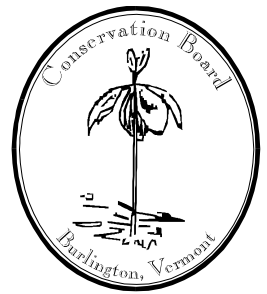


**Burlington Conservation Board
Open Space Subcommittee**

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



Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Public Notice

March 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Remote Meeting

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82013568892?pwd=Y2JOQnloYlVQck5TdGlEeHlFMlE9BUT09>

Webinar ID: 820 1356 8892

Password: 399400

Telephone: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or
+1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

I. Public Comment

II. Project Updates

- 311 North Avenue draft management plan & consideration of future trail work
- Intervale deer management item

III. Other Business

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 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 Human Resources Department at 865-7145.

Management Plan for 311 North Avenue

City of Burlington, Vermont



This Plan has been approved by:

_____, Parks Director

Date

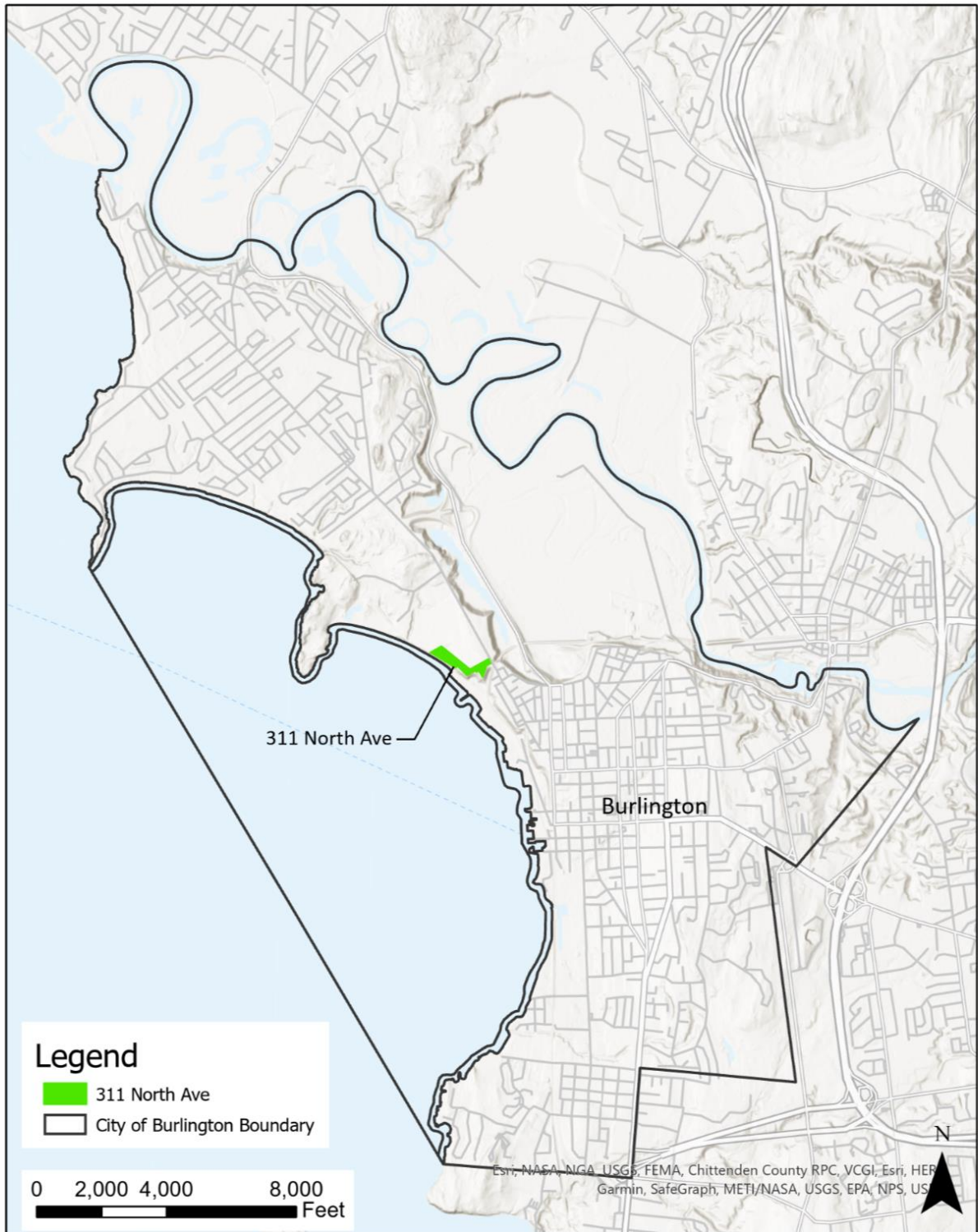
_____, for VHCB

Date



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311 N. Ave Locator Map
311 Management Plan

1. Land Acknowledgement

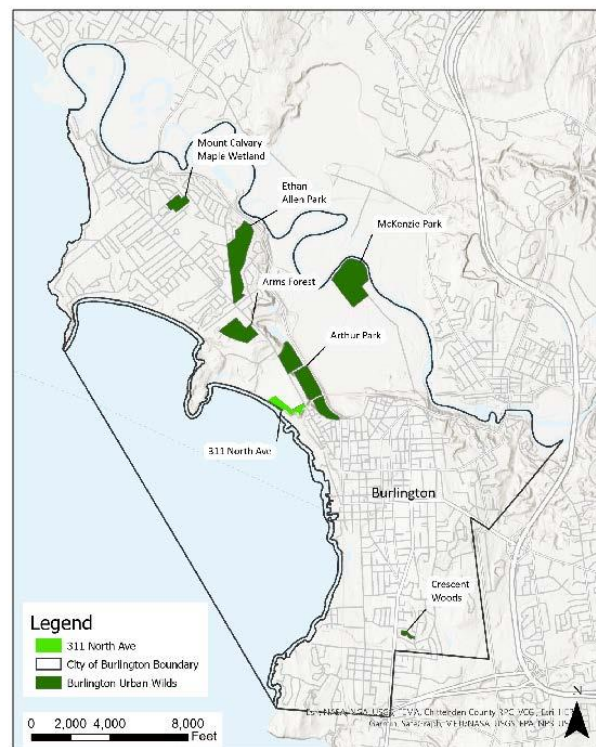
The trails and open spaces of Burlington are a patchwork that weave and connect through a part of the traditional Abenaki homeland known as Winooskiok. The Abenaki have lived here for over two thousand years. European settlement has displaced them from their traditional use and stewardship of the land causing great loss to humans and the ecology with impacts still felt deeply today. The Abenaki continue to live in Vermont and are striving to recover their language, agricultural heritage, seed crop varieties and revitalize their seasonally appropriate ancestral ceremonies.

