SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – April 2022

Stories

A Shout Out to Burlington's City Arborists
Cindy Cook • City, Ave, Burlington

Gratitude
A shout out to Derek and Matt, who are amongst those with the Dept of Parks, Rec and Waterfront. They came by yesterday to remove a tree in the median strip on East Ave. I told them that a pair of chickadees is nesting in a cavity in one of the branches. Thanks, guys!

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- April Work Anniversaries – Michael Donachie (1), Jonathan Sumner (7), and Ian Magnus (7)
- Positions offered for Event Planner, Recreation Specialist and Public Buildings Maintenance Specialist
- Interviewing Urban Park Rangers
- Kirsten Santor, Recreation Manager and CAPRA Coordinator starts on April 4 – welcome Kirsten!

COVID-19

- Masks optional in all programs and facilities

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

- CORE Adult Center presentation of “Senior Moments” @ 1:30 pm on April 14
- Teqball Kick-off – May 8 @ City Hall Park – (tentative)
- Kid’s Weekend – May 13-15 https://www.btvkidsday.com/
Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- April highlight activities include USA Hockey Futures Camp April 1-3, Full Stride Women’s Hockey Tournament April 22-23 and the year end Skating Show on Saturday, April 30 at 1pm. In addition to our regular user groups we have also already have eight school and birthday party groups scheduled in April.
- Dustin Dupont, one of our maintenance workers returns to the Parks crew for the summer season at the beginning of April – we wish him a great time working outdoors! Josh Cushing, another one of our maintenance staff welcomed a baby boy with his wife Erin on St Patty’s Day – congratulations Cushings! Stan Bajuk, our third maintenance worker, will attend the New England Ice Surface Manager Association’s spring conference in Rhode Island April 25-27.
- With the winter season winding down, the Arena staff looks forward to a seven-week shutdown in May and June. Staff are already busy booking ice for the 2022-23 season and planning maintenance and repair projects during shutdown. In addition, our Leddy customer service associate will be supporting the Waterfront this season by assuming processing of their revenues from the Clerk/Treasurer’s Office. Some staff will also take some well-earned time off this spring! The rink will reopen for the season on June 20.

Miller Center

- In April the Miller Center will host its first AAU basketball tournament since spring 2019! Other April activities include April vacation camp, Green Mountain Transit’s public meeting, Vermont Early Learning Initiative’s training, in addition to our regular user groups and Wednesday Covid vaccine clinics.
- April staff projects include stripping and waxing floors which have had heavy usage this winter, drafting a new lease for Frog & Toad daycare whose lease expires this June and implementing a new facility rental rate structure and reservation cancellation fee for fy 23.
- Both the Miller Center and CORE welcome back in-person NPA meetings in April. CORE will also resume their monthly community dinners as part of the NPA meetings.

CORE

- The CORE welcomed Congressman Peter Welch to a press conference at the CORE Adult Center on March 28. The Congressman highlighted the passage of the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act and addressed the fact that seniors are disproportionately impacted by fraud, scams and identity theft.
- The first floor event space at the ONE Center, which BPRW manages on behalf of Champlain Housing Trust, is now reopened after a 9 month Covid closure and the response has been phenomenal. After only one and a half weeks of reopening, we have already scheduled three cultural/community celebrations, two weddings, an engagement party, a memorial service and an art show. We hope to continue to provide this wonderful space for a variety of community events. However in order to do so, we need additional staffing! If anyone knows of a responsible adult who might be looking for some extra evening and weekend work, please have them contact Melissa Cate, mcate@burlingtonvt.gov.
- We look forward to welcoming Kirsten Santor, BPRW’s new Recreation Program Manager, who will work out of the CORE beginning in April.
Park Division Update

Park Administration

- VueWorks work orders have been live since February 1. We are awaiting an update that will fix a problem that is occurring with field staff preventing them from completing work orders through the mobile app.
- Interviews were conducted for the Central Facilities Maintenance Specialist.
- Released the Fireworks Display RFP. Bids due in early April.
- Continued safety and diversity trainings as required.
- Ordered skate new park coping and getting prices by contractors to install before July 1.

