

**SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION  
FULL APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**I. PROJECT INFORMATION**

CPA program area - check all that apply:

- community housing       historic preservation       open space       recreation

Project/Program Title:

Brief Project/Program Summary:

Merrick Park, at the corner of State and Chestnut Streets, has a long history of historical and neighborhood significance. Unfortunately, the history of this park and the heralded statue of The Puritan by Augustus St. Gaudens that stands at its center, have been absent from public awareness for many years. The park needs a major restoration to not only highlight its history, but also to make it more welcoming to the public. The neighborhood council along with the Parks Department proposes to undertake redesign and enhancements in order to have Merrick Park actually serve the nearby residents, other neighbors and visitors. The funding is to cover site survey, design, including community engagement, engineering and construction.

estimated start date: fall 2022

estimated completion date: spring 2024

**II. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Type of Applicant - check one:

- City of Springfield       Non-Profit Organization       For-Profit Business       Individual

Name of Organization: **Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association**

Name of Contact Person: **Betsy Johnson, AQCA president**

Mailing Address: **140 Chestnut Street**

Mailing City/State/Zip: **Springfield, MA 01103**

Phone: **413-747-1830**

Fax:

Email: **aqca@aqca.org**

Website: **www.aqca.org**

**III. BUDGET SUMMARY**

Estimated Project Budget: **\$250,000**

CPA Funding Request: **\$ 250,000**

Will you be seeking multi-year funding       Yes       No

CPA Request as Percentage of Total Project/Program Budget: **100% of design & construction**

List Other Secured Funding Sources:

**Funding for statue restoration and for enhancements such as additional art features and interpretive signage will be sought from other sources.**

List Other Prospective Funding Sources:

**First Resource Development (developer of 195 and 310 State St.) and art grant funding**

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Betsy Johnson*

Date Submitted: March 30, 2022

**ENHANCING MERRICK PARK**  
**Springfield CPA Proposal from the Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association (AQCA)**  
**in Conjunction with the Springfield Parks Department**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION: OPEN SPACE & RECREATION QUESTIONS**

1. Is the project in a wetland or does it abut a wetland? **NO**
2. If so, has the Conservation Commission been informed? **Not Applicable**
3. If the project is on municipal park or conservation land, attach a letter of support from the Park Commission – **attached**

**II. NARRATIVE**

**A. Project Summary**

Merrick Park, at the corner of State and Chestnut Streets, has a long history of historical and neighborhood significance that cannot be overstated. Unfortunately, the history of this park and the heralded statue of *The Puritan* by Augustus St. Gaudens that stands at its center have been absent from public awareness for many years. Merrick Park has also been underutilized by the community that surrounds it. The park needs a major restoration to not only highlight its history, but also to make it more welcoming to the public.

The neighborhood council along with the Parks Department proposes to undertake redesign and enhancements in order to have Merrick Park actually serve the residents of Skyview Tower, Classical Condominiums, the planned residential development of 195 State Street, and other neighbors and visitors. The funding is to cover site survey, design, including community engagement, engineering and construction.

**B. Proposal Description**

Merrick Park, as part of the Quadrangle, is flanked by Andrew Carnegie's Springfield Public Library and the acclaimed Springfield Museums. It also sits at the center of a neighborhood of residential properties that should be afforded a beautiful and safe green space for people to participate in myriad ways.

Instead, neighbors currently describe Merrick Park "as a mess." Inappropriate decorative grasses ring and obscure *The Puritan* statue for most of the year. There are other obscuring sight lines as well. There are difficult to climb paths that discourage going through the park to get to and from the Springfield Museums or the Central Library's entrance.

The St. Gaudens statue of Deacon Samuel Chapin has occupied Merrick Park since 1899. *The Puritan*, as the statue is called, is depicted on the flag of the City of Springfield as well as the logo for the Springfield Public Schools. The fact that the sculptor St. Gaudens had great admiration for John Brown (who met with Frederick Douglass in Springfield during the Civil War years) has been reflected in suggestions that *The Puritan's* face has some features similar to those of John Brown. The importance of this statue and its place in history should not be overlooked in the Springfield curriculum. A letter of support for this project from the Springfield Historical Commission reflects this historical importance. The statue is in need of considerable

restoration. We anticipate that we will be able to leverage the funds for statue restoration because of the CPA grant.

The statue and its surroundings should be fully restored and improved with new walkways, seating, lighting, educational markers, landscaping and plantings, and areas that are inviting to participation from residents and families. Improvements that have been attempted in the past have fallen short of the extensive improvements that this site demands.

