

Grant Application Middlesex Canal Commission Segment 5 Woburn revised  
OneWorld Boston

GRANT APPLICATION

MIDDLESEX CANAL COMMISSION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Program:

ALFRED STREET to SCHOOL STREET

Towpath & Bike Path Construction

WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

April 2012

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Name and Address:

MIDDLESEX CANAL COMMISSION  
40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA 01852-2686

Contact Name and Title:

Thomas Raphael, Chairman

Phone Number:

978.454.8021

Website:

[www.middlesexcanal.org/commission/](http://www.middlesexcanal.org/commission/)

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EIN:

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04-3339068

History:

The Middlesex Canal Commission was created in 1977 by an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature. The Purpose of the Commission is to return the Middlesex Canal to public use. The Middlesex Canal Commission (MCC) was charged with planning, acquiring, restoring, and maintaining the remaining segments of the Middlesex Canal. Through this endeavor the MCC will create the Middlesex Canal Heritage Park to inform, inspire and draw public attention to the nationally significant landmark located throughout Middlesex County. In addition, the restoration of the canal will provide recreational and educational benefits to visitors, and economic benefits to adjacent communities.

The Commission is comprised of:

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A representative from each of the Canal communities.

-  
A State Representative and a State Senator

-  
The Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

-  
The Executive Director of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG)

-  
The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

-  
The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

Today the Middlesex Canal is a series of surviving segments, located primarily in the northern half of its route. Some exist as open water, some as overgrown rights of way, and some as actual structures. Stitching together these segments as a linear historic site and greenway will fulfill the goal of "returning the Canal to public use." Our strategic objectives are tailored to the unique nature of each of the segments:

- Restore the most accessible and scenic segments where there is potential for detailed interpretation of history and active enjoyment by the public.

- Protect the less accessible segments to provide as much overall continuity as possible.

- Provide a variety of experiences to meet varying visitor needs and interests.

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- Tell the whole story of the Middlesex Canal in a lively, interactive, and coherent fashion through permanent and revolving displays, signage, and supporting materials.

- Develop a Visitors' Center, museum, and archives for the Canal.

- Integrate the Canal into the neighborhoods and communities through which it runs.

- Develop the Canal as a self-sustaining historic, greenway, and educational resource through the development of vital partnerships with government agencies, Canal communities, the Middlesex Canal Association and Canal Section groups.

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In order to facilitate the planning and implementation structure for the Middlesex Canal restoration the MCC has created a 5-phase Master Plan for the Reconstruction and Interpretation of the Canal. The 5 phases are listed below:

### Phase 1

Mill Pond (Billerica) – The goal of this phase is to integrate the Canal with surrounding historic landscape, recreational space, high-quality facilities, and greenway development. This Phase is in the 75% design submission. Construction estimate: \$3.0 million

### Phase 2

Reconstruction of Extant Portions of the Canal – There are a number of well preserved portions of the Canal that are a high priority for protection, reconstruction, integration into the overall historic site and greenway development. A program study detailing each of these segments has been created. A concept study has been developed for two of these segments (Segment 5: Alfred Street to School Street in Woburn and Segment 6 Main Street to Burlington Avenue in Wilmington). A 25% design has progressed for Segment 5.

### Phase 3

Acquisition of Canal Properties – Due to ongoing development across the region it is critical to acquire (or otherwise permanently protect), link and provide public access to other Canal segments before they are lost forever. Major portions of the survey work and GIS mapping have been completed for this Phase.

### Phase 4

Creation of Canal-wide Interpretive Sites and Signage – The linkage of the Canal segments in Phase 2 and 3 will make it possible to provide consistent signage and other interpretive elements throughout the length of the Canal.

### Phase 5

Permanent Infrastructure: Museum, Headquarters, Maintenance – Phases 1 through 4 put the whole project together. Phase 5 provides the permanent infrastructure that will maximize the value of the Canal to the public. The Canal is currently utilizing 4,500 square feet of space at the Faulkner Mill Building at the Mill Pond area in Billerica as its museum and visitor center. The Museum is open on weekends from noon to 4 PM.

In addition to the 5-phase Master Plan the MCC has also completed the National Register Map Book and the Heritage Corridor Map Book, which detail the former layout of the canal and how it fits into the County's current development. These books have been used to have the Middlesex Canal identified on the National Register of Historic Places.

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## PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Name:

Segment 5 - Alfred Street to School Street, Woburn, MA

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Grant amount requested:

\$100,000

Name and Title of Program Manager:

Thomas Raphael, Chairman

Geographic Area Served by Program:

Woburn and Middlesex County, MA

Basic Budget Outlining Plan for Expending Grant Funds:

See attached budget outline.

Past Program Expenditures and Any Anticipated Future Funding:

See "History" above. Anticipated partial future funding from Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (BRMPO)

Description:

The goal of developing Segment 5 of the Middlesex Canal from Alfred Street to School Street in Woburn has two elements. First will be developing the canal's towpath as a walking path while finding unique ways to restore and preserve the Canal cross-section. Second, the creation of a paved asphalt bike path will utilize the abandoned railroad bed and preserve the historic competition and ultimate replacement of the canal by the railroad. Situated adjacent to the Baldwin Mansion, 1790 House, Woburn's Kiwanis Park, and with a connection to Ferullo Field this project will provide for over 10 acres of outdoor recreation for the residents of Woburn and visitors to the site. Many of the potential visitors to the segment work at the nearby office centers or live in the growing residential communities.

