
SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – August, 2021

Stories

Hi -

I just wanted to commend the gentlemen removing the Linden tree on Ferguson Avenue today. They were very courteous to the neighbors -- kids and adults alike -- and took the time to answer numerous questions. Thanks to them and the Parks and Rec Team.

Adam

What are the top issues on your mind?

- Urban Park Ranger program
- VOREC grant
- Homeless in Parks

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- Successful July 3 celebration!
- Strong coordination with multiple departments for myriad of summer challenges from increased unhoused in parks to keeping City Hall Park humming with activity
- Renovated 645 Pine St front garden
- Held a public meeting at Schifilliti Park for Disc Golf with strong support for a permanent course
- Work Anniversaries - `Sangay Dhondup 19 years, Erin Moreau 11 years, Migmar Tsering 9 years, and Dan Cahill 16 years

[Work Anniversaries reflect number of years as a full-time employee and do not capture time as a seasonal, intern or AmeriCorps Member]



COVID-19

Vermont Forward – The State is now on the Vermont Forward Plan with no new updates

Major upcoming events: <http://enjoyburlington.com/events/>

- **Leddy Beach Bites** – Starts July 7 and runs for 6 weeks on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **Burlington Concert Band Summer Series** – Sunday nights @ Battery Park

- **City Hall Park Events hosted by BCA** - multiple days and nights - <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/events>
- **BPRW Volunteer Event** – August 1 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- **Calahan Park Master Plan Public Meeting** – August 5 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- **Dragon Boat Festival** – August 7 @ Waterfront Park
- **Humane Society Annual Walk for the Animals & 5K Doggie Fun Run** – August 14 @ Waterfront Park
- **North American Hockey Academy Labor Day Tournament** – September 3-5 @ Leddy Arena
- **Oktoberfest** – September 18 @ Waterfront Park
- **VT State 5K championship** – October 2 @ Waterfront Park
- **Vermont City Marathon** – October 24 @ Waterfront Park
- **City-wide events** - <https://loveburlington.org/events>

Recreation Division Update

Our recreation staff has been busy with summer camps!! Our Champ Camp, Leddy Arena, Recreation & Nutrition, and Athletic camp staff all participated in 4 days of staff training that included: AED & CPR Training, Respect in the Workplace Training, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Training, Mandated Reporter Training, Diversity and Inclusion Training with Paul Yoon of CQ Strategies. A well as a “Meeting the Social and Emotional Needs of Campers” training by Shauna Hill, LICSW therapist and practitioner.

Leddy Arena Camp Programs-

- Leddy Arena camps are taking place from June 21- August 20 with various programming at Leddy, focusing on ice skating, crafts, and adventures. In total, we run six weeks of Rise and Shine Camp in the mornings paired with Cool Camp in the afternoon and three weeks of Kinder Kamp in the morning paired with Hat Trick Hockey in the afternoon. Ages for camps range from 3-14 years old, Kinder Kamp with the youngest (3-5).

Licensed childcare

- Due to the pandemic our State of Vermont licensed programs is at the Miller Community & Recreation Center for a 2nd year. Champ Camp has a fun, enriching, and exciting program this summer with 66 campers/week enrollment. The camp season began on Monday, June 21, and ends on Friday, August 20. Champ Camp participates in the summer reading program, visits Burlington’s beaches, and participates in special events. The Summer Matters grant has enabled Champ Camp to host several special guests, including 802 Reptiles, The Big Blue Trunk, and Mini Golf on the Go, Chris Poulos –BMX Biker, & the Ben& Jerry’s scoop truck. PAL Camp is an extension of Champ Camp that also collaborates with the Fletcher Free Library and Burlington City Arts. PAL camp takes place the weeks of August 9 thru August 20 with 40 campers/week. PAL Camp participants will be visiting BCA and the Fletcher Free Library for activities and projects for those two weeks, along with on-site and off-site camp activities.

