

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

APPLICATION FORM

Title of proposal Cost Share for MassTrails Grant for River & Ridge Trail Complex, Phase 1

Name and address of individual or organization submitting application

Deerfield Open Space Committee

Contact Person: Julie Caswell

Address: 248 River Road, South Deerfield MA 01373

Telephone: 413 665 7735

Email: caswellrtr@gmail.com

Category (check all that apply) Open Space/ Recreation Community Housing Historic Preservation

CPA Funds requested \$18,000 * A detailed, documented proposal for costs including a budget and professional estimates should be included in order for application to be deemed complete.

You have submitted the Capital Improvements Committee form required when you seek more than \$10,000.

Summary of Proposal

The Deerfield Open Space Committee is seeking cost share funds for a MassTrails Grant for Phase 1 of the River & Ridge Trail Complex in Deerfield on and near the Pocumtuck Ridge. While there are informal trails in Deerfield, there are no formal town trails and there is insufficient communication about the whereabouts and nature of trails. There is very limited trail access to the Connecticut River in Deerfield.

The MassTrails grant is for a total of \$80,000, with a cost share of \$18,000 requested from CPC funds and another \$2,000 in cost share to be in kind. The grant increases recreational opportunities through two parts: 1) Construction (\$60,000)—repairing and upgrading the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail--Hillside Road to Stage Road (about 0.6 miles on UMass Amherst land and 0.5 miles on the Birchwood Nature Refuge owned by the Town of Deerfield). 2) Design of the Connecticut Riverview Loop (\$20,000)--all to be on UMass Amherst land (Loop Trail along the Connecticut River (All Persons Trail), including parking area and connecting trail).

(Phase 2 (not part of this application) will be future funding and construction of the Connecticut Riverview Loop.)

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Supporting documentation (all may not apply, please list and number each attachment):

- Property location, including Assessor's Map and Lot#, assessed value and current owner.
- Description of property.
- Verification of clear title of property. (liens, other restrictions, etc.)
- Statement by owner of willingness to convey any required restrictions or covenants.
- Additional sources of committed funding with percentage and type (grant, donation, in-kind services).
- Budget (projected revenues; purchase price, construction costs).
- Relevant maps.
- Variances, special permits, legal agreements.
- Timeline with major milestones.
- If the proposal is expected to continue beyond the current Fiscal Year, attach a phasing schedule for each year.
- Statements of support from abutters, residents, or other interested parties.
- Endorsements from Deerfield Boards or Committees.

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS
Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE- ALL CATEGORIES

NOTE: Respond to **ALL** questions, and expand as necessary with attached pages. **Do not delete** any questions in this Questionnaire or the Category Questionnaire. Non-applicable questions should be answered with "N/A". **Incomplete applications may result in ineligibility for consideration for the current cycle.**

1. How would your proposal realize visions and goals set out in our Master Plan and Open Space Plan?

Please see attached pages for answers to questions. (There is insufficient room for answers in the fillable form.)

-
2. How would your proposal preserve the character of Deerfield?

-
3. Explain what other sources of funding you are pursuing, if any, to match the CPA Funds you are requesting.

-
4. If your proposal requires urgent action, explain why.

-
5. If your proposal serves a currently under-served population, explain how.

-
6. If your proposal preserves a threatened resource, explain how

-
7. Does your proposal fit within the current zoning, environmental, building, and other regulations?

-
8. If your proposal would require ongoing support for upkeep, explain the projected means to provide maintenance once CPA funds have been spent.
-

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

9. If your proposal involves currently-owned Town assets, explain which ones.

10. What community support does your proposal have?

11. If any Town boards or committees support your proposal, provide written endorsements.

12. How would the proposal meet all requirements for disability accessibility?

13. If your proposal will reclaim abandoned or previously developed resources, please explain.

14. If there is a volunteer component to your proposal, which could offset the need for CPA funds, what volunteer activities have been completed or pledged and by whom?

