

An Overview of the Community Preservation Act (CPA)

CPA is a state law passed in 2000 that allows Massachusetts communities to conduct a referendum to add a small surcharge on local property taxes. When combined with matching funds from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, this dedicated fund is used to build and rehabilitate parks, playgrounds, and recreational fields, protect open space, support local affordable housing development, and preserve historic buildings and resources.

5 facts about CPA's statewide impact (as of November 2023):

1



196

cities and towns have
adopted CPA - and 70% of
MA residents live in CPA
community.

2

The **amount raised** for community
preservation funding **statewide**:

\$3.4 billion



3



36,098

**acres of open
space preserved.**

3,700

outdoor recreation
projects including ball
fields, trails, and parks.



4

Housing units **created**:

11,500



Housing units **supported**:

18,000

5

7,100

historic preservation
projects.

