SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – May 2022

Stories

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- May Work Anniversaries – Bruce Campbell (5), Diana Wood (7) Deryk Roach (11), Chris Beaudry (34), and Ritchie Snow (37) – Over 90 years of experience in that month!
- Paul Morris rejoins BPRW as a Facility Maintenance Specialist – great to have you back, Paul!
- KJ Doyle joins our team as our Event Planner – welcome KJ!
- Dan Cahill received this year’s Roots of Prevention Youth and Family Award, and is recognized on May 4, 2022, for “change-making community members!” Thank you and congratulations to Dan!

COVID-19

- Masks optional in all programs and facilities

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

- Kid’s Weekend – May 13-15 https://www.btvkidsday.com/

Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- May 2 begins our annual shutdown at Leddy Arena where we reopen for the season on June 20. Shutdown projects include painting all of the public rink areas, cleaning and repairing dasherboards, power scrubbing locker rooms, bleachers and other public spaces, completing preventative maintenance on the refrigeration system and Zamboni and hopefully giving our maintenance staff some well-deserved time off!
- During shutdown Scott Hannigan, our Leddy Customer Service Associate, will provide support two days a week on site at North Beach Campground. Due to hiring challenges this spring, the Campground is shorthanded until high school and college students finish their spring semester. We are pleased to be able to provide this assistance during a period where Scott can complete his Arena work remotely.
- Current projects at Leddy include repairs to programmable doors, improving Wi-Fi signal for programmable lights, installing charging station for new electric Zamboni, which we anticipate to take
delivery of in June, replacing tables and chairs in the lounge and reviewing maintenance specialist job description.

**Miller Center**

- May will see the end of our Covid vaccine clinics at the Miller Center, as well as many of the winter/spring indoor sports activities which will transition outside as the weather improves. This will give staff some time to work on projects including cleaning out and organizing the electrical and art room closets, painting community room and other public spaces, updating the Frog & Toad lease and reviewing the Customer Service Associate job description.
- With the addition of a new disc golf course in adjacent Schifilliti Park, the Miller Center will start to loan out discs for visiting players. Staff are working on a system for lending and tracking discs as the use of the course continue to grow.
- May programs at Miller include Line Dancing, American Sign Language, Yoga, a new Groove class, and our pickleball, walking and table tennis drop in programs. Other facility users this month include Run Vermont, Blueprint Basketball, the North Avenue Co-op’s annual meeting, dodgeball, weekly church services and bible study with Champlain Valley Baptist Church and VT Recreation & Park Association’s annual meeting.

**CORE**

- CORE and CHT staff continue to work to outfit the ONE Event Hall which BPRW now manages on behalf of CHT. Work includes installation of a new audio-visual system as well as necessary amenities for events such as garbage receptacles, sound deadening baffle covers, coat racks, and furnishings. CORE staff Migmar Tsering and Mulu Tewelde also worked to develop a much-needed punch list for event space visitors.
- Throughout the school year BPRW partners with AALV to provide gym space for their evening teen program three nights a week. This free program which offers basketball, soccer and volleyball serves approximately 30-40 teens each night, most of whom are members of the New American community.
- Melissa Cate is serving on the NRPA Awards/Fellowships/Scholarships Committee and will wrap up reviewing and scoring 84 applications in six different categories in early May, with final selections later in the month and an awards ceremony at the NRPA Conference in September.

**Park Division Update**

**Park Administration**

- The VUEWorks Mobile App is working for 95% of staff – work orders and requests are in high gear.
- A Central Facilities Maintenance Specialist was hired, Paul Morris, welcome to Paul!
- Continued safety and diversity training as required.
- Skatepark work expected to begin May/June.
- Skatepark mural touch-up and expansion start in early May.
- Seasonal hiring is ramping up, Cemetery and Grounds Manager position was posted.

