
SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – September 2022

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- September Work Anniversaries – Richard Bailey (20), Jon Adams-Kollitz (10), Al Letzelter (24), Steve Bachand (21), Cindi Wight (5)
- Welcome to one new employee – James Allison, Customer Service at Miller!
- Kirsten, Cindi, Jen and Melissa heading off to the National Park and Recreation Conference in September
- Al and Steve from the Grounds team heading to a regional park conference in September

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

- Halloween Howl and Halloween Bike Ride – stay tuned for dates and times!
- 9/11 Sunday 4-7pm - 50 Years of Community Gardening Harvest Festival

Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- Summer programming has just wrapped up and we are already gearing up for our busy fall/winter season at Leddy! September sees the beginning of our first session of group skating lessons, to include our popular Itty Bitty classes for ages 3-5 and programming for youth and adults, beginner through advanced.
- Welcome back to returning hockey groups, including Lumberjacks Junior Hockey, Glades Youth Hockey, Dynamo Hockey, Champlain Valley Skating Club, Girls 4 Hockey, UVM Men's and Women's Club hockey teams, UVM Figure Skating Club, GameOn Sports Broomball League, St Mike's Men's Hockey and numerous private adult hockey groups.
- City Council approved a change to our staffing structure at the Arena, which will provide a similar career ladder as other divisions within the Department. We have posted to hire a Working Foreman, a new position that will provide additional support to the Recreation Facilities Superintendent and maintenance staff, and will still also have one Maintenance Specialist and two Maintenance Workers to round out our staff.

Miller Center

- Miller Center welcomed our new Customer Service Associate, James Allison, who began with the Department on August 29. James comes to Miller with a strong customer service and retail background. James is also a Master Gardener and a New North End resident and was the unanimous choice of the hiring committee. Welcome James!
- As the weather begins to get cooler, activity will pick back up again at Miller. September programs include our free walking program, pickleball, line dancing, table tennis, power soccer, sign language, Me2

Orchestra's weekly rehearsals, as well as Sara Holbrook Teen Center's daily afterschool and evening programming.

- The City and Frog & Toad Childcare and Learning Center just signed another five-year lease for space at the Miller Center. Frog & Toad has been an incredible partner at Miller and we are thrilled to continue this relationship for the foreseeable future!
- Janira Cartagena-Aponte, our Office Assistant, will take place in a two day "Verbal Judo De-escalation" training program offered through the Human Resources Department.

CORE

- Very Merry Theatre starts back up in September with 13 (!!!) different fall programs, for ages 3-18. Some of their offerings include musicals such as "Where the Wild Things Are" and "Oklahoma", a cabaret class, "Romeo & Juliet" for teens, costume creation workshops, and preschool "play" time. We are pleased to offer a venue for their creative and highly popular programming.
- Melissa Cate, Superintendent of Recreation Facilities, will attend the National Recreation & Parks Association's annual conference in Phoenix September 20-22. Melissa was selected to serve on the NRPA Awards & Scholarships Committee and will attend the "Best of the Best" Awards ceremony as part of the conference.
- September will also see the return of Burlington School District's City & Lake Semester program which meets two-three days a week at the CORE. "The Burlington City & Lake Semester is an award-winning semester program for Burlington High School students. We use the city as our classroom, exploring the people, places, problems and possibilities of our community. We ask big questions, learn a lot about the real world, and have fun together. Students find their voice and their power as they work with leaders in city government, business, nonprofits and the arts on a variety of projects. We focus on five core themes: Sense of Place, Community and Identity, Civic Engagement, Social Justice & Sustainability"

- **Park Division Update**

Park Administration

- Skate park work is expected to begin in September
- Participation in houselessness work group and larger city-wide meetings
- Lighting contractors will be meeting with the Dept. in October for the closeout of the first phase of Frame.
- Working on filling multiple full-time positions including Project Coordinator, HVAC Specialist, Cemetery Working Foreman, and Cemetery Maintenance Worker.
- Conducted Hazard Mitigation Safety Training for 35 park full-time and seasonal workers.
- Initiated Starr Farm Park Irrigation and field upgrades for FY23
- All groups have participated in regular encampment clean-ups and removals

