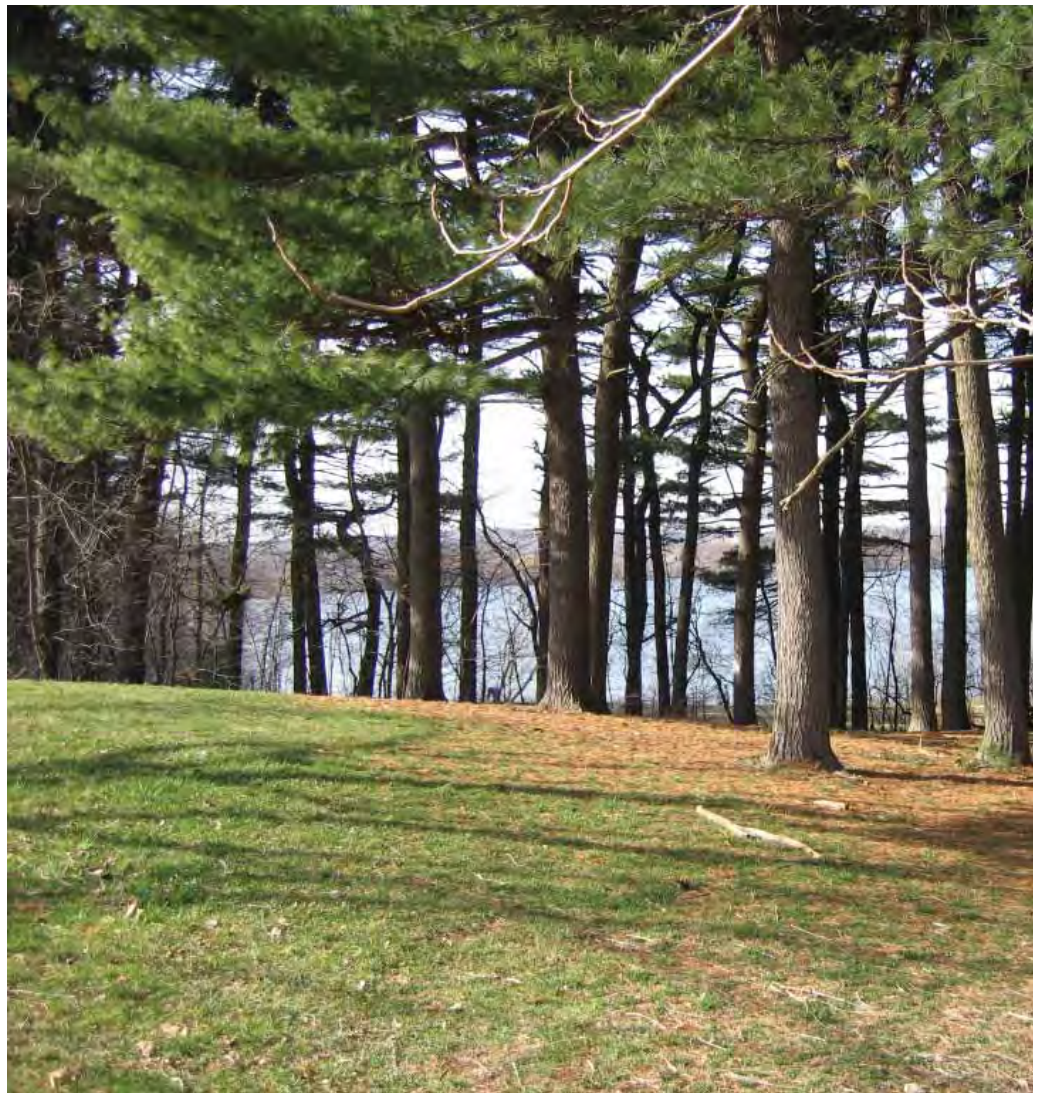


Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study

■ ■ *U P D A T E* ■ ■

Summary, Recommendations and Action Plan



Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study

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Summary, Recommendations and Action Plan ■ 2007



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Starberry Hill Neighborhood Study

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Summary, Recommendations and Action Plan ■ 2007

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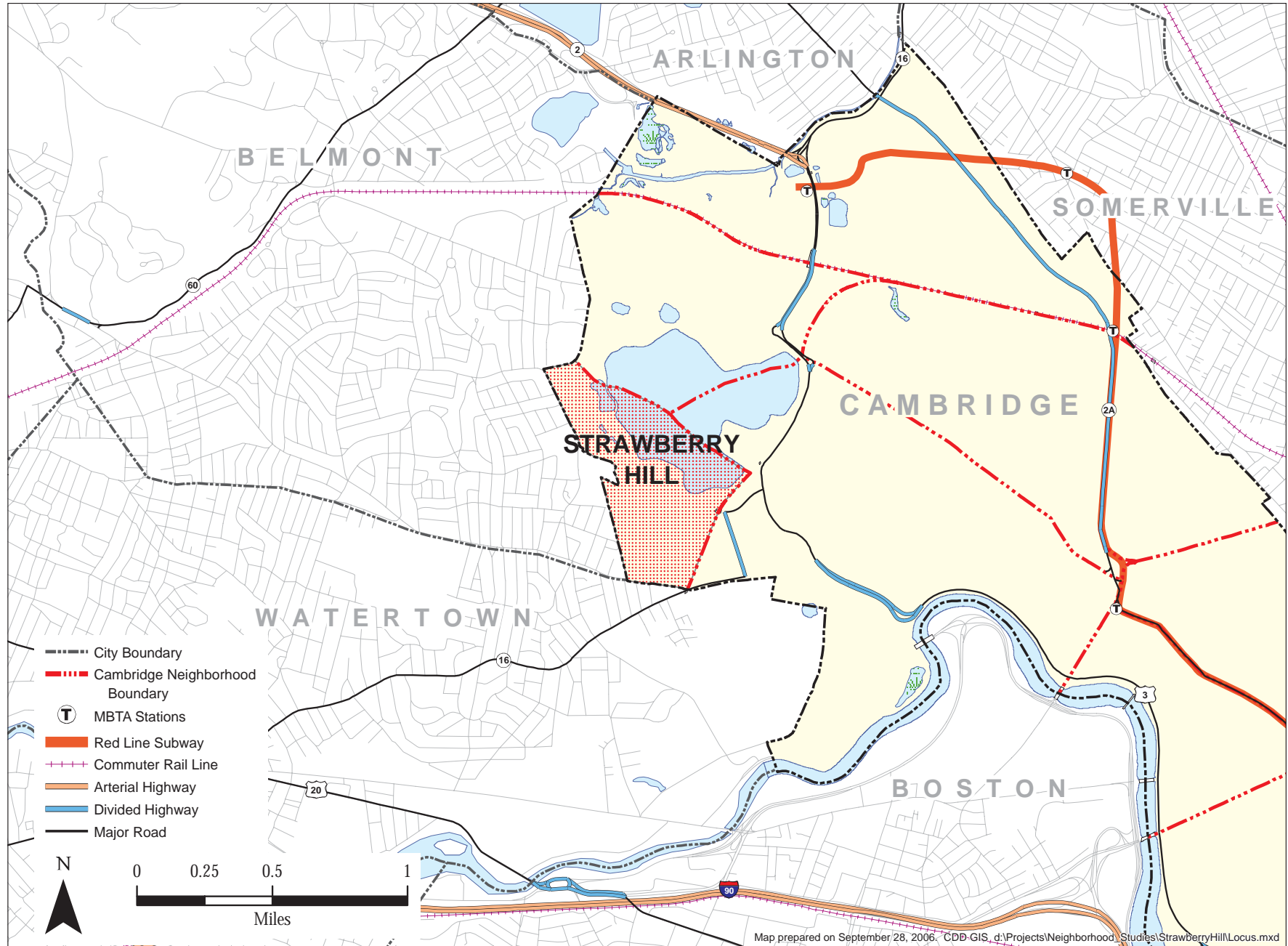
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Starwberry Hill Neighborhood Study

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Introduction





Map prepared on September 28, 2006. CDD-GIS_d:\Projects\Neighborhood_Studies\StrawberryHill\Locus.mxd

The Neighborhood Study Process

The Community Development Department (CDD), through its neighborhood planning program, has conducted comprehensive studies in each of the city's neighborhoods. CDD staff work collaboratively with a resident committee appointed by the City Manager to identify planning opportunities and make recommendations for a course of action. Recommendations address such issues as traffic and parking, housing affordability and homeownership, neighborhood commercial areas and employment, park maintenance, and rezoning for areas that are inappropriately zoned. As part of each neighborhood study, CDD collects data on demographic changes, as well as changes in housing markets, land use, and development potential in each neighborhood. Where appropriate, the recommendations resulting from the neighborhood studies are incorporated into the work programs of city departments for implementation. In some cases this implementation takes place over a short period of time; in others it is part of long-term strategic planning. The neighborhood study process is informed by the city's growth policy document, *Towards a Sustainable Cambridge*, which outlines planning assumptions and policies in the areas of land use, transportation, housing, economic development, open space, and urban design.

