Penny for Park Community Requests – FY2022

Project Ranking Summary

Total budgeted: $40,000
Total approved: $37,000
Remaining: $3,000

Recommendation for remaining funds: Hold until all projects below are completed as a contingency. If any funds remain after completion, add the funds to the emergent reserves line, which supports work in all parks.

Following are short descriptions of each project request with staff notes and recommendations for FY22’s qualifying Penny for Parks (PFP) project requests in their ranked order. Full PFP Request applications are attached as an appendix to this report.

1) Roosevelt Park: Fix the Tennis Courts

Application Summary: Requester noted the “great looking” rehabilitated courts at Leddy Park and requested improving the tennis courts at Roosevelt Park.

Estimated Project cost: $10,000

Staff Notes: The tennis courts at Roosevelt have developed quite a few cracks and patches and the paint has become faded over time. Best maintenance practices for asphalt courts requires resurfacing the courts every 5 years, which aligns with BPRW records for the last time the tennis courts at Roosevelt were resurfaced.

Recommendation: Allocate funding and aim to resurface the courts between the Spring and Fall of 2022 as contractor availability allows.

2) Pomeroy Park: Replace the Tot-Lot

Application Summary: Five project requests were received to replace the recently removed Tot-Lot in Pomeroy Park’s playground area. One requester circulated a petition requesting that BPRW allocate funds toward replacing the structure in the summer of 2022, garnering 38 signatures.

Estimated Project cost: Estimate of $20-25,000 to cover the cost of playground equipment, wood chip surfacing, and any ancillary work needed regarding the nearby fencing, pathways, and landscaping.

Staff Notes: Staff initially examined the Tot-Lot at Pomeroy after a SeeClickFix request noted shards of rust protruding from the structure’s platforms, creating a serious safety concern for small children that would use the equipment. Unfortunately, the structure had to be removed due to the unavailability of replacement parts.

In addition to the replacement of the Tot-Lot, the PFP project requests include a mixture of concerns regarding a long-standing issue at Pomeroy with the fence and hedge that block sightlines into the playground area and allow community members to use the playground as a dog park. While staff will
prioritize the Tot-Lot replacement, this is an opportunity to address these concerns and plan to address the fencing and landscaping.

**Recommendation:** Allocate funding and aim to have the playground replaced between the Spring and Fall of 2022 as contractor and material availability allows, once staff have had a chance to vet the larger issues.

3) **Greenway: Bike path Safety Education/Signage**

**Application Summary:** The requester notes the value of the Greenway as a resource for our community, but that they often feel distressed by the speeds and lack of signaling from cyclists. They request signage and an educational campaign around etiquette for users of the Greenway.

**Estimated Project cost:** <$3000

**Staff Notes:** This request is timely given the ongoing discussions with the Parks Commission and various community partners regarding speed and etiquette recommendations along the Greenway.

**Recommendation:** Fund and execute the signage and educational campaign following a resolution by the Parks Commission regarding bike path safety rules/recommendations.

4) **North Shore Natural Area: Southern Staircase Replacement**

**Application Summary:** Requester asks that the southern staircase at the North Shore natural area be replaced, noting that the wood has reached the end of its lifespan and is a safety hazard for people using the stairs to the beach.

**Estimated Project cost:** $80-125,000

**Staff Notes:** This project has been recorded by BPRW staff for some time. The southern staircase was in design for replacement during Phase 2 of the Bike Path Rehabilitation, but priority was shifted to replacing the northern staircase after an arsonist burned it down. Unfortunately, due to the high cost for design, construction and permitting for this replacement, this project cannot be funded within the $40K budgeted for Community Requests. However, we do recognize the high priority of this project given the safety concerns with the condition of the existing staircase. In the short-term, Parks staff can inspect the treads and decking and allocate funding to replace those in the worst condition.

**Recommendation:** Verify inclusion and prioritize on long-term capital planning list due to H&S concerns.

5) **A_Dog Skate Park: Lights**

**Application Summary:** Requester asks to add lighting to A_Dog Skate Park to extend use into the Fall/Winter season, citing that many youth continue to use the skate park into the shoulder seasons despite the early sunset. Adding lighting would extend the usable season and improve safety.

