



Town of Orleans

19 School Road Orleans Massachusetts 02653-3699
Telephone (508) 240-3700 – Fax (508) 240-3388

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT APPLICATION

Project Title: Senior Center Garden Walkway Rehabilitation Project

Submission Date: 11/22/2021

Applicant (note if Town, individual or non-profit): Orleans Council on Aging
Address: 150 Rock Harbor Road, Orleans MA 02653

Co-Applicant, if any (note if Town, individual or non-profit): N/A

Project Contact Person: Anita Rogers, Chairperson, Orleans Council on Aging Board
Judi Wilson, Director, Orleans, Council on Aging

Telephone: 508-255-6333

E-mail: earogers2@comcast.net & jwilson@town.orleans.ma.us

Federal Tax Identification Number (if non-profit): Town of Orleans, Council on Aging #046-001-258

Project purpose (Check all that apply):

Open Space Historic Preservation Community Housing Recreation

Project Location/Address: 150 Rock Harbor Rd, Orleans MA 02653

Community Preservation Funding Request: \$24,000

Brief Project Summary, Including Justification of Project Category Checked Above:

The garden and walkways behind the COA building were designed for passive recreation (warm weather activities/socialization/walking/lunches) for participants in the Supportive Day Program, and other programming such as summer barbeques and ice cream social and gentle fitness programs. In addition, the space is used by the COA for an annual fitness program with physical therapists, mindfulness practice and teaching, Tai Chi, summer Lunch and Listen concerts, chair yoga classes, and more. Beyond structured programs, the garden is used 15-20 times per week by the public for passive recreation such as walking, visiting the Memory Garden, and using the stationary fitness equipment.

The garden and walkways were completed in 2010, however, only barebones maintenance has been performed since 2014 due to lack of funds, staff and volunteers (see Detailed Narrative), and the garden currently unattractive, neglected, and inefficient to maintain. The Garden Restoration Project will rehabilitate the garden to an attractive and functional space for Orleans seniors while the COA and the COA Board work together with the Town on a longer term solution for appropriate maintenance.

The Garden Rehabilitation Project tasks include:

- Cutting back plantings and shrubs that have overgrown into sprinklers and paths
- Removing invasive species, dead trees and shrubs
- Dividing & replanting perennials
- Replacing some perennials with more self-sustainable, low-maintenance plantings including those which are native pollinators
- Weeding, mulching and fertilizing trees, plants and shrubs as needed for the period of the grant
- Re-edging the garden walkways to allow the irrigation system to work properly

Please attach the following information with all application

- **Detailed Narrative:** A complete and detailed description of the project including goals and objectives, consistency with Community Preservation Act goals, compatibility with the Orleans Community Preservation Plan and the Orleans Comprehensive Long Range Plan, and relevance to the community and its needs.

Before going into background, a word about relevance: **57%** of the Orleans population is 60 or over (per Town Clerk's office).. The Council on Aging is an important resource for older adults as we provide social and recreational programs and activities, host cultural events, promote healthy aging, work with those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, and serve as a support for older adults and their care partners. Recreation is an important and popular component of the services provided to the community as it is essential for healthy aging. We (the COA Board) feel that receiving this grant will show that seniors are an important, valued and vital part of Orleans and our recreational areas deserve to be preserved!

And now for the background: Landscape Designer Sharon Davis generously volunteered to design and oversee planting of the beautiful therapeutic garden for the Supportive Day Care program participants on the grounds behind the Senior Center. As you know, the Day program provides activities/socialization opportunities for those diagnosed with dementia and provides much needed respite for their caregivers.

The garden was completed in 2010 and until 2014, Ms. Davis maintained the garden on a volunteer basis. In 2015-2016, the garden was maintained by volunteers and a professional gardener, but neither the professional nor the volunteers were able to continue. In 2016 and again in 2019, volunteer and garden groups were asked but unable commit to a regular schedule or concerned about the physical requirements of the tasks. In 2016 the OCOA began using a professional landscape company for barebones garden maintenance.

Since the garden was completed, the Town of Orleans DPW has faithfully continued to mow the grassy areas behind the Center, provide mulch, and conduct an annual blowout of the grounds, but they have been unable to perform garden maintenance due to lack of staff and/or the expertise required. Since no budget for ongoing professional garden maintenance had been provided, the COA (using gift funds) along with the Friends of the COA cobbled together a plan for barebones maintenance by a landscaping vendor for approximately \$5,000 per year.

At the current time, a significant issue is that the recreational spaces within the garden have decreased due to lack of planting care, while the recreational uses for the garden have increased. The Garden Restoration Project will restore the garden to an attractive, functional and healthy state which can be maintained moving forward.

- **Action Plan and Timeline:** Note the estimated dates for project commencement and completion and list (with an explanation) all action and steps that will be required for project completion, including any legal requirements or any impediments to implementation.
- A formal garden restoration design plan will be obtained and paid for by the COA and the Friends prior to the implementing the garden rehabilitation as outlined below
- July/August/September: complete detailed plans for FY2023 garden tasks and order needed materials. Work to include cutting back shrubs to clear walking paths, removing invasive plants and shrubs and items that aren't growing properly, weeding and tending plants as needed, dividing and replanting perennials if appropriate for their growing, installing new plantings if appropriate for their growing season, edging garden areas, and mulching as needed.
- September/October: prepare garden for winter including fertilizing evergreen shrubs, trees, and all perennials, removing dead plants, and planning what to replace them with in the Spring.
- April – Mid-May: prepare garden for spring including cutting back plantings, pulling weeds that overwintered, and fertilizing plants as needed.
- May: fertilize all garden areas and trees beds that weren't done in April, remove invasive plantings, cut back plants as needed, weed as needed,
- June: install new perennials or shrubs, mulch 2" in all beds and base of trees, weed and tend as needed.

