



## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

*The Parks Foundation of Burlington seeks to inspire the spirit of stewardship and philanthropy for our community's treasured parks and recreation assets for our residents and visitors.*



**The Park Foundation's  
Signature Project:  
The Rehabilitation of  
the Bike Path**



**Scenic stretch of the Path, north of Shore Rd.**



**Shoreline stabilization near new Bike Path route.**

## INTRODUCTION

The Parks Foundation of Burlington supports the Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, the Department that maintains the City's diverse recreational assets and provides excellent services that help sustain the high quality of life that makes our community such a special place. These assets, programs, and events attract tens of thousands of visitors and contribute to our economic base. Without the City's parks, waterfront resources, bike path, events and recreational activities, Burlington would be a very different, and much less desirable, place to live and visit.

**The Parks Foundation of Burlington is a separate entity**, independent from the City of Burlington and the Burlington Parks, Waterfront & Recreation Department. The Foundation is a tax-exempt non-profit charity governed by its Board of Directors. Its purpose is to seek opportunities to enhance park assets and programs through specific initiatives. It is not designed to fill budgetary shortfalls in the Parks Department's operating expenses that are the responsibility of the City.

The Foundation seeks stewardship and philanthropic opportunities for self-sustaining support, including in-kind contributions that will not impose a burden on the Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront's annual operating budget. It solicits private contributions and accepts planned gifts that support improvements to our city's recreational resources. The Foundation also applies for grants for which government agencies are not eligible. As an entity separate from the City, the Foundation also invests and manages endowment funds.

Inspiration for the establishment of a dedicated Parks Foundation comes from many municipalities and states across the country that are successfully increasing awareness of the importance of parks and recreational programming while at the same time attracting philanthropic support.

*“The Parks Foundation of Burlington is a shining example of how we can come together as a community to protect and restore our greatest natural assets, while assuring that these treasures can be accessed and shared by all.”*

*~Lisa Steele*



The Path, north of Starr Farm Rd.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Foundation acts as the umbrella fundraising organization for all Burlington's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront philanthropy. The Foundation prides itself on being the fiscal agent for the wise stewardship of donated funds while maintaining a relationship with the City to ensure the money raised is spent on appropriate and designated projects. The Foundation relies on partnerships, friends and volunteer groups throughout the community to advance this mission.

## LEADERSHIP

The Foundation's Board of Directors includes John Bossange (Founding Chair), John Ewing, Sarah Muyskens (Founding Treasurer), Peter Delaney, Michelle Everleth, Brooke Gillman, Susan Moses, Rick Blount, and Scott Baldwin. Legal and financial advisors include Brian Dunkiel of Dunkiel and Saunders, accounting by JMM Associates, and Jami Rivers and Scott Carpenter of People's United Bank. Parks, Recreation & Waterfront staff, led by Director and Ex-Officio Board Member Jesse Bridges, provide direct advice and support to the Foundation.



*"I'm proud to be a supporter of the rehabilitation of the Bike Path and to be a donor to the Parks Foundation of Burlington. For years the Bike Path has been important to alternative transportation goals, to the health and wellness of our residents, and to the tourism industry of Burlington and surrounding communities. The completion of the newly constructed Path will ensure years of enjoyment for future generations. The work of the Parks Foundation offers an opportunity for individuals like me to make a private donation to a great cause."*

*~Governor Howard Dean*

Cyclists and skateboarders enjoying new section of the Bike Path by the Skatepark.



Fall 2016

## A BIG CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS!

Two years ago, the Burlington Parks Foundation set an initial challenge of raising \$1,000,000 to support the rehabilitation of the Bike Path. Thanks to generous donations from hundreds of individuals and businesses in the Burlington area, we have just exceeded our goal! As of this printing, our total raised in cash and pledges for the Bike Path project is \$1,026,622.

### Construction of the new Path in the Urban Reserve



The Foundation's new pause place south of North Beach taking shape.



Spectacular views along new Bike Path being constructed along Lake Champlain.

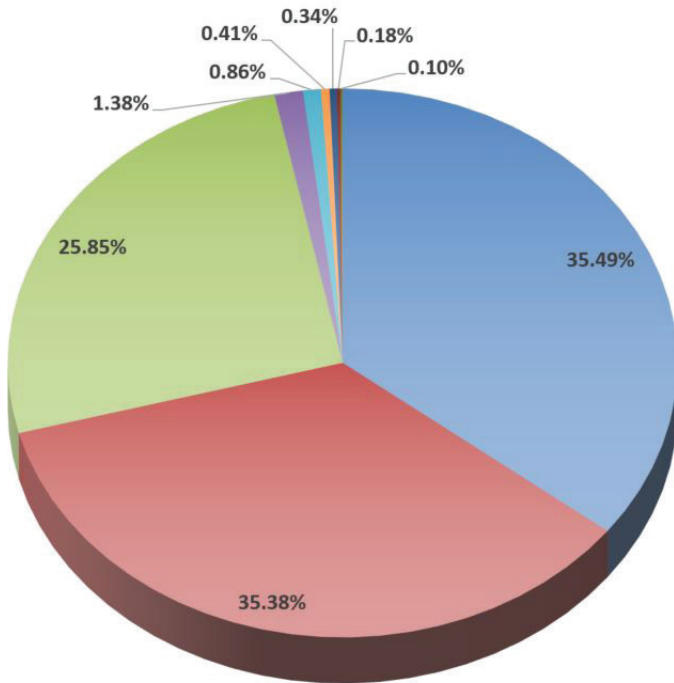
We are deeply grateful to all of the Bike Path donors and we are honored to represent contributors to the Foundation's signature project for the City of Burlington.

Since the Park Foundation's launching in the spring of 2013, the Board of Directors has met monthly to help coordinate and support the various construction phases of the Bike Path. The Path most heavily used along our beautiful waterfront has now been completed. This fall, the section from the Skate Park to North Beach will be finished with a new Path through the Urban Reserve opening up dramatic vistas of Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains. The Foundation will also be making its first gift to the City to cover the cost of a new pause place in the Urban Reserve, just south of North Beach. This completed section and stunning pause place will greatly enhance this popular section of the Path.

Thanks to support from the Mayor's Office and the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department, rehabilitation of the Bike Path will continue northward during the next three years. The Foundation would like to raise additional funds to build more pause places and add numerous amenities along these newly constructed sections of the Path.

The Parks Foundation will continue its work to enhance the quality of our City's parks long after the Bike Path has been fully rehabilitated. In our two years of existence, we have also accepted donor-designated gifts for tennis court renovations at Roosevelt Park, improvements to City Hall Park, creation of the new Hoehl Park, a new gym floor at the Miller Center, the Children's Scholarship Fund, the Lakeview Cemetery Fountain, Waterfront Park waste receptacles, and Skate Park enhancements.

## PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDING SUMMARY



Total pledges & gifts: \$2,901,819

- CITY HALL PARK: \$1,030,000
- BURLINGTON BIKE PATH REHABILITATION: \$1,026,622
- CYNTHIA AND ROBERT HOEHL PARK: \$750,000
- SKATEPARK REPLACEMENT: \$40,000
- WATERFRONT WASTE RECEPTACLES: \$25,000
- CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS: \$12,007
- ROOSEVELT PARK: \$10,000
- MILLER CENTER FLOOR REHABILITATION: \$5,190
- RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND: \$3,000



Southbound view of the Bike Path near A\_Dog Skatepark, featuring new signage.

These additional donations to the Parks Foundation bring our total contributions to \$2,901,819. The funding summary chart illustrates the detail of these generous donations to the Foundation given on behalf of our community. We anticipate additional gifts from individuals, foundations, and businesses who share our love of Burlington’s parks and who wish to leave their legacy, however big or small, in our treasured parklands.

On behalf of the community we serve, we would like to express our deep gratitude to all the donors who contributed to the rehabilitation of our local treasure, the Bike Path, along with the other projects listed here. Your gifts will have a long-lasting impact on the thousands of individuals and families who enjoy using the parks in our wonderful city.

