



## City Council - Parks, Arts and Culture Committee

Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:30 PM, 645 Pine St., Front Conference Room

MEETING TO BE HELD IN PERSON AT 645 PINE ST FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIA ZOOM  
When: Jan 24, 2024 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/94790688428>

Or One tap mobile :

+16469313860,,94790688428# US

+19292056099,,94790688428# US (New York)

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 646 931 3860 US

### 1. Call to Order

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>1.1. Call to Order</b>
Meeting	June 26, 2025 - Parks, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting - Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:30 PM, 645 Pine St., Front Conference Room
Category	1. Call to Order
Department	
Type	

### 2. Approve Agenda & Minutes

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- 2.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda
- 2.2. Motion to adopt previous meeting's minutes

### 3. Public Forum

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>3.1. PUBLIC FORUM - Verbal Comments</b>
Meeting	June 26, 2025 - Parks, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting - Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:30 PM, 645 Pine St., Front Conference Room
Category	3. Public Forum
Department	
Type	

### 4. Agenda

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**Subject** 4.1. Open Space Plan Preview - Scott Gustin  
Meeting June 26, 2025 - Parks, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting - Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:30 PM, 645 Pine St., Front Conference Room  
Category 4. Agenda  
Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront  
Type  
Recommended Action

**Subject** 4.2. BPRW Ordinance Update (Appendix D Sections 2 and 5) - Cindi Wight  
Meeting June 26, 2025 - Parks, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting - Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:30 PM, 645 Pine St., Front Conference Room  
Category 4. Agenda  
Department Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront  
Type  
Recommended Action

## 5. Adjournment

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**Subject** 5.1. Motion to adjourn  
Meeting June 26, 2025 - Parks, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting - Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:30 PM, 645 Pine St., Front Conference Room  
Category 5. Adjournment  
Department Council and Board  
Type  
Recommended Action

## 6. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements

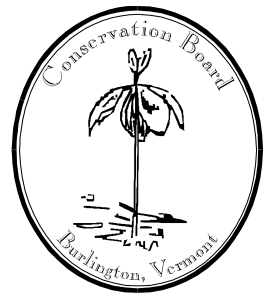
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## Burlington Conservation Board

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



TO: Parks, Arts, & Culture Committee  
FROM: Scott Gustin  
DATE: June 26, 2025  
RE: Open Space Plan Preview

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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 in the midst of a second wave of stakeholder and public outreach and engagement spanning May through June 2025.

Between April and May 2025, a preview of the emerging plan themes and recommendations were presented to the Conservation Board, Parks Commission, and the Planning Commission. We are providing a similar preview to the PAC Committee now. No action is necessary, 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 local legislative process for eventual adoption in September.