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**Community Preservation Act Committee Proposal Request Form FY2020 - Submission #14279**

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**Date Submitted: 11/8/2019**

**Instruction**

Submit proposals by Friday, December 6, 2019. CPAC will ask relevant boards, committees and commissions for their input on proposals and encourages applicants to consult with them before submission. Presentations of projects will be scheduled for CPAC meetings in January or February. Recipients of funds shall report back in writing annually about the progress of the project. Projects must be completed in a timely manner and unspent funds returned to the CPA Fund.

**Criteria**

1. Feasibility of the Project; 2. Documentation for Estimated Costs; 3. Funding available: a. multiple sources of funding, b. need for additional funding in future years, c. demonstrates lack of other funding sources if applicable; 4. Urgency of the Project; 5. Estimated timeline from receipt of funding, to start and to completion; 6. Acquisition and/or preservation of threatened resources; 7. Population(s) to be served by the Project; 8. A Plan for how the project will be maintained over time; 9. Priority ranking of your Project set by relevant Town boards, committees or commissions.

**Project Title\***

Kendrick Park: Design and Construction of a Downtown Playground

**Funding Category\***

Check all that apply.

- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Open Space
- Recreation

**Amount of Funds Requested\***

259000

**Submitting Entity\***

Town of Amherst

**Contact Person\***

Dave Ziomek

**E-mail Address\***

ziomekd@amherstma.gov

**Project Team**

Staff from LSSE, Planning, Public Works and the LSSE Commission

Names and e-mail addresses for other members of your project team.

If your proposal has an associated website, you may include a link.

**Proposal Overview\***

The Town applied for and received a \$400,000 PARC grant to design and construct a playground with amenities in Kendrick Park. Town plans to create a focal point in downtown Amherst that attracts families, local residents, visitors and patrons by designing and constructing the play area, walkways, and seating & tables in Kendrick Park. In the 2000's the Town was formally gifted the 3 acres of Kendrick Park, which was purchased by the Kendrick family in the 19th and 20th Centuries with the intention that the area would one day be used as a public park. In 2010-11, the Town formed a Kendrick Park Design Advisory Committee that worked with a consultant to hold extensive public outreach as part of developing a schematic design for the park. The schematic design had walkways around the perimeter and crisscrossing the space, an open lawn, a play area, an amphitheater, and hardscaped areas for markets and events. The final schematic design was supported by many residents and boards and committees. The play area that will developed with the PARC grant uses the schematic plan as guidance for the general location and layout of the playground.

The current concept design builds on the 2011 schematic plan by incorporating the recent community input. The general design and location of walkways follows the earlier plan so that future build out is possible following the schematic plan. As many mature trees as possible are planned to be saved, and new trees are incorporated into the design. Within the play area, 3-4 mature trees will remain as focal points and can continue to provide shade in the summer. Additional trees are planned, as are rain gardens to help mitigate stormwater runoff. The design incorporates these sustainable elements as a way to reduce maintenance costs and to respond to community input for a low impact design. The walkways create a diagonal connection though the park, making a direct link from the adjacent neighborhoods. There is plentiful seating for different users, and vegetative screening to help separate other functions of the park, and tables for picnicking. The play equipment has been selected for its range of use by different age groups (toddlers to young teens) and because some of the elements exceed ADA with all-inclusive use and play.

**Description of Funding Needed\***

The Kendrick Park project would be funded by the PARC grant and local Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. The Town needs to allocate the full project cost as the grant is a reimbursement program. There are no formal commitments for additional funding, although the Town anticipates seeking smaller amounts of funding for maintenance or installation of additional site amenities from local organizations such as the Business Improvement District, the Rotary Club and Friends of Amherst Recreation.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$659,000. The Town received the maximum PARC grant award of \$400,000, so that the local match is \$259,000. The PARC grant is a 2-year award, with \$50,000 for design in in year 1 (FY20) and \$609,000 in construction costs in year 2 (FY21).

