

The City Council will have the final vote in a month or so, but the Boston Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend these two Parkway projects.

COURTESY PHOTO

## 52. Sophia Snow Place, West Roxbury Roxbury Home for Aged Women



CPA Award: \$150,000

**Open Space & Recreation:**  
Project number 52 regards the Sophia Snow Place in West Roxbury. The project application is included on the CPC Review Website at [CPC Review System](#).



After consideration of the application, the CPC recommends a grant award of \$150,000 to the Roxbury Home for Aged Women. The grant award would fund the preservation of open space land by protecting it from injury, harm or destruction by funding the restoration of native plantings around the certified vernal pool located in Allendale Woods as part of this Urban Wild and creation of a bridge to increase accessibility.

## CPC approves Parkway, AB projects

Jeff Sullivan  
Staff Reporter

The Boston Community Preservation Committee (CPC), which oversees the process by which Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds are distributed, voted unanimously to recommend more than \$27 million in funding for 52 projects in the City of Boston.

CPC Chair Felicia Jacques said she wanted to thank all the staff, residents and advocates who made the last four months of presentations and competition happen.

"We would like to give a tremendous thanks to the staff managing this process over the last four to five months that have led us to this night," she said. "This

is a really good slate."

First up is \$250,000 for the Sherrin Woods Trailhead and Wetland Buffer Restoration on the Hyde Park and Roslindale border. The funding would be used to rehabilitate the degraded portions of the property at the Sherrin Street entrance and the adjacent wetland buffers. The grant would go to the Boston Parks Department Urban Wilds Program under the control of Director Paul Sutton. Residents have been advocating for the city to purchase a piece of the land adjacent to the MBTA rail right-of-way on the east side of the park. Hopefully the \$1.3 million the CPC voted to award the Parks Department for parks acquisition may be used for that in the future.

Next up was the historic preservation for the St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Church in Allston Brighton, on Brighton Avenue. The CPC will be awarding \$500,000 to the Episcopal Diocese for masonry restoration, roof repair and stabilization of the north walls so as to comply with building and access requirements and historic rehabilitation standards. The church was founded in 1892, and is in the National Register of Historic Places. More info on the site can be found at <https://bit.ly/3uulpaB>.

Funds totaling \$150,000 were approved for the Sophia Snow Place in West Roxbury, adjacent to Jamaica Plain and Roslindale.

CPC

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## Council to consider supplemental sidewalk clearing

Jeff Sullivan  
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council met for its regular meeting on Feb. 2 in a virtual setting and called for a hearing to look into creating a supplemental sidewalk clearing program.

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok and District 5 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo are sponsors of the hearing, and said this was about making sure that everyone can get around the city in any reasonable weather.

"We need to take the next step in pedestrian equity in snow clearing in the City of

Boston," Bok said. "We've seen this winter and the weekend storm that a big snowstorm can trap our folks with disabilities, our elders, anybody who needs that passable 42-inch lane we're required to have from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It can trap folks in their houses for multiple days or a week, and precisely because having people being immobilized in that way is not livable, that's the reason we have our streets program, both to get our emergency vehicles around during the storm and later be

Sidewalks

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## The face of Washington Street changes again

Richard Heath  
Staff Reporter

The face of Washington Street at Forest Hills keeps changing and two new developments show that smaller projects can be dramatic too.

At 3514 Washington St. Omer Hecht wants to build out his new photography equipment shop in a long vacant storefront and add two housing units above.

On the other side of Forest Hills, Vladimir Sirotnin, of the eponymous Mir Realty, plans

to raze a wood frame, two-story house built about 1882 at 72 Hyde Park Ave. and replace it with a six-family house designed by David Choi.

Hecht seems to have been inspired by Matt Griffin who in 2021 built a two-story, residential addition over Costello's Tavern that he owns at 723 Centre St. Hecht lives in Jamaica Plain and apparently believes that change is inevitable.

In 2017 he was evicted

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The funds will be used to preserve open space at the site of 1225 Centre St., which a few years ago had come under scrutiny when a local developer tried to put condominiums on the site. That plan failed and now Sophia Snow is looking to preserve the site, cut down invasive species, restore native species and put in a bridge to increase accessibility. According to Sophia Snow representatives, this will be phase 1 of a multi-phase, multi-year project.

Also in West Roxbury, the CPC voted to award \$57,000 to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for the restoration of the Westerly Burying Ground on Centre Street. The site needs work for its cemetery walls,

front fence and gate, and interior cast iron plot fences. The work will also include resetting and repairing gravestones in the historic cemetery, which was established in 1683 and is Boston's seventh-oldest cemetery. Eight American Revolutionary War veterans and 15 American Civil War veterans are buried at the site. It's last recorded burial was 1962.

Recently-appointed CPC member and East Boston Farm representative Kannan Thiruvengadam said he was amazed at the help the CPC was able to give residents in applying for funds.

"I really appreciate this particular committee, how there is so much technical help that goes out to applicants," he said. "This is about community preservation, which means

small, ad hoc community organizations with two or three people in the neighborhood trying to make something nice in the community and may not have the expertise in writing grant applications, and so I appreciate this staff reaching out to help small groups like that to have a sense of ownership in their community, and that is a big part of community preservation."

Jacques said the Boston City Council and Mayor Michele Wu will vote to finalize the list of approved projects in the next two months. Last year, the docket was approved in April after a February vote. She added that the application round for 2023's funds is now open. Interested residents can go to <https://www.boston.gov/community-preservation> to fill out an application.