

Springfield Community Preservation 2026 Grant Application

Community Preservation Funds are available in four categories: Community Housing, Historic Resource, Open Space & Recreation. You may skip a question if it does not apply to your project.*IMPORTANT* If you click on any links in this application, you must use the back arrow to return to this application or you will lose your work. Be sure to save your application. Questions about this form? Call 413-530-1268 or by email cpc@springfieldcityhall.com. The deadline to apply is February 26, 2026. Please follow the instructions at the end of the application. The on-line application and seven (7) hard copies of the complete application and attachments are required.

2026 CPA Application

Non-Profit Organization

Neighborhood

Metro Center/Downtown

Project/Program Title:

Merrick Park Restoration

Location of proposed project

Corner of State Street and Chestnut Street

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

4/1/2026

Anticipated completion date of project

9/1/2027

Name of Organization or Individual

Metro Center Association

Applicant Contact Name and Title

Elizabeth (Betsy) Johnson

Applicant Contact Phone Number

(413) 250-9622

Applicant Contact Email

betsy@bgjohnson.com

Website

www.metrocenterspringfield.org

Applicant Contact Address

31 Mattoon Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01105

Additional project partner and contact details

Gordon Pulsifer, president, First Resource Development Co. gpulsifer@frc1.com
Springfield Parks & Recreation Department

Grant Request

Grant Request Amount

\$294,000.00

Will you be seeking multi-year funding?

No

Total Project Budget

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

\$600,000.00

\$300,000.00

CPA request as % of project List committed funds from all sources and agencies or write none.
50 \$300,000 from First Resource Development Co.

Budget

Merrick Park_PD Budget_CPA 2026.pdf

Sustainability

First Resource Development Company as part of its agreement with its state funding sources has agreed to make initial renovations to the Park including an upgraded watering system that is independent of the Central Library. Then it is committed to taking on responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the Park. Formal agreement with the Parks Department is underway. Metro Center Association (MCA), with the Springfield Cultural Partnership, looks to raise funds for additional statue restoration and for other artistic enhancements. MCA with the Springfield Museums and the Central Library will sponsor programming in the Park.

Parcel ID #
111100040

Maps
MerrickCPA2026map.pdf
Merrick GIS parcel.pdf

Applicant standing in property
Other

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? **If so, has the Conservation Commission been informed?**
No NA

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)

Merrick Park, at the corner of State and Chestnut Streets, is flanked by Andrew Carnegie's Springfield Public Library and the Springfield Museums. Adjacent residents should be afforded a beautiful, safe green space for use in myriad ways. Instead, neighbors currently describe Merrick Park "as a mess."

Augustus St. Gaudens' The Puritan is at the center of the Park, surrounded by Inappropriate plantings that obscure it for most of the year. There are other obscuring sight lines. There are difficult to climb paths. Major restoration is needed to make the Park more welcoming to all. Redesign and enhancements are proposed to have Merrick Park actually serve the residents of Skyview Downtown, Classical Condominiums, the new residential development of 195 State Street, and other neighbors and visitors.

The overall project is being done in two phases. The initial phase, starting in spring 2026, will be undertaken by First Resource Development Company who is currently renovating 195 State Street. Their \$300,000 investment will include installation of a workable irrigation system and masonry repairs. The complementing second phase is the CPA-funded project described in the Project Description.

Or type Project Description

Phase two of the proposed restoration will be led by the Springfield Parks Department. A conceptual design was developed to be able to provide a budget for what additional improvements are feasible with \$300,000 CPA funding. The project includes developing a final renovation plan with the neighborhood and consistent with upgrades completed by First Resource. Development. We envision usable resting areas, spaces that the Library can use for outdoor programs, spaces for additional artwork that could complement Pynchon Plaza, spaces for sculptures that very young children could sit on, encouraging families to enjoy the Park, and more. The renovation includes improved lighting, considerable new plantings, designed to highlight rather than obscure the St. Gaudens statue of Deacon Samuel Chapin that 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.

Or type Applicant Experience

The applicant, the Metro Center Association's president, Betsy Johnson, has previously worked with the Parks Department on CPA-funded projects: to install banners and interpretive signs along the Riverwalk and to develop Springfield's All Wheels Park. 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. This is not the first project Springfield Parks has undertaken together with First Resource Development.

Comments or additional information

A similar proposal was submitted (and not funded) in 2022 when it was thought that the First Resource Development at 195 State Street was about to start. Due to funding delay, the project is only now underway and includes a commitment to undertake initial upgrades and future maintenance of Merrick Park. As a result, a CPA award to completely undertake full restoration of Merrick Park is especially timely

in 2026.

Upload any additional files or attachments.

Merrick Park Deed.pdf

Merrick Park_Conceptual
Plan_CPA20262026.pdf

FRD- Merrick Park Plan1 -2026.pdf

2026Merricksupportltrs.pdf

CPA2026Merrick4views.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.

Proof of Ownership

Springfield Parks conceptual redesign

First Resource Development plans

Letters of Support

City of Springfield Parks Commission

First Resource Development Company'

Springfield Central Library

Springfield Museum

Springfield Historical Commission

Metro Center Association

4 views of current condition

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.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Johnson