



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FY18 FUNDING CYCLE
APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: Blessing of the Bay Park Revitalization Phase 2

PROJECT LOCATION: Blessing of the Bay Park, Mystic River

LEGAL PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD: MA Department of Conservation & Recreation

ONE SENTENCE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Complete 100% design and construction documents for park revitalization, building off of schematic designs and community engagement from Phase I.

Please indicate (X) all categories that apply to this project (minimum of one) in the chart.

	Open Space	Recreational Land	Historic Resources	Community Housing (blended projects only)
Acquisition				
Creation				
Preservation				
Support				
Rehabilitation/Restoration		X		

ESTIMATED START DATE: June 2018

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: Nov 2019

CPA FUNDING REQUEST: \$165,660

TOTAL BUDGET FOR PROJECT: \$234,175

2. APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICATION NAME / ORGANIZATION: Mystic River Watershed Association

CO-APPLICATION NAME / ORGANIZATION: MA Department of Conservation & Recreation

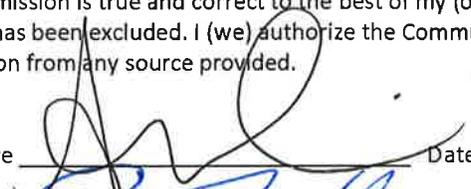
CONTACT PERSON: Amber Christoffersen

MAILING ADDRESS: 20 Academy Street, STE 306, Arlington, MA 02476

PHONE: 781-316-3438 EMAIL: amber.christoffersen@mysticriver.org

3. SIGNATURES

I (we) certify that all information provided in this entire submission is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and that no information which might reasonably affect funding has been excluded. I (we) authorize the Community Preservation Committee and/or the City of Somerville to obtain verification from any source provided.

Name (printed) Amber Christoffersen Signature  Date 12/6/17

Name (printed) Patrick Herron Signature  Date 12/6/17



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FY18 FUNDING CYCLE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Please check (✓) each item included in your submission, which should include the applicable items in the order listed below.

GENERAL:

- Application Cover Page (form provided)
- Submission Requirements Checklist (this form)
- Narratives (prompts provided)
- Project timeline: a project schedule showing all major milestones (i.e., study, design, environmental, permitting, construction, etc.), including receipt of other funding sources
- Grant and Trust Funds Disclosure Form (form provided)
- Campaign Contribution Mandatory Disclosure and Certification Form (if requesting \$50,000 or more in CPA funds)

FINANCIAL:

- Budget Summary (form provided)
- Itemized budget of all project costs, including the proposed source for each cost
- At least two written quotes for project costs. If quotes cannot be secured, detailed cost estimates may be used if a thorough explanation of the estimates is included.
- Proof of secured funding (e.g., commitment letters or bank statements), if applicable

VISUAL:

- Map of the property location showing all features pertinent to the project, including current or future rapid transit stations
- Photos of the project site (not more than 4 views per site); include digital copies

OWNERSHIP/OPERATION (NON-CITY):

- Documentation of site control or written consent of the property owner to undertake the project, if the owner is not the applicant
- City has signed on as a co-applicant for community projects proposed on City land.
- Certificates of Good Standing from the [City](#) and the [State](#), if applicable
- 501(c)(3) certification, if operating as a non-profit
- Purchase and sale agreement or copy of current recorded deed, if applicable

COMMUNITY SUPPORT (RECOMMENDED):

- Letters of support from residents, community groups, other City boards, commissions, or departments, or from City, state, or federal officials

HISTORIC RESOURCES PROJECTS:

- Documentation that the project is listed on the State Register of Historic Places or a written determination from the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission that the resource is significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Somerville.
- Photos documenting the condition of the property
- Report or condition assessment by a qualified professional describing the current condition of the property, if available.

PLANS AND REPORTS (IF AVAILABLE; SUBMIT DIGITAL COPIES ONLY)

- Renderings, site plans, engineering plans, design and bidding plans, specifications, and any MAAB variance requests
- Applicable reports (e.g., 21E, historic structure report, appraisals, survey plans, feasibility studies).

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FY18 FUNDING CYCLE
NARRATIVE PROMPTS
Mystic River Watershed Association

Project Description

1. Describe the project, including the project location and the property involved.

The Blessing of the Bay Park is 5-acre open space in Somerville and part of the Mystic River Reservation – a 10 mile, 329-acre linear park system. The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), in partnership with the Department of Conservation (DCR), a co-applicant, and under the direction of a robust steering committee, will continue the design and planning process for this waterfront open space. This work began in 2017 and will end with a community driven schematic design (25%) at the end of the grant period in spring 2018.

For this request, Phase II, the project team will work with a landscape architecture and engineering firm to produce 100% design and construction documents and initiate permitting. At this point, the project will be “shovel-ready” and the team will begin to identify funding. MyRWA and Groundwork will continue to engage the community to ensure that we incorporate as many stated needs and desires as possible. Phase II will include an additional public meeting as the project moves from schematic design to complete design. Groundwork Somerville will host several invasive removal and clean-up events to begin what we hope is a long-term community-driven stewardship approach to this park. The stakeholder committee, made up of DCR, City of Somerville, Solomon Foundation, Conservation Commission, MyRWA Groundwork Somerville and Mystic Housing Tenants Association will continue to be active leaders within this project.

Phase II funding will build on current efforts being undertaken with Somerville CPA Funding to complete a schematic design (25%) with significant and meaningful public engagement. MyRWA and Groundwork Somerville spent late summer to early fall visiting various on-site and off-site events to discuss the park redesign. The outreach included an interactive activity at six different Mobile Market events plus door-to-door canvassing in the Ten Hills neighborhood by Groundwork Somerville. The remaining outreach, led by MyRWA, included collecting online and in-person surveys, hosting “dot posters” to learn use preferences, engaging people through community events such as the Herring Run and Paddle, Art Beat and RiverFest.

