



CPA Funding Application Form

City of Worcester

Submitted On:

May 9, 2025, 10:02AM EDT

Project Name	Cooks Pond Dam and Property Access Preservation: Phase 1
Project Location and/or Address	Cooks Pond, between Tory Fort Lane and Olean Street Worcester, MA
Project Lead Organization (or Individual if Applicable)	Smith's Pond Corporation
Legal Status of the Organization	Non-Profit Recreational Social Club - 501(c)(7)
Current Property Owner (if Different from the Applicant)	
Brief Project Description	Preservation and reduction of erosion to Cooks Pond Dam and property to maintain public trail access.
Project Contact Information	Dan Giza [REDACTED]
What CPA category does this project fall under? (Check All that Apply)	Open Space and Recreation
What activity are you proposing to do in this category? (Check All that Apply)	Preserve Rehabilitate / Restore
What is the project budget?	\$86,748
How much are you requesting in CPA funding?	\$68,748
Historical Resource Projects: Have you received a Positive Determination of Local Historic Significance from the Worcester Historical Commission?	This project does not require a Determination of Local Historic Significance
Are you requesting an expedited review process for your project? The CPC shall consider an expedited timeline for review (i.e., a Special Application) only under certain circumstances. See the Application Guidance document (linked below) for more information.	No
Please briefly describe your	The Smith's Pond Corp is proposing a project to both address these

project.	<p>items and improve public access throughout the Cooks Pond property to honor the desired use and interest in preserving the property.</p> <p>To meet these objectives this project would seek to place sustainable material on the crest of the dam to support the high-volume foot traffic, while also raising the crest elevation to meet spillway wall height to remove the “step-up to the footbridge”. Make improvements to the footbridge. Rip-rap armoring would be applied along the upstream face of the dam eliminate brush growth and allow unobstructed fishing access along the length of the dam crest. Finally, the project would include water quality monitoring for turbidity and other parameters to determine if improvements decrease erosion and sediment transport within Cooks Pond (See Attached Project Description File).</p>
What permissions, permits and plans will be necessary to carry out this project, and what is the status of their acquisition?	The SPC anticipates meeting the project objectives through seven tasks which will include permits and planning aspects as cover in the following scope. Considering the property is owned and managed by the SPC no formal permission will be necessary (See Attached Project Description File).
Please attach any related permissions or permits related to the project.	Cooks Pond CPA Project Description_FINAL .pdf
Do you foresee any delays in acquiring these permissions within the next 6 months? If yes, please explain, otherwise, type N/A.	No
What is the desired start and end date of this project?	Late summer 2025 to January 2026 (See Attached Estimated Schedule File)
Please attach a Timeline for the project.	Cooks Pond CPA Project Estimated Schedule.pdf
Please upload a complete project budget (.xlsx or .pdf) that includes the source of the funding for each line item. CPA funds can ONLY be used on CPA eligible project elements. Please make sure to be specific about the use of all CPA monies requested.	Cooks Pond Dam Improvements Phase 1 Project Budget.pdf
Please upload any renderings and/or estimates for this project.	Cooks Pond Dam Improvements Proposal_05062025.pdf Water Quality Meter Quote.pdf
What is the status of the match funding identified in the	Worcester State University DEEP had already received administration approval and from the SPC to conduct the bathymetry survey in

