



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



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

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: West Somerville Neighborhood School (WSNS) & Brown School- Schoolyard Design

PROJECT LOCATION: WSNS , 177 Powder House Blvd. & Brown School 201 Willow Avenue

LEGAL PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD: City of Somerville

ONE SENTENCE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Developing landscape design plans for the renovation of two schoolyards, to provide students with the play and educational opportunities they deserve.

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: Fall 2018

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: Summer 2019

CPA FUNDING REQUEST: \$160,000.00

TOTAL BUDGET FOR PROJECT: \$160,000.00

2. APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICATION NAME / ORGANIZATION: City of Somerville, Department of Parks and Open Space

CO-APPLICATION NAME / ORGANIZATION: City of Somerville, School Department

CONTACT PERSON: Arn Franzen, Director of Parks and Open Space

MAILING ADDRESS: Somerville City Hall, Third floor, 93 Highland Avenue, 02143

PHONE: 617-625-6600 x 2545 EMAIL: afranzen@somervillema.gov

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) ARN FRANZEN Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date 12/5/17

Name (printed) _____ Signature _____ Date _____



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).

West Somerville and Brown School Schoolyard Landscape Design

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FY18 FUNDING CYCLE NARRATIVE

Project Description

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

Both Schools are located in West Somerville.

The West Somerville Community School is at 177 Powder House Boulevard in Ward 7

The Brown School is at 201 Willow Avenue in Ward 6.

With CPA funding, the City Parks and Open Space Department, in partnership with the School Department, will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract a qualified landscape architecture firm to develop new schoolyard designs that are particular to the needs of each school. In addition to addressing safety and security needs, and incorporating the most current ADA/MAAB Regulations, the new designs shall provide opportunities for active and passive recreation and contact with nature, and shall include imaginative, interactive, and age appropriate play features. The new designs shall focus on the schoolyards at each school but may also include other areas like school entrances and points of access.

The community process and the design for each schoolyard will be independent of each other, and each design will respond to the particular needs of each student population. However, to save o funding and time, both schoolyards will be designed by the same firm under one contract.

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 WSNS and Brown schoolyards are the only two schoolyards in Somerville currently graded “poor” (see the City’s 2016-2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan) that have not been funded for redevelopment, and for which no plans for rehabilitation are in place. Neither of these schoolyards currently meets the recreation needs and standards of the City, the schools, the community, or the hundreds of children who use them daily. Each is devoid of recreation features included at most other schoolyards and playgrounds, and each is characterized by expanses of asphalt and a lack of shade. Current play options are limited to basketball and court games painted on the tarmac.

In line with the Community Preservation Committee’s Plan to prioritize the rehabilitation of existing fields, parks, and playgrounds that are in the worst condition, we are requesting CPA funds, so that the outdoor recreational needs of each school’s students, and the surrounding

communities, are met. New designs will include more unstructured and inclusive play elements for those students who do not participate in organized play, more sophisticated playground structures for older students, and more traditional open spaces for organized sports (e.g. soccer playing area and/or goals).

In addition to serving the educational and recreation needs of the schools, the new schoolyards will also serve as City Playgrounds during non-school daytime hours, evenings, weekends, and over the summer. Designs will be developed through a series of community meetings in conjunction with faculty from each school and staff from the Parks and Open Space Program.

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? (Please see that attached page illustrating existing conditions.)

As with any City of Somerville Park and Open Space project, the new designs for each schoolyard will be developed through a community process, and will prioritize security and safety concerns, ADA accessibility, good circulation systems, connections to the surrounding community, quality material choices, increased tree canopy, and sustainable systems for storm water management.

Both of these schoolyards, with their large asphalt spaces, are missing critical opportunities to provide for recreation, contact with nature, and quality play value. Subsequently, the schools are missing valuable opportunities to improve upon and the development and education of every child attending them. Research has shown that environmental design and increased access to recreation can play a crucial role in improving physical and mental health. These goals are critical to the creation of quality play environments for all Somerville children and residents, and are also incorporated into the City's Shape up Somerville program, which seeks to reduce childhood obesity.

As stated in the City's Fields Master Plan: "In a time when the nation faces a well-documented epidemic of youth and adult obesity, it is imperative that we as a community provide a range of opportunities for our residents— young and older—to reap the benefits of physical activity."

A renovated schoolyard spaces would also significantly increase opportunities for social engagement and events at each campus, and go a long way toward helping School Department student wellness goals of increased family engagement by providing students, families, and community members with a welcoming venue for participation in, and attachment to the school.

Once renovated, the schoolyards will also enhance and preserve Open Space and recreation opportunities, as identified in Somervision, the City's Comprehensive Plan, the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and the City's Fields Master Plan.

