

Suggested title:

A broader parklands vision

Chopping down trees can be an emotionally charged topic, and the controversy has now extended to Cambridge (8/20/2009 “Growing Disagreement Along Memorial Drive.”) While balancing environmental issues, such as geese and tree management, in an urban park setting can be complicated, in this case it simply is not. A few years ago, Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) Historic Parkways Initiative already narrowed Memorial Drive in front of MIT to create an additional 12 to 20 feet of waterfront parklands, a bold plan and a rare, unsung achievement of turning asphalt into greenspace. This second phase of the Initiative will include some tree removal, replacing dead and diseased trees and adding a bikepath. Tree experts and the Conservation Commission are best qualified to decide on the right balance.

A substantial part of the Charles River Conservancy’s Volunteer Program, with over 2,500 annual participants, is pruning trees for their good health, as well as for aesthetics and safety, and testing them for disease. We realize the various benefits, both on a human and larger, ecological scale, that trees give to our Parklands. Along Memorial Drive, it is DCR that is speaking loudly on behalf of more vibrant Parklands and healthier trees.

Renata von Tscharnner
Founder and President of the Charles River Conservancy

Office:
4 Brattle Street
Cambridge MA 02138
Tel 617 608 1410

Home:
2 Hubbard Park Road
Cambridge MA 02138
617 491 8999

e mail:
rvt@thecharles.org

website:
www.thecharles.org