

The Community Preservation Fund was voted and accepted by the citizens of North Andover. The Community Preservation Act allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund to raise money for open space protection, historic preservation and the provision of affordable housing. North Andover voted in 2001 to create the fund, and since it's inception the Town has been able to support a variety of projects, including:

First-Time Homebuyers Program
Stevens Estate
Half Mile Hill Summit Acquisition
North Parish Church Steeple & Foundation Restoration
Grogan Playground

Last year, the North Andover CPC open space protection efforts were recognized as "Innovative" by the Community Preservation Coalition, which is sponsored by groups such as the Trust for Public Land, the Citizens Housing and Planning Association and the Keen Charitable Foundation.

The Act also creates a significant state matching fund, which serves as an incentive to communities to adopt the Act. The Department of Revenue has distributed matching funds to CPA cities and towns of more than \$178 million. North Andover has received 100% matching funds for every year. Last year the State gave North Andover \$1,073,700. The total amount collected locally and from the State's matching fund is \$9,672,900 for North Andover.

The committee that oversees the funds is the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The CPC annually reviews applications for funding and based on a variety of project criteria and available funding, the CPC will make a recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting.

The CPC will hold their Annual Public Informational Meeting in early 2007. The CPC then require Project Submission Sheets, which are typically due in February. Anyone interested can check out North Andover's CPC web page to see how to apply for funding.