



## **FY 2022 Community Preservation Act (CPA) Program Update**

[Watertown-ma.gov/cpa](http://Watertown-ma.gov/cpa)

## Introduction

The Watertown Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is pleased to report on the year featuring its first application cycle in 2021/2022. This update provides a financial statement of CPA funds, describes projects recommended for funding to the City Council, highlights project ideas generated through a community survey, and presents the FY 2023 application schedule. Each year, the CPC will report on updates to City needs and inform the public of those changes as well as the most recent projects recommended for funding.

## Community Preservation Committee 2021/2022

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 Jason D. Cohen, Vice-Chair  
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## CPA Fund Activity as of May 16, 2022

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	YTD FY 2022
<b>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE</b>	-	\$1,899,397.28	\$4,362,055.08	\$7,000,176.82	\$10,114,856.71
<b>ACTUAL REVENUE</b>					
CPA SURCHARGE	\$1,899,397.28	\$2,080,870.63	\$2,163,099.54	\$2,511,802.87	\$2,377,690.60
STATE MATCH		\$367,395.00	\$498,767.00	\$625,041.00	\$1,041,504.00
INTEREST INCOME		\$14,392.17	\$23,474.26	\$34,927.16	\$4,328.52
<b>ANNUAL FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,899,397.28</b>	<b>\$2,462,657.80</b>	<b>\$2,685,340.80</b>	<b>\$3,171,771.03</b>	<b>\$3,423,523.12</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES</b>			\$47,219.06	\$57,091.14	\$43,381.94
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,899,397.28</b>	<b>\$4,362,055.08</b>	<b>\$7,000,176.82</b>	<b>\$10,114,856.71</b>	<b>\$13,494,997.89</b>

SPECIFIC RESERVES	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	TOTAL
10% OPEN SPACE/RECREATION	\$150,000	\$236,739	\$248,140	\$260,000	\$305,121	\$1,200,000
10% HISTORIC PRESERVATION	\$150,000	\$236,739	\$248,140	\$260,000	\$305,121	\$1,200,000
10% AFFORDABLE HOUSING	\$150,000	\$236,739	\$248,140	\$260,000	\$305,121	\$1,200,000
5% ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET			\$124,070	\$130,000	\$152,561	
ANNUAL BUDGETED RESERVE 65%	\$1,050,000	\$1,657,178	\$1,612,910	\$1,690,000	\$1,983,287	
	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,367,395</b>	<b>\$2,481,400</b>	<b>\$2,600,000</b>	<b>\$3,051,210</b>	

## CPA Fund Activity as per City Auditor

## FY 2022 Funding Recommendations

This year, the CPC completed its first funding cycle and made two funding recommendations to the City Council. These are two strong projects that should serve as models for applicants seeking to apply for CPA funding and help to prompt more project ideas in the next funding round.

### **Historic Preservation: City Hall Geographical Paintings**

The CPC recommended a grant of \$33,000 to the Historical Society of Watertown to restore and conserve two paintings that flank the lobby of City Hall. Each will be protected by a barrier constructed of wooden and metal rails.

### **Open Space/ Outdoor Recreation: Irving Park**

The CPC recommended a grant of \$294,195 to the Department of Public Works to rehabilitate Irving Park with new plantings, seating, bollard lighting, a granite border, safety fencing, and accessible walkways.

Read full funding recommendations at: [d6c94620-2e76-40e0-a311-be88bc2c1aeb \(civicplus.com\)](https://civicplus.com/d6c94620-2e76-40e0-a311-be88bc2c1aeb)

## Annual Survey

The CPC contacted members of City Boards, Commissions and Committees requesting them to identify changes in Watertown's needs, resources, opportunities, and priorities since the Community Preservation Act 5-year Plan 2021-2025 was adopted on June 3, 2021. In addition, the Committee distributed a survey to the municipal bodies and the wider community soliciting their ideas for community preservation projects. The survey questions and demographics of respondents are appended. 175 people completed the survey as of June 2, 2022.

There were no new needs or priorities reported by municipal bodies. Survey respondents reiterated the desire for acquisition and preservation of open space through the creation of parks and conservation of remaining natural areas. Developing more walking paths and bike trails, enhancing connectivity between green spaces, rehabilitating existing parks, and providing more opportunities for passive recreation and community gardening continued to be of high importance. Survey respondents also cited the critical need to create affordable housing.

## Project Ideas\*

### Open Space

- Create a large urban meadow
- Create a park where the North Library branch now stands

### Outdoor Recreation

- Install unique play structures in parks (all the playground equipment is the same in city parks)
- Add splash pads to playgrounds
- Create a small-scale bike obstacle park in space north of Greenough Blvd. (DCR-owned property)
- Improve the area around Dealtry Pool (DCR-owned property)

### Community Housing

- Create intergenerational affordable housing
- Create mixed developments of affordable housing with live-work space for artists, studios, performance rehearsal space, galleries, and retail shops
- Add affordable senior housing to 104 Main Street project
- Increase the number of affordable units in new developments

### Historic Preservation

- Preserve documents and photos held by Historical Society of Watertown
- Restore and landscape older cemeteries
- Support preservation activities of Armenian Library and Museum of America
- Preserve mill buildings

\* Note: These are ideas from survey respondents that have not been evaluated for project eligibility.

### Resource and Information Updates

- The Watertown Comprehensive Plan update began with visioning sessions and a survey.
- Arsenal Park Improvements are underway.
- The Watertown-Cambridge Greenway is substantially completed.
- The Watertown Municipal Affordable Housing Trust is likely to be established by the end of the summer of 2022.
- Housing units on the Subsidized Housing Inventory increased from 1,171 to 1,233 units, amounting to 7.94% of the city's total housing units.
- Affordable Housing Income Limits increased to figures found in the table below.

#### 2022 CPA Income Limits

Household Size	Moderate-Income (<100%)	Low-Income (<80%)
One Person	\$84,560	\$67,648
Two Person	\$96,640	\$77,312
Three Person	\$108,720	\$86,875
Four Person	\$120,800	\$96,640

### Initiatives for FY2023

Through the opening application round, Committee members and staff learned that project applicants could benefit from more information in order to produce quality project proposals. To meet this objective, the CPC will highlight examples of high-quality applications and provide information on practical application tips during application workshops and by posting supplemental application materials on the CPC webpage. In addition, the CPC intends to reach out to the wider community and encourage residents to think creatively about potential projects they can sponsor or promote to City department staff. In short, the CPC would like to see a wider variety of viable projects from all funding categories and aid the effort through robust community education and program marketing.

[Application Process Schedule](#) (Read Application Manual and tips: [watertown-ma.gov/cpa](http://watertown-ma.gov/cpa))

1	July/ August	Application Workshops	5	January/ March	CPC Application Review and Project Presentations
2	August	Project Eligibility Form Due	6	March/ April	CPC Deliberates and Votes on Funding Recommendations
3	September	Eligibility Notification	7	April/ May	CPC Recommendations submitted to City Council for Approval
4	December	CPA Funding Application Due	8	May/June	Grant Agreements Executed

# Appendix

## 1. Community Preservation Program Allowable Spending Purposes

Very important information for applicants--carefully review the CPA Allowable Spending Purposes table to learn what can be funded.

## 2. Survey Results

## Community Preservation Program - Allowable Spending Purposes

Project Eligibility & Terms <sup>1</sup>	Open Space	Recreation	Community Housing	Historic Preservation
For further information go to: <a href="http://watertown-ma.gov/CPC">watertown-ma.gov/CPC</a>	<p><b>Land to protect:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing and future well fields • aquifers and recharge areas • watershed land • agricultural land • grasslands</li> <li>fields • forest land • fresh and salt marshes and other wetlands • ocean, river, stream, lake and pond frontage • beaches, dunes, and other coastal lands • lands to protect scenic vistas • land for wildlife or nature preserve • land for recreational use</li> </ul>	<p><b>Land for active or passive recreational use including but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community gardens • trails • noncommercial youth and adult sports • use as a park, playground, or athletic field.</li> </ul> <p><i>Shall not include horse or dog racing, artificial turf, or the use of land for a stadium, gymnasium, or similar structure.</i></p>	<p><b>Housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families, including low- or moderate-income seniors age 60+:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate Income is less than 100%, of US HUD Area Wide Median (AMI).</li> <li>Low Income is less than 80% of AMI.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Buildings, structures, vessels, real property, documents, or artifacts</b> listed on the State Register of Historic Places or determined by the Historic Commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Watertown.</p>
<b>ACQUIRE</b> <i>Obtain by gift, purchase, devise, grant, rental, purchase, lease or otherwise.</i> <sup>2</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>CREATE</b> <i>To bring into being or cause to exist.</i> <sup>3</sup>	YES	YES	YES	NO
<b>PRESERVE</b> <i>Protection of personal or real property from injury, harm, or destruction.</i>	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>REHABILITATE/ RESTORE</b> <i>Capital improvements, or the making of extraordinary repairs for the purpose of making [a resource] functional for its intended use including but not limited to improvements to comply with ADA, MAAB<sup>4</sup>, and other federal, state, local regulations, or access codes or federal standards for historic properties.</i>	YES If acquired or created using CPA funds	YES	YES If acquired or created using CPA funds	YES
<b>SUPPORT</b> <i>Provide grants, loans, rental assistance, security deposits, interest-rate write downs or other forms of assistance directly to individuals and families who are eligible for community housing, or to an entity that owns, operates, or manages such housing for the purpose of making housing affordable.</i>	NO	NO	YES	NO

<sup>1</sup>This chart is adapted from versions created by the Department of Revenue and the Community Preservation Coalition: [communitypreservation.org/allowable-uses](http://communitypreservation.org/allowable-uses)

<sup>2</sup>Specifications for eminent domain can be found in MGL c. 44B §.5(e)

<sup>3</sup>Seideman vs. City of Newton, 452 Mass. 472 (2008)

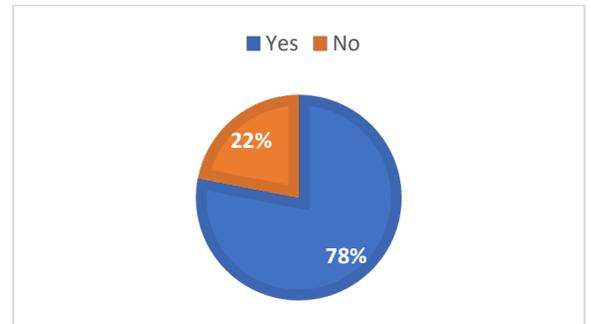
<sup>4</sup>ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act; MAAB – Massachusetts Architectural Access Board

