

**Neighborhood Development Grants Program
2011 Neighborhood Development Project Application**

deadline: noon, 12/17/10, City Hall, CEDO offices, 149 Church Street
attn: Jenny Davis, 865-7172, jdavis@ci.burlington.vt.us

Ward: 4/7

Contact Person(s):

- 1) Lea Terhune, NPA Steering Committee, Ward 4
- 2) Phil LaVigne, NPA Steering Committee, Ward 7
- 3) Janet Patterson, Senior Walkers, Heineberg Senior and Community Center

Mailing Address:

22 Appletree Point Lane
Burlington VT 05408

Phone(s):

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

E-Mails:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Project Name: "Picnic Park on the Avenue"

Project Location/Address: Leddy Park, between racquet courts and mural

This Grant Request: \$ 13,300.00

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Steering Committee Signature(s):

City Department Signature(s)

Department: Parks Dept, Mari Steinbach Signature: signature on original

Department Planning Dept, Scott Gustin Signature: signature on original

1. What is your project? What do you hope to accomplish? Please be specific: The project is 6 picnic tables arranged in sun and shade near the racquet courts in Leddy Park, within view of the mural at the back of the Ethan Allen Shopping Center. Two kiosks will be located at the bike path and at the pedestrian gateway to Leddy Park. We will create an area for summer picnics and a gathering place for people waiting to play on the courts or waiting for family members. The area will be adjacent to the pedestrian gateway to Leddy Park, near the upper parking lot. Today the area is shabby, unkept, uninviting, kinda scary, full of poison ivy, and is rumored to attract drug dealers. Last year NPA and Center for Community and Neighborhood organized volunteers to paint the back side of the vacant theater with a huge mural that is very attractive. The brush along the fence was removed, and a garden planted. Kiosks and signage would direct people from North Avenue to the pedestrian entrance along sidewalks through the shopping center which is the focal point of our Neighborhood Activity Center. The current motorized vehicle entrance to the park is a narrow road, with no sidewalk (or space for a sidewalk), i.e. no shoulder, thus unsafe for pedestrians, people pushing a stroller, a senior with a walker, or a person in a wheelchair. We have many seniors who live in neighborhoods along the Avenue, and a new family and senior housing complex is being built at the DMV/Thayer property next to the shopping center.

2. What particular neighborhood need or problem will the project address? How was it identified? Is it part of or coordinated with a larger municipal plan? How will it benefit low-moderate income residents? If people are out walking around, they meet and talk and build a sense of community. The pedestrian gateway to Leddy Park is recommended in a Neighborhood Activity Center Report commissioned by the City of Burlington with funding from the Vermont Department of Housing and community Affairs through the Municipal Planning Grant Program # 0061/94Mp03. The report emphasizes the need to encourage pedestrian movement in this growing, dense and walkable mixed-use area, and notes that “for those not familiar with the area there is little to suggest the informal entry” through a partially open fence at the back of the shopping center. Information kiosks, signs and a visible welcoming picnic area would define this inclusive community gathering space that is attractive, safe, and free for everyone to use.

3. How will the project improve the neighborhood? Please be specific: There is no clearly marked pedestrian entrance to Leddy Park from North Avenue. Being able to walk to a gathering spot that welcomes and is accessible to everyone in a central neighborhood location builds community. Today the area is shabby and attracts suspicious activity, but if it were cleared (mowed and brush cleared), it would welcome people and people gathered there would transform the space. Summer school/camp groups could come for lunch, and tennis lessons; a day care group could gather there for afternoon snack; a senior living in the new housing complex could bring their family there for a picnic lunch. The back of the shopping center would become an attractive area, the vacant theater would be a more attractive property for lease, and an area of Leddy Park that people avoid would attract more people. After we painted the mural, cleared the area, and put a picnic table next to the squash court, people started using the squash court again. In general, if you compare the pedestrian entrance to Oak Ledge, and the entrance to Leddy, the former is beautifully groomed and green and welcoming, but the Leddy pedestrian entrance is dark, dingy, and full of poison ivy.

4. Who will the project benefit? How will it specifically benefit people living in poverty?

The project will benefit everyone in the city, especially people on tight budgets, because it will be a place to have lunch, host a birthday party, or have a family picnic, for free. As housing becomes denser along North Avenue (for example the new apartments at DMV/Thayer), welcoming, open space nearby with a place to have a picnic will be greatly appreciated, increase people's enjoyment of the city, and improve quality of life as opportunities for inclusive human connections are enhanced by free outdoor space that people can walk to. With an outdoor space for gatherings in our community, we will create more opportunities to meet new residents who move into new housing planned nearby.