Specialty Camps

- We have had several specialty camps at the CORE/ONE Center at 20 Allen St. Those camps have included a Chess Wizards Camp, Let Go Your Mind Lego Camp, Wicked Cool Science Rocket, Wow Science, and Minecraft Mania Camps

Recreation & Nutrition

- We have Recreation and Nutrition Program sites at Riverside, South Meadow, Franklin Square, Roosevelt Park, CP Smith and the Fletcher Free Library. Our sites are in housing communities and local parks. These Recreation and Nutrition sites provide meals, summer enrichment, and recreation activities for no charge to participants and most sites offer programming from 11:00-2:00. The CP Smith site offers programming from 1:00-4:00 for students from the Burlington School District’s SOAR

program. Roosevelt Park offers programming from 4:00-6:30 and Franklin Square offers a snack program from 5:00P-7:00P in addition to their lunch program. Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront works with many partners to provide this fun and enriching program. Enrichment activities have included visits to Petra Cliffs & Starr Farm Garden for cherry-picking and making cherry jam for ice cream sundaes. Other enrichment activities have included samosa making with a local chef, visits from CSWD to explore compost, Jeh Kulu African drumming lessons & Nascimento Martial Arts & Movement to Music.

CORE Adult Center

- The Center has moved from the Event Space at ONECC (pandemic location) to the Adult Center Space on the 2nd floor of the Old North End Community Center. Core Adult Center staff have reported several new community members participating in onsite programming and attribute this to our CORE Adult Center Programs included in our Civic Rec online offerings! Those offerings have included: Chair Yoga, Bone Builders, International Cooking with Mulu I, Acrylics, Reminiscing, & Fly Tying & Book Club. In addition, the Centers gardening program is thriving, enabling participants to make pickles, salsa, and other dishes from vegetables and herbs.
- A partnership with the Heineberg Senior Center and Age Well has enabled Heineberg to purchase a handicapped-accessible van that will accommodate many more Burlington senior adults for shopping, doctor visits and other trips.

Events

- Many BPRW staff provided planning and logistical support to the city's first annual Juneteenth event held on Saturday, June 19th in several parks across the city. The event was very successful and will continue to grow in future years.
- With the state's Vermont Forward Plan lifting all gathering limits and restrictions in mid-June, our BPRW team was able to plan and execute the July 3rd Independence Day Celebration at Waterfront Park after a pause in 2020. This event served as the "re-opening" of Burlington and was attended by thousands of community members. On this day, Mayor Weinberger also held a small ceremony to acknowledge and honor the local Covid-19 victims and celebrate the resilience of the Burlington community.
- Leddy beach Bites is in full swing with hundreds of Burlington residents enjoying six straight Wednesday nights of good food and live music.
- The team has dived into planning for our upcoming Halloween and Holiday events.



Athletics

- Many sports camps have been offered this summer with many at full capacity (tennis, skateboarding, sailing, ultimate, disc golf, baseball, volleyball, soccer, football)
- Our Youth Track & Field program hosted a mini-meet at BHS on July 16 for the virtual VRPA State Meet: Colchester, CVU and St. Johnsbury athletes joined Burlington athletes for a total of 93 participating in the meet
- BPRW offered our first Laura Ray All-Girls Soccer Camp and had 46 girls attend the full day camp. Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray was a guest speaker for the camp (pictures attached)



- BPRW held Disc Golf Public Meeting on July 19. Approximately 30 people showed up in support of a permanent 9-hole course at Schifilliti Park.

Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- Summer 2021 is in full swing at Leddy Arena! From June 21- August 20 we have a variety of programming at Leddy with a focus on ice skating, crafts and adventures. In total we run six weeks of Rise and Shine Camp in the mornings paired with Cool Camp in the afternoon and three weeks of Kinder Kamp in the morning paired with Hat Trick Hockey in the afternoon. Ages for camps range from 3-14 years old, Kinder Kamp with the youngest (3-5). Camps are structured in a way that engages kids creatively, mentally and physically with crafts, competitions, skating and hockey
- The studio rink was a rain site for Athletic programs such as Laura Ray and Voltage Soccer camps, Maven skate camps, and BPRW tennis camps.
- The Summer freestyle ice program is active with skaters taking lessons or independently practicing their skating.
- Champ Camp groups visited the arena for field trips several times this summer. In addition, private ice rental groups this summer include Elev802 and Girls 4 Hockey clinics, Laura Stamm Power skating clinics, Full Stride Hockey, Milton Youth Hockey, VT Floor Hockey, multiple adult hockey groups and the Hockey Fights MS Charity Hockey Tournament.
- Champlain Valley Skating Club is hosting a test session in August for figure skaters who are hoping to pass their USFS tests and advance to the next level of skating.
- We are currently in the process of booking for Fall and Winter and have had lots of interest from groups who wish to return to the arena to start their programs up again and new groups who would like to start running their programs here.
- Scott Yaros, our Building & Events Maintenance Worker left the department this summer, in August a team of Rec Facilities and Park Facilities staff will conduct interviews to fill this shared position.
- Josh Cushing, one of our Arena Maintenance Workers, has continued to provide support to both the Arena and the Grounds team this summer, as scheduling allowed. Thanks to Josh for always being flexible and willing to help wherever he's needed!
- The next Zamboni will be electric – expect to see that next summer!

Miller Center

- Miller Center was the site for BPRW licensed summer camps this year, hosting 7 weeks of Champ Camp and 2 weeks of PAL Camp.
- Miller Center welcomed Kimberly Kost to our seasonal staff as a Building Supervisor – Kim helps cover the schedule evenings and weekends. Kim is not entirely new to BPRW as she was a Program Director for our CityKids program many years ago!
- The audio-visual system in the community room has been overhauled with some new components and new controls which make the system much more user friendly. We also added a portable public address system which can accommodate up to 6 microphones and can be used outside the building as needed.
- Summer gym user groups included VT Elite Basketball, Lone Wolf Basketball, Blueprint Basketball, and several other youth groups.
- Me2 Orchestra, the world's only classical orchestra for people with mental illness and those who support them, has returned to the Miller Center this summer for their weekly rehearsals – we are happy to have them back on Thursday nights!

- We are excited to welcome Champlain Valley Baptist Church to the Miller Center. This new congregation has held weekly planning meetings at Miller all summer and, in September, will begin Sunday church services in the Community Room, a Sunday children's program in the Kids Room and weekly bible study Wednesdays in the Community Room.

CORE

- CHT has painted the front entrance doors and the facility looks great.
- CORE Site Coordinator, Migmar Tsering, assembled a group of volunteers to paint the three CORE hallways in the BPRW branded colors, orange, green and blue – this made the CORE so much brighter and more fun and inviting – thank you Migmar!
- CHT purchased 160 chairs and 60 tables to outfit the event space on the first floor which we currently manage. CHT is also looking to provide a sound system and other furnishings for the event space. We have not been able to fully open the event space yet due to limited staffing. We have posted for a seasonal building supervisor but have not seen a strong applicant pool.
- In-person meetings and gatherings have started to return to CORE, with supervision provided by BPRW year-round staff until we hire a building supervisor.
- Camps are in full swing at the CORE, including BPRW Chess Wizards, Lego and Wicked Cool Science Camps as well as Vermont Merry Theater camps.
- CORE Adult Center signage is updated with the new name with more signage updates in the works.
- One major problem during the rainy season is that our first floor gets flooded. Water starts coming out of the sink, toilets, and from the kitchen. Staff addressed these concerns to CHT staff who have indicated that they will be fixing the problem.

Park Division Update

Park Administration

- Transitioning from a successful camp season into fall sports!
- Working on various items for the ViewWorks platform and training elements for the parks teams.
- Working on estimates for Moran, Oakledge water systems etc.
- Preparing park information for asset management integration including defining work activities, checklist and form development, and GIS updates

