



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FY20 FUNDING CYCLE
APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: Funding of the City of Somerville's Open Space Acquisition and Improvements Stabilization Fund ("Open Space Acquisition Fund")

PROJECT LOCATION: _____

LEGAL PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD: City of Somerville

ONE SENTENCE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The City would like to request CPA funds to seed the Open Space Acquisition Fund.

Please indicate (X) all categories that apply to this project (minimum of one) in the chart.

	Open Space	Recreational Land	Historic Resources	Community Housing (blended projects only)
Acquisition	X			
Creation				
Preservation				
Support				
Rehabilitation/Restoration				

ESTIMATED START DATE: _____

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: _____

CPA FUNDING REQUEST: \$200,000

TOTAL BUDGET FOR PROJECT: \$200,000

2. APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICATION NAME / ORGANIZATION: City of Somerville

CO-APPLICATION NAME / ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: Luisa Oliveira, ASLA

MAILING ADDRESS: 93 Highland Ave

PHONE: 617-625-6600 X 2529 EMAIL: LOliveira@somervillema.gov

3. SIGNATURES

I (we) certify that all information provided in this entire submission is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and that no information which might reasonably affect funding has been excluded. I (we) authorize the Community Preservation Committee and/or the City of Somerville to obtain verification from any source provided.

Name (printed) Luisa Oliveira Signature *LOliveira* Date 9/23/19

Name (printed) _____ Signature _____ Date _____



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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Please check (✓) each item included in your submission, which should include the applicable items in the order listed below.

GENERAL:

- Application Cover Page (form provided)
- Submission Requirements Checklist (this form)
- Narratives (prompts provided in instruction packet)
- Project timeline: a project schedule showing all major milestones (i.e., study, design, environmental, permitting, construction, etc.), including receipt of other funding sources
- Grant and Trust Funds Disclosure Form (form provided)
- Campaign Contribution Mandatory Disclosure and Certification Form (form provided- only needed if requesting \$50,000 or more in CPA funds)
- Ordinance to Safeguard Vulnerable Road Users Acknowledgement (form provided)

FINANCIAL:

- Budget Summary (form provided- construction projects must include cost for permanent CPA dedication sign)
- Itemized budget of all project costs, including the proposed source for each cost
- Three written quotes for project costs. If quotes cannot be secured, detailed cost estimates may be used if a thorough explanation of the estimates is included.
- Proof of secured funding (e.g., commitment letters or bank statements), if applicable. If providing bank statements, please redact identifying information such as account numbers.

VISUAL:

- Map of the property location showing all features pertinent to the project, including current or future rapid transit stations
- Photos of the project site (not more than 4 views per site); include digital copies

OWNERSHIP/OPERATION (NON-CITY):

- Documentation of site control or written consent of the property owner to undertake the project, if the owner is not the applicant
- City has signed on as a co-applicant for community projects proposed on City land.
- Certificates of Good Standing from the City and the State, if applicable
- 501(c)(3) certification, if operating as a non-profit
- Purchase and sale agreement or copy of current recorded deed, if applicable

COMMUNITY SUPPORT (RECOMMENDED):

- Letters of support from residents, community groups, other City boards, commissions, or departments, or from City, state, or federal officials

HISTORIC RESOURCES PROJECTS:

- Documentation that the project is listed on the State Register of Historic Places or a written determination from the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission that the resource is significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Somerville.
- Photos documenting the condition of the property
- Report or condition assessment by a qualified professional describing the current condition of the property, if available.

PLANS AND REPORTS (IF AVAILABLE; SUBMIT DIGITAL COPIES ONLY)

- Renderings, site plans, engineering plans, design and bidding plans, specifications, and any MAAB variance requests
- Applicable reports (e.g., 21E, historic structure report, appraisals, survey plans, feasibility studies).

**2019: Open Space Acquisition Fund
City of Somerville, Public Space & Urban Forestry**

Project Description

1. *Describe the project, including the project location and the property involved:*
An Open Space Acquisition Fund was established by the City Council in February of 2019. This request is for the seed money for that Fund so that open space parcels may be acquired.

2. *Why is this project needed? How does it preserve and enhance the character of Somerville? How does the project benefit the public? What population(s) will it serve?*
A goal of acquiring 125 new acres of open space was identified in Somervision, Somerville's comprehensive plan, completed in 2012. In addition to the lengthy process that resulted in SomerVision, updates to the plan are ongoing and the addition of open space is a consistent goal articulated by Somerville residents. Adding dollars to the Open Space Acquisition Fund will allow the City to save for and purchase new acres of open space.

