

# Community Preservation Fund Application



TOWN OF BILLERICA  
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
365 BOSTON ROAD, BILLERICA MA 01821  
Application for CPA Funding

Applicant: Town of Billerica  
Co-Applicant (if applicable):  
Project Name: PHR Skate Park and Playground  
Project Location/Address: 1 Ed Hayes  
Purpose: (Select all that apply)

Open Space  
 Community Housing

Historic Preservation  
 Recreation

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TOWN CLERK  
BILLERICA

Total Project Budget: \$400,000 Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$20,000 (Phase 1)

Amount from Other Funding Sources: \$

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

- One Paragraph Project Summary \*
- Map (if applicable)
- Narrative \*
- Letter of Support from a Municipal Department, Commission, or Board\*

Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment

- Detailed Project Budget \*
- Feasibility Assessment
- Statement of Sustainability (if applicable)
- Other Letters of Support (if any)
- Timeline \*
- Architectural plans, site plans, photographs (if appropriate)
- Copy of Audit or most recent Financial Information (Non Profit Organizations Only)\*

\* Required Documentation

The Contact Person for this Project is: David Grubb, Recreation Director

All Correspondence should be mailed to: 365 Boston Road, Billerica, MA 01821

The Contact Person can be reached by phone at: (978) 671 -0942

or by email at: DGrubb@town.billerica.ma.us

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

# Community Preservation Fund Eligibility Form



TOWN OF BILLERICA  
 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
 365 BOSTON ROAD, BILLERICA MA 01821

*The purpose of this form is to make sure that all project applications applying for Community Preservation Act funding are eligible for funding. This form must be approved in order for an application to be accepted.*

Project Title:	<b>Playground &amp; Skate Park Renovation</b>		
Project Sponsor/Organization:	<b>Recreation Department</b>		
Contact Name:	<b>David Grubb</b>		
Mailing Address:	<b>365 Boston Road</b>		
Daytime phone #:	<b>978-671-0924</b>	Fax #:	
E-mail address:	<b>dgrubb@town.billerica.ma.us</b>		
CPA Program Area (check those that apply):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Space <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Community Housing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation			
Project Purpose (check those that apply):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Creation <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation/Restoration			
Project Summary: Please provide a brief description of the project.			
<p>The Skate Park and Playground located at the Peggy Hannon-Rizza Complex is in need of renovation. Unfortunately, in the last couple of years we have pulled out nearly half of the old obstacles, as they were in very poor and dangerous condition. This has left the Park significantly under-outfitted, leaving it under utilized. We would like to contract a design team to help develop an appropriate layout for the Skate Park and Playground followed by reconstruction to include safe and proper surfacing and ramps/obstacles. In addition, we are also hopeful to have a swingset installed into the adjacent playground, based on public feedback. In order to do this project properly, we are hoping to take a phased approach, with phase one contracting with a landscape architect for design and consult, before moving forward with implementation and construction. This request of \$20,000 is to cover the cost for design and consulting.</p>			
For CPC Use <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible      Date: _____ Reviewer: _____			

COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE PROJECT ELIGIBILITY FORM.  
 DO NOT PROCEED UNTIL ELIGIBILITY HAS BEEN DETERMINED.

## SUMMARY/NARRATIVE

Over the course of the past four to five years the Recreation Department has gone through a complete transformation. Almost every position has turned over and a completely new staff is now in place. Maintenance responsibilities have been shifted to Parks and Tree's and the Facilities Department depending on job. In the past many Recreational responsibilities were either done by part time employees or passed onto volunteers. As time passed volunteers moved on and some maintenance was neglected. Unfortunately, this has led us to the current situation the Town is in with the skatepark and playground at PHR. These parts of the park are past their useful life and certain aspects could be deemed dangerous. Fortunately, the Town now has the staff to maintain the facilities and the opportunity to bring these projects forward to the CPC.

About ten years ago the Town was brought an idea by a group of residents to fundraise and build a skatepark at PHR. This campaign was successful and eventually a skatepark was built around 2012. The park was funded by donations and made mostly of wooden ramps. After that little was done to maintain the skatepark. Overtime these ramps rotted and eventually were no longer safe. When the new Director came on board, he instructed the maintenance crew at that time to remove anything that was unsafe. This left the park very few obstacles and ramps. During the PHR process multiple conversations were had about the future of the skatepark. The possibility of turning the entire area into a fitness space was also discussed. As renderings were shared on social media the question was raised what about the skatepark?

