



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #2

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 23, 1998

VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council the following information regarding the ComEnergy site.

- Legal opinion on the potential judgement cost for an eminent domain taking of the site;
- Potential financing options for obtaining the site, for leveraging of the cost, etc.;
- Costs of clean-up of the site for the following uses:
 - a. Construction of municipal buildings; and
 - b. Recreational use with minimal building.

In City Council December 7, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Elie Yarden, 143 Pleasant Street, spoke in support of the use of the ComEnergy site as open space. This neighborhood's fear of a planned unit development (PUD) is justified. Nothing has been more destructive to neighborhoods than the PUD. He is not anti-development, but some development is predatory, while some is productive. He described the mis-match between employment and residence in Cambridge. To have a city populated by families, non-families, lots of different kinds of people, the resources to maintain such a community must be utilized. Mr. Yarden spoke in opposition to the City Manager's plan to put \$2 million in an open space trust fund. The cost of land goes up much faster than the cost of money.

Donald Down, 187 Otis Street, discussed the need for more playing fields for youth sports. He urged more open space for East Cambridge. Youth soccer has taken off in East Cambridge.

Daniel Kramer, 145 Fifth Street, spoke in support of more East Cambridge open space. He stated that \$2 million is not a large enough move. Bigger steps are needed.

Helen Kohane, 69 R Gore Street, urged the taking of the ComEnergy site for open space.

Frank Manganelli, Gore Street, East Cambridge, spoke in support of more open space in East Cambridge. He urged taking the ComEnergy land and turning it into a facility that can accommodate youth sports.

Michael Isenberg, 450 Franklin Street, submitted a letter about 76-78 Putnam Avenue (Attachment B) and urged the City Council to consider open space needs in other parts of the city.

Fred Cabral, East Cambridge, stated that he is a life-long East Cambridge resident. When he was a child, he could play half of his Babe Ruth games in East Cambridge. Now, they are all played in North Cambridge. East Cambridge needs open space; they have put up with a lot of the development and traffic. The ComEnergy site is only 1/5 the size of Danehy Park.

Ann Strong, 44 Cottage Street, spoke in support of more open space for East Cambridge. A lot fewer than half of the kids in the city play sports. At least 20% of kids are obese. The inequity of open space relates to this public health problem.

David Clem, Managing Director, Cambridge Research Park, L.L.P., owner of the ComEnergy site, spoke in opposition to the proposal to take the site by eminent domain. He said that Councillor Toomey has done an invaluable service in bringing the issue of the need for more open space in East Cambridge to the City Council. His company purchased the property for development and bought an extra acre for access to Broad Canal. The development contains a plan for a 1.5 acre park with permanent public access to the Broad Canal in small craft. Lyme Properties believes in being a good neighbor. In Cambridgeport, they made a \$100,000 contribution to Fort Washington Park. It does not make economic sense to purchase the most expensive commercial land for open space instead of other sites which are closer to the neighborhoods and less expensive.

Mr. Clem stated that the ComEnergy site would require expensive environmental clean-up before it could be used for recreation. Mr. Clem assured the Committee that his company wants to work with the Council in the issue of open space. Open space is badly needed in Cambridge. The development will generate \$4 in linkage fees.

Councillor Toomey asked Mr. Clem how the Riverside Park land was acquired. Mr. Clem stated that Riverside Press owned the property. The City negotiated for a bargain sale from Riverside Press and applied for federal funds. The City negotiated with the utility company to swap a piece of land and convinced Orion Research to buy some of the land.

Councillor Toomey stated that East Cambridge residents are cut off from the river. A 1.5 acre park is not enough. He stated that he has heard several different figures mentioned as the cost to the City. He reminded those present that of all of the parcels in East Cambridge taken by eminent domain, only one was the subject of a law suit.

Charlie Poirier, Gore Street, asked whether the 1.5 acres of open space includes the Broad Canal. Mr. Clem said no. Mr. Poirier urged taking the site for open space.

Fred Fantini, Canal Park, former member of the School Committee, spoke in support of more open space for East Cambridge. No dollar amount can be placed on the quality of life. East Cambridge has had enough. He urged taking the site for open space. He wants people in East Cambridge to be able to see the river and smell the salt in the wind blowing from the ocean. The City Manager's \$2 million proposed for open space is a great first effort. He hopes all can work together to make this happen.

Councillor Sullivan then invited comments from members of the Committee.

Vice Mayor Galluccio stated that he firmly believes that more playing fields and more participation in youth sports are a top priority for the City.

Vice Mayor Galluccio asked whether the City really knows the level of contamination of the ComEnergy site and whether that level of contamination would be to the City's benefit with respect to the value of the site.

Mr. Healy stated that the environmental impact report contains estimates of between \$10 and \$30 million for removal of the contamination. That is one reason the sales price was \$21.7 million. He stated that the City could not acquire the property for any less than the sales price. Eminent domain is complicated and risky. A 2/3 vote would be required for the appropriation. The last land taking was for Front Park. There were two appraisals. The highest was \$980,000. The City paid that and 12 years later, to settle the takings case, the City paid \$3 million more, all for 17,000 sq. ft. of land.

Vice Mayor Galluccio asked whether the clean up cost would be the same if the site were only to be used for fields and not construction. Robert W. Healy stated that even a football stadium would require some construction, but he does not know the cost as open space.

Vice Mayor Galluccio requested that Robert W. Healy look closely at this issue and provide the City Council with information as to what the cost of remediation would be. He requested a written analysis of the cost of remediation, the various purposes of recreation use with minimal building and/or construction of municipal buildings, and a legal opinion in the potential judgment cost for an eminent domain taking.

Vice Mayor Galluccio then made the following motion:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council the following information regarding the ComEnergy site:

- Legal opinion on the potential judgment cost for an eminent domain taking of the site.
- Potential financing options for obtaining the site, for leveraging of the cost, etc;
- Costs of clean-up of the site for the following uses:
 - a. Construction of municipal buildings;
 - b. Recreational use with minimal building.

Councillor Sullivan stated that he is not sure that this is the right site, but open space is desperately needed in East Cambridge.

Councillor Russell asked whether, given the depth of contamination, it would even be safe for children to play. Mr. Healy stated that he does not know. Councillor Russell then asked if the City would be responsible for the clean-up if it took the site. Mr. Healy answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Born stated that she is very committed to more open space for East Cambridge and that she fully intends to ask for more funds for open space. However, she is not at all sure that this site is the best site for open space. The park would not be close to the residential area; it would be separated from the neighborhood by a lot of development. Would parents really be willing to let their children go by themselves to a park so situated?

Councillor Born asked what Danehy Park cost the City. Mr. Healy stated that approximately \$3 million in City funds were used. A lot of grant money was used. Councillor Born asked if the City would be likely to get grants for this project. Robert W. Healy stated that although some grant funding might be available, it would not be to the extent of the grant funds that the City was able to garner for Danehy Park.

Councillor Born asked how could the City finance it, if the City were to make a decision to spend \$60 million on this park. Mr. Healy stated that a \$60 million bond would be the second largest bond ever in the City. A new library and new police station combined would be about \$60,000,000.

City Manager Healy stated that he is not prepared to make a recommendation for such an appropriation.

Councillor Born asked how much in debt service the \$2 million would leverage if it were a 10 year commitment. Robert Healy stated that it would pay for a \$16 million bond.

Councillor Born requested that the City Manager look at the possibilities for expanding open space around Ahern Field, East Cambridge has "gotten the shaft" with all of the development there and the City should give something back, but the City needs to figure out what it can spend.

