

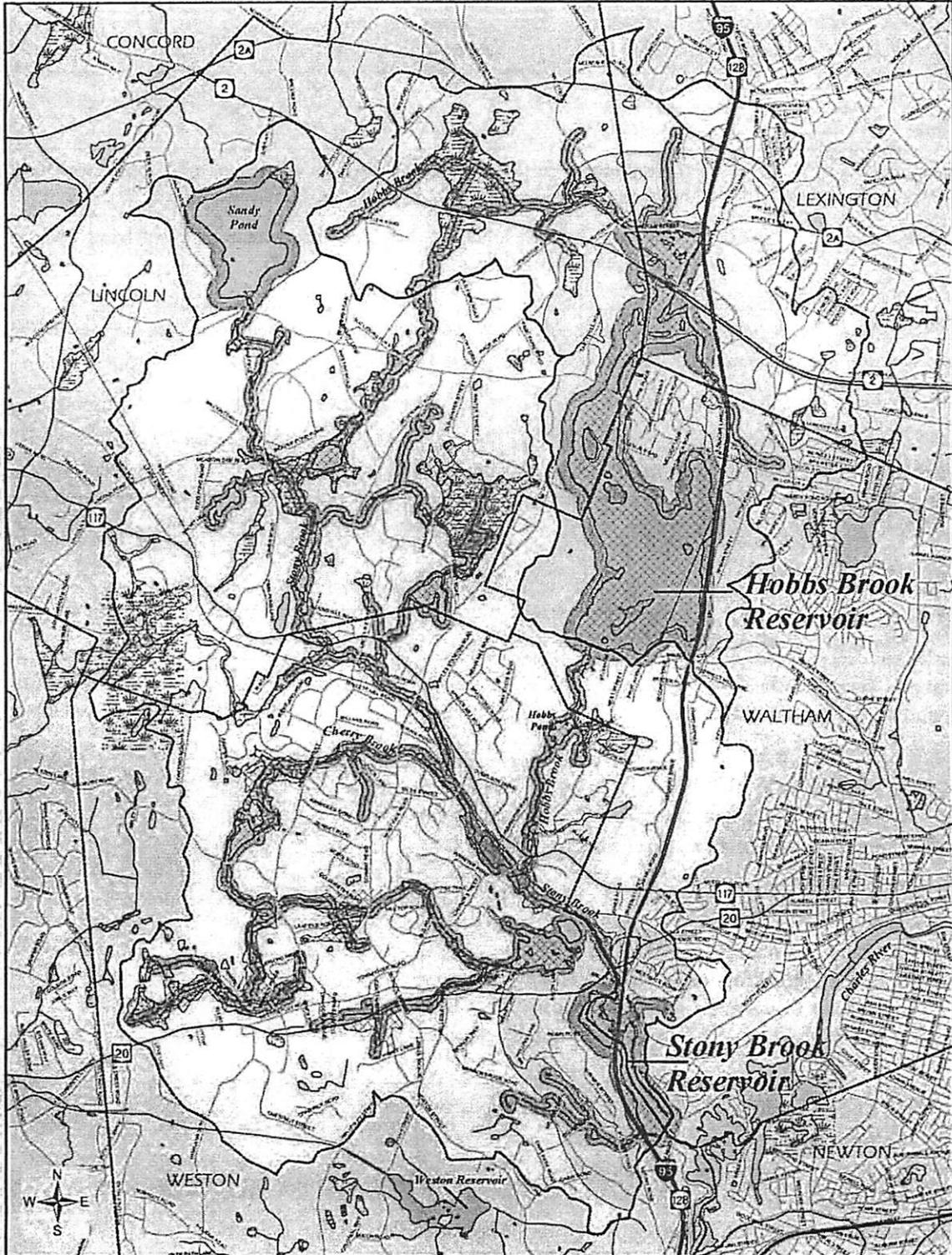
## City of Cambridge, Massachusetts ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Sullivan Chamber, City Hall

795 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Leland Cheung, Councillor Craig Kelley,  
Councillor Minka vanBeuzekom, Chair

<b>Time:</b>	Tuesday, June 26, 2012, 5:00 PM
<b>Purpose:</b>	The Environment Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss Open Space preservation throughout the city of Cambridge.
<b>For Discussion:</b>	How well is the City of Cambridge preserving, creating an expanding open space for its residents?
<p><i>As the building density in Cambridge increases, so, the pressure to keep and even expand open space increases. We must assertively stay ahead of building density pressure. Cambridge must actively reserve publicly accessible open space in any new development.</i></p> <p><i>It is also in our best long-term interest to work with the Department of Conservation Recreation (DCR), other municipalities and private owners to create as much contiguous or linked regions of protected open space as is possible. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) encourages each community to think regionally and it is in our best interest.</i></p>	
<b>Items for Discussion</b>	
1.	Definition and relevance of urban open space -- permeable & non-permeable; public & private Assessment and adaptation for climate change
2.	Status/Update on the Open Space Committee. A brief summary of activities over the past few years including the Open Space Plan 2009-2016 published in 2010.
3.	Sources of funding available for public Open Space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developer mitigation funds &amp; transference of property</li> <li>• Community Preservation Act funds</li> <li>• State funding</li> <li>• City bonding and free cash</li> </ul>
4.	Example of a successful public Open Space <b>Northpoint Central Park &amp; Northpoint Park</b> along the Charles River. How to duplicate this in other upcoming development districts?
5.	Selected opportunities available for additional public open space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridge Street over pass</li> <li>• CRA owned parcels along Binney St.</li> <li>• Alexandria Park in East Cambridge</li> <li>• Alewife reservation &amp; surrounding private area including within Belmont</li> </ul>
6.	Plans for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridge Common</li> <li>• 1200+ acres of watershed lands outside Cambridge</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion &amp; Public Comment</b>	
<b>Future Plans/Next Steps</b>	



**Legend**

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| — Town Lines      | Reservoir                |
| Zone A            | Wetland                  |
| Zone B            | River                    |
| Hobbs Brook Basin | Pond                     |
| Stony Brook Basin | FEMA 100-Year Floodplain |



© Cambridge Watershed DEP Surface Water Protection Plan/SSE Map/Surface Water Supply Protection Zones 16.17.dml

