



**Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR
REMOTELY via ZOOM**

5:30 pm, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR Remotely via ZOOM:
Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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<https://zoom.us/j/94815097165>

1. Agenda

1.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

2. Consent Agenda

Subject	2.1. April Commission Meeting Minutes (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent) Minutes
Recommended Action	waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file
Subject	2.2. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for Kate Lindberg at Leddy Tent for Book Launch (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.3. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for UVM CESS, Robyn Way at Oakledge Shelter for UVM Welcome Back Picnic (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.4. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for VT Italian Cultural Association Annual Picnic at North Beach Shelter (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.5. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for Tuttle Middle School Field Trip at North Beach Shelter (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.6. Request for Special Ue Permit Waiver for CHT Member Day Picnic at North Beach Shelter (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit

Subject	2.7. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for Church at the Well Weekly Church Service at Leddy Park (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.8. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for Donna Leban Birthday Party at Oakledge Upper Shelter (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.9. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for Burlington Burn Club Series at Battery Park (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.10. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for Christ the King School Annual Spring Challenge Field Day at Calahan Park (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.11. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for MadFreedom Inc Annual Mad Pride Day at Battery Park (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.12. Request for Special Use Permit Waiver for Burlington City Arts at City Hall Park for Summer Events and Programming (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading, accept the communication and approve the request for special use permit
Subject	2.13. Penny for Parks Approval, Sophie Sauve, Parks Planner, BPRW (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda
Department	Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	waive the reading and approve the proposed slate of projects as listed.
Subject	2.14. Public Comment Regarding Off-Leash Dog Areas (attachment)
Meeting	May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM
Category	2. Consent Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Action (Consent)

Recommended Action

Subject 2.15. Public Comment Regarding Off-Leash Dog Area (attachment)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 2. Consent Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Action (Consent)

Recommended Action

3. Public Forum

Subject 3.1. Verbal Comments

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 3. Public Forum

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Procedural

4. Deliberative Agenda

Subject 4.1. ECHO Vending in Right of Way, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (attachments)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 4. Deliberative Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Action

Subject 4.2. Off-leash Dog Areas, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 4. Deliberative Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Discussion

Subject 4.3. Appendix D Section 1 Approval, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 4. Deliberative Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Action

Subject 4.4. Appendix D Section 4 Approval, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 4. Deliberative Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Action

Subject 4.5. Appendix D Section 2 Discussion, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 4. Deliberative Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Discussion

Subject 4.6. Open Space Plan Preview, Scott Gustin, Burlington Conservation Board Staff (attachment)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 4. Deliberative Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Discussion

Subject 4.7. FY26 Budget, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 4. Deliberative Agenda

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Discussion

5. Standing Items

Subject 5.1. Parks Foundation Update (verbal)

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 5. Standing Items

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Information

Recommended Action

6. Director's Report

7. Commissioner's Items & Volunteer Hours

8. Adjournment

Subject 8.1. Motion to adjourn

Meeting May 13, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Commission - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 PM, Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street OR REMOTELY via ZOOM

Category 8. Adjournment

Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront

Type Procedural

Recommended Action



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
April 8, 2025
Parks and Recreation Commission**

Commission Present: Bergmann, Boehm, Johnson, Keech and Lantieri

Not Present: Etter, Mobley

Staff Present: Wight, Sauve, Cotton, Hutchison, O'Daniel, Kaeding, Rogers, Doyle and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:33 p.m. by Lantieri.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Keech, second by Boehm, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Boehm, second by Bergmann, motion carried.

Public Forum

Public forum opened at 5:35 p.m.

Seeing nobody to speak, public forum was closed at 5:36 p.m.

Coach of the Year

Jen Cotton congratulated Jeff King, said he has been coaching for the youth basketball league since 2019 and in some seasons has coached two teams. Stated that he wanted to focus on only one team this season (his son's) but when he saw the department struggling with coaches he took on another team. Cotton said lucky to have each season and he is also offering pick-up basketball at Apple Tree Park in the summer with neighborhood kids and will try and the department will make a more coordinated effort with him this season. Cotton also said she sees him playing adult basketball and acknowledged his love for the game and the children. Said that she reached out to the family and children that coaches and collected video's to share.

Lantieri asked if Coach Jeff had any particular moment he wanted to share and he said the tournament that the City puts on every year, two years ago a 6th grader had spoken about the tournament and was so lit up by the experience at the tournament and they also won that year and that was really touching, Cotton added that they had won back to back titles.

Boehm thanked and as a parent said coaches are all the lifeblood of helping these children.

Volunteer of the Year

Natalie Hutchison said she was very excited to give the volunteer award to Taylor who teaches the seniors to sew over at the ONE Center and was so sad to see the class come to an end, she added that she was a natural teacher and brought so much joy to the class and taught so much about sewing and very excited that she will be teaching an adult class in the evenings.



Lantieri thanked and asked if any great experience or story that will stick with her and she said nothing in particular only that she feels exactly the same way about the seniors and looked forward to meeting with them each week, grew great relationships and bonds with the people and happy she got to do for the past two years.

Keech asked what sort of projects she worked on with the seniors, Taylor said she started with stuffed animals and then they were bringing different items and went at their own level and skill and got to know all the styles and what residents were working on.

Request for Permit Fee Waiver from Ignite Church

O'Daniel passed over to Reverend Alvin Mitchell to explain who the Church is and said she had been in contact and working with for a few years and looking to continue in our parks.

Rev. Mitchell said every other Saturday give out clothes, sleeping bags, blankets, underwear, shoes, some second hand, have Samaritan House partnership that also donates new shoes, volunteer over at Anew Place and at Turning Point helping, have big concern about the homeless population and not just to get the numbers down but to help them. Do barbeques etc. in the park, everything is done by donation, don't have money to pay for a permit. Do clean up after, have cleaned Battery Park in the past, try to leave better than found before. Every other Saturday go into City Hall Park and then will be in Battery Park from June through December and then would come back and ask the Commission for permission again.

Keech said Mitchell spoke of City Hall Park as using only a couple of times and then Battery the rest of the time and asked if any other parks were in need and was told no as the majority are in those parks and get the outreach to go to classes and those two places are where most people are located and staff let them know where they are and what is available.

Boehm also asked about BBQ's and if that was available in the past and was told yes, definitely in Battery Park, probably not in City Hall Park, want to get trust with the patrons.

Lantieri asked Wight if a different permit for grilling was needed and was told no.

O'Daniel stated there would not be any rooms and meals and Ignite are wonderful stewards of the space when using.

Motion to approve the request to waive the fees and removal of all refuse created after each use by Boehm, second by Bergmann, motion passed.

Penny for Parks Approval

Sauve said as is tradition she was proposing the budget for this fiscal year as has been done in the past. The items highlighted in green are proposed for FY26 and she continued to go through each item with an explanation;



- The Battery Park, Chief Greylock replacement \$15,000
- Calahan Park Courts/Stormwater Design \$100,000, originally had in FY24 but could not get to and did apply for a grant to match once ready for construction at end of 26-27 but need design drawings done
- Ethan Allen Park Playground Replacement, \$100,000 commitment from Park Foundation
- Liddy Park Playground and Restroom Design \$15,000 looking to line up to get funding \$15,000 is meant to be a destination playground and will come back for funding
- North Beach Park Improvements, list/do every year to keep upgraded and safe/usable
- Perkins Pier Anchor Pads and Cables in mooring field is a safety issue that needs to be replaced, \$25000
- PP Marina and Maintenance Office, would like to replace eventually but just make workable at this time
- Schifilliti Restroom Construction \$65,000 and will be combined with a grant.