15. How will this proposal conserve energy or other resources?

16. What considerations does your proposal include for vehicle and bicycle parking?

17. What considerations does it include for public transportation?

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Category: RECREATION QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTE: *If this recreation project is for land, please complete the "Open Space" questionnaire also.*

1. What age groups would benefit from your proposal?

Please see attached pages for answers to questions. (There is insufficient room for answers in the fillable form.)

2. How many people could use the recreation resource at once?

3. Could the proposed recreation project be used for more than one activity (multi-use)?

4. Could the recreation project be used by young people who are unsupervised by an adult?

5. In what ways would the proposed project protect and/or endanger Deerfield's natural resources?

6. What town resources (Highway Department, for example) would be needed for maintenance?

7. What are the anticipated costs for annual operations and maintenance for the project and what sources of funding would be utilized to fund those costs?

8. In what ways might the proposed recreation project increase appreciation for Deerfield's resources?

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

9. During what times of the year could the recreation project be used?

10. How would the proposed recreation project match the character of the surrounding areas?

11. How would you ensure that all safety considerations are addressed?

12. Does the proposed recreation project meet all building and safety codes?

13. Does the proposal take advantage of connections to other recreation resources?

14. Does the project include provisions and costs for parking and traffic control?

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS
Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Attachments

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE- ALL CATEGORIES

NOTE: Respond to **ALL** questions, and expand as necessary with attached pages. **Do not delete** any questions in this Questionnaire or the Category Questionnaire. Non-applicable questions should be answered with “N/A”. **Incomplete applications may result in ineligibility for consideration for the current cycle.**

1. How would your proposal realize visions and goals set out in our Master Plan and Open Space Plan?

The Action Plan of the Deerfield Open Space & Recreation Plan 2023-2030 focuses on several features to be included in the development and design of public access trails in Deerfield including: 1) identify trails in Town that are in need of signage and/or trailhead kiosks and install these features where appropriate, 2) produce a map of Deerfield showing the location of recreation resources in town that are open to public use, 3) develop signage to indicate town ownership, public access, and allowed parking areas to facilitate increased use of the Pocumtuck Rock, Pine Nook Memorial Forest, and Birchwood Nature Refuge town properties on Pocumtuck Ridge, and 4) create walking and mountain biking trails to link the Town owned properties of Pocumtuck Rock and Pine Nook Forest on Pine Nook Road.

The River & Ridge Trail Complex, Phase 1 grant to MassTrails supports trail development in the Hillside area of Deerfield to provide improved trail access on the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail and to design new, accessible trail access along the Connecticut River.

The grant application will expand recreational opportunities while promoting recognition of important sections of the Pocumtuck Ridge. Development of these walking and hiking opportunities will realize the visions and goals of Deerfield’s Master Plan by addressing:

- The plan’s Farmland, Open Space, and Natural Resources goal “to maintain and protect critical natural resources including farmland, forests, public water supplies, and their habitat areas, rivers and streams, and ponds.”
- The plan’s Historic and Scenic Resources goal “to identify and protect historic resources including buildings, sites, and landscapes.”
- The plan’s Land Use and Zoning goal “to protect the rural and historic character of Deerfield.”

2. How would your proposal preserve the character of Deerfield?

The project will highlight the Pocumtuck Ridge as the backbone of Deerfield and design a new viewing and access point on the Connecticut River. The Open Space & Recreation

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Plan 2023-2030 calls for maintaining a sense of place through emphasizing the distinctive landscape characteristics and rural character of Deerfield. The River & Ridge Trail Complex will also support access to the outdoors in Deerfield.

3. Explain what other sources of funding you are pursuing, if any, to match the CPA Funds you are requesting.

The Open Space Committee is applying for a \$80,000 grant for the River & Ridge Trail Complex, Phase 1 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassTrails Grant Program. The grant application is due February 3, 2025. This CPA request for \$18,000 will fund the cost share for this grant.

4. If your proposal requires urgent action, explain why.

N/A

5. If your proposal serves a currently under-served population, explain how.

The River & Ridge Trail Complex will include two trails. The first is a 1.1-mile segment of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail from Hillside Road to Stage Road. This is construction work on a traditional woodland trail. Construction will provide improved access with the addition of three bridges for creek crossing and rerouting of steep sections. The second trail will be designed under the grant. It is a 1.7-mile Connecticut Riverview Loop along the Connecticut River. It would be an All Persons Trail (ADA compliant) that will offer outdoor experiences along the river for everyone.