**Sidewalk repair, public art, maintenance, walking tour maps, historical signage, anti-litter campaigns, and food co-ops are not fundable.**

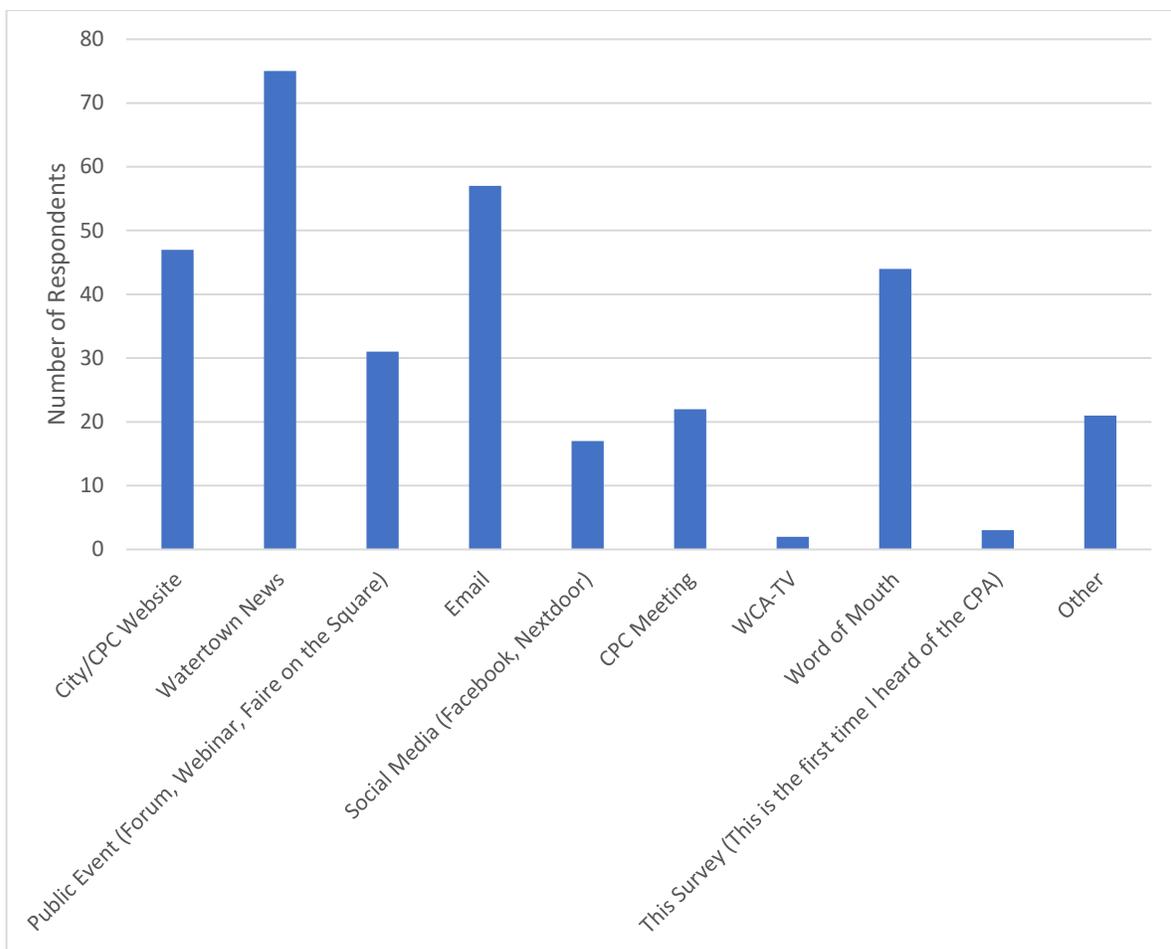
## Survey Results

Note: The following responses were not edited for typographical or grammatical errors. However, responses were edited to remove inappropriate comments directed at particular individuals.

1. Have you heard about the CPA and/or the CPC in Watertown?



2. How have you heard about the CPA? (Select all that apply)



NOTE: While we appreciate the many project suggestions that follow, many are not fundable according to CPA guidelines

3. Are there specific open space projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds?

Push and collaborate more with the State to perform more cleanup along the river, removing dead trees, brush, "junk" vegetation to open up views.
Take the Oakley Country Club by eminent domain and turn it into Watertown's finest public park.
Better and more bike paths.
work with DCR to preserve and maintain wetlands and native vegetation along the Charles River
I would like for the Columbus Delta in Watertown square to be preserved and dressed up.
Acquire and preserve Walker Pond
More usable public spaces outdoors.
More mixed use commercial/residential spaces in Watertown Square and the West End of Watertown.
Green walls installed wherever there is a blank facade like the garage on Walnut. That vegetation on there side and behind the Lexus dealership is inviting to walk by and drive by. Bat house installations. More trees in the Ridgelawn cemetery.
I have always dreamed of more beech trees being planted as their canopy is so huge and magical and inviting. If there is sufficient space to fit one in any town park that won't encroach on private property. Perhaps at the middle school or the Lowell where there is more space. More trees to replace those removed years ago at Bemis Park to provide shade to the benches for the Little leaguers. The old trees near the benches were a respite during hot, sunny games. More murals. The dry cleaning business on Main has a side wall on Olney that just cries out to be painted with a mural. Murals don't always have to be bright or political either. A subdued scenic scene would be so nice. I realize that may be private property though and not in your jurisdiction.
Anything along the river.
The little stream that used to flank the Mount Auburn Club should be cleaned up and extended and its banks planted to protect it from erosion and dumping
Irving Park project
Anything with minimal maintenance costs. I'm concerned that we will build things that we can't afford to maintain.
Historical - instead of preserving these painting, why not preserve the east and west end of Watertown. Create benches, easy and safe passage for foot traffic. Like Arlington Mass Ave.
I had hoped they would acquire some open space, but it is all sold/up for sale. Very disappointing. Area they bought on Winter St. is a parking lot- could be filled with trees and benches. Empty lots all go to developers who cram in as many apts. as possible and build right out to the street. Land on Grove St let go to BBN who doesn't care about Watertown. City property could have more trees and natural plantings, but instead mulch and grass.
Remediate and beautify the ponds near the shopping malls. Can CPA funds be augmented by developer funds? Green parklets, traffic circles (there is plenty of room if you look), etc with benches in neighborhoods that need small green spaces for health and placemaking. See Seattle, WA. Access for Watertown to spaces in both the Golf Course and Mt Auburn Cemetery from here--a special entrance to a special meeting, sitting place, perhaps. Gore Place is open, it seems to walkers, all the time. If not, several entryways would be good (also see below). A path from the River through Stanley Ave, near the Repton Place area and the Jewish Day School to Waltham Street so that Watertownies do not have to drive to traverse our town. Continuing on, there could be a path along the boundary of Gore Place for bikes to reach Main Street and a whole other section of Town would be open to the river by off street path. Connection of neighborhoods is the key.
Add trees (and replace trees that we've lost) in existing green spaces - like the "park" behind the police station - and plant new street trees everywhere.
Would like more information on what land is available to purchase in this category. All of these are worthwhile endeavors if possible
parks behind arsenal yards could use some work.
Would love to see more trees!
Enhance riverfront parklands along Charles River.

Are there specific open space projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Just more green space!
1. Closure of Greenough Blvd. between North Beacon St. and Arsenal St. to expand Arsenal Park and create open space along the Charles River. 2. Acquisition of Oakley Country club to create a open space, a park, and build housing. This is a significant open space which is inaccessible to the general public.
Urban gardens in small plots with native plants Beautification along the Charles River- removing invasive species and replacing with native plants. More open natural spaces in general!
I agree with Irving Park but don't see the need to restore the paintings inside city hall. We Need to conserve outdoor space not a painting.
The library and downtown areas are gems with historic charm. I'd like to see our community capitalize on those old brick buildings with pedestrian focused design and zoning.
Tree planting along roads in East Watertown and in/around playgrounds.
I'd love to see Greenough Blvd closed permanently and rolled into the Arsenal Park space
Walker Pond
I would like to see you invest in housing housing housing and more housing. And please buy any available land for habitat protection / wild lands. And Please if you are doing parks (and when you do housing) 1. plant native plants and future shade trees and 2. make the properties net zero if possible and see if you can have less parking than our current zoning requirements.
A sculpture trail would be nice. Also maybe a nature interpretation center. We definitely need a parking area where disabled and elderly residents could park along the river if they can't get out and walk a lot. Or frequent shuttles that would take people from the malls to the river.
additional open space/tree canopy in areas of Watertown that are currently underserved for open space
All open space. No overdevelopment even though it has happened.
Linear Park
I walk along the Charles and wonder if funds can be used to protect and clean up the area on the sides of the river; there seems to be lots of trash (and perhaps invasive species?) that collects along the shoreline. There are many dog bags everywhere along the river and walking paths around the City. Can funds be allocated to educate dog owners about disposing of these bags and not leaving them around... or providing more receptacles for them?
I'd like to see the clean up and restoration of the brook near Elm and Arlington Streets. Preservation of the street deltas, particularly in the Square and at School and Mount Auburn. Development of connections among existing greenways and paths.
No, but I support having as much open, natural space as possible. (Not parks, but completely undisturbed areas for plants and animals.
Charles River along "little Greenough" to develop a riverside park below current Arsenal development.
Purchase the old gas station on the corner of Boylston and convert it to community gardens.
I love to see some large urban meadows created in town. Also some plaques denoting significant tree types in town
Acquisition of the Williams Pond and Sawin's Pond properties abutting Arlington Street. Acquisition of the "brownfield" property abutting Walker's Pond in western Watertown.
The biggest problem I see around town is litter. There is litter EVERYWHERE, and it stems from open dumpsters, automatic trash/recycle removal that misses the truck and blows down the streets, and lack of education of children and awareness in adults. More signage and an active anti-litter campaign would help. The Middle School has trash all over its beautiful lawn, and there has been a rotting rabbit carcass there for weeks. No one notices because no one feels responsible for the trash. CPA could use some funding for a litter campaign--the easiest way to preserve our beautiful spaces is to keep them clean. I like to see more water preservation gardens/plantings like the one my neighbors on the corner of Edenfield and Bancroft have. It is beautiful and educational.
Parks small and large
Improvements to the Charles River and the land surrounding it.
This is a joke at this time in Watertown. With all the projects and huge condo buildings going up there isn't any land to acquire. The park next to Arsenal Yards needs a lot of rehabilitation! It is filled with construction debris! Also, the whole embankment along the road (Genough Boulevard) between Arsenal and North Beacon needs major cleanup and new plantings.

