

2018 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.





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Arms Forest and Rock Point holds some of the most unique landscape features and flora in Burlington, and the world!

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.



Photo courtesy of LCLT

THE PARKS FOUNDATION WITH PARTNERS CREATE THE ROCK POINT AND ARMS FOREST COALITION

It has been a productive and exciting year for the Parks Foundation. Not only has the Bike Path been fully rehabilitated from the Boathouse to the Winooski River bridge, two of the three new pause places at Leddy Park and the North Shore Overlook have been designed and construction will begin shortly. The Pause Place at Starr Farm will be designed next year. \$200,000 of Foundation dollars has gone into funding these beautiful improvements along the Path.

In addition, the UVM Medical Center's Fitness Trail will continue up the path beyond the three existing stations in the Urban Reserve. A fourth station will now be added at Leddy Park making the Trail more complete and serving residents in the North End. Also, the Foundation is now serving as the fiscal agent for the Oakledge Playground Project and the new park at 311 North Avenue, two wonderful amenities along our treasured Burlington Greenway.

Most exciting have been the partnerships the Foundation created to form the Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition. The Coalition includes the Lake Champlain Land Trust, the City of Burlington, and the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont. The Coalition's goal is to permanently conserve, improve, and connect the park and recreation areas on both sides of the Greenway where it now bisects the Arms Forest to the east and the Rock Point Peninsula to the west. If we are successful in our fund raising, the residents of Burlington and all visitors will soon be able to experience 180 acres of scenic vistas, beautiful old growth forests, unique geology, and rare plants on new trails connected to the Greenway. The Foundation hosted a major press conference this July to announce the project. Work on the trails has already begun and should continue for the next two years.



The newly formed Rock Point & Arm Forest Coalition seeks to preserve 180 acres of beautiful natural area for public use.

The Parks Foundation helped the Coalition design and carry out the capital campaign and package together a budget with private donations, funds from the Burlington Conservation Board, the Vermont Housing Conservation Board, the Episcopal Diocese, the Lake Champlain Land Trust, and from the Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department. The Foundation is grateful to all those who contributed to the private capital campaign and to the five major partners listed above who allocated substantial gifts from their budgets as we approach the Coalition's goal of raising \$916,000. Conserving this land and ensuring public access will be a legacy left for future generations to enjoy forever!

The Board of Directors of the Parks Foundation are very grateful for gifts it continues to receive from generous donors. We are particularly appreciative of the support given to the Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition. The strength of the Coalition's partnerships created by the Foundation inspired individuals to give privately and for major institutions to join together in support of this initiative.

The Foundation looks forward to working with the Parks Recreation and Waterfront Department on other projects in the future.

For the Board of Directors,

John Bossange
Chair, Parks Foundation

PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDING SUMMARY

(Cumulative from June 1, 2014 to December 1, 2018)



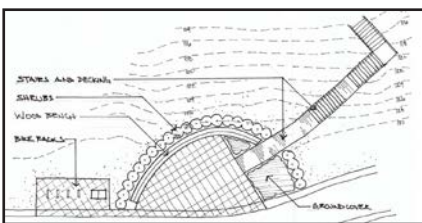
Students join the seniors at Champlain Senior Center for lunch.



Scholarships improve access to our recreation programs and help increase the diversity.



UVM Medical Center Fitness Trail station at Leddy Park.



Aerial drawing of the Pause Place and stairs at North Shore.



The approved City Hall Park plans.

Funds Raised with Pledges:

Bike Path	\$1,025,877
Lakeview Cemetery	12,711
City Hall Park	1,030,000
Senior Center	137,213
General Parks	2,992
Skate Park	40,130
Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition	133,437
Oakledge For All Playground	57,450
Park and Paths at Cambrian Rise	775,000
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
Administrative*	6,045

GRAND TOTAL (PLEDGES & GIFTS): \$3,278,600

Cash Received:	\$2,092,012
Outstanding Pledges:	\$1,186,579

* Each year the Board will set a percentage between ½ % and 2% to be taken from the annual receipts to cover administrative costs to the Foundation (Board Insurance, Legal, IT Software, Tax Preparation, Donor Events).