Mr. Healy noted the \$3.5 million payments to the East Cambridge Stabilization Fund as mitigation for development.

Councillor Toomey moved Vice Mayor Galluccio's order, and it was passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Councillor Sullivan said that Cambridge is a city of 6.2 square miles and what Frank Maganelli remembers is the gradual loss of open space to public purposes. The purpose may be good, but the open space is gone. He then asked about tax incentive financing (TIF). James Maloney stated that he would need to review the statutes.

Councillor Sullivan asked about potential linkage payments to the City from the development. Robert Healy noted that this project does not have to seek a PUD. It can build as of right, but if it does seek a PUD, there will be an inclusionary zoning linkage fee of \$3.8 million.

Councillor Sullivan invited testimony from any member of the public who did not speak earlier.

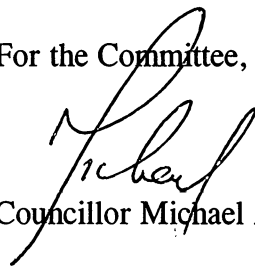
Bob Travis, 55 Fulkerson Street, stated that the stabilization money was used for trees, street lights, etc. It might be a good idea to close Fulkerson Street.

Michael Isenberg, Franklin Street, stated that it is important to differentiate the notion of an open space acquisition fund from the notion of paying for one particular site.- 7 -

Shannon Larkin, Cambridge, stated that the proposed development would add 14,000 car trips daily. This is too much development for the neighborhood.

Councillor Sullivan thanked all those present for their attendance. The hearing was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

For the Committee,



Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Chair



City of Cambridge
 Health, Physical Education
 and Athletics Department

**Report for School Committee Sub Committee on
 Health, Physical Education, Athletics & Safety**

**Athletic Participation in CRLS Sports (Fall and Spring)
 Location of Practice and Game Facilities
 Open Space in Cambridge**

William Bates
 Barbara Black
 Robert McGowan

**Revised Edition
 July 27, 1998**

Executive Summary

A primary goal of the Health, Physical Education, and Athletic Department is to insure equity in all programs. In keeping with this goal, the School Committee Sub Committee on Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Safety requested a report on the locations of the fields used for CRLS interscholastic Sports (i.e. Fall and Spring athletic facilities). In addition to this report we were asked to analyze the possible effects that locations of facilities are having on sports participation by students from different areas of the city.

In order to compile this report, we undertook an initial study which examined: (1) student participation in fall and spring interscholastic sports by zip code, (2) the location of all CRLS interscholastic sports facilities including practice and game fields, (3) and the available open space in the City of Cambridge.

This data presented us with statistics that showed that although there was a large number of students participating in fall and spring sports from the C-port/ Area 4/ Mid Cambridge area there was a significantly lower proportion than other areas of the city, except in the case of East Cambridge where the proportion was even lower. In fact, both of these areas are lower than the proportional norm for the high school. It then follows that West Cambridge and North Cambridge proportions are higher than the norm.

It was evident that the facilities used for both practice and games were primarily in the areas of West and North Cambridge. It also became apparent that a corollary relationship exists between the proportion of CRLS students participating in athletics from a specific area of the city and the availability of practice and game fields in that area.

We also found that most of the open space in Cambridge is in the North and West part of Cambridge and this amount, in most cases, is three times that of other areas of Cambridge.

We believe that this information serves as further validation that city-wide strategies are needed to create equity in sports programming across the City of Cambridge.

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Abstract

For the study we categorized the student population at CRLS by postal zip codes dividing the total population at CRLS into 5 major geographic areas including:

- West Cambridge (02138)
- C-port/Area 4/Mid Cambridge (02139)
- North Cambridge (02140)
- East Cambridge (02141)
- other - Outside Cambridge

By looking at the numbers of students from these areas we were able to determine that the largest percentage of students at CRLS come from the C-port, Area 4, Mid Cambridge area (43%). With the help of the Computer Center, we tracked student participation in the fall and spring sports (activities that require outdoor fields). This data presented us with statistics that showed that although there was a large number of students participating in fall and spring sports from the C-port/Area 4/Mid-Cambridge area, there was a significantly lower proportion than other areas of the city, except in the case of East Cambridge where the proportion was even lower. Both of these areas are lower than the proportional norm for the high school. It then follows that West Cambridge and North Cambridge proportions are higher than the norm.

We then mapped all of our interscholastic athletic facilities by zip code. It was evident that the major areas used for both practice and games were in the areas of

West and North Cambridge. It also became apparent that a corollary relationship exists between the proportion of CRLS students participating in athletics from a specific area and the availability of practice and game fields in that area.

One can conclude that there is an increased number of students participating in sports at CRLS from North and West Cambridge due to the increased availability of field resources in this area. This increases the likelihood that students living in this area will participate in sports due to the convenience of attending and returning home after practice or games. It also provides an opportunity for youngsters living in this area to watch older siblings model the behavior of sport participation. Thus, they become acculturated to physical activity, athletics, & sports and are more likely to be physically active as they grow up.

With assistance from the City of Cambridge Community Development Department, we looked further at the issue of open space in Cambridge. We took the 13 neighborhoods used by the Community Development Department to describe open space and mapped them into the five major areas described above and found that most of the open space in Cambridge is in the North and West part of Cambridge and this amount, in most cases, is at least three times that of other areas of Cambridge. In the case of East Cambridge it is as much as ten times the area.

We believe that the availability of fields in an area significantly contributes to the numbers of students who participate in athletics from that area. Furthermore, that this creates inequities that could stand in the way of achieving our goal of daily physical activity for all children in Cambridge.

This information should serve as further validation that city-wide strategies need to be developed to create equity in sports programming.

Population of CRLS Students by Area

The first table shows the break down of students at CRLS by the zip codes assigned by the post office. Each student at the time of registration provides the school department with pertinent information about each student. This information is updated throughout their public school career by parents, parent information center, administrators, school secretaries, and the computer center.

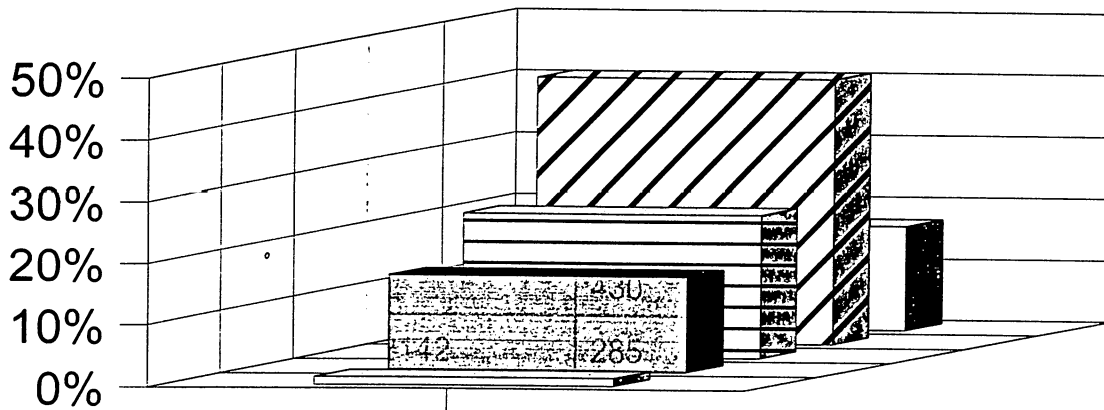
The table and graph on the next page show that a large population of students at CRLS come from C-Port, Area 4, Mid Cambridge area (02139), followed by North Cambridge (02140), West Cambridge (02138), and East Cambridge (02141/42). There are also a small number of students from outside Cambridge with various zip codes. (See Table 1 & Graph 1)

