



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Community Preservation Committee

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## APPLICATION

The Community Preservation Act provides funding for three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space/recreation
- Creation and support of community housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

<b>Date Submitted:</b>	October 25, 2021
<b>Name of Project:</b>	<b>Conservation Fund</b>
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	John Campbell, Chairman, Open Space Committee
<b>Contact Address:</b>	Open Space Committee, c/o Town Hall, Northborough, MA
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>	c/o Chairman: 508-878-4683
<b>Contact Email Address:</b>	c/o Chairman: SpruceHillSoups@aol.com
<b>Sponsoring Organization:</b>	Open Space Committee
<b>Amount of Request:</b>	<b>\$400,000 from Reserves or FY23 CPA Revenue</b>
<b>CPA Category:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Open Space/Recreation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Historic
<b>Other Funding Sources:</b>	N/A
<b>Total Cost of Project:</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

### **Brief Description of Project, including Goals:**

**The application requests \$400,000 to be transferred into the Town's Conservation Fund** to provide additional resources for open space land acquisition and protection. The Conservation Fund provides the Town with a resource to act quickly to acquire or protect land for open space or recreation which might otherwise be lost to development, and to proactively plan for preservation of the Town's open space and recreational resources.

During 2020, approximately \$400,000 from the Conservation Fund were utilized to acquire 19 acres off Howard Street, abutting existing conservation land on Mt. Pisgah. There is another near-term opportunity to acquire a similar parcel in this region, and we expect the cost would also be in the \$400K range. The goal of this application request is to increase the Conservation Fund balance toward the goal of \$1 million to provide the resources when needed to complete this project and other potential acquisitions that may become available.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Please answer the following questions. Applications will be returned as incomplete if all relevant requested information is not provided. Include additional pages of supporting materials and exhibits if necessary.

1. **Goals:** What are the goals of the proposed project? Who will benefit and why? How will success be measured?

This application seeks increase the amount in the Conservation Fund so that money will be available and the Town will be in position to react quickly whenever land acquisition and conservation opportunities arise that are recommended by the Open Space Committee and/or Conservation Commission, and also meet the goals and priorities of the Town's Open Space Plan.

All Northborough citizens benefit when open space is preserved from development and the Town's character is maintained and recreational opportunities are increased.

Acquiring available land to protect it from development will fulfill many of the CPA Open Space criteria, including:

- Permanently protect important wildlife habitat, including areas that:
  - Are of local or regional significance for biodiversity, i.e. areas delineated by the State's Biomap and living waters;
  - Contain a variety of habitats, with a diversity of geologic features and types of vegetation;
  - Contain any significant habitat type that is in danger of vanishing from Northborough; or
  - Preserve habitats of threatened and/or endangered species of plants or animals.
- Preserve Northborough's rural and agricultural character.
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education.
- Protect or enhance wildlife corridors, promote connectivity of habitat and prevent fragmentation of habitats.
- Provide connections with existing trails and/or potential trail linkages.
- Preserve scenic views and/or lands bordering a scenic road.
- Protect drinking water quantity and quality.
- Preserve any primary or secondary priority parcel in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Provides connections to existing open space areas

2. **Community Needs:** Why is this project needed? Does it address needs identified in existing Town plans?

Acquiring available land to protect it from development, and to extend existing wildlife corridors, and/or to add space for passive or active recreation, fulfills the goals of the Town's Open Space Plan.

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3. **Community Support:** What is the nature and level of support for this project?

Northborough citizens strongly supported the passage of the CPA largely on the basis of the opportunity to preserve more open space and preserve town character, and this support was reinforced by the responses to the Open Space & Recreation Survey in 2020.

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4. **Budget:** What is the total budget for the project and how will CPA funds be spent? All items of expenditure must be clearly identified and back-up documentation provided. Distinguish between hard and soft costs. (NOTE: CPA funds may NOT be used for maintenance.)

The application requests funding the \$400,000 request from existing uncommitted general reserves and/or from FY23 CPA revenue.

The requested amount will also satisfy the requirement that at least 10% of available revenue be designated toward Open Space.

5. **Funding:** What funding sources other than CPA funding are available, committed or under consideration? Include commitment letters and describe any other attempts to secure funding for this project.

The Open Space Committee continually seeks grant opportunities.

6. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical elements? This should include the timeline for CPA fund expenditures, receipt of other funds and/or other revenues, if any.

- Should the CPC approve this recommendation, it would be presented for vote at Town Meeting in the spring of 2022.
- Conservation Fund would be replenished at start of FY2023

7. **Implementation:** Who will be responsible for implementing the project? Who will be the project manager? What relevant experience does the proposed project manager have? Who else will be involved in project implementation and what arrangements have been made with them?

The Open Space Committee together with Conservation Commission will oversee the recommendation and approval of land parcels to be considered for acquisition or permanent protection.

8. **Maintenance:** What on-going maintenance will be required, who will be responsible and how will it be funded?

N/A

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Provide the following additional information, if applicable:

9. **Further Documentation:** Evidence that you have control over the site, such as a deed, Purchase and Sale Agreement or option.

N/A

10. **Feasibility Reports:** Any feasibility reports, renderings or other relevant studies and material.

N/A

11. **Other Information:** Any additional information that might benefit the CPC in consideration of this project.

The Open Space Committee intends to present the case for this request at the public hearings during the 2021-2022 CPC meeting schedule.