Conservation Program

- Development and roll out of the 50th anniversary of Community Gardening in Burlington. Will include season long education opportunities, a documentary, and a harvest celebration on September 11. Process being lead by BPRW staff and supported by a committee of gardeners and partners from various agencies.
  - 50 Years Celebration - website history blog by Jim Flint
- Support of the 2nd Annual City Nature Celebration
  - events to be held on April 26, a speaker event at Black Box Theatre, and a Spectacular Nature Day at the Intervale on April 30
- Development of Planting Plans for 2022 Season
- The Conservation Team is supporting the integration of native trees and shrubs into a variety of locations this spring. This work includes the creation of native plant nurseries at Staff Farm Garden and Champlain Elementary School. This work is in partnership with the Grow Wild partnership.
  - Spring planting sites
    - Burlington Greenway
    - Lakeview Cemetery
    - Northbend Orchard
    - Champlain Elementary School
    - McKenzie Park
    - Oakledge Park
- Installation of Trail way finding Signage at Arms Forest
  - Over the past several seasons the Conservation Team has been implementing actions developed in the Arms Forest Scoping Process. This season permanent way finding signage will be installed. Read more about the history of this project here.
- Development and Planning for summer 2022 Bike Path enhancement projects. Over the fall and winter a series of improvement projects for the greenway have been developed in partnership with the Planning Division. This summer we will be focusing on five improvement areas.
  - Connector Trail Erosion at the Killarney Dr. bath access.
  - Shoulder erosion at the Blodgett Beach area.
  - Shoulder erosion at section 0 near Home Ave
  - Knotweed Mitigation near Harrison Ave
  - Stormwater pooling at Starr Farm intersection
- Community Garden Registration and Garden Start Up
  - This season marks the fastest that gardens have filled up. We are at an all time high in demand for community garden space.
- Continued Support and Participation in the Burlington Wildways Coalition. Learn more about Burlington Wildways here.
• Planning and preparing for trail construction at Kieslich Park, scheduled for summer/fall 2022. This planning work is focused on the revegetation plan for the Park after construction has been completed.

Central Facilities Program

• Air purifier filters ordered for City Buildings and HVAC technician is working to get them all changed out to help keep our indoor air safe and clean.
• HVAC technician is gathering bids to have rusted stacks replace in alley between City Hall and BCA.
• Worked with outside vendor to have filter compartments adjusted for more efficient filter changing in City Hall.
• Held interviews for new Central Facilities Specialist position.
• Drawings completed for 200 Church Street. These will allow us to move forward with new HVAC system design.
• Repair and troubleshooting of front City Hall fountain starting next week.
• RFP to repair roof and ceiling at BCA awarded.
• RFP in process for Lakeview Cemetery and Howard Chapel exterior renovation and repair work.
• RFP posted for slate roof and ceiling repair at the BCA.
• Testing for additional signage at 645 Pine for Parking Services division.
• Troubleshooting completed for exterior water leak at Library.
• Planned and ordered ergonomic office desk for new CIO.
• Planning with outside contractor for additional card reader at Library. Also trouble shooting with same contractor for installation of more rugged readers in specialized locations at 645 Pine.
• Collaborating with DPW for troubleshooting and repair work to be completed on Pine Street fuel depot.
• Monthly meeting with steering committee for Burlington 2030 District.

Trees and Greenways Program

• Completed work on BED line clearing contract, $124,500!
• Marked all sites for Dig Safe for spring street tree planting and finalized tree placement plan.
• Responded to resident service requests as needed.
• Presented educational talk to public on proper tree planting and tree care in partnership with Branch out Burlington at 645 Pine St.
• Assisted BED on emergency call due to vehicle collision with utility pole and tree on North Ave.
• Completed cleanup of park landscape shrub and perennial beds in preparation for spring mulching.
• Received designation from National Arbor Day Foundation of Tree City USA designation for 28th year
• Conducted regular tailgate safety meetings to ensure safe work environment.

Park Facilities Program

• Continued implementation of VueWorks Asset Management
• Installed electrical/data outlets on the floor in FFL children’s section
• Inspecting/repairing mooring and dock hardware, ordering replacement parts
• Working to get pricing on security gates at dock sections A/C and D.
• REIB training / Vueworks training
• Snow and Ice removal as required.
• Assisted with posting RFP for Red Stone Cottage restoration

Cemetery Program

• Providing burial service Monday – Friday
• Maintaining summer mowing equipment
• Several wedding rentals of the chapel