With the promise of another residential property across the street at the former School Department building (and, before that, the historic Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance building), a developer that has promised to take an active role in adopting Merrick Park as a neighborhood asset, the time is right to get the job done and restore the park to its historical grandeur and ensure that it provides a welcome setting for existing and new resident participation.

The schematic concept design envisions usable resting areas, spaces that the Library might use for outdoor programs, spaces for additional artwork that could complement Pynchon Plaza, spaces for sculptures that young children could sit on, encouraging families to enjoy the Park, and more. The latter will be determined by a community design process that fits with AQCA's current community outreach initiative. This design process will engage neighbors, which will encourage future use and stewardship by neighbors.

### **C. Feasibility & Sustainability**

The project is feasible because Merrick Park is owned and maintained by the Springfield Department of Parks, Building, and Recreation Management. The overall plan is for design and construction to be undertaken in 2022 to 2024. AQCA anticipates working with the Springfield Cultural Partnership to raise funds for statue restoration and for artistic enhancements such as done for nearby Pynchon Plaza. First Resources Development who is developing as income limited rental properties both 195 and 310 State Street has indicated a willingness to support ongoing maintenance and programming.

### **D. Applicant Experience**

The applicant, the Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association's president, Betsy Johnson, has previously worked with the Parks Department on a CPA-funded project to install banners and interpretive signs along the Riverwalk. The requested grant will be received by the Springfield Parks Department who has a proven track record of following bid procedures and hiring a capable vendor for projects such as this.

## **III. TIMELINE**

Summer/Fall 2022: receive approval from CPC for the project

Fall 2022: Parks Department hires design consultant

Winter/Spring 2022-2023: Finalize design with community engagement

2023 – 2024: Construction.

#### **IV. BUDGET**

The \$250,000 request is based on the past experience of the Parks Department for a scope of work that includes current site assessment, surveying, community participation, developing construction design documents, implementation budgeting, securing permits, and construction. A detailed draft budget is attached. The Parks Department will be providing in-kind project staffing.

#### **V. ATTACHMENTS**

##### Letters of Support

- City of Springfield Parks Commission
- Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association
- Springfield Central Library
- Springfield Historical Commission
- Springfield Museums

##### Maps

- Location map

##### Photographs

- 4 views of current conditions

##### Proof of Ownership

- City of Springfield GIS map/Property Record Card

##### Other

- Draft budget
- Conceptual redesign



City of Springfield  
***Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management***

March 7, 2022

Community Preservation Committee  
36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Committee Members,

The Board of Park Commissioners convened a meeting on March 3, 2022 to hear requests from citizens and community organizations relating to Community Preservation Act 2022 park and recreation grant applications.

The Springfield Park Commission enthusiastically supports the application for improvements to Merrick Park.

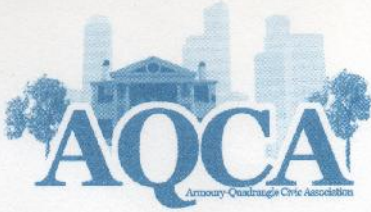
The Park Commission feels this project is aligned not only with the city's priorities and needs for enhanced recreational offerings city-wide, but with the Community Preservation Act priorities to renovate neighborhood parks and green spaces.

We are available to answer any questions and look forward to working with the Community Preservation Committee and the neighborhood to implement this project.

Sincerely,

*Milagros Terry Rodriguez (cmc)*  
Milagros Terry Rodriguez,  
Board of Park Commissioners, Chairwoman

cc: Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director of PBRM



Armory-Quadrangle Civic Association  
140 Chestnut Street #C • Springfield, MA 01103

(413) 747-1830 • [aqca@kimballtowers.com](mailto:aqca@kimballtowers.com) • [aqcaSpringfield.org](http://aqcaSpringfield.org)

March 28, 2022

Community Preservation Committee  
c/o Budget Office, Room 412, City Hall  
36 Court Street, Springfield MA 01103

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members,

I write as president of the Armory Quadrangle Civic Association (AQCA), the Springfield neighborhood council for the Metro Central area including Merrick Park. AQCA has taken the lead for applying for CPA funds for renovation of this historic park that is a key component to the Quadrangle, and home to one of Springfield's most important sculptures -- *The Puritan* by Augustus St. Gaudens

The Park is currently a "mess" and does not serve the residents of the adjacent Skyview Towers and Classical Condominiums, nor the soon-to-be residents of the redeveloped 195 State Street. It a key gateway to the Springfield Museums and the Springfield Central Library. The conceptual design addresses the poor sightlines and accessibility. Neighbors look forward to the community design process to develop a final park design that welcomes both residents and visitors to Springfield. AQCA also looks forward to working with the Museum and Springfield Cultural Partnership to complement this project with an artwork initiative similar to that done for the nearby Pynchon Plaza.