Table 1

Total Number of Students at CRLS by Zip Code

Area	Zip Code	Total for Area	Percent from Area
High School & West	02138	315	17.06%
C-Port, Area 4, Mid Cambridge	02139	793	42.96%
North Cambridge	02140	430	23.29%
East Cambridge	02141 & 02142	285	15.44%
Other	0	23	1.25%
Total Number of Students		1846	100%

Total Number of Students at CRLS by Area



Areas of Cambridge

- High School & West
- C-Port, Area 4, Mid Cambridge
- North Cambridge
- East Cambridge
- Other

Graph 1

Proportion of Students Participating in Sports at CRLS

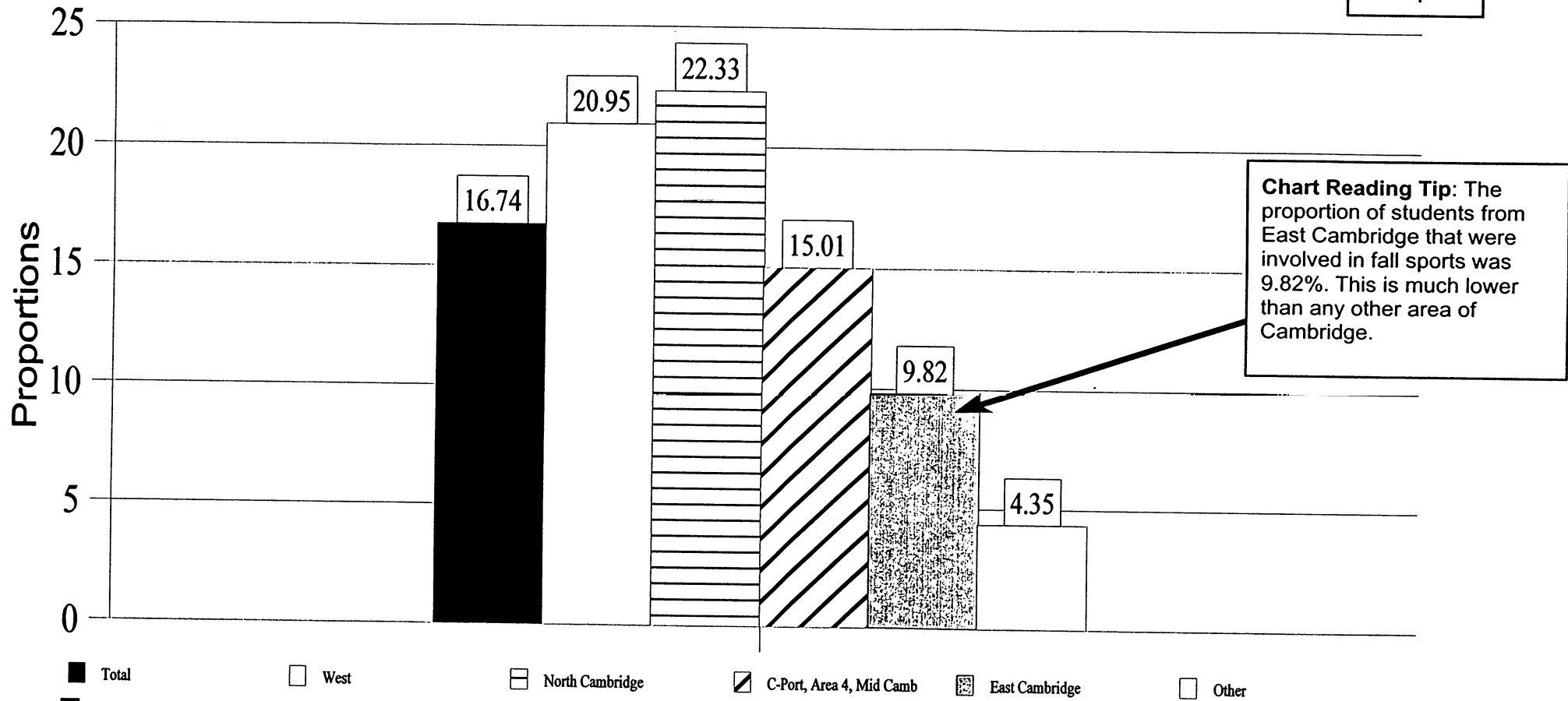
The next table and graphs shows the proportions of students that play sports from each area of the city. Although there are more students that play sports from the 02139 (C-Port, Area 4, Mid Cambridge) zip code area (see Appendix A), this number is proportionally less than other areas of the city.

- Table 2 = Proportion of students playing sports during fall and spring seasons**
- Graph 2 = Proportional Participation of students in fall sports by area**
- Graph 3 = Proportional Participation of students in spring sports by area**
- Graph 4 = Proportional Participation of students in fall and spring sports by area**

Proportions of Students Playing Sports at CRLS

Fall Sports

Graph 2



For an equity comparison, the proportion of students playing CRLS sports from each area of the city can be compared to each other and to the proportion of the whole population participating in sports (see total above)

Fall Students N=309

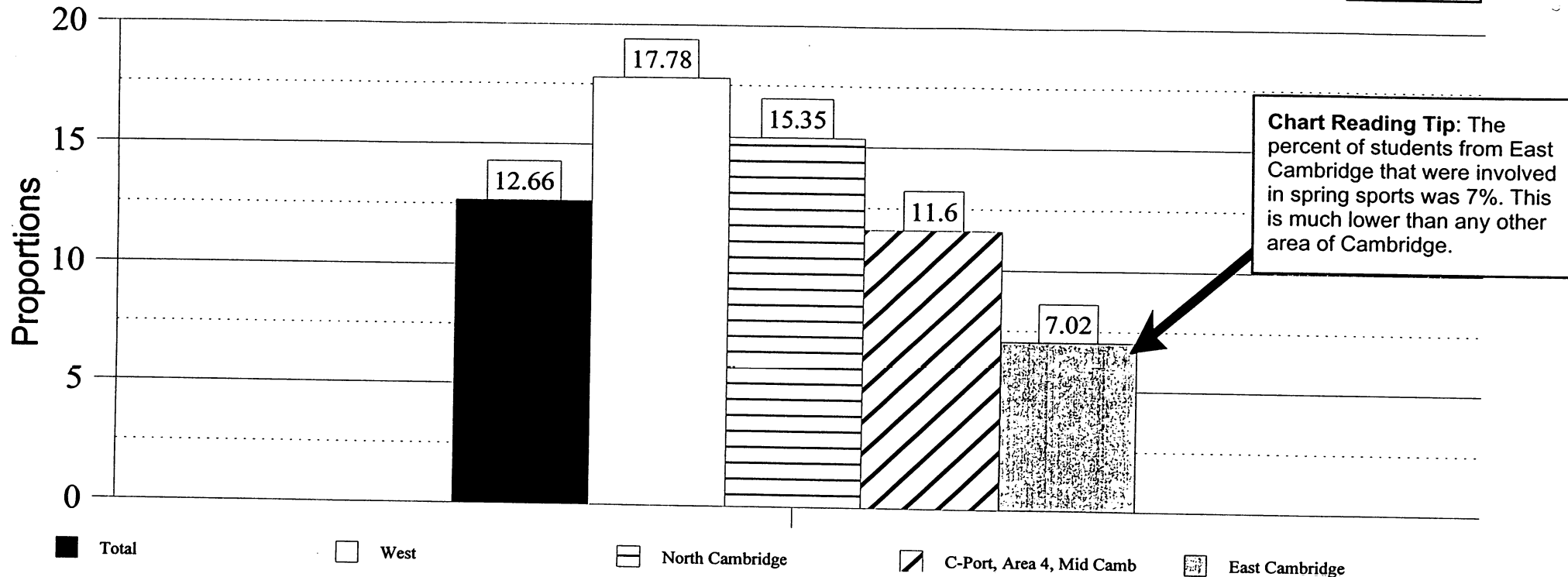
Spring Students N=234

Fall: X-country (G & B), Football, Soccer (G & B), Girl's Volleyball, Girl's Swimming, Golf (*Cheerleading not included*)

