



# CPA Funding Application Form

City of Worcester

**Submitted On:**

May 2, 2025, 03:10PM EDT

<b>Project Name</b>	Hope Cemetery Historic Gravestone Excavation & Restoration, phase 3
<b>Project Location and/or Address</b>	Hope Cemetery; 119 Webster St., Worcester, MA 01603
<b>Project Lead Organization (or Individual if Applicable)</b>	Friends of Hope Cemetery
<b>Legal Status of the Organization</b>	501(c)3
<b>Current Property Owner (if Different from the Applicant)</b>	City of Worcester
<b>Please attach written permission by the property owner for submission of this application if other than applicant.</b>	Hope Cemetery Historic Gravestone Excavation _ Restoration Letter of Support 4-25 - 2.pdf
<b>Brief Project Description</b>	Excavate 17 or more historic gravestones which were buried in 1968 and set them erect for public viewing. Work with the Friends to produce a brochure featuring information about the people represented on the gravestones. Restoration of raised stones
<b>Project Contact Information</b>	Jan Parent [REDACTED]
<b>What CPA category does this project fall under? (Check All that Apply)</b>	Historic Resources Open Space and Recreation
<b>What activity are you proposing to do in this category? (Check All that Apply)</b>	Create Preserve Rehabilitate / Restore
<b>What is the project budget?</b>	\$60,000
<b>How much are you requesting in CPA funding?</b>	\$49150
<b>Historical Resource Projects: Have you received a Positive Determination of Local Historic Significance from the Worcester Historical Commission?</b>	This project does not require a Determination of Local Historic Significance
<b>Are you requesting an expedited review process for your project? The CPC shall</b>	

<b>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.</b>	No
<b>Please briefly describe your project.</b>	<p>Gravestones once located on the Worcester Common are some of the earliest burials in Worcester. Construction on the Common prompted their removal and relocation with stones and remains buried underground at Hope.</p> <p>Phase 1 was completed in Nov. 2022 by the Commonwealth Heritage Group using Ground Penetrating Radar showing reburials were likely in three parallel trenches (cost: \$6,600).</p> <p>Phase 2 was completed in May 2025 by Historic Gravestone Services. It involved laying out a grid corresponding to the GPR findings, probing, exploring potential locations and careful excavation, restoration of stones and placement above the surface. Numerous challenges were overcome due to unexpected findings (cost: \$64,000).</p> <p>Phase 3 will consist of continuation of the process for Phase 2 with the anticipated elevation of all remaining stones and placement above surface in the plot in front of the Hope Cemetery administration &amp; meeting building. There will be at least 17 stones included.</p>
<b>What permissions, permits and plans will be necessary to carry out this project, and what is the status of their acquisition?</b>	See letter of support from Assistant Commissioner of Public Works and Parks Robert Antonelli (file: Hope Cemetery Historic Gravestone Excavation & Restoration Letter of Support 4-25 - 2.pdf)
<b>Please attach any related permissions or permits related to the project.</b>	Hope Cemetery Historic Gravestone Excavation _ Restoration Letter of Support 4-25 - 2.pdf
<b>Do you foresee any delays in acquiring these permissions within the next 6 months? If yes, please explain, otherwise, type N/A.</b>	No.
<b>What is the desired start and end date of this project?</b>	July 1, 2025, or with funding. Anticipated to take 120 work days, completing no later than June 30, 2026.
<b>Please attach a Timeline for the project.</b>	Hope Friends CPA Timeline and Budget.pdf
<b>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</b>	Hope Friends CPA Timeline and Budget.pdf

