May 12th, 2021

Scott Gustin
Permitting and Inspections, City of Burlington
645 Pine Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401

RE: 21-0874CA; 0 Flynn Ave (Ward 5S, RCO-RG (Tax Lot No. 057-1-048-000)

Dear Scott-

We are writing to request the Design Review Board (DRB) reconsider the condition imposed upon the above-mentioned permit request for the Greenway Rehabilitation project in Oakledge Park.

Condition 3 notes:

For 0 Flynn Avenue/Oakledge Park, public access from the parking lots at Oakledge Park to Blanchard Beach and the other amenities of Oakledge Park (the pavilion, treehouse, volley ball courts, and westerly cove) shall be maintained at all times during construction.

The condition as noted above combined with site conditions make the construction of the proposed beach access and pause place at Flynn Avenue impossible.

As expressed at the Design Review Board Meeting on May 4th, 2021, BPRW staff will work with the contractor to maintain access to the majority of Oakledge Park’s amenities throughout the construction period, estimated to start and end between June and November of 2021. As a key regional park, BPRW has been strategic in the Greenway Rehabilitation in this area as we acknowledge its popularity with both neighbors and visitors and wish to accommodate as much of the uses of the parks as possible throughout the Greenway’s Rehabilitation.

To that end, BPRW staff are committed to overseeing the rehabilitative work on the Greenway in increments. That is, we have communicated to prospective bidders that the project is expected to be started and completed in sections from south (Austin Drive) to north (just north of the Flynn Avenue intersection) to maintain access to key amenities throughout the construction project, within reason. Please see the included illustration for the guidelines provided to prospective bidders on the anticipated sections for the project. As you can see, for work on Sections 1 and 2, access to the majority of the park amenities is maintained, albeit with some minor detours from the parking areas as needed.
Work on the 3rd section, which consists of a redesign of the beach access at Blanchard Beach to create a universally accessible stair and ramp to Blanchard Beach to increase the public’s ability to enjoy this loved amenity, will require temporary closure of access to Blanchard Beach from Oakledge’s parking areas. Access to Blanchard Beach will remain open -safely and feasibly- from Proctor Place – Oakledge Park’s entry from the northeast which was rehabilitated last year (2020) in part to allow for the beach access to remain open throughout this second Greenway project in Oakledge. In addition, Burlington residents will still have access to North Beach, Leddy Beach and Oakledge Cove during construction of the accessible stair and ramp at Blanchard Beach.

This 3rd section is an area of construction which is already constricted on all sides by: vegetation and topographical changes to the west, Lake Champlain to the northwest, a stream crossing to the north, wetlands to the east and the road to the south. Circulation for the public around this construction area is not only unfeasible, but also unsafe.

As discussed during the May 4th, 2021 DRB meeting, we anticipate that the work on Section 3 will be towards the end of the peak of summer – allowing the public to enjoy full access to Blanchard Beach from the lower and upper parking lots and the Greenway to the north while Section 1 and 2 are being constructed. BPRW’s goal is to improve not only the much-loved Greenway in this area, but to make circulation for all – pedestrians, cyclists and individuals with mobility devices- safer at the Flynn Avenue intersection and to heighten everyone’s experience of Blanchard Beach through the improvements proposed by this project.

As such, we would appreciate that the DRB reconsider and remove the condition imposed on the Greenway Rehabilitation project through Oakledge so that the work may proceed as planned and for the benefit of all users.

Sincerely,

Sophie Sauvé, PLA, ASLA
Parks Comprehensive Planner
ssauve@burlingtonvt.gov
802-865-7248

cc.  Jon Adams-Kollitz, Parks Project Coordinator
    Cindi Wight, Parks Director
    Justin St. James, Assistant City Attorney
CITY OF BURLINGTON

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

BURLINGTON BIKE PATH REHABILITATION PROJECT

PHASE 3B (SOUTH)

CITY OF BURLINGTON

COUNTY OF CHITTENDEN

PROJECT LOCATION

LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF CHITTENDEN, CITY OF BURLINGTON, THE PROJECT RUNS FROM AUSTIN DRIVE TO BLANCHARD BEACH.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION


LENGTH OF PROJECT:

SEGMENT 1: 0.51 MILES (800.9 FEET)
SEGMENT 2: 0.51 MILES (800.9 FEET)

SCALE IN FEET

600 0 600
SEGMENT 1

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SEGMENT 1 EXTENDS FROM AUSTIN DRIVE TO BLANCHARD BEACH.
LENGTH OF SEGMENT 1: 3659.46 FT

NOTES:
BURLINGTON BIKE PATH PHASE 3B
POINT OF BEGINNING ALIGNMENT
POINT OF END ALIGNMENT
EQUALITIES HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE BASELINE STATIONING. SEE LAYOUT SHEETS FOR EQUALITY INFORMATION AND CURVE DATA.
Section 1: Austin Drive to Upper Pavilion

Entry to Oakledge via Austin Drive closed to public during Section 1. Entry from Flynn Avenue open. Access to both the Cove Beach and Blanchard Beach from the north throughout this section.
Section 1: Austin Drive to Upper Pavilion

Entry to Oakledge via Austin Drive closed to public during Section 1. Entry from Flynn Avenue open. Access to both the Cove Beach and Blanchard Beach from the north throughout this section.

Section 2: Upper Pavilion to Lower Pavilion

Blanchard Beach accessible via Flynn Avenue during Section 2. Cove Beach access via south side of Upper Pavilion. Footpaths adjacent to Greenway along Phase 2 closed to public, including bbq areas near Station +121.
Section 2: Upper Pavilion to Lower Pavilion

Blanchard Beach accessible via Flynn Avenue during Section 2. Cove Beach access via south side of Upper Pavilion. Footpaths adjacent to Greenway along Phase 2 closed to public, including bbq areas near Station +121.
Section 2: Upper Pavilion to West Side of Lower Pavilion

Blanchard Beach accessible via Flynn Avenue during Section 2. Cove Beach access via south side of Upper Pavilion. Footpaths adjacent to Greenway along Phase 2 closed to public, including bbq areas near Station +121.

Section 3: West of Lower Pavilion to North-End Limit of Project

Lower Pavilion Restrooms will be open and accessible from the entry road throughout construction.
Lower Pavilion ‘shelter’ closed during work in Section 3.
Access to Blanchard Beach via Flynn Avenue closed during Flynn Avenue/beach access construction—there is no safe passage from this direction.

Section 3: Phase 1 Playground to North-End Limit of Project

Access to Blanchard Beach via Proctor Place only during Flynn Avenue/beach access construction