

BOARD MEMBERS

Erin Zamarro, Chair
Nick Chacharone
Brian Dardy
Eric Stratton
Andrew Serrato
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CONTACT

- 50 Officer Manny Familia Way
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- Phone: 508-799-1190
- Email: Parks@worcesterma.gov
- Website:
www.worcesterma.gov/parks

The Parks & Recreation Commission is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to all. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting, please reach out to the staff contact listed. While boards and commissions do their best to accommodate you, certain accommodation may not be available if requested within short notice of the scheduled meeting. Requests for American Sign Language interpretation must be made 10 business days or more in advance of the meeting.

Hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y otras adaptaciones con solicitud previa.

تتوفر الترجمة الفورية وغيرها من وسائل التيسير عند الطلب المسبق

अनुवाद र अग्य आवसह अ-म अनरोधपचत उपलभ
हुन्छ।

Interpretação e outras adaptações estão disponíveis mediante solicitação prévia.

Përkhimi dhe akomodime të tjera janë në dispozicion me kërkesë paraprake.

Kasa nkyeræase ene akwanya afoforo da ho ma won a won be bisa ato ho.

Phiên dịch và các hỗ trợ khác có sẵn theo yêu cầu trước.

DIVISION STAFF

Robert C. Antonelli Jr. Commissioner
Jeffery Tomaino, Parks & Recreation
Coordinator
Mily Pacheco, Coordinator of
Administration & Finance
Melissa Richford, Principal Clerk
Scott Morin, Director of Maintenance
John Grant, General Foreman



The City of
Worcester

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Thursday June 11, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery
Administrative Office – Meeting Room A
50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

The Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will be held **in-person** at the date, time and location listed above. Meeting attendees will additionally have options to participate remotely by joining online or by phone:

- Use the following link to join the meeting via computer:
 - 1) Go to www.teams.com
 - 2) Enter Meeting ID: 252 764 816 012 33
 - 3) Enter Password: wJ7WZ3y9
 - 4) [Join the meeting now](#)
- Call 1-469-998-7682 (Access Code: 893 135 021#)

Note: If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting component, the meeting will continue in-person.

Application materials may be viewed by appointment at:
Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery,
50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605
between 8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information concerning this meeting, please contact the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery, by email at Parks@worcesterma.gov or phone at 508-799-1190. Please send **written comments** 3 business days or more in advance of the meeting. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting, please reach out to the staff contact listed. While boards and commissions do their best to accommodate you, certain accommodations may not be available if requested within short notice of the scheduled meeting. Requests for American Sign Language interpretation must be made 10 business days or more in advance of the meeting.

Para más información sobre esta reunión, comuníquese con el Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery, Hope Cemetery Division por correo electrónico al correo Parks@worcesterma.gov o por teléfono al 508-799-1190. Envíe **sus comentarios por escrito** 3 días hábiles o más antes de la reunión. Si necesita adaptaciones razonables para participar en la reunión, comuníquese con el contacto del personal indicado en la lista. Aunque las juntas y comisiones hacen todo lo

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

OCTOBER 22, 2026

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

DECEMBER 17, 2026

JANUARY 21, 2027

FEBRUARY 11, 2027

MARCH 4, 2027

APRIL 15, 2027

MAY 13, 2027

JUNE 3, 2027

posible para atenderle, algunas adaptaciones podrían no estar disponibles si se solicitan con poca anticipación a la reunión programada. Las solicitudes de interpretación de lenguaje de señas estadounidense deben hacerse 10 días hábiles o más antes de la reunión.

1. **Call to Order – 6:30 PM**
2. **Attendance (Roll Call)**
3. **Acceptance of Minutes (December 4, 2025, February 26, 2026, and March 19, 2026, and April 16, 2026)**

4. **Public Participation**

There will be a two (2) hour time limit for this meeting unless a majority of the commission members present vote to extend the allotted time.

5. **Public Participation (Agenda Items);**

A person may speak for no more than three (3) minutes in total on any item appearing on the agenda.

6. **Commissioner Report**

- a) **Budget**
- b) **Seasonal Employment Opportunities for 2026**
- c) **Newton Hill at Elm Park Update**
- d) **Final Updated Alcohol Policy with requested changes from the Commission.**
- e) **Mosquito-Bite Prevention**
- f) **Worcester Common Master Plan**

7. **Old Business**

The individual / organization / group who has placed an item on the agenda may speak for no more than five (5) minutes in total on the item they have submitted.

- a) **Request of Mayor Joseph M. Petty and Councilor Khrystian King to name the basketball court at Greenwood Park in honor of Nancy Mayer Bates**
- b) **Request of Park Spirit of Worcester to discuss the attached documents (from October 16, 2025, Agenda) as it pertains to Park Land used for non-park purposes.**
- c) **Request of Commissioner Stratton to have the Law Department review items 1, 2, 3 & 4 within three months.**
- d) **Request from Geoffrey Killebrew to discuss Item #1 on his requests from January 29, 2026, Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting.**

8. New Business

Agenda items must be submitted three (3) business days before each Commission meeting with subject line “Agenda Item” to Parks@worcesterma.gov and reply satisfactorily to any required follow-up requests sent by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The individual / organization / group who has placed an item on the agenda may speak for no more than five (5) minutes in total on the item they have submitted.

- a) Request from the Interim Veterans’ Service Officer/Director to review the Purple Heart and Gold Star Memorials that will be located on the Worcester Common.**
- b) Request from Park Spirit of Worcester to discuss additional questions based on the attached documents (from October 16, 2025, agenda) and the City of Worcester response as it pertains to Park Land used for non-park purposes.**
- c) Request of District 1 City Councilor on the renaming of Great Brook Valley Playground in honor of Roberto Clemete with a final vote set for June 11, 2026.**
- d) Request from Commissioner Brian Dardy to review a Parks & Recreation Commission item on Exploratory Academic & Community Collaboration.**
- e) Request of Nancy Ortiz for an update on South Worcester Playground construction & Green Hill Park Handball Court.**

9. Tabled Business

To take an item off the table, a motion must be made by a member of the Commission, seconded and approved by a majority vote of the members present. The item can then be discussed at the next meeting.

- a) NA**

10. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)



The City of
Worcester

Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operating Budget

Funding ^{the} Future

Smart Spending. Stronger Outcomes.



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Eric D. Batista
City Manager



City of Worcester

May 5, 2026

Attachment for Item # 9.26 A

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I am pleased to submit to your Honorable Body the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) operational and capital budgets. Notably, this is the municipality's first \$1 billion operating budget, a milestone, driven largely by increased State Aid contributions through the Student Opportunity Act over the past several years as well as Worcester's growing property values and new private investments. This year, our budget theme is *Funding the Future: Smart Spending, Stronger Outcomes*.

Overview of Key Investments

The theme reflects the culmination of years of smart spending that has allowed us to weather current economic constraints while at the same time prioritizing near-term constituent needs. Our strong financial position, evidenced by a stable bond rating from three bond rating agencies, is letting us continue to invest in both our employees and our infrastructure.

- We want to show our current employees that their hard work matters and are providing a **2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to unrepresented employees** and placing funds in Contingency for appropriation once new contracts are signed with our various unions.
- While the financial constraints of the day have resulted in no net new positions in the proposed budget, we have been able to reallocate funding from previously unfilled positions to fund new positions to address priority needs. For example, just as it's a tough time for municipalities, it is also a difficult time for businesses, and my Administration is doing whatever we can to **support business growth**.

In this budget, we have added a new plumbing and gas fitting inspector and new wire and electrical inspector who will help businesses get through the permitting process more efficiently. We will also be adding an additional position in the Business Development Division of the Executive Office of Economic Development to support small businesses.

My administration is also proposing a \$46 million or 41% increase over FY26 in our proposed FY27 Capital Budget, funding that will help address some of our residents' top areas of concern including our roads and infrastructure.

- This past winter, the eighth snowiest in Worcester history, tested the municipality, as well as municipalities across the state. While our Department of Public Works (DPW) delivered a strong and reliable performance, it showed we need to invest in our equipment, facilities, and staff to help better prepare for future winters. The 2025-2026 winter season also exacerbated existing issues with our roadways underlining the need to exceed the funding recommendations in our Pavement Management Plan. **Accordingly, my Administration is proposing an increase of \$11 million, or 66%, in DPW borrowing over Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).** That money will go toward our streets and sidewalks; equipment purchases including snow equipment; and building improvements. Furthermore, DPW's capacity will be expanded by restructuring schedules to allow for additional hours of operation at the Millbury Street Drop-Off Center—a full plan is forthcoming.
- We are also investing in our Public Safety infrastructure, directing funds to the new **South Division Fire Station (\$25M)** and upgrades to **Worcester Police Headquarters (\$5M)**. Our first responders provide critical life-saving services and it is our hope that these infrastructure improvements will help them better serve the public. We are also making sure that our departments remain fully staffed and as such are increasing funding in our operating budget to the Worcester Fire Department to account for the end of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant that had supported expanded class sizes at the academy.
- And, as always, we are committed to investing in our schools, with an **increase in \$10 million to Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) projects** including the close out costs for the construction of Doherty Memorial

High School, the start of the Burncoat Feasibility Study, and the accelerated repair projects at Belmont Street Community School and Rice Square School.

I know that these strategic budget and investment decisions will help Worcester continue on its growth trajectory while preparing it to weather any storms that may come. The rest of this report details the budget process and a deeper dive into our key investments.

Background

As I alluded to, this is a challenging time for municipalities across the Commonwealth. In October 2025, the Massachusetts Municipal Association released “A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures,” highlighting the challenges of municipal finance when limited by Proposition 2½ and dependent on annual State Aid appropriations. In the past five years, 99 communities have sought 232 overrides totaling approximately \$394M, 142 (61%) of which were approved by the voters raising \$201M for schools and school buildings, police, fire, and general operations. To date, Worcester has avoided the need for an override, moving in fact in the opposite direction by increasing the excess tax levy capacity to \$25.8M, the seventh highest in the Commonwealth. This reduced tax levy has added its own pressures by reducing the municipality’s flexibility to meet both core required and fixed costs (education, debt service, health insurance, and pensions) as well as new priorities and needs. Instead, the Administration has worked diligently to prioritize efficiency and effectiveness in a world with limited resources. Despite best efforts, however, the reality is that we work with limited resources to address significant demands.

This budget seeks to navigate the same challenges. I have heard loudly and clearly this City Council’s push for cleaner neighborhoods and maintained streets and sidewalks. I understand the need for a strong public safety system consisting of effective policing, skilled fire and emergency response, and universal health and code enforcement. I embrace the goal of improved economic and social opportunity, where housing, jobs, and health care are available to all who live in or visit Worcester. And I know that the municipality, hand-in-hand with the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), needs to find ways to increase funding for education and reduce non-net school spending.

As illustrated by our FY27 theme, we have attempted to do so with a focus on outcomes and budgeted our limited dollars strategically. We have no net new positions proposed in the FY27 budget, with the only year-over-year change from last year's budget being

two positions added in the fall of FY26. We have added a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), applying that increase to all unrepresented staff and placing funds in Contingency for appropriation once new contracts are signed with our various unions. We have stretched our education funding, including mid-year FY26 contributions of \$3.8M in the base, ensuring an even larger year-over-year contribution from the municipality to the WPS. We have managed to address the “fiscal cliff” caused by the conclusion of the municipality’s Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), a multi-year grant that has supported our expanded classes at the Worcester Fire Department but going forward is a new obligation of the tax levy. We have increased funding for the Department of Public Works’ (DPW) efforts to manage snow removal, address trash and recycling costs, improve and expand our vehicles and equipment, and sustain our streets. We have continued our efforts to centralize expertise by moving the management of Police and Fire properties over to the Department of Public Facilities. We have done all of this, but we have also avoided “taxing to the max” by maintaining the municipality’s unused tax levy capacity.

We recognize that we are working within a period of national and international flux. Economic instability caused by lingering tariffs, higher fuel prices, and Federal disinvestment makes key municipal funding streams—State Aid, property values, motor vehicle excise, hotel and meals taxes, permit fees—unpredictable. We have conservatively estimated continued revenue growth based on a significant historical record. Yet if revenues do not materialize as anticipated, we know that some of our gains will be lost and some of our growth must be curtailed. We are requiring careful oversight of hiring and spending as we enter the new fiscal year.

While we have not yet seen major impacts from broader fiscal instability, a sound financial policy requires us to be cautious. We hope for the best, but plan for the worst.

One Billion in Revenues

Revenues	FY25 Actuals	Final FY26 Budget	Proposed FY27 Budget	FY26/27 Change	Percentage Change
Property Tax	394,786,871	418,195,856	435,513,944	17,318,088	4.1%
Local Receipts	65,752,946	59,060,546	63,313,800	4,253,254	7.2%
State Aid Education	387,324,437	419,948,104	446,876,523	26,928,419	6.4%
State Aid General	52,873,481	53,790,087	55,403,150	1,613,063	3.0%
MSBA/Other Available Funds	178,519	118,930	-	(118,930)	-100.0%
Free Cash	23,773,458	6,355,161	-	(6,355,161)	-100.0%
Total Revenues	924,689,712	957,468,684	1,001,107,417	43,638,733	4.7%

Expenditures	FY25 Actuals	Final FY26 Budget	Proposed FY27 Budget	FY26/27 Change	Percentage Change
Education (WPS/Assessments)	540,461,284	577,577,410	612,374,295	34,796,885	6.0%
Fixed Costs	181,872,302	168,660,503	172,489,276	3,828,773	2.3%
Contingency	-	5,024,057	3,284,962	(1,739,095)	-34.6%
Public Safety	121,027,296	122,712,085	126,467,423	3,755,338	3.1%
Public Works & Parks	28,541,946	25,894,848	26,511,513	616,665	2.4%
Other Operational	51,817,737	57,599,781	59,979,948	2,380,167	4.1%
Total Expenditures	923,720,566	957,468,684	1,001,107,417	43,638,733	4.7%

The annual budget process begins with an analysis of the municipality's limited revenue streams. Overall revenues are projected to increase by \$50.8M from the FY26 Final Budget for a total of \$1.001B. Revenue growth is anticipated in the property tax (\$17.3M or 4.1%), local receipts (\$4.2M or 7.2%), state aid for education (\$26.9M or 6.4%), and local aid (\$1.6M or 3%). We anticipate continued growth in the property tax and are budgeting new growth of \$7M, similar to FY26. State aid is based on the Governor's proposed budget and will be adjusted in the fall during Budget Recapitulation.

As always, the municipality's budget must balance so we are recommending a corresponding \$1.001B in appropriations. Per usual, the majority of the City's FY27 budget goes to education, with \$612M or 61% committed to the Worcester Public Schools, charter schools, school choice, and special education. This represents a \$34.8M increase in education funding, of which \$31.7M is dedicated to the Worcester Public Schools.

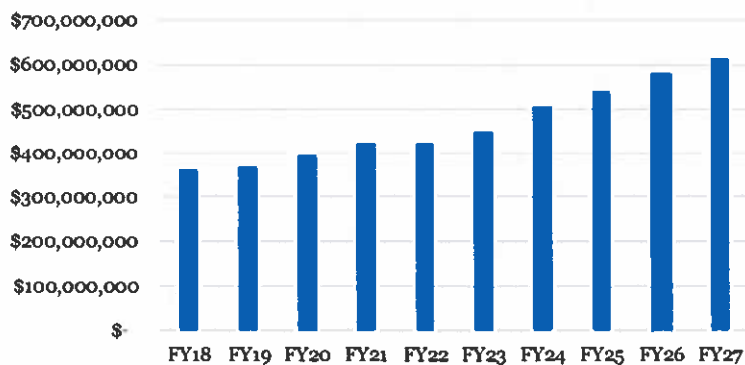
In other Fixed Costs, which total \$172.5M, we see significant increases in health insurance (\$2.8M or 8%). While the municipality has taken steps to mitigate certain high-cost pharmaceuticals, the cost of health care in the Commonwealth and across the country continues to climb. The municipality's pension obligations increase \$2.4M or 6.3% while the Pension Obligations Bonds (POBs) line item increases \$551K or 5.8%.

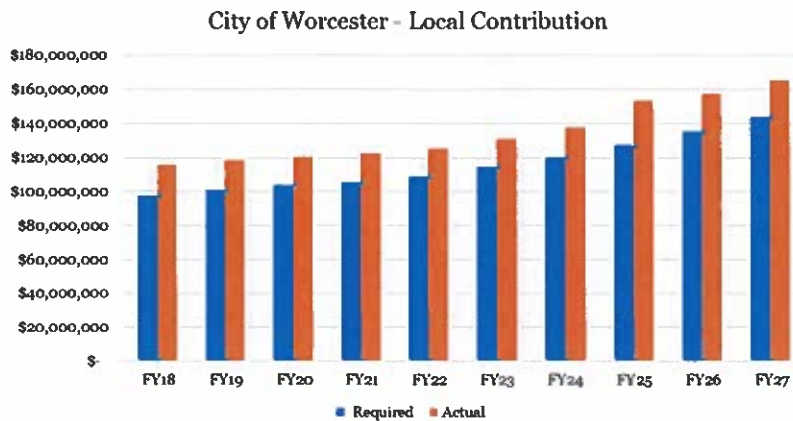
Positively, we are seeing a decrease in FY27 in Worker’s Compensation and Injured on Duty (IOD) based on historical trends.

Education

The total education budget is \$612.4M, which represents a \$34.8M increase over the FY26 final budget, or \$38.7M increase over the original FY26 preliminary budget. Continued increases are driven by the Commonwealth’s funding of the Student Opportunity Act, which continues to grow through FY28 before plateauing. The required increase in the local contribution—\$7.9M for a total of \$165.5M—continues to grow significantly, driven by rising property values and incomes in Worcester. The \$7.9M local increase in FY27 alone is higher than the **total** budget of all but five municipal departments. This brings the municipality’s local direct financial contribution for education to \$165.5M. It is important to note that the budget also includes an estimated \$25M for school-related debt service—a number that is not accounted for under Chapter 70 education funding obligations. Despite the increases, the proposed FY27 education budget, built based on long-standing municipal and WPS practice for determining education contributions, may not achieve net school spending depending on the final State budget and final WPS expenditures. The municipality and WPS will work throughout the year to ensure that net school spending requirements are achieved.

City of Worcester - Education Budget
(FY18 - FY27)





Fixed Costs

Fixed Costs, at \$173.5M, are a critical component of the municipality's annual budget calculations, including pensions, health insurance, and debt service. FY27 Fixed Costs represent a \$3.8M or 2.3% increase year over year. The largest increase in Fixed Costs relates to Health Insurance at \$2.8M. Pensions, which are increasing in the aggregate between now and FY34, will experience a \$2.4M increase within the FY27 Budget mainly due to shifts in funding sources from tax levy to grants and enterprise accounts. Debt service costs are almost level funded in FY27 due to recent strategic borrowings intended to prepare for future Burncoat High and Middle School debt. This single project, with an estimated total cost expected to reach \$650M, will require the municipality to borrow approximately \$325M, or fully one-third of our existing debt liability, based on a 50/50 split with the MSBA. Financial Integrity Plan changes include a significant reduction in the Capital Campaign Stabilization Fund as debt service obligations end, which is offset by increased contributions to the New High School Fund and the Ballpark District Improvement Financing (DIF) structure. The DIF contribution for FY27 includes both estimated FY27 revenues and a municipal tax levy contribution intended to maintain the DIF's cash flow as we anticipate new building permits for certain private projects.

The municipality's Contingency appropriation is proposed at approximately \$3.3M in FY27. This number is intended to provide funding for unsettled union negotiations (\$3M) as well as a small buffer (\$250K) for unanticipated needs throughout the year. This appropriation is a reduction of \$1.7M from the FY26 budget due to funding constraints.

Public Safety

Public safety is the municipality's second largest operational expense at \$126.5M or 12.6% of the FY27 Budget. This category includes Police, Fire, Inspectional Services, and Emergency Communications and reflects an approximate \$3.8M increase over FY26. The largest operational change in public safety departments for FY27 is the shift of building management functions from Police and Fire to the Department of Public Facilities. This shift is intended to create continuity in municipal building operations and achieve economies of scale as it relates to building management. It will also allow public safety staff to focus on core services rather than building maintenance. The largest monetary change in public safety departments for FY27 is in the Fire budget due to the conclusion of the SAFER grant. For Inspectional Services, two new electrical and plumbing inspectors have been added to department to focus on increased departmental efficiencies, provide a higher level of service to customers, and enable an acceleration of the permitting approval process in support of business development.

For public safety capital investments, I intend to invest in necessary equipment and building improvements. Both Police and Fire will receive funding to address their aging fleets. The Police headquarters is an asset that has not kept pace with modern needs. Years of deferred maintenance and aging infrastructure have created significant challenges ranging from outdated building systems to inadequate accessibility and safety features for staff and the public. As part of the FY27 capital budget, continued investment will be made in this building, including the authorization of a new \$5M loan order to fund the replacement of the roof. This investment supports my commitment to provide all municipal employees with a safe working environment.

Public Works, Parks, and Transportation

After a particularly harsh winter, our community has felt the impact on our streets and sidewalks more than ever. Potholes and surface wear have created challenges for drivers and pedestrians alike. I hear your concerns and am committed to addressing them through this budget. For DPW, capital investments are being increased 66% over FY26 to provide resources needed to fix roads and purchase necessary equipment to keep our streets clean and passible. This one-time level of investment will be strategically partnered with our increased pavement maintenance efforts to ensure longer-lasting infrastructure. As part of the operating budget, a foreman position is being added to the Streets & Sanitation Division of DPW to increase resources allocated to keeping Worcester clean, while schedules are being restructured to allow for additional hours of operation at the Millbury Street Drop-Off Center.

To complement the commitment to street and sidewalk improvements, the Department of Transportation & Mobility (DTM) is being allocated additional operating funds to increase line painting efforts and continue funding of temporary and permanent speed humps to increase roadway safety throughout the city. Additionally, DTM will receive \$5.7M in capital borrowing to complete necessary design and engineering work to improve accessibility and build more resilient roadways that can better withstand future weather conditions.

Other City Services

Behind every public program, community initiative, and frontline service stands a network of administrative departments that keep the city running. Departments such as Innovation & Technology, Administration & Finance, Human Resources, Law, Economic Development, and others are essential to maintaining effective and accountable local government. Many of these departments are often in the background of more forward-facing departments assisting them with operations and complex issues that impact residents. FY27 resources allocated to these departments include:

- An additional position in the Business Development Division of the Executive Office of Economic Development to support small businesses
- The establishment of a Payroll Division in the Department of Human Resources and additional staffing resources to prepare for the implementation of Workday HCM
- Reallocation of resources within the Department of Health & Human Services to support community-focused initiatives
- Additional security personnel at the Worcester Public Library to support staff and patron safety.

FY27 Capital Budget

This year's capital budget reflects my commitment to funding the future. The impact of today's borrowing will be experienced for decades through increased annual debt service obligations and limits on tomorrow's ability to issue new debt. The future funding of the proposed Burncoat project is also on the horizon, making increased investments difficult to fund. But I understand the Council's call that there are needs throughout our community that can no longer be deferred.

Our roadways need immediate attention, as do many of our municipal buildings. Because of this, I am committed to this one-time increased investment in DPW infrastructure as a major component of this budget that focuses on street and sidewalk infrastructure. Funding is being dedicated to resurfacing roadways, repairing winter damage, improving accessibility, and modernizing transportation corridors. I am also investing in DPW equipment to ensure that the roadway improvements we are investing in today can be maintained tomorrow.

For building improvements, the largest borrowing budget is allocated to the new South Division Fire Station, with construction expected to start in Summer 2026. The capital budget includes approved borrowing of \$25M with a total project cost estimated at approximately \$50M. In addition to this new fire station, I am committed to investing in the Police Headquarters and DPW buildings that have needed significant investment for years. In FY27, I am proposing an additional \$5M loan order for the purpose of replacing the Police Headquarters roof. This project will help ensure that the building is secure and resists weather effects that could impact future capital improvements. Additionally, I am funding a \$3M roof replacement at 76 E. Worcester St. where there was a partial roof collapse this past winter. Employee safety is of utmost importance, and that means an investment in our municipal workplaces.

Funding Source	Remaining Prior Year Authorization	FY27 New Authorization	FY27 Borrowing	Other Funding (Grants, etc.)
Tax Levy	\$ 57,175,069	\$ 40,468,416	\$ 59,072,917	\$ 11,803,255
South Division	37,500,000	-	25,000,000	-
Golf Enterprise	2,300,000	-	1,000,000	-
Off Street Parking	2,400,000	-	2,400,000	1,600,000
Water Enterprise	21,444,803	-	19,316,412	-
Sewer Enterprise	40,774,661	3,000,000	29,065,505	-
DCU	5,926,577	-	4,000,000	-
WPS - MSBA	25,600,000	-	19,500,000	-
Grand Total	\$ 193,121,110	\$ 43,468,416	\$ 159,354,834	\$ 13,403,255

The FY27 Capital Budget is approximately \$46M more than the FY26 Capital Budget, largely due to increased borrowing for South Division Fire Station, MSBA-related borrowing with the anticipated close out of the Doherty Memorial High School project, and increased one-time funding for DPW. The primary focus of the FY27 Capital Budget includes streets and sidewalks and public buildings.

Key capital projects include:

- Infrastructure investments by the DPW and DTM to not only meet but exceed the \$19.2M annual funding as recommended in the Pavement Management Plan. In FY27, the combined approved borrowing is over \$24M.
- Initiating construction of the new South Division Fire Station at \$25M.
- Core Parks investments of nearly \$14M in borrowing throughout the city, including improved aquatics, the renovation of Lincoln Square Memorial, the South Worcester playground, Lakeview Park, and necessary playground renovations.
- Borrowing \$3.7M to address improvements through municipal buildings, including Police Headquarters and fire stations.
- Completion of the Doherty Memorial High School project at \$13M.
- Continuing the Burncoat Feasibility Study at \$1.5M.
- Significant investment in Water & Sewer infrastructure at a combined \$48M.
- Providing Worcester Public Schools with \$5M (\$4M borrowing and \$1M in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)) to improve our students' learning environments.

Stronger Outcomes

This year's budget is built on a simple but powerful principle: smart investments today create stronger outcomes for our community tomorrow. By focusing on thoughtful planning, responsible spending, and long-term value, we are ensuring that every dollar contributes to a safer, more resilient, and more efficient city. I appreciate City Council's support of this budget proposal and look forward to working together to be the best managed city in the country.

The Fiscal 2027 Operation and Capital Budgets are available on the municipality's website at the link below:

www.worcesterma.gov/finance/budget-central

Respectfully submitted,



Eric D. Batista
City Manager

City of Worcester Strategic Plan

In October 2024, the City of Worcester released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which presented an updated mission, vision, and values:

Mission

To deliver exceptional public services and municipal operations that are rooted in equity, innovation, and integrity, and **centered on people**.

Vision

To be the best-managed city in the country and create a thriving community where opportunity is available to everyone, **regardless of their background or situation in life**.

Values

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Building a workforce that reflects the population we serve and a workforce where employees feel valued and included.

Innovation

Adapting with the times to constantly improve our operations and implement creative solutions.

Professionalism

Serving with discipline, integrity, transparency, empathy, and dedication to public service.

Resident Focus

Starting with the needs of residents to inform our priorities.

Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Developing policies based on data and best practices rather than emotions or speculation.

Excellence

Inspiring a more productive and high-performing government through organizational health.

Collaboration

Breaking down silos to facilitate interdepartmental cooperation to solve complex issues.

In addition, the FY25-29 Strategic Plan laid out six priority goals with corresponding objectives and strategies to guide municipal operations over the next five years. These goals also inform budgeting priorities to deliver core municipal operations, meet the needs of Worcester's residents, and maintain inclusive, equitable, and efficient local government.

The FY25-29 Strategic Plan will be the source of Department Development Plans (DDPs) over the next five years, ensuring that municipal departments align their projects, initiatives, and action

items to achieve the plan's goals. The DDPs outlined in this budget book contain accomplishments made relative to key strategies in FY26, and the public will continue to be informed of ongoing progress. Each DDP is broken out by priority goal and includes the department's objectives, strategies, and accomplishments, along with a corresponding Strategic Plan objective/strategy reference number.

The six priority goals are:

Public Health & Safety

Ensuring our residents can lead safe, healthy lives.

Affordable Neighborhoods & Reduced Homelessness

Keeping cost of living down while providing job opportunities to promote a vibrant community.

Clean City Initiatives

Maintaining clean streets, green spaces, and blue spaces to cultivate a higher quality of life and safer, healthier neighborhoods.

Economic Growth

Diligently working to retain all of our residents and businesses while accommodating new growth and providing essential public services.

High Performing Government & Strong Financial Health

Continuously evaluating and improving our business streams so we can deliver the highest quality service to our residents.

Investment in Quality Education

Investing in our children as an investment in our future.

The full FY2025-2029 Strategic Plan is available on the City of Worcester website via the link provided below.

[City of Worcester Strategic Guide](#)

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO OUR CITY'S FINANCES

Introduction

The residents, taxpayers, and business owners rely on our government to provide essential services to our community such as public safety, education, public works, and health and human services. Transparency is critical in achieving the proper level of services while living within the financial constraints of available resources. This document has been prepared as an informative guide for our citizens. The following provides some basic facts about our City:

- Population: 211,286
- Land Area: 38.57 square miles
- Median Household Income: \$70,102
- Median Home Value: \$387,900
- Total 2024 Equalized Valuation: \$24 billion
- Fiscal 2027 Operating Budget: \$1.001 billion
- March 2026 Bond Issuance Ratings:
 - Moody's Ratings: Aa3
 - S&P Global Ratings: AA-
 - Fitch Ratings: AA

The City of Worcester, named after Worcester, England, was first established as a town in 1722 and incorporated as a City on February 29, 1848. It is the second most populous city in the New England region and is located approximately 39 miles west of Boston, 52 miles from Springfield and 43 miles from Providence, Rhode Island. Worcester has evolved from its modest, but instrumental revolutionary beginnings to a major manufacturing center with its current concentration of world-class colleges and universities, medical facilities and teaching hospitals.

The City of Worcester is governed by a Council-Manager, or Plan E, form of government with a popularly elected Mayor, 11 City Council Members (one of whom is the Mayor), and an appointed City Manager. Per the City Charter, the City Manager recommends a balanced budget to the City Council, meaning the revenue estimates equal the proposed expenditures. The City Council may, by majority vote, make appropriations for the purposes recommended. They can also reduce or reject any amount recommended in the annual budget. They cannot, however, increase any amount in an appropriation, nor increase the total of the annual budget.

Demographics

Per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 data, the median age of Worcester residents is 36.3 years, with 19.6% of the population under 18 years and 13.3% of the population over 65 years. 85.7% of Worcester residents are high school graduates or higher, and 35.2% of residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher. Worcester has an owner-occupied housing unit rate of 42.8% and 19.6% of residents are classified as persons living in poverty.

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO OUR CITY'S FINANCES

Worcester's Largest Private Employers ¹

Company	Industry	Approximate # of Employees
UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc.	Health Care	10,000+
MSC Industry Supply Co.	Machinery, Equipment, Supplies Wholesalers	5,000-9,000
UMass Medical School	Medical School	5,000-9,000
Community Healthlink, Inc.	Behavioral Health Care	1,000-4,999
Fallon Health	Health Care	1,000-4,999
The Hanover Insurance Company, Inc	Property & Casualty Insurance	1,000-4,999
Saint Vincent Hospital	Hospital	1,000-4,999
Saint-Gobain	Manufacturing - Abrasives, Ceramics, Plastics	1,000-4,999
VNA Care Network & Hospice	Home Health Care	1,000-4,999
Walmart Supercenter	Department Store	1,000-4,999
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Higher Education	1,000-4,999
Quinsigamond Community College	Higher Education	1,000-4,999
College of the Holy Cross	Higher Education	1,000-4,999
AbbVie, Inc.	Biopharmaceuticals	500-999
Polar Beverages	Manufacturing - Soft Drinks	500-999
Unum	Employee Benefits	500-999
Worcester Telegram-Gazette Crp.	Newspaper	500-999
Clark University	Higher Education	500-999
Worcester State University	Higher Education	500-999
Assumption University	Higher Education	500-999
YMCA of Central Massachusetts	Nonprofit - Community Based Organization	500-999

¹ Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Data Axle, 2025. Excludes employees of the City and City-run businesses, and state and federal employees.

Worcester's 10 Largest Taxpayers - Fiscal Year 2026

Name	Industry	Fiscal Year 2026			
		Assessed Valuation	Amount of Tax	% of Tax Levy	
NEP - Mass Electric	Public Utility - Electric	\$ 618,918,900	\$ 17,967,685	4.27%	
NStar Gas Co./Eversource	Public Utility - Natural Gas	420,660,600	12,224,397	2.90%	
VHA Acquisition Subsidiary	Medical Care/Hospital	184,033,000	5,347,999	1.27%	
Worcester TC LLC	Biotech Company	93,639,772	2,721,172	0.65%	
NEP - National Grid	Public Utility - Electric	83,295,200	2,420,559	0.57%	
Verizon	Public Utility - Telephones	76,436,400	2,221,242	0.53%	
Agree Limited Partnership	Real Estate Holdings	64,839,900	1,884,247	0.45%	
440 Lincoln Street Holding	Real Estate Holdings	63,411,500	1,842,738	0.44%	
Front Street Associates LLC	Real Estate Holdings	57,328,700	1,665,972	0.40%	
MC Roseland Worcester, LLC	Real Estate Holdings	88,936,000	1,321,411	0.31%	
		\$ 1,751,499,972	\$ 49,617,422	11.79%	

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO OUR CITY'S FINANCES

Fund Structure

The City of Worcester uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. A fund is defined as a grouping of related accounts that are used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The City uses three types of funds: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

Governmental fund – The City maintains 31 individual governmental funds, which are used for basic services, including the general fund. The City's three major governmental fund types are the general fund, debt service funds, and City grants. Some governmental funds are appropriated on an annual basis, and most include an annual budget to control spending. The City's uses the modified accrual basis of accounting for the budgeting of its funds, which is the same accounting basis as the audited financial statements of governmental funds as required under Massachusetts law.

Proprietary funds – The City maintains two types of proprietary funds: enterprise funds and internal service funds. Enterprise funds are used to maintain business-type activities for water, sewer, and golf course operations, which are funded through user fees. Enterprise funds are appropriated on an annual basis and are included in the annual operating budget but are self-funded. The City uses an internal service fund to account for its self-insured health plan, which helps to track the full cost of health benefits and assists in managing funding resources.

Fiduciary funds – Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. The City is the trustee, or fiduciary, for its employees' pension plan and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) plan. This type of fund is also used for trust funds maintained by the City, which can only be used for trust beneficiaries and the agency fund. Fiduciary funds cannot be used to fund general government operations.

Fund Balance Reporting

Fund balance reporting refers to the difference between revenues and expenses, or assets and liabilities and is reported through the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR is prepared by the City Auditor in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America with the purpose of accurately reporting the City's financial affairs on an annual basis.

The following Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for Government Funds report represents the Fiscal 2025 activities in the City's governmental funds, as reported in the ACFR for the Year Ended June 30, 2025. Fiscal 2026 financial reports will not be available until the conclusion of the fiscal year, and the City does not project fund balances for future fiscal years.