Are there specific open space projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Community Gardens , Demonstration/Educational Plantings
I would love to see some of the vacant/unused lots in town purchased and turned into open space, rather than being used for more condos or biotech. For example, the gas station property at the corner of Mt. Auburn & Boylston St.
YES! to me this is most important for so many reasons. Community gardens, public pollinator gardens, shade trees, all of these are very important. To expand opportunities for these kinds of plantings and areas has to be RIGHT NOW, the open space is shrinking at an alarming rate here, and we have so little as it is. Resilient Watertown would like to expand the amount of open space in Watertown, but the only way to do this other than requiring new developments to include open space is to PURCHASE PROPERTIES that can remain open, or keep what open space they have, such as the branch library at Orchard and Waverly. Can defunct gas stations be rehabed and purchased? Who will be able to apply for funds and organize the site work that must be done? It's a huge expensive job. This is a real priority
Walker's Pond area, Sawin's Pond area (2 ponds). Has any other place escaped the developers?
Irving Park project sounds great. Just what we should be doing with CPA \$.
Land along Charles River
I would be interested however in exploring if there are opportunities to support more Community Gardens throughout Watertown.
1) purchase and preserve entire pond/waterway/wetland area between Waltham Street/Gore Place farm stand, and Pleasant Street, before it gets developed. (in collaboration with city of Waltham)
I would like to see empty lots cleared of garbage and furniture and property that people don't want and just throw on the side of the streets, ie. Waltham St Plus the back of BJ's property is an eye sore between the parking lot and the Ford place on the corner of Seyon and waltham st. I don't know if this is Watham or Watertown. Is it legal that BJ's is using their parking lot for multiple semi trucks, it looks like 128 truck stop.
Anything that will help improve and maintain areas along the Charles River for both people and wildlife. We are so fortunate to have this resource in our midst! Could include improvements to look and safety of bridges over the river. Dam removal. Trash barrels and regular pickup. Might entail partnering with DCR.
Watertown Riverfront Park & Braille Trail Charles River Greenway near Laundry Brook Extended Curb at 141 Boylston St - where is the city landscaping!?
The Charles River path (on either side of Watertown square) is a real treasure - whatever funds are needed to keep it preserved should be granted. -Whitney Hill Park is great as-is and would like to ensure it stays that way
I would like to see more large tree lawn areas turned into native planting (such as is at the corner of Boylston St. and Chauncey St. or Boylston St. and Howe St.
More small to medium green spaces and more seating in already existing green spaces like Stalonstal Park.
I would love to see more open space on the west side, but I have no idea where that could happen unless there are still empty properties along the Charles that could be repurposed.
I would just like to see as much preserved land and natural areas as possible. I love the idea of wildlife habitat protection and native vegetation.
Prioritizing pedestrian safety and active transit.
Would love to see O'Connell Field on Boylston Street brought back to being a nice open air space once the Hosmer construction is done.
I think some of the streets with traffic islands, etc. could be beautified. These would not be usable places, but would make our city more wildlife habitat friendly and more beautiful (instead of drab ), and would increase appreciation for greenery among the public.
A community garden, clean up and restoration of Walker's Pond
affordable housing
Watertown Public Art & Culture Committee has approved a project called Edible Watertown whose aim is to educate a broad deferment of the community about the importance of edible native plants. Funds are needed during the pilot phase of this project to plant and organize a volunteer maintenance team and do initial outreach and education.
A proposal for the acquisition of Walker's Pond
is more community garden space possible?
Acquire and remediate the old Raytheon parking lot near Walker Pond as a passive-use park.

Are there specific open space projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

<p>Any public open space that can be preserved is a win for Watertown. I think the green space on Talcott Ave originally designed by Olmstead Brothers should be preserved and highlighted, and the path below the Commander's Mansion should be replanted with native species, the broken and tumbling fences repaired. Coming in to Watertown from Brighton on North Beacon Street is shameful. The Army always kept things cleared and in good repair. In 2006 and 2007 the Arsenal Center for the Arts hosted a temporary public art project along Talcott Ave and the lower path among other areas. It was nice then, now it looks like a rat's nest.</p>
<p>Create a park where the abandoned North Branch library building now stands. Redesign the fire department parking in same neighborhood to include metered municipal parking for the commercial zone there and beautifications for the community.</p>
<p>Given the way our interactions changed during the pandemic, the need for more outdoor meeting spaces--groups of benches or seating in parks and playgrounds, for example--has become more evident. Could funds be used to update and increase seating and shelter (pergolas, maybe) at parks and playgrounds in town so that we have some dedicated outdoor meeting spaces?</p>
<p>I would like to see an amphitheater built in one of the parks for music and theatrical performances.</p>
<p>My first priority is to acquire parcels that could become public open space. Watertown's building boom continues to add to the population, increasing the number of residents per acre of public open space. It seems important to not "lose round" in this sense.</p>
<p>More public/community garden space for growing.</p>
<p>More rehab around the DCR area that may be a transition to the Watertown-owned parcels. Such as the Howe park and the area near Arsenal Yards (which may already be happening)</p>
<p>Please focus on the landscapes along the Charles River (attention to the health of the trees and other plants, improving the pathways - widening them, where possible, reduce littering through signage and more additional litter bins). Also, please don't overlook the pathway that extends from the Square into Cambridge (Watertown-Cambridge Greenway?). As with the river area, there needs to be greater attention to the landscape here. Also, what about the animals that inhabit the area --I suspect that some walkers/bikers might want to know about the birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. that they see.</p>
<p>As much open space, natural surroundings and farming/gardening as possible.</p>
<p>Any (and every) place that can be kept green and have TREES! I would particularly like street tree planting, even where there aren't sidewalk berms - we could make them.</p>
<p>We need more outdoor space that is GREEN space, not just ballfields and certainly not the toxic plastic turf that will end up in landfill. We want nature, we want trees, birds, gardens, fountains, walking paths. It's tough because in order to get more open space in Watertown via CPA funds, Watertown needs to own the land, but Watertown won't do what it should and make the purchase of Walker Pond etc. It's really so sad. Belmont has Beaver Brook. Watertown could have the same...</p>
<p>Preservation/restoration of the murals at the Town Hall - Already submitted and approved by the Historical Society of Watertown I think Watertown is too built up and any open land should be preserved. No more allowing building to come up to the side walk. More pocket parks.</p>
<p>Improve, and add amenities to the path along the river parallel to Pleasant Street.</p>
<p>I want to see the area along the Charles river in Watertown continuing to be tended and protected including wildlife, water and vegetation.</p>
<p>Tree plantings along streets. Public garden space.</p>
<p>Any and all.</p>
<p>I propose adding electric vehicle charging in our parks' parking lots.</p>
<p>More pollinator-friendly areas; more trees planted;</p>
<p>There are so many vacant lots in Watertown that could be rehabilitated or turned to green space. New green space should be a priority.</p>
<p>how about a coop to replace the large aching hole left by the closure of Russo's?</p>
<p>More work on preserving wetlands east of Watertown Square</p>

Are there specific open space projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Although I don't have a specific project in mind, Watertown has so little green space, I would love to see CPC fund spent to restore, preserve, acquire green space.
Acquire, create, and preserve land or natural areas for passive recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat protection, and preserve wetlands and native vegetation. There are a number of locations in the City that would benefit us all, they are listed in the open space plan.
Less labs, more open spaces please
Preserve St John's Church
Clean up in the Charles River near Pleasant Street and Howard Street at the bridge where there are many turtles during the warm months. There is lots of trash, specifically strings and ropes of some sort that the turtles can get tangled in. This would require someone going into the water. AND any project that will increase preserving our wetlands, especially with the amount of developments in Watertown.
Continue to evolve public paths and parks.
Happy to see that the CPA has a project to renoate Irving Park. I would like to see CPA projects with either or both of the abandoned ponds on the east and west ends of Watertown. The pond on Coolidge Ave is lost in the midst of construction and development, but should be preserved as a natural resource for an already very built up area.
Protect the green space at the projects at Philip Darch and Robert Ford Road. Build a proper memorial and signage in honor of the two veterans who died protecting this country in WWII - as of right now there is barely any information on them.
The large open space between North Beacon Street and the Charles River east of the WYC should be enhanced for additional passive recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat protection, and preservation of wetlands and native vegetation
Yes more natural areas for wildlife. Clean up the watershed around the Charles river. Particularly the creek that runs from Elm Street under Arlington Street to Sawins Pond and into wetlands. It's currently a hell hole of polution and garbage.

4. Are there specific outdoor recreation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds?

Buy land to build Softball/baseball/soccer playing fields.
I'd like to learn more about the possibilities of recreation projects on the West end of town, closer to Waltham. More outdoor recreation space and parks would be appreciated over there. The East side of town has Irving, slated to be rehabbed, the new Arsenal Park project, and the park along the Charles River. The West end of town is significantly lacking with comparable options.
See above. This dramatic space will provide us all with spectacular views and tie the entire community together.
See above
Better and more bike paths
Additional tree coverage for sidewalks on main roads specifically Arsenal Street
Better parks/ re-doing parks for kids with safer features. Waltham has better parks. Benches for sitting in greenspace parks/fields that already exist.
I'd like to see spaces for outdoor pop up businesses in the summer, such as dining options. Perhaps the alley in Watertown Square would be a good spot for this? The park on Evans Field/Waltham St (by Gigi's Pizza) could use some revitalization as well.
I would like to see the bike path between Watertown square and Arlington street improved. The connection crossing School st is unacceptable/there is no direct connection. At this intersection, a curb cut is needed to permit bicycles to conveniently access the path from either direction.
Bike trails and paths to make biking around Watertown safer
Preserve and protect open space, natural beauty and parks. Add nature trails and playgrounds. We love the area around Victory Field.
bike and pedestrian paths; I find it almost impossible to get where I want to go by bike in Watertown - Mt. Auburn St is horrible for bikes and Arsenal is scary. - from my house, getting to the tie-in to the path by Fresh Pond requires biking on bad roads with heavy traffic.