Neighborhood Study Updates

To ensure that these studies remain current and useful, CDD produces periodic study updates. The update process involves a series of public meetings, where community members are invited to comment on the original study recommendations, suggest new items, and prioritize issues. City staff from various departments attend these meetings to give presentations and answer questions as needed.

The result of the update process is a "Summary, Recommendations, and Action Plan" document that is made available to the public, City Council, and city staff. The update process is intended to ensure that neighborhood studies remain current documents that evolve with the changing times.

The following are the goal and objectives underlying the neighborhood study and update processes:

Goal

To enhance and inform the delivery of municipal services through collaborative planning between residents and city departments.

Objectives

- To create a planning process that has input from community members.
- To inform members of the community by making neighborhood study reports available to the public, in print and online.
- To provide information to department heads and other city staff about community needs and priorities.
- To assist with the budget and management processes.
- To formulate long-term plans for neighborhood improvement.
- To conduct work on a neighborhood level that is reflective of larger citywide planning practices, such as the Cambridge Growth Policy and the work of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee.

Implementation

Neighborhood studies are intended to create a strong link between community process and the everyday work done by the city's many departments. It is important that these studies remain an integral part of the strategic management, budgeting, and daily operations of city departments. For this reason, CDD maintains outreach to other departments while developing studies and, once they are completed, communicates recommendations to relevant departments to be incorporated into their work plans.

Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study

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Summary





Map prepared on January 25, 2007. CDD GIS d:\Projects\Neighborhood_Studies\StrawberryHill\BaseMap.mxd

SUMMARY

Previous Strawberry Hill Studies

The original Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study took place during 1997/98 and was published in 1999. A study committee of thirteen community members, working with Community Development Department staff, discussed planning issues relating to the future of the neighborhood. Using data on demographics, housing, land use, and representatives from non-profit agencies working in Strawberry Hill, the study committee established a set of recommendations for future neighborhood growth and improvement. The recommendations were published in the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study, and are included in this document (starting on page 31), along with reports on the progress that has been made in addressing the recommendations between 1999 and the present.

Neighborhood Study Update Process

The Community Development Department staff held a public meeting on April 1, 2006, to discuss progress that has been made on the recommendations of the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study and discuss neighborhood residents' current planning concerns. A new set of neighborhood study recommendations was drafted in response to the discussion at this meeting, and a follow-up public meeting was held on June 15, 2006 to review and revise the new draft recommendations. The new recommendations are included in the "Recommendations and Action Plan" section of this report.

Demographics Update

Strawberry Hill has one of the smallest resident populations in the City composing 2.2% of the City's 2000 total population. The 2000 Census counted 2,510 residents, a 21% increase from the 1990 count.

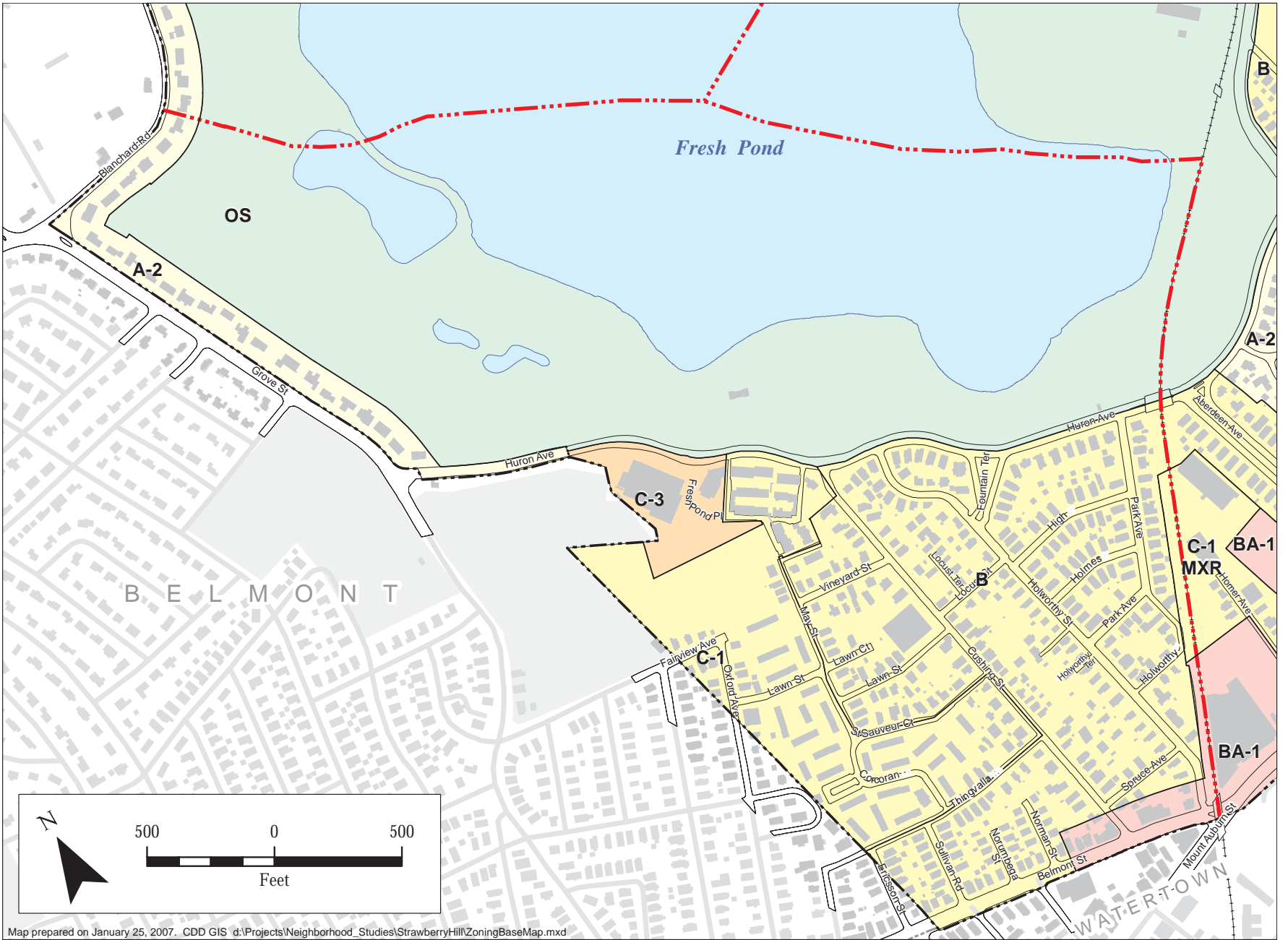
AGE DISTRIBUTION	Strawberry Hill		City of Cambridge	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total Population	2,069	2,510	95,802	101,355
0 - 4	7%	5%	5%	4%
5 - 17	12%	16%	9%	9%
18 - 24	9%	7%	20%	21%
25 - 29	11%	8%	13%	15%
30 - 34	10%	9%	11%	10%
35 - 44	13%	15%	16%	14%
45 - 64	17%	23%	14%	18%
65 and over	22%	18%	11%	9%

The Census also shows changes in the racial composition of the neighborhood between 1990 and 2000. Generally, the proportion of whites has decreased, the proportion of black residents has remained about the same, the portion of Hispanic residents nearly tripled from 1990 to 2000 from 2.1% to 5.3% and the proportion of other races, including Asian, Pacific Islander, and other, has increased.