Although, the OneWorld Boston grant alone will not fund the entire project as described below, the MCC hopes to construct the segment in phases beginning with reconstructing the towpath and connecting it to pedestrian outlets at Alfred Street and School Street. The MCC believes that most if not all of this work can be funded through the requested grant funds. Once the towpath becomes open to the public and local residents and visitors realize the important historic landmark in their community, the MCC hopes this will encourage greater public support for next phases of construction of the segment.

The restoration of the canal can be coupled with the opportunity to highlight the historical significance of the surrounding community while providing public access and preserving an existing wildlife habitat. The restoration of the canal segment provides opportunities to incorporate interpretive features like the ruins of the stone abutments of Baldwin's Bridge and the old Canal holding basin. The creation of an "English Garden" at the Kiwanis Park, pending final approval by the City, could serve to bring back the image of the era when the Middlesex Canal was the major transportation route for material goods from Boston to New Hampshire and an engineering marvel of its day.

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A detailed description of each proposed project element follows:

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### Canal Restoration

The canal banks are no longer uniform in shape and heavily overgrown. It is proposed that segments of the canal visible at locations of access (School Street intersection) or public interest (Kiwanis Park) be fully restored.

Restoration at these locations would involve accurately recreating the canal cross section. At areas visible from intersection streets, 100' restoration sections are recommended to provide a visual element for the passerby. At locations such as the Kiwanis Park, the canal along its entire length would be proposed for restoration.

### Towpath Restoration

It is proposed that the entire surface of the towpath be replaced with a dense graded crushed stone or pea stone material. It is intended that this path would be used mainly by foot traffic (no commuter bicycles, roller blades etc.). In addition, the majority of all vegetation between the towpath and the canal would be cleared to recreate as best as possible, the original look of the canal.

### Bike Path Creation

Utilizing the un-restored and overgrown abandoned railroad bed, a paved bicycle path will be created. Connecting Alfred Street and School Street this path will be ideal for local bicycle commuters wishing to avoid the traffic of Main Street. It will also provide access for intermediate cyclists and families wanting to explore the historical landscape of Woburn.

### Recreational Loop Creation

Enlarging and expanding portions of an existing path located on the west side of the canal it is proposed that a recreational loop be created. This loop, consisting of a stone dust path along the west side of the canal, would connect to the existing towpath and railroad bed bike path through the use of two pedestrian bridges, one at each end of the canal segment. It is recommended that the bridge at the southern end of the segment be constructed to replicate the rudimentary type design that is depicted on historic renderings of the area. This bridge would be a visual cornerstone to the park improvements recommended at the Kiwanis Park. The second pedestrian bridge would be located at the northern end of the project in the vicinity of Ferullo Park. As this bridge would be less visible, a more economical design could be chosen. This loop will help to complete this project as a major open space public park.

### Improvements to Ferullo Field

An important factor necessary for the success of the project will be access. Limited space is available for visitors of the canal to park and enjoy its amenities. Improvements to the existing facility parking at Ferullo Field would be incorporated in order to provide parking for the Canal and field.

### English Garden

At the site of the Kiwanis Park, it is proposed that significant landscape improvements be incorporated into the site including walkways, trees, a fountain, and other plantings. The desired result would be the creation of an "English Garden" that once existed near the current park's location.

Success of the Segment 5 will be measured by how it is used by the surrounding community and by the wealth of knowledge, enjoyment, and connection to the past they will gain by the integration of the canal

Grant Application Middlesex Canal Commission Segment 5 Woburn revised into their lives. At a minimum having the towpath restored and bikepath created with interpretive signs about the history of the canal would signify a definitive benchmark of the success of the canal. In addition, the MCC and the City plan on monitoring the use of the Canal to help gauge which Canal Segments can be restored next and to incorporate lessons learned from Segment 5's restoration.

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Number of employees:

None (all volunteers)

Names, titles, and annual salaries of the five employees with the highest annual income from all sources from your organization, combined with income from any affiliated entity:

No salaries

Names of the organization's board members and all compensation received:

Thomas Raphael, Chairman  
Beverly Woods, Executive Director  
Thomas Lincoln, Vice Chairman  
Michael McInnis, Secretary  
Betty Bigwood, Treasurer  
Chuck Anderson, Asst. Treasurer

Brief description of any current or pending litigation against the organization:

No litigation pending

Scanned copy of IRS documentation of non-profit, tax-exempt status:

Tax Exempt - see attached letter

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SITE PROXIMITY MAP

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Showcase Cinemas  
Holiday Inn  
Scorecard Bar & Grille  
Ben & Jerry's  
25 MIDDLESEX CANAL PARK  
Northeast Trade Center  
Super Stop & Shop  
1 ELM STREET  
1281A381A38 Alfred Street  
School Street  
PROPOSED CANAL WALK

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Ferullo Field  
Proposed English Garden  
Existing Canal  
Showcase Cinemas  
Holiday Inn  
Scorecard Bar & Grille  
Ben & Jerry's  
25 MIDDLESEX CANAL PARK  
Northeast Trade Center  
Super Stop & Shop  
1 ELM STREET  
1281A381A38Alfred Street  
School Street  
PROPOSED CANAL WALK  
Ferullo Field  
Proposed English Garden  
Existing Canal  
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Letter Detailing Tax Exempt  
Under IRS Code 170C

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BUDGET OUTLINE

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