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO OUR CITY'S FINANCES

CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances

Governmental Funds

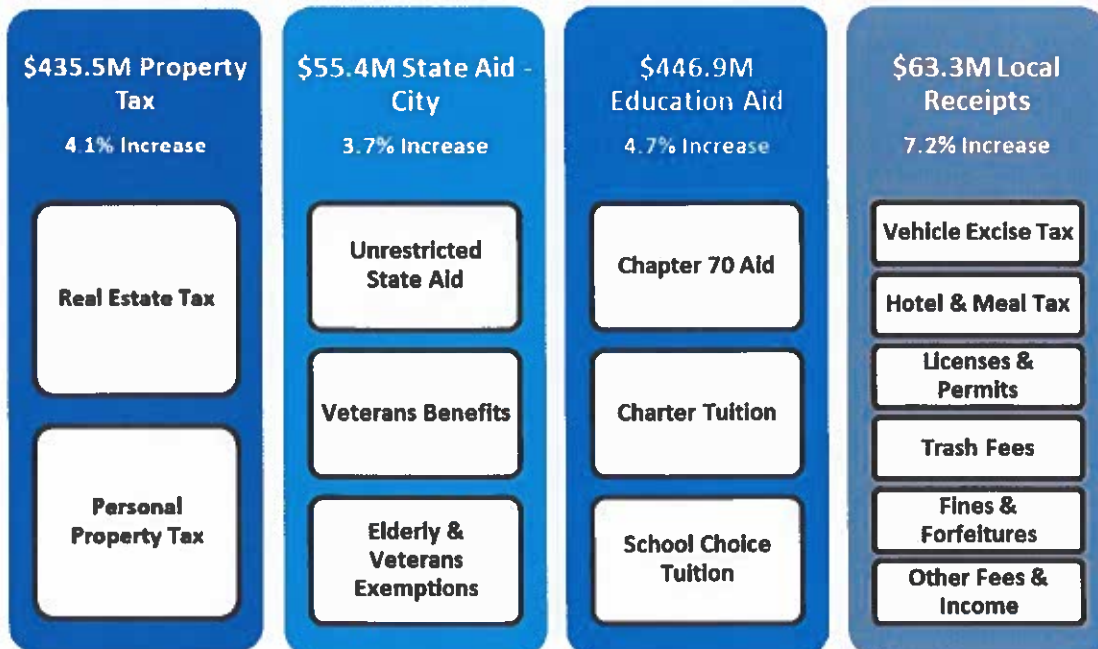
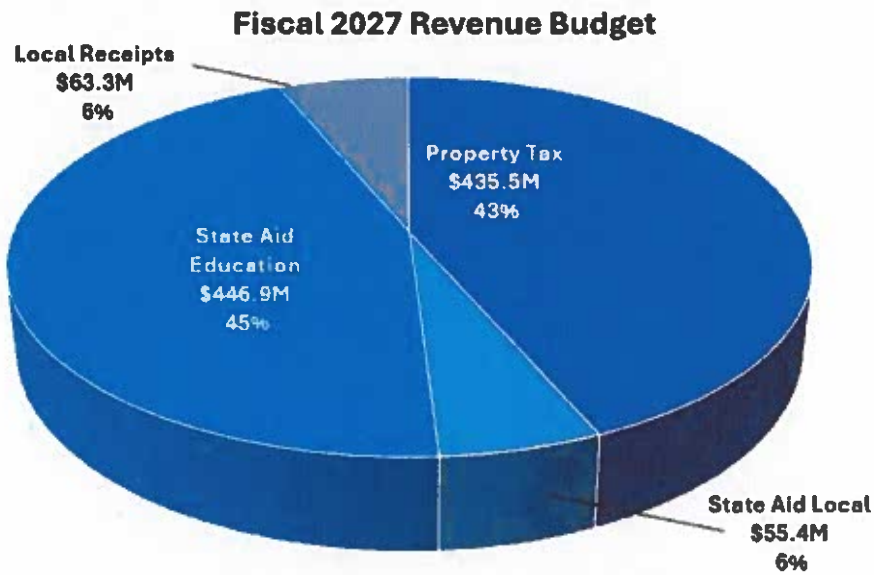
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General	Debt Service	City Grants	Other governmental funds	Total governmental funds
Revenues:					
Property taxes	\$ 397,860,941	-	-	-	397,860,941
Motor vehicle excise taxes	18,730,249	-	-	-	18,730,249
Other taxes and in-lieu payments	7,455,416	4,936,581	-	-	12,391,997
Penalties and interest on taxes	3,219,753	-	-	-	3,219,753
Licenses and permits	10,239,312	-	-	-	10,239,312
Intergovernmental	444,023,603	-	61,744,907	111,515,072	617,283,582
Charges for services	6,805,325	-	16,795	28,877,270	35,699,390
Fines and forfeitures	3,230,526	-	-	-	3,230,526
Investment earnings (losses)	9,619,720	4,097,644	3,035,148	4,647,037	21,399,549
Donations	-	100	493,405	3,016,362	3,509,867
Contributions to permanent funds	-	-	-	174,290	174,290
Energy sales and rebates	1,578,686	-	-	2,870,259	4,448,945
Lease revenue	-	1,868,574	-	-	1,868,574
Miscellaneous	2,959,614	505,183	-	6,631,246	10,096,043
Total revenues	905,723,145	11,408,082	65,290,255	157,731,536	1,140,153,018
Expenditures:					
Current:					
General government	36,760,539	-	9,568,341	5,771,382	52,100,262
Public safety	121,027,296	-	11,665,467	22,069,133	154,761,896
Health and human services	4,082,922	-	4,439,020	304,717	8,826,659
Education	402,909,364	-	-	129,655,079	532,564,443
Public works	30,638,851	-	3,980,104	21,016,064	55,635,019
Culture and recreation	16,125,091	-	8,694,492	17,524,678	42,344,261
Fringe benefits	168,177,716	-	-	-	168,177,716
Community development	-	-	27,830,634	15,027,624	42,858,258
State and regional charges	52,101,739	-	-	-	52,101,739
Debt service:					
Principal	46,506,060	16,815,468	-	2,225,683	65,547,211
Interest	15,887,133	15,196,215	-	805,333	31,888,681
Total expenditures	894,216,711	32,011,683	66,178,058	214,399,693	1,206,806,145
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	11,506,434	(20,603,601)	(887,803)	(56,668,157)	(66,653,127)
Other financing sources (uses):					
Transfers in	2,351,355	22,619,951	-	18,030,655	43,001,961
Transfers out	(24,473,873)	-	(543,661)	(31,466,657)	(56,484,191)
Premium on issuance of bonds and notes	-	-	-	2,907,043	2,907,043
Issuance of bonds	-	-	-	43,025,087	43,025,087
Lease financing	2,664,000	-	-	-	2,664,000
Total other financing sources (uses)	(19,458,518)	22,619,951	(543,661)	32,496,128	35,113,900
Net change in fund balances	(7,952,084)	2,016,350	(1,431,464)	(24,172,029)	(31,539,227)
Fund balances – beginning	98,334,924	51,418,457	7,825,711	134,677,251	292,256,343
Fund balances – ending	\$ 90,382,840	53,434,807	6,394,247	110,505,222	260,717,116

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Revenue Overview – Sources of Funding for City Services

General fund revenues come in three main forms: property taxes, state aid, and local receipts. As depicted in the graphics below, 43% of City revenue comes from property taxes, 51% in State Aid – inclusive of City and Education reimbursements, and 6% from local receipts such as motor vehicle excise, licenses, permits, and other charges. Detail on each area of the City's revenues are provided in the line item summary that follows.

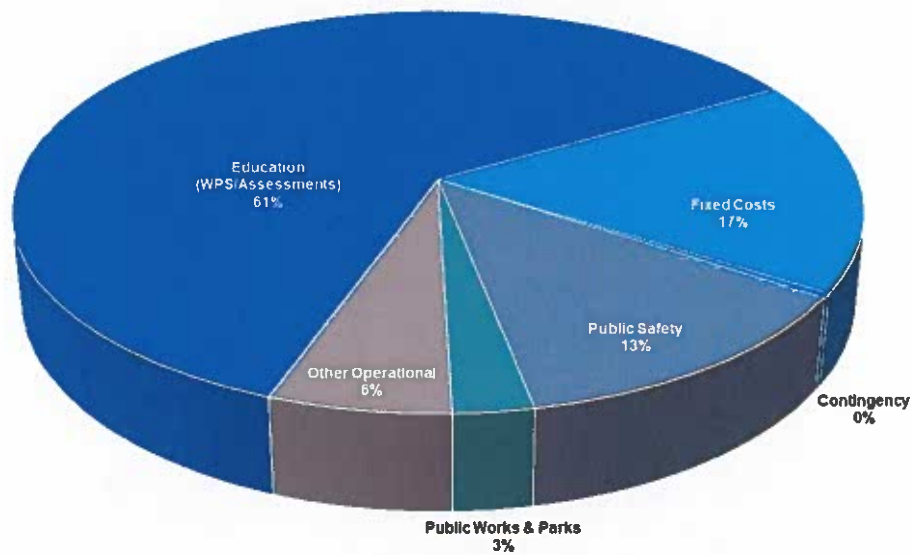


REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Expenditure Overview – Categories of Expenditures for City Services

Education remains the City’s largest expenditure at \$612.4M or 61.2% of the general fund expenditures. Fixed costs include pensions, debt, and health insurance and total \$172.5M, or 17.2%. This leaves \$126.5M or 12.6% for public safety, \$26.5M or 2.6%, for Public Works and Parks, and \$63.2M or 6.3% for all other City operations. A detailed discussion of each spending area is provided in the following introduction as well as in each of the departmental budget sections in the document that follows.

Fiscal 2027 Expenditure Budget



REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

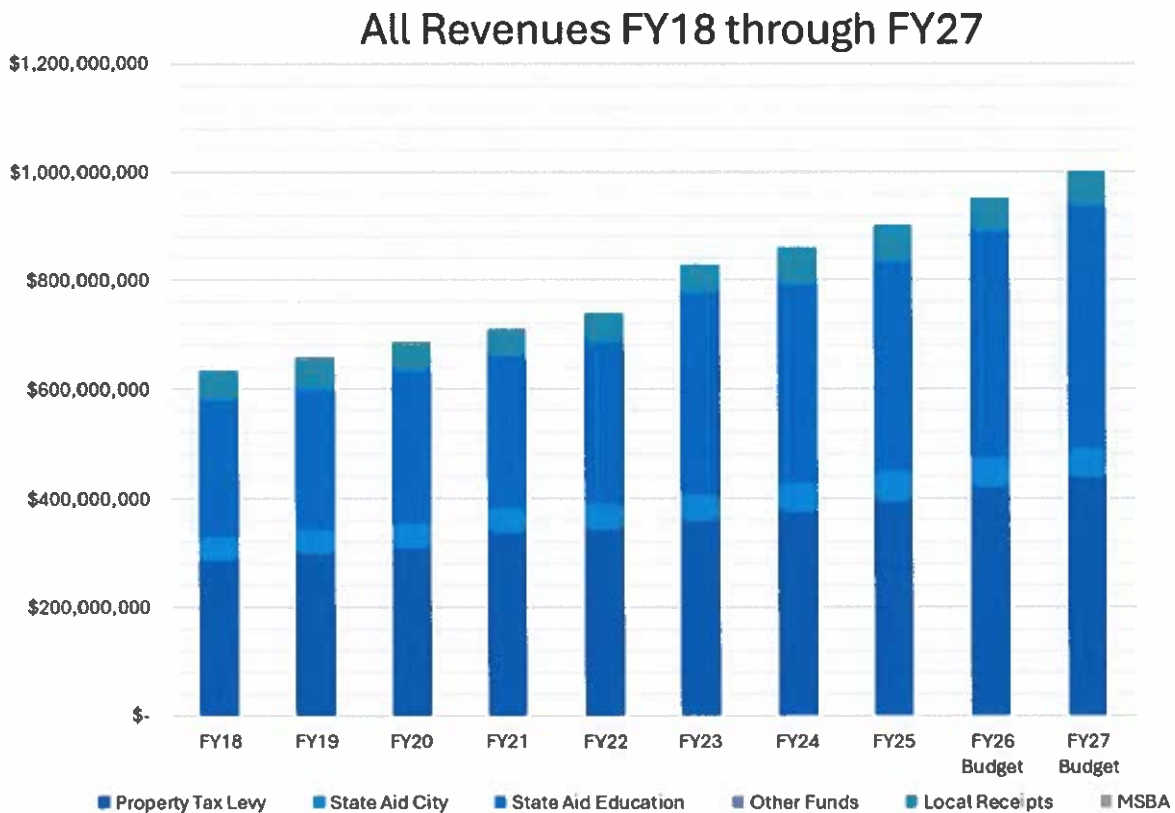
Fiscal 2027 Budget Financial Plan

Revenue and Expenditure Overview

The Fiscal 2027 recommended budget is balanced and submitted in accordance with the City Charter and Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws. All of the revenues or other funding sources for the appropriation recommended in this budget are detailed below. Expenditure appropriation recommendations are summarized in this overview and detailed in each of the departmental sections that follow. The official appropriation order is summarized in the Line Item Budget at the end of the budget document.

Revenue Overview

The Fiscal Year 2027 budget is funded through \$1.001B in revenues. This is comprised of \$435.5M in property taxes, \$55.4M in State Aid for City operations, \$446.9M in State Aid for Education, and \$63.3M in local receipts. The following describes each revenue category in detail and provides data from the last ten years to put current revenue estimates in perspective.



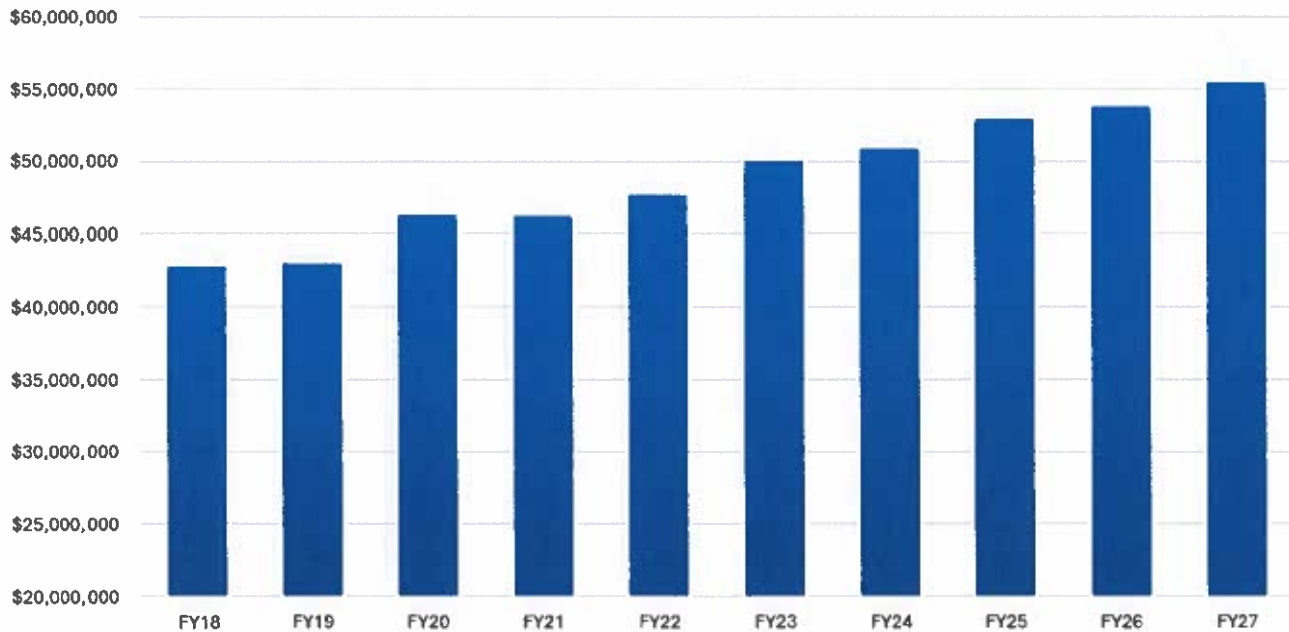
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

State Aid (Cherry Sheet)

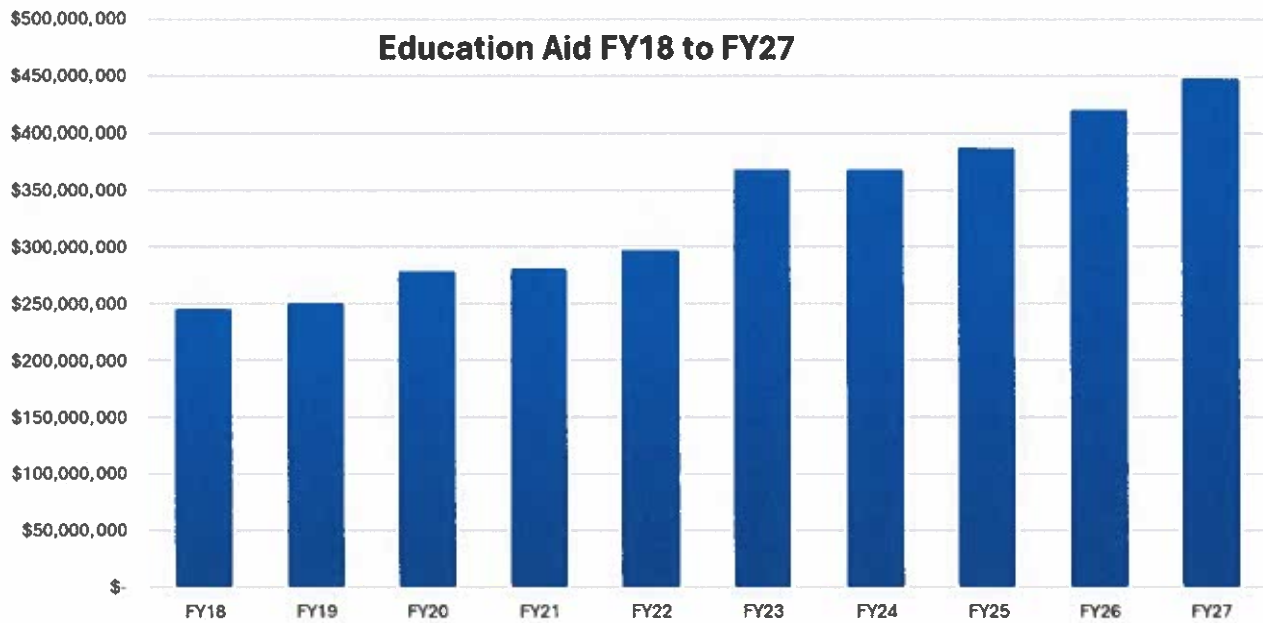
The Cherry Sheet is the name of the official document used by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to inform cities and towns of the estimated receipts from the Commonwealth for Unrestricted General Government Aid, Education Aid and other state-determined revenue categories. It also informs cities and towns of anticipated intergovernmental charges, including the charges for regional transit and charter school tuition. These amounts are all subject to change based on the final budget for the Commonwealth. The estimates included here are based on the Governor’s proposed budget for Fiscal 2027. The following illustrates the breakdown in categories of State Aid funding as well as a ten-year history.

State Aid Summary	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	FY26/27 Change	% Change
State Aid City	51,733,430	53,023,726	1,290,296	2%
State Owned Land	316,182	320,645	4,463	1%
State Exemptions	618,413	771,633	153,220	25%
Veteran's Benefits	1,122,062	1,287,146	165,084	15%
State Aid City Total	53,790,087	55,403,150	1,613,063	3%
State Aid Education	411,779,259	437,762,216	25,982,957	6%
State Aid Charter Schools	8,168,845	9,114,307	945,462	12%
State Aid Education Total	419,948,104	446,876,523	26,928,419	6%

State Aid for City Services FY18 to FY27



REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY



State Aid Categories

The following describes each of the line items on the Cherry Sheet and the State Aid amounts anticipated by the City for Fiscal 2027. The City uses the Governor’s budget proposal when developing the State Aid revenue estimates in the annual operating budget. Any changes between the Governor’s proposal and final Commonwealth budget are adjusted in the City budget as part of budget recapitulation.

Education Aid – Chapter 70

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 70 Education Aid provides financial assistance to cities and towns in order to promote the equalization of the burden of school costs across the state. Chapter 70 School Aid is based on a formula that generates a “foundation budget” representing the per-pupil funding required in each community under state law. The state then uses a separate formula to determine a locality’s required contribution for education from local revenues using the Department of Revenue’s Municipal Revenue Growth Factor (MRGF). The result of this formula is the City’s required contribution for education. The difference between the calculated “foundation budget” and the City’s “required contribution” is then funded with Chapter 70 Aid. Chapter 70 Aid for education in Worcester is projected to be \$437.8M. This is \$30M more than Fiscal 2026. This increase reflects increases called for under the Student Opportunity Act.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Unrestricted General Government Aid

This State Aid category represents the bulk of the non-educational aid received by cities and towns. The City of Worcester, by formula, receives approximately 4% of the total State appropriation of this category and anticipates receiving \$53M in Unrestricted General Government Aid, which represents a 2.2% increase over Fiscal 2026.

Charter School Reimbursement

The Commonwealth provides a declining reimbursement amount to cities and towns for each student that chooses to attend a Charter School. Worcester's Fiscal 2027 Charter Tuition Reimbursement is estimated to be \$9.1M. This amount is subject to change as final enrollments in the City's charter schools are tabulated.

Veterans Benefits

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts reimburses the City 75% of the cost of veterans' benefits. As a result of the timing for reimbursements from the State, this revenue source represents 75% of the City's spending on veterans' benefits for the past 12 months, not an estimate of the coming 12 months. Benefits are paid consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 115. The Fiscal 2027 reimbursement estimate is \$1.3M.

State Owned Land

The Commonwealth provides a reimbursement to cities and towns for tax revenues lost due to tax-exempt state owned land in the community. The reimbursement is based on state calculated values and is based solely on the value of the land itself, not the structures on the property. This receipt is estimated to be \$320,645.

Veterans, Elderly, and Disabled Tax Exemption

Under Chapter 59, Section 5, clause 41C of Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Section 5 of Chapter 653 of the Acts of 1982, persons who meet statutory criteria including age, status, and income thresholds will receive a state-funded flat tax exemption of \$500-\$1,000. The Fiscal 2027 budget includes a Cherry Sheet allocation of \$771,633 for these exemptions.

Property Taxes

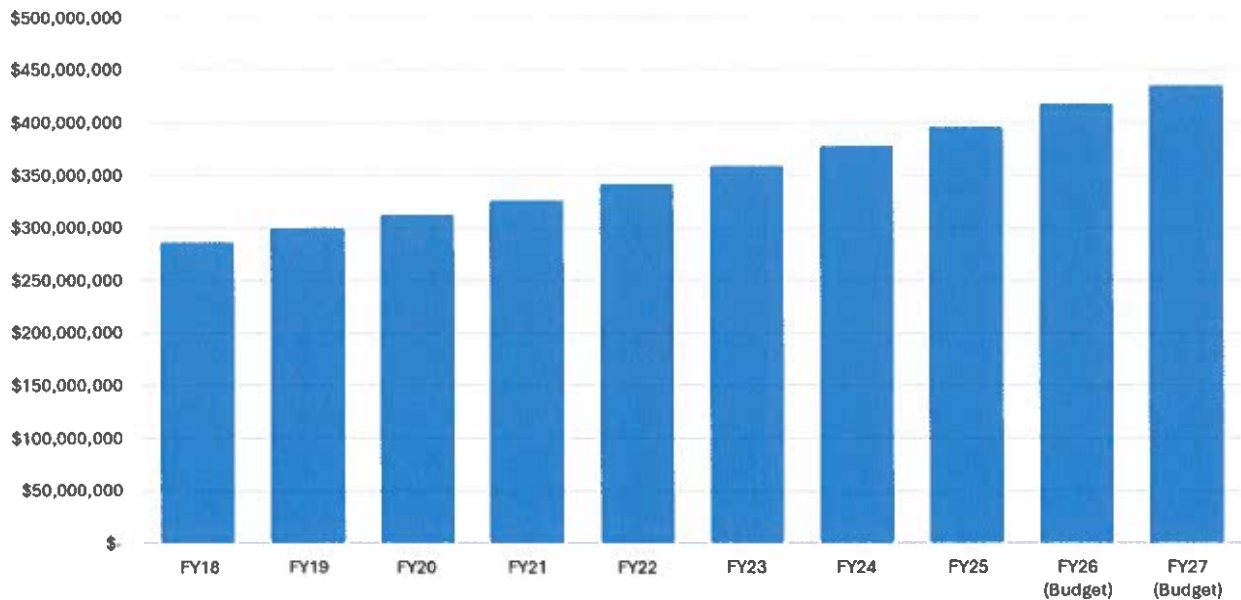
The Fiscal 2027 budget includes property tax revenue increases consistent with the provisions of Proposition 2½, recognizing a 2.5% increase in the property tax levy as well as the value of new construction growth projected to be certified by the Commonwealth. The budget assumes a Proposition 2½ increase in the amount of \$11.2M and new growth of \$7M. The gross tax levy of \$439.3M is reduced by an amount reserved for exemptions and abatements (Overlay Reserve - \$3.75M) to derive a net tax levy which is subject to appropriation. For Fiscal 2027 the net tax levy is projected to be \$435,513,944.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Property Tax Revenue	FY25	FY26	FY27
Prior Year Levy	381,789,495	399,865,446	421,091,035
Prior Year Levy Limit	405,536,919	425,701,042	446,916,360
Prior Year Amended New Growth ¹	317,538	1,489,691	
2.5% Increase	10,146,361	10,679,768	11,172,909
New Growth	9,700,223	9,045,859	7,000,000
New Levy Limit	425,701,042	446,916,360	465,089,269
Remaining Unused Levy Capacity	25,835,596	25,825,325	25,825,325
New Total Levy	399,865,446	421,091,035	439,263,944
Less Overlay	(3,750,000)	(3,750,000)	(3,750,000)
Available Tax Levy	396,115,446	417,341,035	435,513,944

¹ Prior Year Amended New Growth is not budgeted for appropriation

PROPERTY TAX LEVY



Overlay Reserve for Abatements and Exemptions

The overlay reserve is raised by the City Assessor in excess of appropriations and other charges for the purpose of creating a fund to cover abatements and exemptions. Abatements are granted in circumstances where real or personal property has been overvalued or disproportionately valued and appropriate adjustments are made to the original assessed value. The overlay for Fiscal 2027 is set at \$3.75M.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Unused Levy Capacity

Unused levy capacity is the amount of property tax allowed under the proposition 2½ Levy Limit that is not appropriated as part of the fiscal year budget. This amount could be raised through taxation without an override or debt exclusion vote. With the Fiscal 2027 budget, the City has maintained the Unused Levy Capacity at \$25.8M. Through the implementation of the City’s Financial Integrity Plan, Unused Levy Capacity has increased from \$6M in FY17 to over \$25.8M in Fiscal 2027. This represents tax relief for both residential and commercial taxpayers in the City.

Local Receipts

The last major category of City revenues is local receipts, comprised of locally generated taxes, fees, and charges. The major contributors include Motor Vehicle Excise taxes, building and other permits, licenses, trash collection fees, as well as various other fines and charges. The Fiscal 2026 budget amounts include additional appropriations made at budget recapitulation.

When developing the annual budget for local receipts, the City reviews the three prior years of actual revenues and works with departments to identify any changes to fees assessed by the City. Estimated revenues are then adjusted accordingly to appropriately reflect the anticipated revenues in the coming fiscal year.

Revenue Summary	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	FY27 Change	% Change
Motor Vehicle Excise	16,500,000	18,500,000	2,000,000	12.1%
Cannabis Excise	1,750,000	1,800,000	50,000	2.9%
Licenses and Permits	9,556,650	10,326,100	769,450	8.1%
Trash Collection Revenue	3,750,000	4,000,000	250,000	6.7%
Federal Medicaid	1,500,000	2,100,000	600,000	40.0%
Hotel and Meals Tax	5,300,000	5,400,000	100,000	1.9%
Penalties and Interest	2,653,500	2,904,000	250,500	9.4%
Fines and Forfeits	2,904,000	2,995,000	91,000	3.1%
Misc Recurring/Non Recurring	3,675,000	6,810,000	3,135,000	85.3%
Fees	2,116,896	2,304,600	187,704	8.9%
Investment Income	8,000,000	5,000,000	(3,000,000)	-37.5%
Other Departmental	461,500	396,600	(64,900)	-14.1%
Cemetery Revenue	483,000	496,500	13,500	2.8%
Special Assessments	300,000	161,000	(139,000)	-46.3%
Other Charges	110,000	120,000	10,000	9.1%
Local Receipts Total	59,060,546	63,313,800	4,253,254	6.3%

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Local Receipts FY27: \$63.3M



Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

The Motor Vehicle Excise Tax is assessed annually through the Assessor's Office, with bills and payments processed through the Treasurer's Office. The city or town in which a vehicle is garaged at the time of registration assesses the associated excise tax. Chapter 6A, Section 1, of the Massachusetts General Laws sets the rate of this tax at \$25 per \$1,000 valuation. The City issues bills based on data provided by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. The Registry determines valuation using a statutory formula based on the manufacturer's list price and year of manufacture. The Fiscal Year 2027 revenue estimate for Motor Vehicle Excise is \$18.5M.

Cannabis Excise

Sale of recreational marijuana is taxed at an additional 3% per the local option tax which is distributed to the City after being collected by the Commonwealth. In Fiscal 2027, this revenue source is estimated at \$1.8M.

Licenses and Permits

Revenues are collected associated with licenses and permits issued by the City. These include building, electrical, and plumbing permits. This category also includes charges for weights and measures, liquor licenses, and other City licenses and is budgeted at \$10.3M based on estimated license and permit activity in Fiscal 2027.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Trash Fees

In 1993, the City instituted a "Pay As You Throw" trash collection program, which partially funds the cost of curbside garbage pickup through the collection of a fee attached to the sale of official City trash bags. These bags are \$10.00 per pack of 10 small bags or \$8.75 per pack of 5 large bags. A \$0.25/bag increase was implemented on January 1, 2022, the first such increase in 14 years. The revenues offset some of the cost of trash collection and the City's recycling operation. The revenue estimate is funded at \$4M for Fiscal 2027.

Federal Reimbursements

Medicaid reimbursements for school-based health services is the source for this revenue estimate. The City, through the public school system, is eligible to file for federal reimbursement for health-related services provided to special education students with Medicaid benefits. With the approval of the Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance, the Worcester Public Schools is now a "Medicaid Eligible Provider" and is enrolled in the Medicaid program. The Medicaid reimbursement program allows for the submission of claims, on a per diem rate, for various categories of special education students. Administrative costs incurred by the school system and its vendor UMass to provide these health-based services are also captured and incorporated into claims and submitted for reimbursement. For Fiscal 2027, the revenue estimate is \$2.1M.

Other Excise: Hotel and Meals Taxes

Hotel taxes of 6% and Meals taxes of 0.75% are collected by the Commonwealth and distributed to the City quarterly. The hotel and meals tax is estimated to be \$5.4M in Fiscal 2027, an increase of \$100,000 from Fiscal 2026 based on actual and anticipated revenues through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Penalties and Interest

State law dictates the interest rate on delinquent taxes, while City Ordinance sets the rate for water and sewer late charges. Penalties and fees are incurred for delinquency of tax payment, serving notice and issuance of warrants, recording instruments of taking, and other miscellaneous fees. The revenue estimate for this set of accounts is estimated to be \$2.9M in Fiscal 2027.

Fines and Forfeits

This revenue category includes parking tickets, boot removal fees, court fines assessed through motor vehicle violations, and health violation fines. This category is budgeted at \$3M for Fiscal 2027.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Miscellaneous Recurring and Non-Recurring Revenues – Prior Year Receipts/Reversions

Miscellaneous recurring and non-recurring revenues are derived primarily from prior year receipts, reversions of prior year's purchase orders, and solar renewable energy credits. Additionally, the administrative indirect charges on federal and federal pass-through grants are recognized in this category. A new general fund revenue source, net metering credits, is included in this revenue category for the first time. In prior years, this revenue source was part of the Carbon Mitigation Revolving Fund, which is ending per Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue guidance and these funds are being transitioned to the general fund. The estimate for Miscellaneous Recurring and Non-Recurring revenues is \$6.8M for Fiscal 2027.

Fees

Other fees include charges for birth and death records, fire inspection fees, police detail administrative fees, planning board fees, and other departmental fees for services provided. The estimate for this revenue source is \$2.3M in Fiscal 2027.

Investment Income (Interest)

The City regularly invests temporarily idle cash and receives interest on these funds. Interest rates, and hence interest earnings, are subject to market conditions and are anticipated to decline. The estimated revenue is \$5M in Fiscal 2027.

Other Departmental Revenues

The City collects revenue from the sale of surplus property (usually equipment) sold to the highest bidder. Included in this category are revenues received from the City's towing contract, as well as certain other revenues all estimated to total \$396,600 in Fiscal 2027.

Cemetery Fees

Hope Cemetery generates most of its revenue from burial fees and services provided. Other revenues include fees charged for foundations, repair orders, canopy tents, liner boxes, and other miscellaneous receipts. The general fund budget is built on an estimate of \$496,500 in Fiscal 2027.

Special Assessments

Special assessments are collected from property owners to provide funds to implement capital improvement projects such as street betterments. The special assessment rates are set by the City Council and are paid in full or financed over a period of years. This revenue category is estimated to be \$161,000 in Fiscal 2027.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Other Charges for Services

This category represents the annual rental amount collected for tenants leasing space on properties owned by the City of Worcester and certain recreation fees. This revenue category is estimated to generate \$120,000 in Fiscal 2027.

Other Revenue/Funding Sources

Free Cash

Free cash represents the City's amount of available "fund balance" available for appropriation, as certified by the Department of Revenue, including the result of the prior fiscal year's revenues, less expenditures net of all transfers in and out of the General Fund, and less any other reductions and amounts identified by the Commonwealth. The amount is certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue and then available for appropriation. The City of Worcester follows the City's Financial Integrity Plan policy regarding the appropriation of Free Cash: 50% is to be appropriated to reserves, 30% is to be appropriated into the City's OPEB Trust, and 20% is available for appropriation in the City's budget. No free cash is assumed in the Fiscal 2027 Budget, however, should free cash be certified at year end, it will be recommended for appropriation according to the above breakdown, as determined appropriate at the time.

Other Available Funds

Other available funds consist of revenues transferred in from reserve accounts that are classified as another available fund for the purposes of the annual budget. There is no funding anticipated for Fiscal 2027.

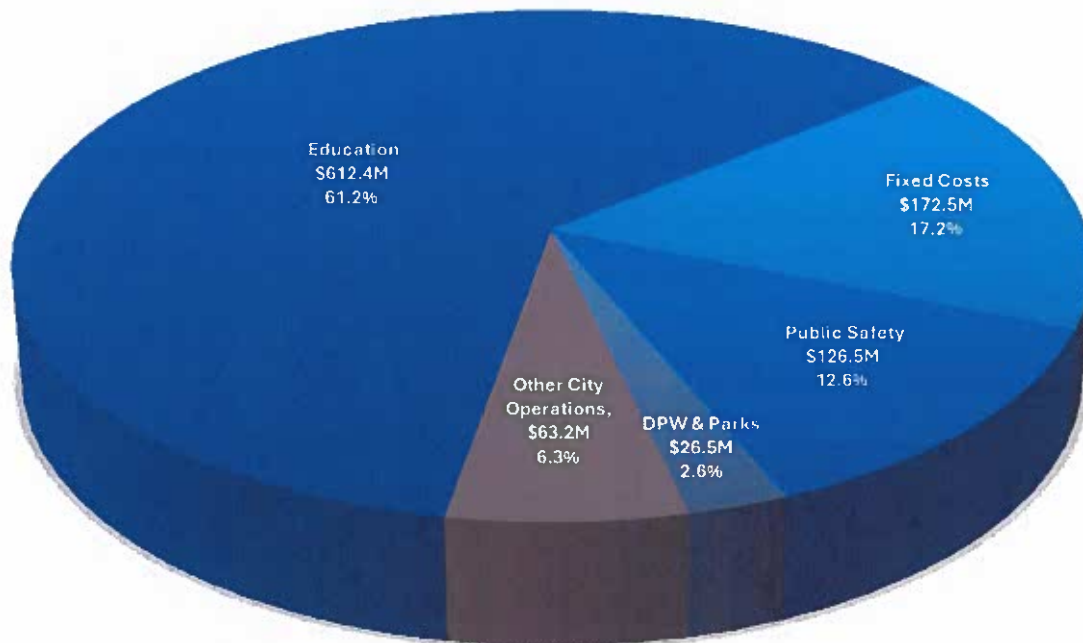
Other Available Funds (Non Local Receipt)	FROM	TO	FY26	FY27
DPW Engineering Sewer Connection	FD317	CC1054-600100	118,930	-
Subtotal DPW Engineering Funding			118,930	-
Hope Cemetery Debt Principal Service		CC1069	-	-
Hope Cemetery Debt Interest Service		CC1070	-	-
Subtotal Other Funds			-	-
Total Other Available Funds (Non Local Receipts)			118,930	-

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2027 Expenditure Overview

The Fiscal 2027 budget appropriates \$948M in revenue to fund the following expenditure areas. The City's expenditure budget is broken into three large categories—Education (including Worcester Public Schools, Charter, and School Choice Tuition), City Operations (categorized by Public Safety, Public Works and Parks, and Other Departments), and City Fixed Costs (debt, pensions, health insurance, required reserve deposits, street lighting, and snow removal). The following chart shows the breakdown by percentage of these expenditures. Education costs account for 61.2% of all City expenditures, fixed costs account for 17.2%, Public Safety (including Police, Fire, Emergency Communications, and Inspectional Services) account for 12.6%, Public Works and Parks account for 2.6% and the remaining 6.3% funds other city operations. Each of the expenditure categories summarized below are presented in more detail in the following sections of this budget document.

