



# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

A partnership that cares for the wild places and paths of Burlington, VT.



**Dear Friends of Burlington Wildways,**

As we look back on the past year and ahead to 2026, we are thrilled to share a major milestone: the Wildways Trail is complete—and it is spectacular. What began seven years ago as an idea marked by a few blazes has become a beautiful, accessible urban adventure connecting Burlington's best vistas, shorelines, and wild spaces. The trail weaves through geologic, and natural history gems, from Salmon Hole and the Champlain Thrust Fault to rare remnant sand dunes from Lake Champlain's inland-sea past. The cultural experience is equally as rich as the trail links urban farms, the Ethan Allen Homestead, the tower at Ethan Allen Park, and the new Rock Point Center for Nature and Spirituality. A new website makes exploring the trail easier than ever, and we hope you'll join us for a grand reopening celebration this May.

Beyond bringing people into these special places, the Burlington Wildways partnership actively cares for the natural areas the trail travels through. This year, we expanded invasive species removal and restoration plantings, while launching a new land stewardship program that involves the public in this important work. In partnership with UVM Plant Biology, we are also advancing research on best restoration planting practices in our floodplain, ensuring that our work is guided by science and builds resilient, healthy ecosystems for the long term.

Finally, our Grow Wild initiative continued to successfully get more native plants on the landscape and create urban habitat. Over the past year, native plantings took root on school grounds, in cemeteries and public spaces, and in private yards across the city, supporting biodiversity, improving ecological function, and helping Burlington grow wilder, healthier, and more connected.

As we look to 2026, your partnership remains essential to expanding this impact and stewarding the places that make Burlington so special. On behalf of the Burlington Wildways partnership, thank you!

Zoe Richards

Director, Burlington Wildways



In partnership with UVM Plant Biology, 1500+ plants were grown, given away and planted in the community.



Students are growing native trees, creating pocket forests on school campuses and supplying future tree stock for the city.

**WANDER WILD**  
A partnership that cares for the wild places and parks of Burlington, Vermont.  
Explore the Burlington Wildways land and Wild Places of Burlington, three waterfalls, and the Burlington Wildways Nature Center. We are working to connect the Burlington Wildways land and Wild Places of Burlington, three waterfalls, and the Burlington Wildways Nature Center.

**EXPLORE WILD PLACES**

**Arvin Forest**  
Arvin Forest is a great place to find an extensive area of mixed woods with uneven ground, old growth of over 100 years old, and a variety of plant life including ferns, shrubs, and wildflowers.

**Central Woods**  
Central Woods is one of the most frequently visited COOP natural areas. This area is home to over 100 species of plants, including ferns, shrubs, wildflowers, and wild edibles.

**Crescent Woods**  
Crescent Woods is a little-visited area found in a neighborhood on the South End of Burlington, where the Winooski River flows through the woods, creating a waterfall and swimming through the pristine woods.

Our newly rebuilt website now has all the tools to allow everyone to get out and explore!



Our new Land Stewards volunteer program taps into a strong community desire to help by empowering volunteers to control non-native invasive species.

## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

**470+ HOURS** volunteered by Burlington Wildways Stewards

**2700+ NATIVE PLANTS** added to the landscape

**612 STUDENTS** engaged in nature-based climate solutions programming