Please support the request of the Armory Quadrangle Civic Association and the Springfield Parks Department for \$250,000 CPA for current site assessment, surveying, community participation, developing construction design documents, implementation budgeting, securing permits, and construction.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Johnson  
President



Central Library  
220 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-263-6828  
Fax: 413-263-6825

Brightwood  
359 Plainfield Street  
Springfield, MA 01107  
413-263-6805

East Forest Park  
122 Island Pond Road  
Springfield, MA 01118  
413-263-6836

East Springfield  
21 Osborne Terrace  
Springfield, MA 01104  
413-263-6840

Forest Park  
380 Belmont Avenue  
Springfield, MA 01108  
413-263-6843

Indian Orchard  
44 Oak Street  
Springfield, MA 01151  
413-263-6846

Library Express  
204 Boston Road  
Springfield, MA 01109  
413-263-6855

Mason Square  
765 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01109  
413-263-6853

Sixteen Acres  
1187 Parker Street  
Springfield, MA 01129  
413-263-6858

Read/Write/Now  
Adult Literacy Program  
204 Boston Road  
Springfield, MA 01109  
413-263-6839

March 29, 2022

Community Preservation Committee  
City Hall  
36 Court Street  
Springfield MA

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Armory Quadrangle Civic Association's application for a Community Preservation grant to restore Merrick Park, located adjacent to the Central Library.

The Springfield City Library supports AQCA's vision for this project, which we understand was developed in conjunction with the City's Parks Department. The plan to include reading nooks and places for book conversations make this a perfect complement to Library programming.

Merrick Park has a long history, and the central placement of the Augustus St. Gaudens statue of *The Puritan* makes it historically significant. The Central Library welcomes a restoration that would make the elements of the park more attractive with new walkways and benches, and tasteful, more enduring landscaping and plantings. Lighting and improved maintenance will make the park safer. Attention to *The Puritan*, with educational and historical markers throughout the park, will provide important elements in keeping with the Library's mission.

We are delighted to support this application.

Please contact me should you need more information.

Sincerely,

Molly Fogarty, Library Director  
413-263-6828, ext. 290



70 TAPLEY STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104  
413.787.6020  
www.springfield-ma.gov

March 29, 2022

Community Preservation Committee  
City Hall, 36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA, 01103

Re: Application for Community Preservation Act Grant  
City of Springfield, Dept. of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management –  
Merrick Park

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

I am writing to you to express the support from the Springfield Historical Commission for the City of Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management's application for Community Preservation Act funds to make improvements to Merrick Park.

Merrick Park is located in the Quadrangle Mattoon Local Historic District. The Springfield Historical Commission has determined this property to be historically significant.

The open space at Merrick Park, approximately a ½ acre, acts as a gateway to the Quadrangle Mattoon Local Historic District and features a statue of William Pynchon, Springfield's founder. The Commission understands the neighborhood and the Park Department is seeking funds to support design and construction tasks to improve site conditions, walkways, monument and landscaping at Merrick Park. This project will enable the Park Department to advance schematic design into construction documents and implement improvements that honor the park's history.

Community Preservation Act funds are integral to projects of this scope and will ensure that restoration of Merrick Park preserves the historic character of this open space in the Metro Center. The results of this project will restore a significant historic landscape for all to enjoy. Support of the Community Preservation Committee is appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vincent Walsh  
Chairman, Springfield Historical Commission

Cc: Patrick J. Sullivan, Department of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management



70 Tapley Street  
Springfield, MA 01104

## Eligibility Determination for Community Preservation Act

THE SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION has determined at its  
meeting of March 28, 2022 that the following property:

NS State Street (11110-0040)  
Intersection of Chestnut & State Street

**Property**

City of Springfield

**Owner**

36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

\_\_\_ is listed individually on the State Register of Historic Places, or

contributes to the Quadrangle-Mattoon Local Historic District, which is  
listed on the State Register of Historic Places, or

\_\_\_ is not listed individually or as a contributing part of a district but is significant in the  
history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Springfield because:

\_\_\_ is NOT significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Springfield.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman or Authorized Signatory



March 30, 2022

Springfield Community Preservation Committee  
Springfield City Hall  
36 Court Street, Room 412  
Springfield MA 01103

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members,

As President and CEO of Springfield Museums, I am happy to submit a letter of support for the restoration of Merrick Park and their application to the Community Preservation Committee that would make this work possible.