FY27 Expenditure Budget: \$1.001B



Education Funding

Education Costs are driven by the state's calculation of the foundation budget for Public Schools. The Commonwealth determines a local contribution level and funds the balance with State Aid. The Fiscal 2027 appropriation for education is \$612.4M, which represents an increase of \$33.8M from Fiscal 2026. Of that total amount, \$54.9M provides funding of Charter and Choice schools, leaving a Worcester Public Schools budget of \$557.4M.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Foundation Budget

Chapter 70 of the Massachusetts General Laws defines the terms for education funding in Massachusetts, as implemented by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Under Chapter 70, each year the State calculates a “Foundation Budget” for each school district that is intended to represent adequate funding for that specific district and students. The amount of the Foundation Budget is based in part on enrollment; a dollar amount is associated with each level of student - elementary, middle, and high school. Additional amounts per pupil are provided for low-income students, English Language Learners, and Special Education students. The formula is designed to provide more funding to those districts with additional challenges. The Worcester Public Schools are a net beneficiary of this formula at the State level, as our school system has a disproportionately high percentage of students who meet the defined demographic categories.

Local Required Contribution

The local required contribution is the amount of school funding that must be provided by the local government for the support of education, per the terms of Chapter 70 of the Massachusetts General Laws. This amount is calculated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and increased each year based on the Municipal Revenue Growth Factor. The Municipal Revenue Growth Factor is designed to capture the net increase in municipal revenues from year to year. The formula includes property tax growth due to Proposition 2½, new growth, local receipts, and State Aid. In this way, the percentage increase of the required contribution is consistent with revenue increases in the City.

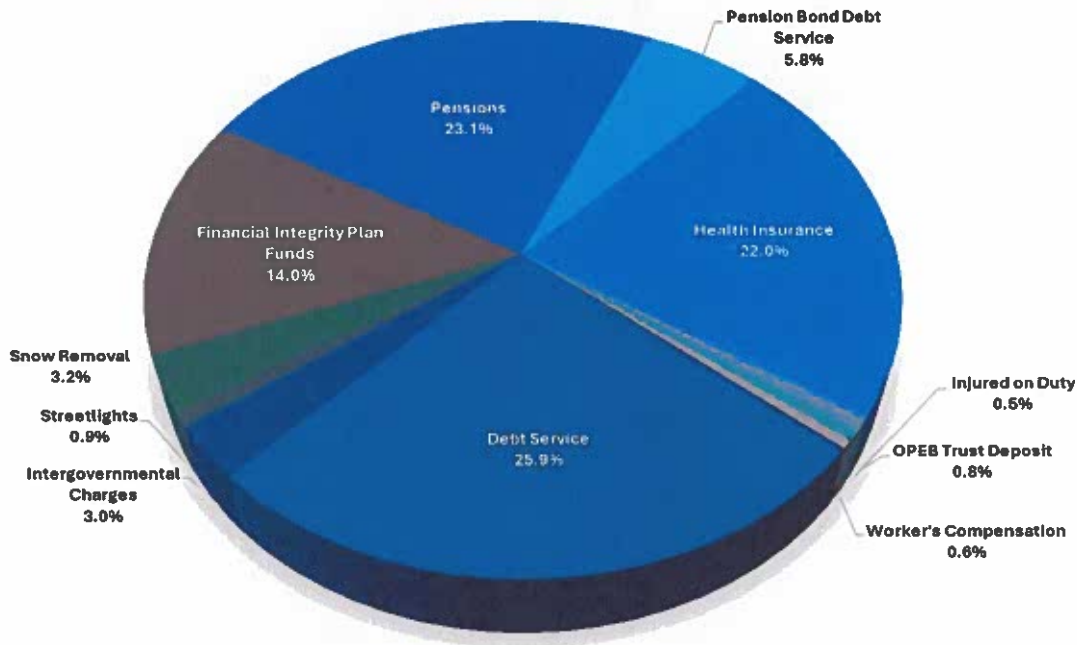
City Fixed Costs

The City’s other fixed costs are comprised of health insurance, pensions, debt service, snow removal and snow carryover, street lighting, and intergovernmental charges.

Expenditure Summary	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	FY26/27 Change	% Change
Pensions	37,513,229	39,870,758	2,357,529	6.3%
Pension Bond Debt Service	9,453,884	10,005,363	551,499	5.8%
Health Insurance	35,131,380	37,928,136	2,796,756	8.0%
OPEB Trust Deposit	3,094,523	1,296,873	(1,797,650)	-58.1%
Worker's Compensation	1,236,873	1,036,873	(200,000)	-16.2%
Injured on Duty	1,057,556	882,556	(175,000)	-16.5%
Unemployment	200,000	200,000	-	0.0%
Debt Service	44,783,929	44,737,099	(46,830)	-0.1%
Intergovernmental Charges	5,082,877	5,223,011	160,334	3.2%
Streetlights	1,620,490	1,620,490	-	0.0%
Snow Removal	5,500,000	5,500,000	-	0.0%
Financial Integrity Plan Funds	24,006,182	24,188,317	182,135	0.8%
Total Fixed Costs	168,660,503	172,489,278	3,828,773	2.3%

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

FY27 Fixed Costs: \$172.5 M



Health Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Injured on Duty

One of the largest components of the City's fixed costs is health insurance. This cost is split between the City and Public Schools budgets. City health insurance costs are budgeted at \$37.9M; Workers' Compensation is budgeted at \$1M; and Injured on Duty is budgeted at \$0.9M in Fiscal 2027.

Pensions

The combined pension contribution required for the Worcester Retirement Board in Fiscal 2027 is \$74.7M, of which \$39.9M is supported with tax levy funding. In addition, the City must make a debt service payment of \$10M on the Pension Obligation Bonds issued in 1998 to fund the City's unfunded pension liability. The Debt Service on the Pension Obligation Bond will cease after Fiscal 2028.

Debt Service

The City's borrowing for equipment, infrastructure improvements (including streets and sidewalks), public buildings, as well as the construction and rehabilitation of public schools, are funded through municipal bond issues. Annual debt service payments meeting all City and enterprise fund obligations total \$103.4M. Principal and interest payments of \$44.7M are to be paid by the City's tax levy budget, and the remainder through enterprise funds and other programs.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Removal/Snow Carryover

Per the City Manager's Financial Integrity Plan, the Snow Removal budget has a minimum appropriation of \$5M. Based on historic actuals, the Fiscal 2027 budget is \$5.5M, which is level funded with Fiscal 2026. This amount is expected to be adequate to fund the City's average annual snowfall based on prior year actuals.

Unemployment

The City must fund unemployment benefits for workers who have lost their jobs. The Fiscal 2027 budget for unemployment is estimated to be \$200,000, which level funded with Fiscal 2026.

Street lighting

The City has acquired ownership and maintenance control of the City's street lighting network. The costs of the electricity and maintenance contracts for the street lighting network are a fixed cost and known at the beginning of the fiscal year. The Fiscal 2027 budget is funded at \$1.6M.

Intergovernmental Charges

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandates certain intergovernmental charges, including charges for the Regional Transit Authority, Registry of Motor Vehicles, and funding for the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission, which are projected to be \$5.2M.

Long Term Financial Plan Funds

The City continues to make deposits to designated reserve funds, per the terms of the City's Financial Integrity Plan. This includes a deposit of \$224,400 to the Capital Campaign fund, which is used to fund ongoing debt service payments associated with the Worcester Technical High School, Library renovations, Forest Grove Middle School, as well as other upcoming capital projects. This category also includes \$4.2M in the CitySquare District Improvement Financing (DIF) fund reserve for public investments in City Square, and \$3.4M in the Ballpark DIF fund reserve for Polar Park. Additionally, contributions continue to build the New High School Construction Fund in the amount of \$15.4M. The total contributions to these reserves are \$24.2M.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

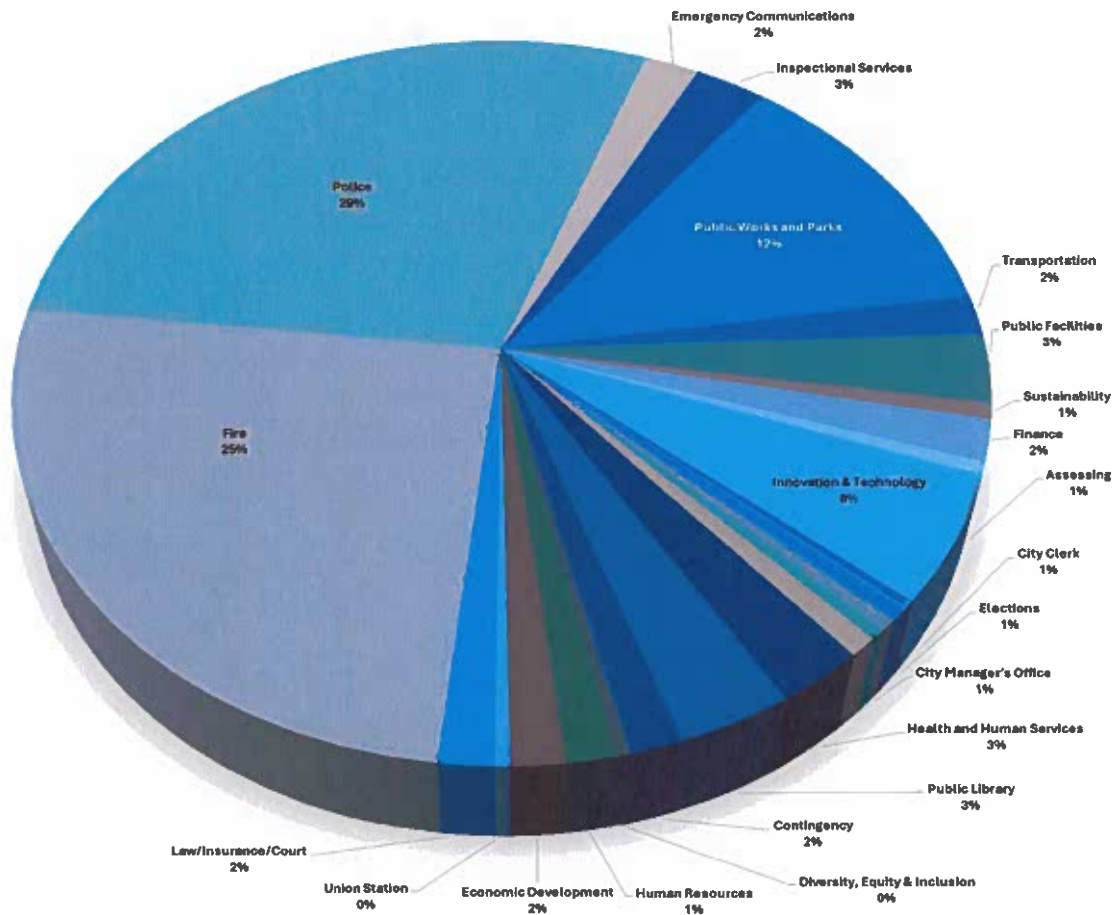
OPEB Reserve Fund

The Fiscal 2027 operational budget continues the City’s efforts to address the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability. Included in the operational budget is an allocation of \$1.3M to the OPEB Reserve fund to prefund the City’s OPEB liability. In addition to this deposit, and per the City’s Financial Integrity Plan, 30% of Free Cash will be appropriated into this account when Free Cash is certified in the fall.

Operational Budgets

The City’s budget for operational departments is based on the funds remaining after all education costs and other fixed costs have been funded. In Fiscal 2027, the amount available for operational budgets is \$216.2M. Details of each of the operational budgets are included in the subsequent budget sections of the budget document.

Fiscal 2027 City Operations: \$216.2M



REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Expenditure Summary	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	FY26 Change	% Change
City Council	646,395	628,964	(17,431)	-2.7%
Mayor	190,449	199,100	8,651	4.5%
City Clerk	1,123,236	1,157,580	34,344	3.1%
Elections	1,138,446	1,161,572	23,126	2.0%
Auditing	1,029,723	956,307	(73,416)	-7.1%
City Manager's Office	1,875,320	1,908,043	32,723	1.7%
Health and Human Services	5,291,805	5,600,904	309,099	5.8%
Public Library	6,988,614	7,244,572	255,958	3.7%
Contingency	5,024,057	3,284,962	(1,739,095)	-34.6%
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	965,832	950,588	(15,244)	-1.6%
Human Resources	2,902,611	3,086,458	183,847	6.3%
Economic Development	3,569,345	3,369,874	(199,471)	-5.6%
Workforce	200,000	200,000	-	0.0%
Union Station	678,305	765,000	86,695	12.8%
Law/Insurance/Court	4,301,381	3,428,489	(872,892)	-20.3%
Fire	49,325,780	54,207,453	4,881,673	9.9%
Police	63,369,410	62,192,427	(1,176,983)	-1.9%
Emergency Communications	4,349,050	4,402,013	52,963	1.2%
Inspectional Services	5,667,845	5,665,530	(2,315)	0.0%
Public Works and Parks	25,894,848	26,511,513	616,665	2.4%
Transportation	3,940,522	3,792,753	(147,769)	-3.7%
Public Facilities	4,676,595	6,678,015	2,001,420	42.8%
Sustainability	621,854	1,543,581	921,727	148.2%
Finance	4,004,133	3,921,537	(82,596)	-2.1%
Assessing	1,210,234	1,221,984	11,750	1.0%
Innovation & Technology	12,244,981	12,164,627	(80,354)	-0.7%
Total City Services	211,230,771	216,243,846	5,013,075	2.4%

Highlights of the Fiscal 2027 Budget include:

Revenues:

- City revenues are estimated to increase by \$43.6M, a 4.7% increase from Fiscal 2026
 - The appropriation of prior year free cash is included in this calculation
- Property Tax revenues are estimated to increase \$17.3M
- State Aid – Education is estimated to increase by \$26.9M
- State Aid – City is estimated to increase by \$1.6M
- Local Receipts are estimated to decrease by \$4.3M
- Other Available Funds have been eliminated in Fiscal 2027, which is a reduction of \$0.1M

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Expenditures:

- Citywide budget increases by \$43.6M, a 4.7% increase from Fiscal 2026.
- Education spending is anticipated to be \$612.4M, a \$34.8M increase from Fiscal 2026.
- Operational Budgets increased by \$5M, a 2.3% increase from Fiscal 2026.
- The City contingency fund decreased 34.6% to \$3.3M.
- Increase of 2 positions from Fiscal 2026 to Fiscal 2027
 - The 2 positions were added to the Fiscal 2026 Worcester Police Department table of organization as mid-year adjustments. There are no new net positions as part of the recommended Fiscal 2027 budget.

Enterprise Funds Revenue and Expenditure Summary

Enterprise Revenue	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	FY26/27 Change	% Change
Sewer	51,973,320	54,837,914	57,556,747	2,718,833	5.0%
Water	32,130,070	31,921,737	32,307,299	385,562	1.2%
Golf	1,983,065	2,001,870	2,097,467	95,597	4.8%
Enterprise Expenditure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	FY26/27 Change	% Change
Sewer	52,086,277	54,837,914	57,556,747	2,718,833	5.0%
Water	29,498,174	31,921,737	32,307,299	385,562	1.2%
Golf	1,789,712	2,001,870	2,097,467	95,597	4.8%



The City of Worcester

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REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Revenue Summary	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
Property Tax Levy Total	394,786,871	418,195,856	435,513,944
State Aid City	51,170,554	51,733,430	53,023,726
State Owned Land	316,166	316,182	320,645
State Exemptions	802,966	618,413	771,633
Veteran's Benefits	583,795	1,122,062	1,287,146
State Aid City Total	52,873,481	53,790,087	55,403,150
State Aid Education	377,439,670	411,779,259	437,762,216
State Aid Charter Schools	9,884,767	8,168,845	9,114,307
State Aid Education Total	387,324,437	419,948,104	446,876,523
Motor Vehicle Excise	19,014,578	16,500,000	18,500,000
Cannabis Excise	1,890,732	1,750,000	1,800,000
Licenses and Permits	10,239,312	9,556,650	10,326,100
Trash Collection Revenue	3,581,981	3,750,000	4,000,000
Federal Medicaid	2,732,649	1,500,000	2,100,000
Hotel and Meals Tax	5,326,896	5,300,000	5,400,000
Penalties and Interest	3,219,753	2,653,500	2,904,000
Fines and Forfeits	3,230,526	2,904,000	2,995,000
Misc Recurring	3,492,424	3,675,000	6,810,000
Fees	4,032,436	2,116,896	2,304,600
Investment Income	7,848,042	8,000,000	5,000,000
Other Departmental	317,716	461,500	396,600
Cemetery Revenue	476,620	483,000	496,500
Special Assessments	230,948	300,000	161,000
Other Charges	118,333	110,000	120,000
Local Receipts Total	65,752,946	59,060,546	63,313,800
Other Funds Total	178,519	118,930	-
Free Cash	23,773,458	6,355,161	-
Total Revenues	924,689,712	957,468,684	1,001,107,417

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Expenditure Summary	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
Pensions	38,069,680	37,513,229	39,870,758
Pension Bond Debt Service	11,296,745	9,453,864	10,005,363
Health Insurance	31,813,226	35,131,380	37,928,136
OPEB Trust Deposit	16,468,257	3,094,523	1,296,873
Worker's Compensation	872,219	1,236,673	1,036,673
Injured on Duty	702,193	1,057,556	882,556
Unemployment	173,717	200,000	200,000
Debt Service	45,755,380	44,783,929	44,737,099
Intergovernmental Charges	4,992,729	5,062,677	5,223,011
Streetlights	1,967,608	1,620,490	1,620,490
Snow Removal	5,280,112	5,500,000	5,500,000
Financial Integrity Plan Funds	24,480,436	24,006,182	24,188,317
Total Fixed Costs	181,872,302	168,660,503	172,489,276
Worcester Public Schools	493,352,274	525,765,034	557,429,649
Charter, School Choice, & Special Education	47,109,010	51,812,376	54,944,646
Total Education	540,461,284	577,577,410	612,374,295
City Council	623,473	646,395	628,964
Mayor	182,382	190,449	199,100
City Clerk	1,159,049	1,123,236	1,157,580
Elections	990,877	1,138,446	1,161,572
Auditing	747,222	1,029,723	956,307
City Manager's Office	1,646,164	1,875,320	1,908,043
Health and Human Services	4,082,922	5,291,805	5,600,904
Public Library	7,042,923	6,988,614	7,244,572
Contingency	-	5,024,057	3,284,962
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	632,994	965,832	950,588
Human Resources	2,720,081	2,902,611	3,086,458
Economic Development	3,010,810	3,569,345	3,369,874
Workforce	199,989	200,000	200,000
Union Station	826,905	678,305	765,000
Law/Insurance/Court	5,313,821	4,301,381	3,428,489
Fire	48,730,920	49,325,780	54,207,453
Police	63,328,783	63,369,410	62,192,427
Emergency Communications	3,898,458	4,349,050	4,402,013
Inspectional Services	5,069,133	5,667,845	5,665,530
Public Works	19,459,778	16,876,903	17,262,931
Parks	9,082,168	9,017,945	9,248,582
Transportation & Mobility	3,104,447	3,940,522	3,792,753
Public Facilities	3,419,918	4,676,595	6,678,015
Sustainability & Resilience	983,857	621,854	1,543,581
Finance	3,723,715	4,004,133	3,921,537
Assessing	1,012,916	1,210,234	1,221,984
Innovation & Technology	10,393,271	12,244,981	12,164,627
Total City Services	201,386,979	211,230,771	216,243,846
Total Expenditures	923,720,566	957,468,684	1,001,107,417

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

AUTHORIZED POSITION COUNT				
	APPROVED	APPROVED	RECOMMENDED	FY26/FY27
	FY25	FY26	FY27	# CHANGE
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
POLICE	535	535	533	2
FIRE	457	459	459	0
COMMUNICATIONS	72	72	72	0
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES	74	74	73	-1
PUBLIC WORKS:				
DPW- ADMINISTRATION	31	31	31	0
DPW- ENGINEERING	27	26	26	0
DPW- STREET	74	74	75	1
DPW- SANITATION	28	28	29	1
DPW- FLEET MANAGEMENT	18	17	16	-1
SEWER	68	67	67	0
WATER	128	125	124	-1
TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY:				
TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY	26	27	27	0
PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY:				
PARKS- ADMINISTRATION	12	9	9	0
PARKS- MAINTENANCE	31	35	35	0
PARKS- FORESTRY	10	10	10	0
PARKS- HOPE CEMETERY	12	12	12	0
GOLF	3	3	3	0
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:				
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	46	47	48	1
MASSHIRE WORKFORCE BOAR	10	10	10	0
MASSHIRE CAREER CENTER	35	35	35	0
PUBLIC LIBRARY:				
PUBLIC LIBRARY	95	97	98	1
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:				
HHSADMINISTRATION	13	14	17	3
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION	5	5	5	0
YOUTH SERVICES	6	6	6	0
PUBLIC HEALTH	28	27	24	-3
ELDER AFFAIRS	12	12	12	0
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:				
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY	34	34	34	0
HUMAN RESOURCES:				
HUMAN RESOURCES	25	27	28	1
LAW:				
LAW	19	19	20	1
AUDITING:				
AUDITING	9	9	9	0
LEGISLATIVE OFFICES:				
CITY COUNCIL	14	14	14	0
MAYOR'S OFFICE	2	2	2	0
CITY CLERK	12	12	12	0
ELECTIONS	9	9	9	0
CITY MANAGER:				
CITY MANAGER	15	15	15	0
CABLE SERVICES	5	5	4	-1
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION:				
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION	9	9	9	0
SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE:				
SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE	10	10	10	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES:				
PUBLIC FACILITIES	26	30	35	5
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE				
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE	12	12	11	-1
ASSESSING	10	10	10	0
TREASURY	27	26	24	-2
PURCHASING	5	6	6	0
TOTAL CITY POSITIONS	2,099	2,106	2,108	2



The City of Worcester

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FISCAL 2027 BUDGET PROCEDURE

The preparation of the Annual Budget for the City of Worcester is governed by the provisions of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The budget process for Fiscal 2027 was initiated in November 2025, and at that time Budget Division staff met with the City Manager to establish the general budgetary guidelines and expectations for the coming fiscal year.

Following this session, the Administration and Finance Department Budget Division worked with City departments and divisions to update the City's Five Year Fiscal Forecast. In cooperation with the City's budget staff, each department then prepared a draft Fiscal 2027 operating budget. The draft operating budgets, including expenditure and revenue estimates, were submitted to the City Manager in February 2026.

Each department made a presentation to the City Manager justifying proposed budget adjustments and program changes for the coming fiscal year. The budget document was then developed consistent with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, requiring adequate appropriations for salaries, overtime, ordinary maintenance, debt service, fringe benefits, and capital outlay. Budget Division staff, in cooperation with departments and divisions, then finalized the budget documents for submission to City Council. The legal component of the annual budget document is the line item appropriation order which delineates appropriation amounts by division and appropriation account number.

The City of Worcester budget recommendation is developed in a manner consistent with the City's adopted Financial Integrity Plan. The budget is also developed in a manner that seeks to achieve excellence in the following areas recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association:

- **Policy Document:** The City's annual budget includes key financial policies.
- **Financial Plan:** The City's budget indicates all revenue sources to be employed to sustain the identified appropriations.
- **Operations Guide:** The budget document shows the organization and operational divisions of each City department including tables of organization and divisional breakdowns.
- **Communications Device:** The budget document includes clear and comprehensible revenue and expenditure overviews which describe the overall budget including historical information and explanations of year-over-year changes in major revenue and expenditure categories. The entire budget is available online for public review as soon as it is submitted to City Council.

FISCAL 2027 BUDGET PROCEDURE

By statute, the budget must be submitted to City Council within 170 days after the Council organizes in early January. The submission of the Fiscal 2027 Annual Budget to the City Council was on May 5, 2026.

The City Council has jurisdiction to make reductions, but cannot increase the proposed budget without the recommendation of the City Manager. Following submission of the budget, the City Council has 45 days in which to approve or reduce the proposed appropriation order. Should the Council fail to act within 45 days, the City Manager's recommended budget is appropriated. The Fiscal 2027 Annual Budget becomes effective on July 1, 2026.

Following the adoption of the City budget, the City must reconcile the budget with any changes in revenues and known expenditures prior to the setting of the tax rate in December. The Commonwealth's Department of Revenue evaluates the City budget in order to certify tax rates for the fiscal year. The City's property tax levy is determined by taking the total citywide appropriations and subtracting all known revenue sources other than property taxes. The amount required to balance the budget is the property tax levy for the City, assuming it is less than the City's property tax levy limit or levy ceiling as established by Proposition 2 ½.

The following Calendar summarizes the Budget Process for development and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget:

Fall 2025: Department meetings are held to address current fiscal year issues and identify implications for future fiscal years. The formal budget process is started at these meetings by assessing needs and budgetary issues citywide.

January 2026 – March 2026: Formal budget materials are distributed and collected for review. Follow up meetings with departments are held to finalize budget requests. City Manager reviews requests and makes recommendations for inclusion in the final budget recommendation.

March 2026 – April 2026: City Manager completes budget recommendations. Budget Office finalizes budget document for submission to City Council.

May 2026 – June 2026: City Council reviews final budget.

July 1, 2026: Fiscal Year 2027 Budget goes into effect.

FISCAL 2027 FINANCE POLICIES

City Charter Article Five—Financial Policies (Operating Budget)

Section 5-1. SUBMISSION OF BUDGET

Within the period prescribed by general law, the City Manager shall submit to the City Council an annual budget which shall be a statement of the amounts recommended by him/her for proposed expenditures of the City for the next fiscal year. The annual budget shall be classified and designated so as to show separately with respect to each City agency or undertaking for which an appropriation is recommended as follows:

(1) Ordinary maintenance, which shall also include debt and interest charges matured and maturing during the next fiscal year, and shall be subdivided as follows:

(a) Salaries and wages of officers, officials, and employees other than laborers or persons performing the duties of laborers; and

(b) Ordinary maintenance not included under sub-section (a);
and,

(2) Proposed expenditures for other than ordinary maintenance, including additional equipment, the estimated cost of which exceeds one thousand dollars.

The foregoing shall not prevent the City, upon recommendation of the City Manager and with approval, by majority vote of the City Council, from adopting additional classifications and designations.

Section 5-2. ACTION ON THE BUDGET

(a) Public hearing:

The City Council may, and upon written request of at least ten registered voters shall, give notice of a public hearing to be held on the annual budget, prior to final action thereon, but not less than seven days after publication of such notice in a local newspaper. At the time and place so advertised, or at any time or place to which such public hearing may from time to time be adjourned, the City Council shall hold a public hearing on the annual budget as submitted by the City Manager, at which all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard for or against the proposed expenditures or any item thereof.

FISCAL 2027 FINANCE POLICIES

(b) Adoption:

The City Council may, by majority vote, make appropriations for the purposes recommended and may reduce or reject any amount recommended in the annual budget, but except on recommendation of the City Manager, shall not increase any amount in or the total of the annual budget, nor add thereto any amount for a purpose not included therein, except as provided in section thirty-three of chapter forty-four of the General Laws. Except as otherwise permitted by law or by this charter, all amounts appropriated by the City Council, as provided in this section, shall be for the purposes specified. In setting up an appropriation order or orders based on the annual budget, the City Council shall use, so far as possible, the same classifications required for the annual budget. If the City Council fails to take action with respect to any amount recommended in the annual budget, either by approving, reducing or rejecting the same, within forty-five days after its receipt of the budget, such amount shall, without any action by the City Council, become a part of the appropriations for the year, and shall be available for the purposes specified.

Failure to submit budget recommendations:

If the City Manager shall fail to submit the annual budget to the City Council within the period prescribed by general law, the City Council shall within thirty days upon its own initiative prepare the annual budget, as far as apt. Within fifteen days after such preparation of the annual budget, the City Council shall proceed to act by voting thereon and all amounts so voted shall thereupon be valid appropriations for the purposes stated therein to the same extent as though based upon a City Manager's annual budget, but subject, however, [to] such requirements, if any, as may be imposed by law. If the City Council fails to take action with respect to any amount recommended in the annual budget, either by approving, reducing, or rejecting the same, within fifteen days after such preparation, such amount shall, without further action by the City Council, become a part of the appropriations for the year, and be available for the purposes specified.

Section 5-3. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS

Nothing in this section shall prevent the City Council, acting upon the written recommendation of the City Manager, from voting appropriations, not in excess of the amount so recommended, either prior or subsequent to the passage of the annual budget.

FISCAL 2027 FINANCE POLICIES

In case of the failure of the City Manager to transmit to the City Council a written recommendation for an appropriation for any purpose not included in the annual budget, which is deemed necessary by the City Council, after having been so requested by majority vote thereof, the City Council, after the expiration of seven days from such vote, upon its own initiative may make such appropriation by a vote of at least two thirds of its members, and shall in all cases clearly specify the amount to be expended for each particular purpose, but no appropriation may be voted hereunder so as to fix specific salaries of employees under the direction of boards elected by the people, other than the City Council.

Section 5-4. TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

On recommendation of the City Manager, the City Council may, by majority vote, transfer any amount appropriated for the use of any department to another appropriation to the same department, but no transfer shall be made of any amount appropriated for the use of any department to the appropriation for any other department except by a two-thirds vote of the City Council on recommendation of the City Manager and with the written approval of the amount of such transfer by the department having control of the appropriation from which the transfer is proposed to be made. No approval other than that expressly provided herein shall be required for any transfer under the provisions of this section.

Financial Integrity Plan:

In November of 2006, the City Council adopted policies intended to establish the Five Point Financial Plan which was intended to improve the city's long term financial stability. The Five Point Plan included a number of short and long terms goals and procedures followed by the administration during budget preparation as well as ongoing monitoring. In summary, the action of adopting the Financial Integrity Plan has accomplished the following:

- Created the North High Construction Fund and the Bond Rating Stabilization Fund.
- Established a dedicated reserve building funding source associated with ten years of Massachusetts School Building Authority reimbursements for construction costs incurred by the City in years past.

FISCAL 2027 FINANCE POLICIES

- Established an annual borrowing cap.
- As amended below and until reserve targets are met, the original plan established a reserve policy that places a limit on the appropriation of net free cash for operations at no more than 20%. The remaining free cash must be appropriated to the Bond Rating Stabilization Fund to build reserves to 5% of city revenues.

In October 2012, the Five Point Plan reserve policy was amended to include the requirement that 30% of net free cash be deposited into the City's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund to begin to prefund the City's OPEB liability.

On March 28, 2017, the City Manager recommended to the Worcester City Council an update to the City's Long Term Financial Plan and renamed it the Financial Integrity Plan. The recommended Long Term Financial Plan adheres to prudent financial doctrine and practices as follows:

- Created a new High School Construction stabilization account for the construction of two (2) high school replacement projects, South High Community School and Doherty Memorial High School.
- Increased the General Fund reserve level target from 5% to 10% of General Fund revenues.
 - The General Fund reserve is \$90,382,840, or 9.0% of the Fiscal 2027 General Fund budget, as of June 30, 2025.
- Updated the City's annual tax levy supported debt from a fixed amount (adjusted for inflation) to subsequent debt issues being tied to debt service coverage (8-10% of the operating budget).
 - Tax levy supported debt is calculated at 5.5% of the operating budget for Fiscal 2027, inclusive of Pension Obligation Bonds.
- Established an OPEB Trust Fund and Commission consistent with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) promulgation GASB 45.
- Memorialized the budgetary assumptions and methodology.

FISCAL 2027 FINANCE POLICIES

- Recommended a practice where any Proposition 2 ½ new growth above the budget estimate shall be added to the unused levy capacity at the time of the tax rate recap.
- Enhanced financial reporting and transparency.

The following table provides five years of financial reporting on financial plan funds. Future appropriations are based on current debt expectations and Financial Integrity Plan guidelines and are regularly reassessed as conditions evolve.

Financial Plan Funds	Actuals Fiscal 2025	Approved Budget For Fiscal 2026	Recommended Appropriation Fiscal 2027	Recommended Appropriation Fiscal 2028	Recommended Appropriation Fiscal 2029
Bond Rating Stabilization Fund *	\$ 11,066,774	\$ 3,192,581	TBD	TBD	TBD
Capital Campaign Stabilization	4,411,479	748,932	224,400	-	-
CitySquare DIF Reserve Fund	4,155,992	4,150,679	4,177,879	4,164,973	4,185,008
North High Construction Fund	733,899	480,000	-	480,000	480,000
New High School Fund	8,930,889	12,292,470	15,365,588	19,206,985	24,008,731
Fire Stabilization Fund	1,213,341	500,000	-	500,000	500,000
School Capital Maintenance Fund	1,016,372	-	-	TBD	TBD
ESCo Improvement Fund	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
OPEB Trust Fund	10,728,475	3,094,523	1,296,873	1,426,560	1,569,216
Total Transfers to Funds	\$ 42,257,220	\$ 24,459,185	\$ 22,064,740	\$ 26,778,518	\$ 31,742,956

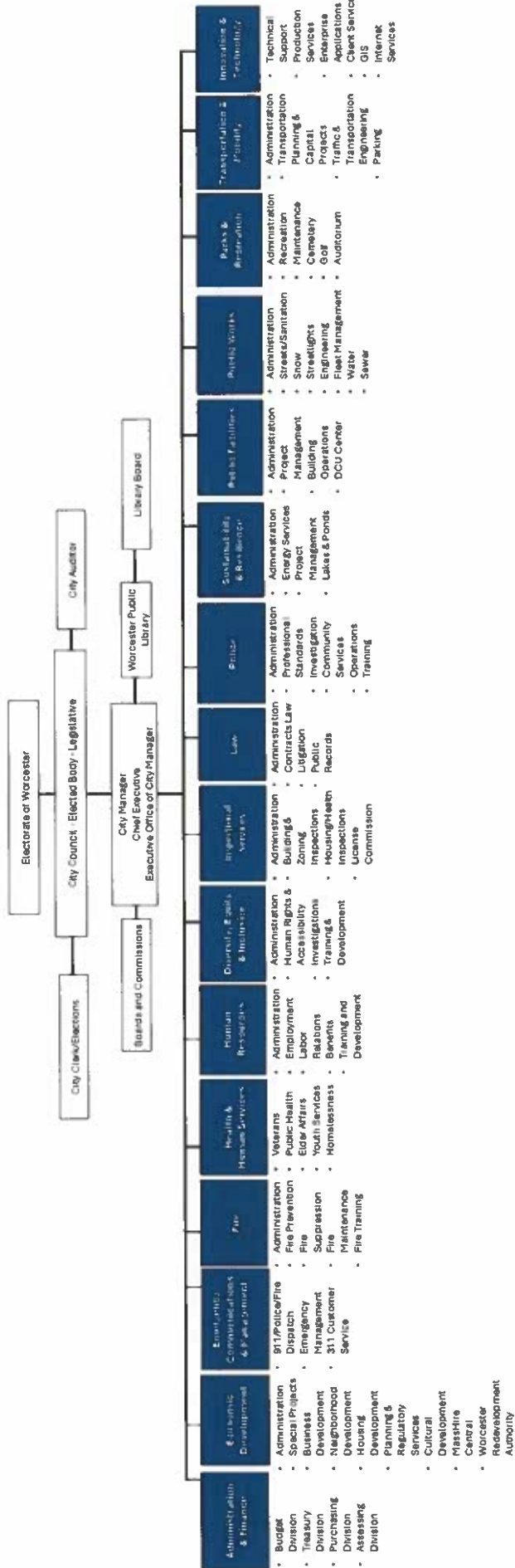
* Bond Rating Stabilization Fund appropriations subject to Free Cash availability per the Financial Integrity Plan and appropriated during budget recapitulation.



