

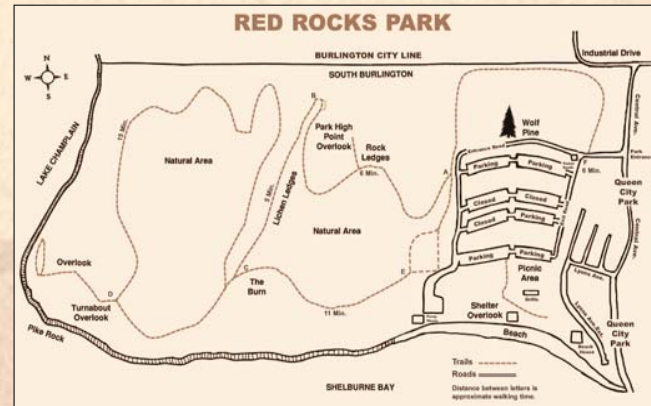
Red Rocks Park



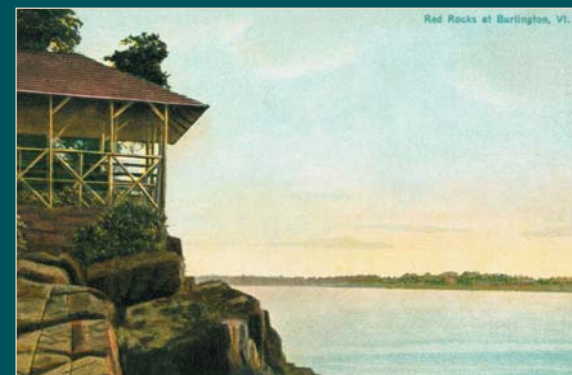
Beginning in 1888, this large property was part of an annual summer retreat for the family of Edward Hatch, Jr., who managed the famed Lord & Taylor department store chain in the late 1800s. Mr. Hatch took up residence for several summers in the former Hotel Vermont adjacent to City Hall Park in downtown Burlington. The City of South Burlington subsequently purchased the site with federal assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1970.

Red Rocks Park features a White-Cedar forest common in the uplands of the northeast United States. This forest habitat type is characterized by an abundance of Cedar, White Pine, Red Pine, and Hemlock. There are also more than 300 species of wildflowers in the park along with outstanding fern and lichen growth while the protected waters of Shelburne Bay, attract many waterbirds including Whistling Swan, Common Eider, and Black Guillemot.

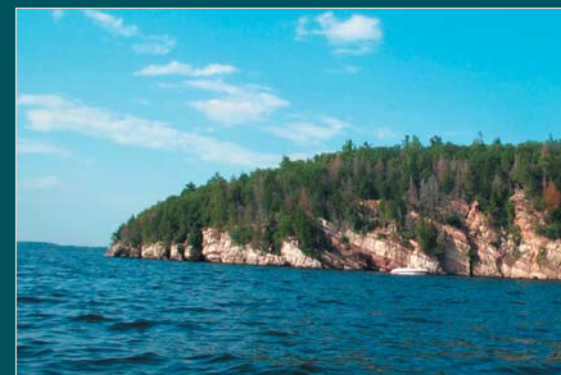
The park's vertical cliffs belong to a large formation of red Monkton Quartzite that stretches from north Burlington to Shelburne. Over 500 million years ago, a geological thrust propelled these rocks upward along what is known as the Champlain Thrust Fault. This Fault is exposed along the shores of Lake Champlain and extends for about 199 miles from Canada south to the Catskill Mountains in New York.



The drives, walks and scenic overlooks were first developed more than 100 years ago by the Hatch family, who owned the property from 1888 to 1970.



The park's trails and views of Shelburne Bay were celebrated in picture postcards in the early 1900s.



These sandstone rocks that give the park its name turned red as a result of iron oxides in the rocks' internal structure.



A "wolf tree" stands out among newer growth. Its size and broad reaching limbs indicate that it grew to maturity in an open field.

Courtesy of Fletcher Free Library and Landscape Change Program, University of VT, www.edu/perkins/landscape