



TOWN TO TRAILS

Poultney
VERMONT

September 2023

Appendices



Appendices

Appendix A: Public Engagement Report

Appendix B: Poultney Parking Study

Appendix C: Virtual Workshop: Outdoor Rec Hub Presentation

Appendix D: Virtual Workshop: Vibrant Village and Complete Streets Presentation

Appendix E: Big Ideas Posters: Poultney Comes Together Again Open House

Appendix A: Public Engagement Report



WHAT WE HEARD

Engagement Report

August 2023

What would make
TRAILS and
**OUTDOOR
RECREATION**
better?



How might we
create and grow a
**VIBRANT
DOWNTOWN
HUB?**



What would help
**ENGAGE MORE
PEOPLE
OUTDOORS?**



How might we
grow a regional
**OUTDOOR
RECREATION
ECONOMY?**



**COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP**

A summary of community input in Poultney, Vermont's Better Connections planning process: what's great, what's needed, and what's happening in growing an outdoor recreation economy.

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INTRODUCTION

Poultney Town to Trails is engaging community members to gather local input, test ideas, spark quick progress, and build momentum for growing a thriving outdoor recreation economy and community. This report summarizes how we've engaged the community and what we've learned about local priorities. It serves as a companion to the Town to Trails plan and a reference for designing action projects, but it is also a resource for any community member, leader, or business who wants to help Poultney develop a thriving economy, vibrant downtown, and great outdoors.

ABOUT TOWN TO TRAILS

Town to Trails is creating stronger trails, a vibrant Poultney village, and a thriving outdoor recreation economy.

This community-driven planning process is prioritizing projects and creating designs to help implement Poultney's 2021 RERC (Recreation Economy for Rural Communities) plan.

Town to Trails is funded by a Vermont Better Connections planning grant, an initiative of the Vermont Agency of Transportation and Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and Vermont Department of Health. It's led by the Town of Poultney and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission in partnership with Slate Valley Trails.

PROJECT GOALS

Link town to trails



Build Poultney's sense of place



Create community outdoors



Make Poultney known



WHAT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT? WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Town to Trails is a plan by the community and for the community. At the core of our approach, Poultney Town to Trails is asking big questions of anyone who has a stake in Poultney's future.

What we hear from community members at each phase of the planning process directly informs the "big ideas" and priorities in the final Town to Trails plan. It can also help spark actions and ideas among many businesses, community groups and leaders.

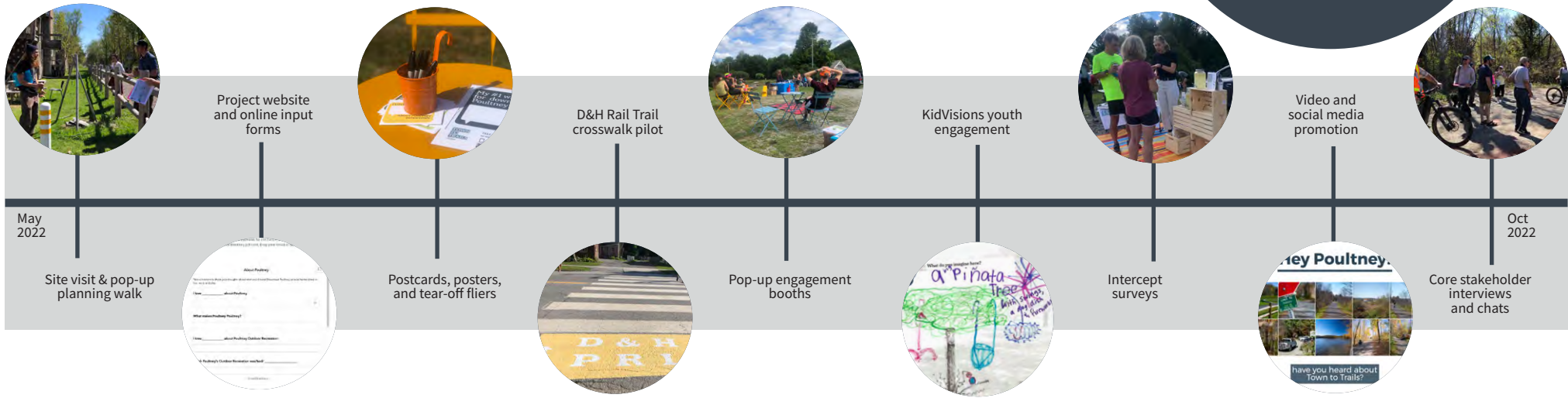
ENGAGEMENT GOALS

ENGAGEMENT

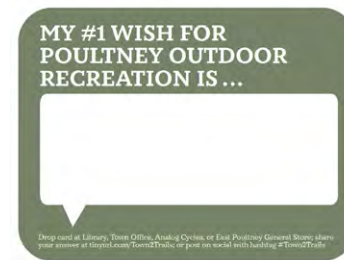
OVERVIEW | PHASE 1

6 months
360+ ideas, comments, and interviews

In 2022, Poultney Town to Trails focused on both gathering big picture input and on identifying potential pop-up projects, quick actions, and details to shape the emerging plan priorities. In order to reach diverse stakeholders who have different interests and busy lives, we focused on going to people where they already were and giving people a variety of ways to share ideas. Here's a snapshot.



These efforts build on the planning and engagement efforts in Poultney's RERC process, and focused on hearing from people whose voices were underrepresented in those conversations: young people and seniors, outdoor recreation visitors, business owners and downtown workers. Across all events and channels, we focused on asking big questions about downtown and outdoor recreation.

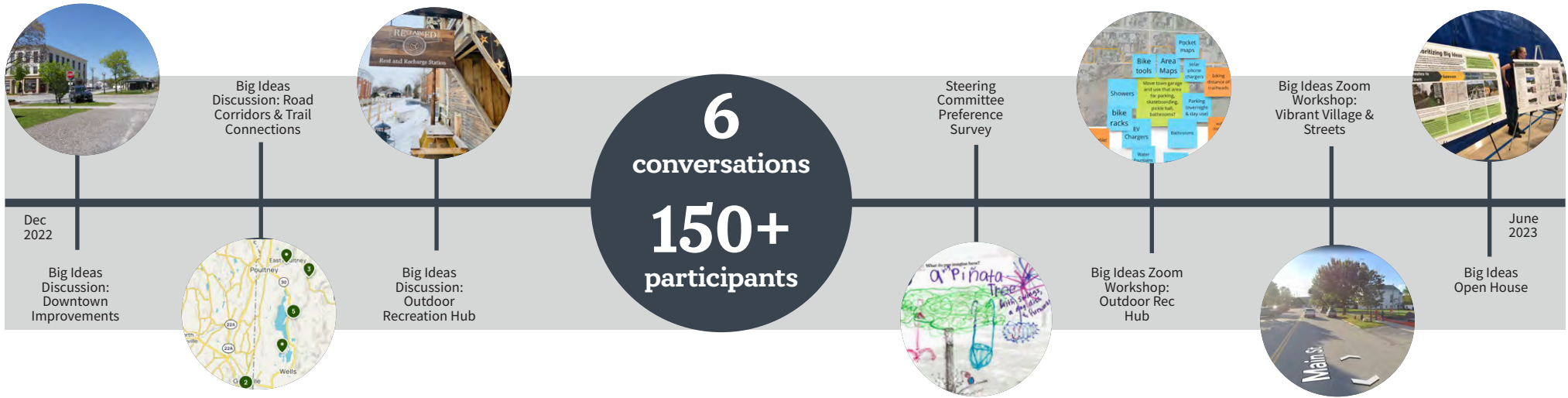


In 2023, the focus was on drilling down: taking hundreds of ideas and identifying priority projects, locations, features, and design elements. As the technical team focused on developing draft designs and concepts a series of community conversations and design events allowed community stakeholders to share local knowledge and help refine ideas.

Together, different stakeholders (including town leaders and crew members, community organizations, interested community members and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, business owners and more) discussed which ideas were most needed, most realistic, and most important for both short-term and long-term action.

ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW | PHASE 2





BIG IDEAS Zoom Workshops

Tues. May 9
Outdoor Recreation Hub
6:30-8:00 PM

Weds. May 10
Vibrant Village & Complete Streets
Zoom link

tinyurl.com/town2trails

Big Ideas are brewing for Poultney Town to Trails!
Join these interactive Zoom sessions to hear about project concepts and help shape final designs.
RSVP for Zoom link.

Poultney Comes Together Again... and you're invited!

Community Talks & Town to Trails Open House

Fri. June 16 | 5:30-8:00
Poultney High School

tinyurl.com/town2trails



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Poultney Town to Trails popped up all over town from May 2022 - June 2023, with many ways for people to share input and get involved.

SITE VISIT & POP-UP PLANNING WALK

Poultney Town to Trails kicked off its public engagement efforts with a site visit and downtown walk in May. The site visit brought together state agency partners and funders, town officials and community leaders to tour key project sites identified in the RERC plan. In the afternoon, Community Workshop led a pop-up planning walk and workshop for community leaders, business owners and others interested in quick action projects. The walk focused on learning about projects and ideas already underway and brainstorming quick action projects that could test long-term ideas and build excitement.

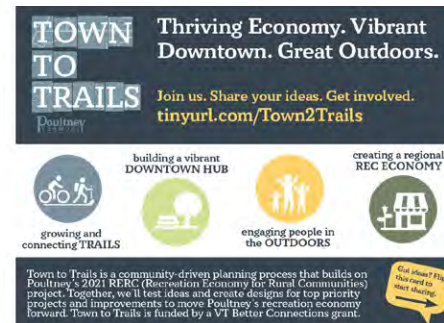
D&H RAIL TRAIL POP-UP CROSSWALK

Action can be one of the best tools for engagement, and Poultney launched a quick action project in August to showcase project potential. Project leaders quickly planned and installed a pilot crosswalk at the D&H Rail Trail crossing on Main Street, to immediately make the crossing safer and more visible.



PROJECT WEBSITE & DIGITAL INPUT

The Town to Trails project website launched in early summer as “home base” for project info and engagement. It included updates and background info, online forms for sharing input digitally, and a schedule of upcoming events. Town to Trails offered a downtown gift card raffle as an incentive for those who filled out forms or participated. Community partners and organizations helped spread the word to their audiences and lists. Community Workshop created a promotional video and social media sharing kits to spread the word.



POSTCARDS, POSTERS & TEAR-OFF FLIERS

Community Workshop designed a set of fun, “quick input” activities to build buzz around town, allowing people to offer ideas at the grocery store, library, in shops, and on the street. Coordinating postcards, posters, and tear-off sheets popped up on shop counters, bulletin boards, in the library and schools. Participants could respond on paper, via text, or on the website. A special "KidVisions" activity allowed youth to draw and share their visions for key project sites.

CHATS, INTERVIEWS & INTERCEPT SURVEYS

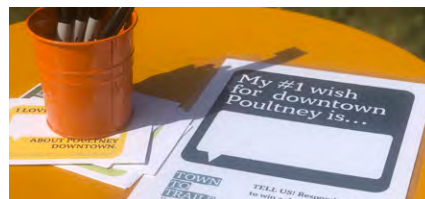
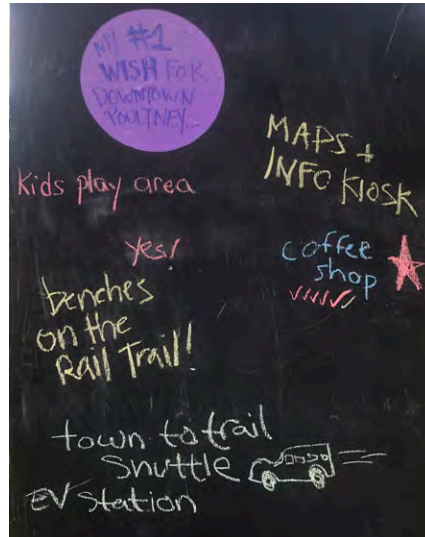
Community Workshop used in-person chats and interviews to reach people whose voices are often underrepresented in planning or unlikely to participate in other activities. Staff members dropped into businesses to talk with shop owners and workers, chatted with people on sidewalks and streets, interviewed key community leaders and organizations, and scheduled time to meet and walk around downtown with students and staff at the LiHigh school.

POP-UP ENGAGEMENT BOOTHS & ACTIVITIES

Community Workshop, Steering Committee members and project staff hosted four pop-up engagement booths to spread the word about the project and gather input from key stakeholder groups at major community events:

- Slate Quarry Park Grand Opening (reaching downtown residents and community members, older adults)
- East Poultney Day (reaching East Poultney and area residents, tourists, and those interested in history and culture)
- Slate Valley Scramble (reaching trail runners and outdoor recreation enthusiasts from Poultney and away)
- D&H Rail Trail / Main Street (reaching Rail Trail users, downtown residents and shoppers)

The Slate Valley Scramble and D&H Rail Trail booths used Community Workshop's pop-up parklet kit and a pop-up lemonade stand.



These fun additions grabbed attention, but also allowed us to demonstrate and test placemaking approaches or longer-term pop-up projects. The kit includes cafe tables, giant lawn games, a chalkboard, and flexible seating that can quickly activate and provide amenities for people using a public space.

Racers and families heavily used the seating and activities after the race, which allowed them to stay and rest. On Main Street, the flexible seating and lemonade stand created an attractive stopping point for people looking for something to do on a Saturday afternoon.

BIG IDEAS CONVERSATIONS & DESIGN WORKSHOPS

In winter, **open Zoom conversations** allowed Steering Committee members and interested community members to discuss priority sites, goals, and design concepts for the three major action areas: Downtown Improvements, Road Corridors and Trail Connections, and Outdoor Recreation Hub. These sessions also identified areas that need more community clarity or decisions. In spring, two **Zoom Design workshops** invited a broader range of community members to see examples from other places and weigh in on emerging design concepts and ideas.