Are there specific outdoor recreation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

More community gardens! Swimming pool open longer in summer or a year round pool.
Irving Park and the tennis court area near the hockey rink
Bus shelters at bus stops.
Dog parks and walking paths are needed. It would be great to create a path along the brook that runs through the East end. Most residents do not even know the brook is their.
I really don't know what land they think they are going to acquire. There was no space to even build a school.
create a bike/ped way along the old railroad tracks 1) on the way to Cambridge toward Fresh Pond 2) along the old rail road tracks sold by the town (in a most ill advised act, though they were warned of later use) behind the Irving Street electrical building to Watertown Square at the New Yorker Diner parking. The path would continue across Mt Auburn to Baptist Walk and the Linear Path over to the river.
More dog parks
NEW PARKS, WALKING TRAILS, PLAYGROUNDS
I would love community gardens.
Fix sidewalks for the many people who walk around neighborhoods. Add sidewalks where they suddenly disappear.
Micro parks, community gardens and walking trails
Improvement of the walking portion of the trail along the Charles River from the Yacht club to the area around the Farren playground.
Lights on basketball/tennis/pickleball courts.
More bike trails everywhere! Upgrade all parks. See additional community gardens.
Pocket parks in more neighborhoods!
1. Create new bike paths throughout the city to enable people of all ages and abilities to travel by bike. 2. Closure of Greenough Blvd. between North Beacon St. and Arsenal St. to expand Arsenal Park and create a park along the Charles River.
Beautiful gardens integrated into our existing parks.
Preserve the safety of these areas via rodent (rat) control measures.
Moxley filed; Irving park
I love the paths along the Charles river and often walk and bike along them.
Planting of shade trees (or erecting shade structures) in/around all playgrounds. Adding splash pads to playgrounds. Lighting along the new Watertown-Cambridge bike path. Plowing of the bike path in winter.
I'd like to see the green space north of Greenough Blvd. and below where the old Mt. Auburn Club used to be turned into a mini bike park with trails and obstacles for all ages. This transformation would maintain the trees and wetlands but also open it up for recreation use that gives bicyclists a place to ride
Please please please add a real bike lane on mount auburn street. I'm not sure if this is something CPA funds would be used for, or if this is covered by another organization. But Mount auburn street in watertown is terrible to drive on and definitely not safe or smooth to ride a bike on. I have kids at
New Parks, walking paths
None that I am aware of
The open land next to the Bell apartments needs to be fixed up The entrance to the Charles River path in the Stop and Shop parking lot on Pleasant street has a huge amount of plastic trash littered all over. The park between Riverworks and The Ice skating rink is also not well maintained and could be a better passive recreation area.
It would be nice to have chess/checkers tables in the parks.
better bike paths on Mount auburn near the Hosmer
Community gardens, for sure.
All
Improvements to town pool
would like to see more community gardens
Maintenance improvements and stronger connections among existing trails. I e heard of Whitney Hill but have not been there. Celebrate it and encourage outdoor experience everywhere.
I would love to see a large dog park with grass that would allow dogs to truly run around. (I believe that the Howe Park Dog Park could be expanded to include at least part of the grassy area next to the current dog park.)
See above

Are there specific outdoor recreation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Yes. Improve area around Dealtry Pool. They replaced the bridge and that looks nice, but the yard and path going up to the pool could use work. Creating additional parking for the pool would be fantastic.
I would love to have a natural playscape with big logs and rocks and things somewhere in town, maybe in the weird pine forest next to the Boys and Girls Club. Also, the playgrounds in Watertown are all the same style, you have to travel to other towns for some variety like Joey's Park in Belmont or The Auburndale Cove in Newton. The walking path in Saltonstall Park also needs some street lamps like the ones on Linear Path.
Erosion control and footpath improvements in Whitney Hill Park. Redevelopment of parking areas, as they may become available, for playgrounds/playing fields. Acquisition of properties abutting the Charles River Greenway for scenic value and enhanced public access.
Improvements to the running track at Victory Field
The dog park on Bacon St. is in serious need of re-grading and new gravel. It gets too dusty when it's dry and too muddy when the weather is damp. Gravel holds that down. Ideally the town would install a water pump/fountain/tap so that there is a source of clean water for the dogs. Many people do not think to bring their own, and I've seen dogs get very overheated as a result. An onsite tap would be quite useful. Please restore the trash barrels along the Charles River area, even if it's technically state-owned land. Watertown residents are the primary users, and because there are no barrels, people litter. It puts wildlife at risk and is disgusting and disappointing to look at.
Trails, river way, maybe town league for bocce ball or horseshoes or similar
walking paths, community gardens sound wonderful but unrealistic at this time with all the building.
Walking paths, new parks, playgrounds
See last comments.
Community gardens, for sure. Watertown Community Gardens has had a tough time finding new space. Walking and (off-street) bike paths would also be great.
Choose any open space and prevent more giant apartments from being built
Walking paths can be used by a very large percentage of the population. I use the walking paths in town regularly, and would support expanding the network of paths.
More community gardens are coming along, but already there's a waiting list. More space would mean more green areas tended by somebody other than DPW, they have enough to do already. Planting shade trees in parks and playgrounds, new parks and playgrounds would be nice, rail trails and walking paths could also provide opportunities for greening and shade tree planting. The goals set out in Resilient Watertown's draft plan outline the reasons why this is important for climate mitigation as well.
the walking paths along the old RR bed
1) Lining the outdoor tennis courts for Pickleball.
See above..
'- Adding lighting (bollards or otherwise) to the path between the library parking lot and Whites Ave, which is very dark at night. - Extending the trail facilities from Waverly down to the river, particularly in connection with the temporary high school. - Any opportunity to connect Whitney Hill through to Palfret St - it's a great space that's hard to access from the southern side.
Bike paths
Same as above.
Pickleball Courts, please ! Dog park designated for dogs that don't enjoy the company of other dogs, but yet live in apartments or homes without yards to run freely. It could be implemented as solo dog hours, where one dog is allowed in a park at a time for X minutes, or could be a designated space. TRASH BARRELS on the Watertown - Cambridge Greenway. SO. MUCH. LITTER. Recently saw a littered catheter.....Community gardens, perhaps a place for bee hives Bat Houses
'-Connect the bike trail / walking path to Fresh Pond (I believe this is already planned?) -Extend the bike & walking path on Arsenal past School Street all the way to Greenough Blvd. Currently it goes from I believe Irving to School, but biking from School onward (e.g. to get to Arsenal Yards or past to Greenough) is very unpleasant -Add trash cans along the Charles River walking path so people have a place to put dog waste bags - please! Otherwise people either don't clean up after their dogs, or are stuck carrying a bag of poop for a long walk.
I would also like to see additional dog parks / dog friendly parks added and more bike paths or protected bike lanes that connect to existing bicycle infrastructure.

Are there specific outdoor recreation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Investing in community gardens- existing and new
we love and utilize the parks, playgrounds, bike trails, walking paths- so the more the merrier. Would love to see more community gardening in Watertown.
new parks and walking paths
Bike paths/lanes community gardens more seating arrangements in existing parks along with seasonal plants accessibility to people that require mobility aids.
Keep Arsenal Park big and beautiful!
There should be more little oases of green space throughout Watertown, instead of locating it all at a few giant locations. (1) We need more community gardens, especially in areas where people live in apartments. Lower income persons can find these very, very valuable; not just fun. (2) I think public buildings which are accessed by the public (Library, Town Hall ) should set aside some land space for natural habitat. (3) Police Station: Why should this have so much open, unused LAWN??? This should be turned into a natural habitat or recreational use. (4) Definitely there should be usable park area at the new Senior Center. (5) The East End has a drastic shortage of tree canopy. This should be remedied somehow.
I would like to see more neighborhood community gardens and pockets parks in local neighborhoods. Watertown is short on green space so it would be good if the town could acquire more, even small parcels scattered around town.
I love the increasing amount of off road trails - the town path paralleling Main St and the Watertown Cambridge Greenway - and hope to see continued growth.
Fix the spray park at Arsenal Park. Help complete the connection between the Community Path that ends at Church St and that starts again at Arsenal St (and then connects to the Watertown/Cambridge Greenway).
The new sculpture path would be a worthy project to support. It is located from Waverly Avenue across the south side of Moxley Field, across Main Street (Rt. 20) and toward the Charles. Eight sculptures will be installed and rotated every 2 years. Historically, it crosses the "Old Boston Post Road" and is a crossroads of American history. Nearby is Cecelia Thaxter's homestead and other historic properties, so perhaps including historic markers that illustrate how vital this neighborhood was in the developing nation would be great. Also, so many of the important manufacturing factories of the Industrial Revolution were sited here along the Charles. The sails of the Constitution were woven at Aetna Mills, portraits of great Americans including many presidents were produced at Bacharach Photography (see link) and the world-famous Stanley Brothers invented and developed the first motorized vehicles at their bicycle shop. The first paper bags were produced here, the Arsenal is the birthplace of the science of metallurgy, Paul Revere printed the first American currency here, and Washington and Knox marched their pilfered British cannons right through the Square. Leading historic women artists including Ellen Robbins, Harriet Hosmer and Anne Whitney produced relevant art here. A "Footsteps of History" walk would be great! <a href="https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:7d278t87f">https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:7d278t87f</a>
Bemis park in West Watertown really needs to be redone. The structures are old and out of date, there is no shade in the playground.
Outdoor space for arts performance.
I support a balance between actively used public open space (soccer, basketball,etc) and more natural, passively used public space where residents can enjoy more quiet settings for walking, sitting, etc; places that elderly people may be more attracted to.
See above
Creation of better and safe bike lanes on Mt Auburn street and Main/Arsenal to help connect them to existing bike paths to help promote bike use.
Maybe I answered this in #2.
community gardens, farms, preserve open space and wooded areas
Walking paths (not shared with bike paths) and fix the existing sidewalks
Picnic benches with shades
Walking paths, community gardens, more passive outdoor space, places for kids to have adventures in 'woods' and learn about nature.
More community gardens, more playgrounds. more walking trails.