**Conservation Program**

Check out what the Conservation Program is doing by clicking on this link: https://conta.cc/3jSshb7

**Central Facilities Program**

- As soon as the warm weather started, our team began assisting with in-depth parking lot clean-up and graffiti removal.
- Custodial team was extra flexible and pitched in to help out while short-staffed in several areas.
- Boilers at Memorial Auditorium have been shut down for the warm months ahead.
- Cooling tower at Fletcher Free Library has been serviced and started up.
- Cooling tower and chiller have been serviced and started up in City Hall and the BCA.
- Scope of Work written and bids received for heat pump system in Water Resource area of 645 Pine.
- Filters in HVAC systems have been replaced City wide.
- Exterior HVAC covers fabricated and installed in City Hall alley.
- Exterior windows installed at 200 Church Street.
- Planning for future EV chargers at BPD.
- Initial testing and scoping completed in City Hall Fountain.
- Exterior plumbing repaired at 645 Pine Streets bay.
- Working with CT team to plan for additional election storage.
- Held poll to name new employee meeting room in City Hall, created during recent renovation. Winning name was the Green Mountain Meeting Room.
- Started several team members on City Kronos time card system.
- Hired new Central Facilities Specialist, Paul Morris, starting May 2nd.

**Trees and Greenways Program**

- Completed spring planting of 211 trees throughout the City with a focus on Wards 5 and 6.
- Responded to more than 75 calls for tree damage throughout the City resulting from the heavy wet storm of April 19th.
- Began spring cleanup and mulching of park spaces completing City Hall Park, Waterfront Park, Dewey Park, Roosevelt Park, Water Works Park, and Lakeview Cemetery
- Assisted in the delivery of compost to all Community Garden Sites.
- Assisted Branch out Burlington with the unloading and processing of trees delivered for their annual tree sale and for planting in the City tree nursery.

**Park Facilities Program**

- B, C, and D Dock systems have been installed they all still need finishing touches before opening, the picture shows us installing the D dock ramp after the snowstorm and one of the nice days to work on the water.
- Water system activations include buildings on all field sites, North Beach Campground, and Battery Bandshell for the May 1st opening.
- Irrigation systems at City Hall Park, Roosevelt, Leddy Park, and Calahan Park are on.
- Starr Farm dog park water spigot is on.
• 1 week of solid graffiti remediation has been scheduled in various parks from pressure washing to repainting.
• City Hall Fountain all heads have been put together reservoir is filled next week we will do some test runs.
• We helped Zach from City Arts remove their sculptures from City Hall park as they get ready for the summer season.
• We are still helping Central Facilities with day-to-day work orders.

Cemetery Program

• Providing burial service Monday – Friday. In the month of April, we performed 7 burials (4 cremations, 3 fulls).
• 4 additional caskets were added to our vault storage for the winter, bringing the total number of caskets in the vault to 19. 2 caskets were removed for burial at Lakeview and Holy Family Cemetery in Essex in the month of April as well.
• Lakeview will be reopening for Saturday burials on 5/7/2022. We have been closed to Saturday burials since 12/1/2021.
• 1,500 American flags have been ordered and picked up for the veteran grave flagging project, and volunteers have been contacted. Flagging will begin in May.
• There were 9 lot sales for lots of various sizes over the course of the last month, resulting in over $18,000 in sales.
• Maintenance staff has been servicing machinery to prep for the busy upcoming summer season
• Winter clean-up is underway in all three cemeteries, and brush removal has also begun. We have hired one seasonal employee and are looking to hire 2 additional seasonal workers to assist with day-to-day maintenance.
• The interment of the remains of approximately 30 War of 1812 soldiers will take place at the main entrance to Lakeview Cemetery on 6/4/2022. Military honors will take place and members of City and State governments will be present for the ceremony.