Conservation Program

- Supporting emergent volunteer interest in conservation projects. With things opening we have been inundated with businesses, individuals and community groups who want to volunteer. These partnerships include: Upward Bound, VYCC, UVM Medical, Lake Champlain Chocolates, Fjal Raven, UVM Service Trek, BHS Summer Learning.
- Ongoing support of the Wildways Invasive Pilot - Currently have 3 summer interns participating in the first year of Rubenstein School Perennial Internship Project. Learn about the summer internship project: <https://wildwaysinvasives.wixsite.com/website>
- Currently 2-4 hours a day are dedicated to interfacing with BPD Community Service Liaison staff in regard to encampments and people experiencing homelessness.
- Launch of the Poetry Walk at 311 North Ave planned for Sunday September 12. Lots of work mobilizing the space and trail as well as printing and designing poetry layouts underway. This event will include information about the 311 Park management plan, free ice cream and food, as well as park tours, and art projects.
- Planning with community partners on mobilizing educational signage for planting project areas throughout community at places such as:

- Ethan Allen Park Pinnacle
- Lakeview Cemetery
- 645 Pine St.
- Development of emergent trail through upper Oakledge wetland to support the temporary detour needs related to bike path improvement work.
- Partnering in the roll out of the Burlington Wildways Community Trail Steward Pilot Project.
- Ongoing work to revise and adapt the Open Space Protection Plan Climate Addendum - next draft available in September.
- Support of the roll out of the Disc Golf at Schifilliti, great opportunities to enhance conservation education and forest health.

Central Facilities Program

- Clean Up of water in several City buildings due to rainstorm July 20. Team worked well into the night.
- Annual cleaning of library cooling tower.
- Fixed leaking chlorine line in CHP fountain.
- Working to provide equipment information for upcoming Asset Management system.
- Continual upgrades to City door system to include addition of combination battery backup/surge suppressors to buildings.
- Staged new Sharon Bushor Conference room in City Hall to give employees valuable options for set up.
- Teaming up with BCA to have Chanel 17 video options installed in Contois Auditorium.
- Ordered AV equipment for 645 Pine and City Hall for optimal hybrid meeting options.
- Teaming with HR Department to better integrate City ID card permissions into onboarding process.
- Planning has started to make repairs and upgrades to building exterior at Lakeview Cemetery.

Park Facilities Program

- We have taken ownership from BED of 4 light poles at North Beach Campground and installed outlets for free wifi.
- Installed electric hand dryers in the small bathroom at North Beach
- Trim replaced and painted on the cupola on the small bathroom at North Beach
- Painted interior bays of Leddy new shop and installed a 3 ft fan to move heat more efficiently.
- Day to day work orders from broken waterlines to broken power pedestals at North Beach and the Boat House.
- Assisted with Beach Bites setup and mowing the waterfront.
- Created agreement with Water Department to purchase chlorine for \$1/gallon compared to private purchase at \$5-\$6/gallon for City Hall Park fountain

Trees and Greenways Program

- Ongoing maintenance of all landscaped park spaces.
- Installation of Covid Memorial and planting in Battery Park.
- Crew responded to storm damage on the evening of 7/20.
- Provided clearance pruning of right-of-way trees on several streets ahead of sidewalk replacement work.
- Renovation and replanting of landscape beds at the main entrance to 645 Pine St.
- Addressed See-click-fix and Facility Dude request as needed.



- Ongoing pruning on designated streets throughout the City.

Grounds Maintenance Program

- Helped staff parks and the set-up of barricades for 3rd of July
- Working with Gustave to get standard forms including playground inspections, work tracking, and inventory into Vue works software
- Working on first comprehensive inventory of small equipment
- Have begun conducting mowing of ROW throughout city
- Two full time staff and one seasonal staff dedicated to mowing parks regular time.
- Two seasonal staff dedicated to trash removal. One regular time and one part time.
- Two seasonal staff dedicated to City Hall Park grounds maintenance regular time.
- Accommodated 126 athletic field and court reservations