The City of Worcester

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**City of Worcester
Organizational Chart: FY27**



PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Commissioner

50 Officer Manny Familia Way
Worcester, MA 01605

Phone: 508-799-1190

Fax: 508-799-1293

Email: parks@worcesterma.gov

Mission

To provide efficient and effective grounds maintenance, permitting and renovations at/for over sixty parks and playgrounds encompassing over 1,400 acres. In addition, the Department maintains and repairs public park buildings, the Worcester Auditorium **manages the City's urban** forest (street trees) and the comprehensive summer aquatic and recreation programs. The Department is also responsible for maintaining and managing a 160+ acre cemetery (including burials), completing the physical setup of all National, State and Local elections, providing staff and technical support to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Hope Cemetery Commission and the Urban Forestry Tree Commission.

Vision

To continuously improve the quality of life in the City of Worcester in ways that enhance parks, the environment, neighborhoods, events and support a vibrant and thriving city through professional management and maintenance of critical infrastructure and the provision of critical services including Hope Cemetery.

Previous Year DDP Highlights

Priority Goal: Public Health & Safety

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
<p>Strengthen support for individuals and families living with mental health and substance use disorder.</p>	<p>Build capacity of local service providers and private and government sectors to meet the mental health and substance use disorder needs in the community, through alignment of goals and collaboration</p>	<p>2.2</p>	<p>In FY26 Green Hill Golf Course conducted free programming for Spanish men in addiction recover by partnering with the Worcester Division of Public Health and the Hector Reyes House.</p>
<p>Reduce youth violence rates in the city through collaborative efforts with community partners.</p>	<p>Establish mentoring programs in collaboration with community organizations to provide positive role models and support networks for at-risk youth.</p>	<p>4.1</p>	<p>In FY26 Green Hill Golf Course continued the Youth Golf Program as well as expanded into a Veterans program.</p> <p>In FY26 Green Hill Golf Course partnered with the Parks Stewards program and the Francis Ouimet Scholarship fund in June to bring City high schoolers to the course for training in golf maintenance activities as part of a jobs program with the ultimate goal of making these youths eligible to apply for upwards of a 4 year college scholarship with an average annual award of \$11,000 through the Ouimet Fund.</p>

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
<p>Reduce health inequities by prioritizing vulnerable communities and promoting racial justice.</p>	<p>Develop culturally appropriate and tailored materials and programming to effectively engage with the City's diverse population, increase health literacy and refer residents to services.</p>	<p>6.4</p>	<p>In FY26 Green Hill Golf Course offered free learn to play programming for the LGBTQIA+ Plus community by partnering with Worcester Pride. This was a multi-week program held on Saturdays.</p> <p>In FY26 Green Hill Golf Course conducted two separate free programs for people with special needs by partnering with 7 Hills Foundation. The first program was for the competition team as they practice qualifying for the Special Olympics. The second program was the skills and drills team which received free instruction and use of the driving range. Both programs ran throughout the summer.</p> <p>In FY26 Green Hill Golf Course continues to work with Worcester Elder Services to bring a free program to the course for dementia patients and their caregivers.</p>
<p>Reduce health inequities, prioritize vulnerable communities, and promote racial justice.</p>	<p>Make new green spaces in the urban core and through Environmental Justice neighborhoods, including the installation of Miyawaki forests and expanding the existing tree canopy.</p>	<p>6.5</p>	<p>Forestry is scheduled to plant between 300 - 400 trees in FY26.</p> <p>Approximately \$2M in grants and \$12M in Tax Levy borrowing has been invested in park renovations with the majority in Environmental Justice neighborhoods in FY26.</p> <p>DPRC continues to work with DSR on enhancing the environmental impacts of our facilities</p>

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
<p>Bring the city's old housing stock up to code to eliminate nuisance violations to ensure safe and healthy housing for residents.</p>	<p>Implement Neighborhoods First Model to find and remove nuisances and other issues that degrade neighborhood value and overall safety.</p>	<p>8.2</p>	<p>Approximately \$2M in grants, and \$12M in Tax levy borrowing has been invested in park renovations.</p>
<p>Develop and implement comprehensive emergency management strategies, ensuring a swift and coordinated response to all hazards.</p>	<p>Maintain a robust training program that ensures well managed and executed mitigation of emergency incidents.</p>	<p>9.1</p>	<p>DPRC continues to ensure training is available for all staff including first aid, AED, CPR, electrical hazard, and equipment specific trainings.</p>
<p>Build and operate a transportation network that is safe and accessible to all users.</p>	<p>Develop a Vision Zero Safety Action Plan aimed at eliminating serious injury and fatal crashes.</p>	<p>10.1</p>	<p>DPRC continues to work with the HR Safety Office on CDL driver training, work safety training and overall review of operations.</p>
<p>Build and operate a transportation network that is safe and accessible to all users.</p>	<p>Develop and implement intersection, sidewalk and pedestrian safety treatments.</p>	<p>10.5</p>	<p>DPRC focuses on accessibility between sidewalks and parks, the impact of park renovations on these areas and making sure this area is safe for use during all four seasons.</p>
<p>Build and operate a transportation network that is safe and accessible to all users.</p>	<p>Implement complete streets and accessibility improvements as streets are reconstructed/ resurfaced and as standalone projects</p>	<p>10.6</p>	<p>DPRC continues to implement/design safety accommodations and connections between sidewalks and park property that are fully accessible.</p>

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Build and operate a transportation network that is safe and accessible to all users.	Develop new policy for private roads to enhance emergency access and maintenance, while working to convert private roads to public	10.8	DPRC completed the renovation to Risso Court to assist in widening and making public safety access easier and overall use safer.

Priority Goal: Affordable Neighborhoods & Reduced Homelessness

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Reduce the number of Veterans who become homeless in the City of Worcester.	Enhance and increase participation of Ch115 Veterans rental assistance Program	7.2	In FY26 Green Hill Golf Course partnered with the New England PGA and the PGA of America and the City of Worcester Veteran's Services to bring free programming for veterans. This program creates safe interactive space for veterans to come together and has had homeless veterans participate.
Provide all residents with quality and affordable transportation options to meet their daily needs.	Prioritize implementation of sustainable mobility options serving environmental justice communities that have been historically neglected, underserved, or disproportionately impacted by past transportation decisions.	9.2	All Park capital improvements continue to include accessible access, parking and increasing accessibility to all amenities.

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Increase access to recreational opportunities across municipal districts.	Complete Implementation of Open Space and Recreation Plan to preserve and enhance public park and open space assets.	10.1	DPRC invested approximately \$2M in grants, and \$12M in tax levy borrowing in park renovations with the majority in EJ neighborhoods in FY26.
Increase access to recreational opportunities across municipal districts.	Maintain and upgrade parks equipment, playing fields, and other facilities as they age.	10.2	DPRC continues to invest in maintenance, operations, capital and staff to make regular inspections, repairs, replacements, and capital improvements.
Increase access to recreational opportunities across municipal districts.	Expand placemaking efforts to create more civic landmarks and link neighborhoods through creative design.	10.4	DPRC continues to work closely with Veteran Services on neighborhood and citywide memorials, and creative park designs that maximize placement efforts.
Reduce barriers to access City services by connecting citizens to services in their neighborhood, eliminating roadblocks that hinder efficient communication and creating a stronger, more responsive connection between the community and its government services.	Expand access to technology resources, internet access, and training programs.	12.3	Internet access has been added to three parks.

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Reduce barriers to access City services by connecting citizens to services in their neighborhood, eliminating roadblocks that hinder efficient communication and creating a stronger, more responsive connection between the community and its government services.	Enhance customer service and user experience by leveraging technology solutions, such as self-service kiosks, mobile apps, and online reservation systems, to provide convenient access to library resources and services.	12.4	A revised permitting process system in partnership with Cultural Development and DoIT has been improved for the 2026 event season.
Increase access to social and human service programs in low to moderate income neighborhoods.	Leverage Federal Entitlement grants to partners and fund social and human services programs, especially youth programming.	13.1	DPRC applied for two \$1,000,000 grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY26.

Priority Goal: Clean City Initiatives

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Minimize litter, reduce trash and illegal dumping, and implement sustainable solutions to maintain the cleanliness of streets and public places.	Establish partnerships with neighborhood associations, community development corporations, schools, and volunteers to enhance local beautification efforts.	1.3	DPRC has used volunteer groups, seasonal staff, full time staff, and the Island/Median contractor to support this program in FY26. The relationship with Friends of Institute Park, Friends of Newton Hill and Park Spirit, to name a few, has been fruitful in the maintenance of our facilities.

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Minimize litter, reduce trash and illegal dumping, and implement sustainable solutions to maintain the cleanliness of streets and public places.	Enhance snow and ice programs, as well as street sweeping programs to keep streets and sidewalks clean and generally accessible.	1.6	DPRC spent approximately \$1M on capital equipment purchases in FY26.
Minimize litter, reduce trash and illegal dumping, and implement sustainable solutions to maintain the cleanliness of streets and public places.	Explore methods to increase options for public trash disposal including but not limited to trash/recycling receptacles in parks and on sidewalks.	1.7	DPRC has implemented a recycling program in FY 25 and expanded that program in FY26. This program has allowed DPRC to recycle products that were previously placed in the trash. Containers are well defined and are located near the standard trash barrels.
Develop attractive, well-maintained, and welcoming public spaces to inspire community pride and reinforce cycle of cleanliness.	Enhance and maintain right-of-way vegetation/trees/planters as well as routine park maintenance.	2.2	DPRC continued with a seven day a week trash pickup program throughout the City Parks in FY26 as well as managing the Island/Median Maintenance program.
Develop attractive, well-maintained, and welcoming public spaces to inspire community pride and reinforce cycle of cleanliness.	Incorporate improvements to facades, signage, and landscaping as municipal infrastructure is updated.	2.4	In FY 26 DPRC has continued to enhance and improve landscaping in and around public parks, Hope Cemetery, and with our Urban Forestry Tree Planting Program In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course, through the RFP process included in the golf course maintenance contract added beautification efforts surrounding planting, flowers and tree maintenance.

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Develop attractive, well-maintained, and welcoming public spaces to inspire community pride and reinforce cycle of cleanliness.	Develop signage and messaging to educate the public on rules and regulations, special displays and features of public spaces.	2.5	<p>In FY26 DPRC has continued to implement new and updated signage at public parks and Hope Cemetery. This includes visual icons, QR codes, regulations and educational kiosks.</p> <p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course, working with the Parks Commission, developed new policies on the course and published these to its website. Several new policies surround safety.</p>
Increase environmental resilience to pollution, transportation and climate change-related weather impacts.	Update street design standards and seek opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure.	3.5	DPRC has continued to work with DPW & DTM on the inclusion of green infrastructure along right of ways near parks including Shore Drive in FY26. Additionally, DPRC has implemented green infrastructure in design at Great Brook Valley, Tacoma Street Playground and East Park in FY26.
Increase environmental resilience to pollution, transportation and climate change-related weather impacts.	Install additional bike parking to support everyday bike trips and support business.	3.6	Parks continues to install bike parking with all new improvement projects.
Increase environmental resilience to pollution, transportation and climate change-related weather impacts.	Implement Urban Forest Master Plan.	3.9	In partnership with DPW, DSR, and DTM, DPRC Forestry Operations has continued the implementation of the master plan in FY26 with tree planning and service adjustments to better address urban forest needs.
Maintain public “blue spaces” for water quality, recreational use, and promotion of economic development.	Monitor water quality and educate residents on threats, impacts, and how it can be improved.	4.2	DPRC continued to work with DSR on pond & lake management with accessing water bodies through park properties and managing geese access on beaches in FY26.

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Maintain public “blue spaces” for water quality, recreational use, and promotion of economic development.	Develop and maintain strategic partnerships with local watershed association for stewardship of blue space.	4.4	DPRC continued to work with DSR and local watersheds on pond & lake management with a specific focus on beaches in FY26. Additionally, DPRC implemented a free canoe and kayak rental program at Coes Pond Beach which will enhance access and knowledge of the facility.

Priority Goal: Economic Growth

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Expand the tax base through private investment in housing, commercial and industrial developments.	Incentivize development that meets the highest standards for climate resilience and sustainability, including issues of stormwater management and water quality, energy efficiency, flooding, and heat waves.	1.3	In FY26, DPRC invested approximately \$2M in grants, and \$12M in tax levy borrowing in park renovations with the majority in EJ neighborhoods. These improvements encourage development and the addition of new residents due to the high-quality park system.
Expand the tax base through private investment in housing, commercial and industrial developments.	Digitize all permits to improve the workflow and process efficiencies for permitting.	1.5	DPRC assisted in revising the permitting process system in partnership with Cultural Development and DoIT which was improved for the 2026 event season.
Expand the tax base through private investment in housing, commercial and industrial developments.	Maintain and develop infrastructure that supports and enables development including targeted repair and replacement.	1.6	In FY26, DPRC park, cemetery and forestry improvements enable high quality of life experiences and opportunities. In FY26 capital projects and access to open space enhances the possibilities of development.

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Promote arts and culture to drive economic development by drawing talent and tourism.	Support year-round meaningful experiences by promoting cultural events.	6.1	In FY26, DPRC invested approximately \$2M in grants, and \$12M in tax levy borrowing in park renovations with the majority in EJ neighborhoods. These renovations allow year-round use of open space.
Promote arts and culture to drive economic development by drawing talent and tourism.	Automate and improve workflows of City special events permitting process.	6.2	DPRC assisted in revising the permitting process system in partnership with Cultural Development and DoIT which was improved for the 2026 event season.

Priority Goal: High Performing Government & Strong Financial Health

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Increase organizational effectiveness by implementing organizational culture, philosophy, and performance principles.	Foster a culture of collaboration between departments and deter departments from working in silos.	1.3	In FY26, DPRC has continued to work collaboratively with DSR, DPW, DTM, Cultural Development, Regulatory Services and others to ensure maintenance and renovations are complete.
Improve and automate business processes to increase access and efficiencies for employees and residents.	Automate applications and approval processes for municipal licensing and permit applications.	4.3	DPRC assisted in revising the permitting process system in partnership with Cultural Development and DoIT which was improved for the 2026 event season.

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
<p>Improve and automate business processes to increase access and efficiencies for employees and residents.</p>	<p>Implement and optimize a comprehensive replacement plan for outdated computer-aided dispatch (CAD) software and customer service request system (CSRS) and other software, with a primary focus on enhancing overall performance and service capabilities.</p>	<p>4.4</p>	<p>In FY26, DPRC implemented the RFP process for the Hope Cemetery software update, has secured initial funding in our capital budget and plans to have the full system operational by the end of FY27.</p> <p>In FY26, DPRC Forestry Operations continued to use the existing tree inventory and customer service system to manage the urban forest.</p> <p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course updated software to ensure best practices are met with respect to employee ease of use and customer ease of use specifically in the use golf cart GPS tracking, I pad mobile tee sheets and constantly updated websites and push notifications of course happenings.</p>
<p>Implement technologies to support the future of work.</p>	<p>Ensure consistent Wi-Fi connectivity throughout municipal facilities.</p>	<p>6.2</p>	<p>In FY26, DPRC installed W-Fi in three new parks and updated systems in two existing facilities.</p>
<p>Implement technologies to support the future of work.</p>	<p>Deploy updated devices and software to field workers to improve communication and streamline work processes.</p>	<p>6.3</p>	<p>In FY26, DPRC has expanded our use of technology as upgrades have been implemented including in our irrigation system software, Hope Cemetery software and event permitting updates.</p>

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Enhance the employee experience through a culture of employee engagement, wellness, diversity, and inclusion that leads to overall employee well-being, productivity and retention.	Develop check-in interviews to maintain regular contact with employees to obtain feedback on how we are doing as an organization.	7.1	<p>In FY26, DPRC has continued to provide mid-and end of year discussions on the program and organization with seasonal staff.</p> <p>In FY26, DPRC held two departmental meetings with full-time staff on specific updates with the budget and operational updates, specifically park permits.</p>
Enhance the employee experience through a culture of employee engagement, wellness, diversity, and inclusion that leads to overall employee well-being, productivity and retention.	Invest in employee development by providing training and development opportunities, supporting career advancement, and creating a supportive work environment.	7.3	<p>In FY26, DPRC continued to train staff in First Aid, CPR & AED training, over OSHA training, reasonable suspicion training, electrical training, state park and recreation conferences, and five staff completed additional training in playground safety.</p>
Deploy recruitment strategies to attract and retain qualified and diverse individuals to the city.	Increase awareness of municipal employment opportunities among local students	8.1	<p>In FY26, DPRC continued to attend high school and college job/career fairs to discuss both full-time and seasonal staffing options. DPRC has also continued to work with existing seasonal staff on full time opportunities within DPRC as well as DPW.</p>
Deploy recruitment and retention strategies to attract and retain qualified and diverse individuals to the city	Provide internship opportunities for students in local schools to enhance learning experience, especially those from underrepresented communities.	8.2	<p>In FY26, DPRC continued to work with WTHS at Green Hill Farm and other trades in maintenance of our public parks. Specifically, WTHS has continued to repair and paint the bridges at Elm Park.</p>

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
Securely manage the collection, investment, and disbursement of municipal funds.	Implement grant management and acquisition strategies to maximize grant funding opportunities.	11.4	In FY26, DPRC applied for two \$1,000,000 grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and \$425K from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Improve the utilization of existing facilities and reduce the municipality's facility footprint and overall climate impact.	Extend the life span and maintain existing facilities through a defined multi-year investment plan while improving climate and energy efficiencies and reducing negative service impacts.	13.1	<p>In FY26, DPRC spent over \$2M on renovations and development of support facilities at multiple parks.</p> <p>In FY26, DPRC continued the development of facilities to be implemented into the asset management system.</p> <p>In FY26, DPRC began discussions regarding the inclusion of solar with the parks system.</p>
Improve the utilization of existing facilities and reduce the municipality's facility footprint and overall climate impact.	Promote physical and psychological safety for employees by providing a safe and healthy work environment through training and health and safety programs	13.4	In FY26, DPRC continued to train staff on First Aid, CPR & AED training, over OSHA training, reasonable suspicion training, electrical training, and CDL training and other specific work-related training courses that develop safer working environments.

Priority Goal: Investment in Quality Education

Objective	Strategy	Ref	FY26 Key Progress & Accomplishment Highlights
<p>Strengthen the relationship between the City of Worcester and Worcester Public Schools through an updated, fair and transparent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that reflects the needs of today</p>	<p>Review and update all in-kind contributions extended by the municipality on behalf of school operations</p>	<p>2.1</p>	<p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course works closely with Worcester public schools offering free access to the course and driving range for their golf teams.</p> <p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course has added St. Paul's school for golf team access at a rate of \$1,500 annually.</p> <p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course partners with Worcester Vocational High School where they can bring trade students to the course. The proximity to the school makes this ideal.</p> <p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course score card was designed by a graphic arts student at WVHS for the 2026 season.</p> <p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course has been in contact with the graphic arts department to design the 2029 100th year course logo.</p> <p>In FY26, Green Hill Golf Course offers annual free use to the city high school boys and girls cross country championship.</p>
<p>Expand access to educational resources, foster early literacy and school readiness, and support academic achievement for students of all ages.</p>	<p>Organize educational workshops, seminars, and skill-building sessions on topics such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), literacy, financial literacy, and career development.</p>	<p>3.7</p>	<p>In FY26, DPRC continued to partner with the Worcester Vocational High School on year-round and seasonal employment opportunities. Additionally, this partnership allows for educational opportunities where students go to our parks and assist in supporting initiatives such as but not limited to animal care at Green Hill Farm, painting, and construction which are in line with the schools' learning objectives.</p>

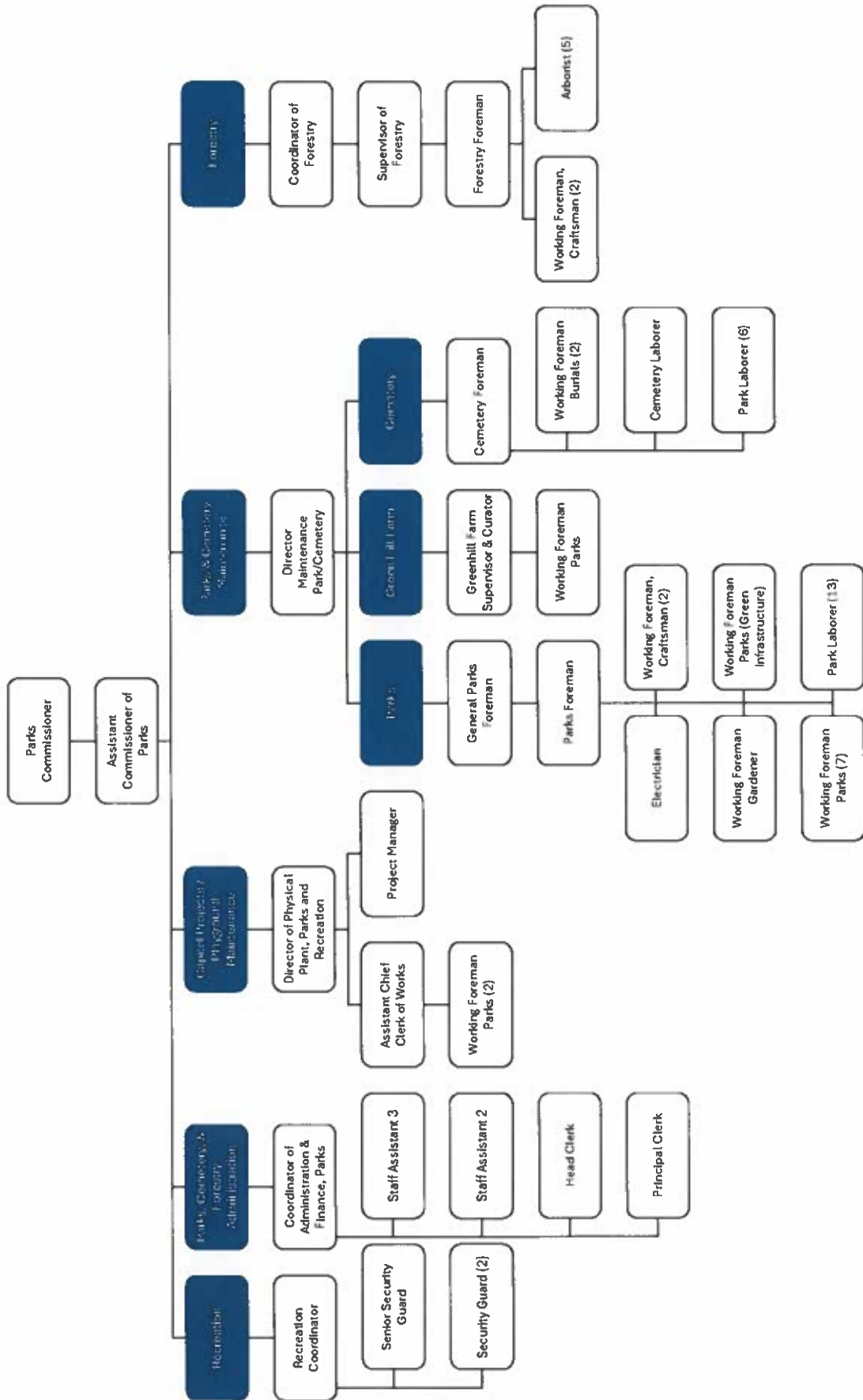
Department Allocation Summary

Expenditures	Actuals Fiscal 2025	Approved Budget For Fiscal 2026	Actuals As Of 3/31/2026	Recommended Appropriation Fiscal 2027
Salaries	\$ 4,776,040	\$ 4,977,727	\$ 3,389,849	\$ 5,104,199
Overtime	914,673	654,062	545,477	654,062
Ordinary Maintenance	3,147,620	3,295,956	1,897,715	3,400,121
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,838,333	\$ 8,927,745	\$ 5,833,041	\$ 9,158,382
Total Positions	65	66	66	66

Operating Budget Highlights

The tax levy budget for Fiscal 2027 is recommended to be \$9,158,382, which is an increase of \$230,637 from the Fiscal 2026 amount of \$8,927,745. This increase is a result of increases for employees that are not at maximum pay, a position regrade, 2% Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for non-represented positions. The Ordinary Maintenance increase of \$104,165 in Fiscal 2027 is mainly associated with hired services for maintenance, installations, and cleanups.

PARKS, RECREATION & HOPE CEMETERY ORGANIZATION CHART



66 Positions

ROBERT C. ANTONELLI, JR., COMMISSIONER PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY

CITY OF WORCESTER - RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL 2027

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & HOPE CEMETERY #TOTAL

FY26 TOTAL POSITIONS	APPROVED FY26 AMOUNT	PAY GRADE	TITLE	FY27 TOTAL POSITIONS	RECOMMENDED FY27 AMOUNT
1	\$ 175,000.00	58CM	PARKS COMMISSIONER	1	\$ 178,496.00
1	126,735.00	51EM	ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PARKS	1	129,266.00
1	108,885.00	46EM	DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL PLANT, PARKS AND RECREATION	1	111,067.00
1	103,530.00	45M	ASSISTANT CHIEF CLERK OF THE WORKS	1	107,852.00
1	103,530.00	45M	COORDINATOR OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE, PARKS	1	106,347.00
1	93,263.00	42P	PROJECT MANAGER	1	98,332.00
1	93,177.00	40M	RECREATION COORDINATOR	1	97,309.00
1	79,909.00	37	STAFF ASSISTANT 3	1	67,414.00
0	-	35	SENIOR SECURITY GUARD (DPW)	1	71,816.00
1	52,620.00	29	PRINCIPAL CLERK	1	55,647.00
2	117,750.00	4	SECURITY GUARD PARKS	2	117,304.00
11	1,054,399.00		SUBTOTAL REGULAR SALARIES - ADMINISTRATION	12	1,140,850.00
1	110,670.00	46EM	DIRECTOR MAINTENANCE PARK/CEMETERY	1	112,878.00
1	83,636.00	40P	GREENHILL FARM SUPERVISOR & CURATOR	1	88,343.00
1	88,072.00	40	ELECTRICIAN	1	88,072.00
1	87,787.00	40	GENERAL PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN	1	90,707.00
1	76,484.00	36	PARKS FOREMAN	1	76,484.00
2	131,859.00	34	WORKING FOREMAN, CRAFTSMAN	2	131,859.00
1	71,139.00	34	WORKING FOREMAN GARDENER	1	71,139.00
10	704,402.00	34	WORKING FOREMAN PARKS	10	708,346.00
1	71,139.00	34	WORKING FOREMAN PARKS (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE)	1	71,139.00
13	639,486.00	26	PARK LABORER	13	647,542.00
1	61,039.00	4	SENIOR SECURITY GUARD (DPW)	0	-
33	2,125,713.00		SUBTOTAL REGULAR SALARIES - MAINTENANCE	32	2,086,509.00
1	108,885.00	44EM	SUPERVISOR OF FORESTRY	1	111,067.00
0	-	38	COORDINATOR OF FORESTRY	1	75,053.00
1	76,484.00	36	FORESTRY FOREMAN	1	76,484.00
2	142,278.00	34	WORKING FOREMAN, CRAFTSMAN	2	131,859.00
6	319,341.00	28	ARBORIST	5	280,630.00
10	646,988.00		SUBTOTAL REGULAR SALARIES - FORESTRY	10	675,093.00
1	76,484.00	36	CEMETERY FOREMAN	1	76,484.00
1	74,308.00	35	STAFF ASSISTANT 2	1	75,799.00
2	142,278.00	34	WORKING FOREMAN BURIALS	2	142,278.00
1	56,826.00	32	HEAD CLERK	1	59,880.00
0	-	26	CEMETERY LABORER	1	54,059.00
7	348,866.00	26	PARK LABORER	6	295,674.00
12	698,762.00		SUBTOTAL REGULAR SALARIES - HOPE CEMETERY	12	704,174.00
66	4,525,862.00		TOTAL REGULAR SALARIES - ALL DIVISIONS	66	4,606,626.00

ROBERT C. ANTONELLI, JR., COMMISSIONER PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY

CITY OF WORCESTER - RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL 2027

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & HOPE CEMETERY #TOTAL

FY26 TOTAL POSITIONS	APPROVED FY26 AMOUNT	PAY GRADE	TITLE	FY27 TOTAL POSITIONS	RECOMMENDED FY27 AMOUNT
	11,741.00		EM INCENTIVE PAY		11,722.00
	(176,322.00)		VACANCY FACTOR		(121,118.00)
	<u>252,909.00</u>		PAYROLL STIPENDS		<u>252,909.00</u>
	<u>88,328.00</u>		TOTAL OTHER SALARIES		<u>143,513.00</u>
			TEMPORARY STAFF SALARIES:		
	-		FORESTRY TEMPORARY STAFF		30,000.00
	202,500.00		HOPE CEMETERY TEMPORARY STAFF		202,500.00
	265,900.00		PARKS TEMPORARY STAFF		235,900.00
	<u>111,300.00</u>		PARKS STEWARDS		<u>111,300.00</u>
	<u>579,700.00</u>		TOTAL TEMPORARY STAFF SALARIES		<u>579,700.00</u>
			FUNDING SOURCES:		
	(15,568.00)		GOLF COURSE REVENUES		(15,802.00)
	<u>(200,595.00)</u>		PROJECT FUNDS		<u>(209,838.00)</u>
	<u>(216,163.00)</u>		TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES		<u>(225,640.00)</u>
66	\$ 4,977,727.00		TOTAL RECOMMENDED PERSONAL SERVICES	66	\$ 5,104,199.00
			RECREATION DIVISION		\$ 64,286.00
	\$ 64,286.00		MAINTENANCE DIVISION		271,979.00
	271,979.00		FORESTRY DIVISION		166,896.00
	166,896.00		HOPE CEMETERY DIVISION		81,288.00
	81,288.00		SNOW REMOVAL		69,613.00
	<u>69,613.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED OVERTIME		<u>\$ 654,062.00</u>
	<u>\$ 854,062.00</u>				
	\$ 5,000.00		ARCHITECTS		\$ -
	20,000.00		AUTO FUEL NO LEAD GAS		20,000.00
	17,000.00		AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIES		17,000.00
	93,500.00		BUILDING SUPPLIES		93,500.00
	5,500.00		CHEMICAL SUPPLIES		5,500.00
	5,000.00		CLEANING SERVICES		5,000.00
	-		CLEANING SUPPLIES		3,500.00
	-		CONSULTANT		500.00
	26,000.00		CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES		26,000.00
	-		DOT PHYSICALS		1,000.00
	18,200.00		DIESEL FUEL		10,000.00
	156,000.00		ELECTRICITY		200,000.00
	43,000.00		ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES		43,000.00
	2,600.00		EXTERMINATOR SERVICES		2,600.00
	-		FARM AND ANIMAL SUPPLIES		10,000.00
	800.00		FOOD SUPPLIES		600.00
	-		FURNITURE		1,000.00
	-		HEATING FUEL		5,000.00
	586,184.00		HIRED SERVICES		127,375.00
	667,500.00		HIRED SERVICES - AQUATICS CONTRACT		717,500.00
	-		INSURANCE		400.00
	15,500.00		IT HARDWARE SUPPLIES & MAINTENANCE		-
	-		LANDSCAPING SERVICES		30,000.00
	167,000.00		LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES		150,000.00
	29,726.00		LEASES & RENTALS		38,000.00

ROBERT C. ANTONELLI, JR., COMMISSIONER PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY

CITY OF WORCESTER - RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL 2027

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & HOPE CEMETERY #TOTAL

FY26 TOTAL POSITIONS	APPROVED FY26 AMOUNT	PAY GRADE	TITLE	FY27 TOTAL POSITIONS	RECOMMENDED FY27 AMOUNT
	3,350.00		LICENSES		1,500.00
	689,000.00		MAINTENANCE & REPAIR		689,000.00
	179,000.00		MAINTENANCE/REPAIR VEHICLE		179,000.00
	500.00		MEDICAL SUPPLIES		500.00
	4,250.00		MEMBERSHIP DUES		4,250.00
	-		MEMORIALS		2,000.00
	15,000.00		NATURAL GAS		15,000.00
	9,100.00		NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING		1,500.00
	41,696.00		NON-NETWORK SOFTWARE & SUPPORT		41,696.00
	29,500.00		OFFICE SUPPLIES		10,000.00
	-		OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		10,000.00
	-		PAINT AND VARNISH		7,000.00
	154,205.00		PARTS/EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES		115,000.00
	-		PERMITS		6,000.00
	24,000.00		PERFORMERS		6,000.00
	900.00		PHYSICIANS		-
	13,300.00		POLICE DETAIL		30,000.00
	1,000.00		POSTAGE		5,000.00
	2,000.00		PREPARED MEALS		-
	21,345.00		PRINTING SUPPLIES & SERVICES		25,800.00
	-		RECREATION SERVICES		500,000.00
	80,500.00		RECREATIONAL SUPPLIES		30,000.00
	4,200.00		REGISTRATION FEES		10,000.00
	28,900.00		RUBBISH REMOVAL		55,000.00
	-		SAFETY SUPPLIES		10,000.00
	12,000.00		SAND & GRAVEL SUPPLIES		12,000.00
	7,000.00		SECURITY SERVICES		7,000.00
	-		SOFTWARE SUPPLIES		2,000.00
	600.00		SUBSCRIPTIONS		5,000.00
	25,000.00		TAG DAY		25,000.00
	-		TOOLS		20,000.00
	4,800.00		TRAINING CERTIFICATIONS		4,800.00
	1,300.00		TRAVEL		1,000.00
	75,000.00		TREE REMOVAL		100,000.00
	-		UNIFORMS		1,600.00
	10,000.00		VETERINARIANS		10,000.00
	<u>3,295,956.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED ORDINARY MAINTENANCE		<u>3,450,121.00</u>
			FUNDING SOURCES:		
	-		GRAVES & LOTS SALES		<u>(50,000.00)</u>
	-		TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES		<u>(50,000.00)</u>
	<u>\$ 3,295,956.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED ORDINARY MAINTENANCE		<u>\$ 3,400,121.00</u>
	<u>\$ 8,927,745.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED TAX LEVY		<u>\$ 9,158,382.00</u>

GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE

Matthew Moison, PGA

Green Hill Golf Course
 1929 Officer Manny Familia Way
 Worcester, MA 01605

Phone: 508-799-1359

Email: <https://greenhillgc.com/contact-us/>

Mission

The mission of the Green Hill Golf Course since 1929 is to provide a first-class golf experience by efficiently and innovatively managing the City's 18-hole municipal golf course and driving range.

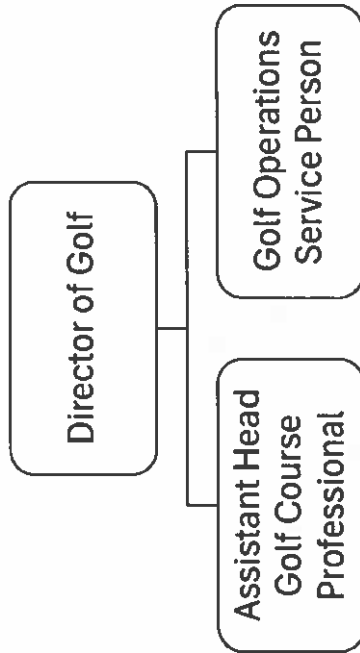
Department Allocation Summary

Expenditures	Actuals Fiscal 2025	Approved Budget For Fiscal 2026	Actuals As Of 3/31/2026	Recommended Appropriation Fiscal 2027
Salaries	\$ 395,810	\$ 440,152	\$ 248,233	\$ 453,341
Ordinary Maintenance	982,405	1,131,600	794,346	1,219,490
Debt Service	-	223,112	46,791	210,328
Transfer of Service	-	46,791	46,460	47,952
Fringe Benefits	143,400	160,215	113,282	166,356
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,521,615	\$ 2,001,870	\$ 1,249,112	\$ 2,097,467
Total Positions	3	3	3	3

Operating Budget Highlights

The budget for Fiscal 2027 is recommended to be \$2,097,467 which is an increase of \$95,597 from the Fiscal 2026 amount of \$2,001,870. The salary increase is mainly due to a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for non-represented employees and a position regrade. The increase in Ordinary Maintenance is due primarily to a new contract for hired services.

GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE ORGANIZATION CHART



3 Positions

**CITY OF WORCESTER - RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL 2027
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & HOPE CEMETERY
DIVISION OF GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE #CC1065**

FY26 TOTAL POSITIONS	APPROVED FY26 AMOUNT	PAY GRADE	TITLE	FY27 TOTAL POSITIONS	RECOMMENDED FY27 AMOUNT
1	\$ 122,247.00	44EM	DIRECTOR OF GOLF	1	\$ 124,698.00
1	88,386.00	39P	GOLF OPERATIONS SERVICE PERSON	1	90,153.00
0	-	30P	ASSISTANT HEAD GOLF COURSE PROFESSIONAL	1	54,203.00
1	45,858.00	25	ASSISTANT HEAD GOLF COURSE PROFESSIONAL	0	-
3	256,491.00		TOTAL REGULAR SALARIES	3	269,054.00
	4,391.00		EM INCENTIVE PAY		5,017.00
	4,391.00		TOTAL OTHER SALARIES		5,017.00
			TEMPORARY STAFF:		
	16,900.00	FLAT	ASSISTANT HEAD GOLF COURSE PROFESSIONAL		16,900.00
	21,450.00	9R	HEAD RANGER, GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE		21,450.00
	31,720.00	11R	SENIOR RANGER, GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE		31,720.00
	58,500.00	12R	RANGER, GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE		58,500.00
	31,200.00	12R	PRO-SHOP SALES, GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE		31,200.00
	19,500.00	12R	DRIVING RANGE GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE		19,500.00
	179,270.00		TOTAL TEMPORARY STAFF SALARIES		179,270.00
3	\$ 440,152.00		TOTAL RECOMMENDED PERSONAL SERVICES	3	\$ 453,341.00

\$ 9,500.00	AUTO FUEL	\$ 12,500.00
-	BANK & CREDIT CARD CHARGES	50,000.00
700.00	BOTTLED WATER	1,500.00
7,200.00	BUILDING SUPPLIES	7,200.00
14,000.00	CATERED MEALS	14,000.00
-	CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS	5,000.00
4,500.00	CONSULTANTS	-
-	CUSTOTIAL SUPPLIES	1,000.00
39,100.00	ELECTRICITY	39,100.00
5,000.00	FOOD SUPPLIES	5,000.00
9,100.00	GOLF SOFTWARE	9,100.00
660,000.00	HIRED SERVICES	695,890.00
500.00	IT HARDWARE SUPPLIES & SERVICES	-
-	LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES	500.00
110,000.00	LEASES & RENTALS	115,000.00
33,000.00	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR	18,000.00
-	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR VEHICLE	1,500.00
5,000.00	MEMBERSHIP DUES	5,000.00
-	MILEAGE	100.00
6,500.00	NATURAL GAS	6,500.00
-	NETWORK SOFTWARE & SUPPORT	7,000.00
7,000.00	NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING	-
5,100.00	NON-NETWORK SOFTWARE & SUPPORT	5,100.00
2,200.00	OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,200.00
9,000.00	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	9,000.00
5,500.00	PARTS/EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES	9,500.00
500.00	POSTAGE	1,500.00
5,200.00	PRINTING SUPPLIES & SERVICES	6,000.00
110,000.00	RECREATIONAL SUPPLIES	105,600.00
-	SAFETY SUPPLIES	500.00
-	SAND AND GRAVEL SUPPLIES	200.00
700.00	SECURITY SERVICES	700.00
-	SOFTWARE LICENSE	2,000.00

CITY OF WORCESTER - RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL 2027
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & HOPE CEMETERY
DIVISION OF GREEN HILL GOLF COURSE #CC1065

FY26 TOTAL POSITIONS	APPROVED FY26 AMOUNT	PAY GRADE	TITLE	FY27 TOTAL POSITIONS	RECOMMENDED FY27 AMOUNT
	2,300.00		TELEPHONE		2,300.00
	-		TOOLS		2,000.00
	1,000.00		TRAVELING		-
	79,000.00		UTILITIES - WATER		79,000.00
	<u>\$ 1,131,600.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED ORDINARY MAINTENANCE		<u>\$ 1,219,490.00</u>
	\$ 176,652.00		DEBT PRINCIPAL	\$ 171,069.00	
	46,460.00		DEBT INTEREST	39,259.00	
	<u>\$ 223,112.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED DEBT SERVICE	<u>\$ 210,328.00</u>	
	\$ 46,791.00		TRANSFER OF SERVICES	\$ 47,952.00	
	<u>\$ 46,791.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED TRANSFER OF SERVICES	<u>\$ 47,952.00</u>	
	\$ 62,178.00		HEALTH INSURANCE	\$ 64,683.00	
	11,000.00		UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	11,000.00	
	69,709.00		CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS	75,081.00	
	17,328.00		PENSION OBLIGATION BONDS	15,592.00	
	<u>\$ 160,215.00</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED FRINGE BENEFITS	<u>\$ 186,356.00</u>	
	<u>\$ 2,001,870.00</u>		TOTAL GOLF COURSE EXPENSES	<u>\$ 2,097,467.00</u>	
	2,001,870.00		TOTAL RECOMMENDED BUDGET	2,097,467.00	
	(2,001,870.00)		FUNDING SOURCES:	(2,097,467.00)	
	(2,001,870.00)		GOLF COURSE REVENUES	(2,097,467.00)	
			TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	(2,097,467.00)	
	<u>\$ -</u>		TOTAL RECOMMENDED TAX LEVY	<u>\$ -</u>	



The City of Worcester

Fiscal Year 2027

Capital Budget

Eric D. Batista, City Manager

Budget Message

This comprehensive, five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2027-2031 considers the collective priorities of our community, City Council, and my administration following the vision of *The City of Worcester Strategic Plan: FY2025-2029*. As we continue to implement a long-term strategy, we also consider the need for flexibility during a time of increased capital borrowing costs.

Many of the capital projects proposed in this Capital Improvement Plan will have a positive impact during Fiscal 2027, whereas some are multi-year programs that will yield results in the coming years. In the table below, projects with prior year loan authorization depict ongoing equipment purchases, and facility and infrastructure programs for which City Council has previously approved loan orders. Projects with new authorization in Fiscal 2027 represent new projects and/or ongoing projects that require increased loan authority.

Funding Source	Remaining Prior Year Authorization	FY27 New Authorization	FY27 Borrowing	Other Funding (Grants, etc.)
Tax Levy	\$ 57,175,069	\$ 40,468,416	\$ 59,072,917	\$ 11,803,255
South Division	37,500,000	-	25,000,000	-
Golf Enterprise	2,300,000	-	1,000,000	-
Off Street Parking	2,400,000	-	2,400,000	1,600,000
Water Enterprise	21,444,803	-	19,316,412	-
Sewer Enterprise	40,774,661	3,000,000	29,065,505	-
DCU	5,926,577	-	4,000,000	-
WPS - MSBA	25,600,000	-	19,500,000	-
Grand Total	\$ 193,121,110	\$ 43,468,416	\$ 159,354,834	\$ 13,403,255

In total, this Fiscal 2027 CIP recommends a total annual borrowing of \$159M, \$25M or 15.7% is related to the replacement of the South Division Fire Station, and \$19.5M or 12% of which is related to Worcester Public Schools – Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) projects. The Fiscal 2027 CIP also includes a total tax levy capital borrowing of \$59M, approximately \$16M above Fiscal 2026 recommendations (due almost entirely to increased investment in Department of Public Works (DPW) projects). It also includes enterprise and self-funded borrowing of \$55.8M and \$13.4M in potential grant funding to be invested in the City. I am recommending \$43.5M in new loan authorization for Fiscal 2027 to be approved by City Council, which is a significant decrease from the prior year’s new authorizations of \$159M. This decrease from Fiscal 2026 aligns with our commitment to complete projects that are in the pipeline and begin those that have been approved in the recent past. These recommendations overall are driven by a focus on investment in infrastructure, including the above-mentioned significant increase in DPW funding. This plan will allow us to continue to invest in public safety through the acquisition of vehicles and equipment for Police and Fire; in wireless expansion in City parks; in core assets like our public schools, police headquarters, and fire stations, including the construction of a new South Division Fire Station; in the design of safer, more inclusive streets through the Department of Transportation and Mobility; and finally, the beautification of our City through the efforts of the Parks Department. Additionally, we are recommending key investments in our Water, Sewer, Golf, and Off-Street Parking enterprise accounts.

Allocation by Category and Funding Source

Category	FY27 Tax Levy Borrowing	FY27 Self Supporting Debt	Other Funding (Grants, etc.)	FY27 Total Project Investment
Equipment	\$ 10,361,868	\$ 1,260,522	\$ 203,255	\$ 11,825,645
WPS Equipment	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000
Facility Improvements	\$ 6,300,161	\$ 9,400,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 17,300,161
WPS Facility Improvement	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 4,500,000
WPS - MSBA Facility Improvement	\$ 19,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,500,000
Infrastructure	\$ 38,410,888	\$ 34,621,395	\$ 10,600,000	\$ 83,632,283
South Division Fire Station	\$ 25,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000,000
Court Judgement	\$ -	\$ 10,500,000	\$ -	\$ 10,500,000
Grand Total	\$ 103,572,917	\$ 55,781,917	\$ 13,403,255	\$ 172,758,089

Equipment

For Fiscal 2027, I am recommending a total investment of \$12.3M in new equipment borrowing, of which \$10.8M is tax levy supported. Notable purchases include:

- \$5.9M investment into the DPW fleet
- \$2.8M for Fire including vehicles and radio replacements
- \$1.25M total between Water and Sewer equipment
- \$1M in Marked Police cruisers
- \$1M investment into the Parks fleet
- \$500k in Public Schools related equipment

Facility Improvement

I am recommending an investment of \$66.3M in facility improvements, \$54.3M of which is tax levy supported and \$2.6M of which is offset by grant and other funding sources. The major contributor to this category is the construction of a new South Division Fire Station totaling \$25M in anticipated Fiscal 2027 borrowing.

Other facility improvement projects include:

- \$19.5M in MSBA related projects at Doherty High School, Burncoat High School and Middle School, Belmont Street School and Rice Square Elementary
- \$4.5M for non-MSBA school rehabilitation
- \$4M for DCU renovations
- \$3M for Sewer facility upgrades
- \$2.7M for Union Station including Federal Transit Authority grant funding match
- \$2.7M in ongoing projects at our Library, City Hall, Senior Center and Inspectional Services buildings
- \$2M in parking garage rehabilitation throughout the City
- \$1.5M for DPW building projects
- \$1.1M for continued work related to WPD headquarters generator, HVAC and plumbing work

Infrastructure

Of the \$83.6M recommended in infrastructure upgrades, \$10.6M is offset by grant and other outside funding. We recommend \$26.7M in investment for resurfacing and other street and sidewalk related construction projects to be allocated to the Department of Public Works, \$7.3M be allocated to the Department of Transportation and Mobility for street design and traffic signals, and \$15M to Parks for various park-related improvements.

Other infrastructure projects include:

- \$18.5M for various Water projects including improvements to water mains, as well as repairs and replacement of water meters including \$9.9M for water main construction related to the grant funded redesign of Chandler Street.
- \$15M for various Sewer infrastructure projects including interceptor rehabilitation and reconstruction projects, as well as sewage flow analysis to ensure the City's ability to grow sustainably.

WPS Equipment and Facility Improvement

I am recommending a total of \$5M for various equipment purchases and facility repairs for the Worcester Public Schools. This includes \$4.5M for general building rehabilitation, \$1M of which will come from Community Development Block Grant funds and the remainder from Tax Levy, and \$500K in capital equipment funding. In addition, and as referenced above, I am recommending \$19.5M in borrowing related to MSBA approved improvement projects at various schools throughout the City. We anticipate the final borrowing for Doherty High School in Fiscal 2027, and the continuation of the feasibility study for Burncoat Middle and High Schools. Additionally, a total of \$5M is expected to be borrowed for MSBA Accelerated Repair Program improvements at Belmont Street Community and Rice Square elementary schools. Improvements at these elementary schools include roof, window, and door replacements.

Court Judgement

In March 2026, the City and the Town of Holden reached a settlement agreement over *Town of Holden v. Department of Conservation and Recreation and City of Worcester*. As part of the settlement agreement, the City's Sewer enterprise will pay the Town of Holden a total of \$35.5M over the course of three years. Of this amount, \$25.5M may be financed through bond issuances, with \$10.5M being paid in Fiscal 2027, \$5M in Fiscal 2028, \$5M in Fiscal 2029, and the final \$5M in Fiscal 2030. These borrowings have been calculated as part of the Sewer capital budget.

Budget Process

Putting fiscal responsibility first and foremost, the Budget Office developed an analytical budget process ensuring all capital requests are assessed and prioritized to formulate a sound, long-term Capital Improvement Plan. As we evaluate the City's short- and long-term capital needs, our current resources and expectations, and the potential of grant funds, we believe the current proposed Fiscal 2027 Capital Improvement Plan represents a solid investment in the City and will assist in maintaining our capacity to respond to present conditions while setting a foundation for continued growth and expansion.

Capital & Debt Policy

- The City will maintain a multi-year approach for the Capital Improvement Plan
- A capital asset is defined as an asset that has a useful life of one year or more
- Any capital asset to be financed shall have a minimal unit cost of \$5,000, and a useful life of five years or more
- Capital assets with a unit cost of less than \$5,000 and/or a useful life of less than 5 years are to be purchased with cash through the Operating Budget under the Capital Outlay accounts
- The City will obtain financing only when necessary
- Debt financing will not be considered appropriate for recurring costs such as operating and maintenance expenditures
- The City will utilize external bond counsel for all debt issuances
- Continual review of all outstanding debts will be undertaken to determine refunding opportunities
- The City will seek to amortize general obligation bonds with level principal and interest costs over the life of the issue
- The City will seek to issue its general bond obligations in a competitive sale unless it is determined that such a sale method will not produce the best results for the City.

Five Year Debt Service Projection

The following table illustrates the current debt service obligations of the City of Worcester before any of the borrowing included in the Fiscal 2027 Capital Improvement Plan. This table shows the amount of debt retired each year as well as a breakdown of the debt obligations by funding source.

Funding Source	FY27 Total Debt Service	FY28 Total Debt Service	FY29 Total Debt Service	FY30 Total Debt Service	FY31 Total Debt Service
Tax Levy	\$44,083,730	\$40,794,862	\$36,672,578	\$31,036,679	\$28,317,621
Water	8,028,849	7,516,858	6,779,356	6,345,241	5,656,778
Sewer	13,226,364	12,362,432	11,991,805	11,272,992	10,666,936
Building Campaign	224,400	-	-	-	-
North High School Fund	1,117,124	980,391	971,429	769,231	764,000
New High School Fund	15,568,604	15,160,706	14,716,536	14,354,736	13,989,536
Off Street Parking	2,082,435	1,883,372	1,763,477	1,701,830	1,596,689
Airport	1,723	-	-	-	-
DCU Center	4,617,549	4,532,632	3,871,370	3,729,924	3,117,206
City Square DIF	4,177,879	4,164,973	4,185,008	4,215,767	4,228,085
Golf	210,328	189,419	170,187	157,516	157,952
PILOT Parks	155,846	131,100	20,708	-	-
CSX Parks	92,381	-	-	-	-
Major Taylor Blvd Garage	63,839	62,137	59,478	58,082	42,669
Union Station Garage	282,063	75,380	72,822	70,427	68,059
Library	25,103	25,103	25,103	25,103	25,103
Fire Stabilization	496,958	497,971	485,871	473,771	461,671
Ballpark DIF	7,127,615	7,224,906	7,327,722	7,431,384	7,559,112
Total	\$101,582,789	\$95,602,243	\$89,113,451	\$81,642,683	\$76,651,417

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Fire	Equipment	Impact Response Vehicles	\$ 360,000	\$ -	\$ 360,000	\$ -	\$ -
Fire	Equipment	Engines and Ladders	1,000,000	-	3,200,000	6,000,000	-
Fire	Equipment	Radio Replacement	400,000	-	400,000	-	-
Fire	Capital Outlay	Safety Equipment	-	143,000	-	-	-
		Fire Sub-Total	\$ 1,760,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 3,960,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ -

Replacement Vehicles - Purchase of (3) Impact Response Vehicles for improved ability to maneuver through City streets and reduce usage of larger engines as appropriate.

Engines and Ladders - Maintaining authorization for the engines and ladders authorized in previous years, expected to be delivered in FY28 and beyond.

Radio Replacement - Replacement of thirty-five (35) portable radios that are end-of-life.

Safety Equipment - Contractual funding for safety equipment.

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Police	Equipment	Harley Davidson Motorcycles	\$ 100,800	\$ -	\$ 100,800	\$ -	\$ -
Police	Equipment	Marked and Unmarked Vehicles	1,026,682	-	1,026,682	-	-
Police	Capital Outlay	Miscellaneous Safety Equipment	-	110,800	-	-	-
		Police Sub-Total	\$ 1,127,482	\$ 110,800	\$ 1,127,482	\$ -	\$ -

Harley Davidson Motorcycles - Purchase and replacement of (3) Harley Davidson Motorcycles.

Marked Vehicles - Purchase of fifteen (15) marked police vehicles and one (1) unmarked police vehicle.

Miscellaneous Safety Equipment - Funding for WPD equipment, including rear units, traffic camera replacements, and training equipment.

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Innovation & Technology	Equipment	Customer Service Request System Replacement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -
Innovation & Technology	Equipment	Wireless Network Expansion in City Parks	105,000	-	-	105,000	-
Innovation & Technology	Equipment	Network Switches/Isilon Replacement	300,000	-	300,000	-	-
		Innovation & Technology Sub-Total	\$ 405,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,105,000	\$ -

Customer Service Request System Replacement - Replacement of the customer service request system to begin in FY28.

Wireless Network Expansion in City Parks - Continuation of project to expand Wi-Fi access to City parks.

Network Switches/Isilon Replacement - Replacement of end of life network switches and Isilon storage system.

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Public Schools	Facility Improvements	School Building Rehabilitation	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
Public Schools	Equipment	Schools Capital Equipment	500,000	-	500,000	-	-
Public Schools	Capital Outlay	Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment	-	838,533	-	-	-
		Public Schools Sub-Total	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 838,533	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000

School Rehab - Various improvements to school facilities throughout the district.

Schools Capital Equip - Facility equipment purchases, technology acquisitions, and fleet management.

Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment - Miscellaneous repairs, improvements, and equipment purchases.

Eric D. Batista
City Manager

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	Main Library - Replace Cooling Tower	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	Main Library - Boiler	232,000	-	-	232,000	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	City Hall	500,000	-	-	950,000	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	City Hall - Parking Garage Renovation	500,000	-	-	500,000	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	South Division Fire Station Replacement	25,000,000	-	-	37,500,000	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	Fire General Improvements to Stations	250,000	-	250,000	-	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	Inspection Services Building	180,000	-	-	180,000	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	Regional Emergency Communication Center	336,775	-	-	336,775	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	Senior Center - Entry Doors	300,000	-	-	300,000	-
Public Facilities	Facility Improvements	WPD Headquarters	1,106,800	-	5,000,000	3,900,000	-
Public Facilities	Capital Outlay	Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment	-	100,000	-	-	-
		Public Facilities Sub-Total	\$ 28,705,575	\$ 100,000	\$ 5,550,000	\$ 43,898,775	\$ -
		Main Library Cooling Tower - Replace the cooling tower in the main library building.					
		Main Library Boiler Replacement - Replacing two (2) boilers, which have reached end-of-life, in the main library.					
		City Hall - Continuation of renovations to City Hall stairs and other building improvements.					
		City Hall Parking Garage Renovation - Renovations to City Hall's Parking Garage as per completed design.					
		South Division Fire Station Replacement - Funding for the replacement of the South Division Fire Station.					
		General Improvements to Stations - Upgrades to various stations throughout the City to improve station functionality and safety.					
		Inspection Services Building - Continued work on hand rails in stair cases, increased security at the front desk of the permitting office, and vehicular masonry repairs.					
		Regional Emergency Communication Center - Continuation of parking lot improvements.					
		Senior Center - Replacement of Senior Center entry doors.					
		WPD Headquarters - Upgrades include a new generator, HVAC, and plumbing. New loan authorization of \$6M is designated for the headquarters roof replacement.					
		Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment - Miscellaneous repairs, improvements, and equipment purchases.					

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Public Facilities - DCU	Facility Improvements	DCU - Facility Improvements	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 5,926,577	\$ -
		DCU Sub-Total	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,926,577	\$ -
		DCU - Facility Improvements - Upgrades to facility including structural rigging, rehabilitation of the permanent chiller, as well as other general improvements.					

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Public Facilities - MSBA	Facility Improvements	MSBA - Doherty High School	\$ 13,000,000	\$ -	\$ 17,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Public Facilities - MSBA	Facility Improvements	Belmont St Community School - ARP 2025	2,500,000	-	-	3,500,000	-
Public Facilities - MSBA	Facility Improvements	Rice Square Elementary - ARP 2025	2,500,000	-	-	3,500,000	-
Public Facilities - MSBA	Facility Improvements	MSBA - Burncoat Middle/High School	1,500,000	-	-	1,600,000	-
		Public Facilities - MSBA Sub-Total	\$ 19,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,600,000	\$ -
		MSBA - Doherty High School - Funding is anticipated to complete the Doherty High School construction project					
		MSBA - Belmont St. Community School - ARP 2025 - Replacement of the roof at Belmont St. Community School.					
		MSBA - Rice Square Elementary School - ARP 2025 - Replacement of the roof, windows and doors at Rice Square Elementary School.					
		MSBA - Burncoat High School and Middle School - Funding for the feasibility study into replacement of the Burncoat High School and Middle School.					
WRA	Facility Improvements	Union Station Upgrades	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ 700,000	\$ 1,302,364	\$ -
		WRA Sub-Total	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ 700,000	\$ 1,302,364	\$ -
		Union Station Upgrades - Funding for continued building improvements at Union Station. Funding will be used as capital match to Federal grants.					

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Public Works	Facility Improvements	DPW Building Improvements	\$ 1,544,588	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -
Public Works	Infrastructure	Bridges	181,458	-	-	500,000	-
Public Works	Infrastructure	Private Streets	280,930	-	-	280,930	-
Public Works	Infrastructure	Resurfacing	12,360,500	-	8,700,000	5,000,000	4,500,000
Public Works	Infrastructure	Nixon Ave Construction and Design	800,000	-	800,000	-	-
Public Works	Infrastructure	Pavement Preservation Program	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	-
Public Works	Infrastructure	Permanent Patch Program	500,000	-	500,000	-	-
Public Works	Infrastructure	Crack Seal Program	250,000	-	250,000	-	-
Public Works	Infrastructure	Sidewalks	1,450,000	-	1,450,000	-	-
Public Works	Infrastructure	Grafton Street	200,000	-	200,000	-	2,000,000
Public Works	Infrastructure	Streetslights	1,200,000	-	1,200,000	500,000	-
Public Works	Equipment	DPW Capital Equipment	5,938,452	-	5,500,000	1,310,000	-
Public Works	Capital Outlay	Snow Equipment	-	1,000,000	-	-	-
Public Works Sub-Total			27,705,926	1,000,000	23,100,000	5,090,930	6,500,000
DPW Building - New authorization and \$1.5M of FY27 borrowing is allocated to Albany and Clark St. building design and improvements.							
Bridges - Design, rehabilitation, maintenance, and repair of bridges, including the Belmont Street pedestrian bridge.							
Private Streets - Costs related to the conversions including Weldon Ave and Umbagog Drive.							
Resurfacing - Work related to the redesign and construction of streets including portions of Massasoit Rd. and Park Ave. and supplemented by federal CDBG funds, as well as annual work related to Council-approved petitions, arterial repaving, and street reconstruction.							
Nixon Ave Construction and Design - Design costs related to the upgrade of Nixon Ave from a private street to a public street needed due to flooding issues that have potential to impact critical infrastructure.							
Pavement Preservation Program - Utilization of asphalt treatment processes designed to restore roadway rideability and extend pavement life.							
Permanent Patch Program - Patching method that is utilized as part of the overall Pavement Preservation Program.							
Crack Seal Program - Sealing method that is utilized as part of the overall Pavement Preservation Program.							
Sidewalks - Continuing efforts to restore sidewalks including accessibility improvements, citywide.							
Grafton Street - Replacing of two (2) miles of Grafton Street funded primarily through MassDOT.							
Streetslights - Ongoing replacement of damaged streetslights, as well as installations according to Council petitions, near crosswalks, and underneath bridges citywide.							
DPW Capital Equipment - Various equipment and vehicle related acquisitions, with a focus on replacing aging equipment and on equipment that serves multiple purposes.							
Snow Equipment - Various snow equipment and vehicle related acquisitions.							

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Public Works - Sewer	Facility Improvements	Sewer Facility Upgrades	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Public Works - Sewer	Infrastructure	Sewer Construction	13,724,661	-	-	13,724,661	-
Public Works - Sewer	Infrastructure	Sewer Green Island	1,090,844	-	-	-	-
Public Works - Sewer	Equipment	Sewer Equipment	450,000	-	-	450,000	-
Public Works - Sewer	Infrastructure	Flow Metering Program	300,000	-	-	1,100,000	-
Public Works - Sewer	Court Judgment	Holden Legal Settlement	10,500,000	-	-	25,500,000	-
Public Works - Sewer	Capital Outlay	Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment	-	24,500	-	-	-
Public Works - Sewer Sub-Total			29,065,505	24,500	3,000,000	40,774,661	-
Sewer Facility Upgrades - Roof replacement at 78 Worcester.							
Sewer Construction - Sewer construction to include citywide sewer line reconstruction per the integration and control plan, sewer interceptor rehab, and pump station rehab.							
Sewer Green Island - Continuation of reconstruction of Bigelow and Endicott Streets and associated drainage systems, supplemented by federal CDBG funds.							
Sewer Equipment - Various vehicles (to include snow plows), a grader and two (2) sweepers as well as other equipment for emergency response and maintenance purposes.							
Flow Metering Program - Sewer capacity analysis to ensure sustainable city growth.							
Holden Legal Settlement - Borrowing for the annual amount due to the Town of Holden, per the court settlement agreement.							
Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment - Miscellaneous repairs, improvements, and equipment purchases.							

Eric D. Balista
City Manager

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Public Works - Water	Equipment	Water Equipment	\$ 810,522	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 820,000	\$ -
Public Works - Water	Infrastructure	Water Land Acquisition	350,000	-	-	350,000	-
Public Works - Water	Infrastructure	Water Mains	7,934,803	-	-	7,934,803	-
Public Works - Water	Infrastructure	Water Mains - Chandler Street	9,900,000	-	-	9,900,000	-
Public Works - Water	Infrastructure	Water Meters	121,087	-	-	1,750,000	-
Public Works - Water	Infrastructure	Water Reservoirs Dams	200,000	-	-	690,000	-
Public Works - Water	Capital Outlay	Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment	-	25,000	-	-	-
		Public Works - Water Sub-Total	\$ 19,316,412	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 21,444,803	\$ -
<p>Water Equipment - Critical equipment used to respond to water main emergencies, heavy equipment (including snow plows), and various vehicle purchases.</p> <p>Water Land Acquisition - Land acquisition along City watersheds in order to preserve a sustainable water supply.</p> <p>Water Mains - Water main construction, transmission mains, and materials.</p> <p>Water Mains - Chandler Street - Water main construction along Chandler Street, in conjunction with road reconfiguration.</p> <p>Water Meters - Replacement of end-of-life water meters throughout the City.</p> <p>Water Reservoirs Dams - Dam evaluation and redesign.</p> <p>Miscellaneous Building Improvements & Equipment - Miscellaneous repairs, improvements, and equipment purchases.</p>							

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Off Street Parking	Facility Improvements	Union Station Garage	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,600,000
Off Street Parking	Facility Improvements	Citywide Parking Garage Rehab	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	-
		Off Street Parking Sub-Total	\$ 2,400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 1,600,000
<p>Union Station Garage - Continuation of waterproofing, fire alarm upgrades, and sprinkler replacements.</p> <p>Citywide Parking Garage Rehab - Parking garage rehabilitation at various garages throughout the City.</p>							

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Transportation & Mobility	Infrastructure	Traffic & Signal Engineering	\$ 758,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,380,000	\$ -
Transportation & Mobility	Infrastructure	Transportation Improvement Program	1,120,000	-	-	1,400,000	150,000
Transportation & Mobility	Infrastructure	Complete Streets Improvements	3,135,000	-	-	6,225,000	150,000
Transportation & Mobility	Infrastructure	Annual Street Improvement Program	572,000	-	-	1,400,000	1,400,000
		Transportation & Mobility Sub-Total	\$ 5,585,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,405,000	\$ 1,700,000
<p>Traffic & Signal Engineering - Design and implementation of traffic signal and related intersection improvements, including installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at some crosswalk locations.</p> <p>Transportation Improvement Program - Design of major projects with construction funded through the regional TIP (Federal and State funding). Authorization will fund design for Chandler St., Lake Ave., and Mill St.</p> <p>Complete Streets Improvements - Construction and design related to various crosswalk and intersection improvements throughout the City and the installation of permanent speed humps in certain locations.</p> <p>Annual Street Improvement Program - Redesign of streets selected for annual resurfacing including Newton Squares, Highland Street, Main Street and Hope Ave, and oversight of the Pavement Management Program.</p>							

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Parks	Infrastructure	Aquatics	\$ 204,000	\$ -	\$ -	204,000	\$ -
Parks	Infrastructure	General Park Capital Maintenance	1,600,000	-	1,600,000	-	-
Parks	Infrastructure	Salisbury Pond	1,214,000	-	-	1,214,000	-
Parks	Infrastructure	Bell Pond	-	-	-	2,000,000	1,000,000
Parks	Infrastructure	Bennett Field	-	-	-	4,000,000	-
Parks	Infrastructure	Lincoln Square Memorial	3,250,000	-	-	4,120,000	-
Parks	Infrastructure	Playground Renovations	850,000	-	-	850,000	-
Parks	Infrastructure	South Worcester Playground	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	400,000
Parks	Infrastructure	Worcester Common	500,000	-	-	750,000	-
Parks	Equipment	Parks Capital Equipment	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	-
Parks	Facility Improvements	Parks Building Upgrades	350,000	-	-	650,000	-
Parks	Infrastructure	Tecoma Street Park	800,000	-	-	800,000	-
Parks	Infrastructure	Lakeview Park	2,885,000	-	-	2,985,000	1,000,000
Parks Sub-Total:			\$ 13,953,000	\$ -	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 19,873,000	\$ 2,400,000
Aquatics - Continuation of Aquatics upgrades and renovations.							
General Park Capital Maintenance - Funding of capital maintenance projects at various parks, based on need.							
Bell Pond - Future authorization for renovations to the beach, building, parking lot, and basketball court.							
Bennett Field - Future authorization for Department of Environmental Protection required contaminated soil removal.							
Lincoln Square Memorial - Continued monument work associated with the senior housing development project.							
Playground Renovations - Replacement of playground safety surfacing, and other general playground related upgrades.							
South Worcester Playground - Construction of a new basketball court, installation of lighting, new fencing, accessible walkways, updated security infrastructure, as well as other general improvements.							
Worcester Common - Sidewalk reconstruction around the Common, to begin along Franklin Street.							
Parks Capital Equipment - Various equipment and vehicle purchases essential to Parks, Forestry and Cemetery Services' operations.							
Parks Building Upgrades - General building upgrades at various parks.							
Tecoma Street Park - Completion of soil remediation and construction at Tecoma Street Park.							
Lakeview Park - Replacement of the playground and basketball court, additional benches, picnic tables, and lighting, tree planting, and other general improvements.							

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Golf	Infrastructure	Golf Improvements	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	2,300,000	\$ -
Golf Sub-Total:			\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	2,300,000	\$ -
Golf Improvements - Various course improvements in the lead up to the 100th anniversary of the course in 2029.							

Dept.	Category	Project Title	FY27 Borrowing	FY27 Cash Purchase	FY27 New Authorization	Prior Year Loan Authorization	Grant/Donation Funds
Library	Equipment	Automated Material Handling System	\$ 130,934	\$ -	\$ 130,934	-	\$ 203,255
Library Sub-Total:			\$ 130,934	\$ -	\$ 130,934	-	\$ 203,255
Library - Replacement of the Automated Material Handling (AMH) system, which was originally installed in 2013, and has reached the end of its useful life. The total replacement cost is \$334,188, of which \$148 is covered with other funding sources.							

Equipment	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Fire	\$ 1,760,000	\$ 1,032,405	\$ 3,244,802	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Police	1,127,482	1,150,032	1,184,533	1,208,223	1,244,470
Innovation & Technology	405,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	500,000
Public Facilities	-	50,000	-	-	-
Public Works	5,938,452	4,000,000	3,000,000	2,500,000	2,000,000
Public Works - Sewer	450,000	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Public Works - Water	810,522	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000
Golf	-	-	-	-	-
Parks	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,500,000
Off Street Parking	-	-	-	50,000	-
Transportation & Mobility	-	40,000	-	50,000	-
Public Schools	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Worcester Public Library	130,934	-	-	-	-
Total Equipment	\$ 12,122,390	\$ 10,772,437	\$ 12,679,335	\$ 11,058,224	\$ 10,744,470
Facility Improvements					
Public Facilities	\$ 3,705,575	\$ 4,570,000	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,975,000
Public Facilities - South Division	25,000,000	10,000,000	-	4,130,000	4,500,000
Public Facilities - DCU	4,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	-
Public Facilities - MSBA	19,500,000	8,000,000	-	5,000,000	15,000,000
Public Works	1,544,586	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Public Works - Sewer	3,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Public Works - Water	-	500,000	350,000	500,000	500,000
Parks	350,000	350,000	400,000	400,000	500,000
Off Street Parking	2,400,000	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Public Schools	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Sustainability and Resilience	-	1,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
WRA	700,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Total Facility Improvements	\$ 63,700,161	\$ 32,920,000	\$ 14,500,000	\$ 21,480,000	\$ 31,975,000
Infrastructure					
Public Works	\$ 20,222,888	\$ 17,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 15,000,000
Public Works - Sewer	15,115,505	15,000,000	15,000,000	21,000,000	21,000,000
Public Works - Water	18,505,890	16,000,000	16,500,000	17,000,000	17,000,000
Golf	1,000,000	1,230,000	-	500,000	-
Parks	12,603,000	13,250,000	11,500,000	10,250,000	7,250,000
Transportation & Mobility	5,585,000	4,241,820	3,840,000	3,750,000	3,750,000
Total Infrastructure	\$ 73,032,283	\$ 66,721,820	\$ 61,840,000	\$ 67,500,000	\$ 64,000,000
Court Judgment					
Public Works - Sewer	\$ 10,500,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -
Total Court Judgment	\$ 10,500,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -
Total Credit Funding Sources	\$ (100,281,917)	\$ (60,230,000)	\$ (44,100,000)	\$ (56,530,000)	\$ (60,800,000)
FY27 - FY31 TOTAL:	\$ 159,354,834	\$ 115,414,257	\$ 94,019,335	\$ 105,038,224	\$ 106,719,470

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
CITY OF WORCESTER

In City Council

LOAN ORDER
(Capital Improvements & Purchases)

Ordered: That the sum of Forty Three Million Four Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars and No Cents (\$43,468,417.00) be appropriated to the following accounts to pay for costs associated with the following capital improvements, planning and equipment, as well as any related architectural and engineering services in connection therewith, and including any costs incidental or related thereto; provided however, that the City of Worcester may change the account numbers listed below and/or move funds from one account to another for administrative purposes without further amendment or approval from this Council, provided that such change and/or move does not alter the project for which the funds are hereby authorized to be expended:

Account Number	Description	Amount
LO-1468	Citywide Building Rehabilitation	\$ 7,050,000
LO-1469	Citywide Capital Equipment	\$ 11,018,416
LO-1470	Worcester Public Schools Building Rehabilitation	\$ 3,500,000
LO-1471	Worcester Public Schools Capital Equipment	\$ 500,000
LO-1472	Street Light Improvements	\$ 1,200,000
LO-1473	Street & Sidewalk Construction	\$ 14,900,000
LO-1474	Parks Improvements	\$ 1,600,000
LO-1475	Sewer Building Rehabilitation	\$ 3,000,000
LO-1476	Union Station Rehabilitation	\$ 700,000
	Total	\$ 43,468,416

That to meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow the sum of Forty Three Million Four Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars and No Cents (\$43,468,417.00) under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery
Parks & Recreation Division
50 Officer Manny Familia Way, Worcester, MA 01605
P| 508-799-1190 F| 508-799-1293
parks@worcesterma.gov

Seasonal Employment Opportunities 2026

The City of Worcester Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery is seeking motivated individuals to fill the following seasonal positions:

- Seasonal Maintenance Director
- Assistant Seasonal Maintenance Director
- Seasonal Maintenance Crew Supervisors
- Seasonal Maintenance Workers (Park Stewards Program) *Ability to work twenty-five (25) hours per week*
- Temporary Laborer -Hope Cemetery/Parks *(Ability to work thirty-five (30) hours per week)*
- Head Gate Keeper
- Gate Keeper
- Recreation Program Director

If you have interests or questions regarding seasonal employment with the City of Worcester Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, please contact the division at [\(508\) 799-1190](tel:5087991190) or email parks@worcesterma.gov for more details.