Proportions of Students Playing Sports at CRLS

Spring Sports

Graph 3



For an equity comparison, the proportion of students playing CRLS sports from each area of the city can be compared to each other and to the proportion of the whole population participating in sports (see total above)

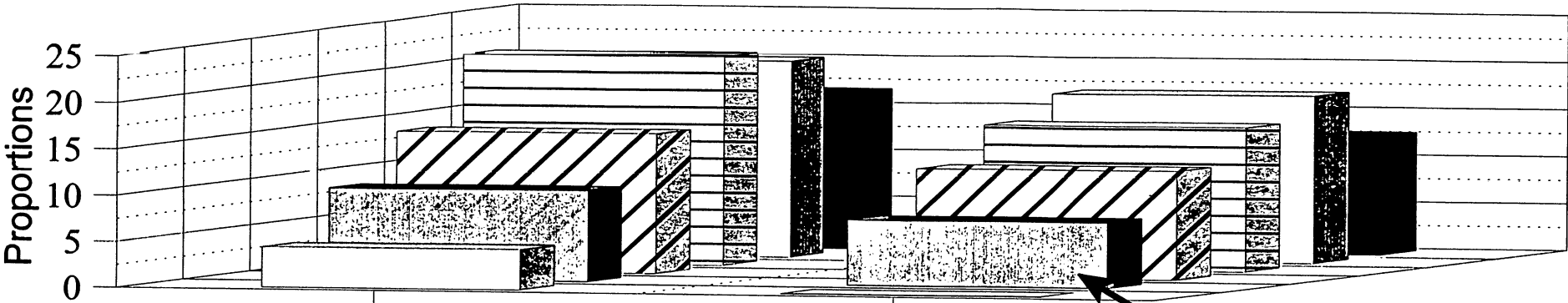
Fall Students N=309

Spring Students N=234

Spring: Softball, Baseball, Girl's Tennis, Boy's Tennis, Outdoor Track (G & B), Boy's Volleyball (*Sailing & Crew not included*)

Proportions of Students Playing Sports at CRLS

Fall and Spring Sports



- Total
- West
- North Cambridge
- C-Port, Area 4, Mid Camb
- East Cambridge
- Other

Chart Reading Tip: The percent of students from East Cambridge that were involved in spring sports was 7%. This is much lower than any other area of Cambridge.

For an equity comparison, the proportion of students playing CRLS sports from each area of the city can be compared to each other and to the proportion of the whole population participating in sports (see total above)

Fall Students N=309

Spring Students N=234

Fall: X-country (G & B), Football, Soccer (G & B), Girl's Volleyball, Girl's Swimming, Golf (*Cheerleading not included*)
 Spring: Softball, Baseball, Girl's Tennis, Boy's Tennis, Outdoor Track (G & B), Boy's Volleyball (*Sailing & Crew not included*)

Graph 4

Location of Practice and Game Facilities

The following charts shows the CRLS Practice and Game Facilities of all interscholastic sports activities provided by the Health, Physical Education and Athletic Department. This chart also provides information on the number of teams for each sport (in parentheses) next to the labeled sport. The area of each sport is determined by the zip code of the practice field and/or game field.

The tables are followed by a summary of the total practice and fields and a graphic representation of the totals.

Table 2

CRLS Athletic Practice and Game Facilities

Sport Teams	Practice Field	Area of Cambridge	Game Field	Area of Cambridge
Boys Hockey (2)	Gore Street Rink	East Cambridge	Gore Street Rink	East Cambridge
Girls Hockey (1)	Gore Street Rink	East Cambridge	Gore Street Rink	East Cambridge
Boys Outdoor Track (2)	MIT & CRLS Field House	C-port & West	NONE	NONE
Girls Outdoor Track(2)	MIT & CRLS Field House	C-port & West	NONE	NONE
Boys Baseball (3)	Rindge & Saint Peters Field	North Cambridge	Rindge & Saint Peters Field	North Cambridge
Girls Softball (3)	Danehy & Saint Peters Field	North Cambridge	Danehy & Saint Peters Field	North Cambridge
Boys Tennis (1)	Field House Tennis Courts	West	Field House Tennis Courts	West
Girls Tennis (2)	Field House Tennis Courts	West	Field House Tennis Courts	West
Boys Wrestling (1)	Field House	West	Field House	West
Crew (1)	Brighton MDC	Outside Cambridge	Brighton MDC	Outside Cambridge
Sailing (1)	Boston Community Sailing Club	Outside Cambridge	Boston Community Sailing Club	Outside Cambridge
Gymnastics (1)	MIT & CRLS Field House	C-port & West	MIT & CRLS Field House	C-port & West
Cheerleading (3)	Field House	C-port	Russell Field	C-port & North Cambridge

Sport Teams	Practice Field	Area of Cambridge	Game Field	Area of Cambridge
Football (3)	Russell Field and Cambridge Common	North Cambridge & West	Russell Field and Cambridge Common	North Cambridge & West
Golf (2)	Fresh Pond	West	Fresh Pond	West
Girls Soccer (3)	Danehy Park	North Cambridge	Danehy Park	North Cambridge
Boys Soccer (3)	Danehy Park	North Cambridge	Danehy Park	North Cambridge
Girls Swimming (1)	War Memorial	West	War Memorial	West
Boys Swimming (1)	War Memorial	West	War Memorial	West
Boys X-Country (1)	Fresh Pond	West	Fresh Pond	West
Girls X-Country (1)	Fresh Pond	West	Fresh Pond	West
Boys Volleyball (3)	War Memorial	West	War Memorial	West
Girls Volleyball (3)	War Memorial	West	War Memorial	West
Girls Indoor Track (2)	Field House	West	Field House	West
Boys Indoor Track (2)	Field House	West	Field House	West
Boys Basketball (3)	War Memorial	West	War Memorial	West
Girls Basketball (3)	War Memorial	West	War Memorial	West