We also hosted a kick-off event for the project “Mystic River Park and Paddle” where we shared information about the project, garnered needs and ideas for the park redesign and participants got to paddle for free afterwards. Later than week we hosted the 7th and 8th grade classes from Albert F. Argenziano, seeing their ideas for the park in chalk on the asphalt and teaching them about native and invasive plant species in the park. Less than half of these students had ever been to the park. Following is a summary of the outreach to-date, which far exceeds the target number of 200 from the original application:

- Surveys: 200+ (online and in-person)
- On-site events: 112 people participated (Park and Paddle Day hosted by MyRWA and Argenziano School-7th and 8th grade class trip)
- Outreach events: 160 people engaged (Art Beat, Herring Run and Paddle, RiverFest)
- Mystic Housing Outreach: 150 (Mobile Market and Mystic Housing Tenants Assoc.)

- Ten Hills Outreach: 460 households (door-to-door canvassing)
- Project Contact List: 89 people asked to be more involved

The Steering Committee convened in September 2017 and includes Arn Franzen and Vanessa Boukili (City of Somerville), Clay Larsen (Groundwork Somerville), Amber Christoffersen (MyRWA), Herb Nolan (Solomon Foundation), Karl Haglund/Dan Driscoll (DCR). The steering committee has developed and approved an RFP for the designer to complete the conceptual designs. A site visit was given on November 14, and 15 separate design firms provided proposals for this initial design. On December 11, 2017, the Steering Committee will review proposals, interview top firms and select the designer, and it is expected that work will begin in January 2018. This will include three public meetings to ensure a thorough participatory design process. Additionally, we've added a steering committee representative from the Mystic Housing Tenants Association, Stephenson Aman, who will serve as the liaison with this important stakeholder group. We will hold separate meetings with this group outside of general public meetings to garner as much feedback as possible.

MyRWA has included the following letters of support for this project, all of whom we've been working with on the first phase of community outreach: Representative Christine Barber; East Somerville Main Streets; Gentle Giant Rowing Club; Groundwork Somerville; Jesse Clingan, Ward 5 Alderman; and Somerville Welcome Project. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, owner of the land, has also provided a letter of support and is a co-applicant.

2. Why is this project needed? How does it preserve and enhance the character of Somerville? How does the project benefit the public? What population(s) will it serve?

The Blessing of the Bay Park is important open space in Somerville but community feedback has revealed that this park is underutilized due to limited views and access to the river's edge, deteriorating infrastructure and a lack of amenities. If designed to serve the needs and interests of local communities, this park could be elevated to the use-levels and status of nearby parks.

Blessing of the Bay Park is located within a 5-minute walk for nearly 3,000 residents with approximately 1,200 living in the Ten Hills neighborhood. A sub-population is 667 households in the Somerville Housing Authority developments (Mystic Housing is across the street from this park). This community represents environmental justice populations that include low-income youth, youth of color, immigrants and their families. 96% of these 1-5 person households earn \$45,000 or less a year, and 64% earn less than \$20,000 a year, which places a family of 3 (the majority of households) below the poverty line.

Equitable access is more nuanced than ensuring proximal geography to resources like open space – the space must be personally important or relevant to users' needs. Moreover, by including neighbors in the development and planning process, we expect to create a sense of ownership of this space to foster stewardship and advocacy on the Park's behalf.

Under the Phase I of this CPA project, MyRWA has learned a great deal about how people perceive the park and what their vision is for the future. The park is unapproachable due to perceptions that boathouse is private, the river is blocked by overgrown vegetation, noise from I-93; the broken benches, lack of trash cans and uneven paths further contribute to the feeling that this park is under-maintained, under-loved and unsafe. Survey respondents commented that the park "seems remotes, bland and possibly not safe" and has a "general sense of neglect."

Despite these negatives, survey respondents did feel that this was a bit of nature in a dense city and had the potential to be an oasis. People commented on the “beautiful scenery and sunsets” and that it’s the “only place in Somerville to see and access the Mystic!” As far as new amenities, 78% of respondents wanted improved walking/biking paths, 71% wanted more lighting; and 67% wanted both invasive plant removal and docks/boardwalks.

As we move forward, the project will continue to incorporate the Mystic River Master Plan (Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and Mystic River Watershed Association) and Healy Mystic Master Plan (Friends of the Healy School and Groundwork Somerville). For the Healy Mystic Master Plan, we will be sure to include stakeholders in our process, aiming to design the park in a way that would make it a destination worthy of a trip from Mystic Housing and the school. Groundwork will continue to stay engaged in efforts such as improving the Mystic Ave Crossing - this barrier was identified several times in completed surveys. Last, we will be advancing the DCR’s Mystic River Master Plan from planning to implementation with the redesign, and future construction, of this park.

3. How does the project meet the general and category-specific priorities outlined in the Community Preservation Plan, including how the project incorporates sustainable practices and design?

The proposed project will improve accessibility to recreation space for nearly 3,000 residents within a 5-minute walk of Blessing of the Bay Park. Blessing of the Bay sits on the Mystic River, and this project would help expand access to and use of this River as listed under the FY18 Community Preservation Plan Priorities. Additionally, the resulting plan would help improve the ecological health of the shores—also a listed priority.

This project proposal coincides with DCR’s renewed focus on the Mystic Reservation. This provides a time-sensitive opportunity to build relationships with DCR and create a quality park that will support a revitalized and reimagined boathouse at Blessing of the Bay. Since initiating this idea in Phase I of this CPA-funded project, DCR has turned attention towards this previously off-the-radar open space, indicating that with continued public-private partnerships, they will help to build the project. There is additional momentum with the open space and connectivity efforts that are part of implementation phases of the Healy Mystic Master Plan.

The RFP for the design consultants required that the project team must have expertise in sustainable design practices. The stakeholder team, which is charged with selecting the design team, is using this criteria, as evaluated by past experience, among others to select the consultant. Additionally, MyRWA and Groundwork Somerville already have expertise in invasive plant removal and native plantings, critical components of this park redesign.

