

SURVEY AND WORKSHOP RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

The City of Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department, 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. Stations included dot exercises, write in boards, and floor maps for attendees to draw their ideas on. 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. Project staff and volunteers were available for one-on-one conversations and a comment box was at the sign in station as well. An estimated 80-100 people were in attendance.

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.

The workshop results are presented in the photos of the public engagement “boards” completed by the community while the survey results are presented in tables of the combined survey responses. Key findings are reflective of both inputs, and areas of alignment and divergence are highlighted and analyzed.

The workshop and survey are only one part of the overall community input into the future of Leddy Park and should be considered descriptive of community sentiments rather than prescriptive. While these results should help point the way and direct the development of the plan, they must be measured alongside other community and city inputs and should not be considered conclusive of the sentiments of everyone in the community.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Workshop participants and survey respondents were asked about the natural resources at Leddy Park. In general, both groups brought up the many important natural features of Leddy Park. In general, survey respondents were more likely to highlight the issues surrounding use and development of Leddy Park.

Natural Resources of Leddy Park

Natural resources can include areas that are ecologically significant such as natural communities, wetlands, streams and wildlife habitat. Some of these larger features, such as riparian areas, we can map remotely, while the presence of smaller features, such as vernal pools, we cannot. In both circumstances, documenting local knowledge about these resources is essential in understanding their significance and drafting appropriate management guidelines.

LEDDY PARK



Public Visioning

Burlington, VT | April, 2019



What notable natural resources are in Leddy Park?

~~TREES!~~
lots of trees + wildlife

Beach
wild-flowers
Quiet/peaceful

WILDLIFE HABITAT
red trillium
jack in the pulpit
A sizable piece of unfragmented woods! state-use
Forest on sandy soil with little nutrients... scarce because traditionally best place for residential + industrial
development due to well-drained soils

The forest with paths that connect one part of the north end to another part of the north end. at least one connection.

Are any of the following resources present?

Place a check next to the resources you've observed.

RIPARIAN AREAS/SURFACE WATERS

UNIQUE PLANTS

LARGE LEDGES OR CLIFFS

SEASONAL SPRING

What kinds of wildlife do you see in Leddy Park?

Beaver
rabbits
Fox - red + grey
Turtles
Birds (owls)

Birds
pair of pileated woodpeckers
PRESENTLY WITH TWIN OAKS

Raccoons
fox
skunk
Deer
various owl
horned owl
squirrels
song birds; other little amphibians. - FOX

Are there any human activities (existing or proposed) that may conflict with these resources?

OFF LEASH DOGS dogs and owners not picking up dog poop

DISK GOLF

Trash on beach

Bike park in Leddy - traffic hazard will encourage, eroding of walking trails by bikes going to + from bike park. Bikers may run into cars on the road + cause injury

Bike park is not a good idea. Too.
Loss of precious habitat
Need trash barrel for poop bags -> +1
FIREZONS BENCH

Survey respondents listed the following notable natural resources at Leddy Park:

- Trees
- forest, beach
- Trees, grass, paths.
- Lake access
- The peaceful beach lined with mature trees - trees need help with erosion!
- Tall trees. Open forest glades. A surprising amount of peace and quiet on the forest trails.
- Older growth trees, the shoreline, vistas from the grassy picnic area above beach.
- Much of Leddy is notable in natural resources: The large Pine Grove just off the Hannaford's parking lot, the entire park is a wildlife Corridor. In spring and fall migration it is host to fallouts of migrating warblers. The beach is also important. From the beach there is a great view of the geological feature: the Champlain Thrust Fault. Historically it was a sand plain biome and development should be discouraged.
- Wonderful trees! Hemlock, striped maple, other maples and oaks

- Open space, views & access to lake, forest, wildflowers, quiet, undisturbed woodlands
- forest paths, evergreens
- The beach, the trails, the recreational opportunities
- old growth trees
- A lovely wooded area, the lake, lots of wildflowers and birds.
- the woods, big big trees, beautiful forests, wildflowers, bird life, some deer, etc.
- Woods, streams, lake access
- The lake, the quiet beauty
- Trees

Both workshop and attendees highlighted the trees found in Leddy Park. Other features brought up repeatedly include the lake access and beach, wildlife, and wildflowers.

