

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



THOMAS GALLIGANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LUISA OLIVEIRA, ASLA
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SPACE & URBAN FORESTRY

MEMORANDUM

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

Please accept this revised and expanded application for the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project. This updated submission consolidates the project's full funding needs into a single request, incorporating both the original FY26 September application for \$1,000,000 in CPA funds and the additional request for bonding.

In this amended application, we formally request approval to issue bonds in the amount of \$2,000,000 to supplement the previously submitted FY26 CPA funding request. Together, these components bring the total funding request for the construction phase of the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project to \$3,000,000.

By seeking approval for both the direct CPA appropriation and the bonding authorization concurrently, we aim to streamline the funding process and reduce the administrative burden on both the Committee and the City Council. Securing these approvals in tandem will help ensure that the project remains on schedule and is able to proceed to the bidding phase during the upcoming winter season.

Thank you for your continued consideration and support of this important community project.

Thank you,

Jon Bronenkant, ASLA

Senior Public Space Planner

OSPCD Public Space and Urban Forestry





Tuesday, November 18, 2025

CPA Full Grant Application FY26

Project Information

Project Name: Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation - Amendment I

Project Location: 5 Cherry Street

Please indicate the primary category that applies to this project: Open Space/Recreation

If this project addresses multiple CPA program areas, please select all that apply: Open Space / Recreation

CPA Funding Request \$3,000,000

Total Budget for Project \$3,000,000

Please select the description that best matches your request: This application is for a new project or expanded scope of work on a previously-funded CPA project.

Applicant Information

Is the City of Somerville the primary applicant? Yes

Is this application for a property or asset owned by the City of Somerville? Yes

Which department will have primary responsibility for managing this project? PSUF

Additional departments or stakeholder organizations that will be involved in collaboration on this project. Somerville Public Schools (SPS)

If applicable, please describe the process of collaboration and the role that participants will have in guiding or implementing the project.

We are collaborating with the SPS because this playground is not only for the public to use, but also for the school during these school hours.

Does another organization or entity own the property or hold an interest in the property? (Including a condominium association)

No

Primary Contact Person:	Jon Bronenkant
Primary Contact Email	JBronenkant@somervilleMA.gov
Partner Contact Person:	Jon Bronenkant
Partner Contact Email	JBronenkant@somervilleMA.gov
Partner Contact Phone Number	(617) 625-6600

Narrative Questions

Please respond thoroughly to each of the questions below

Description:

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is supporting the redesign of the Kennedy School’s front playground and parking lot, located at 5 Cherry Street. This project aims to create a modern, inclusive, and engaging universal playground while expanding its footprint by reconfiguring the adjacent parking area. With design work underway after meeting with school administration and community engagement set to begin this fall, this application seeks funding for the construction phase. The total project budget is estimated at \$3 million, including contingency. This funding request marks the first step in the Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF) Division’s effort to secure full construction funding. CPA funds will also serve as a local match to strengthen future grant applications and demonstrate both municipal and community commitment to the project.

Purpose:

The Kennedy Schoolyard, located at the corner of Cherry and Elm Streets, is the final site identified for renovation under the City’s Schoolyard Master Plan. Similar to the completion of the Dilboy Auxiliary Fields through the Athletic Fields Master Plan, this renovation represents a key milestone in equitable open space investment. The project is especially vital for the Kennedy School’s specialized programs serving students with disabilities. The redesign aims to create a universally accessible playground for all students and community members.

Status:

Community engagement is already in progress, beginning with school administrators and expanding to the broader public this fall. Final designs are expected by winter. Public support for this project is strong, with active interest expressed by the PTA, parents, neighbors, school staff, and local advocacy groups. The project was also identified as a top priority in the City’s Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Project Scope:

The City of Somerville has contracted a qualified landscape architecture firm to lead the redesign of the Kennedy School’s front playground and associated parking/drop-off area. The consultant will develop construction drawings and specifications to prepare the project for bidding. CPA funds will specifically

support construction, which encompasses demolition and reconstruction of the existing playground, modifications to the parking lot and drop-off zone, and site enhancements to improve accessibility and sustainability.

Cost Estimate:

The City relies on internal cost estimation tools, including spreadsheets and multipliers tailored to various project types, to project accurate budgets. The landscape architecture team has been directed to design within a defined budget, and current projections indicate the project can remain within the \$3 million range. As the design progresses, cost estimates will be refined. Should projected costs exceed available funding, the design can be adjusted accordingly to remain within scope.

Funding Sources:

At this time, CPA is the primary funding source for the project. Due to the site’s designation as a schoolyard, many external grants (such as PARC or CDBG) are not applicable, as the space cannot be permanently designated as open space in perpetuity. ARPA funds have already been fully allocated and are no longer available. The City is exploring the option of bonding through CPA to fund the entire \$3 million construction cost. The current application includes a \$1 million request for this fiscal year, and a request to bond the remaining \$2 million. This approach would enable the project to move to bidding as soon as construction documents are complete.

Anticipated Future Funding:

While the City is exploring other funding opportunities, schoolyard projects are particularly limited in eligible grant sources due to their flexible use requirements. Without CPA funding, the project would be significantly delayed or need to be phased over multiple years. If this initial funding request is successful, future CPA applications may be submitted to support the remaining construction costs. At this time, a full project cost of \$3 million is projected.

Has an architect, contractor, or historic preservation professional already been identified to carry out this project?

Yes

Contractor qualifications: CBA Landscape Architects

Timeline:

If full funding is secured, the City anticipates releasing the project for bid in late winter or early spring 2026. Construction will likely span two summer seasons due to the need for phased implementation, ensuring the school maintains access to temporary outdoor space during the academic year.

Project Outcome:

This playground will be fully renovated after the completion of this work. This project, once completed, will remain in place for years to come, and will be maintained by both the Facilities and Parks section of the DPW. With this maintenance and thoughtful design, we will not need to renovate any other portions for the Kennedy School for a long time.

What best describes the scope of this project?

Preservation or restoration of a landscape, open space, or monuments located in outdoor public spaces

Will this project be subject to ADA/MAAB standards?

The project will bring the site or building toward compliance with ADA/MAAB.

Please describe

As a public project on City-owned land, the design must fully comply with the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) regulations and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The selected landscape architect and PSUF project team will ensure all applicable federal, state, and local requirements are met throughout the design and construction phases. Historic preservation standards are not applicable to this project.

Does this project involve acquiring real property?

Project Feasibility:

The City has already completed soil testing and confirmed there are no hazardous conditions that would impede construction. The final design will be completed within the next six months. Once a contractor is selected, they will be responsible for securing standard City permits. No additional state-level permitting is anticipated. The project is fully feasible and has a clear path to completion.

Public Access:

This is a school, so the public can access it, with limitations during the school hours, and then it is fully publicly accessible after school hours like all other school playgrounds in the city.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
FY24 CPA FUNDING CYCLE BUDGET SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT NAME: _____

APPLICANT: _____

SUMMARY OF PROJECT COSTS							
<i>In addition to this form please include a complete itemized budget of all project expenses, including the proposed funding source for each expense, in your submission.</i>							
PROPOSED SOURCE		EXPENSES					
		STUDY	SOFT COSTS ⁽¹⁾	ACQUISITION	CONSTRUCTION ⁽²⁾	CONTINGENCY ⁽³⁾	TOTAL
1	Somerville CPA						
2							
3							
4							
5							
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS							

⁽¹⁾ Soft costs include design, professional services, permitting fees, closing costs, legal, etc.
⁽²⁾ Construction includes new construction, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration work, and/or accessibility related expenses.
⁽³⁾ A 15% contingency is strongly recommended for all construction projects.

