



Hubbard Park Expansion Project Fundraising Campaign Launched
\$100k gap remains to add nearly 80 acres to the Central VT treasure

For Immediate Release

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The City of Montpelier is pleased to announce plans to grow Hubbard Park by almost 80 acres through the purchase of two parcels contiguous with the park to the north and west. These parcels are home to streams, wetlands, rocky ledges, mature hardwood forests, and many trails that the public has enjoyed for decades. Through this purchase, the City will permanently secure public access to the properties and conserve a number of important natural features.

The total project cost is around \$550k, with only \$100k remaining to fundraise. \$258k was awarded through the United States Forest Service (USFS) Community Forest Program (CFP). \$20k was awarded through the Montpelier Conservation Fund, and another \$50k has been raised from private donors. The City has also applied for \$150k through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). Those who are interested in supporting the project are encouraged to find out more at www.montpelier-vt.org/Parks, and to donate online or by mailing a check to Montpelier Parks, 58 Barre St., Montpelier VT. All donations are tax deductible.

Senator Leahy said of the project, "I am delighted, though not surprised, that the expansion of Hubbard Park was highly ranked for the national Community Forest and Open Space 2021 grants. I played in Hubbard Park as a boy growing up in Montpelier, and this expansion will ensure that it will be even bigger and better for generations to come. This project conserves open space and expands this much-loved park in the heart of our state capital. It is exactly the type of project that I had in mind when I helped create this grant program in the Farm Bill, and why I support its annual funding as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee."

Two events are scheduled (on Zoom and in-person) for members of the public and learn more, see a short slide-show and ask questions about the expansion project, funds already raised, and remaining gap and timeline.

Tuesday, October 12, at 7:30 is a Zoom event. Wednesday, October 13 at 5:30 is an in-person, masked, distanced, limited-capacity event at Montpelier Senior Activity Center, 58 Barre Street, Montpelier. Register for either by emailing Janna Clar at jclar@montpelier-vt.org or calling 802-262-6284.

This project is part of a larger effort to ensure more community members have access to the health and wellness benefits parks and trails provide, and to work towards making Montpelier a destination for outdoor recreation. The Montpelier Parks Commission, along with partners such as the Trust for Public Land, are working toward a goal for all residents to be able to access greenspace within a 10-minute walk from home.

“Hubbard Park is Vermont treasure, allowing visitors to stroll through the thickly forested hills just behind the Golden Dome,” said Rep. Welch. “I have appreciated the quiet beauty of Hubbard Park since my days in the State House. This grant will allow Montpelier to add additional acres of forest, streams and wetlands to Hubbard Park, increasing its size by almost 50 percent, and adding important natural resources to this well managed community forest in the heart of the Vermont capital.”

To learn more or contribute to the project, visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Parks> or contact Parks Director, Alec Ellsworth at (802) 585-7673 or aellsworth@montpelier-vt.org.

The City of Montpelier Parks & Trees Department is a division of the Community Services Department, along with Recreation and Montpelier Senior Activity Center. For more information, visit www.montpelier-vt.org/parks.

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