
SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – September, 2021

Stories

[Holli and Dan]

It's our pleasure. Mom loved the Burlington Parks system, promoting everything from the bike path, Rock Point, Arms Forest, and for those who come to mourn and reflect, Lakeview Cemetery. She loved all of these green, natural places, and more. And she loved each of you.

Best, Dave (Arms)

Hi Melissa,

Hope all is well with you!

We wanted to circulate your results from yesterday. We were successful in hitting the peak and collectively saved the equivalent of the peak electricity used by 520 Burlington homes! As a result of our combined efforts, BED will be making a \$1,000 donation to Let's Grow Kids - a Burlington organization working to ensure affordable access to high-quality child care for all VT families.

Hope you have a nice weekend and if you have any questions just let me know.

Thanks, Freddie

VJ, I am so impressed. I wrote to you Saturday, you answered Saturday, yesterday Gene and Amelia were here, and today my tree and the others at the top of Howard Street have been pruned and your crew is working its way down the street, picking up perfectly after themselves.

I posted about this episode yesterday on Front Porch Forum, but I want to be sure you know how appreciative I am. If ever you need a citizen voice for responsive and excellent service, please remember my name.

Thank you! Hope

Dear Erin

I just wanted to commend your staff. Last week during the heatwave, one of our teammates experienced some difficulties while on the water during our Dragonheart VT practice. We came into the Splash dock to tend to Linda and wait for EMTs. Fortunately, we had 2 doctors and a few nurses on board our boats who are part of our team. They were on top of things and tended well to Linda. I wanted to let you know how helpful and considerate your staff was. Brendan was a stand out. There was young woman who offered assistance as well.

I just wanted to let you know that Brendan went above and beyond during this emergency. Luckily, Linda recovered quickly. We just wanted to make sure that we thank your staff for their help. Awesome people!

With gratitude, Linda Dyer

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?

- Burlington Greenway construction in Oakledge is underway!
- Andrew Smith and Dustin Dupont joined our Parks Facilities team – Welcome Andrew and Dustin.
- Emma Allen accepted a position with Delaney Event Management in Winooski. While we are super sad to see Emma go, we are more excited for her opportunity to grow in the event planning world. Emma started seasonally with the department when she was 16 years old and almost made it to age 30 with us! We wish her the best.
- Current active recruitment includes a Recreation Manager position. Once we hire the Recreation Manager we will begin advertise the open Recreation Specialist. The Parks Division has a new HVAC position and is working on the job description.
- Work Anniversaries – Richard Bailey (19 years), Jon Adams-Kollitz (9 years), Al Letzelter (23 years), Steve Bachand (20 years), Cindi Wight (4 years), and Ryan Alger (2 years).

COVID-19

Vermont Forward – The State is now on the Vermont Forward Plan with no new updates. All City employees (full-time and seasonal) must wear masks indoors when interacting with the public. We are seeking clarification if we can require the same for contracted instructors to ensure the same experience for all participants.

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

- **North American Hockey Academy Labor Day Tournament** – September 3-5 @ Leddy Arena
- **VT State 5K championship** – October 2 @ Waterfront Park
- **Vermont City Marathon** – October 24 @ Waterfront Park
- **Halloween Howl** – October 23 @ North Beach
- **Trunk or Treat** – October 29 @ Old North End Community Center
- **Halloween Bike Ride** – October 31 @ City Hall Park
- **City-wide events** - <https://loveburlington.org/events>

Recreation Division Update

Our recreation division staff have been busy wrapping up summer programs. All of our summer camps ended on Friday, August 20th. We are busy working on organizing supplies and materials and getting them stored away for the next camp season.