In line with the Community Preservation Committee's plan's priority to support Somerville's diversity including support to immigrants regardless of their status, 30% of the WSNS student body is from a family whose first language is not English, or is an English Language Learner, many of whom are immigrants. In the case of the Brown School, the percentage is smaller, but is still notable at approximately 15%.

Measuring Success

1. What are the goals of this project?

To provide quality long lasting recreation environments that will offer essential life-enhancing qualities that improve the community well-being, and individual student's physical and mental health.

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

When complete, it is expected that each of these new schoolyards will contribute to improving the community's overall health and wellness and the new design will be a premier example of public schoolyard and park design.

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.

There have not been any recent attempts to secure funding for the schoolyards. However, the City Administration and the School department have been discussing the needs of these two schoolyards for several years. In the case of the Brown Schoolyard renovation, records indicate that a series of renovation and funding meetings to discuss options were held with the school department and the City administration between 2012 and 2015.

2. How was the total CPA funding request determined?

Our cost estimate is based upon our experience with many other projects, including their size, site conditions, and their needs.

Given the larger size, construction costs for the West Somerville are estimated at approximately \$900,000. Construction Costs for the Brown School are estimated at \$700,000. Typically design fees are approximately 10%-12% of the construction costs, however because the two projects will be included in one project and the vendor will realize some saving with some duplication of effort, we feel that a smaller request is reasonable. Total Design: WSNS \$85,000 +Brown \$65,000 = \$150,000. Additional cost for Property survey: \$10,000. Total Request: \$160,000

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

No, the project schedule has not been determined however it is not anticipated the schoolyard designs will need funding over multiple years. Once the designs are complete, construction funding will need to be located.

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

The project will be delayed a minimum of one year until another funding source can be located. However because school yard renovation projects are not eligible for many of the grants that fund other City Parks and Open Space projects, it may take longer.

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 project co-applicants are the City of Somerville Parks and Open Space Department and the School Department. However Project Management will be provided by Parks and Open Space Director Arn Franzen, or Landscape Architect and Senior Planner for Landscape Design, Luisa Oliveira.

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.

While this project has co-applicants, funding will be managed by the City's Parks and Open space Program. The City will also explore funding for the construction of the schoolyards while the design process is underway. At this time a source of construction funds have not been determined.

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

The City's Parks and Open Space Program has completed at least 35 successful park and playground renovations, is currently managing three active construction projects, and is working on another 4-6 design projects. The department's projects and staff have also received numerous awards for design and sustainability.

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

The design and public process for each schoolyard will be independent of each other. Therefore the project manager will work with the administrative and PTA representatives from each school, the relevant community members and the consultant.

6. Describe the feasibility of the project. The project is completely feasible.

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

The design of the two schoolyards will proceed once the funding is approved, however the schedule cannot be determined until the funds are confirmed. It is expected that the community design process would start in the fall of 2019.

8. Describe any ongoing maintenance and programming required and who will be responsible for it. Maintenance will be the responsibility of the Department of Public Works

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

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

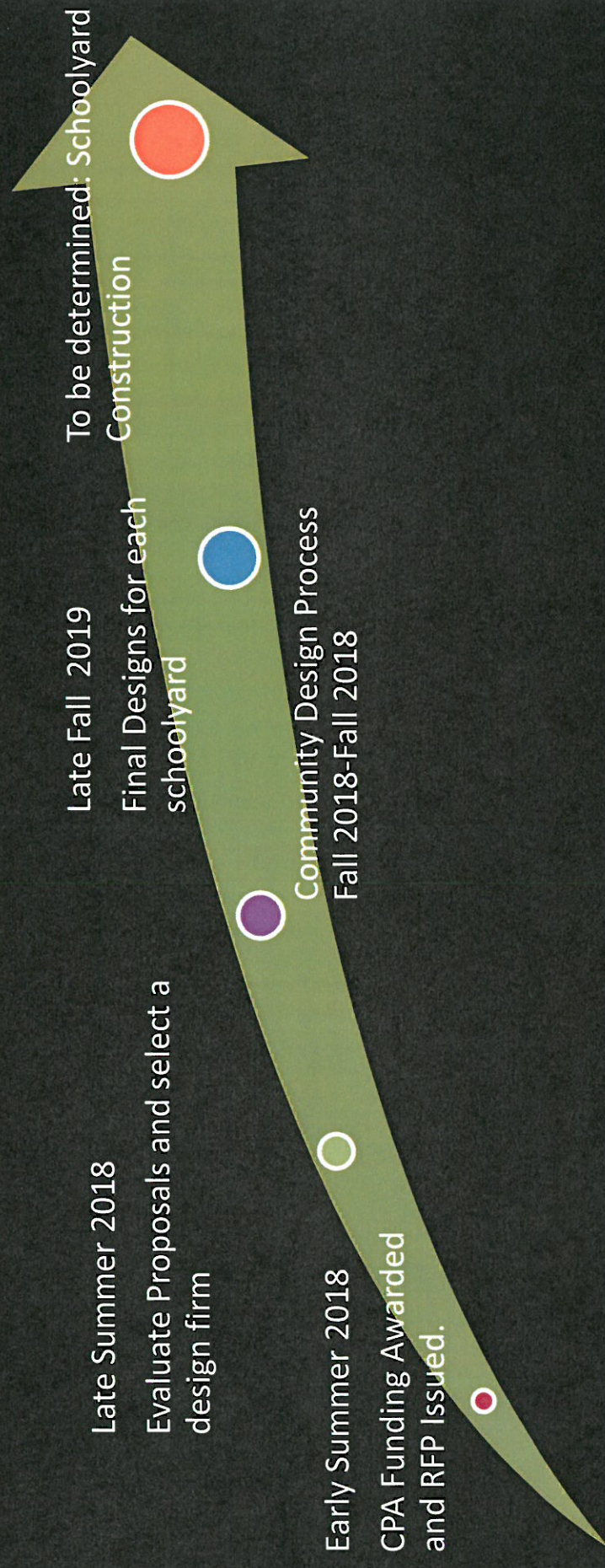
The CPA has awarded funds to several Parks and Open Space projects and all have proceeded without issue. No CPA funds have been awarded to this project to date.

