



Town of Sudbury

Community Preservation Committee

Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3387
Fax: 978-639-3314

cpc@sudbury.ma.us

www.sudbury.ma.us/cpc

PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

Applicant:

Submission Date:

Group or Committee Affiliation (if any):

Applicant Address:

Purpose (please select all that apply):

Open Space & Recreation

Community Housing

Historic Resource

Applicant Email & Phone Number:

Project Manager Email & Phone Number:

Project Name:

Project Description:

Costs:

Fiscal Year	Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Other Funding Sources (Amount and Source)
2024			
2025			
2026			
2027			
2028			
Total			

How does this project meet the General Criteria and Category Specific Criteria for Community Preservation Committee projects (see attached)?

Does this project fall within the jurisdiction or interest of other Town Boards, Committees, Commissions, or Departments? If so, please list the boards, committees, commissions, or departments, whether applications and/or presentations have been made, and what input or recommendations have been given.

For Community Preservation Committee Use:

Form Received On: _____

Project Presented to CPC On: _____

Reviewed By: _____

Determination: _____

Project Name: Watershed Based Plan: Restoring water quality in Hop Brook

Categories: Open Space & Recreation, Historic Resource

Background: Hop Brook is the largest tributary of the Sudbury River, and drains more than half of the land area of Sudbury. Dozens of homes, recreational and historical areas, Town wells and Town property are along this waterway and associated ponds. Until the 1970s, Hop Brook was a major recreational and natural asset - with multiple locations for swimming, fishing, ice skating and canoeing, and supported a diverse ecosystem with many species of birds and fish. Recorded Sudbury history features activities along Hop Brook since the 1700s, including fishing, saw and grain mills, canoeing, and swimming. However, nutrient pollution – primarily from the Marlborough Easterly wastewater treatment plant - has caused severe degradation of water quality, and overgrowth of invasive plants and toxic algae. As a result, the Hop Brook waterway and associated ponds become very unpleasant in the summer, are no longer attractive for recreational use, and require increasingly intensive management to reduce unwanted plants. More detail on the causes and consequences of nutrient pollution in Hop Brook is available upon request.

Goal of the project: Our goal is to restore water quality in the Hop Brook watershed, and thus reclaim an important recreational and historical asset for all Sudbury citizens. We have collected extensive data on sources and variations in pollutant levels throughout Hop Brook, and have collaborated extensively with scientists at OARS (Organization for the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers) to better understand how these pollutants, especially phosphorus, created the current situation. OARS has completed an in-depth evaluation that is available upon request.

A watershed-based plan (WBP) is the first step in assembling and evaluating the existing data with the purpose of determining what approaches are most likely to successfully restore acceptable water quality. A well-developed WBP is also necessary to obtain Federal (Section 319) and state grant funding for specific remediation strategies (such as the ones recommended by the WBP). Framingham, Westboro, Andover and other towns have used their WBPs to successfully obtain government funding that ultimately led to pollution reduction and improved water quality (examples can be provided upon request).

The Hop Brook Protection Association, in partnership with the Sudbury Conservation Coordinator and OARS, is well-prepared to successfully manage the process to produce an optimal WBP. Over the past three years, we have developed and managed a successful program to reduce invasive water chestnut plants, and have partnered with OARS and our Conservation Commission to obtain two grants that supported water quality sampling and community education.

However, our research shows that there are many other options for the next steps, each with varying return on investment. To ensure that we take the right actions, we need expert consultation to develop a concrete plan that HBPA and our community partners can then execute with high confidence of good results.

Progress so far: We identified five organizations who have expertise in developing watershed-based plans, have a track record of developing WBPs in New England, and are familiar with the types and sources of pollutants that we have in Hop Brook. We asked them to provide a scope of services and quote in response to our RFP for developing a WBP. Three well-regarded consulting firms responded in September (2022), all from well-regarded

consulting firms (GeoSyntec, SWCA, CEI). We are currently reviewing them and plan to meet with vendors next month. We plan to select a vendor before we meet with the CPC in January.

The plan development is expensive, the information can be technically very deep, and we (HBPA) are non-expert volunteers. So, we have enlisted OARS as a partner in order to ensure that the WBP development process produces optimal results. They will assist with vendor choice, and after the choice is made, they will attend meetings, review documents, and engage with the chosen vendor. We chose to work with OARS because of their high level of expertise, their excellent reputation, and their prior experience with our ponds and leading water quality improvement projects in the Sudbury, Concord, and Assabet rivers.