Measuring Success

1. What are the goals of this project?

The long-term goal of this project is to expand both passive and active recreational opportunities at the Blessing of the Bay Park, making it a social and environmental hub for the local community. This park will also promote active transportation within the existing path greenway network, improving mobility and public health. The goals within the term of this grant include:

- Complete 100% design and construction documents for Blessing of the Bay park;
- Initiate permitting process;
- Create a database of at least 300 individuals who have engaged with the project since inception in 2017; at least 100 people from the Mystic House and Ten Hills neighborhood;

- Host at least three events with the help of Groundwork Somerville’s Green Team; create a draft park stewardship program
- Build stronger relationships between DCR, City of Somerville and local nonprofits (MyRWA, Groundwork) to ensure long-term success of this open space and the surrounding Mystic River Greenway network; and,
- Catalyze a larger vision and investment in the Mystic River parklands and paths in Somerville.

2. How will the success of this project be measured?

A. To measure community engagement goals, the project team will:

- Count and collect contact information community members that participate in surveys, design workshops, one-on-one conversations and on-site events;
- Track number of invasive removal events completed by the Green Team and work completed.

B. Success within the plan is defined as a phased project that includes sustainable practices and designs and has consensus approval. The project team will:

- Ensure that the design has 100% sustainable practices based on “SITES” rating system that identifies sustainable landscape and measures their performance.
- Demonstrate approval by all key stakeholders and a majority of community members- these organizations/ individuals sign-on to identified next steps (could include park stewardship, programming, funding).
- Strengthen the Public Private Partnership with 3-5 stakeholders to identify sources for future funding needs such capital and long-term maintenance and programming

Financial

1. Describe all successful and unsuccessful attempts to secure funding and/or in-kind contributions, donations, or volunteer labor for the project. Describe any cost-saving measures to be implemented.

A majority of the funding will be paid directly to a landscape architecture and engineering firm that will develop the 100% design for the park revitalization. To save costs on this contractual piece, MyRWA will continue to lead the overall project, as well as lead community outreach.

The Mystic River Watershed Association is matching the time of Executive Director, Patrick Herron, with our general operating funds. The DCR has been providing in-kind support from the project inception and plan to take on a larger part of the project management in Phase II given the complexity of design/construction details and initiation of permitting. The exact arrangement will be detailed in the coming months. DCR has suggested applying for matching funds through the Recreational Trail Program, the next application deadline is February 1, 2018. Additionally, the Solomon Foundation, who contributed funding for Phase II, has committed \$20,000 for this Phase II application.

2. How was the total CPA funding request determined?

The Mystic River Watershed Association is using best practices to assume the amount of the landscape bid. See “cost estimate” document for more details. As to our staff time, the Mystic River Watershed Association estimated hours it would take to manage the overall project, as well as engage with the public, using Phase I as a guide (fewer hours due to less community outreach in Phase II). Groundwork Somerville estimated the time for the stewardship events and community outreach based on past experience. This is based on similar work that MyRWA and Groundwork have completed in the past.

3. Will the project require funding over multiple years? If so, please provide annual funding requirements.

The scope outlined above will be carried out over an 18-month period. However, getting through all permitting, finding capital funding and construction will take 3-5 years.

4. How will the project be affected if it does not receive CPA funds or does not receive the full amount requested?

At this stage, DCR, the Mystic River Watershed Association and Groundwork Somerville do not have funding to move beyond the 25% schematic design that will be complete in spring 2018. Therefore, without CPA funds, this project would not move forward.

Project Management

1. Describe the applicant. Are they public, private non-profit, private for-profit, an individual, a partnership, or another type of entity? What is their history and background? Provide any additional relevant information.

The co-applicants include the Department of Conservation and Recreation (owners of the land) and the Mystic River Watershed Association. Groundwork Somerville is a named partner. MyRWA has partnered with DCR and Groundwork Somerville successfully in the past. Highlights of these partnerships include:

- DCR & MyRWA: Completing improvements to Torbert Macdonald Park that includes invasive removals (both volunteer and staff led), paved pathways and a proposed River Overlook (to be completed in spring 2017). Planning for the creation of the Clippership Connector, a half-mile shared-use path which will link five contiguous miles of greenways north and south of Medford Square, creating a robust recreation and active transportation amenity.
- Groundwork Somerville & MyRWA: The Green Team from Groundwork Somerville has participated every year since 2010 in MyRWA's Water Chestnut Removal program. Additionally, the Green Team has partnered with MyRWA on a number of stormwater education projects including a new one for 2017 that will involve community drain-stenciling events. They are also a partner on a current National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star Grant and have participated in Earth Day River Cleanups.

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is a 501(c3) non-profit organization that works "to protect and restore the Mystic River, its tributaries and watershed lands for the benefit of present and future generations and to celebrate the value, importance and great beauty of these natural resources." Established in 1972, MyRWA has met success in ensuring local implementation of the Clean Water Act, the clean-up of local hazardous waste, and the protection of nearby wetlands. In 2000, MyRWA instituted a certified water quality monitoring program that incorporates the help of trained, local volunteers. Local governments now depend on our water quality data to make watershed decisions, to take enforcement actions and the US EPA has relied on results from our monitoring program to give the Mystic River Watershed a formal grade every year since April 2007. We have worked with seven municipalities to make green infrastructure improvements based on this water quality data. 2010 saw the launch of our water chestnut removal program by which 1,000 of volunteers/year remove this invasive species from our water. Last year, we launched the Greenways Initiative, whereby we are working to revitalize and restore the parklands and pathways along our River. For the coming year, MyRWA launched a herring education project with six local school districts that will reached 330 students in year one; and broadcast the migration to 3,500 unique users using an underwater camera and web platform.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is steward of one of the largest state parks systems in the country. Its 450,000 acres consists of forests, parks, greenways, historic sites and landscapes, seashores, lakes, ponds, reservoirs and watersheds. The MassParks Division of DCR, which has a budget of \$40 million, protects land and resources on private and municipal land by providing

technical assistance, grant and planning programs, policy development, and other services. DCR owns and maintains the Mystic River Reservation, a 329-acre linear park system. The reservation extends seven miles along the Mystic River and includes all the Mystic waterfront in Somerville including Blessing of the Bay.

