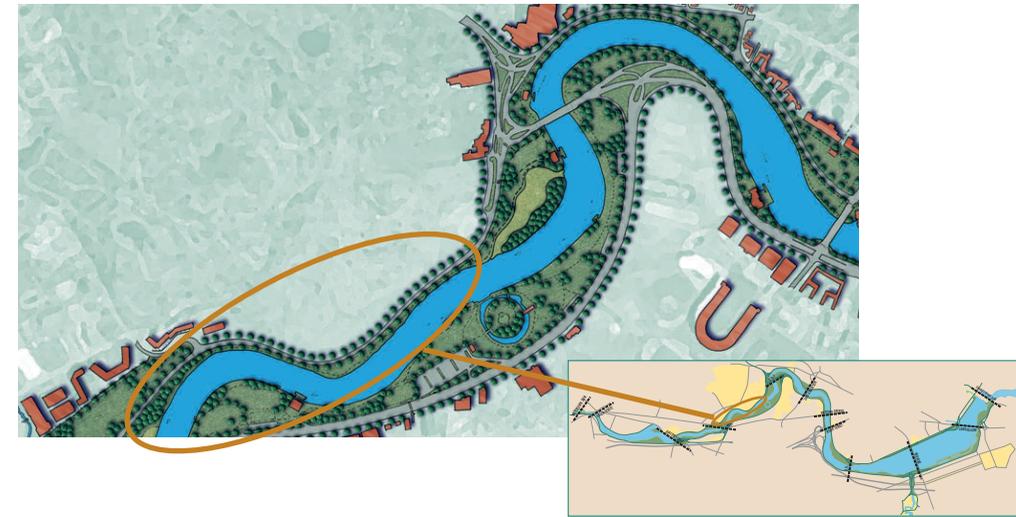


- **Permit the Belmont Hill/Winsor Boathouse to expand only if a suitable public benefit can be demonstrated.** It may be more feasible to combine all three high school programs into one structure along this crowded stretch of river. This would free up parkland currently covered by the Buckingham, Brown & Nichols structure just below the Eliot Bridge. This facility crowds the bridge and the Cambridge Boat Club. A larger, better-designed boathouse next to the marsh would improve the overall appearance and function of this bend in the river.
- **Remove the former bathhouse used by the Marsh Post and its parking lot to open views of the Charles and the Eliot Bridge and to restore the river setting.** The ample parking lot across the parkway should be better signed. Install well-marked pedestrian crosswalks with traffic-calming measures.



GREENOUGH BOULEVARD (8N)

Greenough Boulevard between the Eliot Bridge and the Arsenal Street Bridge

KEY RESOURCES

- *Arsenal Street Bridge (1925)*
- *Eliot Bridge (1951)*
- *Greenough Boulevard (1966)*

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

This one-mile stretch of parkway has the potential for dramatic change. One of the least pleasant stretches of the reservation for pedestrians, Greenough Boulevard's excess road capacity can be recaptured to widen the pedestrian pathway, separate it from traffic, and create a generous strip of parkland to sustain the river bank. The parkway's curving alignment creates a wonderful variety of views. The wetlands at either end of this segment, home to a large number of bird and animal species, are unique features within the Basin. Just to the north is Mt. Auburn Cemetery, a significant stopping point for migrating birds.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

September 1997 traffic counts document that this four-lane stretch of parkway has significant excess capacity and is vacant much of the time. The only pathway is immediately adjacent to the parkway and is not separated from traffic, even by a curb, for much of its length. In places, the asphalt paving is too close to the river bank, and runoff causes significant erosion.

The parkland is very narrow and the bank plantings are quite dense, allowing few views through to the Charles. The only parkway trees stand at the approach to Arsenal Street. Despite the potential of its open setting, Greenough Boulevard is one of the least pleasant stretches of parkway within the reservation.

GOALS

- **Widen the parkland and improve the pathway.**
- **Establish a strong parkway character.**
- **Create an appealing loop to draw cyclists, joggers, pedestrians, and inline skaters from Herter Park.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Reduce the width of Greenough Boulevard by one lane in each direction, widening the parkland by 22 feet.** This wider zone will accommodate a new ten- to twelve-foot multiuse path set back fifteen feet from the edge of the Charles River. A six- to ten-foot-wide planting strip along the parkway would support parkway trees and help to separate pedestrians from automobile traffic. Intermittent parallel parking areas where the parkland widens would provide access to the shore for drivers wishing to stop and walk.



NARROWING UNDERUSED GREENOUGH BOULEVARD (BELOW) BY A LANE IN EACH DIRECTION WOULD MAKE ROOM FOR EXPANDED PARKLAND AND A BETTER PATH FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS.

- **Eliminate the eastbound lanes of Greenough Boulevard next to Hell's Half Acre and join the isolated traffic island to the parkland** (see diagram on page 143).

- **Avoid designated bicycle lanes on the parkways in favor of parkway shoulders at least three feet wide.**

Provide a separate multiuse path set back from the curb with ample room for street trees.

- **Establish and maintain scenic vistas to the water at key points and create a special shore overlook at the finish line for the Head of the Charles and Run of the Charles races.**

- **Establish a clear connection to Mt. Auburn Cemetery and an alternative bicycle route to Fresh Pond at Grove Street.**

- **Link plantings and pathways in this segment with the wetland wildlife sanctuaries** at either end of Greenough Boulevard.