Conservation Program

- Ongoing development and rollout of the 50th anniversary of Community Gardening in Burlington.
- A Tommy Thompson plaque was made to commemorate Tommy Thompson's contribution to the community garden and was installed on a stone near the entrance at a ceremony on Thursday 8/30 at Tommy Thompson Community Garden

- Shoulder improvements were completed in August along section 0 of the Greenway.
- Signage Installation Underway – Arms Forest Wayfinding and Bike Path etiquette
- Continued Support and Participation in the Burlington Wildways Coalition. Learn more about [Burlington Wildways here](#).

Central Facilities Program

- Welcome back to Ryan Alger as the City’s new HVAC Technician.
- Team completed Blood Borne Pathogens training.
- Custodial team spent extra hours cleaning the outbuilding at Schmanska Park due to vandalism.
- New storage space claimed to keep voting equipment protected.
- Delivery set up and tear down of primary voting equipment.
- Painted window trim at 200 Church Street.
- Facilities Manager completed City of Burlington Leadership Series and updated CJIS Training.
- Replacement exterior doors installed at 645 Pine.
- Basement water mitigation work completed at the BCA.
- Investigation started with engineer to fix venting challenges in 645 Pine locker rooms.
- Toilets in City Hall upgraded to automatic flush.
- Overhead doors at Pine Street serviced and repaired.
- Planning started for security door readers at 200 Church.
- Measurements taken for replacement carpet at BPD.
- Planning started for restoration of historic exterior doors and arched windows in City Hall.
- Investigation to repair window wall at Library.
- Interviews completed for HVAC Specialist and Project Coordinator positions.

Trees and Greenways Program

- Ongoing maintenance of landscape beds and rain gardens throughout the City.
- Provided support for cleanup of abandoned encampment site at Perkins Pier.
- Responded to resident requests as needed.
- Ongoing watering of newly planted trees throughout the City.
- Supported DPW with pruning and removals related to paving and sidewalk work as needed.
- Responded to storm damage on 8/27.
- Ongoing pruning of designated streets.

Park Facilities Program

Moving election equipment



Cleaning at Schmanska Barn



Storm damage

Appletree Park and Lakeview



- Poured footings for the parking meters at Leddy Park.
- Installed new electric service for art installation at Dewey Park.
- Repaired and cleaned Tree House at Oakledge.
- Repairs to Schmanska Barn. These repairs will continue into Sept.
- Kurt and the event crew worked the Dealer.com event, A-DOGG Event, and the Dragon Boat Festival.
- Low lake level required more than usual dock adjustments at the marina.
- BED repaired Perkins Lighting with new LED bulbs which will be much brighter.
- Many work orders to support the dept.
- Exciting note: Jake rescued an opossum from the bowl at the skate park.

Running power to Dewey Park



Cemetery Program

- The Cemetery Program advertised for two positions and will be conducting interviews shortly.
- Between the start of the new fiscal year and September 1 the cemetery completed around 22 burials (17 cremation, 5 full).
- Within that same time period there were 11 lot sales at Lakeview cemetery for lots of various sizes.
- The Howard Center has planned a work day on September 10th for stone cleaning and righting in the Home for Destitute Children area of Lakeview Cemetery. VOCA (Vermont Old Cemetery Association) will be spearheading work.
- Ground and maintenance staff is in the beginning stages of damage and storm water run-off work in the Muslim section of Lakeview Cemetery.
- Seasonal grounds staff continued to maintain the three city cemeteries.

Grounds Maintenance Program

- Successfully completed field and sports field maintenance for youth baseball leagues, including three postseason little league tournaments held at Calahan, Roosevelt, and Schifilliti Parks.
- Seasonal mowing and trimming crew has maintained all required areas.
- Seeding and feeding have occurred at athletic fields and Waterfront Park.
- Volleyball Courts at Oakledge received new sand and will be improved in the fall with a new stanchion(s).
- Conducted cyclical inspections at our park playgrounds.

