



PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 5:30PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

To Join the Meeting on a Computer

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839723902>

To Join the Meeting on a Phone

Number: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 868 3972 3902

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Consent Agenda
 - A. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2020 Meeting (attachment)
*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file
- III. Discussion Item: (15 min.) Open Space Climate Action Addendum, Dan Cahill, Land Steward, BPRW and Scott Gustin, Principal Planner & Asst. Administrative Officer, Permitting & Inspections (attachment)
- IV. Information Item: (10 min.) Arms Forest Update, Dan Cahill, Land Steward, BPRW (verbal)
- V. Public Forum: (Time Certain 6:00PM)
Please see page 2 of the Agenda packet for details on how to participate in the public forum for this meeting.
- VI. Discussion Item: (15 min.) Beach Closures & Proactive Measures (verbal)
- VII. Discussion Item: (10 min.) Leddy Park Beach Parking Fees
- VIII. Discussion Item: (15 min.) Municipal Violations, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (attachment)
- IX. Discussion Item: (10 min.) Increasing Community Engagement for Commission Meetings (verbal)
- X. Discussion Item: (10min.) Fall Retreat, Goal Setting, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)
- XI. Discussion Item: (5 min.) Commission Topics on Hold, Priorities, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (attachment)
- XII. STANDING ITEMS:
 - A. Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours (verbal)
- XIII. Director's Items (attachment)
- XIV. Commissioner's Items
- XV. Adjournment

Agenda available in alternative media forms for people with disabilities. For disability access information, call (802) 864-0123.



Guidance for Participating in a Virtual Parks Commission Meeting

As social distancing measures to preserve public health and safety continue to be required to prevent the spread of COVID-19, or are recommended as a standard practice, the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront staff will be supporting the Parks Commission to conduct their meetings on-line via Zoom. Here is information about how to join a virtual meeting, and what to expect while participating.

General Guidance for Public Participation

Please remember that in this digital meeting environment, meetings are open to the public and anyone may be watching or listening even if you cannot see them. Meetings will be recorded, and both the recording and chat content of the meeting will be maintained as a public record.

Please ensure your display photo and screen name are professional, such as using your first and last name. Please test your audio and video prior to the start of a meeting, and familiarize yourself with how to join a meeting by your chosen method. And finally, please be patient with us. Technology doesn't always work as planned, and we are all learning how to hold a successful virtual meeting!

How to Join a Virtual Meeting

Zoom allows participation via either computer or telephone. Each agenda for a meeting that will be conducted virtually will include details about how to join via either of these options, including a web address, phone number, Meeting ID, and password.

If you participate via computer, you have the option of seeing Commissioner videos and any presentation materials that may be shared. If you use either a standard phone or cell phone to call in, you will only hear the audio portion of the meeting. If you join via a smartphone, you may have the option to download the Zoom app, which will enable you to see and hear the meeting.

How to Participate in a Virtual Meeting

During meetings, only Parks Commission members and limited staff members will be viewed on video. Members of the public attending a meeting will be muted, except when invited to speak during public forum or a public hearing. Whether members of the public can speak at other times during the meeting is the discretion of the Chair.

If you want to speak during public forum, please take the following steps to assist us in making this process run as smoothly as possible:

- Email staff at jputzier@burlingtonvt.gov by 5pm on the day before a meeting to indicate your interest in speaking. You do not need to provide your comments. Staff will enable your microphone as your name is called from a list of interested speakers.
- During a meeting, you can text (802) 922-3381 and a staff will enable your microphone and invite you to speak when your name is called or you can use the "Raise Hand" feature.
- If you are interested in submitting your comments in writing instead of speaking during the meeting, you may do so by 5pm the day before a meeting, they will be forwarded to the Commissioners ahead of the meeting.

The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status, crime victim status or genetic information. The City is also committed to providing proper access to services, facilities, and employment opportunities. For accessibility information or alternative formats, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront department or 711 if you are hearing or speech impaired.



