
SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – July/August 2022

Stories

Cindi,

My office overlooks City Hall Park and I often look out over the Park as I talk on the phone. I want to compliment you on the condition that your crew is maintaining the Park under difficult conditions. In particular, the lean guy with the beard that is there every day is phenomenal. He is always working and moves fast during and between tasks. I hope that you recognize his efforts and pay him very well!

Best

Steve

Hi Max,

I meant to send this email sooner but I ran behind due to my relocation back to Vermont and the chaos related to the cross-country move. Living here again will certainly reduce the large amount of travel that I've had to do over the past several years. I very much enjoyed the presentation that you and your team provided with respect to the design options for the Champlain Street Park. You and the team did some really great work. I wanted to commend you on listening to the voices in the community, especially regarding the public safety and security issues we've had in this area of Burlington as of late. The designs that you presented will go a long way to improving visibility through the park and also providing nighttime lighting which is absolutely critical.

As the owner of 188 So. Champlain, directly across from the park – I've seen firsthand over the past couple years the issues that have been plaguing the city of Burlington and how they have migrated directly into this tiny pocket park. The constant drug dealing; occasional homeless camping; vandalism; and all sorts of other public nuisance concerns have been a serious problem and until your presentation I haven't seen any real effort to resolve them. Because of your efforts and thoughtful design, I believe that the park will no longer be a haven for that sort of behavior and it can once again be safely utilized by the neighborhood for its intended purpose. For children to play, families to gather and individuals to enjoy the peaceful surroundings that is Champlain Street Park.

Thanks again to you and your team, and I very much look forward to seeing the end result

Have a great day,

Dave

**

Dear Gary,

I want to personally commend and thank you for last night's shuttle organization, which made the July 3rd firework celebration even more enjoyable. My husband will be teaching at UVM in the fall, and we recently moved to Winooski from Baltimore, MD. We've both become a tad jaded with public services in Baltimore and as a new citizen of the area I expected much the same. Needless to say, I was gobsmacked by the ease of the shuttle from UVM to the Lakefront celebrations and back! BRAVO!

I look forward to next year!

-Lamont

**

Hi Cindi,

I am writing to thank you, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront staff, and Burlington PD for your handling of pedestrian access along Depot Street at the July 3rd fireworks. In the past, there had been issues with cars and people mixing dangerously as they exited the waterfront along Depot Street. That system has been much improved, now that you prohibit cars until the bulk of the pedestrian traffic has cleared Depot Street. I also appreciated that pedestrians were given priority at the top of Depot Street to cross North Avenue. The city did a great job of controlling cars there so families could cross North Avenue safely and efficiently.

Thanks again for making residents feel safe at this awesome annual event--the fireworks were amazing! And please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Colby Crehan

**

Holli and Cindi

I cannot thank you enough for all your assistance, guidance, and participation to ensure the reinterment efforts and the ceremonies were perfect. THANK YOU!!!

I know the soldiers are in good hands with you at Lakeview Cemetery.

Many thanks, Laura

**

Dear Dan and Chris,

On behalf of Burlington Writers Workshop, I'd like to thank you both for all the good ideas and practical assistance you gave to make the Poetry Path a reality. Ideas are a dime a dozen, but selecting a trail, looking at which trees to use, testing the path with 'fake' panels, putting up the 'real' ones (and even showing me how to put in rivets :) -- that's what made it happen. You guys are the best!

Thinking ahead to the end of the season, I was wondering if the panels could stay up through September, to allow coordinating with the Green Mountain Book Festival coming up Sept. 24 & 25?

All for now -- thanks again,

- Mary

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- July Work Anniversaries – Sarah Carter (32), Susan Carter (32), Lobsang Norbu (6), Matt Fredenburgh (5), Logha Gyatso (9)
- August Work Anniversaries – Sangay Dhondup (20), Erin Moreau (12), Migmar Tsering (10), Dan Cahill (17 - FT)
- Steve Bachand started as our Cemetery and Grounds Manager – Congrats Steve! To ready himself for the opportunity Steve took advantage of 33 trainings in the City's online training program!
- Welcome to three new employees to BPRW – Damion Gilbert at Leddy Arena, Mike Ploof at Park Facilities and Ryan Alger (welcome back!) to Central Facilities.
- We said farewell to Bob Lapointe from Leddy Arena who worked for the City for over three decades and over two decades at Leddy! We also said farewell to Diana Wood who was our amazing Marketing Coordinator for seven years



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

- Leddy Beach Bites (last one August 10!)

Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- Summer events at Leddy Arena include the Champlain Valley Open figure skating competition, Hockey Fights MS Vermont Tournament and Laura Stamm Power Skating Camp. Also new at Leddy this summer, we will host Advancement Hockey Advising's three-day NCAA Showcase, which will include skills competitions, games, combine-style testing and seminars. All attendees will receive Elite Hockey Prospects profile verification and have exposure to over 30 college/junior/prep coaches, recruiters and scouts. We are excited to host this great new event and look forward to partnering with them in the future.
- Summer user groups at Leddy included Girls 4 Hockey, CVU Boys Hockey, BAHA, Full Stride, CHS Boys Hockey, Elev802, Game On Boot Hockey, Eat Sleep Hockey and several private adult hockey groups and birthday parties. Private ice rentals increased 50% this year over 2019, a promising sign that the arena continues to rebound from the significant decrease in ice rentals during Covid.
- Welcome Damion Gilbert, our new Arena Maintenance Worker who joined us in July. We also welcomed our new electric Zamboni this summer and said a sad farewell to Bob LaPointe, who retired after 38 years with the City!

Miller Center

- The Miller Center was home to approximately 65 campers each week for 7 weeks of Champ Camp and 40 campers for 2 weeks of PAL Camp – the center was bustling with excitement every day as the two camp groups utilized the gym, community room, art room and kids room!

- Interviews have begun for our Customer Service Associate at the Miller Center, with hopes of filling the position by mid-August. In the meantime, a big thank you to Mellisa Cain, Janira Cartagena-Aponte, Jon Sumner, Kim Kost and Sofia Harrington for ensuring that the building is staffed, safe and fun for all of our visitors!
- The Miller Center will once again serve as rain site for the hugely popular Vermont Senior Games pickleball tournament in August. Though we hope the weather cooperates, we look forward to the return of pickleball this fall!

“Fit Lot Ladies” – a neighborhood group who regularly uses the equipment outside Miller



CORE

- The CORE, Miller Center, Leddy Arena, 645 Pine and Fletcher Free Library all served as cooling sites this summer when temperatures were predicted to hit 90 degrees or higher for two or more days in a row. Thanks to staff from CEDO for helping to develop and implement this program!
- July & August activities at the CORE include 4 sessions each of Wicked Cool and Lego Camps, Chess Wizards Camp and Pony Camp. Private rentals include Crow’s Path weeklong teacher training program, the ONE World Market and THREE weddings!
- Migmar Tsering, our CORE Site Coordinator, will be on leave for the month of August. Thank you to Recreation staff housed at CORE and Miller Custodian, Jon Sumner, for helping to provide coverage during Migmar’s absence.

Park Division Update

Park Administration

- Skate park work is expected to begin in September
- Additional murals were added to A_Dog Skate Park.
- Lighting contractors will be meeting with the Dept. in September for the closeout of the first phase of Frame/Moran.
- Working on filling multiple full-time positions including Project Coordinator, HVAC Specialist, Cemetery Working Foreman, and Cemetery Maintenance Worker.

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 will be installed on a stone near the entrance.
- Shoulder improvements were completed in July along section 0 of the Greenway.
- The Amtrak celebration at 1 Main was supported by the conservation team to help clean up and prepare for the historic event.

Conservation team toured the McNeil plant



- Continued Support and Participation in the Burlington Wildways Coalition. Learn more about [Burlington Wildways here](#).