Planning Division Update

- Projects Completed
 - Leddy Park Stair Replacement completed and improvements to north and south beach accesses
- Project Progressing
 - Arms Forest Trail Improvements: 1st phase of construction mostly complete
 - Bike Path Realignment:
 - College to King work well underway with the retaining wall for the Greenway currently being installed;
 - King to Maple Project starting the week of August 9;
 - Improved Greenway Detour on Battery Street – Phase 1 implemented first week in July; Phase 2 to be implemented the week of August 2
 - Lavalley Lane shift coordination continuing with VTrans
 - Bike Path @Oakledge: Contractor starting to mobilize to start work from Austin Drive – working north- the week of August 2
 - Calahan Park Master Plan: second virtual public meeting upcoming on August 5, 2021 @7pm – registration required
 - North Beach Pull-Through Design: design development pressing
 - Oakledge for all: permitting and coordinating construction documentation with bike path project, waiting on a grant agreement
 - Perkins Pier Siting Study: successful online survey with 79 respondents; additional Harbor and Waterfront Capacity Study underway
 - Schmanska Walkways: construction starting week of July 26
 - Schifilliti Park Softball conversion: bids due this week
- Projects starting soon
 - Leddy Park Pause Place
- Projects supporting other divisions/ departments: (abbreviated)
 - 311 Stone House
 - Chief Greylock
 - Perkins Pier Moorings
 - Playground Equipment and Compliance
 - Roosevelt Donor Project

Waterfront Division Update

The Waterfront is in full summer operations!

Marinas & Harbor

- The marinas at Perkins Pier and the Boathouse have been open and operating since May 15. We enjoyed full docks and moorings on July 3 during our Independence Day celebration.
- With the Canadian border still closed, we still see the effects of lower transient boater rates, as we typically rely on Canadian boaters for up to 50% of our transient business in regular operating years
- We have kicked off the Harbor Capacity Study with the firm Moffatt & Nichol this past month. This will help us determine the current and future capacity of Burlington Harbor, as it relates to boating, waterfront infrastructure and the needs of our community. This information will help us understand the best functions for our public marinas and waterfront amenities.
- Regular operations of public waterfront restrooms, parking and other public amenities are fully open with our regular summer schedule, of 9am – 8pm.

Campground & Beaches

- The campground has enjoyed a busy season so far, with reservations steady.
- In partnership with the Planning Division, we continue to improve North Beach Campground, according to the Master Plan. The team has reviewed plans for future pull-through sites, in the location where the barn previously was located. These would satisfy the needs of current RV's – large sites with easy drive-in access, electricity and sewer tie-ins. We have applied for grant funding for the pull-through sites, as this project would be shovel ready.
- Cyanobacteria has been a great challenge this year. Warm lake temps, low water and warm air temps, along with some heavy July rains have resulted in multiple closures for all of our beaches. Staff monitor all of our beaches daily for cyanobacteria and will report any blooms present. If blooms occur, our shutdown procedures go into place, which consists of onsite signage, staff working with the public that may already be onsite, as well as notification of other City and State staff to disperse the information widely. This is our second year of having our beach closure information on the State emergency notification system, so that folks that opt in for these updates can get real-time messaging to their phones/email. We test for e.coli twice a week as well.

Events

- As we move towards the second half of Summer, we will see more events down at Waterfront Park. Upcoming we have: Dragon Boat Festival, Humane Society Event (new), Oktoberfest and the Marathon.
- Planning of 2022 events is right around the corner and will commence in late August

Urban Park Rangers

- Planning has begun for the development of a job description for this new position within BPRW. A team comprised of BPRW staff, CJC, Burlington Fire, and the community liaison for BPD have started to meet to discuss this new position.
- At its heart, we look to this position to be educational and engaged with our community about our dynamic park system. We expect this position to help us navigate some of the issues we see in our parks (fires, fireworks, dogs off leash), as well as inform and educate our community on the benefits of our waterfront and parks systems. We welcome your feedback, as this position is in the beginning stages, and we are very excited for this opportunity.

Admin Division Update

- Working on the VOREC grant with multiple partners
- Working with Mayor's office and Erin Desautels on 311 North Ave naming celebration
- PACC accepting applications for the Dog Task Force. There is a seat for a Parks Commission member
- Contracting survey for Wright Avenue Beach Access
- Providing leadership with KOTB partnership at Roosevelt Park
- Assisting City Capital and BPRW Planning with finalizing BPRW bond projects