

Alewife Safety Meeting

9 April 2014

- Flooding
- Snow and Ice Clearance
- Lighting
- Drinking/loitering
- Bike/Pedestrian Conflicts
- Cameras

Alewife Area, North Cambridge

HeadHouse

Area with drainage issues

Swale

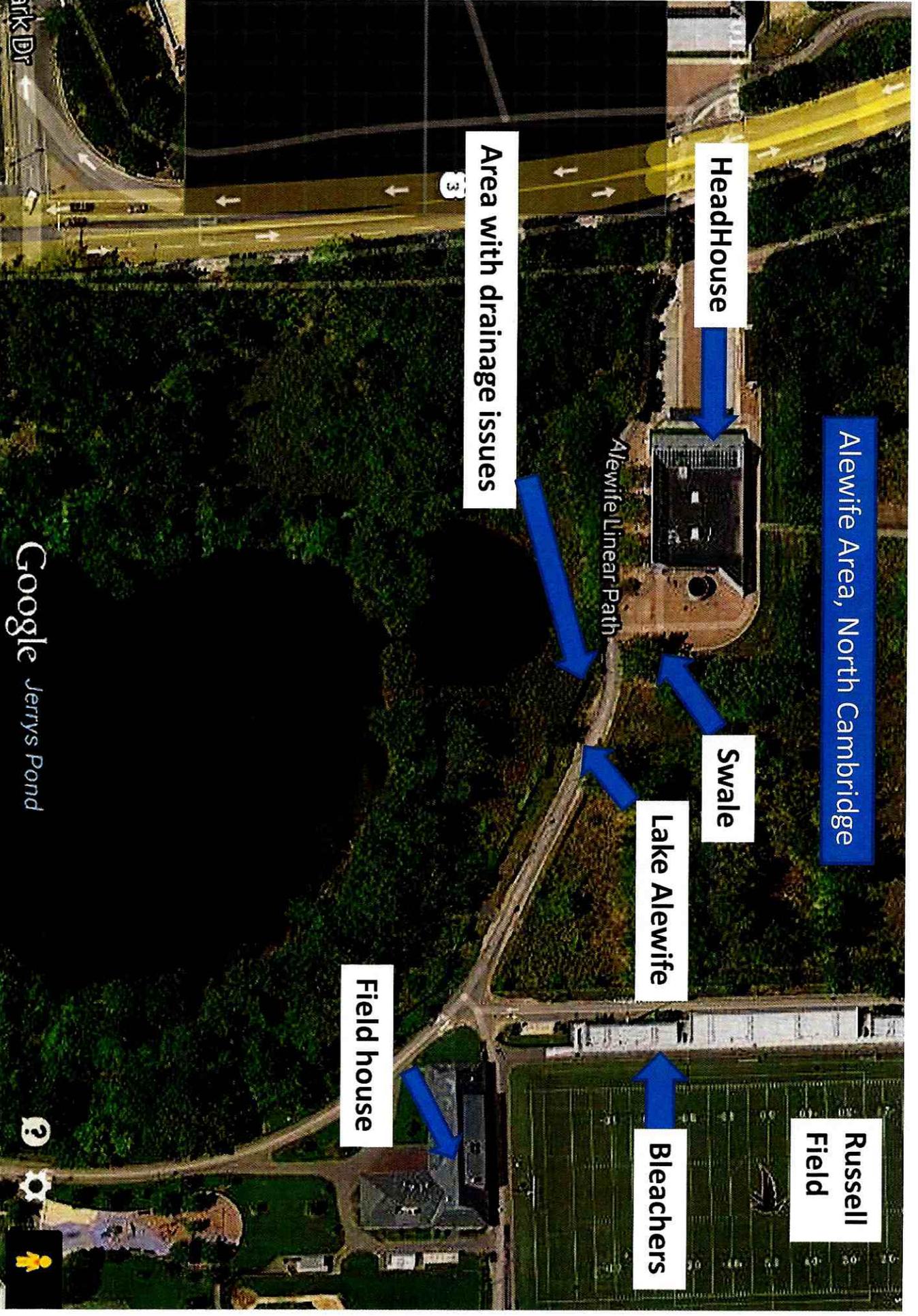
Lake Alewife

Russell Field

Bleachers

Field house

Alewife Linear Path



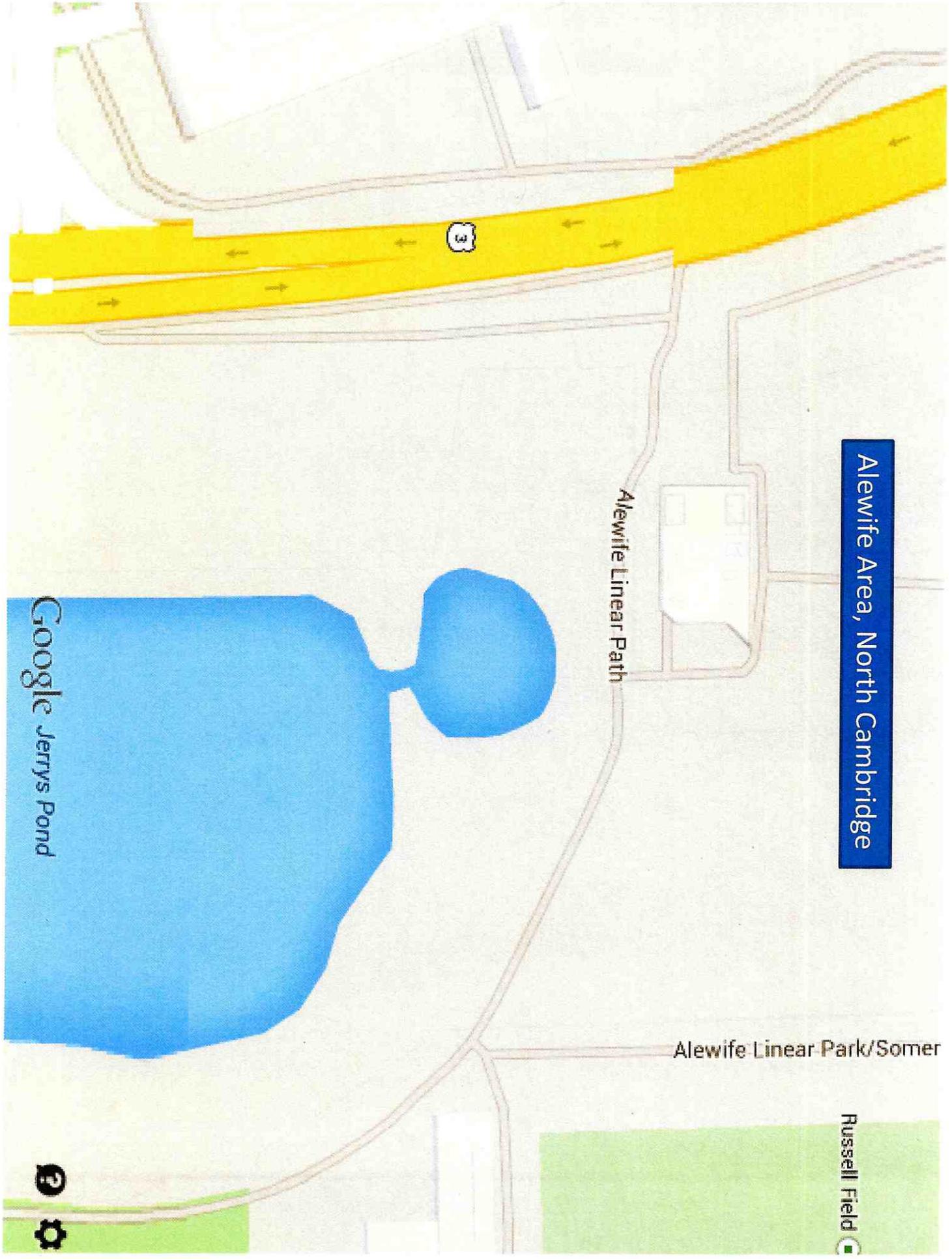
Alewife Area, North Cambridge

