



Town of Sudbury

Community Preservation Committee

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PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

Applicant:

Submission Date:

Group or Committee Affiliation (if any):

Applicant Address:

Purpose (please select all that apply):

☐ Open Space & Recreation

☐ Community Housing

☐ Historic Resource

Applicant Email & Phone Number:

Project Manager Email & Phone Number:

Project Name:

Project Description:

Costs:

Fiscal Year	Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Other Funding Sources (Amount and Source)
2027			
2028			
2029			
2030			
2031			
Total			

How does this project meet the General Criteria and Category Specific Criteria for Community Preservation Committee projects (see attached)?

Does this project fall within the jurisdiction or interest of other Town Boards, Committees, Commissions, or Departments? If so, please list the boards, committees, commissions, or departments, whether applications and/or presentations have been made, and what input or recommendations have been given.

For Community Preservation Committee Use:

Form Received On: _____

Project Presented to CPC On: _____

Reviewed By: _____

Determination: _____

Project Name: Hop Brook Remediation Preparatory Work (FY2027)

Categories: Open Space & Recreation, Historic Resource

Background: Hop Brook is the largest tributary of the Sudbury River and drains more than half of the land area of Sudbury. Dozens of homes, recreational and historical areas, Town wells and Town property are along this waterway and associated ponds. Until the 1970s, Hop Brook was a major recreational and natural asset - with multiple locations for swimming, fishing, ice skating and canoeing, and supported a diverse ecosystem with many species of birds and fish. Recorded Sudbury history features activities along Hop Brook since the 1700s, including fishing, saw and grain mills, canoeing, and swimming. However, nutrient pollution – primarily from the Marlborough Easterly wastewater treatment plant - has caused severe degradation of water quality, and overgrowth of invasive plants and toxic algae. As a result, the Hop Brook waterway and associated ponds become very unpleasant in the summer, are no longer attractive for recreational use, and require increasingly intensive management to reduce unwanted plants. More detail on the causes and consequences of nutrient pollution in Hop Brook is available upon request.

Goal of the project: Our goal is to restore water quality in the Hop Brook watershed and thus reclaim an important recreational and historical asset for all Sudbury citizens. We have collected extensive data on sources and variations in pollutant levels throughout Hop Brook and have collaborated extensively with scientists at OARS (Organization for the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers), and TRC Consulting to better understand how these pollutants, especially phosphorus, created the current situation, and what initial steps are required to start the remediation process.

During CY 2025, we engaged TRC Consulting to develop a watershed-based plan. This is the key step in assembling and evaluating the existing data with the purpose of determining what approaches are most likely to successfully restore acceptable water quality. A well-developed WBP will provide well-researched options with costs and tradeoffs, and is also necessary to obtain Federal (Section 319) and state grant funding for specific remediation strategies (such as the ones recommended by the WBP).

The WBP development is still in process, with expected completion in early CY 2026. However, if we wait for the WBP to be complete, we will not be able to apply for CPC funds until Sept. 2026, and those funds will not be available until July 2027. So instead we are applying now, with what is currently a “placeholder” request. The currently requested amount of \$100,000 is our current estimate of a “not-to-exceed” amount, subject to adjustment. We, and TRC, expect that by December we will be able to identify our likely options, and understand the initial steps required to implement them, so that when we meet with you, we will be able to present more detailed plans for moving forward with pond remediation in FY 2027.

Our approach and proposal:

- originally received the support and endorsement of Lori Capone (Conservation Coordinator) as well as the ConComm. We have kept Lori updated with our progress and updated plan and retain her support.
- are instrumental to the preservation of the essential character of the town (specifically, the preservation and restoration of the Hop Brook Watershed and Ponds as recreational waterways).

- preserve resources that would otherwise be threatened by pollution and decay (the Hop Brook Watershed and Ponds).
- have as their primary purpose ensuring that any further funds spent on remediation are used in the most efficient and advantageous way possible. (That's why we're taking a pause to collect enough data to get it right.)
- will help preserve and utilize Town assets (as the Town, and Sudbury conservation groups, are the largest landowners abutting the Hop Brook and its ponds).
- serve a significant number of residents (many dozens of abutters, as well as trail-walkers, canoers, and visitors to the Wayside Inn).
- expand the range of recreational opportunities (by providing attractive recreational waterways for the public) .

As the purpose of this proposal is no more than to perform necessary preparatory work, we do not foresee any objections from any parties.

Also:

- The current Open Space and Recreation Plan calls for remediation of Hop Brook as a priority to restore a prime recreational asset (p33).
- The recently completed Town Master Plan specifically calls for a "watershed approach to water resource planning and management" (p42) and cites the increasing importance of these water resources to the economic, social and environmental health of the region. Action Items C2 (implement strategies in the Ponds and waterways master plan) and C3 (participate in regional planning and management efforts in the SuAsCo basin) support our efforts to address local water quality issues in Hop Brook.
- The most recent Sudbury Ponds and Waterways Committee Master plan identifies restoration of water quality in the Hop Brook watershed as a top priority.

Previously, the CPC funded a WBP for the Hop Brook Watershed. The next logical step is preparatory work for actual pond remediation, bringing us one step closer to restoring a significant historical and recreational asset to the unpolluted state that it was in for all the years prior to the 1970s. We hope CPC will support our efforts.

-HBPA Board of Directors

Shannon Hache, Glenn Pransky, Chris Moran, Lori Moran,
Elyse Rayney, Terry Snyder, Jeff Winston, Kathy Winston