Equal Opportunity Employer

The City of Worcester does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, gender expression/gender identity, genetic information, marital status, color, national origin, language, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, as application. Direct inquiries to: City Hall, Human Resources, Room 109, 508-799-1030, EEOAA@worcesterma.gov

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



City of Worcester

April 28, 2026

Attachment for Item # 15.10 A

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I respectfully submit the attached communication relative to the review of eight conceptual designs submitted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP) Studio V class on the Newton Hill at Elm Park Master Plan (Newton Square Tennis and Basketball Court area), as received from Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Commissioner, and forwarded for the information of your Honorable Body.

The Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery (DPRC) in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Department of LARP, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Urban Forestry Tree Commission will be reviewing the conceptual designs for Newton Hill at Elm Park (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area). This presentation will allow attendees to review and identify the conceptual designs they prefer. The information from the hearing will then be synthesized into a single preferred conceptual plan by Beals & Thomas, Inc. for a future public hearing with the Parks and Recreation Commission and it will be used to finalize a guidebook that will identify future improvements and renovations to this park when funding becomes available.

The public hearing will take place at Cornerstone Bank, 230 Park Ave., on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 6 p.m. I encourage and invite all to attend and participate in the improvement of our city parks.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery
Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Commissioner
50 Officer Manny Familia Way, Worcester, MA 01605
P | 508-799-1190 F | 508-799-1293
parks@worcesterma.gov

To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager
From: Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Commissioner
Date: April 28, 2026
Re: Newton Hill at Elm Park (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area) Master Plan Review

The Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery (DPRC) in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP), the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Urban Forestry Tree Commission have scheduled the master plan review for Newton Hill at Elm Park (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area) and submits this information for your review, schedule, and consideration and to forward to the City Council for their respective schedules.

The DPRC will complete a review of eight conceptual designs submitted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Department of LARP Studio V class on the Newton Hill at Elm Park Master Plan (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area). This presentation will allow neighbors, organizations, and users to review and identify the conceptual designs (or parts of a design) they prefer. This information will then be synthesized into a single preferred conceptual plan by Beals & Thomas, Inc. for a future public hearing with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The final plan will assist the municipality in defining the future of Newton Hill at Elm Park (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area) by developing a plan that maximizes its full potential. The plan will be designed to meet the needs, wants, and desires of the neighbors, citizens, and organizations that currently use park facilities. This plan will become a community-endorsed guidebook for Newton Hill at Elm Park (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area) that will include a synthesized plan for phased improvements.

Newton Hill at Elm Park (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area):

LOCATION: Park View Room
Cornerstone Bank
230 Park Ave.
Worcester, MA 01604
Former Fire Alarm & Telegraph Building

DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 7, 2026, 6 p.m.

This meeting will be posted on the municipality's website and on social media accounts. Invitations were sent to interested parties including property owners who live within 1,000 feet of Newton Hill at Elm Park, neighborhood groups, and organizations that use the facility. We look forward to working with the Parks & Recreation Commission, Urban Forestry Tree Commission, neighbors, organizations, and users of Newton Hill at Elm Park (Newton Square Tennis & Basketball Court area) to finalize this guidebook that will identify future improvements and renovations to this park when funding becomes available. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Antonelli Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Robert C. Antonelli Jr.
Commissioner
Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery
Parks & Recreation Division
50 Officer Manny Familia Way, Worcester, MA 01605
P| 508-799-1190 F| 508-799-1293
parks@worcesterma.gov

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION POLICY & PROCEDURE RELATIVE TO THE CONSUMPTION AND SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN CITY PARKS

I. Purpose

To establish a policy related to the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in city parks as defined by Article 97 of M.G.L.

II. Policy

1. The consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in city parks has been successful at Green Hill Golf Course and Worcester Common since April 2008.
2. Based on this successful policy of over seventeen (17) years related to the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in city parks an expansion of the program to include Green Hill Park, Green Hill Golf Course, Worcester Common, Elm Park, Institute Park, and Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) is warranted.
3. The consumption and sale of alcohol at the following city parks, (Green Hill Park, Green Hill Golf Course, Worcester Common, Elm Park, Institute Park, Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) only, will be permitted by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery for special and sporting events with an approved Special Events Permit Application, Sports Application, or Sports Tournament Application, and subject to all the conditions imposed by the License Commission.
4. There shall be only one event with alcohol on any given day unless approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery and the License Commission.
5. This policy will be reviewed in the fall of 2027 for any needed adjustments/revisions or additions/ subtraction to the policy based on impacts to our neighborhoods and city departments.

II. Procedure

1. Applicants shall complete and submit a Special Events Permit Application to Cultural Development or a Sport Application(s)/ Sport Tournament Application(s) to the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery for review and approval.

2. Applicants shall complete all required sections of the permit, as specified by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, by the designated submission deadline.
3. Once an applicant has received tentative approval from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery an application for the consumption and sale of alcohol must be submitted to the License Commission ninety (90) days in advance of the event date (License Commission may waive this requirement).
4. Applicants shall submit, attend a public meeting and receive approval from the License Commission to allow for the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages at the specific park.
5. Once approved by the License Commission, all required past due fees must be paid to the City of Worcester and the applicant agrees to pay the city for all current year's fees within 30 days of the completion of the event.
6. After approval by the License Commission, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery will give final approval for the Special Event, Sport and Sport Tournament.
7. The Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery or their designee, is responsible for the implementation and ensuring this policy is followed.
8. The Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery shall have final approval of each request regarding use of a City park.
9. This policy/procedure may be amended by a majority vote of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
10. Applicants shall follow all the Rules & Regulations of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, Special Events Permit requirements, Sports or Sports Tournament Permit requirements and the License Commission requirements once approved.
11. Applicants shall be required to attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting if issues/ problems occur regarding the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages at an event approved through this policy.
12. Applicants may be required to obtain future approvals for the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in city parks from the Parks and Recreation Commission as required.

Alcoholic Beverages: Definitions can be found in Chapter 138, Section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws. To possess, sell or drink any alcoholic beverages while on, in, or upon any park, playground, or beach or other areas under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery. Except in Green Hill Park, Green Hill Golf Course, Worcester Common, Elm Park, Institute Park, and Cristoforo Columbo (East Park), as approved by the City of Worcester License Commission with a special permit in addition to the approved Special Event, Sports or Sports Tournament Application from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery.

Parks and Recreation Commission Approved Record

1. This policy replaces the current policy and procedure for permission to use or sell alcohol in city parks under the jurisdiction and management of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery from April 3, 2008 (approved 7-0), reviewed on February 16, 2012 (approved 5-0).
2. This revised policy was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission on April 16, 2026, approved with a vote of 5-0.

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



City of Worcester

April 28, 2026

Attachment for Item # 15.10 C

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I respectfully submit the attached communication relative to an update on changes to the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in the municipal parks policy for special and sporting events, as received from Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Commissioner, Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery (DPRC), and forwarded for the information of your Honorable Body.

Following the recommendation of my Administration, on April 16, 2026, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages at Green Hill Park, Elm Park, Institute Park, and Cristoforo Columbo (East Park). This expands a 17-year-old policy that has allowed the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages on the Worcester Common for events and throughout Green Hill Golf Course daily. The policy proved so successful that we felt both the municipality and the small businesses and community groups participating in events could gain from the inclusion of additional parks.

I appreciate the Commission's decision and their recognition that this expansion will be beneficial for the city both economically and socially. My Administration believes this policy change will not only lead to new events, but also lead to the expansion of current events, increased event attendance, new jobs opportunities, and increased support for local businesses. It is one of many steps we have taken to support special events. Our Executive Office of Economic Development has worked to simplify the permitting process and eliminate fees, removing barriers to hosting events. My Administration will continue to look for opportunities to encourage and support both existing and new events in the city.

I appreciate the work of DPRC and the Parks and Recreation Commission on revising the policy and look forward to its full implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

City of Worcester • 455 Main Street • Worcester, MA 01608-1892
Office: 508-799-1175 • **Fax:** 508-799-1208 • WorcesterMa.gov

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery
Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Commissioner
50 Officer Manny Familia Way, Worcester, MA 01605
P | 508-799-1190 F | 508-799-1293
parks@worcesterma.gov

To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager
From: Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Commissioner
Date: April 28, 2026
Re: Update on Alcohol in Parks

The Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery (DPRC) is pleased to announce that the Parks and Recreation Commission has approved changes to the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in municipal parks for special and sporting events, which is sent for your review to forward to the City Council.

The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the revised policy on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting. The new policy has approved the expansion of the program to now include the following park facilities: Green Hill Park, Elm Park, Institute Park, and Cristoforo Columbo (East Park). It also continues to allow the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages at Worcester Common (events only) and throughout Green Hill Golf Course daily (not event-driven). In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission has made the following adjustments to the process:

- 1) Applicants will no longer be required to attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to receive approval.
- 2) Applicants must submit a request/application ninety (90) days in advance of the event date to the License Commission upon receiving tentative approval from DPRC.
- 3) Applicants must meet all License Commission requirements.
- 4) Applicants must pay all past due fees to the City of Worcester, upon approval of the request/application from License Commission.
- 5) Applicants agree to pay all current year's fees within thirty (30) days of the completion of the event.
- 6) Applicants shall follow all the rules and regulations of the DPRC and all other municipal departments.
- 7) All DPRC approvals shall be administered by the Commissioner of DPRC.
- 8) Applicants shall be required to attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting if issues/problems occur regarding the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages at an event approved through this policy.
- 9) Applicants may be required to obtain future approvals for the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in city parks from the Parks and Recreation Commission as required.

10) This policy will be reviewed in the fall of 2027 for any needed adjustments/revisions or additions/subtractions based on impacts to our neighborhoods and city departments.

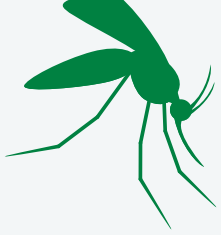
This policy change will now allow other events that have historically been held outside of Worcester Common to expand their offerings and include alcoholic beverages. It opens permitted applicants' new facilities that may have different amenities for their programs and reduces the reliance on the Worcester Common for all events that offer alcohol.

Please review and advise if there are any questions.

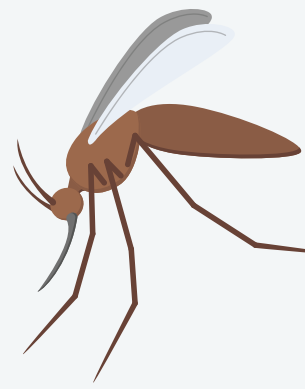
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Antonelli Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Robert C. Antonelli Jr.
Commissioner
Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery



Protect children from Mosquito Bites!



Mosquitoes are out! But there are simple steps you can take to help prevent mosquito bites and the diseases they can cause.

Always apply an EPA approved mosquito repellent to children before they go outside.

- To apply, put some on your hands first, and then apply it to the child's arms, legs, neck and face. Be sure not to put any repellent on their hands.
- Don't apply any repellent underneath their clothing or facemasks.
- Try to avoid getting repellent on any cuts or irritated skin.



EPA approved repellents contain DEET, permethrin, picaridin IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus to protect against mosquitoes. Always follow the directions on the label.



If a child will be outdoors at a school or camp, send repellent with them so someone can help them reapply during the day, as needed.



When weather permits, long sleeves and pants can help protect children when they go outside.



Be aware of peak mosquito hours.

The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many species of mosquitoes. If you notice mosquitoes are biting, reapply repellent, or think about going inside.



For more information visit:
www.mass.gov/MosquitoesAndTicks



PUBLIC MEETING INVITATION NO. 2 WORCESTER COMMON MASTER PLAN UPDATE



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery

Place: Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting - Room A***
50 Officer Manny Familia Way
Worcester, MA 01605

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM

If you choose to use the Microsoft Teams platform, you would:

1. go to www.teams.com
2. Enter meeting ID: 252 764 816 012 33
3. Enter passcode: wJ7WZ3y9

If you choose to attend via phone:

1. Call 1 - 469 - 998 - 7682
2. Enter meeting ID#: 893135021#

*** This is scheduled for discussion as the **FIRST** item on the meeting agenda.

Topics to include: The continued discussion of the existing conditions, uses, history and site constraints of this facility. Followed by the presentation of ideas and plans (based on the first public hearing comments) developed to meet the needs, wants and desires of the neighbors, citizens and organizations that currently use the facility. The hearing will conclude with a public question and comment forum. All presented information and subsequent public comments will be synthesized to develop a Master Plan, to guide future community and neighborhood endorsed improvements.

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery (DPRC) will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact DPRC at parks@worcesterma.gov or phone (508) 799-1190 or the City ADA Coordinator at accessibility@worcesterma.gov. In the event of severe weather, any cancellations will be posted on www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings.

PUBLIC MEETING INVITATION NO. 2 WORCESTER COMMON MASTER PLAN UPDATE



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery

Place: Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting - Room A***
50 Officer Manny Familia Way
Worcester, MA 01605

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM

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PUBLIC MEETING INVITATION NO. 2 WORCESTER COMMON MASTER PLAN UPDATE



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery

Place: Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting - Room A***
50 Officer Manny Familia Way
Worcester, MA 01605

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM

If you choose to use the Microsoft Teams platform, you would:

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PUBLIC MEETING INVITATION NO. 2 WORCESTER COMMON MASTER PLAN UPDATE



The City of Worcester

Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery

Place: Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting - Room A***
50 Officer Manny Familia Way
Worcester, MA 01605

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM

If you choose to use the Microsoft Teams platform, you would:

1. go to www.teams.com
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**City of Worcester
Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery
50 Officer Manny Familla Way
Worcester, Massachusetts 01605-2898**

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**City of Worcester
Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery
50 Officer Manny Familla Way
Worcester, Massachusetts 01605-2898**

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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The City of
Worcester

Khrystian E. King

Vice Chairman / Councilor At-Large

February 18, 2026

City Hall Room 310

455 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608

Office: 508-799-1049

Fax: 508-799-1194

KingK@WorcesterMA.gov

Robert C. Antonelli Jr.
Commissioner, Parks Department
50 Officer Manny Familia Way
Worcester, MA 01605

Dear Commissioner Antonelli,

Please accept this letter in strong support of renaming the Greenwood Basketball Court in Greenwood Park to include the name "Nancy Mayer Bates."

Nancy is a proud graduate of South High School. In her senior year in 1982, she became a First Team All-American while playing for legendary coach Jack "They Shot" Foley. Her accomplishments brought tremendous pride to our community and set a powerful example for future generations of student-athletes.

Nancy went on to have an extraordinary collegiate career at the University of Virginia, where she served as a two-time team captain, earned All-ACC honors each season from 1983 to 1986, and established herself as one of the program's all-time greats. In 2011, at the ACC Tournament, she was officially honored as an ACC All-Time Basketball Legend, a fitting tribute to her lasting impact on the game.

After graduating, Nancy returned to her beloved hometown of Worcester and dedicated 30 years to public education, including service at North High School. It is important that we honor Nancy not only as an All-American basketball player, but also as a devoted educator, advocate, and inspiration to the young people of Worcester.

Renaming the court in her honor would provide lasting inspiration to all young people, especially young women in athletics; and would recognize a lifetime of achievement, leadership, and service to our community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Khrystian E. King
Vice Chairman / Councilor At-Large

cc2026mar05115212

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER:

The undersigned person(s) most respectfully petitions your Honorable Board:

Request the Greenwood Park Basketball Court be renamed the Nancy Mayer Bates '82 Basketball Court.

Mayor Joseph M. Petty and Councilor Khrystian E. King

CITY OF WORCESTER

Recognizing Women's History Month, the Legacy of Title IX, the Growth of Women's Sports, and Honoring Nancy Mayer Bates

WHEREAS: The Worcester City Council recognizes the month of March as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate the achievements, leadership, and contributions of women who have shaped communities across the nation and here in the City of Worcester; and

WHEREAS: The Council also recognizes the lasting impact of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which expanded equal opportunity in education and athletics and opened doors for generations of girls and women to participate, compete, and lead; and

WHEREAS: Since the passage of Title IX, participation by girls and women in athletics and academics has grown dramatically. Participation in sports continues to strengthen physical health, academic success, confidence, and leadership development for girls and young women; and

WHEREAS: Women's sports are experiencing historic growth in visibility and popularity, with professional leagues such as the WNBA reaching record levels of viewership and attendance and the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, widely known as March Madness, inspiring millions of fans across the country; and

WHEREAS: School athletics, community sports programs, and neighborhood parks continue to provide young people opportunities to build character, develop leadership skills, and strengthen community connections; and

WHEREAS: The Council proudly recognizes Nancy Mayer Bates, a South High Community School alumna and former member of the South High girls basketball program, whose achievements reflect the strong legacy of women athletes within Worcester Public Schools; and

WHEREAS: The Council also acknowledges the historic rise of the South High girls basketball program under Coach Diago McClain, whose leadership continues to inspire young athletes across the city; and

WHEREAS: Nancy Mayer Bates is further recognized for her leadership, community service, and commitment to expanding opportunities for young people in Worcester; and

WHEREAS: In honoring Nancy Mayer Bates and recognizing the legacy of Title IX, the City of Worcester celebrates the progress made by women in athletics while affirming its commitment to ensuring that future generations of girls and young women have the opportunity to lead, compete, and thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby express its support for the designation of the basketball court at Greenwood Park in honor of Nancy Mayer Bates, creating a lasting tribute that will inspire future generations of athletes and community leaders.

Introduced in City Council by Councilor Khrystian E. King



The City of
Worcester

Law Department

Alexandra H. Kalkounis, City Solicitor
455 Main Street, Room 301, Worcester, MA 01608
P | 508-799-1161 F | 508X-799-1163
law@worchesterma.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Commissioner

FROM: Kobe Boaten, Assistant City Solicitor; Alexandra H. Kalkounis, City Solicitor

DATE: April 16, 2026

RE: Parks Land in the City

You've asked for an opinion related to the status and protections of certain public park land in the city of Worcester ("City"). We have reviewed the documents submitted by you in addition to other relevant documents and affirm the legal status, historical protections, and procedural compliance associated with designated public park land within the City. The purpose is to establish a clear and complete record demonstrating that applicable statutory requirements, historical authorizations, and trust obligations remain in effect and that various municipal actions that have been taken over the years relating to such lands have been undertaken in accordance with the law.

Statutory and Historical Protections

Chapter 154 of the Acts of 1882, as adopted by Worcester voters on November 4, 1884, remains in full legal force and effect and authorizes the City to lay out public parks, create a parks commission, and take land for parks purposes. (See Attachments A-1 and A-2.) City Document No. 39 reflects, attached hereto in Attachment A-2, the City's vote accepting Chapter 154. The Act continues to govern and protect designated public park lands, the parks commission and the process by which the commission operates, in accordance with its terms. No subsequent legislative repeal or superseding action alters its applicability.

Status of Elm Park

Elm Park, encompassing approximately 87 acres, retains its legal designation and protection as public park land. The Newton Hill addition, consisting of approximately 60 acres was acquired in 1888 through a publicly approved park loan, and is lawfully incorporated into Elm Park. (See Attachment B). The 1888 City Document No. 43, attached in Attachment B, reflects the Worcester City Council vote authorizing funds for the purchase and improvement of park land, including Newton Hill, for an estimated cost of \$42,276.00. This action authorized the acquisition and incorporation of Newton Hill into the park system under the jurisdiction of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Chapter 121 of the Acts of 1960 and Judicial Decree

By Special Act, enacted in Chapter 121 of the Acts of 1960, Worcester was authorized to use certain park land for school purposes (the “Act”). This Act remains in effect. All actions taken pursuant to this Act were in accordance with the law, were approved by the Board of Parks Commissioners and the Worcester City Council. (See Attachments C-1 and C-2.) The record includes a 1961 judicial decree issued by Justice Spalding of the Supreme Judicial Court, reflected in Attachment C-1, authorizing the use of approximately 20 acres of park land for school purposes. The decree reflects proper judicial authorization following legislative enactment.

Attachment C-2 from 1960 specifies the area for the now Doherty Memorial High School and authorized the City to partition that portion of Newton Hill Park, as described:

“...bounded on the north by Highland street, on the south by Pleasant Street, on the east by Park avenue and on the west by Newton square...”

Elm Park Conveyance Authorization

By special act, enacted in Chapter 203 of the Acts of 2012 and entitled “An Act Authorizing the Conveyance, Lease and Change of Use of Certain Park Lands in the City of Worcester,” the City was authorized to convey by sale the former fire alarm building located within Elm Park and to lease up to 3.0 acres of surrounding land associated with Spencer Savings Bank. (See Attachment C-3.) This legislation constitutes specific legislative authorization for the identified conveyance and lease.

Land Transfer and Surplus Transactions

The transfer of land associated with Doherty Memorial High School was conducted in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 15A. The land was formally treated as surplus for the purpose originally held and the transfer between municipal departments was authorized through established municipal procedures and approvals, including City Council approval. The record reflects compliance with statutory requirements governing municipal land disposition.

Park Trust Fund

The William A. Richardson Park Fund, Probate Index No. 36369, attached hereto, remains subject to its governing terms and is administered in accordance with applicable fiduciary and legal requirements. The fund is available for its intended purposes, and disbursements are made by authorized parties consistent with the terms of the trust.

Wetherell Park Authorization

Wetherell Park, also known as Duffy Field, approximately 5.61 acres of park land held by the City was the subject of legislative authorization under Chapter 319 of the Acts of 1967. (See Attachment D). The Special Act authorized the City to sell or lease a portion of park land to WNEB, Inc. for the placement of a broadcast tower. The tower is no longer located on the premises.

Chandler Hill Park Authorization

By special act in 1962, the City was authorized to use certain park land (Chandler Hill Park) for school sites or other public purposes. (See Attachment E). The Act authorized the use of approximately six acres of land within Chandler Hill Park for such purposes.

Worcester Technical High School and Green Hill Park Authorization

The development of Worcester Technical High School on land associated with Green Hill Park was authorized by special legislation pursuant to Chapter 100 of the Acts of 1999, as amended by Chapter 141 of the Acts of 2002. (See Attachment F). The City issued the necessary orders authorizing the transfer and use of the land for vocational school purposes in accordance with the enabling legislation.

Conclusion

The record establishes that the City's management, protection, and disposition of public park land has been conducted in accordance with applicable statutes, legislative authorizations, and trust obligations. The attached materials document the legal authority supporting each action and confirm the City's compliance with governing law, acting through the City Council, Parks Commission and City Manager.

A-1

sand dollars, and may employ the convicts in said house of correction so far as their labor may be used to advantage.

SECTION 2. In altering, improving and repairing said house of correction, said commissioners shall not be required to let out by contract the labor on said buildings, nor advertise for proposals therefor, as provided in section twenty-two of chapter twenty-two of the Public Statutes.

Not required to have labor done by contract.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 13, 1882.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING TOWNS AND CITIES TO LAY OUT PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN THEIR LIMITS. *Chap. 154*

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Any town in this Commonwealth which accepts the provisions of this act in the manner hereinafter prescribed may, at a legal meeting called for the purpose, elect three competent persons who shall constitute a board of park commissioners for such town, and may prescribe their terms of office; and the mayor of any city which in such manner accepts said provisions may, with the approval of the city council, as soon as may be after such acceptance, appoint five competent persons who shall constitute a board of park commissioners for such city, and who shall hold their offices until the expiration of terms of one, two, three, four and five years respectively, from the first Monday in May next following such appointment; and the mayor shall, before the first Monday in May in each year thereafter, with like approval appoint one such commissioner to continue in office for five years from the expiration of the term of the commissioner then next outgoing. No person shall be such commissioner who is at the same time a selectman, or other officer of such town, or a member of the city council, clerk or treasurer of such city; and any such commissioner may be removed by a vote of two-thirds of the legal voters of such town, at a legal town meeting called for the purpose, or by a concurrent vote of two-thirds of the whole of each branch of such city council.

Cities and towns may lay out public parks.

Commissioners to be appointed.

SECTION 2. Any vacancy occurring in such board shall be filled for the residue of the term of the commissioner whose place is to be filled in the manner in which such commissioner was originally appointed. Such commissioners shall serve without compensation.

To serve without compensation. Vacancies.

SECTION 3. Such boards of park commissioners shall have power to locate within the limits of their respective towns or cities a public park or parks, and for that purpose from time to time to take in fee by purchase, gift,

Powers and duties.

devise or otherwise, any and all such lands as they may deem desirable therefor, or to take bonds for the conveyance thereof to their respective towns or cities; to lay out and improve any such park or parks; to make rules for the use and government thereof, and for breaches of such rules to affix penalties not exceeding twenty dollars for one offence, to be imposed by any court of competent jurisdiction; to appoint all necessary engineers, surveyors, clerks and other officers, including a police force to act in such parks; to define the powers and duties of such officers and fix the amount of their compensation; and generally to do all acts needful for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to or imposed upon such town or city or upon such boards by this act: *provided, however*, that no land shall be taken, or any other thing involving an expenditure of money be done under this act until an appropriation sufficient to cover the estimated expense thereof shall in a town have been made by a vote of two-thirds of the legal voters present and voting in a legal town meeting called for the purpose, or in a city by a vote of two-thirds of each branch of the city council; and such expenditures shall in no case exceed the appropriations made therefor, and all contracts made for expenditures beyond the amount of such appropriations shall be void; *provided, further*, that in a town no taking of land otherwise than by purchase shall be valid unless such taking is reported to the town, filed, accepted and allowed, as provided by section seventy-one of chapter forty-nine of the Public Statutes in the case of laying out town ways.

No expense to be incurred until an appropriation is made by a two-thirds vote.

Taking land not valid until accepted by town.

Description of land taken to be recorded in registry of deeds.

Determination of damages.

SECTION 4. Such board shall, within sixty days after the taking of any land under this act, file and cause to be recorded in the registry of deeds for the county or district in which any land so taken is situated a description thereof sufficiently accurate for identifying the same.

SECTION 5. Such boards shall respectively estimate and determine all damages sustained by any person by the taking of land or by other acts of such boards in the execution of the powers vested in them respectively by this act; but a person aggrieved by any such determination of the board may have his damages assessed by a jury of the superior court in the same manner as is provided by law with respect to damages sustained by reason of the laying out of ways. If upon trial damages are increased beyond the award, the party in whose favor the award was made shall recover his costs; otherwise he shall pay costs; and costs shall be taxed as in civil cases.

SECTION 6. The fee of any land taken or purchased by such boards in any town or city for a park under this act shall vest in the town or city in which such park is laid out; and such town or city shall be liable to pay all damages assessed or determined, as provided in the preceding section, and all other costs and expenses incurred by its board of park commissioners in the execution of the powers vested in such board by this act. Any town or city shall also be authorized to take and hold in trust or otherwise any devise, grant, gift or bequest that may be made for the purpose of laying out, improving or ornamenting any park or parks therein.

Fee of land to be vested in city or town.

SECTION 7. The boards of park commissioners in their respective towns and cities shall have the same authority to determine the value of, and assess upon real estate the amount of, betterments accruing to said real estate by the locating and laying out of a park or parks under this act that is conferred by chapter fifty-one of the Public Statutes upon boards of city or town officers authorized to lay out streets or ways; and the provisions of the first eight sections of said chapter relating to ways, shall apply to such assessments by boards of park commissioners in respect to the location and laying out of parks as aforesaid: *provided, however,* that no assessment shall be laid upon any real estate except such as abuts upon the park from the laying out of which the betterment accrues, or upon a street or way bounded by such park.

Assessments for betterments.

Proviso.

SECTION 8. Any town or city in which a public park is laid out under this act may raise, appropriate and expend such sums of money as may be deemed best for the purchase and improvement of such park or parks, subject to the laws of this Commonwealth limiting municipal indebtedness.

May raise money subject to law limiting municipal indebtedness.

SECTION 9. For the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred under the provisions of this act, the city council of any city shall have authority to issue from time to time, and to an amount not exceeding the sum actually expended for the purchase or taking of lands for a park or parks, bonds or certificates of debt, to be denominated on the face thereof the "Public Park Loan," and to bear interest at such rates and to be payable at such times as said city council may determine. For the redemption of such loan such city council shall establish a sinking fund sufficient, with the accumulating interest, to provide for the payment of such loan at maturity. All amounts received for betterments shall be paid into such sinking fund until such fund

"Public Park Loan."

shall amount to a sum sufficient with its accumulations to pay at maturity the bonds for the security of which the fund was established.

Land to be forever maintained as a public park.

SECTION 10. All lands taken or held under this act shall be forever kept open and maintained as a public park or parks. No building covering more than six hundred square feet shall be placed or allowed to remain on any such park; and no street or way, and no steam or horse railroad, shall be laid out over any portion of a park located under this act, except at such places and in such manner as the board of park commissioners shall approve.

Military encampment, etc., not permitted without consent of board.

SECTION 11. No military encampment, parade, drill, review or other military evolution or exercise shall be held or performed on any park laid out as aforesaid except with the consent of such board, nor shall any military body without such consent enter or move in military order within such park, except in case of riot, insurrection, rebellion or war.

Annual reports.

SECTION 12. All such boards of park commissioners shall make reports of their respective doings, including detailed statements of all receipts, expenditures and liabilities for the preceding year; such reports to be made in towns at the annual town meetings, and at such other times as the town may direct, and in cities to the city council annually in the month of December.

When to take effect.

SECTION 13. This act shall not take full effect in any town or city unless accepted by a majority of the legal voters of such town or city present and voting thereon by ballot and using the check list, at a meeting or meetings notice whereof has been duly given at least seven days beforehand. Such ballots shall be "yes" or "no" in answer to the question, "Shall an act passed by the legislature of the Commonwealth in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled 'An Act authorizing towns and cities to lay out public parks within their limits,' be accepted?" In a town such meetings shall be called and notified in the manner in which meetings for the election of town officers are called and notified; and in a city meetings to act thereon shall be held at one time in the usual voting places of the city, on such days as shall be designated by the board of aldermen at any regular meeting, and shall be called and notified by the board of aldermen in the manner in which meetings for the election of municipal officers are called and notified. The ballots cast shall be assorted, counted, and public declaration made thereof in open town or ward meeting, and the number of ballots

respectively cast shall be registered in the town or ward records as the case may be. The clerk of each ward in a city shall, within forty-eight hours of the close of the polls, make return to the board of aldermen of the number of ballots cast in his ward in favor of the acceptance of this act and of the number cast against its acceptance. The selectmen and town clerk of a town and the board of aldermen of a city in which such meeting or meetings are held shall certify, as soon as may be thereafter, to the secretary of the Commonwealth, the whole number of ballots cast in favor of the acceptance of this act, and the whole number cast against its acceptance; and if it shall appear that a majority of the ballots have been cast in favor of acceptance, the said secretary shall immediately issue and publish his certificate declaring this act to have been duly accepted by such town or city.

SECTION 14. No second meeting for the purpose of voting upon the question of accepting this act shall be called within twelve months from the first, unless the first meeting shall have failed through illegality or irregularity in the proceedings.

SECTION 15. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 13, 1882.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITIES OF BOSTON AND CAMBRIDGE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A BRIDGE OVER CHARLES RIVER.

Chap. 155

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The cities of Boston and Cambridge are authorized to construct a bridge and avenue across Charles River, from a point on Beacon Street in Boston, to a point in Cambridge west of the westerly line of the Boston and Albany Railroad. The location of said bridge and avenue shall be determined by the city councils of said cities acting separately, subject to the approval of the board of harbor and land commissioners so far as it affects the harbor, and subject moreover to the limitation that the line thereof shall not be north-east of a line drawn from the junction of Beacon Street and West Chester Park in Boston, to the junction of the harbor line with Front Street, extended, in Cambridge, nor south-west of a line drawn from the junction of Beacon Street, Brookline Avenue and Brighton Avenue in Boston, to the junction of the Boston and Albany Railroad with Putnam Avenue, extended, in Cambridge. Said bridge shall have a draw with a clear opening of at least thirty-eight feet in width for the passage of vessels.

Second meeting not to be called within twelve months from the first.

Bridge over Charles River between Boston and Cambridge.

Draw to be twenty-eight feet wide.

A-2

"Shall an Act passed by the Legislature of the Commonwealth, in the year Eighteen Hundred and eighty-two, entitled
 'An Act authorizing Cities and Towns to lay out Public Parks within their Limits' be accepted?"

The result of the poll, as returned in detail, is inserted here, for more convenient reference and information in future :

	Yes.	No.
Ward 1: Precinct 1:	385	5
" " " 2:	224	8
Ward 2: Precinct 1:	320	18
" " " 2:	147	23
" " " 3:	201	24
Ward 3: Precinct 1:	183	18
" " " 2:	225	8
Ward 4: Precinct 1:	258	4
" " " 2:	296	16
Ward 5: Precinct 1:	199	18
" " " 2:	302	5
" " " 3:	440	5
Ward 6: Precinct 1:	220	9
" " " 2:	223	3
Ward 7: Precinct 1:	347	7
" " " 2:	361	3
Ward 8: Precinct 1:	451	5
" " " 2:	418	17
		Yes, 5,094 :
		No, 181 :

B

“ 1888 CITY DOCUMENT.— No. 43.” Page 362-363

(Annual Report for 1888)

Acts of the City Council

CITY OF WORCESTER

In City Council, May 7, 1888

Ordered: That for the purpose of defraying the expense of purchasing or taking land for, and constructing and improving such public parks as may be laid out by the board of Park Commissioners, viz.—for the extension of Crystal Park, estimated expense thereof seventy-three thousand six hundred fifteen thirty-eight one hundredths dollars (\$73,615.38), for land on the east side of Quinsigamond Avenue, belonging to the heirs of George Crompton, expense thereof estimated at forty-four thousand three hundred fifty five-six one hundredths dollars (\$44,350.56),—for improving land on the north side of Shrewsbury Street, referred to in chapter 429 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1887, two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00),—for the purchase of Newton Hill, so called, estimated expense thereof, forty-two thousand two hundred seventy-six dollars (\$42,276.00),—for land at Adams Square, or any other suitable land in that vicinity, estimated expense twenty-four thousand five hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$24,538.00), the city treasurer, under the direction of the joint standing committee on finance, be and he is hereby authorized and directed to borrow the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) and to issue therefore the notes, bonds, or certificates of indebtedness of the city, payable in fifty years from April 1, A.D., 1888, and bearing interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually on the first days of April and October in each year until due.

Ordered:...That the city treasurer be and he is hereby authorized to negotiate and sell said notes, bonds, or certificates of indebtedness upon such terms as the joint standing committee on finance may direct, and that sum received for the same to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) be and the same is hereby appropriated for the purposes aforesaid.

Ordered:...That there be and there is hereby established a sinking fund for paying said indebtedness.....

(continues to page 363)

C-1

4

4178
415

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
Equity No. 6887

See-Plan
Book 254
Plan 72

CITY OF WORCESTER

vs.

EDWARD J. McVORACK
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FINAL DECREE

This cause came on to be heard for a final decree and the parties consenting hereto in open court, upon consideration thereof/it is ordered, adjudged and decreed that the City of Worcester be and is hereby authorized to use twenty acres of park land known as Newton Hill in the City of Worcester as delineated on the attached plan entitled- "LAND ACQUIRED BY CITY OF WORCESTER FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, NEWTON HILL." dated February 1961 and specifically described in a description attached hereto entitled "LAND ACQUIRED BY CITY OF WORCESTER FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES NEWTON HILL".

And the City of Worcester shall further cause a copy of this Decree and the attached plan and description to be recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds within sixty days of the date of this Decree.

~~Worcester District Registry of Deeds~~
By the court, (Spalding, J.)