<b>eligible project elements. Please make sure to be specific about the use of all CPA monies requested.</b>	
<b>Please upload any renderings and/or estimates for this project.</b>	Hope Friends CPA Illustrations.pdf
<b>What is the status of the match funding identified in the budget?</b>	The Friends of Hope Cemetery will use up to 5% of its savings to support this project (while preserving capital for future projects). The money is available now.
<b>Please upload commitment letters and/or funding agreements demonstrating that match funding is in place.</b>	Hope Committment letter -preliminary.pdf
<b>Please explain why CPA funding is needed for this project. If CPA is the only proposed funding source for this project, please explain why.</b>	Preserving the capacity to fund future projects limits withdrawals from the Friends of Hope Capital Account to ~5%/year. The fund is made up primarily of a one-time donation. Annual cash flow for the Friends is under \$10,000/year, donations are minimal.
<b>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.</b>	Part 2 provided experience with designing the project, locating a contractor and completing quality work that met specifications. Although the GPR findings provided a starting point, numerous adjustments needed to be made to successfully locate stones in Phase 2. This experience will directly benefit Phase 3 since it is a continuation of the same process. The contractor, Historic Gravestone Services, has extensive experience with projects like this including many projects being funded by CPA funds in other communities including in Belchertown, Hadley, Leverett, West Springfield and Shutesbury.
<b>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.</b>	The Friends of Hope Cemetery maintains a Capital Account invested through the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. The balance was \$217,362.48 as of 3/31/25. Our intent is to fund this project with ~5% of the Account to enable us to complete this project as well as fund other projects in the future. The Friends' Operating Account is adequately funded through dues and covers programing.
<b>How will this resource/property/building be maintained in the future?</b>	The space is directly in front of the administration/meeting building at Hope and routine mowing and maintenance will continue. Stones will be placed with ease of lawn maintenance a priority. We may consider future installment of a fence to surround the space (not included in this application).
<b>Please describe how this project/program will benefit Worcester residents in general, as well as specific groups that will benefit from the project.</b>	This will further a restoration project designed to restore and display historic gravestones of ordinary citizens in the early years of Worcester. It provides a resource for tours and research. This aligns well with the recent celebration of the 300th anniversary of Worcester's founding as a town as well as the upcoming 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

<b>Please identify which of the Community Priorities identified in the Community Preservation Plan align with this project (check all that apply).</b>	PRIORITY 1: Increase accessibility to historic resources, open space, parks, and in community housing.
<b>Please describe how this project aligns with the above Community Priorities.</b>	<p>Hope Cemetery is a recognized historical site and resource. This project brings to the surface artifacts that have been buried and deteriorating and opens them to public access and study of some of the earliest residents of Worcester. These stones represent a now hidden look at who was buried at the Worcester Common in the earliest years of Worcester.</p> <p>The historic gravestone exhibit is a research resource as well as an opportunity for presentations including the lives of those citizens identified, the craftsmen who carved the stones and the styles of stones used during different periods.</p> <p>This plot of land is particularly accessible to those with limited mobility since it is on flat land directly adjacent to parking.</p>
<b>Historic Resource Category Goals</b>	This project does not align with any of these Category Goals.
<b>Open Space and Recreation Category Goals</b>	This project does not align with any of these Category Goals.
<b>Community Housing Category Goals</b>	This project does not align with any of these Category Goals.
<b>Please describe how this project aligns with the above Category Goals.</b>	NA
<b>Does your project align with any other City or Regional Plans? Please be specific. See the City of Worcester website to view local plans.</b>	This restoration will enhance the region's celebration of the U.S. 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Other activities are illustrated in the "Discover Central Mass" website.
<b>Does your project have community support? Please describe outreach efforts for this project.</b>	The Friends of Hope Cemetery is an all volunteer group of citizens working to preserve and enhance this cemetery. Community support letters including Preservation Worcester, Museum of Worcester are attached.
<b>Please upload any letters of support.</b>	Hope Friends CPA Letter of Support Preservation Worcester.pdf Museum of Worcester Recommendation for Hope Cemetery 4.30.25.pdf
<b>Is there anything else you want the CPC to know about your project?</b>	A formal letter of support will be provided to Jacquelyn Burmeister by Jan Parent, president of the Friends of Hope Cemetery as well as any letters of support received before May 9th.