Accessibility Requirements

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

All City Parks and Open Space Projects have always met or exceeded all ADA/MAAB regulations and the designs of these spaces will continue to observe those requirements.

WSNS & Brown School Design Process – Potential Schedule





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: City - Parks + Open Space

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.

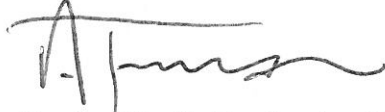

Name (Individual or Entity)	Association	Service Provided	Value of Service (\$)	Amount of City Funds Supporting Service (\$)	Mark "X" if individual or entity has had any grant, contract, or agreement with a federal, state or local agency terminated within the last 3 years.*

*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: Arn Franzen
Title: Director of Parks and Open 
Date: 12/5/2017



**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:	Funding for Schoolyard designs at the WSNS and Brown School
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:	Arn Franzen Director of Parks and Open Space
ADDRESS:	City Hall - third floor - 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143
TELEPHONE NO.:	617-625-6600 x2545
E-MAIL:	afranzen@somervillema.gov

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: DIRECTOR ATTORNS + CREW TRAFFIC

Printed Name of Affiant: Arn Franzen Date: 12/5/17

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

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: West Somerville Neighborhood School (WSNS) & Brown School- Schoolyard Design

APPLICANT: Joint Applicants: City of Somerville, School and Parks and Open Space Departments

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	Somerville CPA	WSNS Design	\$150,000.00			\$150,000.00
3	Somerville CPA	Survey	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
4						
5						
6						
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$	\$ 160,000.00	\$	\$	\$ 160,000.00
*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	Community Preservation Act	NO	
2			
3			
4			
5			

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

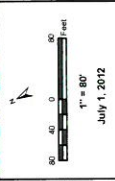
West Somerville Neighborhood School (PK-8)





Assessors Map

- Parcel Boundary
- Block/ROW Boundary
- Other ROW Boundary
- Assessor's Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- Railroad ROW



Scale: 1" = 80'
July 1, 2012

80 40 0 80 Feet



West Somerville Neighborhood School - Existing Conditions



West Somerville Neighborhood School - Existing Conditions



SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Benjamin G. Brown School (K-5)




Welcome to the Benjamin G. Brown School!

Assessors Map

- Parcel Boundary
 - Block/ROW Boundary
 - Other ROW Boundary
 - Assessor Map Boundary
 - Water Body
 - Building
 - Railroad ROW
- Lot Dimension
Lot Number
Square Footage
Frontage Dimension
Street Address