**Source Water Protection Plan  
Cambridge Watershed  
DEP Protection Zones**

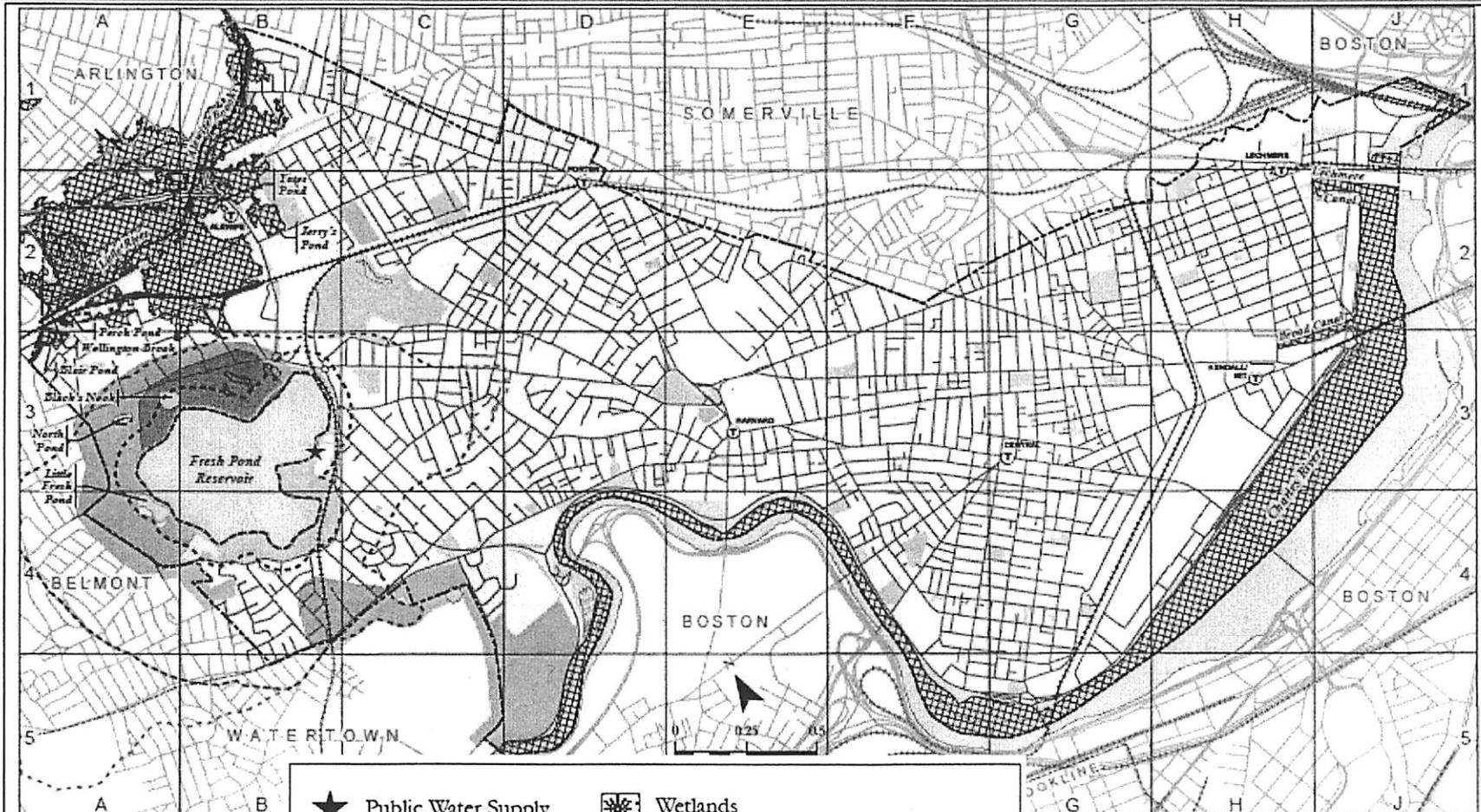


City of Cambridge Water Department  
Scale: 1:60,000  
February 4, 2008

**City of Cambridge Open Space**

**June 26, 2012**

# Water Resources (2008)



Sources: MassGIS, Cambridge Department of Public

**Open Space Plan**  
Community Development Department  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

★ Public Water Supply	Wetlands
Limit of Zone A	Medium Yield Aquifer
Limit of Zone B	High Yield Aquifer
Limit of Zone C	FEMA Flood Zone A, AE (100-Year) Preliminary as of 2008

**Map 4-2**  
**Water Resources**

Cambridge, Massachusetts

## Cambridge has:

- **some large parks and reservations,**
- **but most open space is in the form of small to medium-sized parks and playgrounds that are embedded into the residential neighborhoods.**
- **The city's major natural resource areas, the Charles River, Alewife Brook, and Fresh Pond Reservations, are thoughtfully protected and treasured by the community.**
- **The public system of open spaces is complemented by a smaller set of privately-owned open spaces, many of which allow some degree of public access or enjoyment.**

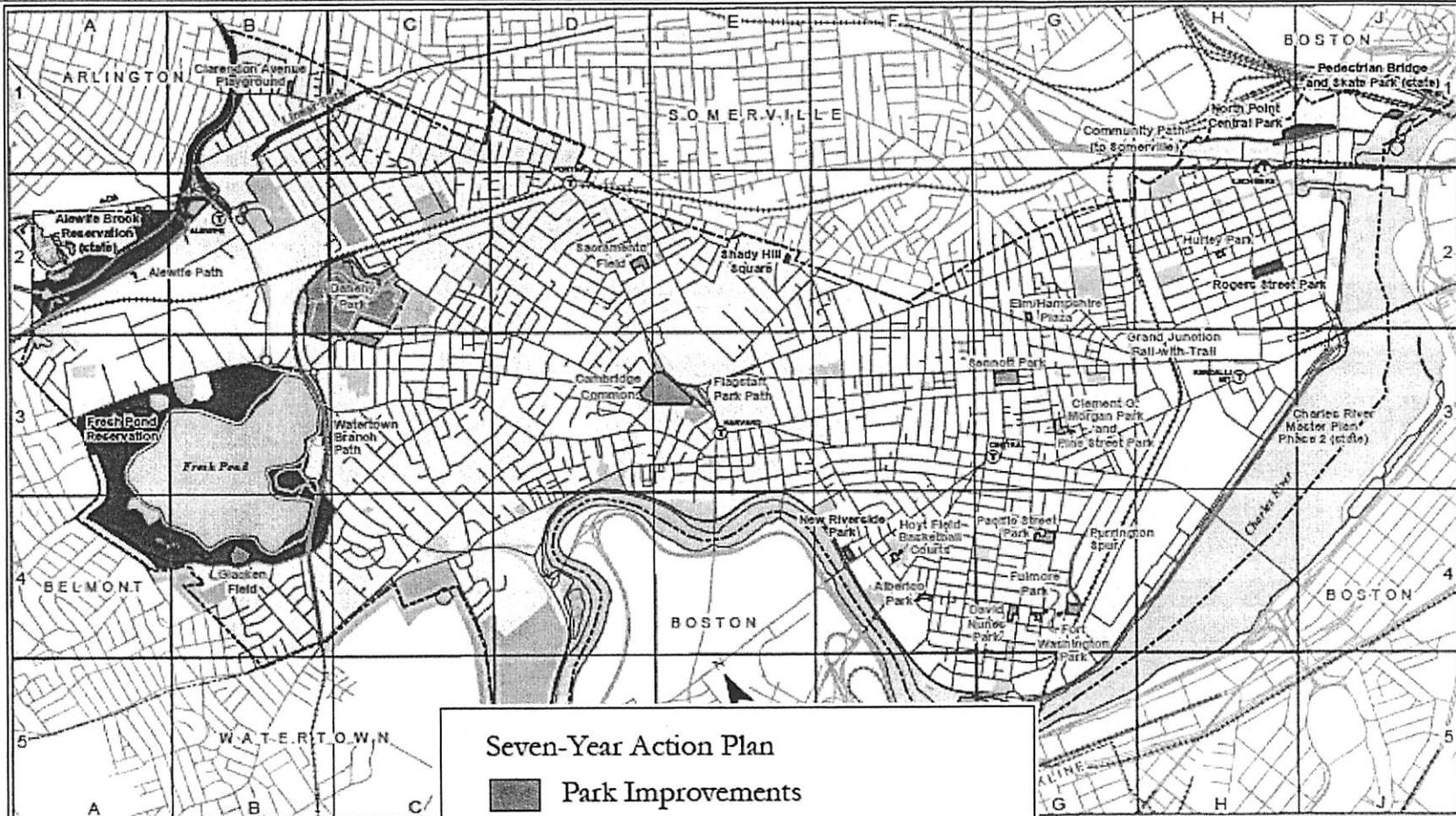
## Cambridge Open Space Plan (2009-2016)

[A 224-page comprehensive plan.]

