



Conservation Commission

Town of

Groveland

Groveland, Massachusetts

Town Hall

183 Main Street

Groveland, MA 01834

FY 2019 Community Preservation  
Open Space and Recreational Trails  
Preservation  
Project

To

Groveland Community Preservation Committee

December 14, 2018



Groveland Conservation Commission  
Town of Groveland  
183 Main St  
Groveland MA 01834

December 14, 2018

Community Preservation Committee  
Town of Groveland  
183 Main Street  
Groveland, MA 01834

Dear Committee Members:

Enclosed are copies of an application requesting Community Preservation funding for an open space project.

The application includes a request for \$ 30,000.00. The funds will be used to facilitate a program to support Open Space and trails in Groveland. The new program takes place with fourth graders at the local Bagnall Elementary School. The program will also support actions by fourth graders and their parents at conservation properties throughout Groveland.

We hope that you will give the application careful consideration. We would be happy to provide you with further information you may need or to meet with you to discuss the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dempsey", written in a cursive style.

Michael Dempsey  
Chairman



Applicant Information:

Name of Applicant: Groveland Conservation Commission  
Contact Name: Michael Dempsey  
Mailing Address: 183 Main Street  
City: Groveland  
State: MA  
Zip Code: 01834  
Daytime Phone: 978-265-5756  
Email Address: mdempsey444@comcast.net

Location of Project

Name of Project: *Open Space and Recreational Trails Preservation*  
Address of Project: multiple properties (see attachment)

CPA Category: (Include all that apply):

Open space	X (1/3)
Historic preservation	
Recreation	X (2/3)
Community housing	

Project Cost:

CPA Funding Requested:	\$ 30,000.00
Total Cost of Proposed Project:	\$ 60,000.00

Project Description:

This project will preserve town Open Space properties and trails with a partnership with Bagnall Fourth Grade classes, Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee and the Groveland Conservation Commission. We will assess status and rehabilitation needs of CPA-purchased Open Space properties and rehabilitate trails on conservation properties. We will rehabilitate and implement signage, trails, trail markings, bridges and kiosks on trails for all properties. In addition, on CPA-purchased properties we will implement pilot projects for forest management techniques, historic site restoration and former quarry site rehabilitation. Classes will visit all properties with a trail consultant and/or member of the Commission or the GOSTC to plan,

design and eventually construct the trail components. On CPA-purchased properties a forest management consultant, a historic properties consultant or a land management consultant will accompany classes to assist in activities such as planning and design. Classes along with parent volunteers will perform projects identified at the properties that will help preserve and rehabilitate trails, improve them and encourage their use for passive recreation.

### Goals

We are pleased to have this opportunity to apply for the FY-2019 round of the Groveland Community Preservation program. The project we are proposing will help students at our elementary school for a three-year period participate in a rehabilitation project for trails and open space. It will enable us to preserve many trails in conservation properties in town that are threatened by lack of maintenance, lack of signage, misuse and abuse. Also included will be pilot projects to identify and preserve threatened forests in portions of Meadow Pond Reservation, rehabilitate portions of a former gravel quarry at Center St Greenway and preserve historic resources at another site in the Center St Greenway. These Open Space properties were purchased using CPA funds which enables additional CPA funds to be spent on the properties on items other than trails. Students and parents will perform actions at the Open Space properties and conservation trails to improve and preserve them based on the information collected.

### Background & Overview

The Bagnall Elementary School in Groveland has worked closely with the Groveland Conservation Commission and Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee (GOSTC) to enhance open space properties for the past ten years. The program has focused on the fourth grade classes and was begun under the leadership of teacher Hilary Seager. Fourth graders would visit one of the large conservation areas in town and later work on trail cleaning, trail development, bridge building, mapping and signage among other projects. Both students and their parents would work together to accomplish these tasks. Their work has played an important part of open space development and stewardship for the Commission. The town has no budget for open space development or trail maintenance, we rely totally on volunteer efforts of the Commission and the GOSTC. This additional resource of volunteers from the school has enabled us to keep these passive recreational areas and trails open and vibrant for all members of the community.

Going forward we would like to continue and expand this partnership with future Bagnall students. The first step of this partnership is the planning and design. Students must be transported from the school to one of the conservation properties by bus. In addition, a specialist

in trails or open space is required to help the students understand the role trails play as a recreational resource, their design and implementation. This step is a key to the success of this program. We are not simply looking for a new group of ready volunteers to take care of our properties. Students will play an important role in our town's future. It is important that our future residents and leaders appreciate our open space resources, know why they must be protected and have a willingness to carry on this legacy. Without including our young students in open space preservation and giving them a real work experience with the outdoors, our future may be at risk. By participating in the planning of trail rehabilitation and other open space projects the actual work on the trails performed by students and their parents will help them respect the trails and open space properties, with a sense of ownership.

### *Project Narrative*

Our project has begun its initial stage in the Fall of 2018. The Commission directed a \$1900 donation from the Open Space Fund to the Pentucket School District for educational field trips to Open Space and conservation properties during the 2018-19 school year. The funding enabled the start of our new partnership with the Bagnall fourth grade and indicated our commitment to identifying future funding for the partnership. Funds from the Commission this school year will pay for several field trips to the Meadow Pond Reservation and the Center Street Greenway properties. Accompanying the students and teachers on the trips will be an Environmental Scientist who will lead the students on programs discussing rare-species habitat and the importance of open space protection.