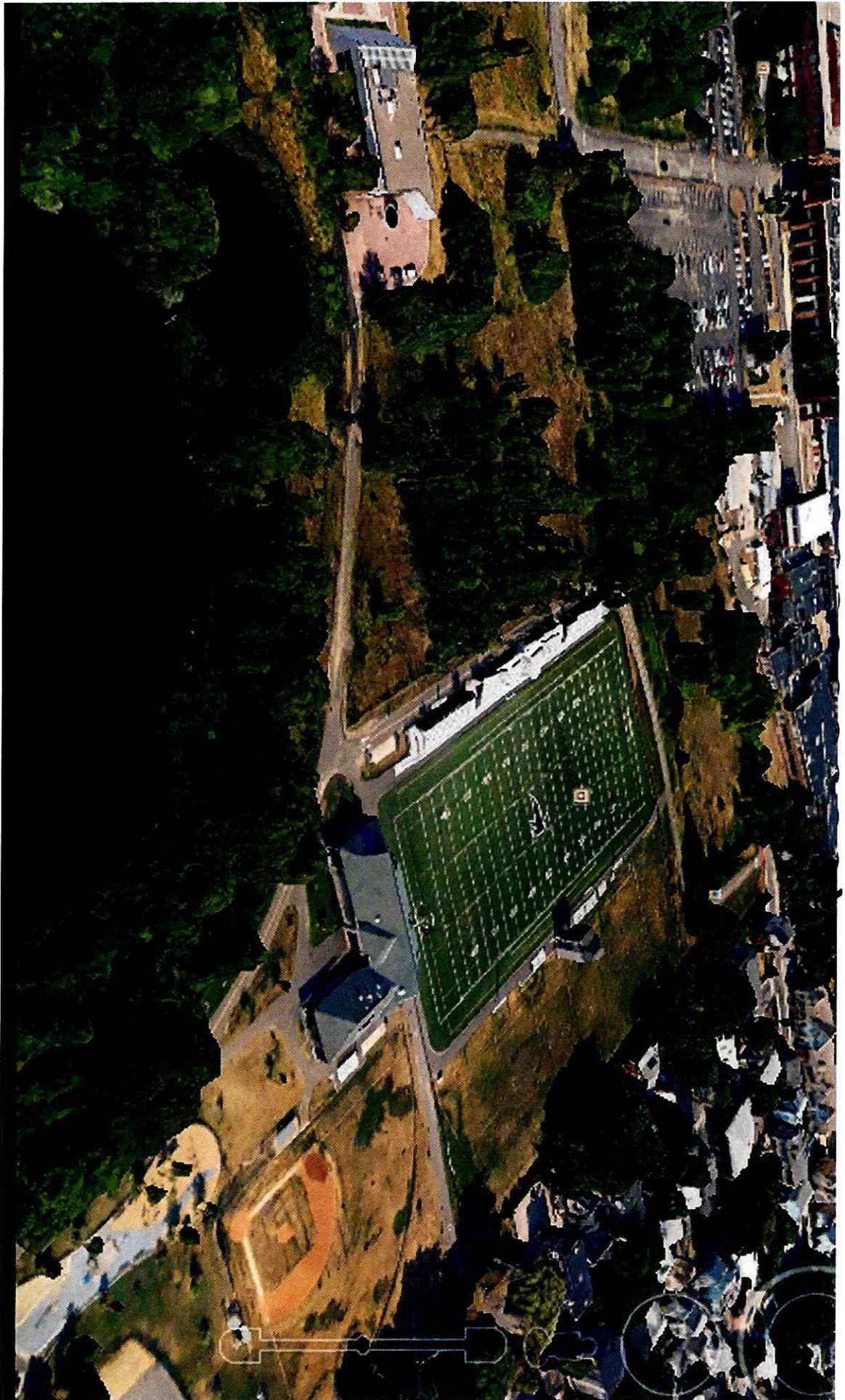
Alewife Linear Path

Alewife Linear Park/Somer

Russell Field

Google Jerrys Pond

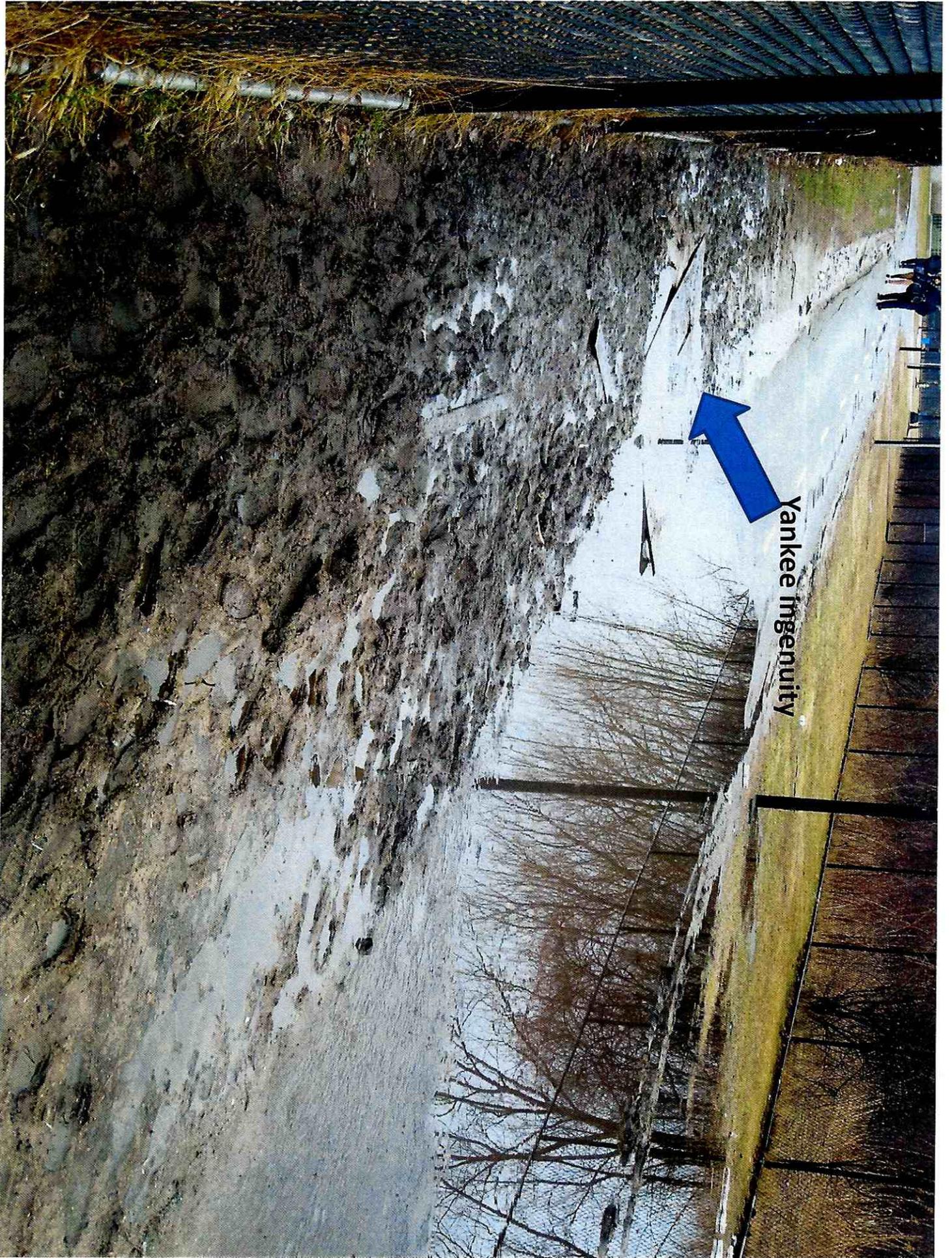




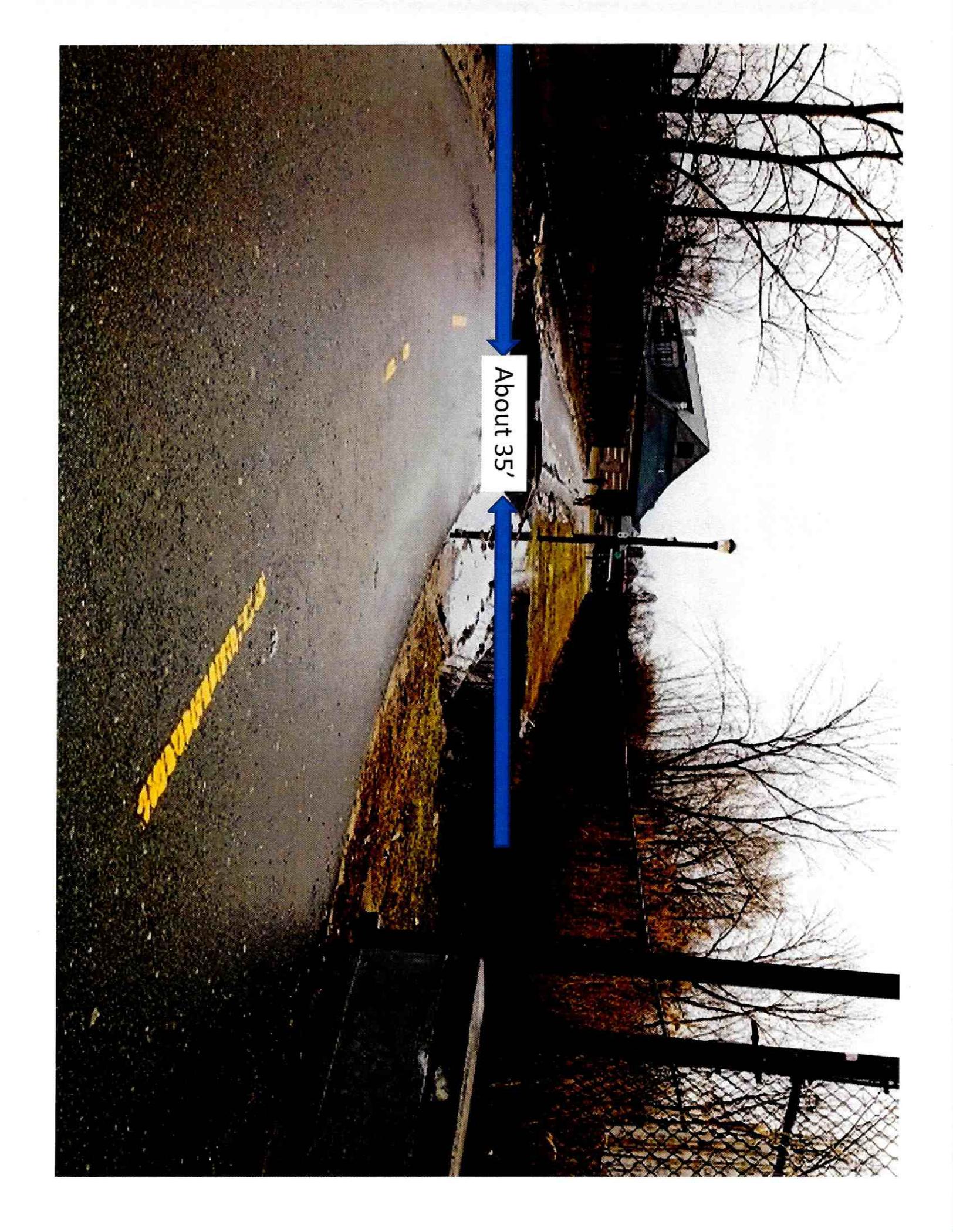
FLOODING



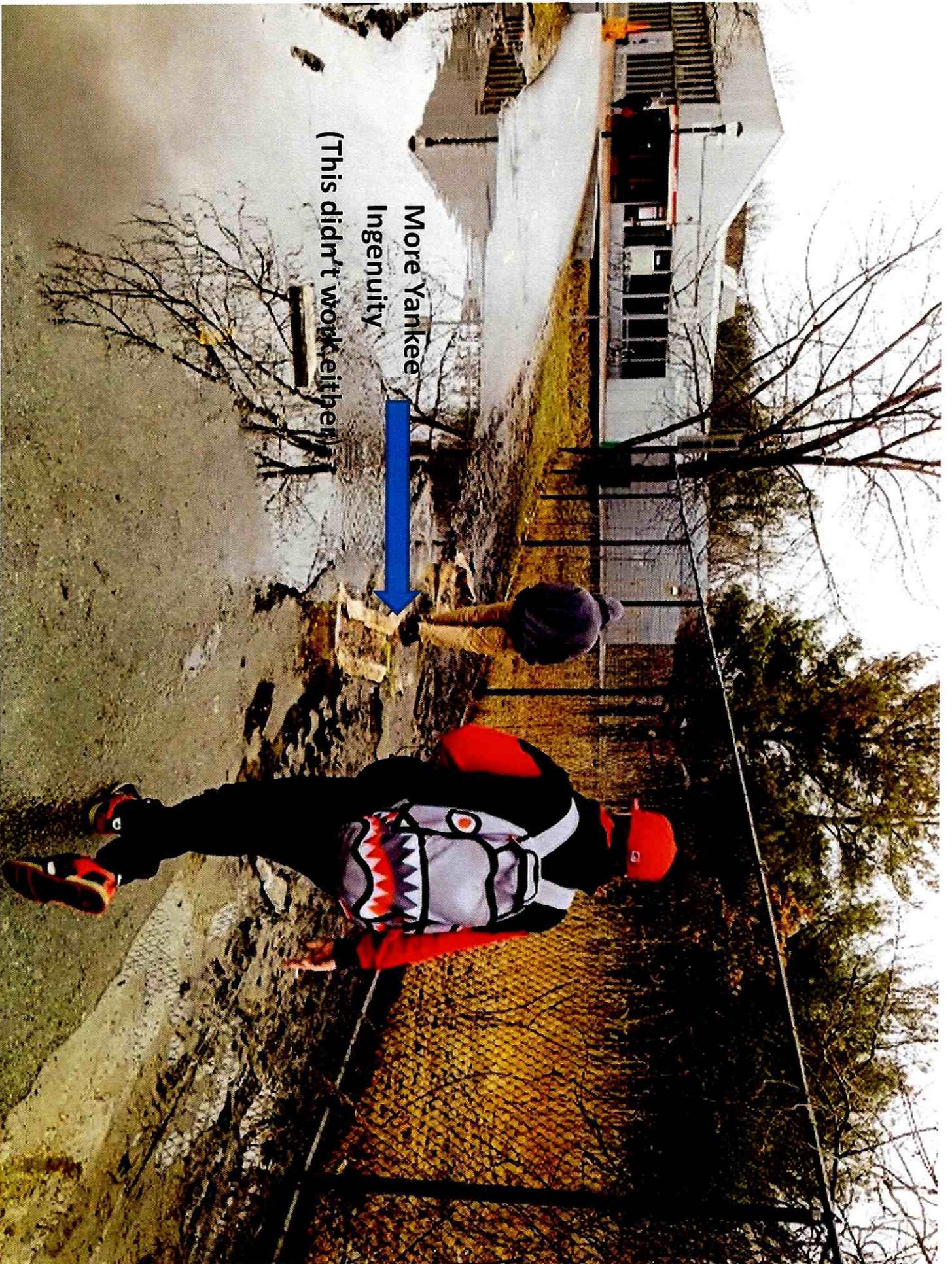
Note: People bike through here, too.



Yankee Ingenuity

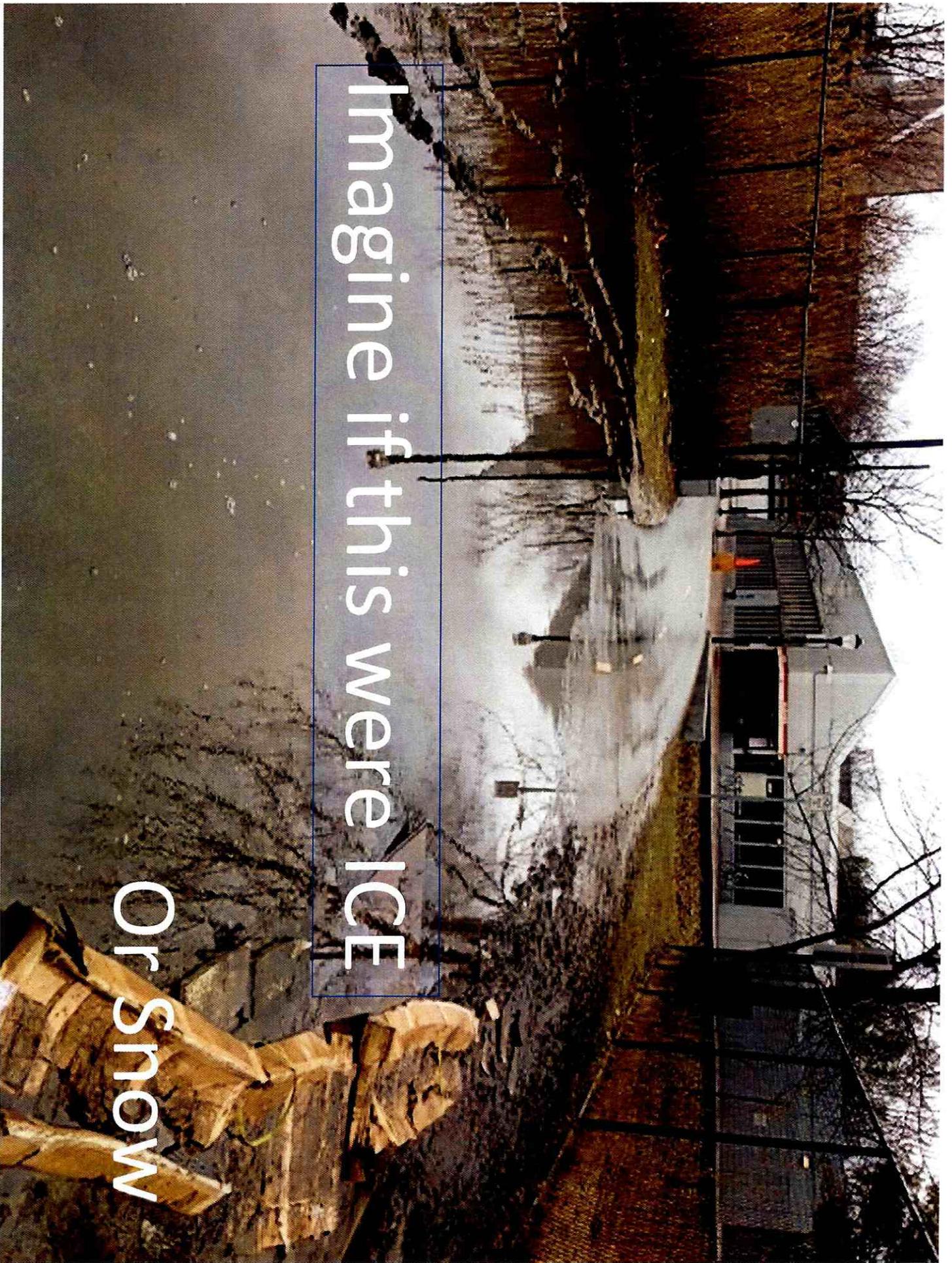


About 35'



More Yankee
Ingenuity
(This didn't work either)