Also, our existing CPC grant for water chestnut removal has an unused balance of ~\$80K. We currently estimate our remaining costs at ~\$40K, and expect to return the remaining funds to CPC at the end of the grant period.

We, and the vendors, understand that work cannot begin until after approval at 2024 Town Meeting.

Our approach and proposal:

- have the support and endorsement of Lori Capone (Conservation Coordinator). We intend to present to ConComm and other stakeholder organizations with the goal of enlisting their support before we meet with you. The project is primarily under the jurisdiction of ConComm.
- are instrumental to the preservation of the essential character of the town (specifically, the preservation of the Hop Brook Watershed and Ponds as recreational waterways).
- preserve resources that would otherwise be threatened by pollution and decay (the Hop Brook Watershed and Ponds).

have as their primary purpose insuring that any further funds spent on remediation are used in the most efficient and advantageous way possible. (That's why we're asking the experts).

- will help preserve and utilize Town assets (as the Town, and Sudbury conservation groups, are the largest landowners abutting the Hop Brook and its ponds).
- serve a significant number of residents (many dozens of abutters, as well as trail-walkers, canoers, and visitors to the Wayside Inn).
- expand the range of recreational opportunities (by providing attractive recreational waterways for the public) .

As the purpose of the WBP is no more than to engage experts to research, generate, assess, and rank action recommendations, we do not foresee any objections from any parties.

Also:

- The current Open Space and Recreation Plan calls for remediation of Hop Brook as a priority to restore a prime recreational asset (p33).

- The recently completed Town Master Plan specifically calls for a "watershed approach to water resource planning and management" (p42) and cites the increasing importance of these water resources to the economic, social and environmental health of the region. Action Items C2 (implement strategies in the Ponds and waterways master plan) and C3 (participate in regional planning and management efforts in the SuAsCo basin) address local water quality issues in Hop Brook.
- The most recent Sudbury Ponds and Waterways Committee Master plan identifies restoration of water quality in the Hop Brook watershed as a top priority.

Quotes: The attached quotes show that the WBP can be developed expeditiously and within budget. Since the purpose of the project is to get expert advice, we are unaware of any alternatives to hiring professionals for the evaluation. Also, after consultation with OARS, we are unaware of other funding mechanisms that would support our current approach. The quotes contain examples of similar project proposals in other communities, including project scope and cost.

Our current funding request is sufficient to cover the highest quote, funding for OARS, and margin for adjustment of the vendor quotes and/or further sampling or research that is ultimately required. As a result of our vendor discussions this fall we hope to propose a slightly reduced amount when we meet with the CPC.

Cost Breakdown:

Quote for WBP Plan preparation (highest quote):	\$66,300
Quote for OARS Support:	7,300
<u>Margin for additional work:</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total (not-to-exceed):	<u>\$78,600</u>

The WBP quotes are included in the package. The OARS quote is attached.

A WBP is the universally recommended next step in pond remediation, restoring a significant historical asset to the unpolluted state that it was in for all the years prior to the 1970s. We hope CPC will support our efforts in this regard.

-HBPA Board of Directors

Rick Booth,
Glenn Pransky,
Chris Moran,
Lori Moran,
Elyse Rayney,
Terry Snyder,
Jeff Winston,
Kathy Winston



FOR THE ASSABET SUDBURY & CONCORD RIVERS

23 Bradford Street · Concord, MA 01742

978 · 369 · 3956

office@oars3rivers.org

www.oars3rivers.org

September 29, 2022

Jeff Winston
Hop Brook Protection Association
Sudbury, MA

Dear Jeff,

We agree to provide services to the Hop Brook Protection Association outlined below on a contractual basis for the amount of \$7,300 (seven thousand three hundred) to support the preparation of a Watershed Based Plan (WBP) for Hop Brook, Sudbury. The services to be provided during the period 2022-2024 are:

1. Review and give input on WBP Proposals
2. Join meetings with vendors
3. Join vendor selection meeting
4. Participate in bi-monthly vendor meetings (est. at 8)
5. Review vendor input
6. Additional small data if needed (site visits re: flow, DO, etc.)
7. Follow-up discussions on implementation of WBP results

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Field-Juma", with a long, sweeping underline.

Alison Field-Juma
Executive Director