



2020 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. The Department 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.

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**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.



*City Hall Park now features an engaging interactive fountain.*

*On the cover: Newly reconstructed bike path near Barge Canal Bridge*

# THE PARKS FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO FUND BIKE PATH AMENITIES AND ENHANCEMENTS TO BURLINGTON PARKS

We are pleased and proud to publish the sixth Annual Report of the Parks Foundation of Burlington. Despite the challenges of working with the pandemic all around us, we have had a successful year of outdoor work and construction.

On the Bike Path, a third Pause Place has been completed at Roundhouse Point, a short walk from Perkins Pier, located just before the barge canal bridge. The peninsula is now a lovely small park with benches with new trees and plantings. This comfortable and welcoming setting allows everyone to stop and enjoy the magnificent view of Lake Champlain, the Adirondack Mountains, Burlington Harbor and Oakledge Park.

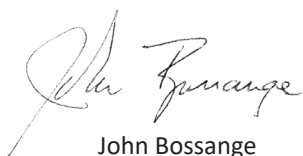
Further south, the final touches are being put on the reconstructed stretch of path that parallels the railroad tracks, passes by the new HULA building and ends at Oakledge Park. This reconstructed path finally opens up the connection between Oakledge Park and the previously upgraded path to the north. The wider path with new railings adds to the beautiful views of the lake between the new Roundhouse Park and Oakledge Park. It's taken a while to reconstruct this part of the path but with the lower lake levels, most of the construction was completed this summer. It is truly a spectacular section of the Bike Path.

Additionally, the Parks Foundation joined with the Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition, which includes the Lake Champlain land Trust, the Episcopal Diocese and the City to celebrate the grand opening last month of a new and dramatically improved trail network in Rock Point. These beautiful woodlands are now preserved and can be directly accessed from the Bike Path. The kiosk and bike racks provide a welcoming entrance to these treasured lands. For families and people of all ages, the carefully designed trails lead to views of the lake, and mountains.

Finally, the Parks Foundation is formally announcing the launch of the Legacy Circle, where contributors donated funds will be invested in The Opportunity Fund, managed by the Vermont Community Foundation. We will be mailing this brochure to you later this spring. The legacy Circle offers 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 Opportunity Fund will also help the Foundation create new initiatives and sustain existing projects

Thank you again for another successful year. Even though we are all challenged by Covid-19, much work has completed, and we have you to thank for our progress.

For the Board of Directors,



John Bossange  
Chair, Parks Foundation



*Striking 'before and after' photos of the Greenway segment near the Barge Canal*

# PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDING SUMMARY

(Since Founding, May 3, 2013 through December 1, 2020)



