

## CPA PROJECT APPLICATION

Community Preservation Committee 66  
Westford Street  
Carlisle, MA 01741  
TEL: 978-369-6136 (Executive Assistant)

Thank you for your interest in submitting a Community Preservation Act (“CPA”) project application to the Carlisle Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”). CPA funds provide the opportunity to support projects to enhance our community in the areas of outdoor recreation, historic preservation, open space, and community housing. The CPC looks forward to reviewing your application and is available to answer questions and provide assistance at any point in the process. (See the current list of CPC members on the town website.)

Please keep in mind the following parameters:

1. Project funding requests must be submitted in writing to the CPC using the Project Application.
2. The Project Application must be completed in its entirety for consideration. It is permissible to provide additional information after the deadline if the application has been submitted on time.
3. Requests must be documented with appropriate support information.
4. If the request is part of a multi-year project, include the total project cost and yearly appropriations sought.
5. Applications must be eligible for funding from Community Preservation Act funds. The Community Preservation Coalition and the MA Department of Revenue have resources to assist applicants in determining eligibility. Please note that CPA funds may not be used for ongoing maintenance.
6. For applications that have multiple project requests, please prioritize projects.

Applications must be submitted to **Town Hall by Monday, February 3, 2025, 12pm** to be eligible for consideration. Please email the completed application to Gretchen Gallimore, Executive Assistant, Carlisle Select Board, [GGallimore@carlislema.gov](mailto:GGallimore@carlislema.gov).

The CPC will review all applications and may invite project applicants to a CPC meeting to present their project and answer questions. The CPC may work with an applicant to change the scope of a project, adjust the project amount, or otherwise revise a project based on whether the project meets the goals of the Town of Carlisle and the CPA. The CPC will vote on each application and make recommendations at Town Meeting as to which applications should be funded with CPA monies.

Please contact Barney Arnold, Chair of the CPC, at [Barney4Carlisle@gmail.com](mailto:Barney4Carlisle@gmail.com), or Gretchen Gallimore, Executive Assistant, Carlisle Select Board, [GGallimore@carlislema.gov](mailto:GGallimore@carlislema.gov) if you have any questions regarding your application.

**CPA PROJECT APPLICATION**

**Community Preservation Committee  
66 Westford Street  
Carlisle, MA 01741  
TEL: 978-369-6136**

**Please type your responses to the following questions:**

**1. Project Overview, Contact Information, Signatures**

Project Name: Spalding Ball Field Restoration

Project Applicant: Courtney Bittelari (Rec Comm) & Jack Troast (Historical Society)

Amount Requested: \$70,000 (estimate)

Sponsoring Board or other organization(s) (as applicable): Recreation Commission and Historical Society

Primary Contact Person:

Name: Courtney Bittelari

Address: 203 Fiske St

Phone Number: 774-400-5772

Email Address: courtney.bittelari@gmail.com

Purpose: (please select all that apply)

- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation**
- Open Space**
- Recreation**

Project location or address: Church Street between the Carlisle Public School and Green Cemetery.

Signature of Applicant:  \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_ Courtney Bittelari \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2/2/2025 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chair of Sponsoring Board  
or other organization (as applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_ Print name:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. Project Summary**

The **Carlisle Recreation Commission & The Carlisle Historical Society** seek Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to rehabilitate the historic Spalding Baseball Field and its associated structures, including the 90' diamond, batting cage, stone wall, and backstop. Cleared and Constructed beginning in 1925, the field was improved in 1934 as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal initiatives, the field and its unique fieldstone backstop are historically significant and listed on the Massachusetts State Historical Commission's Inventory of Historic Resources. Originally donated to the town in 1925 by Oscar Spalding, the property honors Carlisle's recreational and cultural heritage. Oscar Spalding donated the land with the intention that it be used for public recreation, and the field honors the family's connection to Carlisle's history. Interesting to note, the lineage of the Spaldings of Chelmsford and Carlisle includes **Albert Spalding**, a notable descendant who was the inventor of the modern stitched baseball and founder of the A.G. Spalding & Bros sporting goods company.

This project will restore the field to a safe, functional state for local youth and families while preserving its historical integrity. The centennial of the Spalding Field in 2025 presents a unique opportunity to honor its legacy through this rehabilitation effort, ensuring its continued use as a cornerstone of the community's recreational and historical identity.

## **3. Project Description**

The Spalding Baseball Field Rehabilitation Project aims to restore a historically significant recreational facility to its original glory while improving its functionality for future use. The project encompasses the following key components:

1. **90' Baseball Diamond:**
  - Resurfacing and regrading the field to enhance safety and playability.
  - Upgrading the irrigation system to ensure long-term maintenance and health of the field.
  - Installing new bases, a pitcher's mound, and foul poles.
2. **Stone Wall Restoration:**
  - Restoring the historic fieldstone retaining wall and backstop, originally constructed in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration as part of the New Deal.
  - Ensuring the use of historically appropriate materials and preservation methods to maintain the wall's historical integrity including landscaping to remove invasive plants.
  - Install a historic marker to commemorate the centennial of the ball field.
3. **Backstop Replacement:**
  - Temporarily remove the backstop to perform preventative landscape maintenance and re-paint or re-condition to match the early 1950s backstop frame and to meet modern safety standards.
4. **Batting Cage Upgrade:**
  - Clear the existing batting cage enclosure of overgrown vegetation and other invasives and replace the protective netting including modern features for improved usability and safety.
  - Purchase portable 28' wide heavy portable backstop with EZ roll wheels and high wind stakes (2" rustproof frame). Include a heavy weatherproof net. This will allow for Little League use.