BIG IDEAS OPEN HOUSE & COMMUNITY TALKS

The final public event of the project brought Poultney full circle, drawing people together again for the first time since "Poultney Comes Together." It was part celebration, part info session, and part feedback event. Participants explored and voted on draft designs and preferences in an open house poster session. Nearly a dozen community groups gave "lightning talks" on what they are doing in order to update the community and build connections.

Gathering community input on these questions is essential to ensuring that the Town to Trails plan reflects the needs of people of all ages and backgrounds, residents and visitors, businesses and organizations, and people with diverse interests. Engagement goals included:

- Building on existing input and planning processes and building support for action
- Hearing from people who are often left out of planning conversations or who may not yet shared input on outdoor recreation
- Identifying existing or planned projects and efforts
- Prioritizing projects and gauging support for alternatives and design preferences

STAKEHOLDERS & ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

Key stakeholder groups included community leaders, organizations, and civic groups; trail and outdoor recreation users and interest groups; downtown businesses, residents, and property owners; underrepresented voices in outdoor recreation (older adults, kids and families, visitors to town, newer residents).

Nearly two dozen community organizations, partners and businesses hosted postcards and drop boxes, participated in events, spread

the word, and helped to gather input. Thanks to Town and Village of Poultney, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Slate Valley Trails, Poultney High School, Young at Heart Senior Center, Poultney Historical Society, Poultney Downtown Revitalization Corporation, LiHigh School, Poultney Rotary Club, Poultney Public Library, REclaimED, Stone Valley Arts, Lake St. Catherine Association, Poultney Chamber of Commerce, and Poultney businesses and volunteers.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND TEAM

Community Workshop LLC (a Vermont-based creative engagement and planning studio) worked closely with the Town to Trails Steering Committee, project staff, and lead consultants (DuBois & King) to design and implement a community engagement process. We combined a wide variety of engagement methods and activities in order to reach people where they are and offer choices about where and how to weigh in.

- **Phase 1: Loves, Wishes & Ideas (2022).** Stakeholders shared input on big topics and questions. We coded and analyzed responses to identify themes and inventoried action ideas for town and trails.
- **Phase 2: Big Ideas & Big Plans (2023).** We gathered targeted input on the emerging plan priorities, project designs, and final Town to Trails plan through conversations, events, and polling.



LOVES, WISHES & IDEAS

What do you love about downtown Poultney? Where and how do you get outdoors? What do you wish you could find or do here? The answers to these questions will help prioritize and shape the "big ideas" in the next phase of the project while also identifying quick actions and pop-up projects that can start right away.

Poultney's first phase of engagement focused on asking big questions about downtown and outdoor recreation, identifying existing efforts and plans underway, and reaching new people. Many people participated in Poultney's 2021 RERC process and already shared ideas; we focused on hearing from people whose voices were missing from that process.

People shared hundreds of ideas through conversations, comment cards and online forms. We read, analyzed and every single comment, using social science and visualization techniques to highlight the big themes and conclusions as well as small details and ideas. In this section, you'll find an overview of engagement methods, key findings for downtown and outdoor recreation, and ideas for long-term improvements and quick actions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **You love:** Poultney's potential, and everything it already has to offer. Small town character and a real downtown. Shopping and eating out. Amazing trails, lakes, and scenery. Community events and opportunities to hike, bike, and socialize.
- **You want:** More places to shop, eat and explore downtown. More activities and events for all ages. Welcoming public spaces. Basic amenities. Safe walking and biking routes. Playground and rec facilities. Better signage, info and access.
- **Big ideas:** Downtown placemaking. Park & trailhead activation. Outdoor hub and downtown trail parking. Rec-friendly business incentive and support programs. Town and trail partnership events and activities.



ABOUT WORD CLOUDS

Graphics throughout this report share snapshots of community input. The larger the word, the more times people mentioned it. Look closely: great ideas come in small print.



DOWNTOWN POULTNEY

WHAT WE HEARD



Downtown is a magnet, a gathering place, and a great place to visit, live and work. From local residents to occasional visitors, nearly everyone agrees: what would make it even better is even more accessible and interesting things to do and places to eat, shop, play and hang out. Here's a high-level overview of what we heard.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Authentic small town.

Quiet pace and calm traffic. Friendly people and familiar faces. A real downtown and authentic Main Street. Beautiful streetscape and well-kept town.

Walkability & bikeability.

Great access to walkable, hikeable trails and gravel roads. Well-maintained sidewalks and parks.

Library, shops & eateries.

Amazing library. Appealing restaurants and unique shops. Schools, housing and amenities close to downtown.

Big potential.

Great "bones," creative and committed people. Strong potential to grow.

WISHES & NEEDS

More food, shops & services.

Increased number and variety of places to shop, eat, and spend time. Curated finds, specialty foods, and everyday goods.

Activities & hangout places.

Events, activities, diversions, gathering places, and options for people of all ages and interests. Free, family-friendly play spaces and rec facilities.

Accessibility, amenities & info.

Easier access to what's here. Accessible parking and sidewalks. Public bathrooms, water fountains, and seating. Clear signage and information.

Color, beauty & activation.

Bright flowers, public art, street life, visual interest, and activity.

IDEAS

Placemaking & amenities.

Benches, bike racks, art, play spaces, planters, trash cans, public restrooms, WiFi for locals, tourists and rec visitors.

Wayfinding & signage.

Signposts, info kiosks, directories and information on outdoor recreation and downtown offerings.

Accessibility & connections.

Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. Safe walk and bike routes to outlying villages, parks and trails.

Community building & curation.

Programs, projects, incentives and support to help businesses thrive, nurture new efforts, and fill gaps in offerings.



TOP 5

1. Visit Library
2. Eat out
3. Browse & shop
4. Walk and bike
5. Enjoy parks



WHERE DO YOU SPEND TIME DOWNTOWN? WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO?

- **Poultney Public Library.** Checking out books and games. Browsing sidewalk displays and book racks. Borrowing bikes, snowshoes, outdoor gear. Meeting friends or attending activities.
- **Arts, history, events.** Attending Poultney Arts Day, Chili Cookoff, or events and exhibits at Stone Valley Arts. Seeing the history.
- **Daily life.** Attending school or church. Playing basketball. Getting exercise. Buying food or hardware. Grabbing a meal or shopping.
- **Socializing and staying connected.** Hanging out and spending time at Slate Quarry Park, the former GMC campus, the cemetery. Stopping in shops to chat. Walking, biking and driving around.

WHAT DO YOU MISS FROM DAYS PAST?

- **Green Mountain College.** General culture and activity on campus and in town, swimming hole, feeling welcome to walk and bike around campus and use the lawns.
- **Downtown basics.** Farmers' market, bank, pharmacy. A place to sit and grab a cup of coffee.



WHAT BUSINESSES, SERVICES AND OFFERINGS ARE NEEDED?

- **More food, dining, and gathering options.** Eateries for diverse budgets and tastes. Places to meet, sit, gather, and stay awhile.
 - Coffee shop, bakery/cafe, grab 'n go or quick meal options, healthy foods, brew pub, ethnic food options
 - Unique eating and gathering experiences (outdoor seating, places to hang out or meet after a ride, food trucks)
 - Food and dining options open on all days of the week, all hours of the day (breakfast, lunch, Sundays/Mondays)
- **Unique shopping experiences and products.** A critical mass of shops and businesses to attract people. Quality, interesting offerings and establishments that draw locals and visitors.
 - Engaging storefronts, window and sidewalk displays; more storefronts in retail or restaurant use (less office use)
 - Markets and business events (downtown farmers' market, makers' market, pop-up shops or sidewalk sales, food truck events, book readings or promotional events)
 - Quality, niche products (Vermont syrup and beer, artisan and locally-made gifts, used records or high-end consignment)
- **Everyday goods and services.** Necessities and basic services for locals, people staying in the area, and people passing through.
 - Basic services (bank, pharmacy, photocopies)
 - Affordable necessities (discount food store, basic household products, quality used clothing)
 - Places to study, work, and connect to WiFi
- **Outdoor recreation offerings.** Curated goods and products for trail users and outdoor enthusiasts.
 - Place-based and outdoor souvenirs (Poultney t-shirts and mugs, Slate Valley Trails merch, bike or trail motifs)
 - Products for trail users (nature or travel books, guides and maps, water bottles, cycling socks)
 - Outdoor gear (used gear, kayak and SUP rentals, skis)

"Coffee shop!"

"A gym."



"A really good Indian restaurant."

"A place like Dunkin' Donuts where kids can go to hangout and get cheap food. Everyone goes to Rutland now."

"Internet cafe with cats."

"Bikers want nice stuff. Souvenirs with bikes on them, maple products, good beer and socks."

"More staples: butcher, baker, bank, pharmacy."

"Dollar General will help a lot of people who can't get out of town and who need affordable stuff."

"Pop-up activities downtown to activate the whole downtown stretch. Pop-up music, sidewalk sales, bike service, food give-aways from local gardens, farmers' market."

"A cafe for coffee and a snack. It's great to have a destination at the end of a morning ride."

WHAT ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS DO YOU WANT TO SEE DOWNTOWN?

- **Community events.** A mix of annual, seasonal and regular events to draw people downtown and create social opportunities.
 - More festivals and special events like the Chili Cookoff, Poultney Arts Day, or holiday celebrations and parades
 - Regular events (downtown farmers' market; Friday Night Frolics or First Fridays event, food truck night)
 - Outdoor and downtown entertainment options (movie nights, outdoor concerts or music venue)
- **Kid- and family-friendly activities and diversions.** Interesting things for to do, see and explore anytime—especially free.
 - Interpretive historical signs or nature walks, story walks, or self-guided audio tours; sculpture, murals or artworks
 - Bowling, ice rink, roller skating, or other attractions
 - Clubs, talks, poetry or author readings, open mic night
- **Play and recreation facilities.** Indoor and outdoor facilities and opportunities for play, fun, and exercise.
 - Playground or elements (swings, slide, games, splash pad)
 - Recreation center or gym with fitness equipment; obstacle course or parkour course for outdoor fitness, swimming pool
 - Park and public space activation (games, play elements, activities or meet-ups, comfortable furniture, outdoor stage)
 - Outdoor gear and equipment rentals, classes and meet-ups
 - Adult recreational sports leagues; track & field team for youth

WHAT WOULD MAKE DOWNTOWN A MORE APPEALING PLACE TO VISIT & STAY?

- **Signage and information.** Maps, kiosks, directories, informational signage, and digital communications about amenities, downtown businesses, trails and recreation, and community events.
- **Color, art, and beautification.** Colorful artwork or murals throughout downtown. Bright flowers and plantings with all-season color. Cleanup and beautification of weedy areas, run-down buildings, graffiti, and vandalized sites.
- **Basic amenities.** Public bathrooms, water fountains, shade, tables and seating, phone charging, WiFi access, trash cans, dog waste bags, picnic sites, winter warming sites.
- **Trail and transportation amenities.** Bike racks, locks, repair/tire changing station. Electric vehicle charging. Shower facilities. Covered rest area/pavilion. Off-street parking for trail users, vans.
- **Welcoming, respectful, and inclusive community.** More opportunities to build community and know people. Efforts to address vandalism, racism and homophobia.
- **Trail and road safety, accessibility and etiquette.** Traffic calming. Sidewalk curb cuts and better ice removal. Crosswalk visibility. Rail Trail and road bike etiquette and safety education.
- **Connections and transportation options.** Designated ADA parking on Main Street and at trailheads. Shuttle and safe bike/walk paths to outlying trail systems, lakes, East Poultney. Electric vehicle charging. Bus seating/shelter and better transit options.



"I could use the bathroom and charge my phone."

"We had 'van life' parking. Vans can park for free at any Walmart, but they could be staying downtown."

"There were benches for husbands to wait outside the Original Vermont Store."

"A playground. I would go into town ALL the time."

—Mama of three

"There were more activities connecting families together."

WHAT KEY STAKEHOLDERS WANT IN DOWNTOWN POULTNEY

KIDS & FAMILIES. Playground and sports/rec facilities (pool, splash pad, rink). Free, family-friendly activities. Welcoming parks and public spaces for kids and adults. Color, art, flowers, games, and activation of parks and streetscapes. Safer streets for biking and walking. Public bathrooms, trash cans, benches, and outdoor seating.

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS. Hangout spaces and gathering places to meet, study, work, and visit. Fast and affordable food options. Things to do after school, evenings, and in winter. More fitness and sports facilities, fields, and programs.

OLDER ADULTS. Accessibility improvements, including benches, designated ADA parking near the library and stores. Better etiquette and safety from bikes on trails and roads. Bank, pharmacy, and places to buy basic goods. Retention of small town character, traditions, and close community.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES. Off-street parking for staff and trail users. Business signage, directories and information (on the Rail Trail, at trailheads, at outdoor rec events, and in other formats/media). Downtown beautification, plantings, art, events, and activities. Inclusive outreach and communication from town and village officials, committees, and leaders. Targeted economic development to encourage downtown retail and restaurants.

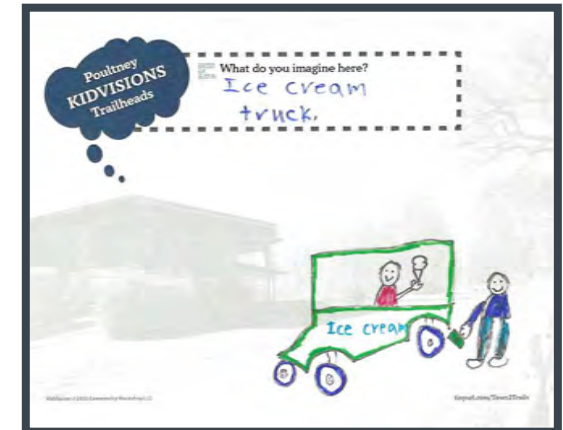
TRAIL AND RECREATION USERS. Amenities like bathrooms, bike racks, repair station, phone charging, maps and info, showers, parking, gear rentals. More eating and shopping options catering to outdoor rec interests. Improved trailhead connections, routes, and visibility.

KIDVISIONS

What do kids imagine for village streets and public spaces? Many of the same things as adults —with a little more creativity. Here are three visions from young residents.



Above:
East Poultney Green.
A piñata tree with swings, a dog dish, and fireworks.



Right: D&H trailhead.
Ice cream truck.



Left: Main Street.
A colorful crosswalk painted by kids, a slide, a bench with shade tree, and water fountain.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

WHAT WE HEARD



Poultney is rapidly becoming known as an outdoor recreation destination, drawing visitors and new residents. Both locals and visitors rave about top-notch trails, lakes and parks. They also agree on the need for more amenities, safer connections to downtown, and more diverse options. Here's a high-level overview of what we heard.

BRIGHT SPOTS

World class parks, lakes & trails.

High quality trails and gravel for biking, hiking, and snowmobiling.
Beautiful lakes and rivers.

Great businesses & organizations.

Great organizations offering outdoor rec resources (VAST, SVT, Library).
Beloved outdoor businesses (Mart's Sporting Goods, Analog Cycles)

Trail variety & experiences.

Trail and outdoor options for all levels, all seasons, all interests. Unique, quality races and events. Free and convenient access downtown.

Energy and potential.

Growing enthusiasm among locals and visitors. Available resources for growth.

WISHES & NEEDS

Play & non-trail options.

Simple, free, all-age recreation options. Self-guided tours and things to do in town. Movies, picnics, and activities in town and at trailheads.

Public access improvements.

Free public access to swimming holes, fishing and hunting areas. Clear signage and info. Town and trail connections.

Rec amenities & services.

Public bathrooms, water fountains, bike repair tools, showers, overnight parking, WiFi and charging access. Food, shopping and lodging options.

Education & communication.

Coordination between rec and downtown businesses. Intro outdoor classes. Rec safety and etiquette training.

BIG IDEAS

Park, trail & public space activation.

Color, signage, beautification, seating, amenities, shade, and activities on trails, in parks, and at trailheads.

Rec-friendly businesses & events.

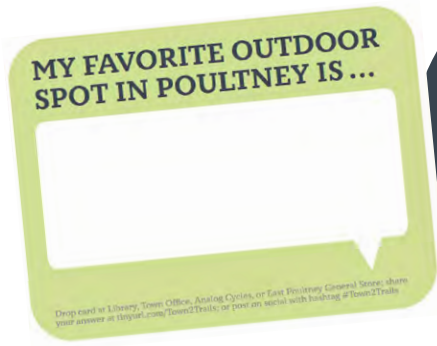
Curated events and offerings like festivals, local/outdoor merch, gear rentals, grab-and-go food, and specials for rec visitors.

Community hub & services.

Downtown hub with off-street parking, clear signage, business and service directories, bathrooms and showers, trail shuttle.

Recreation offerings for all.

Facilities and programs to fill outdoor recreation gaps: downtown playground, adult sports leagues, gear rentals, fitness options, hunting and fishing access.



TOP 5

1. D&H Rail Trail
2. Slate Valley Trails
3. Lake St. Catherine
4. Poultney River
5. Analog Cycles

WHERE DO YOU GO TO GET OUTDOORS? WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO?

- **D&H Rail Trail and trail networks.** Enjoying flat, easy, beginner-level walking and biking. Horseback riding and snowmobiling. Accessing the river and swimming holes. LiHigh School outdoor education classes and student breaks. All-day adventures and rides to Castleton. Mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing on Slate Valley Trails. Snowmobiling on VAST trails and Rail Trail.
- **Sidewalks, parks, lake, river, roads.** Walking for exercise or to see what's happening. Enjoying gravel rides or biking between home, school, shops, and errands. Sitting and people watching. Fishing, boating, swimming and camping at the State Park.
- **Races, events, and activities.** Coming to Poultney for the Slate Valley Epic, Scramble, story walk, and events. Going for family and group rides. Borrowing snowshoes or bikes from the library.

WHAT DO YOU MISS FROM DAYS PAST?

- **Open access to private land.** Generations of open access to neighbors' land for hunting, fishing, walking. Feeling welcome to walk, bike, picnic, swim and play on the former GMC campus.

"The bridge on the Rail Trail over the river."

"The SVT trails are so #! @*%& cool. You've got a gold mine."

"Buczek Marsh is one of the few public places people can go to hunt or fish."

"The benches at the Town Hall Park (flowers, trees, birds and people)."

"The cemetery and cell tower."

"I LOVE the little trail system behind the Elementary School."

"I bike all over town, every day."

"When you had the Story Walk on the Bumper Cars trail. My family loved it."

"The diversity of terrain, allowing for multiple levels from beginner to expert."

"That it exists! More towns should do this."

"The D&H, snowmobiling, and walking trails. I'm not a biker, but appreciate those too."

"I came for the race. There aren't many trail running events around."

"That it's growing."

"SVT and the people who make it sweet!"

MY FAVORITE OUTDOOR SPOT IN POULTNEY IS ...

I LOVE... ABOUT POULTNEY TRAILS & OUTDOORS.

WHAT OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCES OR OFFERINGS ARE NEEDED?

- **Sports, play, and traditional community recreation options.** Spaces, equipment, and activities—especially for non-trail users
 - Downtown playground; play elements at parks and trailheads
 - Rec Center or dispersed sports and recreation facilities (basketball court, outdoor track, disc golf course, shooting range, fitness equipment, parkour or obstacle course, pump track, skate park, community swimming pool, outdoor ice rink)
 - Adult and youth sports or rec leagues; intro classes and events
- **Niche outdoor recreation areas and trail options.** More publicly-accessible trails, lands and events for key activities and user groups.
 - More winter trail events and activities; winter gear rentals
 - Publicly-accessible hunting and fishing sites, ATV trails; communication and education around land posting and access
 - Events, tournaments or activities for sportspeople (ice fishing, bow fishing, hunter education workshops)
 - More free public lake access points and swimming holes; rental equipment or lessons for sailing, kayaking, water sports

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE EXISTING TRAIL NETWORKS AND OPEN SPACE?

- **Cleanup, safety and beautification.** Addressing trash, vandalism, graffiti, weeds, and unsafe behavior at key problem locations (Rail Trail bridge and area around Main Street; trail near preschool).
- **Layering uses and points of interest.** Adding interesting elements and activities to trails and parks, appealing to more users (story walks, obstacle course, play elements, art, fire pits, interpretive signs, community gardens, outdoor theater and classroom).
- **Community-state collaboration.** Clearer pathways for community members to propose/make improvements on Rail Trail, state land

"More people know that it's here."

"Outdoor track."



"I could safely ride my bike to everything."

"Rail Trail users would smile, say hello, and slow down when they pass."

"Trail use in winter. We need to make it fun and capture the spirit of winter."

"There was a place to rent kayaks and stand-up paddleboards."

"That new people moving in still let people hunt and fish their land and get to know our local culture."

"More consistent family-friendly events."

"I'd love to see the Main Street/D&H intersection be a real gateway to the trail and town. Imagine a vertical arch, a kiosk with maps and downtown business info, picnic tables, bike pump or tools."

"Overnight trip options. I see great potential in Vermont Huts and the Velomont and Catamount Trails."

WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO SPEND MORE TIME OUTDOORS AND ON TRAILS?

- **Visibility and convenient access.** Prominent and consistent wayfinding and entrance signage and trailhead promotion. ADA-accessible parking and convenient pulloffs at appropriate spots.
- **Signage, maps and information.** Detailed signage and information about trail distances, difficulty levels, connections, uses, seasons, accessibility, events and activities.
- **Welcoming public spaces and basic amenities.** Improvements to trailheads to make them appealing rest areas and meeting places. Easy access to bathrooms, drinking water, phone charging, benches and seating, picnic tables, shade, WiFi connections.
- **Trail services and amenities.** Downtown "outdoor hub" with services like showers, trail recommendations and planning, bike repair. Multi-day trip options, overnight parking and lodging, and trail shelters for serious adventurers.
- **Entry-level activities and gear.** Expanded community gear lending, rentals, or swaps to help people try sports like mountain biking, snowshoeing or skiing. More entry-level and slower-pace classes or meet-ups. Comfortable activities geared toward specific demographics or groups: older adults, families, teens, new residents, LGBTQ+ or BIPOC community members.
- **Winter and off-season options.** Grooming, parking lot plowing, and improved trail access in winter months. Winter events, activities, and activation. Fire pits, shelter, and amenities for winter comfort.



"There was better access between town and trails."

"It was a lot cleaner, and there were trash cans and bathrooms. The bridge was painted and cleaned up."

"There were more fun activities year-round for kids and adults."

"We had an outdoor place to gather on Main Street where adults can mingle and kids can play."

"Maps were sent in the mail to all our residents."

HOW MIGHT WE BETTER CONNECT TOWN AND TRAILS?

- **Bikeability and walkability.** Safer biking and pedestrian access throughout Poultney. Visible, prominent trail crossings on public roads. Bike racks, locks, and tools for riders. Bike and pedestrian signage, driver education, and biker/walker education.
- **Downtown parking and safe trail connections.** Designated off-street recreation parking. Safe routes (via bike lanes, paths, new trails, and/or shuttles) connecting downtown to key trail networks and outdoor destinations:
 - Route 30 / Lake St. Catherine State Park / Country Club trails
 - Route 140 / East Poultney / Fairgrounds trailhead
 - Outlying Rail Trail access points, Castleton, area destinations
- **Rec-friendly business development.** Support, info and collaboration for businesses wanting to expand outdoor offerings or cater to outdoor community. Promotion of recreation businesses and services (food, gear, activities, basic needs, lodging, etc.).
- **Town and trail events.** Recreation events starting or held downtown. Family-friendly or community activities held at trailheads. Events or service packages in partnership between outdoor sector and downtown businesses ("stay and play weekend," "bike and brew festival").
- **Ongoing outreach and community building.** Listening sessions and feedback options to build relationships and understanding between businesses, outdoor community, residents, leaders.

WHAT KEY STAKEHOLDERS WANT IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

KIDS & FAMILIES. Playground (traditional or nature). Playful design and play/activity elements on trails, at trailheads, and in parks and public spaces. Recreation facilities (pool, skating rink). Things for families and caregivers to do post-adventure or while family members are off on a ride (story walks, movie nights, concerts in the park). Bathrooms, benches, shade, water.

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS. More options for sports teams, leagues, classes and facilities. Gym or outdoor fitness equipment (like parkour course or workout stations). Pub, cafe, ice cream shop, or places to go after an adventure. Outdoor music or theater venue and arts events/activities.

OLDER ADULTS. Better maintenance or surfacing of flat/easy trails and walking areas. Preservation of community values and open access culture for hunting, fishing, and walking. Intro outdoor classes, slow-pace group rides, and affordable equipment lending/rental. Friendly and respectful bike and trail users.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES. Outreach, listening, communication, and business development support from outdoor recreation and community leaders. Designated off-street parking and consideration by trail users. Business and service directory, info or promotion to outdoor rec visitors. Events and strategic partnerships to draw people downtown. Winter activation.

TRAIL AND RECREATION USERS. Better maps, info, and signage of trailheads/crossing/access points. Amenities (bike racks, lodging, bathrooms, water, picnic tables, shade and rest areas). Shuttles or safe routes from downtown to trails. ATV trails, more hunting/fishing/lake access). More diverse events.

KIDVISIONS

What do kids want to see on trails and at trailheads? A key trend is engaging, multi-use spaces with something for everyone. Here are three visions from young residents.



Above:
D&H Trailhead.
A swingset with flowers and balloons.



Right:
D&H Rail Trail.
Some obstacles on the side of the Rail Trail.



Right:
D&H Rail Trail.
*Snack stand.
Community garden.*

IDEAS & ACTION

WHAT WE HEARD AND SAW



There are many things already happening to strengthen Poultney's downtown and outdoor recreation and to connect town to trails. Community members shared many other specific ideas to explore or consider as Town to Trails moves forward, and Town to Trails began launching pop-ups. Here are top action ideas and initiatives.

WHAT'S UNDERWAY

This report doesn't begin to capture everything underway in Poultney; more activities and context are shared in the Town to Trails plan. Here, we focus on sharing activities and developments that we heard through public outreach, or activities that address needs and wishes we heard.

TRAIL & RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

Slate Valley Trails continues to play a lead role in developing and promoting both the area trail network and broader outdoor recreation community. A 2020 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economy Collaborative (VOREC) grant is funding some work.

- Continued trail building and maintenance, improvement of trail-heads, landowner agreements and trail connections
- New trail maps (released in 2022) and improved online trail info
- New downtown office; staff and volunteers to support outreach and activities
- Education and outreach on trail and outdoor safety and etiquette

- Continued development of events, races and activities to draw visitors, build community, activate trails, and get people outdoors
- Outdoor recreation user survey underway to gather detailed input
- Coordination with state Rail Trail changes and improvements

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

The Town and Village of Poultney have numerous efforts underway to continue downtown revitalization, support businesses and address planning priorities.

