



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
Kimberley L. Driscoll, Mayor
Community Preservation Committee

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TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Jane A. Guy, Assistant Community Development Director
on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee

DATE: February 10, 2021

RE: **CPC Recommendation for CPA Funding**

At its meeting of February 9, 2021, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted to recommend Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding:

1. For the Forest River Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center in the amount of \$175,000 from the CPA Fund Balance; and,
2. For increased funding for the Mack Park Food Farm in the amount of \$15,000 from the CPA Fund Balance.

In compliance with MGL c.44B, the City Council is requested to take one of the following actions on each funding recommendation:

- Approve recommendation of the CPC
- Reject recommendation of the CPC
- Reduce amount recommended by the CPC

Thank you for your consideration.

APPLICANT: City of Salem Park & Recreation Commission
PROJECT TITLE: Forest River Outdoor Recreation & Nature Center
PROJECT LOCATION: Forest River Park
CPA CATEGORY: Recreational Land: Rehabilitation/Restoration
CPC RECOMMENDED CPA FUNDING: \$175,000
CPC RECOMMENDED SOURCE: \$175,000 Fund Balance

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:



The City of Salem Park and Recreation Commission has requested additional funding for construction costs for the Forest River Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center at Forest River Park.



The project includes the rehabilitation of the existing 4,268 SF bathhouse and a complete replacement of the existing pool. The bathhouse building will house changing rooms, a concession area and a community room. A separate building will be provided for the filtration, electrical and lifeguard spaces. The replacement of the existing pool with a 4,910 SF combination lap and recreational pool, a 2,260 SF separate kiddie pool with minimum depth,

and a 2,400 SF splash pad adjacent to the bathhouse will accommodate a total of 478 bathers. Also, the project includes the reclamation of part of the natural cove site by moving the proposed pool to higher ground (approximately 6-feet higher) and extending the shoreline walkway which will go beyond the pool. Under-utilized tennis courts and a deteriorated parking area to the west of the pool will be reconfigured to accommodate parking for staff and a vehicle-drop off area. A proposed lawn area and wildflower area where the tennis courts currently exist would be a site for temporary activities for the summer months including a tent for summer camps. The pool access road will be upgraded, and an adjacent pedestrian path will be constructed to connect with the new parking area at the entrance of the park with accessible parking. The new paths will create an unencumbered and accessible walkway along the shoreline with educational signage. The project will be zero net energy (solar panels will produce more power than is used annually) and will meet Sustainable SITES certification through integration of native plants, green infrastructure, and reduced impervious surfaces.

FUNDING/TIMELINE:

The City of Salem is requesting \$175k for allocation in February so that we can sign contracts for the project in order to open the pool this summer. The current project has funding to start the utilities and road, site work, and pool, however, the final amendment for the project would be the bathhouse, landscaping, paths, educational signage, education art and water interactive “splash” pad, accessible parking, and pool safety and other equipment. If we wait until June to approve the CPA, that will not be soon enough. Securing this CPA now means that portions of the work noted above critical to opening the pool can move forward, while the City secures the remaining grant funding. The project is \$13.1M, and the City has secured \$12.14M. The City is seeking a Land and Water Conservation Grant for \$750k. The net amount, \$210k, the City is requesting \$175k from CPA, and the rest will be from donations.

The project is underway but is short approximately \$1M dollars to complete. This request will allow the portions related to the pool and bathhouse to move forward so that they can be open this fall. The City is applying for state and federal funding for the remaining gaps, which would go to finalizing paths, splash pad, art, educational signage, and other portions of the project not directly related to opening of the pool.

The Forest River Outdoor Recreation & Nature Center will provide pools, art/interactive splash pad, community room, passive and active recreation areas, as well as restored coastal areas. CPA funds would enable final amendments related to the bathhouse, paths, landscaping, educational signage, art, water interactive splash pad, and accessible parking to move forward in construction in order for the project to be completed this summer/fall.

CPC RECOMMENDATION:

The Community Preservation Committee voted 5 in favor and 1 opposed, with Moriarty in opposition, with Greel abstaining, to recommend funding this application at \$175,000 from the CPA Fund Balance.

APPLICANT:	City of Salem Board of health
PROJECT TITLE:	Mack Park Food Farm
PROJECT LOCATION:	Mack Park
CPA CATEGORY:	Recreational Land: Rehabilitation/Restoration
CPC RECOMMENDED CPA FUNDING:	\$15,000
CPC RECOMMENDED SOURCE:	\$15,000 Fund Balance

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



The City of Salem Board of health has requested an increase in CPA funding for the Mack Park Food Farm in order to purchase and construct a 26 x 28 hoop house and an 8 x 10 walk-in cooler by April 1, 2021

The Mack Park Food Farm produced nearly 7,000 pounds of produce in the 2020 growing season. A hoop house (similar to a green house in that it is a temporary structure with no foundation, but without an electrical heating element) will

extend both the spring and fall growing season, potentially increasing harvests by thousands of pounds for the 2021 growing season. It will also allow the start of the majority of plants from seeds rather than purchasing seedlings, which will result in significant cost-savings.

One of the challenges the project faced in 2020 was the lack of on-site refrigeration and storage. As a result, time and resources were spent transporting produce to multiple sites for refrigerated storage, as other organization could only provide limited space. This will become more of a challenge as our harvests increase and the food forest is planted. Having a walk-in cooler will eliminate the need to transport produce for storage, saving time and resources. It will extend the shelf-life of the produce as the food that is harvested can immediately be put into storage. It will also reduce food waste, as produce can be harvested more frequently if we are not dependent on other organizations for storage space.

The proposal and budget has been reviewed and approved by the Parks and Recreation and Building Departments. The remaining costs will be covered by what is left of our existing funding.

CPC RECOMMENDATION:

The Community Preservation Committee voted 6 in favor and 1 opposed, with Moriarty in opposition, to recommend additional funding for this project at \$15,000 from the CPA Fund Balance.