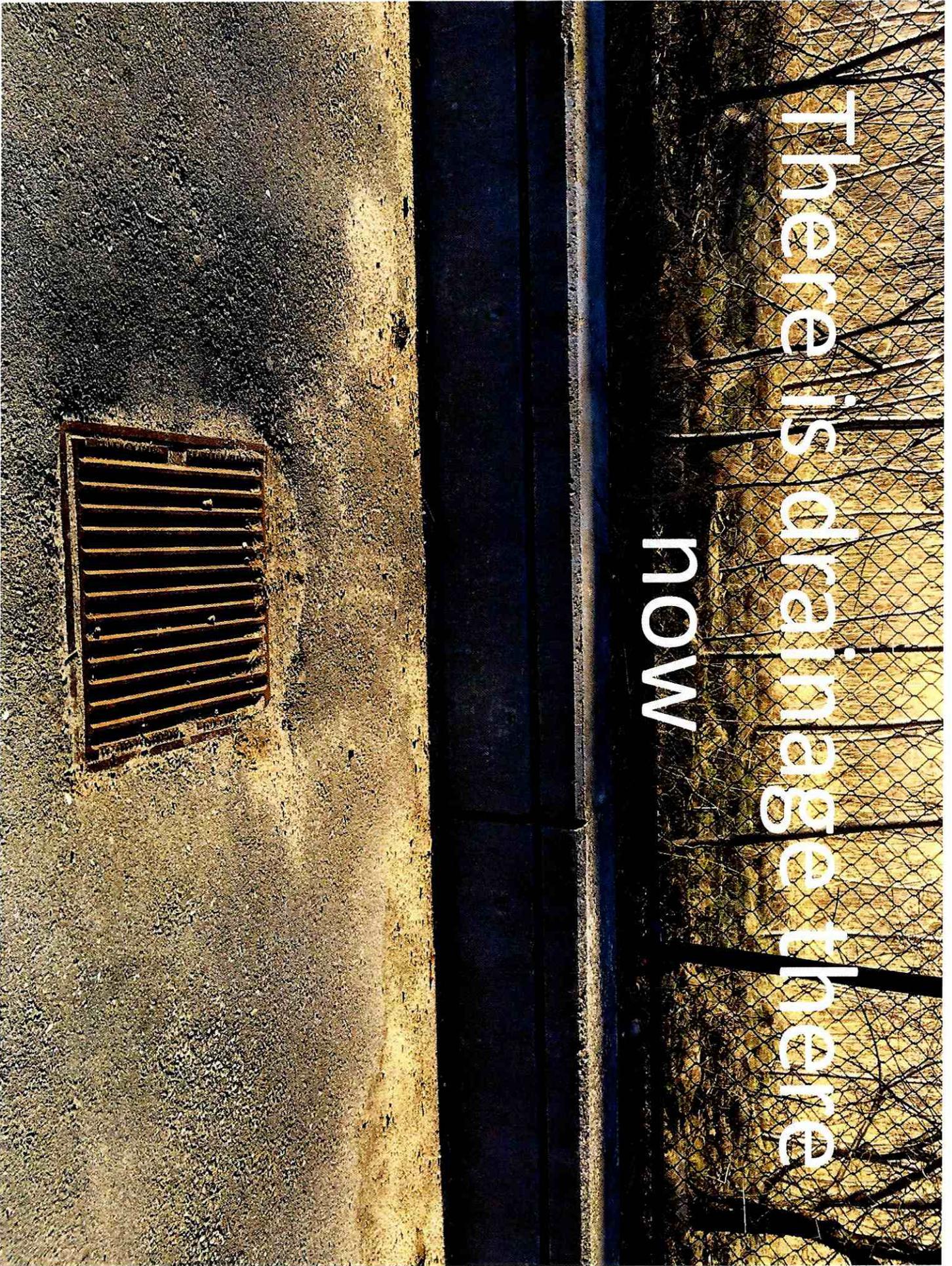
Imagine if this were ICE

Or Snow

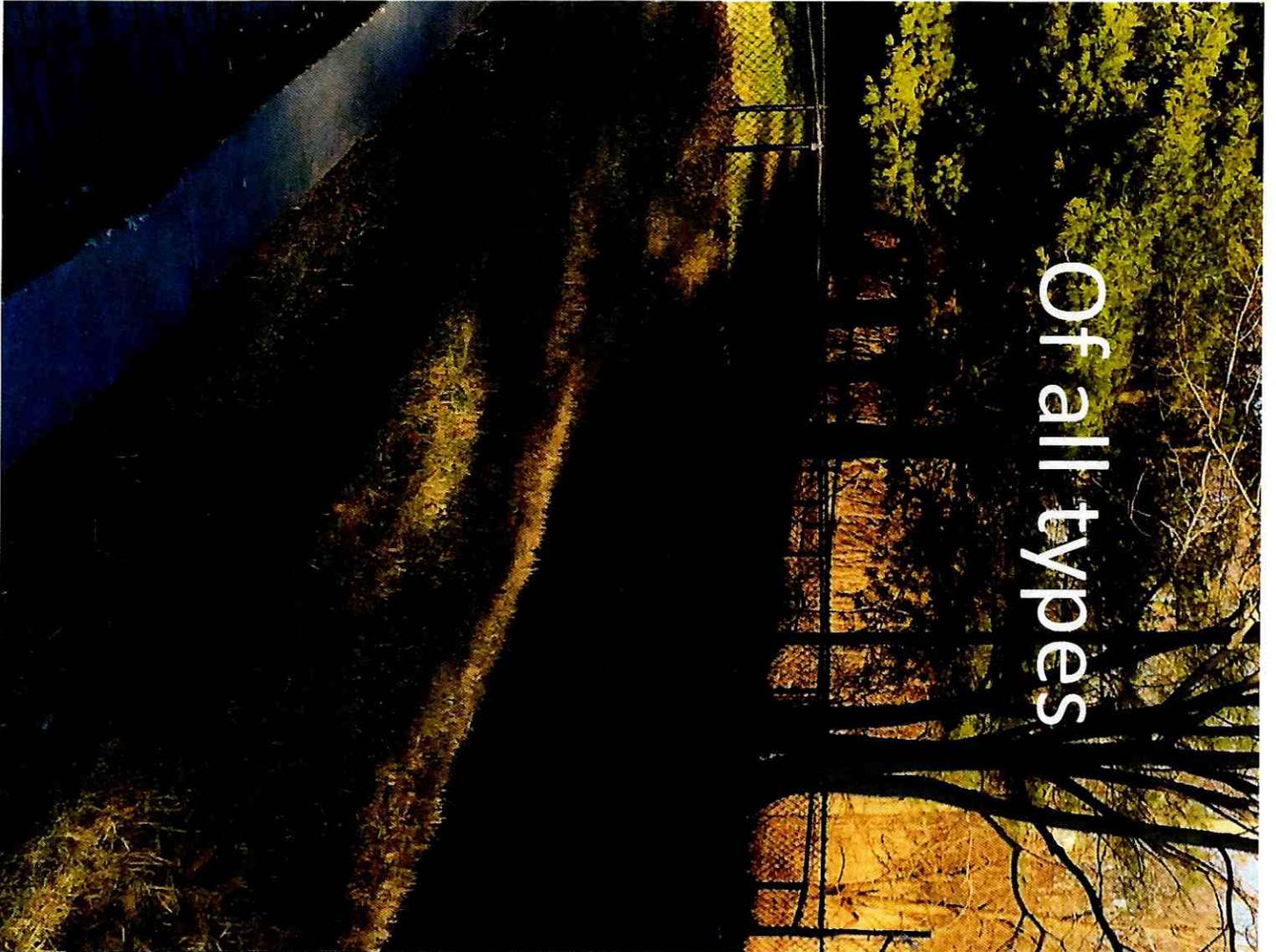
Getting rid of some of this
Phragmites might help **drainage**