Merrick Park is part of the Quadrangle and is significant historically. Unfortunately, the park has not been consistently maintained for years and The Puritan statue as well as its environs need some real attention. I am in support of their goal to provide an attractive and safe space for Springfield residents to enjoy. The quadrangle offers a park-like retreat – the kind so necessary for the social well-being of our city residents. I wholeheartedly believe the preservation work done here will benefit the quadrangle and neighborhood as a whole.

As you well know, the work to preserve our city's historic spaces is deeply necessary. We are grateful to support these meaningful projects together, in community.

I urge you to support the application for the full restoration of Merrick Park for the benefit of the City residents and visitors who come from throughout the region to visit the Museums and the other downtown cultural attractions.

Thank you for your consideration of our neighbor's application.

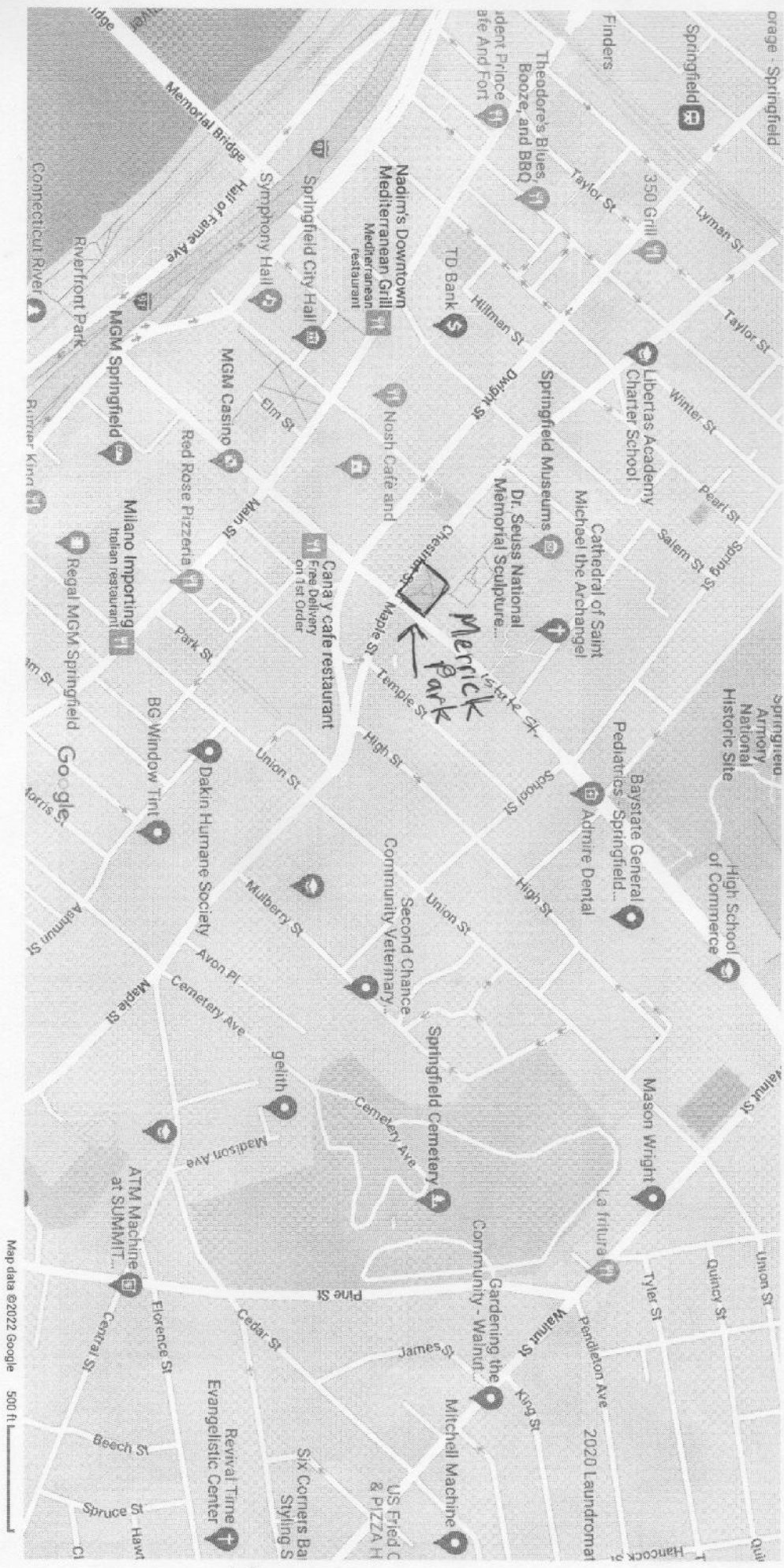
Sincerely,

Kay Simpson  
President/CEO  
Springfield Museums

21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA 01103 • 413.263.6800 • [Springfieldmuseums.org](http://Springfieldmuseums.org)