### *The Cambridge Open Space System*

- Cambridge is a city that is fully developed, densely populated, demographically diverse, and home to many large and small businesses and institutions. It has a **variety of public open spaces**, most of which have been created **by reclaiming land** that had previously been used for other purposes.
- As Cambridge redevelops to accommodate new housing, businesses and institutional uses, **the City continues to seek ways to provide new public open space along with protecting the open space that currently exists.**

# Open Space Plan (2010)



Source: Cambridge CDD, Cambridge GIS, MassGIS.

Open Space Plan  
Community Development Department  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Seven-Year Action Plan**

- Park Improvements
- New Open Space
- Natural Resource Protection
- Park Trails and Multi-Use Pathways

Map 9-1  
Seven-Year Action Plan  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

# **Open Space Preservation – MGL Chapter 44B**

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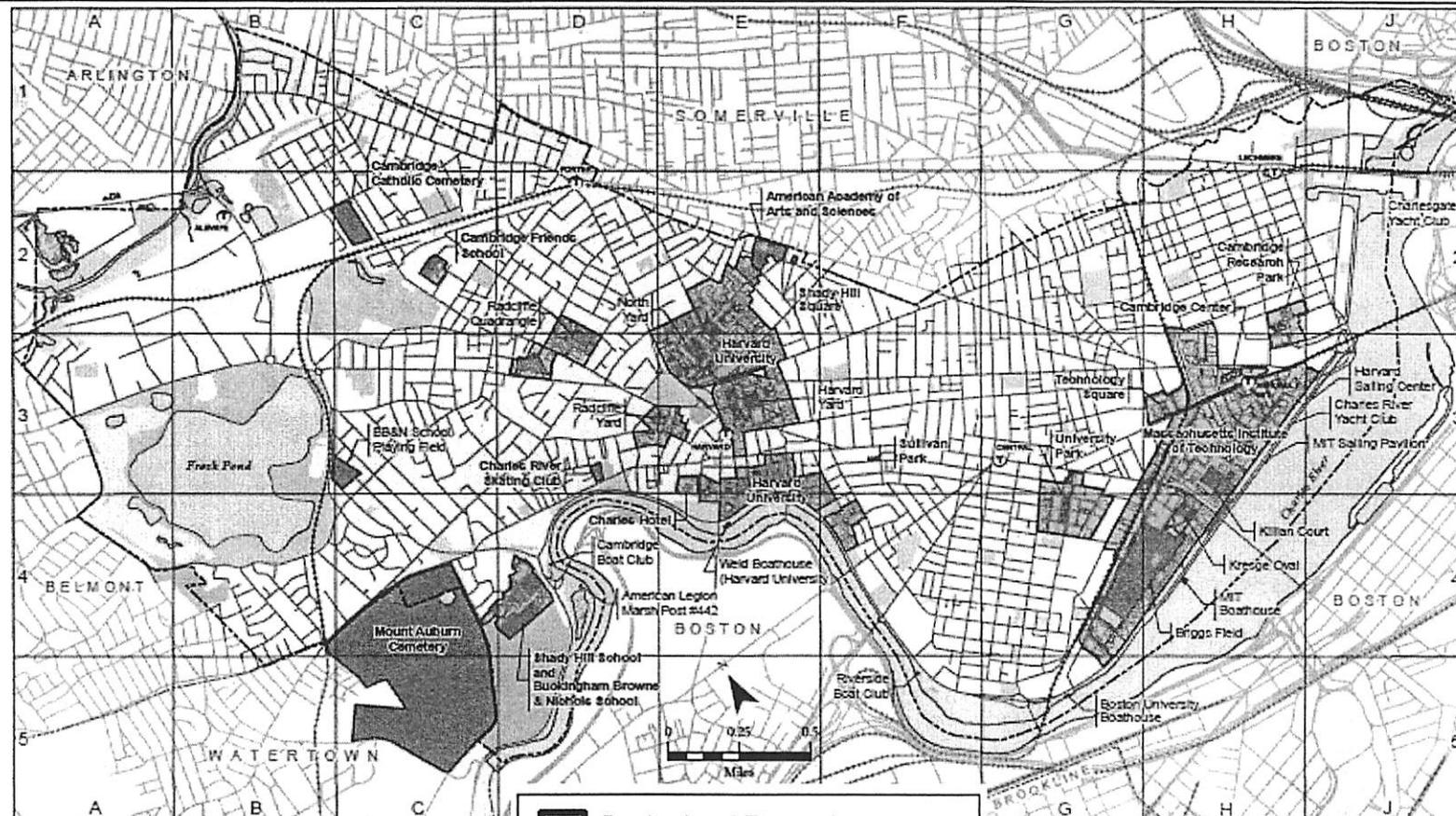
**The current language in the Community Preservation Act restricts the type of appropriations that can be made from the first 10% of CPA Open Space Funds to the following Limited Range of Uses: Acquisition, Preservation & Restoration of**

- **Well Fields, Aquifers and Recharge Areas**
- **Watershed Lands**
- **Agricultural Land, Grasslands, Fields and Forest Land**
- **Fresh and Salt Water Marshes and Other Wetlands**
- **Ocean, River, Stream, Lake and Pond Frontage**
- **Beaches, Dunes and Coastal Land**
- **Lands to Protect Scenic Vistas**
- **Land for Wildlife and Nature Preserves**

**The Initial 10% of Open Space Preservation Funds may NOT be used to acquire or develop land for recreational uses (passive or active), including parkland, playing fields, playgrounds, community gardens and trails.**

