



Cape Cod Village Community for Autistic Adults (CCV) opened to residents in early 2020.

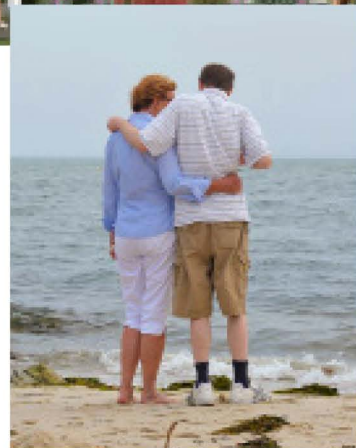
Investing in Orleans since 2005

At Town Meeting, we vote on projects funded by the **Community Preservation Act** (CPA). But how does the CPA work, and why is it so valuable to Orleans?

Created by Massachusetts in 2000, the CPA provides a steady funding source to help *preserve and improve a community's character and quality of life*. Statewide, 176 towns participate in the CPA—including all towns on the Cape and Islands. Orleans voted to adopt its own version in 2005.

What is the Community Preservation Committee?

The **Orleans Community Preservation Committee** (CPC) recommends how funds from the Community Preservation Act are used. The Committee works to maximize the impact of CPA resources and to make residents aware of the benefits and potential of this funding tool.



CCV board member Mary P. Miller with her son, Jay Miller.

"Community Preservation Act funds from the Town of Orleans helped bring Cape Cod Village from a dream to a reality. We are grateful that you have made this investment in serving our community."

Bob Jones, President, Cape Cod Village

Where does the money come from?

There are two sources of Community Preservation Act funds:

- A local surcharge of 3% on Orleans property tax bills
- Contributions from the state tied to the surcharge

The CPA replaced the Land Bank program, which since 1985 acquired much open space in Orleans—including Window on the Cove Park and Kent's Point. **CPA funding has broader goals**, including community housing, historic preservation, and recreation.

How can CPA money be used?

Categories eligible for funding are:

-  Community housing
-  Open space
-  Historic preservation
-  Recreation

Figure 3 (next page) shows how funds must be allocated among these categories.

How much have we spent? For what?

Over the past five years — from fiscal year (FY) 2016 through 2020 — Orleans has awarded \$5.37 million in CPA funds to local projects. *Figure 1* shows the amount in each year. *Figure 4* shows how monies have been allocated over this five-year span. You can see that, historically, the most spending has been for legacy debt service on open space purchases made during the Land Bank era. This debt will be completely paid off by FY 2027 (see *Figure 2*).

How much does the state contribute?

Because we participate in the CPA program at the 3% level, Orleans qualifies to receive the maximum state contribution each year. During the five years from FY 2016–2020, distributions to Orleans totaled just under \$1 million.

How can Orleans make its CPA funds go further?

- By using CPA money to supplement or leverage other funding sources, such as grants, private donations, or by towns pooling CPA funds.
- By being proactive: the CPC actively reaches out to the community to generate strong proposals in priority areas.



Figure 1. Variations year to year are mainly due to how many projects were eligible and approved in a given FY.

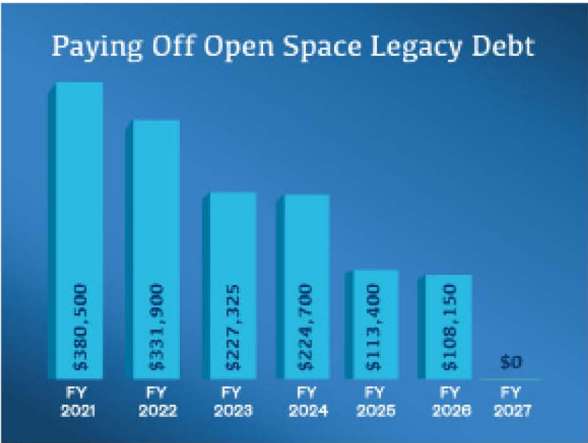


Figure 2. Legacy debt is paid off according to a predetermined schedule. As it shrinks, more funds are available for new projects.

