



TOWN OF LINCOLN

ARPA Funding Request Form

SUBMISSION ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 9, 2021

DATE: December 7, 2021

1. DEPARTMENT / COMMITTEE: Conservation Department

Submitting Official, title: Michele Grzenda, Conservation Director

Contact Phone: 781-259-2703

Contact Email: grzendam@lincolntown.org

2. ARPA ITEM / PROJECT REQUESTED: Open Space Parking Lot Repairs

3. ARPA ELIGIBLE SPENDING CATEGORY: (1) Reimburse COVID19-related expenses and (2) Infrastructure Project

In reviewing the “Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Frequently Asked Questions” (<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>), Question 2.18 asks: “Would investments in improving outdoor spaces (e.g. parks) be an eligible use of funds as a response to the public health emergency and/or its negative economic impacts?” The answer stated “There are multiple ways that investments in improving outdoor spaces could qualify as eligible uses – although many eligible projects must be in areas that are in a “Qualified Census Tract (QCT), to families and individuals living in QCTs, or when these services are provided by Tribal governments”. Lincoln is not in a QCT as far as I can tell but one item that may be funded outside of QCTs is: “Many governments saw significantly increased use of parks during the pandemic that resulted in damage or increased maintenance needs. The Interim Final Rule recognizes that “decrease[s to] a state or local government’s ability to effectively administer services” can constitute a negative economic impact of the pandemic.” From this, it appears that parking lot repair, because of the increased COVID-19 visitation to our open spaces, is an allowable expense under the ARP.

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (including how it responds to the effects of the pandemic):

The Conservation Department respectfully requests \$6,823 in ARPA funding to make needed repairs to four conservation land parking lots which received overwhelming use during COVID-19. (See Locus Map - Attachment 1). Residents and visitors have long appreciated Lincoln’s trails, forests and fields for recreation, quiet contemplation, and to feel a connection to nature. When COVID-19 upended the basic work-life-school-public health balance, open spaces and trails everywhere became a respite to many people trying to find a safe place to still connect with people and nature while staying physically distant. Many of our local open spaces saw over a 20 percent increase in open space visitation. Public spaces became even more of an essential part of our mental health, public health, and economic stability. While our appreciation for local open spaces jumped to a whole new level, increased visitation resulted in overuse of parking lots and unsafe parking along roadsides, erosion along trails and trailheads, and creation of illegal trails and littering.

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mt. Misery parking lot received an overwhelming amount of use and vehicle traffic. At the same time, Conservation staff were in various states of lockdown and distancing and did not have time to conduct normal maintenance on the lot on a condensed schedule due to all of our other mandatory conservation land maintenance. As a result, the gravel parking lot has been in rough shape, and we recently spent \$2,323 to fill the potholes and regrade the entire lot (see attached photos and invoice included in Attachment 2). We had been receiving multiple complaints about the Mt. Misery parking lot, and our own conservation truck was close to bottoming out on certain potholes. With only \$500 in our “Misc. Other Supplies” land management expense account, we do not have the budget for these repairs. We consider this an urgent issue since we received numerous calls and wanted to avoid someone damaging their car. The state of the Mt. Misery parking lot would have also made it extremely difficult to plow in winter, and Mt. Misery is a regionally popular cross-country skiing destination.

In addition to the main parking lot at Mt. Misery, the Canoe Landing and Overflow lots also serve this area and were similar overburdened during the pandemic. The Adams Woods Parking Lot on Route 126 also serves Mt. Misery, Adams Woods and the Baker Bridge trails, and was also used by many in early 2020 for access to Walden Pond (even though parking for Walden Pond is prohibited here). These three parking areas will require a similar treatment to the Mt. Misery lot, but we estimate that each of these smaller parking lots would cost about \$1,500 for gravel repairs.

Parking Lot	Expenses (materials)	
Mt. Misery*	\$ 2,323	
Food Project Lot	\$ 1,500	
Canoe Landing	\$ 1,500	
Overflow Lot	\$ 1,500	
Total	\$ 6,823	
*Mt. Misery Parking Lot repairs completed 11/30/21		

5. POPULATION TO BENEFIT FROM PROJECT:

Mt. Misery (and our other conservation lands with available parking) were acquired with the help of state funds with an emphasis that these properties would help serve the Boston area by providing recreational opportunities. Mt. Misery is identified in “AMC’s Best Day Hikes Near Boston” and it receives high visitation from residents from all surrounding towns/cities. Regular repair and maintenance of these parking lots, especially after extremely heavy usage that occurred during 2020 helps us keep these properties safe and accessible to all users.

6. FISCAL YEAR IMPACT: FY23

- a. **Does project affect multiple fiscal years?** Yes
- b. **If so, please indicate all fiscal years impacted: FY22-FY24** Due to the extreme over-use of these parking lots during COVID-19, major repairs will be necessary at the Canoe Landing, Overflow lot and Adams Woods parking lots during this period. We hope that with proper routine maintenance moving forward, the annual operating expense for parking lot repairs will be approximately \$1500 annually.

7. DOES REQUESTED PROJECT INVOLVE A THIRD-PARTY? NO all work will be conducted using staff time and vehicles. Materials (gravel) will be purchased from a local vendor.

- a. **If yes, please provide third party name:**

b. Are you able to establish reporting requirements for third-party distributions?

8. TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$6,823

a. Is the request for a capital item/project or for operations? Operating

b. If a capital request, are soft costs included in requested amount above? Choose an item.

c. If yes, enter amount of estimated soft costs:

d. If the request is an operating request, will it result in recurring expenses?

e. If yes, please state plans for future funding: Mt. Misery has become an extremely popular and well-known destination for the Boston Metro Area due in part to COVID. It is close enough to Walden Pond that it is used as an alternative hiking area when Walden Pond reaches capacity, and is now well-known among dog-owners as well. We anticipate that the Mt. Misery parking lot will need annual repairs or a more permanent treatment. We have requested a dedicated line item in our operating budget for parking lot repairs, and plan to look into long-term treatments such as a geotextile base or paving.

9. ENTER ANY OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE PROJECT, INCLUDING AMOUNT:

The Conservation Land Operating budget has approximately \$500 set aside annually for miscellaneous supplies – some of this could be used to purchase gravel for parking lots. However, our parking lot expenses resulting from the overuse of these areas during COVID far exceed the available funds.

10. IS PROJECT TIMELINE ESTIMATED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN ARPA TIMELINE (December 2024, except for construction projects which have a deadline of December 2026):YES

11. IF NOT FUNDED THROUGH ARPA, WILL PROJECT BE REQUESTED IN FUTURE CAPITAL OR OPERATING REQUESTS: YES

QUESTIONS?

Contact Colleen at 781-259-2673 or wilkinsc@lincolntown.org OR Tim at 781-259-2604 or higginst@lincolntown.org

SUBMISSION ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 9, 2021

Please complete a separate form for each request. This form should be completed, saved as a PDF, and submitted to Tim AND Colleen at the above email addresses, with all supporting documentation.

Attached Photos: Mt. Misery Parking Lot Repairs

BEFORE (November 23, 2021)



AFTER (November 30 & December 1, 2021)