There is drainage there
now



Of all types





Which may not be

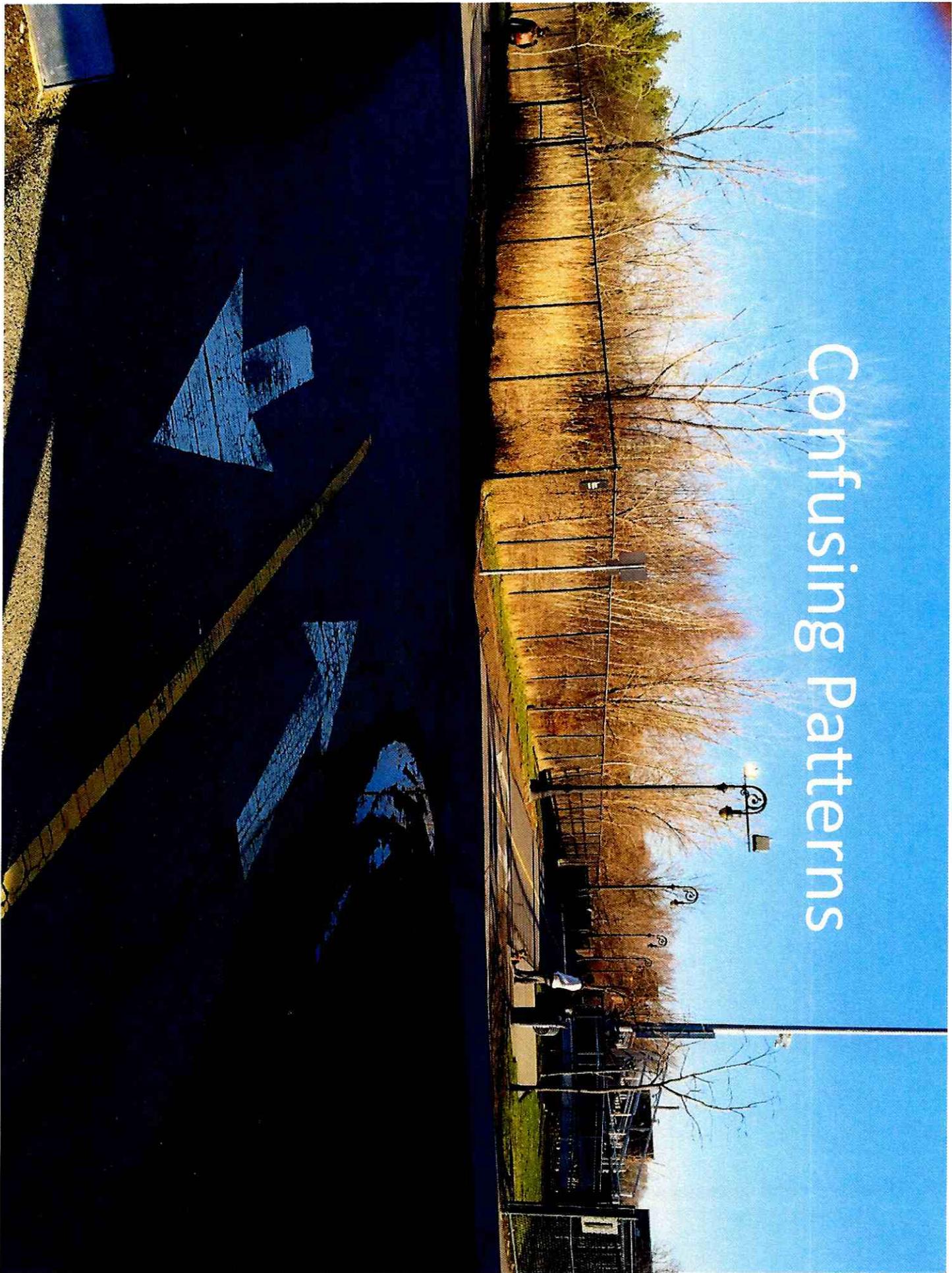
working



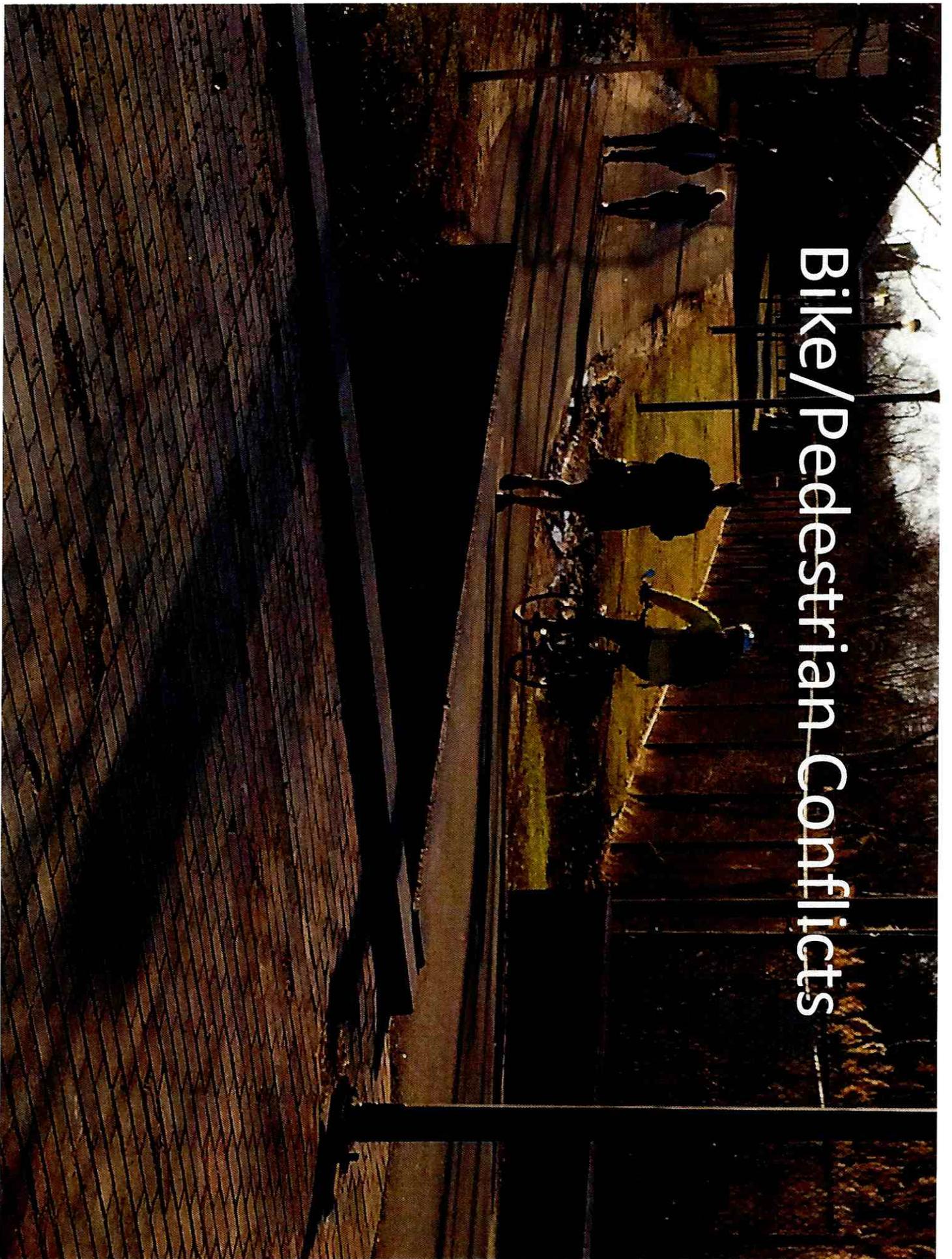
New Off-Season use
for snow shovel

TRAFFIC

Confusing Patterns



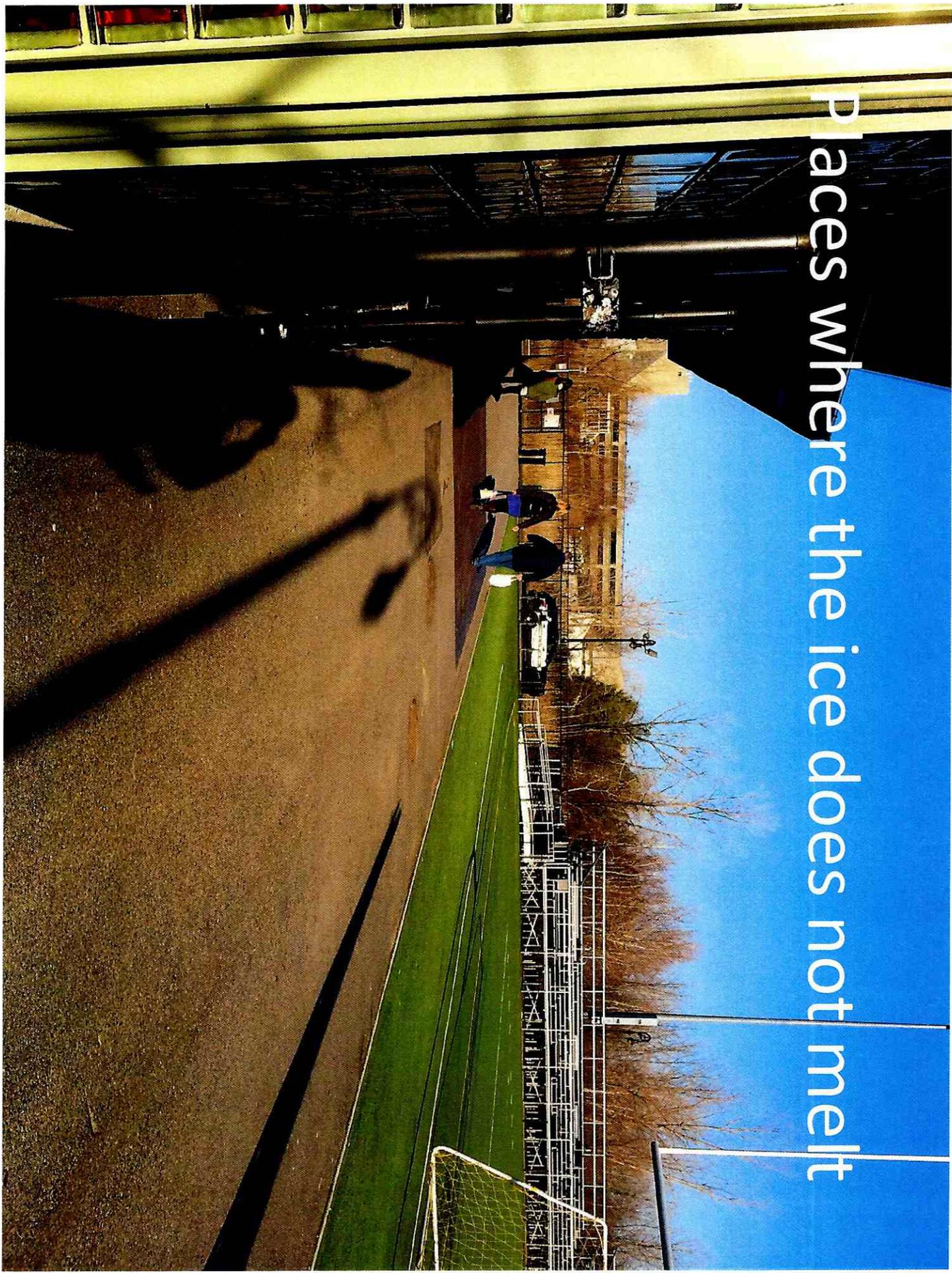
Bike/Pedestrian Conflicts



Bike/Pedestrian Conflicts

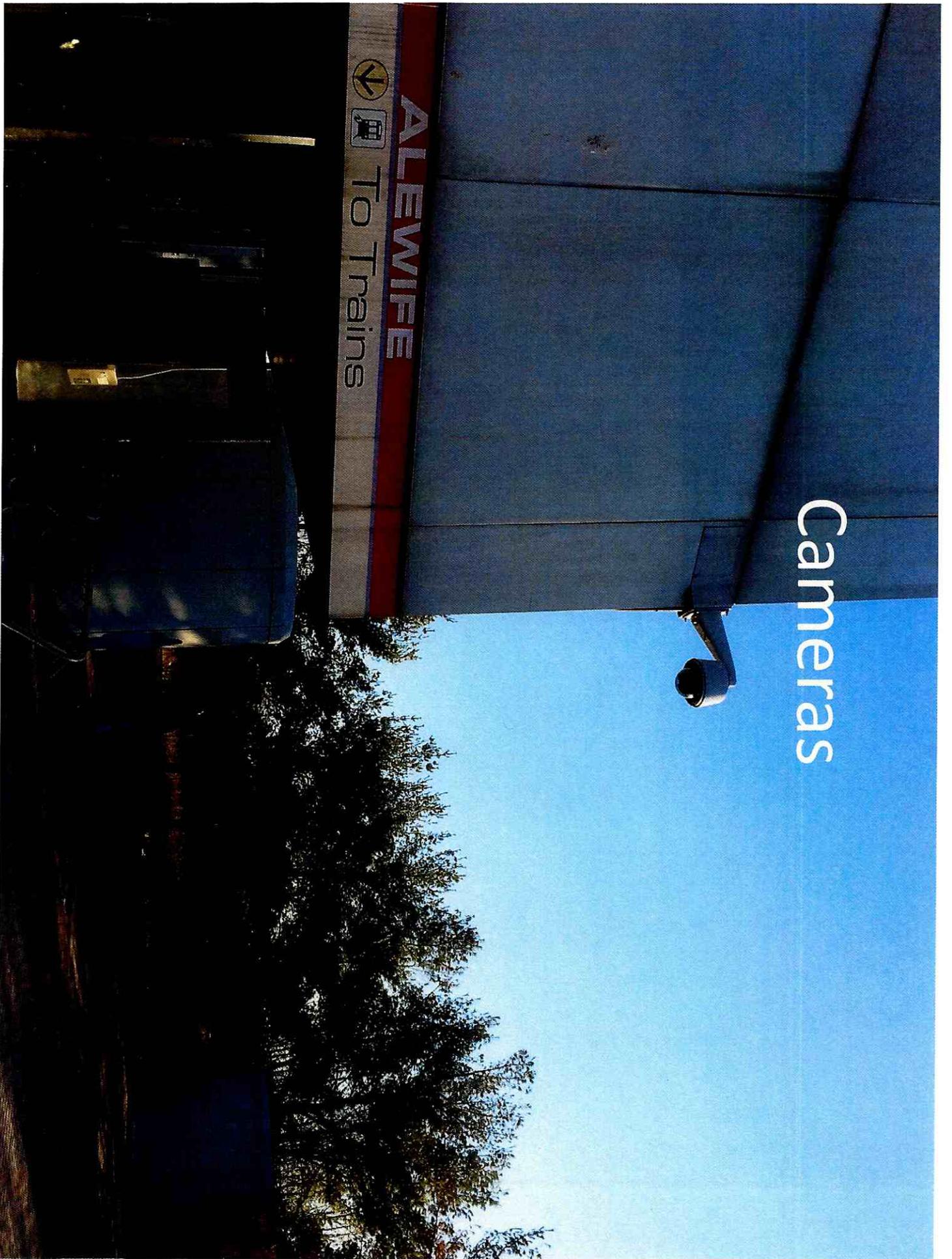


Places where the ice does not melt

