

# get your greens!

## PARKS, PARKLETS, BEACHES, AND THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THEM

The South End has fabulous open spaces. From Oakledge Park, to Lake Champlain beaches, to the Island Line Trail bike path, to Calahan Park, South Enders make heavy use of neighborhood parks and paths. But some can feel tucked away, hard to get to, or—like the Barge Canal site—ill-equipped for the public use they increasingly get.

There are also opportunities for MORE parks and green spaces and outdoor public places to support this lively and artsy neighborhood and to help advance stormwater management goals. With the Parks Master Plan effort underway, there's a real opportunity to move South End open space projects forward...and a healthy neighborhood needs its greens!

planBTV South End outlines a strategy to:

- Create new parks within the South End, leveraging key locations and underutilized sites
- Provide improved public access to existing parks, better linking parks to Pine Street
- Improve bike and walking connections that serve open space amenities by filling “missing links” in the South End sidewalk network and adding new bike-ped routes



## Strategies

### Create new parks within the South End; make existing parks more accessible

planBTV South End calls for five new/improved parks and public spaces to serve this nature + city loving neighborhood. Together, they'll equip the South End with a new urban wild, and will bring the creativity and spirit of the South End to the street. They'll help energize Pine Street, and provide new places for events and happenings.

**Establish the Barge Canal Park**, transforming the Barge Canal Superfund site into a publicly accessible urban wild - an open space destination incorporating interpretive signage, art, and trails.

**Create Linear Arts Park along Pine Street**, incorporating interactive sculptures, creative use of landscaping, and more, both along the street edge and in front of Pine Street buildings.

**Explore potential for a new public waterfront park at the Blodgett site.**

**Create a new entrance to Calahan Park along Pine Street**, improving access to the park and placing new activity on a less-than-exciting stretch of Pine Street.

**Incorporate pocket parks and plazas into new development in the Lakeside Ave area as part of a future Maker'hood Center.** Design spaces to accommodate events, happenings, and performances as well as informal use, and to double as stormwater management elements.

**For more information on implementation for these initiatives, see Reinforce the Art Hub: Maple Street to Locust Street and A New Maker'hood Center: Locust Street to Sears Lane.**



**Burlington Earth Clock, near Oakledge Park.** Photo taken during the planBTV South End Guided Photography Tour by tour leader, photographer, and Senior Planner at Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Lee Krohn.

**Improve bike and walking connections to parks**

Getting to parks and public spaces on foot or via bike should be safe and easy! New and improved biking and walking connections will help South Enders enjoy their Great Outdoors...and make it easier to get around the neighborhood.

**Address weak and missing links in the South End sidewalk network.**

Lack of sidewalks along parts of Lakeside Avenue and Pine Street, most of Industrial Parkway, and all of Sears Lane can make routes to South End open spaces less than welcoming for

those arriving on foot. Better sidewalk conditions with green buffers are needed along Flynn Ave, Home Ave south of Batchelder Street, and along Pine Street between Calahan Park and Champlain School.

**Establish a South End Neighborhood Path along neighborhood streets east of Pine Street,**

linking residential areas to Calahan Park, Champlain Elementary School, Edmunds Middle School, and other destinations, and providing a north-south walking and biking route as an alternative to travel along Pine.

**Seek opportunities to create new ped/bike links from Pine to the Lake.** Establish paths as elevated boardwalks if needed due to constraints on the Barge Canal site.

**Extend the bike path along the waterfront at the Blodgett Site,** creating a new segment of waterfront Island Line Trail.

**For more information on these initiatives, see Reinforce the Art Hub: Maple Street to Locust Street; A New Maker'hood Center: Locust Street to Sears Lane; the Eclectic Ecosystem: Sears Lane to Home Avenue; and R&D + Industry: Home Avenue to Queen City Park Road.**



**"Parks and more connected green space would give people more reason to linger."**

Comment from the planBTV South End Community Workshop

**Green Space Strategy**

