
SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – April, 2021

What are the top issues on your mind?

- FY22 Budget
- Federal grant funds

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- We successfully applied for Tree City USA for the 31st time!
- Kim Bleakely joined BPRW as Central Facilities Manager. Kim came to us from the DPW Capital team. Their loss is our gain!
- Michael Dannachie is joining the Parks Arborist Team on April 12th. Michael moved to VT in May, 2020 from Estes Park, CO where he worked for the town and is a Champlain College graduate.
- A 56-day skating season wrapped up at our outdoor rinks and VERY successful pilot of skating at Long Pond via Arthur Park – congrats to staff on the Grounds & Conservation teams as well as Diana Wood – plus our community volunteers!

COVID-19

PHASE FOUR (draft): Effective **Friday, April 2, 2021**, all adult leagues may resume the following activities:

- Individual skill-building exercises;
- Strength and conditioning sessions; and
- Drills involving incidental contact.

In addition, adult outdoor sports teams and leagues may resume games, meets and competitions, subject to the restrictions noted below. Adult indoor sports teams and leagues may resume games, meets and competitions, subject to the restrictions noted below on Friday, April 23, 2021.

Please read the entire recreational [sports and organized sports guidance](#).

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

Stay tuned for upcoming events!

Recreation Division Update

- Recreation staff are busy planning for summer programs and hiring summer seasonal staff. All of our summer positions are now active in the City's online portal and we are accepting applications.

- Longtime Recreation Specialist, Susan Carter, has accepted the position of Interim Program Manager. Susan will function in this role until Program Manager, Candice Holbrook, returns from her 400-day National Guard deployment. Be safe Candice!
- Online registrations are going extremely well for spring and summer program offerings, well ahead of last year at this time. We expect high attendance for most of our summer camps and clinics.
- Our Licensed Child Care specialist, Susan Carter, has applied to the State of Vermont for a **CRRSA** Grant to assist us with financial support for our licensed Camp Camps, PAL Camps and Vacation Camps through the end of Calendar Year 2021.
- The Burlington School District will be receiving a significant amount of money for Covid-19 Relief and Recovery that earmarked for summer programming. We have inquired about how a portion of this money could be used for programs that we provide in partnership and that benefit vulnerable student populations. These programs include Summer Transportation for the BSD SOAR Program, BPRW Camp Camps and the Summer Recreation & Nutrition Programs and staffing and enrichment programs for PAL Camps and the Summer Recreation & Nutrition Program.
- The Leddy Park Arena skating programs kicked off in late January for pre-K and school age skaters. All of our sessions have been full and registrations for Leddy Arena Summer Cool Camps are also doing extremely well.
- Champlain Senior Center is now the **CORE Adult Center**. The name change becomes official on April 1, 2021. Staff are preparing to reopen the center on May 1st for Congregate Meals and on-site programming. Additionally, all CORE Adult Center Programs will be included in our Civic Rec online offerings beginning in May.
- Jen Cotton, our Athletics Supervisor, is planning for an E-Sports (video gaming) League to be offered beginning in April, in coordination with several other area Recreation & Parks Departments. This will be our first foray into the realm of online video gaming.
- Recreation Team members continue to deliver Meal Kits for the Burlington School District. Each kit contains 7 meals and our team has been delivering an average of 60 Meal Kits every Wednesday since early December to families living in Northgate Apartments and CHT and BHA apartment complexes throughout Burlington. Our Recreation Team has committed to continue assisting with these meal deliveries through the remainder of the school year.
- Interviews for one of our two open Recreation Specialist positions began the week of March 29th. The person filling this position will have a focus on Leddy Arena programming. We hope to have this person on-board in late April.

Recreation Facilities Division Update

- Youth and high school hockey seasons ended, some earlier than expected due to Covid outbreaks in local schools. Sadly, the division 1 girl's hockey championship scheduled at Leddy and featuring BCHS and Essex had to be cancelled at the last minute. Leddy Arena did host the boy's division 1 championship where #2 seeded BFA upset #1 seeded Essex.
- The current session of skating classes ends April 25, all four classes are full with a wait list. We will be offering a half day Cool Skating Camp over April school break, currently 15 out of 20 slots are filled.
- The studio rink is shut down as of March 9. The big rink will be shut down at the end of April, reopening June 21. As of March 29, Josh Cushing has returned to the Grounds crew three days a week.
- With the arrival of warmer temperatures, pickleball play continues to decline so we have reduced offerings to 10 sessions a week (from 20) at the Miller Center.