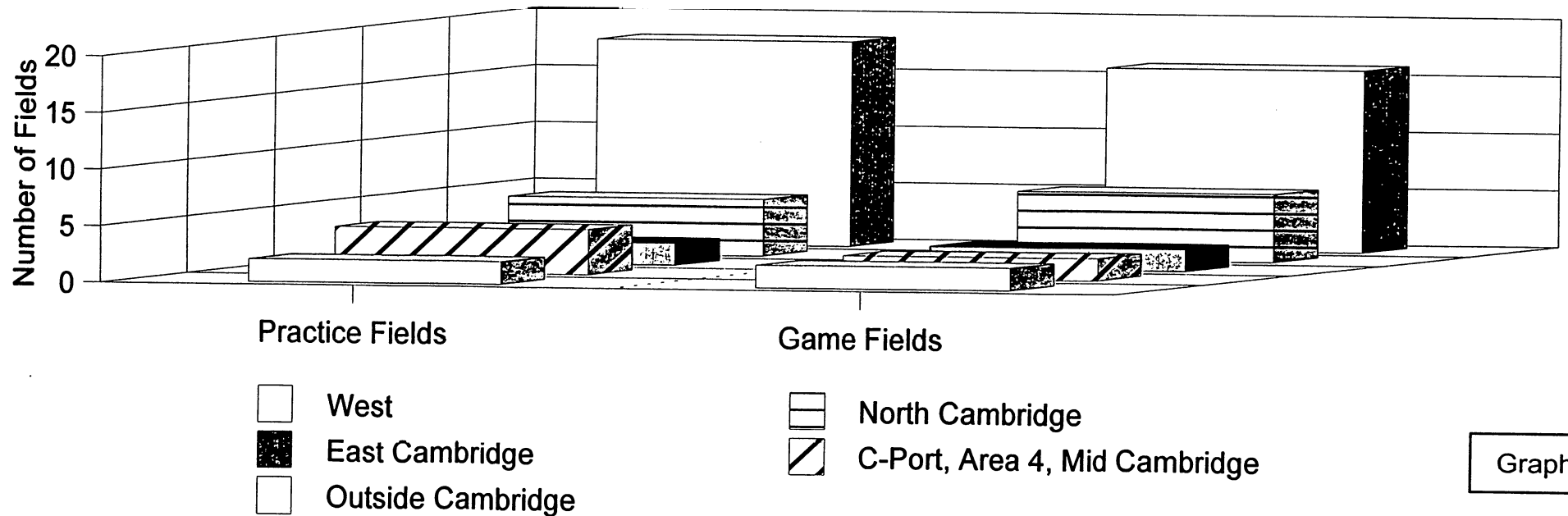
Chart 2 (Cont.)

Table 3

Total Practice and Game Facilities in Cambridge

Area of Cambridge	Number of Practice Fields	Number of Game Fields
West	18	16
C-Port/Area 4/Mid Cambridge	4	2
North Cambridge (Including Danehy)	5	6
East Cambridge	2	2
Outside Cambridge	2	2
N=	31	28

Total Practice and Game Field by Area



Graph 5

Open Space in Cambridge

With the help of data obtained through the City of Cambridge Community Development Department we examined the issue of open space in the City of Cambridge. These tables, charts and map contain data that is based upon a report entitled "The 5 year Recovery Action Plan" done in March 1992. This report breaks down Cambridge into 13 Neighborhood track boundaries that can be seen in Map 1. The amount of open space in that area has been determined by the Community Development Department and has been provided for this report (see Table 4).

Amount of Open Space in Cambridge by Area of Cambridge

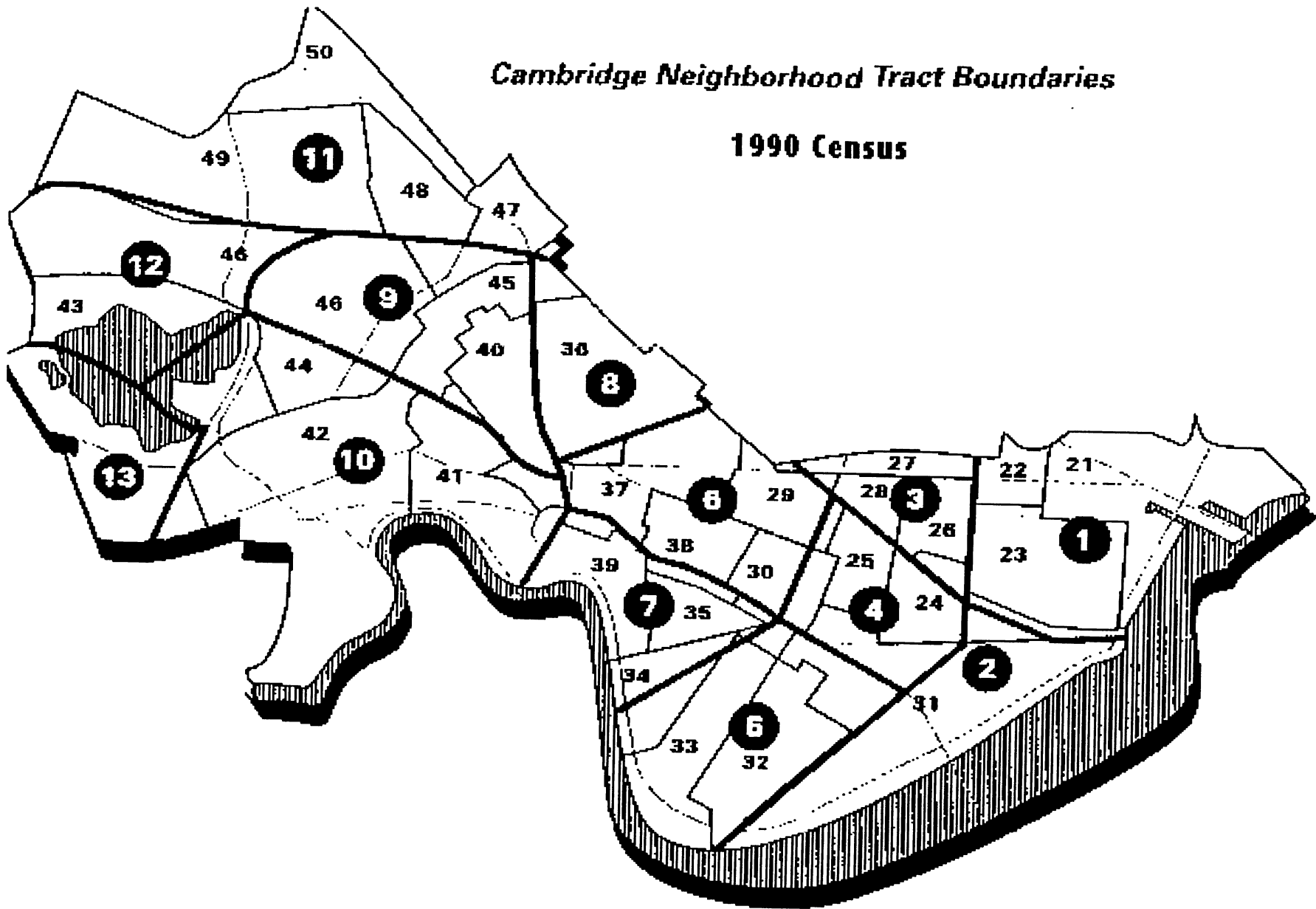
Area	Amount of Open Space Acres
a	
1	16.6 Acres
2	16.0 Acres
3	8.0 Acres
4	6.7 Acres
5	25.8 Acres
6	4.5 Acres
7	16.3 Acres
8	1.3 Acres
9	70.3 Acres
10	25.2 Acres
11	23.5 Acres
12	62.3 Acres
13	80.5 Acres

Table 4

*Based on information from the
City of Cambridge Community
Development Office and the
5 year Recovery Action Plan
(March, 1992)*