6. If your proposal preserves a threatened resource, explain how

The trails network will increase awareness of the Pocumtuck Ridge resource and of the importance of protecting it.

7. Does your proposal fit within the current zoning, environmental, building, and other regulations?

Yes. The construction and design elements of the grant will fit with current zoning, environmental, building, and other regulations, including any required permitting.

8. If your proposal would require ongoing support for upkeep, explain the

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

projected means to provide maintenance once CPA funds have been spent.

The Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will be maintained by volunteers working with the Deerfield Open Space Committee. The design work for the Connecticut Riverview Loop does not require maintenance.

9. If your proposal involves currently-owned Town assets, explain which ones.

Part of the construction grant on the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will be on the Birchwood Nature Refuge (Map 138, Lot 5) owned by the Town of Deerfield.

10. What community support does your proposal have?

Town residents were surveyed in preparation for writing the Deerfield Open Space & Recreation Plan 2023-2030. They identified creating a walkable, hikeable, and bikeable Deerfield and improving communication about the Town's open space and recreational resources as top priorities. The River & Ridge Trail Complex will directly address these priorities.

11. If any Town boards or committees support your proposal, provide written endorsements.

This CPC request was endorsed by the Deerfield Open Space Committee in a motion passed at its January 6, 2025 meeting. The Selectboard, Planning Board, and Recreation Committee have written letters of support for the grant. The Conservation Commission will consider a letter of support at its January 28, 2025 meeting.

12. How would the proposal meet all requirements for disability accessibility?

Yes. The construction and design of the River & Ridge Trail Complex will meet requirements for disability access.

13. If your proposal will reclaim abandoned or previously developed resources, please explain.

N/A

14. If there is a volunteer component to your proposal, which could offset the need for CPA funds, what volunteer activities have been completed or pledged and by whom?

Members of the Open Space Committee are volunteering their time to develop the MassTrails grant proposal. The Committee, and the construction and design efforts, will

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

have a focus on collaboration with classes and clubs (e.g., at Fronter Regional School), scouting troops, and biking and hiking groups to support the trails network and to provide trail maintenance.

15. How will this proposal conserve energy or other resources?

N/A

16. What considerations does your proposal include for vehicle and bicycle parking?

The Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will use existing parking at the DCR Hillside Trailhead. The design and development of the Connecticut Riverview Loop will include vehicle and bicycle parking.

17. What considerations does it include for public transportation?

The design of the Connecticut Riverview Loop will include consideration of public transportation.

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Category: RECREATION QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTE: *If this recreation project is for land, please complete the “Open Space” questionnaire also.*

1. What age groups would benefit from your proposal?

All age groups will benefit from using the River & Ridge Trail Complex.

2. How many people could use the recreation resource at once?

The Pocumtuck Ridge Trail can accommodate many people at once. Analysis of use rates will be part of the design of the Connecticut Riverview Loop.

3. Could the proposed recreation project be used for more than one activity (multi-use)?

Yes. The trails network can be used for walking, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, forest bathing, and nature observing. The Connecticut Riverview Loop will be designed to be ADA compliant.

4. Could the recreation project be used by young people who are unsupervised by an adult?

Yes, the trails can be used by unsupervised young people starting with later middle school and high school students.

5. In what ways would the proposed project protect and/or endanger Deerfield's natural resources?

The Ridge & River Trail Complex will protect Deerfield’s natural resources by introducing more residents and visitors to the habitat, wildlife, and beauty of the Pocumtuck Ridge and Connecticut River area. The project will serve the goals of the Deerfield Open Space & Recreation Plan 2023-2030 to 1) preserve and enhance the unique small town, rural character of Deerfield as reflected by connected farms, forests, ridgelines, and Deerfield’s history and 2) ensure that Deerfield maintains and improves the quality and accessibility of all of its recreational facilities and programming, especially those that connect people with the town’s diverse natural environments and landscapes, and to encourage the development of new facilities and programming where feasible.