Leddy Arena Programs-

- **Freestyle Ice (on-going until May):** Meant for practice/instruction with a coach. Mornings Monday-Friday
- **Adult Skating Clinics (on-going until May):** Tuesday & Wednesday Mornings. Figures Clinic/Advanced Skating
- **Public Skate (on-going until May):** Drop-in only. Monday-Thursdays 9:00am-10:30am
- **Stick and Puck (on-going until May):** Drop-in only. M/T/TH 10:45am-12:15pm

○ **Lessons (beginning Saturday 9/18 12-week sessions)**

- Itty Bitty Lessons | Ages 3-5 | Saturday @ 10:45am-11:30am
- Itty Bitty Lessons | Ages 3-5 | Sundays @ 1:15pm-2:00pm
- Lessons Level 1-6 | Ages 5-14 | Saturdays @ 11:30am-12:30pm
- Lessons Level 1-6 | Ages 5-14 | Sundays @ 2:00pm-3:00pm
- Lessons Level 1-6 | Ages 5-14 | Mondays @ 3:45pm-4:45pm
- Super Sk8 | Ages 7-16 | Sundays @ 3:15pm-4:15pm
- Adult Group Skating | Ages 16+ | Saturdays @ 12:45pm-1:45pm

Miller/CORE Programs

- Fall Programming has already begun or will begin during the month of September. Our fall brochure will be a digital brochure again which will be posted on our website. Programs taking place at the Miller Community & Recreation Center or the ONE Community Center will include:
 - American Sign Language
 - Ethiopian Cooking with Mulu Tewelde
 - Beginning and Intermediate Line Dancing
 - Medicare Made Clear
 - North End Yoga
 - Yoga for Adults
 - Fundamentals of Salsa
 - Virtual Fitness Class
 - Women's Self Defense
 - Out & About Trips to VINS, the Rokeby Museum, and an Ethan Allen Cruise.
 - Learn to Ride workshop on Saturday, September 18th, at the Leddy Arena Parking area in partnership with Local Motion

We offer AARP & Fit Lot-Fitness classes at the AARP Fit Lot located at the Miller Community & Recreation Center. The Fit Lot classes are at no charge to participants due to a grant that the department received in order to have the Fit Lot installed and to offer classes at no additional charge to participants when attending a Fit Lot class. Our Fitness instructor is a instructor from the YMCA.

Recreation & Nutrition

- The Recreation and Nutrition Program sites this past summer were at Riverside, South Meadow, Franklin Square, Roosevelt Park, CP Smith and the Fletcher Free Library. Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront worked with many partners to provide this fun and enriching program. Enrichment activities 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. Recreation & Nutrition staff served over 10,000 meals to youth this summer.

CORE Adult Center

- The Core Adult Center has been taking place on the second floor of the ONECC since July. All Core Adult center activities are on line and available for community members to enroll. The Core Adult Center has been using raised garden beds for gardening this season. The participants have been harvesting produce and using the produce to make salads, salsa, and other tasty dishes.
- Offerings at the CORE Adult Center for this fall include:



- Chair Yoga, Fundamentals of Salsa, Bone Builders, International Cooking and Cooking with Mulu, Acrylics, Reminiscing, Book Club, Armchair visits to Hawaii and the Grand Canyon, Bingo, Nature Crafts, Seed Saving, Preserving Fresh Garden Herbs, and social hour each day.
- We are still working on the details of partnering with the Heineberg Senior Center to facilitate the use of a new accessible van purchased with funds from Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, Heineberg Senior Center, and Age Well. The van will be used for shopping trips, doctor appointments, and recreation/educational field trips.

Events

- The team is excited for the upcoming in-person Halloween and Holiday events especially after the cancellation of the December Holiday events last year due to COVID-19.
 - The Halloween Bike Ride is scheduled for Sunday, October 31st at City Hall Park
 - Halloween Howl Hayrides are scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd at North Beach Campground.
 - The Pomerleau Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th
 - Senior Holiday Dinner will take place on Thursday, December 16th.



Athletics

- In August, there were a few athletics camps, VT Voltage full day, Mini Volts and tennis camp. The Voltage camps were full with 20 Mini Volts and 41 full day campers.
- August is a time to prep for our largest program, the youth fall soccer league, as well as our inaugural season of NFL Flag Football. We have 234 kids registered for fall soccer. We have recruited 47 volunteer coaches and hired site coordinators and referees for the league. Our Fun Day was on August 29 and the first week of team practices begins 9/7 and the first games are 9/12
- We are only the third town/city in VT (Hartford and Stowe are the other two) to offer a NFL Flag Football league. We are excited to have one team at Grades K-2, three teams at Grades 3-5 and two teams at Grades 6-8. We are in the process of recruiting volunteer coaches and hiring a couple referees. Jordan Clapperton, our NFL Flag program director, is doing a great job with coordinating and getting us ready for the season. We are very excited to finally get this league up and running!