EXPLANATION OF FUNDING SOURCES			
<i>Please explain the status of each funding source (i.e., submitting application on X date, applied on X date, received award notification on X date, funds on hand, etc.). For sources where funding has been awarded or funds are on hand, please attach documentation from the funding source (e.g., commitment letter, bank statement).</i>			
	SOURCE	SECURED? (YES/NO)	STATUS OF FUNDING SOURCE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Community Preservation Application Budget Form		
Please use this format to submit your budget report - add additional lines as needed.		
<div> <div>*Soft costs line items (design and non-construction costs) may NOT TO EXCEED 15% of GRANT AWARD</div> <div>*Project Management may NOT TO EXCEED 15% of GRANT AWARD</div> </div>		
Please download and save form prior to completing		
<div> <div>Project Name: Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation</div> <div>Date: 9/15/2025</div> <div>Organization: City of Somerville - PSUF</div> </div>		
Please list your sources of funding for this project		
SOURCES OF INCOME		
SOURCE	AMOUNT	STATUS (in-hand or applied)
CPA Grant Funds	\$1,000,000	applied
CPA Bonding Funds	\$2,000,000	applied
TOTAL		\$ -
Please explain your project costs and explain where CPA grant funds will be used		
USES / EXPENSES*		
	CPA GRANT FUNDS BUDGET	NON- CPA-FUNDED PROJECT COSTS
	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	
Soft costs line items (design and non-construction costs)		
Police Detail	5,000	\$5,000
Building/Construction line items		
Site Preparation	750,000	\$750,000
Playground features	750,000	\$750,000
Landscape & hardscape	795,000	\$795,000
Site Furniture	250,000	\$250,000
Green Features	200,000	\$200,000
Contingency (no more than 10%)		
Contingency	\$250,000	\$250,000
TOTALS		3,000,000
***Please round numbers and do not use cents		
PLEASE NOTE:		
<div> <div>- Your budget must be specific to your project.</div> <div>- All CPA grant funds must be spent on the scope of work you have defined in this budget.</div> <div>- If using an estimate from a contractor, please breakdown your estimates by line item. Do not submit a lump sum line item on this form.</div> <div>- All eligible costs must be allowable under the CPA statute.</div> <div>- Please contact CPA staff if you have any questions on this budget form.</div> </div>		

Debt Service Calculator

Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation-CPA Contribution

1)

Enter amount to be borrowed.

\$2,000,000

2)

Enter borrowing conditions:

Interest Rate (e.g., 3.5% as 3.5):

3.2500

Term (enter 5 or more)

15

3)

Indicate ("x") payment type. Check both for comparisons.

Level Debt Service

x

Level Principal

x

Projected annual payment

Level Debt Service

\$170,577

Level Principal (Year One)

Projected total payments over term.

	Principal & Interest	Interest only
Level Debt Service	\$2,558,657	\$558,657
Level Principal		

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Level debt service (\$)</u>	<u>Level principal (\$)</u>
2027	1	170,577	
2028	2	170,577	
2029	3	170,577	
2030	4	170,577	
2031	5	170,577	
2032	6	170,577	
2033	7	170,577	
2034	8	170,577	
2035	9	170,577	
2036	10	170,577	
2037	11	170,577	
2038	12	170,577	
2039	13	170,577	
2040	14	170,577	
2041	15	170,577	

Alexander Epstein

alexepstein@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 11, 2025 5:47 PM

Full Name Alexander Epstein

Email (optional) alexepstein@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 5 WINDSOR RD

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Blessing of the Bay Linear Park Improvement

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I strongly support this project proposal. Design and construction were promised by the City in 2019 before the pandemic, and my two children at the Kennedy (PK and 5th grade) have been waiting six years for this overdue revamp of the hot, harsh, asphalt "front lot" of the school. The suburban design of the old bus loop and parking lot are also not working well for student safety and are due for a more student/ community-focused redesign, given the lack of open and green space near Porter Square. Thank you for supporting the Kennedy schoolyard reconstruction!

Comments on Blessing of the Bay Linear Park Improvement

The lack of green space and two-directional protected bike lanes along Shore Road have been an issue for years when biking to jobs and destinations in Assembly from the rest of Somerville, and the park itself has unrealized potential if more of it were usable. I support this proposal and hope the Commission will, too.

Allen Barillaro

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 4:34 PM

Full Name

Allen Barillaro

Street address (optional)

31 Ames Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'm writing to express my strong support for funding a new play yard at the Kennedy School. Our older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop. A redesigned space would give teachers and students more ways to engage in outdoor learning and active play, which are essential for healthy development and meaningful learning. Just as importantly, this project would create an inclusive, welcoming space for the entire school community. I believe investing in this space will strengthen the Kennedy community and reflect Somerville's commitment to vibrant, equitable learning environments for all.

Ona Ferguson

onaferguson@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 4:41 PM

Full Name

Ona Ferguson

Email (optional)

onaferguson@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

11 Linden Place

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy students and the entire neighborhood could use more play spaces. Our 300 plus Kennedy school kids ages 8-14 have had just a blacktop for their outside play space during school hours year after year. Its time to build a good outdoor space for moving and playing together. And that space will be so very welcome by those of us who live nearby with young children too.

Somerville's kids need healthy, fun, active spaces to be in. CPA funds would be so beneficial here. Please consider supporting the Kennedy Schoolyard reconstruction!

Chandani Desai

chandni177@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 5:21 PM

Full Name

Chandani Desai

Email (optional)

chandni177@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard

Chandani Desai

chandni177@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 5:23 PM

Full Name

Chandani Desai

Email (optional)

chandni177@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment

Kate Van Sleet

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 6:53 PM

Full Name

Kate Van Sleet

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'd love to see shade built into the lot project. It can be brutally hot on warm days and there is hardly anywhere to escape from the sun! But also, I fully support this project.

Melissa Gillespie

11starz@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 7:36 PM

Full Name

Melissa Gillespie

Email (optional)

11starz@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I am in full suppprt of the Kennedy Schoolyard reconstruction, this should be a top priority for the city.

Jonathan Rameau

jrameau@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 9:54 PM

Full Name Jonathan Rameau

Email (optional) jrameau@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 18A Trull Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The area being considered for reconstruction is a pretty dismal space. This will have a big, positive impact on the school and the neighborhood.

Danielle Kinkel

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 9:59 PM

Full Name Danielle Kinkel

Street address (optional) 318 SUMMER STREET

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

My husband and I have lived in Somerville for 16 years, initially as a young couple, then as a young family, and now as a multigenerational family after my mother relocated from Michigan to live with us. We have watched children and families grow up with the Kennedy as their home away from home; we have watched young adults befriend one another through pickup games at the Kennedy basketball courts; and we have watched kiddos learn to ride bikes, scooters, rollerblades, and skateboards on the infamous Kennedy blacktop. The Kennedy schoolyard is a character in our neighborhood, and its community ripple effect is profound. It will continue to play a role in our lives irrespective of whether it receives additional CPA funding, but let us imagine the impact of a truly well-designed, beautiful, accessible community space at this intersection.

