



PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL to request ARPA funding

Investing in the Jones Ferry River Access Facility and Programs

Holyoke Rows & Connecticut River Conservancy

This proposal is responsive to the provisions of the ARPA funding program as outlined in the Interim Final Rule. See attached basis documentation.

REQUEST: \$394,000 to expand free and low-cost youth and family programming; establish bi-lingual facility signage; design, permit, and install new multi-use dock configuration; purchase channel and no-wake markers; eliminate low-water barrier at ramp; and remove or replace hazardous derelict infrastructure.

This request considers both programs and property of Holyoke Rows as well as city property or commitments (ramp and derelict remnant ferry landing infrastructure). Details on how funding would be administered between Holyoke Rows projects and City projects remain to be worked out should funding be awarded.

NEED: Recreational facilities and programs at the Jones Ferry River Access Facility are unable to meet the increased demand of residents resulting from the pandemic. The health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Holyoke are well-demonstrated.

Usage of the community boathouse, grounds, ramp, and docks has increased significantly over the course of the pandemic. While the services and facility were significantly curtailed in accordance with federal, state, and city public health guidance, demand for outdoor recreation and youth programming increased beyond the capacity of the facilities and staff to adequately and safely serve the community. Despite significant COVID-19 restrictions and no marketing, usage of the facility's kayaks tripled with many being first time users. In addition, the limited capacity youth programs (ten child limit) were immediately filled with long waiting lists of families eager for services and support.

CAPACITY TO MEET THIS NEED: Holyoke Rows and CRC have the capacity and expertise to provide programming and facility staffing that is responsive to the clearly demonstrated needs of Holyoke. CRC has significant experience and capacity in project administration, bidding, and contract oversight of state, federal, and private funds.

PROJECT DETAILS

Expand free and low-cost youth and family programming thru Dec 2024: \$45,500 annually

- Significantly increased usage of the facility by a wide range of users, including experienced and inexperienced boaters, has created a need for a seasonal facility staff. This position will support boat rentals, managing ramp traffic where needed, providing paddling instruction and safe boating skills.
- To expand summer youth and family programming additional youth staff are required.
- To build out the developing middle and high-school rowing program, a dedicated youth coach is needed. There has always been interest in a youth rowing program at the middle and high schools, but lack of a dedicated coach and transportation has prevented making rowing an appealing and competitive school sport.

COSTS:

Personnel – seasonal facility staff (May – October) @ \$25/hr

Personnel – youth coach (April – June) \$4,000

Personnel – youth coach (2) (Aug – Nov) \$8,000

Personnel – summer youth staff (June – August) @\$20/hr

Transportation costs for youth participation \$400/wk

Establish bi-lingual facility signage: \$12,500

- There is currently no signage for the facility at the intersection of Rt 5 and Jones Ferry Road nor is there is sufficient signage to support programming or what will be usage rules once new docks and markers are established.

COSTS:

Design & layout - \$2,500

Materials & installation - \$10,000

Design, permit, and install new multi-use dock configuration: \$110,000

- River users at Jones Ferry include paddling, rowing, jet skis, motorboating, and angling from shore and boats. All uses have increased and cannot be accommodated by the type and amount of docks owned and managed by Holyoke Rows. Additional and use-specific docks will accommodate these uses safely and equitably with separate docks for rowing and motorized uses as well as fishing. Docks will support the accessibility programs offered by Holyoke Rows in order to allow all levels of experience and abilities to safely enter and exit the water in the boats of their choosing.
- Preliminary designs have been developed in consultation with vendors.

COSTS:

Design & state/local permitting - \$10,000

Acquisition & installation - \$100,000

Channel and no-wake markers: \$10,000

- The lack of no-wake and channel markers in the area of Jones Ferry has increased the potential for accidents with the increased usage and continues to damage the toe of the ramp, which has made the ramp regularly unusable at low water conditions. The marking layout will be designed in coordination with the new dock layout. It is estimated that ten buoys or markers will be needed.

COSTS:

Acquisition: \$10,000

Eliminate low-water barrier at city-owned ramp: \$110,000 (rough estimate)

- The toe of the ramp is comprised of open-cell pavers with a gravel/rock apron. Low-water conditions in later summer and throughout the fall make the ramp inaccessible to most trailers as there is a sharp drop-off from the pavers to the apron. This creates a safety hazard and damage to boats and trailers.

COSTS:

Design & permitting: \$10,000

Installation: \$100,000 (rough estimate)

Remove or replace derelict remnant ferry landing infrastructure: \$15,000

- The remnant ferry dock pilings remain on the shore and should be removed to eliminate the nuisance safety hazard. The ferry landing stairs are no longer safe and need to be replaced to provide access to proposed separate angling dock upstream from the ramp.

COSTS:

Removal of dock pilings: \$5,000

Design and permitting of new stairs: \$0 (included in dock design)

Materials and installation: \$10,000

BASIS FOR PROJECT IN ARPA GUIDANCE AND INTERIM FINAL RULE (Published May 10, 2021)

Non-profits are eligible entities to receive “grants, loans, and in-kind technical assistance” (pg. 123). Holyoke Rows and Connecticut River Conservancy are both 501(c)(3) non-profits registered in good standing as Massachusetts non-profit corporations.

Funds are eligible for costs incurred between March 21, 2021 and December 31, 2024

A program or service must respond to the COVID 19 public health emergency. To be responsive the program or service must document a need or negative impact and then addresses that need. The need must arise from disease or economic impacts of the pandemic.

The guidance in the rule highlights several categories of programs and services that include:

- Equity Focused Services in hardest hit communities that provide additional flexibility for hardest hit communities to address health disparities, ... and promote healthy childhood environments

This is further elaborated in the Interim Final Rule (pg 36):

“Promoting Healthy Childhood Environments. Children’s economic and family circumstances have a long-term impact on their future economic outcomes. Increases in economic hardship, material insecurity, and parental stress and behavioral health challenges all raise the risk of long-term harms to today’s children due to the pandemic.”

All suggested uses of funds for programs or services in the Interim Final Rule are non-exclusive lists which provides municipalities with flexibility to direct funds toward the most appropriate needs in their communities.