Grounds Maintenance Program

• Only 400 work hours in April due to work-related injury and sick time.
• MOUs completed with Little Leagues for 2022. Plugging away at punch lists for Little Leagues.
• Focus has been on trash removal, and field preparation for spring sports programs.
• Repairing and maintaining small equipment for the mowing crew.
• Cleaned up and put into storage all outdoor rinks.
• Taking inventory of landscape materials needed for Athletic fields. Creating special orders for field products.
• Placed seasonal trash receptacles

Planning Division Update

o Projects Progressing:
  • Bike Path Projects:
    o Realignment projects wrapping up in May
  Upcoming Greenway Closures:
    Maple to King will be closed until mid-May; detour to be removed along Battery Street once work is completed
College to King will be closed mid-April until June; detour along Battery Street until the work is completed.

- Final punchlist being completed at Oakledge as part of the Greenway’s revitalization through the park.

- **Calahan Park Playground**: Working with vendor on final layout.
- **Champlain Street Park Redesign**: Virtual public meeting evening of May 2nd, NPA tour planned shortly after to provide updates and vet final design concepts.
- **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**: Stakeholder Summit held in late April and public outreach scheduled for June 2nd. All are invited! 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 with the state.
- **Oakledge for All Universal Access**: Anticipating grant agreement in-hand soon for spring bidding. Bid documents for the playground wrapped up. Contract awarded for restroom renovations. Fitness equipment vendor selected. Resident Engineer services for the playground construction have been retained and contracted.
- **Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan**: Will be requesting proposals soon for a comprehensive planning process for Roosevelt Park.
- **Schifilliti Path**: Drone survey of the project area completed. Base plans generated and design work starting soon.
- **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

- Plans are underway to have a parking kiosk installed at Perkins Pier in May.
- DPW has 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.
- Seasonal billing is currently underway for seasonal boaters. Transient reservations open on May 15th, and we look forward to welcoming back our Canadian boaters. This will be the first year we can do online reservations with the new software.
- The marina expects to install dock gate entrances to all our marina docks, in an effort to prevent break-ins and vandalism that has been occurring at higher rates.
The Marina is adding enhanced WiFi at the Boathouse, both for seasonal boaters to use, and as a paid service for transient boaters.

The Marina opens on May 15th, along with Perkins Pier and Waterfront Park public restrooms.

**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.
  - Hiring has been hard this year. We have very few staff for the month of May. It seems the June 1st housing turnover date is holding back most College applicants.
- The new Software Astra is up and running.
- Campground is ready to open May 1.
- We have a Department-wide beach cleanup on May 3 – the lake level is high this year, resulting in more driftwood than previous years. All of our beaches are currently inundated with driftwood.

**Events**

- Below is a draft schedule of Waterfront Park Events. There are many returning events, as well as some new events for 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date 2022</th>
<th>Waterfront Park Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>Highlight New Year’s Eve</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Special Olympics VT Penguin Plunge</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Half Unplugged Marathon</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>VIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Kids Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28,29</td>
<td>Vermont City Marathon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10, 11</td>
<td>Discover Jazz</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18, 19</td>
<td>Juneteenth</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Burlington Independence Day Celeb</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22,23</td>
<td>Vermont’s Brewer’s Fest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29-30</td>
<td>Dealer.com Party. 2nd day TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6,7</td>
<td>Dragonboat Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9-10</td>
<td>National Antique Boat Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Pride Fest</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24,25</td>
<td>Grace Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22 or 10/29</td>
<td>Run VT Event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Urban Park Rangers

- Both the Lead Urban Ranger position and the Urban Ranger position have closed to applicants and interviews have been completed. We had fantastic candidates and we look forward to announcing the new hires soon.
- There is a new shed at Leddy housing our new e-bikes for the Park Ranger program.

Recreation Division Update:

The Recreation Division is happy to welcome KJ Doyle as our new Events Planner. KJ previously worked for the Alzheimer’s Association, where she headed up fundraising and events. KJ has also created and ran a local non-profit, Rock for a Remedy, that promotes local musicians. We are glad to have her on our team.