The space could be welcoming and useful for the whole community, not just students during school hours — a safe, inclusive place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect. It could support outdoor learning and give teachers more ways to engage outside the classroom which is especially critical for the three DISTRICT-wide special education programs based at Kennedy. It could offer a friendly spot for older community members, like my mom, to gather and rest after shopping in Porter Square. It could be yet another way of demonstrating Somerville's commitment to sustainable, small-scale, high-impact urban innovations.

It has so much potential to support and strengthen an already wonderful area, further making the case for why residents should stay.

But it is also desperately needed. Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space for its children. Perhaps this wouldn't be notable if there were other green spaces or parks nearby, but this neighborhood has zero. If our sons (ages 6 and 10) need to play outside, which is every day, we have to settle for a walk on the bike path or DRIVE to Conway Park, Trum Field, Fresh Pond, or Danehy with their sporting gear.

Kennedy's students most definitely deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. But Kennedy's community members of all ages also deserve a lovely, engaging, integrated, and accessible nearby green space for peace and play in all seasons.

Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Respectfully,
Danielle Kinkel

Giselle Aris

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 11:06 PM

Full Name

Giselle Aris

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project in the Kennedy school play yard.

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop.

The new design should support outdoor learning and give teachers and students more ways to engage outside the classroom.

The space should be inclusive and useful for the whole community, not just during school hours — a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect.

You might also mention:

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment.

Families are advocating for the playspace to incorporate Universal Design in this key location in Somerville, central to many families and accessible during outside of school hours.

Naoise Mac Giollabhui

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 11:09 PM

Full Name

Naoise Mac Giollabhui

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Would love to see this funded

Emi Okuda

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 11:13 PM

Full Name Emi Okuda

Street address (optional) 19 Willow Ave.

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop.

The new design should support outdoor learning and give teachers and students more ways to engage outside the classroom.

The space should be inclusive and useful for the whole community, not just during school hours — a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect.

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment.

Cassie Johannes

cas.williams@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 21, 2025 7:18 AM

Full Name Cassie Johannes

Email (optional) cas.williams@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 19 Spring Hill terrace

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The school NEEDS a new front playground. The plain blacktop as is does not support the diverse needs of the school.

Lisette C Roman

lisette.c.roman@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 21, 2025 8:33 AM

Full Name Lisette C Roman

Email (optional) lisette.c.roman@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 10 Aberdeen Road

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Amy White

seilawhite@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 18, 2025 3:57 PM

Full Name

Amy White

Organization (optional)

Parent at John F Kennedy school, Somerville, Ma

Email (optional)

seilawhite@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

2 Windsor Rd. Somerville, Ma

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop. My oldest child started kindergarten at Kennedy and this year started 9th grade at the high school. During his time at the Kennedy, no updates have been made to the Kennedy school, including no updates to the blacktop. I'd like to see the new design support outdoor learning and give teachers and students more ways to engage outside the classroom. The space should be inclusive and useful for the whole community, not just during school hours. Data have shown that safe, welcoming places for neighbors to gather, play, and connect help build a society where neighbors know one another and care for each other. If a newly renovated blacktop at the Kennedy existed, it would be one of these spaces in Somerville.

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space. The kids who attend the school need a play area to run around on that's safe, not a blacktop covered in cracks they can trip on.

Lastly, the school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment for these students. I humbly request you consider funding the Kennedy schoolyard reconstruction project.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Amy Yule

amy.yule@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 17, 2025 7:22 PM

Full Name

Amy Yule

Email (optional)

amy.yule@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Please move this forward. It is unbelievable that kids don't have a more developed play space.

Andrew Sessa

andrew.sessa@gmail.co

Submission Date Oct 17, 2025 12:22 PM

Full Name Andrew Sessa

Email (optional) andrew.sessa@gmail.co

Street address (optional) 15 Park Ave

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

As a parent of a second grader at the Kennedy School, I'm asking you to support as much additional funding as possible for the Kennedy playground project. This project has been years in the making, and our students—and all the kids in our community, beyond Kennedy students—truly need it.

Right now, kids who use the Kennedy's facilities have little more than a blacktop to play on. It's the only school in Somerville without any green space, and it serves several district-wide special education programs that deserve accessible equipment and an inclusive space. The new design will finally give all students a safe, engaging place to play and learn outdoors—and, as a public play space, it will benefit kids and families across Somerville, not just Kennedy students.

With this funding, the city has the chance to create Somerville's first truly universally accessible play space. Please help move this long-overdue project into construction and make it a reality for our children and our community. Additional CPC funding will help so much.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Christina Epstein

clynnepstein@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 13, 2025 1:50 PM

Full Name Christina Epstein

Email (optional) clynnepstein@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 5 Windsor Rd

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I strongly support this project proposal. Design and construction were promised by the City in 2019 before the pandemic, and my two children at the Kennedy (5th grade and PK) have been waiting six years for this overdue revamp of the hot, harsh, asphalt "front lot" of the school. I'm really excited for Somerville to have an accessible playground! Also, the suburban design of the current bus loop is not working well for student safety and is due for a more student/ community-focused redesign. Thank you for supporting the Kennedy schoolyard reconstruction!

Christine Marie Stone

stonechristine059@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 18, 2025 9:51 AM

Full Name Christine Marie Stone

Organization (optional) Kennedy parent

Email (optional) stonechristine059@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 16 Windsor Road

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

As a Kennedy parent, I'd like to make sure that the new design is inclusive of all Kennedy students. I understand the city has identified this project as the site of the first Universal Playground in Somerville. I wholeheartedly support this idea given the special needs programming and students that attend the Kennedy school. But I would hope that doesn't come at the reduction of playground and play space for those Kennedy students that are not special needs. There are many, many kids who use the current space during the school day and after to run around, socialize and hang out. Even though there is not much there aside from basketball hoops, it is a safe and convenient space for these kids to use. Let's not eliminate that space to create the Universal playground - let's build both. This can be achieved by expanding the current play area through 1) elimination of the existing parking lot and 2) redesigning the school drive lane. Teacher and administrative parking can be replicated on local streets - as long as the Elm-Beacon connector project maintains some of the EXISTING parking for teachers to use. Kennedy is the only SPS school without a field or play space for the entire school community. Some may say - the Kennedy houses the city pool and that's the school's play space or recreational area. This is no longer an accurate statement - as folks working in the city well know but I'll repeat here to bring it to front of mind - since Somerville Rec starting managing the pool, the Kennedy school students have NO programming at the pool (aside from the district-wide 3rd grade swimming lessons that all SPS 3rd graders receive) - which has me coming back to the point - the Kennedy school is the only school without a playground available to all students. It's time to correct this inequality.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

CLAIRE HARTMANN

claire.b.reardon@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 17, 2025 3:15 PM

Full Name CLAIRE HARTMANN

Email (optional) claire.b.reardon@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 14 Morgan St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

As a parent of two students at the Kennedy School, one of whom has special needs, I request the strongest possible support for this project. The current front lot is not a good space for students of all abilities to enjoy time outside. Adding inclusive play structures would benefit all students including those with physical and social needs.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Cynthia Brockelman

abrockelman@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 17, 2025 12:11 PM

Full Name Cynthia Brockelman

Organization (optional) Kennedy School Parent

Email (optional) abrockelman@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Please support this much needed project! Kids grades 3-8 need more than a concrete surface and a few basketball hoops for outdoor recess. A new outdoor space designed could also be used for outdoor learning. SPED kids also need to be able to access a better, more creatively designed open space. The entire neighborhood would benefit as well.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Iris

anna.goldman@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 17, 2025 6:11 PM

Full Name Iris

Organization (optional) Clean Green (Kid-run environmental club)

Email (optional) anna.goldman@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 108 Hudson Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Hello, I am Iris Gershman and I am in the fifth grade at the Kennedy Elementary school. My friends and I are looking forward to the playground renovation! I have been working on getting renewable energy for the Kennedy, and I think this is a great opportunity to do so. According to data shared with me by a school committee member, the Kennedy as well as multiple other schools, does not have any solar power.