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes July 1, 2020

Commission Present: Barlow, Farrell, Todd, Traverse and Hurley

Staff Present: Wight and Allen

The meeting was convened at 5:35 p.m. by Traverse

Vendors in Parks

Wight and Allen explained to the Parks Commissioners the details around the Grazin' on the Greenway summer program. With the cancellation of Beach Bites and other summer events that bring our community together Allen considered ideas for how to make similar events happen but fit into the COVID-19 restrictions. The idea was to bring the community together but in smaller numbers over a longer period of time.

Vendors will be at Oakledge, Waterfront Park and Leddy Park Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. A vendor will be at Water Works Park from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 Monday through Friday. In addition, Allen is working on vendors at neighborhood parks from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Commissioners had suggestions for food trucks, contacts for Allen and noted interest in ensuring there is one in the Old North End along with the south and north of Burlington. Todd expressed concern about the cost of the meal and availability to all. Allen noted she is working on one at Roosevelt and Wight indicated that it is a good site with the free dinner at Roosevelt for kids provided by the Burlington Schools and run by our BPRW staff.

Farrell made a motion to approve vendors in City Parks through the end of September, Todd seconded and the motion carried. Wight and Allen will provide a report in September or October on the program and recommendations for future use of vendors in Parks.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM)

Public forum opened at 6:01 p.m. by Traverse.

Seeing nobody from the public the forum was closed.

Public forum closed at 6:02 p.m.

Commissioner's Items

Todd requested the City send out an update on the Greenway making sure to specifically address the Barge Canal section. Wight noted that one is in the works and will likely be out on Thursday.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. by Barlow, second by Todd, motion carried.

Burlington Conservation Board
Open Space Subcommittee

645 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
<http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPI>
Telephone: (802) 865-7189
(802) 865-7195 (FAX)



2020 Burlington Open Space Protection Plan – Climate Action Addendum

I. Opening land acknowledgement

- This document serves as a compliment to the Open Space Plan to elaborate on the direct-action steps that the city is taking, and will take, in order to combat climate change. The stewardship recommendations will follow Nature Based Solutions, which will be further explained in this document. It's necessary to first acknowledge that these natural areas were part of the traditional, ancestral territory of Abénaki (a-buh-naa-kee) people, from whom the land was stolen by force. The Abénaki people were the first land stewards here and cared for it for generations before us. We cannot fully care for the land without also honoring its history.

II. Section I: Background and Context

- *Open Space in Burlington*
 - *Define (stems from prior OSPP)*
- *Reference to Burlington's Climate Action Plan document*
- *Emergent Climate adaptation need*
 - *protect restore fund - overview of why have a climate adaptation addendum*
 - *pie chart showing investment/lack of investment*
 - *this will give a visual representation of rough quantifications of how much the city is already plugging into this kind of work, and how we can/need to do more.*
 - *Table showing work that is already happening to combat climate change. This will pair with the pie chart*
 - *Parkland Access, Connectivity, and Trails*
 - *Ongoing trails mapping and management*
 - *discuss City trail program and acknowledge trail networks, and the various investments, consider future structures and alignments, provide narrative on process of formalizing networks (arms process as standard)*
 - *Burlington Wildways - special attention here to coalition model and how that relates to addressing climate adaptation*
 - *New Park/Conservation Areas*
 - *311 North Avenue conservation*
 - *Arms Forest Alignment*
 - *North Cove conservation (WVPD)*

- Rock Point conservation
- Pomerleau Forest
- Other?
- Green Infrastructure
 - Great Streets improvements (stormwater components)
 - City Hall Park green stormwater components
 - Blanchard Beach tributary stormwater project
 - Other?
- Urban Agriculture
- Community based metrics - how much of Burlington's produce is grown in Intervale
- Urban Agriculture Task Force and recommendations
- Regulatory changes to facilitate and support urban ag
- Codification of community garden incentive in the CDO
- Other?