- Demand for gym time remains at unprecedented levels – the Miller gym is booked solid with the exception of a few weekday afternoon times. Private rentals continue to be strong through April and requests have already started to come in for summer gym times.
- Sara Holbrook Teen Center has expanded its programming at Miller to include school day programming in addition to its usual after school and evening programs. Burlington School District's Burlington Kids program continues to offer childcare to district families on Wednesdays at the Miller Center.
- Migmar Tsering, our CORE Site Coordinator, has been assisting the Resource & Recovery Center with administrative backup, answering phone and email inquiries from the public regarding Covid resources.
- In coordination with AALV, VT Dept of Health and RRC, vaccination clinics continue to take place every Thursday evening in the CORE gym from 4-8pm until further notice.
- The CORE continues to provide space for BHS City Lake Semester, ONE Arts and Very Merry Theatre programming.

Park Division Update

Park Administration

- Seasonal Parks Job Descriptions were posted
- Transition Planning for Park/Central Facilities
- Completed 2 bench donations Waterfront Park
- Preparing park information for asset management integration including workflow diagrams and GIS updates

Conservation Program

- Developed draft management plan for 311
- Supporting the emergent [Grow Wild Initiative](#), which aims to increase native plant populations on public and private lands. The neighborhood partnerships to reclaim previously mowed or unkempt areas.
- Initiated updates with vendor(s) and Conservation Board for Open Space Plan. This work is in partnership with the Conservation Board and Burlington Wildways and seeks broad community and stakeholder involvement in identifying Burlington based nature based solutions to climate change.
- Working on collective management of invasive species plan with regional stakeholders. Pilot area – 600 acres in Burlington's interval.

Central Facilities Program

- Successful support of Town Meeting Day
- Replaced hot water heater with more efficient unit at City Hall
- Repaired ventilation unit at Pine St.
- Roof replacement 339 Pine St.
- ADA door buttons at 200 Church
- Planning for improvement projects at the library, 645 Pine, PD and Fire Station 2
- Planning for multiple repairs extending from the Halloween storm through FEMA

Park Facilities Program

- Assisted with Town Meeting Day
- Began dry fitting plumbing for all water systems and seasonal facilities
- Pulled a dock from Perkins to repair at the 645 Pine St. welding bay
- Completed Leddy Park tennis court lighting – on until 10 pm

- Graffiti removal
- Leddy Park Softball Field score board footings were poured, installation soon!
- Insulated and sheathed additional area at Leddy Maintenance Building for staff.

Trees and Greenways Program

- BED line clearance contract complete
- Received Tree City USA designation
- Received the Arbor Day/TD Bank Greenspace Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for spring planting efforts
- 127 Pruning of overgrowth
- Removed tree protection, inspected and repaired all grates and trees
- Structural pruning of trees as well as installation of hardware and bracing for the Lindens along the Greenway.
- Conducted a tree inspection at CP Smith at the request of the teachers.

Grounds Maintenance Program

- Completed MOU's with Center City LL and North Burlington LL.
- Mapped additional assets in ArcGIS online
- 225 Kick mats installed at our playgrounds under the swings to improve safety
- Distributing 200 yards of wood chips to our playgrounds
- All courts were cleaned, nets installed, for spring play
- Wrapped an unbelievable skating season with 56 days of skating and boot hockey at our outdoor rinks! Sensational and very well organized!!
- More of a breakdown below:

Activity	% time	Total Hours
Trash Removal	20.66%	102
Athletic Field Maintenance	0.81%	4
Snow Removal/Salt App.	8.41%	41.5
Transport of Materials/Equip	5.62%	27.75
Park Assets Maintenance	5.87%	29
Ice Rink Maintenance	2.13%	10.5
Brush/Tree Maintenance	4.46%	22
Equipment Repair/Maint.	6.28%	31
Cleaning Workspace/Equip.	2.23%	11
Playground Maintenance	7.49%	37
Road/Lot Maintenance	4.66%	23
Fence Maintenance	0.10%	0.5
Demolition and Removal	0.41%	2
Graffiti/Vandalism	1.01%	5
Building Maintenance	1.62%	8
Court Maintenance	3.44%	17
Leaf Removal	2.84%	14
Inspections	4.05%	20
Cross-Division Support	4.61%	22.75