Listed community needs and smaller amenities, a place for public arts and a net zero budget, expecting \$584,392, bond funds of \$100,000 toward Boathouse Improvements, North Beach Bond had some funds, for pull through in the past but did not get done and would like to move to this year and address the restroom and laundry later and allocating another \$50,000, accessible surfacing bond of \$50,000, \$300,000 capital has been allocating through the bond.

Keech asked about the Boathouse improvements and if dredging would have to be done first and Sauve said yes and hoping money will be left over, feasibility is to see what needs to be done to maintain and identify both needs.

Bergmann asked about Baird Park and asked if anything is planned for Baird and Sauve said has not happened yet, working with UVM landscape class and doing design and other work to come up with preliminary and then will bring to public, also confirmed it was budgeted for this year. Sauve said doing comp plan first, also will be doing the project internally and once going will be quicker, working with marketing person to bring to QR code easier.

Lantieri asked if the Commission would hear once the comp plan begins and was told yes by Sauve.

Motion to approve the PFP budget as submitted, by Bergmann, second by Boehm, motion carried.

Appendix D, Section 1 Updates

Wight explained fund raising should always go to commission, any fundraiser.

She continued to go through each section with the commission beginning with (H) and all commissioners gave input/feedback for title and content. Definitions of different types of parks and uses and regulations of the various parks were also reviewed.

Wight will bring a clean copy at the next meeting for review and approval from the commission.



Appendix D, Section 2-4

Wight explained she reached out to the team as there was a lot to cover and would discuss one section at a time, the group decided to go with section 4 to begin with, Beaches and Waterfront Areas. They went through proposed changes with the commission beginning with animals and dogs. Then went on to discuss items that are prohibited in general at beaches and waterfronts, discussed the rate structure for parking and entrance and ended at that section for this meeting. Will resume with the other two sections at the next commission meeting and for approval of section 4.

Public Comment

Keech stated he was not very well prepared, was hoping what he prepared and sent earlier was what all would agree upon, read some of the changes that he had made to the document. Added a bullet under The Meeting, Sign-In Process, "The sign-in sheet will contain the statement, "Discriminatory comments will not be tolerated, overly disruptive behavior is not allowed, and time limits may be strictly enforced.". Added bullet under Interactive discussion to read "Discussion will be open to topics pertaining directly to the Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront or any topic lead by another branch of the City of Burlington that involves any form of interaction with PRW staff", also under Interactive Discussion, second bullet at the end of the paragraph "with the Chair managing the flow of discussion.". Add to, The Response, Follow-Up-Process, first bullet, at the end of the sentence, "before the next meeting."

Bergmann said in the scenario where you have 30-40 persons come in for public forum would you have to send a response or feedback to each and Keech said that he felt they deserve a response and a lot of the time people do come in and the Commission learns a lot and unless someone is leading the pack would have to respond to all and has never seen any meeting that highly attended in the past.

Boehm also said on follow up process if no additional information is required, would it be necessary to respond at the next meeting, is there a need for follow-up if no question was asked, would it be necessary, Keech said he would respond to that person and wanted to let them know that they were heard. Keech said if a question was asked and they did not know the answer he felt they should lean on department to find out, said every situation may not be easy and will have to feel the way through but ultimately it would be on the commission to respond.

Lantieri liked open ended and that you don't have to respond, when it was stated that everyone receives a response and Bergmann said the way it is currently worded a response would be required to all.

Boehm said if it is the responsibility of commission they would take the responsibility and Keech said it was not his intention to have the department take responsibility of the response.



Lantieri asked if under The Response, Follow-Up Process, that could be deleted all together and then add under the Acknowledgment of Comments section, second bullet at the end of the sentence add “If additional information is required, collaborate with the Parks Department to gather necessary data, allowing a flexible timeline to accommodate department priorities and resource availability.”

Motion to approve the public comment with the amendment to delete the Follow-Up Process and both bullets and add the language to Acknowledgment of Comments, second bullet, last sentence to read “If additional information is required, collaborate with the Parks Department to gather necessary data, allowing a flexible timeline to accommodate department priorities and resource availability” and change sign-in sheet to add the statement “Discriminatory comments will not be tolerated, overly disruptive behavior is not allowed, and time limits may be strictly enforced”, and accept as Parks procedure, by Bergmann, second by Boehn, motion passed.

Off-leash Areas Reset

Wight said that she met with others and has been hard to do the commission sub-committee and the Parks Commission Chair and Vice Chair decided to move this topic back to the full Commission to work on, listed the background and the authority, which is to manage and regulate off-leash areas, Chapter 5 Code of Ordinances. Appendix D, Section 7 states over 20 years ago was when pilot was run and never finalized or adopted and does not reflect current policy. Wight said that she sent the full task force report as reminder and what the Dog Task Force final report included an Off-Leash Dog Policy that “includes a comprehensive and updated framework that would be adopted and overseen by the Parks Commission” and as part of that was asked to make a recommendation regarding the creation of additional off-leash areas. Wight proposed next steps and using this meeting as a reset to dedicate time at each commission meeting and if comfortable would like to add a comment, all were favorable.

Wight said that Neil, lead Park Ranger would be happy to come talk about off-leash areas, Texaco has been used as an off-leash area with much success, Rangers have done something similar at Leddy and had success on middle and north end with no complaints in two years. Took similar model to Oakledge Park and was also successful, have had approaches that have had some success and differences with cats and dogs are very different, but she stated if her dog were at the beach or cove she would know where it was.

Lantieri set a ground rule that the discussion did not have to speak about cats, that is not part of the purview of this commission, said got recommendations from the task force and can say what would each would like to do moving forward and asked Keech to go last to share thoughts as he had already previously shared.

Boehm thanked Wight for the overview and to help to understand what is being asked of the commission, asked if the end goal is to have a document that is a recommendation on off-leash



areas to the City Council and would be written up by the commission. Wight explained that currently have some areas that do have off-leash but not currently authorized as has expired.

Johnson said some feedback he received was areas that are slightly in favor of, raised more concerns of how could that be out of date, how many people were aware, North Shore and Calahan, were areas that would be where more scrutiny is needed, would like to get better feedback from, couple of voices that were concerned about off-leash areas in the morning hours, but mixed and others felt made sense. Several areas that can see particularly with beaches and the Cove, not sure of access area, wants to make sure careful of conservation and safety.

Bergmann said there had been a lot of work and thought gone into this and confusion, has own bias and does not feel all should be subject to that. Trying to take own feelings out and stay open.

Keech said in terms of the favor of the survey, feels not a good survey, people could vote as many times as wanted, had a citizen come and speak to this group also, has concerns with any dog off-leash, particularly with the cove and eventually become a dog area in the entire area. Stated he typed in search area of where off-leash dog areas are and Texaco and Schmanska popped up due to where people are with dogs. Asked to consider who the dog park task force is, said Wight has dog, Alec has a dog, all other committee members have dogs and nobody on the committee from Dogbite.com and feels not how to make policy, and should be about the public. Said before moving forward need to figure out as a commission if should have these areas, and no sense looking at the document. Noticed can't have children under 12 years old in a fenced in dog area but then we are going to allow dogs in an unfenced area, does not make sense to him, feels not measuring correctly and does not feel this supports the mission statement of Parks.

