



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 876-6800

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 23, 1976

The Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Councillors:

The Cambridge Conservation Commission urges your support for the purchase and development of the Riverside Press site for open space and recreation. This use of the site will provide the Riverside and Cambridgeport neighborhoods with a badly needed active and passive recreation resource. Combined, these neighborhoods have only 21% of the open space (including the MDC's Magazine Beach) needed by neighborhoods of their population, according to national standards.

By acquiring the Riverside Press site, the City could preserve one of the last remaining riverfront parcels for use by the people of Cambridge. Currently, the only riverfront parcel owned by the City is the 1½ acre Cpl. Burns playground. The acquisition proposal also represents a major opportunity to develop a large active recreational resource for the Eastern half of the City. Most of the City's open space is located in the Western section, and the use of this site for a park would help to provide a more equitable distribution of open space.

Nearly half of the money needed to purchase the site has been made available through the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the State Self Help program. In addition, half of the money required to construct the proposed park will be provided by the BOR. Although Council authorization is required for financing, the City's share of the total cost was included in the Public Investment section of the 1975-1976 budget.

The Conservation Commission views the purchase and development of the Riverside Press site as a park as part of an over-all open space plan for Cambridge. We see the opportunity for obtaining additional funds to acquire and develop open space sites in other areas of the City so that all residents of Cambridge can have the chance to enjoy outdoor recreation.

We believe that the Riverside Press site is an important parcel of land for the people of Cambridge to own, and we again urge you to vote favorably for the project.

Very truly yours,

Stuart Lesser
Stuart Lesser,
Chairman



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Stuart Lesser

Stuart Lesser,
Chairman

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Comm. from Stuart Lesser, Chairman, Conserva-
tion Commission, re: to the Riverside Press
site.

In City Council,

Feb. 23, 1976

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