**Funds may not be used for routine maintenance.**

# Private Open Space (2008)



Source: Cambridge CDD, Cambridge GIS, MassGIS

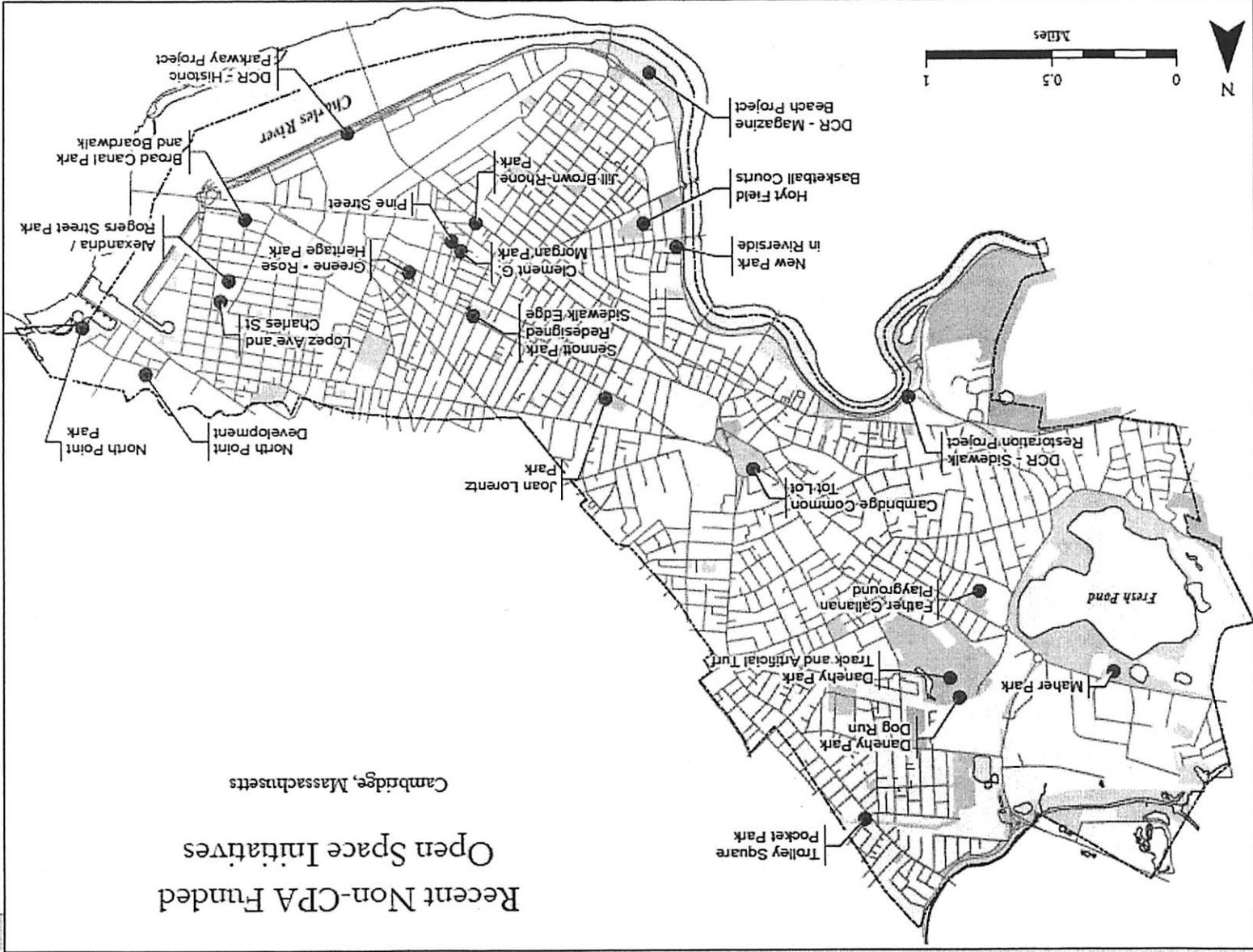
Open Space Plan  
Community Development Department  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

-  Institutional Properties
-  Other Private Properties
-  Significant Private Open Spaces
-  Select Building Footprints

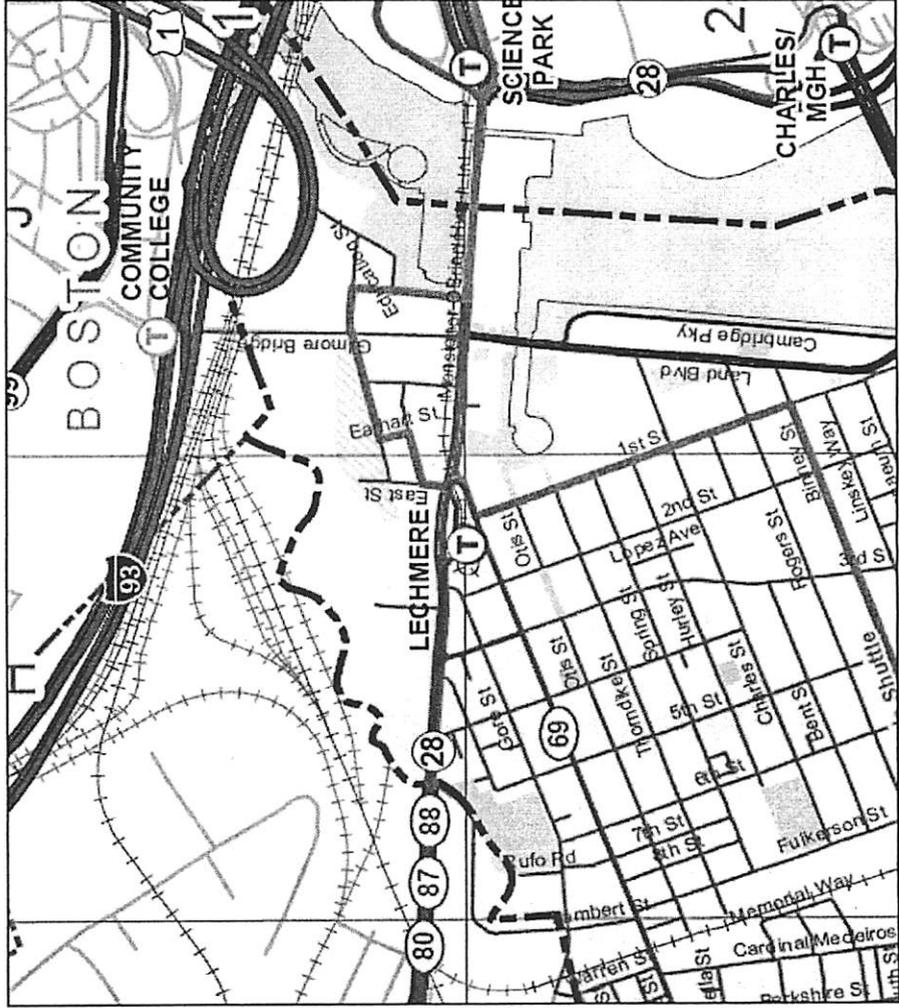
Map 5-1  
Significant Private  
Open Spaces  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