After learning more about the history, speaking with the Rec Department, and conversations with Warner Larson we have decided to request funds to re-do the skatepark. Instead of wood ramps the Town would outfit the area with concrete ramps and obstacles. This would be low maintenance and have a much longer lifespan than wood. The Town now also has a full-time maintenance department that is staffed by four fulltime and one part time staff.

Around the same time the skatepark was constructed a playground area was also built. The playground is in much better shape but would benefit from a set of swings. That has been the number one suggestion from parents for many years in that area.

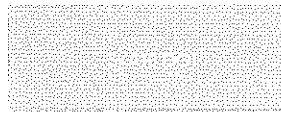
With a full revamp of PHR these two are the final missing pieces of the puzzle. This will allow for a full renovation of the park for the entire user base. The issues of the past will also be mitigated with the appropriate staffing, funding, and materials for the restorations. This request is phase one of funding the overall project. This first phase will cover the costs of hiring a firm such as Warner Larson to design and consult on the project through public feedback, and leaning on their vast experience in developing and designing skate park for other communities.

**BUDGET/COST**

Currently at PHR the Town has 6,500 Square feet of land for a "skatepark." Skateparks are broken down into four different categories. These are Skate Dot, Skate Spot, Neighborhood Skate Park, and Regional Skatepark. Please see the attached photo that goes into greater detail. The Town most likely does not need a neighborhood skatepark but a "Skate spot" would make much more sense.

Currently high end A+ neighborhood skate parks are in the range of \$90-95 dollars per square foot. This includes

survey, design, construction, contingency, and testing. This would include ramps, rails, and bowls. You would be looking at a cost of around \$600,000 to construct a park a little smaller than image attached below.



- 500 – 2,500 square feet
- 1-4 elements
- Serves 1-4 skateboarders at a time
- Geographical draw – 1-5 mile radius
- Cost – see "Skatepark Costs" section



- 2,500 – 5,000 square feet
- 5-15 elements
- Serves 5-15 skateboarders at a time
- Geographical draw – 1-10 mile radius
- Cost – see "Skatepark Costs" section



- 5,000 – 15,000 square feet
- Serves 15-45 skateboarders at a time
- Geographical draw – 1-25 mile radius
- Cost – see "Skatepark Costs" section



- 15,000+ square feet
- Serves 45+ skateboarders at a time
- Increased focus on amenities – lighting, spectator seating, etc.
- Geographical draw – 1-250 mile radius
- Cost – see "Skatepark Costs" section



Much of the cost to create a park like this is in the bowl features. A skate spot would look closer to something like this and would cost significantly less. It also would feel like more part of the park than a separate entity. A mid-range but high quality skate spot would cost in the range of \$350,000 - \$400,000.



This is a significant cost per skateboarder though. The National Sporting Goods Association and American Sports Data estimates that about 2% of the population participates in skateboarding. Out of that 2% of people it is estimated that only 25% of them are active enough to use the skate park at least a few times per year. Using Billerica's population it would work out to be about 200 active skateboarders who would use the park a few times per year. Billerica population skews in the older category though. With 15% of people being over 65 years old and 5% of people being less than 5 years old. Using those numbers it would of course lower the amount of people who would use the park.

After further investigation the original \$100,000 estimate would give you a cheap low-quality product that would need a great deal of maintenance and upkeep.

#### **TIMELINE**

A project of this magnitude would need to go out to bid and be designed. At this time the Town is still doing their due diligence on when a project like this would be able to commence. It seems from experience that if approved in May it would be miss the construction season for 2022. If this application is deferred until the October Town Meeting it would give the Recreation Department sometime to do more research into what exactly is wanted / needed in that area.

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

**To:** Billerica Community Preservation Committee

**From:** Billerica Recreation Commission

**Date:** December 20, 2021

**Re:** Skate Park/Playground Renovations

Please accept this letter as a strong recommendation for the proposed project. In 2012, a group of volunteers worked hard to create a Skate Park at the PHR Recreation Complex. While intentions for this were great, unfortunately the park has fallen into disrepair in recent years and is in desperate need of reinvestment. Additionally, one common complaint received by the Recreation Department is the lack of swings at the PHR playground. With the recent investment being made to restore the PHR complex as the crown jewel of recreation facilities, we believe now would be an appropriate time to invest in these two areas as well. We hope you will consider moving this request forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Billerica Recreation Commission



MAP