Are there specific outdoor recreation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Please see #3.
Repeat of the above answer. Please return and expand the number of waste barrels along the Charles river walking areas.
Community garden space, public garden, walking paths
Parks, walking paths, community gardens.
It would be great if we could use CPA funds to update the town's playgrounds...a lot of them are in disrepair. I'm excited about the new/revitalized bike path to Fresh Pond and would support efforts to maintain and/or enhance it with plantings. the Dealtry Pool could also use some love.
Water fountain in dog park on Pleasant St
walking paths, fenced in dog parks
rent land for community gardens; table tennis tables in the parks; more signage for "no mow may" or "pardon the weeds, we are feeding the bees" given to people to create eco-friendly organic yards
Nothing specific here
finish the rail trail please!
Increasing walking paths
Anything that makes bike riding safer and more feasible.
No
We should focus on passive recreation.
I'm not sure if this falls within the above criteria:The tennis courts at Victory seem very popular and are frequently used, and not just by the Boys' and Girls' Tennis teams. This year's Girl's Tennis team has 30–40 players. With 2 coaches (plus a coach's uncle), this means more than 6–8 people per court. There is little opportunity for the varsity singles players to practice as singles. If that many players are going to be on the team and there are no cuts, for \$200 per player, it hardly seems fair for much of the team to not be able to properly learn how to play the game. Maybe some of the \$6,000–\$10,000 in tennis fees could help defray _some_ of the costs of the ideas below.Perhaps this is a fluke year. I'm not sure how many first-time players will return after what I would consider a tepid experience for many. Perhaps next year's teams will attract even more players. Either way, Victory courts are used almost daily in the spring for high school tennis practices and matches. With their cracks and ruts (the coaches have to apologize to guest teams and mention that some points may need to be replayed if a ball hits a crack), it sure would be great, and safer for players and guests, to redo the courts. BUT PLEASE DON'T spend money on merely resurfacing. Please take a holistic look at the land usage and what can be done to rotate the courts, keeping 5 minimum (increasing the number would be great—but I'm not very optimistic about that), so the sun isn't always in the eyes of those playing on one side of the court. Most if not all away game courts are placed properly. This is a helpful site: <a href="https://mytennishq.com/do-tennis-courts-face-north-and-south/">https://mytennishq.com/do-tennis-courts-face-north-and-south/</a> . Maximizing the number of courts is important. So is ensuring there is still a basketball court (which also needs an overhaul). It would be great to move the often noisy (voices, including use of profanity) basketball court a little away from the tennis courts if possible. A bonus addition would be a pale-colored, open-mesh (for _some_ airflow), medium opacity windscreen, which might also deter some nearby bugs. Windscreens not only reduce gusting breezes, but they increase ball visibility and general playability, help avoid distractions, and they are aesthetically pleasing (if you pick the right one :). A few more opponent/spectator benches/bleaches would also be nice. Plus, a backboard for solo practice. Lastly, on a recent walk around the oval, it occurred to me that the homes abutting the field could use some privacy. (I don't live in the area, but I sympathize with the residents—I could clearly see directly into a few yards—and windows.) Planting some indigenous flora that could grow to cover the fence would not only look great but provide a modicum of privacy and noise reduction. Boxwood, chocolate vines, evergreen azalea (not my fave, but pretty and effective), holly (also an evergreen), privet hedge (the evergreen variety), or perhaps even rough-leaf dogwood for high coverage and something else for lower coverage. There are also vines, such as honeysuckle, which will require some pruning from time to time but smells delicious, climbing hydrangea, and clematis. All depend on sun/shade requirements and whether the abutting neighbors have any concerns.
Community gardens
Trash barrels at ALL entrances of Whitney Hill Preserve.

Are there specific outdoor recreation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Dog park and more walking paths
community gardens
See answer above.
more playgrounds. more small boat access along the Charles River.
Provide better parks at the Arsenal, bring back the tennis wall at Arsenal yards, make more benches so it's easier for seniors to walk and sit.
As an alternative to my suggestion in Q3, the same space could be enhanced with some combination of playground, dog park, and community gardens.

5. Are there specific housing projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds?

Yes, lots of community housing, perhaps around the perimeter of the former Oakley Country Club.
Parking is a huge issue for low income residents in the winter. If we can't end the idiotic winter parking ban we need municipal lots people can park in all day.
I am very interested in creating low and moderate housing options in Watertown by acquisition and conversion of existing housing inventory and new construction. With the newly created Watertown Housing Trust there is real opportunity to pursue these options.
I would like to see the West Watertown housing projects updated.
Facilitate installation of solar panels to low income families (no interest loans) or help them participate/benefit from community solar if their properties are not suitable for installation
Nothing specific, but I would support a community housing project
This should be the top priority right now of CPA. There appears to be nothing designated for this, and yet the issue of affordable housing is the one that will most drastically change the nature of the city. So many people who are active in city government grew up in Watertown. As housing prices are now, it is very unlikely that their children will be able to remain here to raise their families. The city will become a one-generation city, with people moving out to places where there are more affordable housing units each generation. It is the deep roots in the city that people have that cause them to be very concerned about the long-term conditions here. I think we should allocate 50% to 75% of the CPA funds to creating and preserving affordable housing each year.
All of them :) Specifically though, I think the old Sterrit Yard Lumber site is currently a suburban blithe and would be a great choice for a mixed-use development. To those saying it does not fit the character of the community, it would be a great addition across from the park and a huge improvement over the current degrading and barbed-wire surrounded lot. Another site that should be developed is the former 7/11 on Main St.
All the newly built housing whether apts or owned should have a higher percentage of affordable offerings. The new 104 Main st project would be a great place for seniors to have housing as it is in the middle of town, library and close to transportation.
No specific housing project, just would like to dedicate as much CPA funding as possible to support the acquisition and/or creation of as much affordable housing as possible.
Everyone is being priced out of Watertown. Anything to help that.
I am supportive of community housing and think that these new huge real estate projects (mostly biolabs) should set aside part of each development for space for us to build low income housing.
Support for the ESL programs at the library.
At this time there are a number of seniors that own homes, so they do not qualify for community housing. This group of seniors need to be have a place to move too. Once the senior gets older the responsibility of maintaining income property becomes harder for them to handle. Children today do not want their elderly parent to live with them so they have to continuing maintaining the house. Which by now needs expensive repairs. I am not talking about nursing homes. I am talking about a nice place a senior who has lived and owned property in Watertown for many many years and keeping the property up is too much for a senior to handle alone. Watertown should create a community for these seniors. Where they can live the rest of their life comfortably.
Again, all new "housing" is high rent, high price.

Are there specific housing projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

YES! we need to support renters who work at minimum wage jobs throughout Watertown. We also need to support artists in Live-Work spaces in which the community benefits, not only by having artists here, but because such studios can include performance spaces or studios with access to the public. Like mixed use buildings are to have shops downstairs, we would have studios, galleries, We have and rehearsal spaces visible and accessible.
Low income housing needed!
Increase requirements for affordable housing and limit the waivers to developers who do not build enough lower income units.
Additional 55+ communities
1. I would encourage CPA funds to be used to purchase industrial or commercial sites for redevelopment into mixed use buildings with commercial spaces and community housing. 2. Acquisition of Oakley Country club to create a open space, a park, and build housing.
More low-income housing, perhaps along Pleasant Street near shopping.
I don't have expertise here but our entire region needs more housing especially near our commuter rail and T stations. I'd like to see state officials sue the surrounding cities (Wellesly, Weston, Concord, Belmont, Newton, etc.) for their exclusionary single family zoning. We've got a housing crisis in our region. Too few housing units of ALL types (not enough luxury condos means that empty nesters have no place to downsize to and keep their house occupied so that people who would otherwise buy their houses put pressure on everyone down the market More unites of all types throughout the region, especially around transit hubs, now please!
Creation of a land bank similar to this: <a href="https://kingstoncitylandbank.org/how-it-works/">https://kingstoncitylandbank.org/how-it-works/</a>
Acquire more units for low-income families
New affordable housing in East Watertown would be ideal given the speed at which that area is being developed.
Restore and rehabilitate existing senior and low income housing.
Family housing, elderly housing, housing for persons with disabilities.
Moderate income senior housing! I'd be first on the list. That would free up my small single-family home for a young family.
With all the new apartments being built in Watertown for high income people the community is changing. More affordable housing to preserve those excluded by the rents in the new developments would be a good choice.
helping families who are already home owners here but need help with the increase of pricing in upkeep. Maybe helping families with special needs
I'd like to see more senior housing in Watertown. The skyrocketing price of housing makes it increasingly difficult for seniors on a fixed income to stay independent and contribute to the town. Some sort of cohousing would be ideal.
greater permanently protected / deed restricted affordable housing for very low earners
I would love to see subsidized home rental and buying programs for moderate and low income residents.
Could we offer loans or grants to preserve some of our existing historical homes that are in disrepair? The loss of the home to disrepair on Grove street is shameful and there are others in our neighborhoods. Apparently owners need financial help. Create incentives for affordable housing with private, homeowners?
I don't have any specific suggestions, but I support this. I also think that the entirety of housing in Watertown should be zoned as multifamily. Right now, there are parts of Watertown that are zoned as single family only, and I think that a city of our density should not have that type of zoning.
Purchase of single and multi-family homes for the Housing Trust.
Less million dollar condos!!!
Any and all affordable housing and educating people what it means and benefits to all
Keeping as much moderate to low income in the town so the town employees are able to live here.
LOW INCOME HOUSING is very important to me
Possible new housing on Main Streer should be supported.
The need here is huge. I hardly know where to start. Also shocking to hear that "moderate" income for 1 in our area is \$84,560! In many areas of the country that could make you pretty well off. I think that rather than build big new projects, do smaller infill projects. I assume there are some homeless people in Watertown. If so, how about an intensive "housing first" program - but with other necessary supports, kept for long enough to make lasting change.
Intergenerational affordable housing

Are there specific housing projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Convert unused library branches to small housing units. Acquire blighted property at Common and Orchard, convert to multifamily.
It would be great if there was some way to compel the sale of houses that have appear to have been abandoned & are condemned (an example from my neighborhood: the house at the corner of Hill & Palfrey Sts, possibly 30 Hill St) and use those for community housing. We have such a shortage of housing in Watertown, and it's a shame to have houses sitting empty & neglected.
Senior, income based affordable housing. Market rate rents are way to high for fixed income seniors to be able to afford.
Of course we need more affordable housing, people who have lived here all their lives and their families before them are getting squeezed out, and folks who hold down the basic service jobs here can't afford to live here.
We are fast becoming a formerly diverse community. I know feds set the income limits for "affordable housing." Inclusionary zoning helps but there are almost no opportunities to "acquire, create, or preserve" housing for low- and moderate people.
Any dense projects along the 70 and 71 lines. It's exciting to see some larger proposals along Main St, but some past ones have stalled - is there an opportunity to take over those properties, or rebuild some of the one-story commercial strip around Watertown or Coolidge Squares with 3-4 stories of housing on top?
Some of these housing communities for senior should be torn down and replaced. Again Waltham St next to the church. I need to put up with cigarette and pot smoking and have nights I cannot sleep. I even had the fire department here one night.
While I don't have concrete suggestions, I think this is a very very important initiative. Watertown is becoming unaffordable as a place to live for low and moderate income families.
No specific community housing projects; however, would be nice if we could be thinking eco-friendly when developing community housing to ease the burden on our environment while also easing the burden of utility bills on low income residents.
I don't think this is necessary - there are TONS of large condo buildings built or planned throughout Watertown and they all reserve a portion of their housing for low-income units.
I would like to see re-development of existing structures (two family homes, etc.) continued to be kept affordable for sale to moderate and low income families.
none. crowded already.
Community land trust for more community owned and decided affordable housing. Low income homeownership for incomes less than 80%AMI
More affordable housing is needed for sure! More than just a few units in each new development as well.
Low income housing is a critical need - I would use 100% of CPA for this.
I don't know of specific housing projects, but welcome low and mixed income housing.
Housing that does not require parking and more affordable housing.
Affordable housing is practically nonexistent in Watertown, and needs to be greatly expanded. And, let's mix a lot of it into these new, luxury units.
affordable housing
I don't have specific housing ideas but in general there is a huge need for more affordable housing, both rental and for purchase.
Support for 103 Nichols Avenue Support for the City's new Affordable Housing Trust Support for any CDC affordable housing development
Work/live spaces for artists would be among important projects I would love to see. I think safe and accessible housing for seniors and the disabled is very important, especially if near areas with stores and restaurants, and access to public transportation.
We obviously need more affordable housing, but I have no specific ideas at this point.
I completely support taking steps to increase affordable housing in Watertown but I have no specific suggestion.
What about permanent housing for those if us in between?? Or rent control?
Yes-more low income housing is desperately needed. I'm a section 8 tenant -16 years with same landlord. He just raised my rent by \$200. Past rare raises were \$25 or occasionally \$50. He said the reason was "because rents are going way up in Watertown" as if he had no choice in the decision or amount to charge me. I'm sure others are in the same situation as I, our long time small home town becomes unaffordable economic changes from new construction