If this project were possible, I think the best place to put the array would be over part of the front basketball court. I know that the city is planning to build a playground on the front court, and it would be much easier to install in an area that is already going to be under maintenance. A solar canopy on the front playground would be helpful, because it provides shade, and energy to the school as well as an opportunity to educate the students on renewable energy. Me and my friends would appreciate more shelter for rainy days and shade for hot ones. In conclusion, I believe that the Kennedy school should use more clean energy, and this would be a great opportunity.

Isaura Vergucht

ivergucht@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 8, 2025 5:05 PM

Full Name Isaura Vergucht

Email (optional) ivergucht@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 22 Ashland St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Dear members of the Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the proposal to rehabilitate and expand the Kennedy schoolyard, including the construction of an accessible playground.

This project would have a huge positive impact on our community. The Kennedy School serves many students with disabilities, yet its current outdoor space is not accessible or inclusive. An updated, thoughtfully designed playground would ensure that all children—regardless of ability—have a safe place to play, explore, and connect with one another.

In addition, our neighborhood lacks adequate green space. The nearest grassy area is nearly half a mile away, and Trum Field is even farther. The Kennedy schoolyard is one of the few opportunities to create a meaningful open space within walking distance for local families, students, and residents. It would greatly enhance the livability and well-being of our community.

I urge the CPC to prioritize funding for this project and help make an accessible, vibrant Kennedy Schoolyard a reality. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued investment in projects that strengthen our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Isaura

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Jack Schneider

jackschneider@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 7, 2025 2:42 PM

Full Name Jack Schneider

Email (optional) jackschneider@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 36 Cedar St. #2

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Dear members of the Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing to offer some institutional history about the proposed Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction. Nearly a decade ago, I organized Kennedy families and community members in support of a more equitable space for students and residence. Among other actions (which included engaging City Hall and the Somerville Public Schools), our group came to the Community Preservation Committee for support.

As you may know, the Kennedy serves a large percentage of students with disabilities, none of whom are well served by the existing lot on Cherry and Sartwell. Additionally, the current design sidelines students not interested in playing ball-based sports; when students presented to the CPC many years ago, they talked about what it was like for them to be in a space dominated by football and basketball--they were literally marginalized.

As a public space, the Kennedy is also a community resource on weekends and after 5pm on weekdays. Yet it has long offered outdoor space only to a select few--primarily those adults who wish to play pickup basketball (to be fully transparent, I was one of them until I got too old for it). The Kennedy is a half-mile walk from the closest public green space (Dickerman playground); it is three-quarters of a mile from Trum field and from Sacramento field (in Cambridge). Virtually no other location in Somerville is so distant from public green space.

I urge the committee to think about this proposal as more than just a new playground. It will be that, certainly--particularly for the Kennedy's large population of disabled students. But it is also a badly needed community resource that will serve the entire neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration. And please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best,

Jack Schneider

JAMIE OLEARY

jamiesue.oleary@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 17, 2025 2:33 PM

Full Name

JAMIE OLEARY

Email (optional)

jamiesue.oleary@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

91 THURSTON ST

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'm asking you to please prioritize the creation of a true outdoor play and learning space for Kennedy's students. Right now, our youngest learners have a small playground, but from third grade on, the "playground" is just a stretch of blacktop. Kennedy is the only school in Somerville without a field or green space — and that means hundreds of kids spend their days without a real place to move, play, or reset.

Our children deserve more than asphalt. They deserve space that supports their growing bodies, their creativity, and their mental health. A well-designed outdoor area would not just give them a place to play — it would give them a place to thrive.

Why It Matters

Movement and Regulation for All Kids

For students like my son, who has ADHD, the lack of climbing or swinging structures is especially challenging. These types of play aren't just fun — they're therapeutic. Research shows that movement like climbing and swinging helps kids regulate their bodies and prepare their minds for learning. Taking away that opportunity in third grade and beyond sets so many of them up to struggle.

Outdoor Learning and Engagement

The data is clear: kids learn better when they spend time outside. An outdoor classroom or learning space would give teachers new ways to engage students and connect lessons to the world around them. Fresh air and sunlight can transform a student's day — and their ability to focus, collaborate, and imagine.

Safety and Accessibility

With the closure of Winter Hill School, more students are traveling longer distances to Kennedy. Many families — mine included — rely on bikes for daily drop-offs. We urgently need a safe space for bike pickup and drop-off, as well as more bike storage. These are simple, practical changes that can make the school safer and more accessible for everyone.

A Place for Community

This project isn't just for the school day. A new outdoor space would be a

welcoming community hub — a place where families can gather, play, and connect after hours and on weekends. It would reflect Kennedy's spirit of inclusivity and the deep sense of care that defines our community.

Joaquim Filho

Submission Date

Oct 17, 2025 12:42 PM

Full Name

Joaquim Filho

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy
Schoolyard Reconstruction

My kids go to the Kennedy school. Mine is in third grade and the other one graduated to the high school. The front lot is nothing but broken pavements and basketball hoops. The parents got together and painted it and now it looks much better but there is nothing there for kids to play. I hope the money can go to make this a better playground.

Kathy McCarthy

kaustin2010@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 17, 2025 11:59 AM

Full Name Kathy McCarthy

Email (optional) kaustin2010@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 78 Bay State Ave

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I would like to advocate for the Kennedy School playground. It's so important for the older kids to have a space to move their bodies during the day and currently these kids only have a blacktop for free play. This playground will also be an amenity for the neighborhood as well and is an exciting opportunity to add some inclusive equipment for both the school and the broader community. Thanks for your consideration!

Louisa Kiu

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 9:17 AM

Full Name

Louisa Kiu

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy students deserve to have a safe, inclusive and fun outdoor play space. Please approve the additional funding so that construction can finally begin.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Manizeh Khan

manizeh.khan@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 18, 2025 4:08 PM

Full Name Manizeh Khan

Email (optional) manizeh.khan@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 150 Lowell St Apt 1

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I want to emphasize the importance of the Kennedy Schoolyard reconstruction project. School playgrounds are resources for the whole community, and currently the school yard is not an inclusive space that invites community gathering. Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space. And despite three district-wide special education programs residing at Kennedy, the current lot has almost no accessible equipment. Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

MJ Reilly

mollyreilly78@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 17, 2025 2:56 PM

Full Name

MJ Reilly

Organization (optional)

Hackensack Meridian Health

Email (optional)

mollyreilly78@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

52 Alston St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Rebecca Lopes-Filho

jfksomervillepta@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 17, 2025 11:53 AM

Full Name Rebecca Lopes-Filho

Organization (optional) John F. Kennedy School PTA

Email (optional) jfksomervillepta@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The 3rd - 8th grade students of the Kennedy School, and the entire Somerville community, need a more inclusive, engaging, and modern design and rebuild for the basketball courts area at 5 Cherry Street.