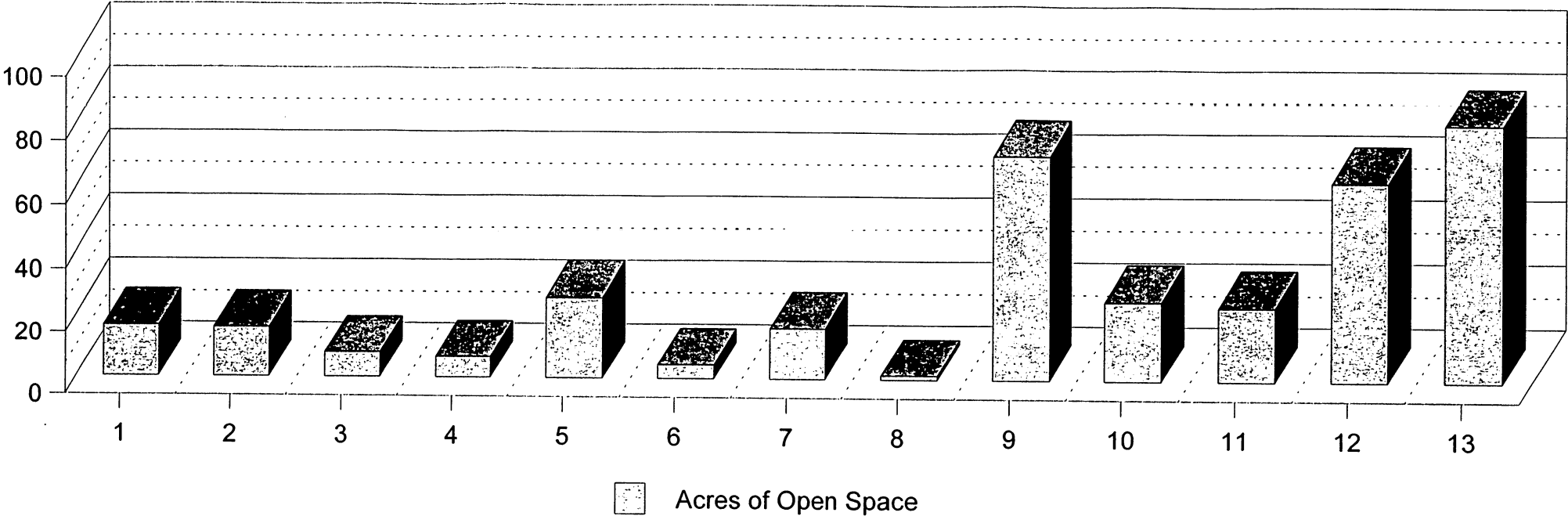
Cambridge Neighborhood Tract Boundaries

1990 Census



Open Space in Cambridge

By Areas



This chart shows the total amount of open space by acres in Cambridge.
Looking at the chart from left to right
(East Cambridge - Mid Cambridge - North Cambridge - West Cambridge)

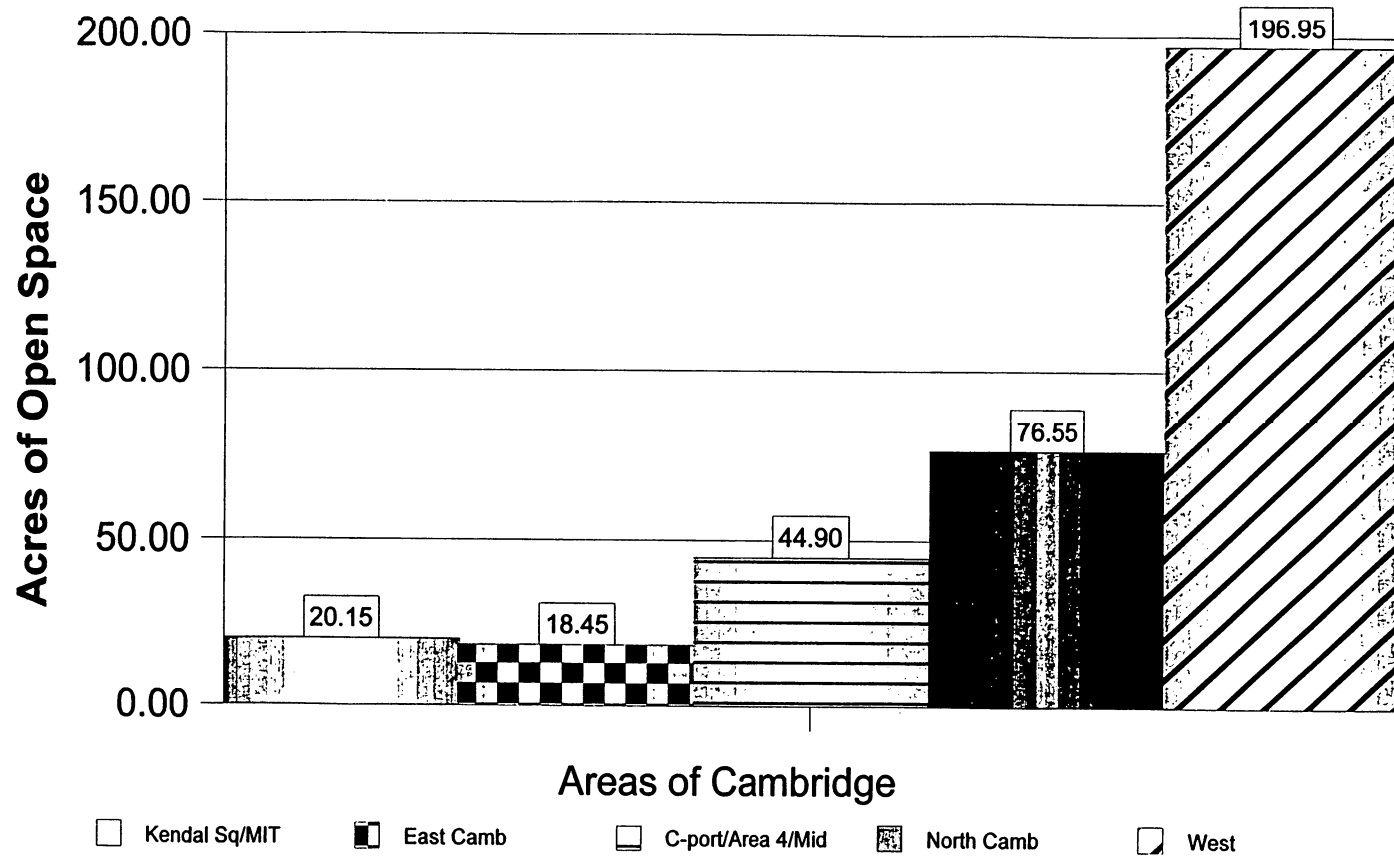
Graph 6

Acres Designated by Cambridge as Open Space By Zip Code

Zip Code	Area of Cambridge	Amount of Open Space
02138	West	196.95
02142	Kendal Sq/MIT 02142	20.15
02140	North Camb	76.55
02141	East Camb 02141	18.45
02139	C-port/Area 4/Mid	44.90

Table 5

Acres Designated by Cambridge as Open Space (by Zip Code)



