

WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

MVP Newsletter | May 2023

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Williamsburg's MVP Grant

The Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program finances projects that help communities adapt to climate change. In 2021, the town applied for an MVP Action Grant, which focuses on safeguarding public health, providing clean air and water, increasing natural hazard resilience, protecting wetlands and water, and sequestering carbon. Williamsburg saw an opportunity to support these objectives while building our new Public Safety Complex (PSC). Our grant application was fully funded at \$1.8 million.

Financial Benefits

In June 2021, the citizens of Williamsburg approved \$5.1 million for a new police and fire department facility. The building is to be paid for using \$1 million from the town's Stabilization Fund and borrowing the rest with a 20-year loan that will be repaid through property taxes. Receiving the MVP grant will allow the town to reduce the loan amount by \$500,000, thereby reducing the impact on property taxes.

In addition to the direct financial benefit of the MVP award, it also enables Williamsburg to add several highly desirable features to the PSC that will allow us to significantly increase the efficiency and sustainability of the building. This will decrease its operational costs over time.

Solar Power and Energy Efficiency

A combination of design features, structural enhancements, and building systems that reduce the energy required for heating and cooling are planned for the new building. In



addition, a key element of the grant funds the installation of solar power to provide a large proportion of the building's energy, significantly reducing the need for fossil fuels. By enabling the building to generate its own power, the town will enjoy minimal energy expense for the new PSC, while also reducing the town's carbon footprint. The photo shows the roof surfaces where solar panels will be installed.

In addition, the MVP grant enables us to use advanced, low-maintenance materials, enhanced building insulation, insulated garage doors, radiant heat in the truck bays, all-electric air conditioning, and an electric water heater.

Water Management and Riverfront Restoration

In addition to the energy components noted above, our MVP grant enables us to protect water and stream areas at the PSC site with two measures. First is construction of two rain gardens to capture and filter water runoff from the site to let it seep into the ground instead of directly entering the stream or storm water system. One garden captures runoff from the area of the truck bays, the other captures rain from the building's gutters. Native plant species will be used. An example of a functioning rain garden is shown below.



We also have funding in our MVP grant to install a zone of native plants along the stream to slow water runoff, provide additional stream shading, reduce erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. These native plantings will also greatly improve the appearance of the area around our new PSC. The stream to the south of the building is shown below.

Creating a new PSC that is energy efficient, climate-resilient, and generates much of its own electricity is a valuable step into the future. The MVP Action Grant has created this enormous opportunity for Williamsburg.

Look for an educational video that will be available in July of this year. Additional community outreach and educational resources will be created as the project moves forward.

Contact Us

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to Nicholas Caccamo, Town Administrator at townadmin@burgy.org or call 413.268.8418.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank the many dedicated volunteers who have made this work possible. It is a testament to the spirit of our town.

