



MEMO

Date: June 14th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: World Refugee Day Special Use Permit for June 26th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit and waiver at Oakledge Park to allow for amplified sound.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) Vermont has been welcoming newcomers to Vermont since 1980. In the last 42 years, over 8,000 refugees have started new lives in Vermont with assistance from USCRI. Refugees come primarily from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bosnia, Burma, Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, and Vietnam. New arrivals receive a comprehensive set of linguistically and culturally appropriate services, with a goal of attaining self-sufficiency. These include: Reception & Placement, Cultural Orientation, Case Management, Housing Placement, Health and Wellness, Cash Assistance, Workforce Development, Interpretation & Translation, Youth Mentoring, Digital & Financial Literacy, English Language Learning, Citizenship Classes, Community Partnership, and Volunteer Support.

USCRI VT will be hosting World Refugee Day on June 26, 2022 at Oakledge Park. New Vermonters will come to celebrate that they are here, safe, have the opportunity to rebuild their lives and to remember those who are still at risk, living each day with uncertainty.

They are requesting to have amplified sound from 1:30pm – 4pm which will include a performance by local band A2VT followed by an open mic. There will also be 4v4 scrimmages, volleyball, cane ball, field games, arts and crafts and lunch provided. They have already booked the Upper Shelter.

The point of contact for the event is Laurie Stavrand.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.