Groundwork Somerville has engaged in the creation and preservation of green space in Somerville, as well as community engagement and organizing since its inception in 2000. Groundwork was a partner on the Healey Mystic Master Plan, and developed a community-led design for the neighboring Draw 7 Park, as well as several other open and green spaces around the city. They are the designers and stewards of Somerville's first urban farm, the South Street Farm. They designed and maintain 14 garden classrooms in elementary schools throughout the city, and have the relevant experience to carry out a project of this scope.

2. If a community organization is applying with a government entity as a co-applicant, describe how the two organizations will work together, how finances will be managed, and how the work will be continued after the conclusion of CPA funding.

The grant will be managed by the Mystic River Watershed Association; though DCR is a co-applicant as they own the land. DCR will not receive any funding from CPA, and is volunteering their time as a member of the steering committee. MyRWA and DCR will have a MOU for the work outlined.

3. Demonstrate that the applicant has successfully completed projects of similar type and scale or has the ability to complete the project as proposed.

MyRWA has demonstrated significant organizational experience during the past five years in properly managing and executing grant agreements and project deliverables of similar size. Most relevant, we are a recipient of a Somerville Community Preservation Act grant for work at Blessing of the Bay. To-date all reports have been completed on time; and the project is progressing as expected.

During the past five years, MyRWA has successfully completed fifteen grants totaling more than one million. These projects included the Sustainable Initiative Chelsea BMP Project (\$70,000), the 2011 Woburn 604B Green Infrastructure Project (\$49,580), the National Fish and Wildlife Mystic Water Chestnut Project (\$50,000) and the 2013 Urban Waters Malden River Partnership (\$60,000). MyRWA currently is managing three additional large scale grant undertakings including Urban Waters Small Grant (\$60,000) for stormwater education collaborative, National Fish and Wildlife (\$49,974.79) for volunteer led invasive species removal at area parks, and US Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education (\$80,116) for the river herring education project in local schools. To date all reports have been completed, and all deliverables are on target for completion.

MyRWA has the capacity to successfully implement the project. This includes the built infrastructure of long-term office space in Arlington with standard office equipment (phones, photocopiers, printers). The infrastructure includes computer hardware and software updated in 2013. All electronic information is backed up to the cloud. Additionally, our office manager has a decade of experience at MyRWA and keeps the financial records in order. Our 2015 audit is completed and no issues were found.

MyRWA staff has experience working cooperatively with municipal and community leaders and conducting outreach and education in the watershed communities. In her role as Greenways Director, Amber Christoffersen, who will lead this project, has already made progress on two projects whereby we have brought together stakeholders, begun to assess local park usage/needs and secured matching design and construction funding at Torbert Macdonald Park (across the river) and design funding for two

path projects just upstream from this project; together this totals \$800,000. Additionally, we have the commitment from the Commissioner at the Department of Conservation and Recreation to support our overall Greenways Initiative, which is looking to improve parklands and connect pathways along the Mystic and Malden River.

Amber is a designer and planner who has worked on active transportation, open space and affordable housing projects in the Boston area and around the country. She has led participatory design processes for riverfront open spaces in Arlington, Everett, Malden, Medford and Somerville. She holds a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the College of William and Mary.

4. Identify and describe the roles of all known participants, including the project manager.

Amber Christoffersen, Greenways Director at **MyRWA**, will continue as the project manager. In this role, she will manage the consultant contract, with oversight of DCR and the City of Somerville, ensuring all final deliverables are complete and providing all reports (financial and narrative) to CPA, liaise with DCR and serve as the participatory design lead to coordinate community engagement with Groundwork Somerville.

Clay Larsen with **Groundwork Somerville** will lead community stewardship activities that includes invasive removal and trash pick-up and will serve as the liaison with Mystic Housing, the Welcome Project and Mystic Healey Master Plan leaders.

Karl Haglund and Dan Driscoll, both in the Planning and Design Department of **DCR** will represent the agency throughout the process providing oversight and guidance by giving feedback on the design, attending project team and public meetings and approving the final deliverables. DCR is a co-applicant.

Design Consultant: In Phase I of this project, still underway, a landscape architecture and engineering team will be hired by the end of 2018 and will serve as the designer through Phase II

As mentioned above, the steering committee also includes **The City of Somerville and Mystic Housing** as key stakeholders. Secondary stakeholders include Friends of Healey Mystic, Gentle Giant, Paddle Boston and Somerville Climate Action.

5. Describe the feasibility of the project and how it can be implemented within the timeline and budget included in this application.

Much of the community outreach and relationship-building, often a lengthy and non-linear process, will be complete at the end of Phase I. Thus, the main concern with the second phase will be managing the consultant component, determining which roles the landowner (DCR) and city and MyRWA take on. Additionally, we are confident that the community-driven approach to the project is appealing to firms, many of them willing to contribute in-kind time to advance the budget and ensure its long-term success.

6. Describe any known or potential barriers to the successful on-time commencement and completion of the project, including any permits or inspections required.

Rather than committing to securing all permits in Phase II, we intended to initiate the permitting process as many of the variables that determine permitting requirements are not known yet (ie Army Corps approval depends on the proposed design). In the period between Phase I and Phase II, we will determine which entity, likely DCR, will be taking on the permitting piece.

7. Describe any ongoing maintenance and programming required and who will be responsible for it.

Currently the park is maintained by DCR. The proposed project would not change this. The project would bring needed attention to this park, and establish a working relationship between Groundwork Somerville, MyRWA, the City and DCR—which can help ensure improved maintenance for the future.

8. Describe any permits, approvals, MAAB variance requests, or restrictions that are required for the project to go forward and the status for each.

See Question 6.

