SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – June, 2021

What are the top issues on your mind?

- FY22 Budget
- Federal and State grant fund opportunities

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- Emma Allen, Event Coordinator graduated with a MBA from Champlain College – Congrats Emma!
- Ryan Alger, hired as new Central Facilities Maintenance Specialist, moving from Parks Facilities to Central Facilities!
- Congratulations to our grounds program for coordinating a successful Green Up Day!
- The Waterfront Division hosted a pop-up vaccine clinic for two days at North Beach, in coordination with the State, UVM Medical Center and Walgreens pharmacy, to encourage Burlingtonians to get vaccinated.

COVID-19

Vermont Forward – The State is now on the Vermont Forward Plan with some of our areas still having individualized guidance outside of the Vermont Forward plan. They include:

- Sports/Organized sports
- Childcare
- Event venues

Vermont Forward Plan:  https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/vermont-forward/business-operations

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

- Leddy Beach Bites – Starts July 7th and runs for 6 weeks on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- *Jazz Festival – June 4 – 13  https://www.flynnvt.org/Community/Burlington-Discover-Jazz-Festival
- City-wide events - https://loveburlington.org/events
*While these are not BPRW events we want to highlight them this month.

**Recreation Division Update**

- Recreation Division staff have been busy applying for and receiving Covid-19 Assistance Grants to support our summer programming. Our department will be receiving a combined **$165,000** from State of VT “Summer Matters” and CCRS grants and the Burlington School District Federal Covid-19 School Assistance Grant. This funding will support summer transportation, an expansion of the Summer Recreation & Nutrition Program (sites at City Hall Park and CP Smith Elementary School) and supporting staffing and enrichment programs for PAL Camps. In addition, Recreation staff are working with BSD to provide FREE STEM and Athletics Camps in July and August.

- Champlain Senior Center is now the **CORE Adult Center** will be moving from the Event Space at ONECC upstairs to the Senior Center space in CORE in July. Core Adult Center staff have reported several new community members participating in onsite programming and attribute this to our CORE Adult Center Programs will being included in our Civic Rec online offerings!

- 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.

- Events Planner, Emma Allen, delivered four fantastic **Kids Week** events over a 10-day period in May. Neighborhood events took place in Roosevelt Park, City Hall Park & Schmanska Park and at the Fletcher free Library.

- Our July 3rd Fireworks event is going to happen this summer. Staff are meeting regularly with other City Departments and all of our community partners to strategize ways to make this event welcoming and safe for Burlington residents.

- The Pomerleau Family has committed to increasing their July 3rd Fireworks sponsorship for this year from $15,000 to $25,000. Additionally, the Pomerleau Family will be providing financial assistance to provide a leased 12 passenger van for the summer to augment our transportation plan and get more Burlington youth to programming throughout Burlington and beyond.

“Tree cookies” art project at Schmanska
https://www.instagram.com/hollyhickmansf/

Palmer’s creemee were a big hit!
https://www.instagram.com/hollyhickmansf/
Recreation Facilities Division Update

- Leddy Park welcomed Out Front Foods food truck who will be providing concession service to park, rink and greenway users this summer.
- Spring projects at Leddy and Miller include replacement of the a/v system at Miller, replacement of the grease trap at the Leddy snack bar, and potentially new lighting and electrical service on the rear (west) side of Leddy. This lighting and electrical service will greatly improve amenities for our Wednesday night Beach Bites series.
- During the spring shutdown, Devin Jones, Leddy Arena Facilities Representative, has stepped in to cover the Miller Center during Darlene Loyer’s leave of absence.
- In person meetings and activities have returned to Miller in limited capacity, we expect this demand to continue this summer.
- Miller gym is scheduled every day all summer – weekdays for Champ Camp and weeknights and weekends for basketball. Demand for gym time continues to outpace supply.
- The outdoor free adult fitness programming at the Miller FitLot began May 10, with 16 participants.
- Renewal sub-leases for Very Merry Theatre and the Janet Munt Family Room are being drafted, with the expectation of submission to Board of Finance and City Council in June. Staff is drafting an RFP for sublease of the space that was previously occupied by the Vermont Hindu Temple. We expect quite a bit of interest in this space and will develop a scoring criteria which recognizes organizations based in, or serving the Old North End community.
- In anticipation of the CORE Adult Center moving back upstairs, staff is improving storage in the Adult Center spaces, painting the CORE hallways in BPRW colors, hanging artwork in the Adult Center and cleaning and preparing the Community Room, Art Room and Quiet Room for the return of our seniors on July 6.
- BPRW and Champlain Housing Trust have finalized an agreement for the Rec Facilities staff to manage the event space on the first floor of the ONE Center. Staff is collaborating with BCA and the City of Winooski to provide space for displaced renters of North End Studios spaces.

