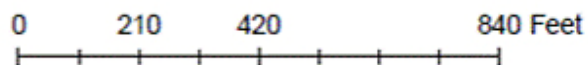
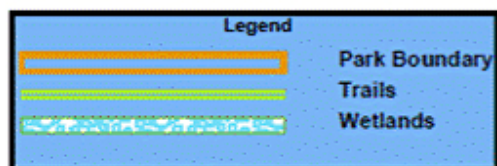


Wheeler Nature Park



Created by the South Burlington Natural Resources Committee
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October 7, 2011



WHEELER NATURE PARK



South Burlington, VT

WHEELER NATURE PARK INTERPRETATIVE TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

1. You are here. Trailhead/Parking area.
2. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) is a large (over six feet tall) perennial grass found in wetlands. An invasive but attractive species, it forms extensive stands spreading by horizontal runners, which put down roots at regular intervals.
3. Wheeler Homestead– In 1903 the City's Town Clerk and Treasurer, Herman H. Wheeler constructed the existing three-story brick farmhouse, which served as his office and family home for nearly 40 years.
4. Enjoy an extravagant view of the Green Mountains including Mount Mansfield. Depending on the season, you may now be surrounded by wildflowers, ragweed or goldenrod.
5. Mature Bur Oak tree (*Quercus macrocarpa*). This oak is believed to be the oldest oak tree in South Burlington. This species of tree can live to be over 200 years old. Its acorns are an important wildlife food.
6. White Pine Forest– Including junipers and cedars.
7. Old Farm Road– tracks are still visible from before the trees around you grew up. Can you spot it?
8. Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) are easy to recognize. This native tree produces sweet nuts which are an excellent food for wildlife. Shagbark hickory is now relatively uncommon in Vermont forests. Those found in this Park are notable for their size. They can live up to 200 years. Can you figure out why they are so named?
9. Stream Tributary of Potash Brook
10. Vernal Pool- Most pools are dry for at least part of the year and fill with the winter rains or snow melt. They are called vernal pools because they are often at their peak depth in the spring. Despite being dry at times, once filled they teem with life. The most obvious inhabitants are various species of frogs and toads.
11. Old sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) stand, the original farm on this property used this stand to produce maple syrup. This area is dominated by sugar maples with a floor of forest herbs.
12. After taking a spur trail you arrive at the Overlook. This is a park bench at the highest point on the property with views of the Champlain Valley and surrounding area.
13. Tree Nursery– Founded in 2008, this community nursery offers many environmental, aesthetic, and financial benefits to the City. Volunteers of all ages are engaged in tree planting and stewardship. When ready, the trees will be planted throughout the City along streets, at schools and in parks.

For more information on this park or other South Burlington parks, visit the Recreation & Parks website- www.sburlrecdept.com