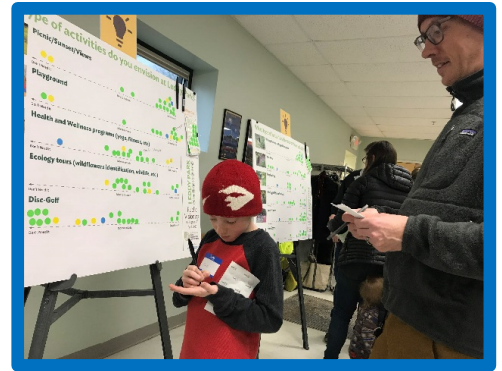
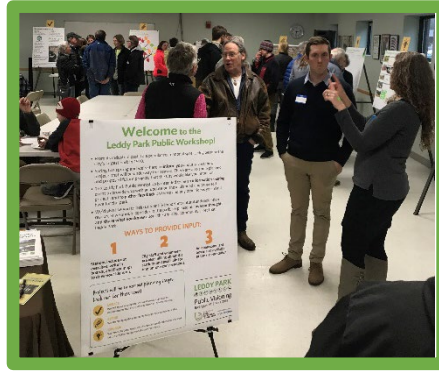


# Thank you for your interest & input for the Leddy Park Improvements Workshop!



Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront (BPRW), with assistance from SE Group, held a public workshop to seek input on the future of Leddy Park. The workshop, held April 9, 2019 at Robert Miller Community Recreation Center, was open-house style where attendees could drop in at any time to share their feedback, questions and thoughts. Project staff and volunteers had informative one-on-one conversations with many members of the community who could make the time to participate. 80-100 participants attended the workshop with an additional 25 on-line survey responders. The full report is available <https://enjoyburlington.com/leddy-park-workshop/>.

- Projects were in the following planning stages.



**UPDATE:** We will share accomplishments and provide updates on improvements that are underway based on prior public input.



**REFINE:** We are engaging the community to help shape a project or idea.



**ENVISION:** We intend to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to work on the problem and potentially seek consensus.

- Staff were available to discuss projects underway as well as stations to collect input on proposed future improvements.
- Stations included dot exercises, write-in boards, and floor maps for attendees to draw their ideas. Attendees answered questions about natural resources, a bike park, and other new recreational facilities, activities, programs, and events they would like to see at Leddy Park.
- Following the workshop, city staff developed an online survey for those who were unable to attend the workshop but wanted to provide input. The online survey asked similar questions to the workshop boards and received 25 responses.
- All of the input has been digitized and available in the following summary report:

Based on the feedback collected below are actions that BPRW intends to implement at Leddy Park.

## Court Renovations Update



### Refine to Update Planning Stage

*We engaged the community to help shape a project or idea, and we will next share accomplishments and provide updates on improvements that are underway based on prior public input.*

#### Participant Feedback:

Respondents felt that keeping the tennis courts lighted was the top priority, followed by adding another tennis/pickleball court, relocating the basketball court, and removing the squash court.

#### How we plan to move ahead:

We have secured capital funding for tennis court improvements at Leddy. Design and detailed cost estimates are underway with a focus on the reconstruction of the existing tennis courts and lighting. The design will also look at a few alternatives to consider reconfiguration of tennis and pickle-ball courts.

Priority 1: Replacement of lighting

Priority 2: Full reconstruction of existing courts to smooth out bumps and cracks and reduce maintenance needs in upcoming years. This may include all tennis or a combination of flexible courts for tennis and pickleball.

Priority 3 (if funding allows): addition of a new Pickleball court or a shared Tennis/Pickleball court.

Future phase: Leddy Park Basketball court renovations will remain on the parks capital list of projects as funding becomes available.

The final design will be presented at the spring Ward 4/7 NPA meeting.

Project budget: \$400,000

Project funding sources:

Sustainable Capital Bond: \$125,000

Penny for Parks: \$275,000

## Leddy Park Natural Resources:



### Update Planning Stage

*We are sharing accomplishments and providing updates on improvements that are underway based on prior public input.*

#### Participant Feedback:

Participants noted the importance of the trees found in Leddy Park, lake access and beach, wildlife, wildflowers and other ecological features. Workshop attendees also confirmed that riparian areas/surface waters, large ledges or cliffs, seasonal springs, and unique plants are present at the park.

#### How we plan to move ahead:

We heard from participants that natural features of Leddy Park are important to preserve. Any changes to the park should incorporate an ecological assessment of the site and avoid changing the areas of the park with sensitive ecology.

We consulted with trained Ecologists to implement a formal ecological assessment. The assessment utilized the standard methodology from Mapping Vermont's Natural Heritage: *A Mapping and Conservation Guide for Municipal and Regional Planners in Vermont*, written by Monica Pryzperhart, Jens Hawkins-Hilke and John Austin to map and assess the ecology of Leddy Park.

#### Ecological Assessment Results of Leddy Park:

Leddy Park is 51 acres of mixed forest, recreational fields and facilities, roads, and parking lots with 1,500 feet of lake shoreline. Leddy Park sits atop a glacial era delta deposited by the

Winooski River. The park retains a significant area of undeveloped free draining delta soils and a rare intact tributary stream that flows to the lake.