# Non-CPA Open Space (2010)

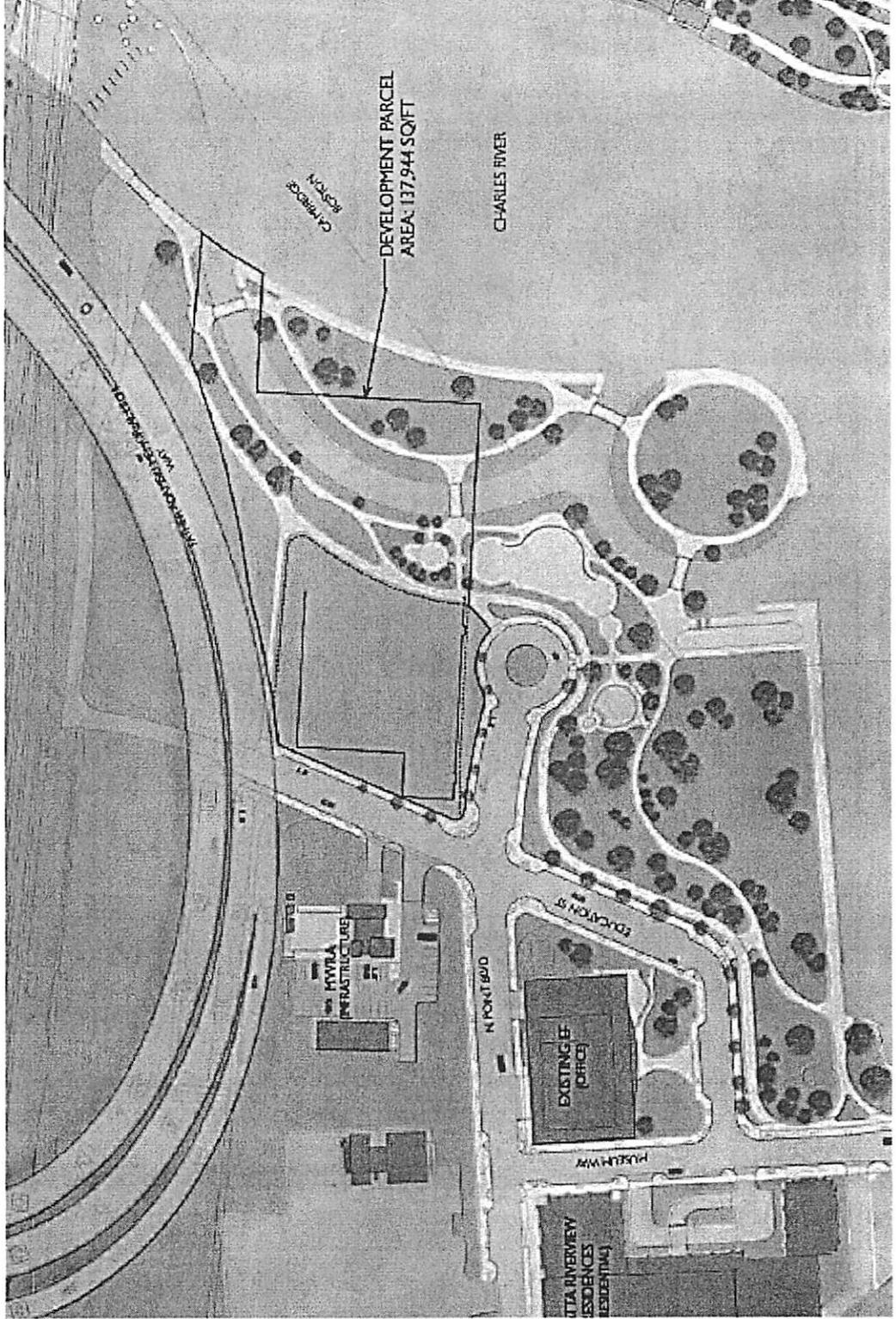
Recent Non-CPA Funded  
Open Space Initiatives  
Cambridge, Massachusetts



