

Community Preservation Act Committee- Proposal Request Form for FY 2018

Project Title: Conservation Land Improvements & Rehabilitation

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open Space
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Preservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recreation

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$ 30,000

Submitting Entity: Amherst Conservation Department

Contact Person: David Ziomek

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Please complete this form in its entirety and include the following in your proposal.

Overview of Proposal: The Town has preserved hundreds of acres of land for conservation and passive recreational use using CPA funds since 2001 when the CPA was first adopted in Amherst. Once preserved, the land must be maintained, and currently the Town's limited Conservation Department budget can't cover all the needed maintenance costs. The Town would like to use CPA funds for general rehabilitation of conservation land including: material costs to build bridges and boardwalks, kiosks and signs, parking areas, ADA accessible trails, and gates, and to pay for rental of wood chippers and excavators. This funding will only be used on land purchased using CPA monies.

Although CPA funds have not previously been used for this type of project in Amherst, they have in many towns across the Commonwealth. Example projects include:

- Wildflower Boardwalk - Acton Arboretum
- Indian River Bridge/Boardwalk - West Newbury
- Information Kiosks - Medway
- Preservation & Enhancements - Easthampton cons. areas
- Trail Entrance Signs & Kiosks - Hopkinton
- Trail Improvements on Cons Land - Hanover

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

1. Description of funding needed, including:

- a. Documentation of cost estimates, budget

Example Items	Amount
Walking Bridges	\$ 5,000.00
Boardwalk (bog bridging)	\$ 1,000.00
Kiosks	\$ 6,000.00
Wood chipper rental	\$ 4,000.00
Excavator rental	\$ 8,000.00
Gravel Parking Areas	\$ 3,000.00
ADA Accessible Trails	\$ 3,000.00
Total Cost:	\$30,000.00

b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising

The Town is always looking for sources of funding for conservation area maintenance and improvements. The Conservation Department recently applied for a MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant for work at three conservation areas and is currently waiting to hear if the grant was awarded. The Town also works with a number of friends groups including the Friends of Puffers Pond and the Friends of Mt. Pollux to raise money for conservation area maintenance. However, the grant funding and local fundraising has not provided the money needed and many conservation areas in Amherst have gone unmaintained.

c. Timeline on how CPA funds would be spent, including over multiple years

The conservation area improvement and rehabilitation funds will be utilized over two years, FY2018 & FY2019.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any.

Many of the conservation areas in Amherst need immediate improvements such as bridge repair, clearing of downed trees, and rebuilding of washed out trails. These funds are desperately needed and will support work commencing right away in FY2018.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion.

Approximately two years.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources.

All of the Town's conservation areas contains resource areas such as early successional field habitat, wetlands, hard wood forests, scenic views, areas mapped for endangered species, and farmland that need to be maintained in order to preserve the health and value of the resources.

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project.

Town conservation areas purchased using CPA funds are located across Amherst and provide a variety of passive recreational opportunities to all the residents of Amherst and surrounding communities. Well maintained areas with parking, kiosks, and bridges are more accessible and better serve our community. Many Amherst Conservation Areas are located within or near Environmental Justice populations.

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

The Conservation Area improvements will be maintained by the Conservation Department staff.

7. Which relevant Town committees and/or commissions are you working with?

The Conservation Commission is charged with the care and control of all conservation land. All proposed maintenance and improvement projects are reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission.

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC

See attached photographs of a bridge, kiosk, and gravel parking lot built by the Amherst Conservation Department staff.

Photographs



Puffer's Pond kiosk



Howard Garis trail bridge



Wentworth Farm gravel parking area



Wentworth Farm bog bridging