Park Division Update

Park Administration

- Coordinated with team successful start to youth athletics and school sports
- Completed 2 bench plaque donations at Oakledge, 2 at Roundhouse Park
- Preparing park information for asset management integration including defining work activities, checklist and form development, and GIS updates

Conservation Program

- 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.
- The Grow Wild initiative includes the beginnings of a partnership with Champlain Elementary School. Earlier in May, all children at the school participated in the planting of over 100 different tree and shrub species to create wildlife corridor and habitat on their campus.
- 1000 native trees and shrubs being planted this spring across 9 sites https://enjoyburlington.com/manhattan-drive-project/
Ongoing support of the Nature Based Solutions to Climate Change Planning Process. 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.
- Finalizing Crack Sealing work on 127 bike path, work to be completed in June.
- **Supported the City Nature Celebration Planning and Implementation.**

### Central Facilities Program

- Troubleshooting and successful startup of City Hall Park fountain collaboration
- Startup of cooling systems at City Hall and Fletcher Free Library
- Continual preventative maintenance contract work
- Graffiti removal and painting at Memorial Auditorium and 200 Church
- Extra attention and cleaning work at 200 Church focusing on HR Department
- Schmanska Park Barn detail cleaning
- Troubleshooting and repair of City card readers
- Re-lamp City Hall vault room lights to accommodate LED
- Specialist completed OSHA 10 class and electrical three year class
- Replacement window project at 200 Church Street awarded

### Park Facilities Program

- City Hall fountain and Battery Park fountain is up and running.
- All community garden water is on.
- Irrigation systems are on; multiple breaks have been repaired.
- Dock systems opened successfully May 15 for the season, lake is low!
- All park drinking fountains are on.

### Trees and Greenways Program

- Completed spring cleanup of all managed park spaces throughout the city.
- Transitioned back into tree work focusing on removing large dead wood and hazard trees as well as attending to resident requests.
- Completed planting of all raised planters in park spaces with annuals.
- Completed landscape planting along bike path at south end of Proctor Place as part of bike path upgrades.
- Started regular maintenance rounds of park landscapes and regular watering of newly planted trees.

### Grounds Maintenance Program *(Paul Morris, Grounds Manager, was away for approved time off and was not able to update the table that you are used to seeing. It’ll be back next month!)*

- Seed and Spring fertilizer agronomic planner started in April and continued through May
- We have begun being supporting an influx of 34 reservations for fields and courts per week for the last 6 weeks
- All fields have been opened for youth athletics
- Currently 2 park seasonal workers hired, 4 openings
- Mow crew, under leadership by Al Letzelter is up and going – grass is growing and they are in full operation despite lack of seasonal support
- 2 MOU’s signed with 2 more in negotiations
Coordinated very successful Green Up Day
Completed quotes for various electrical equipment, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc.
Completed 24 high frequency playground inspections
Completed 11 low frequency playground inspections

Planning Division Update

- Projects Completed
  - North Beach Pump Out and Turnaround: construction completed
  - Starr Farm: concrete pads at the dog park and the concrete pad for the future site of the exercise equipment completed

- Projects Progressing
  - Arms Forest Trail Improvements: construction anticipated to begin in June
  - Bike Path Realignment:
    - King to Maple contracting underway;
    - King to College construction anticipated to begin after Memorial Day;
    - Improved Greenway Detour on Battery Street to be implemented ASAP
    - Lavalley Lane shift coordination continuing with VTrans
  - Bike Path @Oakledge: Bids were received and contracting will be underway soon pending permit approvals
  - Calahan Park Master Plan: first virtual public meeting held with a good turnout and great feedback
  - Leddy Park Stair Replacement: should be wrapped up before or just after Memorial Day Weekend
  - North Beach Pull-Through Design: design development in progress
  - Oakledge for all: permitting and coordinating construction documentation with bike path project, still waiting on a grant agreement
  - Perkins Pier Siting Study: successful second virtual public meeting held with over 45 attendees and good feedback on the two options presented
  - Schmanska Walkways: request for bids to be posted soon

- Projects starting soon
  - Leddy Park Pause Place
  - Schifilliti Park Softball conversion

- 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 in full summer mode:
  - After being closed for a year to host a low-barrier shelter, North Beach is back open as a campground for the 2021 season. Reservations can be made online, and we already have some of our busiest weekends almost sold out.
  - The marinas at Perkins Pier and the Boathouse are open! All sites opened at their regular date this year (May 15) and reservations are rolling in. Splash, the restaurant located at the Boathouse, is open daily on our docks.
o Regular operations of public waterfront restrooms, parking and other public amenities are fully open with our regular summer schedule, of 9am – 8pm.

o 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 dump station is complete; open and operational to RV’s along the exit road of the campground.

o The North Beach boardwalk improvement work by Youth Build has been completed. This rebuilt the core boardwalk area around the beach building that had fallen in disrepair.

o The Waterfront is still hiring some seasonal positions. They are listed on our HR website and we are still accepting applications for overnight security, park attendants and campground staff.

o Water testing for e. coli will start for the 2021 season after Memorial Day weekend. Tests are conducted twice a week at Leddy Beach, North Beach, Blanchard Beach and Oakledge Cove. Daily monitoring for cyanobacteria has started and will continue throughout the season. Our beach sites are also official monitoring areas, in partnership with the Lake Champlain Committee (LCC), which adds our results to a statewide map here. We post our own e.coli results here.

**Admin Division Update**

- **Budgets**
  - We presented our FY22 budgets to the Board of Finance. Due to electrical increase and livable wage increases we need to continue to add to our expense lines for FY22. Estimated $1.2 million more revenue than FY21 but still approximately $800,000 short than FY19.
  - Urban Park Ranger program is in the FY22 budget.

- **Stone Cottage** – The full cost to renovate the building is approximately 2x the available funds. We are looking at fundraising options and phasing.

- **Work Anniversaries** - Dan Cahill – 20 years (starting as a summer Americorps)

- **Service Sustainability Strategy**
  - We had our final meeting including with three other communities to wrap up our Cost Recovery work. I’ll present the work and discuss next steps at the June Commission meeting.

Photos from Kid’s Week @ Schmanska Park provided by [https://www.instagram.com/hollyhickmansf/](https://www.instagram.com/hollyhickmansf/) [https://oldeastendbvt.com/](https://oldeastendbvt.com/)