



PARKS FOUNDATION OF BURLINGTON

Philanthropy, Stewardship & Partnership: for the Love of Our Parks.

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BACKGROUND

Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront 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 Burlington Parks, Waterfront & Recreation, formed as a tax-exempt non-profit charity governed by its board of directors. Its purpose is to seek opportunities to enhance parks assets and programs through specific initiatives. It is not designed to fill budgetary shortfalls in the Department's operating expenses that would normally be 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. The Foundation applies for grants for which government agencies are not eligible. It solicits and accepts planned gifts that provide support for future improvements to our city's recreational resources. As an entity separate from the City, the Foundation invests and manages endowment funds.

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

PARTNERSHIPS

The Foundation acts as the umbrella fundraising organization for all Parks, Recreation & Waterfront philanthropy. This allows the great work of current friends and volunteer groups to continue to raise funds in support of their particular projects. The Foundation prides itself on being the fiscal agent for the wise stewardship of those funds while maintaining the relationship with the City to ensure the money raised is spent on appropriate projects. Friends and volunteer groups may remain autonomous as the Foundation will focus on partnerships throughout the community to advance its mission.

PROJECTS

The signature project for the Foundation is the Burlington Bike Path Rehabilitation: a full renovation of the 8-mile shoreline recreational path. Other major initiatives include the development of a universally accessible playground at Oakledge Park, the construction of a new waterfront Skatepark, the redesign and reconstruction of City Hall Park, scholarship endowment, and other community initiatives. Contact the Foundation for additional information on all of these projects and more.

LEADERSHIP

The Foundation board of directors includes: John Bossange (Founding Chair), John Ewing, Sarah Muyskens (Founding Treasurer), Peter Delaney, David W. Mount, Brooke Gillman, Susan Moses, Rick Blount, and Scott Baldwin. Legal and financial advisors include Brian Dunkiel of Dunkiel and Saunders 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, provides direct support to the Foundation.

*For more information about the Parks Foundation of Burlington or how to make a donation, please contact John Bossange, Chair, at jbossange@parksfoundation.org or (802) 578-7468.
www.parksfoundationburlington.org*



*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.*





October '14 ground breaking of the Burlington Bike Path rehabilitation.



November '14 reconstruction of the Bike Path through Waterfront Park.



Tennis court renovations at Roosevelt Park, summer '14.



Summer '14 Big Belly trash compactor installation at Waterfront Park.



Renovation of the gymnasium floor at the Miller Community Center.



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May 2015

In its first full year of operation, the Parks Foundation of Burlington achieved our goal of launching a new way to support our parks. Our mission of inspiring the spirit of stewardship and philanthropy for Burlington's treasured parks and recreational assets was clearly demonstrated by the breadth of projects for which we received donations. Substantial support was given for:

- * Re-surfacing the tennis courts at Roosevelt Park
- * Replacing the gym floor at the Miller Center
- * Rebuilding the Skate Park
- * Replacing the Lakeview Cemetery Statuary
- * Purchasing trash compactors for Waterfront Park
- * Providing scholarships to worthy students

The Parks Foundation began in the spring of 2013 when interested residents formed a steering committee and shortly thereafter established a Founding Board. Today the full Board has nine members. We created a Case Statement, crafted a Memo of Understanding with the City, wrote by-laws, and filed a business plan with the IRS to become a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. The Board has retained the legal services of Dunkiel Saunders and the financial services of Peoples United Bank. Significantly, the board raised the funds for operating expenses so that no gifts received were assessed administrative fees.

SIGNATURE PROJECT: BURLINGTON BIKE PATH REHABILITATION

Because the Foundation operates independently from the City, the Memo of Understanding outlines the process used by the Foundation to gift the City funds to complete projects recommended by the Director of Parks and Recreation. After careful consideration, the Board approved the signature project for the Foundation: the total rehabilitation of the Burlington Bike Path.

In December of 2013, the Foundation was publicly launched at an event attended by the Mayor and other key city officials, business leaders, donors, and residents. We announced that the Foundation would embark on a quiet capital campaign with the goal of raising \$1,000,000 for 12 special "pause places" along the seven-mile Path. To date we have raised \$457,000 for the Bike Path. We will have a formal press conference in the spring of 2015 to begin a public campaign and to announce future bike path rehabilitation and planning.

The Board is most appreciative of the support received so far. We look forward to reaching our goal of raising \$1,000,000 for the Bike Path, as well as accepting donations from residents and businesses for other projects approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Please join us by making a donation in support of the foundation and the Bike Path Rehabilitation.

Sincerely,

John P. Bossange
Parks Foundation, Founding Chair

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PARKS FOUNDATION OF BURLINGTON

(As of April 30, 2015)

The Board gratefully acknowledges the following supporters:

-Individuals-

- Steve Allen
- Anonymous
- Scott and Kate Baldwin
- Theresa Bertram
- John Besio
- Louis Bilodeau
- Dorothy Black
- Rick and Lesli Blount
- Anne Boshier
- John Bossange
- Elizabeth Bossi
- Janet and John Bossi
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- Francoise Brassard
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- Marguerite Zabriskie

-Organizations-

- Burton
- Coffee Enterprises
- Dunkiel and Saunders Law Office
- Friends of Lakeview Cemetery
- Lake Champlain Transportation
- Local Motion
- Merchants Bank
- Northfield Savings Bank
- People's United Bank
- Pest Pro, Inc.
- Queen City Ghostwalk
- Run Vermont
- Seventh Generation, Inc.
- University of Vermont Medical Center



Lakeview Cemetery statuary replacement, fall '14.

PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDING SUMMARY

