

White and opened in 1927, is one of the most attractive footbridges in the Commonwealth. In combination with a second footbridge over Storrow Drive, it serves as a crucial crossing for Harvard students. A steam line is incorporated in the bridge structure.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

The parkway embankment and open field between the Weeks Bridge and the Anderson Bridge is bare of vegetation and scoured by road sand. Errant cars have struck several streetlights. The tight curve and lack of a high parkway curb have exacerbated this problem. Though similar in size to the bank on the opposite shore, this area is much less used, due in part to the lack of parkway trees and exposure to traffic.

Bright floodlights have been installed recently at either end of the Weeks Bridge in response to safety concerns. The need for security is clear, but floodlights on high poles are out of character with both the bridge and the reservation.

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL (6S)

Soldiers Field Road between River Street Bridge and Anderson Bridge

KEY RESOURCES

- *Anderson Bridge (1913)*
- *Harvard Business School (1926)*
- *John W. Weeks Bridge (1927)*
- *Soldiers Field Road (1927)*

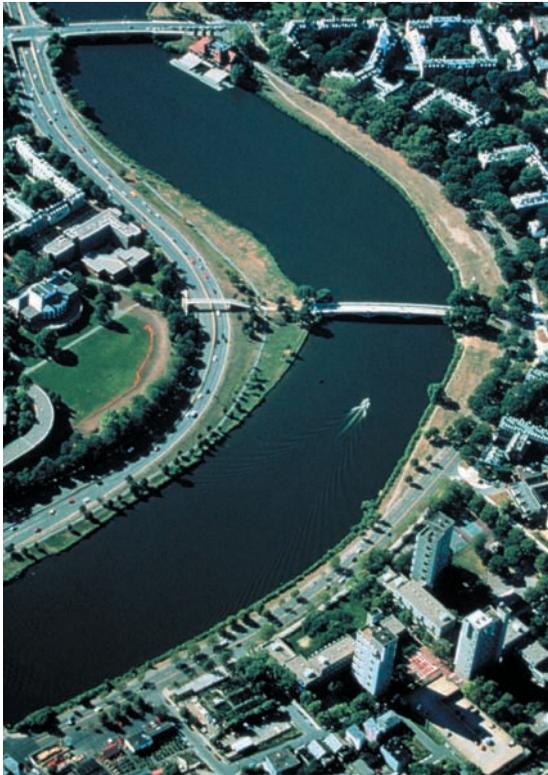
INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

This area was part of the extensive marshes that once separated Cambridge from Boston. Open grassy banks, the low brick buildings of the Harvard Business School, and the views of the Weeks Bridge and Weld Boathouse define it. The footbridge, designed by McKim, Mead, and



GOALS

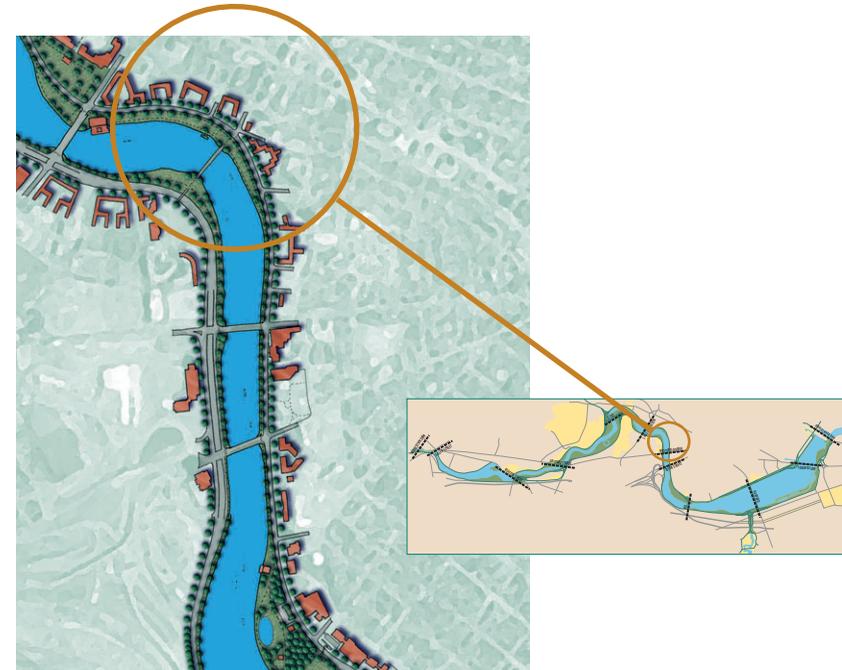
- Preserve the open, grassy character of the banks and the views of the surrounding campus buildings.
- Reinforce the landscape character of the parkway.



THE JOHN W. WEEKS BRIDGE (CENTER) CROSSES THE CHARLES BETWEEN THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL (LEFT) AND HARVARD COLLEGE HOUSES (RIGHT).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Coordinate improvements with the campus master plan for the Harvard Business School and identify initiatives that Harvard University can undertake.
- Add curbing and parkway trees to **Soldiers Field Road**. With the London planetrees in decline on the opposite bank, consider establishing a new line of London planetrees in front of the Harvard Business School, while maintaining views to and from the main courtyard.
- Substitute more appropriate, pedestrian-scaled lights for the floodlights at the **John J. Weeks Bridge**. Indeed, all of the bridges across the Charles should have special lights to emphasize these historic and highly visible river crossings. Establish an MDC standard. Restore historic lighting fixtures and provide lighting of the bridge itself to highlight its architectural splendor.
- Repaint and improve plantings at overpass that carries pedestrians to and from the John W. Weeks Bridge above Soldiers Field Road.



HARVARD COLLEGE HOUSES (6N)

Memorial Drive between Western Avenue Bridge and the Anderson Bridge

KEY RESOURCES

- *Weld Boathouse (1907)*
- *Memorial Drive (1908)*
- *London planetrees (1908)*
- *John W. Weeks Bridge (1927)*

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

This segment was among the last open space improvements carried out to fulfill Charles Eliot's vision for a parkway along the Basin. The London planetrees planted at that time have survived for more than a century.