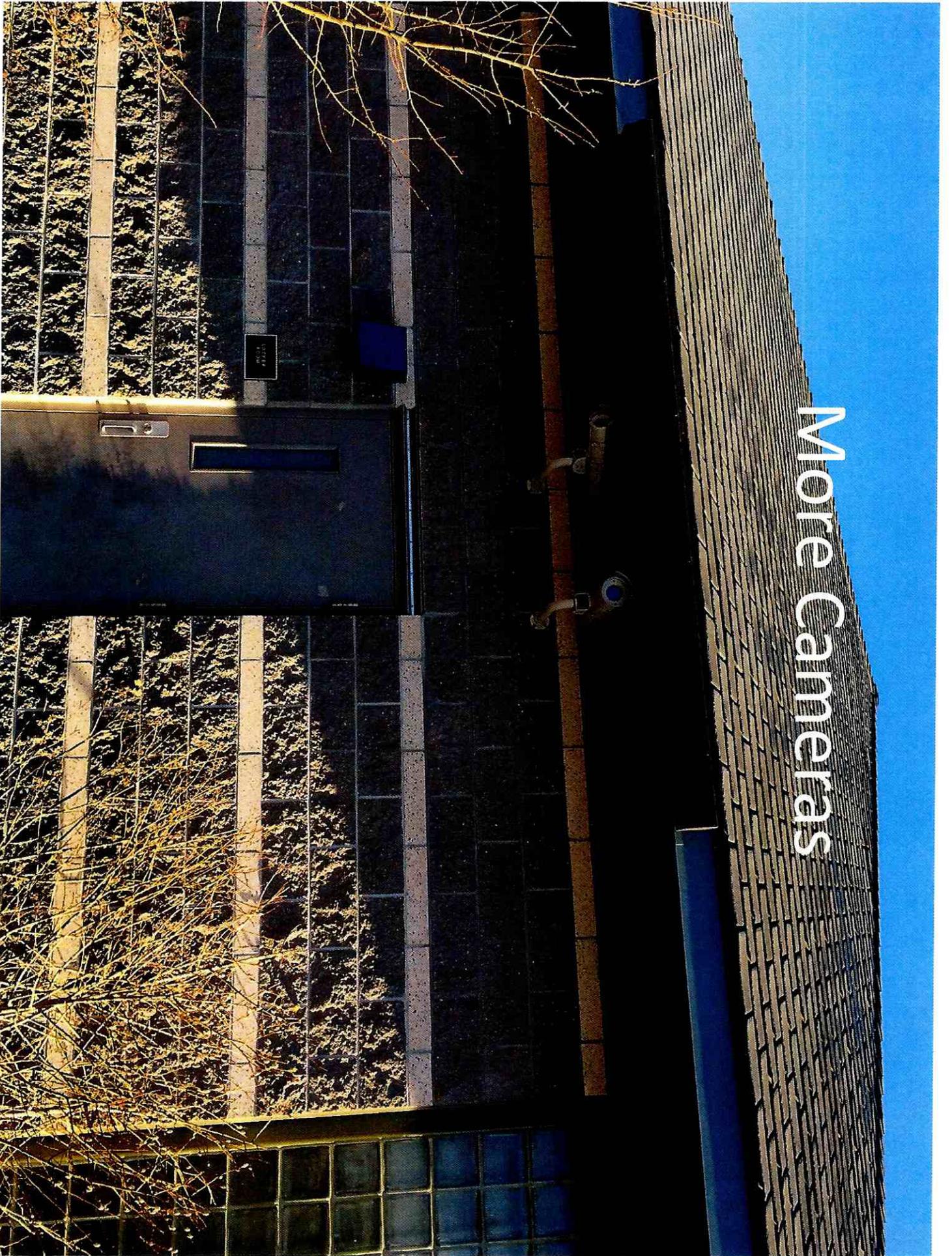


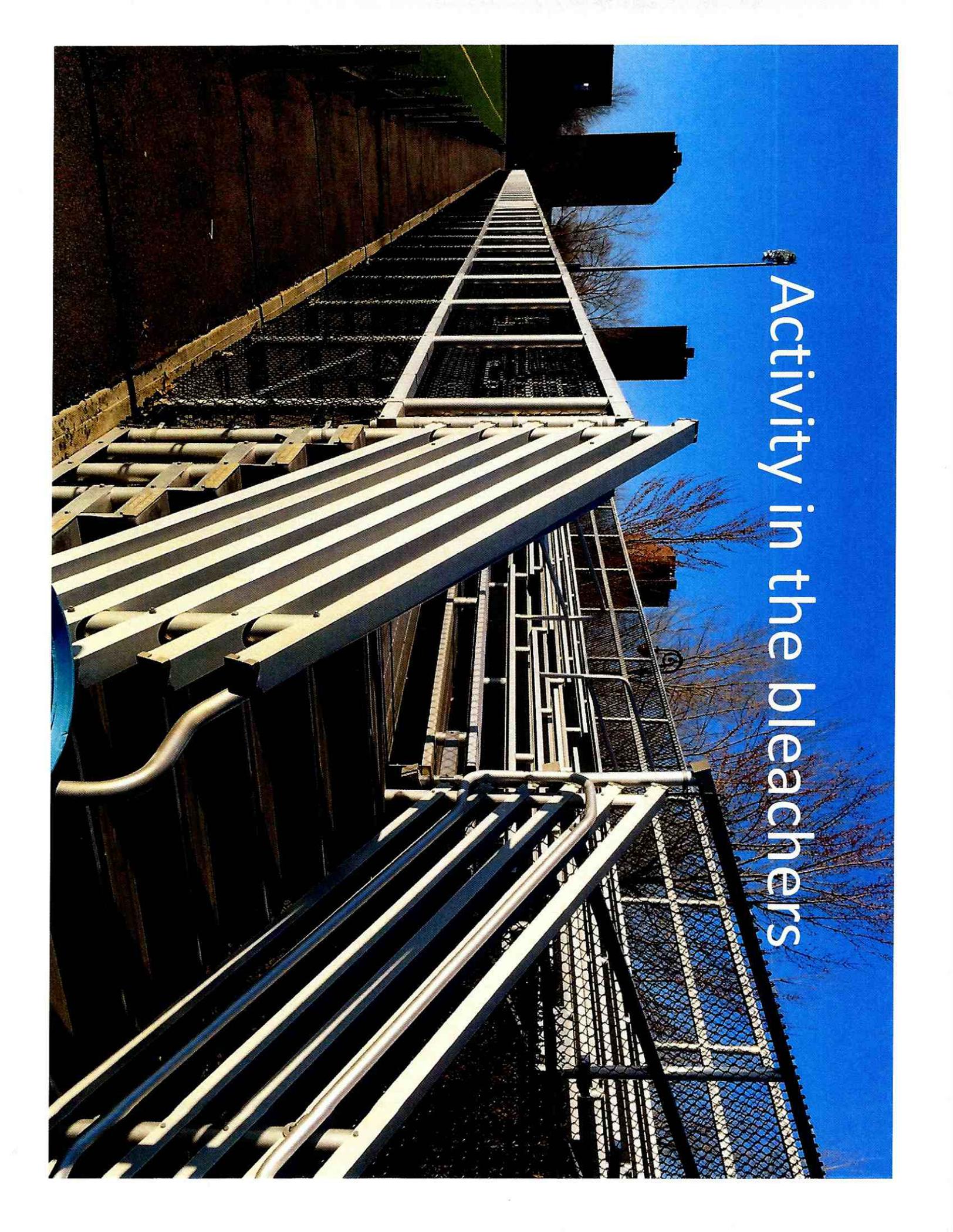
SECURITY

Cameras

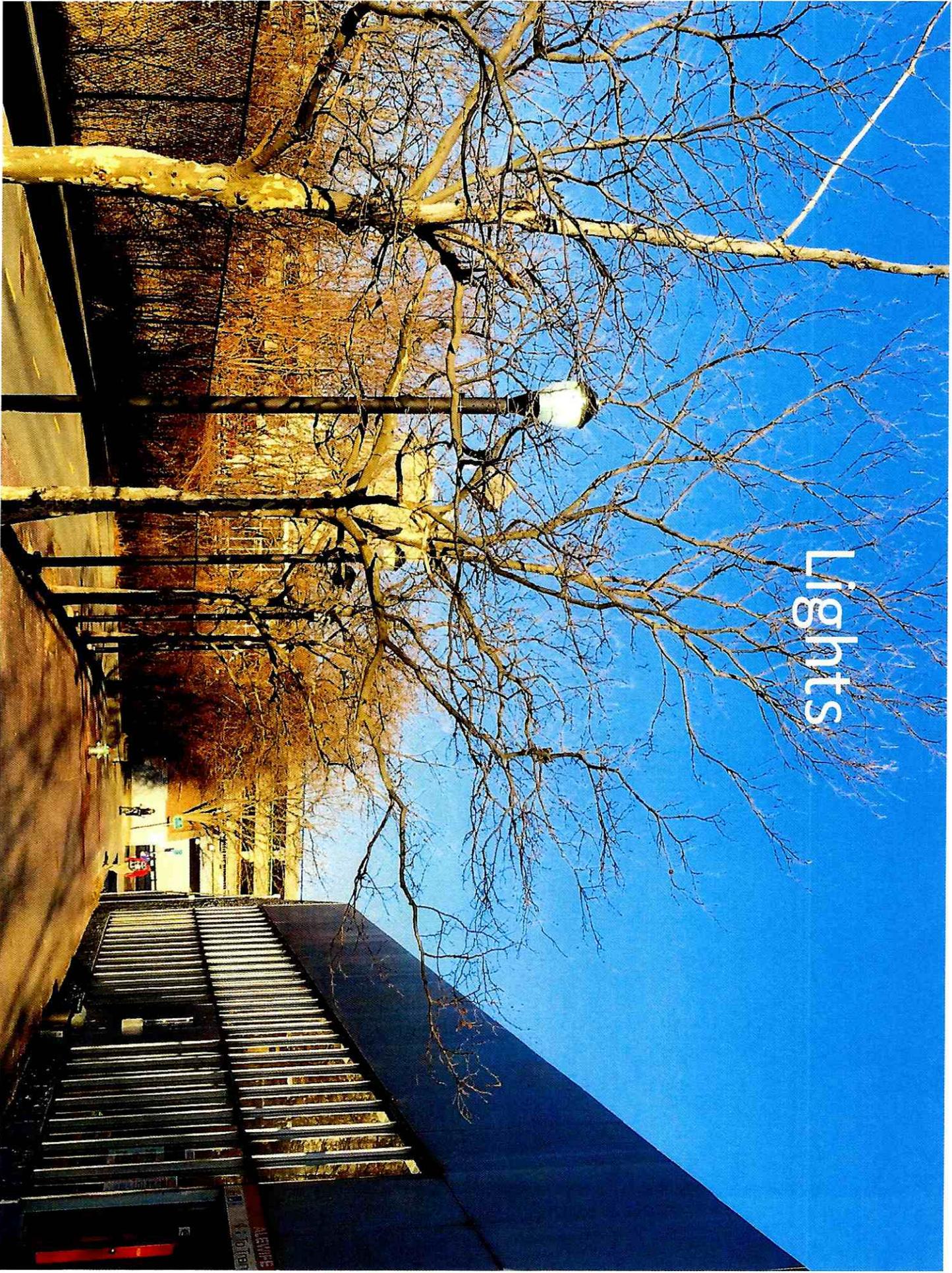


More Cameras





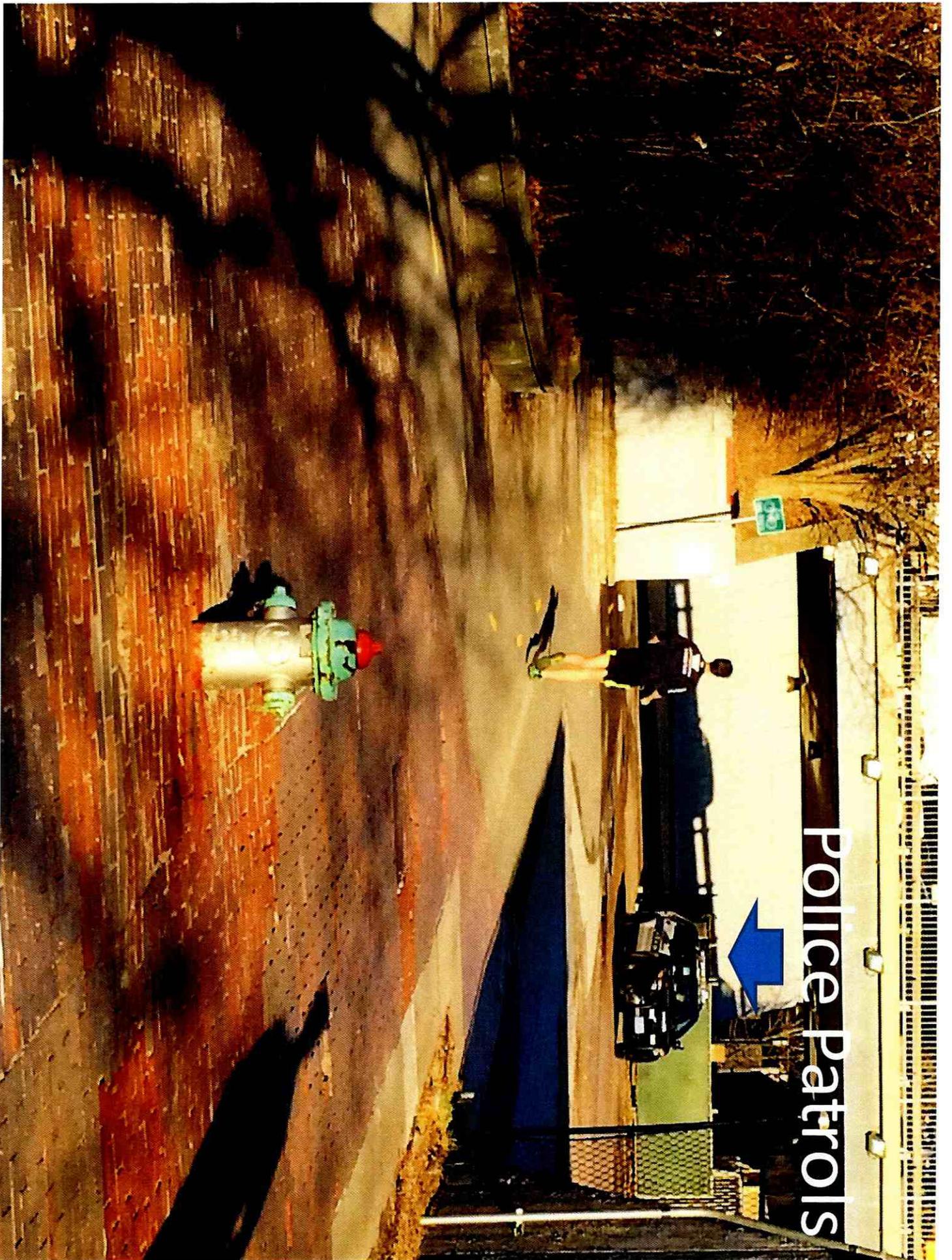
Activity in the bleachers



Lights

More Lights



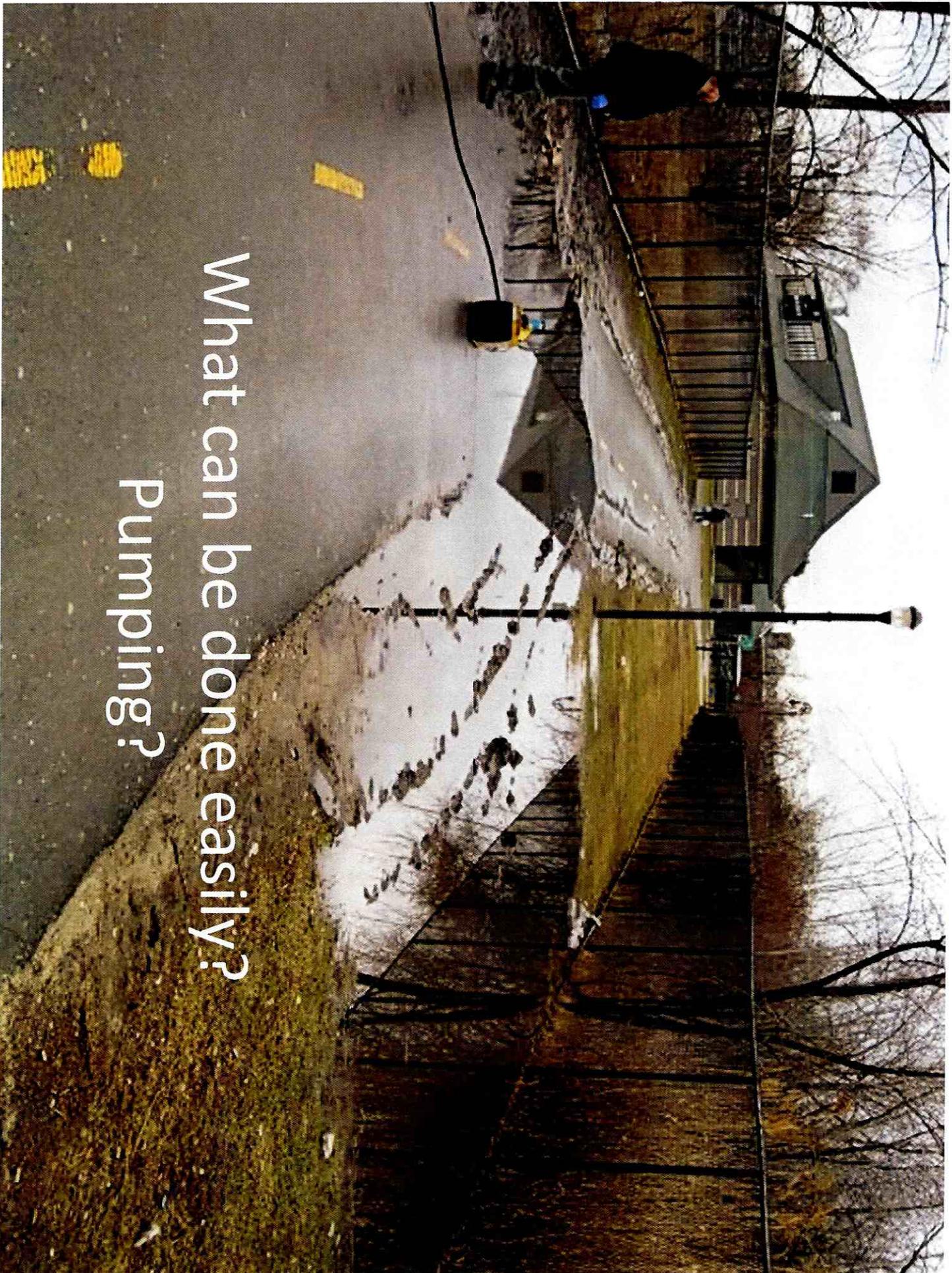


Police Patrols



Who is Responsible for what?

- Cambridge
 - DPW
 - Conservation Commission
- MBTA
- W.R. Grace
- DEP
- Anyone else?