With recognition that we are all stewards of the land, Burlington Parks Recreation and Waterfront offer this management plan to the Burlington community as an opportunity to support and deepen our communities' connection and place in the natural world. Together we can support cultural and ecological flourishing.

While land acknowledgement is a necessary first step in reconciliation, BPRW recognizes that the intentional naming of places is vitally important, too.

2. Overview & Summary

The Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront (BPRW) property currently known as 311 North Avenue is a unique park, modest in size at 12 acres, and rich in its value and offerings to the living beings of Burlington. It is both a destination for gardening and walking and a corridor for people and wildlife to Burlington's expansive public waterfront and several regional parks and natural areas. 311 North Avenue is one of seven Urban Wilds within the BPRW parks system. The Urban Wilds contain a suite of natural communities ranging from Dry Pine-Oak-Heath Sandplain Forest to Silver Maple Ostrich-Fern Floodplain Forests with many many types in between. Informed management of these Urban Wilds is critical to preserving biodiversity in Burlington. Management of 311 North Avenue is in part guided by values, and themes described in the Open Space Protection Plan, and the Parks Master Plan. However, it is also known, that the moment a plan is completed, it is out of date. Management of the 311 North Avenue property acknowledges the ever changing, and evolving essence of our community and its capacity to grow, learn and adapt.



Burlington Urban Wilds
311 Management Plan

Community Values from the Open Space Protection Plan

- Preservation of small open spaces that unify neighborhoods.
- Protection of open space from threatening development and subdivision.
- Connecting existing open spaces.
- Preservation of the City's natural beauty.

BPRW System Themes from the Park Master Plan

- Wellness – enhancing recreation opportunities and programming
- People – recognizing culture community and partnerships
- Connection – linking people to parks
- Stewardship – protecting and preserving our environment
- Service – streamlining operations
- Community – creating inclusive social spaces
- Impact – motivating economy

The 311 North Avenue property is being intentionally managed. This uncommon park in Burlington is an opportunity to strengthen people's connections to the natural world while protecting and promoting natural biodiversity. The site has an existing critical trail connection from North Avenue to the Burlington Greenway and waterfront. "Texaco Beach" makes up the western boundary of the park and provides a breathtaking space for reflection and beach time. At the eastern boundary, the Stone Cottage Interpretive Center will offer visitors an opportunity to dive into the natural history of the City. Nestled in between, the community gardens create connections and local food sources for Burlington residents, while providing opportunities to enhance insect habitats including those of native bees and other pollinators like hummingbirds. The forests connect Lake Champlain to the Intervale providing food, shelter and travel corridors for mammals such as fishers and foxes and the mammals they prey on like deer, mice, and rabbits.



311 N. Ave Existing Conditions Map
311 Management Plan

3. Vision, Process, and Responsibilities

Overall Vision for 311 North Avenue

311 North Avenue is a dynamic public open space that serves a variety of essential functions for humans, wildlife, and plants. A central vision of the 311 North Avenue Park Property is one of **reciprocity**.

Reciprocity - the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit, or the quality or state of being reciprocal : mutual dependence, action, or influence

This parkland is a place, like many others in Burlington that presents living beings, humans, wildlife, and plants, the opportunity to convene with each other in energy and spirit. At its most basic level, this exchange takes place when humans enter into a space with intention and presence. As this document outlines a management construct for a City Park, it requires that park users honor the ethics that relate to common rules, such as keeping dogs on leash and staying on the trail. Beyond these rules, the park and its stewards will facilitate the exchange of humans actively supporting the health and function of the landscape in return for the vast ecosystem services the plants and animals provide. The park experience supported through site interpretation and programming will ask its users to consider an



intention and presence of knowing and understanding fellow humans who use the land currently with acknowledgment that some of these peoples have been in community with this land for thousands of years. It will ask users to acknowledge the plants, their names and their needs. It will ask park users to acknowledge the wildlife that calls the land home and passes through the space.

This management plan will outline some of the specific management goals and objectives that will support and facilitate reciprocity. This reciprocity will take many forms, from the basic levels of presence and acknowledgement, to action and active stewardship. This parkland will call in voices from the community, to speak for themselves, for the plants and for the wildlife. Park users will be welcomed to listen, welcomed to convene and most of all, welcomed to enjoy.

The vision of reciprocity takes on two central themes - connection and healing.

Connection

This property's reciprocal relationship to the adjacent development and surrounding built environments is to provide refuge and connection for human, animal, and plant communities. For humans and wildlife, 311 North Avenue offers a connective experience from one place to another. For humans, 311 North Avenue connects users from the Old North End, and North Avenue down to Burlington's expansive public waterfront and the Burlington Greenway. For wildlife, the property acts as an important habitat and corridor between Lake Champlain and Burlington's Intervale. For plant communities, their cover, their hosting of insects, and the ecosystem services they provide shape the viability of the experience for all other living beings who occupy or pass through the park.



In a broader sense, the 311 North Avenue property provides opportunities to strengthen people's connections to the natural world. These connections can occur while protecting and promoting the natural biodiversity of the site as a staff person or volunteer. These connections also occur simply when a park user chooses to attune with the park values in respect to their choices and behaviors while visiting the space. The future Stone Cottage interpretive center will interpret the natural history of the City and help deepen connections available through education and awareness. The community gardens create connections and local food sources for Burlington residents while providing opportunities to enhance insect habitat, including native bees and other pollinators like hummingbirds.

