



# Town of Sudbury

Community Preservation Committee

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<http://www.sudbury.ma.us>  
email: [cpc@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:cpc@sudbury.ma.us)

## PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter: Sudbury Public Schools

Submission Date: November 6, 2017

Group or Committee Affiliation (if any):

Submitter's address and phone number:

Purpose (please select all that apply):

James Kelly, Facilities Director  
275 Old Lancaster Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
978-440-5466

- Open Space
- Community Housing
- Historic
- Recreation

Submitter's email address: kellyj@sudbury.ma.us

Project Name: Playground Modernization for Sudbury Public Schools

Project Description: This is a multi-year project to bring the school playgrounds into compliance with federal and state regulations. ☒

### Costs:

Fiscal Year	Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Other Funding Sources (amount and source)
2019	\$1,070,482	\$1,070,482	(TBD)
2020			
2021			
2022			
2023			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,070,482</b>	<b>\$1,070,482</b>	

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

This project qualifies in the Recreation Category for CPC projects.  
See attached documents for further details.

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

Sudbury Public Schools School Committee, Town Facilities, Department of ☒

### For Community Preservation Committee Use:

Form received on: \_\_\_\_\_

Project presented to CPC on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Determination: \_\_\_\_\_

## TOWN OF SUDBURY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

### Guidelines for Project Submission

- 1) Each project request must be submitted to the Community Preservation Committee using the Project Submission Form as a cover sheet. Applications should be submitted in twelve (12) multiple copies.
- 2) Requests must include a statement of need and be documented with appropriate support information. The use of maps, visual aids and other supplemental information is encouraged.
- 3) Obtain written proposals, estimates, quotes and such other evidence to document project scope and cost.
- 4) If the request is part of a multi-year project, include the total project cost and allocations.
- 5) Describe the endorsement, support or other recommendation, if any, by other Town Boards, Committees and Departments.
- 6) Provide examples of similar project proposals in other communities, if any, including examples of project scope, project cost and status of completion.
- 7) For applicants that have multiple project requests, please prioritize projects.
- 8) Requests must be received by **Monday, November 6, 2017** to be considered for recommendation at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting.
- 9) Applicants must be present at a CPC meeting to answer questions. The CPC meeting schedule will be announced in October, 2017 and posted on the town's website.

Please keep in mind that there are legal limitations on the use of CPA funds. Additional information on the CPA and the Community Preservation Committee can be found on the town's website at [www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us), under Committees. The committee can be reached by email at [cpc@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:cpc@sudbury.ma.us). If you are in doubt about your project's eligibility, after consulting these sources, you are encouraged to submit an application so that the Committee can determine eligibility.

Please submit the Project Submission Form and accompanying documentation to:

Community Preservation Committee  
c/o Planning and Community Development Office  
Flynn Building  
278 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
[cpc@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:cpc@sudbury.ma.us)

## TOWN OF SUDBURY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

### General Criteria

The Sudbury Community Preservation Committee will give preference to proposals that address as many of the following general criteria as possible:

- Are eligible for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding according to the requirements described in the CPA legislation;
- Are consistent with the town's Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Land Use Priorities Committee Report, Town-wide Comprehensive Facility Study, Community Housing Plan, and other planning documents that have received wide scrutiny and input and have been adopted by the town;
- Receive endorsement by other municipal boards or departments.
- Preserve the essential character of the town as described in the Master Plan;
- Save resources that would otherwise be threatened and/or serve a currently under-served population;
- Either serve more than one CPA purpose (especially in linking open space, recreation and community housing) or demonstrate why serving multiple needs is not feasible;
- Demonstrate practicality, feasibility, urgency;
- Demonstrate that the project can be implemented expeditiously and within budget;
- Demonstrate that project alternatives, and alternative funding mechanisms, have been fully explored;
- Produce an advantageous cost/benefit value;
- Leverage additional public and/or private funds; and
- Preserve or utilize currently owned town assets.