9. Note if the applicant has previously received CPA funds and if so, a concise summary of the impact of the previous CPA project.

We are approximately 30% through Phase I of this project, funded by the FY 2017 round for a total of \$41,862. This portion of the work has comprised of mostly open-ended community outreach, understanding how people use the park and their desires/needs for the future. Through hosting on-site events and sharing information at various off-site events in the area, we've been surprised by the number of people who weren't aware that the park existed. However, many of these people were heartened to hear about efforts to improve it and about the recently added kayak and canoe rental (Paddle Boston). We've also made progress in bringing together the state agency, city and grassroots together to start to craft a collective vision for this space. Lastly we've also garnered interest from many design firms who see opportunity in this waterfront site, currently underutilized and lacking in ecological value. See mysticriver.org/blissingofthebay for current information and future updates.

Historic Resources Rehabilitation Projects

1. Describe how the proposed project complies with the [U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#), as required by the CPA legislation under the definition of rehabilitation.

N/A

2. Describe how the applicant will ensure compliance with these standards as the project is ongoing, including an identification of who will make historic preservation determinations.

N/A

Accessibility Requirements

1. Describe how the proposed project complies with all ADA/MAAB Regulations.

All proposed design elements will be ADA compliant and the final plan will provide recommendations on how to retrofit any existing park elements that are not accessible.

Timeline

CPA Funding Notification: April/May 2018

Phase I Preferred Schematic Design Reveal and On-Site Event: Earth Day 2018

Phase I Completion/Phase II Kick-Off: June 2018 (draft next phase schedule, roles and responsibilities)

Stewardship Events: Summer 2018

Public Meeting: Summer/Fall 2018 (as project moves from schematic to design development)

Substantial Design Development/Construction Document Completion: Fall/Winter 2018

Initiate permitting process: Summer 2019

Deliverables Completed/Final Report: Fall 2019

* All estimates assume an award date of April 2018, the timeline will shift if this date changes and will be further refined upon project kick-off.



GRANT AND TRUST FUNDS DISCLOSURE FORM
PURSUANT TO CITY OF SOMERVILLE CODE OR ORDINANCES SEC. 15

(copies of the Ordinance are available upon request)

Instructions: All applicants for grant and/or trust funds administered by the City must complete this form as part of its application submission to the City of Somerville. Complete all sections of this form.

Section 1

Legal Name of Applicant: Mystic River Watershed Ass_{ns}

Indicate whether the applicant had any grant, contract, or agreement with a federal, state or local agency terminated within the last three (3) years.

Check One:

- Yes (If yes, please identify the grant, contract, or agreement including parties, term, and cause of termination on an additional page.)
- No

Section 2

Applicants are required to disclose any circumstances constituting a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest arising from or relating to the proposed grant or trust disbursement, whether real or apparent.

Conflict of Interest Prohibited. No employee, officer or agent of the grantee shall participate in any particular matter, including but not limited to, the selection, or in the award or administration of a contract, grant or subgrant, or employment agreement administered by way of funds received by the City of Somerville if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would arise. Such a conflict would arise when:

- 1) an employee, officer or agent, or
 - 2) any member of his or her immediate family, or
 - 3) a business organization in which he or she is serving as officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee; or
 - 4) any person or organization with whom he or she is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment,
- has a financial or other interest in the person or entity selected for an award, or a contract, grant, subgrant, or employment agreement of the grantee or the funds for which originate from or are awarded through the city.

Check One:

- No Conflict Of Interest**
- Potential or Actual Conflict of Interest** (If checked, disclose in detail all relevant facts, including names of individuals or organizations, relevant contract, grant, subgrant or employment agreement, and source of funding on an additional page.)

Section 3

Attach a copy of applicant’s policy addressing conflicts of interest that may arise involving management, employees and the members of its board of directors or other governing body. See the *City of Somerville Code of Ordinances Section 15-42(c)* for complete requirements. Should the policy be revised during the grant term, a copy of the revised policy must be submitted to the City within thirty (30) days of being revised.

Section 4

Identify all officers, employees, contractors, subgrantees or other persons providing any type of service in relation to the proposed grant activity, in the following format. Use additional page(s) as necessary.

Name (Individual or Entity)	Association	Service Provided	Value of Service (\$)	Amount of City Funds Supporting Service (\$)	Mark “X” if individual or entity has had any grant, contract, or agreement with a federal, state or local agency terminated within the last 3 years.*
Groundwork Somerville	Subawardee	Outreach & invasives removal	\$4,000	\$4,000	
Amber Christoffersen	Mystic River Watershed Assn	Project lead	\$15,910	\$15,910	
Patrick Herron	Mystic River Watershed Assn	Support project	\$3,515		
Design Team	TBD	100% design & construction	\$210,000	\$145,000	

*If yes, please identify the grant, contract, or agreement including parties, term, and cause of termination on an additional page.

Section 5

This form is hereby completed on behalf of the applicant named above. Through the undersigned individual, the applicant hereby certifies that the completed form is true and accurate. The applicant acknowledges that it has read, understands, and agrees to comply with, the requirements of *City of Somerville Code of Ordinances Section 15*.

During the term of any grant, grantees have a continuing obligation to submit an updated Disclosure Form to the City of Somerville immediately as to any circumstances which constitute a potential or actual conflict of interest.

Signature: 

Print Name of Authorized Individual: Patrick Herron

Title: Executive Director

Date: 12/6/17



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION ORDINANCE SEC. 15-72*
MANDATORY DISCLOSURE AND CERTIFICATION FORM**

INSTRUCTIONS: APPLICANTS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENTIRE FORM AND FILE WITH THE SAME CITY OFFICE OR AGENCY WITH WHOM YOU FILED OR WILL FILE BELOW APPLICATION.