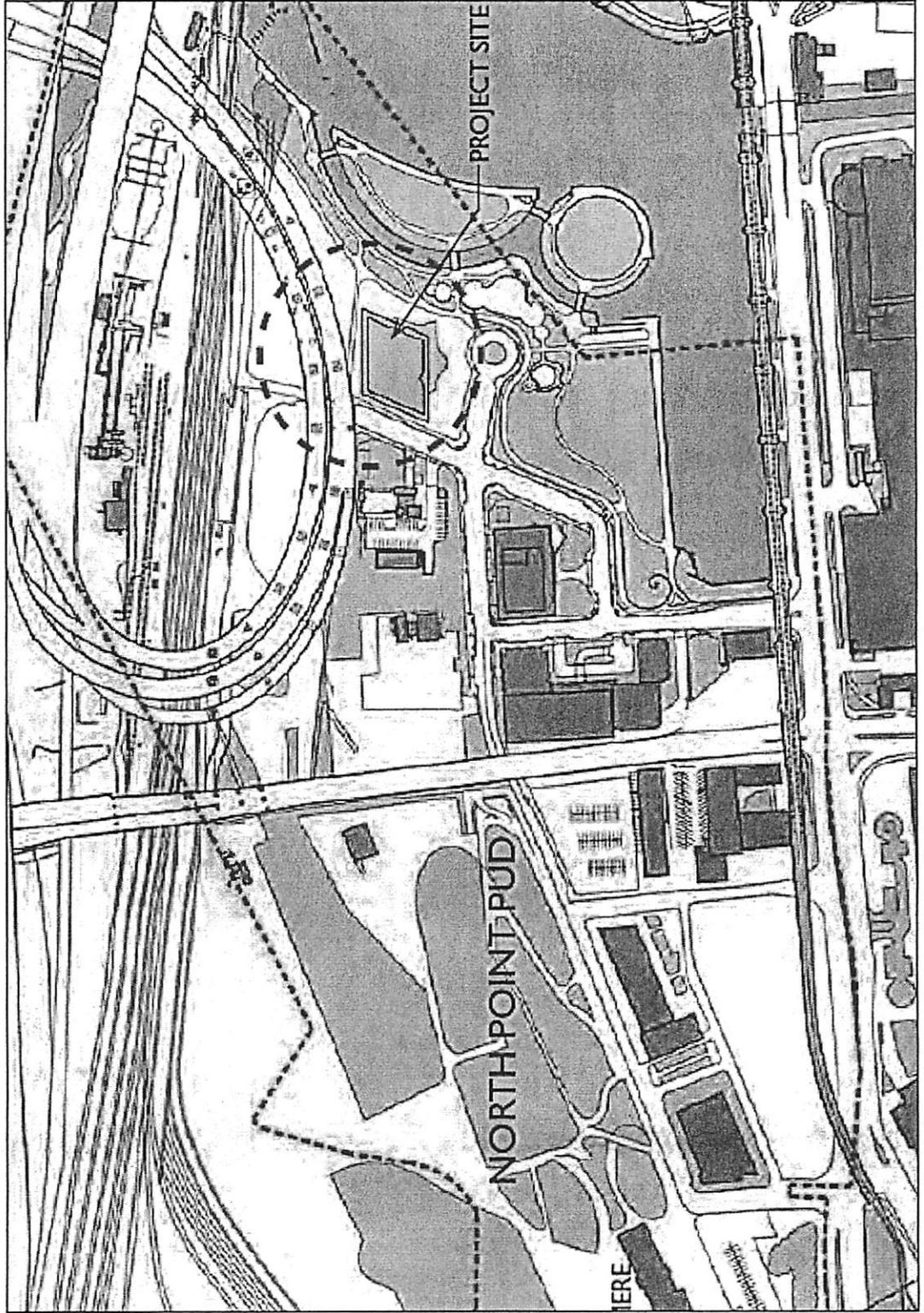
# Northpoint



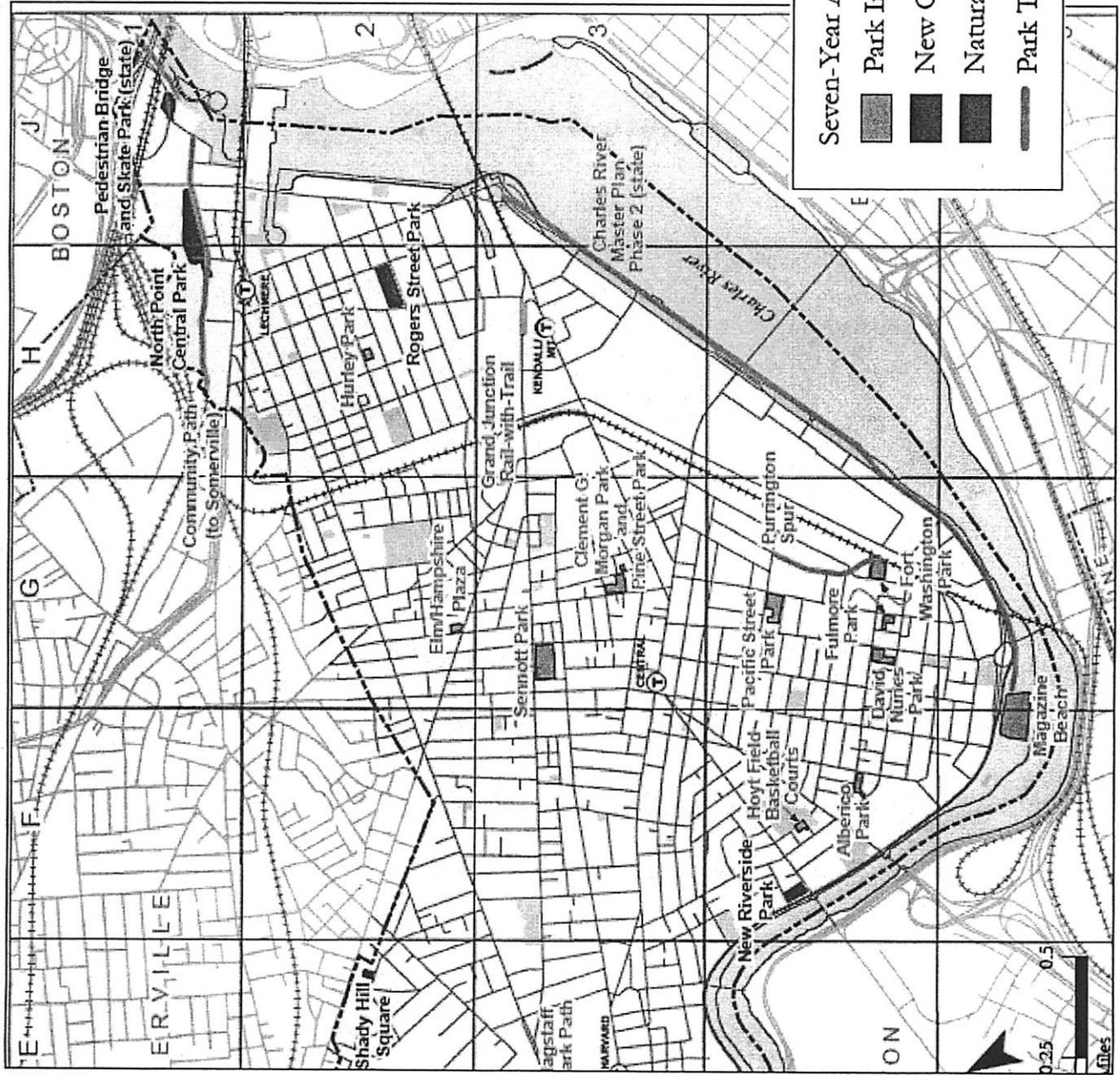
# Northpoint Park 2

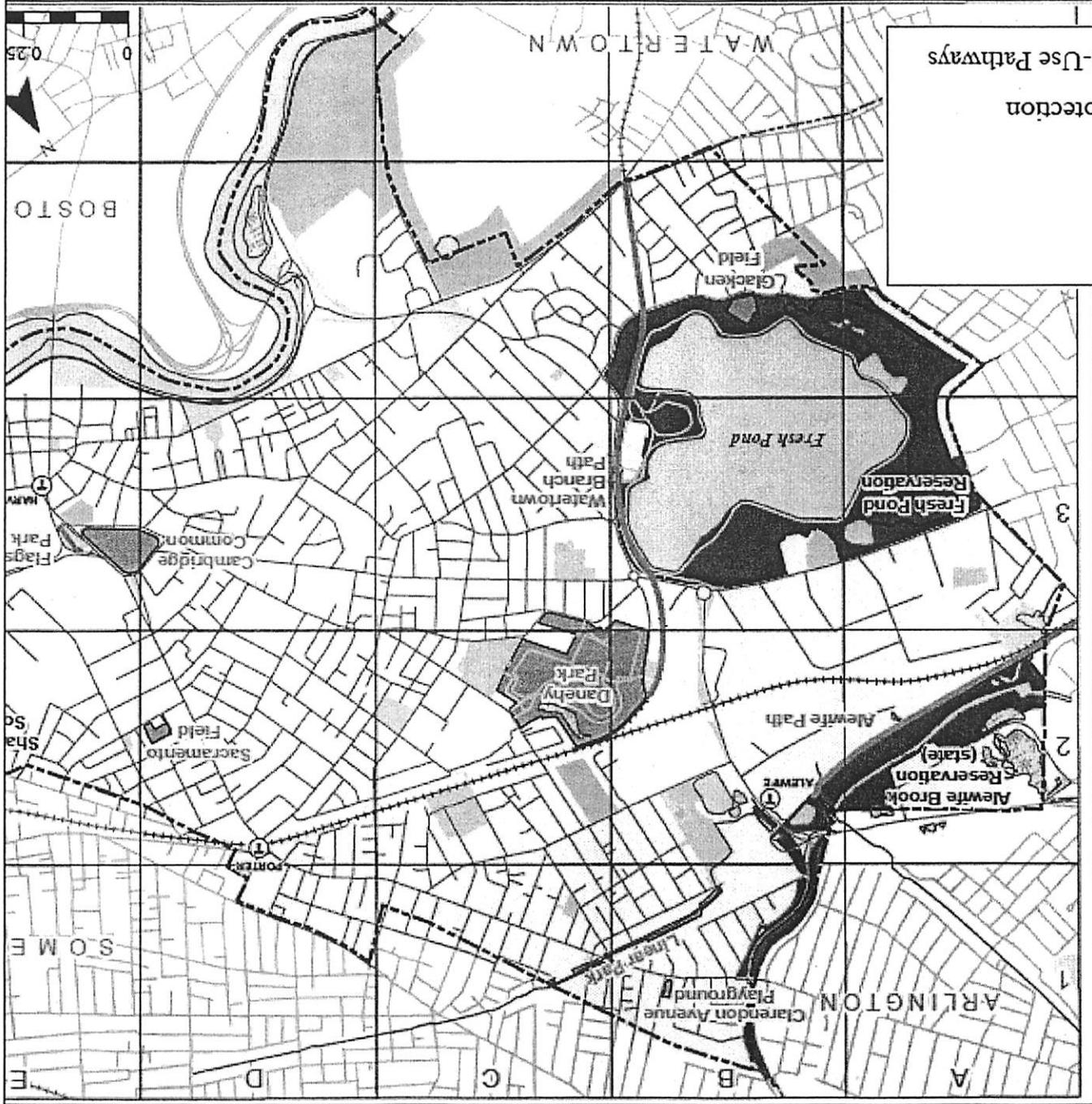


# Northpoint Park 1



# East

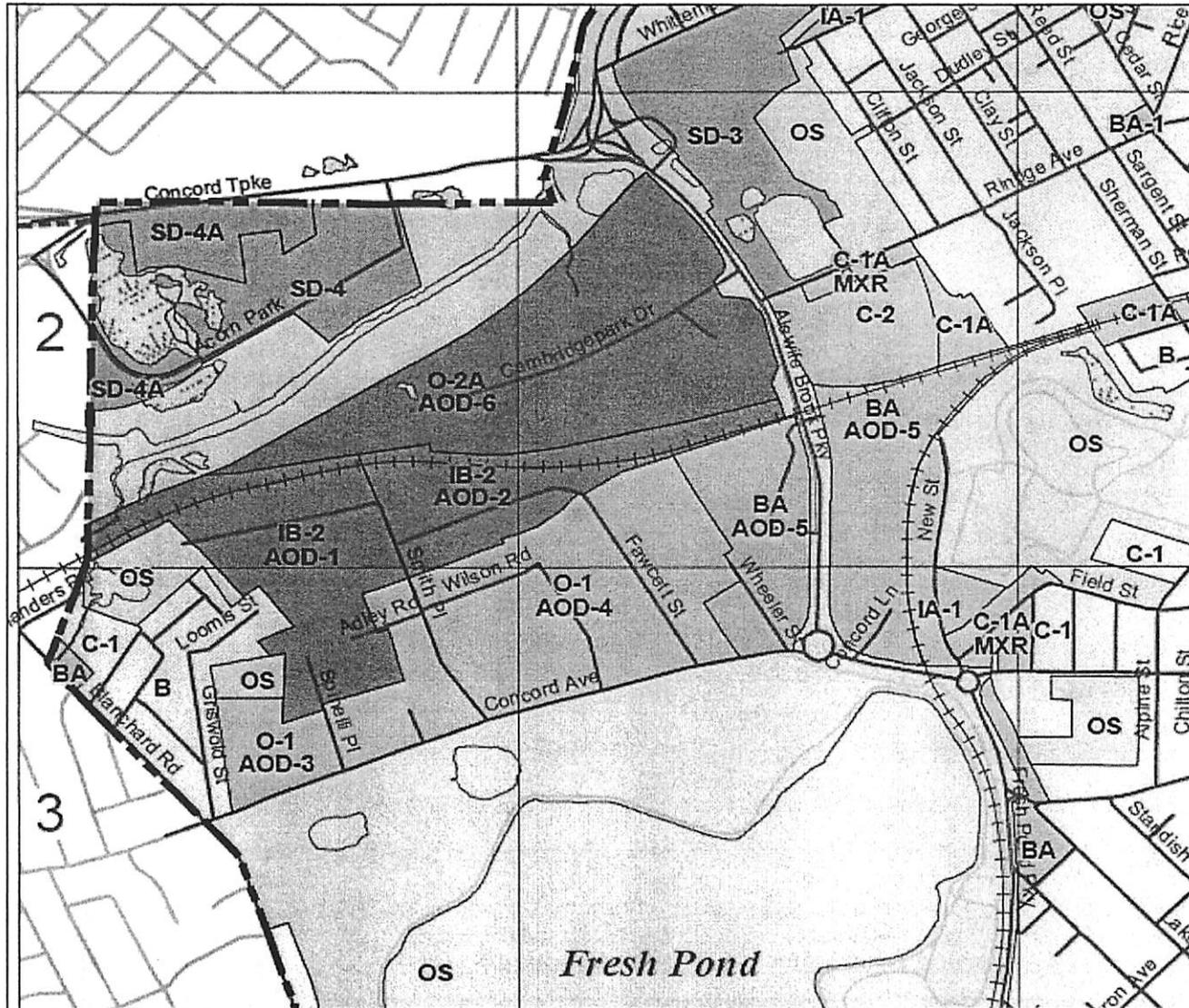




