.** Charles River Dam/Msgr. O'Brien Highway to Longfellow Bridge
- C.** Longfellow Bridge to Boston University Bridge
- D.** Boston University Bridge to Western Avenue
- E.** Western Avenue Bridge to Cambridge/Watertown Line





A. North Point Riverfront





SOMERVILLE

BOSTON

CAMBRIDGE

BOSTON

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SCIENCE PARK

NORTH STATION

HAYMARKET

Boston Inner Harbor

Charlestown Naval Shipyard Park

Lower Charles River Basin

New Charles River Basin

Charles River Reservation

Paul Revere Park

Langone Park

Puopolo Playground

North Point Park

Nashua Street Park

Lechmere Canal

Charles Park

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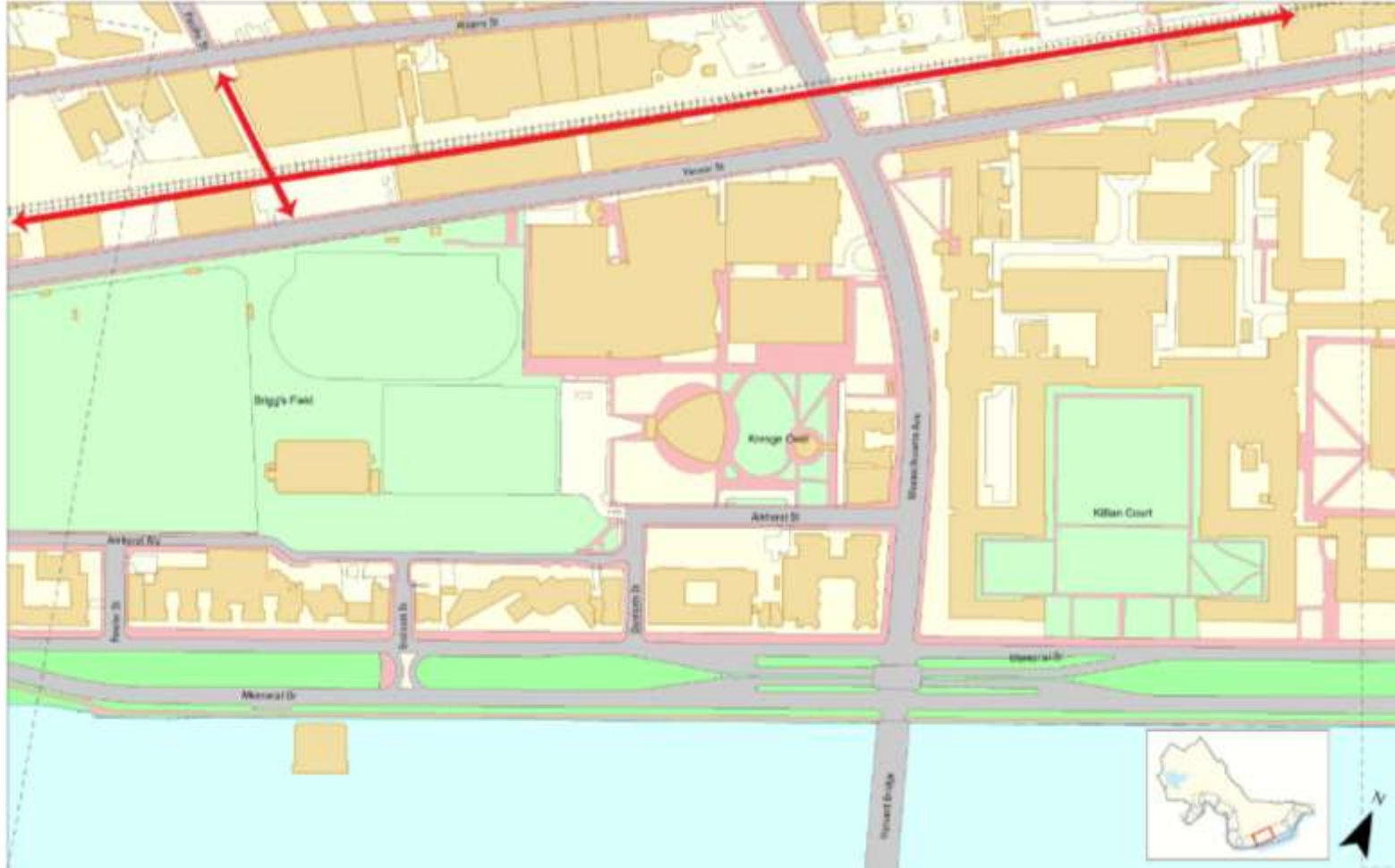