Grounds Maintenance Program

• Dedicating 197 work hours to staying ahead of snow removal in parks across the city.
• Renewing MOU's with Little Leagues for 2022.
• Testing out Vueworks and troubleshooting work orders for grounds staff
• Repairing and maintaining small equipment for the mowing crew.
• Building new picnic tables to be sent out to parks in Spring.
• Taking inventory of landscape materials needed for Athletic fields. Creating special orders for field products.
• Maintaining outdoor Ice rinks as weather cooperates

Planning Division Update

  o Projects Progressing:
    • Bike Path Projects:
      o Realignment projects kicking back up in April-
        Upcoming Greenway Closures:
        Maple to King will be closed until mid-May; detour to be reinstalled along Battery Street
        College to King will be closed mid-April until June; detour to be reinstalled along Battery
        Street in this section also.
      o Rework of brick pavers at Oakledge started last week in March; should be minimal
        interruptions to the Greenway in this section until project completion.
    • Calahan Park Master Plan: Final Report Completed.
      o New Playground: Working with vendor on final layout and selection of new structures.
    • Champlain Street Park Redesign: Ongoing design work with internal City team on the redesign.
    • Kieslich Park: Working with consultant team at Cambrian rise on finalizing
      documentation needed to bid out the construction of the connection to the Greenway in 2022.
    • Leddy Park Comprehensive Plan: Project was kicked off internally in
      March, aiming for stakeholder outreach in late April and public outreach in
      May. We could use help getting the word out and potentially tabling at
      Leddy this spring/summer!
    • 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 wit the state.
    • Oakledge for All Universal Access: Anticipating grant agreement in-hand soon for spring bidding.
      Bid documents for the playground wrapping up. Contract awarded for restroom renovations.
Fitness equipment request bid out; selecting preferred vendor. Resident Engineer services for the playground construction have been retained.

- **Perkins Pier Siting Study**: Final report completed.
- **Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan**: Working on determining next steps for this project based on existing lot coverage; collaborating with DPW.
- **Schifilliti Path**: Project kicked off in early March; expecting drone survey to be undertaken soon.
- **Wayfinding**: Priority locations have been identified and vendor selected. New signs coming soon to six parks!

- Projects supporting other divisions/ departments: (abbreviated)
  - Playground Equipment and Compliance
  - Survivors of St. Joseph Orphanage Project

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**Waterfront Division Update**

- We received notice that we were not successful in our ARPA grant application. We will take all the accumulated information that was gathered for the grant and seek other opportunities.

**Marinas, Harbor & Parking**

- Plans are underway to have a parking kiosk installed at Perkins Pier by May 15th.
- DPW has identified 2 parking kiosks that are in current use but scheduled for removal in the next few months to be relocated to Leddy Park for the rollout of parking fees at Leddy Park. They will both be located in the large surface lot by the Arena. The current plan is to have them installed by July 1, 2022.
- The marina completed their installation of the new operating software, Dockwa. Billing is currently underway for seasonal boaters.
- The marina is exploring adding gates to dock entrances. Vandalism and break-ins have been occurring more frequently, and we need to address the safety of our boaters. Estimates have been received and Facility Maintenance is working with the Marina Manager for the best product.
The Marina Manager, Brendan Kaplan, started a marina certification program the end of February in FL.

**Campground & Beaches**

- Campground reservations opened April 1st. We are looking forward to welcoming our neighbors to the north after two years of the border closed.
- North Beach will have the same food concessionaire as previous seasons. Discussions are underway for site improvements for the 2022 season.
- Seasonal hiring has started for campground and beach positions.

**Events**

- With approved applications for 2022 complete, our Events Manager has now moved forward to working with the specific events to finalize their contracts, in time order.
- We are seeing many events return to Waterfront Park and look forward to welcoming them back.

**Urban Park Rangers**

- Both the Lead Urban Ranger position and the Urban Ranger position have closed to applicants and interviews are scheduled in April for both positions.
- We have purchased e-bikes for the Urban Rangers program. They will be housed in a new shed at their main headquarters at Leddy Arena.

**Recreation Division Update:**

*The Recreation Division is happy to welcome our newest team member, Kirsten Santor. Kirsten comes to us after working for several years at Essex Junction Recreation & Parks. She is our new Recreation Program Manager and her first day was April 4th.*

The Recreation Division will be offering two separate day-long Spring Vacation Week Camps from February 21-25; a State Licensed Child Care Vacation Camp at the Miller Center, and Spring Break Cool Camp at Leddy Ice Arena. Online registration for all of our youth summer camps went LIVE on February 1st and generated over $100,000 in
registration in the first week. Our full day, VT State Licensed Champ Camps are full for all seven weeks of the summer. Many other camps are also filling fast, so staff will be looking at providing additional offerings.