Michele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts • Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History  
George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum • Springfield Science Museum • The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum  
Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden

Springfield Museums • Established 1857



MERRICK PARK

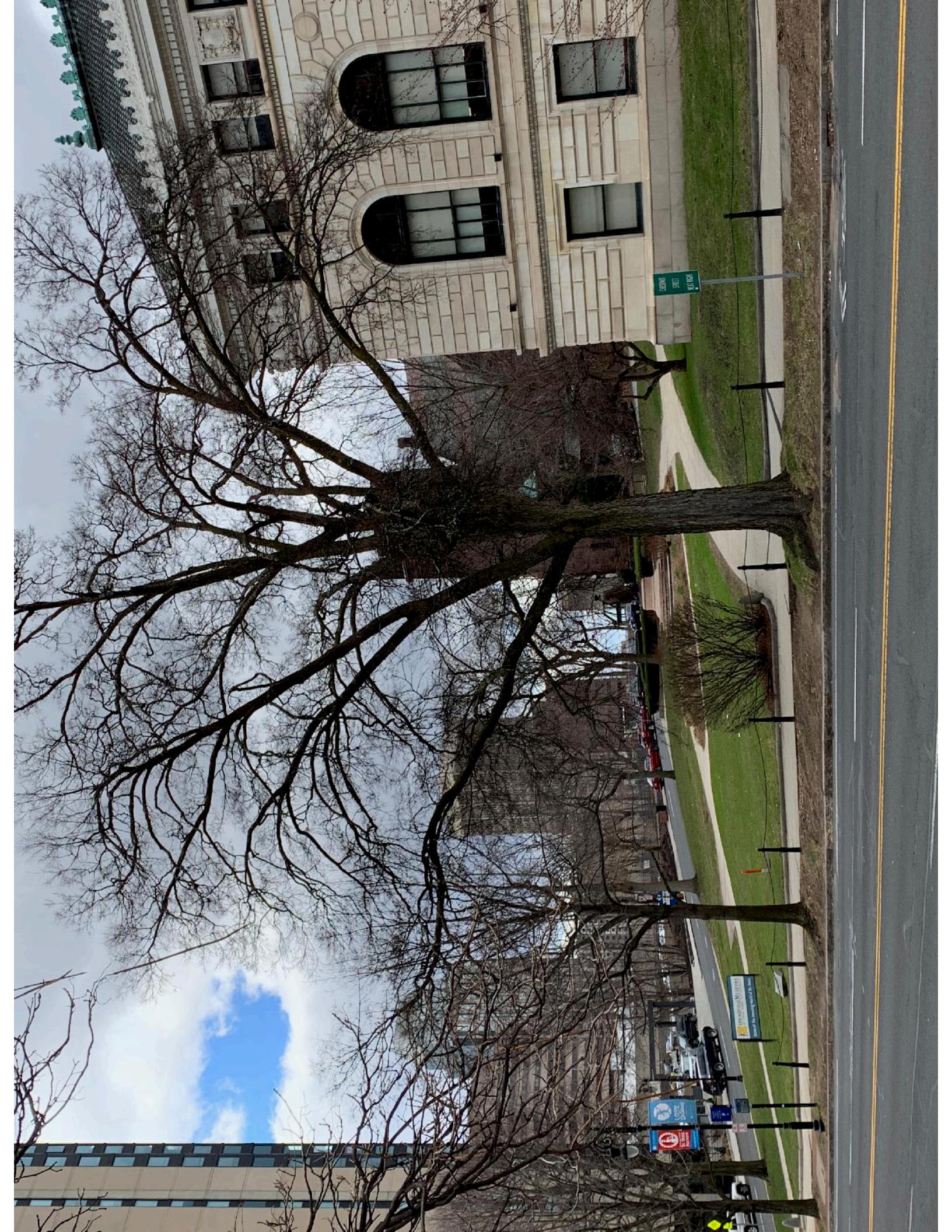
RESTORATION OF THE PARK COMMEMORATES

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SPRINGFIELD WOMEN'S CLUB

IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

1884 — 1984





Oliver Wendell Holmes  
1809-1890  
U.S. Supreme Court Justice  
1890-1902

**Springfield  
Museums  
Welcome  
Center** →



SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS  
ART • HISTORY • SCIENCE • SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Home



Enter Address or Street

### Search Results

#### Parcel Details

Census Tract 0012

Add Subject Parcels

Trash Day Thursday A (Current Week: B)

Zoning Name Open Space (See Ordinance)