III. **Section 2: Nature Based Solutions overview/integration** (see supporting documents on NBS)

- What are NBS generally speaking? The IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management defined them with these principals:

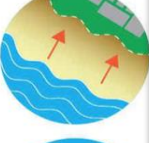


1. Embrace nature conservation norms (and principles);
2. can be implemented alone or in an integrated manner with other solutions to societal challenges (e.g. technological and engineering solutions);
3. are determined by site-specific natural and cultural contexts that include traditional, local and scientific knowledge;
4. produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way, in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation;
5. maintain biological and cultural diversity and the ability of ecosystems to evolve over time;
6. are applied at a landscape scale;

7. recognize and address the trade-offs between the production of a few immediate economic benefits for development, and future options for the production of the full range of ecosystems services; and
8. are an integral part of the overall design of policies, and measures or actions, to address a specific challenge.

- *Based on what other communities are accomplishing/pursuing.* European cities have been using NBS in their cities for some time. We could adopt their goals and apply them in Burlington:

- Enhancing sustainable urbanism
- restoring degraded ecosystems
- developing climate change adaptation and mitigation (*which this addendum is part of doing)
- Improving risk management and Resilience.

Research & Innovation Agenda on Nature-Based Solutions and Re-Naturing Cities	
Goals	Research & Innovation Actions
Enhancing sustainable urbanisation	 Urban regeneration through nature-based solutions  Nature-based solutions for improving well-being in urban areas  Establishing nature-based solutions for coastal resilience  Multi-functional nature-based watershed management and ecosystem restoration  Nature-based solutions for increasing the sustainable use of matter and energy  Nature-based solutions for enhancing the insurance value of ecosystems  Increasing carbon sequestration through nature-based solutions
Restoring degraded ecosystems	
Developing climate change adaptation and mitigation	
Improving risk management and resilience	

Enhancing sustainability within our urban setting

Keep as is

Keep as is

Keep as is

Following the goals outlined on the left, we will tailor the action Items (right) to fit the work of Burlington NBS with accessible, and clear language.

This table is an example of each goal, and the actions that can meet them. NBS are often location specific, and we cannot apply a broad-brush stroke answer for what specific actions will help the most overall. However, with guidelines like these, we can channel our work into specific types of action (ie. Restoration).

- *What does it mean to tackle climate change with nature-based solutions?*
 - It means that we put greater emphasis on nature based work that we are already doing, and incorporate it on a greater scale.
 - That we include citizens, partner organizations (for profit and non-profit), and other city departments in the planning and development of projects.
 - We will need creativity to develop solutions.
 - We will need good communications and outreach to engage and inform citizens
 - It means that we create a more resilient city landscape to prepare for all of the changes we will experience as climate change events increase in frequency and severity.
- *What can we learn from cities who have already done this work successfully?*

Fortunately, there was a study on just that! We can reference the key takeaways from Seven Lessons for Planning Nature-Based Solutions in Cities by Niki Frantzeskaki:

 1. NBS should be aesthetically appealing for citizens to appreciate and protect them. The design characteristics of NBS need to be inviting, engaging, and well integrated into infrastructure to get citizen buy in.
 2. NBS create new green urban commons. Transforming abandoned spaces, to welcoming, community spaces that also create small, new ecosystems in the city.
 3. NBS experiments require and build trust between the city and its citizens both for the aim of the experimenting process itself. Having community input in creating new NBS for the city is really important for building a sustaining partnership between the city and its citizens.
 4. Different forums are needed for co-creating NBS are needed that include and learn from urban social innovation. Co-creation with partnership in local organizations and citizen groups will increase capacity and creativity in creating and managing NBS for the city.
 5. NBS require a collaborative governance approach. They are initiated by local governments and require multiple actors to be designed, implemented and linked to urban life. Having multiple stakeholders and to embed NBS into urban life through community networks and civil society organizations, the solutions will be sustainable.
 6. An inclusive narrative of mission for NBS can bring knowledge and agendas across different departments of the city and tackle with departmental disputes. It is just as important to include citizen voices as it is to include voices across city departments so as to create a common inclusive narrative of mission across departments, inspire colleagues, and get more buy in internally.