- Bylaw Modernization Project underway by Planning Commission (considering lot sizes, parking, setbacks, land use)
- Slate Quarry Park opened in fall of 2022, offering new downtown public space
- Economic Development coordinator and Chamber of Commerce continue advancing projects and providing support to businesses
- Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee working on street tree replacement and exploring downtown mural initiative
- New town brand, logo, and slogan adopted

WHAT'S UNDERWAY, CONT.

COMMUNITY AND NONPROFIT INITIATIVES

Community groups, nonprofits and individual people are hard at work launching new initiatives and working on projects to make Poultney a more vibrant and welcoming place.

- Bike, snowshoe, and lawn game lending at Poultney Public Library; library exploring other gear or equipment lending options
- Multiple businesses and organizations (such as Poultney Pub, Shared Memories, LiHigh School and REclaimED) exploring ways to connect to Rail Trail and downtown streetscape and offer amenities or rest areas to users while ensuring respect for private space
- Young at Heart Senior Center creating the "Path to Wellness" —safe outdoor walking track and exercise pad with river view
- Former Green Mountain College campus redevelopment planning underway. Green Mountain Community School is open and kids are eager to connect with community. Community members are welcome to walk on campus grounds. Owners considering major redevelopment initiatives including housing and lodging, education and hospitality training, food and beverage activities, markets, uses of outdoor space, and community partnerships.
- REclaimED offering space, equipment, and skills training to support community projects and entrepreneurs; exploring outdoor events and activities in the outdoor space behind REclaimED.
- LiHigh School students continue developing capstone projects; students are working on ideas including downtown gardens and native species planting, educational signage for campus around student needs and respect for the campus space, and development of a parkour course. Owners and staff are open to a student-led process to consider semi-public use of campus green space that prioritizes student safety and preferences.

TOWN TO TRAILS POP-UP PROJECTS

The Town to Trails project experimented with two "pop-up" or quick, easy and inexpensive project ideas that could help demonstrate long-term changes and make quick progress.

Downtown D&H Rail Trail crossings. Painting crosswalks at key downtown Rail Trail crossings to improve road and trail user safety. Adding the D&H Rail Trail logo to increase visibility and awareness of the trail itself.

We found and heard that:

- Both trail users and people walking downtown immediately started using the crosswalks and felt safer, especially on Main St.
- People liked the appearance of the D&H trail logos, but did not feel they have much impact alone for increasing trail awareness.

Pop-up lemonade stand and parklet. Community Workshop set up a mobile parklet with movable seating, lawn games, giant chalkboard and free lemonade at the Slate Valley Scramble and D&H Rail Trail crossing.

We found and heard that:

- Scramble racers loved having a comfortable place to relax and get a drink after the race, and the parklet made the trailhead feel more festive and welcoming.
- Many kids, families and caregivers came along with racers. They enjoyed having seating and activities while waiting for racers.
- Slate Valley Trails volunteers shared interest in having portable equipment to easily activate trailheads and spaces for events.
- Most Rail Trail users did not stop for a drink or rest while passing. Those most likely to use the parklet were people who parked downtown and were just getting on or off the trail.

ACTION PROJECT & POP-UP IDEAS

People shared many specific ideas for actions, designs, policies, projects. There are many models and examples of these ideas available in Vermont communities and beyond. Most ideas can be explored in pop-up or quick ways before permanent adoption.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Business pitch contest or incubator program to attract key missing businesses or services (coffee shop, pharmacy, etc.)
- Co-op or CSA model (community supported agriculture) for top priority community services or needs (like pharmacy)
- Town incentive or policy to encourage Main Street ground floor retail and restaurant use and discourage office space
- Rec-friendly business training/support program to help existing businesses develop appealing offerings, improve displays, and attract outdoor recreation customers
- Regular roundtables or mixers for businesses to meet with community leaders and share needs or ideas; staff or outreach person with time to go door to door and talk with each business monthly (or on other time frame)
- Pop-up or mobile coffee shop or food offerings (held once a week or once a month in an empty space, or food truck that groups can use to host one)
- Pop-up shops in underused storefront or office space, empty basements or spaces; shared spaces with multiple businesses

DOWNTOWN & STREETScape BEAUTIFICATION

- Downtown mural project, sculpture trail, or other art program to create artwork throughout downtown buildings
- Facade improvement grant or funding to spruce up downtown buildings (commercial or residential)
- Spring bulb planting project and annual planters

- Artistic bench or seating project, engaging artists to paint or create unique infrastructure
- Village gateway beautification (welcoming signs, flowers, art, beautification of gateway properties)

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Interpretive historic signs or natural history signs and images throughout downtown or along trails; audio tour to go along
- Seasonal/annual events to increase off-season activity. Ideas: balloon festival, food truck festivals,
- Partnership incentives or program, encouraging different businesses or organizations to team up on a package, promotion, or activity (such as Slate Valley Trails & Library creating a Story Walk)
- Weekly or monthly events like downtown farmers' market or makers' market, food truck/arts night
- Free, family-friendly downtown events, contests and displays: trick or treating, scarecrow trail, window decorating contest
- Downtown community center or recreation center with meeting and hangout space, gym, rec facilities. Ideas: pool and jacuzzi, basketball, fitness equipment, climbing wall, yoga classes
- Organized activities for adults and community members. Ideas: clubs, classes, recreational sports leagues, meet-ups.
- Pop-up activities and surprising events to activate downtown (sidewalks and streets) and trailheads. Ideas: sidewalk sales, product giveaways or distributor promotions, free garden offerings, food tastings, pop-up concerts or music, open streets

PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVATION & AMENITIES

- Playground or play elements downtown and on trails. Ideas: nature playground, splash pad, tetherball, swings, slide, obstacle course or parkour, ice skating rink
- Downtown parklets or pocket parks offering seating, WiFi access, water fountain, shade, simple activities or points of interest, and places to gather; addition of basic amenities to existing parks

and trailheads (dog water bowls, porta potties, picnic tables)

- Outdoor stage or performance venue in a downtown park or green space (for movies, concerts, space for Stone Valley Arts)
- Funding or technical support to develop semi-public spaces on private property (to assist businesses and organizations with providing rest areas or hangouts and offering amenities)
- Public space audit to identify priority locations for more benches, bike racks, movable seating, shade, and signage

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS & SIGNAGE

- Downtown directory (brochures, signs, web) to highlight all downtown businesses and services to visitors and trail users
- Wayfinding signs in downtown and on Rail Trail, with directions and distances to trails, services, businesses, and points of interest
- Facebook page or website to showcase all community events, activities, recreation offerings
- Info kiosks throughout downtown and on Rail Trail with area recreation and amenity maps, business directory, events

STREET SAFETY AND BIKE/PED CONNECTIONS

- Crosswalk and/or school and pedestrian safety signage around Main & Depot Street intersection and on Depot Street, where LiHigh students cross to access campus buildings
- Bus shelter, seating and route information near Laundromat; expanded bus connection to Burlington, Rutland, Castleton
- ADA parking spaces designated on Main Street (especially near Library, town office, and key facilities serving older adults)
- Bike path (on- or off-road) on Route 30 to Lake St. Catherine
- Trail shuttle and designated off-street trail parking lots downtown (for vans and general trail users); electric vehicle charging
- Walk audit to identify small-scale sidewalk and pedestrian hazards

and safety issues such as places with poor drainage or ice

- Colorful or artistic crosswalks (such as railroad ties for Rail Trail crossings; youth artwork)
- Bike etiquette and safety signage and public education campaign (for drivers and cyclists)

TRAILS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Downtown outdoor hub. Ideas: showers and bath house, van parking, picnic tables, maps and trip planning info, WiFi, phone charging stations, bike repair tools, covered pavilion
- Vertical arches or gateway marking downtown D&H trail entries
- Expanded free equipment library, used gear offerings, or rental options to help more people access gear. Ideas: cross country skis, electric bikes, fishing equipment, kayaks and SUPs
- Events and opportunities to try different sports. Ideas: fishing derby, horseback riding, snowmobiles, skiing, bow fishing tournament, hunter education training
- Art installations, signage, and points of interest along trails; commission or group to oversee
- Huts or cabins on key trail networks, allowing people to create multi-day trips; connection to statewide trail networks for long-distance trail users (like Velomont or Catamount trails)
- Signage and active promotion of land that is open for hunting and fishing; improved access points and parking
- Non-trail events at trailheads (movie nights, yoga classes, *plein air* painting session, mixers)
- Clear system for businesses, community groups and volunteers to propose changes or take on Rail Trail improvements and work
- Mobile trailhead activation equipment (tables and chairs, food truck or kiosk, games, solar charging stations)
- Missing outdoor recreation facilities. Ideas: dog park, shooting range, disc golf, golf, playground, track, turf fields

BIG IDEAS ENGAGEMENT

The "Big Ideas" (major projects and strategies) identified by the Steering Committee and project team included ideas at different stages of development, so they required different amounts and types of community engagement to refine concepts and draft designs. Here's an overview, with detailed summaries following.

OUTDOOR RECREATION HUB

COMPLETE STREETS & GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS

TOWN TO TRAILS CONNECTIONS

HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT: The Outdoor Recreation Hub, Complete Streets, and Gateway Improvements needed the greatest amount of concept refinement and input on priority amenities and features.

Phase 1 engagement identified some different community visions for concepts, styles, amenities, and priority audiences. For each topic, we held a winter Big Ideas conversation, a springtime Zoom Big Ideas design workshop, and we collected more input on priority amenities at the Open House. Additional community conversations, scoping studies, or decision-making processes may still be needed to reconcile different options and community preferences.

LOW-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT: Options for Town to Trail connections are limited by the nature of existing roads and landscapes, ownership, and transportation regulations. After the planning and design team reviewed options, they needed only limited input (one winter Big Ideas session) to shape and prioritize recommended options.

If Poultney moves design ideas forward, gathering input from residents and neighbors will be essential. That's particularly true for the East Poultney Green.

BIG IDEAS ZOOM WORKSHOPS

Two Big Ideas Zoom workshops in May allowed a broader cross-section of community members to share their visions for an Outdoor Rec Hub, see models from other communities, create a crowd-sourced map of existing resources, and help prioritize and design ideal recreation hubs for different audiences. Here's an event snapshot.

40+

ATTENDEES

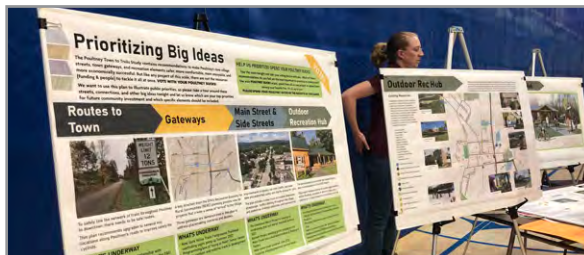
Town and village officials and staff, regional planners, Slate Valley Trails members and volunteers, trail users and road cyclists, casual walkers and swimmers, new and longtime residents.



BIG IDEAS OPEN HOUSE

The Big Ideas Open House in June was a final opportunity to bring the big project ideas and design concepts out to the community to gauge support, and gather final input on priorities or questions that remain unresolved.

The team used interactive posters to display ideas. Participants voted on design and amenity preferences with sticky dots.



And as they left, participants each had \$1,000 "Poultney Bucks" to "spend" on the projects they most wanted to advance.

COMMUNITY TALKS

In addition to the Open House, the Town recognized that this project is an important checkpoint after the Poultney Comes Together process, and the event was an important opportunity for Poultney to Come Together Participants rotated around the room to different community tables to see displays and listen to "lightning talks about what groups are doing and opportunities for collaboration. Community leaders expressed interest in making a sharing event an annual or regular event.



70+

ATTENDEES

The event drew 60-75 attendees, and more than a dozen participating community groups, representing a broad range of Poultney demographics and sectors: local government and planning, trail and recreation community, conservation, arts and culture, business and community service, social services and livability.

OUTDOOR REC HUB

BIG IDEAS INPUT & OPTIONS



The Outdoor Recreation Hub is one of the hardest projects to plan, design, and conceptualize, in large part because there are so many possibilities, factors and visions. There are clear areas of agreement, but also a need for site scoping and feasibility studies to narrow potential locations. Pop-up or pilot hubs are strong interim solutions.

POULTNEY AGREES ON:

Value of a hub.

Widespread enthusiasm for the idea of a central location for services and amenities, but also a place for connecting to people, recreation, and the outdoors.

Audience and users.

A hub should serve locals (Poultney residents and area neighbors) as well as day trippers and longer-term visitors. These groups want many of the same things.

Universal recreation amenities.

Water, bathroom access, WiFi, trail parking, maps and information. Bike racks, tools and pumps. Urgent needs like trail user and overnight parking.

POULTNEY DIFFERS ON:

Trail, recreation, or community focus.

Some stakeholders want a narrower focus on trail users and services. Others want a broader community or recreation hub. Poultney should discuss how to meet all needs *somewhere*.

Single location or dispersed.

In town or on the outskirts. Large site or small. Single location, or hub-and-spoke model. The best answer may be dictated by site availability.

Priority amenities.

People always want different amenities; people also often think they want amenities they don't actually use. Priorities will likely depend on firm audience and focus decisions.

POTENTIAL STEPS:

Pop-up or pilot rec hub.

Poultney could benefit greatly from a pop-up or pilot rec hub to quickly deliver services and test models or potential locations before making final decisions.

Short-term solutions.

Many needs identified already have solutions brewing, which could be implemented quickly: private van & trail parking agreements, help for AirBnB hosts, info directories.

Community collaboration.

Approach partners to explore which existing offerings could be expanded or opened publicly, which needs could be met by other sites or groups, and which should be at a Rec Hub.

OVERARCHING CONCEPTS: GAUGING SUPPORT

Poultney's Better Connections project application imagined an outdoor recreation hub with a strong focus on serving trail users, and particularly the growing number of people coming to Poultney to use the trails.

Phase 1 public engagement confirmed strong support for trail-focused services. But it also revealed a great interest in recreation amenities for the people who live here year-round, and a need for more diverse recreation services and amenities among both locals and visitors. We also heard other interesting concepts, such as a "hub-and-spoke" concept (services at several small hubs rather than one single site).

Final designs and site selection should be integrated with decisions on many other factors. In Phase 2, we focused on exploring stakeholder preferences and priorities for the hub concept, location, and amenities, but public engagement does not always result in agreement or clear answers. That's the case with the outdoor recreation hub.

Stakeholders agree on some points, but more work will be needed to narrow options by exploring site feasibility, coordinating within Poultney on how to meet a broader range of recreation and community needs, continuing to engage more people, and potentially testing concepts to see what works.

SURVEY SAYS: CONCEPTUAL INPUT

After the first round of Big Ideas discussions on Zoom, we put several key questions out to the Steering Committee to gauge opinions. Eight members responded. That's a small sample size, but their opinions generally reflect what we heard from a broader range of stakeholders across other events.

The size of circles below is proportional to Steering Committee survey support for each option.

WHOM SHOULD THE HUB SERVE?

General agreement that the hub should serve Poultney locals, area visitors and day trippers, and visitors from afar. Outliers are split on whether it should serve locals or visitors first.

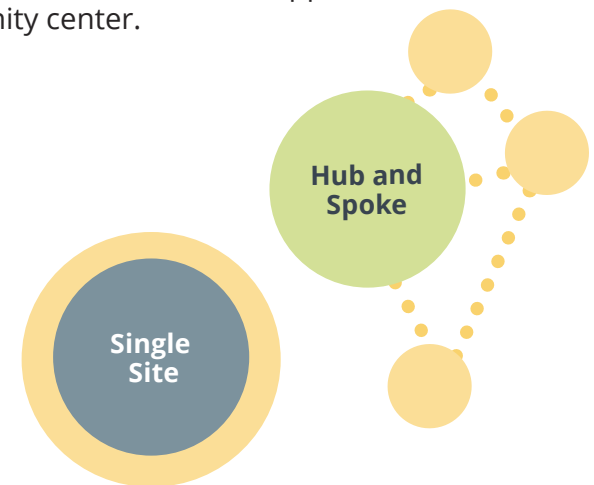


WHAT'S THE VISION AND FOCUS?

Some feel strongly about a trail and outdoor recreation focus. More would like a community recreation hub that incorporates broader recreation interests. Fewer support a true community center.

WHAT'S THE BEST MODEL & LAYOUT?

Even split between those preferring a single location and those who like a hub-and-spoke or multi-site model. That reflects real benefits and drawbacks of each, and the need to explore feasibility of potential sites before deciding.








CROWDSOURCING RECREATION OFFERINGS & AMENITIES



Throughout the winter and spring, we gathered input on what amenities, services and activities stakeholders would prioritize at a recreation hub and overall. This page summarizes the main ideas we heard in three big categories, across multiple events and input methods (Zoom events, Steering Committee survey, and Open House dot voting).

We also crowdsourced and mapped what already exists in Poultney. Most priority amenities do in some form (all items below with an icon); see the map on the following page. An easy first step for Poultney is to explore how to leverage these existing resources, promote what's here, and potentially expand access or develop public-private partnerships for use.

BASIC AMENITIES

- WiFi & charging stations 
- Bathrooms and water  
- Shade structure/pavilion 
- Benches and picnic/cafe tables  
- Bike racks/storage 
- Off-street parking 
- Lodging 
- Info, maps, directories 
- Shuttles & transit 
- Repair tools & service 
- Showers and lockers 
- Warming station/fire pit
- Van parking/camping

FACILITIES & SPACES

- Fitness equipment 
- Sports fields, courts 
- Swimming pool, holes 
- Indoor meeting spaces 
- Ice skating 
- Play spaces/equipment 
- Hunting/fishing access 
- Community garden 
- Outdoor track/walking 
- Shooting range
- Skate park & pump track
- Outdoor hangout/meeting space
- Outdoor fitness/parkour

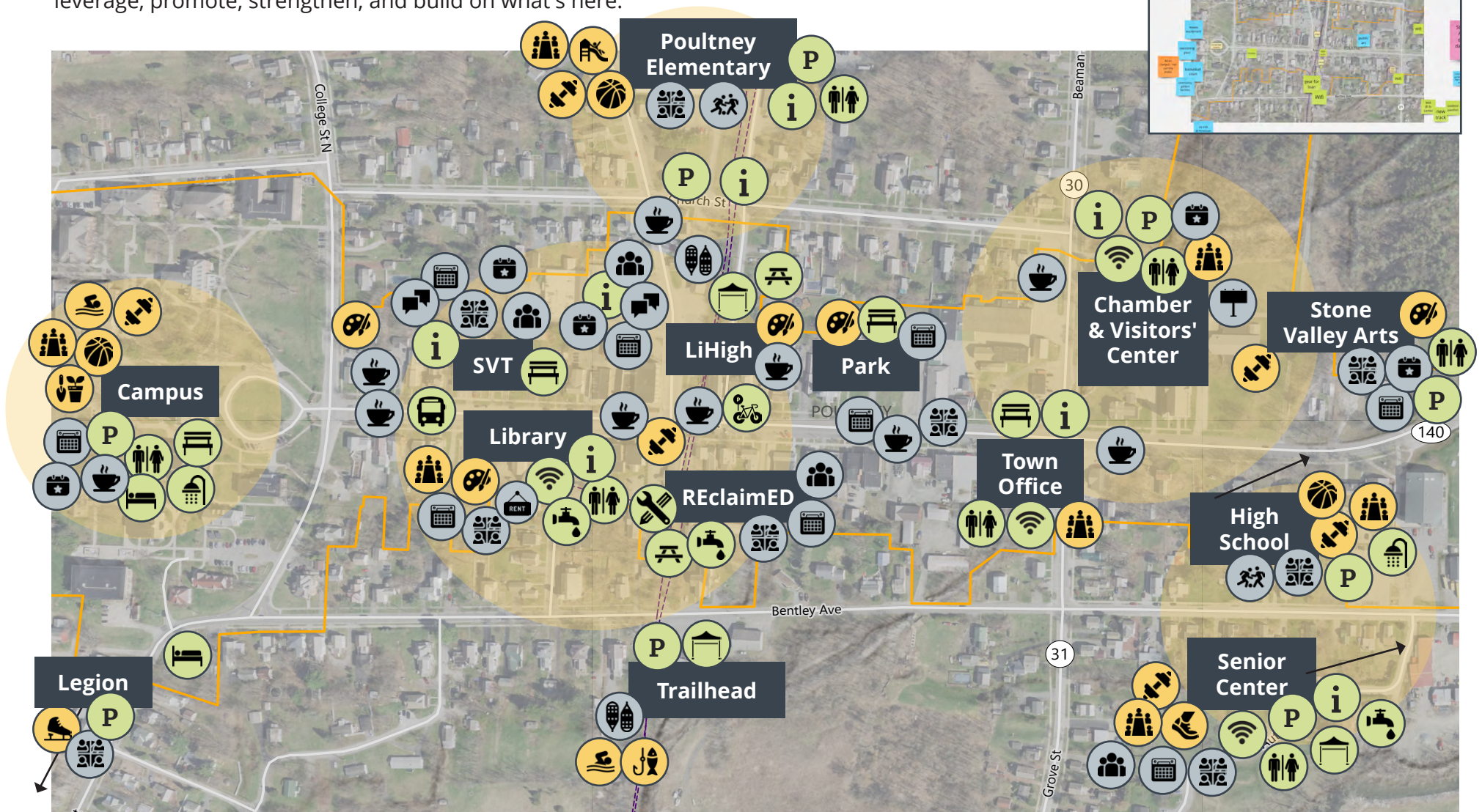
PROGRAMMING & ACTIVITIES

- Public art, museums 
- Rec leagues and teams 
- Outdoor rec & fitness classes 
- Winter activities 
- Races, tournaments, festivals 
- Outdoor rec meet-ups (all levels) 
- Movies, concerts, events 
- Trip planning & trail advice 
- Gear rentals 
- Self-guided interpretive trails 
- Food, coffeshop, dining 
- Food truck parking/rallies

REC HUBS: CROWDSOURCED ASSETS

Knowing where resources already exist can help narrow potential locations and identify existing clusters or informal "hubs." It can also help identify potential resources to expand and help prioritize new resources needed. The map below shows crowd-sourced info from the Big Ideas Zoom workshop and other engagement activities. We used an online whiteboard called Miro to share a map and sticky notes and let participants add assets they know of. The result shows several clear clusters, and most desired amenities already offered somewhere in downtown Poultney. There is strong potential to leverage, promote, strengthen, and build on what's here.

Note: Locations are approximate. Assets are crowdsourced and may be inaccurate or missing assets. This map identifies assets that are in Poultney, but does not identify which are open to public use, which are semi-public, which are private, or which owners might be open to exploring public use. It should not be used as a complete inventory or shared for public information purposes.



TOP PRIORITY AMENITIES & SERVICES

In fall engagement activities, winter and spring Big Ideas events, and in Steering Committee meetings and conversations, we kept asking one big question: which amenities are top priorities for a recreation hub (or hubs)? The same themes rose to the top over and over again.

#1 MAPS & INFORMATION

Information topped nearly every list. All stakeholder groups agreed on the need for **clear, prominent maps and trail/recreation info**.

- Also wanted: directories, maps or listings of **businesses and services**
- Info on **AirBnBs and lodging apps** could help meet overnight van parking, camping and lodging needs



- With **safer town to trail connections or shuttles**, downtown lots can also relieve trailhead parking congestion.
- Off-street parking doesn't have to be at one hub; it could make use of several **dispersed lots downtown or between town and trailheads**.
- Businesses or private venues might allow **off-peak lot use**, especially for a fee or for special events.

#2 BATHROOMS & WATER

Bathroom and drinking water access was a close second. No one wants to manage them, but everyone from trail users and tourists to local families needs clean, safe, accessible, places to go—at all hours of day. **Public-private partnerships** with businesses or facilities to use existing bathrooms can be a win-win.



#3 OFF-STREET PARKING

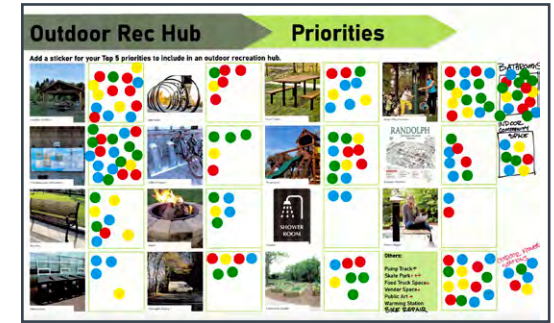
Off-street recreation and trail parking will free up on-street parking for businesses and create space for Complete Streets improvements, even if it's not thrilling.



#4 PLAY, FITNESS & GATHERING SPACE

There were dozens of ideas for different **recreation facilities, equipment, or offerings** but three kept rising to the surface—even across different stakeholder groups.

- Play could mean a **playground or lawn games**, play elements around downtown, **"playable art" or seating**.
- Fitness spaces or offerings could be **outdoor fitness trails or parkour, classes, or indoor spaces**.
- There's strong interest in **indoor community space**, for meetings, gatherings, rec classes and more.



#5 SHELTER & SEATING

Most people expressed interest in more shelter and outdoor seating options around town, but especially at a rec hub.

- A **pavilion** tops the list of shelter ideas. Others are interested in **warming shelters, outdoor classrooms or gathering places**.
- Seating interest includes basic **benches or picnic tables**, or more artistic options.



#6 BIKE RACKS, LOCKERS & REPAIR TOOLS

There's interest in seeing bike racks all over town, but cyclists a couple others amenities.

- **Covered bike storage or lockers** would be ideal with showers and in walking distance of downtown shops and restaurants.
- **Repair tools** are ideal right along the Rail Trail or trail routes.



STREETS & GATEWAYS

BIG IDEAS INPUT & OPTIONS



Complete Streets and gateway improvements in and around Main Street include many potential ideas, from quick fixes and beautification to long-term infrastructure projects. The Poultney community generally agrees on goals and vision for a vibrant, thriving, and accessible downtown; it will take more.

POULTNEY AGREES ON:

Gateway needs.

Interest in vertical elements, attractive signage, traffic calming, access management. Gateways include both town highways and Rail Trail crossings.

Local look and feel.

Unique and unified materials, landscape design elements, signage design, links to history, and other elements that align with Poultney's identity and brand.

Access for all.

Welcoming, safe streets and public spaces for all users. Calming traffic. Expanding bike & pedestrian options. Practical solutions that also work for businesses, town crews, and town budgets.

POULTNEY DIFFERS ON:

Parking, street & sidewalk changes.

Support for and specifics of sidewalk, crosswalk, street, or parking changes (to make room for a bike or pedestrian lane, street seating, or other uses).

Priority public amenities.

Whether, where, and/or how to offer priority public amenities like bathrooms, charging stations, or play spaces. Who should lead, manage, and support.

Major infrastructure projects.

Many agree on needs and overall concepts, but there is uncertainty around project priorities, phasing, and feasibility (relative to other town and village needs). Town and village leaders will need to study and prioritize.

POTENTIAL STEPS:

Complete Streets Pilot.

Do a pilot project of any major complete streets projects or demonstration ideas to test options and introduce it to the community.

Walk audit or accessibility audit.