Healing

The recent local human history of the past 500 years has been tumultuous in relation to this land, and all of the lands in the greater Burlington area. As we reckon with this history, the 311 North Avenue parkland offers a unique opportunity for healing. All living beings, plants, animals, insects and humans have a stake in contributing to and benefiting from healing. In future interpretation, programming, and stewardship of the land, the healing of the landscape, humans and history will be central.

Some examples of ways that healing spaces and actions have begun to form on the park land:



- Supporting spaces that nourish through:
 - Community Gardens
 - Fruit and nut trees that feed people and wildlife
- Creating Regenerative Stewardship Practices that are:
 - opportunities for the community to actively heal the landscape through stewardship events and projects
 - Intentionally planned to strengthen ecosystem resilience by increasing the presence of native plants that host co-evolved insects

- Making Space for Stories, such as:
 - poetry walk along trails
 - interpretation inside the Stone House
 - access to books and knowledge
 - signage that describes plants, their names and characteristics
 - convening discussions and process to learn and understand the true name of spaces, bings, and natural processmemorials and commemoration of previous occupants and site users
- Developing relationship between City staff and former and current stewards and residents of the parkland and its adjacent lands. This includes but shall not be limited to the known communities:
 - First Nation peoples - The Missiquoi and Winooski Tribes of the Abenaki
 - The former children of the St. Joseph's orphanage
 - Members of the Burlington College community.

The charge of this management plan is to focus on the landscape and the land itself. However, there will be direct correlation to the programming of the Stone Cottage.

The Stone Cottage home to BPRW's Conservation Team. In the broadest sense, the mission of the Conservation Team is to support and heal the relationship between humans and nature in the Burlington landscape and to protect and promote biodiversity in the City. Programming of the space will mirror this, providing a home base to the staff and volunteer operations of the Conservation Team and a public space that reflects the Conservation Team's values and mission, while housing a broad range of services and resources to support these.

The community space within the Stone Cottage will act as an information and education center for Burlington's natural areas and open spaces, much like a ranger station in a national park. The services and resources provided will center on a variety of systems themes such as place-based natural history, social and climate justice, climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience. The intent is to strengthen this programming through integrating institutional and community partners into the offerings in the space. Discussions with the library have begun to make available rotating book collections that relate back to the system themes mentioned above. University of Vermont (UVM) has also expressed interest in using the Stone Cottage to display exhibits of plants and animals from their taxidermy and herbarium collections.

We envision a small community space where visitors can come to learn about local trail networks and natural areas, borrow a book about Abenaki heritage, sign up for a community garden plot or a volunteer service project, learn how to introduce native vegetation into their back yard, and check email at a public computer workstation.



Development Process for the Management Plan

The management plan for 311 North Avenue grows out of a long history of extractive use by multiple owners dating from the earliest days of settlement in Burlington. From the excavation of the sandplain to fill in the Waterfront creating landing for the export of timber, to the dense redevelopment next to the property today. The goal of the management plan is to encourage the return of a native landscape on the conserved land and to foster a closer connection to nature among Burlington residents through community gardens and conservation and natural history programming. Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront continues to work in partnership with community volunteers, the Grow Wild initiative, Burlington Wildways, The University of Vermont, and the Burlington City and Lake semester to achieve these goals. This management plan will be updated every 5 years.

See the “311 North Avenue Timeline” in the appendix for a detail of public input and process related to the history and development of this management plan.

Responsibilities

The 311 North Avenue Park and Stone Cottage will be managed by the Conservation Program of the Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department. The Conservation Program manages over 200 acres of conservation areas throughout the City, including 7 Urban Wilds, 14 community gardens, and over 35 miles of paved and unpaved trails. Within these natural areas, gardens and trail corridors the Conservation Division actively manages over 45 acres of regenerative plantings, where they actively remove invasive plant species and re-introduce native plants. At 9 of the 14 garden sites the conservation division manages permaculture plantings designed and planted to increase food security for people and for wildlife. The Conservation team resources this work with 2 full time employees, 5-6 seasonal employees and 500-800 volunteers annually who perform 7,000-9,000 volunteer hours annually.



1UVM Students and Community Volunteers prepare for a tree planting event.

The 311 North Avenue Park Land will be stewarded and managed by staff in partnership with community volunteers through the following efforts:

- **Planting Plans for Restorative and Regenerative Work** - These efforts will be led by the Grow Wild initiative. Grow Wild is an initiative involving multiple partners to enhance public and private lands in Burlington by increasing the presence of native plants for insect, amphibian, bird and mammal diversity.
- **Community Gardens** - The community garden sites are co-managed by the garden community and park staff and contractors. Maintenance of sheds, fences, water systems, and gates are

maintained by park staff. Trimming and mowing is performed by contractors. The management of individual plots, garden pathways, and plant waste is done by community gardeners. The community of gardeners is co-managed by park staff and a designated volunteer site leader who is also a community gardener. All community gardeners are responsible for performing 4 hours of community-focused work at their site. This is incorporated into the gardener agreement that all gardeners sign during registration. Community-focused work must be service that falls outside of maintenance of their individual plot.

- **Invasive Species Removal, Restoration, and Regenerative Planting Areas** - The work plans to support these areas will be developed, managed and lead by staff. Staff and community members will jointly perform the work plans. Some of this will occur on community workdays, and some through specific assignment of tasks to individual volunteers.
- **Trail Maintenance** - Trail maintenance will be led by staff with some support by community volunteers.
- **Standard Park Maintenance** – Park staff will sustain regular maintenance practices that are required in every public park including both the built and non-built environment in a way that increases the inclusive value of the space and protects the investments of our community.