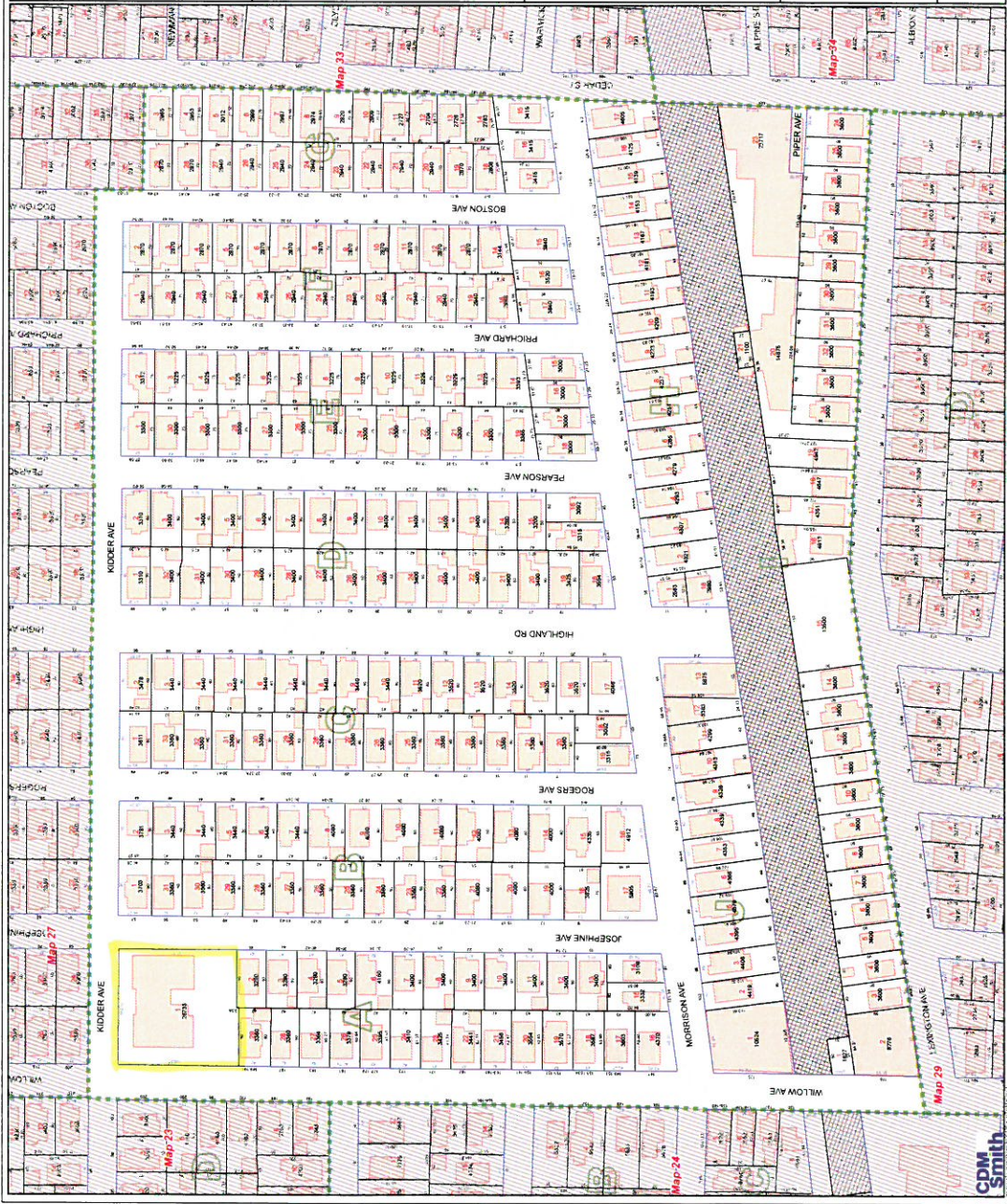
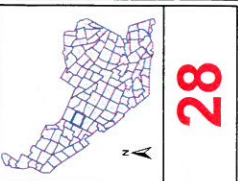
July 1, 2012

1" = 80'

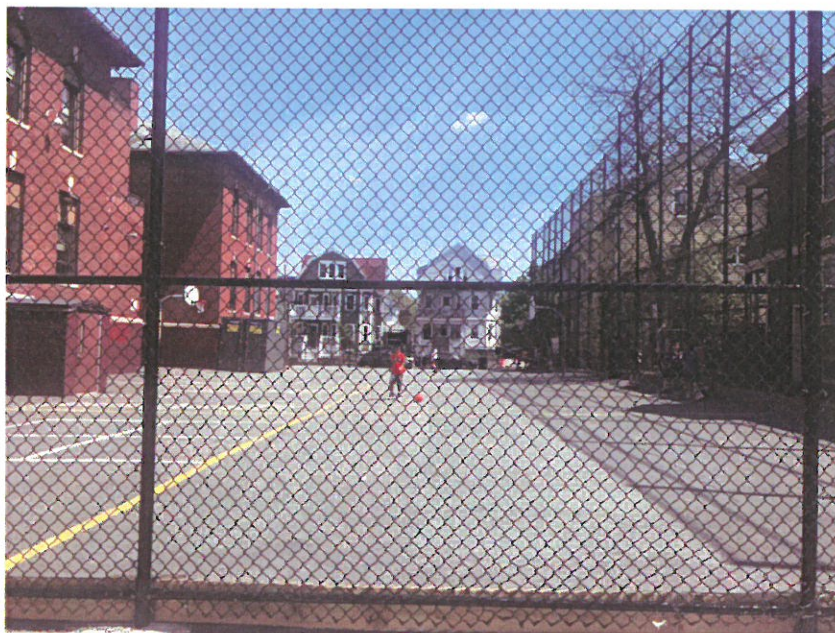


Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints in this map were derived from GIS data provided by the City of Somerville. All other data were obtained from various sources including GIS data provided by the City of Somerville and other public records.