Lantieri said all come from different perspectives and the ability to discuss from the interest of self and others and look at the purview of the commission responsibility. Asked how functionally happening at Leddy and not other places, also concerned that is an unfenced area that is next to the water. Glad to have the opportunity to discuss and this commission's process.

Keech wanted to make sure that City Council will not move on this until this commission has made its decision and Wight said it was sent to the Parks Commission and could ask the status but it was sent to this commission.

Wight will ask Park Ranger Preston if he can make the May meeting and might be a good place to start at the next meeting and not worry about a policy and then go from there.



Standing Items:

Park Foundation Update

Lantieri said moving ahead, universal design and policy, himself the foundation and staff.

Off-Leash Dog Sub-Committee

No report to be given but does think this is the correct move to take to get officially going as a group. This item will be removed from future meetings.

Director's Items

Wight gave a few highlights;

New Web Site, little getting used to, asked all to let team know if they notice any issues, moved to get onto the city platform

Really fun throwback adult book fair, lots of fun and all had a great time

Moving forward with section 8 at the cemetery and the formal design to bid

Highlighted the Marina had all returning staff but one person

Removal of membrane at Frame will be happening

Commissioner's Items & Volunteer Hours

Lantieri had an additional 3 hours of planning and other related items, Route 127 meeting happened and if it will be repurposed or not

Boehm had 1 additional hour

Keech had 2 additional hours

Johnson had 3 additional hours and asked if helpful to have commissioner to edit the decision for task force report that he would be happy to volunteer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session at 7:52 pm to discuss personnel matters regarding reappointment recommendation by Keech, second by Bergmann, motion carried.

Motion to go out of executive session at 8:07 p.m. by Boehm, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Boehm, second by Johnson at 8:08 p.m., motion carried unanimously.



MEMO

Date: May 13, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Candice Holbrook, Customer Service Associate
RE: Kate Lindberg Special Use Permit for June 29, 2025

Request for waiver at the Leddy Tent to allow amplified sound for a book launch on Sunday, June 29, reservation hours are 9:00am – 8:00pm.

The amplified sound used will be from a microphone, and will take place from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. They will have approximately 150 attendees visit throughout the book launch. Not all attendees will be there at once.

The request is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 13, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Candice Holbrook, Customer Service Associate
RE: Robyn Way (UVM CESS) Special Use Permit for August 20, 2025

Request for waiver at Oakledge Upper Shelter to allow amplified sound for a UVM College of Education and Social Services welcome back picnic on Wednesday, August 20, reservation hours are 9:00am – 9:00pm.

The amplified sound used will be from a band, and will take place from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. They will have 80 attendees.

The request is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 13, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Candice Holbrook, Customer Service Associate
RE: Rosemary Zamore Special Use Permit for August 17, 2025

Request for waiver at North Beach Shelter to allow amplified sound for the Vermont Italian Cultural Association's annual picnic on Sunday, August 17, reservation hours are 8:00am – 8:00pm.

The amplified sound from a PA system will take place from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. They will have 50 attendees.

The request is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 13, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Candice Holbrook, Customer Service Associate
RE: Peter McCarthy Special Use Permit for June 13, 2025

Request for waiver at North Beach Shelter to allow amplified sound for South Burlington's School District Tuttle Middle School field trip on Friday, June 13, reservation hours are 9:00am – 2:30pm.

The amplified sound from a speaker sound system will take place from 10:00am to 1:00pm. They will have 190 attendees.

The request is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 13, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Candice Holbrook, Customer Service Associate
RE: CHT Special use Permit for August 9, 2025

Request for waiver at North Beach Shelter to allow amplified sound for a CHT Member Day picnic on Saturday, August 9, reservation hours are 9:00am – 2:30pm.

The amplified sound used will be from DJ Melo and a microphone, and will take place from 11:00am to 2:00pm. They will have around 200 attendees, in and out throughout the reservation.

The request is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 13, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Candice Holbrook, Customer Service Associate
RE: Church at the Well Special Use Permit for July 6 – August 10, 2025

Request for waiver at Leddy Park to allow amplified sound for a weekly church service from Sunday, July 6 to Sunday, August 10.

The Church at the Well will be holding their services at the Leddy Tent in July and August because their members enjoyed using the space so much for the past four summers. They are requesting to have amplified sound during their services and have already requested the Leddy Tent from 9:00am – 2:00pm on their desired dates.

The amplified sound will take place from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Their music will not be amplified, just the speaking portions of the service so that the attendees can hear. They are expecting about 60 people to attend each week.

Staff contact for the events is Tasha Lehman.

The requests are on days with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 13, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Candice Holbrook, Customer Service Associate
RE: Donna Leban Special Use Permit for June 1, 2025

Request for waiver at Oakledge Upper Shelter to allow amplified sound for a 70th Birthday Party on Thursday, June 1, reservation hours are 3:30pm – 9:00pm.

The amplified sound used will be from a DJ with music, and will take place from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. They will have 80 attendees.

The request is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 14th, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: Burlington Burn Club Series Special Use Permit for the 2025 Season

Request for waiver at Battery Park to allow amplified sound from 7pm – 9pm from May 21st – October 22nd and extend the reservations without amplified sound until 10pm for Burlington Burn Club's bi-monthly gatherings.

Burn Club provides a safe setting for people to spin fire. It reduces the illegal backyard burns and unsafe, unapproved spinning in parks. The community is very respectable with the Burlington Burn Club's guidelines and understanding what it means to be a member. They have 2 senior members who will be the point safety people, along with 3 other board members who will give hosting support. They are anticipating 10 – 30 attendees per date and will coordinate with BPRW staff to finalize the necessary park permits. After that, they will get the necessary permits from the Burlington Fire Department, who has approved their requests in the past. This will be their 6th season in Battery Park.

Requested Schedule for 2025:

May – 21st
June – 4th & 18th
July – 2nd & 16th
Aug – 6th & 20th
Sept – 3rd & 17th
Oct – 1st, 15th & 22nd

Their requests are on days with no conflicting events.

Contact for the organization is Kayla Steen.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow requests.



MEMO

Date: May 14th, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: CKS Special Use Permit for May 23rd, 2025

Request for a Special Use Permit at Calahan Park for a waiver to allow amplified sound.

Christ the King School (CKS) will be holding their annual Spring Challenge Field Day at Calahan Park on Friday, May 23rd. Students will be engaging in a variety of outdoor activities including, but not limited to, kickball, tug-of-war, and obstacle courses.

The amplified sound will take place between 8:30am and 12pm, and will consist of music from a playlist and announcements. They will be informing the surrounding neighborhood via Front Porch Forum ahead of the event.

Contact for the event is Jon Hughes.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: May 13th, 2025
To: BPRW Commission
From: Richard Bailey, Events Compliance Coordinator
RE: MadFreedom Special Use Permit for July 12th, 2025

Request for a Special Use Permit at Battery Park.

