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TOWN OF CONCORD, MA



TOWN OF CONCORD
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
141 KEYES ROAD, CONCORD, MA 01742
TEL. (978) 318-3290 FAX (978) 318-3291

Application for CPC Funding

Due no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, September 8, 2023

Applicant*: Concord250 Permanent Memorials Subcommittee

Federal Tax Id. No.*: _____

Co-Applicant (if applicable): _____

Project Name*: 250 Trees for the 250th Initiative

Project Location/Address (if applicable): Townwide

Purpose*: (Select all that apply)

- Open Space
- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

Project Budget*:

Amount of CPC Funds Requested: \$ \$125,000

Amount from Other Funding Sources: \$ \$125,000*

Total Project Budget: \$ \$250,000

(If multi-year project, note current phase only) *Additional private funding may be sought

Please check which of the following is included with this Application:

- One Paragraph Project Summary *
- Map (if applicable)
- Narrative *
- Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment
- Detailed Project Budget *
- Feasibility Assessment
- Statement of Sustainability (if applicable)
- Timeline *
- Architectural plans, site plans, photographs (if appropriate)
- Copy of IRS determination letter (Non-profit Organizations only)*
- Copy of Audit or most recent Financial Information (Non-profit Organizations only)*
- Letters of Support (if any) *letters forthcoming

Project Contact Person*: Christa Collins, member, Concord250 Permanent Memorials Subcommittee

Project Contact Address*: 55 Highland Street

Project Contact Phone*: 617-417-1978 Email*: ccollins5557@gmail.com

Authorized Signature of Applicant*: Christa Collins, on behalf of the Concord 250 Permanent Memorials Subcommittee

Authorized Signature of Property Owner* (if different): Kjafleud

* Required

For Historic Preservation Projects Only - please check the box below left and acknowledge:

- I/We have read the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and understand that planning for and execution of this project must meet these standards.

Concord250 Permanent Memorials Subcommittee Application to the Community Preservation
Committee

250 TREES FOR THE 250TH INITIATIVE

September, 2023

Brief Project Summary

The Concord250 Permanent Memorials Subcommittee proposes to work with the Concord Public Works (CPW) to undertake a commemorative planting of 250 trees in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Concord. Trees will be planted throughout Town, addressing ecological, cultural, historical, and aesthetic needs, supporting Town Sustainability goals, and expanding the existing Town Tree Planting Program. The project budget is estimated at \$250,000, and costs will be covered by two sources of public funds. Two large “commemorative” trees, one of which may be located in Concord Center and the other in West Concord, will require private funding.

Narrative

As we consider appropriate ways of commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Concord and Lexington, we have an opportunity to pause and look not only back, but forward: what do we want Concord to be 250 years from now? We are at an ecological inflection point, locally and globally, as we seek ways to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. What better way to mark the 250th than with a living monument, the planting of 250 trees?

19th century Concordians would have approved: In the *By-Laws of Corinthian Lodge, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, of Concord, Mass.*, Concord, Printed by Benjamin Tolman, 1859, p. 137 [copy in the Concord Museum], Louis Surette notes:

"It was evident that without trees the avenue would present no very pleasant prospect. The committee made a request that trees might be brought to the battle ground on the 19th of April, 1838, the 63d anniversary of the Battle of Concord, and the request was not made in vain; upwards of 200 trees were brought in and planted on that day, consisting of elm, buttonwood, maple, white oak, larch, fir, pine, ash, hickory and horn beam, a great portion of which have remained living monuments of the patriotism of the donors."

Trees are a critical part of Concord's natural ecosystem, scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and economic sustainability. Although this proposal is submitted for funding from the CPA Open Space category, the applicants feel that the project also contributes significantly to Concord's historic and scenic character.

Concord Public Works (CPW) currently plants 80-100 trees per year, and the 250 trees initiative seeks to augment that number beginning in FY '25, as well as to begin immediately to highlight the importance of Concord's tree canopy and build support for more sustained funding for tree planting into the future. Species planted will be native to the region and consistent with species identified in CPW's tree planting

guide. Most importantly, a 250 trees initiative supports the Town's Sustainability goals and recommendations of the 2017 Concord Tree Management Plan in an era of rapid climate change.

Citizen volunteers will work with the Permanent Memorials Subcommittee to identify potential planting sites, including locations within the public right of way, and on Town-owned and private properties where appropriate, over the summer and fall of 2023. In the spring of 2024 (and prior to Concord's Annual Town Meeting), a Working Group led by Concord's Tree Warden and consisting of representatives from the School Department, Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, and citizen volunteers will convene to define a scope of work, review the potential sites, and develop a request for bids from contractors to carry out a portion of the installation and establishment. Members of the working group will further visit and assess identified sites to ensure they are free of constraints that would impede tree planting or result in a failure of planted trees to survive and thrive. CPW will continue to implement its current tree planting program, while the additional tree planting and establishment load will be contracted out.

One or more "Commemorative Trees" may be considered for planting in a prominent location, depending upon private funding support. These trees would be representative of the entire tree planting effort, and would be substantially larger than the majority of trees planted elsewhere.

The citizen representatives will be responsible for liaising with the Concord250 Permanent Memorials Subcommittee, conducting outreach and advocacy around the appropriation of public funds, such as the Town annual budget, Community Preservation funds, and the Concord Middle School building budget, to support the initiative, and coordinating a private fundraising campaign to support this effort. The citizen representatives will also work with the Subcommittee to document and catalog the plantings, planting activities, and publicity.