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

6. What town resources (Highway Department, for example) would be needed for maintenance?

The Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will be maintained by volunteers working with the Deerfield Open Space Committee. The design work for the Connecticut Riverview Loop does not require maintenance.

7. What are the anticipated costs for annual operations and maintenance for the project and what sources of funding would be utilized to fund those costs?

The Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will be maintained by volunteers working with the Open Space Committee. The design of the Connecticut Riverview Loop will include analysis of the costs of annual operations and maintenance needs for the network.

8. In what ways might the proposed recreation project increase appreciation for Deerfield's resources?

The River & Ridge Trail Complex will open more of the beautiful backbone of Deerfield, the Pocumtuck Ridge, to residents and visitors, offering many paths to enjoy Deerfield's resources. The Connecticut Riverview Loop will open a totally new resource for people to use. Those people will be engaged in and awed by Deerfield's scenic beauty and biodiversity.

9. During what times of the year could the recreation project be used?

Year around.

10. How would the proposed recreation project match the character of the surrounding areas?

The River & Ridge Trail Complex will retain and enhance the natural settings of the area, while improving knowledge about and access to enjoying these resources.

11. How would you ensure that all safety considerations are addressed?

The construction of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will be undertaken by a professional team that will follow all safety requirements. The design of the Connecticut Riverview Loop will address safety considerations.

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

12. Does the proposed recreation project meet all building and safety codes?

The construction of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will be undertaken by a professional team that will follow all safety requirements.

13. Does the proposal take advantage of connections to other recreation resources?

Yes. The River & Ridge Trail Complex is adjacent to, and is a continuation, of trails on the Mt. Sugarloaf State Reservation. It is also adjacent to conservation land held by the Pocumtuck Stewards of the Land off Stage Road.

14. Does the project include provisions and costs for parking and traffic control?

The Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment will use existing parking at the DCR Hillside Trailhead. The design of the Connecticut Riverview Loop will include analysis of provisions for and cost of parking and traffic control.

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS
Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Property Description

The River & Ridge Trail Complex is anticipated to include a trail on Town owned property, the Birchwood Nature Refuge (Map 138, Lot 5).

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has sent the Deerfield Open Space Committee a memo of permission for its participation in this grant.

Additional Sources of Committed Funding

The Open Space Committee is applying for a \$80,000 grant from the MassTrails Grant Program. Of that \$60,000 would be from MassTrails and \$20,000 is a cost share from Deerfield (\$18,000 from CPC and \$2,000 in kind).