budget?	summer 2025. Dan Giza has committed to volunteering approximately 40 hours to manage this project, which is equivalent to a \$10,000 value at a Senior Consulting rate of \$250/hr.
Please upload commitment letters and/or funding agreements demonstrating that match funding is in place.	WSU Letter_Cooks Pond Dam CPA Project.pdf
Please explain why CPA funding is needed for this project. If CPA is the only proposed funding source for this project, please explain why.	The SPC is a recreational non-profit with an objective to oversee the management of the Cooks Pond and surrounding property which contains land under the CR and privately owned by the organization. While the SPC membership pay modest dues, much of that funding supports property tax on the non-CR lands, utilities, maintenance expenses and engineering inspection of the dam every two years (See Attached Estimated Budget File)
Please describe the experience of the project manager or project management team in completing a project like this one. Please include examples of similar projects pursued in the past, and why they are relevant.	<p>Dan Giza will be in the role of overall Project Manager. Mr. Giza is currently the Board of Directors President of the Smith's Pond Corporation which oversee the management of Cooks Pond and the surrounding property. Professionally he is a senior environmental consultant and manages a department of 30 plus staff of civil engineers, structural engineers, hydraulic modeling engineers, and fisheries scientists.</p> <p>Haley Ward is a technical consulting firm offering a wide range of engineering, architectural, environmental and surveying services focused upon delivering client based solutions. The Haley Ward team provides a full range of design, permitting, and construction management services related to dam inspection and design.</p> <p>The Department of Earth, Environment, and Physics (DEEP) at Worcester State University provides students with a critical understanding in a targeted focus area (See Attached Project Description File).</p>
Please describe the financial position of the organization and its ability to cover the upfront costs of this project. CPA funding is provided on a reimbursement basis.	As a non-profit funded by membership dues, the SPC has limited financial resources however it maybe possible to cover some upfront costs. However, Haley Ward would incur much of the project cost and submit invoices on in a lump sum, percent complete each month with net 30 terms. SPC project team is prepared to discuss payment schedules with the City during the project agreement process.
Please upload any reports that may be helpful in establishing a capable financial position.	Haley Ward Qualifications.pdf
How will this resource/property/building be maintained in the future?	As previously mentioned, the main benefit of this project is to reduce maintenance in continued preservation of Cooks Pond property. However, ongoing future maintenance will continue to be the responsibility of SPC and its membership as it has been since 1912.
Please describe how this project/program will benefit	Since the 2007 CR, Cooks Pond and surrounding property has seen significant recreational use by the public including hiking and dog

Worcester residents in general, as well as specific groups that will benefit from the project.	walking. In addition, the SPC has been allowing for connectivity with other GWLT properties, specifically the Cascades on Olean Street and the Donker Farm on Tory Fort. This throughway access is supported by a trail across the Cooks Pond Dam and spillway footbridge, without this trail there is no land passage through the property.
Please identify which of the Community Priorities identified in the Community Preservation Plan align with this project (check all that apply).	PRIORITY 1: Increase accessibility to historic resources, open space, parks, and in community housing. PRIORITY 2: Advance the city’s sustainability and climate resilience goals.
Please describe how this project aligns with the above Community Priorities.	This project sets the groundwork designs and puts in place the proper permitting requirements for sustainable improvements to the Cooks Pond Dam which is in line with Priority 2. Once constructed the sustainable material on the crest of the dam will help support the high-volume foot traffic reducing erosion to improve climate resilience. These improvements will also maintain access to open space under Priority 1, as SPC be able to continue to allow for connectivity among GWLT properties, specifically the Cascades on Olean Street and the Donker Farm on Tory Fort. This throughway access is supported by a trail across the Cooks Pond Dam and spillway footbridge which are the focus of this improvement project.
Historic Resource Category Goals	This project does not align with any of these Category Goals.
Open Space and Recreation Category Goals	GOAL 1: Maintain high quality drinking water resources and protect wetlands and floodplains. GOAL 5: Expand green networks to create corridors for wildlife and alternative mobility options.
Community Housing Category Goals	This project does not align with any of these Category Goals.
Please describe how this project aligns with the above Category Goals.	This project sets the groundwork designs and puts in place the proper permitting requirements for sustainable improvements to the Cooks Pond Dam which aligns with Goal 1 in protecting Cooks Pond from increased sedimentation and erosion resulting from high foot traffic over the dam. Through this planning project and subsequent Phase 2 improvements the SPC can continue to allow for connectivity among GWLT properties, specifically the Cascades on Olean Street and the Donker Farm on Tory Fort. This connectivity is in line with Goal 5 as this throughway access is supported by a trail across the Cooks Pond Dam and spillway footbridge create corridor for wildlife and the Worcester residents alike.
Does your project align with any other City or Regional Plans? Please be specific. See the City of Worcester website to view local plans.	Green Worcester Plan Project Blue Worcester
Does your project have	The SPC does not have tangible proof of community support (i.e.

community support? Please describe outreach efforts for this project.	letters of support), however the significant recreational use by the public including hiking, dog walking, biking etc, through the property on a daily basis is evident of community support.
Is there anything else you want the CPC to know about your project?	No