- Other fall programs that are starting soon: Itty Bitty Soccer, Itty Bitty Disc Golf, Maven After-School Skate, Talent After-School Skate and Field Hockey Clinic. The Softball Pitching Clinics started in the end of August.

Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- Summer 2021 camps were hugely successful, serving almost 400 campers in Rise & Shine, Cool Camp, Hat Trick Hockey and Kinder Kamp.
- Leddy Arena participated in at least three “Defeat the Peak” events this summer by reducing power consumption (turning off the refrigeration system as much as possible) during periods of extremely high temperatures.
- Leddy Arena will host the North American Hockey Academy’s Labor Day Tournament September 3-5. Leddy will host the U16 & U19 divisions of this all girl’s hockey tournament.
- Studio rink will be back in service as of September 7.
- The next session of learn to skate classes begins September 7, to include Adult Skating Clinic, two sessions of Itty Bitty Skating classes, three sessions of Youth Learn to Skate classes, and Adult Group Lessons. Other programming beginning in September includes Early Morning Freestyle sessions, Public Skating and Stick & Puck.
- September 7 will also see the return of the Lumberjacks hockey program to Leddy Arena. After having to relocate their program to New Hampshire last year due to Covid restrictions, we are thrilled to welcome the Lumberjacks teams back home to Leddy.
- Other returning groups this month include Dynamo Hockey, General Dynamics Hockey League, Girls 4 Hockey, Champlain Valley Skating Club, UVM Men’s & Women’s Club Hockey teams, UVM Figure Skating Club, Catamount Hockey, and Full Stride Hockey, as well as several private adult hockey groups. New to Leddy this fall is the St Mike’s Men’s Hockey Team.
- We welcome Dustin Dupont to the Arena team. Dustin will work with the Parks Facilities crew through November and then will join the Leddy team from December through March.

Miller Center

- Pickleball returns to the Miller Center September 13 with Advanced play Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 11am-1pm, High Intermediate play Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-1pm and Saturdays 8:30-10:30am and Intermediate play Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays 1-3pm. Pre-pandemic pickleball play was wildly popular at Miller so we hope to see a lot of old friends back at the center this fall.
- Other programming at Miller in September includes Line Dancing, Salsa Dance, Walking Program, Fit Lot Fitness classes, Table Tennis, and Yoga.
- Fall facility users include Revolution Basketball, Champlain Valley Baptist Church, Sara Holbrook Teen Center, BSD Horizon’s program, VT Chargers Power Soccer team, Lone Wolf basketball, and several youth basketball teams.
- The City Capital team is working on a grant proposal to install new windows at Miller. The existing windows do not open, which has been a concern particularly during the pandemic. New windows would improve air circulation and air quality for building staff and patrons.
- Miller Center welcomes Joanna Robinson to our seasonal staff as a Building Supervisor – Jo is very familiar with the Miller Center, having served as Champ Camp Director here this summer. Jo will help cover the schedule evenings and weekends as needed.

CORE

- CHT has outfitted the first-floor event space, which BPRW now manages, but has instructed staff to suspend any gatherings in that space this fall, until the recent surge in Covid cases subsides.
- City Lake Semester, Very Merry Theatre and AALV Teen Center all return to the CORE this month for school year programming.
- Melissa and Migmar are working with a local church to potentially relocate their services to the ONE Center in January, including use of the event space and three classrooms every Sunday afternoon.
- The gym at the CORE is out of commission for at least a month while we wait for a repair to a condenser in the air handler serving the gym.
- Thank you to Jon Sumner, from the Miller Center, who has provided backup custodial support at the CORE this summer during staff absences.
- The Request for Proposals for sublease of Room 219 (former VT Hindu Temple) at the CORE is being finalized and will be issued this fall. Several organizations have already expressed interest in subleasing this classroom space for offices and programming.
- Melissa Cate, Superintendent of Recreation Facilities, will be attending the National Recreation & Parks Association annual conference in Nashville September 20-24.