This project is a community effort that not only preserves a piece of Carlisle's history but also revitalizes a vital recreational space. It supports the town's youth and families, as Spalding Field remains the only 90' regulation baseball field in the area, crucial for middle and high school players. The restoration will align with the centennial celebration of the field in 2025, making it a fitting tribute to its enduring legacy.

The field surface will also accommodate smaller field dimensions on a stripped diamond to offer maximum flexibility for use.

By addressing both historical preservation and modern recreational needs, this project ensures that Spalding Field remains a cherished and functional space for generations to come.

#### **4. Responsible Parties**

**Recreation Commission:** Recreation Commission will oversee and coordinate most aspects of the project. This includes securing funding, managing contractors, and ensuring the project aligns with community and preservation goals.

**Historical Society:** The Historical Society will provide guidance on the restoration of the stone wall and backstop other field elements to ensure historical accuracy and compliance with preservation standards.

**Town Engineer/Contractor:** The town's engineering department or hired contractors will handle the technical aspects of the restoration, including field grading, construction, and equipment installation. The Historical Society will engage restoration contractors for stonework, backstop improvements, and related landscaping in accordance with the budget.

**Community Volunteers:** Local residents and community groups may be involved in non-specialized tasks, such as landscaping and painting, to foster community ownership and reduce costs.

#### **5. Timeline (estimated)**

##### **March–April 2025:**

- Secure CPA funding approval.
- Begin detailed planning and finalize project scope.
- Identify and engage contractors and preservation specialists.

##### **May–June 2025:**

- Obtain necessary permits and endorsements from the Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, and other relevant bodies.
- Order materials for the restoration of the stone wall, backstop, and batting cage.

##### **July–August 2025:**

- Start field restoration, including resurfacing, regrading, and irrigation upgrades.
- Begin structural work on the batting cage and backstop.
- Complete restoration of the stone wall using historically appropriate methods.
- Finish installation of new field elements, including bases, pitcher's mound, and protective netting for the batting cage.
- Install commemorative plaque.

##### **September–October 2025:**

- Conduct final inspections and address any remaining work.
- Host a community rededication event to celebrate the field's centennial and its restored condition.

#### **6. Project Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the historic Spalding Baseball Field and its associated structures to preserve a site of cultural, recreational, and historical significance. Built in 1934 through New Deal initiatives, the field serves as a testament to Carlisle's commitment to recreation and community values. This project will ensure the field remains safe, functional, and accessible for

future generations while honoring its legacy and centennial milestone.

*If approved, is the project ready to be implemented? Yes*

*Why should this project be funded this year?* This project should be funded this year because 2025 marks the **centennial of the Spalding Baseball Field**, making it a uniquely significant moment to honor and preserve its legacy. The field is not only a vital recreational resource but also a historical landmark, as it was the first recreational facility in Carlisle and is listed in the Massachusetts State Historical Commission's Inventory of Historic Resources.

Funding the project this year ensures that the restoration aligns with the centennial celebration, allowing the community to commemorate this milestone with a fully restored field that reflects its historical and cultural importance. Delaying the project could miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the field's legacy while it remains in the public eye.

Additionally, the field's current condition poses safety and usability concerns, which may limit its use by local youth and families. With growing interest in reviving youth baseball and the absence of other regulation 90' fields in the area, timely funding would address these immediate needs and restore the field as a cornerstone of the community's recreational offerings. Supporting the project this year demonstrates a commitment to preserving Carlisle's history while enhancing its future.

## **7. Community Support**

This project has garnered interest and support from various community stakeholders:

- **Carlisle Historical Society:** They strongly support the restoration, highlighting the historical significance of the field and its unique fieldstone backstop. They have expressed a willingness to partner on fundraising and advocacy efforts.
- **Youth and Families:** Local children and their families have expressed enthusiasm for reviving the field, which serves as the only 90' regulation baseball field in town. Restoring it will support recreational opportunities for middle and high school players. The local organized baseball operation- Concord- Carlisle Youth Baseball (CCYB)- has also expressed interest in access to the field.
- **Carlisle Residents:** The project aligns with community values of preserving historical landmarks while enhancing local recreational infrastructure.

## **8. Jurisdiction or Ownership of Project Site**

The Spalding Baseball Field and surrounding property are owned and maintained by the **Town of Carlisle** through the Recreation Commission. The property was originally donated to the town in 1925 by Oscar Spalding under the condition that it be used for public recreation.

## **9. Permitting Requirements and Endorsements**

- **Historical Commission Approval:** Given the field's inclusion in the Massachusetts State Historical Commission's Inventory of Historic Resources, approval from the local Historical Commission is advised to ensure preservation standards are met.
- **Building Permits:** Permits will be secured for structural work on the batting cage and backstop.
- **Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Endorsement:** Necessary endorsement for CPA funding.
- **Conservation Commission Review:** Review may be required depending on the project's

environmental impact.

## **10. Project Budget**

**Attached**

## **11. Attachments**

- Proposed cost/budget