Are there specific housing projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

I'd love to see sustainable, dignified, affordable housing that is near public transit and is not zoned for each apartment/condo to have 1+ parking spaces. Ideally we'd have as much housing in the town as we have new life science buildings.
We are in strong need of affordable housing, such as townhomes or two family housing that can handle larger families that may be in need. They need to be accessible to public transportation and provide a fridge. I learned recently that the some of the housing offered do not provide a fridge. We also need more integration of affordable housing into the new developments, so that they are not alienated from the rest of the public. This would require a change in the policy of the percentage requirement by the developer, but that is another option instead of owning older homes that would require more maintenance.
This NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY. The Section 8 (once Veterans Housing) in the "West" and "East" ends were built in a time when there was greater economic mobility in the US. Now, 75 years later, the "projects" are further evidence that the US is, today, even more bifurcated socially and economically. While seniors are suffering, they, at least, have Medicare. In the meanwhile, residents of project housing - especially the young children and the under-/un-employed parent(s) are in even worse condition. Is there funding to study/bring attention to this issue?
Continued funding for low and moderate income housing is desperately needed in Watertown as the influx of high tech and their high income employees continues to drive rental and purchase prices beyond what an historically moderate community should bear.
I'm concerned about housing projects because one was recently built in Lexington, (Winter St. exit off of RT2) near Belmont line, and they clear cut the wooded area connecting from the golf course and Beaver Brook. It was a nicely wooded area before but not it looks like a McDonald's rest stop. If we do build housing projects, let's choose to build on what's already there, not clear cut acres of forest/ecosystems. And let's make it fit into our town, not look like Kendall Square.
Senior housing. Housing for town employees.
Yes. Elder, disabled and low income housing are important.
More housing for long-term residents who may be priced out of Watertown
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I'd love to see sustainable, dignified, affordable housing that is near public transit and is not zoned for each apartment/condo to have 1+ parking spaces. Ideally we'd have as much housing in the town as we have new life science buildings.
Need elderly housing
Please by vacant properties being held by speculators and convert them to housing for our families in need.
More low income housing. the price of real estate in watertown is ridiculous
I would definitely like to see more low-income housing built. Galen Street would seem to be a great location, right near the bus yard.
WHA Nichols Ave project. WHA infill housing at other sites. Housing for persons earning less than 50% of median income.
I would opt to support efforts to maintain this properties currently listed as affordable so they can continue to provide a spot for those that qualify.
The more we can do to build/acquire affordable housing, the better!
Update Veterans Housing and surrounding area.

Are there specific housing projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

I don't have a specific project in mind but I think this is a very important use of CPA funds
If it means helping people to stay in their homes, then yes. I worry about older people who have lived in their homes and raised their family in their home, but might not be able to afford the taxes or other upkeeps due to inflation and being on a fixed income.
This is the most important area in my opinion. Whatever can be done to increase the number of affordable housing opportunities in Watertown as well as to provide funding to make public buildings and all kinds of residential settings accessible to people with disabilities.
multi-family affordable housing for families
I do not have specific suggestions, but WATertown needs more affordable housing for families and for seniors.
Creating housing opportunities for low income individuals and families is so important. Would like to see more creative opportunities and creation of variances for accessory dwelling units to be able to be built within the community to help with the lack of affordable housing.
Definitely build and provide more affordable housing opportunities such as affordable property ownership. Additionally, make more investments in helping those living in the projects gain upward mobility through educational and financial incentive programs - help us escape the poverty trap.

6. Are there specific historic preservation projects that would like to see supported by CPA funds?

I would like to see Saltonstall Park and the Town Hall and Library beautifully maintained
bummed that the Schick house couldn't be saved
Historic houses that wish to be repainted in historic colors could be funded if the cost of the paint or labor is higher due to multiple color choices or tricky trim. Better historical signage for Dealtry pool. I haven't been able to figure out who he was or why he has a pool named after him. Also a good area for a huge beech tree.
Digitization of the document and photographic holdings of the Historical Society of Watertown
City Hall Geographical Paintings
Add curbs all around town. Our boulevard is always a muddy mess because cars park on it.
Historical homes should be preserved. But historical sections of the town also needs to be preserved too. Good sidewalks for people to stroll along and view the town itself. The houses, plants, and different structures.
I supported the Schick House and surrounding property, but that went nowhere. I would like to see old buildings on Main St preserved, not replaced by the same glass and steel you see everywhere else, and between Main and Pleasant should be not parking garage and apts, but open space, community gardens, trees.
we have lost so many old and interesting buildings. I have just discovered that not only Harriet Hosmer, the renowned sculptor, but Arshile Gorky (born Vosdanik Adoian in Korkham, Turkey in an Armenian family) moved to Watertown to live with his sister after escaped from the Ottoman Empire and lived and worked here for five years. We should acquire statues of them both and reproductions of their work for the library and public spaces with explanatory panels. Gorky is considered father to American modernist movements in art.
Support for historical society of Watertown.
Would help if there was a list of historic buildings under consideration to choose from.
Perhaps create a "Tour of Watertown" map visitors could use. Also, better publicize open garden and house tours.
Beautiful landscaping on the Commander's Ma sion grounds that reflects the building's era.
Preserve the safety of these areas via rodent (rat) control measures.
Love the commander's mansion and all of the old brick buildings on Main St. Please promote pedestrian friendly projects and policies around those areas. For instance, stores should be required to have access along Main St and not just their rear car centric parking lots. Stores should have pedestrian friendly windows. I'm looking at you, CVS.
Creation of signage and a kid-friendly map to help folks identify historic sites in Watertown
Restore and repurpose the old library.
This morning I read that the block of buildings including and around the post office will be developed. I believe there is one historic building in that group. It would be nice to preserve it.
the old police station?
I'm not sure if mill buildings are included in this, but it's a shame to see them being replaced...
All!

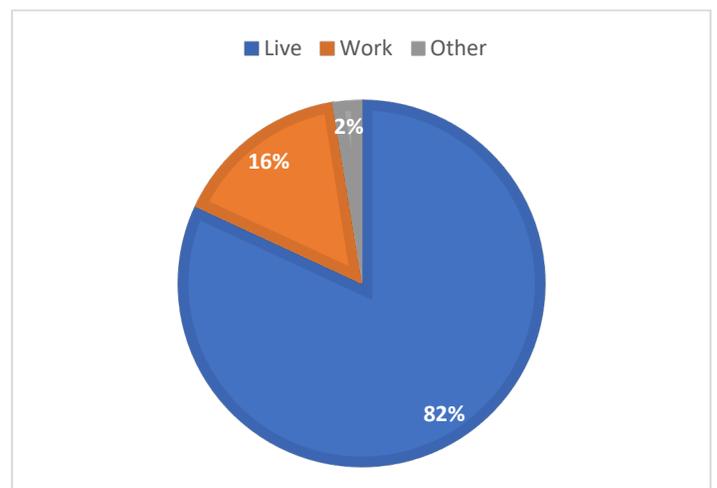
Are there specific historic preservation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

See above, number 5
I would love a historic homes tour in Watertown. I've been to ones in Newton, Belmont, Concord, and Cohasset and they help people to see how many beautiful homes there are in town. Especially now when so many old homes are being torn down to make condos for the young and rich
Watertown square
Give extra money to the library for supporting all documentation of historical structures and artifacts. A video on the town web site would be a plus. Also, older cemeteries could use more restoration and landscaping.
The ones I know about are the Commander's Mansion and St. John's Methodist Church.
The Fowle House will probably need help at some point The Shick House could have been saved but it's too late for that.
Too bad the house on Arlington/Grove St couldn't be saved. How about some interpretive signage in the burying ground next to former Tufts Health Plan bldg?
Would love to see the old Library next to 247 Mt Auburn St, Watertown, MA 02472 be transformed into a community working space where folks from Watertown that WFH could go to meet other remote workers, network, and build community.
Support for Gore Place Society's efforts to develop an authentic 18th century working farm for recreational and educational purposes. Much of the farmland lies within current Watertown City Limits.
Watertown's 'history' is based on the Puritan settlers who came here- I'd like to see a better acknowledgment of the fact that this was native land first.
I definitely would preserve historic buildings. But I'm not so keen on paying \$33K to protect two paintings in the Town Hall.
Preservation and restoration of grave stones and tombs in the Arlington Street and Common Street Cemeteries, Preservation and proper storage of town archives, maybe using the old police station or North Branch library for a town archive, restoration of the Coolidge Tavern and Paul Revere markers
I think it is a tragedy that Watertown let the two branch libraries sink into disrepair. If there is any way to secure funding to rehabilitate the west branch library it would be wonderful. I understand the Armenian Church has purchased the East Branch. I truly hope it is not going to be used for parking.
Rehabilitate the grounds at the Commander's Mansion. Support the Watertown Historical Commission in completing an inventory of their collection. Support the implementation of educational signage in the Mount Auburn Historic District.
Fowle House is so important, as is support for the Armenian Library and Museum of America. The North Branch library on Orchard Street would make a great little museum or even a community gallery. WFPL's HATCH is worthy of support, and I dream that somehow the old Police Station could be developed into a permanent home for that facility.
I have no suggestions. I support the restoration and protection of the two paintings mentioned above, in City Hall.
I recently witnessed the sad demolition of a private home on school street that had a loophole of standing neglected until it is condemned. Our regulations must prevent this from happening in order to have the right buyers that want to restore instead of destroy and rebuilt. The existing library branch on orchard street is unused and can be potentially restored and repurposed for other uses instead of being demolished. I believe the east branch owned by St James is already slated to be demolished.
Please make available to walkers and bikers traversing the Watertown-Cambridge Greenway the STORY OF WATERTOWN'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. I walk this path regularly and, aside from the old rail switching post just behind the Watertown Mall, there is nothing that mentions the Hood Rubber/BF Goodrich plant that made such an impact on Watertown growing population in the early 20th century (especially with the arrival of Armenian immigrants). What about the Golden Cookie Company (Grove St.) that sent wonderful baking odors across the neighborhoods? Of course, the buildings of the former U.S. Army's Watertown Arsenal continue to be in evidence (off to the right when heading out of the Square) along much of the path. There's even the Mount Auburn Street building, until recently occupied the Tuft's Health, that was constructed by Western Electric in the early 1930's, and went under AT&T control until the 1980's when Tufts took over its occupation. This building (off to the left when walking from Watertown Square) was constructed of concrete and limestone, is very distinctive of 1930's architecture. I have heard that it employed as many as 800 workers at time,