3. *How does the project meet the general and category-specific priorities outlined in the Community Preservation Plan, including how the project incorporates sustainable practices and design?*

This project meets all of the applicable general priorities in the Community Preservation Plan:

- a. *Improve accessibility for all members of the community. Acquiring more acres of open space increases access to restorative and recreational spaces in the city for its residents. Additionally, since all newly renovated City parks are compliant with the American with Disabilities Act, more acres of open space increases accessibility for all persons of all abilities.*

- b. *Incorporate sustainable practices and design. While not directly applicable, parks are an important source of ecoservices benefits across Somerville and are planned with sustainability in mind.*

- c. *Receive endorsement from other Somerville boards, commissions, departments, or community groups or from city, state, or federal officials. The City Council, Open Space Acquisition Task Force and the CPC all are supportive of acquiring more open space, as are community groups and resident advocates.*

- d. *Are consistent with the goals and priorities established in other current planning documents but not explicitly addressed in this plan. Increasing open space within Somerville is stated as a goal of the 2016-2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan, and in the relevant chapters of SomerVision as well as in various neighborhood plans.*

- f. *Support Somerville's diversity, including support to immigrants regardless of their status.*

Acquiring parcels in Environmental Justice communities, or areas of the city where open space is lacking, will support all residents but most especially the city's most vulnerable residents who often use the parks as a no cost source of recreation and socializing.

Measuring Success

1. What are the goals of this project?

The goal of the Open Space Acquisition Fund is to have funds at the ready for the purchase of open space land as it becomes available. Adding money to it will allow for this.

2. How will the success of this project be measured?

The success of the project will be measured acres purchased and an increase of the total open space acreage in Somerville.

Financial

1. Describe all successful and unsuccessful attempts to secure funding and/or in-kind contributions, donations, or volunteer labor for the project. Describe any cost-saving measures to be implemented.

The establishment of the Open Space Acquisition will allow for attempts to secure funding which have not happened to date.

2. How was the total CPA funding request determined?

The CPA request amount of 200,000 is a starting point. The City requests that the CPC add as much as possible to the Fund, given the importance and cost of achieving this goal.

3. Will the project require funding over multiple years?

Yes. Ideally, the CPC should be adding to this Fund every year so as to amass the funds required to buy land.

4. How will the project be affected if it does not receive CPA funds or does not receive the full amount requested?

Without funding, the Open Space Acquisition Fund is ineffective.

Project Management

1. Describe the applicant. Are they public, private non-profit, private for-profit, an individual, a

partnership, or another type of entity? What is their history and background? Provide any additional relevant information.

The applicant is the City of Somerville's Public Space & Urban Forestry Department (PSUF) The department is responsible for the design development and construction of all City-owned parks and open spaces.

2. If a community organization is applying with a government entity as a co-applicant, describe how the two organizations will work together, how finances will be managed, and how the work will be continued after the conclusion of CPA funding.

Not applicable

3. Demonstrate that the applicant has successfully completed projects of similar type and scale or has the ability to complete the project as proposed.

The PSUF Division has acquired and renovated numerous parks. While additional staff members with other areas of expertise (eg real estate/land acquisition) may be required to administer these funds, PSUF will initiate the administration.

4. Identify and describe the roles of all known participants, including the project manager.

The City's Senior Planner for Landscape Design will initially oversee the administration of this fund.

5. Describe the feasibility of the project and how it can be implemented within the timeline and budget included in this application.

Once funds are allocated, they can be placed in the Fund within three months time.

6. Describe any known or potential barriers to the successful on-time commencement and completion of the project, including any permits or inspections required.

None.

7. Describe any ongoing maintenance and programming required and who will be responsible for it.

None.

8. Describe any permits, approvals, MAAB variance requests, or restrictions that are required for the project to go forward and the status for each.

None.

9. Note if the applicant has previously received CPA funds and if so, a concise summary of the impact of the previous CPA project. POS has received previous CPA grants.

None.



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BUDGET SUMMARY**

PROJECT NAME: Funding of the City of Somerville's Open Space Acquisition and Improvements Stabilization Fund ("Open Space Acquisition Fund")

APPLICANT: Luisa Oliveira, Senior Planner for Landscape Design, OSPCD

SUMMARY OF PROJECT COSTS					
<i>Please include a complete itemized budget of all project expenses, including the proposed funding source for each expense, in your submission. Budget needs to include cost of permanent CPA dedication sign if requesting construction funds.</i>					
PROPOSED SOURCE	EXPENSES				TOTAL
	STUDY	SOFT COSTS*	ACQUISITION	CONSTRUCTION**	
1 Somerville CPA			X		200,000.00
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS					200,000.00

*Soft costs include design, professional services, permitting fees, closing costs, legal, etc.
** Construction includes new construction, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration work, and/or accessibility related expenses

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 include documentation from the funding source (e.g., commitment letter, bank statement) in application packet</i>		
	SOURCE	SECURED? (YES/NO)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		