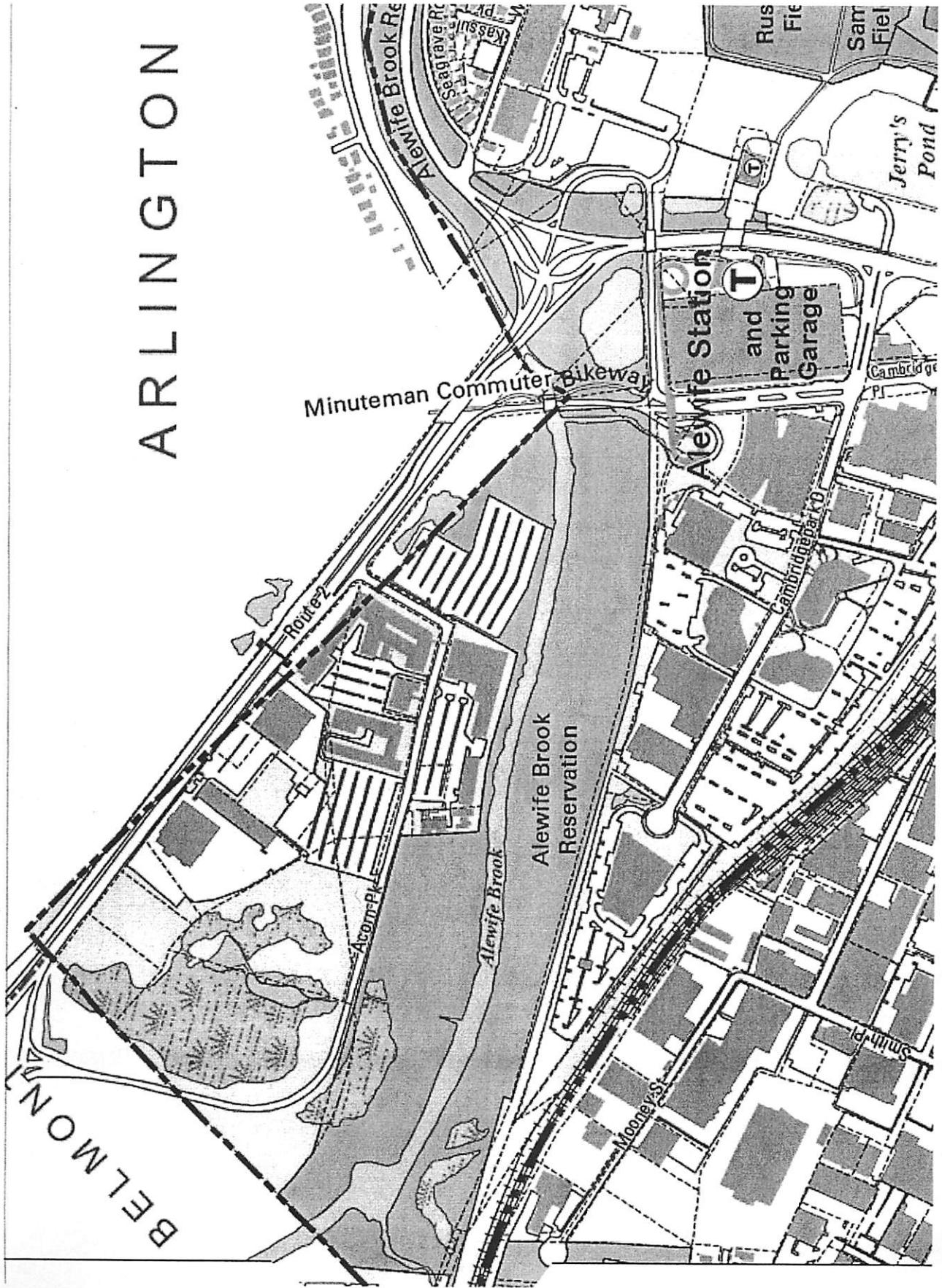
-  Park Trails and Multi-Use Pathways
-  Natural Resource Protection
-  New Open Space
-  Park Improvements
-  Seven-Year Action Plan