The current design does absolutely nothing to engage students in either the General Education programs nor the city-wide special education programs housed at the Kennedy School, and the redesign process is an important time to rebuild using Universal Design elements to make this centrally-located playspace accessible and welcoming for all Somerville residents and families. I strongly urge the CPC to support this project with your funding.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Sarah Bruhn

Submission Date

Oct 8, 2025 2:59 PM

Full Name

Sarah Bruhn

Street address (optional)

65 Murdock Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Our children's school was promised funding for this project years and years ago. The older children have nothing but a blacktop for recess time and while we have benefited from community organizations and parent leaders painting the service, it is completely inadequate as a school and community playground. I know the project has moved into the planning phase and I hope this process can be as expedient as possible to get the kids the kind of playspace that will give them all, regardless of ability, ways to move their body, find shade in the heat, and play creatively.

Taryn LaFlamme

taryn.e.laflamme@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 18, 2025 6:36 AM

Full Name Taryn LaFlamme

Email (optional) taryn.e.laflamme@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 206 Lowell St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop. The entire school also deserves a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Kennedy is also the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

cole springate-combs

cole.springate@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 11:52 AM

Full Name cole springate-combs

Email (optional) cole.springate@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 20 acadia park #1

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy school would greatly benefit from a playground, currently all the students form grades 3-8 play on the asphalt lot which is kind of sad. I believe they are the only school without a playground or green space for all of the students.

Jack Perenick

jackforsomerville@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:15 PM

Full Name

Jack Perenick

Email (optional)

jackforsomerville@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

485 Foley St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'm writing to submit comments in support of allocating funding to finally bring the Kennedy Schoolyard reconstruction project from the design to the construction phase. This project represents a vital investment into a community and school space for this neighborhood. The universal design concepts pioneered here will also help advance designs for other school and playground facilities in the future that increase the accessibility of our play spaces for children. I hope the CPA committee will help make this project finally possible, thank you.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Subbroto Kumar Saha

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 12:26 PM

Full Name Subbroto Kumar Saha

Street address (optional) 109 Highland Ave.

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

This is very important as there are very little area.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Andrew Patterson

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:28 PM

Full Name

Andrew Patterson

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard

Laura Packer

laurapacker@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:31 PM

Full Name

Laura Packer

Email (optional)

laurapacker@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop.

The new design should support outdoor learning and give teachers and students more ways to engage outside the classroom.

The space should be inclusive and useful for the whole community, not just during school hours — a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect.

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment.

Families are advocating for the playspace to incorporate Universal Design in this key location in Somerville, central to many families and accessible during outside of school hours.

Cory McAlister

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:32 PM

Full Name

Cory McAlister

Street address (optional)

7 Spring Hill Terrace

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard

Gracie Yu

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:33 PM

Full Name

Gracie Yu

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard

Rachel Estes

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:36 PM

Full Name

Rachel Estes

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard

Mary Ann Ford

maf726@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:37 PM

Full Name

Mary Ann Ford

Email (optional)

maf726@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

20 COTTAGE AVE

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop. I was so sad when my oldest child (with developmental disabilities) graduated to the 3rd grade this year at Kennedy and no longer had access to a nicer play ground (the tot lot) for recess, etc., like he did in the younger grades there. He was just starting to gain confidence & strength climbing and on the money bars. He looks lonely and lost on the black top playground with nothing but a few basketball hoops. Although the painting they did over the summer to brighten up the space does help a bit, it is not enough. Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Katelyn Gosselin

ksgossel@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:39 PM

Full Name

Katelyn Gosselin

Email (optional)

ksgossel@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

144 Boston Ave

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I fully support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard. While the younger students have access to the Tot Lot, students in grades 3–8, as well as participants in the Community Schools after-school programs, are currently left with only a parking lot for outdoor play and recreation.

Playgrounds are essential spaces for all children—not just the youngest ones. For older students, they provide opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and creative play, which are all critical to their emotional and physical development. An engaging, well-designed play yard encourages teamwork, inclusion, and movement in a safe environment.

As the Kennedy School also supports the district’s SEEK and SKIP programs, which serve children with diverse learning needs, the new playground should be inclusive, accessible, and fun for all. Investing in this project will ensure that every child has a place to play, grow, and connect with others.

Alyssa Wilk

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:40 PM

Full Name

Alyssa Wilk

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy school really needs improvement for the schoolyard - please consider funding this project!

Dolly Goldenbrg

dolly.goldenberg@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:47 PM

Full Name

Dolly Goldenbrg

Email (optional)

dolly.goldenberg@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

108 Belmont Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I strongly support the funding of the Kennedy schoolyard reconstruction, it is much needed!

Jonathan Bernhardt

jonb@wobblymusic.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:49 PM

Full Name

Jonathan Bernhardt

Email (optional)

jonb@wobblymusic.com

Street address (optional)

96 Pearson Ave #2

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

This project is LOOOOOOOONG overdue. It's crazy that the kids only have a concrete lot with a couple of basketball hoops.

Ann Cournane

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:52 PM

Full Name

Ann Cournane

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard.

Daniel P Lofgren

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:56 PM

Full Name

Daniel P Lofgren

Street address (optional)

43 Park St.

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard.

Stephanie Galaitsi

stephanie.galaitsi@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:56 PM

Full Name

Stephanie Galaitsi

Email (optional)

stephanie.galaitsi@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

44 Morrison Ave

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

This is such an important project to support children living with disabilities in Somerville. Currently they have to go to other towns to find playgrounds. I would really like to see this project happen so Somerville can be a more inclusive place.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Katherine Fiorello

kmfiorello@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 12:59 PM

Full Name Katherine Fiorello

Organization (optional) Kennedy Parent

Email (optional) kmfiorello@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 370 Highland Ave

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop.

The new design should support outdoor learning and give teachers and students more ways to engage outside the classroom.

The space should be inclusive and useful for the whole community, not just during school hours — a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect.

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment.

Thank you for your consideration! We vote in favor of the Kennedy school front play yard for funding!

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Kristen Cox

kristenhcox@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 12:59 PM

Full Name

Kristen Cox

Email (optional)

kristenhcox@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

When my daughter was in Kindergarten at the Kennedy, I joined a group of parents who had been petitioning for an update to the front lot at the school. My daughter is now a freshman at the high school and the front lot remains the same. To spell it out we are now 9 years later and still in the "planning stages".

I have heard that funds have been sitting in an account since before COVID which is 5 years ago at this point.

Don't take my word for it. This is an excerpt from the school's newspaper written by students: "With its tall chain link fence and hard concrete floor it resembles more of a prison yard than a playground. By contrast, the Tot Lot is full of climbable structures, swings, and slides. Throughout the grades, I have heard countless people talk about the horror of recess in the Front Lot and how dreadful it is. It is one of the biggest problems that students have with the school's infrastructure and services." Full article can be found: <https://kennedychronicle.com/issue-5-june-2024>.

This issue is from a year and a half ago and it seems like the only progress is picking a company the city already has worked with several times on similar projects (so not a hard decision) and a bunch of questionnaires (something that the 7th grader did for his article). Be the adults and get this done.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Samuel Provost

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:02 PM

Full Name

Samuel Provost

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

My child deserves better than an asphalt lot!

Chloe Ciccariello

chloeciccariello@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:16 PM

Full Name

Chloe Ciccariello

Email (optional)

chloeciccariello@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

140 Highland Road

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support this project - it will make a real difference for our students and create an additional space for the community to gather outside school hours.

Jon Link

jon@jonforsomerville.com

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 1:19 PM

Full Name Jon Link

Organization (optional) city council candidate

Email (optional) jon@jonforsomerville.com

Street address (optional) 5 Bigelow St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Kennedy School Front Playground Renovation Project. This is an important and long-overdue investment in our schools and our neighborhoods.