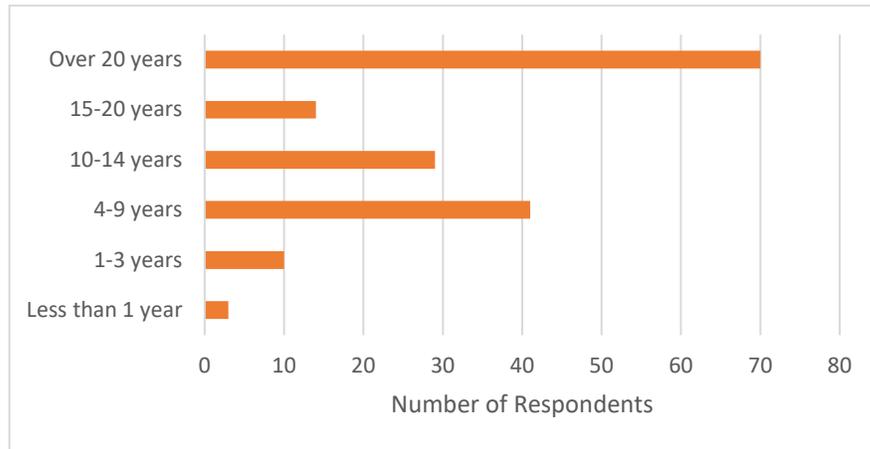
Are there specific historic preservation projects that you would like to see supported by CPA funds? (continued)

Ways to center the story of Indigenous people's on this land that speak to resilience and reparation.
The long Arsenal building that used to house Boston Sports Clubs probably has some interesting artifacts/architecture/history that would be nice to preserve and bring to light for the public to see.
Cleaning of Soldier's Monument in Saltonstall Park
I don't know of any but in moderation would be OK
I think the restoration of the City Hall murals would be a good use of CPA funds
Preservation and restoration of the Fowle House. Gutters. Insulation. Roof. Air conditioning. Climate control.
I would like to see CPA funds used to preserve the irreplaceable documents and artifacts related to Watertown's history. This would include digitizing them as well as ensuring that they are in climate controlled areas.
The restoration project is a good project, there was some discussions about a project at the Commander's Mansion that would be nice.
I would like to make sure that the Browne House and Commander's Mansion (and its grounds) are always maintained. Same goes for any part of Gore Place that Watertown has a part in preserving. I fully support preservation projects of all kinds!
Fix broken historic head stone in local cemeteries.
Can any old houses be saved? The demolition of the Shick farmhouse was a tragedy.
Protect the green space at the projects at Philip Darch and Robert Ford Road. Build a proper memorial and signage in honor of the two veterans who died protecting this country in WWII - as of right now there is barely any information on them. Also assist the Armenian Church with documentation preservation for historical and genealogical purposes, help the Armenian community preserve it's legacy by supporting the Armenian Library and Museum of America as well as Project Save - the Armenian photo archive.
The Stanley Motor Carriage Company occupied one perhaps two buildings on Hunt Street from approximately 1902 through 1924. The so-called "Stanley Steamer" was a milestone in the development of the automotive industry. While both buildings have lost their period character I believe the owners of both are interested in recognizing their historical significance. Additionally, I believe that the building now occupied by Vows Wedding Dresses was the company's showroom. Interpreted signage at least should be erected to recognize this history. Perhaps the area could be designated in a way to recognize this history.
Renovate the old Watertown branch Library on Mt Auburn near school street. Its been sitting vacant and deteriorating since around 2006. Why not created an art gallery/cultural center with studio space for local artists to use?

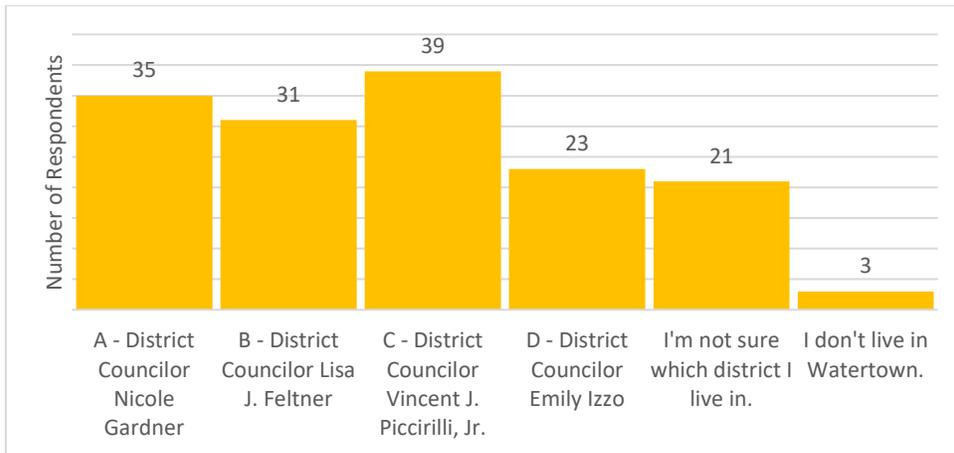
7. How are you connected to Watertown?



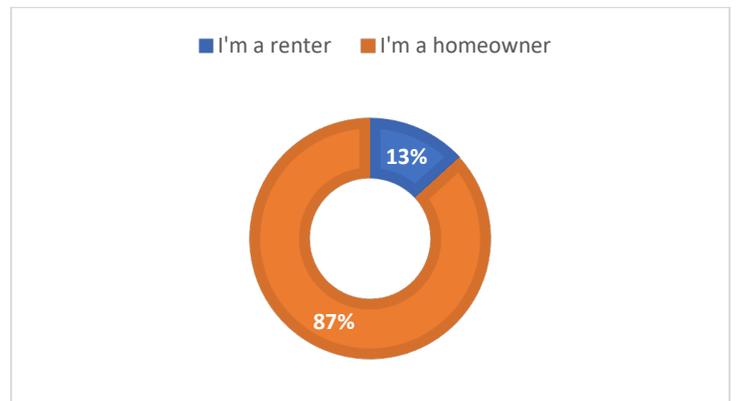
8. How long have you lived in Watertown?



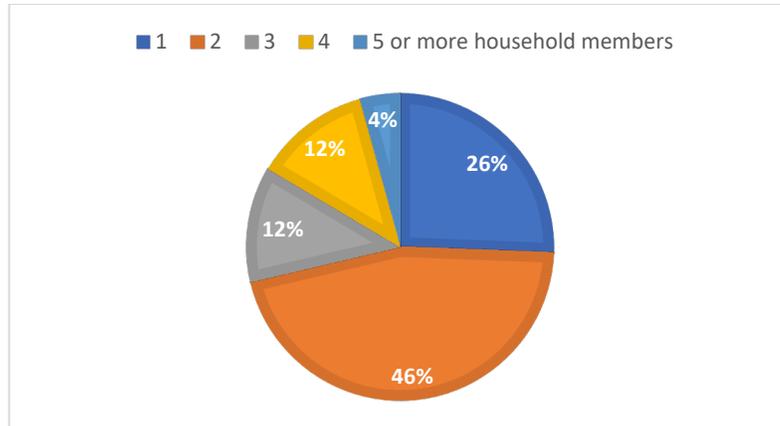
9. Which voting district do you live in?



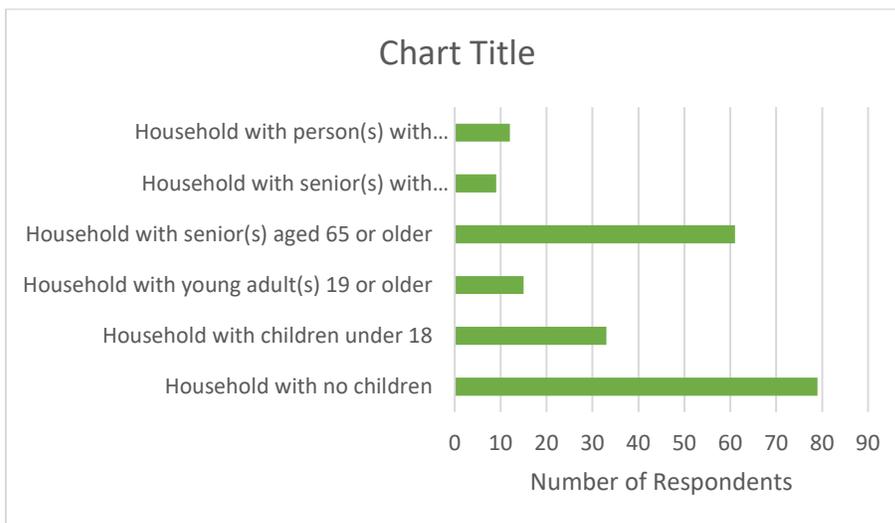
10. Do you rent or own the home you live in?