Entered,
Boston, March 8, 1961

/s/ Chester A. Dolan, Jr.
Clerk

A true copy,
Attest:
March 8, 1961

Chester A. Dolan, Jr.
Clerk



C-2

EXHIBIT I

<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/actsResolves/1960/1960acts0121.pdf>

ACTS OF 1960

Chap. 121. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WORCESTER TO USE CERTAIN PARK LAND FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The city of "Worcester is hereby authorized to use for school purposes any part or parts of certain land in said city known as Newton Hill and bounded on the north by Highland street, on the south by Pleasant street, on the east by Park avenue and on the west by Newton square, and presently held by said city for park purposes; provided, that the board of park commissioners of said city shall, by vote at a regular or special meeting of said board, assent to such use; and, provided further, that said use is authorized by a vote of a majority of all the members of the city council of said city; and provided, further, that said use is further authorized by decree of the supreme judicial court.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved February 29, 1960

C-3

2012 CHAPTER 203
**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE, LEASE AND CHANGE OF USE OF
CERTAIN PARK LANDS IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER.**

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to authorize forthwith the conveyance, lease and change of use of certain park lands in the city of Worcester, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The city of Worcester may convey by sale the former fire alarm building located within Elm park at 230 Park avenue, and may lease up to 3.0 acres of land surrounding the building to Spencer Savings Bank, or its sole designee, for the purpose of renovating the building in its current footprint and structure, and any additions and supporting spaces due to the grade characteristic requirements of the architectural access board and the Americans With Disabilities' Act, to historic preservation standards acceptable to the city manager for use as a retail branch of the bank and for the construction of an independent structure for a remote teller and automated teller machine; provided, however, that these structures shall be renovated or constructed in conformance with historic preservation standards acceptable to the city manager for use as a retail branch of the bank. The city of Worcester constructed and maintained the 6,735 square foot fire alarm station building in Elm Park along Park avenue near the Elm street intersection under the authority of chapter 574 of the acts of 1914, and such building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The building, as renovated, shall house a community meeting room to be managed by Preservation Worcester, a nonprofit collaboration organized for the preservation of historic buildings and places within the city of Worcester. The community meeting room and related amenities shall consist of at least 51 per cent of the entire first floor of the building. The 3.0 acre lease shall include at least 6 spaces dedicated for the sole purpose of parking for Elm Park users and the community room and the remaining parking spaces shall be available to users of Elm Park and the community room after bank hours.

The lease to the bank shall be for an initial term of 70 years, with the option for 3, 10-year extensions to be exercised at the option of the bank no sooner than 5 years prior to expiration of the original or any extended term of the lease. Such

lease shall include the following conditions: (i) that the property shall revert to park land should the building ever be demolished; and (ii) that the authority granted by this act shall expire and the lease shall terminate unless renovations to the building are commenced within 3 years from the effective date of this act and constructed to a conclusion within a commercially reasonable time thereafter. Such lease shall further provide that, in the event that the bank shall cease operations in the building for any 12 consecutive months, the lease shall terminate and the property shall revert to park land without any further action by the city, the city council or the general court; provided, however, that the city shall file a notice of lease termination and reversion to park land and such notice shall be recorded in the Worcester district registry of deeds.

In the event that Preservation Worcester shall cease to operate or exist, the bank shall attempt to find another not-for-profit acceptable to the city with a mission of parks, open space, recreation and preservation to use and manage the community room for the remainder of the lease term. A conveyance under this section shall be subject to paragraphs (a), (b) and (g) of section 16 of chapter 30B of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. The city of Worcester may enter into leases for the construction and use of communications technology on an area of land containing approximately 2,500 square feet within Elm Park located at the summit of Newton Hill. The city may, in conjunction with such leases, also grant any necessary utility easements through Elm Park to Newton Hill to support such use. The summit on Newton Hill shall continue to be the historic location of a certain flag pole. The income from the leases authorized in this section shall be dedicated to the management and improvement of Elm Park.

SECTION 3. In consideration of the conveyance and leases set forth in sections 1 and 2, and in recognition that Doherty high school is located within Elm Park under the authority granted by chapter 121 of the acts of 1960, the city of Worcester hereby declares that should the city and the Worcester public schools determine that such property is no longer needed for Worcester public schools purposes, the authority granted by said chapter 121 shall expire and the land previously transferred from park land to school land shall revert to park land upon said determination.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding chapter 267 of the acts of 1950, the city of Worcester may change the use of an additional portion of Green Hill Park containing approximately 36,060 square feet, adjacent to the 34,550 square foot

area dedicated to water supply purposes under said chapter 267, for the maintenance of 2 water supply system tanks and the installation and maintenance of public safety and emergency communications towers, stations and facilities; provided, however, that the city may grant any necessary easements and leases to construct and support such telecommunications technology in, around, to and from the current water supply system tanks, mains and public safety radio transmission towers.

SECTION 5. In conjunction with the reconstruction of Belmont street, the city of Worcester may construct a new bus stop shelter on such portion of Green Hill park that abuts Belmont street near the intersection of Skyline drive. The city shall grant a temporary easement of approximately 1,545 square feet within Green Hill Park to allow for the construction of the bus stop shelter and a permanent easement of approximately 1,272 square feet within the park for public use of the shelter upon its completion. The city shall place such bus shelter under the care, custody and control of the city commissioner of public works and parks for street purposes.

SECTION 6. In consideration for and as a condition of the conveyances, changes of use and leases authorized in sections 1, 2, 4 and 5, the city of Worcester, individually or together with the Greater Worcester Land Trust, shall record a permanent conservation restriction meeting the requirements of sections 32 and 33 of chapter 184 of the General Laws over approximately 4.6 acres of land along Plantation parkway and adjacent to Green Hill Park currently owned by the commonwealth under the care and control of the University of Massachusetts and formerly of the Worcester Business Development Corporation and being a triangle in the westernmost section of Worcester assessor's Parcel 57-004-00A-2 and described in a plan on file with the city of Worcester department of public works and parks, and in furtherance of the purposes of this provision, the University of Massachusetts, any of its entities, and any other state department, agency or entity involved, shall have any authority under this act which is necessary and proper to approve and grant such permanent conservation restriction over the property described in this section.

SECTION 7. The city of Worcester shall prepare and record in the Worcester district registry of deeds the plans of land describing the precise boundaries of the parcels of land altered pursuant to this act.

Approved, August 3, 2012.

D

Beginning at a point in the southerly line of West Street two hundred and twenty-eight and twenty-five one-hundredths (228.25) feet southeasterly from and at right angles to the monumented center line of location of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company at station 820 + 20.27; thence easterly along said southerly line of West Street two hundred and four and thirty-four one-hundredths (204.34) feet to the corner of New West Street; thence westerly along said northerly line of New West Street four hundred and ninety-five (495) feet; thence northwesterly at a right angle along land of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company fourteen and thirty-nine one-hundredths (14.39) feet; thence continuing along land of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company by a curve to the right with a radius of seventy-seven (77) feet one hundred and thirteen and five one-hundredths (113.05) feet to a point two hundred and twenty-eight and twenty-five one-hundredths (228.25) feet southeasterly from and at right angles to said monumented center line of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company location at station 822 + 80.45; thence northeasterly along land of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company for a distance of two hundred and sixty and eighteen one-hundredths (260.18) feet by a line parallel to and two hundred and twenty-eight and twenty-five one-hundredths (228.25) feet southeasterly from said monumented center line of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company to the point of beginning, said parcel containing forty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight (41,868) square feet, more or less, all as shown in red on plan dated May 16th, 1924, entitled: "Land in Pittsfield, Mass., to be conveyed to Daniel England", a copy of which is attached to and recorded as part of the deed from the Berkshire Street Railway Company to Daniel England, dated June 18th, 1924, and recorded in the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds, at said Pittsfield, in Book 409, Page 241&c.

The provisions of section sixty-three of chapter forty-four of the General Laws shall not apply to proceeds received under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take full effect upon its acceptance by vote of the city council of the city of Pittsfield.

Approved May 25, 1967.

Chap. 319. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WORCESTER TO SELL OR LEASE CERTAIN PARK LAND IN SAID CITY TO WNEB, INC.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of general or special law to the contrary, the city of Worcester, by its city manager, may sell or lease to WNEB, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation, a certain parcel of park land in said city under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation commission of said city and being a portion of the Wetherell estate lying on the southeasterly side of Newton avenue north, bounded and described as follows: —

Beginning at a point on the southeasterly corner of Newton Avenue (North) two and sixteen hundredths (2.16) feet South 38° 54' 30" East of a drill hole in a stone monument marked W. H.;

Thence South 38° 54' 30" East by land now or formerly of Max and Edith Hurowitz and of Gladys Shulman five hundred fifty-four and ninety-two hundredths (554.92) feet to a point;

Thence South $56^{\circ} 12' 20''$ West by land now or formerly of Highland Associates of Worcester, Inc. five hundred seventy and thirty-four hundredths (570.34) feet to a point;

Thence North $8^{\circ} 58' 40''$ West by land now or formerly of John V. and Mary E. O'Keefe eleven and no hundredths (11.00) feet to a point;

Thence North $57^{\circ} 43' 40''$ West by land now or formerly of said John V. and Mary E. O'Keefe by and crossing the northerly terminus of Highland Terrace, a private way and by land now or formerly of Yeshivoth Achei Tmimim Lubavitz of Worcester two hundred forty-six and fifty-two hundredths (246.52) feet to a point;

Thence North $28^{\circ} 57' 20''$ East by other land supposed to belong to City of Worcester (Parks and Recreation Commission) six hundred ninety-three and twenty hundredths (693.20) feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 244,242 square feet or 5.61 acres, and held by said city for public park purposes; provided that the parks and recreation commission of said city shall by vote assent to the sale and provided, further, that the sale is authorized by a vote of a majority of all the members of the city council of said city and approved by its city manager.

SECTION 2. The city manager of said city, in the name of and on behalf of said city, shall execute and deliver any instrument necessary to convey or to lease the land described under authority of section one.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved May 29, 1967.

Chap. 320. AN ACT AUTHORIZING HAMPSHIRE COUNTY TO PAY A CERTAIN UNPAID BILL.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The county treasurer of Hampshire county is hereby authorized to pay, from any available funds, an unpaid bill in the sum of five thousand, three hundred dollars to the Northampton Gas Light Company for materials furnished and services rendered in connection with the installation of air conditioning equipment in the county courthouse in the city of Northampton, said bill being legally unenforceable against Hampshire county.

SECTION 2. No bill shall be paid by the treasurer of said county under the authority of this act unless and until a certificate has been signed and filed with said treasurer stating under the penalties of perjury that the materials and services for which such bill has been submitted were ordered by an official or an employee of said county and that such materials were delivered to said county or that such services were rendered to said county, or both.

SECTION 3. Any person who knowingly files a certificate required by section two, which is false, and who thereby receives payment for materials or services which were not delivered to or rendered to said county shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars, or both.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved May 29, 1967.

E

HOUSE No. 1211

By Mr. Bohigian of Worcester, petition of Francis J. McGrath (city manager) James D. O'Brien (mayor) (by vote of the city council) and Robert J. Bohigian that the city of Worcester be authorized to use certain park land for school site purposes. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WORCESTER TO USE FOR SCHOOL SITES OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES CERTAIN LAND NOW HELD BY SAID CITY FOR PARK PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The city of Worcester is hereby authorized to use
2 for school purposes a rectangular portion of land containing
3 approximately four and two tenths acres, more or less, now used
4 by the city of Worcester for park purposes and being a portion
5 of North park in said city, said four and two tenths acres lying
6 east of Burncoat street, south of Wawecus road and north of the
7 Worcester Expressway taking line running through said North
8 park, and to also use for school purposes a rectangular portion of
9 land containing approximately six acres, more or less, and now
10 used by the city of Worcester for park purposes and being a
11 portion of Chandler Hill park in said city, said six acres lying
12 east of Merrifield street and south of Belmont street in said
13 city.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.



F

116020

75/82

CITY OF WORCESTER

(Vocational High School & Green Hill Park Land Transfers)

WHEREAS, as a condition to the use of a portion of Green Hill Park as part of the site for a new vocational high school, and, under authority of chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, as amended by chapter one hundred forty-one of the acts of two-thousand and two, the city of Worcester agreed to make various transfers of land concerning the former Belmont Home property, the former Worcester Industrial Technical Institute property and the Coal Mine Brook property (each as further described herein); and

WHEREAS, on December 30, 1905, with the acceptance of a deed from Samual M. Green, et ali., recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 1820 at Page 571, and a deed from Henry Putnam, recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 1948 at Page 408, the city of Worcester acquired title to the property now known as Green Hill Park and placed it under the care, custody and control of its Parks Commission; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 1966, by an Order of Taking adopted by the City Council of Worcester and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 4675, Page 539, the city of Worcester acquired the Coal Mine Brook property for water supply purposes and placed the same under the care, custody and control of its commissioner of public works, said land being described in the records of the city assessor as Map 46, Block 044, Lot 00001; and

WHEREAS, the former Belmont Home property was acquired by the city of Worcester by virtue of two deeds from Henry Putnam, one dated March 28, 1911 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 1966, at Page 303, and a second dated May 3, 1909 and recorded in Book 1904, at Page 257; an Order of Taking dated April 26, 1921 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 2246, at Page 488; and sundry other conveyances; said land being described in the records of the city assessor as Map 57, Block 003, Lot 00001; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 1996, the former Belmont Home property was placed under the care, custody and control of the city manager by virtue of the adoption of a reorganization plan of the city manager which eliminated the Belmont Home Department and transferred the care, custody, management and control of the real or personal property of the Belmont Home Department to the jurisdiction of the city manager; and

WHEREAS, the Worcester Industrial Technical Institute property was acquired by the city of Worcester by virtue of two deeds from Henry Putnam dated August 5, 1895 and October 24, 1899 recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 1478, at Page 524 and Book 1628, at Page 517, respectively; a deed of Etienne LeClair dated May 7, 1927 and recorded in Book 2436, Page 391; and, an order of taking dated June 21,

RETURN TO: David M Moore
City Solicitor
City Hall
455 MAIN ST
WORCESTER MA 01608

03 MAY - 2 PM 3:20

1926 and recorded in Book 2408, Page 292; said land being described in the records of the city assessor as Map 57, Block 003, Lot 0001A; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 1998, the former Worcester Industrial Technical Institute property was placed under the care, custody and control of the Worcester School Committee by virtue of the adoption of a reorganization plan of the city manager which eliminated the Worcester Vocational School Department as a department under the jurisdiction of the city manager and transferred the care, custody and control of the real property of the Worcester Vocational School Department to the jurisdiction of the Worcester School Committee; and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2002, the Parks & Recreation Commission determined that the portion of Green Hill Park shown as lot one (1) on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Worcester, Massachusetts" prepared by BSC, Inc., dated April 7, 1999, revised on June 17, 2002 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 784 Plan 123 (hereinafter the "Plan"), was no longer needed for the purposes for which it was acquired if the land transfers described in chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine are accomplished (see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2002, the Parks & Recreation Commission further determined that the best interests of Green Hill Park, including the property to be added to the Park by this order and such other property as may from time to time be added to the Park, would be served by granting a conservation restriction over said property to the Greater Worcester Land Trust, Inc., and the Green Hill Park Coalition, Inc., as described in chapter one hundred forty-one of the acts of two-thousand and two, which amended chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine (see Attachment A); and,

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2002, the commissioner of public works determined that the water supply purposes for which the Coal Mine Brook property was acquired and placed under his care, custody and control would be enhanced by the conveyance of a conservation restriction to the Greater Worcester Land Trust, the Parks & Recreation Commissioner and the Conservation Commission, as authorized by chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine (see Attachment B); and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2002, the city manager determined that the former Belmont Home property was no longer needed for the purposes for which it was acquired if the land transfers described in chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine are accomplished; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2002, the Conservation Commission voted to accept the conservation restrictions described herein (see Attachment C); and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2002, the Worcester School Committee is expected to vote its determination that the former Worcester Industrial Technical Institute property was no longer needed for the purposes for which it was acquired if the land

transfers described in chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine are accomplished (see Attachment D); and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2002, the city manager, pursuant to section 15A of chapter forty of the General Laws, approved of the changes in the care, custody and control accomplished by this order;

§ 1. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that, upon the recording of this order in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, the transfers of jurisdiction over the parcels of land as specified and described herein shall become effective:

A. The land shown on the Plan as "Lot 1" and consisting of 3.82 acres now under the care, custody and control of the Parks & Recreation Commission be and is hereby transferred to the care, custody and control of the Worcester School Committee to be held, in conjunction with Lot 4 referred to herein, as the site for the new vocational high school and similar education purposes;

B. The land shown on the Plan as "Lot 2" and consisting of 15.49 acres now under the care, custody and control of the city manager be and is hereby transferred to the care, custody and control of the Parks & Recreation Commission to be held for park purposes as part of Green Hill Park;

C. The land shown on the Plan as "Lot 3" and consisting of 6.63 acres now under the care, custody and control of the Worcester School Committee be and is hereby transferred to the care, custody and control of the Parks & Recreation Commission to be held for park purposes as part of Green Hill Park;

D. The land shown on the Plan as "Lot 4" and consisting of 16.19 acres now under the care, custody and control of the city manager be and is hereby transferred to the care, custody and control of the Worcester School Committee to be held, in conjunction with Lot 1 referred to herein, as the site for the new vocational high school and similar education purposes; and

§ 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that, upon adoption of this order, the city manager be and he is hereby authorized to grant and execute the following documents on behalf of the city of Worcester:

A. A conservation restriction over all of Green Hill Park, as the configuration of the park has been modified by this order, in favor of the Green Hill Park Coalition and the Greater Worcester Land Trust, as provided by chapter one hundred forty-one of the acts of two thousand and two; said land being shown as Green Hill Park on a plan entitled "Boundary Plan - Green Hill Park and Green Hill Municipal Golf Course" prepared by Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., dated August 14, 2002 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 784 Plan 122 ; and including lots two (2) and three (3) on the Plan (but excluding Lot one on the Plan);

B. A conservation restriction over the Coal Mine Brook property in favor of the Greater Worcester Land Trust, the Parks & Recreation Commissioner and the Conservation Commission, as authorized by chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine;

C. A deed of easement for underground utilities in the land shown on the Plan as utility easement areas; provided that such land areas remain under the care, custody and control of the Parks & Recreation Commission and are held for park purposes as part of Green Hill Park; and,

§ 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that, upon adoption of this order, the city manager be and he is hereby authorized to execute and accept on behalf of the city of Worcester a conservation restriction over 9.62 acres of land owned by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, placed under the jurisdiction of its department of mental health and shown on the Plan as "Lot 5"; and that the interest in real property conveyed by said conservation restriction shall be and is hereby placed under the care, custody and control of the Parks & Recreation Commission to be held for park purposes in conjunction with Green Hill Park, as authorized by chapter one hundred of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine; and,

§ 4. BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that, upon adoption of this order, the city manager be and he is hereby authorized to execute any document, either specifically authorized by this order or necessary and incidental thereto, upon such terms and conditions as he deems best advances the interests and purposes of this order; and

§ 5. BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that, this order and its attachments shall be recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds together with the Plan, the Boundary Plan and the metes and bounds descriptions of Lots 1-5 and the utility easement areas attached hereto.

**William A.
Richardson
Park Fund**



CITY OF WORCESTER
TRUST FUNDS

Page 1 of 1
 QUARTER ENDING: 06/30/25
 CURRENT YIELD: 2.77%

GENERAL LEDGER NUMBER	FUND NAME	BEGINNING MARKET VALUE	BEGINNING PRINCIPAL	BEGINNING EARNINGS	NET INCOME	REALIZED EARNINGS	TRANSFERS OF PRINCIPAL	TRANSFERS OF EARNINGS	ENDING PRINCIPAL	ENDING EARNINGS	ENDING CASH VALUE	CHANGE IN UNREALIZED EARNINGS	UNREALIZED EARNINGS	ENDING MARKET VALUE
5500	WELLS FARGO HIGH YIELD	\$12,000.00	\$100,777.00	\$219,478.14	\$4,121.42	\$114.70	\$0.00	\$4.00	\$100,881.70	\$302,348.12	\$747,293.21	\$25,071.30	\$49,824.74	\$442,118.06
	SUBTOTALS	\$12,000.00	\$100,777.00	\$219,478.14	\$4,121.42	\$114.70	\$0.00	\$4.00	\$100,881.70	\$302,348.12	\$747,293.21	\$25,071.30	\$49,824.74	\$442,118.06

The information contained herein has been created by your financial advisor, is intended for informational purposes only and is a courtesy to you. It should not be relied upon for tax purposes, is based upon sources believed to be reliable, and cannot be relied upon to replace your individual statements. No guarantee is made to the completeness or accuracy of the information. Commonwealth urges you to complete your account outside of statements with the statements you receive from us or your advisor. If you believe there are material discrepancies between statements, please contact Commonwealth directly at 800.251.6266. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor. Past performance is not indicative of future results. 13308123

This is a request for items to be added to next week's Parks Commission agenda.

We have the following requests and questions from the formal legal opinion response that was provided by the City Solicitor office on April 16, 2026 to the Parks Commissioner. We would like an update returned back to the Park Commissions for the September meeting.

Statutory and Historical Protections

- Chapter 154 of the Acts of 1882 – confirmed adopted and not repealed or superseded.
 - This law has been in effect since it was adopted in 1884 by the voters.
 - Please explain why this Act (Law) was never addressed in any of the taking of Public Park land for school purposes?
- Does this Law grant the Parks Commission authority to protect all Public Parks from being taken for other use?
 - What is the process the Parks Commission will use to exercise this authority and protect public park land?

Status of Elm Park

- Clarify Statement:
 - Elm Park encompassing approximately 87 acres, retains its legal designation and protection as public park land.
 - Please confirm Doherty High School legally sits on Protected Public Park land managed by the Parks Commission.
- Clarify Statement:
 - In land transfer section the 20 acres of land taken for Doherty was deemed surplus and transferred to the school department.
 - Please explain why you are stating Elm Park is still 87 acres?

Chapter 121 of the Acts of 1960 and Judicial Decree

- Clarify Statement:
 - All actions taken pursuant to this Act were in accordance with the law
 - Please provide missing copies of documents that were originally requested.
 - Provide **SIGNED** copy of the 1961 Decree – unsigned copies of legal documents are not evidence to show actions were in accordance with the law
 - Provide copy of Open Court Session referenced in decree.
 - Spalding J is not a valid SJC judge's name
 - please validate name and explain why his signature is not on the decree.
 - Where was Act 1882 Chapter 154 (Law) addressed as part of this Act?

- Where was Article 49 addressed as part of this Act?

Land Transfer and Surplus Transactions for Chapter 121

- Clarify Statements:
 - Transfer of land associated with Doherty Memorial High School was conducted in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 15A. The land was formally treated as surplus for the purpose originally held and the transfer between municipal departments was authorized through established municipal procedures and approvals, including the City Council approval. The record reflects compliance with statutory requirements governing municipal land disposition.
 - Please provide copies of documents that were originally requested and required to show transfer was conducted in compliance.
 - Surplus Transactions approved by the Parks Commission
 - Transfer to School Department approved by City Council
 - Where was Act 1881 Chapter 154 (Law) addressed in this land transfer?
 - Where was Article 49 addressed as part of this transfer?

Wetherell Park Authorization

- Where was Act 1882 Chapter 154 referenced and addressed?
- Where was Article 49 addressed?

Chandler Hill Park Authorization

- Where was Act 1882 Chapter 154 referenced and addressed?
- Where was Article 49 addressed?
- Please provide the copy of the Act that was filed for Bill No. 1211

Worcester Technical High School and Green Hill Park Authorization

- Where was Act 1882 Chapter 154 referenced and addressed?
- Where was Article 97 addressed?

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



City of Worcester

May 19, 2026

Attachment for Item # 9.19 B

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I respectfully submit the attached communication relative to the proposed Purple Heart and Gold Star Memorials at Worcester Common, as received from Seema Dixit, Commissioner of the Department of Health & Human Services, and forwarded for the information of your Honorable Body.

The Department of Health & Human Services and Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery will be host a public hearing to present the proposed plan and gather community feedback at the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting on Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at 50 Officer Manny Familia Way. Following the hearing a finalized plan will be compiled and submitted to the commission for approval.

I look forward to reviewing the final plan for the proposed Purple Heart and Gold Star Memorials and encourage all community members to attend and share their feedback to influence the collective vision for these memorials as we honor our wounded and fallen servicemembers.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



The City of Worcester

Department of Health & Human Services
Seema Dixit, Commissioner
455 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608
P| 508-799-8486 F| 508-799-1218
HHS@worcesterma.gov

To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager
From: Seema Dixit, Commissioner
CC: Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery
Alex R. Arriaga, Interim Director of Veterans' Services
Date: May 19, 2026
Re: Informational communication relative to the proposed Purple Heart and Gold Star Memorials at Worcester Common

Please see the following informational communication relative to the upcoming public process for the proposed Purple Heart and Gold Star Memorials at Worcester Common. This notice is submitted for your review, scheduling, and forwarding to the City Council.

The Department of Health & Human Services and Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery will hold a public hearing to present the proposed memorials and gather community feedback at the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on June 11.

Following the hearing, all input will be reviewed and incorporated into a final plan, which will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission for approval.

Public Hearing Details

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Location: 50 Officer Manny Familia Way, Meeting Room A

Date & Time: Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

We look forward to working with community members and stakeholders to shape a shared vision for these memorials. Please review and advise if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Seema Dixit
Commissioner
Department of Health & Human Services



CONCEPT DESIGN
**GOLD STAR & PURPLE HEART
MEMORIALS**

WORCESTER, MA
March 2025



cc2026apr28094739

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER:

The undersigned person(s) most respectfully petitions your Honorable Board:

Request Great Brook Valley Playground be renamed Roberto Clemente Field during its ribbon cutting ceremony.

Councilor Tony Economou



The City of
WORCESTER

City Clerk Department

Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk I
Clare M. Robbins, Deputy City Clerk II

An individual may petition the City Council on a wide range of topics including the condition of streets and sidewalks, street lighting, traffic, and parking. **No petition which deals with personalities, or with matters not within the general supervision and/or relating to city government or does not specifically state the business to be discussed, shall be placed on any city council agenda by the city clerk (see Rule 11 of the Rules of City Council).** The deadline for filing a petition is 4:15 p.m. on the Thursday preceding each Tuesday Council meeting. In the case of Monday holidays, the deadline for filing a petition will be 4:15 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding each Tuesday Council meeting to accommodate Open Meeting Law posting requirements.

Please print out this form, provide your full contact information, including your name, residential address and phone number, sign the form and return to:

Worcester City Clerk
City Hall Room 206
455 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

RECEIVED
WORCESTER CITY CLERK
2026 MAY 28 PM 3:28

The undersigned hereby petition the City Council as follows, request...

Return the playground at Great Brook Valley to its original name: "ARRIES ANN WARD Playground" as provided in the "This Is Your Life", 1957 video. There is historical significance in this original name for greater Worcester, and especially for the Black Community.

Signature	Name	Address, Zip Code	Phone Number	Email
<i>Gordon Ward</i>	GORDON WARD	20 DOLLY DR. 01604	508.410.9736	gward827@gmail.com
<i>Melle Moody</i>	MELLE MOODY	26 Meadowbrook Rd Alburt 01601	508-654-3301	Jward1910@gmail.com
<i>Joshua Backstrom</i>	Joshua Backstrom	57 Sande Dr. 01604	508.335.5274	jbackstrom@jbackstrom.com



The City of
WORCESTER

City Clerk Department
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk I
Clare M. Robbins, Deputy City Clerk II

June 9, 2026

Mayor Joseph M. Petty and the
Members of the City Council
City Hall, 455 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilors,

I am submitting this communication in response to the City Council request adopted on June 2, 2026 concerning conducting research relative to the historical efforts made to recognize Arries Ann Ward, a formerly enslaved person born in New Bern, North Carolina in 1862, who settled in Worcester, living in the city until her death in 1959 at the age of 97.

A review of television clips, newspaper articles and City Council records shows that this matter began following Mrs. Ward's 1957 appearance on the popular television show called "This Is Your Life," which highlighted the life and achievements of Mrs. Ward to a national audience. Records were once again brought to the forefront of discussion in 1992 when a City Council petition was filed by Gary S. Parker, a descendant of Arries Ann Ward, asking the city to investigate both the naming of a playground and the renaming of Laurel Street in Mrs. Ward's honor.

Below, our office has created a timeline of events related to Mrs. Ward for your consideration. We have also attached several documents obtained by our office related to Arries Ann Ward in hopes to guide further discussion related to appropriately honoring Mrs. Ward for her contributions to the city and beyond.

1957 – "This Is Your Life" Appearance and Original Recognition Effort

In 1957, at the age 95, Arries Ann Ward appeared on the television program "This Is Your Life." A YouTube clip of the program's episode can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykzkGq-KPLQ>

At Mrs. Ward's request, the show donated \$1,000.00 to the City of Worcester to purchase playground equipment and create a playground in Great Brook Valley,



The City of **WORCESTER**

City Clerk Department
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk I
Clare M. Robbins, Deputy City Clerk II

where Mrs. Ward lived with relatives following many years at 28 Assonet St., which would be named in her honor. During the airing of “This Is Your Life,” images were shown of a plaque created by the program that was later brought to the playground. According to a newspaper article from the Evening Gazette in 1964, the plaque, which was about foot-by-foot square, was stolen.

The television show also discussed a petition rename Laurel St. to honor Arries Ann Ward, which is further discussed below.

1957–1970 – Street-Renaming Petition Withdrawn

On March 11, 1957, following the appearance of Arries Ann Ward on “This Is Your Life,” Mayor James D. O’Brien filed a petition with the City Council to rename Laurel St. as “Arries Ann Ward St.” According to newspaper articles and City Council documents, the petition did not proceed, due to concerns from the neighborhood residents, whom the relatives of Arries Ann Ward said were seventy-five (75) percent Black at the time of the petition, over the financial burdens associated with changing the name of the street for residents and small businesses with addresses on the road. The petition remained in Public Works Committee until it was given leave to withdraw in 1970. Today, over four-hundred residents are registered to vote on Laurel St.

March 3, 1992 – Gary S. Parker Petitions the City Council

On March 3, 1992, Gary S. Parker submitted a petition to the City Council asking the city to investigate the prior commitments made related to naming honors for Mrs. Ward. The petition was then further championed by then-City Councilor Raymond V. Mariano, who submitted additional backup materials to the administration. The petition was referred to City Manager William J. Mulford, who would work with both Commissioner of Public Works F. Worth Landers and then Commissioner of Public Works Robert L. Moylan, Jr. to prepare reports for City Council on the topic.

March 31, 1992 – Department of Public Works Initial Review

Following the referral of Mr. Parker’s petition, the City Manager requested recommendations from the Department of Public Works. Commissioner of Public Works Landers wrote an initial report to City Council outlining the process for holding hearings to rename streets, stating that Laurel Street was approximately



The City of
WORCESTER

City Clerk Department
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk I
Clare M. Robbins, Deputy City Clerk II

1,318 feet long, with about 26 abutting properties, primarily residential but including apartment buildings and a few small businesses. The communication also discussed alternatives for naming honors for Mrs. Ward, including the naming of an open recreation space in Plumley Village off Summer St. The informational communication was referred to Public Works Committee and later placed on file on November 10, 1992.

August 24, 1993 – Public Works Committee Considers Alternatives

Following the discussions in 1992, City Manager Mulford tasked Commissioner of Public Works Robert L. Moylan Jr. with looking into further naming locations for Mrs. Ward. In his 1993 communication, Mr. Moylan discussed the open recreation space in Plumley Village, including directions for the family to write a letter describing the individual to be honored and the need for the petitions to pay for the costs for a plaque and other necessary materials at the location.

February 22, 1994 – Telegram & Gazette Article: “Grandma Ward May Get Her Due”

On February 22, 1994, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette wrote an article that discussed how the city planned to move forward to honor Arries Ann Ward. Then-Mayor Raymond V. Mariano was quoted as saying “We have an obligation here that we haven't fulfilled and I am trying to, 30 or 40 years later, pick up the ball.”

The article then described Mayor Mariano's plans to pursue naming the playground in Plumley Village in her honor.

May 2, 1995 – Telegram & Gazette Article: “Grandma Ward Receives Her Due”

On May 2, 1995, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette wrote an article detailing that the park in Great Brook Valley named after Arries Ann Ward had been taken down, but that the new playground in Plumley Village would be named in her honor, after Mayor Mariano raised private funds and garnered the support of Plumley Village. The article also discussed the dedication of the new Plumley Village playground.

As you are aware, there have been several recent discussions and items brought forward related to ways to appropriately honor Mrs. Arries Ann Ward for her



The City of
WORCESTER

City Clerk Department
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk I
Clare M. Robbins, Deputy City Clerk II

contributions to the community. Should you need anything further related to the research conducted for this individual, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Cordially,

Nikolin Vangjeli
City Clerk

12957

*Its name
Laurel St*

REPORT

Of the Committee on

PUBLIC WORKS

Upon the

pet. of James D. O'Brien,
Mayor, to change name of
LAUREL ST. to "Arries Ann
Ward" Street

In City Council

APR 21 1970

Read and Accepted,

Thomas J. Donohue Clerk,

B62
P192


City of Worcester

In Committee

March 25, 1970

The Committee on Public Works to whom
was referred March 11, 1957
the petition of James D. O'Brien, Mayor; to change
name of Laurel Street to "Arries Ann Ward" Street;
having considered the same, most respectfully re-
ports recommending the petitioner be given leave
to withdraw.

For the Committee,


Clerk

12957

PETITION OF

James D. O'Brien,
Mayor

FOR

To change name of Laurel St.

to "Arries Ann Ward" Street

In City Council

MAR 11 1957

Referred to the Committee on

PUBLIC WORKS

James D. O'Brien Clerk

CITY CLERK DEPT.
MAR 5 1957
CITY OF WORCESTER
MASSACHUSETTS

To the City Council of the City of Worcester:

The undersigned, residing in the City of Worcester, most respectfully petition your Honorable Board:

To consider the advisability of changing the name of

Laurel Street to "Arries Ann Ward Street!"

James D. O'Brien

RECEIVED
CITY OF WORCESTER
MAY 13 1921
CITY CLERK DEPT.

Thieves Steal Plaque To Former Slave

The plaque honoring Mrs. Arries Ann Ward, who was born a slave in 1862 in North Carolina but lived much of her life in Worcester, has been stolen from its spot atop a granite pedestal in a playground at Great Brook Valley.

Mrs. Ward was honored in 1957 on the nationally televised show, "This Is Your Life." Ralph Edwards, master of ceremonies on the program, later sent the city \$1,000 and the plaque, which was inscribed "Arries Ann Ward Playground. This is Your Life. Feb. 27, 1957."

Mrs. Ward died May 24, 1959.

The money was used to purchase playground equipment. It was set up near Great Brook Valley, where Mrs. Ward lived near the end of her life.

The plaque, about a foot square, was attached to the granite pedestal and placed in a corner of the playground.

Someone apparently pried it loose and made off with it several weeks ago. Police say they have no trace of it yet.

PETITION OF

Gary S. Parker

FOR

Req investigation of changing of name of Laurel St. to Arries Ann Ward St. and also naming of playground in her honor.

alpha

In City Council

March 3, 1992

Referred to the Committee on

City Manager ✓

 Clerk

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

To the City Council of the City of Worcester:

Boston

The undersigned, residing in the City of ~~Worcester~~, most respectfully petition your Honorable Board:

~~In the year 1957 Mayor J.J. O'Brien of Worcester initiated an order to the City Council of Worcester to change the name of Laurel St. to Arries Ann Ward St. in Honor of this woman. He Mayor O'Brien also introduced an order to name a newly constructed Playground in her Honor as well. This all was the culmination of Mrs. Ward's appearance on the then popular program titled This is Your Life, hosted by producer Ralph Edwards, and nationally televised in a Prime Time Sunday slot. The actual changing of the street was depicted in a photograph displayed on television. Money was also donated Gleem toothpaste for the playground furnishings.~~

~~I am requesting that you get to the bottom of this because I am not presently aware of any street or playground in the Worcester area in honor of my Great Great Grandmother Arries Ann Ward.~~

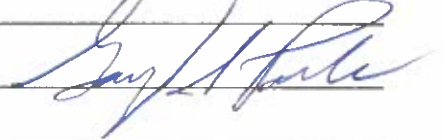
Gary S. Parker

324 Wood Av.

Hyde Park, Ma.

zip 02136

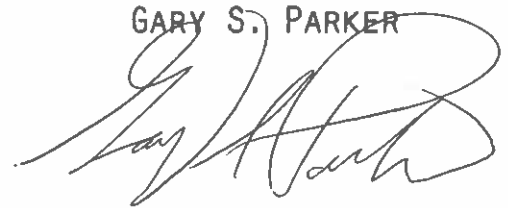
tel (617) 361-7794



IN THE YEAR 1957 MAYOR J.J. O'BRIEN OF WORCESTER INITIATED AN ORDER TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF WORCESTER TO CHANGE THE NAME OF LAUREL ST. TO ARRIES ANN WARD ST. IN HONOR OF THIS WOMAN. HE MAYOR O'BRIEN ALSO INTRODUCED AN ORDER TO NAME A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PLAYGROUND IN HER HONOR AS WELL. THIS ALL WAS THE CULMINATION OF MRS. WARD'S APPEARANCE ON THE THEN POPULAR PROGRAM TITLED THIS IS YOUR LIFE, HOSTED BY PRODUCER RALPH EDWARDS, AND NATIONALLY TELEVISED IN A PRIME TIME SUNDAY SLOT. THE ACTUAL CHANGING OF THE STREET WAS DEPICTED IN A PHOTOGRAPH DISPLAYED ON TELEVISION. MONEY WAS ALSO DONATED GLEEM TOOTHPASTE FOR THE PLAYGROUND FURNISHINGS.