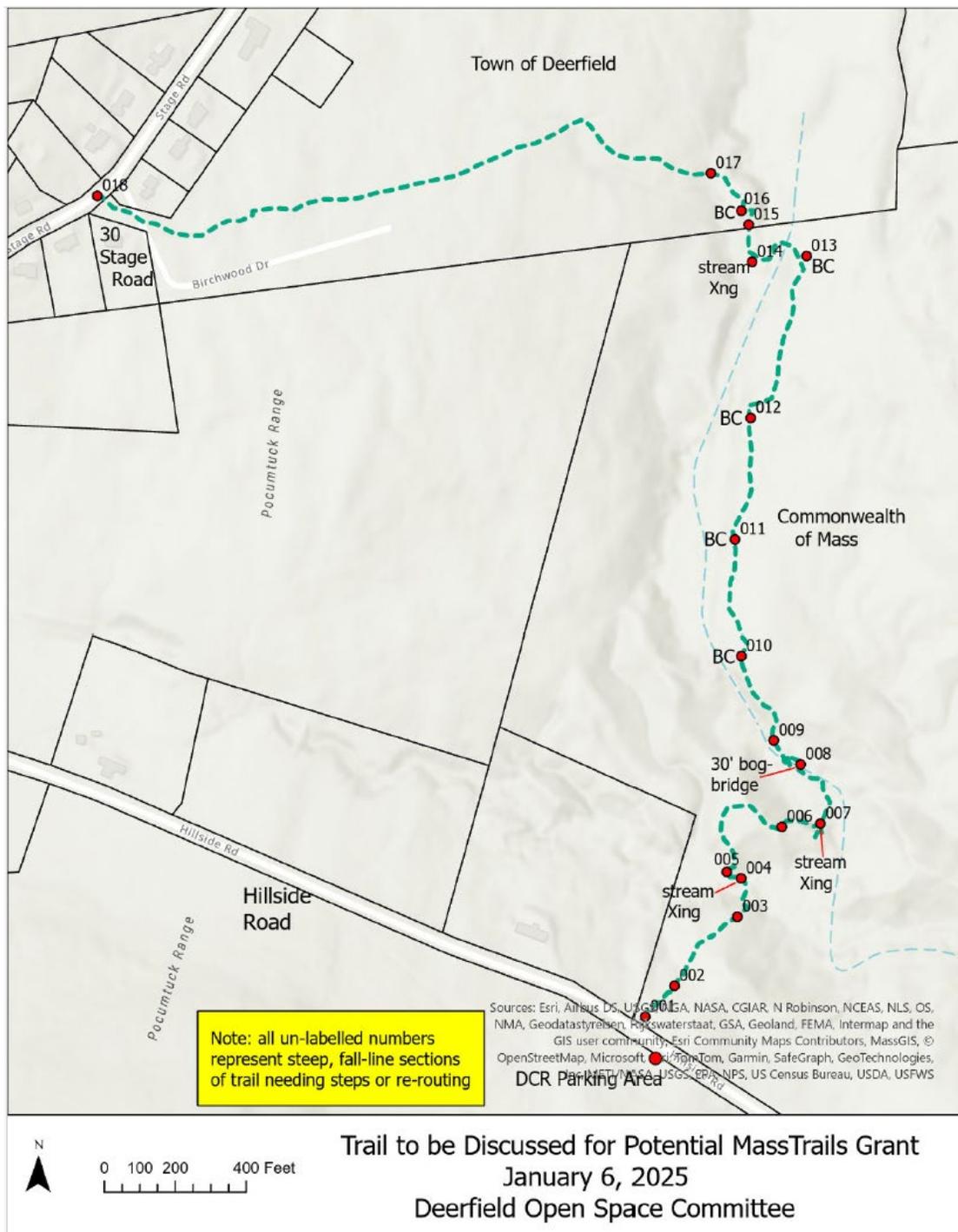
Budget	
River & Ridge Trail Complex, Phase 1	\$80,000
MassTrails Grant	\$60,000
Deerfield CPA Cost Share Grant	\$18,000
Deerfield In-Kind Contribution to Cost Share	\$2,000

Breakdown of Total Grant Budget	
Construction on Pocumtuck Ridge Trail Segment	\$60,000
Design of Connecticut Riverview Loop	\$20,000

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS
Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