PART I. APPLICATION FOR ITEM

Describe the item you have, or will apply for, relating to this disclosure:

ITEM:	CPA Funding			
TYPE (X):	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Relief	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Assistance
CITY DEPT. OR AGENCY:	CPA			

PART II. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Provide the following information for the Applicant:

NAME:	Mystic River Watershed Association
ADDRESS:	20 Academy Street, STE 306, Arlington, MA 02476
TELEPHONE NO.:	781-316-3438
E-MAIL:	amber.christoffersen@mysticriver.org

On Schedule A, you must also provide the same information for the Applicant’s principals, chief executive officer, president, chief financial officer, treasurer, chief operating officer, chief procurement officer, directors, or persons performing similar functions, or shareholders in excess of ten percent and managing agent to the extent applicable. **Please complete Schedule A. If not applicable, please check N/A on Schedule A.**

PART III. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE

On Schedule B, Applicants must disclose all contributions made by the applicant during the 12 months prior to the application (identified in Part I), to any person who was a candidate for elective office of the City of Somerville (mayor, board of aldermen, and school committee). The attribution rules in Section 15-73 of the Somerville Code of Ordinances shall apply to the contributions that must be disclosed. **On Schedule B**, applicants must also disclose such contributions made by persons attributed to the applicant under the ordinance. If the applicant is an individual, any such contributions made by the individual, any spouse of the individual, and any children of the individual must be disclosed. If the applicant is not an individual but a corporation, partnership or limited liability corporation, then any contributions made by any of its chief executive officer, president, chief financial officer, treasurer, chief operating officer, chief procurement officer, directors, members, managers, principals, or persons performing similar functions, or shareholders in excess of ten percent, and their spouses and children, must be disclosed. **Please complete Schedule B. If disclosure is not required, please check N/A on Schedule B.** *Note: Contributions made before January 1, 2017 are not required to be disclosed.*

* Please see the Pay to Play and Campaign Contribution Ordinance for definitions and all requirements.

PART IV. SUBCONTRACTOR INFORMATION

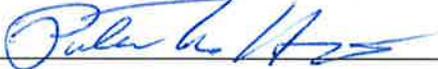
Have you applied for a Contract and intend to use a subcontractor on this Contract? Yes No

If “Yes”, complete Schedule C. If “No”, proceed to Part V.

PART V. SIGNATURE, CERTIFICATION, AND ATTESTATION:

I, the undersigned applicant, hereby further certify as follows: If awarded the item that is applied for (as identified above) under subsections (a), (b), (c), or (d) in Section 15-72 of the Somerville Code of Ordinances, the Applicant, and anyone attributed to the Applicant, and if the application is for a contract any subcontractor used on the contract, will not make any contribution in any calendar year in an amount in excess of \$500.00 to any individual incumbent or to any individual candidate for elective office of the City of Somerville for the next four (4) calendar years following the award of the item, or for the duration of the term of the contract, whichever is longer.

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury:

Signature of Affiant:  Title: Executive Director

Printed Name of Affiant: Patrick Herron Date: 12/6/17

Subscribed and sworn before me this ___ day of _____, 2__.	(Witnessed or attested by)
My Commission expires:	(Seal)

THIS FORM SHALL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FY18 FUNDING CYCLE
BUDGET SUMMARY**

PROJECT NAME: _____

APPLICANT: _____

SUMMARY OF PROJECT COSTS						
<i>Please include a complete itemized budget of all project expenses, including the proposed funding source for each expense, in your submission. Budget needs to include cost of permanent CPA dedication sign if requesting construction funds.</i>						
	PROPOSED SOURCE	EXPENSES				TOTAL
		STUDY	SOFT COSTS*	ACQUISITION	CONSTRUCTION**	
1	Somerville CPA	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

*Soft costs include design, professional services, permitting fees, closing costs, legal, etc.
** Construction includes new construction, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration work, and/or accessibility related expenses

EXPLANATION OF FUNDING SOURCES			
<i>Please explain the status of each funding source (i.e., submitting application on X date, applied on X date, received award notification on X date, funds on hand, etc.). For sources where funding has been awarded or funds are on hand, please include documentation from the funding source (e.g., commitment letter, bank statement) in application packet</i>			
	SOURCE	SECURED? (YES/NO)	STATUS OF FUNDING SOURCE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

**Mystic River Watershed Association
Clippership Project Budget
12/1/16 to 11/30/17**

BUDGET			CPA Funded	Privately Funded	Source/Status
Personnel					
	Project Management, Participatory Design Lead, DCR Liaison	MyRWA: Amber Christoffersen	250 hrs @ \$63.64/hr*	\$ 15,910.00	
	Project Oversight	MyRWA: Patrick Herron	40 hrs @ \$87.88/hr*		\$ 3,515.20 MyRWA General Funds
Subgrantee					
	Invasive Removal Events and Community Outreach/Meetings	Groundwork: Clay Larsen, Jess Bloomer and Green Team		\$ 4,000.00	
Consultants					
	Landscape Architecture and Engineering Firm	100% Design and Construction Documents	see cost estimate document for details	\$ 145,000.00	65,000.00 DCR Budget/Recreational Trails Program, \$45k- pending Solomon Foundation \$20k- committed
Materials					
	Workshops: printing and food	outreach and meeting facilitation		\$ 750.00	
Total				\$ 165,660.00	\$ 68,515.20

TOTAL PROJECT \$ 234,175.20
CPA FUNDING \$ 165,660.00

* MyRWA staff has new rates after receiving federally-approved rates in Sept. 2017: fringe 25% and OH/G&A 40%

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FY18 FUNDING CYCLE
Mystic River Watershed Association

Cost Estimate Description

Per a discussion with the CPA Manager in November 2017, this application has a tentative budget and scope that is subject to change/will include more details with an addendum by February 2018. We are in the process of hiring a design consultant who will be critical to determining the best estimate for a budget to continue the design work outlined for Phase II.

As a rough estimate, similar open space projects typically include a 10% fee for design/engineering fees. The schematic design will cost \$42,000; we have tentatively proposed \$210,000 for Phase II. Together, the design fee would be \$252,000 which would be 10% of a ~\$2.5 million project, comparable to Baxter Park and components of Torbert Macdonald Park.