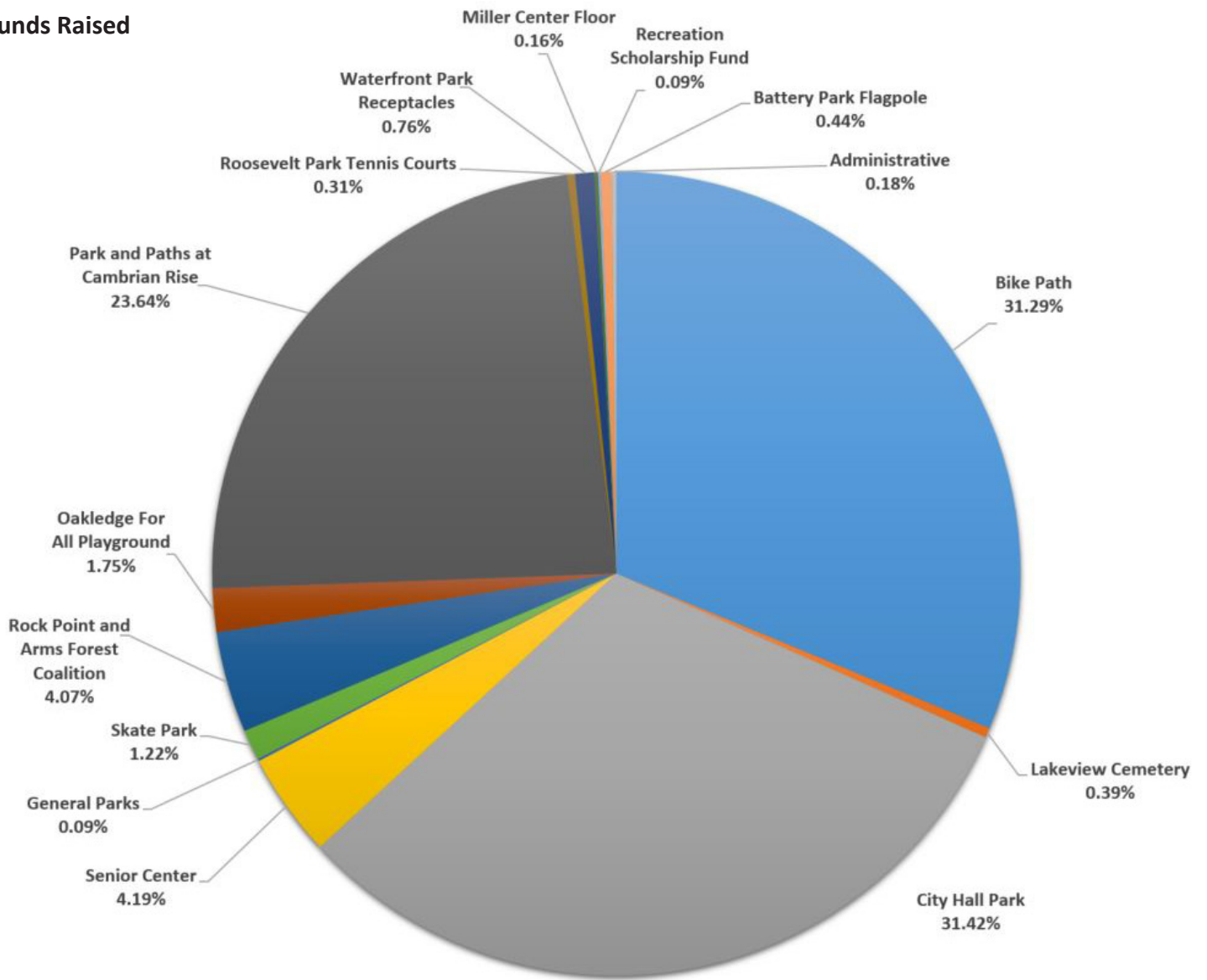
July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 Anticipated Expenditures

Board Approved FY 2019 Budget:

Park and Paths at Cambrian Rise	\$250,000
Two New Pause Places on Bike Path (Leddy Park, North Shore Overlook)	200,000
Senior Center	23,000
Foundation Board Insurance	2,238
IT, Software	1,259
Legal & Tax Preparation	2,000
Fund Raising Events	2,000
Financial Review	4,000
Total:	\$484,497

The financial statements of the Parks Foundation of Burlington for the year ended June 30, 2018, were reviewed by the independent certified public accountant firm JMM Associates, Burlington, Vermont. The complete reviewed financial statements and report as well as our most recent 990, are available upon request

Funds Raised



Hundreds of trees have been planted at the Cambrian Rise property to restore the area and prepare it for future park & trail work.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PARKS FOUNDATION OF BURLINGTON

(As of 12/1/18)

The Board gratefully acknowledges the following supporters:

-Individuals-

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Rock Point and Arms Forest Coalition Press Conference

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Preserving the Arms Forest – A Unique Urban Wilds

Adapted excerpts from Sean Beckett

The “Arms Grant” forest is a rare gem in the necklace of Burlington’s open landscapes. Located in the New North End, it is the city’s largest area of contiguous undeveloped lands. This old forest landscape rewards visitors with rare natural communities and brims with evidence of centuries of land use. Visitors will find an extensive trail network lined with unusual plants, glimpses of deer and fox, and old farm roads shaded by rich canopies of centurion oaks. A hidden quarry even connects us to a Burlington that was once the national center of marble manufacturing.



