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**Framingham Concludes Downtown Park Crowdfunding Campaign Sunday;
Surpasses Goal by \$6,655 and Wins Grant from State for Irving Street Park Project**

Framingham, MA- After exceeding its \$50,000 crowdfunding goal by \$6,655 for the Irving Street Park project, the City of Framingham will receive a \$50,000 matching grant from MassDevelopment as part of the Commonwealth Places program. With the state grant, Framingham raised a total of \$106,655.

The City can now transform the vacant gravel parking lot, located one block south of Irving Square in downtown Framingham, into a much-needed neighborhood park complete with trees, flowers, benches, a winding path, a corner gathering place, and a shade pergola.

The park design resulted from an October 2018 visioning workshop with nearby residents. Landscape architect Christine Wilson of Copley Wolff Design Group facilitated the workshop and developed the design concept, responding to input from participants.

While the online campaign to obtain state matching funds is now closed, the City continues to encourage offline donations from the broader community. Pending final design completion, Framingham is determining exact materials and amenities, which are subject to availability.

The Commonwealth Places program is meant to encourage creative, low-cost placemaking projects that may be quickly implemented in high-impact locations. The funds raised for Irving Street Park will allow for the basic elements of the park to be installed; however, it is intended that the space will be incrementally improved over time.

Under the rules of the Commonwealth Places program, park construction must be substantially complete within 18 months (December 2020). The project is a collaboration between the City's Community & Economic Development Division and the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Division, the latter which will be charged with managing the construction of the facility.

More information on the Irving Street Park project may be found on the City's website at www.framinghamma.gov/IrvingStreetPark. Individuals or businesses interested in supporting the park are welcome to submit checks or offer in-kind donations of materials or services. Donations may be arranged by contacting Sam Scoppettone, City Planner, at (508) 532-5455 or sns@framinghamma.gov. Updates on the park development process will also be posted on the project's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/IrvingStreetPark).



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Commonwealth Places is a collaborative initiative from MassDevelopment and Patronicity that leverages public support for placemaking projects through crowdfunding and a matching grant from MassDevelopment.

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