What can be done easily?
Pumping?

What can be done easily?

Fill?



What can be done easily?

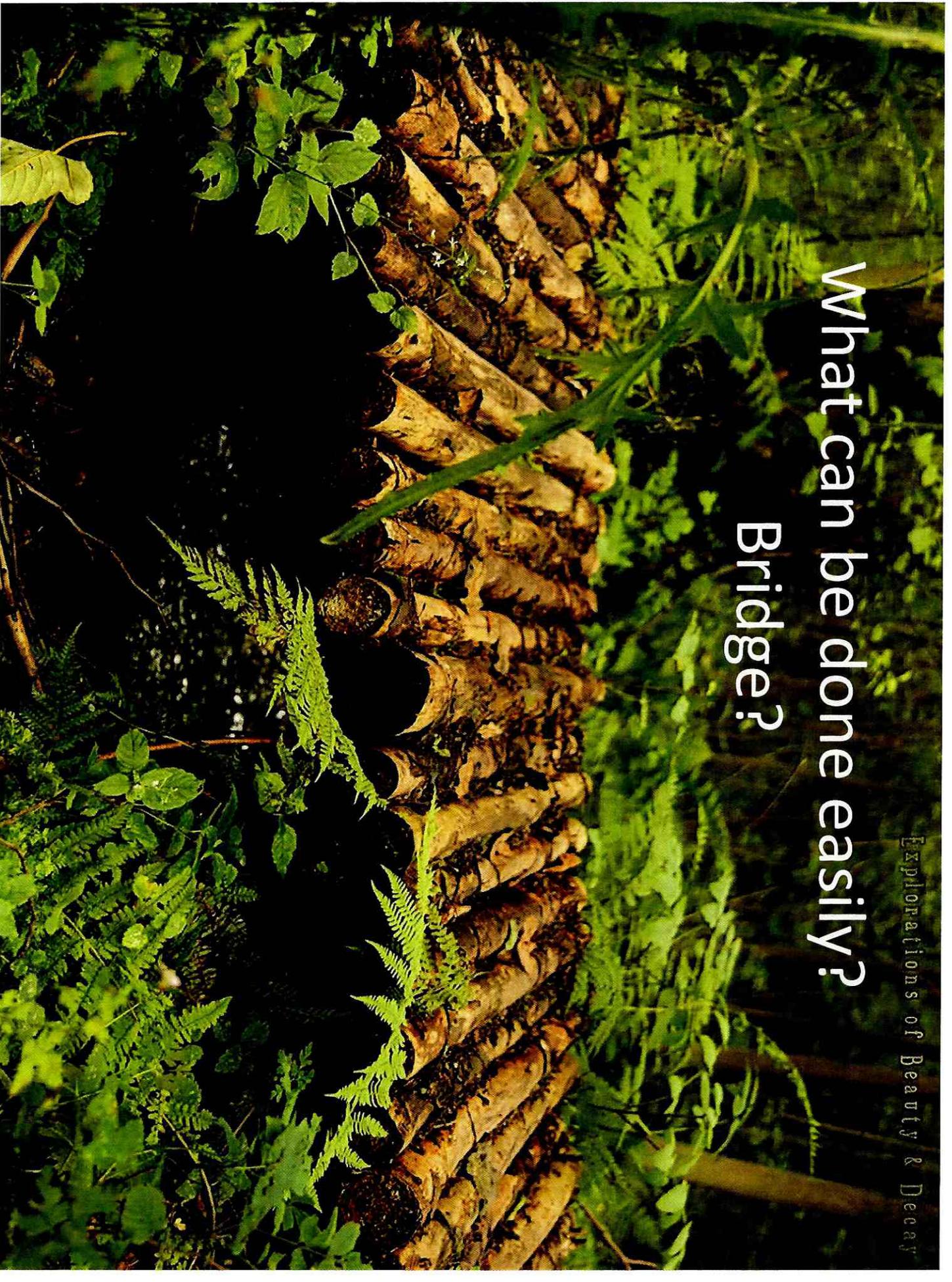
Fill?



What can be done easily?
Bridges?



What can be done easily? Bridges?



What can be done easily?

Bridge?



What are the Flooding issues?

- Cost
 - Who pays
 - When allocated
- Regulations
 - Wetlands law
 - Activities and Use Limitations (AUL)
- Access issues
 - ADA
 - Emergency vehicles
- Legal issues
 - Easement(s)
 - Licenses to do work

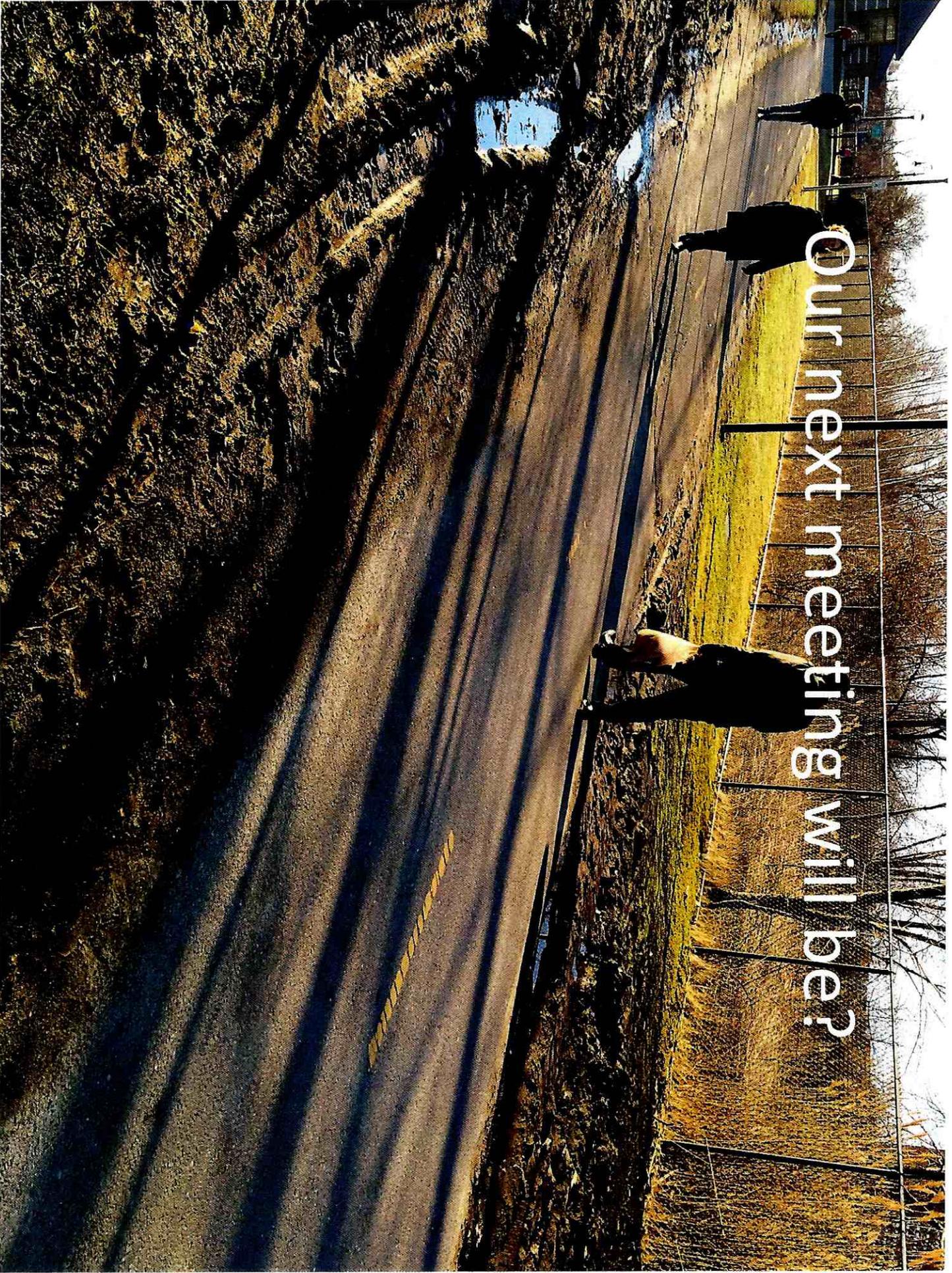
What are the other Safety issues?

- Pathway clearance
 - Field house ice
 - General snow clearance and sanding
- Bleachers
 - Hanging out and drinking
- Choke point
 - Bike/pedestrian conflict
- Lights
 - On more consistently
 - Who owns which lights
- Cameras
 - Who is watching them & when
 - Are they working

Who is going to do what?

And When?

- CITY
 - DPW
 - Conservation Commission
- MBTA
- GRACE
- DEP
- Anyone else?



Our next meeting will be?

Russell Field Pathway



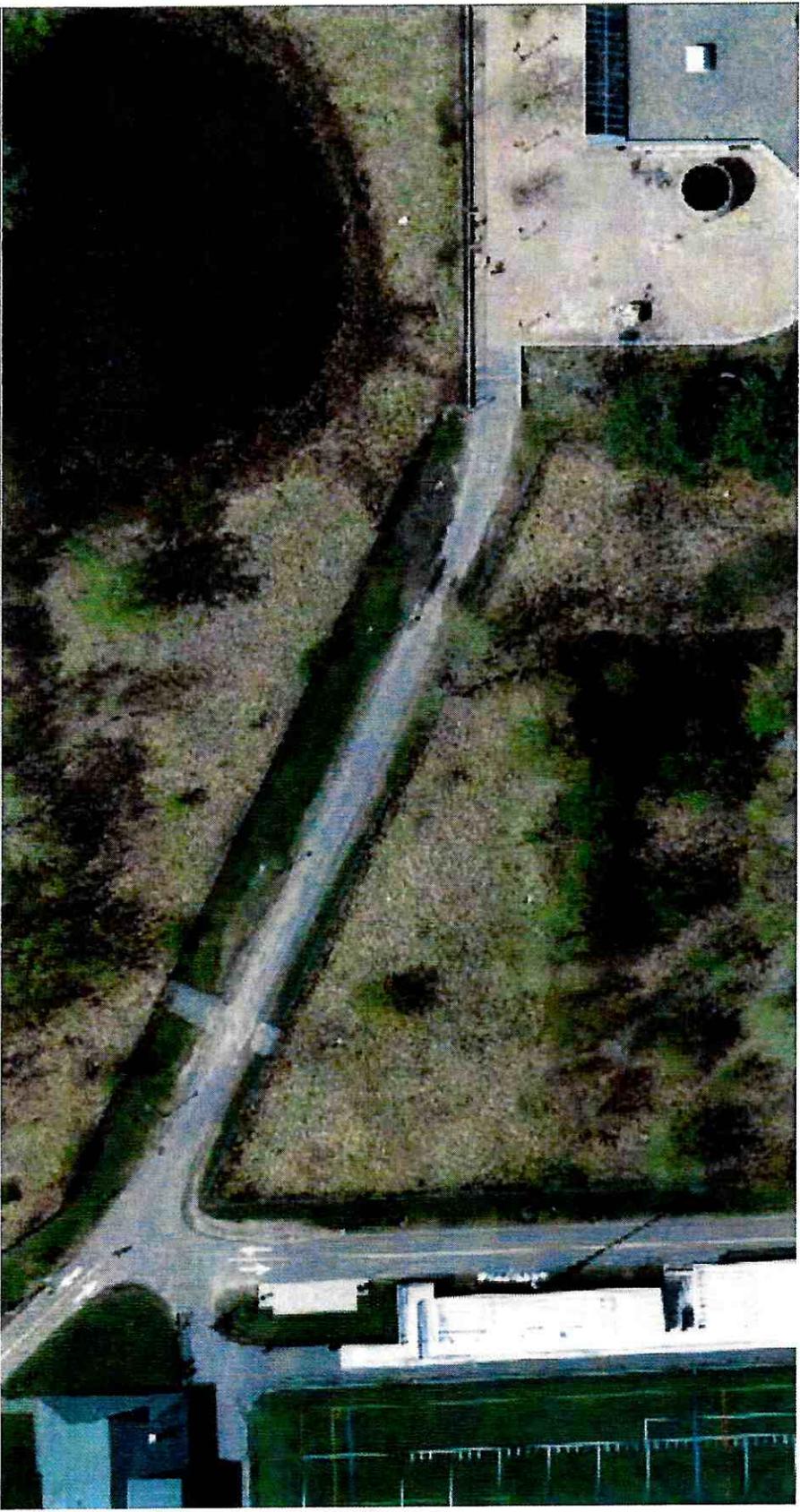
Image MASSGIS Commonwealth of Massachusetts EDEA

