

Town of West Bridgewater, Massachusetts Community Preservation Committee Application to Request CPA Funds

Wonder if your project is eligible for CPA funds? - Before filling out this application, you may submit an optional one-page summary of your project to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) by January 15 to determine eligibility for Community Preservation Act funds and discuss funding priorities. The CPC will hold a meeting to review the project summary. Attendance at this meeting, while not mandatory, will ensure that any questions the CPC may have during the review process will be answered promptly.

Application Instructions: Please email a pdf of the application to Cheryl Cambria, CPC Chair at wallaceway@verizon.net.

Applications received by February 15 will be considered for recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting. If February 15 falls on a holiday or weekend, please submit by the following business day. Applicants may request an extension by contacting the CPC Chair prior to February 15th. The CPC Chair will consider such a request on a case-by-case basis and is under no obligation to grant any requested extensions.

Circle One or More Project Categories:

Community Housing Historic Preservation Open Space Recreation

Project Name: War Memorial Park Fish Passage improvement study-expanded

Project Location

Street Address: River St.

Assessor's Map & Lot #: Map 46, lots 38, 39, & 74

Legal Property Owner of Record:

Town of West Bridgewater

Project Sponsor(s)/Organization:

W. Bridgewater DPW, MA DNE, Town R. Fishery Committee

Contact Person

Name: Christopher Iannitelli

Telephone: 508-894-1217

Email: cianitelli@wbridgewater.com

Mailing Address: 63 N. Main St, West Bridgewater MA 02379

Project Sponsor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

PROJECT COST (Note: If project budget is more than three years, describe further in Project Narrative)

			\$10,000	\$10,000

Do you anticipate your project may require bonding? Yes No Not sure

Is this request contingent on other funding? Yes No (If yes, explain in response to Question 5)

The War Memorial Park Dam and fishway, owned by the Town of West Bridgewater, are in need of maintenance and repairs. The dam was last reconstructed in 1900 and underwent extensive repairs in 2001, which included the installation of a barrier dam to direct fish to the fishway entrance. The fishway is an older notched weir-pool design in degraded. Repair or replacement of the fishway is needed in the near future to ensure that sea run fish, such as river herring and American eel, can migrate to upstream habitats. Staff from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) met with Chris Iannitelli (the West Bridgewater Recreation Commission Representative) and representatives from the Town River Fishery Committee during the summer of 2017, to discuss improving fish passage at War Memorial Park. All parties agreed that the first step should be to hire an engineering firm to evaluate the existing dam, and if warranted, redesign the dam and fish ladder. The engineering study is being undertaken now with 2018 funding, and was planned and budgeted to evaluate one nature-like fishway alignment in comparison to the other options being considered (reconstructing the existing weir-pool fish ladder or replacing the existing ladder with a denil fish ladder). In the interim, minor repairs to the fishway walls and weirs can be made by the MA DMF Fishway Crew as an in-kind contribution, with assistance from the Town River Fishery Committee. The repair work can be completed on existing fishways under a Request for Determination of Applicability to the Conservation Commission and a MA DMF Fishway Permit.

Substantial work is being done throughout the Taunton River watershed to improve fish passage and to restore ecological connectivity. Within the Town River, a study investigating the feasibility of removing the High St. dam was completed and more advanced design plans and early permitting are underway. Improving fish passage at the War Memorial Park dam, the next dam upstream, would support efforts downstream and throughout the Taunton River watershed. Once migratory fish pass the War Memorial Park dam, they have unobstructed access up to Lake Nippenicket, one of the largest natural lakes in eastern MA. In the Mill River, another Taunton River tributary, three dams were removed and the last rebuilt to include fish passage, allowing river herring to migrate into Lake Sabbatia in the spring of 2018 for the first time in over 200 years. River herring are able to migrate past both dams on the Town River currently, however repairs of the existing structures are overdue, and improved fish passage designs will be more conducive to increased run sizes.

Restoring the dam and improving fish passage at War Memorial Park will include repairs to the stone retaining walls, which will also improve the aesthetics of the park. This park is on the National Register of Historic Places and an important community resource, thus it is important to ensure that it is structurally sound and safe as well as an attraction for locals and tourists. This project achieves both Community Preservation Plan (FY16-FY20) priorities by improving an existing recreation area and natural resource, and preserving a historic community resource. One of the historic preservation goals in the West Bridgewater Community Preservation Plan is to "continue to support the Town's ongoing efforts to preserve and restore the historic structures at the War Memorial Park." Based on preliminary assessments of the site and potential abutting property and accessibility constraints, the Town and MA DMF have determined that an evaluation of an additional layout for the nature-like fishway is warranted in order to adequately evaluate which alternative would best meet all of the project's goals and selection criteria. The Town has also identified a concern of maintaining flows through the canals within

the park, and which alternative(s) can best avoid continuing sedimentation (due to lack of flows) and establishment of emergent vegetation that requires costly removal. The MA DMF has been overseeing design and construction of fish ladders for more than 80 years, with support and funding from local communities, other governmental groups, and nongovernmental organizations, and includes professional biologists and fishway construction specialists.

To support this additional work, we are requesting an additional \$10,000; the additional assessment will entail the following tasks:

1. Develop a second nature-like fishway layout for review by the Town and MA DMF
2. Conduct supplemental field survey/assessments of the area proposed for the second layout
3. Assess the impacts and benefits of each alternative on flow/sediment maintenance concerns for park channels
4. Complete hydraulic modeling analysis of the second layout
5. Develop sections and profiles of fishway alternatives
6. Complete additional comparative criteria assessment, cost estimation, and narrative description of the second layout
7. Conduct a stakeholder meeting to obtain input on alternatives evaluation and facilitate selection of the preferred alternative