The **Community Development Department** is the planning agency for the City of Cambridge. This tutorial will show how to use the CDD website to find affordable housing, learn information about the city’s parks and even use “Quick Links” to explore the city.

* NOTE for Small Businesses*: Jump ahead to the bottom of this tutorial to find out what resources are available at the CDD to help entrepreneurs!

To begin, type in [http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD) into your search bar and you should see a homepage similar to the image above.

**Using CDD for Parks Information**

Let's take a look at how to access info about Cambridge’s parks. From the CDD homepage, click on the “Parks & Playgrounds” tab.
The CDD has tons of information about Cambridge’s parks and the projects going on in the city’s open spaces. Here is the Parks and Playgrounds homepage. Use the links in the box on the left-hand side of the screen to explore the open spaces in your area.

From the links in the Parks and Playgrounds box, click on Park Information to find photos, descriptions of the activities and features available and summaries of improvements made to your local park.

From the Park Information section, select which park you want to learn more about. Let’s take a look at Cambridge Common as an example. Click on the “Cambridge Common” link from the list.
Here you can read about the latest updates and description of Cambridge Common. Click on the Images tab for photos of the space or select Contact to learn who to call or email about park maintenance, playing field reservation or hosting an event in the park!

Cambridge Common

The Cambridge Common is a major city park as well as a National Historic Landmark. The 16 acre park which is centrally located outside of Harvard Square surrounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Garden Street and Waterhouse Street has a long and colorful history, and is an important local resource as well as a tourist attraction.

The Common contains the popular Alexander W. Kemp Playground re-built in 2009, a playing field, lawns, historic monuments, and pathways. The park acts as a haven for neighborhood people who want a place to relax in the sun or on a bench under a tree. The Common is also significant in that over 10,000 pedestrians and cyclists use the paths and sidewalks on a daily basis.

The ongoing Cambridge Common and Flagstaff Park project aims to rehabilitate all aspects of the Common as well as improve conditions for all users of these parks and those travelling along this section of Massachusetts Avenue, from Garden Street to Cambridge Street. It also seeks to unify the historic landscape of the Common by simplifying the vocabulary of the design.

Another great resource to use is the Parks and Playgrounds Interactive Map. Click on the link from the Parks and Playgrounds tab, just like we did to find Park Information.
Use the **Interactive Map** to discover all the great park activities in Cambridge!

![Interactive Map](image)

Clicking on a section of the map will give you a pop-up box with information about the park like the image below:
Using CDD for Affordable Housing

CDD is also a great resource for information about affordable housing in Cambridge. From the CDD homepage, click on the “Housing” tab.

The Housing Division works to meet the housing needs of low-, moderate-, and middle-income residents, and offers access to affordable housing units created through City programs. This tutorial will show you just some of the great tools to learn about affordable housing in Cambridge.

For more information you can:
- Explore the pages of information in the Housing section of the website, including program guidelines, application forms, Frequently Asked Questions, contact names, and more.
- Attend one of the information sessions about the city's rental and homeownership programs.
- Email housing@cambridgema.gov and send your questions to the Housing Division. Or you

If you want to apply for affordable housing click the “For Applicants” link in the Housing box on the left:
There are housing units available for middle-income rental as well as opportunities to become a homeowner, but here let’s focus on the **Rental Applicant Pool** and the **Other Available Units** links.

1. Click **Rental Applicant Pool** to apply for affordable rental housing. The CDD maintains this pool of applicants to assist owners in making units available to eligible households. After clicking the Rental Applicant Pool link you should download a Preliminary Application and submit it to the Housing Division. Read the Rental Pool FAQ for more info:

2. Click **Other Available Units** to learn about other programs and housing providers such as Non-Profit Rental Housing, Public Housing, Privately Owned Affordable Housing and Limited Equity Coops:
Using the CDD Quick Links Box

Whatever you want to use the CDD website for, the Quick Links box can be found on the right-side of any of the pages to quickly navigate to the page you are looking for.

Browse to your topic by choosing what you need under “I’d like to learn more about…” by clicking, for example, “Apply for Housing.”

The Quick Links box can also give you the latest information on your area’s projects and resources by selecting the “Neighborhood or Square” or “Current Projects…” drop-down menus.
Using the CDD Small Businesses Assistance Subset

The Economic Development Division (EDD) supports Cambridge’s small, women and minority-owned businesses. To navigate to this section of the site click on the “Economic Development” tab from the top menu:

Let’s pay attention in particular to the “Small Business Assistance” link under the Economic Development box on the left-hand side of the page:
Explore the sections of the Small Business Assistance page for TONS of helpful resources to help your business thrive!

**Business Development Workshops**
will teach you skills such as Search Engine Optimization to get your small business to #1 on Google Search Results.

**Storefront Improvement Programs**
provide grants and reimbursement funding to improve the physical appearance of independent businesses.

**Step-By-Step Guides & Permitting Resources**
are freely available to teach everything from starting a business in Cambridge to applying for permits and licenses.
Looking for **Women and Minority-Owned Business Assistance?**

**First**
Hover your mouse over the “Economic Development” tab and click on “Resources” at the bottom of the drop-down menu.

**Second**
Once on the Resources page, select the “Women and Minority-Owned Business Assistance” link

Here are some ways to take advantage of this site:

- **Sign-up for The Cambridge Women and Minority-Owned Business Directory** to market, network and connect minority and women-owned businesses with companies and institutions looking for opportunities to work with this specific business community.

- **Get certified with the State Supplier and Diversity Office (SDO).** Each year state agencies purchase millions of dollars worth of products and services from businesses certified as minority or women-owned. To participate in these opportunities get certified as 51% minority or business-owned!