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.
- Preparing park information for asset management integration including defining work activities, checklist and form development, and GIS updates
- Coordinating shoulder season coverage for City Hall Park with the Marketplace and BCA as well as hiring two new positions for City Hall Park.

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

- Custodial Team and Facilities Team going above and beyond to keep graffiti and mischievous actions cleaned up.
- Quarterly filter changes for City HVAC units completed.
- Contract signed for pump removal, rebuild, and reinstallation in City Hall.
- Continual door maintenance for efficient building access. Working to upgrade surge suppressors and battery backup for minimal door program interference.
- Upgrades to Contois bathroom in City Hall.
- Signed contract for window replacement at 200 Church Street.
- Working with HR to refine City employee ID forms.
- Collecting bids for slate roof repair at BCA.
- Collecting bids for cooling system in Water Distribution offices.
- Planning has started to make upgrades to HVAC system at 200 Church Street.

Park Facilities Program

- Assisted with Chapel improvement design with architect Jay White.
- Hired two new people, Andrew Smith (Park Facilities Maintenance Worker) and Dustin Dupont (Park Special Events and Arena Worker)
- Completing waterline installation at Bocce Courts, Oakledge Park (due to start in Sept.)
- Gangway RFP was released – opens in September.
- Four memorial plaques ordered and installed in August.
- Hosted volunteer clean up with Maven at the Skate Park.
- Completed irrigation repairs and managed fountain maintenance with central facilities.

Trees and Greenways Program

- Completed brush work on Sears Lane for Code Enforcement
- Ongoing maintenance of all landscaped park spaces.
- Provided clearance pruning of right-of-way trees on several streets ahead of sidewalk replacement work.
- Addressed See-click-fix and Facility Dude requests as needed.
- Ongoing pruning on designated streets throughout the City.

Grounds Maintenance Program

- Fall sports fields have been painted, goals set up, and are ready to go for the season!
- MOU process has begun with Christ the King School athletic sports.
- Completed inventory for small equipment - submitted to Vieworks for Grounds, Cemeteries, Trees, and Conservation Programs.
- Apogee volunteer group helped paint and build new picnic tables.
- AmeriCorps Resource group helped complete painting over graffiti over entire Blanchard Beach Wall.
- Constructing new waste block storage bins at Leddy.
- Installed new basketball hoop pole pads at Appletree Park.



Grounds Crew Work stats:

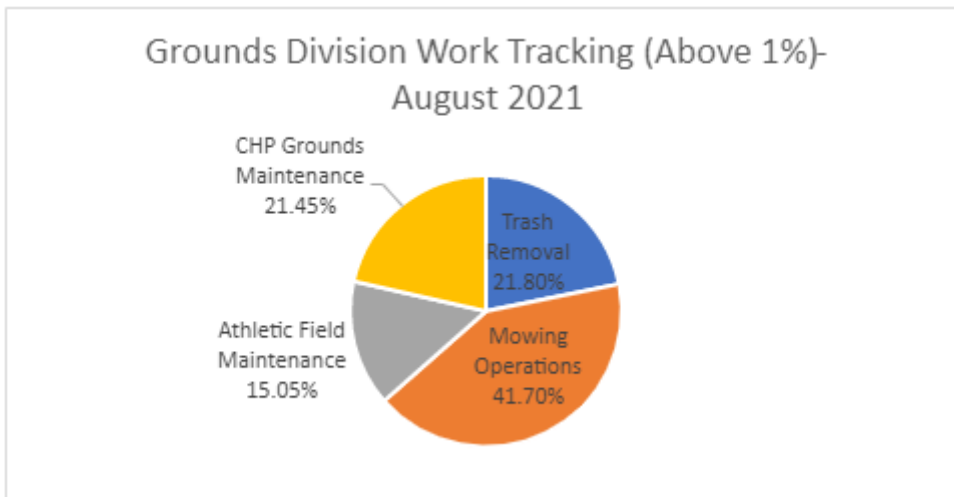


table 1. Grounds Division Work Tracking		Aug-21
Activity	% time	Total Hours
Trash Removal	21.69%	252
Mowing Operations	41.48%	482
Athletic Field Maintenance	14.97%	174
CHP Grounds Maintenance	21.34%	248
Total hours =	100.00%	1162