Central Facilities Program

- Custodial Team has been working double duty to keep City Hall and City Hall Park clean and presentable.
- Planning started for election set up.
- Search is on for new storage space for election equipment.
- Team is working with other City groups to clean encampment areas and keep spaces safe.
- Memorial Auditorium has had additional security put in place.
- Team has acquired hot water pressure washer to help combat graffiti.
- Cooling system in server area professionally cleaned.
- Mini split cooling added to City Water Resources offices.
- Office furniture ordered for Retirement Office.
- Replacement awning ordered for 200 Church Street.
- Final design completed for new HVAC at 200 Church Street.
- Alarm panel troubleshooting and repair at City Hall.
- Assessment of Leddy Arena hot water system completed.
- Completed oil filter changes in FFL cooling tower.
- Additional bike rack installed at 645 Pine Street.
- New conference room signage added to City Hall.
- Interviews completed for new HVAC Technician position.



Trees and Greenways Program

- Ongoing full street pruning throughout the City.
- Responded to resident requests as needed.
- Ongoing maintenance of landscape flower beds and planters in park spaces.
- Assumed responsibility for maintenance of all rain gardens throughout the City in contract agreement with Water Resources Dept.
- Responded to storm damage call on 7/28
- Conducted workshop on tree risk assessment for local tree wardens and municipal employees at Lakeview Cemetery on 7/20
- Ongoing inventory updates in TreeWorks inventory system.
- Continual monitoring and watering of all newly planted trees as needed.
- Ongoing development of tree planting plan for fall of 2022.

Park Facilities Program

- 1983 Historical Pride marker was installed in City Hall Park.
- Dragon Boat Handicap Kayak access was installed at the Coast Guard launch ramp.
- The crew painted Leddy and Calahan concession Gable ends and trim.
- Graffiti is ongoing we seem to be keeping up with it.
- We are working with the Waterfront division to install parking kiosks at Leddy Park.
- Kurt and his crew have been doing a great job on the waterfront with events Including Brew fest and Mad Freedom events.
- Frog and Toad countertops have been updated.
- The new park wayfinding signs are in the powder coating stages and will arrive soon.
- We hired Mike Ploof as our new Park Facilities maintenance worker.

- The Stone Cottage had asbestos removed by a certified contractor as part of the new renovations.

Cemetery Program

- The Cemetery Program will have two positions open, a working foreman and worker position that were vacated this summer.
- Steve Bachand, the new Cemetery and Grounds Manager will be transitioning into his role as well as supporting all aspects of the cemetery operation.
- All three cemeteries were maintained on a one to two-week cycle this summer, great job team!
- A new backhoe was delivered to the cemetery to assist with the preparation of lots at Lakeview.

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:
 - **Bike Path Projects:**
 - Realignment officially re-opened with the return of passenger rail (Amtrak) to Burlington!
 - **Calahan Park Playground:** Site prep has been completed and the new playground's installation will begin mid-August. We are aiming for an 'official' opening later in September!
 - **Champlain Street Park Redesign:** Work has been underway at Champlain, starting with vegetation removals to open the view into the park. Fencing has been ordered and will be installed later this year. Work on procuring playground equipment is next!
 - **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:** Additional site assessment is being undertaken by our planning intern and we will soon be kicking off an ecological assessment with leadership from the conservation team to complete a thorough evaluation of the existing park ecology. This information will help inform the plan.
 - **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:** Bid process wrapped up. Working on getting a contractor under contract to start work imminently. 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

- Work is underway at Leddy Park to have two kiosks installed. New concrete pads will be poured by Park Facilities.
- Parking: BPRW is aligning with DPW for parking services. As the professionals in the field, DPW is equipped for the management of the parking systems. BPRW will assist in the cleanliness and “eyes” on the locations as we move forward in this partnership.
- We have seen an uptick in boat reservations with the Canadian border open this year.
- 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.
- The Marina will host a “poker-run” boat club, with over 25+ speed boats staying at the Boathouse as part of their lake tour.
- Security at night continues to be an issue. Lack of overnight staff (very minimal applications) and usable cameras leaves the Marina vulnerable.



Campground & Beaches

- Campground has been very busy this month! High reservation rate with low availability.
- 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!
- The second week of July brought our first cyanobacteria blooms to the beaches. Staff continues to monitor the beaches very closely during this hot spell of weather, where conditions exist for more blooms to occur.

Events

- This marks our half-way point of Waterfront 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.
- With the loss of the Maritime Festival, BPRW event staff is working with a known local event producer to bring a new event to the Waterfront this year. Details in upcoming updates as plans solidify.