NOTE: The data represented on these maps are for informational purposes only and should not be used as a legal document. The City of Somerville is not responsible for any errors or omissions that may appear on this map.



Brown School Existing Conditions





Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Kathleen Seward, Principal

Kimberly Murphy-Baker, Assistant Principal

West Somerville Neighborhood School

177 Powder House Boulevard · Somerville, MA 02144
kseward@k12.somerville.ma.us · kmurphybaker@k12.somerville.ma.us
T 617-629-5600 · F 617-666-7676

July 10, 2017

Arn Franzen, Director of Parks and Open Space
Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Mr. Franzen,

I am writing to request that the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) add renovation of the West Somerville Neighborhood School's (WSNS's) playground to Somerville's current Capital Investment Plan (CIP). The CIP presently covers the period 2014 through 2018, but makes no mention of this very important project.

The WSNS's mission is to build students' writing, thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities, so they become independent and self-sufficient adults who contribute responsibly to their community and the world. Toward this end, our *student wellness* goal is to develop a school community in which students and their families are known well, and where parent and student participation in the life of our school is reflective of our overall school population. We believe that by building an intentionally welcoming and inclusive school community, we will see student and parent participation in events, initiatives, and planning groups be more reflective of the overall school population.

Despite this intent and commitment, the current makeup of the WSNS School Council, PTA, and participants at various school events is not fully reflective of our school community. WSNS staff feel it is critical that all families are comfortable and feel welcome to participate in school activities ranging from social events to leadership groups such as School Council and PTA. There are currently parents and guardians who wish to be more involved in school than they are, and we are working to find meaningful ways to tap into the skills, talents, and interests of our entire parent body to support the learning of all students.

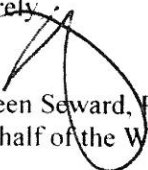
One of the action steps we're taking to address this shortcoming is to develop a robust program of events and initiatives that are tied to school goals and needs, as well as parent interests and strengths to support student learning. A renovated playground will provide a critical place on the WSNS campus where such events can be held. The current WSNS playground is relatively small, and is equipped with structures that are age appropriate for students in grades pre-Kindergarten through two. Many of the third graders have "aged out" of the playground, and by the time the students are in fourth grade, the current equipment is far too juvenile to engage them. The older students play on the blacktop, which is currently only equipped with basketball hoops. Older students have also had to resort to playing in the pavement alleyway on the east side of the building, a situation that has resulted in tension with neighbors, and ultimately temporary police surveillance.



In addition to providing age-appropriate structures for the older children, a renovated playground will provide a welcome and engaging space for the larger WSNS community. My daughters attend the East Somerville Community School (ESCS), which was renovated in 2013. The playground extends to two sides of the campus, and contains structures suitable and appealing for all the students, ages four through 14. I have seen firsthand how the playground inherently creates a socially welcoming environment for both the students and the parents at the ESCS. Students naturally gravitate to the age appropriate equipment, organically breaking down by age group. The multiple benches and grassy areas provide comfortable places for parents to converse and visit with each other, which leads to increased spontaneous community engagement amongst families.

Currently, the WSNS doesn't have a comparable open space, which significantly limits opportunities for social engagement and events on campus. A renovated playground space will go a long way toward helping us meet our *student wellness* goal of increased family engagement by providing WSNS students, families, and community members with a welcoming venue for participation in, and attachment to the school. A renovated playground will also offer essential life-enhancing qualities that improve both the WSNS community and individual students'/family members' well-being. I respectfully request the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development support the WSNS School Improvement Plan by adding our playground renovation to Somerville Capital Investment Plan

Sincerely,



Kathleen Seward, Principal, West Somerville Neighborhood School
On behalf of the WSNS School Improvement Council and the PTA Board:

Sophia Carafotes, 5th grade teacher/Co-Chair
Victoria Macrokanis, 6th grade teacher
Rami Bridge, 7th and 8th grade math teacher
Leslie Lartey, Counselor Educator
Joyce Danis, Reading Teacher
Brenda Williams, Parent
Barry Raffkind, parent
Laura Beretsky, parent
Claire Suthar, parent
Ann Haywood-Baxter, parent
Lee-Anne King, PTA President
Kathleen O'Meara Brewer, PTA Co-Vice President
Jane Wirch, PTA Co-Vice President
Leiran Biton, PTA Co-Secretary
Shira Rosan, PTA Co-Secretary
Erica Edwards, PTA Treasurer



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Benjamin G. Brown Elementary School

Shawn Maguire, Principal

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December 7, 2017

Dear Mr. Franzen:

I am writing this letter in support of the Community Preservation Committee's application for funds from the FY18 Funding Cycle. I understand the support of the CPC and their recommendations will greatly enhance the outdoor space of the Benjamin G Brown Elementary School.