RACE CATEGORY	Strawberry Hill		City of Cambridge	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
White	81.3%	75.1%	75.3%	68.1%
Black	13.8%	12.9%	13.5%	11.9%
Native American	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.6%	5.3%	2.5%	3.2%
Other Race	0%	2.7%	2.5%	3.2%
Two or More Races	-	-	-	-
Hispanic (any race)	2.1%	5.3%	6.4%	7.4%

The overall number of households slightly increased from 1,061 in 1990 to 1,094 in 2000. The number of households classified as families – at least two people related by birth, marriage or adoption – decreased. Though the proportion of families has decreased among all households, the distribution of family types has not greatly changed.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	Strawberry Hill		City of Cambridge	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
All households	1,061	1,094	39,337	42,615
Non-family households	44%	46%	55%	59%
Family households	56%	54%	45%	41%



Map prepared on January 25, 2007. CDD GIS d:\Projects\Neighborhood_Studies\StrawberryHill\ZoningBaseMap.mxd

SUMMARY

FAMILY TYPE

(by head of household)	Strawberry Hill		City of Cambridge	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
All families	594	593	17,648	17,595
Married couples	75%	69%	72%	71%
with children	32%	30%	29%	28%
Unmarried females	19%	26%	22%	23%
with children	8%	17%	12%	13%
Unmarried males	5%	6%	6%	6%
with children	1%	1%	2%	2%
All family types with children	41%	48%	43%	42%

Finally, the educational attainment of Strawberry Hill Neighborhood residents has changed with a trend towards higher education levels. The percentage of neighborhood residents age 25 or older with less than a high school diploma has decreased substantially from 1990 to 2000, while the percentage of residents with a college degree or graduate degree has doubled. Also, the median annual household income in the neighborhood increased from \$35,345 in 1989 to \$44,107 in 1999, but remains lower than the citywide median of \$47,979.

Land Use and Zoning Update

The following zones are in use in Strawberry Hill: Residence B, Residence A-2, Residence C-1, Residence C-3, and Business A-1 commercial and residential. The neighborhood is mainly zoned Residence B, which is a two family and townhouse district.

The Citywide Rezoning, adopted in 2001, was a rezoning initiative affecting regulations. In most commercial districts in the city, the allowed density of development for commercial uses was lowered while the allowed density for residential uses remained the same, thus establishing an incentive for the development of new housing or mixed-use projects in commercial areas. The Citywide Rezoning also established new review processes for large projects under a new part of the zoning ordinance called “Article

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

	Strawberry Hill		City of Cambridge	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Less than 9th Grade	16%	8%	7%	5%
9th-12th, No Diploma	14%	5%	9%	5%
High School Graduate or Equivalent	20%	18%	16%	12%
College, No Degree or Associate Degree	19%	20%	14%	12%
Bachelor, Graduate or Professional Degree	31%	50%	54%	65%

Complete information on neighborhood demographics can be found in the Community Development Department’s Neighborhood Demographics Profile, available on the web at www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/data.

19.” Under Article 19, projects of 50,000 square feet or more must undergo a public hearing and receive a special permit from the Planning Board.

Another change associated with the Citywide Rezoning was the “Backyard Rezoning” petition adopted in 1999, which lowered the allowed density of housing units and increased the required amount of open space in residential districts across the city. This change was meant to discourage the development of infill units or large additions that would displace open space in residential backyards. These changes affected both the Residence B and Residence C-1 districts of Strawberry Hill, increasing open space requirements and reducing allowable density in the Residence C-1 district.

SUMMARY

Housing Update

The housing stock has been growing throughout Cambridge in general. According to the US Census, the number of housing units in Strawberry Hill increased from about 1,099 in 1990 to about 1,146 in 2000. The rate of homeownership in Strawberry Hill increased from 33% in 1990 to 37% in 2000 slightly exceeding the Citywide rate of 31%. The 59% of Strawberry Hill's housing units occupied by renters is slightly lower than the Citywide rate of 65%. The housing is a diverse mix of one-to-three-family homes, apartments, and condominium buildings.

	<i>Strawberry Hill</i>		<i>City of Cambridge</i>	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
All Housing Units	1,099	1,146	41,979	44,725
Renter-Occupied Units	697 63%	671 59%	27,446 65%	28,855 65%
Owner-Occupied Units	364 33%	423 37%	11,959 29%	13,760 31%
Vacant Units	38 4%	52 5%	2,574 6%	2,110 5%

Source: US Census Bureau

A major goal of the City is to maintain a stock of housing units that are affordable to low- to moderate-income residents. The City has adopted several different mechanisms to further that goal. The Inclusionary Zoning section of the zoning ordinance requires that new housing projects of 10 units or more provide affordable units equal to 15% of the number of market-rate units. To accommodate these affordable inclusionary units, developers receive a 30% bonus in the total number of units and square footage that can be developed. If the overall project is rental housing then the affordable units would also be rental; the inclusionary units must be affordable condominium units in condominium developments. An example of an inclusionary housing project located adjacent to Strawberry Hill is the Aberdeen Lofts project, which contains 55 condo units, of which 6 have been reserved for low- or moderate-income homebuyers.

The City also established the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, a board that combines funding from local, state, federal, and private sources to develop new units of affordable housing and preserve affordability restrictions on existing housing units. Community Development Department staff work with non-profit community development organizations to identify opportunities for new affordable housing through renovation of existing units, rehabilitation of non-residential buildings for housing use, new construction, or other means. Since 1995, over 2,700 units of affordable housing have been created or preserved throughout the city due to these efforts.

The City and its non-profit partners also offer programs that assist residents and homeowners to revitalize the housing stock, preserve affordability, and stabilize owner-occupancy of housing units. One program is the Home Improvement Program, offered by the non-profit Just-A-Start, which provides technical assistance and low-interest loans to income-eligible homeowners to renovate their houses. Another organization, Cambridge Neighborhood Affordable Housing Services, provides loans to help rehabilitate apartment buildings if the rents are kept affordable. The Cambridge Lead-Safe program, offered by the Community Development Department, does educational outreach about the risks of lead paint and provides technical assistance and forgivable loans for owners to remove lead paint from their units. The Community Development Department also offers a monthly First-Time Homebuyers Class, which is free and open to all Cambridge residents.

Information about all of these programs is available in the brochure *A Guide to Affordable Housing Programs in Cambridge*, by calling the Housing Information Line at 617-349-4622, or on the Community Development Department website at www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/hsg.

SUMMARY

Economic Development Update

The business district of Strawberry Hill is located at the edge of the neighborhood along Belmont Street. To further the goal of supporting local businesses and strengthening existing commercial districts, the Community Development Department offers several assistance programs to local businesses throughout the city. The Façade, Signage and Lighting Improvement Program offers design assistance and matching grants for businesses to improve their exteriors, helping to support the businesses as well as improve the look of entire districts. The Best Retail Practices Program offers workshops, consultations, and grants to business owners for a range of different improvements including interior redecorating and repair, mechanical system upgrades, and marketing assistance.

The Community Development Department also provides a variety of services to small business owners or people looking to start a new business in Cambridge, including one-on-one consulting from CDD's Economic Development staff. A SiteFinder Database is available to help match prospective business owners with available commercial property in the city. Through a partnership with the Center for Women and Enterprise, the City offers a set of

classes on topics related to starting new businesses, maintaining existing businesses, financial literacy, and obtaining loans. The Community Development Department also publishes information on permitting processes, business associations in the city, and organizations that provide other types of business support, as well as a regularly-updated Cambridge Women and Minority-Owned Business Directory. Information about all the programs and services offered is available in the brochure *Doing Business in Cambridge*, by contacting the Economic Development staff at 617-349-4637, or on the web at www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/ed.

In addition, the City provides employment services to Cambridge residents through the Office of Workforce Development (617-349-6234) and the Cambridge Employment Program (617-349-6166). The Community Development Department also co-sponsors employment development programs including the Cambridge Health Careers Program, which offers classes to Cambridge Health Alliance employees to help them apply to nursing or radiology programs, and the Just-A-Start Biomedical Careers Program, which helps Cambridge residents qualify for entry-level jobs in the biomedical industry.

SUMMARY

Transportation Update

Transportation in Cambridge in general is a complex issue because people travel in many different ways. According to the US Census, about 57% of Strawberry Hill residents drive alone to work, while about 18% use public transportation and about 4.6% walk, with the rest using other modes of travel such as bicycling or carpooling. Of people who come to work in the Strawberry Hill neighborhood, about 71% drive alone, approximately 9.6% use public transportation, and 2.5% walk.

The Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Ordinance is part of a citywide effort to reduce automobile trips throughout Cambridge. This ordinance requires developers or businesses that create new parking spaces to submit a plan for reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips made to that location. As part of their PTDM plan, businesses may provide subsidized transit passes, private shuttles, incentives for carpooling, flexible work hours, and facilities for bicycle commuters, among other possible measures. One prominent example of a PTDM measure in Cambridge is the EZRide shuttle, which is financed by a group of about 16 Cambridge businesses along with the City of Cambridge and MIT, which provide a connection from many Eastern Cambridge office districts to

North Station. This shuttle is available to the public for a \$1 fare.

