

ORIGINAL

**City of Waltham Massachusetts
Community Preservation Act
Historic, Open Space and Recreation
Funding Application WCPA-1**



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant ⁽¹⁾ City of Waltham

Name of Co-Applicant, if applicable ⁽¹⁾ Planning and Recreation Departments

Contact Name Jeannette A. McCarthy, Mayor

Mailing Address 610 Main Street, Waltham MA 02452

Daytime Phone (i.e. of Proposal Applicant) (781) 314 - 3100

PROJECT BASICS

Address of Project (or Assessor's Parcel ID) 45 AFT High Street Waltham, MA 02453

CPA Category (check all that apply):

☐ Open space

☐ Historic preservation

☒ Open space recreation

☐ Community Housing (You must also complete Application WCPA-2)

CPA Funding Requested \$1,754,634.00

Total Cost of Proposed Project \$2,146,900.00

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Attach answers to the following questions. Applications will be returned as incomplete if all requested information is not provided. Include supporting materials as necessary.

GOALS: What are the goals of the proposed project?

COMMUNITY NEED: Why is this project needed? Does it address needs identified in existing City plans?

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: What is the nature and level of support for this project? Include letters of support and any petitions.

TIMELINE: What is the schedule for project implantation? Include a timeline for all critical items for their

CITY OF WALTHAM

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

HISTORIC, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FUNDING APPLICATION WCPA -1

FOR IMPROVEMENTS PETER GILMORE PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GOALS

The overall GOAL shared by everyone in the community is for a complete park reconstruction including the following improvements; new and improved playground equipment, pedestrian access, site furnishings, ADA upgrades and a multi-purpose court.

The park renovation process has been a collaborative effort between the City of Waltham, City Officials, park users and neighborhood residents. The final design was presented to the Recreation Board for approval (see attached) and was in direct response to the public's visions, Ward City Councilor's cooperation and the Mayor's support for what the community desired.

The following list of park improvements will be implemented during the construction phase;

- Multi-use basketball/futsal court area
- Large playground area with safety surfacing (including new playground products for all age groups)
- Large Open Space area designed for more passive recreation
- ADA compliant walking paths (both on exterior and interior)
- New perimeter fencing, updated to resemble the original Granite Post and Beam
- Security lighting within interior of the park along the walking paths
- New Water Fountain at the Gateway entrance of the park along High Street
- New plantings throughout the site (trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses and perennials)
- Install Adult Exercise Stations within rubberized safety surface
- Complete upgrades to subsurface drainage and new irrigation system
- Site furnishings to include; picnic tables, shade canopies, park benches, solar trash receptacles, fencing

COMMUNITY NEEDED

The particular site lacks many current standards for park playgrounds and equipment, lacks upgraded requirements for ADA within open spaces and also has some safety concerns. The densely populated area causes many residents to still use the park, however its value is restricted to either basketball or the playground area(s) leaving the remainder of the parcel untouched and essentially unused. The recommended improvements also meet the Goals/Objectives of our community Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) along with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP);

Municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan (except from report attached)

Section	Goal	Objective	Page	Notes
8	2	2.1	53	Update existing playgrounds to include safety surfacing and upgraded facilities
8	3	3.1	53	Apply for Grants to fund preservation and upgrade facilities
8	4	4.1	53	Create accessible walking paths around existing open spaces and parks

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The following is how our project advances the Goals and Objectives (Chapter 5) in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. It can be found online at

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/scorp-2012-final.pdf>.

The reconstruction will provide **increased availability of all types of trails for recreation**. The exiting playground does NOT have any walking paths other than the perimeter sidewalks. With the addition of diagonal and perimeter paved walking paths, residents using the park will be able to walk, jog, or bike around and through the park without interfering with pedestrian sidewalk traffic.

The Southern District Neighborhood of Waltham, where Peter Gilmore Playground is located, is one of Waltham's most diverse neighborhoods. The park is surrounded by residential structures making the investment in the playground reconstruction an investment which is **close to home for short visits**. The playground is also easily accessible by neighbors and citizens taking part in activities at the Waltham Community Center, less than a block away.

The reconstruction will **invest in [a] racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhood given the projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation**. Peter Gilmore Playground is at the center of one of Waltham's lowest income census tracts and the most diverse. A total of 2,925 residents live within Census Tract 3685, 24% of which identify as minority. The median income is \$55,724, more than \$10,000 less than the overall city median income of \$60,632. The median age of the neighborhood is 34, marking an age where many individuals are active and also having children, which will be active as well.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The design phase included an extensive public outreach process where a series of public input meetings were held at different locations around the community. Those participants invited included the various park users, surrounding neighbors, city officials, city departments involved and our Mayor (*meeting postings and minutes are attached*).

TIMELINE: ASAP

The project was publically bid and a contractor has been selected. All references were checked and cleared with a formal recommendation being made (*documentation attached*). A contract is prepared and ready for execution following funding an appropriation. In the meantime an award letter has been sent out to General Contractor whose been selected.

CREDENTIALS

The City of Waltham's Recreation and Planning Department have been working alongside one another for the last few years in successfully reconstructing a series of the community's parks/playgrounds. The projects not only upgraded the equipment and facilities to meet the most recent park standards and ADA requirements, but also met the needs and desires of the community, its park users and all those others who had a voice. We feel the success of this project will be evident from how frequently the park is utilized along with the community feedback and everyone's continued support of ongoing park reconstruction.

BUDGET

Park project Base Bid	\$1,623,000.00
Add Alt 1 (Fountain)	\$ 215,800.00
Playground Equipment	<u>\$ 308,100.00</u>
Total	\$2,146,900.00
Less CDBG Contribution	<u>\$ 392,266.00</u>
Balance of amount requested by CPA	\$1,754,634.00
<i>(Final cost estimates attached)</i>	

OTHER FUNDING

\$392,266.00 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been allocated and set aside for use in this construction. The design consulting services were previously funded with CDBG monies.

MAINTENANCE

Following completion of the project all park maintenance and upkeep will fall under the direction and supervision of our Consolidated Public Works Department. All future maintenance falls within their CIP budget for Park Maintenance and upkeep.

DOCUMENTATION

Please see attached property deed for the property, boundary survey and locus map.

CONSTRUCTION OR REHABILITATION

Please see attached Construction Documents and color renderings of the site. A copy of the project specifications manual can be provided upon request.

ZONING

Conservation/Recreation

CITY APPROVALS

City of Waltham Recreation Board was presented the final design plan on February 25, 2015, which they graciously accepted. A copy of the Board Members vote has been attached.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Construction budget includes an allowance for any unforeseen site conditions that may be discovered and need immediate resolution outside the scope of work. The site shows no need for concern based on the assessment of the overall park as it currently exists.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

A link has been provided showing that all proper procurement was carried throughout the public bidding process by the Waltham Purchasing Agent in efforts to hire the General Contractor to perform all work within the Scope at Peter Gilmore Playground (*completed RFP Bid packet with all addendums*)

http://www.city.waltham.ma.us/sites/walthamma/files/gilmore_playground_improvements_2016_rfb_final_0.pdf

Also attached is a copy of the following documents; Bid Results, Letter of Recommendation from our Design Consulting Team (following reference check), Letter of Award from our Purchasing Agent.

LEVERAGED ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

A project summary has been attached to provided additional information indicating how the community will benefit from the construction of this new park and it's recommended improvements.