**Newly improved trails in Rock Point**

## Bike Path Funds Raised:

Total Bike Path Funds: \$1,001,936

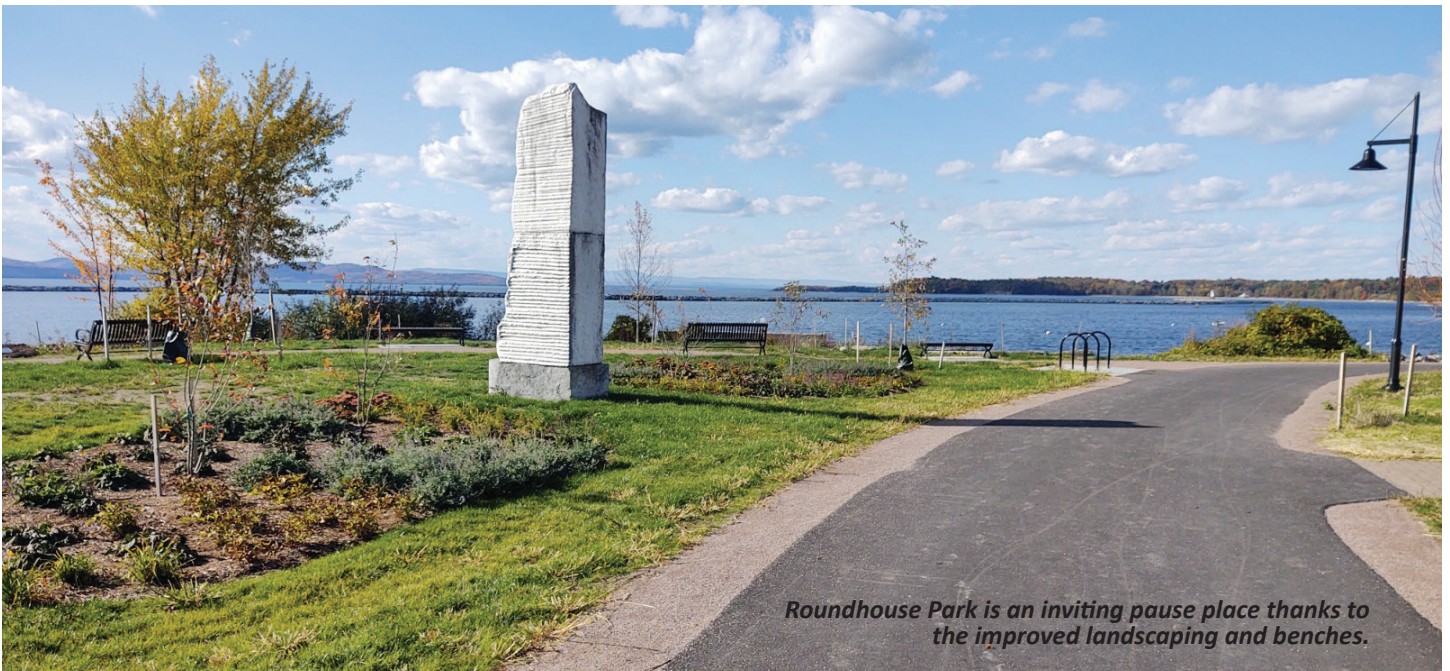
## Funds Raised for Other Park Projects – Foundation Acting as Fiscal Agent

Administrative	37,921
In Kind	4,900
Battery Park Flag Replacement	14,555
Champlain Senior Center	146,459
City Hall Park	1,572,000
Lakeview Cemetery	12,944
Park at Cambrian Rise	775,000
Legacy Circle	25,000
Miller Center Floor Rehabilitation	5,190
Oakledge for All	121,789
Rock Point	172,683
Roosevelt Park	10,000
Scholarship	3,000
Skatepark	40,130
Waterfront Park Receptacles	25,000

