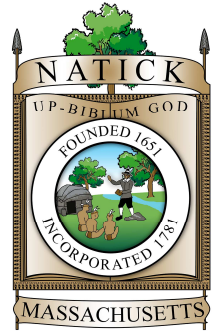


Town of Natick

Massachusetts 01760
Home of Champions



Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Chair
Susan G. Salamoff, Vice Chair
Jonathan H. Freedman, Clerk
Karen Adelman-Foster
Richard P. Jennett, Jr.

October 28, 2019

Mia Mansfield, Director of Climate Adaptation and Resilience
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) ENV 19 MVP 02

Dear Ms. Mansfield:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to express our support for the Town of Natick's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant Application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Through this application, the Town seeks to partner with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to address climate change vulnerabilities along the Charles River by:

- **Rehabilitating the South Natick Dam**, which is considered to have a High Hazard potential by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Dam Safety, based on the probability of property damage or potential loss of life in the event of dam failure or misoperation.
- **Designing and beginning the initial permitting of a Climate Resilient Park Network** that encompasses four existing public spaces that are on or adjacent to the South Natick Dam Rehabilitation. The park will utilize nature-based solutions, such as green infrastructure to treat stormwater on site and shade trees to reduce urban heat islands.
- **Leveraging technology to ensure the health and proposed benefits of nature-based solutions** by assessing pre- and post-construction urban heat levels and the health of a Natural Valley Storage flood control wetland area, upstream of the dam.

These efforts are critical to protecting South Natick, an area that has significant historic, cultural and recreational value, from the impacts of climate change, and our Board is committed to using this work as a model for incorporating resiliency into future projects. We are also pleased to engage a variety of community partners, including, but not limited to, the Natick Historical District Commission, the Bacon Free Library, the Charles River Watershed Association, and Mass Audubon, whose input we believe will make the park design and overall project stronger.

As detailed in the letter of support provided by the Town Administrator, the authorized signatory for our municipality, Natick is committed to providing matching funds of more than 25% of the project's total cost. The matching funds are a combination of cash, which is currently available for appropriation, and in-kind services.

Thank you for your consideration of the Town of Natick's MVP Action Grant Application. We appreciate the Commonwealth's commitment to the Town's climate change resilience.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hickey, Jr.
Chair, Board of Selectmen