I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS BECAUSE I AM NOT PRESENTLY AWARE OF ANY STREET OR PLAYGROUND IN THE WORCHESTER AREA IN HONOR OF MY GREAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER ARRIES ANN WARD.

GARY S. PARKER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Parker", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed name "GARY S. PARKER".



MAYOR J. J. O'BRIEN LOOKS AT ST. SIGN
Honored Woman, 95, for 'Kindness, Understanding'

TV \$500 in Peril, Ex-Slave Stricken

(By JEAN COLE)—WORCESTER—City officials yesterday launched a full-scale probe to determine whether a threatened loss of Old Age Assistance precipitated a heart attack suffered by a 95-year-old woman recipient who had received \$500 for her appearance on the nationwide "This Is Your Life" TV program.

Mrs. Arries Ann Ward, a former slave who was cited for life-long "kindness, understanding and love of children," collapsed and was hospitalized last Monday

following a visit to her Tacoma St. home by a woman social worker from the Public Welfare Department.

Mrs. Helen Howard, one of the victim's 18 children, 10 of whom are deceased, said her mother collapsed at her feet after the social worker's departure, crying out:

"The glory and the honor is all going to be taken away from me. They will give me any more as I've got to spend the \$500 before they will give me any more assistance and then they're going to take Willy (a son) to court."

GOT CASH FOR CLOTHES

The aged woman had been given the cash gift on the TV program to enable her to purchase new dentures, a hearing aid and new clothing for Easter.

The son to whom she referred, William Ward, 57, 101 Summer st., was in Central District Court the following morning on a Welfare Department complaint that he had failed to contribute to the



ARRIES ANN WARD, 95
!!! After Social Worker Call

164

92208

FILE
REPORT

Of the Committee on

PUBLIC WORKS

Upon the Comm of City
Mgr trans comm rel to Change
Name of Laurel Street, rec
from the Dept. of Public Works.

In City Council

NOVEMBER 10, 1992

Read and Accepted,

 Clerk,

City of Worcester

In Committee october 28, 1992

The Committee on Public Works to whom was referred March 31, 1992 the Communication of the City Manager transmitting communication relative to Change Name of Laurel Street, received from the Department of Public Works; having considered the same, most respectfully reports recommending that the Communication be placed on file.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. D. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk


Transmitting communication
relative to Change Name of
Laurel Street, received from
the Department of Public Works.

IN THE COUNCIL
March 31, 1992

✓ COMM. READ: Referred to Public Works
Committee

also notified:
BARBARA WARD
19 ELIZ ST. 01605
(Elizabeth)

notice sent
Gary S Parker
324 Wood Avenue
Hyde Park, MA 02136
2 notices - 10-19-92


4-27-92 - *hpld* CLERK
12-7-92

WILLIAM J. MULFORD
CITY MANAGER



CITY OF WORCESTER

March 31, 1992

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER

COUNCILORS:

The attached communication relative to Change Name of
Laurel Street, received from the Department of Public
Works, is forwarded for the information of your Honorable
Body.

Respectfully submitted,


William J. Mulford
City Manager

City of Worcester

REF. NO. 1158

INTER DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT: City Clerk's #27 - Change Name of Laurel Street

TO : F. Worth Landers, Commissioner/Public Works

DATE 3/4/92

At the City Council Meeting of March 3, 1992, a motion was voted relative to the request of Gary S. Parker to investigate changing the name of Laurel Street to Arries Ann Ward Street and also naming of playground in her honor.

Please provide me with your recommendations relative to this item for transmittal to City Council.



William J. Mulford
City Manager

/jz

RECEIVED

MAR 9 1992

CITY OF WORCESTER
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
ADMINISTRATION


FROM _____

REPLY HERE AND RETURN TO SENDER

DATE 3/16/92

Please see attached memorandum dated March 13, 1992.

TCR/FWL/jag
Attachment

BY 
F. WORTH LANDERS
Commissioner of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

City of Worcester

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 13, 1992

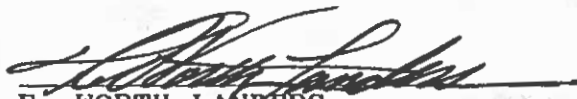
TO: WILLIAM J. MULFORD, City Manager
FROM: F. WORTH LANDERS, Commissioner of Public Works
SUBJECT: CHANGE NAME OF LAUREL STREET - IDC #1158

At the City Council meeting of March 3, 1992, a motion was voted relative to the request of Gary S. Parker to investigate changing the name of Laurel Street to Arries Ann Ward Street and also naming a playground in her honor.

By your Inter Departmental Correspondence No. 1158 you requested me to provide you with recommendations relative to this item for transmittal to City Council.

Laurel Street is a public street 1,318' in length. There are approximately 26 abutting properties, primarily residential, but including apartment buildings and a few small businesses.

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Public Works Committee of the City Council for a public hearing as described under Chapter 7, Section 7 of the Worcester City Ordinances. This will require notices be sent to all abutters shown on the current Assessor's list notifying them of the time and place of hearing, and publication of the hearing in a newspaper published in the City not less than fourteen days before such hearing.


F. WORTH LANDERS
Commissioner of Public Works

FWL/seg
cc: Robert L. Moylan, Jr.

CITY OF



Worcester
MASSACHUSETTS

RAYMOND V. MARIANO
COUNCILLOR - AT - LARGE

14 Fox Hollow
Worcester, Mass. 01605
Telephone:
Home: 853-0500
Office: 799-1049

April 21, 1992

Mr. Gary S. Brackett
Solicitor
City of Worcester
Law Department
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

Dear Gary,

According to newspaper and television accounts which I have reviewed, the City of Worcester publicly agreed to name a street and playground after a 95 year old ex-slave named Arries Ann Ward. I have reviewed these documents and found:

1. The "This is Your Life" TV program in 1957, announced that the name of Laurel Street was to be changed to Arries Ann Ward Street by a resolution of the City Council. That TV program pictured then Mayor James O'Brien standing next to the new street sign.
2. According to the same TV program, a new playground in Great Brook Valley was to be named the Arries Ann Ward playground. The TV program announced that it and one of its sponsors (IGA Supermarkets) would donate \$1,000 for the purchase of new playground equipment for said playground.
3. The "Boston Daily Record" (Friday, March 29, 1957) ran a story showing Mayor O'Brien and the street and playground signs (see copy attached).

The problem that I have been asked to resolve is why Laurel Street has not been renamed to Arries Ann Ward Street. Therefore, I would ask your office to review and research appropriate documents and be prepared to provide advice to the Public Works Committee's deliberations on this matter. This issue will be taken up at our April 27 meeting and I would respectfully request your attendance.

Mr. Gary S. Brackett
City Solicitor

-2-

By this letter, I am also notifying the Worcester Housing Authority and the Department of Public Works and requesting their presence and advice at the aforementioned meeting. Further, I am asking the City Clerk to check the City's records to ascertain what votes actually took place.

As always, your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Raymond V. Mariano
Councillor-at-Large

RVM/amh
att.

cc: William J. Mulford
Brian M. McQuade
Richard R. Foley
F. Worth Landers
✓ Robert J. O'Keefe

Gary S. Parker
324 Wood Av.
Hyde Park, Ma. 02136

Dear Mr. Mariano,

April 10, 1992

Please find three pieces of documents and one video cassette tape. This was all I could muster in this relatively short period of time. I hope that it will be useful information for you and the members of the City Council in determining the credibility of my claim to the naming of a street and playground in my great-great-grandmother's honor.

\

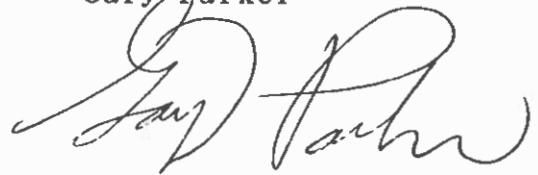
The video tape contains the whole 30 minute segment of the show This is Your Life, however only the last six or seven minutes are relevant to the issue at hand, but feel free to view the whole 30 minute segment if you please.

Would you kindly return the video tape to me at the above address at your convenience.

PS. I do appreciate your finding time out of your busy schedule to personally communicate with me, and it is reassuring to me to hear you state your commitment to doing the right thing.

Sincerely & Respectfully

Gary Parker

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Parker", written in black ink.

(Since the project is "brainchild" is Raymond P. Harold, and since he was first chairman of the Housing Authority that governs same, and since plans call for donating playground equipment in name of Mrs. Ward to project, I included Mr. Harold in next photo to represent project.

He is biggest banker in town, he is shown with Mayor O'Brien and Mrs. Ward as the mayor presents her (finally) the key to city.

Mayor James D. O'Brien was not present when Councillor George A. Wells gave her key ~~at~~ her 95th birthday party on New Year's Day.

Wells said then, O'Brien can say now--"You already have the key to our hearts; ~~there~~ there is the key to the city."

So, from left in presentation pix, ~~the~~ Raymond P. Harold, president of Worcester Federal Savings and Loan Assn., and first chairman of Housing Authority where Grandma Ward lives; Grandma and Mayor James D. O'Brien.

P. S. Grandma has some nice words on key and seeing mayor, might ask her about them.

New street photo.

Here we had problem. Mayor stands 5-5 (at best); sign goes at 9 foot mark. SO, we had two workmen lower the sign and work on it, while Jimmy looks into the wild blue yonder.

~~Arves~~ Ann Ward St. has Street Dept. workers Jack L. Dunne, low man, and Thomas Frietsch, top, with mayor as they ~~make~~ change name of Laurel St. at corner of Summer in heart of Negro belt--before they found the sunshine out in Great Brook Valley Gardens on the outskirts of town.



MAYOR J. J. O'BRIEN LOOKS AT ST. SIGN
Honed Woman, 95, for 'Kindness, Understanding'

TV \$500 in Peril, Ex-Slave Stricken

(By JEAN COLE)—WORCESTER—City officials yesterday launched a full-scale probe to determine whether a threatened loss of Old Age Assistance precipitated a heart attack suffered by a 95-year-old woman recipient who had received \$500 for her appearance on the nationwide "This Is Your Life" TV program.

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"The glory and the honor is all going to be taken away from me; they will give me any more as I've got to spend the \$500 before they will give me any more assistance and then they're going to take Willy (a son) to court."

GOT CASH FOR CLOTHES

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The son to whom she referred, William Ward, 57, 101 Sumner st., was in Central District Court



ARRIES ANN WARD, 95
Ill After Social Worker Call

Arries Ann Ward

Get Magazine

4/11/57

Thieves Get \$3,000 Worth Of Marian Anderson Gems

Contralto Marian Anderson was robbed of \$3,000 worth of jewelry plus other items by thieves who broke into her New York apartment while she and her husband, Orpheus Fisher, were at another home in Connecticut. The burglars, who jimmied a door to get in, took a \$2,500 diamond pin, \$500 worth of miscellaneous jewelry, a \$200 tape recorder, two radios and a small amount of silver.

Pearl Bailey In London, Has Royal Visitor

Singer Pearl Bailey had a royal visitor during her Cafe de Paris engagement in London when Princess Margaret, long a patron of American entertainers, turned up for a performance. Among the Princess's favorites are Louis Armstrong, Lena Horne and Dorothy Dandridge.

'Praise House' Delayed For Script Changes

A Charles O'Neal drama, *Praise House*, starring actress Louise Beavers and scheduled to open last week at Los Angeles' Huntington Hartford Theatre, was postponed indefinitely while the script undergoes revisions.

TV Show Star: Honored on the TV show *This Is Your Life*, Mrs. Arries Ann Ward, 95, of Worcester, Mass., born a slave, hears her life story told by host Ralph Edwards as she holds great-great-grandson Gary Parker, 2. A Worcester street will bear her name.



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bout suing
singer Bixie
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OR ROBINSON



B. Crawford

October 19, 1992

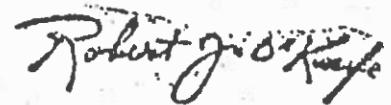
CITY OF WORCESTER
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

N O T I C E

You are hereby notified that the Committee on Public Works will meet in the City Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall on October 28, 1992 at 7:00 P.M.

for the following reason: Communication of the City Manager transmitting communication relative to Change Name of Laurel Street, received from the Department of Public Works.

Councillor Raymond V. Mariano, Chairman of this Committee cordially invites you to attend said meeting and to ask anyone whom you feel may be interested to also attend. This will give you an opportunity to be heard in regard to the situation.



Robert J. O'Keefe
City Clerk

April 13, 1992

CITY OF WORCESTER
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

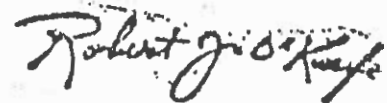
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Robert J. O'Keefe
City Clerk

96122 NO. 5
COMM OF THE CITY MANAGER

Transmitting communication
relative to changing the
name of Laurel Street to Alpha
Arries Ann Ward Street,
received from the Department
of Public Works.

IN THE COUNCIL

August 24, 1993

COMM. READ: Placed on file



CLERK

WILLIAM J. MULFORD
CITY MANAGER



CITY OF WORCESTER

August 24, 1993

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER

COUNCILORS:

The attached communication relative to changing the name of Laurel Street to Arries Ann Ward Street, received from the Department of Public Works, is forwarded for the information of your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Mulford
City Manager

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

City of Worcester

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 1993

TO: WILLIAM J. MULFORD, City Manager

FROM: ROBERT L. MOYLAN, JR., Commissioner of Public Works

SUBJECT: ARRIES ANN WARD - INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE REF. NO. 2328

At the City Council meeting of March 3, 1992, a motion was voted relative to the request of Gary S. Parker to investigate changing the name of Laurel Street to Arries Ann Ward Street and also naming a playground in her honor. By your Interdepartmental Correspondence Ref. No. 1158, you requested the former Commissioner of Public Works to provide you with recommendations relative to this item for transmittal to City Council.

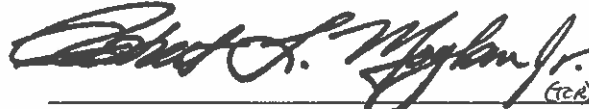
In Commissioner Landers' response to you in a memorandum dated March 13, 1992, he reported that Laurel Street was a public street 1,318 feet in length and that there were approximately twenty-six abutting properties, primarily residential, but including apartment buildings and a few small buildings. He recommended that this item be referred to the City Council's Public Works Committee for a public hearing as described under Chapter 7, Section 7 of the Worcester City Ordinances.

On March 31, 1992, you forwarded his communication relative to changing the name of Laurel Street to the City Council. The City Council voted to refer the item to its Public Works Committee. On April 27, 1992, the Public Works Committee voted to hold the item while the Chairman and the Commissioner looked into the possibility of naming a street, park or something else after Arries Ann Ward.

In Commissioner Landers' notes on this matter, he indicated that there was an open recreation area in Plumley Village off of Summer Street in back of the police station close to Belmont Street. He recorded that the naming procedure for a City park is to submit a letter of 500 words or less justifying the name to the Parks Commissioner. He would refer it to a subcommittee that would hold a hearing in the neighborhood of the proposed park. The petitioner would have to pay any costs for a plaque, etc. On October 28, 1992, the Committee voted to file the item it had voted to hold on March 31, 1992.

July 23, 1993

The Department of Public Works has no recommendation to make at present concerning the dedication of an appropriate street or facility in honor of Arries Ann Ward.

Handwritten signature of Robert L. Moylan, Jr. in cursive script.

ROBERT L. MOYLAN, JR.
Commissioner of Public Works

TCR/RLM/tcr

WORCESTER - Growing up in Grafton, Beatrice Packer remembers well Fridays and Sundays at her grandmother **Arries Ann Ward's** house nearby.

Two kinds of fish, cornbread, baked beans and fried corn always topped Friday menus and two kinds of meat were prepared every Sunday in portions fit for an army. She wanted to be sure there was something everyone liked.

"People would just stop in and they were always welcome," said Packer, 74, who lives at 49 Brigham Hill Road in Grafton. "She loved having people over and she loved feeding them."

Ward, who had moved to Great Brook Valley in Worcester before she died in 1959 at age 97, loved being surrounded by people. Having given birth to 18 children of her own, she had befriended many children in the housing complex.

"Children were always around her," Packer said.

Two years before her death, **Ward**, an ex-slave, appeared on the popular 1950s television program "This Is Your Life," and at her request, the show donated \$1,000 to the city to buy equipment for a playground, which was eventually built in Great Brook Valley, but has since been taken down. Plans by the City Council at that time to change the name of Laurel Street, which runs through Plumley Village, to **Arries Ann Ward Street** never materialized.

MAYOR'S RESEARCH

At the request of one of **Ward's** family members, Mayor Raymond V. Mariano said he recently researched what became of the playground and the proposal to change the street name. To his surprise, he said, he discovered that as a boy growing up in Great Brook Valley, he played at what had been the **Arries Ann Ward Playground**. When the snow melts, he said, he intends to go to the site to assess the condition of the playground. In the meantime, he will pursue plans to dedicate in **Ward's** name this summer a playground proposed for Plumley Village for which he helped raise money, or some other Worcester Housing Authority playground.

"We have an obligation here that we haven't fulfilled and I am trying to, 30 or 40 years later, pick up the ball," Mariano said.

The street name was never changed because it would have been a financial burden on the businesses and residents along the street, he said.

Ward's grandchildren said a petition had been circulated among Laurel Street residents, whom the grandchildren say were about 75 percent black at the time, opposing the name change.

"My aunt was very angry," James **Ward**, 73, of South Grafton said of Lillian Phelps, the daughter **Arries Ward** was living with then. But, not wanting to make her mother the center of controversy, Phelps let the issue drop.

BORN INTO SLAVERY

Nine of **Arries Ward's** children lived in Worcester or Grafton; all 18 have died. She had numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Born into slavery in a Civil War-era log cabin in 1862 in New Bern, N.C., "Grandma **Ward**," as she was affectionately called by family and friends, moved to Worcester in 1898. Her husband, William H. **Ward**, died in 1913. She was active in the church, the community and politics, and counted among her personal friends U.S. Rep. Harold D. Donohue, Mayor James O'Brien and City Councilor George Wells, all deceased.

"She believed in voting and she made sure that all of us voted," said James **Ward**, a former Grafton selectman and past president of the Worcester County Chapter of the NAACP. "If she ever found out you didn't vote, she would go up one side of you and down the other. She knew the power of the vote."

James **Ward** moved in with his grandmother at age 16 and lived with her for six years until he was drafted during World War II. It was she who influenced him to get involved in politics, he said.

Her optimistic outlook helped land her the spot on the TV program. A friend with breast cancer was lamenting her illness when **Ward** asked her whether she had prayed, James **Ward** said. The woman prayed and the cancer somehow vanished. Impressed by **Ward's** faith despite having been a slave, the woman told the story to Ralph Edwards, host of "This Is Your Life."

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WORCESTER - Last Saturday, Mayor Raymond V. Mariano helped keep a promise the city made to a resident nearly 40 years ago by dedicating a new playground to the late **Arries Ann Ward**.

In 1957, at the age of 95, **Ward**, an ex-slave, appeared on the popular 1950s television program "This Is Your Life." At her request, the show donated \$1,000 to the city to buy equipment for a playground. The playground was eventually built in Great Brook Valley, but has since been taken down. Plans by the City Council at that time to change the name of Laurel Street, which runs through Plumley Village, to **Arries Ann Ward Street** never materialized.

The street name was never changed because it would have been a financial burden on the businesses and residents along the street, relatives said. **Ward's** grandchildren said a petition had been circulated among Laurel Street residents - the grandchildren say 75 percent of the population was black at the time - opposing the name change.

Ward, who had moved to Great Brook Valley in Worcester before she died in 1959 at age 97, loved being surrounded by people. Having given birth to 18 children of her own, she had befriended many children in the housing complex.

Three years ago, Gary Parker, **Ward's** great-great-grandson, contacted then City Councilor Raymond V. Mariano and asked for help. After a few hurdles, Mariano approached the residents of Plumley Village and asked for their support in naming a newly built playground in memory of **Ward**. Mariano had helped raise private money for the playground and when residents learned **Ward's** history, they agreed to his request.

At Saturday's dedication, Mariano said, "By keeping our promise, we not only pay tribute to a special woman, but we also pay tribute to an entire community. Our children need to know that we value the contributions of each citizen and that as a city our strength lies in our diversity."

Nine of **Ward's** children lived in Worcester or Grafton; all 18 have died. She had numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Born into slavery in a Civil War-era log cabin in 1862 in New Bern, N.C., "Grandma **Ward**," as she was affectionately called by family and friends, moved to Worcester in 1898. Her husband, William H. **Ward**, died in 1913. She was active in the church, the community and politics, and counted among her personal friends U.S. Rep. Harold D. Donohue, Mayor James O'Brien and City Councilor George Wells, all deceased.

WORCESTER

Worcester may rename park in honor of baseball legend Roberto Clemente



Afton Pratt

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

May 8, 2026 | Updated May 11, 2026, 11:48 a.m. ET

WORCESTER – [Great Brook Valley Playground Park](#) may soon have a new name: Roberto Clemente Park.

District 1 Councilor Tony J. Economou brought the item to City Council after partnering with Worcester Housing Authority CEO Alex Corrales.

Clemente was a professional Pittsburgh Pirates baseball player from Puerto Rico who died in a plane crash in 1972 while bringing emergency relief to Nicaragua after a major earthquake. He was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame less than a year after his death.

The baseball field within Great Brook Valley Playground Park was named for Clemente years ago.

Corrales, advocating for the name change at the May 5 City Council meeting, said Great Brook Valley Gardens and Curtis Apartments, which neighbor the area, are home to strong Latino and Puerto Rican communities. He said changing the park would reflect the city's residents.

"This renaming is about recognizing the people who live there today in a meaningful and visible way. For years, residents and visitors have already been calling it Clemente Park. They feel a connection to that name," Corrales said.

"Everybody knows it as Roberto Clemente Field. My entire life, nobody's referred to it as Great Brook Valley Park," Economou said.

Other councilors – including Vice Chair Khrystian E. King, District 4 Councilor Luis A. Ojeda and District 5 Councilor José A. Rivera – spoke in support of renaming the park.

"I have always called it Clemente or Clemente Field. There's a deep, deep history here that goes beyond baseball and softball," King said. "The legacy of Roberto Clemente runs deep."

King asked for City Manager Eric D. Batista to reach out to the [Roberto Clemente Foundation](#), which is co-chaired by Clemente's sons, about the renaming.

"Not many people know, but my father was the founder, one of the founders of the Roberto Clemente softball league. So going down there every Sunday really mattered," Ojeda said. "It was great to see what he was able to create with the Puerto Rican community, the Latino community."

The agenda item was referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Rivera, who serves on the Standing Committee on Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation, said, "I think it's a great idea. I'm looking forward to this to come to committee, that I happen to be a part of, so we know it's going to be approved."

NEWS

Another name into the mix for park at Worcester's Great Brook Valley



Afton Pratt

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

June 3, 2026, 7:30 a.m. ET

WORCESTER — A month after [efforts to rename Great Brook Valley Playground Park](#) to Roberto Clemente playground were discussed by the City Council, residents are now suggesting a different name: Arries Ann Ward Playground.

Arries Ann Ward was born into slavery in North Carolina in 1862, later settling in Worcester, where she lived until the age of 97, according to an order placed on the agenda by Vice Chairman Khrystian E. King. King is asking the city clerk to research the topic.

Gordon Ward, a descendent of Arries Ann Ward, petitioned for the name change on the Tuesday, June 2, City Council agenda, requesting the "playground at Great Brook Valley be returned to its original name."

"She was truly a remarkable lady who lived a remarkable life and an important part of our shared history in the city of Worcester," Ward said. "I strongly urge this council to refer the naming of the park to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further research and discussion."

Other descendants, including Joelle Ward of Auburn, also spoke about the renaming of the park.

"She was a matriarch of our community and survived much adversity, being born an enslaved person, migrating up North and settling in Worcester, Massachusetts,"

Joelle Ward said. "Her descendants continue to serve this community through many roles such as firefighters, police officers, teachers, nurses and through many other roles that our critical to our community."

According to Idella Hazzard, who also spoke on the name change, in 1957 a plaque to honor Arries Ann Ward was placed on the property. Since then it has been moved various times, she said.

"It was placed there to honor her by the program 'This is Your Life.' They paid for the plaque, and they paid for a playground in Great Brook Valley, because there was not one," Hazzard said. "And it needs to be placed right back there, otherwise, it's going to get lost."

"This is Your Life" was a show that aired from 1952 to 1961, When [Arries Ann Ward appeared on the show in 1957](#) she was told by the host that the mayor of Worcester at the time, James D. O'Brien, who served as mayor from 1954 to 1961, would be naming a street and playground after her, but that never happened.

King said that Hazzard can be seen in the clip from "This is Your Life," standing alongside Arries Ann Ward.

Becoming emotional while speaking to the council about returning Great Brook Valley Playground's name to Arries Ann Ward Playground, Don Hamilton said he hopes the park "is restored to the illustrious honor it was originally given."

"So, we have Esther Howland's plaque here in these hallowed halls, and we have the Ward family, who have been disrespected for a long time, so that needs to be restored," Hamilton said.

King, who helped bring the petition to the council floor, suspended the council rules in order to take the agenda item out of order and vote on the matter.

King said the Ward family approached him about the renaming of both the park and Laurel Street following the previous vote. King said while he supported

renaming the park for Clemente, he thinks the council needs more information.

"I don't think any of us were aware of this fact and we need to certainly verify it before we move forward," King said. "On June 11, this particular item is already coming before the commission. I would like to make a motion that this council supports thoroughly vetting and researching this and requesting a pause on any efforts on June 11 to move forward with the renaming of the park.

Other council members who voted in favor of naming the park for Clemente said they welcomed the idea of naming it for Ward.

District 4 Councilor Luis A. Ojeda, whose father was a founding member of the Roberto Clemente softball league, also has a familial connection to Arries Ann Ward.

"I know a few weeks ago I was excited because I have a lot of family history there, but for me it's a win-win. My niece and nephew are actually Wards as well," Ojeda said.

Councilor-at-Large Morris A. Bergman asked that in the future record keeping for such matters be improved.

"It's unfortunate that this happened, it really is. I'm not blaming anyone, several weeks ago everybody was excited about naming it Roberto Clemente field," Bergman said.

The council unanimously voted to send the item to the city manager's office to be brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission and also the Standing Committee on Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation prior to June 11.

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Worcester playground may not get renamed for Roberto Clemente after all. Here's why

Story by Afton Pratt, Worcester Telegram & Gazette • 4m •

4 min read

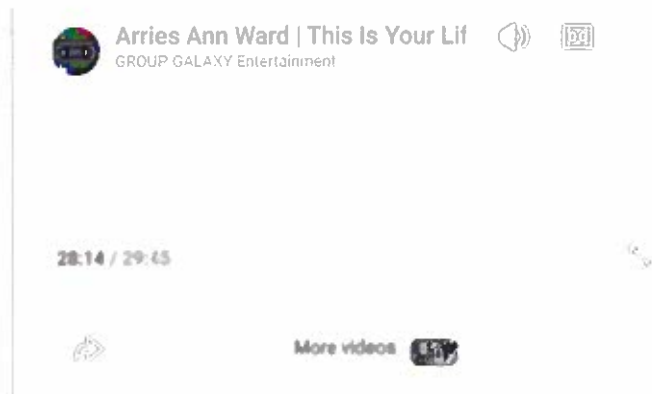


 A Roberto Clemente mural at Great Brook Valley, in a December 2024 photo.
© Michael McDermott/Telegram & Gazette

WORCESTER – A month after [efforts to rename Great Brook Valley Playground Park](#) for baseball legend Roberto Clemente were discussed by the City Council, residents are now suggesting a different name: Arries Ann Ward Playground.

Arries Ann Ward was born into slavery in North Carolina in 1862. She moved to Worcester in 1898 and lived in the city until her death at 97. She had 18 children and was a popular figure in Great Brook Valley, where she lived at the end of her life.

In 1957, two years before she died, Ward was a guest on the NBC television show "This Is Your Life." The show's host, Ralph Edwards, told her that the mayor of Worcester at the time, James D. O'Brien, planned to name a playground and a street, Laurel Street, after her.



According to T&G archive stories, "This is Your Life" donated \$1,000 to the city at Ward's request for a new playground at Great Brook Valley. A playground was built but has since been torn down. Meanwhile, residents and businesses on Laurel Street opposed a name change, and it never happened.



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City Council Vice Chair Khrystian E. King's request at the Tuesday, June 2, City Council meeting for the city clerk to research commitments the city has made to rename parks or streets after Ward passed unanimously.

Additionally, Gordon Ward, a descendant of Arries Ann Ward, and others petitioned that the "playground at Great Brook Valley be returned to its original name."

"She was truly a remarkable lady who lived a remarkable life and an important part of our shared history in the city of Worcester," Gordon Ward said. "I strongly urge this council to refer the naming of the park to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further research and discussion."

Other descendants, including Joelle Ward of Auburn, also spoke about renaming the park.

"She was a matriarch of our community and survived much adversity, being born an enslaved person, migrating up North and settling in Worcester, Massachusetts," Joelle Ward said. "Her descendants continue to serve this community through many roles such as firefighters, police officers, teachers, nurses and through many other roles that are critical to our community."



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In 1995, after hearing from a great-great-grandson of Ward's, Mayor Raymond V. Mariano dedicated a new playground in her honor in Plumley Village.

"By keeping our promise, we not only pay tribute to a special woman, but we also pay tribute to an entire community. Our children need to know that we value the contributions of each citizen and that as a city our strength lies in our diversity," Mariano said at the dedication.



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"So, we have Esther Howland's plaque here in these hallowed halls and we have the Ward family, who have been disrespected for a long time, so that needs to be restored," Hamilton said.

May 5, the council voted to advance the idea of naming Great Brook Valley Playground Park for Roberto Clemente, a Hall of Fame baseball player who died in 1972. The baseball field within the park was named for Clemente years ago.

King said the Ward family approached him about renaming both the park and Laurel Street following that vote. King said while he supported renaming the park for Clemente, he thinks the council needs more information.

"I don't think any of us were aware of this fact and we need to certainly verify it before we move forward," King said. "On June 11, this particular item is already coming before the commission. I would like to make a motion that this council supports thoroughly vetting and researching this and requesting a pause on any efforts on June 11 to move forward with the renaming of the park."

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The council unanimously voted to send the item to the city manager's office to be brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission and also the Standing Committee on Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation prior to June 11.

This article originally appeared on Telegram & Gazette: [Worcester playground may not get renamed for Roberto Clemente after all. Here's why](#)

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CULTURE, GOVERNMENT

Council seeks answers on forgotten Arries Ann Ward tribute

Worcester officials are investigating whether a decades-old promise to name a street and playground after Arries Ann Ward was ever fully carried out

BY **Steve Smith** · Jun 3, 2026 · 3 min read

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City councilors are asking the city clerk's office to investigate whether a decades-old promise to honor Worcester resident Arries Ann Ward was never fully carried out.

The issue surfaced Tuesday night after members of Ward's family petitioned the city council, claiming that Laurel Street had once been renamed Arries Ann Ward Way but no longer bears that name. Historical records also suggest a playground at Great Brook Valley Gardens may have been intended to honor Ward as well.

The discussion came during an abbreviated council meeting. After a lengthy executive session and an even lengthier Finance Committee meeting on the city's proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget, councilors were able to address only a handful of agenda items before continuing the remaining business to a June 9 meeting that will begin at 5 p.m.

Ward was born into slavery in North Carolina in 1862 and later settled in Worcester, where she lived until her death in 1959 at age 97.

Councilor Khrystian King said the matter had been brought to his attention and asked the City Clerk's Office to investigate the city's past commitments involving Ward.

"In the research I have done, and the clerk has done," King said, "we were able to determine that there was some action. We are trying to determine the extent of it."

King noted that multiple residents had also told him that the playing field at Great Brook Valley Gardens has been known as Clemente Field for decades. The city is currently considering renaming the park in honor of baseball legend and humanitarian Roberto Clemente, though discussion has emerged about whether the field, park or playground should instead recognize Ward.

During the meeting, King played a 1957 clip from the television program "This Is Your Life," in which host Ralph Edwards informed Ward that Laurel Street and the playground at Great Brook Valley Gardens would be named in her honor.

"The children of Worcester have always been your first and primary concern," Edwards told Ward.

King said additional research is needed to determine exactly what commitments were made and why they may not have been carried out. He added that the issue is important to Black history and to Ward's descendants.

"If there's any ability to avoid any erasure of black history, that would be great," he said. "I'd like to really do some research here, so we can verify and validate the concerns that have been brought forward."

Councilor Luis Ojeda, who said his family has ties to Ward, expressed confidence that the matter could be resolved.

"We'll figure this out," Ojeda said. "I know a couple of weeks ago, I was excited because I have a lot of family history there. For me it's a win-win. My niece and nephew are actually Wards as well. I hope we'll let the families know we'll do what's right."

"It's unfortunate," said Councilor Morris Bergman, who asked for coordination between the Department of Public Works and the city's Records Department to determine how the discrepancy occurred.

“I’m not blaming anyone,” Bergman said. “Now, we see clearly that representations were made decades ago, to the Ward family and particularly Mrs. Ward, that the field would be named after her.”

“This is the importance of archiving,” King said, adding that additional information will likely come forward and that he hopes Clemente is still honored as well. “We can certainly re-establish that as a council if it comes to that.”

The council voted unanimously to have the City Clerk’s Office conduct further research into the matter.

 Post Views: 2

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June 3, 2026

Worcester Parks and Recreation & Cemetery Commission
Exploratory Academic & Community Collaboration Endorsement for

Geoffrey Killebrew, President of F.A.M. JAM! Event Group, Inc. (501(c)(3))

Date: _____

The Worcester Parks and Recreation & Cemetery Commission ("Commission") is pleased to acknowledge and support an exploratory and academic-focused collaboration proposed by Mr. Geoffrey Killebrew, President of F.A.M. JAM! Event Group, Inc. 501(c)(3).

The purpose of this initiative is to engage Worcester-area colleges and universities, faculty, students, and community partners in a collaborative inquiry examining individual Worcester parks to better understand their current use and potential for community activation.

This exploratory effort may include academic research, surveys of residents living near specific parks, observational documentation of park activity, and collaborative analysis. The goal is to develop thoughtful, park-specific insights and recommendations, recognizing that each park serves a distinct community and may benefit from tailored approaches rather than uniform solutions.

The anticipated outcome is a non-binding, informational set of findings and recommendations that may be shared with the Commission and the Parks Commissioner for future consideration.

This letter signifies the Commission's support of inquiry-based learning, community-engaged research, and collaborative exploration. Mr. Killebrew is authorized to reference this signed letter when inviting colleges, universities, professors, students, and community partners to participate in this academic and community-focused effort.

This initiative is strictly exploratory and investigatory in nature. The Commission and the City of Worcester are not responsible for conducting the research, producing deliverables, or implementing any recommendations, and this endorsement does not create any binding obligation, funding commitment, or agency relationship.

Commissioners' Acknowledgment and Endorsement

Commissioner Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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