

# Invest in Springfield

with Community Preservation Act (CPA)

## What is Community Preservation Act?

CPA is a Massachusetts program which allows communities to create a local fund dedicated to open/recreation spaces, historic resources, and housing.

CPA has been adopted by 161 communities, including Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Wilbraham, Agawam, West Springfield, Westfield, and Southwick. Eight more communities including Boston, Holyoke, and South Hadley have CPA on the November 8th ballot.

## How is Community Preservation Act funded?

There are two sources. One is a small voter-approved surcharge on property tax bills. The other is a yearly distribution from the statewide CPA Trust Fund, whose revenues come from Registries of Deeds filing fees. To receive these funds, the City must vote to adopt CPA.

## How can Community Preservation Act funds be spent?

CPA funds can be used only for open/recreation spaces, historic resources, and housing. A minimum of 10% of CPA funds must be allocated annually for each of those categories. The remaining 70% can be allocated among those categories.

## What is being proposed on the November 8th ballot?

CPA will be ballot question #5. A yes vote will adopt CPA with a 1.5% surcharge on property taxes\*. There will be an exemption for the first \$100,000 of property value and an exemption for owner-occupants who are low income families or low/moderate income seniors.



Give a little **Get a lot**  
Vote *yes* on 5

### **How much would Community Preservation Act cost the average Springfield homeowner?**

The average homeowner would pay approximately \$10/year. To compute your CPA surcharge, go to <http://springfield-cpa.org/>

### **How much would Community Preservation Act generate for Springfield?**

CPA would annually generate approximately \$1,000,000 from the local surcharge. By adopting CPA, Springfield will also receive an annual distribution from the statewide CPA Trust Fund.

### **What kinds of projects can be funded with Community Preservation Act?**

CPA can assist a wide variety of projects in the three eligible categories, including:

- Creation or restoration of parks, playfields, playgrounds, and bike paths
- Creation of community gardens and preservation of conservation areas
- Restoration of historic buildings such as libraries, schools, and houses
- Creation of programs which meet local housing needs or assist first-time homebuyers.

### **How is Community Preservation Act administered after adoption?**

The City Council will create a volunteer Community Preservation Committee, composed of members appointed by the Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Park Commission, Housing Authority, Planning Board, and up to four others members. The Committee will review project proposals to ensure compliance with state requirements, solicit community input, and send recommendations to the City Council for approval.

*\*Once adopted, the CPA surcharge percentage and exemptions cannot be changed without a vote of Springfield residents.*



For more information go to  
<http://springfield-cpa.org>

 **SpringfieldCPAdvocates**