Workshop attendees also confirmed that riparian areas/surface waters, large ledges or cliffs, seasonal springs, and unique plants are present at the park. In their responses below, a few survey respondents were able to confirm the presence of these features and provide some descriptions.

- Not to my knowledge.
- Unknown
- Large ledges on the eastern most trails to access Leddy from the bike parking area that are severely eroding. The easternmost swale between the bike path and parking lot becomes very damp with water in the spring. Also there are wild berries near there in the tree line that the birds rely on for food in the fall.
- There is an ephemeral stream that runs from near the softball field through the woods to the parking lot. There is a pool of standing water currently surrounded by skunk cabbage between the bike path and the Lake. There is a huge display of Purple Trillium wildflowers in the forest between the softball field and soccer fields. I counted over 100 plants there last week.
- Large cliffs near beach area
- some sort of fly-trap plant
- Many very old and tall White pines.
- Red trillium
- Yes, plants, vernal pools, cliffs
- Not that I am aware of.
- I suspect so along the lake
- Yes most definitely.
- Yes

Workshop attendees and survey respondents were asked to list the types of wildlife they see in Leddy Park. Survey respondents and workshop attendees listed the following species:

- Birds
- Fish
- Squirrels
- Cardinals
- Chipmunks
- Loons
- Ducks
- Geese
- Turtles
- Otters
- Songbirds
- Crows
- Pileated woodpecker
- Barred owl
- Deer
- Raccoons
- Fox
- Eagles
- Rabbits
- Toads
- Frogs
- Skunks

The majority of the responses focused around the many birds that inhabit the park.

Survey respondents and workshop attendees were also asked what human activities (existing or proposed) may conflict with the natural resources of the park. Survey respondents and workshop attendees focused on off-leash dogs and dog waste, a bike park, trash, fires on the beach, and disc golf. Dog waste and the bike park were mentioned repeatedly by workshop attendees. The verbatim answers from survey respondents are below:

- No
- trash left on the beach
- Yes.
- No
- A dog park would conflict with wildlife & resources - many people ignore the signs about no dogs on the beach & bring their pet off leash!
- I need to learn more about it, but I'm worried the proposed bike park will impact the natural resources and walking experience. Seems like using a previously disturbed site or replacing a set of 20 or so unused parking spaces at Leddy surrounded by a wooden safety fence for the bike park would be better.
- lots of bonfires
- Trail north of soccer fields gets icy and muddy, causing walkers to go around, widening the trail
- Mountain biking would erode the trails which are sandy. Wildflower colonies will be destroyed. The trees will have their roots compacted
- Proposed bike park that would conflict with preserving forest

- Yes; biking, removal of trees, habitat, loud noise, pavement
- Motorized vehicles
- bike trails, any human disturbance, trampling of the existing paths north and south trails, and any further human impacts to those trails. we should be restoring those trails and improving on the eroding bluffs south of the rink to stabilize those trails instead of killing the preexisting trails, forests and bluffs along the water
- Disc Golf is not a good sport for the natural woods of Leddy Park
- Off leash dogs, drug use

FLOOR MAP

Workshop attendees were asked to draw in their ideas and answer questions on a large format map at the workshop. Survey respondents were also asked similar questions.

What new recreational activities or facilities would you like to see?
Write them in and add them to the map!
Bocce & Bocce Playground
Bigger playground PLEASE! Same location. There's lots of space! ***
Ditto!
Outdoor ping-pong table!
The Bike Park seems like a great addition! +1
Public Pool
Bocce court, SHUFFLEBOARD
Food/snack bar
Pavilion near the ice rink for picnics - include a fireplace!
grant for all ages

Where are trails and other facilities in need of repair or improvement?
Write them in and add them to the map!
North of Athletic Fields - Ravine?
trails except for perimetered bike definition/markings!
It would be great to formalize (gravel?) the east/west trail connectors to North Ave.

