



# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



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MAYOR

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FY18 FUNDING RECOMMENDATION FOR ***BLESSING OF THE BAY PARK REVITALIZATION PHASE 2, MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION AND MASS. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION***

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will complete 100% design and construction documents for the Blessing of the Bay Park revitalization, building off schematic designs and community engagement from Phase 1, which was partially funded by the CPA.

### ELIGIBILITY

*Open space/recreation land:* This project will rehabilitate and restore open space and outdoor recreation land.

### RECOMMENDATION

On December 16, 2020, by a vote of 8-0, the Community Preservation Committee recommended extending the contract for the Mystic River Watershed Association, for the Blessing of the Bay Park Revitalization Phase 2's FY18 Community Preservation Act grant for an additional 12 months for the overall purposes summarized in this document.

### Project Budget

Expenses	Amount
Study	\$0
Soft costs	\$275,820.20
Construction	\$0
<b>Total</b>	\$275,820.20
<b>Sources</b>	
CPA recreation land funds- <b>requested</b>	\$174,305
MyRWA general funds	\$3,515.20
DCR/Recreational Trails Program (pending)	\$78,000
Solomon Foundation	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	\$275,820.20

## **ALIGNMENT WITH FY18 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN**

The Community Preservation Plan prioritizes expanding access to and use of the Mystic River and Alewife Brook corridors and improving the health of the wetlands and shores of the City's water resources. The Plan also prioritizes rehabilitating existing recreational land according to need. According to the 2015 inventory of Somerville's open space, the park is in poor condition. The park is near the Mystic Housing developments. 96% of residents in these households earn \$45,000 or less a year and 64% earn less than \$20,000.

## **FUNDING CONDITIONS**

1. The Grantee agrees to work collaboratively on project with the City's Parks and Open Space Office.

## **MEASURES OF SUCCESS**

The goals of this project are to:

- Complete 100% design and construction documents for Blessing of the Bay park
- Initiate permitting process
- Create a database of at least 300 individuals who have engaged with the project; at least 100 people from the Mystic Housing and Ten Hills neighborhood
- Host at least three events with the help of Groundwork Somerville; create a draft park stewardship program
- Build a stronger relationship between DCR, City of Somerville, and local non-profits
- Catalyze a larger vision and investment in the Mystic River parklands and paths

Success will be measured through:

- Counting and collecting contact information from community members that participate in surveys, design workshops, conversations, and events
- Track number of invasive removal events completed by the Green Team and work completed
- Ensure the design has 100% sustainable practices based on 'SITES' rating
- Demonstrate approval by all key stakeholders and a majority of community members
- Strengthen the public-private partnership with 3-5 stakeholders to identify sources for future funding

**The full proposal is available at:** <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/community-preservation-act/2018-cpa-projects>