



KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR

## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



### COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR Blessing of the Bay Linear Park Improvement

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyWRA) requests funds for construction of the linear park improvements designed under a previous CPA grant in FY23. The project will expand recreational opportunities and open space at Blessing of the Bay Park by creating a grade-separated, shared use community path and shade tree buffer. The project will provide an additional 0.61 acres of open space reclaimed from a road right-of-way, add a community path, and address heat island issues through the addition of trees and green infrastructure. The total construction budget is currently estimated at \$1,765,125, with additional funding sources covering the balance of the project.

#### ELIGIBILITY

*Open Space/Recreation:* This project would create new open space and recreational amenities.

#### RECOMMENDATION

On December 13, 2023 by a vote of 8-1, the Community Preservation Committee recommended approval to City Council that the Mystic River Watershed Association be awarded \$426,925 of Community Preservation Act funds for construction of the Blessing of the Bay Linear Park Improvement, as described in their FY24 Funding Application, from the following accounts:

Category: Open Space/Recreation	Recommended Funding Source	Amount
Blessing of the Bay Linear Park Improvement	Open Space/Recreation Reserve	\$239,103
	Budgeted Reserve	\$187,822
	Total	\$426,925

#### FUNDING CONDITIONS

1. The CPA-funded portion of the project must be initiated within three years unless extension is granted by the CPC.
2. CPA funds will be used only for CPA eligible expenses.
3. MyWRA will install a permanent sign noting CPA funding at the completion of the project and a temporary sign during construction.
4. Unspent funds will be returned to the CPA fund.

#### DOCUMENTATION

- [FY 24 MyWRA Funding Application Blessing of the Bay](#)