

2026 CPA Application

Other

Neighborhood

Forest Park Heights

Project/Program Title:

Forest Park Pickleball Courts

Location of proposed project

Forest Park (299 Sumner Avenue)

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

Recreation

Anticipated Start Date of Construction

4/1/2027

Anticipated completion date of project

6/30/2027

Name of Organization or Individual

Springfield Pickleball Association

Applicant Contact Name and Title

Erica Swallow, Member

Applicant Contact Phone Number

(870) 565-5200

Applicant Contact Email

ericaswallow@gmail.com

Applicant Contact Address

64 Washington Rd, Springfield, Maine 01108

Additional project partner and contact details

Department of Parks, Building Recreation Management (DPBRM)

200 Trafton Road

Springfield, MA 01108

Laura Walsh, lwalsh@springfieldcityhall.com Tom Ashe, tashe@springfieldcityhall.com

Grant Request

Grant Request Amount

\$300,000.00

Will you be seeking multi-year funding?

No

Total Project Budget

\$350,000.00

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

\$0.00

CPA request as % of project

86

List committed funds from all sources and agencies or write none.

City of Springfield will provide all additional funds

Budget

Budget - Forest Park Pickleball_Budget_CPA 2026.pdf

Sustainability

The pickleball courts will be maintained by the Park Department. Maintenance activities will be integrated

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)

This proposal advances the Community Preservation Act's recreation priorities by transforming an underutilized section of Forest Park into a modern, high-demand recreational facility that serves residents of all ages and abilities. By repurposing a defunct basketball court, the project preserves and enhances the essential character of Forest Park as a central hub for public recreation while protecting park land from neglect and underuse. The courts expand access to affordable outdoor exercise and represent increased investment in all-abled fitness opportunities, as adaptive pickleball can be played by participants using wheelchairs and other mobility supports.

The project is practical, shovel-ready, and designed in partnership with the Department of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management, demonstrating feasibility within budget and schedule. It produces strong cost/benefit value by delivering high recreational use within a compact footprint, maximizing public benefit from existing land and infrastructure. The proposal also leverages the ongoing volunteer engagement of the Springfield Pickleball Association, ensuring consistent programming and stewardship at no additional cost to the city.

Endorsements from residents and local organizations reflect broad community support. The project utilizes Springfield-based municipal resources and strengthens an established recreation area, reinforcing Forest Park's role as a shared public asset that promotes health, connection, and equitable access to recreation.

Or type Project Description

Forest Park Pickleball Courts is a community recreation project proposed by the Springfield Pickleball Association in partnership with the Department of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management (DPBRM) under the Recreation category. The goal of the project is to expand access to safe, modern recreational space and give Springfield residents greater opportunities for active outdoor exercise in Forest Park.

Pickleball has emerged as America's fastest-growing sport, with participation increasing more than 300% in recent years and nearly 20 million players nationwide, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association. The sport is especially well suited to municipal parks because it is highly efficient in terms of exercise per square foot, packing a full-body, high-cardio workout into a space roughly one-third the size of a tennis court. This efficiency allows public space to serve more users while promoting healthy activity for residents of all ages.

The project scope entails demolishing an existing, defunct basketball court in Forest Park; installing six new paved pickleball courts with painted surfaces and six player benches; enclosing the court area with six-foot vinyl-coated chain-link fencing with multiple access points; and installing new asphalt sidewalks, lawn areas, and three evergreen screening trees around the new court space. The total budget is \$350,000, of which \$300,000 is requested in CPA funding.

Or type Applicant Experience

The Department of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management (DPBRM) has recent, hands-on experience developing pickleball facilities, including the successful construction of two courts at Hubbard Park in Indian Orchard and six courts at Greenleaf Park in Sixteen Acres. These projects demonstrate the department's capacity to plan and deliver recreation infrastructure efficiently.

DPBRM is also working with additional neighborhoods responding to the growing demand for pickleball.

Pine Point has put in a CPA application for Nahorniak Park and East Forest Park for Nathan Bill Park, each proposing renovations to existing tennis courts to support both tennis and pickleball play, similar to the recent Hubbard and Greenleaf projects. This expanding pipeline of neighborhood-led projects highlights both the department's proven track record and the strong citywide demand for the sport.

The Springfield Pickleball Association has been a key partner in expanding the sport locally by organizing games, events, and player programs that activate these spaces and ensure consistent community use. Together, the project team combines municipal project expertise with strong grassroots recreation leadership.

User experience. If you have suggestions to improve the form please let us know.
None. Form was easy to use.

Upload any additional files or attachments.

- David Pleet - CPA Support Letter - Pickle Courts at Forest Park.pdf
- Kate Kreider & Brett Albert - Forest Park Pickleball Support Letter.pdf
- Jacqueline Pleet - CPA Grant Support for Forest Park Pickleball Courts.pdf
- YMCA Forest Park Pickleball Courts - Support Letter.pdf
- Erica Swallow Letter - CPA Letter - Forest Park Pickleball Courts.pdf
- Springfield Pickleball Association - CPA Support Letter - Forest Park Pickleball Courts.pdf
- Park Commission Letter_Forest Park Pickleball_CPA 2026.pdf
- Amanda McCabe-Hernandez Pickleball Forest Park Support Letter.pdf
- FPCA Agenda - 2026.02.10 - Forest Park Pickleball Courts Notification.pdf
- Councilor Victor Davila - CPA Support Letter - Forest Park Pickleball.pdf
- Nathan Andary - Pickleball CPA support letter.pdf
- Timeline - Forest Park Pickleball Courts - CPA.pdf

Provide a list of ALL attachments included in this application. Be sure to upload all attachments before sending your final copy. All attachments are expected to be included in your submitted paper copies.

- Budget - Forest Park Pickleball_Budget_CPA 2026.pdf
- Forest Park Pickleball Concept Plan_CPA 2026.pdf
- GIS Aerial Map_Forest Park.pdf
- GIS Aerial Map_Forest Park Pickleball Location.pdf
- OpenSpaceMap.FP Pickleball Courts_26.pdf
- Timeline - Forest Park Pickleball Courts - CPA.pdf
- FPCA Agenda - 2026.02.10 - Forest Park Pickleball Courts Notification.pdf
- Park Commission Letter_Forest Park Pickleball_CPA 2026.pdf
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- YMCA Forest Park Pickleball Courts - Support Letter.pdf

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.
Erica Swallow

