

Preserving Norwood with the Community Preservation Act



WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)?

The CPA enables cities and towns in Massachusetts to create a local dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, community housing, and outdoor recreation projects. Cities and towns that adopt CPA also receive funds from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund each year to help fund these projects.

HOW IS CPA FUNDING GENERATED?

CPA funds are generated through two sources: a voter-approved surcharge of up to 3 percent on property tax bills (1 percent in Norwood) and an annual disbursement from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, which distributes funds each November to communities that have adopted CPA. The Trust Fund's revenues are derived from fees collected at the Registry of Deeds, and recently from state budget surplus funds. Because Norwood has not adopted CPA, it has not been receiving these annual funds.

HOW ARE CPA FUNDS SPENT?

Each fiscal year, CPA communities must spend, or set aside for future spending, the following share of their annual CPA revenues on three core areas:

- 10 percent for **open space and recreation**
- 10 percent for **historic resources**
- 10 percent for **community housing**

The remaining 70 percent of the revenues may be spent or reserved for future projects in any of these three programmatic areas. CPA funds may never be directed to the general town fund; they may only be spent on the CPA core areas of open space, historic preservation, community housing, and outdoor recreation.

WHAT PROJECTS CAN NORWOOD FUND WITH CPA?

- Restore and preserve historic documents, libraries, schools, town halls and other buildings and structures
- Create new (or restore run-down) ball fields, playgrounds, and trails for walking and biking
- Preserve land to protect drinking water, local agriculture and wildlife habitat
- Develop a housing plan to determine the housing needs of local residents and then use CPA to address those needs (i.e., support housing for seniors and veterans; rehabilitate old apartments to serve young families)
- Leverage additional dollars from state, federal, and foundation grants

**YOU DECIDE
HOW CPA FUNDS
ARE SPENT!**

After adopting CPA, municipalities must establish a local Community Preservation Committee to review proposals for local CPA-funded projects, and recommend projects to Town Meeting for approval. All CPA projects must be approved by Norwood's Town Meeting to receive CPA funds.

CPA communities exercise local control over their CPA budget. With input from residents and community boards and committees, they determine what types of CPA projects will most benefit the community each year.

**For more
information, visit
communitypreservation.org**

HOW MUCH WOULD CPA GENERATE FOR NORWOOD AND HOW MUCH WOULD CPA COST THE AVERAGE NORWOOD HOMEOWNER?

With a 1% surcharge and the exemptions for the first \$100,000 of residential and commercial property value, in addition to the low/moderate income exemption, Norwood would generate approximately \$543,000 per year. **It is important to note that this figure does not include revenue that Norwood would receive annually from the state CPA Trust Fund, which would be in addition to the local CPA revenue raised.** The annual cost to the average Norwood homeowner would be approximately \$33.



160 communities have adopted CPA, including Canton, Sharon, Needham, Norfolk, Stoughton, and Randolph.



Photos in this flyer are of projects completed with CPA funding in communities across the state.