5. Is there clear community support for the project? How has it been demonstrated?

Over 100 people participated in the painting of the mural, canvassing for donations, and contributing to the project. As we worked or canvassed, we talked about the vision of an attractive gathering space near the mural, and when we planted a garden and cleared the land of brush, then added borrowed picnic tables temporarily, we saw what it could be. The interim Parks Director, a former police officer, understood the positive impact this use would have on public safety in the area and he delivered the picnic tables within hours of our request. The result was immediate. A squash court that was rarely used came to life. People gathered in groups, took turns on the court, and sat at the picnic table watching play on the court.

6. How will the project leverage matching dollars, volunteer commitments or other community resources? What, specifically, are those commitments? The NPA will assemble a volunteer team to help Parks Dept clear the picnic area and space for a walkway to the picnic area along the park side of the fence. In the future, we will coordinate with new and old neighborhoods (Ethan Allen Shopping Center, Farrington Park, Cathedral Square, Champlain Housing Trust, Farrell Real Estate) to connect the path to their areas, and place the kiosks and signs to inform and welcome pedestrians to a safe, attractive park entrance.

7. Who will carry out the project? How will they be accountable to the neighborhood? The new Parks Dept Planner will oversee the choice of tables and lights, and placement. Planning Dept has specified that lights must be reviewed and approved. The kiosk model has been designed and built at the entrance to the Intervale bike path. A task force of the Steering Committee of the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies in Wards 4 and 7 will organize a grand opening to acquaint the neighborhoods with the picnic area. An NPA Steering Committee task force will be liaison with the Parks Planner, and will report progress to the NPA.

8. What is the timeline for completing the project (funding is available no earlier than 7/1/11 through 6/30/12)? What City departments will be involved in the project? Have those departments been consulted about the project? The picnic tables will be built as soon as the funding is available, to be put in place as soon as possible. Parks Dept will be involved, and Director Steinbach has provided the estimates for the picnic tables, and assurance that the Parks Dept is on board: "This will work from our perspective. ...6 lights: ...we'll need to talk about the expectations (full bright night use v. safety lighting). Thanks for working on this – it is exciting!" Mari Steinbach

'Kiosk is based on model developed by Parks Dept. City Planning Dept will work with Park Planner to choose lighting and site it in environmentally and aesthetically appropriate locations. As volunteers are available, and Parks Dept can schedule, the area will be cleared and prepared.

9. How will the project will be sustained / maintained over the long term? The area will be included in the Parks routine maintenance plan. Burlington is in the process of hiring a Planning manager, and s/he will be involved with the project when s/he comes on board. Meanwhile, we are coordinating with Director, Mari Steinbach.

10. Line Item Budget: Show how you plan to pay for this project.

- Detail all items and services you will need to implement this project. Show the estimated cost of each, and list at least two sources for each estimate (please use Burlington-based businesses where possible). \$450 per table, materials and labor. The tables must be large and heavy, for durability and security. We are asking for 6 tables to accommodate family groups, school groups, and large neighborhood gatherings. Source of estimate: Burlington Parks Dept. Mari Steinbach, Director.
- Detail all in-kind donations you plan to utilize, including volunteer hours, showing the “cost” for that donation in parentheses (). Please note that the value of an hour of volunteer time is \$20.25.

<u>Item / Service</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
_____ 6 picnic tables @ \$450 ea _____	\$ <u>2,700.00</u>
_____ 2 kiosks @ \$2000 ea _____	\$ <u>4,000.00</u>
_____ 3 signs @ \$200 ea _____	\$ <u>600.00</u>
_____ 6 lights @ \$1000 ea _____	\$ <u>6,000.00</u>

<u>In-Kind Services and Donations</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
Clearing the area of brush and weeds__	\$ <u>(1,000)</u>
Organizing free racquet sports events__	\$ <u>(1,000)</u>
Opening Day Community Welcome Party__	\$ <u>(500)</u>

Total Budget for this Project (add all lines)	\$ <u>15,800.00</u>
Total value of all in-kind services and donations	[\$ <u>2,500.00</u>
Total amount of Grant Request	\$ <u>13,300.00</u>