



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

Burlington, Vermont 05408

Tel: (802) 863-5744

Email: info@wvpd.org

www.WVPD.org

Fax: (802) 865-0647



Visit the WVPD's Parks:

Colchester Pond
Natural Area

Delta Park

Derway Island
Nature Preserve

Donohue Sea Caves

Essex Overlook Park

Ethan Allen Homestead

Heineberg Wetlands

Macrae Farm Park

Mayes Landing

Muddy Brook Park

Muddy Brook
Wetland Reserve

Old Mill Park

Riverwalk Trail

Salmon Hole Park

Winooski Gorge

Wolcott Family
Natural Area

Woodside Park

Valley Ridge

Winooski Valley Park District

Annual Report: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Yumiko Jakobcic

Executive Director

The Winooski Valley Park District's mission is to plan, acquire, and manage lands and waters within the boundaries of its member municipalities for purposes of conservation, preservation of natural areas, establishment of parks, and resource-based education and recreation. The WVPD's system of natural areas offers over 13 miles of shoreline and 25 miles of trails throughout the Winooski River Valley. In Burlington, this includes Derway Island, Donohue Sea Caves, Ethan Allen Homestead, Heineberg Wetlands, Mayes Landing, and Salmon Hole-Riverwalk Park. The City of Burlington has been a supporting member for 41 years, and Roger Marshall is Burlington's representative. Please visit www.wvpd.org for trail maps and to learn more, or stop by the WVPD's headquarters at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington.

Here are a few highlights from the past year:

- **Park Acquisitions and Improvements:** The WVPD is happy to report that it acquired two new parks this year: The Muddy Brook Wetland Reserve in South Burlington and Williston, and the Wolcott Family Natural Area in Colchester. The WVPD is currently planning the trail systems for both parks and looks forward to welcoming visitors soon. In addition, many improvements were made to the WVPD's other parks. A new bridge was installed on the Riverwalk Trail, a culvert was replaced at Macrae Farm Park, puncheon was replaced at Colchester Pond, a railing was installed at Donohue Sea Caves, and over 200 trees were planted in riparian buffer zones at the Ethan Allen Homestead and Mayes Landing.
- **Environmental Education:** The WVPD's educator met with 1,426 children and 381 adults (including people from all of the WVPD's member towns), hosted numerous new events including a Woodside Wildlife Walk, a Full Moon Hike at Macrae, an Invasive Species 101 Workshop, and several snowshoe hikes. The WVPD's "Halloween at the Homestead" attracted 70 visitors in its second year! The WVPD also had 297 students at Conservation Field Day and a record number of workshops available.

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- **Financial Sustainability:** The WVPD staff worked hard to bring in additional funding to help keep costs low for member towns. This year, the WVPD received a \$15,000 grant from the Vermont Recreation Trails Program to replace the bridge at Riverwalk, received grant to put bike racks at Colchester Pond and Macrae, received grant from the Department of Environmental Conservation to hire a greeter at Colchester Pond, received a \$500 grant from IBM to purchase educational supplies, and received grant from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to cover 50% of the costs for updating the alarm system in the education center. The WVPD staff also increased their advertising efforts for the picnic shelter and exceeded their rental revenue goals for the year.
- **Activities for Residents and Tourists:** The WVPD's 18 regional parks offer nature trails, scenic overlooks, picnic facilities, cross-country skiing trails, canoe and kayak launches, fishing access, and public garden plots. Sign-in sheets located at the WVPD's parks have shown that visitors come from all of the WVPD's member towns and even from across the country. The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum – one of the WVPD's partner organizations – provided tours of Ethan and Fanny Allen's 1787 restored farmhouse to 3,942 children and adults.
- **Programs Offered by Others at WVPD Parks:** The WVPD provides a fantastic location for local groups to offer outdoor programs. Many school groups, summer camps, and scouts visit the WVPD's parks as part of their curriculum. The Burlington Area Community Gardens and the Colchester Land Trust offer community gardens at two of the WVPD's parks. The Vermont Community Garden Network and New Farms for New Americans lead educational gardening programs at the WVPD's Ethan Allen Homestead. The WVPD was also happy to host part of the Muck It Up adventure race at Macrae Farm Park in cooperation with the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department, and part of the Amazing Parks Challenge in cooperation with Essex Parks and Recreation.

Children need natural areas to stay in touch with the local landscapes that sustain them. In turn, natural areas need management to assure people and wildlife can peacefully coexist. The WVPD offers 18 natural areas embedded within the most developed county in Vermont. Each year Burlington's support makes it possible for thousands of Vermonters and tourists to explore our ecologically-diverse system of natural areas. Thank you.



Students from Burlington High School participate in a service learning project at Colchester Pond.



The WVPD's educator meets with Burlington preschool students at the Ethan Allen Homestead.

Lori Olberg

From: Roger Marshall <rmaia@smorgans.net>
Sent: Friday, July 05, 2013 7:56 PM
To: yumi@wvdpd.org
Cc: Lori Olberg
Subject: Re: annual report to the CC

Yumi,

The aggregate total of visitors to the Museum was 4,209.

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