



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

April 24, 2023

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am pleased to inform you that through tireless community efforts led by the Friends of Jerry's Pond, Alewife Study Group, Mass Audubon, and Green Cambridge, the City has secured significant commitments from the property owner, IQHQ, to make improvements to the area around Jerry's Pond, opening up this incredible resource to the community. The renovated Jerry's Pond will include new boardwalks, community gardens, new trees, seating for more than 130 people, a long-term partnership with Mass Audubon to run education programs from a new eco-pavilion, and a 2-way multi-use path along this section of Rindge Ave.

Working with the various community groups over the last several years, IQHQ has expanded the scope of improvements to include significant community amenities and is committed to continuing to work with the City and the community on the detailed design elements, with a goal of beginning construction in the summer of 2024.

Access to open space is an environmental justice issue, and Rindge Towers and the surrounding community need better connectivity to neighboring City parks, paths and other green spaces. With IQHQ's commitment to making comprehensive improvements around Jerry's Pond, we plan to reallocate the ARRPA funds identified to study the feasibility of renovating Jerry's Pond to fund the 25% design of a new bike and pedestrian bridge over the Fitchburg Commuter Line to connect Rindge Avenue and Danehy Park. This proposed reallocation of ARRPA funds to the 25% bridge design will make the City competitive for federal funding opportunities to complete design and construction, supplemented by additional City funds.

Connecting Rindge Towers and the broader Rindge Ave community to Danehy Park has been a long sought after goal for both residents and City staff ([refer to the Alewife District Plan](#)). As shown on the attached 'Open Space Needs Assessment' map, the Community Development Department's recent Open Space Planning work identified this neighborhood as an area in the greatest need of access to open space. The latest multi-use path projects, including the upcoming Danehy-New Street Path and the recent completion of the Watertown-Cambridge Greenway, make the bike/ped bridge connection over the Fitchburg Commuter Line even more valuable.

The attached 'Danehy Bridge Connectivity' map shows how this bridge improves connectivity to the multi-use paths and key open space facilities, including Danehy Park and Fresh Pond Reservation, for the residents of Rindge Towers and the surrounding environmental justice

neighborhood. The exact location and of the bridge connection, as well detailed designs, would be developed during the 25% design process.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yi-An Huang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager

Attachments