Sincerely,

John P. Bossange  
Parks Foundation, Founding Chair

*“The Parks Foundation is an organization that Main Street Landing has supported since its inception. This group of devoted and determined people and donors believe that we all need to come together to create places for our citizens that are free, fun, safe, and family friendly. How lucky are we to have a Parks Foundation that raises money and spends it on amenities that bring beauty and health and joy into our lives.”*

*~Melinda Moulton - CEO, Main Street Landing*

# CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PARKS FOUNDATION OF BURLINGTON

The Board gratefully acknowledges the following supporters:

(As of August 30, 2016)

## -Individuals-

Jan and Harris Abbott  
Clark and Lois Adams  
Peter D. Alden Family  
in memory of Peter Alden  
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Susan and Fred Moses  
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David and Frances Mount  
Jane Murphy  
Sarah Muyskens and Michael Green  
Cynthia Norman  
Janet Nunziata  
Amy Otten

*“The Burlington Bike Path is one of the nicest recreational activity venues in New England. The work the Foundation undertakes insures the continuing quality for generations to come. I’m very happy to support the Foundation.”*

*~Bill Bissonette*

Anne Boshier  
Benjamin Boshier, Jr. and Anne Boshier  
John Bossange  
Elisabeth Bossi  
Janet and John Bossi  
Arlene Bouchard  
Amy Bove  
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Marilyn Lanou Hindes  
Jonathan Hodgkin and Ann Laberge  
Michele Holton  
Gerald Huetz



**Vermont City Marathon runners along the southern section of the Path in Oakledge Park.**



*“The mission of UVM Medical Center is to improve the health of the communities we serve. More and more in this era of health care reform, we are living our mission by investing in keeping people healthy. We see our partnership with the City of Burlington to renovate the Burlington Bike Path and create this new fitness trail as a win-win for everyone – the City of Burlington, UVM Medical Center and the community at large.”*

*~Dr. John Brumsted, CEO  
UVM Medical Center*

Anne Paradiso  
 Tim Parsons and Anne Judson  
 Sylvia Patnaude  
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 Pest Pro, Inc  
 Queen City Ghostwalk  
 Run Vermont  
 Saint John’s Club  
 Securities Finance Trust Company  
 Seventh Generation, Inc.  
 The Converse Home  
 Twincraft Skincare  
 University of Vermont Medical Center  
 Westport Hospitality

*“Westport Hospitality (operating Courtyard Burlington Harbor and Hotel Vermont) is proud to support the rehabilitation of the Burlington Bike Path. The improvements to the bike path will benefit the local community, our employees as well as those individuals and families visiting Burlington for many years to come.”*

*~Joe Carton – COO, Westport Hospitality*



## THE SIGNATURE PROJECT

for the Parks Foundation is the Burlington Bike Path Rehabilitation: The full renovation of the 8-mile shoreline recreational path.

### Other major initiatives include:

- Development of a universally accessible playground at Oakledge Park
- Redesign and reconstruction of City Hall Park
- Scholarship endowment funds



The realigned Path being installed along the shoreline in the Urban Reserve.

*“We are thrilled to support the Bike Path project. Burlington relies on tourist dollars and safely biking, running or walking along the path is crucial for Burlington’s future.”*

*~Amy and Dan Feeney*

## SUPPORT THE PARKS FOUNDATION AND MAKE A DONATION.

Thank you for considering a tax deductible contribution in support of Burlington’s Parks. We believe that charitable giving should be as easy, and as enjoyable, as a walk in the park. Donations can be made online or by mail. If at any time you have questions about the Parks Foundation of Burlington or how to make a donation, please contact John Bossange, Chair, at [jbossange@parksfoundation.org](mailto:jbossange@parksfoundation.org) or (802) 578-7468.

I am/We are pleased to support the Parks Foundation of Burlington with a gift/pledge in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF GIFT:** Please select one of the following:

THIS IS A ONE-TIME, OUTRIGHT GIFT:

My/Our gift is enclosed. Make checks payable to the “Parks Foundation of Burlington.” Credit card gifts can be made online.

THIS IS A PLEDGE TO BE PAID IN MULTIPLE PAYMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

My/Our Pledge is payable in equal installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (month) for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Please specify a payment period of three years or less.

**PLEASE SEND TO: Parks Foundation of Burlington, 645 Pine Street, Suite B, Burlington, VT 05401**

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.parksfoundationburlington.org](http://www.parksfoundationburlington.org)