Regenerative plantings at 311 North Avenue

4. Property Description

In February 2016, the City of Burlington and the Vermont Land Trust purchased 11.7 acres of woodland and open meadow from BC Community Housing, LLC on land formerly owned by Burlington College. The College used the land as open space and a structure on the parcel (the Stone Cottage) was used as a dormitory. The property was acquired to add to the City's Urban Wilds park properties and provide an east-west connection from the Old North End to the Waterfront. These properties are designed to preserve land as habitat for rare and endangered plants and animal communities, wetlands and riparian systems, flood plains, unique geological and hydrological features, important wildlife habitat and travel corridors, areas important for scientific research and education, scenic vistas, trails, passive and active recreation, sustainable forest communities and cultural features.

Natural History

A Dry Pine-Oak-Heath Sandplain Forest, one of Vermont's rarest and most threatened community types grew on the 311 property in pre-settlement times. Ecologist Brett Engstrom identified a small remnant of this forest type on the site. Sandplain forests naturally occur on deep sands deposited post-glacially into Lake Vermont and the Champlain Sea. These forests have canopies of pine, including pitch pine, and oaks and an understory of shrubs belonging to the heath family, like blueberries. The well-drained soils are acidic and often very dry, since rainwater drains quickly through the coarse texture. Forest fires play a role in their natural development. Pitch pine has thick bark that protects it for light fires and seeds that germinate readily in the bare mineral soils that are left after a fire. In the absence of fire, black locust (a species introduced to northern Vermont by settlers) have begun to dominate the canopy. Celandine poppy and garlic mustard and other invasive plants create the forest's understory today.

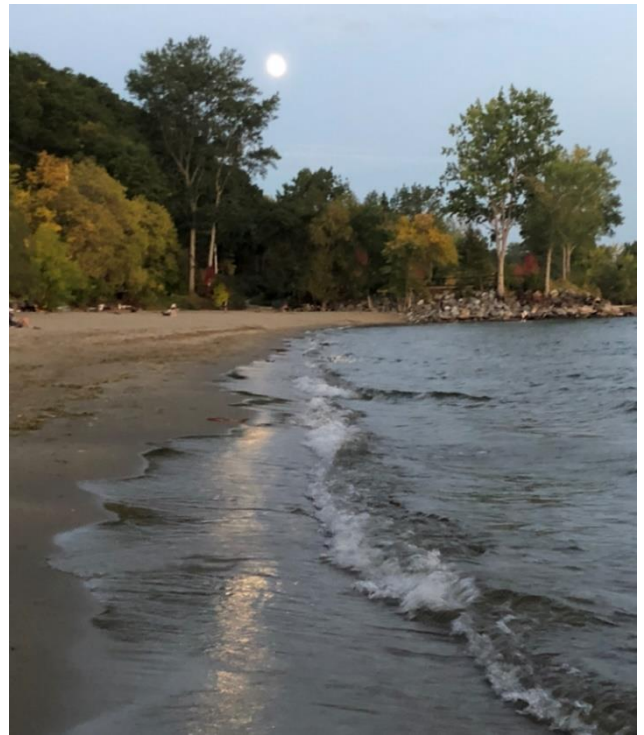
The deep sandy soils, deposited as a delta by the Winooski River into the Champlain Sea 10,000 years ago, are vulnerable to human disturbance and create distinct management challenges. Where vegetation is absent, the sand erodes easily. Without well-designed trails, steep slopes quickly deepen into troughs with intensive use.

The abundance of sand allows foxes to dig spring dens for their kits and to hunt for small mammals like chipmunks, woodchucks and moles that also dig burrows underground. The presence of both red and gray fox have been seen on trail cameras in 2020. Cameras have also recorded fishers, coyotes, raccoons, deer, rabbits, squirrels and mice. Young shrubland habitats at the edges of the forests are ideal habitat for songbirds like chestnut sided warblers and yellow warblers. Eyewitnesses report raptors including a bald eagle and peregrine falcon hunting along the lakeshore.

Cultural Geography

The bluffs and beaches along Lake Champlain in Burlington have for over 10,000 years a history of use by native peoples. As the Champlain Sea receded from east to west across Burlington, people used the various shorelines to fish, to hunt and to trade by canoe. The high sandy bluffs at 311 served as look out point both for the canoe of returning travelers and for enemy canoes. The beaches allowed people to sit along the water while they ate shellfish, smoked fish, tended fires and other daily activities. As the Champlain Sea freshened into Lake Champlain, those activities continued with new advancements by the Abenaki into the 1800s.

The first known maps of Burlington by European settlers show that in 1857 the site had three small houses along the road, in 1869 the land was labeled "Chittenden Agricultural Society Fair Grounds," and the houses are gone, in 1890 the area around the Stone Cottage was called the "Lake View Retreat" and stood adjacent to the Cambrian Rise land which was labeled Providence R. C. Orphan Asylum & Hospital.



Moonrise on Texaco Beach

Connections to the Burlington Community

The property connects the Urban Reserve and Waterfront Park to the south with Lakeview Cemetery and North Beach to the north, and provides access to the Burlington Greenway from the Old North End neighborhood currently via an informal trail. This path has been created by the public over the past century, with evidence of the trail shown in aerial imagery as far back as the 1930's. This trail shows a clear need for alternative pedestrian access points to the lakeshore.

The new park will include open fields and woodland along the sandy bluffs of Lake Champlain that will be managed to bring back species native to this uncommon ecological setting in Vermont. The property currently hosts 24 community garden plots and also includes a scenic, 900 ft. long sand beach known locally as Texaco Beach. The City intends to expand the number of community garden sites in the future.

The property was purchased from the former Burlington College by BC Community Housing, LLC, as part of a 27-acre parcel that would be developed to create 146 new housing units. At closing the property was transferred to the City of Burlington and a sole-held conservation easement was acquired by VHCB.

Pre-existing legal agreements with the former owner allow the developer to grade a portion of the hillside on the east side of the property to accommodate an underground storm water management system uphill from the parcel. The developer has also retained the right to construct

an ADA accessible paved recreation path through the property from the housing project to the Burlington Greenway.

The property also features the Stone Cottage, an historic property built in 1906 by Dr. Walter D. Berry, listed on the State Register of Historic Places in November, 1993, and potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A. There is a modern two-story addition to the Cottage. The historic cottage is preserved under a separate, historic easement that is co-held between VHCB and Preservation Trust, Vermont.

Wildlife

The 311 North Avenue Parkland provides wildlife corridor and habitat for coyote, fisher, fox, deer, raccoon and other large mammals. The Park will be maintained in a wild state, with little to no mowing and special attention given to ensuring there is consistent cover and spaces for wildlife movement. All of the adjacent properties also have important wildlife corridors and some have habitat. Special attention will be given to ensuring wildlife movement to and through the Park land will be sustained. The wildlife map shows some of the observed movement of wildlife, as well as some specific activities that will be undertaken to support wildlife.



311 N. Ave Wildlife Map
311 Management Plan

Rare Plants, Animals and Natural Communities

There is evidence the original natural community of much of the 311 North Avenue Park was a Pine-Oak-Heath Sandplain Forest, a rare and threatened natural community. The site contains a zone of sandy bluffs overlooking Lake Champlain. These fragile, highly erosive formations are remnant sand dune/river delta and provide scenic lake views from the property. The sandy beach found on the western border of the park is also a natural community.

The meadow area provides habitat for songbirds, including chestnut sided and yellow warblers. Two uncommon plant species, Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and short fescue sedge (*Carex brevior*) were located on the property during a 2017 survey conducted by Arrowwood Environmental, LLC of Huntington, VT.

Water Features

The western boundary of the park is Lake Champlain. On this boundary there is approximately 1000 ft of sandy beach, known to the community as Texaco Beach. This beach has been designated as an off-leash dog area and is the only place on the property that dogs can be unleashed.

Invasive Species

The 311 Park Property is currently host to a variety of invasive species. These will be managed in accordance with the regenerative and restorative functions described earlier in this section of the management plan.



Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida) sapling planted in the 311 North Avenue forest



Sunset from Texaco Beach

Notable Site Features and Requirements Described in the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board Conservation Easement

- The parcel is an 12 acre undeveloped area of forest and open meadow in a highly developed urban neighborhood adjacent to Lake Champlain. There is evidence the original natural community was a Pine-Oak-Heath Sandplain Forest, a rare and threatened natural community.
- Contains a zone of sandy bluffs overlooking Lake Champlain. These fragile, highly erosive formations are remnant sand dune/river delta and provide scenic lake views from the property.
- The meadow area provides habitat for songbirds, including Chestnut sided and Yellow Warblers.
- Two uncommon plant species, Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and short fescue sedge (*Carex brevior*) were located on the property during a 2017 survey conducted by Arrowwood Environmental, LLC of Huntington, VT.
- There is approximately 900 feet of lake sand beach at the bottom of the sandy bluffs that has been identified as a rare resource by the Vermont Natural Heritage Inventory.
- A Bluff Protection Zone has been created and carries with it special consideration
 - The Bluff Protection Zone comprises an area of steep, erodible sand bluff and level sandplain on top of the bluff located along the southernmost property line of the Protected Property (details of the Bluff Protection Zone available in the “Conservation Easement Map”).
 - The boundaries of the plan may be changed from time to time by mutual agreement of Grantor and Grantee, as established by written agreement recorded in the Burlington Land Records and depicted on a new conservation plan signed by the Grantor and Grantee.
 - All management activities shall have the protection of the bluffs and sandplain, and restoration of native natural communities as the primary objective as defined in Sections V, II, III and IV of the Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Public Access Easement.
 - There will be no cutting or removal of vegetation shall occur except for the following permitted purposes:
 - 1) trail maintenance and construction,
 - 2) vegetation poses an immediate danger to the health or safety of persons,
 - 3) removal or suppression of invasive, exotic or non-native species,
 - 4) in order to enhance and/or restore rare, threatened or endangered natural communities.

The City of Burlington, the Federal Land Water and Conservation Fund and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board acknowledge the objective of ensuring the availability of the 311 North Avenue park property for public use and enjoyment, including, but not limited to, educational, recreational and other appropriate community activities and, to that end, the purposes of the Easement and development restrictions on the property are in place to:

a. To conserve and protect the public outdoor recreational, scenic, cultural and open space resources of the Protected Property and to prevent the use or development of the Protected Property for any purpose or in any manner that would adversely affect these resources.

- b. To provide opportunities for educational activities, and permit the construction and maintenance of public trails and structures incidental to appropriate public recreational use and to conserve wildlife habitats and forestry values associated with the Protected Property for present and future generations.
- c. To insure that the Protected Property will be owned in perpetuity by a public entity approved by the National Park Service and VHCB.
- d. To require that management of the Protected Property be guided by a public management planning process.

These purposes will be advanced by conserving the Protected Property because it possesses the following attributes:

- a. 12 acres of open and wooded lakefront land in the City of Burlington; the site has excellent potential for outdoor recreation and quiet enjoyment in a park-like setting;
- b. An ancient outwash delta that forms a high bluff overlooking Lake Champlain; the top of the delta and the bluff offer high potential for natural area restoration with native species;
- c. Remnants (particularly in the northwestern corner, and along the bluff in the southern portion of the Protected Property) of Pine-Oak-Heath Sandplain Forest, which is a very threatened natural community in Vermont;
- d. Approximately 900 feet of sand beach, which is recognized by the Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program as a rare natural community in Vermont of statewide significance;
- e. Contains one known pre-Contact era Native American archeological site, designated VT-CH-1210 by the University of Vermont Consulting Archeology Program, and for obvious environmental and topographic reasons, may be archeologically sensitive throughout;
- f. Is bisected by the Burlington Bike Path; provides a trail connection from North Avenue to the Bike Path; abuts North Beach, owned by the City of Burlington; abuts Burlington's Urban Reserve, which was protected with public investments, including a grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; abuts Lake View Cemetery, which is owned by the City of Burlington; contains soils suitable for community gardens; and abuts an affordable housing project partially funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

5. Public Access and Recreation

Access

Access to the site is made via automobile and bicycle via the driveway off of North Avenue. There is a small parking area that has space for approximately 10 vehicles. For pedestrians, the driveway area also is an option to enter the property, and further south off North Avenue there is a small informal trail entrance. From the west side of the property, there is currently a washed out access to the property from the Burlington Greenway. A formalized access at the southern border of the property and the bike path is currently in the design phase. This new access will connect through the property at ADA standards up to the future Cambrian Rise Development. At around the midpoint of the western edge of the property near the bike path, there is intention to develop a pedestrian staircase when funding is available. Lastly, there will be a trailhead access that links to the main 311 North Avenue trail from the end of the future “South Road” that will be developed as a part of the Cambrian Rise development. Public parking is intended to be available off of the South Road.

Trails

The proposed improvements later in this plan depict the existing and proposed trail configurations for the 311 North Avenue Park. All trails shown in these figures, proposed and existing are the responsibility of BPRW staff and volunteers for maintenance and upkeep.



Recreation

Allowed activities

- hiking
- biking (on certain trails)
- berry picking
- foraging
- walking leashed dogs

Restricted activities

- **No Unleashed Dogs (except at Texaco beach)**

This is of particular importance. Off-leash dogs, to the owners of the animal, or to dog loving park users, may seem benign. However, the presence of off-leash dogs has many detrimental effects. Including:

- Off-leash dogs can be a frightening or disconcerting experience for various park users particularly for people who have immigrated from countries where dogs are not typically kept as pets, and/or from places where off-leash dogs are stray, wild, and often diseased. Others may have experienced a dog attack and are fearful of dogs.
 - Off-leash dogs are harmful and even deadly to wildlife either by directly attacking or killing wildlife or through chasing them/routing them out of a den or nest. It is important to note that wild animals are on a fixed and often limited food budget, whereas dogs are typically fed consistently and well, so when dogs, who typically have more available energy resources, chase wildlife it disturbs a delicate energy balance which can cause severe stress and even death for wildlife.
- **Removing items from the forested and natural landscape such as downed trees and limbs**
Downed trees and limbs provide important habitat for insects and wildlife. Removal of any materials from the park should be discussed with Parks staff.



Prohibited activities

- motorized vehicles (unless it is a mobility device)



Mo the Moose resting on a fallen tree.

6. Management Goals and Objectives

The following is an outline of our overall management goals for the 311 North Avenue property. Each goal explains the desired outcome and is supported clear objectives, led by responsible parties and defined steps to achieve the goal. Wherever possible timeframes and costs have been included.

GOAL #1 - Manage the natural landscapes of the 311 North Avenue Park Property through restorative and regenerative practices.

Desired outcomes and future conditions - 311 North Avenue's native natural community will be supported and kept intact as much as possible. In areas and spaces where disturbance and natural cycles no longer exist, regenerative practices will be chosen to support high levels of ecosystem resiliency.

Objectives

- Sustain and maintain work plans that support regenerative and restorative management techniques, including but not limited to:
 - invasive species management
 - planting of native plant species

GOAL #2 - Provide east/west access to the waterfront and adjoining properties for humans and wildlife.

Desired outcomes and future conditions - The property will be managed in a way that provides connectivity woodland and wild spaces with ample cover and for wildlife movement and habitat. The site will also support accessible multi-modal human powered movement from North Avenue and from Cambrian Rise down to the Burlington Greenway and the Burlington Waterfront.

Objectives

- Woodland and wild spaces will be managed to provide ample cover for wildlife movement and habitat.
- Trails designed for human use will be built sustainably so surface conditions allow for safe use and tread is protected from stormwater. In some cases there will be accessible trail routes through the site planned, built and maintained.

GOAL #3 - Provide access to food for people and wildlife at the 311 Park Land.

Desired outcomes and future conditions - The 311 North Avenue Park Land will be a place where humans and wildlife will be able to gain access to food through a variety of ways.

Objectives

- Community Garden plots will be established and maintained to allow humans plots that can be rented for the purposes of growing food and flowers.
- Fruiting plants with a preference for native species, that provide foods for wildlife, birds and humans will be planted and maintained.
- Native vegetation will be maintained throughout the park property to increase the hosting of insects that provide vital ecosystem services and food for birds.



GOAL #4 - Provide passive recreation opportunities.

Desired outcomes and future conditions - The 311 Park Land is a place where park users can walk, sit, reflect, and observe.

Objectives

- Add some benches, picnic tables or other amenities throughout the site
- Trail experiences that support passive recreation will be installed, improved, and maintained

Goal #5 - Community Education

Desired outcomes and future conditions - 311 Park Land and the Stone House will be a community hub for place-based learning and interpretation in regard to natural history, climate justice, and ecosystem resilience.

Objectives

- Activate the space through natural history hikes, native plant demonstration gardens, poetry walks, community gardening workshops, racial justice murals, etc.
- Facilitate human connection to the land through a range of opportunities, such as creative arts, science, mutual aid, and stewardship.
- Create a physical location indoor location to support these activities

7. Proposed Improvements

Trail Building and Realignments

Supports Goal # 2

- Re aligning and resurfacing natural trail
 - fall 2021/summer 2022
- Building out Paved Path connections from Cambrian Rise Development to the Burlington Bike Path. *This work will be highly intrusive to the landscape and will create variability in the slope and landscape of some park areas.*
 - summer fall 2022

Installation of Pedestrian Staircase

Supports Goal # 2

- Building of pedestrian staircase to provide alternative egress from parkland to Greenway
 - no determined timeline - still in preliminary design phase and fundraising

Adaptation of the Parking Area

Supports Goal # 4

- Realignment of parking area.
 - no determined timeline - still in preliminary design phase and fundraising

Expansion of Community Garden Space

Supports Goal # 3

- Connect Lakeview North and South gardens, create 10-15 additional community garden plots
 - summer 2021- fall 2022

Formalization of Park Operations Storage Yard

Supports Goal # 1

- Designation of a 1500-3000 sq. foot storage area on the south side of the garage.
 - summer 2022

Development of Poetry Walk

Supports Goal # 5

- Installation of 14 poetry/art stations
 - Infrastructure mostly installed, first Poetry show planned for spring 2021

Improvements to the Stone Cottage

Supports Goal # 5

- In the winter/spring of 2021 the City will be working with architects and consultants to develop a building assessment and design that addresses the accessibility and function of the 311 North Avenue. Stone Cottage.
 - Summer 2021 - Winter 2022 - building and accessibility upgrades are planned for the Stone Cottage - pending available funding.