The Article 19 review process (see Land Use and Zoning Update) requires that developers of large projects prepare a traffic study to be reviewed by the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the Planning Board. Developers may then be required to provide mitigation for adverse traffic impacts that might result from the project. Mitigation requirements may include upgrades to roadways or intersections, traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian, bicycle or transit facilities, or any of the other transportation demand management measures described above.

Through the citywide traffic-calming program, the City installs raised crosswalks, curb bump-outs, and other features on residential streets in order to slow the speed of traffic and increase pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular safety. In the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood, curb extensions, bike lanes and a raised intersection have been implemented on Holworthy Street. New traffic calming projects are scheduled to be completed in Strawberry Hill in the spring and summer of 2007.

Open Space Update

The City of Cambridge's open space planning goals are to maintain a high-quality system of parks and open space resources throughout the city, provide a variety of recreational opportunities for children and adults of all ages and abilities, and help to improve and beautify the urban environment overall. The City actively looks for opportunities to expand the system by creating new open spaces, though acquiring new public land in Cambridge can be challenging due to high land costs and a competitive real estate market.

In 2000, a City of Cambridge planning study conducted by the "Green Ribbon Committee" established priority areas for the creation and acquisition of new open space in the city. In Strawberry Hill, the Boston and Maine (Watertown Branch) Railroad corridor was identified as a priority for park trails in the city. The rail line is privately owned and the feasibility of creating a park or urban park trail along the right of way has not been determined. In 2006 The Concord Alewife zoning rezoned this to Pathway

Overlay District to protect the ROW (right of way) as a future trail.

In 1999 the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan, the culmination of over two years of work by an advisory committee made up of citizens of Cambridge and City officials, created a comprehensive management plan for Fresh Pond Reservoir and the surrounding Reservation lands. The wooded areas of Fresh Pond closest to Strawberry Hill (Glacken Field and Weir Meadows) are both highest priority recommendations for maintenance and preservation. Currently, the Cambridge Water Department and the members of the Fresh Pond Advisory Board are working to implement the restorative changes mandated in the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan.

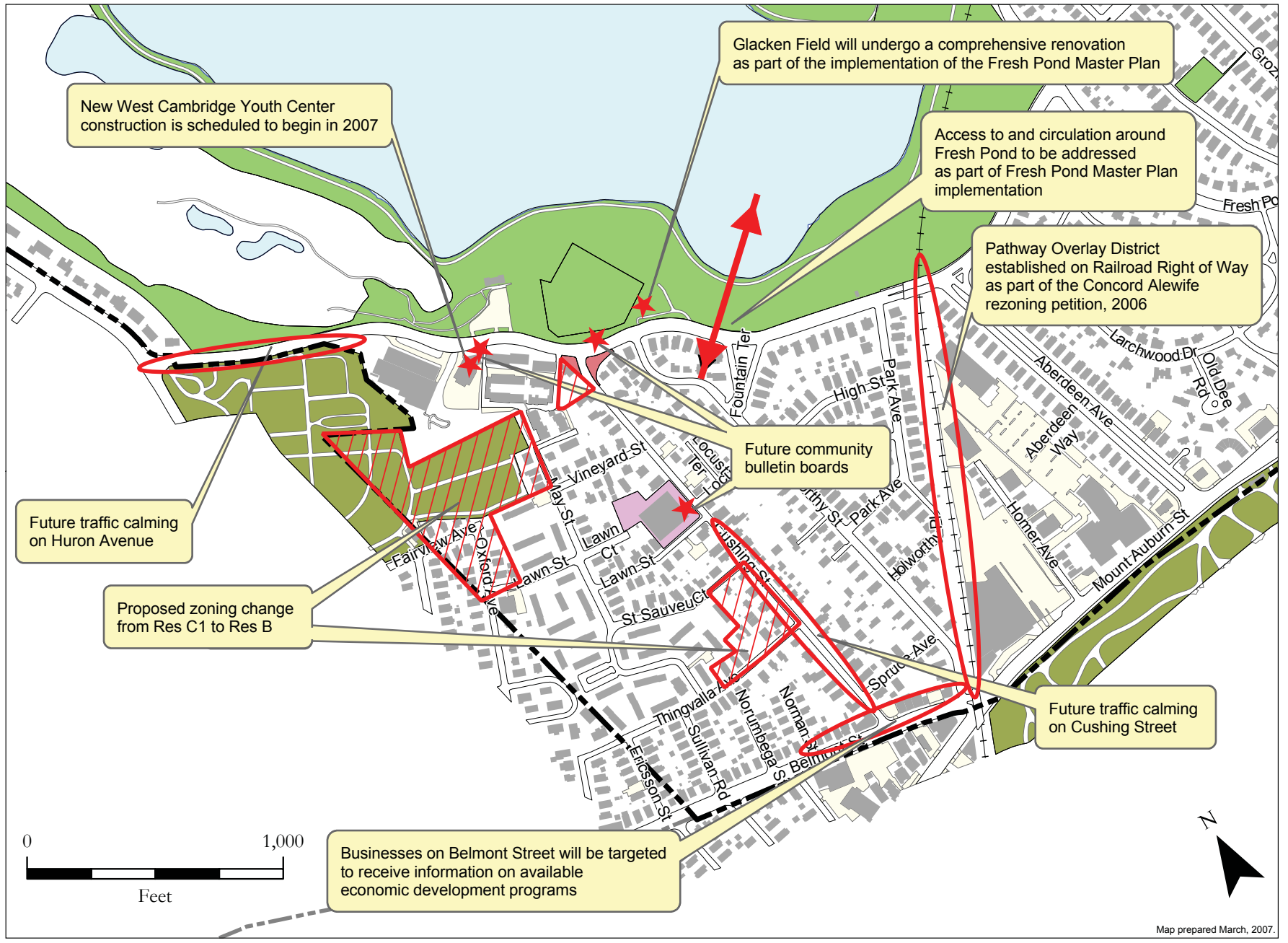
Glacken Field Neighborhood Park has been renovated since the previous Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study in 1999. Renovations of the tennis court were completed in the summer of 2006.

Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study

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*Recommendations from **Update** Process*





Map prepared March, 2007.

LAND USE AND ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
LU1	Require more information to be provided for residents regarding future demolition and development in the Neighborhood. One example is the vacant lot at the corner of Huron Ave and Cushing Street.	<p>A Project Review Special Permit is required for any new development over 50,000 square feet in most zoning districts, a Multifamily Special Permit is required for new developments generally consisting of 12 or more dwelling units, the conversion of non-residential structures to residential use will often require a special permit, and most townhouse developments require a special permit.</p> <p>Special permits require a public hearing within 65 days of the filing of the application. Abutters within 300ft of the site's property line are notified. The applicant is also required to erect and maintain at least one notification panel at the site for which the special permit is requested.</p>
LU2	Keep neighborhood residents informed of the status and progress of construction of the new West Cambridge Youth Center at the VFW post.	<p>■ PLANNING IN PROGRESS - ONGOING: The West Cambridge Youth Center is currently in the design phase. Two community meetings were held. The first in April, 2006 to discuss programming issues for the future center held by the Department of Human Service Programs, and the second in June, 2006 to receive community input on construction and process, held by the Deputy City Manager. Bids were received in November 2006 and awarded to Colantonio Inc. Construction is anticipated to start in Spring 2007. Estimated project completion is 18 months from the start of the project. A web site has been included on the Department of Human Service Programs home page that gives detailed information on the project and will serve as a point of information during the life of the project.</p> <p>www.cambridgema.gov/dhsp2/westyouth.cfm</p> <p>Project Manager : Michael Black 617-349-4251</p>
LU3	Move forward with the rezoning of the C1 area outside of Corcoran Park.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: Community Development Department began the public process with a public meeting in December 2006. The Planning Board will review the recommended changes in May 2007.</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
ED1	Facilitate a better use at the vacant retail site on Cushing Street, which is becoming an eyesore and has snow removal problems in the winter. Keep the neighborhood informed and updated on the process. Any new use should be neighborhood serving such as a coffee shop or variety store.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: The Economic Development Division will identify and call independent coffee shops and/or variety stores in Cambridge and the surrounding communities to determine if store owner is interested in opening up a new store in the neighborhood. The Division is also open to other retail suggestions from the neighborhood.</p>
ED2	Belmont Street should be targeted for retail façade improvements and other street improvements, maintenance, and upkeep.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: The Economic Development Division of CDD provides Façade, Signage and Lighting Improvement Programs for retail establishments as well as a Best Retail Practices program. Staff from the Economic Development Division also forward information and market their programs to businesses on a targeted basis. They will make a special effort to target businesses in this neighborhood.</p>