Planning Division Update

- Projects Completed
 - Arms Forest Trail Improvements: 1st phase of construction completed
 - Schmanska Walkways: construction completed; landscape work to be completed next
 - Leddy staircase
- Project Progressing
 - Bike Path Realignment:
 - College to King work well underway with work started on the College Street plaza
 - King to Maple Project underway, additional Battery Street detour implemented
 - Lavalley Lane shift coordination continuing with VTrans
 - Bike Path @Oakledge: Project progressing well and on schedule to work on the beach access ahead of Labor Day
 - Calahan Park Master Plan: second virtual public meeting held in early August; planning for in-person surveys and online survey live
 - North Beach Pull-Through Design: design aimed for wrap up in coming month
 - Oakledge for all: permitting and coordinating construction documentation with bike path project, waiting on a grant agreement
 - Perkins Pier Siting Study: re-igniting the study after Harbor Capacity Study completion in September to wrap up in early fall
 - Schifilliti Park Softball conversion: contractor selected, work to be completed in mid-September
- Projects starting soon
 - Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan – RFP issued in September
 - Leddy Park Pause Place
- Projects supporting other divisions/ departments: (abbreviated)
 - 311 Stone House



- Chief Greylock
- Perkins Pier Moorings
- Playground Equipment and Compliance
- Survivors of St. Joseph Orphanage Project

Waterfront Division Update

Marinas & Harbor

- The marinas at Perkins Pier and the Boathouse have been open and operating since May 15. With July rains, it staved off some of the worst low water areas in our marinas, and we should be able to get through the majority of the season with most of the boats in their slips. We have had to re-assign a few boats this year because of low water. We continue to need funding for basin dredging, as it has been over 10 years and between sediment buildup and frequent low-water, we're losing the ability to use all of our slips.
- With the Canadian border still restricted, 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 been providing active data for the Harbor Capacity Study with the firm Moffatt & Nichol this summer. 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.
- Looking into the potential for applying for ARPA funds for this project, those specifically for travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation and economic development, post COVID. Projects are fully funded, with no local match, with the potential for rewards between \$500k and \$10m. We would apply in partnership with Vermont Adaptive, as there is a specific category for eligible applicants for nonprofit agencies that partner with municipalities. Kara has been notified of this and approves of us moving forward with an application.
- The marina is still open and will continue until the regular end date of October 15th. We have lost some seasonal staff when school started, but can maintain our operations.

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. E. coli testing will end after Labor Day weekend, as is our usual end time for this.
- Our lifeguard season has concluded, but we will have a first aid station operating over Labor Day weekend. The majority of our lifeguards have gone back to school.

Events

- With the Delta variant causing concern, we've had two events decline to host their Fall event, VIP and Oktoberfest. At this time, the Marathon is adapted to a half-marathon.
- Planning of 2022 events is right around the corner and will commence in September when applicants desiring a 2022 event with us can apply.

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.
- A preliminary Job Description has been created and is currently being edited by various teams so that we can encompass many viewpoints.

Admin Division Update

- Submitted Letter of Intent for VOREC grant. Our project team includes staff/volunteers from BPRW, Sarah Holbrook Center, Burlington Bike Park, Winooski Valley Park District, Ski Rack, Old Spokes Home, Outdoor Gear Exchange, Community Sailing Center, Fellowship of the Wheel, and Local Motion.
- Deadline for PACC Dog Task Force is 8/31/21
- Reviewed Cain Overlook improvements with Mayor Weinberger
- Wright Avenue survey underway for potential future easement to secure public beach access
- Providing leadership with KOTB partnership at Roosevelt Park
- Continued fundraising/grant searching for Red Stone Cottage restoration