7. NBS need to be designed in such a way and scale that lessons for their effectiveness can be easily harvested and as thus, to be easily replicated into other locations. The work should be well documented and reported on so that it can be repeated and learned from.

- *What specific areas can Burlington focus on?* This section will provide general descriptions of these focus areas.
 - Parkland access, connectivity and trails
 - Green infrastructure in the city
 - Urban agriculture (let's give Patrick a chance to shape this early on if there is emergent things that aren't captured in the 2014 OSPP or if there is a twist on this piece that acknowledges Urban Ag role in Climate adaption)
 - Conservation education
 - Natural areas

IV. **Section III: Goals & Objectives**

- Acknowledge the Climate Action Plan, the Urban Forestry Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Parks Master Plan.
- Identify measurable action items and identify responsible parties
- Anticipate comprehensive update in 2025

Goal Areas	Objective	Action Items
Parkland access, connectivity, trails	Ongoing trails mapping and management	Discuss City trail program and acknowledge trail networks, and the various investments, consider future structures and alignments, provide narrative on process of formalizing networks (arms process as standard). protecting areas through intentional and directed access for humans.
	Burlington Wildways	special attention here to coalition model and how that relates to addressing climate adaptation
	Address obstacles to connectivity such as private land that blocks access for people & wildlife.	Contemplate opportunity for private landowners to participate (Rock Point etc...) Affirmative framework as opposed to focusing on

		obstacles - creating habitat connectivity across land blocks
Green Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure buildout methodology and story (specifically line up with waste water management standards)	how are bump outs and installments prioritized and funded? How much area do they serve, what is their role and function?
		What is the big picture and vision of the stormwater program in regard to climate adaptation
Urban agriculture	Community based metrics - how much of Burlington's produce is grown in Intervale	
	Community gardens - adaptive models - communal plots vs individual plots, trend toward no-till vs. tilled (we have numbers on these trends to report on)	
	Creating Bee habitat	
	Re-wilding lawns	
	Neighborhood orchards	
Education	Old growth forest	
	Natural History of Burlington	
	Raising voices of underserved populations in the city	
	Continue programing	Master naturalist ½ yard Civic engagement with trained staff and new trail stewards program
		Recommend a summit of naturalist and ecologist to support a conversation about concepts of functional

		ecosystems in the face of climate adaptation
Natural areas	Biodiversity and its role in the urban setting	
	Mapping of the natural areas	How many parcels over 10 acres have natural cover?
		Identify those in need of management plans
		Reference “I-naturalist” as a community-based resource
		Connectivity mapping
	Better signage in the natural areas	
	Identify and protect ecosystem service	Define this broadly - urban cooling, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, human health.
	Identify and prioritize conservation opportunities	
	Urban wilds	Need to define/rebrand? Explain new program
		Functions-and-values based rather than simply city owned (i.e. urban wilds can be non-city lands). Emphasize wildlife and natural areas as first priority.
		Identify heavy use areas and “wild” areas.

*Just a note on this, I am not sure what the specific and measurable action items will be for each of these, but I based some of them off the previous document.



TO: Parks Commission
FROM: Cindi Wight, Director
DATE: July 28, 2020
RE: Municipal violations
CC: Erin Moreau, Waterfront Superintendent

Background

It has been a challenging year with our Parks including our parking lots regarding disregard for our rules. In past years, we have reached out to Burlington Police Department (BPD) during the summer months to ask their Beach and Park Patrol to assist. Due to budget cuts, BPD did not have a Beach and Parks Patrol this summer, and we have noticed their absence.

Starting with staff concerns, Attorney St. James and I looked at what is in our ordinances and the “penalties” for disregarding rules. Combining our combing of the ordinances and the absence of Beach and Parks Patrol has led to our understanding of the enforcement capabilities we have at our Parks and Beaches.

Chapter 22 of the City Ordinances

Chapter 22 of the City Ordinances covers Parks. It is quite comprehensive covering everything from a listing of our Parks to consumption of alcohol. Some of the information is dated (hitching horses to trees is prohibited) but most is relevant.