Graph 7

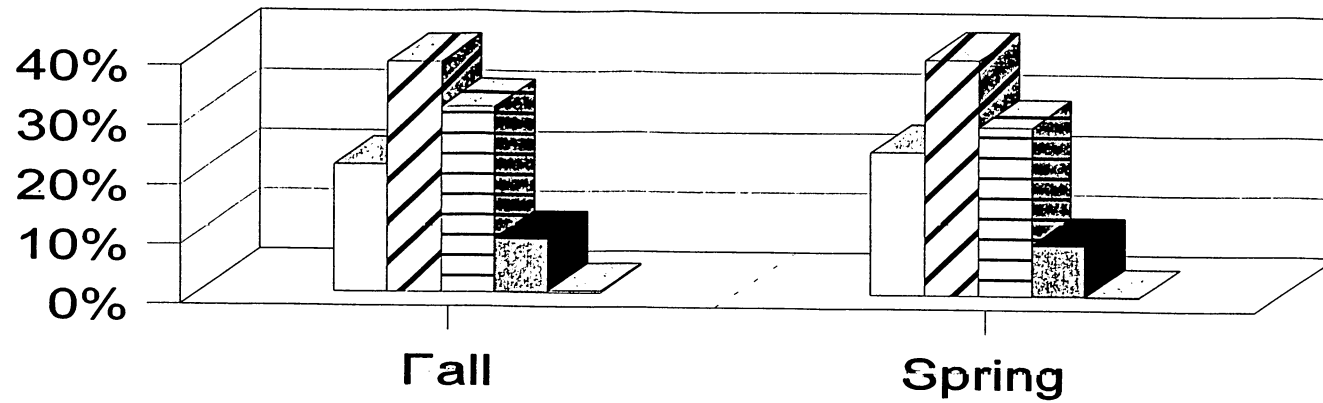
Appendix A

**Percent of the Total Athletes involved in Sports
during the Fall and Spring Season**


Area	Zip Code		# in Fall Sports	Fall % by Area		# in Spring Sports	Spring % by Area
West	02138		66	21.36%		56	23.93%
C-Port, Area 4, Mid Camb	02139		119	38.51%		92	39.32%
North Cambridge	02140		96	31.07%		66	28.21%
East Cambridge	02141 & 02142		28	9.06%		20	8.55%
Other	0		1	0.32%		0	0.00%
Total Number of Students			309	100.00%		234	100.00%

Table 6

Percent of Total Athletes Involved in Fall and Spring Sport



Areas of Cambridge

-  High School & West
-  C-Port, Area 4, Mid Cambridge
-  North Cambridge
-  East Cambridge
-  Other