Planning Division Update

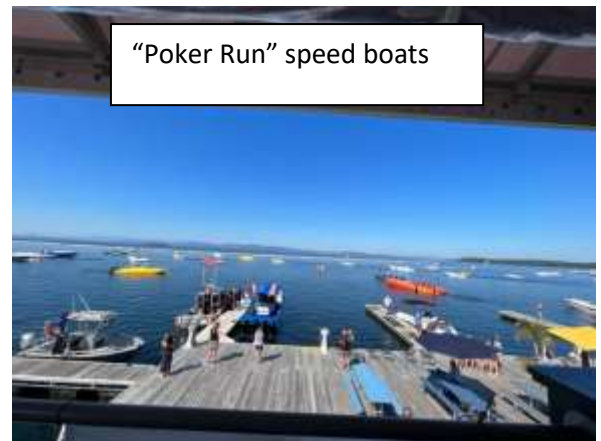
- Projects Progressing:
 - **Calahan Park Playground:** New playground installation completed. We are aiming for an 'official' opening later in September!
 - **Champlain Street Park Redesign:** Waiting on new fencing for installation soon. Working on pricing out lighting and installing. Work on procuring playground equipment is next! Working with Nate L. on identifying funds for seating area.
 - **Kieslich Park:** Continued work with consultant team at Cambrian rise on finalizing documentation needed to bid out the construction of the connection to the Greenway in 2023.

- **Leddy Park Comprehensive Plan:** Ecological assessment drafted by the conservation team. Lots of valuable information about the story of vegetation at Leddy has been provided. Need to identify a way forward with the planning process. Tabled at Leddy during Beach Bites to garner information on placement of playground, pavilion size and location, additional feeds and connections east-west. Lots of good discussions!
- **Leddy Pause Place and UVM Fitness Equipment Pad:** Working with consultants on updating drawings to bid out these remaining parts of the Greenway rehabilitation and to build the second bioretention area at Leddy as part of our Greenway Phase 3 stormwater permitting with the state (ongoing).
- **Oakledge for All Universal Access:** Contracting wrapping up to begin construction. Hope to have a schedule soon! Playground equipment has started to arrive. Working with consultant on cost estimating restroom renovations. Fitness equipment ordered and will be installed in late fall.
- **Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan:** Will be working on a public outreach strategy for the fall.
- **Schifilliti Path:** Public outreach held in late June. Now in NEPA review with the State of Vermont.
- **Wayfinding:** New signs coming soon to six parks!
- Projects supporting other divisions/ departments: (abbreviated)
 - Playground Equipment and Compliance
 - Survivors of St. Joseph Orphanage Project
 - Great Streets/Main Streets

Waterfront Division Update

Marinas, Harbor & Parking

- Leddy kiosks are installed. Since paid parking would end after Labor Day, staff will continue to work on rolling out a successful Spring 2023 parking campaign. New signage that aligns with DPW parking standards are being designed, and will be completed by the future BPRW Communication Manager. The gate arm at Leddy has been challenging to operate, and requests are in with the manufacturer to address this. We want all systems (kiosk/signage/gate arm) and staff fully ready to set up Leddy for success.
- We have seen an uptick in boat reservations with the Canadian border open this year. The “Construction Holiday” felt like pre-pandemic times, with strong reservations and selling out on the weekends. **The Boathouse also hosted a “poker run” of fast speed boats that congregated at our marina and held a fundraiser for Camp Ta-kum-ta.**
- The Marina added enhanced Wi-Fi at the Boathouse through Verizon, both for seasonal boaters to use and as a paid service for transient boaters. This greatly improves the deficient free Wi-Fi that is currently available. We’ve received positive feedback on this from our seasonal boaters.
- Security at night continues to be an issue. We’ve added security cameras at Perkins Pier, utilizing wifi jet packs, to hopefully cut down on the break-ins and unwanted activity. Future investments in gates and other security measures will need to be considered, as our marinas are greatly exposed at night.