The project to create a dedicated play space for students in grades 3–8, expand opportunities for outdoor learning, and provide a universally accessible space welcomes the broader community. These are exactly the kinds of improvements that make Somerville a healthier, more inclusive, and family-friendly city.

I urge the CPA to approve the requested funding so this long-awaited project can move forward from design to construction.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work supporting projects that strengthen our community.

Kathy Morgan

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:21 PM

Full Name

Kathy Morgan

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Hi, I am a parent of two children at the Kennedy School and these kids really desperately need an outdoor space that is more than just a blacktop to play and learn. They have very few options unlike the other schools in the area. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin

Christiane Boezio

ceebs15@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:29 PM

Full Name

Christiane Boezio

Email (optional)

ceebs15@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

As a parent of two students at the Kennedy (grades 5 and 7), I am writing to strongly support the redesign of Kennedy's front lot and urge the Community Preservation Committee to prioritize this project for CPA funding. Kennedy is the only school in Somerville without a field or any green space. Right now, our older students in grades 3–8 have nothing but blacktop for recess and outdoor time — no grass, no shade, no room for the kind of play that kids desperately need, especially after being cooped up indoors all day. They deserve better than what essentially feels like a prison yard. The proposed redesign would transform this space into something that both serves our students and our community. It would create opportunities for outdoor learning, giving teachers new ways to bring lessons outside and engage students in nature and movement. By incorporating Universal Design principles, this space would welcome all children and all abilities. This isn't just about school hours. Kennedy sits in a central location accessible to many Somerville families, and this redesign would create a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect after school, on weekends, and throughout the summer. It would be a genuine community asset in a neighborhood that needs more quality open space. Our children spend so much of their day at school. They deserve a place to play that supports their growth, their health, and their joy. I hope the Committee will recognize the urgency of this need and invest in a space that will serve Kennedy students and the broader Somerville community for years to come.

Shaily Shah

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:37 PM

Full Name

Shaily Shah

Organization (optional)

Kennedy school

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I would be thrilled to see the schoolyard be more friendly to children of various needs

Nadia Brown

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:42 PM

Full Name

Nadia Brown

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I 100% support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard. Kids need a better play space!

Diana Rastegayeva

drastegayeva@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:45 PM

Full Name

Diana Rastegayeva

Email (optional)

drastegayeva@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

73 Central Street, Unit 1, Somerville, MA 02143

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard. Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin after a long series of delays

Paige

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 1:48 PM

Full Name

Paige

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The parents and students at Kennedy would like to have a play space that is inclusive, functional, green, and engaging to a wide variety of students. We have been waiting many years for a redesign that helps promote creative physical play for our kids. Please fund this project!

keira horowitz

kisforkeira@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 2:40 PM

Full Name

keira horowitz

Organization (optional)

Keira Horowitz

Email (optional)

kisforkeira@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

39 avon street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy kids deserve a green and inclusive place to play. This project has our family's full support and I hope construction can begin as soon as possible.

Christina Majer

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 2:59 PM

Full Name

Christina Majer

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.
Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop.

Cate Mingoya

Mingoyac@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 3:03 PM

Full Name

Cate Mingoya

Email (optional)

Mingoyac@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

20 Acadia Park Somerville

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I am writing to urge the committee to prioritize funding the Kennedy Schoolyard reconstruction. The Kennedy School's asphalt-only yard is the only recess/afterschool recreation/outdoor recreation space available to Kennedy students grades 3-8. It's hot, there is no shade, no shade structures, no playground equipment, no seating, let alone any accessible equipment for the many special needs and physically disabled students at the Kennedy School.

The Kennedy School is the only school without a greenspace and/or playground for students older than 7 years old and it's time to build a recreation resource in this part of the city.

Additionally, this neighborhood lacks greenspace and/or a playground within a 15-20 min walk. The nearest ones are Conway and Kenny Parks- both almost a mile away from the Kennedy School, one of which requires crossing a major thoroughfare.

Please prioritize building a resource at the Kennedy School, we have the land, we have the interest, we now need the funding.

Thank you for supporting all of Somerville's children by supporting replacing the Kennedy School asphalt lot with a playground!

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Brian Sandstrom

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 3:11 PM

Full Name

Brian Sandstrom

Organization (optional)

briantsandstrom@modernatx.com

Street address (optional)

15 Park Ave.

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

An investment in upgrading the Kennedy schoolyard would benefit hundreds of kids EVERY day. The current slab of concrete is simply unbecoming and does little to encourage the social development or physical activity of Somerville's youth that attend this school.

Jennifer Godfrey

jen.godfrey@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 3:20 PM

Full Name

Jennifer Godfrey

Email (optional)

jen.godfrey@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

52 Oxford St.

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Safe, accessible play space is important for all school age kids. The Kennedy currently has only a blacktop for kids in grades 3-8. Kids who are not interested in ball games end up in the corner. It's not exclusively a gender issue but I do think that, broadly, girls and NB students are more negatively affected by the lack of options for outdoor activity. This has been an issue of discussion for the seven years my kids have been at Kennedy, and it would be great to see progress on construction before my younger child graduates. Thanks for your consideration.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Maggie Pollock

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 3:20 PM

Full Name

Maggie Pollock

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. The current blacktop is lacking in so many ways (no shade, few benches, only hard surfaces)! Please approve additional funding to move this project forward. It will be an asset to both the school community and the general public outside of school hours.

Christina Linklater

christina.linklater@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 3:44 PM

Full Name

Christina Linklater

Email (optional)

christina.linklater@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

7 Charnwood Rd.

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I wholeheartedly welcome the improvement of the Kennedy schoolyard. The blacktop is uninviting at all times of year, and dangerously hot on warm days. Introducing landscaping will greatly enhance students' recreation, and by extension their learning.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Chris Shabsin

cshabsin@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 3:45 PM

Full Name Chris Shabsin

Email (optional) cshabsin@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 30 Banks St #2

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Long overdue and exciting!

Kathleen Froehlich

froehlich.kathleenj@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 3:46 PM

Full Name

Kathleen Froehlich

Email (optional)

froehlich.kathleenj@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

58 Pitman Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support funding for this reconstruction project. Outdoor space for children to learn and play should be prioritized and is incredibly important for mental and physical health.

Abigail Shafroth

ashafroth@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 4:15 PM

Full Name Abigail Shafroth

Email (optional) ashafroth@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 55 Dover st

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The Kennedy schoolyard project is so important—currently the space is poorly designed and underutilized, leaving kids age 8+ with only a cracked blacktop/basketball courts to play on at recess and afterschool, and the basketball court/outdoor space is almost never used when I visit on the weekends. In such a dense city, we should make the most of all our public outdoor spaces, especially ones for kids. This space could be a wonderful space for play and coming together for the school and for the larger community. Also: there are no soccer fields nearby for kids, making it much harder to fit in youth soccer in school nights (we stopped for this reason)—this could be an opportunity to add one.

Allen Barillaro

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 4:34 PM

Full Name

Allen Barillaro

Street address (optional)

31 Ames Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'm writing to express my strong support for funding a new play yard at the Kennedy School. Our older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop. A redesigned space would give teachers and students more ways to engage in outdoor learning and active play, which are essential for healthy development and meaningful learning. Just as importantly, this project would create an inclusive, welcoming space for the entire school community. I believe investing in this space will strengthen the Kennedy community and reflect Somerville's commitment to vibrant, equitable learning environments for all.

