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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Community Preservation Committee

Recommendation Letter



April 14, 2026

To: The Honorable Mayor's Office and City Council

Applicant Name: Robert Knox and Alex Pratt with support of Mayor Christenson on behalf of the City of Malden

Co-Applicant: N/A

Applicant Address: 215 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148

Project: FY26_0037_Linden Park Improvement Project

Overview

The City of Malden Community Preservation Committee ("CPC") is pleased to inform you that on February 18, 2026 the CPC voted 4-2-0 to recommend for approval to City Council a package of FY26 awards. The FY26 award package includes a recommendation for Linden Park to be granted a total of \$500,000.00 to design and construct a new playground at Linden Park. The Linden Park improvement project was discussed at a Public Hearing held on November 19, 2025

Special Conditions

The Community Preservation Committee recommends this project with no further conditions.

Rationale

In reaching their decision, the CPC found that the project meets eligibility requirements and aligns with the priorities stated in Malden's Community Preservation Plan because of the following reasons:

1. **This project funds meets the CPA’s definition for the creation of recreational land** (MGL Part I, Title VII, Chapter 44B, Section 5.2).
2. **The land is owned by the City.** Public ownership will protect the site from being sold or converted to another use during the lifetime of this park improvement.
3. **CPC is comfortable with scope of the project and believes that OSPCD has the capacity to carry out the work in a timely manner.**
4. **This project builds on the success of a previous grant from CPC.** In FY22 CPC awarded \$200,000 to restore the Linden Rink which had also fallen into a state of disrepair by the time of its improvement.

Recommended Award Details

CPA Project Funding Recommendation: FY26 Application		
Category: Recreation	Recommendation Funding Source	Amount
Linden Park Design and Construction	Open Space Reserve	\$130,000.00
Linden Park Design and Construction	Budgeted Reserve	\$100,000.00
Linden Park Design and Construction	Fund Balance	\$270,000.00
TOTAL Linden Park Design and Construction		\$500,000.00

Project Description



The goal of this project is to continue the revitalization of the play areas at Linden Park, replacing the existing playgrounds with new ones that will reconfigure the landscape and add new elements for play and climate resilience.

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During the design phase the City will hold three public meetings with neighbors, the Linden Academy PTO and principal.

The project will remove outdated and broken play equipment, expand the play area for 5–12-year-olds with new play structures, and will reconfigure the play area for ages 2-5 and integrate it with a shade shelter and picnic area.

Project Funding Sources

Linden Park Project Funding Sources				
Total Project Cost	\$925,000.00	CPA Funds Requested	Cost Share Amount	Cost Share Percent
		\$500,000.00	\$425,000.00	46%
Cost Share Funding Sources		Secured Y/N	Amount	Type
PARC Grant		N	\$425,000.00	Cash

Additional Information

The full FY26 Application as well as the supporting attachments may be found at: https://www.cityofmalden.org/DocumentCenter/View/10550/0037_Linden-Park_Full-ApplicationAttachments

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