MadFreedom, Inc. is hosting their annual Vermont Mad Pride Day on Saturday, July 12th at Battery Park. This will be a celebration organized by psychiatric survivors, consumers, service users, mad people, and folks the world has labeled “mentally ill”. Mad Pride is about challenging discrimination, advocating for rights, affirming Mad identities, remembering and participating in Mad history, and having fun. Our lives are valuable and need celebration. MadFreedom, Inc. is a Vermont 501(c)(4), tax-exempt non-profit organization whose mission is to secure power and influence to end the discrimination and oppression of people based on their perceived mental state. MadFreedom envisions a world where all people, regardless of race, gender, class, ableness, and mental state have the freedom to live their lives on their own terms without coercion and with equality under the law.

This event is expected to have around 250 participants and 25 volunteers. This event will include a march from Church St. to the park, speakers, live music, spoken word poetry, skits, informational tabling and a catered meal. MadFreedom is collaborating with several other organizations to curate this event. Those organizations include Pathways Vermont, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (Montpelier), and Another Way Community Center (Montpelier). They are prepared to provide extra portalets and their staff and volunteers will be responsible for site clean-up. They have the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

The amplified sound will take place between 12pm and 3pm. They have already booked Battery Park. This will be the 4th year the event has been held at Battery Park.

Staff contact for the event is Hannah Sorila.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.

Request for waiver at City Hall Park to allow amplified sound for BCA events and programming throughout the summer of 2025.

BCA staff contact is Zach Williamson.

Burlington City Arts is pleased to embark on the fifth summer of community events in City Hall Park. This programming ensures that the park remains a vibrant public space, increases accessibility to the arts, and creates a sense of belonging for community members across a spectrum of ages, races, abilities, and incomes. City Hall Park's programming also invests in our local and regional arts community by paying out over \$40,000 in performance fees directly to artists. During these events, it is clear that we attract people to downtown Burlington and aid local businesses, restaurants, bars, and clubs by creating a positive and welcoming environment. This has become even more of a focus as the downtown continues to face many challenges.

This year, we are collaborating more significantly with Love Burlington, a division of Burlington Workforces and Development office. We are branding all of our summer programming as Summer in the City and this umbrella covers events in City Hall Park and on the Church Street Marketplace.

There will be weekly events and programming throughout the summer at City Hall Park, with amplified sound. They will not exceed the parameters surrounding park usage stated in the City Ordinance. Weekly programming includes the BCA Summer Concert Series, Splash Dance, Sunday Classical, Flicks in the Park and the new Twilight Block Party. Programming will run from June 4 to September 27, though not every series covers that full date range.

Summer in the City in City Hall Park:

BCA Summer Concert Series: Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:30 to 1:30pm, June 4 to August 22

BCA Splash Dance: Fridays 4:30 to 6:30, Saturdays at 2:30 to 4:30pm, June 6 to September 27

BCA & Love Burlington Twilight Block Party: Every Other Saturday, 4 to 8pm, June 7 to September 27

BCA Sunday Classical: Every Sunday at 10am, July & August only

BCA & VTIFF Flicks in the Park: Every Thursday at 8pm, August only

Thank you,

Zach Williamson
Festival & Event Director
Burlington City Arts

MEMO

Date: May 13th, 2025
To: Burlington Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Sophie Sauvé, Parks Planning Division Director
Subject: FY26 Penny for Parks Projects and Capital Plan priorities - REVISED

Overview

The Department continues to prioritize capital projects based on the 2015 Parks Comprehensive Plan in addition to community requests received on a yearly basis as well as emergent needs.

Every year, our team meets with the larger Department to identify ongoing needs throughout our parks, as identified by staff ‘on the ground’ on cemetery, grounds, waterfront, conservation and trees teams. Together, we prioritized any safety or urgent needs in the 5-year capital plan. We also prioritize increasing inclusivity and accessibility to our parks facilities, whether playgrounds or courts, benches or restrooms.

As in previous years, we continue to undertake comprehensive plans of parks ahead of major renovations. These plans not only help us confirm level of service, accessibility, and connectivity while balancing the ecology of the site, but also provide the much-needed input of the neighbors and community members who use (or do not use) the parks system. Baird Park’s Comprehensive Plan will start imminently and will be staff-led. A revision of the 2015 Parks Comprehensive Plan will begin this year and will entail a robust public engagement process. It will be combined with the City-Wide Plan BTV and transportation plan.

The spreadsheet below indicates the projects that are either active now and will overlap into FY26, or projects that will begin in FY26. While the majority of the projects listed are funded through Penny for Parks, we have also successfully secured grant funding and bond funds to support our upcoming work. BPRW’s continued commitment to allocate \$100,000 a year towards playground replacements is reflected in FY26’s budget.

Updated 5/8/2025:

Two budgeting requirements are fulfilled with this revised budget:

- 1) Increase amount of BPRW salaries coming from Penny for Parks program to reflect project management that is required to move PFP projects forward and help the General Fund gap.
- 2) Budget existing Park Impact Fees (PIFs) to support parks projects with various funding sources available to capital projects within BPRW.

Lines highlighted in yellow have been updated or added with these two requirements in mind. In addition, a new project “Roosevelt Park – Mini Pitch” has been included as part of the budget. The Vermont Soccer Association and the Burlington Football Club approached BPRW with potential funding coming from US Soccer’s “Safe Places to Play” program to spread opportunities for soccer throughout the country with the upcoming World Cup. The program would fund the installation of a “mini pitch” at Roosevelt Park. A mini pitch would include a 9v9 size field that would be built of turf or concrete and include lights. A “flex field” was included as a community priority as part of the Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan and the mini-pitch would meet this need/desire. Pending a successful application, BPRW would need to build the hardscape to receive the mini-pitch. BPRW estimates that creating a hardscape at Roosevelt Park would be approximately \$40K and has budgeted for this

item. The desire to elevate soccer at Roosevelt Park was a priority for many community members that engaged in the comprehensive plan. This project would not only see the implementation of a portion of the comprehensive plan, but directly responds to the requests of the community and investment in this key Old North End Neighborhood.

Additionally, we have added funds into System-Wide Court repairs. An evaluation of courts post-winter identified additional needs for court repairs this season. Oakledge Park in particular, needs significant rework for the court to be safe and the surface playable. This line increased by \$25K. We noted that System Wide Playground Equipment and Wood Fiber have funds remaining from previous years that will carry over and help with any upcoming costs in FY26. We also have community request funds that round out the \$40K allocated a year and reduced that line by \$20K.

