



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Date May 26, 1987

From Joan Lastovica JL
City Engineer

Reference Council Order
17, 4/13/87

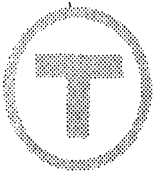
Subject Clifton Street - flooding problems

I would like to update you on our investigations to date regarding the potential cause of flooding problems on Clifton Street.

The attached MBTA letter of May 4, 1987 references "historic flooding" problems in the area, which is adjacent to the Alewife Brook floodplain. During periods of seasonal high groundwater, specifically the spring and fall, the occurrence of basement flooding is common. The April of 1987 was especially rainy and basement flooding may have been more severe.

We are now reviewing the elevations and grading of the area before and after the Russell Field Project to determine if any additional drainage is being diverted to the Clifton Street edge of the park. We have also brought the question to the attention of the Maguire Group, the City's sewer and drain consultants. The Clifton Street area is within the limits of the Phase 7 Sewer Separation Project and a new storm drain system (referenced in the MBTA letter) may provide an outlet for the area of flooding.

cc: Richard C. Rossi, Acting Commissioner of Public Works
Robert Patterson, Construction Engineer



**MASSACHUSETTS
BAY
TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY**

Regional Construction Office
21 Arlington Avenue
Charlestown, MA 02129

May 14, 1987

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

'87 APR 37 PM 12 08

Ms. Joan Lestovica
City Engineer
City of Cambridge
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Subject: MBTA Red Line Extension NW - Contract No. E1CN36
Restoration - Russell and Magnolia Fields, Drainage
Conditions at NE Corner of Russell Field, Cambridge

Dear Ms. Lestovica:

It is a well known fact among North Cambridge residents that the northeast corner of Russell Field along with the adjacent W.R. Grace land (see attached photo) have historically flooded in the high water periods that typically occur throughout the year. When Russell Field was restored in 1986 by the MBTA after the Red Line Extension construction, a major effort was successfully made toward improving the field's drainage conditions, especially in recreational areas. The northeast corner of the site, however, along with the land of adjacent property owners, is low relative to the nearby existing storm drains and surface drainage features, thus making it difficult to treat this drainage problem. The use of grade separation walls, a pump station or a new storm drain system were beyond the responsibilities and scope of the MBTA's restoration contract.

As an intermediate type solution, an eight foot diameter drywell surrounded by two feet of crushed stone with filter fabric was installed at the low point of a depression, which was graded to collect this areas stormwater runoff. Water that now ponds in this area during high water periods will have to be treated in one of the three methods mentioned above before the ponding situation is corrected.

Please feel free to call me with any further questions that you may have regarding this situation.

Very truly yours,

Howard M. Haywood
Project Manager

HMH/rh
Attachment

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WHITEMORE AVE.

W. R. GRACE CO.

HARVEY ST.

FLOOD

AREA

RUSSELL

FIELD

CLIFTON ST.

1976 PHOTO

6070
MAIL
256



KODAK SAFETY FILM



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 29, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 18 regarding the poor drainage at Russell Field, I submit the attached report from Joan Lastovica, City Engineer.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over the typed name.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

S-441

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item 18 on
poor drainage at the Russell Field.

In City Council,

June 29, 1987

C. D. Sullivan

Requested further
detail from City Engineer