December 7, 2017

Amber Christoffersen
The Mystic River Watershed Association
20 Academy Street
Arlington MA 02476-6401

RE: Pledge towards matching a CPA grant for the Blessing of the Bay park design

Dear Amber,

The Solomon Foundation is pleased to *pledge* up to \$20,000 towards your proposed Blessing of the Bay park 100% design effort. This pledge will be good until May 1 by which time you should know if your Somerville CPA grant application has been accepted.

Best of luck,

Herb Nolan



Left: Groundwork Somerville soliciting feedback at the park at their mobile markets and other events.

Right: Ideas for what students would like to see from Albert Argenziano middle school students.

September 19, 2017

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is pleased to submit this proposal as a co-applicant for the for the Blessing of the Bay Park project. This project seeks to revitalize this park and tie it more closely into the nearby community and Somerville at large. In our capacity as the owner and as a co-applicant for this grant, we will partner with the Mystic River Watershed Association to develop 100% design plans for this park—based on work being completed with current CPA funding.

The Blessing of the Bay Park is important part of the Mystic River Reservation – a 10 mile, 329-acre linear park system. But unlike the popular Baxter Park, this park is underutilized and could be reinvigorated through improved layout, an increase in views and access to the river's edge, and expansion of existing programming. We are excited to be working through the community driven planning process to help improve access and connection to these nearby neighborhoods

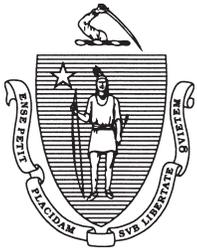
The next step toward construction, is to create 100% design plans for the park. DCR, in partnership with Mystic River Watershed Association, will manage the contract and continue to help engage the community.

We hope you see merit in this important project – it has the potential to provide meaningful open spaces for the residents of Somerville and improve the quality and status of the Mystic River and its waterfront parklands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Connors". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nick Connors
Director of External Affairs & Partnerships
Department of Conservation and Recreation



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Secretary of the Commonwealth
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the
Commonwealth

Date: May 02, 2017

To Whom It May Concern :

I hereby certify that according to the records of this office,

MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.

is a domestic corporation organized on **January 19, 1972**

I further certify that there are no proceedings presently pending under the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 180 section 26 A, for revocation of the charter of said corporation; that the State Secretary has not received notice of dissolution of the corporation pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 180, Section 11, 11A, or 11B; that said corporation has filed all annual reports, and paid all fees with respect to such reports, and so far as appears of record said corporation has legal existence and is in good standing with this office.



In testimony of which,

I have hereunto affixed the

Great Seal of the Commonwealth

on the date first above written.

William Francis Galvin

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Certificate Number: 17050039910

Verify this Certificate at: <http://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/Certificates/Verify.aspx>

Processed by:

Address any reply to:

BOS:EO:76-483

Department of the Treasury

P.O. Box 9081

JFK Post Office

Boston, Mass. 02203

District Director

Internal Revenue Service

Date:

In reply refer to:

April 6, 1976

EP:EO: R. Martin

Tel: (617)223-4241



Mystic River Watershed Association
Federal Tax ID# 23-7221094

▷ Mystic River Watershed Association, Inc.

20 Academy Street, Suite 203
Arlington, MA 02476

Gentlemen:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have further determined you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code, because you are an organization described in section 509(a)(1) & 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

You are not liable for social security (FICA) taxes unless you file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. You are not liable for the taxes imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Since you are not a private foundation, you are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other Federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other Federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

If your purposes, character, or method of operation is changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status. Also, you should inform us of all changes in your name or address.

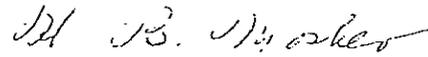
If your gross receipts each year are normally more than \$5,000, you are required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$10 a day, up to a maximum of \$5,000, for failure to file a return on time.

You are not required to file Federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, a number will be assigned to you and you will be advised of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

Please keep this determination letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,



H. B. MOSHER
District Director

Effective date as of 3/8/76.



GROUNDWORK

Somerville

www.groundworksomerville.org

12/05/2017

Kristen Stelljes
Community Preservation Act Manager
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Kristen,

Developing access to Somerville's open space and natural resources, for all members of the community, is a cornerstone of Groundwork's mission.

Somerville's waterfront and specifically the Blessing of the Bay Park is a major focus off our organization. We are very excited about the park redesign effort and progress towards creating a new vision for this underdeveloped area that is embrace by the community as a whole.

Working with the Mystic River Watershed Association we have made clear progress in engaging the community, gathering it's fee back and helping building hope, excitement and focus on the project. We look forward to continuing and building on this partnership with further funding from the CPA program.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime to discuss the project further.

Regards



Clay R. Larsen
Landscape Projects Manager, Groundwork Somerville

December 2, 2017

Kristen Stelljes
Community Preservation Act Manager
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Kristen,

The Mystic River Development provides 667 homes to families in Somerville. We are grateful and fully support the efforts being undertaken by the Mystic River Watershed Association and Groundwork Somerville to redesign this park.

Already Groundwork Somerville has provided opportunities for residents to be part of this design process through the mobile farmer's market. We as a community, are very excited and look forward to being involved as this project proceeds.

Currently, the park though an asset, it's sorely underfunded and under-maintained. This sends a negative signal to many of our residents that it is unsafe to use. Sadly, after the recent death of Kevin Raymond, our community need to feel safe again.

I believe our residents deserve a safe, well-designed park. I also believe the best way to connect the park and the people is allowing residents to have a say in this park. Through the proposed project I believe that we can achieve both of these outcomes.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions email me at MysticTenantPres@gmail.com or contact me by cell (857) 312-7334

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephenson Aman
President
Mystic Tenant Association

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephenson Aman', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'A'.