Beginning in the Fall of 2019 if this proposal is funded through Community Preservation funds and several private grants, a three school-year effort will kick off to further open space and recreation action for students and their parents. Students will visit several smaller open space properties each year and conduct inventories of trails and site needs. A trails expert or member of the GOSTC or Commission will direct the effort to assess the trails and their potential for rehabilitation for each site. Back in the classroom students will examine the data collected and develop goals for each site along with a set of action plans that could be accomplished by students, teachers and parents. When the goals and plans for trails have been approved by the



Commission future trips during the school year will be used to work on action plans at the sites. Action plans may include installation of signage and information kiosks, trail clearing and development, damage repair, bridge building, trail markers and other passive recreation enhancements related to the trails. At the end of each school year classes will invite the Commission and town residents, with the assistance of GOSTC, to view and celebrate their projects.

Additional tasks that will be accomplished during this three-year period will be performed at CPA-purchased Open Space properties. Like previously described work above the students will visit Center St Greenway or Meadow Pond sites with a forest management consultant, a historic properties consultant or a land management consultant to identify, plan and design small pilot projects that the students with their parents can accomplish to preserve or rehabilitate these Open Space properties. After approval by the commission and implementation by the students these pilot projects may form the basis for more interest and funding to continue the work. Projects will be publicized and celebrated to generate further awareness and work by other town residents.

### *Community Need*

As residents of Groveland we believe it's our responsibility to protect and preserve biodiversity and endangered species habitat. Also important to the residents of our town is passive recreational uses of open space such as trail walking, bird watching and nature observance. In acquiring open space land, the town residents expect that it will continue to offer these benefits in perpetuity and not be compromised by a future error, lack of planning, development or interest. The only way to prevent these potential problems when it comes to publicly-owned open space land is to educate our future residents and leaders about the importance of preserving open space and trails to our town. This proposal will enable us to continue the process for three school years while improving trails and Open Space properties that are currently at risk.

*Community Support*

The Groveland Conservation Commission has worked with the Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee to purchase and protect open space in town. During the past twenty-three years the Commission has purchased and protected large properties such as Veasey Memorial Park, Meadow Pond Reservation and Center Street Greenway. Town residents and have fully supported these efforts both at town meeting and through the ballot box voting to make these purchases and add to town-owned open space and trails. Most Groveland residents appreciate and understand the need to protect the future of our town by protecting our natural resources.

*Project Management:*

The project will be managed by Michael Dempsey. Mr. Dempsey is the chairman of the Conservation Commission. The town's Finance Director will manage the financial portions of the project.

*Success Factors*

The project success will be determined by the ability to have students and parents participate in protecting and preserving our town's open space and trails and gaining a sense of ownership for the future.

*Budget*

The total budget for the project is \$ 60,000 and is detailed below. \$ 30,000 would be funded with CPA funds

***Open Space and Recreational Trails Preservation  
Project Budget***

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Transportation  3 years, 24 trips per year, 3 classes, 1 per bus	\$12,000
Staff (Trails Specialist)  3 years, 24 trips per year, 5 hours per trip	\$27,000
Supplies  Lumber, markers, signage	\$10,000
Services  Planning, design	\$3,000
Consultants (Forest and Land Management, Historic)  3 years, 4 visits per year, 2 hours per visit	\$8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

*Other Funding*

Funding for fifty percent of the project will be provided under the Community Preservation Act if approved by town meeting. (One third will come from the Open Space category to cover work at CPA-purchased Open Space properties and two-thirds will come from the Recreation category for trail work on conservation properties.) The remaining fifty percent will be obtained through

several other sources. Other possible sources include the Veasey Park Revolving Fund, the Friends of Veasey Park, Groveland Conservation Open Space Fund and private foundations that provide open space related grants to municipalities.

*Timeline*

If the proposed project is approved by the CPC and the Town, project implementation would begin as soon as funding is available. The project would start in the Fall of 2019 with completion by June 2022.

*Appraisals*

N/A

*Compliance*

N/A

*Environmental Hazards*

N/A

*Maintenance*

N/A

*Letters of Support*

See attachments

Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee

December 31, 2018

Groveland Community Preservation Committee  
183 Main St.  
Groveland, MA 01834

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express our full support for the Community Preservation Act project titled *Crosstown Trails* submitted by the Groveland Conservation Commission. We have worked with the Commission to improve town open space properties while educating Groveland's future residents and leaders about this important resource.

Residents have worked diligently to improve the properties at Meadow Pond Reservation, Town Forest, Veasey Park and Center Street Greenway. Through volunteer efforts they have marked and cleaned trails, created new trails where necessary, produced trail maps and brochures, placed trail markers and added information kiosks at the four sites. We are excited to continue this work with the Commission to address this new trail and open up less used resources.

We appreciate your consideration of this important project and its impact on Groveland and its residents. The Commission has come to rely on our efforts as well. Funding this project will enable us to continue and expand our efforts. We look forward to working with the Commission to keep our public lands preserved and useful for us all.

Sincerely,

Mike Davis  
Chair, Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee