



Photo by Burlington Conservation Board

BURLINGTON, VERMONT NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PLAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Burlington, Vermont's Nature-Based Climate Solutions (NBCS) plan puts the entire city landscape – including urban trees, wetlands, open spaces, community gardens and green infrastructure – to work in an effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The City government and non-profit organizations are working together to implement practical, inclusive climate action strategies. Examples include growing much-needed trees at schools, providing diverse student populations with meaningful connections to nature through habitat restoration projects, improving management of existing urban green space, and aligning city agency collaboration around climate goals.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop a science-based plan to incorporate land sector strategies into the city's comprehensive plan to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Build partnerships with national and local networks, as well as city schools and parks to implement the city's plan.
- Ensure equitable and inclusive implementation of nature-based climate solutions.

PATHWAYS FOR SCALING



Burlington's Conservation Legacy Fund, which has been used to acquire and conserve land, could help support climate initiatives outlined in this plan – many of which have dual conservation and climate benefits.



With approx. 30,000 incorporated cities in the U.S., this plan provides an example that can help catalyze climate action nationwide.



The Inflation Reduction Act includes \$1.5 billion for urban and community forest programs that can support urban tree planting programs like Burlington's.

LOCATION

Vermont

FUNDING AMOUNT AND SOURCES

Approx. \$160,000 from City of Burlington Parks Department & \$30,000 from Burlington Wildways

PROGRAM PARTNERS

City of Burlington, Grow Wild Initiative, Burlington Wildways, Intervale Center, Trust for Public Land, Nature-Based Climate Solutions Initiative, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, University of Colorado-Boulder Masters of the Environment Program

SUCCESSES TO DATE



Integrated national and local networks into a partnership to implement the city's comprehensive plan.



Utilized the Tree Equity Score and other tools to quantify the benefits of urban tree planting and mapped opportunities for equitable tree canopy restoration.



Established a tree nursery program to support urban tree planting efforts with a partnership between public schools, the parks department and local non-profits.

For more information about this and other innovative and scalable projects implementing Natural Climate Solutions in the U.S., please visit www.usnature4climate.org/building-ambition/.