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MAYOR

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR Blessing of the Bay FY23 Linear Park Improvement Design

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyWRA) in partnership with the City of Somerville seeks funds to continue improvements of Blessing of the Bay Park, following a shared vision that was prepared with extensive community input under a previous CPA grant. This phase will entail the completion of 100% design and permitting to facilitate the creation of a one-half mile shared use community path by converting 0.61 acres of roadway to expand the area of the park. The project will also incorporate shade trees and green infrastructure to increase tree canopy and improve the health of the riverfront.

ELIGIBILITY

OpenSpace/Recreational Land: This project would create new recreational land and make capital improvements to facilitate the use of land for trails.

RECOMMENDATION

On January 25, 2023 by a vote of 6-0, the Community Preservation Committee recommended approval to City Council that \$250,000 of Community Preservation Act funds be awarded to the Mystic River Watershed Association to complete design of linear park improvements at Blessing of the Bay Park, as described in their application from the following account:

Category: Historic Preservation	Recommended Funding Source	Amount
Blessing of the Bay FY23 Linear Park Improvement Design	Open Space Reserve	\$80,000
	Budgeted Reserve	\$170,000
	Total	\$250,000

FUNDING CONDITIONS

- The CPA-funded portion of the project must be initiated within three years unless extension is granted by the CPC.
- CPA funds will be used only for CPA eligible expenses.
- Permanent dedication of the area to be converted from roadway to expand the area of the park shall be pursued.
- The CPA grant will be acknowledged in signage and public outreach for the design process.

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS

The project addresses goals of the FY23 Community Preservation Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and SomerVision: to expand the amount of land dedicated to open space, increase access to parks open spaces and trails for people of all ages and abilities, support multigenerational recreational spaces, support environmental resiliency, and increase tree canopy. The path has been identified as a high priority by neighborhood residents who participated in the CPA-funded plan for revitalization of Blessing of the Bay Park, and will serve to enhance walking, biking, and transit access, and connection to open space, waterfront, and recreation opportunities for nearly 3,000 residents within a five-minute walk.

PROJECT BUDGET AND SCOPE

CPA Expenses	Amount
Design	\$250,000
Total	\$250,000
Sources	
CPA funds	\$250,000
Total	\$250,000

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The goals of this project are to:

- Complete final designs and permitting for expansion of the park and siting of green infrastructure and trees on City of Somerville property.

The full original proposal is available at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sG7TRoMhzDhhyeTkyOAugGMJ4oa-r3wQ/view?usp=share_link