

Community Preservation Committee Grant Application

Applicant Information

Applicant

Kevin Andrews, Diana Brandi

Applicant's Phone #

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Applicant's Email

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Applicant's Address

290Castle Rd
Nahant, Massachusetts 01908
United States

Town Committee or Board (if applicable)

Johnson School & Nahant Garden Club

Application Purpose

- Open Space
- Recreation

Project Information

Project Name

Boulder Scramble in Forest Playground & Interpretive Sign Kiosk

Project Description

1. Regrading and installation a "Rock Scramble" on slope of playground. In a part of the Forest Playground there is a fairly steep incline that the students run up, and is eroding. This area would benefit from hardscape to allow stabilized climbing. 2. Purchase of Interpretive Sign Kiosks

Grant Amount Requested

16428

Contribution to the Preservation of Nahant's Unique Character

The unique Forest Playground and Native Pollinator Gardens at the Johnson School are admired, well used and loved by the school community as well as the community at large. In 2019, ground broke on the installation of a unique playground, "The Forest Playground", at Johnson Elementary School. The playground uses natural elements of the Heritage Trail behind the school to create a forest playground using dirt, wood, rocks, and the landscape to foster imaginative learning and playing. Using the natural landscape, a slide and a cave is built into a hill, and logs create barriers, seating, and tables.

Per Kevin Andrews, "Encouraging the children to create their own play space out of nature promotes social and emotional growth, said Principal Kevin Andrews. He envisions young children discovering and taking interest in unique rocks, and making gnome hats out of acorn tops, and putting them on display on a wooden stump to show their peers." Excerpts from article "Nahant's Johnson Elementary School works on forest playground "; Lynn Item 4/22/2019 Bridgette Turcott

The Forest Playground is built on a slope with a slide being the center point of activity. The well used right sided path, which is used to access the playground from above and the slide from below, has eroded and is in need of grading, stability and a permanent route.

The Forest Playground is surrounded by native wildflower gardens planted and cared for by the Junior Garden Club under the direction of Diana Brandi, with volunteer support and funding by The Nahant Garden Club. SWIM and Seaglass Village sponsored a Native Garden Tour featuring these beautiful gardens. Collectively, the gardens and

Forest Playground are enjoyed by students before, during and after school and year round by children and families.

The Playground and surrounding gardens offer educational opportunities for students and the community as well. The Native Pollinator Gardens are a showcase unto themselves. These gardens are planted and tended by the Junior Garden Club, whose members are students at Johnson Elementary School. Other communities & Garden Clubs have expressed interest in learning the process for creating Junior Garden Clubs and Native Gardens, and Diana Brandi has given educational talks to other Massachusetts Garden Clubs to impart her expertise in leading a Junior Garden Club. To expand on the educational value of the gardens, interpretive signage is part of this grant application, with the goal of teaching students and visitors about the value of Native Pollinator Gardens, maintaining a natural landscape, and encouraging pollinators.

Planning Context

IS part of a Program Plan

If so, when was the plan prepared?

2022

Who has approved the plan?

Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029

Evaluation Criteria

1. Feasibility?: This small-scale project is feasible for installation.
2. Consistent with Town Planning documents?: Consistent with Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan stated goals: Goal 6: Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities, Action 6.2.2: Support the maintenance and stewardship of the Wildflower Garden, Forest Playground and Community Gardens.
3. Time sensitivity/urgency?: The slope is eroded and given the high traffic use of this area, stabilization is a priority to maintain continued enjoyment and sustainability.
4. Serve multiple needs?: The Forest Playground and surrounding Wildflower Gardens offer recreational value, aesthetic value and support of the natural environment for the Town of Nahant and it's citizens.
5. Multiple CPA categories?: Open Space, Recreation (active and passive).
6. Protect currently owned assets?: The Forest Playground and Gardens are a valuable asset to both the Johnson School Community and the community at large offering high recreational value and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Estimated Cost and Schedule

Attach cost estimates for construction projects and state how costs were derived.

Is your project expected to continue over more than one year?

No

Funding Information

Other Funding Sources

List of Independent Funding Sources	Amount of Grant / Gift
Nahant Garden Club	822

Total

1

For Acquisition projects, attach appraisals and agreements, if available. Please indicate name of present owner and attach a copy of most recent deed. In addition to property address, please provide Nahant assessor's office identification (Map, Block and Lot number).

- [Johnson-School-Steps-Proposal1.docx](#)

- [Estimate_5489_from_Vacker_Inc1.pdf](#)

Coordination

This project is linked to the Wildflower Gardens which are themselves linked to the Community Gardens. The Wildflower Gardens are maintained and supported by The Junior Garden Club, an affiliate of The Nahant Garden Club, under the leadership of Diana Brandi. The JES students maintain plots in the Community garden and around the Forest Playground.

Time Sensitivity

This project will need to be coordinated with administration of Johnson Elementary School to establish an agreeable timetable.

Contingency Planning

The slope will eventually need more structure but can be used in its current state until a plan is in place for stabilization. In the past two sloping areas of the Forest Playground have been stabilized through the work of the school principal and a volunteer, using new lumber in the case of the primary staircase, and re-used fence posts, in the case of the staircase adjacent to the embankment slide.

Order

Product	Qty	Unit Price	Price
Total of CPC Funds Requested	1	\$15,606.00	\$15,606.00
Other Funding Sources	1	\$822.00	\$822.00
	Total		\$16,428.00