

# CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

**ORDERED:**

April 10, 2023

That the City Council appropriate from the Community Preservation Act FY 2024 Community Preservation Fund Balance, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44B, additional funding for the following FY2024 project, based upon the Community Preservation Committee's recommendation. The source of funds shall be FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Balance. Said appropriation shall be considered a separate appropriation or reservation in the amount indicated [below]:

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	Plum Island Beach - Public Access & Dune Preservation (Mobi Mats & Sand Fencing)	City of Newburyport (c/o Office of Planning & Development)	\$12,000	\$12,000

---

Councillor Sharif I. Zeid

**NEWBURYPORT COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Supplemental Recommendation for FY24 Appropriations**  
**Plum Island Beach - Public Access & Dune Preservation (Mobi Mats & Sand Fencing)**  
**Emergency CPA Application**

The Newburyport Community Preservation Committee recommends that the City Council appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Balance funding for the following FY2024 project:

**Plum Island Beach - Public Access & Dune Preservation (Mobi Mats & Sand Fencing)**  
**Emergency CPA Application**

The CPC recommends the appropriation of \$12,000 from the FY 2024 Community Preservation Fund Balance to the City of Newburyport (c/o Office of Planning & Development) for the Plum Island Beach - Public Access & Dune Preservation (Mobi Mats & Sand Fencing) Project with the condition that public access signs be posted at all entry points where mats are placed.

The CPA category for this appropriation is Recreation.

**Project Summary:**

The United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) is completing a major dredge project for the entrance to the Merrimack River between the north and south Jetties. Sand from the dredge project has been placed on Plum Island beach. However, the USACE does not have any role beyond the sand placement. At this time, immediately following completion of the dredge, the applicant would like to install additional “mobi mats” and sand fencing to provide clear delineation of where the public should be permitted to walk and where the extended beach/dunes should be protected. These additional elements will accompany a separate effort (by others) to plant dune grass in this area and reinforce/reestablish vegetated dunes. Time is of the essence, and this project may be viewed as an emergency request, given this week’s completion of the USACE project and the need to timely and effectively define safe and approved pedestrian paths (*in contrast to areas where pedestrians are not permitted and in which safe access cannot be provided*). This is similar to a recent CPC request to create a new path at the new Colby Farm open space, but with greater overall urgency. Failure to undertake this work now could compromise safe and effective public access to the beach in this new/re-established section. By defining safe and approved walkways and minimizing unnecessary pedestrian impacts to the beach and dunes (*i.e. otherwise a faster rate of erosion*) this project will also help to ensure long-term public access to the recreational amenity this beach provides.

Respectfully submitted by:

Community Preservation Committee Members

Michael Dissette, Chair  
Mark Rosen  
Tom O’Brien  
Jamie Gagnon  
Charles Griffin

Jane Healey, Vice Chair  
Joe Teixeira  
Don Walters  
Joe Morgan