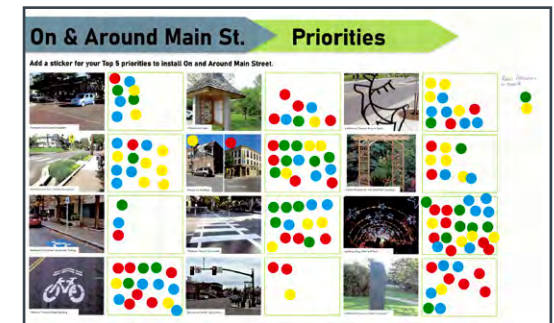
Engage youth, older adults and residents in mapping walk/bike amenities and problem spots, to prioritize sections or identify quick solutions.

"Start with petunias."

The Project for Public Spaces says small, cheap, visible actions can build momentum for big things. Quick and easy streetscape projects could pave the way for bigger investments.

TOP PRIORITY AMENITIES & IMPROVEMENTS

Gateway and Complete Streets categories include a wide variety of ideas and actions (from small amenities to major infrastructure projects). It's challenging to rank them against each other, but the amenities here all rose to the top. They also include public spaces and the surrounding landscape, so many top priorities here echo the top needs for a Recreation Hub. Poultney may be able to increase efficiency by aligning planning for the hub and Main Street/Complete Streets.



BATHROOMS & BASIC AMENITIES

Main Street explorers need **bathrooms** just like trail users (and they're often the same folks). They also need **WiFi, drinking fountains, charging outlets, benches, bike racks**, and more. It's hard to maintain public bathrooms, but there are creative models out there.



want standalone or functional **public art**, such as **murals** or **artistic seating, bike racks, arts activities and venues**.

MAPS, KIOSKS & SIGNAGE

Prominent information and signage was a top priority in nearly every conversation about Gateways, Main Street / Complete Streets, and outdoor recreation, with **gateway and wayfinding signage**. Also key: **freestanding kiosks** with business and recreation info, events, and maps.



ACCESSIBLE STREETS

Accessible parking and sidewalks are a requirement if Poultney wants to welcome and serve all people. Businesses and people with mobility challenges can easily point out specific **accessibility barriers** that need minor work, like places needing curb cuts or better drainage and ice removal.



ARTISTIC STREETS & SPACES

Poultney wants **artistic infrastructure**, like **railroad crosswalks** at D&H crossings, **decorative traffic signals** or **Rail Trail lighting**. People also



PLAY & GATHERING SPACE

Play and gathering places were another top priority for surprisingly different stakeholder groups. People want **free, outdoor spaces to gather, relax and spend time**. That means **comfortable seating and shade, a relaxed vibe, and things to do**. The top preference is to see **play integrated downtown like art** — playable seating, lawn games, or Rail Trail play elements.



TRAFFIC CALMING & BIKE/PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Improving streets safety is a top priority for all. Specific preferences include **bulbouts and curb extensions** to narrow crossing distance and create space for **rain gardens or street seating**, and **crosswalk visibility** (prominent crosswalks, signage, or both). Safe bike routes are also key, though people differed on needing a **dedicated bike lane or using painted "sharrows"**. Other priorities include sidewalk extensions and access management throughout downtown.



GATEWAY PORTALS

Gateway improvements overall rose to the top (both street and Main Street D&H Rail Trail crossings). In addition to **beautification and signage and safety elements**, people especially loved concepts of **"portals"— vertical elements or arches to pass through or under**, clearly signaling a new space.



PRIORITY LOCATIONS

COMPLETE STREETS, GATEWAYS & RECREATION HUB

We asked for input on priority locations for all major Big Ideas. Because there is so much overlap between amenities and improvements in different categories, it's helpful to look at the potential for integrating actions and impacts. Below are top locations, with size of circles representing the level of interest.



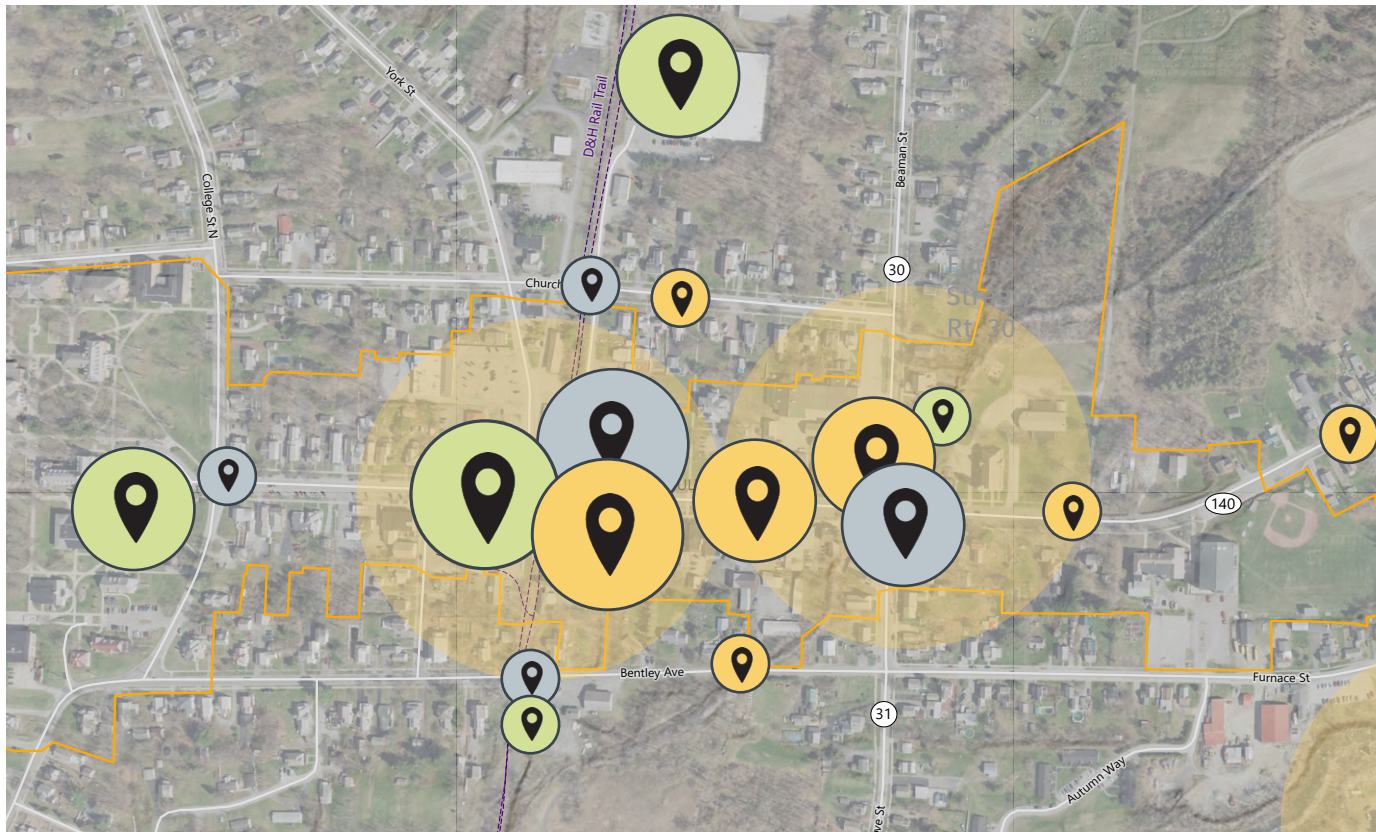
Recreation Hub & Amenities



Gateways & Entrances



Complete Streets



Three key clusters emerge, with strong potential for integrating priority improvements and needs:

Main Street/D&H Crossing

The D&H crossing is a top priority gateway. The area around Main, Depot, Knapp and D&H is prime for Complete Streets work, and is already the hub of downtown recreation amenities.

Beaman & Main Streets

The main entrance to town is a top priority for a prominent gateway, signage, and major street safety improvements.

Rt. 30 & Furnace Streets

This southern gateway is also a top priority and a center of recreation amenities. The current town garage site is a top preference for a future outdoor recreation hub (pending feasibility).

Note: Priority recreation hub sites identified here include the former Green Mountain College Campus, the current town garage site, and a town-owned lot near the Fire Department). They emerged as top site of interest to stakeholders and community members in terms of meeting recreation hub needs. It does not factor in property owner interest or feasibility, which Poultney would need to explore before considering further.

ACTION PRIORITIES

What actions or projects would you invest in, and what should Poultney prioritize first? This was the last question we put to attendees at the Big Ideas Open House, when we asked them to vote by spending \$1,000 in "Poultney Bucks." Here's a snapshot of their overall priorities.



**TOWN TO TRAILS
CONNECTIONS**



**OUTDOOR
RECREATION HUB**

**GATEWAY
IMPROVE.**

**COMPLETE
STREETS**

Poultney will need to invest in project ideas to make them happen, so we handed out \$406,000 in "Poultney Bucks" at the Big Ideas Open House and asked attendees to "spend" \$1,000 each on their top priorities.

- Top Winners: Town to Trail Connections (safer walking and biking routes between town and trails) and an Outdoor Recreation Hub.
- High Priorities: "Complete Streets" and Gateway improvements in and around Main Street, with about 60% as much support.



ABOUT THE NUMBERS

We used polls in phase 2, so why don't we report results in numbers? Vote totals reflect the opinions of who's in the room — not the community overall.

We report trends instead of totals to help convey that they are estimates rather than official community votes.



**TOWN
TO
TRAILS**

Poultney
VERMONT

Poultney Town to Trails is led by the Town and Village of Poultney and Rutland Regional Planning Commission. It is funded by Vermont's Better Connections program, a partnership of the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Department of Public Health (VDH). The consulting team is led by DuBois & King.

Community engagement consulting and report by Community Workshop LLC | communityworkshopllc.com

Appendix B: Poultney Parking Study





POULTNEY PARKING UTILIZATION STUDY

BY NIC STARK | GIS PLANNER



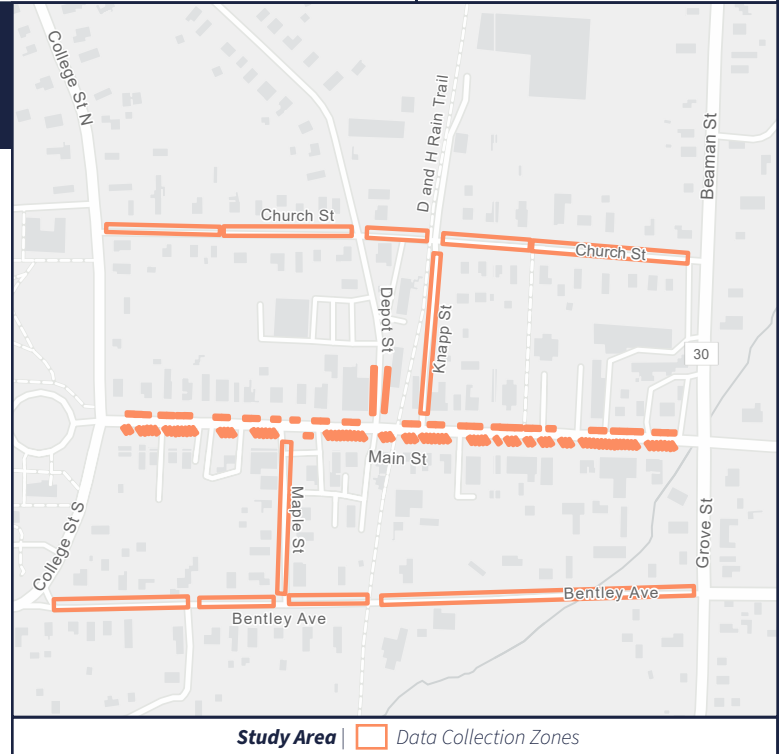
POULTNEY PARKING

STUDY

JUNE 2023

INTRODUCTION

This report details the findings from a comprehensive study conducted to analyze parking patterns in downtown Poultney. The primary aim of the study was to understand the dynamics of parking utilization, focusing specifically on how parking spaces are used over the course of a typical day. Using a combination of field surveys and data analysis tools provided by the Esri suite, including ArcGIS and Survey123, a rich dataset was collected that provides valuable insights into parking behaviors. This report will present an in-depth exploration of this dataset, discussing key findings such as the percentage of cars parked incorrectly, parking duration, and peak utilization times. Additionally, we will provide a detailed heat-map to visually represent parking space usage. Through these analyses, this report will provide valuable insights to guide future parking infrastructure planning and policy decisions.



performed manually by Nic Stark using a custom-built smartphone solution that combined Esri Field Maps and Survey123. The values collected were: the last three characters of the parked vehicle, what spot number they occupied, whether they were parked within the painted lines, and whether the car had an external bike rack on it. Though the primary focus was on spot-by-spot data on Main Street, where parking spots are delineated by painted lines, additional data was also collected on ancillary streets and larger segments where parking spots are not specifically marked. It's worth noting that light rain was present during the last three hours of the Saturday data collection period and the data was gathered before Memorial Day weekend, which normally marks the 'start of the summer season' for the significant visitor population of nearby Lake St. Catherine. After collection, the data was then processed and analyzed using Excel and ArcGIS Pro to provide a comprehensive overview of parking patterns and behaviors.

METHODOLOGY

The study, conducted in downtown Poultney, Vermont, focused primarily on the Main Street area, from College Street to Beaman Street/Route 30. Over two 13-hour periods on Thursday, May 18th, and Saturday, May 20th, both from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., data was collected on foot and by bicycle. Each round of data collection took approximately 20 to 45 minutes, and was performed at the start of each hour starting on the corner of College Street and Main heading east to Route 30/Beaman along the North side of the street then looping back along the South side of the street with data on ancillary streets being collected along the way. The data collection was



POULTNEY PARKING

STUDY

JUNE 2023

RESULTS

MAIN STREET

The Main Street area of study running from College Street to Beaman Street/Route 30 is just under 0.5 miles in length and contains 126 parking spots designated with painted lines. These consist of 87 angled spots on the South side of the street and 39 parallel spots on the North side.