Subtotal - Other Park Projects: \$2,966,571

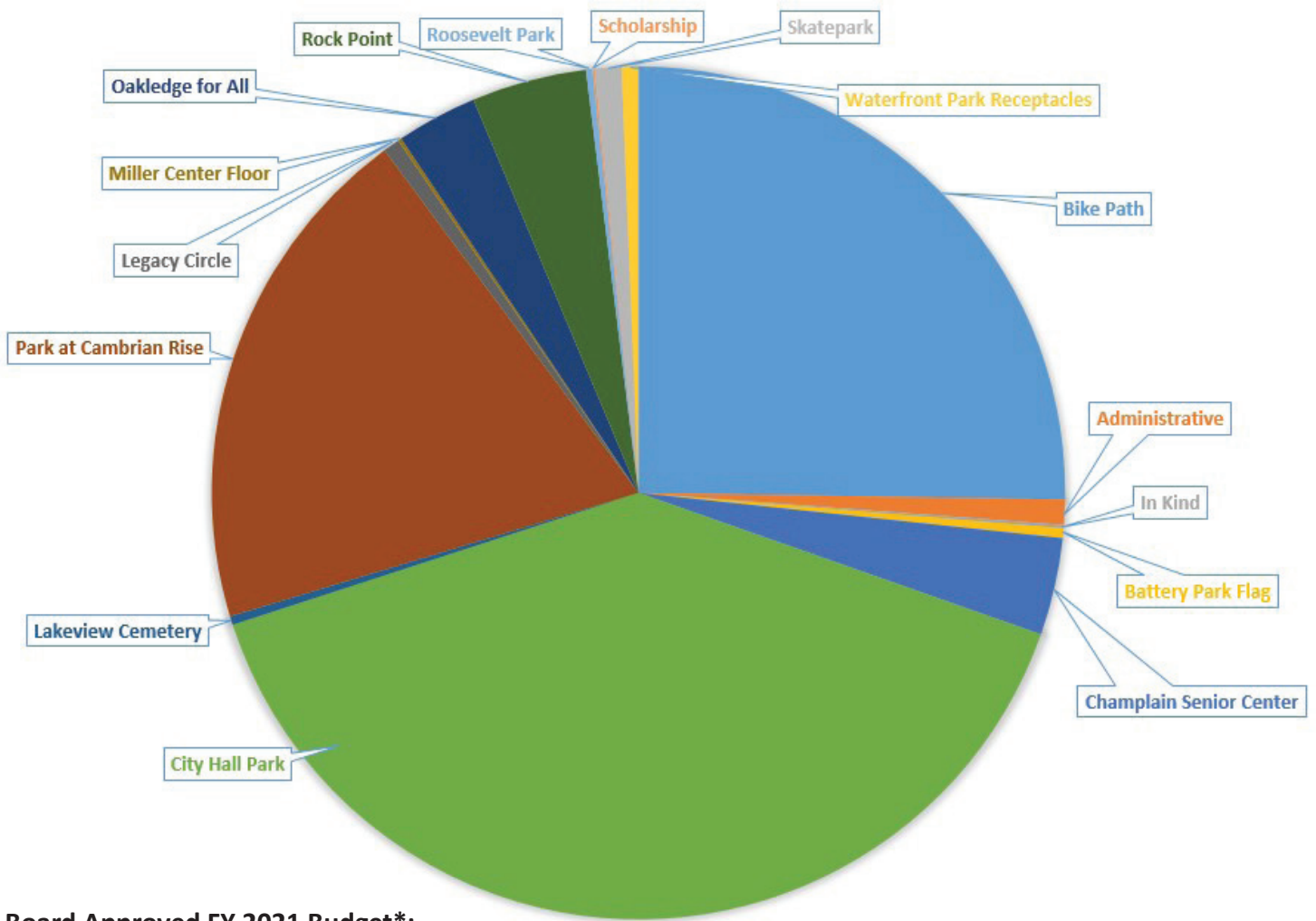
**Grand Total Raised: \$3,968,507**

*\* 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.*



*Roundhouse Park is an inviting pause place thanks to the improved landscaping and benches.*

**Total Funds Raised**



**Board Approved FY 2021 Budget\*:**

**Anticipated Revenues**

Bike Path	1,000
Rock Pt/Arms Forest	1,500
City Hall	100,000
Interest	3,500

**Total:** **\$106,000**

**Anticipated Expenditures**

Foundation Board insurance	2,335
IT and software	2,000
Legal	2,000
Tax preparation	0
Outreach and event expenses	2,000
Howard Chapel renovations	6,000
Roundhouse Park pause place	15,000
Leddy Park Pause place	65,000
Starr Farm fitness setup	35,000
Stone House renovation	100,000

**Total:** **\$229,335**

*\*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 the statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The full report is available upon request.*

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(As of 12/1/2020)

The Board gratefully acknowledges the following supporters:

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# Your Foundation Dollars At Work



Photo: Renee Greenlee

*It was a beautiful day for the re-opening of City Hall Park. The event made use of the new performance spaces and open areas.*



*The view from Rock Point is improved with new safety fencing.*



*The new kiosk at the Rock Point Greenway entrance is dedicated in memory of John Ewing*



*Donors & supporters gathering for the grand opening celebration of the new Rock Point trailhead off the Greenway*