Remaining Events

July 29	Dealer.com Party
Aug 6, 7	Dragonboat Festival

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, leaving large portions of the Ranger position untouched. A conversation needs to occur if we as a community want this to continue, or look to add a third Ranger position to dedicate the time and resources it is currently taking to track and cleanup encampment sites. These sites are often fraught with personal dangers, such as copious amounts of needles, feces and threats to staff. Currently approximately 90% of the lead Ranger position is dedicated to issues of the unhoused.



Ranger reading time is a popular one for the camps!



Recreation Division Update:

Summer is flying by! We're now preparing for the end the of the season with the transition from Champ Camp to Pal Camp after the first week of August. Rec and Nutrition programming will end August 12. To address some of the childcare challenges families have at the end of August, we are offering morning sports camps followed by lunch and afternoon programming, all free of charge, as well as two weeks of outdoor adventure programming. The fall recreation brochure will be distributed shortly and will be the kick off to fall programming.

Miller/CORE Programs

- Champ Camp has been full, with a waitlist, with 60-66 kids in each session. They've been enjoying trips to the beach, 802 reptiles, Shelburne Farms, and on-site activities such as water games.
- Chess Camp with the Chess Wizards has 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 one session of Let Go Your Mind and Lego Camp with 20 kids in each session doing stop motion animation, robotics, etc.
- A session of line dancing has also been taking place.

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 wrap up our summer with two weeks of Rise and Shine/Cool Camp and one week of Kinder Kamp/Hat Trick hockey.



Recreation & Nutrition Program

- Much of our enrichment curriculum this July has been 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 North Western 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!

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 on Thursday June 30 to talk about container gardening.

- Carolina Lukac from the Community Garden Network visited on July 28 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.
- On Thursday July 7- eight participants experienced a morning of fishing at the Winooski River Access in Colchester with the State of Vermont Program-Let's Go Fishing Program. The morning consisted of an informational session followed by fishing the river. One participant caught a 17-inch largemouth bass.

- Our group had several educational programs revolved around birding . Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington was a highlight for the month viewing Bob Spears 900 plus carvings in natural settings.
- On Thursday the 27 the group traveled to Delta Park at the end of the Burlington Bike Path for birding and learning about what a delta is.
- Other fun summer experiences were a trip to North Beach. The group enjoyed the shade and beautiful lake for an afternoon.
- This is the summer of ice cream for the group. We were excited to travel to A& W in Middlebury for root beer floats and hamburger.



Department Events

- **Beach Bites:** Has been very successful! Were able to add more trucks and tents after week one was very lean on trucks with a big crowd. We definitely feel the effects of closed beaches and one week with super high temperatures as well. All in all, so far so good and the neighborhood really comes out in force when the weather cooperates.
- **Halloween:** Turning attention to both the Bike Ride and the Howl, hoping to extend the Howl into 2 days with an adult session of hay rides one evening with possibly music after.

Athletics

- Our summer camps and programs that are wrapping up or took place in July:
 - VT Voltage Half Day Camp & Mini Volts Camp
 - The Edge Tennis Camp @ Leddy Park (2)
 - The Edge Tennis Camp @ Calahan Park
 - Maven Skate Camp (2)
 - CSC Waterfront Adventures Camp (2)
 - Ultimate Camp
 - Soccer Sparks Camp
 - Soccer Sparks Clinics
 - Itty Bitty Tennis
 - Itty Bitty Track & Field
 - Youth Track & Field – 18 athletes competed in the VRPA State Track Meet in St Johnbury on July 23
 - Adult Team Tennis
- Our summer camps and programs that will be taking 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 in the end of August:



- Youth Soccer League
- NFL Flag Football League
- Softball Pitching Clinics

Admin Division Update

- Red Stone Cottage renovation continues to move forward. It is a shared project between Admin and Park Facilities
- Working 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.
- Working with the Attorney's office to understand ordinances related to issuance of no trespass in city parks
- Working systematically through reclassification, retitling and new positions through Board of Finance and City Council
- Meeting with new Park Commissioners
- Seeking additional trainings for staff around preventing needle sticks

Commission notes

- No special Commission notes