

Community Preservation Act Committee- Proposal Request Form for FY 2020

Project Title: Community Field—Implementation of Strategic Plan

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open Space
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Preservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recreation

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$ 200,000

Submitting Entity: Town of Amherst

Contact Person: Dave Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager/Director Conservation & Development

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Please complete this form in its entirety and include the following in your proposal.

Overview of Proposal: Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis

The Town Center Recreation Working Group (representatives from the schools, town and community) hired Weston & Sampson to develop a strategic plan for the athletic facilities at Community Field, Regional High School and Middle School, and the Hawthorne Property. The plan includes a concept master plan that is broken down into possible construction phases. The highest priorities include a new track and multi-use field, and improvements to the playground and basketball courts at Community Field. See attached concept plan.

This CPA request is for pre-development costs—architectural fees, engineering analysis, legal fees, and other associated costs—to refine the highest priorities of the concept plan into a feasible project. Weston & Sampson's work has provided a solid foundation on which to move forward by outlining the steps and timelines required for such a significant project.

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

1. Description of funding needed, including:

- a. Documentation of cost estimates, budget
- b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising
- c. Timeline on how CPA funds would be spent, including over multiple years

The \$200,000 budget is an estimate for pre-development costs to help the highest priorities phases of the strategic plan move from concept to schematic design with a more in-depth analysis of construction costs, funding sources, project timeline and feasibility. With the help of Weston & Sampson, the Town has a timeline in place to work toward construction of new facilities, even if it will take a few years to implement. The funds being requested from CPA would be spent in the next 1-2 years, while it is estimated that funding for construction would not be in place for another few years.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any.

The track at the Regional High School is falling apart and the field within the track is routinely closed for the season because of poor, unsafe conditions. At Community Field, the basketball court is completely unusable, and the playground is seriously outdated. These facilities are reaching a point where it does not make financial sense to make costly repairs every year when the conditions continue to deteriorate. The track and playground have only a few years left until they will no longer be safe to use.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion.

The CPA funds would be spent in 1-2 years to help keep the project moving forward. It is apparent to the Town and Schools that the size and scope of constructing the highest priority phases will take a few years of planning and fundraising. Nonetheless, these CPA funds are a critical component to refine the concept developed by Weston & Sampson.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources.

Amherst lacks an acceptable playground and recreational facilities in the town center that can be used by residents, families, visitors and the schools, including athletic teams and LSSE programs. The current facilities are dated and over used. Amherst has a limited ability to host athletic and outdoor events because of the poor condition of these facilities, and they are not properly serving the community. As Amherst encourages more families to move to town and builds up its downtown, it will need a recreational facility that meets current standards as well as meets the various needs of users.

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project.

The facilities will serve the entire community, visitors and guests. The schools and athletic programs would use the facilities, as would community members, camps and LSSE programs.

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

The improved facilities would be maintained by the Town and Schools.

7. Which relevant Town committees and/or commissions are you working with?

The project has been discussed with the LSSE Commission, school committee and regional school committee. At this time the Town Center Recreation Working Group has been the primary board/committee working with Weston & Sampson to develop the concept plan, and has held 3 public forums to receive comments from residents that have been incorporated into the plan.

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC.

Existing Conditions-Community Field

Site Accessibility



Access to Community Field from Matoon St. (left photo), poor ADA accommodations (middle photo,) and access from Triangle St. (right photo).



Many of the facilities in the study are not ADA accessible or easily accessed by the elderly. Community Field softball field (left), Stan Ziomek Field (center), and the High School track area (right) where the fields lack accessible routes and spectator viewing areas.

Baseball Field #5, Softball Field #6, and Football Field #7



Softball Field #6 (left photo), poor player areas at Baseball Field #5 (middle photo), and safety issues at Baseball Field #5 (right photo).

DPW and Pool House area



Dpw Maintenance area (left photo), poor surface condition of basketball court (middle photo), and outdated play equipment and pool house areas (right photo).

Preferred Plan

Amherst-Pelham Regional High School & Community Field



Preferred Plan

ADVANTAGES:

- TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX IS:
 - CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL & PARKING
 - FURTHER AWAY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD
 - CONSOLIDATED IN ONE LOCATION
- NEW BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS WITH GOOD ORIENTATION
- NEW MULTI-USE FIELDS:
 - 2 FULL SIZE TYPE A FIELDS IN SPRING
 - 2 SMALLER TYPE B FIELDS IN FALL
 - 3 FULL SIZE TYPE A FIELDS IN FALL
 - 1 SMALLER TYPE B FIELD IN THE FALL
- ADDITIONAL SMALLER PRACTICE/THROWING FIELD
- JOINT SEATING, GATHERING, STORAGE AREA BETWEEN TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX AND 2ND LARGE MULTI-USE FIELD
- MAINTAINS HISTORIC LOCATION OF STAN ZIOMEK BASEBALL FIELD
- UTILIZES SLOPED AREA FOR SEATING

DISADVANTAGES:

- SOFTBALL FIELD IS FURTHER AWAY
- NO UNDER-BLEACHER STORAGE