■ **ACTION ITEM - Timeframe**
 Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
 Long Range - 6-10 years

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T1	Cushing Street is a major route through the neighborhood and is in need of traffic calming. Explore short-term strategies for reducing speeding.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: Chapter 90 funding to repave Cushing Street between Lawn Court and Belmont Street is available for work planned in the near future. In advance of the paving, the Community Development Department staff will work with residents to determine what traffic calming elements should be constructed on Cushing Street.</p> <p>The Traffic Department has done speed studies in 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2002. In all cases the 85% speeds were 27 to 30 MPH. 85% speeds are the speeds at which 85% of vehicles are traveling at or below. It is the measure used by traffic engineers in reviewing street speeds.</p>
T2	Explore strategies to address conflicts between parked cars and school buses on Locust Street, possibly by making it a 1-way street, removing 1 side of parking and/or enforcing restrictions on cars blocking private driveways.	<p>To change a street like Locust Street from a 2-way street to a 1-way street, the City looks to residents to spearhead the process through a petition process involving several steps. Residents submit a request, signed by a significant number of affected residents to the Traffic Department. The Traffic Department then reviews the request to determine if there are any traffic concerns with the proposed change, for example the request cannot make it impossible for residents on a certain section of a street to access their homes and it cannot transfer a significant amount of traffic onto another residential street. The Traffic Department also reviews the request with the Fire Department to ensure that their response times would not be negatively impacted by the proposed change. Assuming that all of those things occur, the Traffic Department then sends out a survey to affected residents to determine if there is support for the changes. This process is used to ensure that residents affected by the proposed change are involved in the process.</p>
T3	<p>Look into allowing westbound traffic on Huron Ave to proceed while other traffic is making left turn onto Aberdeen.</p> <p>Address pedestrian safety issues and conflicts between cars turning right from Huron Ave and pedestrians crossing Aberdeen Ave.</p>	<p>■ COMPLETED ACTION: An exclusive pedestrian phase with a push button has been installed for pedestrians crossing Huron Avenue. This will allow westbound traffic on Huron Avenue to proceed while traffic is making the left turn onto Aberdeen when no pedestrian has pushed the button. Cars turning right from Huron Ave to Aberdeen Avenue will still be required to yield to pedestrians who have the walk light to cross Aberdeen Ave.</p>

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
T4	Emergency sidewalk repairs should not be contingent upon future infrastructure work.	<p>Street Maintenance Program Ongoing - The following standards for temporary repair have been established by the Department of Public Works (DPW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal Displacement-In general, area of minimal displacement will be put on a "watch list" and scheduled for re-inspections within one year. However, if such an area is in a sensitive location, the supervisor may determine the need for a more immediate solution. If so, a reasonable effort will be made to make a temporary repair within 60 days. • Small Displacement-The inspector will mark the area with fluorescent paint to alert pedestrians of a potential hazard. The area will be scheduled for a temporary repair within a 30-day period. • Moderate to Significant Displacement-The inspector will mark the area with fluorescent paint to alert pedestrian of a potential hazard. The area will be scheduled for a temporary repair within 10 working days. • Depending on the particular circumstances, the supervisor will recommend an appropriate method of repair, which may include grinding the displaced area flush with the adjacent surface, creating a small ramp using "thin-set" concrete material or an asphalt patch. • To report sidewalk locations for repair contact the Department of Public Works at (617) 349-4800
T5	Consider allowing time limited non-permit parking on the Fresh Pond side of Huron Avenue to accommodate visitors to the reservation while discouraging commuter parking, construction parking, and additional parking on other neighborhood residential streets.	<p>No Planned Action. Huron Ave is signed for resident permit parking only. Time limited parking is very hard to enforce so it may not be too different than if the parking were unrestricted parking. It is easier to enforce cars parked on neighborhood streets without a resident permit. For increased enforcement residents can call the Traffic Department's main number at 617-349-4700 during our business hours and request enforcement.</p>
T6	Require parking permits on Thingvalla Avenue, Lawn Court, and Lawn Street.	<p>No Planned Action. To implement residential parking on a street, the City looks to residents to spearhead the process through a petition process. Residents submit a request, signed by a significant number of affected residents, to the Traffic Department. The Traffic Department then sends out a survey to affected residents to determine if there is support for implementing residential parking. This process is used to ensure that residents affected by the proposed change are involved in the process.</p> <p>The Department has previously surveyed Thingvalla in 1988, 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2002. Each time a majority of the residents opposed making the street resident permit only.</p>

<p>■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe</p>
<p>Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years; Long Range - 6-10 years</p>

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
T7	Enforce stop signs and one-way restrictions on Thingvalla Ave.	<p>Traffic Enforcement Program Ongoing - The Cambridge Police Department's Traffic Unit enforces the street traffic regulations of this city and all of the state vehicle laws applicable to street traffic. They work cooperatively with the Traffic Director and other officers of the city in the administration of the traffic laws and in developing ways and means to improve traffic conditions.</p> <p>To report traffic law enforcement issues contact: Cambridge Police Department, Lt. Jack Albert 617- 349-3307 or email him at: jalbert@Cambridgepolice.org.</p>
T8	Examine the safety of the Star Market parking lot exit as well as the intersection of Park Avenue and Holworthy Place, which seem to pose traffic dangers.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: The exit from the Star Market parking lot has a stop sign before the vehicle crosses the sidewalk and a "Caution Pedestrian Crossing" sign.</p> <p>Holworthy Place is a private way that merges with Park Ave. To improve safety here the Traffic Department will install a stop sign for Holworthy Place.</p>
T9	<p>The following streets are recommended for sidewalk improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spruce Avenue• Upper May Street• St Saviour Court	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - ONGOING: The City's approach to improving public ways is generally to combine the upgrading of streets and sidewalks with infrastructure projects so that the entire design is coordinated and cost effective. Some roadway construction repair work has been completed in conjunction with Chapter 90 Sewer work on Lawn, Vineyard and May Street in Strawberry Hill. St. Saviour Court will be paved and a sidewalk will be installed on one side of the street during in 2007.</p>

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
OS1	There should be a plan to add more street trees in the neighborhood, especially at locations where trees had been previously removed. Trees that are currently dead or decaying should also be replaced.	<p>Street Tree Program Ongoing. If there is an empty City tree well in front of a house and a replacement tree is desired, the City will plant one during the next planting season at no cost to the abutting property owner, as long as its determined that a tree is sustainable at the location. (There may be a legitimate reason why the previous tree did not survive.) If a tree is desired where no tree well currently exists, the City will share the cost with the abutting property owner under its Client Tree Program. For \$140 the City will prepare a tree well and plant a tree, in exchange for a pledge by the abutting property owner to keep the tree well watered. On average, contributions cover about one-third to one-half the cost of planting. In either case, the City Arborist will consult with the property owner about the type of tree that is appropriate for the location. The City will remove trees that are hazardous. You may contact the City Arborist at (617) 349-6433 or cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov.</p> <p>The City considers removing a tree that is hazardous (poses a threat to persons and/or property). As defined by the International Society of Arboriculture, a hazardous tree must meet three criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tree is sufficiently large enough to cause damage should it fall; • The tree has a target (that would be damaged should it fall); • The tree has a condition that would make it likely to fall. <p>The City will promptly inspect requests for removal. In many cases, a tree may be developing a condition that would ultimately make it a hazard, but not imminently. The removal of such trees in the public right of way requires a public hearing as prescribed by state law. In some cases, the entire tree may not be hazardous, but some maintenance work is required. The City will enter that work request into our database and schedule the work within our priorities.</p>
OS2	The bleachers at Glacken Field should be repaired or replaced.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - MEDIUM RANGE: Any work on the bleachers will be addressed as part of a comprehensive renovation of Glacken Field.</p>
OS3	The current access to the Glacken Field tot lot should be improved and made more stroller friendly. Currently, access is too steep and the gate is not user friendly.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - MEDIUM RANGE: New user friendly gates were installed in the Fall of 2006 at two locations into the tot lot. Access issues will be addressed as part of a comprehensive renovation of Glacken Field Playground.</p>

<p>■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe</p> <p>Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years; Long Range - 6-10 years</p>