<https://www.codepublishing.com/VT/Burlington/#!/Burlington22/Burlington22.html>

Beyond Chapter 22 is Appendix D of the ordinances that gets into the details on Rules and Regulations of our Department. <https://www.codepublishing.com/VT/Burlington/#!/BurlingtonAxD/BurlingtonAxD.html>

In Chapter 22 is section 23 which covers penalties for violating 15 of the sections of Chapter 22.

A violation of the following sections of this chapter shall be deemed a civil offense:

[Listed sections]

In addition, a violation of any provision of the rules and regulations of the parks and recreation department contained in Appendix D of this Code of Ordinances shall be deemed a civil offense. A violation of these sections or the rules and regulations shall be punishable by a civil penalty of from fifty dollars (\$50.00) to five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The waiver penalty for such offenses for purposes of the municipal complaint (civil ticket) shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00). Each day's continued violation shall be a separate offense. The superintendent of parks, waterfront manager, city arborist, seasonal operations supervisors and all law enforcement officers are authorized to issue a municipal complaint for a violation of this chapter.



Next Steps

We will meet with the Attorney this fall to fully understand the steps involved to be authorized to issue a civil ticket. We will also explore taking ownership of the Parks and Beach Patrol where we anticipate standing up this expanded function. We see the potential for managing the many, many challenges at our parks including fireworks, beach fires, glass on beaches, dogs at beaches, off-leash dogs, etc. In addition, BPRW overseeing a Parks and Beach Patrol, takes out the need to bring a fully armed police officer into our parks for municipal violations.



Topics on hold

Master Plans – what we reference

GIS and how/where we use it

Starr Farm Dog Park

BTV Stat

Planning team presentation

Off-leash ordinance, policy, rules (scheduled for the September meeting)

Northshore Natural Area and Leddy Beach off-leash areas

Tour of City Hall park

Fees and rates approval

SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – August, 2020

What are the top issues on your mind?

- Bike Path - projects out to bid and realignment
- Fall/Winter recreation planning and meeting the needs of the community

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- Reduced summer assistance at the waterfront, grounds, and cemetery divisions have required full-time staff to take on tasks and workloads more than ever before and they have been very successful in keeping our parks safe during a time of increased use.
- We have been approved to fill the Bike Path Maintenance Specialist position and will be posting the position soon.
- Our facilities team dispatched compost containers and coordinated waste collection for all park and public buildings for compliance beginning July 1.
- We are working with the DPW Water Division to share a full-time custodian position. We currently have a part-time position vacant and Water needs custodial support. The position will need approval from Board of Finance due to the change from PT to FT but will have no impact on the general fund.
- The Trees team is in the process of planting all the perennials at City Hall Park. They look amazing!
- Jen Lacey is our Coach of the Year. Check out the video we put together for her. She was originally on the schedule for our April Commission meeting which was canceled. The video allows us to get the word out to more of the community on the good work she is doing for BPRW! <https://youtu.be/tRN5LHShSUA>



COVID-19

- The Recreation team is working on fall programming in light of COVID. We have made the decision to not print a catalog but instead will provide an on-line catalog. This will help eliminate “old” information with the unknown pandemic landscape for the fall. Our on-line catalog will only have fall information in August rather than our usual fall/winter program. We will utilize the schools to help us reach K-6 youth in regards to programming along with our on-line presence. We are working with the school district and the Innovation and Technology Department to help determine the role BPRW can play this fall with the new school schedule.
- We are working with other departments on supplies to try to ensure we have at least 90 days of PPE supplies on hand prior to the start of fall.

- Champlain Senior Center started limited in-person programming the week of July 17th. Seniors may choose one of two days to attend and must pre-register. They are utilizing the larger, lower level space at the Old North End Community Center.
- Richard Bailey, our events compliance coordinator, has been working with the RRC on cooling center locations. This has been very challenging and there are no immediate solutions.
- Due to increased beach use we have needed to groom beach more than usual without the usual support of our Campground work crew.

