

COREY ROBINSON

CANDIDATE FOR CENTRALVILLE

WWW.COREYFORLOWELL.COM

Centralville residents have many ideas for **improving our neighborhood**. Several top priorities align well with options for the Community Preservation Act funds that are now available. Open Space & Recreation is one of the three priority areas addressed by Lowell's [Community Preservation Plan](#). Based on residents' ideas, Corey recommends the following for Community Preservation Plan funding consideration and other opportunities to invest City resources in Centralville.

Splash pads: Centralville is fortunate to have a public pool with the shallow end being 3ft. Splash pads are another option for safe and accessible water play by younger children, as well as others of all ages and abilities. They are also more economical than pools in general, since they:

- Use less water
- Require less and lower-cost maintenance
- Do not require lifeguards, although staffed splash pads are common

Heat islands: Urban areas often have “heat islands” where temperatures are higher than the surroundings. Brick, asphalt and steel’s dark colors and materials absorb more light and heat than natural materials or lighter structures. In Centralville, we can mitigate heat islands by:

- Applying more reflective gray coating to dark streets, rubber rooftops, and parking lots
- Expanding the city’s tree-planting pilot program to Centralville, and ensuring a proactive maintenance plan
- Planting low-maintenance shrubs in key areas
- Working with commercial property owners to add plantings in privately-owned areas that contribute to heat islands, including rooftop gardens or grass roofs
- Identifying residential and commercial locations for planter boxes (which can also support traffic calming strategies by changing the visual border of our streets)
- Expanding the Department of Planning & Development’s program for hanging flowering planters from Downtown into the connected retail corridors in Centralville (Aiken and Bridge Streets)

Riverwalk: Lowell has invested significant resources in expanding and improving the walkways on the southern side of the Merrimack River. Some simple improvements will increase use of the Centralville stretch of the river walk, particularly between Bridge and Aiken Streets:

- Paving access paths to improve accessibility
- Creating a mural initiative to bring local artists’ work to riverwalk walls and the bridges’ pedestrian underpasses
- Ensuring regular trash collective and path maintenance on both the north and south walkways
- Illuminating this area to make it more appealing and safe.

Learn more about Corey’s other recommendations at CoreyForLowell.com or on Facebook and Instagram.