Police Sector E2

Department Parks

Flood Zone X

Flood Panel 25013C0402E

Flood Date July 16th 2013

CDBG Eligible Y

Block Plan 406

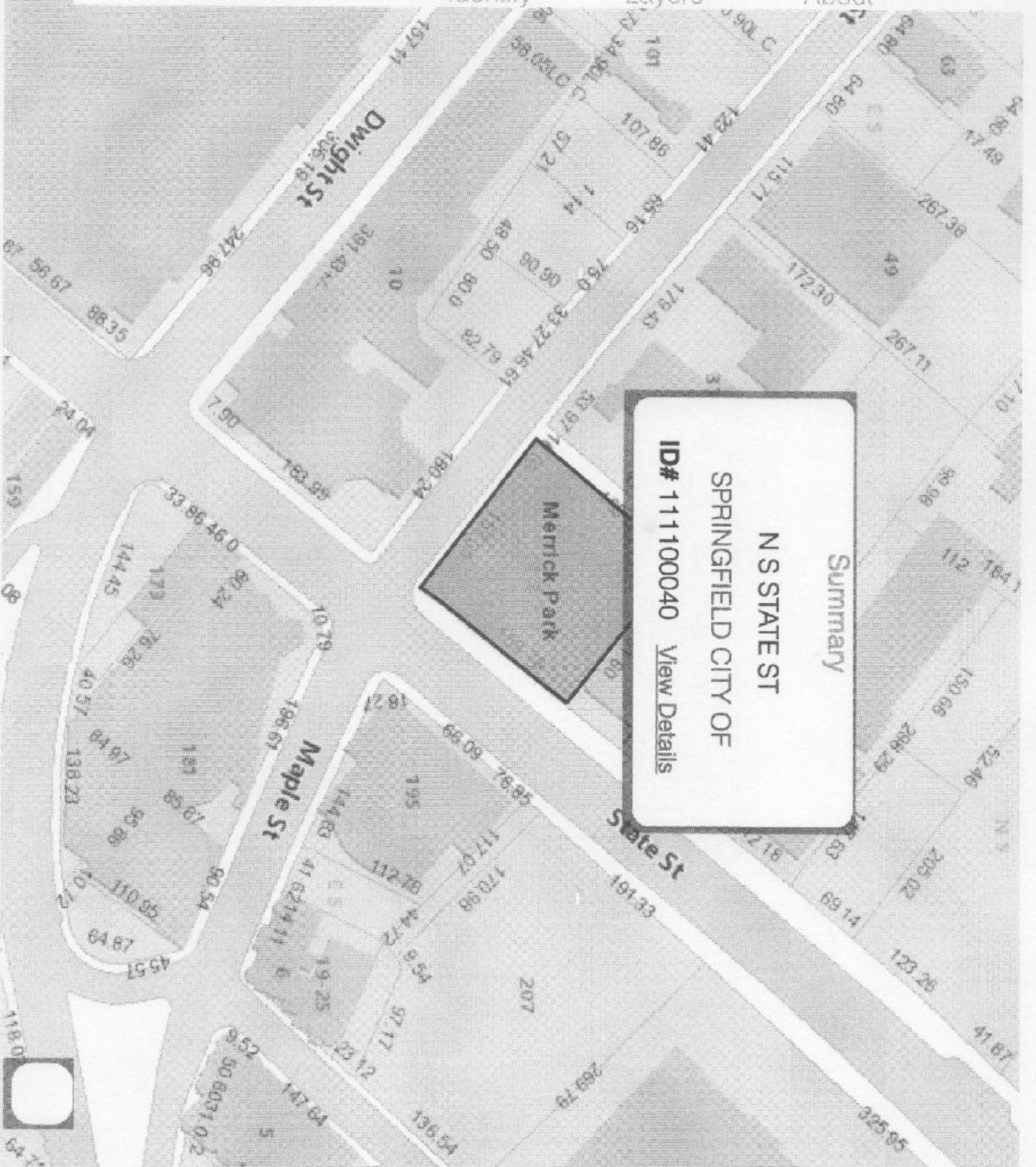
Zip Code 01105

Parcel Number 111100040

Parcel Address N S STATE ST

Email Map Link

Identify Layers About



Copy and paste the following string into an email to link to the current map view:



Springfield MA  
Web GIS

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY RECORD CARD

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

Situs: STATE ST

Map ID: 111100040

Class:

Card: 1 of 1

Assessed Owner

SPRINGFIELD CITY OF  
36 COURT ST  
SPRINGFIELD MA 01103

General Information

Living Units:  
Neighborhood: 201  
Alternate:  
Zoning: OS  
Class: EXEMPT

Photo

No photo available

Diagram

No diagram available

Land Information

Type	Size	Influence Factors	Influence %	Value
PRIMARY	SF 5,000			85,450
RESIDUAL	SF 19,956			17,760
<b>Total Acres: 0.5729</b>				

Assessment Information

	Assessed	Appraised	Cost	Income	Market
Land	103,200	103,200	103,200	103,200	0
Building	0	0	0	-103,200	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,200</b>	<b>103,200</b>	<b>103,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Value Flag: COST APPROACH

Manual Override Reason:

MERRICK PARK

from Nathan D. Bill, Trustee.