Graph 8

Appendix B

02140

Cambridge Neighborhood Tract Boundaries

1990 Census

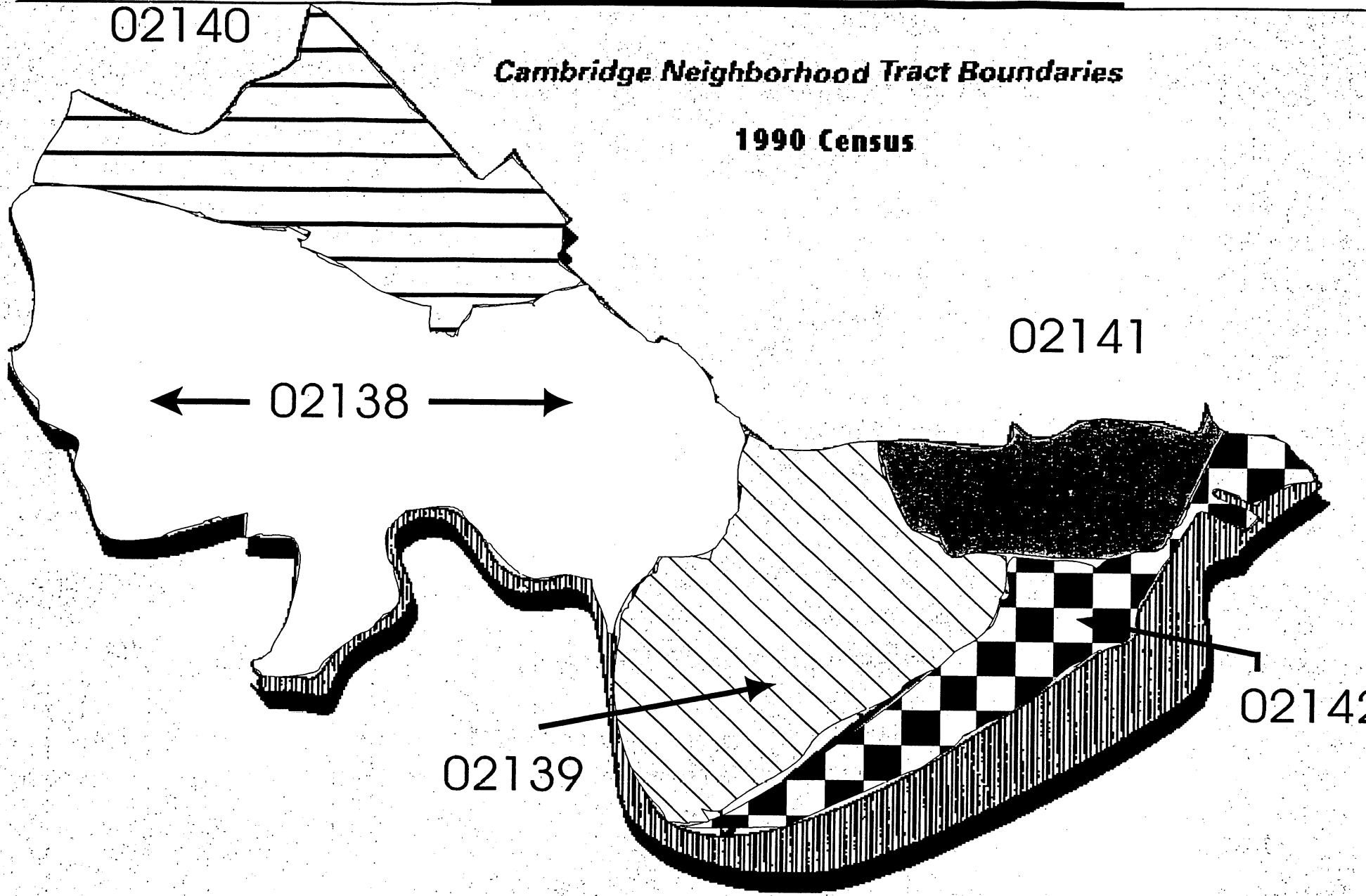
02141

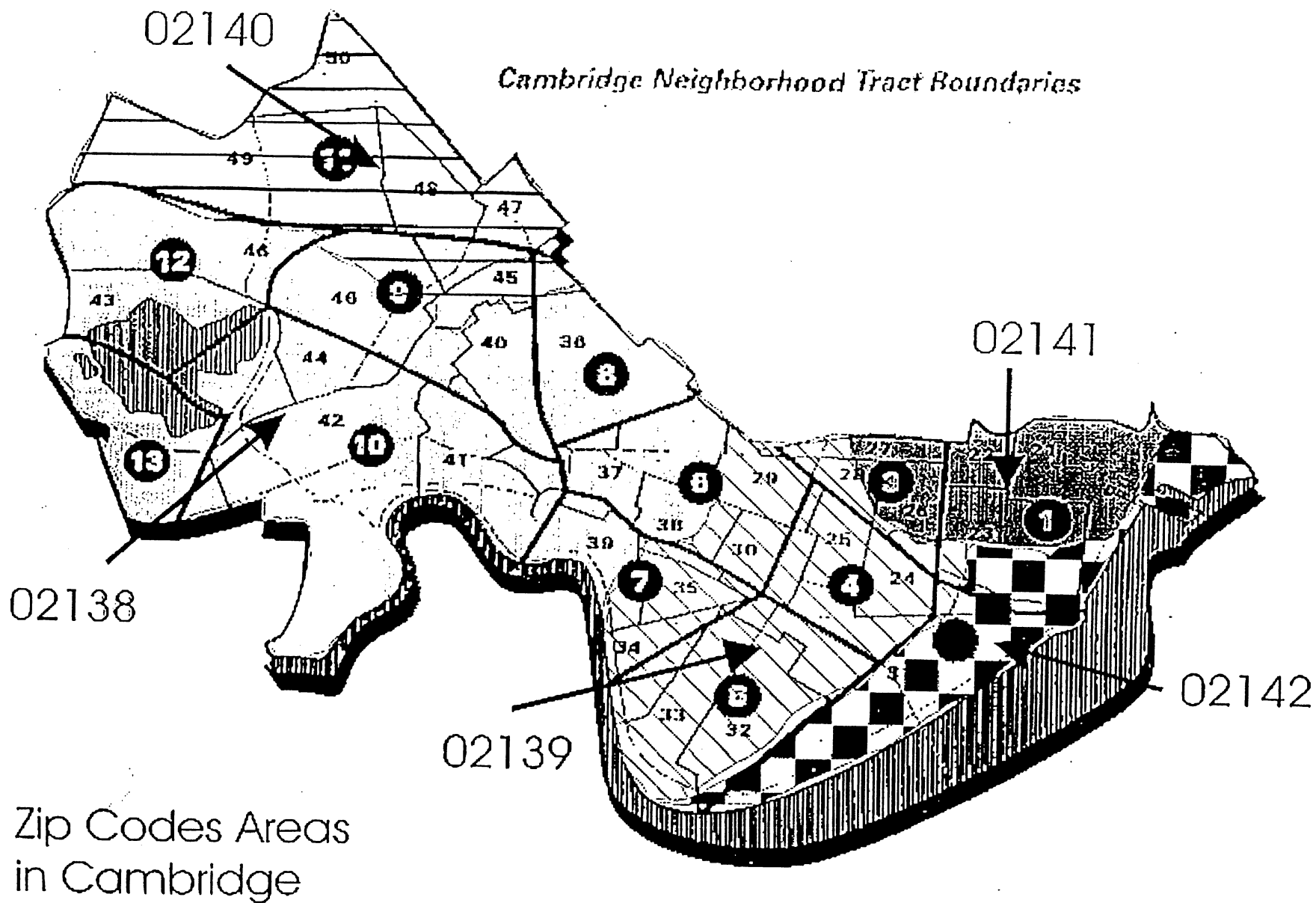
← 02138 →

02139

02142

Map 2





Map 3

Appendix C

Stats on Athletes by Zip Code

Area	Zip Code	Fall Sports Proportions	Spring Sports Proportions
West	02138	20.95%	17.78%
C-Port, Area 4, Mid Camb	02139	15.01%	11.60%
North	21040	22.33%	15.35%
East	21441	9.82%	7.02%
	02142		
Other	Outside Camb	4.35%	0.00%
Total # of Students		16.74%	12.66%

*Note: The Fall numbers include X-country (G & B), Football, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming, Golf, Soccer (G & B).
The Spring numbers include Softball, Baseball, Tennis (G & B), Outdoor Track (G & B), Boys Volleyball
(Cheerleading, Crew and Sailing are not included)*

Table 8

450 Franklin St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Richard Valente
43 Allen St.
Arlington, MA 02174

Dear Mr. Valente,

We are writing you today in concern and interest in 76 - 78 Putnam St, "Putnam Park."
As neighbors that live around the property, we want to thank you and acknowledge your kindness for allowing the neighborhood to maintain the flowers, vegetables, and plants to beautify our community.


The park has become a real neighborhood asset. Students from the King School painted a mural on the back fence. There is a bench where residents can come together to enjoy a peaceful afternoon. There are community garden plots and two grape vines. The flowers make the neighborhood more bright and colorful.

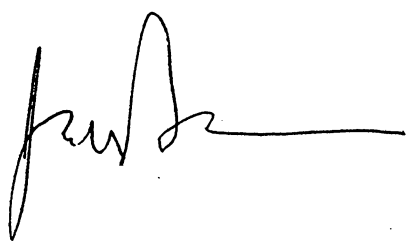
We would like to get together with you for a short meeting to discuss your plans for the property. We are interested in the future of the site and want to discuss how we can envision a future that would be mutually beneficial. Please contact Michael at 498-6236 so we can arrange a time of mutual convenience.


We, again want to thank you for allowing the park to enrich the community.

We look forward to talking to you.


Sincerely Yours,


Michael Isenberg
Franklin St.



Josh Breslau
Putnam Ave.


Manuel Uribe
Putnam Ave.


Lisa Santoro
Putnam Ave.


Todd Litton
Putnam Ave.


Jeff Bronski
Flagg St.


Dan Butterworth
Hews St.


Christopher Kim
Putnam Ave.

450 Franklin St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

October 24, 1998

Richard Valente
43 Allen St.
Arlington, MA 02174

Dear Mr. Valente,

We are writing to you today to follow up on our letter sent in early October about 76 -78 Putnam St., "Putnam Park." As we head into the fall there is increasing excitement about the park. In October, a local artist placed a metal sculpture bench, "The Freedom Bench," on the southern side on the park. The bench was recently in a summer sculpture exhibit in Maine. The residents are also getting ready to start a compost pile that will make soil for the 1999 plantings.

We would like to get together with you for a short meeting to discuss your plans for the property. We are interested in the future of the site and want to discuss how we can envision a future that would be mutually beneficial. Please contact Michael at 498-6236 so we can arrange a time of mutual convenience.

We, again want to thank you for allowing the park to enrich the community.


We look forward to talking to you.

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Manuel Uribe
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Christopher Kim
Putnam Ave.

Jeff Bronski
Flagg St.



City of Cambridge

In City Council November 23, 1998

The Finance Committee held a public hearing on October 27, 1998, beginning at 5:40 p.m. in the auditorium of the Kennedy School, 158 Spring Street, for the purpose of discussion of the issue of the eminent domain taking of property for open space, especially in East Cambridge, including the proposal for the ComEnergy site, and also in other areas of Cambridge in need of more open space.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Chair of the Committee, Vice Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio, Councillor Kathleen Leahy Born, Councillor Sheila T. Russell, Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Councillor Katherine Triantafyllou, and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Robert W. Healy, City Manager, James Maloney, Assistant City Manager for Finance and Sally Powers, Chief Assessor.

Councillor Sullivan convened the hearing and explained the purpose of the hearing. He noted that Mayor Duehay is at a School Committee meeting and Councillor Davis is away.

Councillor Sullivan then invited testimony from members of the public.

Joseph Grassi, 393 Cambridge Street, member of the School Committee, spoke in support of the use of the ComEnergy site as open space. It is very important to spread the fields for youth sports throughout the city. He stated that the School Committee commissioned a report on student sports and the location of open space and submitted a copy. Attachment A.

There are enormous differences in the amount of open space in different geographical areas in the city, as can be seen by zip code classification:

02138	191 acres
02140	77 acres
02141	18 acres
02139	45 acres

Mr. Grassi noted that the statistics show that youth sports participation varies directly in accord with whether field space is located near the child's residence. Mr. Grassi then noted that a great deal of East Cambridge land was taken by the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority. He stated that he appreciated the \$2 million that the City Manager is proposing for open space, but it is a drop in the bucket. A much more aggressive approach is needed.

682 CM
Committee Report #2

A communication was received from Councillor Sullivan, Chair of the Finance Committee for a meeting held on October 27, 1998 for the purpose of discussion of the issue of the eminent domain taking of property for open space.

In City Council November 23, 1998

Report Accepted

Order Adopted