Imagery Date: 4/9/2008 42°23'45.14" N 71°08'19.93" W elev 8 ft eye alt 67.5 ft

Google Earth

Russell Field Pathway

Local drainage and deterioration of path observable



March 11, 2014

Significant flooding on path following a precipitation event

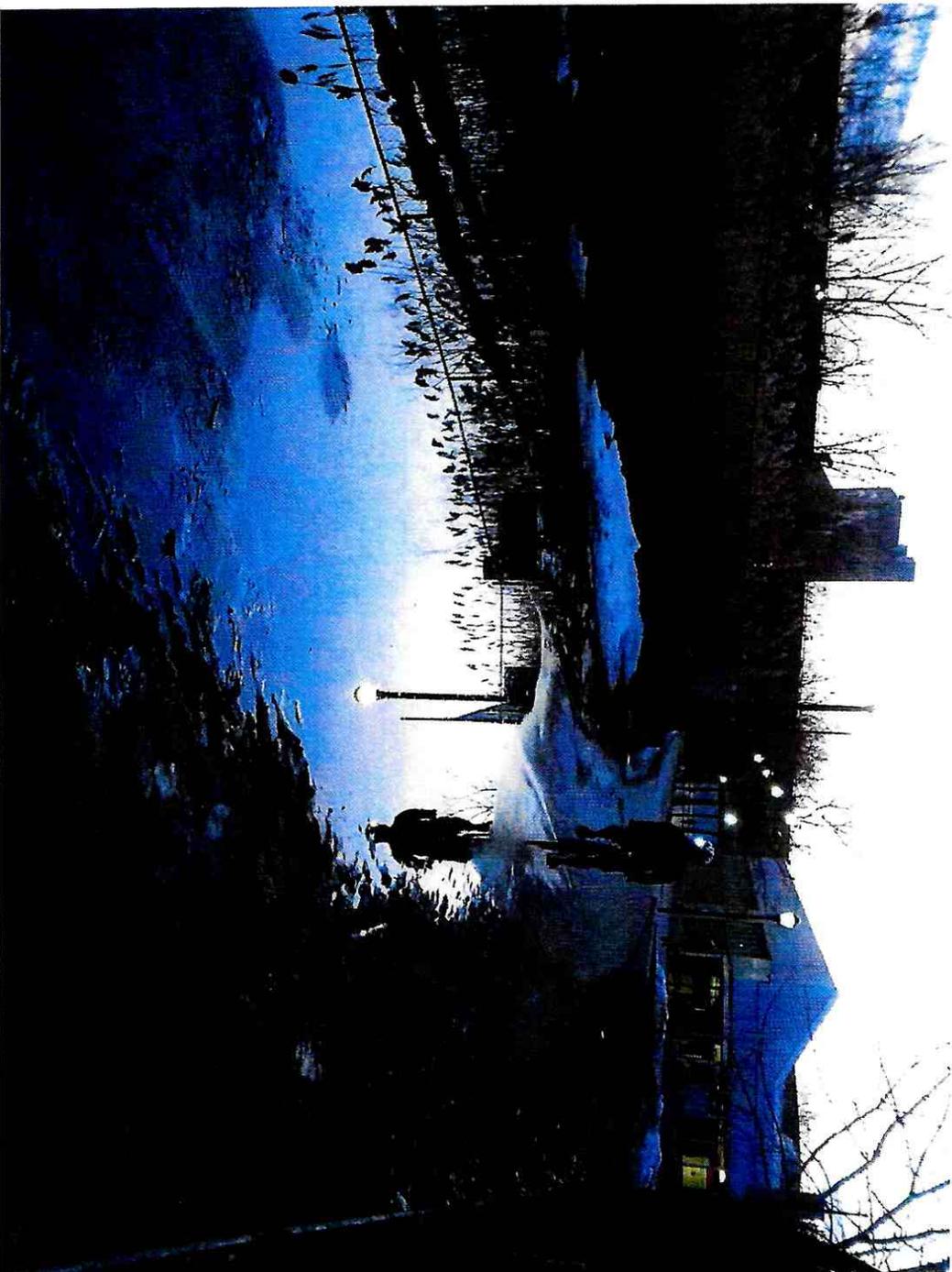


Photo taken from the east looking at Alewife Station

March 30, 2014

Significant flooding on path following a precipitation event

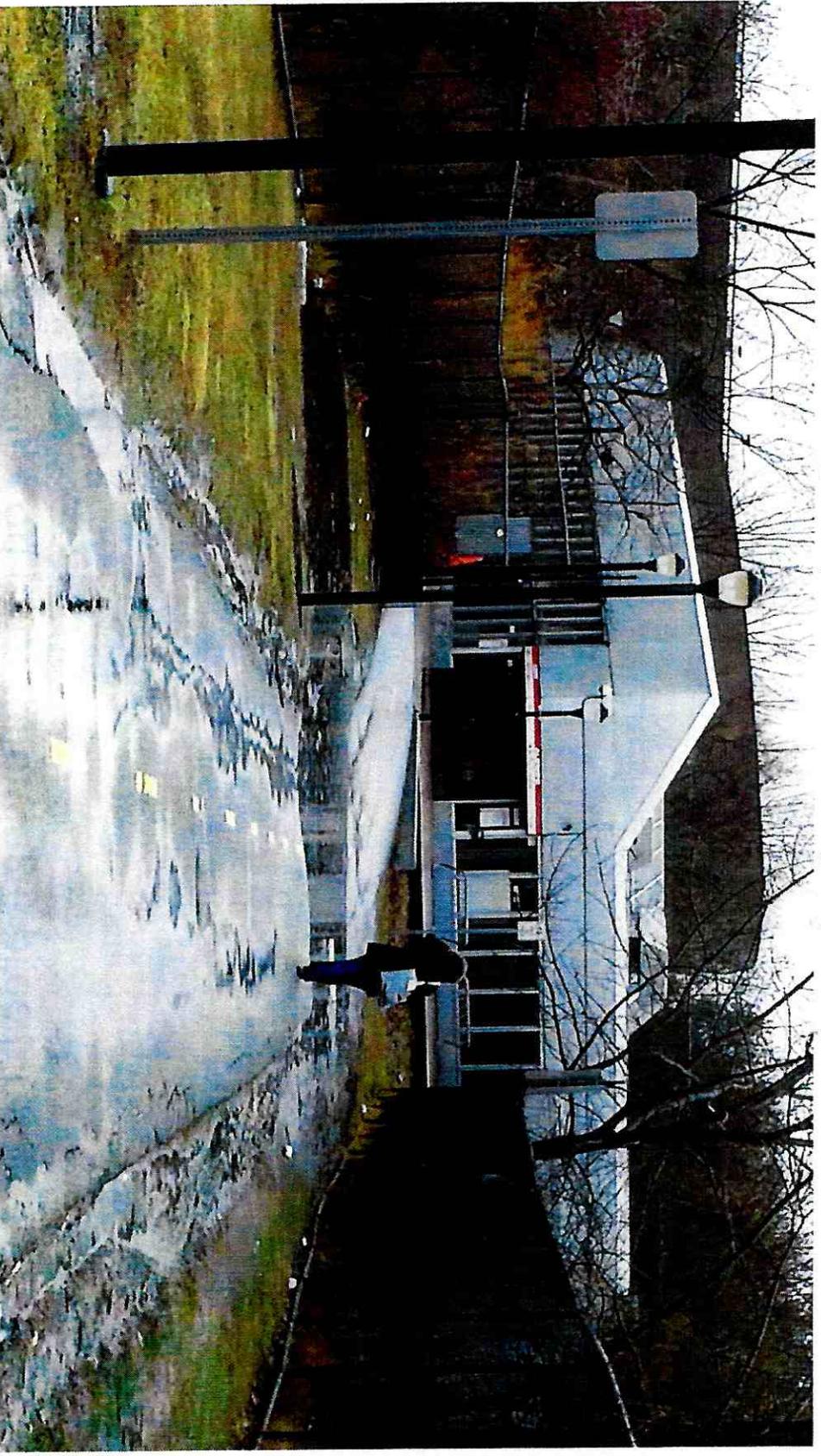


Photo taken from the east looking at Alewife Station

March 31, 2014

Path is inaccessible for most users

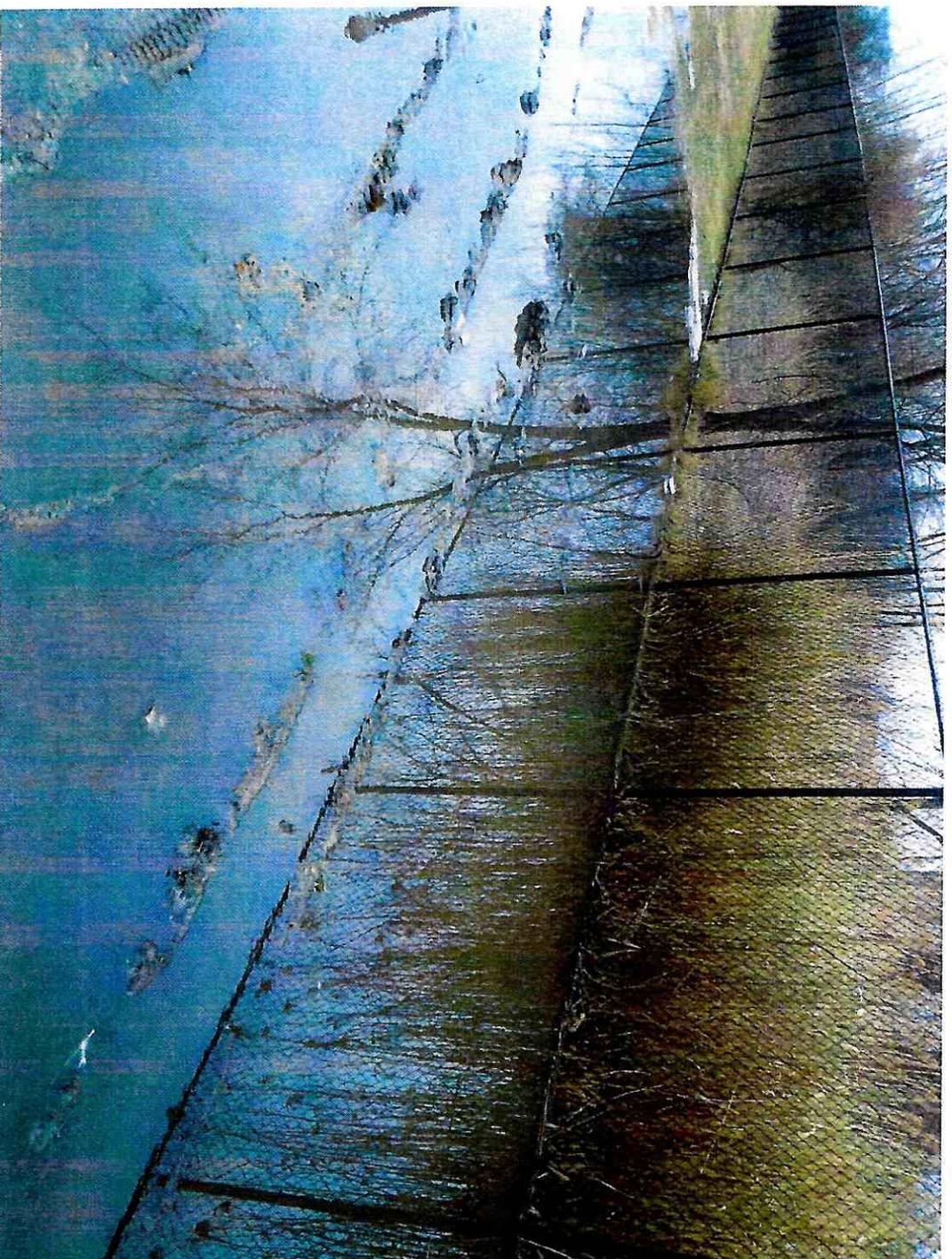


Photo taken from Alewife Station looking towards Jerry's Pond

April 1, 2014

Water removed by MBTA and Cambridge DPW

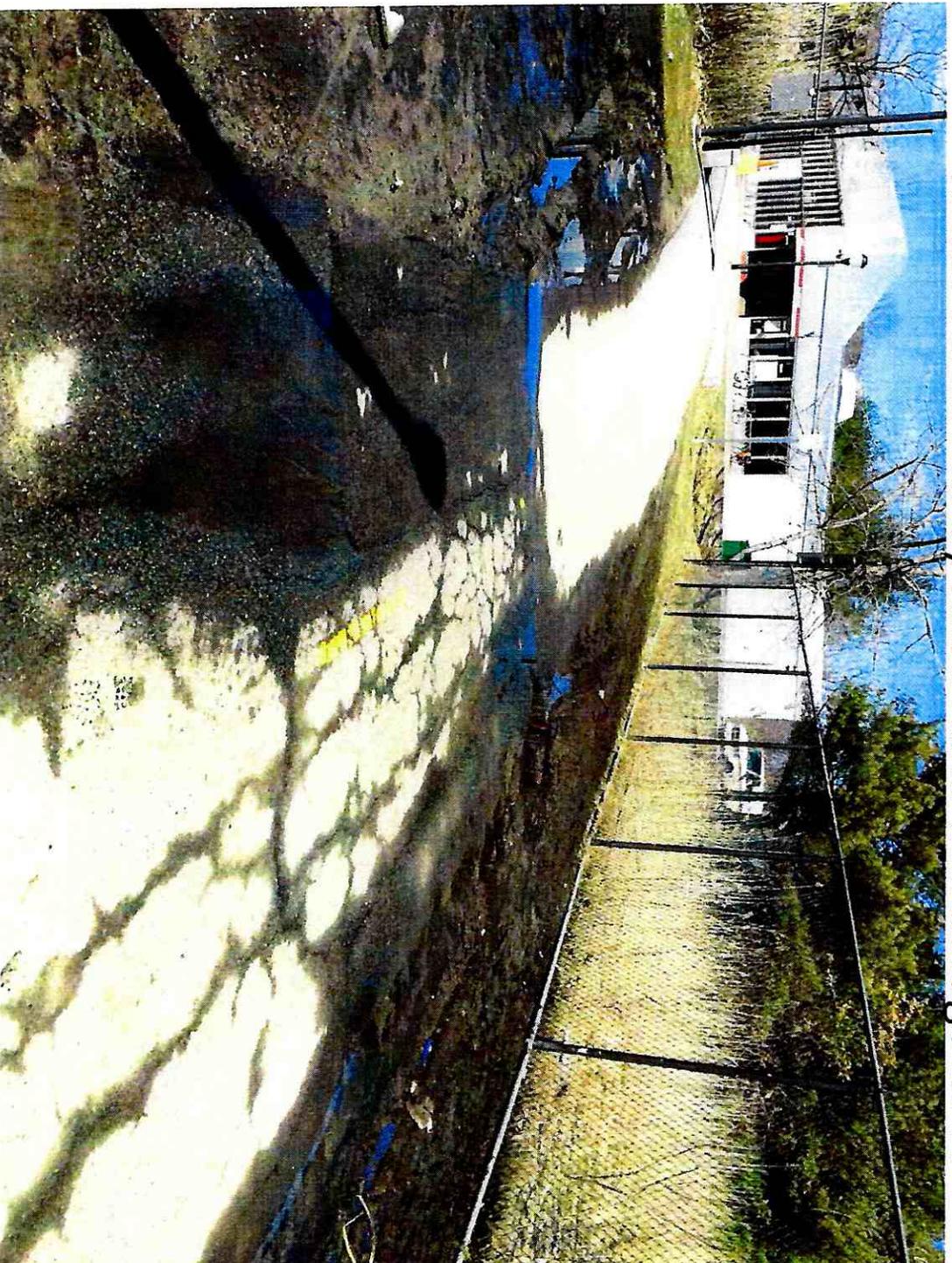


Photo taken from the east looking at Alewife Station



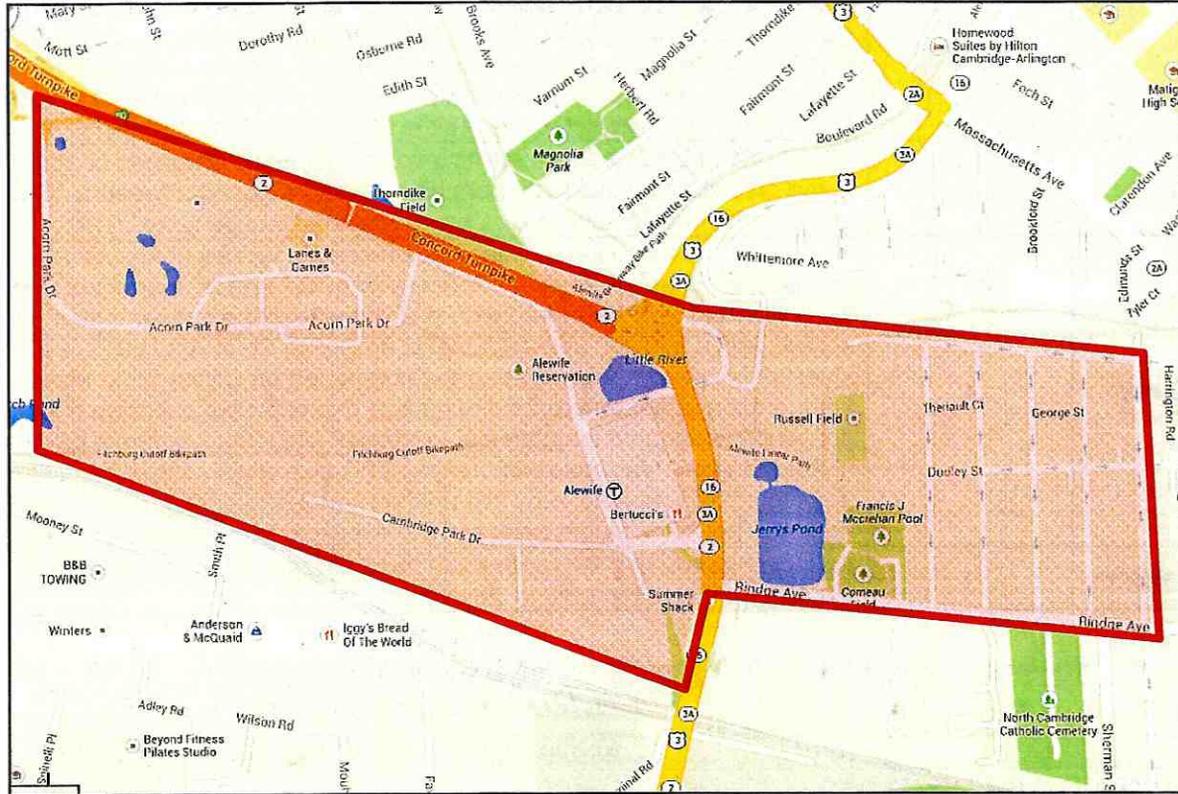
Cambridge Police Department

125 Sixth Street, Cambridge, MA 02142
 (617) 349-3300 (telephone), (617) 349-3320 (fax)
www.cambridgepolice.org



Alewife MBTA Area Crime Review: January 1, 2012 through April 1, 2014

Area of Analysis (highlighted in red)



Crime	Number of Incidents	Notes
Aggravated Assault	7	All seven aggravated assaults over the past two years in this area were either domestic or involved assaults between acquaintances and took place at private residences or the Gateway Inn.
Drugs	0	No incidents to report.
Larceny from MV	23	Over the past two years, 11 larcenies from motor vehicles were reported on the Alewife Station side of Alewife Brook Pkwy. Nine of those eleven incidents took place in 2012, with five of those nine reported at the Lanes N Games parking lot and two reported at the Bertucci's near the Alewife station. In 2013, there was a theft from a car at a construction site on the Concord Tpk in July and a theft from a vehicle parked at the Gateway Inn in December. In the area across the Parkway from the MBTA station, 12 incidents were reported in the past two years, all in residential areas on Montgomery St, Clifton St, Clay St, Harvey St, and Rindge Ave.
Larceny of Bicycle	9	On the Alewife Station side of Alewife Brook Pkwy, there have been three bike thefts reported over the past two years. In early July 2012, two bikes were stolen from the roof rack of a vehicle in the parking lot at the Summer Shack while the victims ate at Bertucci's. In late July 2012, two bikes were reported stolen from

		Acorn Park. In August 2013, a group of males were seen stealing multiple bicycles from outside a residence on Cambridgepark Dr. In the area across the Parkway from the MBTA station, six bike thefts have been reported over the past two years. Five of the six bike thefts were from residences (either from porches, yards, or storage). In the sixth incident, a bicycle was stolen from a bike rack at the football field on Rindge Ave in November 2013.
Simple Assault	20	All but four of these incidents were either domestic or involved an assault between acquaintances. In the stranger incidents, in June 2013, an assault was reported between juveniles (victim reportedly did not previously know the suspect) at the baseball field on Rindge Ave. In September 2013, a juvenile was arrested after he assaulted two police officers in the area of Dudley St & Montgomery St. In January 2014, a victim claims he was assaulted by a cab driver at the cab stand at the Alewife MBTA station, but multiple witnesses report that the victim was likely intoxicated and causing the problem. Also in January 2014, a road rage incident between a driver and pedestrian occurred on the rear access road to Alewife; the driver exited his vehicle and punched the pedestrian in the face.
Threats	7	All but one of the threats incidents involved domestic situations or acquaintances. In the only stranger incident, there was a disagreement between a delivery driver and a resident of a building on Cambridgepark Dr in January 2014.
Street Robbery	4	No incidents were reported within the immediate vicinity of Alewife Station over the past two years. Across the Parkway from the station, four street robberies were reported. In December 2012, a victim was robbed of her laptop bag by an acquaintance and two unknown males on Clifton St. In April 2013, a home invasion involving known suspects was reported on Clifton St. In May 2013 at 9pm, a male victim was robbed of his cell phone by two unknown males with a gun while walking on the path inside Russell Field. On a different day in May 2013 at 6am, a victim was checking the tire of his bike while on the Linear Park bike path when he was robbed by two unknown males at knifepoint who demanded his money. The victim fought back and the suspects fled without taking anything.
Weapon Violations	1	An incident involving the recovery of three firearms from a large gathering at the Gateway Inn was reported in July 2012.

Notable Types of Calls for Service at 5 Cambridgepark Dr (address of Alewife MBTA), 1/1/12 – 4/8/14:

CALL TYPE	#	Notes/description of notable calls:
111B	5	Nothing notable. Mostly requests for transports to shelters.
DIRECT PATROLS/P&Ws	78	Police-initiated patrols.
DISTURBANCE	16	Cab disputes, psych, domestic dispute, MV accident, road rage, etc. Nothing notable.
DISTURBED PERSON	3	Male stated he would destroy everyone on the train – MBTA responded (2/3/14); 111Bs
DRUGS	1	Two males doing drugs in the bathroom – MBTA notified (10/5/13)
FIGHT	4	Random fights; group of teens causing havoc daily (May 2013)
GANG	1	Group of teens reportedly putting out cones on bike path, but not found on arrival (just construction cones) 6/28/12.
HARASSING	1	Male harassing female on overpass bridge – MBTA handled (9/29/13)
NOISE	4	All construction noise reports in October 2013
OVERDOSE	5	Only notable call was 15 year old w/ alcohol poisoning by rear gates on Russell Field side
PERSON WITH GUN	1	Male w/ gun reportedly holding a gun to another male in cuffs in bike cage – MBTA handled, did not need CPD assistance (5/30/12)
SP	12	3/21/14 – male on bike path wearing black mask and possibly carrying a sword – MBTA & State Police called in 12/23/13 – drunk male and female breaking garage office window 8/19/13 – kids on train tracks throwing rocks at cars on Alewife Brook Pkwy 2012 & 2013 - Few calls of males looking into cars and into bike cage.
UNWANTED PERSON	1	Nothing notable.

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT D

From: Josh Walker [jwalker@about.me]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 7:36 AM
To: Kelley, Craig; Lopez, Donna
Subject: Alewife T Access

Craig -