Repairing Eroding Bluffs

Supports Goal # 1

- The historic footpath that connects at the Burlington Greenway has significant erosion damage that puts the bluffs at risk.
 - Summer/Fall 2022 - stabilize and back fill this area with organic material. Plans to use trees removed in the process of building trail sections.



311 N. Ave Improvements Map
311 Management Plan

8. Naming

Official Name of 311 North Avenue Park Land

In 2016 the Parks Foundation on behalf of the Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department accepted a \$750,000 donation from a Burlington family. These contributions were directed to support the acquisition of 311 North Avenue Park Land, as well as the rehabilitation of the Stone Cottage. Naming rights for 311 North Avenue were granted to the donors as authorized by the BPRW Park Naming Policy. It is anticipated that the name chosen by the donor will be announced in the spring/summer of 2021.

Pursuit of a True Name

The Conservation division will be engaging the community, holistically, with a specific interest in creating voice for indigenous wisdom and experience. We envision that part of this journey will make space for the pursuit of understanding the true names of places, spaces and experiences in Burlington. This journey will help us understand the true name of 311 North Avenue and other significant conservation areas and features in Burlington.

The process for understanding the true name of areas and features may create opportunities to revisit current policies related to official naming practices. See the appendix document “BPRW Naming Policy” for the current official park naming policy.

9. Appendices

[Burlington Parks Master Plan](#)

[Open Space Protection Plan](#)

[311 North Avenue Public Input and Timeline](#)

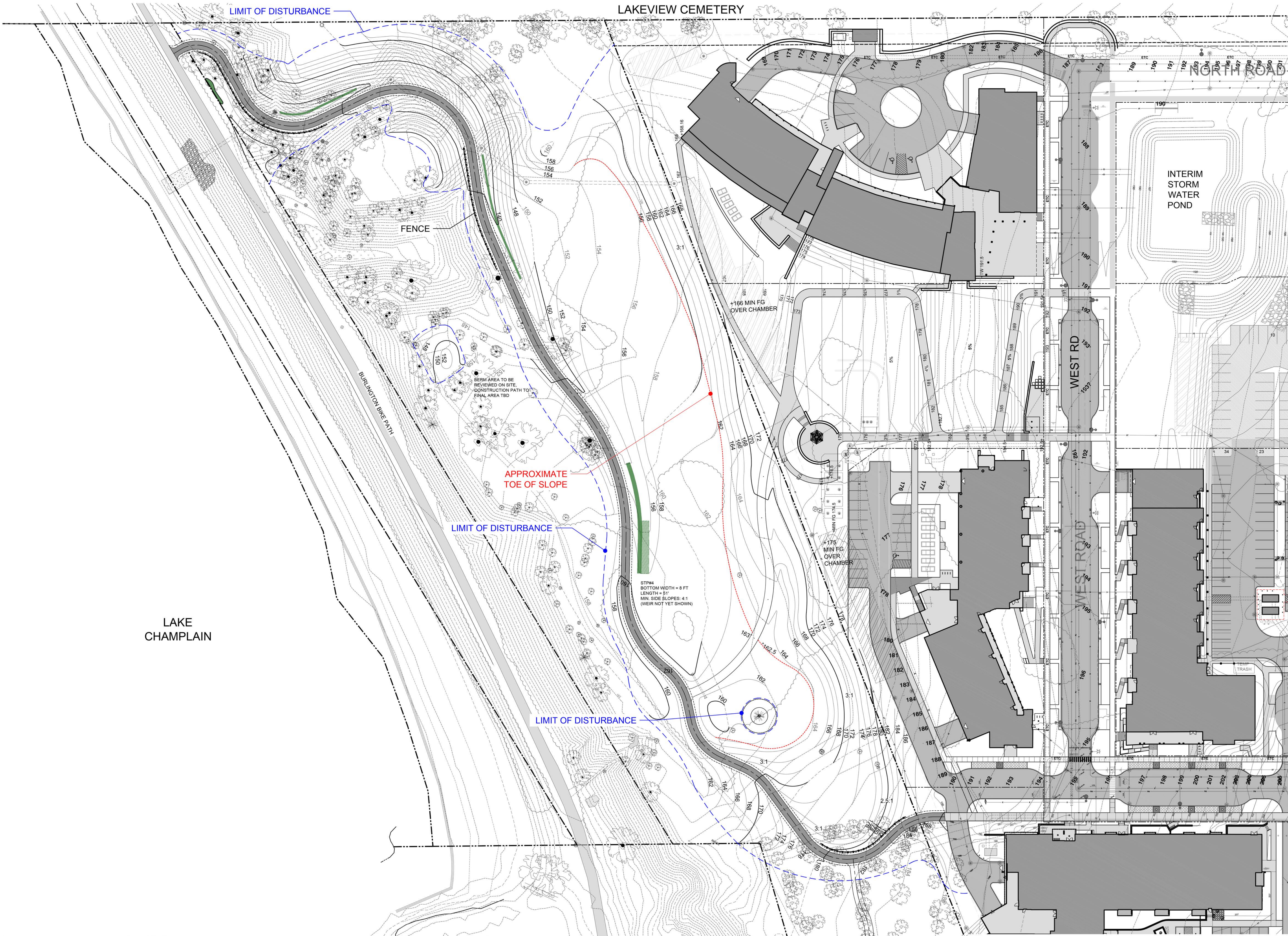
[VHCB Easement](#)

[VHCB Conservation Easement Map](#)