Major upcoming events:

<http://enjoyburlington.com/events/>

- Grazin' on the Greenway has been a successful pilot this summer. Unfortunately, there were limited trucks available so we were not able to expand the trucks at the Waterfront or provide trucks to neighborhood parks. The ice cream trucks have been the general standby and I have importantly tested them at least twice!

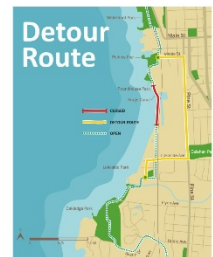
<https://enjoyburlington.com/event/grazin-the-greenway/>



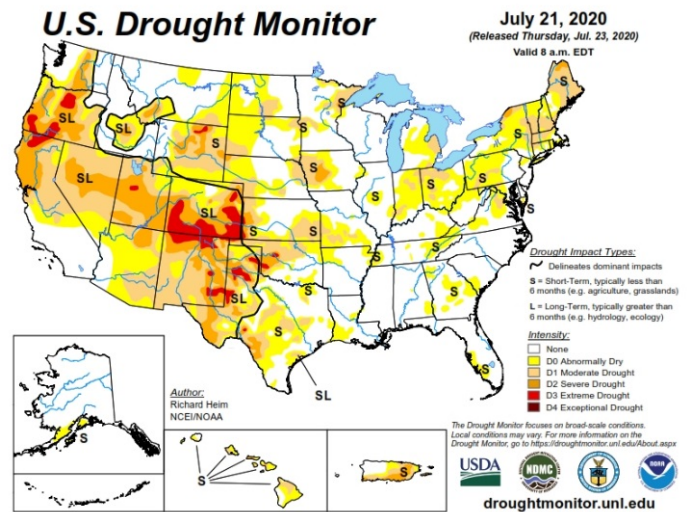
Project and Park updates

- The AARP Fitlot at Miller Recreation Center is completed and gets regular use.
- We have tentatively scheduled August 13th for a press event opening up the Bike Path from Perkins Pier to Roundhouse Point.
- The Barge Canal section of the bike path has been moving at rapid speed and is on task to the completed in late August/early September. Our contractor will move from there to the last section of 3a North which is between Roundhouse Point and the Barge Canal.
- Bike Path 3a South (Barge Canal to Harrison Ave) bids are in and we will look for approval to award the contract at the August 10th BOF and City Council meeting.
- Bike Path 3b North (Just north of Flynn at Blanchard Beach to Proctor Place) is out to bid and we will look for approval to award the contract at the August 24th BOF and City Council meeting.
- Work on the Bike Path Realignment between College Street and Maple Street continues as VTrans' plans for the rail realignment keep moving. Underground utility work at College Street for the rail portion of the project will be underway in October.
- Leddy Tennis Courts Reconstruction, Calahan Tennis Courts resealing and Starr Farm Dog Fence replacement are all under contract and awaiting scheduling to get underway in the next month
- The small restroom at the campground floor has been replaced and work continues on the North Beach Cottage. The latter project has uncovered more challenges but staff are working on the resolution.
- Lakeview Cemetery Section 8 designs have reviewed internally by staff and the Cemetery Commission. Our consultant is working on presenting a final conceptual plan based on all feedback.

**PATH
CLOSED
AHEAD**



- New fitness signs have been installed at the three fitness stations on the Greenway. The signs have been an overdue commitment to UVMVC. We will install the remaining signs as the fitness stations are built (Leddy, Starr Farm and Oakledge).
- We are experiencing a moderate drought which has required all trees and shrubs planted within the past three years to be watered regularly. This has created a drain on existing water systems due to demand and required regular repair to the irrigation systems. The Grounds crews have alternated mowing practices in order to keep grass alive. Check out Leddy softball and Calahan athletic fields for the excellent condition due to the hard work of the Grounds crew!
- We were able to support “spring” sports that are running June, July and August. The crack of the bat is heard around the city!



Recreation and Recreation Facilities Update

- We successfully Beat the Heat again, working with BED, to reduce energy consumption at Leddy during heat waves.