Yellow lady-slipper (Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens)

A visitor to the Arms Forest may immediately notice a lush and diverse assemblage of wildflowers and vegetation uncommon in many Burlington forests. In the spring, before leaves emerge, explorers of the myriad ledges and outcrops throughout the park will enjoy wild ginger, red and white trillium, hepatica, meadow-rue, columbine, and other colorful wildflowers. Though exposed at this site, nutrient-rich

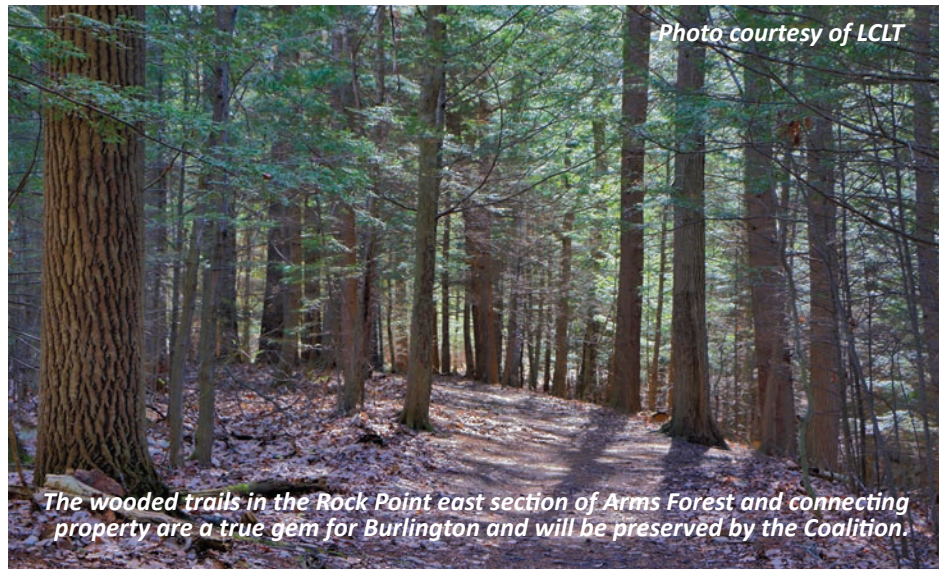


Photo courtesy of LCLT

limestone called dolostone underlies much of Burlington. This unusual geology enables uncommon plants that require abundant calcium. In fact, these outcrops in the Arms forest are home to some rare plants, like yellow lady-slipper orchids, found nowhere else in Burlington.

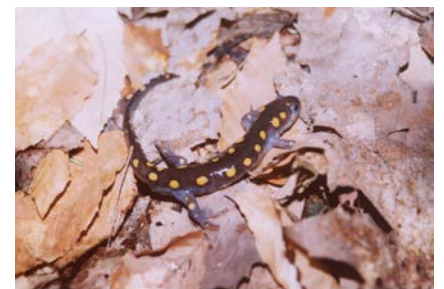
A visitor may also note that the trees are uncommonly large for Burlington forests. The ledgy, thin-soiled nature of the property allowed the forests to escape some of the agricultural



Four red oak trees(Quercus rubra) sprouting from a single stump probably cut in the early 1900s. photo: B. Carlson

clearing pressure experienced in the area during the 19th and 20th centuries. Older pines and oaks on the property have been aged at 100-120 years old.

This large, interior forest, provides excellent habitat for wide-ranging large mammals like deer, fox, coyote, fisher, and raccoon. Cavity-nesting birds like barred owls, screech-owls, and pileated woodpeckers live in the large, dead trees available in these old woods. In the spring, several small ephemeral pools bounded in the depressions of the shallow bedrock are perfect nurseries for forest amphibians like spotted salamanders.



Spotted salamanders (Ambystoma maculatum) require temporary wetlands - vernal pools - to breed each spring.