Ona Ferguson

onaferguson@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 4:41 PM

Full Name

Ona Ferguson

Email (optional)

onaferguson@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

11 Linden Place

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy students and the entire neighborhood could use more play spaces. Our 300 plus Kennedy school kids ages 8-14 have had just a blacktop for their outside play space during school hours year after year. Its time to build a good outdoor space for moving and playing together. And that space will be so very welcome by those of us who live nearby with young children too.

Somerville's kids need healthy, fun, active spaces to be in. CPA funds would be so beneficial here. Please consider supporting the Kennedy Schoolyard reconstruction!

Chandani Desai

chandni177@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 5:21 PM

Full Name

Chandani Desai

Email (optional)

chandni177@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard

Chandani Desai

chandni177@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 5:23 PM

Full Name

Chandani Desai

Email (optional)

chandni177@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment

Kate Van Sleet

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 6:53 PM

Full Name

Kate Van Sleet

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'd love to see shade built into the lot project. It can be brutally hot on warm days and there is hardly anywhere to escape from the sun! But also, I fully support this project.

Melissa Gillespie

11starz@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 7:36 PM

Full Name

Melissa Gillespie

Email (optional)

11starz@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I am in full suppprt of the Kennedy Schoolyard reconstruction, this should be a top priority for the city.

Jonathan Rameau

jrameau@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 9:54 PM

Full Name Jonathan Rameau

Email (optional) jrameau@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 18A Trull Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The area being considered for reconstruction is a pretty dismal space. This will have a big, positive impact on the school and the neighborhood.

Danielle Kinkel

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 9:59 PM

Full Name Danielle Kinkel

Street address (optional) 318 SUMMER STREET

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

My husband and I have lived in Somerville for 16 years, initially as a young couple, then as a young family, and now as a multigenerational family after my mother relocated from Michigan to live with us. We have watched children and families grow up with the Kennedy as their home away from home; we have watched young adults befriend one another through pickup games at the Kennedy basketball courts; and we have watched kiddos learn to ride bikes, scooters, rollerblades, and skateboards on the infamous Kennedy blacktop. The Kennedy schoolyard is a character in our neighborhood, and its community ripple effect is profound. It will continue to play a role in our lives irrespective of whether it receives additional CPA funding, but let us imagine the impact of a truly well-designed, beautiful, accessible community space at this intersection.

The space could be welcoming and useful for the whole community, not just students during school hours — a safe, inclusive place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect. It could support outdoor learning and give teachers more ways to engage outside the classroom which is especially critical for the three DISTRICT-wide special education programs based at Kennedy. It could offer a friendly spot for older community members, like my mom, to gather and rest after shopping in Porter Square. It could be yet another way of demonstrating Somerville's commitment to sustainable, small-scale, high-impact urban innovations.

It has so much potential to support and strengthen an already wonderful area, further making the case for why residents should stay.

But it is also desperately needed. Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space for its children. Perhaps this wouldn't be notable if there were other green spaces or parks nearby, but this neighborhood has zero. If our sons (ages 6 and 10) need to play outside, which is every day, we have to settle for a walk on the bike path or DRIVE to Conway Park, Trum Field, Fresh Pond, or Danehy with their sporting gear.

Kennedy's students most definitely deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. But Kennedy's community members of all ages also deserve a lovely, engaging, integrated, and accessible nearby green space for peace and play in all seasons.

Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Respectfully,
Danielle Kinkel

Giselle Aris

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 11:06 PM

Full Name

Giselle Aris

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project in the Kennedy school play yard.

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop.

The new design should support outdoor learning and give teachers and students more ways to engage outside the classroom.

The space should be inclusive and useful for the whole community, not just during school hours — a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect.

You might also mention:

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment.

Families are advocating for the playspace to incorporate Universal Design in this key location in Somerville, central to many families and accessible during outside of school hours.

Naoise Mac Giollabhui

Submission Date

Oct 20, 2025 11:09 PM

Full Name

Naoise Mac Giollabhui

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Would love to see this funded

Emi Okuda

Submission Date Oct 20, 2025 11:13 PM

Full Name Emi Okuda

Street address (optional) 19 Willow Ave.

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Kennedy's older students (grades 3–8) need a real place to play, not just a blacktop.

The new design should support outdoor learning and give teachers and students more ways to engage outside the classroom.

The space should be inclusive and useful for the whole community, not just during school hours — a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect.

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space.

The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment.

Cassie Johannes

cas.williams@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 21, 2025 7:18 AM

Full Name Cassie Johannes

Email (optional) cas.williams@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 19 Spring Hill terrace

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The school NEEDS a new front playground. The plain blacktop as is does not support the diverse needs of the school.

Lisette C Roman

lisette.c.roman@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 21, 2025 8:33 AM

Full Name

Lisette C Roman

Email (optional)

lisette.c.roman@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

10 Aberdeen Road

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Amy Sterling

amyleerobinson@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 21, 2025 9:37 AM

Full Name Amy Sterling

Organization (optional) Princeton University

Email (optional) amyleerobinson@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 11 Elmwood St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

My daughter just started kindergarten here. My second child will be at Kennedy in 2 years. The tot lot is great but the front play area looks more like a prison yard than a schoolyard. Please fund an update :)

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Will Sterling

sterlwh@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 21, 2025 11:00 AM

Full Name

Will Sterling

Email (optional)

sterlwh@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

11 Elmwood St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I am in favor of the Kennedy Front Lot redesign project

Nicole Cannon

n.martins423@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 21, 2025 11:14 AM

Full Name

Nicole Cannon

Email (optional)

n.martins423@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

92 Marshall Street Somerville

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's older students, especially those with disabilities need a real place to play, not just a blacktop!!!

This new design should be inclusive, supporting who we are and what we stand for as a community supporting engagement outside of the classroom. The playground is a place where all children can come together and find common ground.

The space should be inclusive and useful for the WHOLE COMMUNITY, not just during school hours — a safe, welcoming place for neighbors to gather, play, and connect!

Kennedy is the only Somerville school without a field or green space. The school includes three district-wide special education programs, yet the current lot has almost no accessible equipment.

Please consider this funding as kids with mobility aides, like mine have very little options to play on our city playgrounds!

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Annie Falk

Submission Date Oct 21, 2025 11:50 AM

Full Name Annie Falk

Street address (optional) 16 Durham St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The older kids desperately need a place to play. Somerville needs more parks in general and in particular more inclusive playgrounds. This park would enhance the lives of so so many children and families!!!

Dana Scott

Submission Date

Oct 21, 2025 12:38 PM

Full Name

Dana Scott

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I'm so excited for the older kids at Kennedy to have a more interesting space for recess!

JED ROSENKRANTZ

cheeseheadjed@aol.com

Submission Date Oct 21, 2025 4:29 PM

Full Name JED ROSENKRANTZ

Organization (optional) Select Title

Email (optional) cheeseheadjed@aol.com

Street address (optional) 51 Holyoke Rd

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I am writing to voice my strong support for the funding of the Kennedy Schoolyard. I am an 8 year Somerville resident and plan on staying here longterm. I am glad we have a great school like the Kennedy School for my daughter to one day use, but it is badly in need of a better play space than the two basketball courts for the older kids. This is a well-deserved and needed project and I support funding it fully.