### Category Specific Criteria

**Open space** proposals that address as many of the following specific criteria as possible will receive preference:

- Permanently protect important wildlife habitat, including areas that:
  - are of local significance for biodiversity;
  - contain a variety of habitats, with a diversity of geologic features and types of vegetation;
  - contain a habitat type that is in danger of vanishing from Sudbury; or
  - preserve habitat for threatened or endangered species of plants or animals;
- Preserve Sudbury's rural and agricultural character;
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education;
- Protect or enhance wildlife corridors, promote connectivity of habitat or prevent fragmentation of habitats;
- Provide connections with existing trails or potential trail linkages;
- Preserve scenic views;
- Border a scenic road;
- Protect drinking water quantity and quality;
- Provide flood control/storage;
- Preserve important surface water bodies, including wetlands, vernal pools or riparian zones; and
- Preserve a parcel identified in the 2009-2013 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

**Historical** proposals that address as many of the following criteria as possible will receive preference:

- Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological resources of significance, especially those that are threatened; and in the case of proposals on private property, the proposal and/or proponent meet certain economic criteria as may be required by the Community Preservation Committee;
- Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate town-owned properties, features or resources of historical significance;
- Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate the historical function of a property or site;
- Project is within a Sudbury Historic District, on a State or National Historic Register, or eligible for placement on such registers, or on the Sudbury Historic Properties Survey;
- Project demonstrates a public benefit; and
- Project demonstrates the ability to provide permanent protection for maintaining the historic resource; and in the case of proposals on private property, the proposal and/or proponent have demonstrated additional protective measures and have met additional criteria, as may be imposed by the Community Preservation Committee, to ensure the continued permanent protection of the historic resource.

**Community Housing** proposals that address as many of the following criteria as possible will receive preference:

- Contribute to the goal of 10% affordability;
- Conform to the town's Housing Production Plan;
- Promote a socioeconomic environment that encourages a diversity of income;
- Provide housing that is harmonious in design and scale with the surrounding community;
- Intermingle affordable and market rate housing at levels that exceed state requirements for percentage of affordable units;
- Ensure long-term affordability;
- Promote use of existing buildings or construction on previously-developed or Town-owned sites;
- Convert market rate to affordable units; and
- Give priority to local residents, Town employees, and participants in the Sudbury METCO program.

**Recreation** proposals that address as many of the following criteria as possible will receive preference:

- Support multiple recreation uses;
- Serve a significant number of residents;
- Expand the range of recreational opportunities available to Sudbury residents of all ages;
- Jointly benefit Conservation Commission and Park and Recreation Commission initiatives by promoting passive recreation, such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, on town owned property;
- Maximize the utility of land already owned by Sudbury (e.g. school property); and
- Promote the creative use of railway and other corridors to create safe and healthful non-motorized transportation opportunities.

## **The Need**

The Sudbury School playgrounds are outdated. The surfaces are not up to Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) standards, and much of the equipment is not ADA compliant and nearing end-of-life. Due to lack of accessibility, some students are being denied an equal opportunity to participate in outdoor play activities. In order to provide a safe, accessible play environment for our children to grow and thrive, something needs to be done.

Because of the nature of playgrounds as a place for congregating, exploring, and exercising, there is a unique opportunity to make these playgrounds appealing not only to students, but also to a wider community of all ages. Accessible surfaces for a student with a mobility device are also impact-friendly surfaces for an older person with knee and hip issues. Shade and tables can not only provide respite for children at play, but can also serve as a congregation point for caregivers and an outdoor meeting place for all citizens.

In Sudbury, 32% of the population is under the age of 18. That's significantly higher than the average in Massachusetts, which is 21% (2010 US Census). This fact emphasizes the need to provide a selection of safe, modern play and gathering places. Currently the only accessible playground in town is the SMILE playground at Haskell Field. Creating accessible playgrounds at each of the local schools will provide recreation opportunities for disabled individuals and their playmates and caregivers in their own neighborhoods.

## **CPC General Criteria**

### ***Are eligible for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding according to the requirements described in the CPA legislation***

The Playground Modernization Project falls under both the Recreation category of CPA eligible projects.

In line with the Recreation purpose, we are rehabilitating the outdoor recreation areas at all of the elementary schools to replace items reaching end-of-life and also to improve the areas to comply with ADA and MAAB regulations.

### ***Receive endorsement by other municipal boards or departments***

Endorsements for this project have been given by the following committees:

- Sudbury Public Schools Committee
- Board of Selectmen
- Capital Improvements Advisory Committee
- Parks and Recreation Commission

***Save resources that would otherwise be threatened and/or serve a currently under-served population***

As of March 2011, play areas need to be compliant with ADA standards. Our current elementary school playgrounds are not ADA or MAAB (Massachusetts Architectural Access Board) compliant for access. This project will remove barriers for children with disabilities so that they can fully participate on the playground and develop physically, socially, and emotionally alongside their peers.