CPC's Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment

General Selection Criteria

- A. We believe this project is eligible for funding under the CPA legislation, and there is precedent for tree planting projects in other CPA communities. For example, a 2022-2023 project to replace trees on Boston's Esplanade, 2020 funding to plant trees in Medford parks, and in Concord, funding to replace trees that had been damaged in the tornado, at the Concord Children's Center playscape.
- B. The project is consistent with long-range planning goals in that it supports and preserves the historical character and cultural heritage of the town, enhances the Town's natural environment, supports the Town's cultural and historical institutions in celebrating Concord as a cultural destination, and protects the Town's historical assets.
- C. The project is supported by the Concord250 Executive Committee, Concord Public Works, the Concord Natural Resources Division, and the Concord Public Schools, in addition to many interested citizens.
- D. The project supports and augments existing town programs and assets.
- E. The project is accessible to and benefits all Concord citizens.

- F. The project meets open space and historic preservation goals, and may also enhance recreational resources if tree plantings take place in parks and playgrounds.
- G. [financial qualifications of applicant - n/a]
- H. [track record of applicant - n/at]
- I. Planting will be done on Town or School Department property, and within the Town ROW.
- J. The Town's current budget for tree planting is not adequate to cover the cost of planting 250 trees.
- K. There will be multiple sources of funding for the project
- L. [The feasibility of the project plan and whether or not the most reasonable approach for implementing the project has been selected. n/a]
- M. The project is timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Concord, and events that will be happening in town throughout 2025.
- N. The budget includes funding for two years of watering and maintaining trees.
- O. n/a
- P. n/a
- Q. Trees have a net positive environmental impact, including contributing to reduced energy consumption, reduced heat island effect, stormwater control, and enhanced energy and water conservation.
- R. The project meets the four sustainability principles adopted by the Selectboard
- S. A vendor will be chosen by a bid process
- T. n/a

Specific Use Criteria

Tree planting helps meet CPA open space goals:

Goal 1: Trees play a critical role in protecting the Town's water resources and biodiversity. They are the most cost-efficient form of engineering when it comes to mitigating stormwater, preventing erosion, and filtering pollutants and excess nutrients from rainwater and in soil. Trees also support biodiversity in town by providing important vertebrate and invertebrate habitat. A single oak tree can host up to 600 species of invertebrate.

Goal 2: Planting trees can enhance some of the existing town open space and recreational resources, including trails and walkways. Planting additional trees along trail corridors such as the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, and in parks and playgrounds makes recreation safer and more enjoyable, and improves public health.

Open Space Opportunities

8. Neighborhood Opportunities

250 Trees has already been approached by the Concord Green Thumbs about plantings that will improve and enhance pocket parks in West Concord. Additional pocket parks will be inventoried and assessed as to their appropriateness for new trees.

Goals from the 2018 Comprehensive Long Range Plan

The 250 trees initiative provides an opportunity to inform and educate Concord's citizenry about the value of trees as part of our critical infrastructure and climate change mitigation. Events such as Ag Day and Town Meeting(s), and articles in local publications present an opportunity for the Subcommittee and other citizen volunteers to educate the public about the project and the importance of green infrastructure,

Budget

The current estimate to procure, install, monitor monthly for one year, and water/warrant for two years is \$1,591.33 per 2½" to 3½" caliper tree. Per our conversation with the Town Manager, the FY '25 town budget is expected to accommodate CPW's typical planting of around 100 trees per year. To cover the cost of the remaining 150 trees, we look to the FY '25 capital budget for \$125,000, and seek a match of \$125,00 from the CPC. Private funds would be sought by citizen volunteers to cover the cost of one or more commemorative trees.

This budget makes a conservative assumption that the nursery stock procured will consist entirely of 2 ½- 3 1/2 " caliper trees. However, some smaller trees may be obtained for planting in groupings at locations such as the new middle school, or on the high school campus, resulting in potential cost savings.

Feasibility

Because this project will be carried out by Concord CPW and a reputable contractor under the guidelines of the Town's current tree planting and management protocols, impediments to implementation are expected to be minimal to none.

Statement of Sustainability

The value of trees to community health and sustainability cannot be underestimated. They remove carbon, including greenhouse gas emissions, from the air. They cool the surrounding area, offsetting the heat impact of asphalt and combustion engines, and reducing energy consumption. They encourage walking over driving, by cooling sidewalks and pathways. They absorb and filter stormwater. Further, this project addresses equity needs by planting trees throughout town, providing benefits to all residents, regardless of age, race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Outreach Strategy

Subcommittee members have discussed the project with Concord Public Works, Natural Resources Staff, and the Superintendent of Schools, School Board and School Building Committee members, all of whom will be involved in the project. We have also reached out to local groups such as the Garden Club and

Green Thumbs, and will continue to build support among other local organizations. Communication with individual residents who may wish to participate or who will be otherwise impacted by the project will be done in accordance with the Town's regular tree program procedures.

Timeline

- Summer-fall 2023: Volunteers identify and assess potential planting sites
- Fall 2023: Work with Town Manager to secure funding support in FY 2025 Town Capital Budget for tree planting
- April 2024: Establish and convene formal Working Group
- April - May 2024: Working Group defines the details of its scope of work
- January 2024 - July 2025: Public Communications
- May 2024: Town Meeting vote on CPC and Capital funding request
- August 2024: Hire tree planting contractor.
- January 2024- Spring 2025: Fundraising
- Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Fall 2025: Plant trees (three seasons)