

2026 CPA Application
Non-Profit Organization

Neighborhood
Forest Park

Project/Program Title:
Forest Park Arboretum Volunteer Data Verification

Location of proposed project
200 Trafton Road Springfield, MA 01108

CPA program area— check all that apply. Once you make a selection, only the questions relating to that selection(s) will appear.

Open Space
Recreation

Anticipated Start Date of Construction
7/1/2026

Anticipated completion date of project
11/30/2026

Name of Organization or Individual
ReGreen Springfield

Applicant Contact Name and Title
David V. Bloniarz, President

Applicant Contact Phone Number
(413) 537-3748

Applicant Contact Email
info@regreenspringfield.org

Website
regreenspringfield.org

Applicant Contact Address
1 Federal Street, Building 101, Springfield, Massachusetts 01105

Additional project partner and contact details

ReGreen Springfield - Sean Mullen; sean@regreenspringfield.org
Springfield Forestry Division - Alex Sherman; asherman@springfieldcityhall.com
Janet Burdewik - jburdewik@comcast.net

Grant Request

Grant Request Amount
\$15,000.00

Will you be seeking multi-year funding?
No

Total Project Budget
\$15,000.00

Total Sources of Committed Funding. If none write \$0.00
\$0.00

CPA request as % of project
100

List committed funds from all sources and agencies or write none.
Several hundred hours of volunteer contributions have already been committed

Budget
grant_budget.pdf

Sustainability

This project will be sustained by the creation of a 501(c)(3) non-profit ("Friends of Forest Park Arboretum"), which will oversee the arboretum certification, administration, and stock management.

This project is also receiving support from the Springfield Forestry Division, who are currently stewarding the creation of a governing body for the Forest Park Arboretum. They have also secured a new data layer on TreeKeeper from Davey Tree, which will house all of the tree identification data for this project.

This project will also receive continued support from ReGreen Springfield, who are currently assisting with several arboretum projects around the city.

Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Questions

If the project is on municipal land or conservation land, attach a letter of support from the Park Commission or Conservation Commission.

If open space is acquired with CPA funds for conservation land, a conservation restriction is required on the property. The City cannot hold a restriction on itself and the property will need a third party to oversee the restriction.

Is this project in a wetland or does it about a wetland?

No

If so, has the Conservation Commission been informed?

No

If your proposal involves a city park/property have you contacted Department of Parks Building Recreation Management?

Yes

Has the appropriate city agency been contacted?

Yes

Has the appropriate Neighborhood Civic Association been contacted?

Yes

Project Details

PLEASE NOTE: You have the option of typing in a response or attaching a file. If your responses are lengthy, please upload a document. Be sure to label each document with a title.

If selected for a grant, the Grantee shall submit semi-annual progress reports. The Final report will include before/after photos and a summary of the CPA work completed. I

Disbursement of Funds.

For non-city grants. Reimbursement is made to the grantee once an invoice is submitted with proof of payment. An inspection is required before releasing funds. The CPC does not pay vendors. Reimbursement for work is paid to the grantee.

Or type Narrative (200 words or less)

ReGreen Springfield submits this proposal to strengthen long-term stewardship of the Forest Park Arboretum through professional verification of volunteer-contributed arboretum data. This request falls under the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Open Space and Historic Preservation category, as it supports the preservation and responsible management of a

public open space and historic landscape.

Over several years, volunteers and community partners have invested significant time documenting tree locations, species, planting history, and stewardship activities within Forest Park. While this work represents a substantial public benefit, its long-term value depends on accuracy, consistency, and usability. Without professional verification, the data cannot reliably guide management decisions or serve as a durable public record.

This project directly advances CPA criteria by protecting prior public and volunteer investment, strengthening long-term preservation planning, and improving the City's ability to manage and document a significant public landscape asset. The verified database will support informed maintenance, educational programming, transparency, and future preservation funding opportunities.

By funding data verification, the SCPC will reinforce responsible stewardship and ensure that the Forest Park Arboretum remains a credible and sustainable community resource.

Or type Project Description

ReGreen Springfield proposes a \$15,000 Community Preservation Act (CPA) request under the Open Space and Historic Preservation category to support professional verification of volunteer-contributed data for the Forest Park Arboretum. The goal of this project is to strengthen long-term stewardship of a public open space and historic landscape by ensuring that existing arboretum records are accurate, standardized, and suitable for ongoing municipal and public use.

Over several years, volunteers and partners have documented tree species, locations, planting history, and stewardship activities as part of the arboretum's development. This project will fund a qualified professional to review and verify those records, reconcile inconsistencies, standardize documentation according to accepted arboricultural practices, and prepare a reliable database to support long-term management, planning, education, and future grant applications.

The project scope is limited to data verification and documentation. No planting, construction, or new capital improvements are included. The total project budget is \$15,000, dedicated exclusively to professional services related to data review and validation.

Or type Applicant Experience

ReGreen Springfield has a long history of meaningful involvement with the enhancement of Springfield's urban forest and urban ecosystem. We have planted thousands of trees, conducted dozens of volunteer events, and have played a major role in restoring and improving Springfield's green infrastructure.

ReGreen also has specific experience in laying the groundwork for several Arboretum projects around the city. We recently identified and produced tags for the trees of Gurdon Bill Park, as well as for the Historic Springfield Armory.

Comments or additional information

This project is well-supported by the Springfield Forestry Division, and the Forest Park Civic Association. Key figures from both organizations have been contributing time and energy to this project, and it was as a group that this grant request was discussed and created.

Forest Park is a shining example of valuable historic urban greenspace. Funding from the CPA would solidify the foundation for the full establishment of the Forest Park Arboretum, which will be a prized resource for conservation, education, and historical value for the all Springfield Residents.

Upload any additional files or

Provide a list of ALL attachments included in this application.

attachments.
scan0414.pdf

Be sure to upload all attachments before sending your final copy. All attachments are expected to be included in your submitted paper copies.

1. Letter of Support from The Springfield Forestry Division

Signature to Submit Application

The applicant certifies that all information in this application and all information furnished in support of this application is given for the purpose of obtaining a Community Preservation Act grant and is a true copy and is complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief.

David V. Bloniarz