Training	0.41%	2
Admin.	7.04%	34.75
GIS/Mapping	5.67%	28
Total hours =	100.00%	493.75

Planning Division Update

- Upcoming Outreach:
 - Presentation to NPAs: throughout the month of April
 - Calahan Master Plan Public Outreach #1: (tent) May 13th, 2021 @7pm
 - Perkins Pier Siting Study Public Workshop #2: May 18th, 2021 @7pm
- Projects Progressing
 - 311 North Avenue trail coordination: on hold until 311 management plan outreach is completed
 - Arms Forest Trail Improvements: implementation of a section of trail starting soon
 - Bike Path Realignment: Maple to College Street – including improvements to the College Street Intersection
 - Bike Path Realignment: Lavalley Lane shift coordination with VTrans
 - Bike Path Design for the rest of Oakledge: wrapping up 100% designs
 - Calahan Park Master Plan: public survey to be circulated starting 3/26
 - Leddy Park Stair Replacement: in design phase
 - North Beach Pump Out and Turnaround: construction anticipated in mid-April
 - North Beach Pull-Through Design: design options being reviewed by staff
 - Oakledge for all: permitting and coordinating construction documentation with bike path project
 - Perkins Pier Siting Study: completed first phase of public outreach and analysis, moving onto design
- Projects starting soon
 - Leddy Park Pause Place
 - Schmanska Walkways
- 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 staff is shifting to Spring operations and will focus on the following projects over the remainder of winter and heading into Spring:
 - In partnership with the Planning Division, 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.
 - The Event Manager remains in connection with Event leaders throughout the State, and provides current updates to the Governor's Office about this upcoming 2021 event season. We are anticipating a schedule of modified events, based on what the soon-to-be announced new set of

regulations will be that will identify new capacity restrictions for special events. The announcement is expected in early April.

- The Information Center Building RFP was publicly posted in early January after receiving legal approval. This RFP solicits a vendor to provide Information Services in the small building located within the Pease parking lot. We received one proposal, which met all required criteria. BPRW has drafted a contract with Lake Champlain Chamber and Vermont Rail Systems to co-manage the Information Center building. This contract will go in front of the BOF/CC in April.
- The Skatepark Vendor RFP was publicly posted. The North Beach manager has assumed responsibility of this contract. The one proposal we received, from Maven, was accepted and a contract has been written. We are awaiting vendor approval before submitting the RFP for approval by BOF/CC in April.
- The North Beach boardwalk improvement work by Youth Build has started, with expected completion in Spring 2021.
- Waterfront staff focus has shifted gears to preparing for the 2021 season. Some updates:
 - North Beach Campground reservations are open and live! We had a robust response on our opening day and many weekends are already sold out.
 - Waterfront seasonal positions are listed on our HR website and we are already accepting applications. Waterfront staff will spend the next 1-2 month reviewing applications, setting interviews and building our summer teams. The first site to open is the Campground on May 1st.

Admin Division Update

- Budgets
 - The City is no longer in a hiring freeze, which is helpful as we approach the summer season.
 - We are working with CAO Schad on the significant savings we have in our FY21 budget. We are seeking permission to use what we need as we wrap up the fiscal year.
- Stone Cottage
 - The Stone Cottage architect project is running smoothly with our Architect Jay White. Staff are pleased with his work and he is creating a special place for our Conservation team and community. We anticipate seeing conceptual costs by mid-April.
- April anniversaries
 - Jonathan Sumner and Ian Magnus are both celebrating their 6th Anniversary in April!
- Cost Recovery
 - The Cost Recovery (or Cost Subsidy) project continues to move along. We will be reviewing and doing final edits on our model in early April. The model is not static and can be adjusted as needed over time.
- Leddy concession RFP
 - We released an RFP for a food truck at Leddy for the summer. It is a pilot project and we will decide at the end of the summer if we will continue it for future summers.