OCCUPANCY RATE

Across the two 13-hour data collection periods 514 unique cars parked on this section of Main Street. The total occupancy rate for all of Main Street was 29% or an average of 36.5 cars filling the available 126 spaces. The occupancy rate for the South side of the street was 23% or an average of 20.0 cars filling the 87 available spaces. The North side came in at 34% averaging out at 13.3 cars filling the 39 available spaces.

IMPROPER PARKING

In total 25% of the cars were incorrectly parked over a painted line with a breakdown of 27% of the angle parked cars on the South side and 20% on the parallel North Side. This discrepancy can most likely be attributed to the cascading effects of a single incorrectly parked angled car where in all adjacent vehicles must shift accordingly to attain proper spacing.

FALSE SPOTS

There were a total of 8 false spots on Main Street (either zebra striped or unpainted) that were used by 26 unique cars with an occupancy rate of 15% over the two study periods.

TURNOVER

In terms of turnover there were 14 spots that saw no activity over the two 13-hour study periods. Zero spots were filled for the full duration of study periods. On average, parking spots were empty for

18.9 of the 26 hours studied. The parking spot with the highest turnover rate was spot 108 (located in front of Perry's Main Street Eatery, the Laundromat, and Poultney House of Pizza) with 15 unique cars over the course of 16 hours.

PEAK UTILIZATION

Peak utilization of the parking on Main street was noon on Thursday with 51 cars across the 127 spots and at 6 pm on Saturday with 49 cars.

The average duration a spot was occupied by a vehicle was 2.6 hours (this calculation includes the data from the 8 'false spots'). At the extremes, 40 cars were parked for an hour or less and 2 cars were parked for 24 hours.

ANCILLARY STREETS

In addition the spot-level data collected on Main Street, block level data was collected on Church street between College Street North and Beaman Streets (comprising of 5 collection zones running parallel to Main Street to the North), Bentley Avenue between College Street South and Grove Street (comprising of 4 collection zones running parallel Main Street to the South), as well as 3 streets that branch off of Main Street: the Southern section of Depot Street, Knapp Street, and Maple Street. All of these streets are two-way traffic. Bentley Avenue and Church Street have minimal-to-no curbs and afford vehicles to park partly off the road into the grass median between the road pavement and the sidewalk.

CHURCH STREET

For 6 of the 26 data collection rounds a single car was present parked on Church street. Approximately 45 vehicles could park half in the road half on the grass median between the sidewalk.

BENTLEY AVENUE

Bentley Avenue is similar to Church Street in that it parallels Main but instead to the South and has limited to no curbs for most of the street between Grove St/Route 30 and College Street South. During



POULTNEY PARKING

STUDY

JUNE 2023

the study a single car was parked on Bentley for a total of 3 rounds of observation. In terms of capacity like Church Bentley could potentially accommodate up to 45 vehicles parked half in the road.

DEPOT STREET

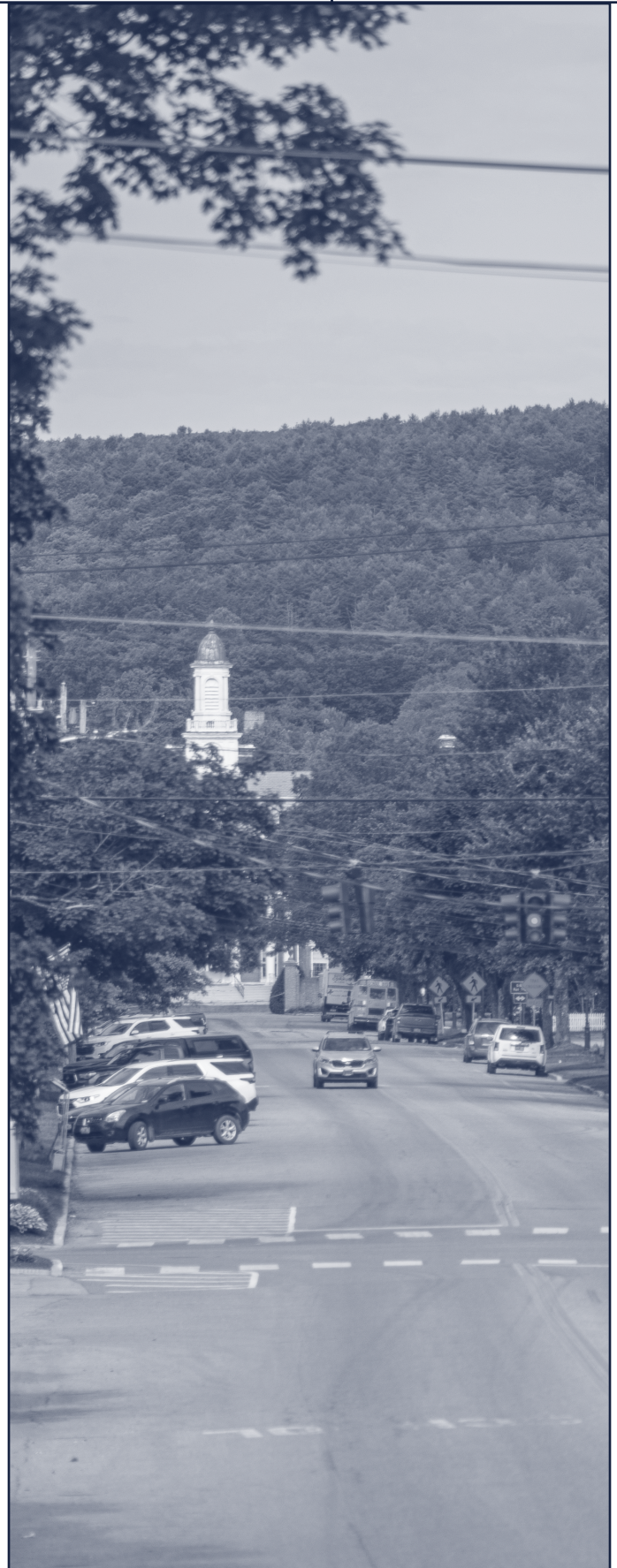
Depot street branches off of Main Street in the central business area of downtown, it extends North to Church Street. The section of Depot street South of the Shaw's parking lot exit could accommodate roughly 15 painted parking spots across the East and West sides of the street. The data recorded reflected a 19% occupancy rate over the two 13-hour collection periods using the 15-space number as a baseline.

KNAPP STREET

Knapp Street is an alleyway branching off of Main Street to the North running up to Church Street East of Depot Street. The street is curb-less and could accommodate at least seventeen vehicles on it's North-West portion alone. Over the course of the two 13-hour data collection periods only 1 vehicle was observed parked on Knapp Street and it's occupancy duration lasted less than 1 hour.

MAPLE STREET:

Maple Street branches off of Main Street to the South running to Bentley Avenue. It's curbed North Western portion is unpainted but commonly used for parking. As it heads Southward the road narrows from roughly 47ft wide down to just 40ft wide. Due to this narrowing cars parked near the stop sign at the intersection with Bentley were observed having pulled up onto the grass median. From the corner with main down to the first driveway on the Western side of the street could accommodate at least 12 painted parking spaces putting the occupancy rate over the 26-hour study period at 7%.





POULTNEY PARKING

STUDY

JUNE 2023

AT-A-GLANCE

MAIN STREET

126 PARKING SPOTS

516 UNIQUE VEHICLES

87 SOUTH SIDE (ANGLED)

8 FALSE SPOTS

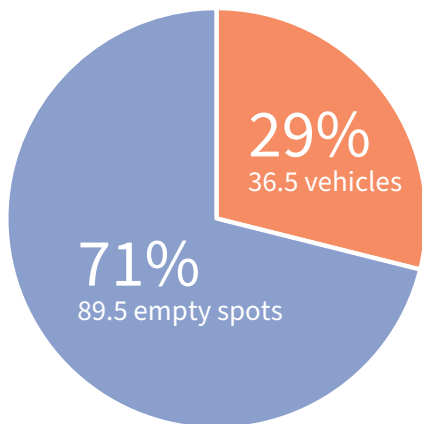
39 NORTH SIDE (PARALLEL)

14 SPOTS WITH NO ACTIVITY

6PM PEAK UTILIZATION

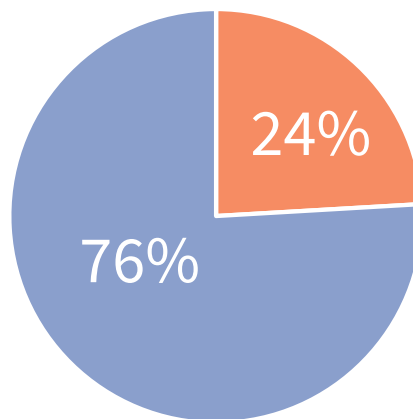
49 VEHICLES

AVERAGE OCCUPANCY RATE



■ UNOCCUPIED ■ OCCUPIED

IMPROPER PARKING RATE



■ WITHIN LINE ■ OUTSIDE LINE



Turnover



Unique Cars (Over 26 hours):

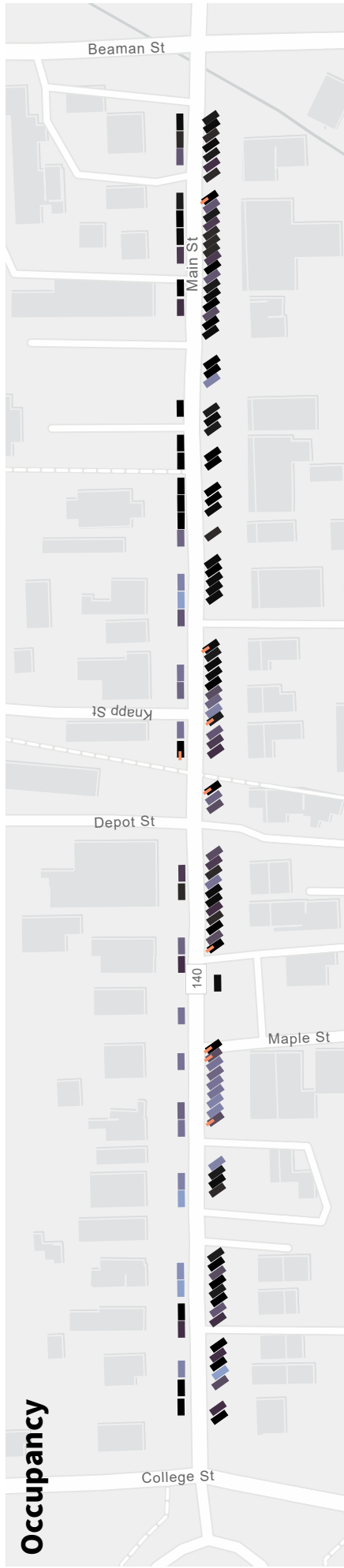


False Spots: —

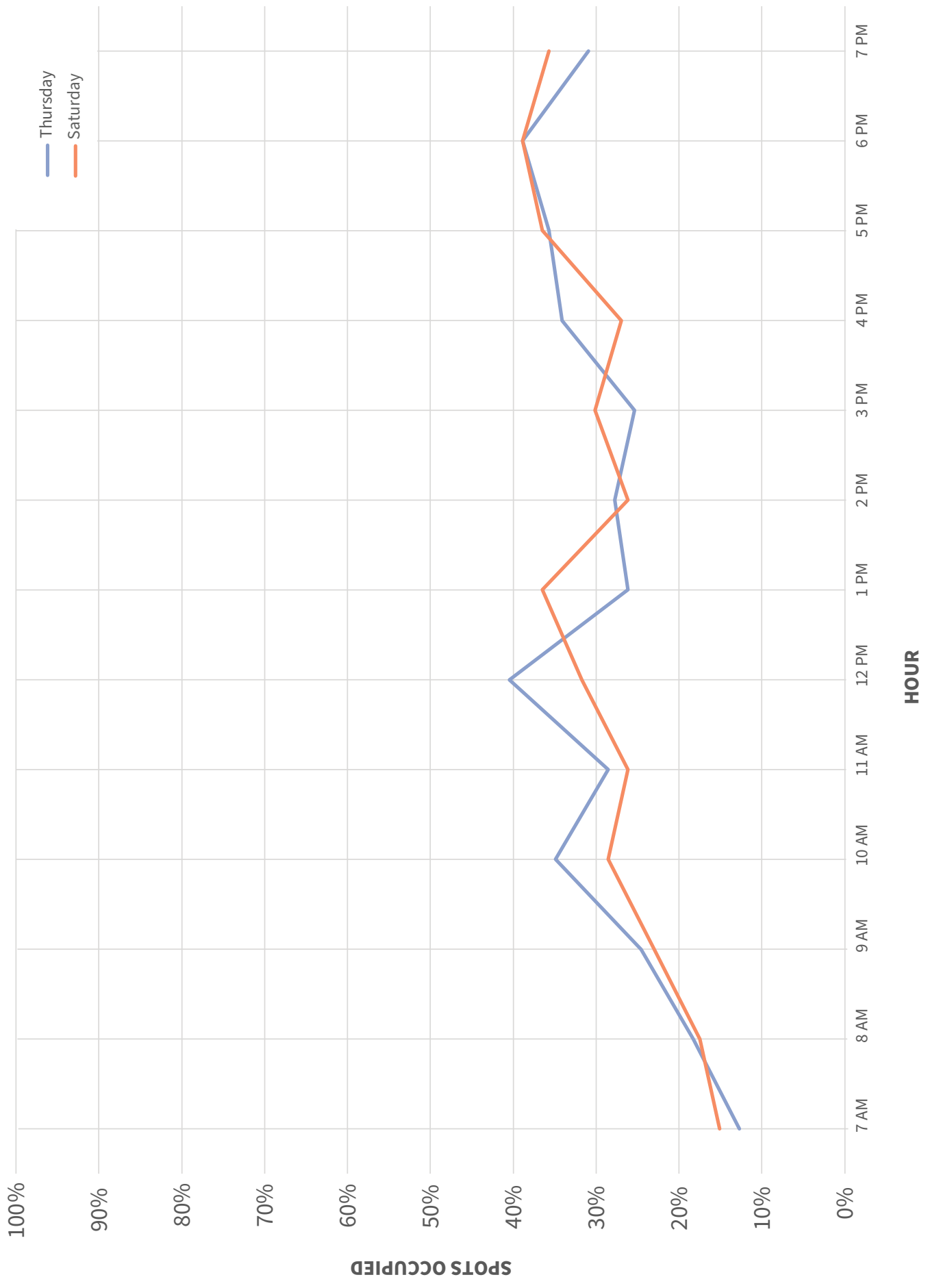
Hours Occupied (Out of 26):



