

Penny for Park Community Requests – 2020

Summary

Total budgeted: \$40,000

Total approved: \$28,665

Remaining: \$11,335

Recommendation for remaining funds: Hold until all projects below are completed in case they need additional funds. If any funds remain after completion, add the funds to the standard equipment replacement line which supports all parks.

1) Leddy Softball Scoreboard

Application Description:

I have been in touch with Deryk Roach and Jeanne Hulsen, Athletic Director at BHS, about this idea. As a parent of a BHS softball player who learned to play through many years with the Burlington Waves softball program, I was surprised to learn that there is no scoreboard at the Leddy softball field where the BHS team plays. As a parent watching the games, it is frustrating to not be able to keep track of the score, inning, etc. without having to ask the coaches or players for an update. Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront has worked hard to build a strong youth softball program in the city. Now lets support the girls as they get to the high school level by making sure that their playing field has the appropriate equipment.

We are working with Vermont Display to get an estimate for the project and should have that very soon. I will also be approaching Seahorse Pride, the boosters group at BHS, about contributing to the project and I am looking into other possible funding sources such as the Fire Fighters Association. City Councilor Brian Pine and former City Councilor Dave Hartnett have both expressed their support of the project.

Project cost: \$5,365

Donation: \$4,200

Notes

The Booster group successfully raised the majority of money for the project and BPRW covered the shortfall and is providing in-kind support through installation.

Approved: \$1,165

2) Burlington Bike Park Design

Application description:

The Burlington Bike Park Coalition seeks to build and maintain a community bike park in Leddy Park. The Coalition is partnered with, and acting as a branch of Fellowship of the Wheel, a Chittenden County non-profit organization that advocates for, builds, and maintains mountain bike trails.

The proposed location is the 2.75 acre lot between the entrance and exit roads above the Paquette Ice

Arena parking lot. It will be built by a professional design/build firm to ensure maximum quality, minimum negative environmental effects, and sustainability for future generations of riders.

A community bike park is a place where children and adults can safely learn and play on bicycles, away from traffic. It can also be referred to as a “bicycle playground.” It consists of sculpted rolling terrain that is, in some ways, like a skate park, but is primarily made of soil, is quiet, and fits naturally into the surrounding landscape. There are myriad examples of successful projects of this sort all over the country, both in large urban environments and smaller towns. A close example of this type of facility is Maple Street Bike Park in Essex Junction, Vt. This type of project reflects a growing enthusiasm in the country for mountain bike facilities and is supported here in Burlington by a large number of its residents.

Our proposed site does not currently have any existing walking trails and is in an area that is essentially unused. We envision limited tree removal and plan to coordinate with the Burlington Arborist to ensure a forested site with bike features and trails intertwined with the existing landscape.

The Burlington community has shown widespread support for the project via an online survey in-person meetings, and community planning events. We have strived to consistently engage stakeholders, community members, local businesses, and Burlington City Government throughout the initial planning and fundraising process.

This project is designed to serve people of all ages, ethnicities and genders within the community, though young adults and children will benefit most. This will be a contained area, away from traffic and other park users. We see a great opportunity to have city-sponsored programming at the site, as well as volunteer maintenance opportunities for riders to promote a sense of ownership of the site and its benefits. We have connected with various organizations who advocate for underserved portions of our community to ensure an inclusive space. For example, we have a working relationship with Old Spokes Home in an effort to make a connection to underserved youth in the city through their “Everybody Bikes” program.

This project is in line with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and its Strategic Initiatives for Leddy Park, which include making Leddy a focus of recreational activities in the City, formalizing the trail system, and strengthening the connection between the park and the bike path, as the facility will be located adjacent to the Leddy portion of the path.

Our total budget for the project is approximately \$250,000. The design portion of this budget is \$25,000 or 10% of the total cost. To date, our group has raised \$9527. These funds were raised through a combination of individual donations, and fundraising events, including a bike raffle. We are seeking an additional \$12,500 through Penny for Parks to complete the fundraising for the design cost. We plan on raising the balance of the project budget through individual donations and grants.

The design is a vital step in completing the overall project. It will allow us to apply for larger grants, solicit bids for construction, and show the public how the area can be transformed into a world class facility while maintaining the nature and character of the park.

Staff notes:

The project is on our capital list and the most recent public meeting continues to show support for the project.

Approved \$12,500

3) Baird Park Improvements

Application Description:

Baird Park is the closest park to many families in the South End's "Addition" and South Meadows neighborhoods. It is in much need of a facelift to serve children of all ages and abilities.

1. Add additional picnic tables and a grill.
2. Upgrade swing set for different age groups (currently swings only for babies)
3. Renovate and add playground structures for a larger range of age groups and abilities. Current structure is geared at older children and is unsafe for toddlers
4. Upgrade open field space for recreational/sports activities

Staff Notes:

The City was able to add picnic tables and soccer goals to the Park during the season without needing to wait until the fall PFP application review. A Park master plan for Baird is scheduled for FY25 which will guide the equipment choices for the next playground.

4) Schifilliti Park Bleachers

Application description:

Schifilliti Park needs new bleachers for all three fields. The current ones that are there have wooden seats and the wood is rotting away and is very dangerous to the spectators. Looking for two sets of bleachers for each field. (Total of six bleachers)

Approved: \$6,000

5) Bocce Courts Water

Application description:

The bocce club is looking for us to extend a waterline to the east side of the park for their use and for a public drinking fountain.

Staff notes:

Need to research in greater depth the costs of extending the water line

Approved: \$9,000