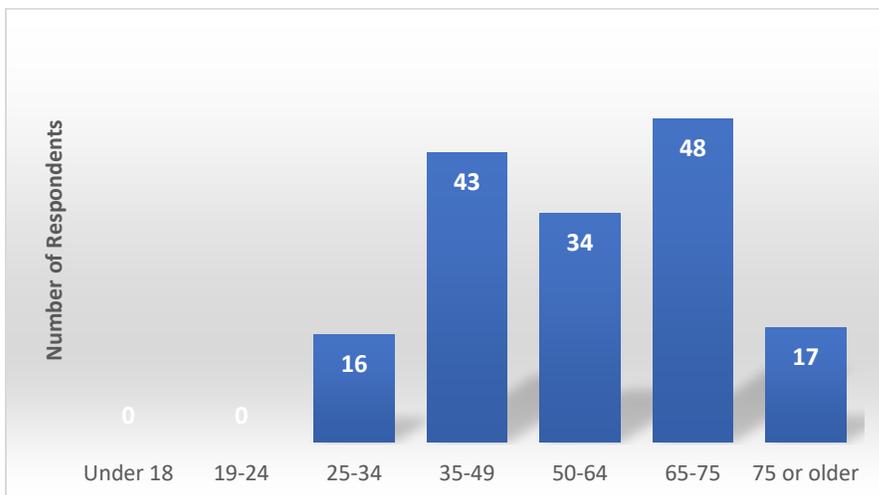
11. How many people are in your household?



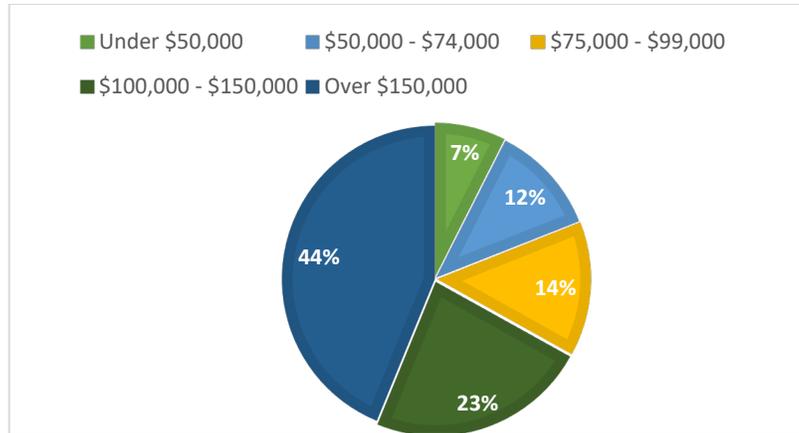
12. How would you describe your household? (Select all that apply)



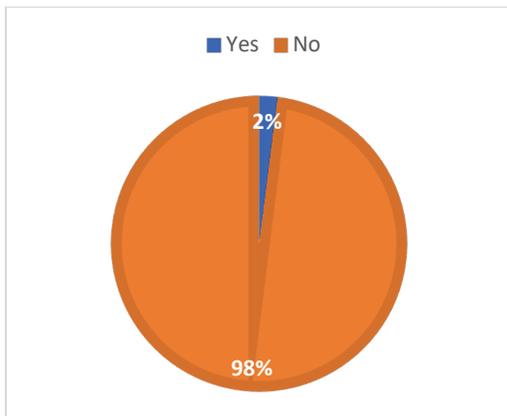
13. What is your age?



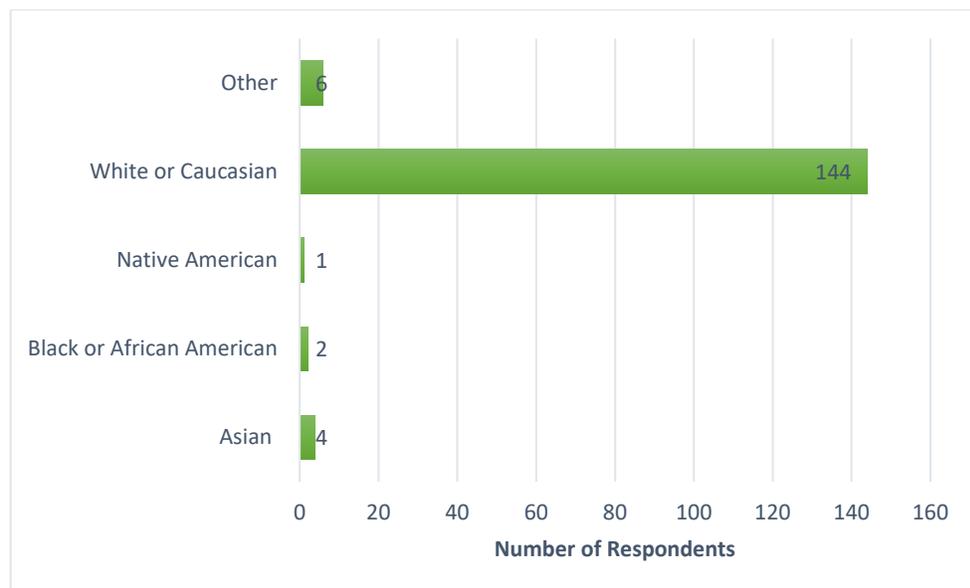
14. What is your approximate household income?



15. Are you Hispanic or Latina/o?



16. Which group do you most identify with?



17. If there is a community organization that you think we should contact, please provide a name and contact information.

Charles River Watershed Association, Mass Rivers Alliance, Nature Conservancy, etc.
Arcadia Solar
The library and the senior center. The schools.
WFCC
Share updates with Nicole Gardner to include in her email updates (if this isn't happening already)
The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee would be happy to help define important pedestrian and bicycle corridors as well as needed connections to optimize open space investment.
Watertown Citizens For Peace, Justice and the Environment
Bike and Pedestrian Committee, Town of Watertown
Watertown for All Ages.
Watertown Faces Climate Change
Watertown Community Gardens
Wayside, Watertown Community for peace, justice and the environment
Gore Place
Watertown Forward
We need a vibrant community newspaper to keep the public informed.
I am on the WPACC, and thank you for including us in development of your projects!
Watertown Cultural Council
Mass Rivers Alliance
Trees for Watertown; there is a Facebook group for Watertown gardeners
People who currently live in public housing should have a prominent voice!
a boys and girls club for activities, after school and events
Historical society of watertown
Armenian Library and Musuem of America - Board of Trustees
Watertown Arts Council, Watertown Arts Market

18. Please share any comments, questions, or concerns about Watertown's Community Preservation program. We'll get back to you.

Hope after 3 years it is repealed.
This town has almost no green space or bike-friendly paths, almost no grocery stores, and vibrant center. Anything that promotes those will be hugely appreciated by all Watertown residents.
We would like to see our first responders treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.
I like the projects you are persuing.
Thank you for reaching out with the survey and for the work you are doing!
Please preserve as much as you can.
The future of Mt Auburn St.
We should get our tax money back if you are not going to buy any land with it....
thanks for this opportunity. There might be a form on your website for further thoughts during the year.
We need every inch of green space we can get and we need to quadruple the number of trees that we have!
I don't support any of your programs and I don't use any of the projects you work on but I'm asked to pay to support them. How is this fair to me?
I think you need to find a way to charge those that are using the facilities and the burden should not always fall on the property owners.

I totally approve the first 2 projects that were awarded funds for projects. It is a great beginning and a meaningful use of funds.
I am concerned that Watertown is changed. It seems to have been taken over by biotech labs. The plans already in the works look to me like the atmosphere given Watertown by the old buildings is gone. It's becoming a place for the labs and people who work in them, and can afford higher rentals. They will outnumber the people who lived here before the labs discovered Watertown. I feel your efforts at preserving Watertown are five years too late. Watertown is changed.
DO you help families who own homes and are trying to preserve them?
Wont live in watertown due to massive overdevelopment, overpriced, Planning dept does whatever they want, mediocre schools, lack of trees and open space, no historic preservation by govt, no more Russo's, poor attitudes of town employees, and why is a Town named a city??!!
I love what the CPC is doing for the community!
Glad to see this survey and have the opportunity for input. Thank you
Rampant development with inadequate provision for green space is a MAJOR concern. The new Galen Street project, the development of the old Russo's site, the whole Arsenal development- there is lots of talk of green space but I see no evidence that the promised open spaces actually make their way into final plans. Watertown is on the verge of being overrun by new housing projects and biotech companies and losing what little green space remains. The work of this Committee is so important! Thanks for all you do.
I'm disappointed that this program has not panned out in the way it was advertised when it was on the ballot. The fact that funds cannot be applied for w/out first obtaining approval from the town is unacceptable. These were supposed to be funds that pay for projects that residents deem necessary and the CPA Board approves. It's a conflict of interest to have to obtain approval by Town authorities first.
Encourage the active participation of City Counselors in the recruitment process of at-large CPC members. The currently serving four members selected by the City Manager's office are exemplary, but this is a process that could only improve with further support.
This is exciting to hear about/learn about, and I'm interested in hearing more. I will sign up on the list.
My concern is this is a program that is name only. I did vote for it a few years back with the thinking it would help curb the building but that hasn't happened.
I am glad there is a Community Preservation program.
Thank you for the work you're doing!
Thank you for being interested in preserving the land and native plant life and the community! Thank you for the work you do
Increase in noise and air pollution due to increase car traffic. Lack of safe pedestrian and public transportation options, protected bike lanes. Lack of outdoor dinning space on Main and Mt. Auburn st.
I think the program is too restrictive and should be more flexible in accepting proposals, and should work closely with applicants to assist them in preparing proposals. The process should be user-friendly and applicants should not be required to get approval from City departments or City boards and commissions in order to submit a proposal. Finally, I am disappointed in this survey. I thought the CPC would be more interested in learning what residents thought about the CPC process in the first year. I am not sure how knowing age, income, household make-up, etc. helps the CPC to improve its process and materials.
From my answers, you see that I have an understanding of some of Watertown's important historic past. I think many people have no idea! Let's change that!
hello, in general, the watertown website is awful --always broken links for virtual meetings, and no coherent way to navigate the town website. Even the 'report a crime' link is broken. Watertown needs to step it up and make its website a functioning, constantly updated way for residents to get information --and engage in community events/meetings/conversations. Not everyone uses face book, and facebook shouldn't be the only forum for the town.

thank you for this effort! Glad to see Brown House in good condition
It is ridiculous that the CPC is sitting on a pile of \$12M and not making EVERY effort to spend it. The CPC should defer to stated town priorities in the comprehensive plan and other documents accepted by the Council and NOT engage in its own policy making process.
Preserve open space please
The CPA is excellent! Keep up the great work!
Let's use QR codes to link historical signage to the town or historical commission websites. Perhaps we could work with Watertown High School to develop for-credit or club projects for creating and maintaining online content for matters of local historical significance. Let's start with The Founders Monument, The Dorchester Man Monument, Galen Street Charles River Bridge, and anything related to colonial period use of water power along the Charles River. We need to tell the story of how parts of the original expanse of The Saltonstall Plantation was incorporated into Cambridge to the east and subdivided into adjacent towns to the west.
Only to say that the program is of real importance and thanks for your work.
One question was hard to answer: Figuring out my district representative was difficult even though I knew my precinct.