The Benjamin G Brown is the oldest elementary school in the city of Somerville. It is desperately in need of yours and the committees support to improve the outside play space as well as enhance educational opportunities for all students in the Benjamin G Brown district.

Thank you for your support and attention to this matter.

Shawn Maguire





City of Somerville, Massachusetts

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE

MAYOR

To: The Honorable Board of Aldermen

From: Brad Rawson, OSPCD and Kristen Stelljes, CPA/SomerStat

Cc: Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor; Superintendent Mary Skipper; Michael F. Glavin; Emily Monea; Dick Bauer

Subject: Process for school playground and school area improvements

Date: September 13, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to update the honorable Board of Aldermen on the process for prioritizing school playground and school area improvement projects (Agenda item 203877, July 13, 2017). As you know, the City strives to administer a transparent, data-driven process for open space project prioritization, as called for in the recently published [2016-2023 Somerville Open Space & Recreation Plan](#).

Background

Traditionally, project selection has primarily been driven by funding parameters of grant programs such as the state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program or the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The City has an excellent track record of using these outside funding sources to help rehabilitate open space facilities while minimizing costs to local taxpayers. However, these financing sources have their limitations: schoolyards are generally ineligible for PARC funding because they are typically closed to general public use during the school day. Federal CDBG funding is limited to certain geographic areas of the City that meet household income guidelines established by the federal government.

At the same time, the City has recognized the need to improve the schoolyards in our community that are primarily asphalt in order to provide students with the opportunities for play they deserve. The Winter Hill Community Innovation School was the first schoolyard selected for improvement. Thanks to financial support from the Board of Aldermen and the Community Preservation Act, the project's first phase was completed in August 2017 and the second phase is currently under construction. With improvements at the Winter Hill School underway, only three schoolyards remain that have not seen a major improvement in the last five years: the Brown, Healey and, and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools. These schools are now priorities for improvement based on the City's criteria for selecting open space improvement projects.

In 2017 the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development (OSPCD) worked with SomerStat to develop criteria for evaluating open space and schoolyard project opportunities to promote coordination and consistency with the 2016-2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan. The project criteria are summarized as follows:

1. What are the existing conditions of the facility and the characteristics of the surrounding neighborhood?

2. What potential does the space have to address our highest priorities for open space, such as adding new open space or expanding athletic field capacity?
3. Is the open space a schoolyard? Because schoolyards see such intensive use from our youngest residents during the school day and from students and their families as well as other neighbors during evenings and weekends, they receive priority when the City considers which projects to take on next.

Current CPA Process

With the addition of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to the City's open space project financing toolbox, the City now has greater flexibility in addressing renovation needs for Somerville's open spaces, including schoolyards. The CPA process has also encouraged our residents to advocate for specific open space projects. We are pleased to report that two local school communities have become engaged in improving their schoolyards through the CPA.

In 2015 the Friends of the Healey applied for CPA funding to develop a master plan for connecting the Healey School with the Mystic housing community, and the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse and Park. In 2017, the Parks and Open Space Division applied for and received CPA funding for design services for the Healey schoolyard. This design process will use the master plan developed through the Friends of the Healey project as a key input.

Beginning with the FY17 application process, the Community Preservation Committee began requiring that community groups applying for funds for projects on public land collaborate with the relevant department as co-applicants. This ensures a strong partnership between the City and the proponent and provides support to the proponent with the requirements that come with implementing a project on public land. This process was formalized for the current FY18 application process. Community groups now submit a pre-application to the CPA Manager which is reviewed by the relevant City department in advance of the first application deadline. This process helps connect community groups with the relevant City department to develop their applications as collaborators from the beginning and ensures projects are in alignment with City priorities, community-wide values, and staff availability. Community groups proposing projects at public schools are requested to first discuss their ideas with the school's principal and the School Department's Finance Director to ensure the proposal is consistent with the priorities of the Somerville Public Schools.

2017-2018 Outlook

The Community Preservation Committee has now begun the FY18 CPA application process. The West Somerville Neighborhood School PTA and the School Improvement Council submitted a pre-application for CPA funding for design services for their schoolyard. OSPCD's Parks and Open Space Division and School Department assessed the pre-application against the previously mentioned criteria and agreed that improving the West Somerville Neighborhood School schoolyard is a high priority. Staff also recognized the great need for improvements at the Brown School. As a result, the City, along with the School Department, is applying for CPA funds for schoolyard design services at both the West Somerville Neighborhood School and the Brown School.