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
OS4	Address graffiti problems at the Glacken Field Park and replace any play equipment that may be removed.	<p>Graffiti Removal/Prevention Programs Ongoing - The City employs a variety of state and local laws that address graffiti vandals. Fines and possible suspension of drivers' licenses are applied to offenders. Laws also prohibit the sale of aerosol spray paint cans or non-water soluble markers to anyone under the age of 18. The graffiti hotline is a central clearinghouse for graffiti identification and removal.</p> <p>Use The Graffiti Hotline at 617-349-6955 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report locations where graffiti has been applied. • Identify "taggers." (All information you may provide to the hotline about taggers is kept confidential.) • Get advice on organizing community clean-up days or about removing graffiti from private property. <p>The Parks & Urban Forestry Division of the Cambridge Department of Public Works performs maintenance on all public parks on an ongoing basis. Its maintenance personnel are organized into three crews that are permanently assigned to one of three geographic districts. Each maintenance crew is directed by a Parks District Supervisor, who serves as the primary contact for all public comment. The Supervisor receives guidance and support from a turf and landscape manager.</p> <p>For additional information: www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks Telephone: 617-349-4880</p>
OS5	Improve access to the Fresh Pond Reservation path from Glacken Field.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - MEDIUM RANGE: This issue will be addressed as part of a comprehensive renovation of Glacken Field Playground. Restoration of the hillside from Glacken Field to the reservations is also a priority of the Fresh Pond Master Plan.</p>
OS6	Enforce trimming of shrubs that hang excessively over sidewalks.	<p>Urban Forestry Programs Ongoing - The City has published a brochure "Put Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes: A Guide for Cambridge Property Owners." Botanical obstructions include trees, hedges, bushes, or other plants growing on private property that project over or onto the sidewalk. Report botanical obstructions at other properties to the Department of Public Works (DPW) so they can contact the property owners: www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks.</p> <p>Telephone: 617-349-4805</p>

<p>■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe</p> <p>Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years; Long Range - 6-10 years</p>

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
G1	Address light and noise pollution in the neighborhood, in particular, spillover street lighting, noisy motorbikes, and cars idling extensively.	<p>Outdoor lighting is designed to provide minimum lighting necessary to ensure adequate safety, night vision, and comfort, while minimizing light pollution.</p> <p>The City is planning to examine its streetlight standards regarding historic appropriateness, energy use, and light spillover.</p> <p>All vehicles, including trucks, must comply with Chapter 90, Section 16A, the State Anti-idling Law, and not unnecessarily operate the engine of a motor vehicle in excess of five minutes. Violators of this law are subject to fines up to \$500. Reinforced locally in Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance 10.17.100</p> <p>The Police Department is responsible for enforcement. Specific instances should be reported to the Traffic Unit at 617-349-3306.</p>
G2	Enforce cleanup and maintenance of the railroad, possibly organizing a neighborhood group to clean it.	<p>No Planned Action. The railroad is currently privately owned. According to the Cambridge Municipal Code Section 8.24.040 Private property owners and occupants--Keeping premises and adjacent areas free of litter: Every owner or occupant of private property shall maintain his property free of any accumulation of litter, and shall prevent any litter from escaping to any other public or private property, The City's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) is the primary City agency responsible for enforcing sanitation issues on private lots; they can be reached at 617-349- 6100</p> <p>Portions of this railroad are identified in the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee's Report (2000) as a priority for park trails in the city. Also, as part of the Concord Alewife Zoning Petition (2006), the parcel of land on which the track runs was rezoned into a Pathway Overlay District to facilitate alternative use as bike/pedestrian pathway in the future.</p>
G3	Strawberry Hill is in need of community bulletin boards. Possible locations include selected bus stops, the Collins Branch Library, VFW Post/ West Cambridge Youth Center.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: Two bulletin boards will be installed during the Winter/Spring of 2006-7 one at Glacken Field and one at the Haggerty School. A third bulletin board will be installed at the West Cambridge Youth Center when it is constructed.</p>
G4	Address abandoned cars on Lawn Court and Holworthy Terrace.	<p>No Planned Action. Vehicles left more than seventy-two hours--Permission required.</p> <p>No person shall abandon an automobile, truck, motorcycle or other motor vehicle for more than seventy-two hours upon a public or private way or on any property without the permission of the owner or lessee of the property. Any person who wishes to junk such a vehicle must contract with a private disposal agency. (Prior code § 17-73(e))</p> <p>Any person who violates this chapter shall be prosecuted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 22B. (Prior code § 17-80(a))</p> <p>Abandoned cars should be reported to the Cambridge Police Department, and officers will investigate the auto to determine ownership. Once they have determined that is abandoned it will be towed.</p> <p>Cambridge Police Department (Business Line) Telephone 617-349-3300</p>

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS from Update Process

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
G5	Encourage the creation of, and coordination between, neighborhood groups such as the Haggerty School Community, Corcoran Park or other neighborhood organizations.	<p>No Planned Action. Neighborhood associations are not city developed or sponsored and are organized and run by residents.</p> <p>The Haggerty Neighborhood Council & Community School is a Department of Human Service program. The Haggerty Neighborhood Council is currently seeking new members who are committed to helping the Council identify the needs, concerns, and interests of the community.</p> <p>For additional information please contact Amanda Hockman at The Department of Human Service Programs, 617-349-6264 or http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2</p>
G6	Extend the current street cleaning season.	No Planned Action.
G7	Enforce snow removal requirements on private property.	<p>Snow Removal Program Ongoing - Property owners are responsible for keeping the sidewalks in front of their property clear of snow and ice. Requirements to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove snow from all sidewalks next to property or business within 12 hours after snow stops falling in the daytime, and before 1PM when the snow has fallen during the night. Clear ice off sidewalks or treat them with an ice-melting substance within six hours of the time the ice forms. • Make openings in snow banks between the streets and sidewalks at crosswalks, street corners, and bus stops. If they are next to a crosswalk shovel the opening must be wide enough for a wheelchair or stroller to get through. • Corner homes and businesses: should shovel the side-street sidewalk as well as the sidewalk in front of your property. <p>To report an unshoveled sidewalk, please call the snow hotline at 617-349-4903.</p>
G8	Work with the School Department to increase maintenance and landscaping in the Haggerty School parking lot.	No Planned Action. DPW currently maintains lot.

<p>■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe</p> <hr/> <p>Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years; Long Range - 6-10 years</p>

Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study

▪ ▪ *U P D A T E* ▪ ▪

*Recommendations
from 1999 Neighborhood Study*



LAND USE AND ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
LU1	Downzone the C-1 area outside of Corcoran Park to Residence B	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: Community Development Department began the public process with a public meeting in December 2006. The Planning Board will review the recommended changes in March 2007.</p>
LU2	Maintain Residence B zoned areas.	There are no plans to change the Residence B zoning district.
LU3	Manage backyard development through stronger enforcement of existing zoning laws.	<p>The Residence B district was significantly modified in 1995 to reduce the density of housing allowed and restrict building in backyards. In 1999 additional open space was required in the Residence B district and the rear yard requirement was increased for lots more than 100' deep.</p> <p>Strawberry Hill is mostly zoned Residence B and Residence C1.</p>
LU4	Maintain current restriction for commercial development zoning to Belmont Street.	There are no plans to increase commercially zoned areas in Strawberry Hill.
LU5	Establish community-wide notification of applications for zoning variances, permits, etc., through consistently designed, conspicuous signage posted prominently on the relevant premises.	The 2001 Citywide Rezoning requires that all projects requiring a Special Permit from the Planning Board or Variance from the Board of Zoning Appeal must post notification on site. Abutters within 300 ft of the site are also notified by mail.
LU6	Clean up Boston and Maine Railroad, Watertown Branch, tracks behind Huron Avenue and Mt. Auburn Street.	The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) is the primary City agency responsible for enforcing sanitation issues on private lots.
LU7	Establish an alternative use of the Boston and Maine Railroad, Watertown Branch, corridor which runs through West Cambridge as a linear park.	The Concord Alewife rezoning petition, adopted in June 2006, created a Pathway Overlay District for the parcel of land on which the track runs to facilitate alternative use as bike/pedestrian pathway in the future.
LU8	<p>Improve access to Fresh Pond Reservoir:</p> <p>Improve access for pedestrians, baby carriages/strollers, wheelchairs and tricycles from the golf course clubhouse to the Reservation path.</p> <p>Improve access for pedestrians, baby carriages/strollers, wheelchairs and tricycles at Park Avenue.</p> <p>Ensure that all improvements meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.</p>	In 1999 The Fresh Pond Master Plan was approved. The Master Plan expresses the vital importance of protecting and enhancing both the water quality of the Fresh Pond Reservation and its open space and naturalistic character. Improved access for all users is a key component of the Fresh Pond Master Plan. Implementation of the plan is ongoing.
LU9	Continue multiple uses of path bordering Fresh Pond Reservation, allowing bicycle use at walking speeds.	See Above
LU10	<p>Improve visual attractiveness of key entry points to the neighborhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cushing Street at Belmont Street • Holworthy Street at Belmont Street • Mt. Auburn bridge over the Boston and Maine Railroad, i.e., maintenance issues 	<p>Community Development (CDD) will work with the Department of Public Works on future roadway improvements to address streetscape visual attractiveness.</p> <p>Economic Development (EDD) will target retail property owners.</p>