How do projects move from application to approval?

The CPC reviews all applications and makes recommendations to Town Meeting via the Select Board. A few details:

- Town counsel reviews applications for eligibility.
- Applications are then considered by the CPC, and all applicants interviewed.
- A public hearing is held to gather input.
- CPC submits a draft warrant article(s) to the Select Board for Town Meeting vote.

Who can apply for a CPA project grant?

Nonprofit community organizations, private citizens, and town boards and departments are all eligible to apply.

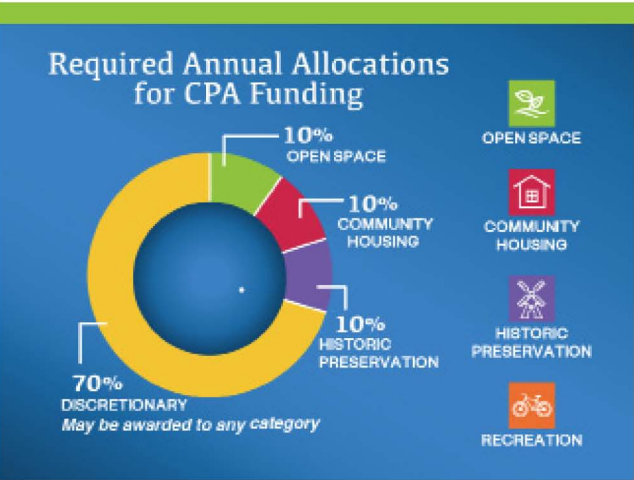


Figure 3. Use of CPA funds is partly restricted. Open space, housing, and historic preservation must each receive 10% of annual available funding; there's no required allocation for recreation. The remaining 70% may be awarded to any of the 4 categories or held in reserve for future years.

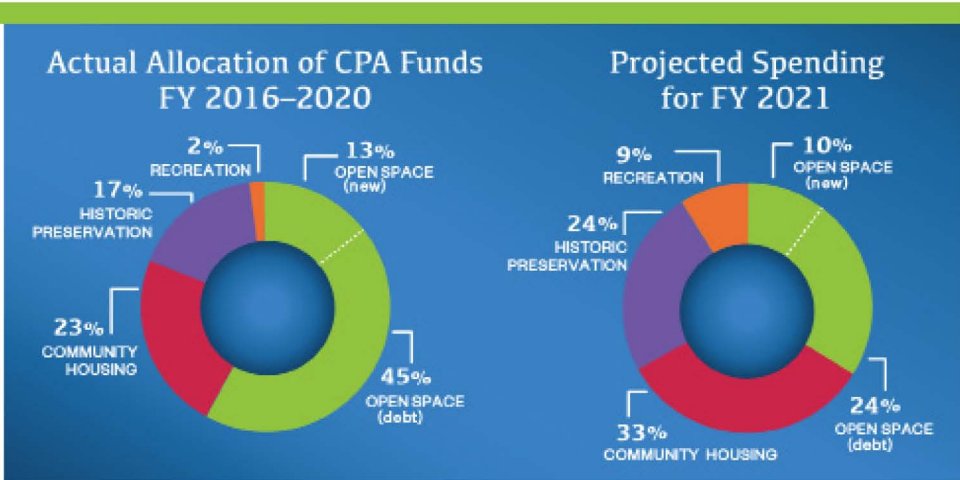


Figure 4. Left: Actual allocations by category of CPC funds during FY 2016–2020. Right: Projected allocations by category for FY 2021.

Voters make the final decision.

Most often, the CPC's recommendations are bundled into one warrant article for Town Meeting vote. The article needs a simple majority to pass.