\$5000

July 23, 1887

registered July 29, 1887 Book 439 Page 81

Description:-

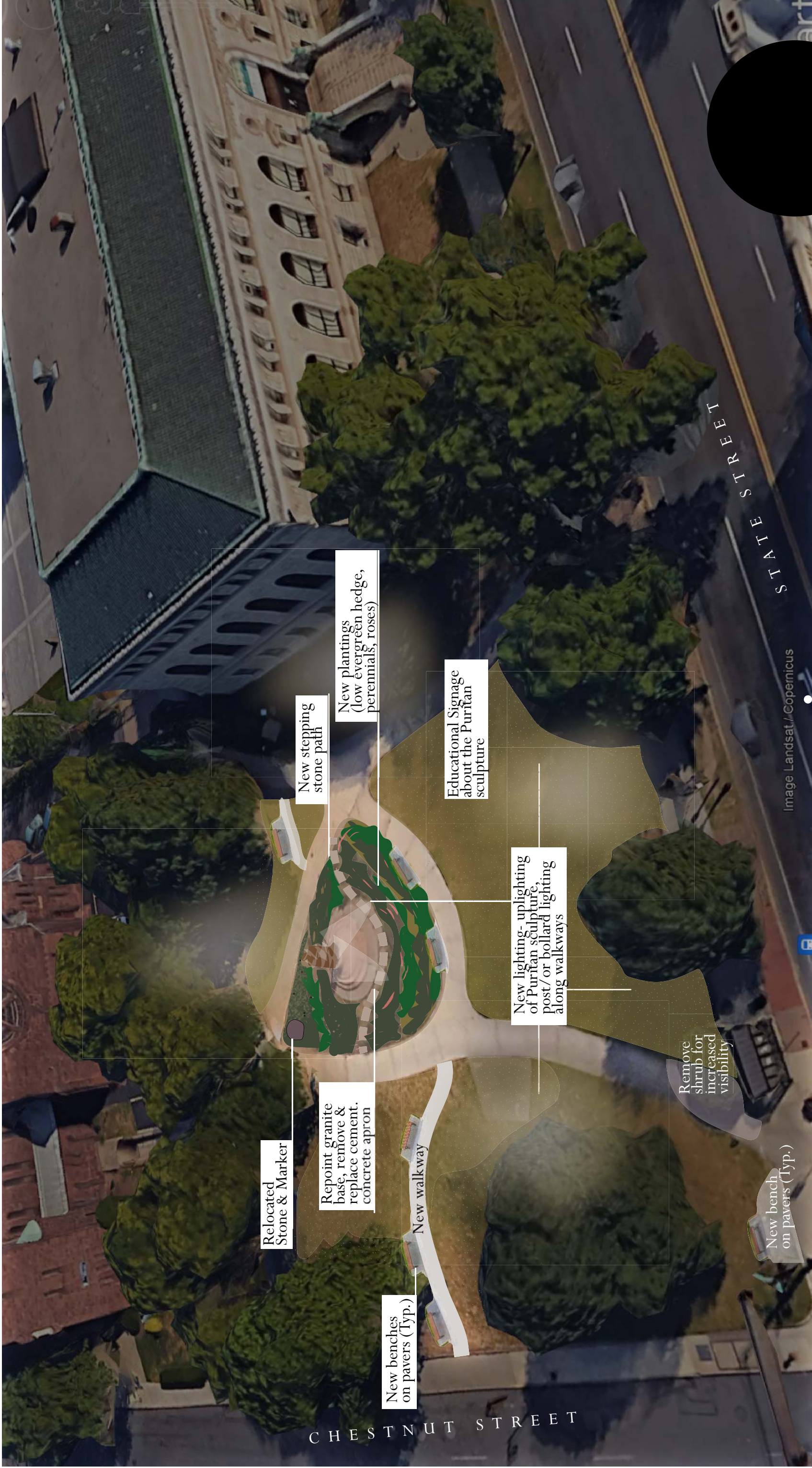
A certain lot of land lying on the corner of State and Chestnut streets in said Springfield bounded Westerly by Chestnut street 157  $\frac{35}{100}$  feet; Southerly by State street 159 feet; Easterly by land of the City Library Association of Springfield about 152 feet; and Northerly by a passageway sixteen feet in width (leading Easterly out of Chestnut street) about 159 feet; being the premises conveyed to said Merrick as Trustee by the instrument above referred to, and subject to the rights, restrictions, reservations and conditions named in said deed to which reference may be had for further description and particulars.