# West

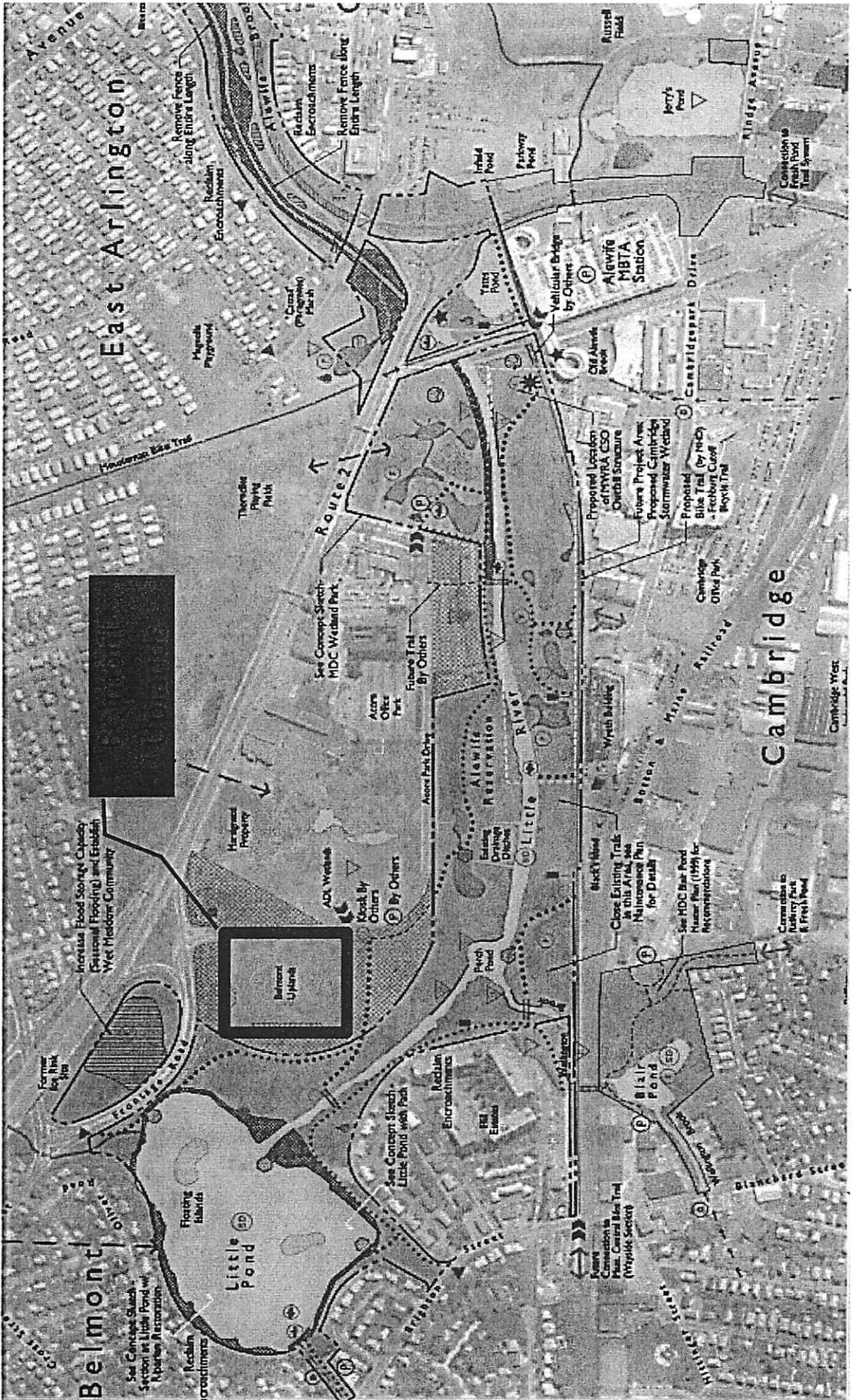
# Alewife: Special District 4 & 4A



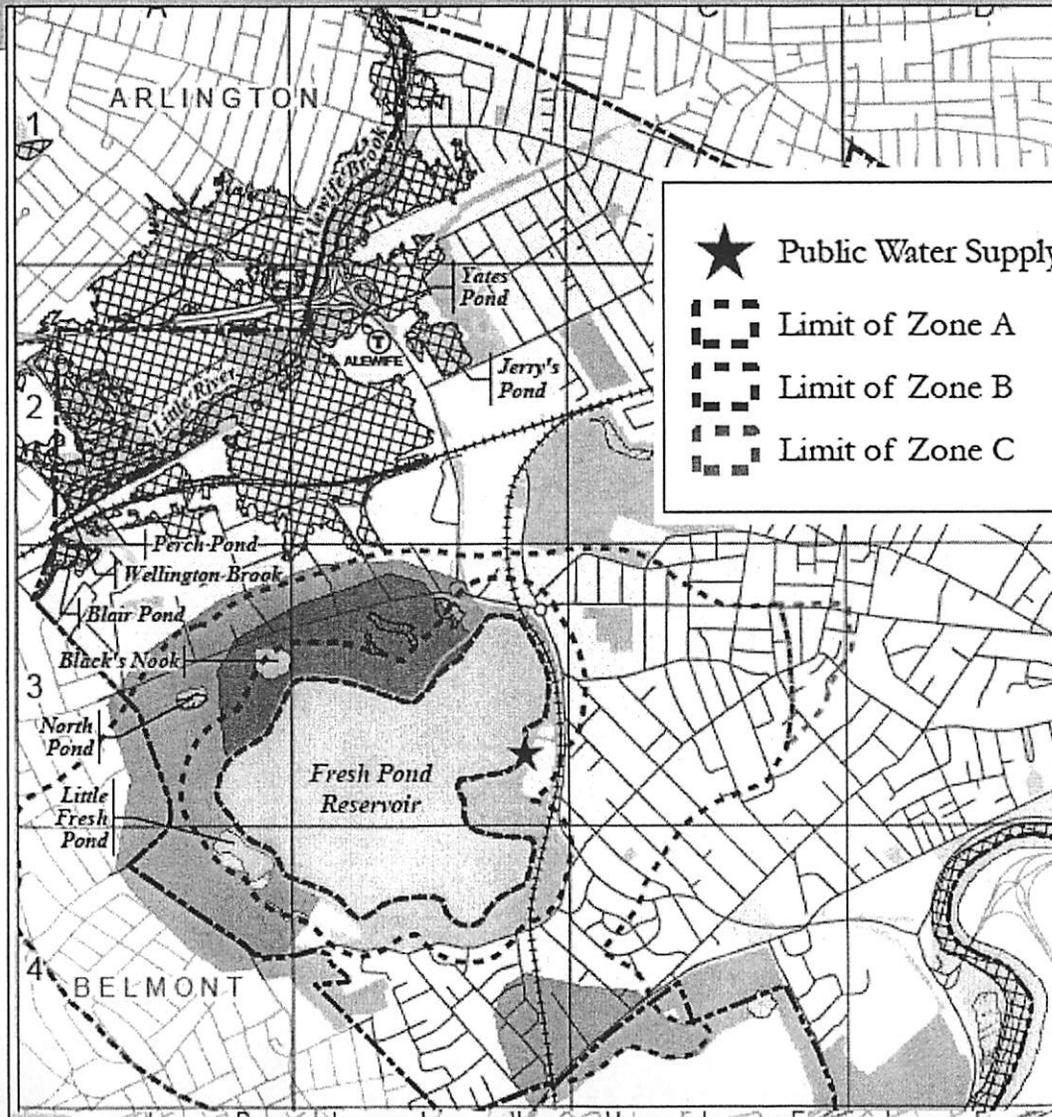
# ARLINGTON



BELMONT



# Water Resources Close-up



- ★ Public Water Supply
- Limit of Zone A
- Limit of Zone B
- Limit of Zone C

- ▨ Wetlands
- Medium Yield Aquifer
- High Yield Aquifer
- ▨ FEMA Flood Zone A, AE (100-Year)  
Preliminary as of 2008