FY26 Parks Capital Plan - DRAFT

Updated 5/6/2025

Changes since last update

Projects Proposed for FY26

Projects not yet started in FY25

Projects continuing from previous Fys or wrapping up

Project Budgets that are held year-to-year

PENNY FOR PARKS (PFP) and PARK IMPACT FEE (PIF) PROJECTS	PIF/PFP	DRAFT Budget FY26- balanced
Baird Park - Comprehensive Plan	PFP	\$0
Baird Park - Playground Replacement	PFP	\$0
Baird Park - Playground Replacement	Donations	\$0
Baird Park - Landscape Improvements	PFP	\$0
Battery Park - Chief Greylock	PFP	\$15,000
Calahan Park - Courts/Stormwater Design*	PFP	\$50,000
Calahan Park - Courts/Stormwater Design	PIF	
Ethan Allen Park - Playground Replacement*	PFP	\$100,000
Ethan Allen Park - Playground Replacement	Donations	\$100,000
Leddy - Bike Park design (Community Request FY21)	PFP	\$0
Leddy - Bike Park design (Community Request FY21)	Donation	\$0
Leddy - Bike Park Construction (VOREC)	Grant	\$50,000
Leddy Park - Playground and Restroom Design	PIF	\$30,000
North Beach - Park Improvements	PFP	\$40,000
North Beach - Pull Through Sites	PFP	\$0
Oakledge Park - Restroom Renovation	PFP	\$0
Oakledge Park - playground	Grant	\$0
Perkins Pier - Anchor Pads and Cables (Mooring Field)	PFP	\$25,000
Pomeroy Park - Tot Lot	PFP	\$0
Pomeroy Park - Playground	Donations	\$0
Pomeroy Park - Playground	PFP	\$0
Roosevelt Park - Tennis Court Resurfacing	PFP	\$0
Roosevelt Park - Tennis Court Resurfacing	Assigned	\$0
Roosevelt Park - Mini Pitch*	PFP	\$40,000
Roosevelt Park - Park Comp Plan	PFP	\$0
Schifilliti Park - Accessibility to Fields	PFP	\$0

Schifilliti Park - Restrooms Reconstruction Design	PFP	\$0
Schifilliti Park - Restroom Renovations*	PFP	\$52,841
Schifilliti Park - Restroom Renovations*	PIF	\$40,000
System wide - Bike Rack expansion	PFP	\$0
System-wide - Community Gardens	PFP	\$0
System wide - Court Repairs	PFP	\$25,000
System wide - Park Comprehensive Planner (with GF)	PFP	\$113,149
System-wide - Parks Comprehensive Plan	PFP	\$17,500
System wide - Parks Planning Contractual Services	PFP	\$13,000
System wide - Park Facility Improvements (Lighting)	PFP	\$8,572
System-wide - Parks Master	PFP	\$0
System wide - PFP Community Requests	PFP	\$20,000
System wide - PFP Emergent needs	PFP	\$35,000
System-Wide- Playground Compliance	PFP	\$0
System wide - Playground equipment and wood fiber	PFP	\$0
System wide - Signage and Wayfinding	PFP	\$0
System wide - Standard Equipment replacement	PFP	\$25,000
System wide - Walkway improvements (curb cut/access)	PFP	\$0
Public Art - 1%	PFP	\$4,330
Unallocated - Restricted	PFP	\$0
Total PFP Budgeted		\$584,392
Total PIF Budgeted		\$70,000

PFP Anticipated in FY26

Remaining

\$584,392

\$0

PIF Balance

Remaining

\$126,000

\$56,000

***Public Art Eligible**

Joanne Putzier

From: Cindi Wight
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:23 AM
To: Joanne Putzier
Subject: RE: Parks Commission Meeting on Off-Leash Dog Areas: 5/13

First one below and there might end up being more

Cindi Wight

(she/her)

Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

Direct Line: (802) 495-1919

From: Joanne Putzier <jputzier@burlingtonvt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:22 AM
To: Cindi Wight <cwight@burlingtonvt.gov>
Subject: Re: Parks Commission Meeting on Off-Leash Dog Areas: 5/13

Of course, will do
Jo

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Cindi Wight <cwight@burlingtonvt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:44:21 AM
To: Joanne Putzier <jputzier@burlingtonvt.gov>
Subject: FW: Parks Commission Meeting on Off-Leash Dog Areas: 5/13

Jo,

Can I please forward comments to you and you collect them to put in the packet?

Cindi

Cindi Wight

(she/her)

Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

Direct Line: (802) 495-1919

From: C B <cbuck442@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 5:55 PM
To: Juliet Shen <jshen@burlingtonvt.gov>
Cc: Cindi Wight <cwight@burlingtonvt.gov>
Subject: Re: Parks Commission Meeting on Off-Leash Dog Areas: 5/13

[WARNING]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Juliet,

I won't attend the meeting, so I am going to submit a comment here.

I use a wheelchair. On more than one occasion, I have had dogs be aggressive toward me. When off leash, this includes circling to get behind me, snarling, sometimes lunging, and generally being threatening. The owners (when they show up,) invariably say something like, "oh they're nice, they just react this way toward wheels." Well I cannot detach myself from my wheels they don't seem friendly at all to me. In fact, when this has happened, I have always be scared and afraid for my personal safety.

I like dogs...a LOT. But as far as I am concerned, if the City allows off leash dogs in areas that I as a tax-paying citizen have a right to occupy like anyone else whose identity isn't connected to wheels, this will be equivalent to discriminating against me and willfully placing my safety at risk. I don't want anyone to get bitten, and I don't want to feel like I have to start carrying a firearm to defend myself in City parks.

And then there's the shit that owners of off-leash dogs rarely pick up...because they don't even know when it happens, or can pretend they don't at least. I can't count how many times I've encountered this in Arms Park, where the City already ignores leash laws.

Please DO NOT make off-leash areas in Burlington.

Cleary Buckley
05408

Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.

From: [Cindi Wight](#)
To: [Sarah Montgomery](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Off-Leash Dog Areas
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 2:07:40 PM

Hi Sarah,

Can you please add this email to the public record for the Parks Commission meeting tonight?

Thank you,

Cindi

Cindi Wight

(she/her)

Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

Direct Line: (802) 495-1919

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 8:45 PM

To: Cindi Wight <cwight@burlingtonvt.gov>

Subject: Comments on Off-Leash Dog Areas

[WARNING]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Dear Ms. Wight,

I am writing to comment on the recommendations for off-leash dog areas in Burlington's public spaces.

When our daughter was young, we took her to Oakledge Park for a family picnic on the beach at Oakledge Cove. While sitting together, an unleashed dog ran up, grabbed our food in it's mouth and ran away. The dog owner was unconcerned and became belligerent when we asked him to keep his dog away.

We are frequent users of North Beach. I have regularly witnessed off-leash dogs urinating and defecating on the beach and in the water, running over people's picnic blankets, running up to strangers and shaking their wet fur on them, and begging strangers for food.

We have lived in the Old North End for 24 years. Being in a diverse community, I have witnessed members of the New American population show fear, concern and even terror when approached by dogs countless times.

One highly exclusive user group should not take precedence over all other users, including families,

people with leashed dogs, New Americans, and anyone looking for time to relax and enjoy the outdoors without being harassed. The only people that don't mind an unleashed dog's behavior are the dog owners themselves.

Thank you for considering my comments and adding them to the public record.

Sincerely,
Columbia Crehan

--

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<https://tuta.com/free-email>

Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.



MEMO

To: Burlington Parks Commission
From: Cindi Wight, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
Date: May 13, 2025
Subject: ECHO request for rental of bicycles

Background:

Based on city ordinance for peddlers (see end of memo), the Parks Commission must approve any use of the ROW on College Street west of Battery. The outside area on the north side of ECHO is the City's ROW. While that area is in their lease, vendors must get approved for any use of the ROW by the Parks Commission.

In 2022, the Parks Commission approved a Creemee stand operated by ECHO in the ROW and BPRW receives a 4.5% gross sales commission. Our typical rate for a trailer is 5%, but we reduced it to 4.5%, acknowledging ECHO is a non-profit, and the other ones at 5% were commercial users.

Current

ECHO is coming before the Commission to request permission to allow Ski Rack to set up a bike rental operation in their ROW. BPRW is supportive of this as long as BPRW receives 10% of the bicycle rental business's gross sales, as the business will be in direct competition with a vendor who leases space from us for bike rentals at the College Street racks. We advertised the College St concession opportunity as a public proposal, and we had one proposal that offered a 10% commission.

The suggested layout from ECHO takes into account bicycle and pedestrian flow, and in the past, when there have been any issues, they have been very responsive.

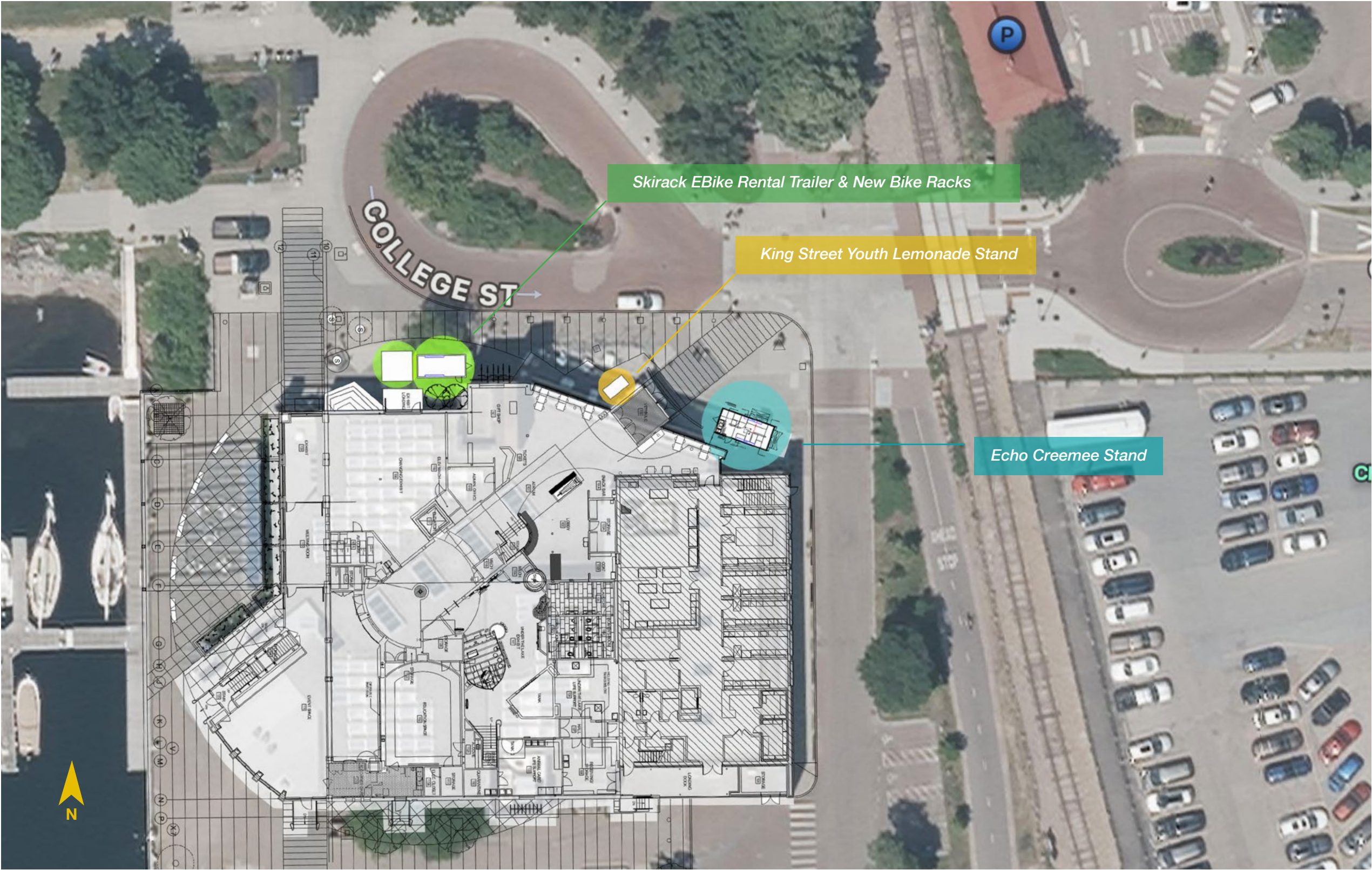
23-6 License issuance, duration, and fees.

(a) *Types of licenses.* There shall be two (2) types of peddlers' licenses available for issuance under this section. Except for peddlers who deliver goods from place to place, each license is good for only one (1) stationary location at any one (1) time.

(1) A general license shall authorize peddling at all locations throughout the city except:

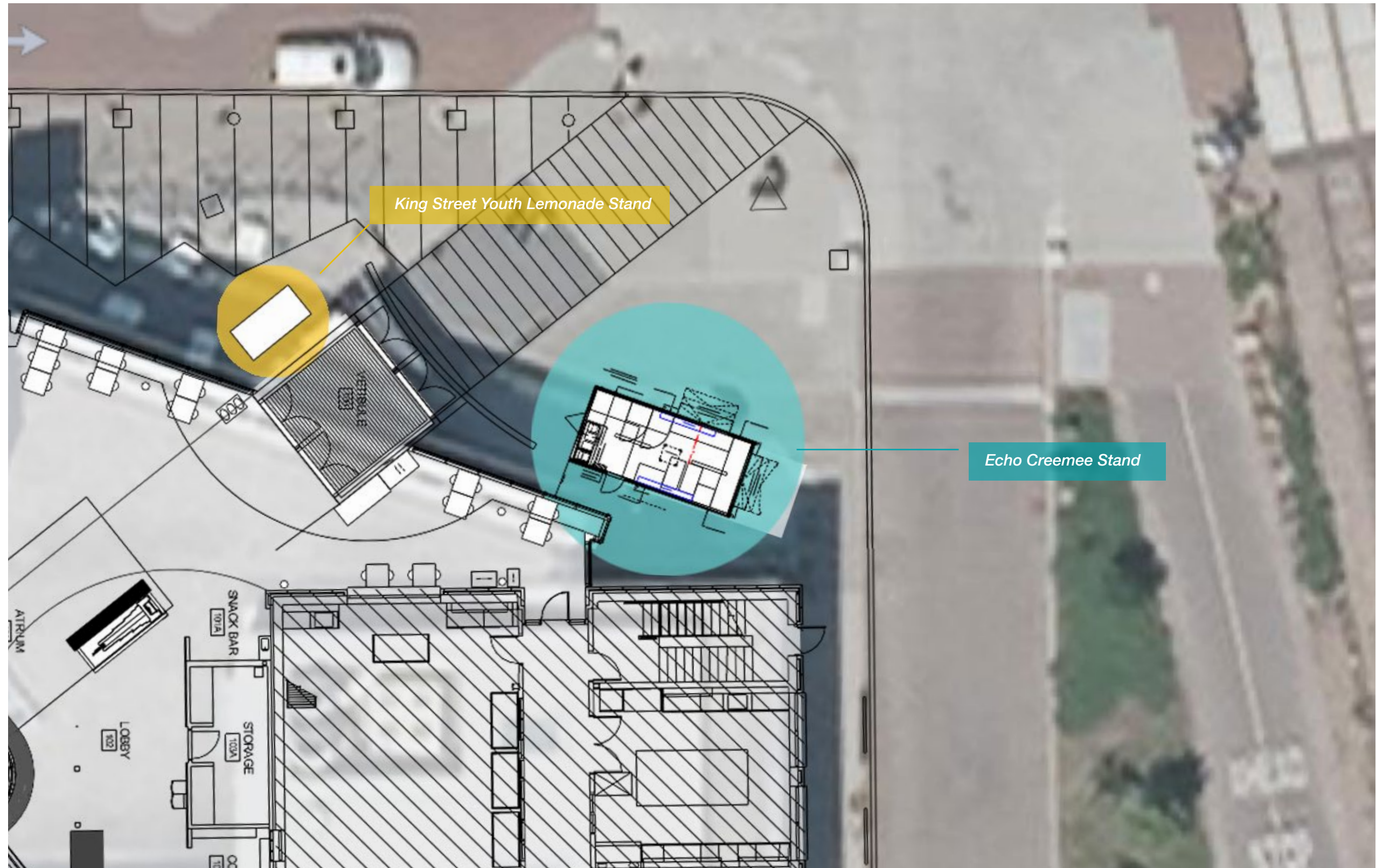
- a. Within the Church Street Marketplace District;
- b. Within the Central Peddling District;
- c. Between the curblines of any street, unless the license carries a vehicle license endorsement; or
- d. Within any city park or within twenty (20) feet of the boundary of any city park except by authorization from the parks and recreation commission. Unless authorized by the commission, peddlers shall also be prohibited from the following areas located near city parks:
 - 1. East from North Beach on the Institute Road right-of-way to North Avenue.
 - 2. Lake Street right-of-way from Depot Street to College Street inclusive.
 - 3. College Street right-of-way west of Battery Street.
 - 4. City-owned land north of Waterfront Park until North Beach including the Water Division access road and the Burlington bikeway.
 - 5. Maple Street right-of-way west of Battery Street.