Include cost estimates and other sources of funding.

**Budget\***

Fy20 PARC grant budget Kendrick Park-CPA1.pdf

Attach your project budget.

**Urgency of Project\***

Developing a play area in Kendrick Park is now a high community priority, made very clear through various zoning and land use forums and when updating the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Many residents are voicing a strong need for a centrally located playground with associated amenities. The community wants a space within walking distance of the schools, shops, restaurants and neighborhoods where kids can play and residents can gather.

In order to help understand what exactly the community wants, the Town's Leisure Services and Supplemental Education (LSSE) Commission conducted surveys at the Taste of Amherst (3 days of local food vendors on the Town Common) and July 4th celebrations, conducting slightly over 100 surveys to ask about the programming elements for the play area. In addition to the surveys, the LSSE Commission and Planning Department sponsored a public meeting on Thursday, June 27th after conducting outreach to EJ populations. Notices were placed around town at the libraries, swimming pools, local shops (Atkins Market and Black Sheep Deli), and distributed to over 1,500 persons/households who are current participants or who have participated in LSSE programs over the past year. The results of this outreach can be summed up to 'what is the town waiting for?' Residents are very excited at the possibility of additional walkways and seating, and are very eager to have play equipment for younger and older kids. 80 Respondents said they would use the park more if these improvements were made. In terms of design elements, many suggested non-thematic equipment with subdued colors, as well as more naturalistic amenities. The most requested elements were shade, ADA equipment, a climbing structure and slides.

**Estimated Timeline\***

The PARC grant program has a rigorous schedule that cannot be extended. The final design and bid specifications must be completed by June 1, 2020. The program would like construction to begin on or around July 1, 2020, with a signification portion of construction occurring in the summer/fall 2020. The construction must be completed by mid-May 2021 for final reimbursement in June 2021.

Describe the project timeline from receipt of CPA funds to project completion. Include in the timeline when funds will be spent.

**Does this project preserve or acquire any threatened resources?\***

The design and construction of a playground at Kendrick Park will help fulfill the original vision of the Kendrick family and will also be the first phase of implementing the 2011 schematic plan. Currently there is a lack of play areas in the Town Center that this project hopes to address with an accessible, modern playground.

**What population(s) will be served by this project?\***

The park's location in downtown Amherst makes it a central location that can be accessed by many bus routes, is walkable from nearby Environmental Justice neighborhoods, and is located within ½ mile of local schools, shops and restaurants. The play area, walkways, and seating & tables will be prominent feature of the parks that can be used by residents, families, visitors and downtown patrons. These improvements complement the current use of the park for passive recreation and seasonal programming by the Business Improvement District (BID) for outdoor concerts and events.

The playground is part of the public park that is open to all, free of charge

**How will the CPA investment in your project be maintained over time?\***

Kendrick Park is currently maintained by the Town, through seasonal and annual maintenance, and through volunteer efforts coordinated by Department of Public Works (DPW) and LSSE. The Tree & Grounds Division of DPW is responsible for the maintenance and care of all the towns' parks, commons, athletic fields, cemeteries and public shade trees. An example of volunteerism is Mass Impact Day—each year in the fall, UMass students help with seasonal maintenance through this event. Kendrick Park playground could be added to the list of sites for this day. The Friends of Amherst Recreation is a private local organization that often helps the Town's LSSE Department coordinate and fundraise for events, and they may also help with the maintenance of the play area.

**What relevant Town committees or commissions are you working with?**

LSSE Commission, Planning Board

**Please include any other information regarding the project you deem necessary for the CPAC.**

**You may upload any attachments you deem useful to CPAC here.**

2019-07-19 Kendrick Concept\_2.jpg

Suggested attachments include floor or site plans, photographs, drawings, etc.

**You may upload any attachments you deem useful to CPAC here.**

Kendrick Park-existing conditions.pdf

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 Browse...