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# PRESS RELEASE



## The Flynn and Sustainability Academy Present the Second Annual Trout Parade in Downtown Burlington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2026- The **Flynn** is partnering with **Burlington's Sustainability Academy** and the **Burlington School District** to produce the second annual **Burlington Trout Parade**. Every spring, students at the Sustainability Academy raise Brook Trout as part of **Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom** program. In the past, the school celebrated the release of the trout with a procession throughout the school and school grounds with puppets that honor trout and related creatures. After last year's success, they are continuing this community-driven celebration, building a new local tradition that brings Burlington together to honor the waters of its land, its watershed and the creatures that swim, fly, crawl and share its space.

**Join the Burlington Trout Parade at the Flynn on May 29<sup>th</sup> for a joyful parade to Battery Park. A free workshop to create art for the parade held from 10-2pm at the Sustainability Academy on May 23.**

"We are so excited to gather the Burlington community in celebration of the second annual Trout Parade; a joyful event that honors our shared ecosystem with the Lake Champlain watershed and its creatures" said Flynn Executive Director, Jay Wahl. "This continued collaboration not only embodies our commitment to expand access to the arts in public space but has spawned a beloved tradition for many."



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"I love seeing the evolution of the Trout Parade over the last few years. I think the Trout Parade is about acknowledging and celebrating the connections between the human and non-human parts of our community. Additionally, I think it is about how a playful spectacle can show that Burlington is a community of care, a community of joy, and a community that values a rich, diverse, interdependent place. I love that a Trout Parade can do this in such an authentic and creative way," said Art Teacher, David Paarlberg-Kvam.

In preparation for the parade, community workshops are being held to create watershed-themed puppets and flags: the first was held on **Saturday, May 16** from **10-2pm** at **the Flynn**, and community members can still join on **Saturday, May 23** from **10-2pm** at the **Sustainability Academy**. These free workshops invite community members of all ages to work with Janice Walrafen, co-founder of Montpelier's All Species Day Parade, and printmaker, muralist, and activist Uncle Erok to make parade art that celebrates the Lake Champlain Watershed. Through these free workshops, participants make art for the parade while learning block printing and puppet making techniques.

"The students spend January to June developing an emotional connection to the trout that they see every day at school," said Sustainability Coach, Kestrel Plump. "They remember them from year to year. If something goes wrong or something changes in the trout tank, ten different students will immediately find me to tell me about it. This is our second year of having the trout parade be a citywide celebration. The response from the greater Burlington community has matched our student's enthusiasm for these creatures. When we started out, we wanted the trout parade to first and foremost be about joy and connection; appreciating that we get to live in this beautiful place with these incredible creatures. It has delighted us to see that other people wanted to share in that revelry. The students are able to see themselves as people who are able to create positive change for what they care about in our community, which is a really essential part of what we do at Sustainability Academy. We work hard, we work together, and work can be joyful."

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The schedule of events for the **Burlington Trout Parade** on **Friday, May 29** is as follows:

**12:00 pm:** Community members meet at the Flynn to assemble for the parade

**12:30 pm:** Process to Sustainability Academy to join students

**1:30 pm:** Arrive at Battery Park

**1:40 pm:** Sustainability Academy Trout Pageant

**2:00 pm:** Parade Ends

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