

Charles Teague, 23 Edmunds St

CONTINUING
~~SHOULD BE~~

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Tonight there are three items that demonstrate the pattern of erosion of our private and public Open Spaces in Cambridge.

First is the Whittemore Ave community garden. I ask that the council support acquiring it just as the ~~previous~~²⁰¹¹ council did ~~that~~. In this case, Fawcett Oil is building a large rental apartment complex between ~~the~~⁶ two family neighborhood and Linear Park so it is important and appropriate to preserve this Open Space.

Second is the Silver Maple Forest. I ask that the council support Order #4. + 27
Beyond the letter from the Lesley University professors showing the economic sense of preservation, it is simple common sense to preserve this area both for the natural environment and for flood protection.

Third, is the paving of the entry lawn of Danehy Park to widen New Street. Manager's #35 fails to ~~show~~ showing what Green Open Space of Danehy Park is to be paved. ~~It fails to shows whose private property will be taken by the city to increase the width of the rest of New Street.~~ ~~Worse~~ worse, there is no mention that paving more of the park will decrease the flood capacity of the area. As New Street flooded just today with that brief rainstorm, paving more park land makes no sense.

WE NEED TO STOP THIS

~~the~~ continuing pattern of erosion ~~of our private and public Open Spaces~~. Here's my incomplete list of compromised ~~private and public~~ Open Spaces:

the Novartis access restriction to its Open Space resulting in a 2012 council order

Google's taking 40% of the Kendall Sq Rooftop Garden

the Lesley University expansion onto the open lot in Porter Sq

OakTree Development permitted to build on historic Knights Garden of St James Church in Porter Sq

library expansion in Joan Lorentz Park

Neville Manor expansion in Fresh Pond

our zoning still allowing building 7.5' from Linear Park in North Cambridge

~~then~~ some successes are:

taking back of the plaza at Holyoke Center from Au Bon Pain

the recent defense of historic Winthrop Sq Park

the rejection of Forest City's proposal to build a tower next to the Central Sq Fire Station

the rejection of building on "Pork Chop Park" in Kendall Sq

restoring access to AAAS "woods"

Frederick Law OLMSTED

I will end by paraphrasing the ~~recent~~ PBS documentary on ~~Frederick Law Olmsted~~:

"Olmsted feared that the open space in a park would be a **temptation to a growing city**. His fears have been realized. He talked about the impulse to fill up the space with things, how the openness of the space makes it look like there is nothing there, and when there is nothing there, people who are pressed on all sides by the city start looking at it."

STOP THE EROSION AND TO

Please vote [↑] to save the garden and the forest.