Overall Plan



Specific locations of ECHO Creemee Trailer, Kingstreet Youth Center Lemonade Stand and Skirack EBike Rental Trailer

North East Facing: ECHO Creemee Trailer and King Street Youth Center Lemonade Stand



Echo Creemee trailer located snug up against building envelope. Echo staff will strictly maintain customer lines and will set up stanchions daily. Right of way(s) will not be impeded.



ECHO Creemee Trailer

Dimensions: 8' wide x 18' long x 8.5' tall

Schedule: May 17th-October 15th

11am-9pm



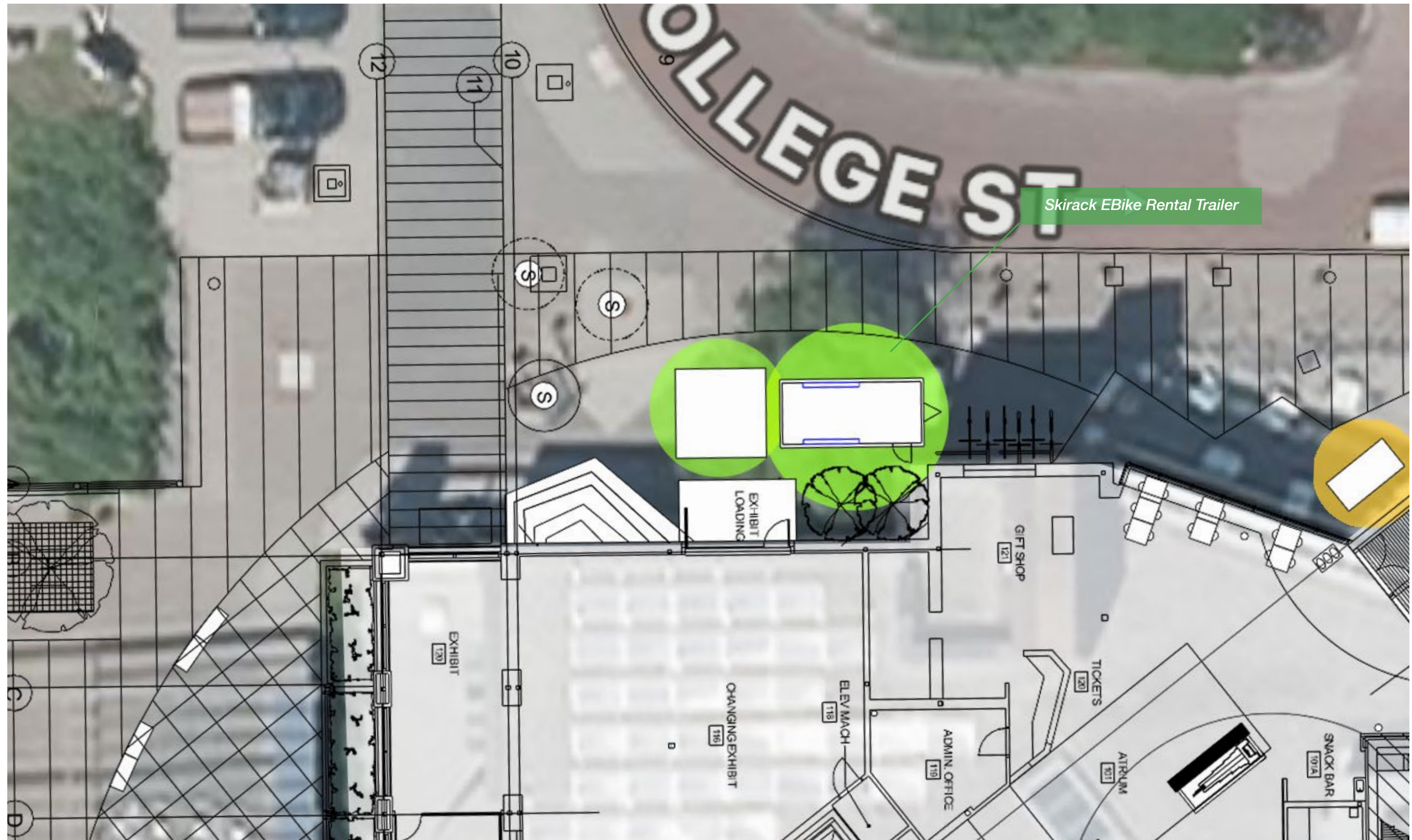
Kingstreet Youth Center Lemonade Stand

Dimensions: 4' wide x 8' long x 6' tall

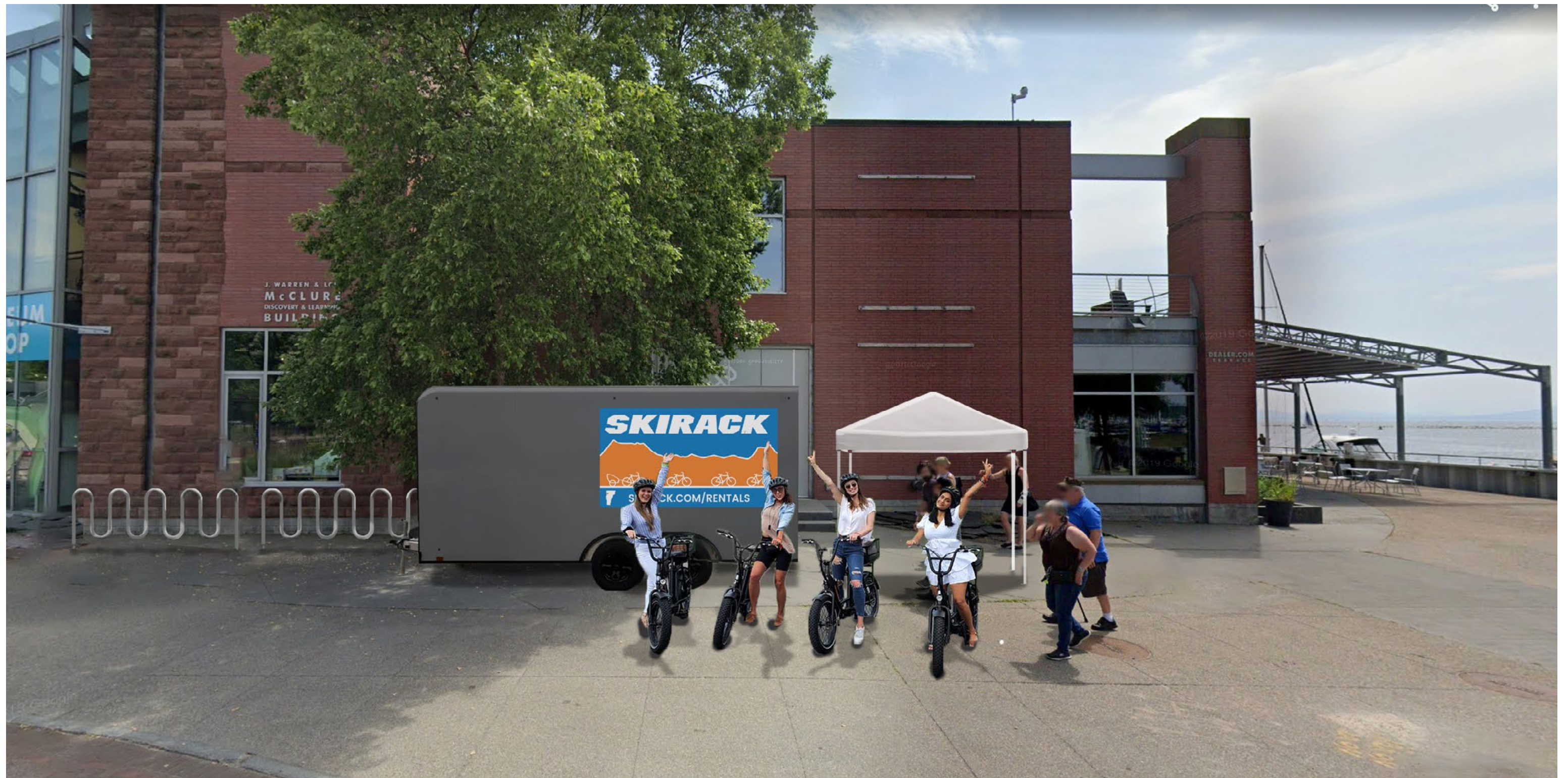
Schedule: June 24th-August 15th

Monday-Friday 11am-5pm

North Facing: Skirack EBike Rental Trailer



Extra care given to locating the Skirack trailer snug up against building envelope so as to not impede pedestrian traffic. Skirack rental area shown with 10'x10' temporary tent and sandwich board.



Skirack EBike Rental Trailer

Dimensions: 7.5' wide x 16' long x 8.5' tall

Schedule: May 17th-October 15th

10am-6pm

(10'x10' events tent popped during open hours for one staff person)

*Echo is a bike friendly organization and has recently installed 2 new bicycle racks

Burlington Conservation Board

645 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
<http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpi>
Telephone: (802) 865-7188

*Rebecca Roman, Chair
Caryn Connolly, Vice Chair
Zoe Richards
Don Meals
Ryan Crehan
Kyle Tansley
Leslie Spencer
Ethan Ely
Elizabeth Cunningham, Student*



TO: Parks Commission
FROM: Scott Gustin
DATE: May 13, 2025
RE: Open Space Plan Preview

The city's Open Space Protection Plan, originally adopted in 2000, is undergoing a comprehensive rewrite. The City Council and Board of Finance approved expenditure of monies in support of this effort in June 2024. The rewrite is a collaborative effort including the city's Departments of Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront and Permitting & Inspections, Office of City Planning, Conservation Board, UVM Spatial Analysis Lab, and Agency Landscape & Planning.

The new Open Space Plan will include the formerly separate Urban Forest Plan. Rather than replace wholesale, the new Open Space Plan will build on the foundations set by these prior plans. The project is being conducted in coordination with current and upcoming citywide planning efforts. The core vision of the new plan recognizes that healthy ecosystems are a crucial ally in making sure the city is resilient to the effects of a warming climate and that healthy ecosystems are part of the city's climate action portfolio. The plan envisions a nature-filled city where wildlife thrives in forests, streams, and the lake; where people enjoy nature's various offerings and eat what their gardens and farms grow; and where people and ecosystems flourish together. The new plan will provide policy guidance as Burlington continues to grow and evolve over the coming decades while retaining the green heart of the city that helps make Burlington so special.

