



*City of Northampton  
Community Preservation Committee  
210 Main Street, City Hall  
Northampton, MA 01060*

November 23, 2021

Gina-Louise Sciarra  
City Council President  
210 Main Street, Room 16  
Northampton, MA 01060

Re: Community Preservation Committee Recommendations for Funding, Autumn 2021

President Sciarra and City Councilors,

In September 2021, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) began reviewing project proposals submitted for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding consideration. After extensive review including applicant presentations, site visits, public comment sessions and deliberation, the CPC voted to recommend 10 funding requests totaling \$1,392,322, representing all CPA project area: historic preservation, recreation, affordable housing, and open space preservation. The second round of FY22 funding will start in January.

The CPC encourages Councilors and the public to visit

<http://archive.northamptonma.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=718511&dbid=0&repo=CityOfNorthampton&cr=1>

to view the full applications submitted for each project funded this round. Meeting minutes, the City's Community Preservation Plan, information about the CPA, financial documents and other project materials can be accessed on the CPC's webpage:

[www.northamptonma.gov/1048/Community-Preservation-Committee](http://www.northamptonma.gov/1048/Community-Preservation-Committee)

Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or Preservation Planner Sarah LaValley with any questions about the projects, the Committee's recommendations, or if additional information is needed.

**Projects Recommended for Funding:**

**Rocky Hill Trails, Office of Planning & Sustainability, \$100,000**

CPA funds will be used to create an accessible soft-surface loop trail at the Pine Grove section of the Rocky Hill Greenway.

**Priority Open Space Acquisitions, Conservation Commission, \$228,301**

CPA funds will be used to permanently protect three open space parcels totaling 64 acres. 46 acres in the Mineral Hills, 5.2 acres in the Parsons Brook Greenway, and 13 acres in the Saw Mill Hills. These acquisitions will add to existing protected Greenways and provide wildlife habitat, riparian and trail connection, and educational and recreational opportunities

**Connecticut River Walkway, Office of Planning & Sustainability, \$70,000**

The project will create an accessible trail connection to the beach at the Connecticut River Greenway on Damon Road, for swimming, river access, fishing, and boat launching. CPA funds will match an existing state grant.

**Farmland Reclamation, Grow Food Northampton, \$20,000**

CPA funds will allow Grow Food Northampton to create additional community garden plots, edible hedgerows, and reclaim farm field edges. The area is protected by an Agricultural Preservation Restriction and was conserved in part using CPA funds.

**Critical Exterior Repairs, Michelson Galleries, \$82,900**

CPA funds will be used as a match for state historic grant funds to complete critical exterior work to the façade of the 1913 Northampton National Bank Building at 132 Main Street; part of the Downtown National Register District. The recommendation represents the difference between a simple repair to make the facade and a full restoration to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties

**Shepherd Barn Artifact Preservation, Historic Northampton, \$31,922**

CPA funds will allow Historic Northampton to restore 50 larger artifacts – business signs, sleighs, tools and weathervanes that will be installed in the Shepherd Barn, and will become publicly available for the first time in 30 years.

**Housing the Disabled Homeless, Independent Housing Solutions, \$608,000**

CPA funds will be used to help create a supportive but independent housing facility for 16 medically complex and chronically homeless individuals at 5 Franklin Street. CPA funds will be utilized to convert the building to serve residential needs

**Outdoor Pickleball Feasibility, Parks and Recreation, \$13,000**

CPA funds will be used to hire a landscape and engineering consultant to evaluate existing city-owner sites and recommend five possible locations to create a six-court pickleball facility for public use.

**Mortgage Subsidy Program, Valley Community Development Corporation: \$230,100**

CPA funds will be used to provide four \$50,000 down payment / closing cost assistance loans to allow low moderate income first time homebuyers purchase homes in Northampton. These will help close the gap between typical home prices and the amount of housing debt than a low or moderate income household can support and create homeownership opportunities.

**Invasive Species Removal, Lathrop Communities, \$3,000**

These funds will allow Lathrop Communities to continue to continue invasive plant removal and along Bassett Brook on their Florence Road campus and at the North Campus on Bridge Road, to promote native habitats. The City holds conservation restrictions on both properties, and public access is allowed.

Thank you,

Brian Adams

Chair, City of Northampton Community Preservation Committee