

For Immediate Release

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Burley Founders Race To Benefit Roxbury Land Trust

ROXBURY – He played high school football with a Hall of Fame coach, studied under a future National Security Advisor and a presidential scholar at an Ivy League school, became a physical education teacher and competed in a race series with the author of a best-seller that helped popularize running.

In Roxbury he is best remembered for starting a road race series that is the biggest in Connecticut and has entered its 50th year.

Bill Burley will be honored on Saturday, July 11, 8:30 a.m., when the weekly Roxbury Road Runners Club series holds its annual Founders Race. The 3.0-mile loop will start and finish near the Roxbury Land Trust River Road preserve.

Burley was a physical education teacher in Westport before moving to Roxbury in 1976 after he became the principal of the East Street Elementary School. He had run in the summer road race series in Westport, which included Jim Fixx of Greenwich, who would author *The Complete Book Of Running* in 1977, which spent 11 weeks at number one on *The New York Times*' best-sellers list.

That same year Burley added to the running boom. He initiated the eight-week summer running series in Roxbury, which was then held at the Booth free School. The series now has 36 regular races, a Fall Classic and Thanksgiving Day Charity Race.

Burley, who now lives in Colorado, has three diplomas from Columbia University. While earning his bachelor's degree in Political Science he was taught by Zbigniew Brezinski, who would serve as National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter, and Richard Neustadt, the author of the acclaimed "Presidential Power," a book which underscored that a successful president should be able to persuade others that his policies are in their best interest.

Before that, Burley played offensive tackle in football at New Jersey's River Dell High School on a team that was quarterbacked by Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells.

After the race, the Roxbury Road Runners Club will present a contribution to the Roxbury Land Trust. It has donated funds to the land trust each year since 2009, except during the pandemic in 2020.

Registration for the race is available through [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).

Runners should arrive early and check in so that they are logged into the computer system.

Current and former military personnel, current and former first responders and

youth entrants should inquire about discount fees. The general charge is \$45 for a season pass and \$10 for the weekly waiver.

The races are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission.

There are no portable toilets at the River Road preserve. Runners can utilize the portable toilets at the Everett B. Hurlburt Community Park before arriving at the race.

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (v/m) (860) 354-3521 or access the Roxbury Races Facebook page, www.roxburyraces.net or [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#) .