Thanks for sending these emails about the Alewife T access problem and keeping this issue in front of residents in our area. I cannot attend the meeting but would like to ask why a footbridge is not an option? At its worst, I've seen the water reach 2 feet in depth. I cannot understand why that cannot be solved with a footbridge.

I'm sure this question will be asked by others, but I wanted to lend my voice to this issue. It's not a minor inconvenience. I, like I'm sure many others, have seen elderly, handicapped, and mothers with strollers wade through water. It's disgraceful the city forces people to do this to get to transportation they need.

Again, appreciate your attention to this matter, Craig.

Josh Walker
184 Harvey St.

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT E.

From: Sue Donaldson [donaldsue@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 7:52 AM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Lake Alewife

Re: Drainage issues on the bike path at Alewife Station.

A suggestion for a temporary solution:

How about a temporary bridge (could be one of those metal walkways they use around construction) to the side of the actual path, over one of the mud pits? That way emergency vehicles could still use the "road" but there would be an elevated walkway until the drainage issues get figured out, which I assume will be sometime around 2100.

Thanks,

Sue Donaldson
187 Harvey St
Cambridge 02140

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT F

From: genevieve1g@gmail.com on behalf of Genevieve Tocci [genevivetocci@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 3:49 PM
To: Kelley, Craig; Lopez, Donna
Subject: Re: Alewife T access and safety meeting at City Hall this Wednesday at 4 PM

Dear Ms. Lopez,

I am writing to say I am interested and concerned for the City to help come up with a solution for the path between the Russel Field area and the entrance to the Alewife T station. I know this is not something that falls on the city alone but am hopeful that there will be a push for a solution. Wading through deep muddy water or walking through thick mud is not an acceptable option for anyone and it especially challenging (or impossible) if you are disabled or injured.

I am glad the issue of the lights around the Russel Field area of the path to Alewife will also be addressed in this week's meeting. I am unaware of what the issue truly is but I know some evenings they seem to be on while other evenings they are off. Sometimes it seems like they are off later in the evening when perhaps they were on earlier. I also know sometimes the T runs a generator with lights for pedestrians, which is certainly helpful for walking, but does not seem like a long term solution. As someone who uses that area almost every day I feel that having lights on there in the evenings is crucial for safety.

Thank you for working with the council on this issue.

Sincerely,
Genevieve Tocci
Cambridge, MA 02140

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Omnia mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.
All things change, and we change with them.

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENTS

From: Geoffrey Swift [geoffswift@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 7:51 PM
To: Lopez, Donna; Kelley, Craig
Subject: Fw: Alewife T access and safety meeting at City Hall this Wednesday at 4 PM

Dear City Clerk, City of Cambridge -
I understand from Craig Kelley that there will be a public hearing to discuss, among other things, the deplorable state of the pathway from the Russell Field Complex to the Alewife T. I am unable to attend the meeting, however I want to add my name to the chorus that is hoping for an improved access situation. I appreciate that such things are never as easy as might be imagined, but I would hope that the city would do what it could to work with the MBTA and the other interested parties to find a solution that makes the walkway into the nearby neighborhood easy to access without the sloppy pathway situation that currently exists.

Optimistically.,

Geoffrey Swift
48 Jackson Street
Cambridge

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Kelley, Craig" <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
To:
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2014 12:33 AM
Subject: Alewife T access and safety meeting at City Hall this Wednesday at 4 PM

Folks:

There will be a meeting to talk about safety at the MBTA Alewife station this Wednesday, 9 April, at 4 PM at City Hall in the Ackermann Room on the second floor. While the focus on the meeting is primarily on the awful access to the T station from Russell Field through what has been nicknamed "Lake Alewife" and its adjacent mud pits, there will also be the opportunity to discuss lighting, security staffing and any other issues people think relevant.

The hope is that, after this meeting, we will all have a good idea of what the engineering and access challenges are to fix the muddy path, who is responsible for doing what, what it might cost, what the next steps to achieving a solution are and so forth. Given the small area that we're actually talking about, it seems to be a surprisingly complex problem and we want to make sure that we don't let those complexities, whatever they may be, stand in the way of solving the drainage issues.

If there are other issues that come up, we'll try to figure out how to solve them as well

If you'd like to submit comments or ask questions via email, you may send them to the City Clerk at DLopez@Cambridgema.gov, but please send them to me as well at CKelley@Cambridgema.gov.

Thanks a lot.

Craig

All emails to and from this email address are subject to the Public Records Law and may be made available to members of the public. Anything you do not want subject to that law should be sent to me at Craig@CraigKelley.org.

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT H.

From: Janet Snedeker [jsned@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 5:40 AM
To: Lopez, Donna; Kelley, Craig
Subject: Flooding on Path to Alewife

Thanks to Craig Kelley for pursuing action on the problem of the flooding on the path to Alewife. At times when it is raining, I have to wear rubber boots to work just because of this puddle. The attached picture was taken on the way home from work last week. As you can see, it was so bad the T sent a couple of workers out to drain it. This picture really does not do justice to the size of the puddle. On day my husband came home from work and reported that the puddle had its own duck bobbing its head under the water looking for food!