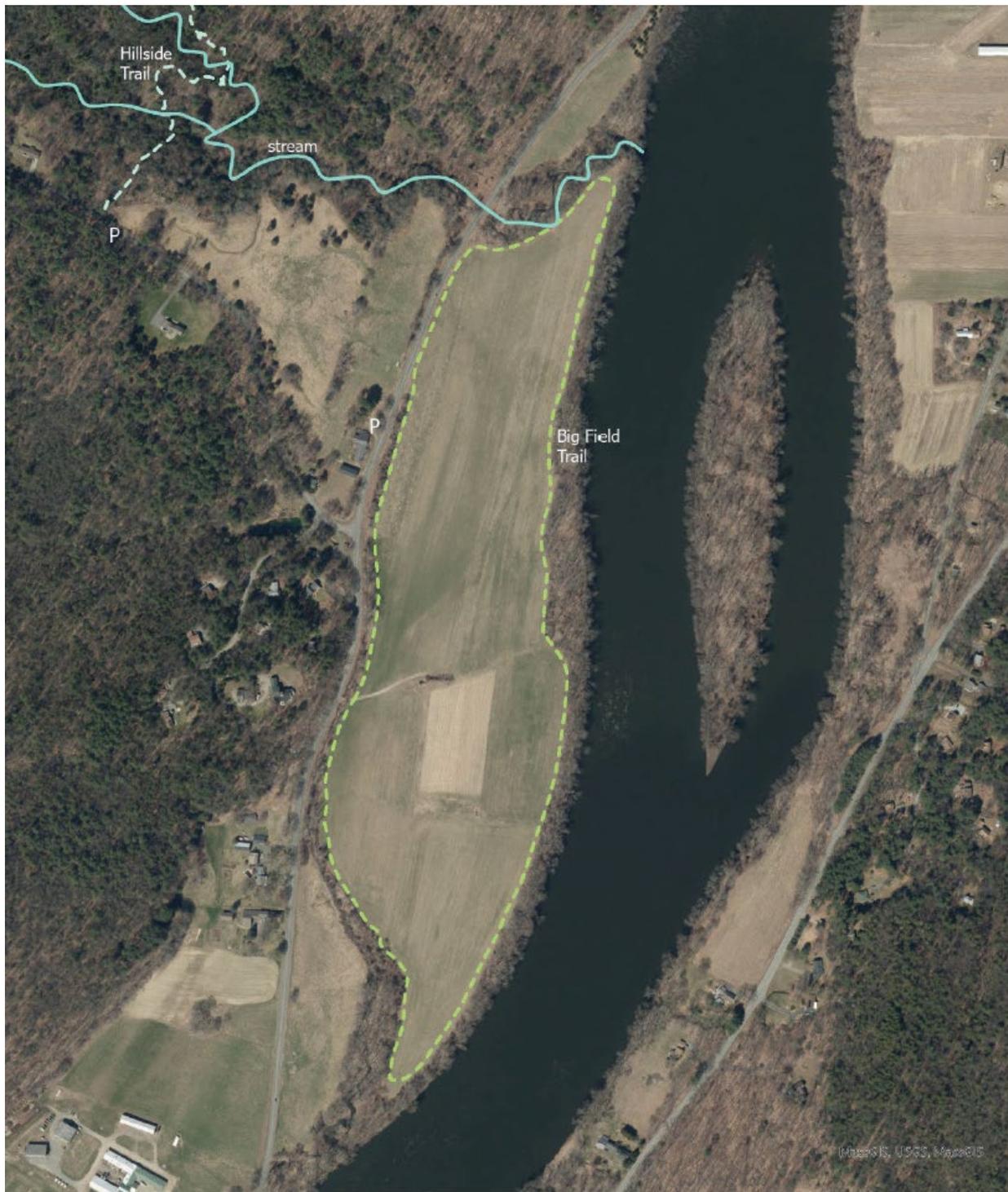
Relevant Maps

Map 1: Pocumtuck Ridge Trail—Hillside Road to Stage Road



DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS
Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Map 2: Connecticut Riverview Loop (All Persons Trail) (aka Big Field Trail)



Proposed Big Field and Hillside Trails
Town of Deerfield

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS
Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Timeline with Major Milestones

Timeline	
Submit Grant Application for Deerfield CPA Funding	November 1, 2024
Submit Revised Grant Application for Deerfield CPA Funding	January 24, 2025
Submit Grant for MassTrails Grant	February 3, 2025
Decision on CPA Funding if Approved to Go to Town Meeting	May--2025
Decision on MassTrails Grant	June--2025
Request for Proposals	July 1, 2025
Award of Contracts	August 1, 2025
Project Begins	August 15, 2025
Project Completion	June 30, 2026

Endorsements from Deerfield Boards & Committees

This CPC request was endorsed by the Deerfield Open Space Committee in a motion passed at its January 6, 2025 meeting. The Selectboard, Planning Board, and Recreation Committee have written letters of support for the grant. The Conservation Commission will consider a letter of support at its January 28, 2025 meeting.



