

Community Preservation Act Committee- Funding Request for FY 2018

Project Title:

**Resurfacing and Refurbishment of Basketball Courts at
Mill River Recreation Area**

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

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

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$50,000

Submitting Entity: Town of Amherst, Department of Public Works and
Amherst Leisure Services Department

Contact Person: Amy Rusiecki, Asst. Superintendent of Operations, Department of Public Works

Phone: 413-259-3115

Email: rusieckia@amherstma.gov

Resurfacing and Refurbishment of Basketball Courts at Mill River Recreation Area

Overview of Project

Between video games, social media, and television, it can be difficult to convince children to go outside and play. However, one activity is known to pull kids away from their devices and into the fresh air: basketball. From group pick-up games to endless matches of H.O.R.S.E., a basketball court has a certain appeal that brings people of all ages together to bask in the sunshine and shoot hoops.

Unfortunately, playing basketball at Mill River Recreation Area has become a high risk option. The two courts are in extremely poor condition and are currently unsafe for play. Numerous cracks run in various directions across the asphalt on both basketball courts, creating a dangerous tripping hazard for players.

The surface needs to be refurbished, treated, and sealed. The courts will also need to be relined and painted. In addition, the current 10' hoop structures are unstable and funds are needed to remove, stabilize, and reset their foundations. All four backboards will need to be replaced. Finally, to encourage more children and youth to utilize the facility, two 8' hoops will be installed on the site.

Because of the specialized scope of this project a contractor, who has expertise in this type of work, will need to be engaged in order to complete this project.

Funding

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$53,500. This amount was obtained through a verbal quote from Vermont Tennis Court Resurfacing, Inc., a company that specializes in this type of work. We are requesting \$50,000 from funds from the Community Preservation Act to complete this project. In addition, the Town of Amherst, Department of Public Works will provide crew time/work to complete various tasks, such as excavation, etc. related to this project. Their estimated in-kind contribution to the project is \$3,500.

Timeline

It is anticipated that the work would be completed by December 2017.

Urgency of the Project

The current condition of the courts present a serious safety hazard putting children and adults from our community at risk for serious injury.

Population to be Served by the Project

The basketball courts are utilized year round (weather permitting) by hundreds of children and adults from the Amherst community and surrounding area. The players come from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

Maintaining the CPA Investment Over Time

The Department of Public Works will monitor the improvements and safety of the basketball courts on a regular basis. In addition, backboards and hoop strings will be replaced as needed by DPW.

Town Commission Working in Support of This Project

The Leisure Services Commission is in full support of this project.

Additional Information

The improvements to the basketball courts is part of an ongoing effort to modernize the Mill River Recreation Area that was built in the early 1970's. In recent years the Town has resurfaced the tennis courts and replaced the perimeter fencing, improved the pool area, and resurfaced the trails that connect to Puffer's Pond. Currently, the two baseball fields are being updated. This work has been funded by CPA and leveraged by state and local grants, as well as volunteer labor.

The Town is committed to maintaining the Mill River Recreation Area for the community and for visitors, and upgrading the basketball courts is part of this effort.