



**City of Fall River**  
**Massachusetts**  
Office of the Mayor

**PAUL E. COOGAN**  
*Mayor*

August 15, 2022

Madam President  
Members of the Honorable Council  
City of Fall River  
One Government Center  
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Madam President and Members of the Honorable Council:

Attached for your consideration please find the amended submission for the proposal for "Bioreserve Discovery Center" seeking Bristol County Treasury funding dated August 8, 2022 included outdated funding source information. Attached please find an updated and accurate funding sources for the project.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Coogan  
Mayor

PC/amos

RECEIVED

2022 AUG 15 A 10:08

CITY CLERK \_\_\_\_\_  
FALL RIVER, MA



## CITY OF FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

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Sincerely,

Kara Humm  
ARPA Director

## PROPOSED EXPENDITURES USING BRISTOL COUNTY ARPA FUNDS

ARPA Fund Use:            **BIORESERVE DISCOVERY CENTER**  
Department of Community Utilities-Water Division

Description of Purchase: The Department of Community Utilities is seeking funds to assist with the purchase of property and renovation for Bioreserve Environmental Education and Discovery Center located at the Adirondack Farm on the North Watuppa Pond.

Requested ARPA Funds:     \$365,000 Property Acquisition  
   \$1,000,000 Construction Cost to Adapt Farm  
   **\$1,365,000** TOTAL

Other Funding Sources:     \*These are estimated and proposed funding sources.

Property Acquisition Funding Sources:

\$267,842 EOEAA Land Grant (Expected Award Nov. 2022)  
\$365,000 ARPA  
\$215,658 CPA Grant (Expected Award April 2023)  
\$848,500 Total

Construction Cost to Adapt Farm to Visitor's Center:

\$200,000 CPA Grant (Expected Award April 2023)  
\$1,000,000 ARPA  
\$2,048,500 Total Project Cost to Open

Category: 2.37 Economic Assistance Other: Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Rationale for ARPA Funding:

The American Rescue Plan Act created an opportunity for communities to increase children's regular connections to nature and promote healthy child development. The U.S. Treasury specifically states and places emphasis on "serving the hardest-hit communities and families" including to "address educational disparities" and "promote healthy childhood environments." Guidance from the U.S. Treasury also notes "investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreational spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

## **PROPOSED EXPENDITURES USING BRISTOL COUNTY ARPA FUNDS**

The purchase will include 9 acres of land and a building that will be renovated to include a gallery space (400 sq ft) displaying professionally developed illustrations, maps, timelines, narratives and interactive experiences focusing on five dominant themes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve: Water, Biodiversity, Climate Change & Resiliency, Cultural History, and Recreation Opportunities. There will also be classrooms, open room for exhibits, meetings, and classes, office space, and a lecture hall.

The Bioreserve Environmental Education and Discovery Center will serve as a gateway to the bioreserve acting as a regional resource for educational and interpretive programs related to history, land use, and ecological significance of the bioreserve land. Educational programs will be offered and operated by program partners, including: Durfee Career & Technology Program, Diman Science and Culinary Studies, BCC Sustainable Studies and Culinary Studies, Massachusetts Audubon, and Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. The funding would provide an opportunity for increased activity and interest in the outdoor recreational activities available within the Southeastern Massachusetts bioreserve.