Campground & Beaches

- The Campground continues to be very busy, with high reservation rates with low availability. We expect business to drop a bit during the weekdays after Labor Day, but our weekend reservations look strong.
- The full hookup sites are fully booked until the last week of the season which shows a need for more of these sites. We have had many inquiries about cabins this year due to the rising cost of hotel rooms in the area. Improvements at the campground would be a great investment! Staff will be visiting a local supplier of built cabins this month to inquire about how soon we could afford to start placing them at the Campground.
- Cyanobacteria: We will continue to monitor our beaches closely, as our water temperature is still warm, which means we could see more blooms on hot, still days. Until we see consistent low temperatures at night, blooms will remain possible into the Fall.

Events

- We are ¾ of the way through our scheduled Waterfront Park events. Kudos to staff for a successful campaign so far, as we just wrapped up a busy stretch of multiple events.
- Insurance compliance continues to be difficult for producers to deliver to the City. Significant back and forth conversations occur, per vendor, per event, to ensure we receive proper requirements.

Remaining Events

September 9-10	Antique & Classic Boat Show
September 18	Pride Festival
October 22 or 29	Run Vermont

Urban Park Rangers

- The Rangers have been deep in the unhoused conversations and actions of encampments in the parks. This has occupied more time than originally planned for the Lead Ranger position due to high need and staff vacancies in other areas, leaving large portions of the Ranger position untouched. We hope to see more balance for this position as we head into the Fall.
- The encampment sites continue to pop-up, as we are often encountering the same groups from one site to another site. Real solutions need to be in place, as staff often feels as if we're going in circles. The staff impact on this is real and significant, with verbal abuse and threats, personal safety jeopardized and copious amounts of needles in the encampment sites. Currently approximately 90% of the lead Ranger position is dedicated to issues of the unhoused. Thankfully conversations City-wide are being had, but we cannot reiterate enough that real solutions are needed, and fast.
- Neil Preston, Lead Urban Park Ranger took WCAX on a bike tour and let

Burlington urban park rangers on a mission to assist, educate visitors



them shadow their work for a day. This was a great segment shining a light on their impact. <https://www.wcax.com/2022/08/15/burlington-urban-park-rangers-mission-assist-educate-visitors/>

Adventure Camp pictures – they had fun!

Recreation Division Update:

Recreation had a very successful summer providing a variety of programs, camps and events. Due to receiving several grants (VT Afterschool, No Kid Hungry, BSD Covid-19 Relief) we were able to offer many more free programs in summer 2022 than any summer in recent memory. The last of these programs were put in place to address the childcare challenges families have at the end of August. The first two weeks in August we offered all day sports and Recreation & Nutrition camps, we had 88 participants. In the final two weeks of August we offered two weeks of outdoor adventure programming, we had 40 participants traveling to sites around Vermont.

The fall recreation brochure is now available online. Our Recreation Team looks forward to kicking off our fall programming in the coming weeks!

Miller/CORE Programs

- All sessions of Champ Camp this summer were full, with a waitlist, with 60-66 kids in each session. They enjoyed trips to the beach, 802 reptiles, Shelburne Farms, and on-site activities such as water games.
- Chess Camp with the Chess Wizards had 24 kids learning the rules of chess and playing games; culminating with a chess tournament
- The first session of Wicked Cool Science Camp was Safari themed and campers learned all about the Animal Kingdom. The second session was about rocket science with an ending activity of launching rockets made by the campers.
- We've also completed both sessions of Let Go Your Mind and Lego Camp with 20 kids in each session doing stop motion animation, robotics, etc.
- Many thanks to our partners and friends at Very Merry Theatre for providing top notch drama camps at the ONECC to Burlington residents all summer long.