**Estimated Project cost:** $50-150,000
**Staff Notes:** Base costs for lighting and electrical for a skatepark could range between $25-100K depending on fit, finish, and features of the poles and fixtures. However, known contaminants of concern in ‘capped’ soils underneath and surrounding the skate park would necessitate hiring a qualified environmental professional to oversee any construction, perform required testing, and file necessary reports with the State of VT. An electrical and photometric design team would also be needed to ensure sufficient power and conduits are being allocated to the lighting and that no dark-spots are created behind park features that could make the park more dangerous. Lastly, the project would require outreach to surrounding neighbors to ensure that their input regarding lighting and potential glare or spillage are being addressed through the lighting design. Staff anticipate that these design and environmental components would cost an additional $25-50,000.

While staff agree that this project would be a good addition to the skatepark, the complexity and cost push this project well above what can be funded with the PFP Community Request funds available.

**Recommendation:** Add to long-term capital planning list.

6) Schmanska Park: Playground Accessibility & Park Safety

**Application Summary:** Requester notes appreciation of recently completed work at Schmanska Park. They request that BPRW extend a stone dust path to surround the park's playground and install a gate or removable bollard at the park entrance to deter traffic from unnecessarily driving up the main pathway.

**Estimated Project cost:** n/a

**Staff Notes:** Since the request came in, staff have extended the stone dust pathway with a wheelchair turnaround out to one side of the playground. Staff do not recommend a pathway around the perimeter of the playground as it would not provide universal access to the playground itself, which is surfaced with woodchips. The playground at Schmanska will be coming due for replacement within the next 5 years. A better solution would be to allocate funds in the playground replacement budget to install universally-accessible rubberized surfacing.

Regarding the requested gate/bollard, during the design of the recently repaved driveway, staff explored several possible design options for installing a traffic control at the driveway entrance. At that time, maintenance staff expressed safety concerns about installing a gate or bollard at the base of the driveway, as they would have to stop in the middle of Grove Street, effectively blocking traffic to get out and open/remove the traffic control. They also expressed concerns about the possibility of the traffic control becoming non-functional in the winter due to snow accumulation or freezing, which would prevent staff from plowing this main driveway. In the meantime, BPRW has been using a portable barricade in this location to deter unauthorized vehicles from entering the park.

**Recommendation:** Add notes to Schmanska Park playground replacement on capital list requesting accessible rubberized surfacing be installed at this playground.
Max Madalinski

From: parks.notifications
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:18 AM
To: Jon Adams-Kollitz; Sophie Sauve; Diana M. Wood; Max Madalinski
Subject: New submission from Penny For Parks Submission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>10/28/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Karl Lukhaup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Address    | 25 Russell Street  
|            | Burlington, Vermont 05401  
|            | United States  
|            | [Map It](#) |
| Email      | karlukhaup@gmail.com |
| Phone      | (802) 503-3034 |
| Project Name | Pomeroy Park Tot Lot |
| Park Location | Pomeroy Park Playground |
| Cost Estimate (if known) | ? |
| Project Description | Please replace the toddler play structure that was taken down this past fall. Currently my 2 year old has only the 5 to 12 year old play structure to play on, which I admit has forced him to level up his game, but is not as safe for him or other tots. Please put something back which is similar to what was there. Also more tot swings with buckets!!!!! |

Thank you,
Karl Lukhaup
ONE Dads
Max Madalinski

From: parks.notifications
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Jon Adams-Kollitz; Sophie Sauve; Diana M. Wood; Max Madalinski
Subject: New submission from Penny For Parks Submission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Terrence Fradet</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| Address    | 83 Loomis St  
Burlington, VT 05401  
United States  
[Map It](#) |
| Email      | terrencefradet@gmail.com |
| Phone      | (802) 304-0832 |
| Project Name | Tot Lot at Pomeroy Park |
| Park Location | Pomeroy Park Playground |
| Project Description |