- **Financial Data:** Provide financial information for the project including total cost, additional revenue sources (public, private, in-kind, volunteer time and services), basis for the fiscal estimates and any other fiscal details currently available. Applicants are encouraged to submit more than one quotation from potential contractors.

Project Cost: \$24,000

Recent yearly expenditures:

In FY2019, the OCOA spent \$2,399 for garden maintenance from gift funds.

In FY2020, the OCOA spent \$3,318 for garden maintenance from gift funds.

In FY2021, the OCOA spent \$3,707 for garden maintenance from gift funds.

In FY2022 so far, the OCOA has spent \$2,400 for garden maintenance from gift funds.

In addition, the Friends of the Council on Aging have contributed funds so the total paid thru donations from both groups is approximately **\$5,000** yearly.

The OCOA Board is concerned because garden maintenance has become an operational expense. We (the COA Board) believe garden maintenance needs to be part of the grounds maintenance as is other Town properties, such as edging, mulch spreading, and removing dead trees. If the Town adds this type or routine maintenance, the OCOA can budget for the tasks requiring skilled gardening knowledge such as dividing and planting perennials, adding more self-sustaining, native pollinators.

A note about OCOA gift funds: Most people who donate prefer that their gifts are used to fund items that enhance programming or fund significant purchases such rather than being utilized for operational expenses such as grounds maintenance.

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT SUBMISSION

Please submit **one paper copy** of the application materials to the Community Preservation Committee, c/o Town Administrator, Town of Orleans, 19 School Road, Orleans, MA 02653 by Nov. 22, 2021. **Applicants must also email complete applications in PDF** to Jennifer Fountain, Administrative Assistant, at genuinejenfountain@gmail.com. A single PDF file which appends materials described in item 3 to the application form is preferred.

1. Applications must be received by Monday, November 22 to be considered for recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting.
2. Funds will be available on July 1st following the Annual Town Meeting.
3. Applicants may include any maps, diagrams, and/or photographs pertaining to the project. Letters of Support for the project from community organizations or other sources may also be submitted.
4. The Community Preservation Committee may require additional (or more detailed) information or further clarification to a submitted application.
5. Prior to submission of funding applications, applicants should review the Community Preservation Act (MGL, Chapter 44B, through the Community Preservation Coalition Web site), the Orleans Community Preservation Plan and the Orleans Community Preservation Bylaw, copies of which are available on the Town Web site at <https://www.town.orleans.ma.us/community-preservation-committee>. Nonprofit organizations applying for historic preservation funds for historic structures should obtain a sample copy of an acceptable historic preservation deed restriction (available from the Town Administrator's office) since this type of document will be required. Applicants other than the Town of Orleans should also obtain a sample copy of the Agreement with the Town of Orleans that all successful nonprofit applicants will be required to sign. Please contact the Administrative Assistant by email with any questions.

6. Eligible projects must address one or more of the uses outlined in the Community Preservation Act, Sections 2 and 5 (2), as follows:

Open Space

Acquisition, creation and preservation of land to protect existing water supply/aquifer areas, agricultural and forest land, coastal lands, frontage to inland water bodies, wildlife habitat, nature preserves and scenic vistas.

Community Housing

Acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing defined as housing for low and moderate income individuals and families, including low and moderate income senior housing. The Community Preservation Committee is required to recommend, wherever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites.

Historic Preservation

Acquisition, restoration, rehabilitation and restoration of historic structures and landscapes that have been determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the Town or that are listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

Recreation

Acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for active and passive recreational uses, including land for community gardens, trails and noncommercial youth and adult sports and the use of land as a park, playground or athletic field and for preservation and restoration of recreational facilities.
(Community Preservation funds)



FRIENDS of the
ORLEANS COUNCIL ON AGING & SENIOR CENTER
PO Box404 ♦ 150 Rock Harbor Road ♦ Orleans, MA 02653

November 12, 2021

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Town Administrator
Town of Orleans
19 School Road
Orleans, MA 02653

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Orleans Council on Aging in support of their FY23 Community Preservation Project Application for restoration of the Senior Center Garden Walkway.

The garden walkway at the Orleans Senior Center is a valuable community resource. It provides a gentle walking trail, fitness equipment, and a park-like atmosphere for outdoor events hosted by the Council on Aging which include "Lunch & Listen" concerts, barbeques, ice cream socials, dining space for the adult supportive day care program, Tai Chi classes, and more. The Town of Orleans does not support the care of this garden apart from mowing the grass areas and an annual clean out of leaves. The Council on Aging has financially supported this project with gift funds and the help of the Friends at a cost of more than three thousand dollars a year. However, we are at a point where the garden needs restoration of the plantings to preserve its integrity for years to come.

We live in a community where more than half of our residents are over the age of 60, and the Senior Center is an essential resource which supports healthy aging. The Council on Aging and the Friends will continue to support the maintenance of the garden, but we need your help to rehabilitate the plantings and restore this community treasure which serves as a recreational space for all who visit the Senior Center.

On behalf of the one thousand seniors who utilized the COA resources last year, and those who support their many endeavors, we thank you for your funding consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol E. Hackett

Carol Hackett
President, Friends of the Orleans COA & Senior Center