The effort kicked off in Summer 2024 with needs and values assessments and the start of spatial analysis and mapping work. Stakeholder meetings took place in Fall 2024, and public outreach and engagement started in January 2025 and spanned into early March. Spatial analysis and mapping work concluded in March 2025 as well. This initial work will inform the foundation and framework for a new Open Space Plan. The city team and consultants are presently working to draft initial themes and recommendations for a new plan and are gearing up for a second wave of stakeholder and public outreach and engagement starting later this month.

Between April and May 2025, a preview of the emerging plan themes and recommendations is being presented to the Conservation Board, Parks Commission, and the Planning Commission. No Commission action is yet requested, but comments are welcome.

Several individual key themes have emerged based on initial public and stakeholder outreach:

- Conserve (Conservation, Open Space Protection, & Healthy Ecosystems)
- Connect (A landscape stitched together by stewardship and sustainable development)
- Experience (Diverse outdoor experiences)
- Cultivate (Sustainable local food systems)

Additional overarching themes have emerged as well:

- Climate Resilience
- Equity
- Community
- Connectivity
- Identity
- Accessibility

Initial strategies emerging relative to **Conserve** include:

- Adapt the Conservation Legacy Fund to be more flexible in support of community needs, such as conservation infrastructure in addition to its continuing role in open space land acquisition and protection.
- Strengthen open space management and restoration efforts.
- Support wildlife movement and ecological health.

Initial strategies emerging relative to **Connect** include:

- Celebrate and grow nature-based climate solutions.
- Cultivate an ecosystem of stewardship.
- Establish and support ecological design standards for new development.
- Enhance and protect Burlington's Urban Forest.

Initial strategies emerging relative to **Experience** include:

- Increase public awareness of Burlington's open spaces.
- Enhance public access to nature-based experiences.
- Break down barriers to open space access.

Initial strategies emerging relative to **Cultivate** include:

- Cultivate sustainable and resilient agricultural practices.
- Expand the community garden network.
- Support cultivation of alternative food sources such as permaculture.

During the second wave of stakeholder and public outreach and engagement, these initial themes and strategies will be presented and will be further refined and revised into a comprehensive draft plan. By mid to late summer, the new plan will be largely fleshed out and will make its way through the legislative process for eventual adoption in September.