Must be used as a public park and for no other purpose whatsoever and no buildings may be erected for 999 years.

**OPINION OF PROBABLE PROJECT COSTS  
BASED ON  
"IMPROVEMENTS TO MERRICK PARK- CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN"  
(MARCH 2022)**

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSION	TASK TOTAL
<b>MOBILIZATION / DEMOBILIZATION / ENG. LAYOUT</b>					
MOBILIZATION / DEMOBILIZATION / ENG. LAYOUT	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>SITE PREPARATION &amp; SITE DEMOLITION</b>					
SED. & EROSION CONTROL ALLOWANCE	1	LS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
TREE PROTECTION ALLOWANCE	1	LS	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
R&D CEMENT CONCRETE PAVEMENT	500	SF	\$2	\$1,000	\$1,000
TREE / ROOT PRUNING ALLOWANCE	1	LS	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
<b>EARTHWORK (Associated earthwork is included in cost of site improvements &amp; utility work below)</b>					
CUT TO REMOVE OFF SITE	15	CY	\$40	\$600	\$600
CUT TO FILL	50	CY	\$40	\$2,000	\$2,000
BORROW	25	CY	\$50	\$1,250	\$1,250
FINE GRADE	16,500	SF	\$0.25	\$4,125	\$4,125
<b>SITE UTILITIES</b>					
WATER SERVICE (BFP, METER, PIPING, IRRIGATION VALVES, CABINET, CEM. CONC. PAD)	1	LS	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
ELECTRICAL, LIGHTING ALLOWANCE	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>SITE AMENITIES</b>					
BENCH ON CEM. CONC. PAD	7	EA	\$3,500	\$24,500	\$24,500
CPA FENCING & HISTORICAL SIGNAGE ALLOWANCE	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>PAVING &amp; SURFACING (Associated base materials are included)</b>					
REPOINT SCULPTURE GRANITE SLABS	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
CEM. CONC. WALKWAY	1,500	SF	\$15.00	\$22,500	\$22,500
PAVERS ON CEM. CONC. SLAB (BENCHES)	230	SF	\$25.00	\$5,750	\$5,750
STEPPING STONE WALKWAY ALLOWANCE	30	LF	\$50.00	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>LANDSCAPE WORK</b>					
REPURBISH LAWN AREAS	13,500	SF	\$0.25	\$3,375	\$3,375
IRRIGATION	1	LS	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
PLANTING BED PREPARATION	3,000	SF	\$1.50	\$4,500	\$4,500
PLANTINGS (SHRUBS, PERENNIALS)	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL =</b>					
				\$186,600	\$186,600
<b>DESIGN CONTINGENCY** &amp; CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY (20%EA)</b>					
				\$38,000	\$38,000
<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION-</b>					
				\$224,600	\$224,600
<b>SURVEY, DESIGN, ENGINEERING &amp; CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES</b>					
				\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL =</b>					
				\$249,600	\$249,600
<b>TOTAL (2022 DOLLARS), SAY</b>					
				\$250,000	\$250,000

- All construction costs include labor at prevailing wage rates, overhead, & profit.
- The Design Contingency is intended to provide for minor Project elements that are undelineated at the current level of design concept yet which typically become evident as the design progresses and that may be recommended by the design team and agreed upon by the Owner during subsequent phases of design. Notwithstanding, robust design processes and firm decision-making are recommended to reduce scope creep.
- GZA's Opinion of Probable Project Costs is subject to the assumptions and limitations stated in our correspondence to the City of Springfield accompanying this cost opinion.



Relocated Stone & Marker

Repoint granite base, remove & replace cement concrete apron

New benches on pavers (Typ.)

New walkway

New stepping stone path

New plantings (low evergreen hedge, perennials, roses)

Educational Signage about the Puritan sculpture

New lighting- uplighting of Puritan sculpture, post/ or bollard lighting along walkways

Remove shrub for increased visibility

New bench on pavers (Typ.)

Image Landsat/Copernicus

CHESTNUT STREET

STATE STREET

# Improvements to Merrick Park

CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Prepared for the City of Springfield  
Department of Parks, Buildings, & Recreation Management  
Prepared by GZA, Inc.  
March 2022