Leddy Programs

- Leddy has been busy this July with multiple camps, public skate and outside skating group rentals.
- Rise and Shine, Cool Camp, Kinder Kamp and Hat Trick Hockey are the featured camps at Leddy and have included arts and crafts, beach time, ice skating and time spent outside with our Urban Park Rangers. Camps are for ages 3-14 with 30+ in attendance each week! We wrapped up our summer with two weeks of Rise and Shine/Cool Camp and one week of Kinder Kamp/Hat Trick hockey.



- Fall skating programs are filling up fast and we expect another great season of programming at Leddy Arena.

Recreation & Nutrition Program

- Much of our enrichment curriculum this summer was focused around movement including visits from Burlington Yoga, UVM Hip-Hop Dance instructor, Lois Trombley, and African Drum and Dance troupe, Jeh Kulu.
- We were thankful to have 3, week-long, loans of the entire Local Motion bike fleet. Kids were able to borrow and enjoy the bikes, learning more about riding with gears, as a team, and in brand new facets of their neighborhood, such as the Burlington Bike Path and the Ethan Allen Homestead Bike Path.
- Of exceptional importance, small groups from each of our three lunch sites were also able to learn more about our immediate food systems in Northwestern Vermont, by taking trips to Starr Farm Community Garden. There we learned more about Burlington's system of Food Shelf gardens, watered the learning garden beds, identified fruits and vegetables that grow well in Vermont or are native to the area, and most importantly: picked some fresh, local raspberries!

Roosevelt Park – Recreation Nutrition site



CORE Adult Center

- The garden beds and gardens at the CORE Adult Center are in full swing. The group has had many salads for lunch with lettuce from the garden. Thanks to Mulu for creating delicious salads with amazing dressing and roasted zucchini. Refrigerator pickles were made using the dill raised in the garden.
- Charlie Nardoizzi visited earlier to talk about container gardening.
- Carolina Lukac from the Community Garden Network visited to answer many of our questions about what was happening in the garden and what can be planted for the fall harvest.
- The folks are now taking home tomatoes, lettuce and peppers. We are starting on our second planting of lettuce, kale, turnips, radishes and chives.
- The CORE Adult Center capped off a great summer of day trips with a visit to the Champlain Valley Fair on August 30th.

Fabulous summer of Leddy Beach Bites!



Department Events

- **Beach Bites:** We provided five Wednesday evenings of great food and music at Leddy Park this summer. The food truck and concert series was very successful and the weather very cooperative.
- **Roosevelt Multi-Cultural Celebration:** Our department worked closely with community members and the Burlington Boys & Girls Club to coordinate a multicultural event at Roosevelt Park



earlier this summer. Event included music and dance performances, cuisine from around the world, a 3 on 3 basketball tournament and a TEC-BALL demonstration from two internationally known premier players.

- **Halloween:** Turning attention to both the Halloween Bike Ride and the Halloween Howl. Stay tuned for dates and times.

Athletics

- Our Athletics summer camps and programs that took place in August:
 - The Edge Tennis Camp @ Calahan
 - NFL Flag Football Camp
 - VT Voltage Full Day Camp
 - The Edge Tennis Camp @ Leddy
 - Travel Disc Golf Camp
- Fall Programs that will be starting at the end of August and early September:
 - Youth Soccer League
 - Itty Bitty Youth Soccer
 - NFL Flag Football League
 - Softball Pitching Clinics

Admin Division Update

- Working on understanding ADA and playgrounds and expanding to universal design
- Reviewing applications for the Marketing and Outreach position, who will now report to the Director
- Successful reclassification of positions at August BOF/CC meetings with more to come in September and October
- Lined up a training for staff around safe needle pick-up and other blood-borne pathogen safety
- Parks Foundation confirmed all Red Stone Cottage pledges
- Continue to work with the C/T office on the balance in Penny for Parks. Once we get a full understanding on this one, we can better plan ahead for future years of improvements.

Commission notes

- No special Commission notes