Aerial photos show that much of the site was open fields in 1937, [1937/2017 aerial slider map](#). Some white pines on the site have multiple trunks from weevil damage, indicating that they are open grown after germinating in a pasture or field. Other red and white pines were planted in rows. The estimated age of the younger forest is less than 100 years. The 1937 aerial survey shows a mature forest along the northwestern boundary. The remnant natural community appears to be White Pine-Red Oak-Black Oak Forest.

Key ecological features to consider for trail planning, that involves educational opportunities and protection, are listed below with a corresponding map:

- Deep delta soils that are easily eroded on steep slopes, especially along the lake shore bluffs.
- Intact stream corridor free flowing into the lake for fish, mussels and wildlife.
- Mature unmapped forested natural community along northwest boundary.



Proposed ecological design considerations for future Leddy Park Improvements:

- Avoid additional disturbance along the natural stream corridor.
- Design to discourage social trails down steep erodible banks.
- Maintain mature forest characteristics by limiting new trail construction in the older forest.

## Bike Park Update



### Envision Planning Stage

*We will continue to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to work on the problem and potentially seek consensus.*

The Burlington Bike Park Coalition has approached BPRW with an idea for establishing a bike park in Burlington and for the following reasons BPRW is exploring the feasibility and impact of the request.

- The proposal was in line with the recommendations of the 2015 BPRW Master Plan to increase trail management and access, improve trail systems to include mountain bike uses, and to formalize the Leddy Park trail system.
- As there are no formalized mountain bike trails in the City, this project is attractive because it would create a space for residents of all biking ability levels and backgrounds to ride mountain bikes without requiring access to a car to drive to a trail system outside of town.
- This project would help reinforce our goals of accessibility and inclusivity.
- Given this alignment with our Master Plan and goals, BPRW has explored initial potential at several sites and Leddy Park seems like a good fit as a regional park with connection to the bike path and potential suitable space.
- We engaged the community to gauge interest for such a project and identify any potential concerns or constraints to consider in the ongoing evaluation of this project.

### Participant Feedback:

Workshop attendees were asked about a bike park at three different stations/contexts at the meeting, and in each instance, the vast majority of workshop attendees indicated support for adding the bike park. A range of perspectives was shared via the online survey, but the average of all online survey responses was essentially neutral towards adding the bike park (0 would be complete opposition, 100 would be complete support, and survey responded averaged to approximately 47—right at the “Nice to Include” mark). With an estimated 80-100 workshop attendees and only 25 survey responses, when the input around the bike park is considered in total, there was generally more support for the bike park than opposition from all those engaged.

Concerns involved conflicts with use of existing trails, ecology, and pedestrians. Further concerns related to noise, congestion, erosion as well as the need for proper construction of the bike park.

### How we plan to move ahead:

BPRW continues to consider Leddy Park as a site for the bike park. Ecology, safety and scale are key considerations for a bike park at Leddy. Proper siting and sustainable trail design can result in a successful bike park that both meets the needs of the community who want to enjoy this recreational amenity, and voiced concerns regarding conflicts with the current uses and ecology of the park.

Based on the compiled feedback, the ecological assessment and the City Arborist assessment, we have identified the location below as being suitable for a small and contained family-friendly bike park at Leddy. The size and location function as a contained island with minimal impacts, avoids sensitive ecological areas, limits the footprint and sets a clear boundary for the bike park.



An assessment by the City Arborist found that trees in the area labelled as “*suitable bike park location*” consist of a mix of primarily white pine, red oak, and red maple. There is minimal herbaceous and woody understory vegetation, which is located towards the outer edges of this wooded area. Any bike path through this area could be laid out to follow considerable space between existing large trees thus eliminating the need for any removals of large trees and minimizing the impact to their root zones. It is imperative that no significant grade changes or excavation be completed throughout the area. If the project advances, the City Arborist will work closely with this group on the routing of paths through this area to ensure that impacts will be minimal to the existing trees. Minor cutting and clearing of fallen debris or potentially hazardous dead wood in existing trees will be completed and all debris will be left on site out of the way of the proposed paths to decay as it would naturally.

Given the strong community demand for creating a bike park in Burlington, and the findings from the Leddy Park ecological and tree assessments, BPRW will continue to explore the suitability, costs, design feasibility, and maintenance of this location. This project is in the early planning stages, and information gathering continues to be important for the City to make an informed decision. There will continue to be opportunities for public feedback as we have more information. Stay tuned at <https://enjoyburlington.com/leddy-park-workshop/>.

## Other Feedback

### **Routine Operations**

We received feedback on the addition of park amenities such as picnic tables, bike racks, trash bins, etc. and we will incorporate these improvements in BPRW's upcoming routine work plans.

Planning and design continues for upgrades to the Leddy Maintenance Facility, one of two primary bases for BPRW maintenance and operations, and we will provide a construction schedule update as details become available. Stay tuned at [enjoyburlington.com](http://enjoyburlington.com).