The City's community-based strategic plans, including the SomerVision Comprehensive Plan and the 2016-2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan establish ambitious goals for the City's open space resources. With limited capital funding and limited staff resources, transparent and data-drive project prioritization is crucial to ensure all Somerville residents have equitable access to high-quality open space and recreation facilities. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Board of Aldermen to ensure that Somerville's schoolyard facilities are renovated in a clear, expeditious, and cost-effective fashion.



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



PROJECT STATUS (What community need is this trying to address and what level of planning has already been undertaken to inform the proposed project?):

To date the planning of each schoolyard has been limited to meeting with school representatives who have expressed their desire to make the renovation of their schoolyards a priority for the City and the CPA.

The new schoolyard designs for each school will address the following needs and requirements for the schools, the community, and the City :

- 1) Provide a design that will meet the most current requirements for Certified Playground Safety Requirements and which will specify materials which meet the most stringent standards with regard to fall heights and safety surfaces.
- 2) Provide a design that minimizes City of Somerville maintenance requirements.
- 3) Analyze and improve ADA access for persons with disabilities.
- 4) Strengthen environmental accountability by exploring design options for green products, permeable surfacing, and sustainable building practices.
- 5) Incorporate elements of a natural outdoor environment to provide connections to nature, and promote the ideas of exploration and discovery.
- 6) Provide a range of play and educational opportunities that are fun, physically challenging, creatively stimulating and socially engaging.
- 7) Produce an imaginative and enduring design which will operate at a level that exceeds pure functional order, and which will serve as an example of Somerville's focus on sustainability, quality materials and excellence in recreation design.

FOR CPC USE: Date Received _____ Date Reviewed _____ Date Applicant Notified _____
 Eligible Potentially Eligible Not Eligible More Information Needed

COMMENTS:

Please follow the link below to a National Institute of Health article titled:
Just What the Doctor Ordered, Using Parks to Improve Children's Health

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/123-a254/>



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FY18 FUNDING CYCLE
ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION FORM
COMMUNITY PROPOSED PROJECTS ON
CITY LAND ONLY**

Submit an electronic copy (fillable PDF available at www.somervillema.gov/CPA) no later than **12 noon on Friday, August 4, 2017** to: Kristen Stelljes, kstelljes@somervillema.gov. [Download and save file before you begin typing to ensure work is saved.]

PROJECT NAME: West Somerville Neighborhood School (WSNS) Schoolyard and Playground Design

PROJECT LOCATION: WSNS Playground, 177 Powder House Blvd.

PROPOSER(S) NAME / ORGANIZATION: WSNS Improvement Council and WSNS Parent Teacher Association

CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Seward, WSNS Principal

MAILING ADDRESS: 177 Powderhouse Boulevard Somerville, MA 02144

PHONE: (617) 629-5600

EMAIL: kseward@k12.somerville.ma.us

Please indicate (X) all categories that apply to this project (at least one). For more detailed information on these categories, refer to the "Community Preservation Act Funding Allowable Uses" chart on the next page.

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

FOR HISTORIC RESOURCES PROJECTS:

Is the resource in a Local Historic District and/or listed on the State Register of Historic Places?
(you can check designation at mhc-macris.net)

If no, has the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission made a determination that the resource is significant?

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The West Somerville Neighborhood School (WSNS) seeks Community Preservation Act funding for the innovative design of our schoolyard/playground, so that it meets the needs of our SMILE-8th grade students, and those of children in the surrounding neighborhood, by providing an equitable, modern, clean, safe, and expansive outdoor recreation space. The WSNS envisions a schoolyard design that serves both our diverse student population, which includes 36% who are economically disadvantaged, at every grade level, as well as the larger West Somerville community. The design will address all existing outdoor areas at WSNS, including: (1) the "tot lot" playground, which is currently a small structure on a wood-chip surface that engages only children in SMILE through grade two; (2) the asphalt blacktop, which is dominated by a small basketball court; and (3) a narrow, largely concrete separate outdoor area (known as "the cave" due to its confining dimensions and vegetative overgrowth) on the eastern end of the school.

The WSNS schoolyard is one of only two schoolyards in Somerville currently graded "poor" (see the City's 2016-2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan) that has not been funded for redevelopment, and for which no concrete plans for rehabilitation are in place. In line with the Community Preservation Committee's Plan to prioritize the rehabilitation of existing fields, parks, and playgrounds that are in the worst condition, we are requesting CPA funds for the design of the WSNS playground, so that it meets the outdoor recreational needs of all our students as well as those of the greater West Somerville community. This will include more unstructured and inclusive play elements for those students who do not participate in organized play, more sophisticated playground structures for older students, and more traditional open spaces for organized sports (e.g. soccer playing area and/or goals).