The Recreation Division in partnership with Fletcher Free Library was recently awarded the Summer Expanding Access grant from Vermont Afterschool for $91,000. This was a highly competitive process with 144 proposals and 39 recipients chosen. Funding will be used to support the Recreation and Nutrition program in expanding programming and access.

Leddy Park Arena held their annual Spring Skating Show this year titled "Spring into Motion" on Saturday, April 30th at 1:00pm. Skaters from across Vermont and local rinks/clubs in the area chose a song that fit the theme and performed their routine on ice. The show comprises solo routines, duets and group numbers. This year, we were able to have an exhibition routine done by Ting Cui, an accomplished junior skater at Middlebury College. The event was a perfect way to end the season and the skater/parents really enjoyed themselves. The Spring Show would not be able to happen without the help of volunteers, parents and additional BPRW staff members.

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 Youth & Adults
- Fit Lot Exercise classes
- Women's Self Defense
- Out & About Trips

**CORE Adult Center**

- A mini grant from Age Well for $2000 was awarded to support an Outdoor Raised Gardens project for older adults. This was a competitive process, and will provide an opportunity to focus on health/wellness and fun, while allowing many older adults the chance to engage and interact.

- The CORE Adult Centers Senior Moments performance was a huge success on Thursday, April 14th. The group performed 4 short skits which also included staff members - Susan Carter/Sarah Carter/Migmar Tsering and Intern Rebecca Perotsky. The Senior Moments group will meet again in the fall of 2022 for a December performance. The Senior Moments Group is a collaboration with the Very Merry Theatre Performing Company. Many thanks to Don Wright who is the CEO of Very Merry Theatre

- 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.**

- Trips to the Robert Frost Trail and Vermont Institute of Natural Science are planned for May, along with programming in 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.

**Department 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)

  - **July 3rd Fireworks** planning has begun and we expect a very large turnout for Burlington’s biggest event. We are happy to announce that our slew of City Departments will once again be supported by UVM Police, UVM Parking Services, Green Mt Transit & Green Mt Concert Services
Athletics

- We are offering several athletic clinics and programs this spring:
  - Burlington Youth Lacrosse season is underway and hosted their first games the weekend of April 30-May 1 at Leddy Park
  - Itty Bitty Soccer starts on May 3 at Calahan Park
  - Maven After School Skate Clinic starts on May 9 at the Andy A_Dog Williams Skatepark
  - NFL Flag Football Clinic started on April 30 at CP Smith Fields
  - Our first disc golf league at Schifilliti Disc Golf Course will begin on May 12 and will be every Thursday through August 25. Flex start allows people to play anytime during the day.

Admin Division Update

- Red Stone Cottage restoration contract awarded to Farrington Construction at 4/25/22 Board of Finance and City Council meeting
- Substantial time dedicated to FY23 budgets – both General Fund and Special Funds
- Off-leash subcommittee work continues with PACC Dog Task Force
- Continue to work on creative ways to get the word out about our job opportunities. Our team tabled at UVM and Champlain College, went on the air with Kurt Wright, and have upcoming tabling at BHS and St. Michael’s College. Diana is creating a flyer with QR code we can have at events to ensure no one misses that we are hiring seasonal employees for the summer.
- Staff continued to work on our cell phones and landline phones. We have saved over $9,000 per year through landline attrition but our cell communication expenses continue to rise with the use of tablets with data and cell phones.
- Enjoyed a lunch with Bill Keogh who was the Director in the 1960s. I had seen Bill’s name multiple times when I went through the old park boxes this past winter and wanted to spend time with him chatting about Burlington parks.
- All staff disc golf event on Thursday April 21
- Connected with Come Alive Outside Executive Director to learn more about the program and potentially bring it to Burlington. [https://comealiveoutside.com/](https://comealiveoutside.com/)
- Enjoyed a vacation mountain biking through NC, TN and PA

Commission notes

- No additional notes this month