***Either serve more than one CPA purpose (especially in linking open space, recreation and community housing) or demonstrate why serving multiple needs is not feasible***

The Playground Modernization Project serves the Recreation purpose. This project is a rehabilitation of existing playgrounds, so serving another purpose is not feasible.

***Demonstrate practicality, feasibility, urgency***

There is an urgency to this project. Currently some students are being denied their civil right to equal play opportunities. We are out of compliance with federal and state regulations which makes the town vulnerable to litigation. We are limited in our ability to make repairs due to aging equipment and availability of parts. This goal of this project request is to provide safe, accessible, and updated play space for all students in our schools during the school day and to meet the needs of almost 1,800 students in our district.

***Demonstrate that the project can be implemented expeditiously and within budget***

By obtaining initial funding for this project at the October 2017 Town Meeting, we have time for planning in the winter. This will facilitate breaking ground as soon as school is out of session. Completion of the first playground, Haynes Elementary, is planned for Summer 2018.

We are applying for funding for the remainder of the project now, May 2018 Town Meeting, in order to have funds ready and available to repeat the process for the Summer of 2019. Waiting until the May 2019 Town Meeting will be too late to meet our Summer 2019 deadline.

Together, and as a community, we must advocate for children with disabilities to have the resources that they need in their home districts, so that they can actively participate in their communities inside and outside of the school walls. We also must commit funding to replace aging equipment to ensure safety for all who utilize the playgrounds.

***Demonstrate that project alternatives, and alternative funding mechanisms, have been fully explored***

The first phase of this project (Haynes Elementary School Playground) was funded at the October 2017 Town Meeting with Free Cash.

***Leverage additional public and/or private funds***

Over the years, the PTOs have donated large and small play structures, benches, and trees to the school playgrounds. Various 5th grade classes have gifted tables and trees to the playgrounds. SERF grants have provided various play equipment. Individual donors and other groups have also donated items like benches and trees.

The scope of modernizing the playgrounds is larger than what the PTOs and individuals can contribute.

The Sudbury Public Schools will work cooperatively with PlaySudbury, a volunteer group consisting of parents, grandparents, educators, and community members who share the goal of bringing the Sudbury Public School playgrounds up to ADA compliance and using the concepts of Universal Design to benefit the entire community. PlaySudbury is exploring various cost mitigation strategies. They are developing a general fundraising program to do peer-to-peer fundraising and solicit donations from businesses in town. Discussions are starting for possible in-kind donations such as unique play equipment from the Boy Scouts and relevant services like materials and labor from construction businesses. And, finally, PlaySudbury and SPS will look at applying for various grant opportunities.

PlaySudbury and SMILE Mass are both dedicated to bettering Sudbury community through accessibility and play. This synergy brought the teams together for this Playground Modernization Project. As a result, SMILE Mass, a registered 501(3)(c) organization, is acting as the fiscal sponsor of PlaySudbury. This enables PlaySudbury to collect tax-deductible donations under the SMILE Mass umbrella.

***Preserve or utilize currently owned town assets***

We are utilizing current playground components which are newer and in good condition into our design. We are preserving the precious natural features (shade trees) that already enhance our current playgrounds.

**CPC Category Specific Criteria**

***Support multiple recreation uses***

- Playground for use by Sudbury Public School students during school hours
- Playground for use by families during non-school hours (before and after school, on the weekends, during school vacations, and in the summer)

***Serve a significant number of residents***

- Just under 50% of the households in Sudbury have children. All of these families will benefit from the modernization of the playgrounds.
- Currently the only accessible playground is the SMILE playground at Haskell Field. Creating accessible playgrounds at each of the local schools will provide neighborhood recreation opportunities for disabled individuals and their playmates.

***Expand the range of recreational opportunities available to Sudbury residents of all ages***

- The rubberized surfacing for the playground can serve an additional purpose as a forgiving walking/running path for the entire community.
- Accessible swings can also serve a dual purpose as those swings can be utilized by younger children (who may not yet be big enough for belt swings).
- Shaded tables and benches are another feature that can be used by all members of the community as a gathering place on weekends and other non-school hour times.

***Jointly benefit Conservation Commission and Park and Recreation Commission initiatives by promoting passive recreation, such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, on town owned property***

- The playgrounds provide a safe outdoor climbing/walking/strolling opportunities for all ages and abilities.
- Their locations at the schools geographically spreads these opportunities evenly throughout our community.

***Maximize the utility of land already owned by Sudbury (e.g. school property)***

By creating not just playgrounds, but multigenerational recreational spaces, we are enabling the entire community to utilize and enjoy our school grounds.