

June 2017 Update

PHP Park and Playground Update

The Land and Water Conservation Fund monies (the source of our \$100,000 grant) are typically released on June 1, once the U.S. Department of the Interior has signed off. We've been planning and ready for the start of the project in anticipation. LWCF began funding outdoor recreational projects across the U.S. in 1965; our Potato Hill Park project is the 651st to be funded in Vermont. In May, we received word from LWCF Vermont Recreation Program Manager Jessica Savage that there has been a change in the federal role in the grant process. This year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has decided that the Department of the Interior will review all grants \$100,000 or more across the U.S. As a result, the start of our project was delayed.

Despite this disappointment, there's plenty of good news:

- In June, we completed the bid process for the site work and construction of the project and selected two highly qualified contractors;
- 145 donors have contributed \$85,000 to Friends of LCS for Potato Hill Park; this combined with other cash on hand provides the required match for the grant;
- Community designers and architects have donated \$30,000 of their time and expertise.

We are well-prepared for when final approval comes through from the Department of the Interior. Because of the delay in funding, we look forward to breaking ground as early as is reasonable in the spring of 2018.