LAND USE AND ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
LU11	Assess lighting needs. Improve lighting where necessary throughout the neighborhood.	<p>The City Electrician is responsible for the street lighting system on city streets and in public spaces, and evaluates whether improvements are feasible in areas where light levels are either too high or too low.</p> <p>The Street Lighting Division continues to make improvements in street lighting where problem areas exist throughout various neighborhoods particularly where public safety is a concern, and is responding to the needs identified by neighborhood crime watch groups/residents in regards to increased lighting levels.</p>
LU12	<p>Increase maintenance of street trees and plantings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post standardized notice of pending tree removal on the relevant tree two weeks prior to removal. • Remove dead trees and replace with new ones. 	<p>The City has created the position of City Arborist with the goal of addressing issues relating to trees throughout Cambridge.</p> <p>As Tree Warden for the City of Cambridge, the City Arborist conducts Public Tree Removal Hearings for all removals that are not considered an emergency. The City Arborist continues to meet monthly with the Committee on Public Planting to review plans for landscaping and tree planting on public lands.</p> <p>An important aspect of the Arborist's duties is the maintenance of street trees. The general approach has been to identify sections of the city where maintenance crews systematically trim broken limbs, prune trees as needed, and replace dead trees.</p>
LU13	<p>Improve existing sidewalks and build new ones on side streets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn Street • St. Saveur Court • Vineyard Street • May Street 	<p>The City's approach to improving public ways is generally to combine the upgrading of streets and sidewalks with infrastructure projects so that the entire design is coordinated and cost effective. Some roadway construction repair work has been completed in conjunction with Chapter 90 Sewer work on Lawn, Vineyard and May Street. St. Saveur Court will be paved and a sidewalk will be installed on one side of the street during in 2007.</p>

<p>■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe</p> <hr/> <p>Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years; Long Range - 6-10 years</p>
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HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

Rec. Type & Number	Recommendation	Status and Progress to Date
H1	Maintain low density, residential quality of the neighborhood.	<p>The Residence B district which covers most of Strawberry Hill, was significantly modified in 1995 to reduce the density of housing allowed and restrict building in backyards. In 1999 additional open space was required in the Residence B district and the rear yard requirement was increased for lots more than 100 feet deep.</p> <p>During the 1999 rezoning to Residence C1, the district (which covers the western edge of Strawberry Hill) was modified to allow fewer new units on lots and require increased open space.</p>
H2	Assess existing housing stock and vacant lots to determine potential for affordable housing development and rehabilitation.	<p>The Housing Division of the Community Development Department actively pursues opportunities to develop affordable housing throughout the city, including in Strawberry Hill. The City offers many programs to support income-eligible households seeking affordable housing. All City-sponsored affordable housing units are marketed openly and affirmatively to ensure that they are accessible to all segments of the public.</p> <p>The Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust supports non-profit housing developers and the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) in the acquisition, development, and renovation of affordable housing.</p> <p>http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/hsg</p>
H3	Post a notice of proposed construction projects prominently in the neighborhood.	<p>As adopted in the Citywide Rezoning Petition in 2001, a Special Permit project review is required for development projects greater than 50,000 square feet. All such projects reviews are open to the public and require a public hearing. Notices of public meetings are mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the project, along with being posted on site, published in newspaper and advertised in the City's website.</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
ED1	Maintain current commercial zoning destinations.	The commercial zoning districts in Strawberry Hill have been maintained
ED2	Increase coordination among neighborhood, City and commercial establishments to improve compliance with parking regulations.	<p>Metered parking is generally located in business areas. Parking Control Officers constantly monitor all areas of the City. Parking Control Officers now utilize hand held computer ticket writing machines for more efficient enforcement. In response to residents request the Parking Enforcement Program has extended the hours of enforcement.</p> <p>Web Address: www.cambridgema.gov/Traffic</p> <p>Telephone: 617-349-4700</p>
ED3	Provide incentives to the retail businesses on Belmont Street to improve their appearance	The Economic Development Division of CDD provides a Façade, Signage and Lighting Improvement Program for retail establishments as well as a Best Retail Practices program. Staff from the Economic Development Division also forward information and market their programs to businesses on a targeted basis.
ED4	Provide incentives for retail businesses to keep their frontages (sidewalks) and parking lot clean.	<p>According to the Cambridge Municipal Code Section 8.24.040 Private property owners and occupants--Keeping premises and adjacent areas free of litter.</p> <p>Every owner or occupant of private property shall maintain his property free of any accumulation of litter, and shall prevent any litter from escaping to any other public or private property, and "Every owner or occupant of private property bordering on a street where there is a public or private sidewalk or footway shall maintain such sidewalk or footway and the adjoining gutter to the center of the street free of litter."</p> <p>Also, per the Municipal Code, commercial or nonprofit establishments may maintain authorized litter receptacles for the use of the general public outdoors on private property or on the adjoining sidewalk in a manner not to inconvenience the use of the sidewalk by pedestrians. The establishments are encouraged to identify such authorized litter receptacles as described in Section 8.24.020 of this chapter and the establishment shall cause the receptacles to be emptied regularly. (Ordinance 1152 (part), 1993: prior code § 17-75)</p>

■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe

Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
T1	<p>PARKING</p> <p>Enforce all parking regulations paying particular attention to vehicles parking at the following intersections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cushing and Belmont Streets • Holworthy and Belmont Streets • Locust and Holworthy Streets • Locust Terrace and Locust Street 	<p>Parking Control Officers (PCO's) on this enforcement route will focus attention on these 4 intersections. Residents also can request enforcement at 617.349.4689.</p> <p>City parking permits have recently been redesigned to discourage abuse. Parking Control Officers also now utilize hand held computer ticket writing machines for more efficient enforcement.</p>
T2	<p>TRAFFIC CONGESTION</p> <p>Reduce congestion on Cushing Street at the Haggerty School through police enforcement.</p>	<p>This item has been referred to the CPD for enforcement.</p>
T3	<p>TRAFFIC CONGESTION</p> <p>Enforce idling laws for trucks in residential areas along Locust, Cushing, Belmont, and Holworthy Streets.</p>	<p>All vehicles, including trucks, must comply with Chapter 90, Section 16A, the State Anti-idling Law, and not unnecessarily operate the engine of a motor vehicle in excess of five minutes. Violators of this law are subject to fines up to \$500. Reinforced locally in Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance 10.17.100</p> <p>The Police Department is responsible for enforcement. Specific instances should be reported to the Traffic Unit at 617-349-3306.</p>
T4	<p>PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</p> <p>Address pedestrian street crossing facilities at the following locations:</p> <p>Consider adding a signalized crosswalk on Huron Avenue at Park Avenue.</p> <p>Join the pedestrian stoplight and the bus stop on Belmont Street near Cushing Street.</p>	<p>Traffic calming on Huron Avenue between Grove and Cushing Street is scheduled for the Fall 2006/Spring 2007. A second phase is being designed between Cushing and Park Avenue with an anticipated construction in 2007. This will include an improved pedestrian crossing facility at Park Avenue.</p> <p>In order to join the pedestrian stoplight and the bus stop on Belmont Street near Cushing Street, the bus stops would have to be relocated closer to the signal. For the reasons below, this is not recommended.</p> <p>Westbound Bus Stop</p> <p>The westbound bus stop is currently located in front of businesses. Moving the stop closer to the signal would require locating the bus stop in front of residential property. This is difficult to get agreement on and would require removing existing residential parking.</p> <p>Eastbound Bus Stop</p> <p>The Eastbound bus stop is currently located in front of a large parking lot. Moving the stop closer to the signal would require removing several parking spaces in front of the church.</p>