THE WELCOME PROJECT

Education and advocacy with Somerville's immigrant community

December 4, 2017

Kristen Stelljes
Community Preservation Act Manager
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Kristen,

The Welcome Project fully supports the efforts being undertaken by the Mystic River Watershed Association and Groundwork Somerville in partnership with the city of Somerville to redesign the Blessing of the Bay Park. We look forward to being involved as this project proceeds.

The Welcome Project located in the Mystic Activity Center, is grateful for the park. We believe, the park though an asset, is sorely underfunded and under-maintained. This sends a signal to many of our residents that it is unsafe to use. Every year The Welcome Project runs a two-week summer program where we expose youth to new experiences, and one such experience is to have a picnic at the park. Most of the children tell us they were unaware they could use this space at all, let alone for a picnic. This information shows the need to create a park that invites residents to use it.

The Welcome Project believes the residents deserve a park designed for the needs of the residence. A park which allows the of the Mystics and the surrounding area a place to go and enjoy. We believe this proposed park redesign, which allows for resident input is important in creating a safe, and fully used park.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (617) 623-6633 ben@welcomeproject.org. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ben Echevarria
Welcome Project, Executive Director

Kristen Stelljes
Community Preservation Act Manager
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Kristen,

As the newly elected Alderman for Ward 4, I am writing in support of the Mystic River Watershed Association's application to the Community Preservation Act.

Blessing of the Bay Park and access to the Mystic River provide much needed open space, not only for Ward 4 but for the entire city of Somerville. This space is such a hidden gem, with so much potential. While out campaigning over the last 8 months, I was really surprised by the number of people in Ward 4 who had no idea that the Boathouse and park even existed. We can and will change that, but a redesign is going to be a necessary part of the plan.

Through the proposed project, the Mystic River Watershed Association will redesign the park, ensuring that our community has high quality open space. I was able to attend one of the events funded by the current Community Preservation Act and was impressed with the level of engagement and dedication to improving Blessing of the Bay Park.

Together we will make the Blessing of the Bay Park a recreational, social, and ecological hub for our community.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 617-290-1904 or jesseforward4@gmail.com. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jesse Clingan
Ward 4 Alderman Elect



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

CHRISTINE P. BARBER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
34th MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
SOMERVILLE AND MEDFORD

Committees:
Financial Services
Housing
Labor and Workforce Development
Environment, Natural Resources
and Agriculture

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 473F
TEL. (617) 722-2210
Christine.Barber@MAhouse.gov

Kristen Stelljes
Community Preservation Act Manager
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

December 1, 2017

RE: Blessing of the Bay CPA Application

Dear Ms. Stelljes:

I write in strong support of Mystic River Watershed Association's application for Community Preservation Act funding for the revitalization of Blessing of the Bay Park in Somerville.

With 5 acres of open space in our dense urban area, Blessing of the Bay Park is a part of the Mystic River Reservation, a 10 mile, 329-acre linear park system that was one of the first official nature preserves in Massachusetts.

In 2017, Mystic River Watershed Association began its design project for the park. Community feedback discovered that Blessing of the Bay is underutilized, due to its unwelcoming layout and limited access to the riverbank. In addition, this park is cut off from many nearby communities by overpasses, highways and difficult crossings.

A recommendation of the 2009 Mystic River Master Plan and Healey Mystic Plan, comprehensive revitalization of Blessing of the Bay Park will offer many benefits not just to its neighbors, many of whom are low-income residents and environmental justice neighborhoods, but also to the entire Somerville and Mystic River communities. As the most densely populated city in New England, maintaining and cultivating open space for Somerville residents is critically important, and revitalizing this park offers a significant opportunity to engage the community in creating a beautiful and useful space along the Mystic River.

Mystic River Watershed Association plans to continue the design and planning process begun this year, and will bring the project to 100% design. I fully support MyWRA's plan to bring this important project to completion, and their commitment to engaging the community in every step of the process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Christine P. Barber
34th Middlesex District



114 Broadway - Suite 112
Somerville, MA 02145

www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org

Kristen Stelljes
Community Preservation Act Manager
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Kristen,

East Somerville Main Streets is writing in support of the Mystic River Watershed Association's application to the Community Preservation Act. As the Executive Director, I have been excited to learn more about and work with the Mystic River Watershed Association in their current efforts to involve the community in a revitalized Blessing of the Bay Park.

East Somerville Main Streets seeks to improve the life of our community by building investment, connection, and pride in our main street. This includes hosting a multitude of signature events—such as Carnival and Foodie Crawl, as well as working hand-in-hand with local business partners. During the year we engage thousands of local residents, 90 plus businesses and dozens of media outlets.

Green space in East Somerville is sorely missing, and Blessing of the Bay Park could be a real asset for our communities. In its current state though it is not used by our community.

I am excited to work with the Mystic River Watershed Association to engage our community members in redesigning the park—ensuring that our community has high quality open space.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 617.623.3869 or teresa@eastsomervillemainstreets.org. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Teresa Vazquez-Dodero
Executive Director
East Somerville Main Streets



Kristen Stelljes
Community Preservation Act Manager
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Kristen,

As Program Director of Gentle Giant Rowing Club (GGRC), I'm writing you to show our support of the Mystic River Watershed Associations' plans for the park at the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse. GGRC has provided access to the sport of rowing to the underserved communities of the Mystic River area since 2002. We're also proud to work with the Somerville High School to provide equipment to their rowing program which launches from Blessing of the Bay.

Since 2002, the activity around the Boathouse has increased with each year. What used to be only the occasional walker or jogger has turned into much more activities including Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Crossfit Training, and Yoga. Comments have been made to myself and members about needed improvements to the Park and we're excited with the plans from the Mystic River Watershed.

GGRC would like to express our support for these plans to receive 100% funding as they will not only benefit the current users of the Boathouse and Park but will also attract more people down to the very underutilized resources that are the Mystic River and the surrounding Parklands.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 617-372-3728 or via email at rich@gentlegiantrowing.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rich Whelan
Program Director
Gentle Giant Rowing Club