Abby Hare

abbyhare627@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 22, 2025 8:50 AM

Full Name

Abby Hare

Email (optional)

abbyhare627@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

13A Quincy St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's students deserve a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate place to play and learn outdoors. Please approve the additional CPC funding so construction can finally begin.

Cynthia Singer-Riordan

cynthiasinger@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 22, 2025 9:22 AM

Full Name

Cynthia Singer-Riordan

Organization (optional)

parent

Email (optional)

cynthiasinger@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I am in favor of the Kennedy schoolyard reconstruction project. As a school member and a family that lives within 3 blocks of the school. I am strongly supporting the reconstruction of the schoolyard. Not only do the kids of the Kennedy need better outdoor space, but it would be such an added addition for the neighborhood to have an enjoyable space for the community.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Jessica Adam

adams.jessicap@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 22, 2025 1:33 PM

Full Name Jessica Adam

Organization (optional) SEPAC

Email (optional) adams.jessicap@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Hello,
I'm writing to support funding for the Kennedy School Playground Renovation with an explicit commitment to Universal Design, creating Somerville's first inclusive playground. Please also schedule listening sessions with general-education families in addition to admin/Building Subcommittee input.
Thank you for advancing a design that welcomes all kids.
Jessica Adams
Ward 3/Kennedy PTA Member

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Ilana Krepchin

ikrepchin@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 22, 2025 2:10 PM

Full Name

Ilana Krepchin

Organization (optional)

Somerville School Committee

Email (optional)

ikrepchin@gmail.com

Street address (optional)

7 Waldo Avenue #1

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The Kennedy school houses some of our most vulnerable students, with several special education programs, that serve students from across the city. As such, I think it is very important that we build this new, fully accessible playground. It would also increase access to much needed outdoor play space during the school day.

Samantha Steiner

samantharsteiner@gmail.com

Submission Date

Oct 22, 2025 8:57 PM

Full Name

Samantha Steiner

Email (optional)

samantharsteiner@gmail.com

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Hello,

I'm writing to support funding for the Kennedy School Playground Renovation with an explicit commitment to Universal Design, creating Somerville's first inclusive playground. Any playground built should be inclusive and accessible.

Please also schedule listening sessions with general-education families in addition to admin/Building Subcommittee input.

Thank you for advancing a design that welcomes all kids.

Sam Steiner

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Roxane Scrima

rscrima@k12.somerville.ma.us

Submission Date Oct 22, 2025 7:40 PM

Full Name Roxane Scrima

Organization (optional) John F. Kennedy

Email (optional) rscrima@k12.somerville.ma.us

Street address (optional) 5 Cherry Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I was a teacher on the committee (prior to COVID) that worked on the front playground design ideas along with many parents who dedicated countless hours discussing and taking surveys from kids for a new playground space. It is very difficult in a city to have a lot of green space as well as a large play space. As an avid outdoor educator with kindergartners I feel our project is vital and is well overdue. We would greatly appreciate our project being supported. Thank you.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Zoe McCarthy

Submission Date

Oct 22, 2025 6:15 PM

Full Name

Zoe McCarthy

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

How fantastic this project is going to be. Much needed for both students and the neighborhood. I can't wait to see this come to fruition.



Outlook

Letter of Support for Kennedy Playground

From Kat Johnston <katsjohnston@gmail.com>

Date Wed 10/22/2025 7:18 PM

To Roberta Cameron <rcameron@somervillema.gov>

To the Community Preservation Committee:

I write in strong support of the Kennedy School Playground Renovation Project and urge the CPC to approve the additional \$1 million in funding necessary to move from design into construction.

For too long, the front lot at Kennedy has served as an inadequate play space for students in grades 3-8. This is roughly 280 children who play on a black top each day that is often compared to a prison yard while younger students enjoy a proper play space behind the school. In contrast, none of Kennedy's upper-grade students have access to a green field or play structure.

This lack of appropriate space is especially striking given that Kennedy houses three district-wide special education programs and Somerville does not have a universally accessible playground anywhere in the city.

Since the original grant application in 2018, some 318 students have graduated without seeing progress on the site. The project is finally in motion: design funds have been allocated, a design contract has been awarded, and the City's inclusivity goals are explicit. But without construction funding this year, momentum will stall again.

This renovation is much more than a playground—it will deliver:

- A play space **geared toward older students (grades 3-8)** with age-appropriate equipment, movement opportunities, and social spaces.
- A flexible **outdoor learning environment** that supports hands-on instruction, recess, physical wellness, and curriculum integration.
- An **accessible, community-beneficial space** for students regardless of ability to play alongside their peers, and useful for the surrounding neighbors beyond school hours.

This project reflects Somerville's values of protecting and expanding green space, investing in shared community resources across age groups, and working towards more equitable and inclusive city structures. Approving the additional \$1 million in CPC funding will finally allow construction to begin—and will demonstrate the city's commitment to closing a glaring gap in our school infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important investment in our students, school, and community.

Sincerely,

Kat Johnston

Ward 3 Resident & Kennedy School Parent

Elizabeth Cope Johnston

ejohnston@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 23, 2025 4:37 PM

Full Name Elizabeth Cope Johnston

Organization (optional) parent

Email (optional) ejohnston@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 99 Wallace St

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Kennedy's Grade 3+ students need a real place to play. The blacktop "works" for some kids but is not inclusive for the entire Kennedy population. Especially in middle school kids need a reason to be active -- and some social distraction at recess.



Anupama Seshan Raman

Submission Date

Oct 24, 2025 10:39 AM

Full Name

Anupama Seshan Raman

Street address (optional)

14 Clyde St., Somerville, MA

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the funding of the design project for the Kennedy School play yard.

Jessie Ratey

jessieforward@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 27, 2025 2:12 PM

Full Name Jessie Ratey

Organization (optional) Candidate for Somerville School Committee

Email (optional) jessieforward@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 47 Church Street

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I support the redevelopment of the Kennedy schoolyard. My children have attended vacation camps and summer camps at the Kennedy building, and noticed the lack of green space or field for outdoor play and recreation. In particular, there are not great options for older elementary and middle school grades. This schoolyard project will greatly benefit the next generation of students and broader community. Thank you!

Michele Lippens

michele.kaplan@gmail.com

Submission Date Oct 29, 2025 8:01 AM

Full Name Michele Lippens

Email (optional) michele.kaplan@gmail.com

Street address (optional) 24 Thorpe Street, Unit 2

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

I have three kids that attend Somerville Public Schools and am a Ward 3 resident. My daughter is now a freshman at the Highschool and when I served on the School Improvement Council, I remember conversations about redesigning the front lot being a topic of discussion. At the time, my daughter was in 1st grade! I now have a 4th grader and a 6th grader. I am hoping that at least one of my children will be at school to see a new front lot. I also know that this is an investment in the future of our schools and all the youth that will enjoy this space for years to come. There are so many events that take place on this space and it is NOT working for our community in it's current state! Including 8th grade graduations, Harvest Festivals, Zumba, Recess, PTA events, and SO MUCH MORE. I urge you to invest in this valuable community space. Thank you.

Please check if you would like to receive CPA News Updates via email

Garth Goldstein

Submission Date Oct 31, 2025 3:08 PM

Full Name Garth Goldstein

Street address (optional) 11 Linden Place

I would like to comment on the following project(s)

Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

Comments on Kennedy Schoolyard Reconstruction

The Kennedy School is a major school with no grassy playground and its a tragedy. Only the youngest kids get to play on any equipment. Please fund this important project for hundreds of kids and for the neighborhood!