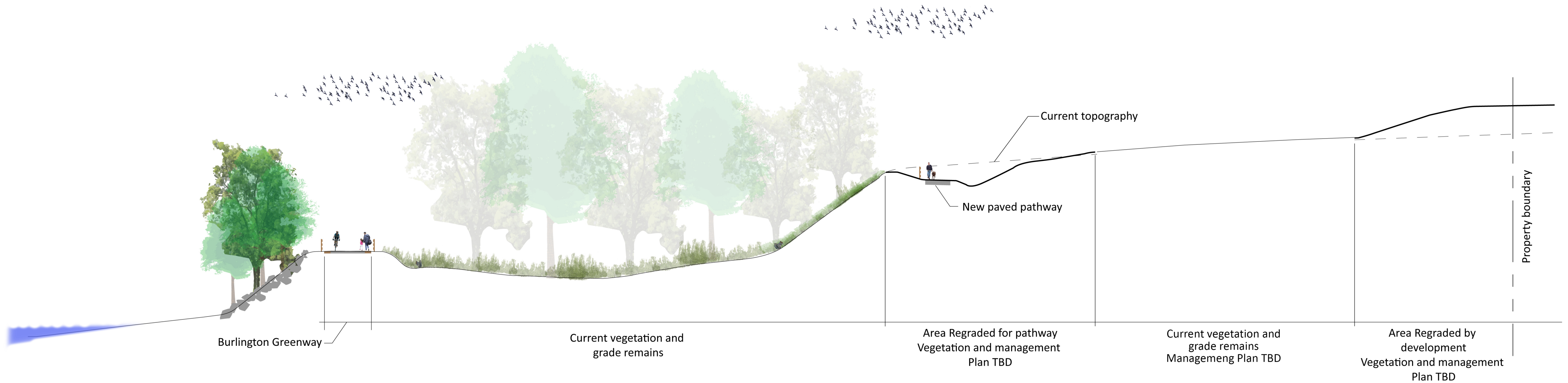
[Baseline Documentation Report](#)

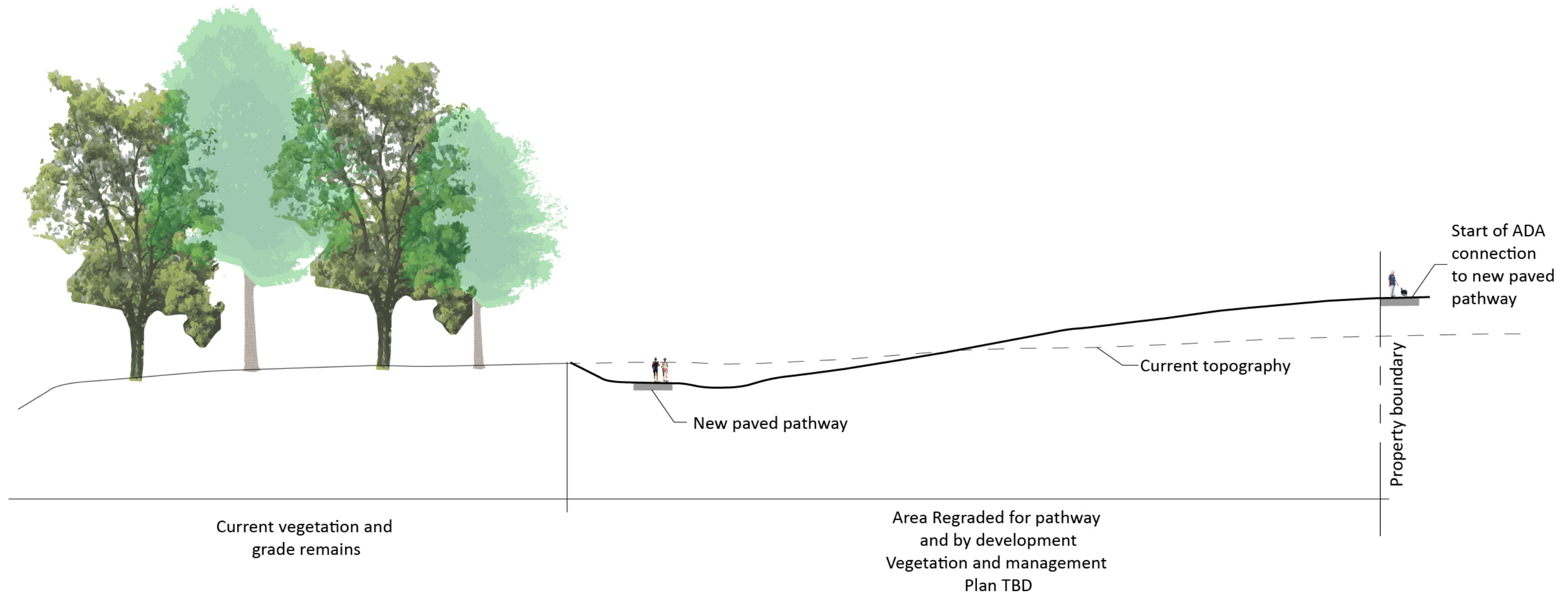
[Brett Engstrom’s Ecological Assessment](#)

[BPRW Naming Policy](#)





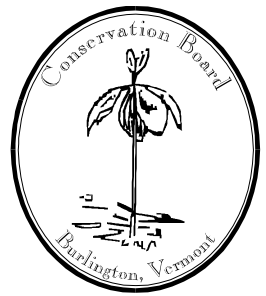




**Burlington Conservation Board
Open Space Subcommittee**

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

*Matt Moore
Zoe Richards
Rebecca Roman
Tori Hellwig*



Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Remote Meeting

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members:** Zoe Richards (ZR), Rebecca Roman (RR), Hannah Brislin (HB)
- **Absent:** Matt Moore (MM), Tori Hellwig (TH)
- **Public:** Patrick Dunseith, Steve Whitman
- **Staff:** Dan Cahill, Alicia Daniel, Cindi Wight (Parks & Recreation), Scott Gustin (Permitting & Inspections)

Public Comment

None.

Project Updates

Intervale Deer Management item:

ZR overviewed the status of the topic, but no action was taken.

311 North Avenue:

Dan Cahill overviewed the topic and shared a draft path connection plan to the bike path. No action taken.

Open Space Addendum:

Steve Whitman provided a brief overview of next steps in the Open Space Addendum effort.

Adjournment

5:29 PM.