Town of Deerfield

Deerfield Municipal Offices
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373
Ph: 413-665-1400
Fax: 413-665-1411

January 22, 2025

Amanda Lewis, Director
MassTrails
136 Damon Road
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

The Deerfield Selectboard is writing to express its enthusiastic support for the application of the Deerfield Open Space Committee for a MassTrails Grant for a construction and design grant for the River & Ridge Trail Complex. The total grant application is for \$80,000, with \$60,000 for construction of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail—Hillside Road to Stage Road and \$20,000 for designing the adjacent Big Field Trail Area. The Deerfield Community Preservation Committee has already approved recommending CPC funding to Town Meeting for cost share for the Committee applying to MassTrails.

The Selectboard approved this letter of support at its meeting on January 22, 2025.

The grant application to the state by the Deerfield Open Space Committee will support trail construction for one trail and a design study for a second trail area, both of which will be part of a larger River and Ridge Trail Complex in Deerfield. While there are informal trails in Deerfield, there is no formal town network. Many residents and visitors do not know how to access these free opportunities to enjoy the beauty of Deerfield and the surrounding area.

Increasing recreational opportunities, particularly for walking and hiking, is one of the leading goals of the Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Plan 2023-2030, which the Selectboard endorses. The MassTrails grant will allow for the first step to increasing these opportunities through the construction and design of parts of the River and Ridge Trail Complex.

Sincerely,

Chair
Selectboard
Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts



Town of Deerfield

Deerfield Municipal Offices
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373
Ph: 413-665-1400
Fax: 413-665-1411

January 8, 2025

Amanda Lewis, Director
MassTrails
136 Damon Road
Northampton, MA 01060

Re: Support for Application for MassTrails Grant for Deerfield's Pocumtuck Trails Network, Phase 1

Dear Ms. Lewis,

The Deerfield Planning Board is writing to express its enthusiastic support for the applications of the Deerfield Open Space Committee for MassTrails Grants for a construction grant for the Pocumtuck Connector Trail (\$60,000) and a design study for the River and Ridge View Trail (\$30,000). The Deerfield Community Preservation Committee has already approved recommending CPC funding to Town Meeting for the cost share for the Committee applying to MassTrails.

The Planning Board approved this letter of support at its meeting on January 6th.

The grant applications to the state by the Deerfield Open Space Committee will support trail construction for one trail and a design study for a second trail, both of which will be part of a larger River and Ridge Trail Complex in Deerfield. While there are informal trails in Deerfield, there is no formal town network. Many residents and visitors do not know how to access these free opportunities to enjoy the beauty of Deerfield and the surrounding area.

Increasing recreational opportunities, particularly for walking and hiking, is one of the leading goals of the Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Plan 2023-2030, which the Planning Board endorses. The MassTrails grants will allow for the first step to increasing these opportunities through the construction and design of parts of the River and Ridge Trail Complex.

Sincerely,

Denise Mason, Chair
Planning Board
Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts



Town of Deerfield

Deerfield Municipal Offices
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373
Ph: 413-665-1400
Fax: 413-665-1411

January 7, 2025

Amanda Lewis, Director
MassTrails
136 Damon Road
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

The Deerfield Recreation Committee is writing to express its enthusiastic support for the applications of the Deerfield Open Space Committee for MassTrails Grants for a construction grant for the Pocumtuck Connector Trail (\$60,000) and a design study for the River and Ridge View Trail (\$30,000). The Deerfield Community Preservation Committee has already approved recommending CPC funding to Town Meeting for the cost share for the Committee applying to MassTrails.

The Recreation Committee approved this letter of support at its meeting on January 6th.

The grant applications to the state by the Deerfield Open Space Committee will support trail construction for one trail and a design study for a second trail, both of which will be part of a larger River and Ridge Trail Complex in Deerfield. While there are informal trails in Deerfield, there is no formal town network. Many residents and visitors do not know how to access these free opportunities to enjoy the beauty of Deerfield and the surrounding area.

Increasing recreational opportunities, particularly for walking and hiking, is one of the leading goals of the [Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Plan 2023-2030](#), which the Recreation Committee endorses. The MassTrails grants will allow for the first step to increasing these opportunities through the construction and design of parts of the River and Ridge Trail Complex.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Bysiewski, Chair
Recreation Committee
Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts