

2024 IMPACT REPORT

Connecting and protecting the wild places and paths of Burlington, VT.



Dear Friends of Burlington Wildways,

Our unique coalition works to make sure Burlington is green, resilient, and healthy now—and in the years to come. 2024 has been a great year: we've built plans to extend the Burlington Wildway trail from ten miles to twelve; upgraded our wayfinding maps; expanded our schoolyard tree nursery program from one to three schools; expanded our program for propagating native plants; and welcomed hundreds of community members to participate in our annual City Nature Celebration.

Our landscape restoration work is blooming—with critical rivers edge habitat plantings with kids and community members, and our Trail Stewardship volunteer program contributed over 375 hours to keeping our natural areas clean, welcoming and accessible. We're ushering in 2025 by building a 'level 2' program for stewards to work on non-native invasive plant management.

All this growth of plants, landscapes, trails and people (especially young people!)—doesn't happen by magic. It's thanks to the careful planning and extraordinary efforts of our partner organizations (Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront; Intervale Center; Winooski Valley Park District; and Rock Point), the maturing of Burlington Wildways—and our generous donors and supporters.

I'm thrilled to be able to share with you this report—a snapshot of amazing efforts and accomplishments—and am so grateful for our supporters, friends and lovers of Burlington's wild places.

On behalf of the Burlington Wildways partnership, thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe L. Richards". The script is fluid and cursive.

Zoe Richards
Director, Burlington Wildways



BUILDING A BETTER TRAIL

Our Burlington Wildways Trail and Trail Stewards Program model a community involved, healthy trail network for the benefit of our human and non-human community.

- In 2024, stewards spent 375 hours on the trails while reporting on issues to land managers.
- Plans are underway for the next two miles of the trail.

EXPANDING AND PROTECTING OUR WILD PLACES

Through our Grow Wild, and school programming, we grew and planted native plants across the Burlington landscape.

- Annual native plant giveaway in partnership with the University of Vermont.
- 700+ Burlington School District students from all backgrounds growing trees in nurseries on their campuses.
- 7000 ft² of public lawn converted to native plant meadow.

CELEBRATING NATURE

Our annual City Nature Celebration attracted over 500 community members over two weeks in April.

- Hosted events highlighting the benefits of native biodiversity, urban forests, healthy ecosystems.
- Created opportunities for everyone to see themselves in, and help to connect and protect the wild places and paths of Burlington, VT.



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

700+ ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
received hands-on programming

WILDWAYS TRAIL STEWARDS
volunteered a total of 375 hours

2 ACRES OF HABITAT
created or improved

1400+ NATIVE PLANTS
added to landscape

500+ COMMUNITY MEMBERS
engaged in City Nature Celebration

1,000 YEARS OF AGRICULTURE
explored in new interpretive panels