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



PROJECT STATUS (What community need is this trying to address and what level of planning has already been undertaken to inform the proposed project?):

The school community has expressed the need for a renovated schoolyard/playground to the Board of Aldermen, as well as its Housing and Community Development Committee. The school community and the WSNS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) also petitioned the City for assistance, and identified several items for immediate improvement of the schoolyard at low cost. In response, the City followed through on some of these immediate improvements, including installation of a sliding fence-gate to keep balls from regularly rolling into the street from the schoolyard and anticipated trimming of overgrown vegetation. The WSNS PTA plans to engage families in community planning sessions focused on the playground design ideas at the start of the 2017-18 school year. The results of these sessions will further inform the development of design parameters.

The WSNS serves an under-served community, many of whom are immigrants and are in need of greater support from the City. Our mission is to build students' writing, thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities, so they become independent and self-sufficient adults who contribute responsibly to their community and the world. Toward this end, our student wellness goal is to develop a school community in which students and their families are known well, and where parent and student participation in the life of our school is reflective of our overall school population.

Despite this intent and commitment, the current makeup of the WSNS School Council, PTA, and participants at various school events is not fully reflective of our school community. There are currently parents and guardians who wish to be more involved in school than they are, and we are working to find meaningful ways to tap into the skills, talents, and interests of our entire parent body to support the learning of all students. One of the action steps we're taking to address this shortcoming is to develop a robust program of events and initiatives that are tied to school goals and needs, as well as parent interests and strengths to support student learning. A renovated playground/schoolyard will provide a critical place on the WSNS campus where such events can be held. In addition to providing age-appropriate structures for the older children, a renovated playground will provide a welcome and engaging space for the larger WSNS community.

Currently, the WSNS doesn't have the open space or the age-appropriate playground equipment required to provide an atmosphere that's inclusive for children of all ages. The playground also needs more open space with adequate numbers of benches and grassy areas for parents to comfortably converse and visit with each other. A renovated playground space would significantly increase opportunities for social engagement and events on campus, and go a long way toward helping us meet our student wellness goal of increased family engagement by providing WSNS students, families, and community members with a welcoming venue for participation in, and attachment to the school. A renovated playground will also offer essential life-enhancing qualities that improve both the WSNS community and individual students'/family members' well-being.

In line with the Community Preservation Committee's plan's priority to support Somerville's diversity including support to immigrants regardless of their status, 30% of the WSNS student body is from a family whose first language is not English, or is an English Language Learner, many of whom are immigrants. Such diversity is the backbone of the WSNS community, which would be strengthened by the playground design and renovation.

FOR CITY OF SOMERVILLE USE: Date Received _____ Date Reviewed _____ Date Applicant Notified _____
Relevant department _____

COMMENTS:

Empty box for comments.

Community Preservation Act Funding Allowable Uses				
	Open Space	Recreational Land	Historic Resources	Community Housing
	Land to protect existing and future well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, watershed land, agricultural land, grasslands, fields, forest land, fresh and salt water marshes and other wetlands, ocean, river, stream, lake and pond frontage, beaches, dunes and other coastal lands, lands to protect scenic vistas, land for wildlife or nature preserve and land for recreational use.	Land for active or passive recreational use including, but not limited to, the use of land for community gardens, trails, and noncommercial youth and adult sports, and the use of land as a park, playground or athletic field. Does not include horse or dog racing or the use of land for a stadium, gymnasium or similar structure.	Building, structure, vessel, real property, document or artifact listed on the state register of historic places or determined by the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the city or town.	Housing for low and moderate income individuals and families, including low or moderate income seniors. Moderate income is less than 100%, and low income is less than 80%, of US HUD Area Wide Median Income.
Acquisition Obtain property interest by gift, purchase, devise, grant, rental, rental purchase, lease or otherwise. Only includes eminent domain taking as provided by G.L. c. 44B.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Creation To bring into being or cause to exist. Seideman v. City of Newton, 452 Mass. 472 (2008).	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Preservation Protect personal or real property from injury, harm or destruction.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Support Provide grants, loans, rental assistance, security deposits, interest-rate write downs or other forms of assistance directly to individuals and families who are eligible for community housing, or to entity that owns, operates or manages such housing, for the purpose of making housing affordable.	No	No	No	Yes, includes funding for Affordable Housing Trust Fund
Rehabilitation and Restoration Make capital improvements, or extraordinary repairs to make assets functional for intended use, including improvements to comply with federal, state or local building or access codes or federal standards for rehabilitation of historic properties.	Yes, if acquired or created with CPA funds	Yes	Yes	Yes, if acquired or created with CPA funds