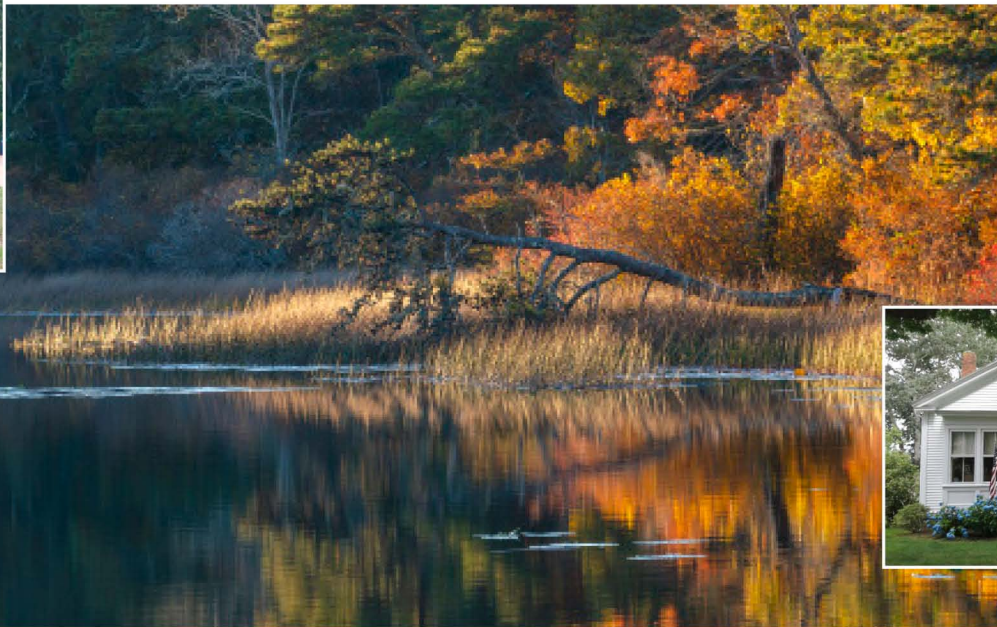
However, the CPC can recommend that the Town borrow money (bonding) to tackle larger initiatives. Such projects must be voted on separately and require a 2/3 majority for approval. The capacity to bond gives the Town flexibility to fund larger projects but also commits us to loan repayments — thereby reducing future flexibility. As an example, if the CPC were to borrow \$1 million at current rates (2%), repayment over twenty years would be \$61,000 annually.

Does CPC spending raise my tax rate?

No. CPA revenues cannot exceed the 3% property tax surcharge, which the Town voted to adopt.



Clockwise from top left: Eldredge Park Playground was improved with CPA funds, photo courtesy Leighton Realty. Twinings Pond is among the most popular walking areas in Orleans, photo © Hardie Truesdale. Pat Perry and Ron Petersen of the Orleans Historical Commission with CPA-funded historic markers, Cape Cod Chronicle photo. French Cable Station Museum.



Where can I learn more about the program and how to apply?

- CPA funding applications and guidelines can be found at the Town of Orleans website, town.orleans.ma.us/community-preservation-committee
- Applications are typically available in September. Applicants must provide a narrative, action plan, timeline, and financial data. Completed applications are due in mid-to-late November.
- For more information about the Community Preservation Act and how towns have used funding, visit communitypreservation.org

Orleans Community Projects Funded by the CPA

Some of the ways Community Preservation funds have been used to enhance Orleans:

Cape Cod Village Community
for Autistic Adults

John P. Hinckley Jr. Affordable Housing

Finch Skateboard Park

Eldredge Park Playground

Sea Call Farm

Orleans Historic Markers

French Cable Station Museum

Twinings Pond Conservation Area

Guide to Orleans Walking Trails

Orleans Conservation Trust Trail Kiosks

Centers for Culture and History in Orleans



Above and front cover: Owen O'Reilly at Finch Skateboard Park, by Scott Crivellaro. Front cover, clockwise from top left: Eldredge Park Playground; Finch Skateboard Park; Centers for Culture and History in Orleans Museum; Sea Call Farm © William F. Pomeroy; Orleans Conservation Trust trail kiosk.

Community Preservation Committee
Town of Orleans
19 School Road
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What has Community Preservation funding done for Orleans?

ORLEANS and the CPA

How funds from the
Community Preservation Act
make our town a better place to live



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