We had a Playground Climber for toddlers which was my son's favorite feature of the park. It was removed because it was very old. Now my son wants to use the other climber but it is unsafe for his age, I believe it is for ages 5 and up (he is 18 mos). He has fallen under the stair railing because he isn't big enough for it yet. We are really wishing to get the Playground Climber replaced. All our friends in the neighborhood with toddlers also miss it because it really does help with a toddlers development. Please please please consider replacing it in the Springtime.
Max Madalinski

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<tr>
<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>10/27/2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
<td>Jordan Morano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
<td>29 Germain St&lt;br&gt;Burlington, VT 05401&lt;br&gt;United States&lt;br&gt;[Map It]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jordan.morano@gmail.com">jordan.morano@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phone</strong></td>
<td>(603) 306-1725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Name</strong></td>
<td>Tot Lot</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Park Location</strong></td>
<td>Pomeroy Park</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Description</strong></td>
<td>Recently, the preexisting tot lot was removed (not sure why). My daughter who is 9 months loved crawling around on it and we were really looking forward to her playing more on it as she learned to walk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date
10/26/2021

Name
Thomas DeSisto

Address
20 Germain St
Burlington, VT 05401
United States
Map It

Email
tdesisto@gmail.com

Phone
(802) 233-7177

Project Name
Tot Lot for Pomeroy Park

Park Location
Pomeroy Park

Cost Estimate (if known)
$12,000 to 15,000

Project Description
Up until fall 2021, Pomeroy Park playground in the Old North End had a "Tot Lot" play structure for children ages 2 to 5 years old. That old structure was removed for safety reasons, and its absence is greatly felt by the families in the area. The structure had a staircase, ladder, bridge, steering wheel, and slide. We would love to see that structure replaced as soon as possible.

This project will serve children and families of the Old North End and beyond. Yesterday, we were at the Starr Farm Playground, and when the families there heard we lived near Pomeroy Park they wanted to know (a) why the play structure had been removed and when it would be replaced. Based on my observations at various times of day, I believe this structure had a significant user base. I have seen several daycare groups use the structure during the day, and families use it around lunchtime and after work.

I'm not sure of the exact cost, but one of the examples that I found was priced at $12,500 (https://www.playgroundboss.com/monkey-around/), while a second example was $14,500 (https://adventureplaysystems.com/product/commercial-play-equipment/aps-10ada-01/). Based on these prices, my estimate is that these structures cost between $12,000 and $15,000 dollars. I'm certain that the professional staff at the Parks & Rec Dept has better examples and more well-developed estimates for these structures.

I know that standard equipment replacement is mentioned in the Master Plan, as mentioned on page 70 of the report: "Derived from the Grand List, the average annual PFP allocation is ~$350,000. Targeted improvements include playgrounds, courts, athletic fields, park facilities, standard equipment replacement, park repairs, emergent/urgent projects, and staffing support." This Tot Lot equipment replacement effort seems well in line with the master plan. Thank you for your consideration.
Max Madalinski

From: parks.notifications
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Jon Adams-Kollitz; Sophie Sauve; Diana M. Wood; Max Madalinski
Subject: New submission from Penny For Parks Submission

Date
10/26/2021

Name
Brian A Guy

Address
7 Hyde Street
Burlington, VT 05401
United States
Map It

Email
balanguy@gmail.com

Phone
(802) 777-9962

Project Name
Pomeroy Park Playground

Park Location
Pomeroy Park Fenced Playground area

Project Description
The fenced in playground at Pomeroy park is extremely valuable to our community's youth! Neighbors, visiting family, child care providers and others utilize the space DAILY, even through winter, in order to breathe fresh air and run and play safely. Four things currently threaten that safety and enjoyment: drug activity, illegal camping, old equipment, and pet owners.

Drug activity: The recent rise in sale (esp. by a known heroin dealer on Russel street across from the park) and use of opioids and meth in Burlington has caused an increase in sales and use in Pomeroy park, often in broad daylight. The playground has seen an increase in this activity as well, with needles and unstable users in the playground area.

