



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Town of Sudbury

Application for CPA Funding

Please email PDF application to:
PoteatR@sudbury.ma.us

Applications may also be dropped off or mailed to:
Community Preservation Coordinator
278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Project Title _____ **Date Submitted** _____

Applicant/Contact Person (please print) _____

Signature _____

Staff person/Responsible party _____

Email _____ **Telephone** _____

Estimated Completion Date _____

Total Cost of Project _____ **CPA Funds Requested** _____

CPA Eligibility (refer to the chart on page 4)

Please select the category and purpose of your project:

CPA Category:

- ☐ Community Housing
- ☐ Historic Preservation
- ☐ Open Space & Recreation

CPA Purpose:

- ☐ Acquisition
- ☐ Creation
- ☐ Preservation
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Rehabilitation & Restoration

For more information of the factors and considerations used by the Community Preservation Committee used to prioritize projects, please refer to the General Considerations summary (on pages 5-6).

<https://sudbury.ma.us/cpc/>

CPC Application Project Description

Rail Trails Connections Study

Goals: Sudbury has recently completed two very active recreation facilities in the Mass Central (MCRT) and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), which bisect the Town east/west and north/south respectively, that pass through and in close proximity to many conservation, recreation, civic, commercial, and residential areas. These trails are transforming how residents and visitors experience the community; however, access to the recreative spaces of the MCRT and BFRT from these other areas is inconsistent and often presents a barrier to some residents using and enjoying these facilities. While the installation of trail and sidewalk connections from Town-owned properties and facilities and/or well-populated residential or commercial areas may appear to be an easy fix to provide the desired access, the installation of these connections is costly, requiring both design and construction time, and funding is limited from year to year based on competing priorities, and existing/unforeseen necessities.

This Rail Trails Connections Study (the Project) is intended to explore the lengths of the BFRT and MCRT to identify appropriate, feasible connection points, the proximity of these to existing trail/sidewalk networks, and explore the potential to improve access to the highest number of users or benefits those most in need of such access. This information would be further synthesized into a priority ranking which could be integrated into the Department of Public Works' (DPW) Walkway Prioritization Plan, the Conservation Commission's Trail Linkage Plan, and the Rail Trails Advisory Committee's (RTAC) planning for improved connectivity for all trail users. The inclusion of a priority ranking system would be another tool that the Town and its Departments would have to solicit funding based on an evaluative process for the installation and/or expansion of the infrastructure to and from these vital recreative assets.

Community Need: The opening of the MCRT and BFRT has been a major success in Sudbury and has resulted in significant use by residents and visitors alike. The Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC), the Planning and Community Development Department (PCDD), the Conservation Commission, and the DPW receive regular requests for expanded access from neighborhoods, conservation lands, schools, and other Town facilities. Concurrently, those using the rail trails are seeking access to services, schools, local eateries, historic properties/sites, and other support functions. Ideally, Town Staff and decision makers would be able to grant all requests and provide unfettered comprehensive access to these rail trails for all who wish to use them. Unfortunately, this is not a fiscal or operational reality. As the Town looks to expand access to and from the rail trails there needs to be a basis for choosing where and how these connections are made.

As noted in the recent Sudbury Municipal Update Newsletter (summer 2026), "Sudbury has invested in two world-class rail trails that will serve generations to come. These trails have changed how people move through Sudbury. Now we have the opportunity to finish the job by connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks, commercial areas, and municipal facilities with safe walkway infrastructure."

The 2021 Sudbury Master Plan makes a number of references to increasing access to the rail trails in:

Transportation and Connectivity

D. Sudbury will map key destination points within the community and will work to close gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network accessing these destinations and creating and improving access for those with disabilities.

D.2 Create an inventory of destination points, including but not limited to civic institutions such as schools and libraries, commercial areas, recreational assets, and historical and cultural places in the community. Identify opportunities to connect destination points with an expanded walkway and bicycle network (See also Route 20 Corridor A.7).

D.3 Update the walkway inventory conducted in 2000 by the Sudbury Walkway Committee to include completed walkways. Identify locations of the existing network that are not accessible for those with disabilities. Along with outcomes from D.2, prioritize future walkway segments.

Conservation and Recreation Land

E. Sudbury will commit to enhancing connections between open space areas, parks, schools, and historic resources with residential areas for walking/biking, which will increase recreational opportunities and access to these resources.

E.1 Support the completion of the BFRT and ensure accessibility in compliance with ADA regulations.

E.3 Identify gaps and opportunities to link conservation and recreation resources, residential areas, schools, historic places, etc. by strategically expanding the existing network of walkways.

These specific call outs in the Master Plan combined by discussions of the RTAC, Transportation Committee, and extensive public feedback indicate a large appetite within the community to provide a more robust network of safe, accessible, and connective ways for residents to get to and from the rail trails. Furthermore, these connections will evaluate and look to expand access to/from conservation lands, recreation facilities, Town-owned historic resources, commercial areas, and neighborhoods to the rail trails benefiting a wide cross-section of Sudbury residents, as well as its visitors.

Community Support: The PCDD, DPW, Conservation Commission, RTAC, and the Health and Community Services Department are all supportive of this application as it will increase the recreative value of the rail trails and intersects with the work being conducted by each of these groups.

Budget:

Project Management:	\$7,500
Project Team Meetings/ Site Visits	\$20,000
Public Engagement	\$10,000
GIS Mapping	\$30,000
Draft Recommendations Prioritization List	\$15,000
Total	\$82,500

Funding: There are no additional funding sources for this project

Timeline:

Project Funding	May 27
Procurement	June-Sept 27
Contract Award	Nov 27
Project Implementation	Jan 28-May 29

Urgency: This project is the cornerstone to expanding access and usability of two multi-million-dollar recreation assets within the borders of the Town of Sudbury. Delay in the development of this plan increases cost of all items associated with its development (i.e. the cost of the plan, the design of proposed connections, as well as their construction), signifies to residents that access to the rail trails is not a priority for the municipal government, and encourages those who wish to use these recreation facilities to miss out, use a vehicle to drive to a parking area, or potentially make risky choices to navigate to the MCRT or BFRT.

Implementation:

Maintenance: There is no maintenance necessary for this prioritization plan.