The Recreation Division has finalized an agreement with the Burlington School District to access Federal Covid-19 relief funds specifically intended for free summer programs. BSD will be providing a $115,000 grant for Summer 2022. These funds are crucial for providing transportation for all summer programs (including BSD Summer School SOAR Program) as well as supporting our five Recreation & Nutrition sites (FREE Program) throughout the City. Additionally, VT After School Summer Matters Grants are being made available again for Summer 2022. We received $35,000 in assistance from this funding source last summer and applied for $40,000 for Summer 2022. We should hear about potential funding from this grant by late April.

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
  - Itty Bitty Lessons, Level 1-6, Super Sk8 and Adult
- Still space in our April Break youth skating camps at Leddy
- Completed successful Winter Vacation Cool Camps February 21-25

Miller/CORE Programs
- Spring Programs taking place at the Miller Community & Recreation Center or the ONE Community Center include:
  - American Sign Language
  - Ethiopian Cooking with Mulu Tewelde
  - Senior Adult Tax Assistance
  - North End Yoga
  - Yoga for Adults
  - Very Merry Theatre for Adults
  - Fit Lot Exercise classes
  - Women’s Self Defense
  - Out & About Trips

CORE Adult Center
- CORE Adult Center participants attended nine trips in March to destinations throughout Vermont
• CORE Adult Center staff continue to offer a daily lunch program for Burlington seniors. Transportation to our Congregate Meal site is provided by SSTA through a statewide grant administered by Green Mountain Transit and United Way of Northwestern VT. Additionally, staff are working with Age Well VT and Champlain Housing Trust to restart our weekly Bhutanese Community Meal at the CORE Adult Center. We anticipate 20 to 30 Bhutanese Senior Adults to begin attending this weekly event later this month.

• Offerings at the CORE Adult Center:
  o Chair Yoga, Bone Builders, International Cooking and Cooking with Mulu, Acrylics, Reminiscing, Book Club, Bingo, Theatre Class, Nature Crafts, Seed Saving, and a daily social hour

• Congressman Peter Welch visited the CORE Adult Center on March 28th for a press conference and Q&A with our senior adults. He announced new national bi-partisan legislation for tougher laws and stricter regulations to combat scammers that target older adults. Tens of millions of dollars are stolen each from older Vermonters.

Department Events
• Staff are planning for Kids Day, Leddy Beach Bites and July 3rd Fireworks. We are very much looking forward to being able to bring people together for our City-sponsored events.

Kids Weekend Events are set for Mid-May
  • Friday, May 13 4:00-7:00PM
    Roosevelt Park Pizza Party and Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream Social (Sports, Games, Mountain Bike Park, DJ)

  • Saturday, May 14 11:00AM-2:00PM
    City Hall Park Celebration and Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream Social (Live Entertainment, Splash Pad Opening, Games and Crafts)

  • Sunday, May 15 11:00AM-2:00PM
    Schmanska Park Celebration & Palmers Maple Creamies (Live Entertainment, Story Walk, Games, Outdoor Fun)

Athletics
• Our Melanie Davidian Women’s Basketball League completed another successful season in late March.

• We are offering several athletic clinics and programs this spring:
  o Registration for Youth Lacrosse begins April 4th
  o Itty Bitty Soccer in April and May
  o Maven After School Skate Camps in May
  o Soccer Spark Clinics in April & May
Disc Golf and NFL Flag Football Clinics in April

Admin Division Update

- Two submissions for the Red Stone Cottage – both are significantly over the estimate. We will determine final contractor and then work with them on phasing.
- Received $300,000 VOREC grant. Supports Community Sailing Center, Winooski Valley Park District, Burlington Bike Park and BPRW equipment lending program
- Received $68,000 grant from VHCB for Red Stone Cottage construction and funding towards a federal Historic Registration application
- Working on an ordinance and off-leash area subcommittee as part of PACC Dog Task Force
- Draft FY23 budget submitted with $209,000 in cuts and an additional $209,000 in cuts if needed
- BOF/CC approved parking fees for the 2022 season

Commission notes

- No additional notes this month