Illegal camping: This summer and fall, campers have pitched tents in the playground area, sometimes leaving the tents up during the day. Human feces and trash have been found multiple times this year as well.

Old equipment: We are happy that some of the dangerous playground equipment was removed, however there are now many fewer options for children.

Pet owners: Dog owners have consistently used the fenced playground as an off leash dog park. Signage and neighborhood intervention has helped, but feces and off leash dogs are still a problem.

SOLUTIONS: Please consider the following upgrades
1) Remove or significantly trim back the bushes along the fence dividing the playground and the grassy area of the park. There is no good reason for this visual barrier, and we assume it gives drug users, campers and dog owners a sense of privacy that we do not want to encourage.
2) Light the playground at night. It is pitch black back there, while the rest of the park is visible all night. I'm sure there are lighting solutions that would provide security/deterrence without bothering the homes adjacent to the playground.
3) Add and/or upgrade the playground equipment. We love the wood chips, but there is a lot of space for more swings, a large structure, etc.
4) Add signage and maintain a secure lock on the large west gate to discourage off leash dog use.

Thank you for considering these changes. Pomeroy is an incredible community asset, and the playground has been a life saver during COVID.
The park looks awesome! Thanks you for all the amazing work over the last couple of years. Please make the playground handicapped accessible by creating an ADA compliant pathway around the playground and connected to both the north and south entrances to the park. Also, please install bollards or a gate at the beginning of the new drive so that only authorized vehicles have access to drive up to the barn. Thanks!

Erhard Mahnke
60 Grove St.
Date  
09/26/2021

Name  
Susan Ogden

Address  
23 Appletree Point Lane  
Burlington, Vermont 05408  
United States  
Map It

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susanogden1@mac.com

Phone  
(240) 687-0164

Project Name  
Bike Path Safety Education

Park Location  
Burlington Bike Path and Island Line Trail

Cost Estimate (if known)  
$1,000 For signage

Project Description  
The bike path is a gem of a resource for all active citizens and residents of Burlington. It's used by walkers, strollers, cyclists, skaters, skate-skiers, e-bikers. It's often very crowded. There does not seem to be a culture among skaters and cyclists of giving warning when passing pedestrians. 9 out of 10 trail users on skates or cycles do not notify pedestrians of their presence. I walk my dog frequently and have almost been hit several times. Anecdotally, I've heard a number of people say they won't use the path because of the dangerous cyclists & skaters. If a cyclist ran into me or my dog, all of us could get seriously injured. Especially cyclists who don't wear protective helmets. Giving notice means: Passing on your left. Passing on your right. My idea is to erect signs reminding cyclists(and skaters)they need to signal when passing pedestrians. And to involve stake holders like Local Motion and bike shops to remind their customers about safety signaling. All in all, it's an educational campaign that makes the path safer for everyone who wants to use it.
Date
09/24/2021

Name
Heather Riemer

Address
75 Park St
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United States
Map It

Email
hriemer@gmail.com

Phone
(802) 343-1705

Project Name
Fix the Tennis Courts at Roosevelt Park

Park Location
Roosevelt Park

Project Description
Leddy Park tennis courts look GREAT! We need the same at Roosevelt Park!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>09/13/2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
<td>Keegan Carter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Address**   | 68 Green Acres Dr.  
    Burlington, VT 05408  
    United States  
    [Map It](#) |
| **Email**     | KeeganCarter11@gmail.com |
| **Phone**     | (603) 969-5206 |
| **Project Name** | Star Farm Beach Stairs |
| **Park Location** | Star Farm Beach |
| **Project Description** | Rebuild the steps leading down to star farm beach to make them safer. Presently most of the wood is reaching end of life and a heavier person or group might run the risk of breaking some of the sets of stairs and injuring themselves. Also the current stair design leads out onto a set of rocks that is hard to traverse.  
    If you are seeking volunteers to help with the re-construction please put my name on that list! |