

2019 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 residents and visitors.



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 annually 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 a 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 department's annual operating budget. It solicits private contributions and accepts planned gifts that support improvements to our city's recreational resources. The Foundation 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.

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This fall, work began in earnest to rehabilitate the Path just south of the Barge Canal

On the cover: Pulpit Rock at Rock Point in winter, and the ground breaking event for the Bike Path Rehabilitation.

THE PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDS PAUSE PLACES ON BIKE PATH AND PARTNERS TO PRESERVE PUBLIC LANDS

We are pleased to publish the fifth Annual Report of the Parks Foundation of Burlington. Like our previous four years, 2019 was busy and productive, making good use of the funds given to us by all of you.

Two more special pause places on the Bike Path are under construction, one at the North Shore overlook, and a second one at the Roundhouse Point, just south of Perkins Pier. Both locations will provide outstanding views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains. Benches for rest and reflection along with bike racks, will add to the enjoyment while using our Bike Path. In addition, there will soon be improvements made at the Leddy Park intersection, a pause place constructed at the entrance to Oakledge Park by Austin Drive, a new path built connecting the Bike Path with the Cambrian Rise development, and exercise stations erected at Starr Farm Park.

This year the Parks Foundation was proud to partner with the Episcopal Diocese, the Lake Champlain Land Trust, and the Burlington Parks and Recreation Department to preserve the Rock Point peninsula of 180 acres of wilderness and shoreline adjacent to the Bike Path. Work in this conserved area has begun with new trails cut through the Rock Point peninsula for guided public access. Through the use of newly awarded Burlington Conservation Board's Legacy Funds, trails, signage and kiosks with maps will also be developed in the Arms Forest, and throughout Rock Point. The project has been supported by the Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition Steering Committee.



The new North Shore pause place features an overlook and new bike racks

None of these exciting developments would be underway if we did not receive generous donations from you. \$916,000 was raised for the Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition project from various sources and independent funds, including \$191,000 contributed by individuals. And of course the final sum of money raised for the original Bike Path project of \$1,000,736 achieved three years ago will cover the remaining pause place enhancements on the Bike Path. In addition to these two projects, the Parks Foundation continues to receive donor designated gifts to help support the Foundation and Burlington Park Department approved initiatives, like City Hall Park and the "Oakledge For All" playground.

Finally, the Board of Directors of the Parks Foundation will be launching a new Legacy Circle Fund, giving donors and others an opportunity to invest in this Opportunity Fund managed by the Vermont Community Foundation. The Legacy Circle will give those who value the preservation of the City's green space and public park lands a chance to leave their own personal legacy for generations to come. The Fund will also help the Foundation create new initiatives and sustain the existing projects we have given to the City of Burlington. You will be receiving a special brochure in the mail sometime later this spring inviting your participation.

Thanks again to everyone for another successful year. Your support is inspiring and has placed the Parks Foundation in the forefront of impactful organizations in our City.

For the Board of Directors,

John Bossange
Chair, Parks Foundation

PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDING SUMMARY

(Since Founding, May 3, 2013)



New steps and bridge at the Thrust Fault Trail in Rock Point



Summer camp kids learn to skate at the A_Dog Skatepark



New fountain installed as part of the City Hall Park renovations

Bike Path Funds Raised:

Total Bike Path Funds: \$1,000,736

Funds Raised for Other Park Projects – Foundation Acting as Fiscal Agent

Lakeview Cemetery	12,844
City Hall Park	1,030,000
Senior Center	145,939
General Parks	3,590
Skate Park	40,130
Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition	164,763
Oakledge For All Playground	120,004
Park and Paths at Cambrian Rise	1,000,000
Roosevelt Park Tennis Courts	10,000
Waterfront Park Receptacles	25,000
Miller Center Floor	5,190
Recreation Scholarship Fund	3,000
Battery Park Flagpole	14,555
In Kind donations	4,900
Legacy Circle	5,000
Administrative Costs*	33,346

Subtotal - Other Park Projects: \$2,643,362

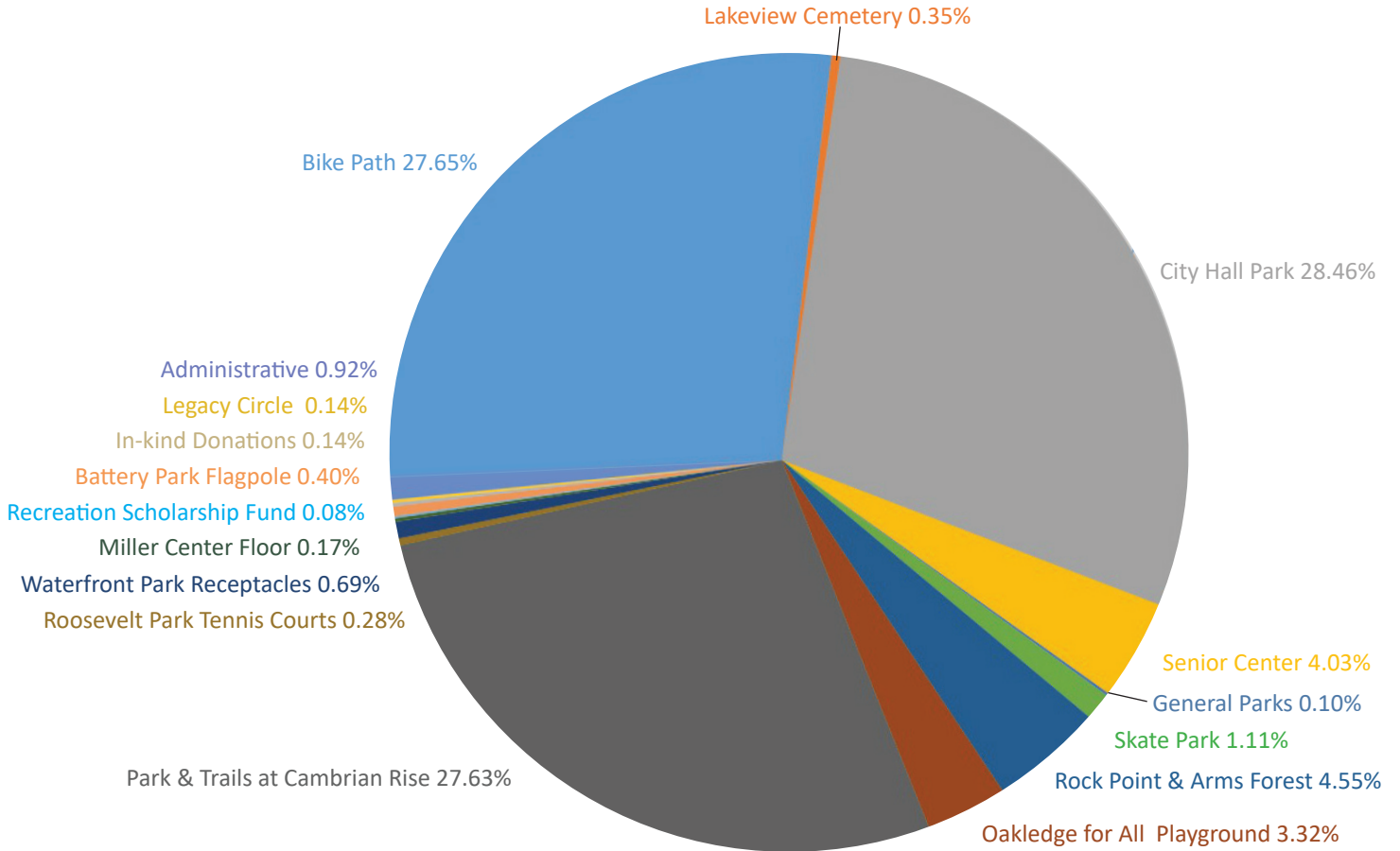
Grand Total Raised: **\$3,644,098**

** Represents the cumulative amount taken from funds raised to cover administrative cost (Board insurance, Legal, IT software, tax preparation, donor events, supplies). Each year the Board sets a percentage between ½ % and 2%, depending on expected revenues.*



The second public meeting for Arms Forest trail design gathered feedback from the community

Total Funds Raised



Board Approved FY 2020 Budget*:

Anticipated Revenues

Bike Path	29,500
City Hall Park	100,000
Rock Point/Arms Forest	35,240
Interest	2,500

Total: **\$167,240**

Anticipated Expenditures

Hoehl Land Acquisition	500,000
Leddy Park and North Shore Pause Places	100,000
Roundhouse Park Pause Place	15,000
Starr Farm Fitness Stations	35,000
Foundation Board Insurance	2,238
IT, Software	2,000
Legal	2,000
Tax Preparation	0
Outreach and Events Expenses	2,000

Total: **\$658,238**

**The difference between revenues and expenditures is covered by funds previously raised for these projects.*

Note: A Financial Review has been completed by JMM Associates and reported that: "Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States."

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PARKS FOUNDATION OF BURLINGTON

(As of 12/1/19)

The Board gratefully acknowledges the following supporters:

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Your Foundation Dollars At Work



North Beach access trail construction in Rock Point



Pause place rehabilitation work between Roundhouse Park and Perkins Pier along the Path



Early fall progress along the Bike Path Rehabilitation project near the Barge Canal



The grand opening celebration for "Oakledge For All" first phase playground equipment installation



Bird's eye view of Clty Hall Park renovations