What are your favorite vistas, viewpoints, or resting areas?
Write them in and add them to the map!
all the trails!
Pecan fields!
trails!
the ravine!
The whole park
Trails network
South bluff

What other thoughts do you have?
Personal use is still nice and quiet
Busses THIS YES-!
*** Near pine grove - lots of it!
Adult soccer league!
Street Chasing Again
Add a public pool + change membership. No new Apoc for ultra Mt.
bluffs are closed.
trees on beach for shade.
Keep it NATURAL! Not too much human activities to scare AWAY WILDLIFE! It's nice + quiet most times which is nice!
Pickleball tournaments
Barriers on south bluff to keep people from climbing up and down - stop erosion of bluff
The dog poop situation @ Leddy is out of control. Last summer - low water TONS of dog poop in sand/where water comes up in the spring, it's disgusting and nobody cleans it.
+ enhance to athletic fields on North side

LEDDY PARK
Public Visioning
Burlington, VT | April, 2019
BURLINGTON PARKS RECREATION WATERFRONT
With assistance from: SE GROUP

On the map itself, attendees drew potential trails and highlighted areas for improvement (the ravine, bathrooms, parking).

Attendees and survey respondents were also asked what new recreational activities or facilities they would like to see. Workshop attendees mentioned an improved playground, a pool, bocce court, bike

park, outdoor ping pong table, food/snack bar, and a picnic pavilion. Survey respondents also mentioned trails, bike park (multiple mentions), natural playground, year-round bathrooms, outdoor skating rink, boat access, nature tours, and improvements to the courts and other current facilities. A few survey respondents stated they would like to see the park remain as is.

Workshop attendees and survey respondents were also asked about trails and other facilities in need of improvement. Workshop attendees mentioned better trail marking, formalizing the east west trail and connections, and a reroute for the trail north of the athletic fields. Survey respondents mentioned bike connections to the park, the north trail, erosion on the lake access trails, removing poison ivy, and creating walkable paths between park facilities.

Workshop attendees and survey respondents were asked about the important natural features. Workshop attendees drew a ravine needing attention on the map but otherwise did not have any comments. Survey respondents mentioned the beach repeatedly and a few others brought up the wooded areas and important wildflowers (red trillium, bloodroot). One respondent brought up concentrating athletic uses in one area to preserve the natural areas.

Workshop attendees and survey respondents were asked about their favorite vistas, viewpoints, or resting places. The workshop attendees mentioned the trails, beach, soccer fields, and the park itself. Survey respondents mentioned the beach, bluffs, picnic areas, and wooded trails.

The final question on the board was about any other thoughts attendees had. Attendees commented on the poison ivy and dog poop issues, stopping erosion on the bluff, charging a fee (with attendees in support), keeping the park natural, and hosting adult soccer leagues or a pickleball tournament at the park. The survey respondents brought up adding a bike park (mentioned repeatedly), the importance of keeping the area undeveloped (mentioned repeatedly), over use and improper use, dogs, outdoor classes, separate restrooms, and poison ivy.

ACTIVITIES

Workshop attendees and survey respondents were asked about what types of activities they envision at the park. In general, workshop attendees were much more supportive of these activities. Survey respondents ranked the activities on a scale of 0 to 100 where 0 was don't need it and 100 was gotta have it.

What type of activities do you envision at Leddy Park?



Hiking/Running on Rugged Footpaths

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Bike Park

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Dog Walking

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Birding/Wildlife Watching

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Court Sports

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Field Sports

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!

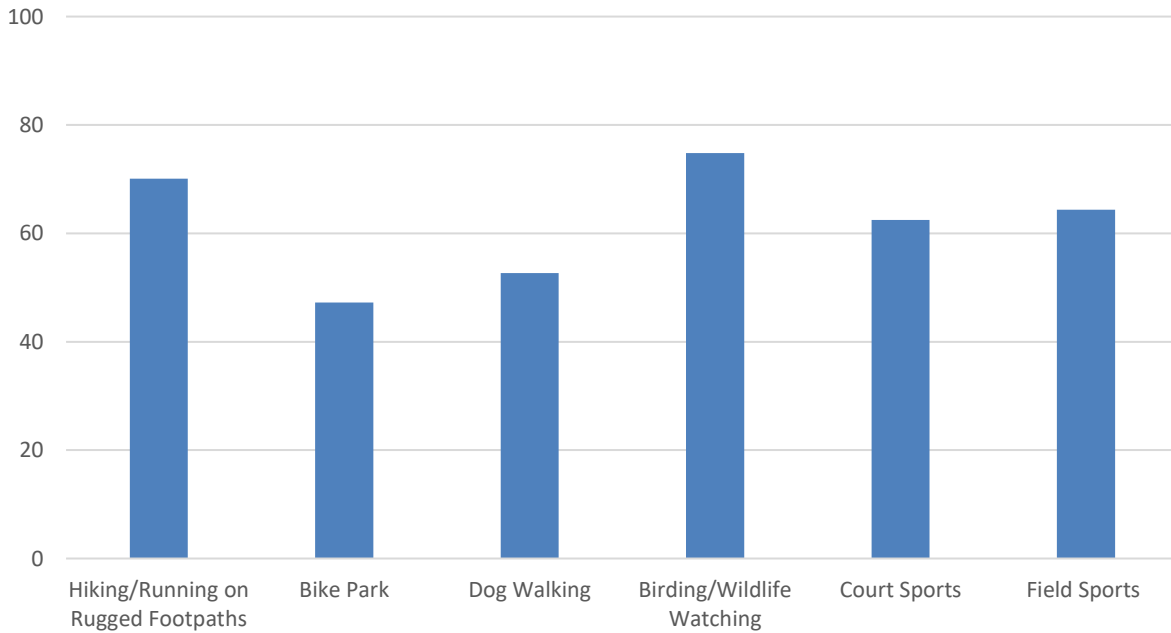
Add One Dot Per Topic!



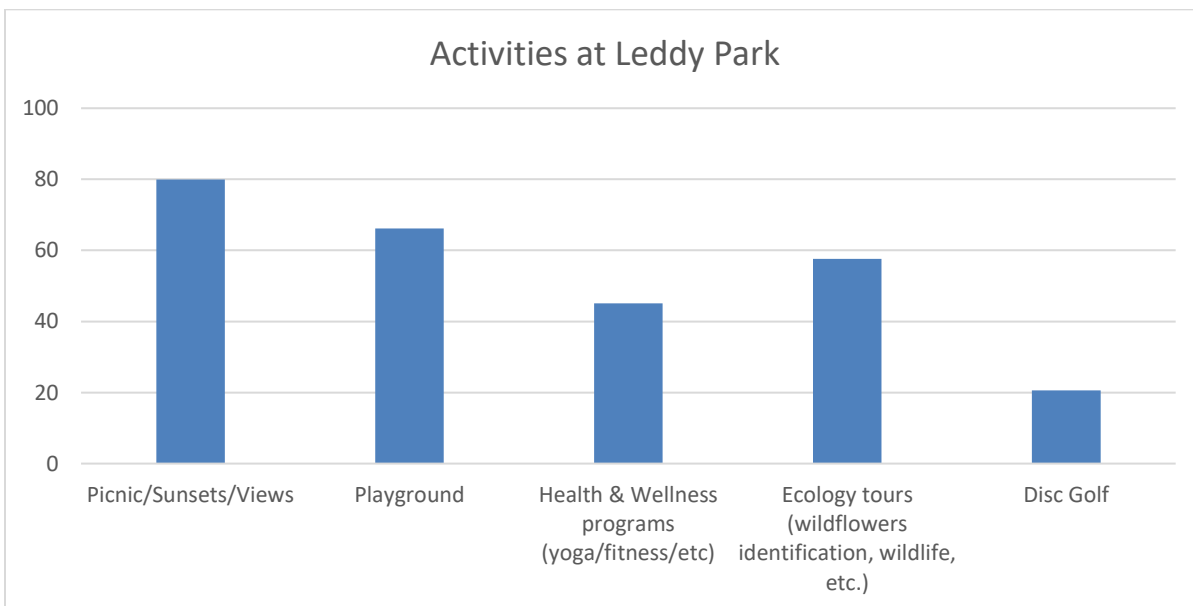
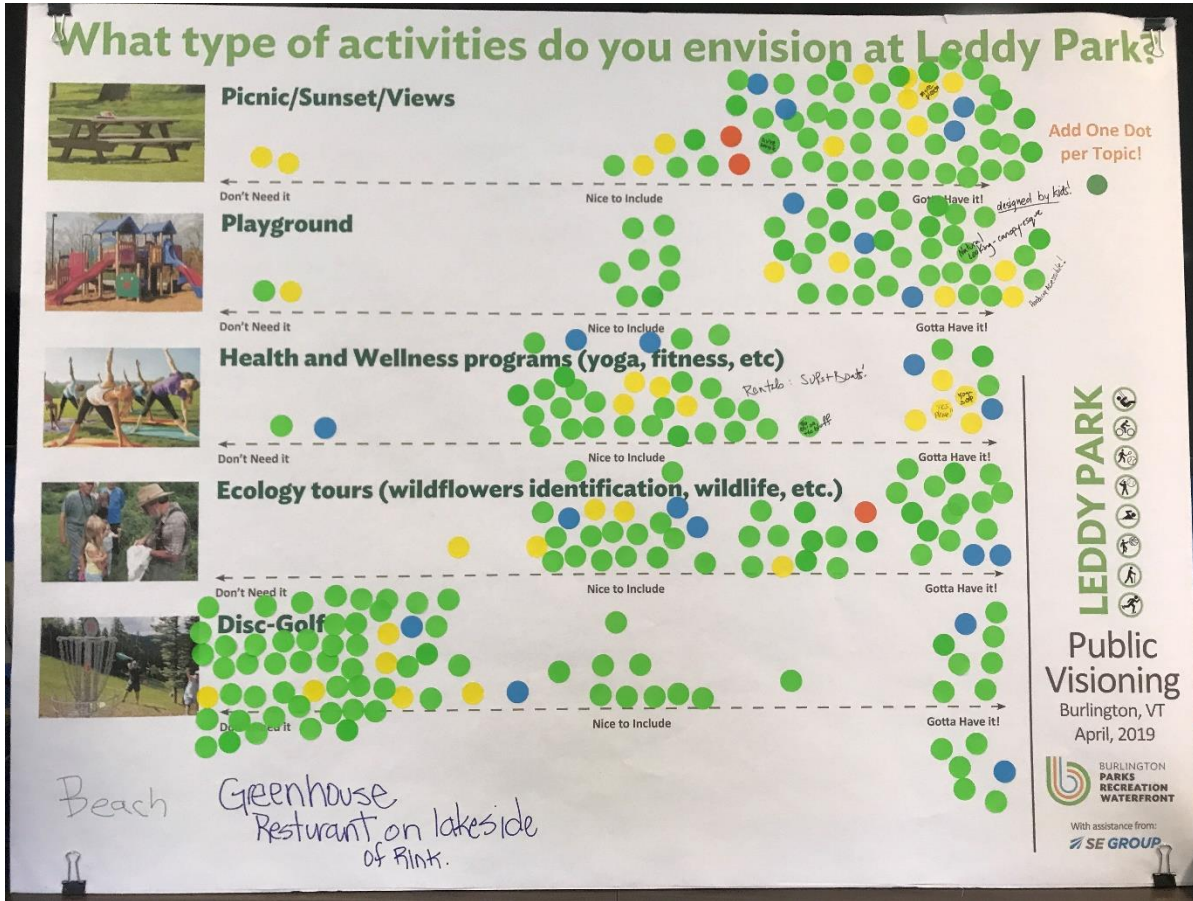
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Burlington, VT
April, 2019



Activities



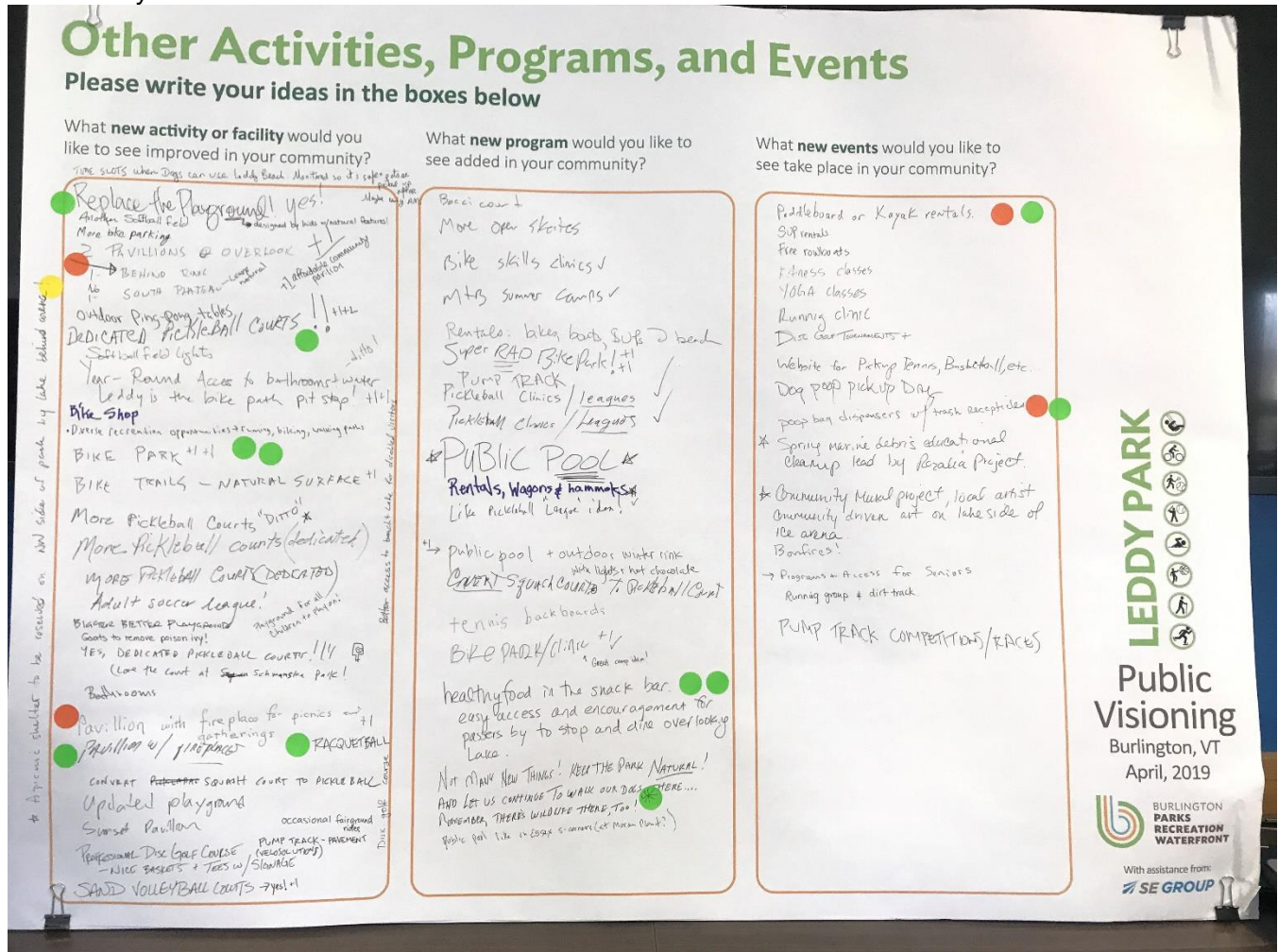
In general, workshop attendees were very supportive of all of the activities. More people felt neutral about dog walking and birding/wildlife watching and a few people were opposed to the bike park. Survey respondents were somewhat supportive of hiking/running on rugged footpaths and birding/wildlife watching. Survey respondents were more neutral about the other activities, and on the bike park, they leaned slightly towards “don’t need it.”



Workshop attendees and survey respondents were both very supportive of picnic/sunset/views and fairly supportive of a playground as well. Workshop attendees were somewhat supportive of health and wellness programs and ecology tours, while survey respondents tended to be more neutral. Neither group expressed support for disc golf.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

Workshop attendees and survey respondents were also asked what other activities, programs, and events they would be interested in.



Under activities, items drawing multiple mentions from workshop attendees include: replacing the playground, picnic pavilions (very popular), dedicated pickleball courts (strongest support), softball improvements, year-round restrooms, bike path pit stop features, bike park, natural surface bike trails, beach volleyball, and disc golf. Survey respondents mentioned the bike park, pickleball, and playground improvements.

Under programs, items drawing multiple mentions from workshop attendees include: pickleball clinics and leagues, the bike park and mountain bike skills clinics and camps, a pool, rentals, and healthy snackbar food. Survey respondents mentioned wildlife walks, public swimming, bike park related programming (many mentions), and yoga or tai chi classes.

Under events, items drawing multiple mentions from workshop attendees include: paddleboard or kayak rentals, poop bag dispensers, park cleanups, and community mural projects. Many items listed were not necessarily events, suggesting attendees may not think of Leddy Park as particularly suitable for events. Survey respondents mentioned bike park events, community days, and ice skating events. Some respondents expressed support for food truck events while others suggested moving those elsewhere.

COURT RENOVATIONS

Survey respondents were asked to rank the following proposed changes to the courts at Leddy: relocating the basketball court, keep the tennis courts lighted, add another tennis/pickleball court, and remove the squash court. 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.

ACCESS, TRAILS, PATHS, AND ROADS

Workshop attendees were asked which enhanced access amenities they would like to see at Leddy Park.

Feedback from the survey on the bike park was much more neutral

The online survey asked similar questions to the workshop boards and received 25 responses.

Access: Trails, Paths & Roads

Which enhanced amenities would you like to see at Leddy Park?

Add One Dot per Topic!



Wider Primary Access Road

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Informal Dirt Trails

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Bike Path Distance Mile Markers

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Bike Park

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Formal Pedestrian Entryway into Park

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Winter Trails

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!



Signage

Don't Need it

Nice to Include

Gotta Have it!

Other thoughts/ideas/concerns regarding how to improve access?
Please write below.

- More access points to neighborhood via private-property permission.
- Consider several formal pedestrian entrances.
- More trash cans & dog bag stations.
- What's for sign trail?
- Leddy Park Road - add advisory bike lanes, narrow loop to add path.
- A safe way for bikers & walkers to get into PARK from WOODLAWN Road to 4th Street parking lot up to WOODLAWN.
- Speed bumps, traffic calming on access rd.
- Path down leddy rd on shopping mall side.
- Better access to beach and water for disabled visitors.
- Bike park would be great this is the first city I've found in that I don't have one!

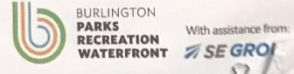
Please ask us if anything is unclear

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Attendees were very interested in informal dirt trails and a bike park. They were fairly supportive of signage and a formal pedestrian entryway into the park. They were relatively neutral about bike path distance mile markers and winter trails and opposed to a wider primary access road. Attendees wrote in comments about adding a parallel path to the primary access road and speed bumps. Other thoughts/ideas/concerns regarding improving access that attendees had include: traffic calming on access road, creating a safe way for pedestrians and cyclists to enter the park (bike lanes, separate path), creating multiple pedestrian access points, beach access for the disabled, and more trash cans and dog bag stations.

BIKE PARK

Workshop attendees and survey respondents were asked more specific questions about a bike park.

A Bike Park In Burlington

Background

- The Burlington Bike Park Coalition has approached BPRW with an idea for establishing a bike park in Burlington.
- 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 with the Bike Park Coalition and Leddy Park seems like a good fit as a regional park that is connected to the bike path and has potentially available areas that may be suitable.
- We are now engaging 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.

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With assistance from: **SE GROUP**

Add One Dot per Topic!

How do you feel about adding a bike park to Leddy Park?

What amenities would you like to see at a potential bike park?

Pump Track

The dirt track allows riders to complete a loop without pedaling, using banked turns and rolling hills to maintain momentum.

Don't Need it | Nice to Include | Gotta Have it!

Skills Park

Offers fun variety of obstacles, giving people experience with uneven grade, tighter turns, pinch points and teeter totter obstacles.

Don't Need it | Nice to Include | Gotta Have it!

Flow Trails

Flow Trails take bikers on a terrain-induced experience, with little pedaling and braking necessary.

Don't Need it | Nice to Include | Gotta Have it!

Jump Lines

Offers jumping features.

Don't Need it | Nice to Include | Gotta Have it!

Fix-it Station

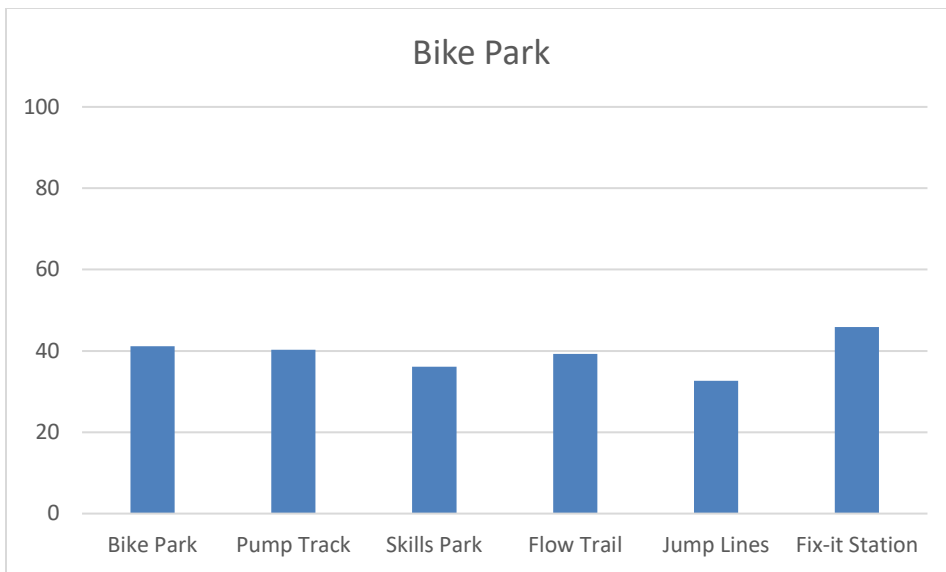
Bike repair station supporting all types of bikes.

Don't Need it | Nice to Include | Gotta Have it!

very concerned about losing so many trees

also need to make sure it's accessible for hand cycles

Attendees generally felt very positively about adding a bike park to Leddy Park and the amenities listed on the board. Attendees were most interested in a pump track and skills park, but generally very interested in all the amenities listed. A couple of write-in comments touched on the potential loss of trees and the need to make such a park accessible for hand cycles.



Survey respondents were significantly less interested in a bike park in general and the associated amenities. The bike park and amenities all averaged slightly less support than nice to include (around 40 out of 100), with a fix-it station drawing slightly more support.

Bike Park Conclusions

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 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.

FINAL COMMENTS

The following were open-ended comments left by the survey respondents:

- Thank you for revisiting this. There is so much unreached potential on the ledgy property.
- I don't love the idea of adding a bike park in Leddy - people already come flying out of the woods there when I'm running or biking on the path. Also the congestion near the skate park is a real problem when you're trying to run or bike through sometimes, so if this does go in I think a widened area for "hanging out" would be useful.
- Would love a bike park!!!
- A bike park like Rutland's is a nice idea, but keep in mind theirs is privately funded, and maintained by private community organizations (you can see the organizations signs throughout the trails). Arms park would be a MUCH better fit, as it is a larger area.

- Again, I'm worried about the bike park proposal. It seems like choosing a site that is not in a forest would result in less disturbance to the natural resource and existing park users who value the peace and quiet of the forests at Leddy Park. Thank you for your consideration.
- If a bike track is judged to be a good/popular thing, please consider Leddy as opposed to Arms. Please keep Arms as a forest/natural/undisturbed area, and develop Leddy, with its established recreational areas and parking as the place to contain formal biking. Outlaw biking in Arms. Do consider that a bike park will attract bikers from out of town who will drive here. Please, please, please, no disc golf.
- The trail north of the soccer fields is now highly used and getting damaged (widened) by walkers going around muddy and icy areas. This is area also rather close to some homes, which takes away from the natural aspect of the park. Recommend rerouting this away from the muddy/icy areas (and homes) to higher ground that won't get icy and muddy.
- Mountain bikes will cause a lot of erosion and be harmful to plants and trails.
- I am not in favor of a bike park or any biking trails within the park. Not needed & negatively impacts the environment
- PLEASE increase public input and awareness of the bike park.
- I am very supportive of a bike park at ledddy park. I hope the city and the community continue working together to make it happen.
- If your going to build a bike park program you need to build it properly and by a reputable bike park build company. Similarly to the skatepark which is now so awesome and over crowded there needs to be a second one built. Colorado has done a great job with their bike parks and having a full time staff member to maintain what is built. Essex did a horrible job with their little park
- A bike park would ruin Leddy woods and my enjoyment of it. With a bike park, there would be no safe enjoyable place to walk in my neighborhood where people aren't racing through on bikes, ebikes, or vehicles.
- LOL in terms of amenities desirable to those getting into mountain biking at Leddy Park. Like Disc Golf I will fight this idea of mountain biking trails at Leddy Park to my death. If you allow this to happen you will continue to destroy the fragile, remaining, beat up woods and forests of Leddy Park. Restore the woods and leave them alone. There is too much in Leddy Park now. How BPRW came up with this in there in their Master Plan is unbelievable to me. Mountain bikers can bike in the intervale to their hearts content. Leave Leddy alone. Let it be. Let it be.
- Handicap access is needed in all parks
- If you include the bike trail how will it be supervised and maintained?
- Please put a drinking fountain by the bike path with a water bottle filler.