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
T5	<p>PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</p> <p>Suggest that the Town of Belmont consider the following recommendations:</p> <p>Install a traffic light at Huron Avenue and Grove Street.</p> <p>Prohibit left turns from Grove Street to Huron Avenue from 7:00 AM-9:00 AM.</p> <p>Study the timing of the lights at Grove Street and Belmont Street to improve pedestrians' ability to cross Belmont Street safely.</p>	<p>Traffic calming on Huron Avenue is currently being designed for installation in Fall 2006/Spring 2007. This will include an improved pedestrian crossing facility at Grove Street.</p> <p>The redesign of the Grove Street and Huron Avenue intersection will improve the intersection for pedestrians and will also reduce the width of the intersection thereby reducing the speed at which drivers can make the left turn from Grove to Huron.</p> <p>The City will forward the request for changes to the timing of the light at Grove and Belmont streets to Belmont.</p>
T6	<p>PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</p> <p>Study timing of the traffic light at Mt. Auburn and Belmont Streets to improve pedestrians' ability to cross Belmont Street safely.</p>	<p>Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department will evaluate the timing and pedestrian phasing for this signal.</p>
T7	<p>PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</p> <p>Install a blinking light near the Haggerty School to designate school in session.</p>	Completed
T8	<p>PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</p> <p>Evaluate whether traffic calming measures would be appropriate at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curb extension at the corner of Cushing and Belmont Streets. • Cushing Street, Holworthy Street, and Huron Avenue. 	<p>The Community Development Department (CDD) generally considers implementing traffic calming changes at the request of community members, with construction usually taking place in the course of other projects, such as street repaving and sewer reconstruction.</p> <p>Holworthy Street traffic calming project is complete. The project consisted of: curb extensions, bike lanes, and a raised intersection.</p> <p>Traffic calming on Huron Avenue from Park Ave to the Belmont line is scheduled. This project will be completed in two phases the first between Grove Street and Cushing with construction starting in the Fall 2006/Spring 2007. This project will consist of a curb extension at the entrance to the golf course, crossing island at Grove Street, and the construction of sidewalks along the cemetery to the Belmont line. The second phase Huron Avenue between Cushing Street and Park Ave is in design with an anticipated construction start in 2007. This project will consist of a crossing island at Park Avenue.</p> <p>Chapter 90 funding for Cushing Street (from Lawn Court to Belmont Street) has been included in the fiscal '07 budget. The Community Development Department staff will work with residents to determine what traffic calming elements should be constructed on Cushing Street.</p>

<p>■ ACTION ITEM - Timeframe</p> <p>Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years; Long Range - 6-10 years</p>

TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
T9	MOTORIST SAFETY Post speed limit signs on Holworthy Street.	The traffic calming on Holworthy Street was implemented to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian crossings by making physical changes to the street. In follow up surveys 64% of residents think that traffic speeds have been reduced, and 61% of residents think the safety of pedestrians is better. The percentage of vehicles exceeding the 30 mph speed limit was reduced by 36% (from 14% to 9%). Since the 85-percentile speeds on Holworthy are lower than the legal speed limit, posted speed limit signs are not recommended. 85-percentile speeds are the speed at which 85% of vehicles are traveling at or below. It is the measure used by traffic engineers in reviewing street speeds.
T10	MOTORIST SAFETY Increase enforcement of posted speed limits in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cushing Street from Lawn Street to Belmont Street • Huron Avenue from Aberdeen to Grove Street 	Requests for increased enforcement have been forwarded to the Police Department. The Police Department regularly does targeted enforcement of the speed limit and also locates a speed trailer on Cushing Street and Huron Avenue. The first phase of the Huron Avenue traffic calming project will be constructed in the Fall 2006/Spring 2007. The goal of traffic calming is to improve safety for all users and to reduce speeds.
T11	MOTORIST SAFETY Increase enforcement of speed limit from Belmont Street to Huron Avenue.	Requests for increased enforcement have been forwarded to the Police Department. The Police Department regularly does targeted enforcement of the speed limit and also locates a speed trailer on Cushing Street.
T12	MOTORIST SAFETY Increase enforcement of one-way traffic restrictions throughout the neighborhood.	The Holworthy Street traffic calming project included curb extensions at the intersection of Holworthy/Locust/High Street. The curb extensions make it more difficult to make the move from Locust Street to High Street which requires drivers to go the wrong way on Holworthy Street.
T13	MOTORIST SAFETY Improve visibility of entry point at Cushing Street from Huron Avenue with reflective materials and/or low-level lighting.	Huron Avenue will be re-paved as part of the construction project starting Fall 2006/Spring 2007. This work will include including improved pavement markings.

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
OS1	Preserve green space in residential areas.	<p>Open space areas in the City are zoned Open Space which prohibits most development. Existing land uses in the neighborhood, cost, and lack of available land make open space acquisition challenging. However, the City actively looks for opportunities throughout the City for open space, including pocket parks, as well as on private land. The Green Ribbon Committee established criteria for the purchase of land to be used as open space.</p> <p>In the Citywide Rezoning Petition, passed in 2001, Project Review guidelines include open space linkage as a design objective. In November of 2001, Cambridge voters approved the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA makes local and state dollars available for affordable housing, open space, and historic preservation in Cambridge including Glacken Field and the Fresh Pond Reservation in the Strawberry Field neighborhood.</p>
OS2	Create green open space by establishing a linear park on existing Boston and Maine Railroad, Watertown Branch, right-of-way.	<p>Portions of this route are identified in the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee's Report as a priority for park trails in the city. The rail line is privately owned and the feasibility of creating a park along the right of way has not yet been determined. The Concord Alewife rezoning petition adopted in June 2006 created a Pathway Overlay District for this parcel of land on which the track runs to facilitate alternative use as a bike/pedestrian pathway.</p>
OS3	Connect open spaces from Fresh Pond to the Charles River.	<p>The Report of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee, published in 2000, identified the need for a park trail or linear park connection between Fresh Pond and the Charles River Reservation along Fresh Pond Parkway or along the Watertown railroad spur. However, given the current use of both routes the feasibility of such a project has not yet been determined.</p>
OS4	<p>Improve current recreational facilities located in the neighborhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recondition Glacken Field. b. Maintain existing bleachers at Glacken Field. c. Maintain tot lot equipment. d. Surfaces at Glacken Fiels. e. Repair, upgrade and maintain tennis courts. 	<p>A new irrigation system was installed at Glacken in spring 2001. The field was re-sod at the same time. The basketball court was resurfaced during summer 2001. The playground equipment is checked regularly, and the wood carpet is replenished annually. The tennis courts were renovated summer 2006. There is no plans to re-point the bleachers, demolition is more likely an option.</p>

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
OS5	Maintain wooded area of Fresh Pond.	<p>In 1999 The Fresh Pond Master Plan was approved. The Master Plan expresses the vital importance of protecting and enhancing both the water quality of the Fresh Pond Reservation and its open space and naturalistic character. The wooded areas of Fresh Pond closet to Strawberry Hill (Glacken Field and Weir Meadows) are both highest priority recommendations for maintenance and preservation.</p> <p>Renovations to the Weir Meadow were completed in 2001 in conjunction with the new Walter Sullivan Water Treatment Facilities. This work included the construction of a water quality swale and detention pond, shoreline stabilization, new and relocated fencing, and a relocated pathway constructed in a more porous and natural looking surface material. Landscape plantings were done in compliance with the Stewardship Plan as adopted by the Fresh Pond Mater Plan.</p> <p>For additional information on the Fresh Pond Master Plan www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/fresh_pond_master_plan.cfm or contact the Cambridge Water Department 617.349.4770</p>

■ **ACTION ITEM - Timeframe**
Short Range - less than 2 years; Medium Range - 2-6 years;
Long Range - 6-10 years

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS from 1999 Neighborhood Study

<i>Rec. Type & Number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Status and Progress to Date</i>
G1	Create an independent neighborhood association.	<p>Neighborhood Associations are not city developed or sponsored and are organized and run by residents.</p> <p>The Haggerty Neighborhood Council & Community School is a Department of Human Service program. The Haggerty Neighborhood Council is currently seeking new members who are committed to helping the Council identify the needs, concerns, and interests of the community. For additional information please contact Amanda Hockman at</p> <p>The Department of Human Service Programs, 617.349.6264 or http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2</p>
G2	Develop a community bulletin board.	<p>■ FUTURE ACTION - SHORT RANGE: Two bulletin boards will be installed during the Winter/Spring of 2006-7 one at Glacken Field and one at the Haggerty School. A third bulletin board will be installed at the West Cambridge Teen Center when it is constructed.</p>



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