B. Charles River Dam/Msgr. O'Brien Highway to Longfellow Bridge



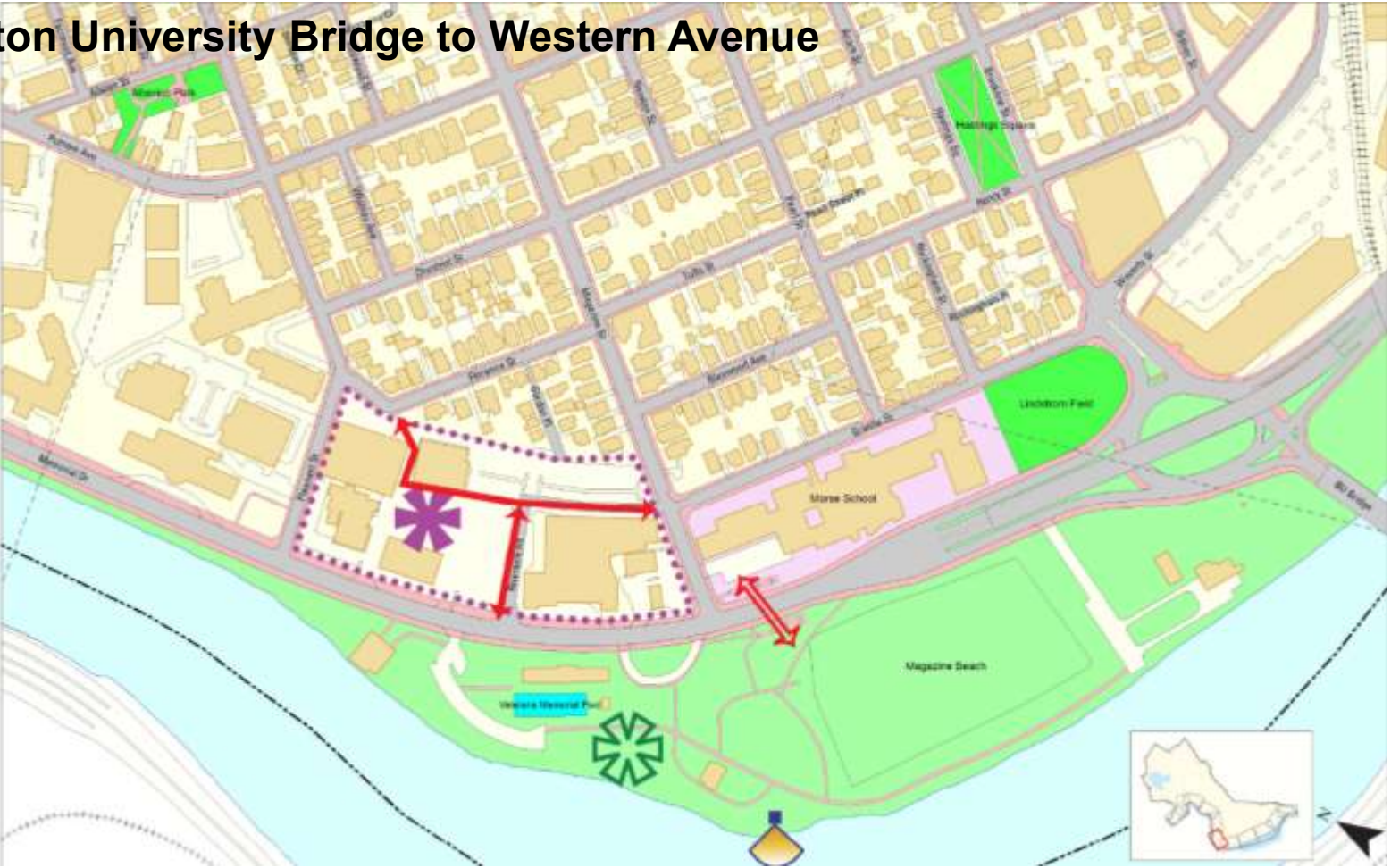
C. Longfellow Bridge to Boston University Bridge





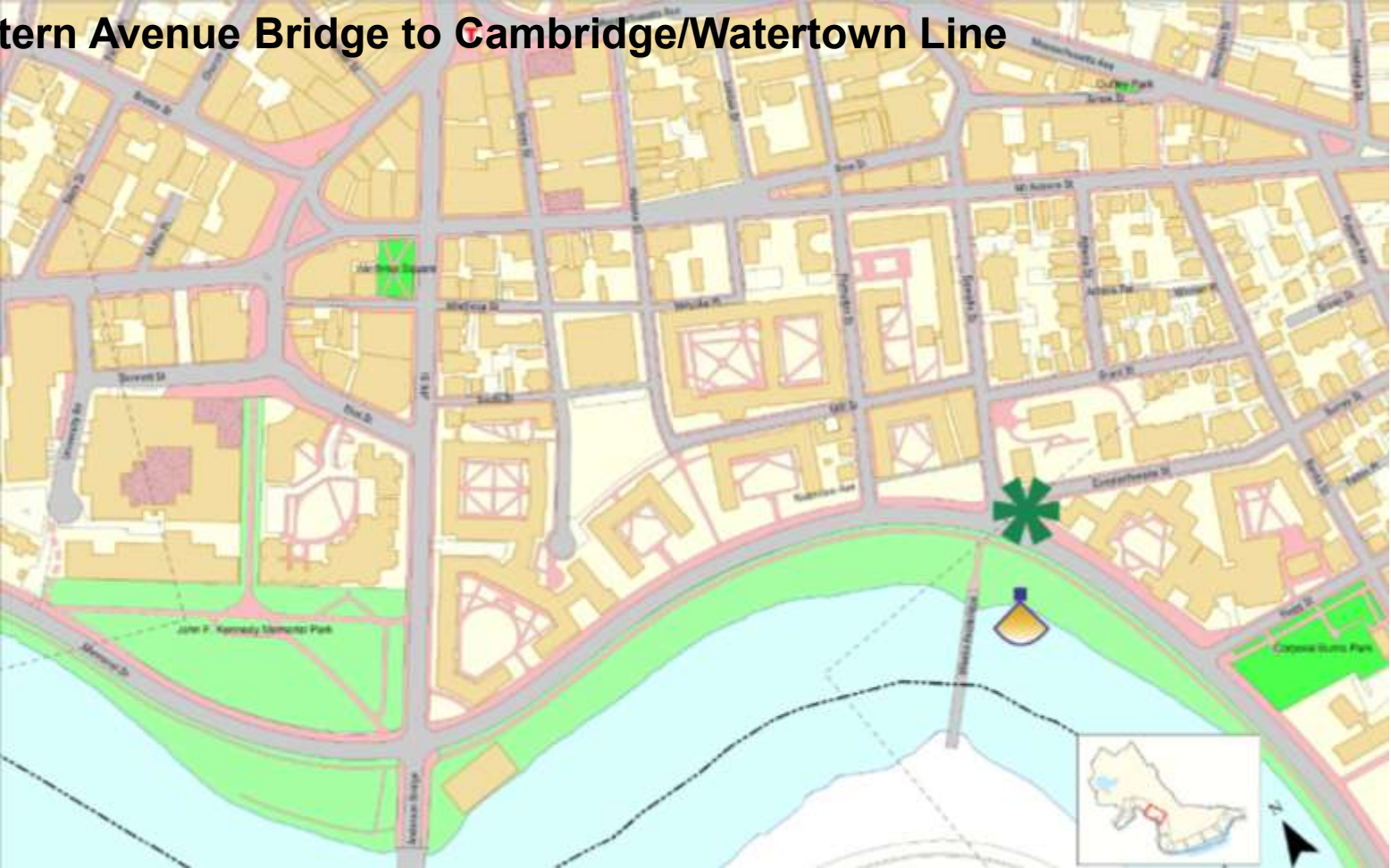


D. Boston University Bridge to Western Avenue





E. Western Avenue Bridge to Cambridge/Watertown Line









RIVERFRONT-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS








- Seek further improvements along the DCR-owned river frontage — benches, kiosks, trees, “look-outs” that would provide opportunities to pause and enjoy views of the riverfront
- Maintain and enhance tree canopy
- Encourage welcoming and active ground-floor uses along the riverfront
- Improve pedestrian flow to the river (street trees, improved sidewalks, and street lighting)
- Improve bicycle flow to and along the river
- Analyze feasibility of additional boat access
- Support regular events and activities that bring people to the river

LOCATION-SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

1. Bridge to Paul Revere Landing in Charlestown
2. Future Skateboard Park
3. Future use of remnant parcel
4. Pedestrian bridge between North Point Park and O'Brien Highway
5. O'Brien Highway pedestrian improvements
6. Reuse of DCR stable and boathouse buildings
7. Museum Point improvements
8. Pedestrian connection along Museum of Science
9. Land Boulevard crossings
10. Foast Park improvements
11. Planned new Rogers Street Park
12. Planned new triangle park at Binney and First St
13. Broad Canal improvements
14. DCR's Phase II plan —benches, kiosks, etc.
15. Grand Junction multi-use path
16. Improve existing and evaluate new crossing of the Grand Junction railroad track
17. Improve pedestrian and bike crossing of Memorial Drive at Magazine Beach
18. Phase II of Magazine Beach improvements – tot lot, pathways, improve lookout/river viewing area
19. Create vision for the Trader Joe's/Microcenter site – Riverside Road
20. Create vision for gas station parcels at Memorial Drive and River Street
21. Open space improvements at Memorial Drive and Dewolfe St
22. Utilize opportunities for scenic lookout using existing outfall areas
23. Improve Memorial Drive crossing
24. Improvements at Sekler Playlot
25. Pedestrian and bike improvements at intersection of Memorial Drive and Greenough Boulevard– crossings, sidewalks
26. Improve connection between Strawberry Hill and West Cambridge neighborhoods and river
27. Potential quiet lookout area near boat club /Jerry's Landing historical site
28. Hell's Half Acre wetland and potential open space
29. Vision for Greenough Boulevard



RIVERFRONT RECOMMENDATIONS LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | Potential New Water Access |  | Potential New Open Space |
|  | Potential Water Access Improvement |  | Potential Open Space Improvement |
|  | Potential for Site (Re)development |  | Needs Further Study |
|  | Potential New Bicycle/Pedestrian Connection |  | Potential Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvement |
|  | Potential Lookout | | |