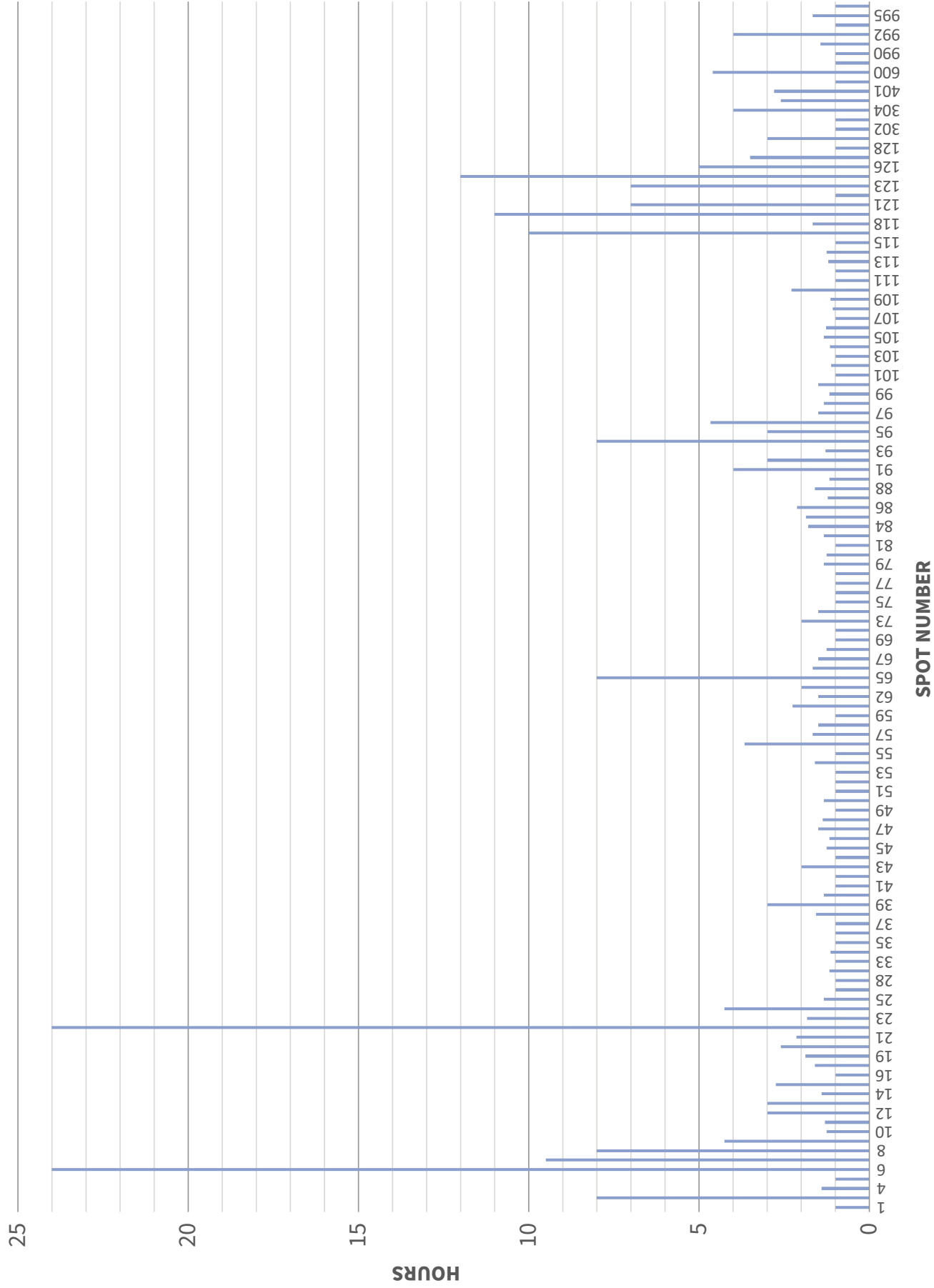
Occupancy



MAIN STREET | PERCENTAGE OF SPOTS OCCUPIED BY HOUR



MAIN STREET | AVERAGE PARKING DURATION BY SPOT NUMBER



Appendix C: Virtual Workshop Outdoor Rec Hub Presentation



WHAT WE HEARD:

BRIGHT SPOTS

World class parks, lakes & trails.

High quality trails and gravel for biking, hiking, and snowmobiling.
Beautiful lakes and river.

Great businesses & organizations.

Great organizations offering outdoor rec resources, (VAST, SVT, Library).
Beloved outdoor businesses (Mart's Sporting Goods, Analog Cycles)

Trail variety & experiences.

Trail and outdoor options for all levels, all seasons, all interests. Unique, quality races and events. Free and convenient access downtown.

Energy and potential.

Growing enthusiasm among locals and visitors. Available resources for growth.

WISHES & NEEDS

Play & non-trail options.

Simple, free, all-age recreation options.
Self-guided tours and things to do in town.
Movies, picnic, and activities in town and at trailheads.

Public access improvements.

Free public access to swimming holes, fishing and hunting areas. Clear signage and info. Town and trail connections.

Rec amenities and services.

Public bathrooms, water fountains, bike repair tools, showers, overnight parking, WiFi and charging access. Food, shopping and lodging options.

Education & communication.

Coordination between rec and downtown businesses. Intro outdoor classes. Rec safety and etiquette training.

BIG IDEAS

Park, trail, & public space activation.

Color, signage, beautification, seating, amenities, shade, and activities on trails, in parks, and at trailheads.

Rec-friendly businesses & events.

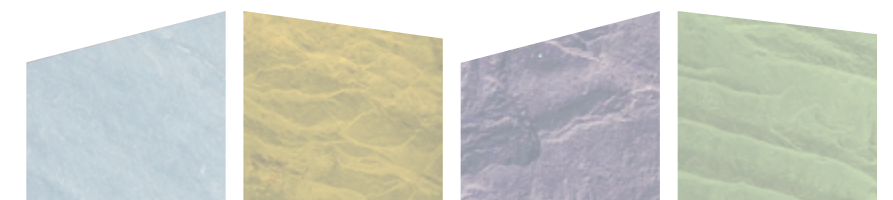
Curated events and offerings like festivals, local/outdoor merch, gear rentals, grab-and-go food, and specials for rec visitors.

Community hub & services

Downtown hub with off-street parking, clear signage, business and service directories, bathrooms and showers, trail shuttle.

Recreation offerings for all.

Facilities and programs to fill outdoor recreation gaps: downtown playground, adult sports leagues, gear rentals, fitness options, hunting and fishing access.



WHAT WE HEARD:

MY FAVORITE OUTDOOR SPOT IN POULTNEY IS ...

TOP 5

1. D&H Rail Trail
2. Slate Valley Trails
3. Lake St. Catherine
4. Poultney River
5. Analog Cycles

"The bridge on the Rail Trail over the river."

"The SVT trails are so f___ing cool. You've got a gold mine."

"Buczek Marsh is one of the few public places people can go to hunt or fish."

"More people know that it's here."

"Outdoor track."

MY #1 WISH FOR POULTNEY OUTDOOR RECREATION IS ...

"The benches at the Town Hall Park (flowers, trees, birds and people)."

"The cemetery and cell tower."

"I LOVE the little trail system behind the Elementary School."

"I could safely ride my bike to everything."

"Rail Trail users would smile, say hello, and slow down when they pass."

"When you had the Story Walk on the Bumper Cars trail. My family loved it."

"The diversity of terrain, allowing for multiple levels from beginner to expert."

"That it exists! More towns should do this."

Needs and Improvements:

- Recreation - for non-trail users.
- Disc golf, basketball, track, shooting range, obstacle course, pump track, skate park.
- Classes and rec leagues.
- Winter trail events, activities, and gear rentals.
- Publicly accessible hunting and fishing sites, ATV trails.
- Events, workshops, and activities for sportspeople
- Address trash, vandalism, etc. at key locations.
- Layering uses and points of interest such as at trail heads (story walks, play elements, art, interpretive signage)
- Maps, information and signs

"Trail use in winter. We need to make it fun and capture the spirit of winter."

"There was a place to rent kayaks and stand-up paddleboards."

"That new people moving in still let people hunt and fish their land and get to know our local culture."

"The D&H, snowmobiling, and walking trails. I'm not a biker, but appreciate those too."

"I came for the race. There aren't many trail running events around."

I LOVE ...
ABOUT POULTNEY TRAILS & OUTDOORS.

"More consistent family-friendly events."

"That it's growing."

"SVT and the people who make it sweet!"

"I'd love to see the Main Street/D&H intersection be a real gateway to the trail and town. Imagine a vertical arch, a kiosk with maps and downtown business info, picnic tables, bike pump or tools."

"Overnight trip options. I see great potential in Vermont Huts and the Velomont and Catamount Trails."

I'D SPEND MORE TIME ON TRAILS & OUTDOORS IN POULTNEY IF ...

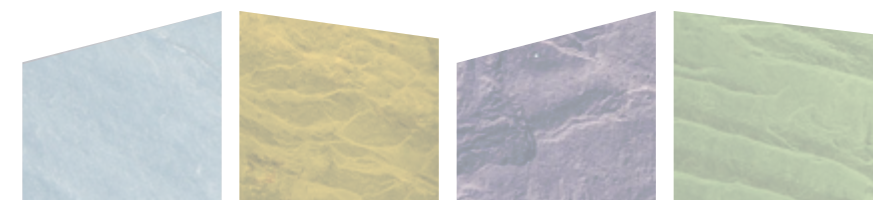
"There was better access between town and trails."

"It was a lot cleaner, and there were trash cans and bathrooms. The bridge was painted and cleaned up."

"There were more fun activities year-round for kids and adults."

"We had an outdoor place to gather on Main Street where adults can mingle and kids can play."

"Maps were sent in the mail to all our residents."



EXAMPLES OF REC HUBS: SMALL

WYATT PARK BICYCLE HUB

- Bike repair station
- Tables and seating
- Water fountain (human and pet)
- Bike parking
- Planters
- Mural on footpath



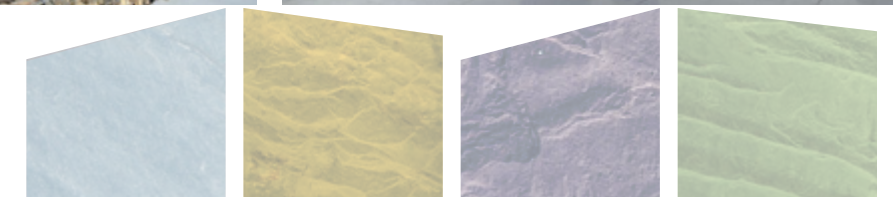
LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL CAMBRIDGE JCT.

- Train-themed playground
- Picnic tables (outdoor and covered)
- 18-car parking area
- LVRT trail map
- Bathrooms



SEAPLANE LAGOON PROMENADE

- Seating, picnic tables, and shelters
- Grills
- Bike parking
- Public restrooms
- Water fountains



EXAMPLES OF REC HUBS: MEDIUM

THE GEAR HOUSE

- Bike and outdoor gear sales
- Bike repair
- Ridgeline Collective trail hub - maps and trail info
- Events, weekly bike rides, youth activities, trail building days, backcountry ski outings
- Outdoor seating and wash station
- Ski and snowboard maintenance



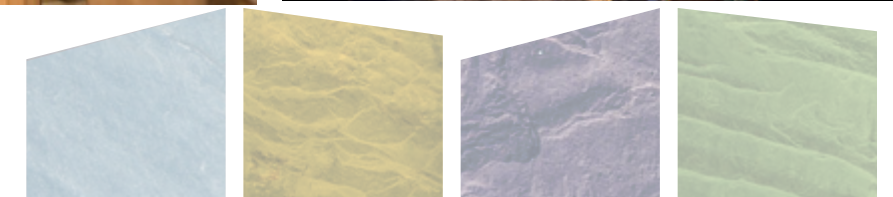
JAY CLOUD CYCLERY & CAFE OMA

- Bike sales, service, rentals and repairs
- Local riding information (mountain, road, gravel, rail trail)
- Cafe and coffee shop
- Restrooms



NORTHEAST MOUNTAINEERING

- Guided outings - hiking, rappelling, skiing, avalanche safety, rock climbing
- Bunkhouse, showers, kitchen
- Rental gear
- Maps and information



EXAMPLES OF REC HUBS: LARGE

AMC PINKHAM NOTCH VISITOR CENTER

- Restrooms, food, and lodging
- Trail maps, weather information, hiking conditions
- Informational sessions, education, library
- Outdoor gear store and bookstore
- Children's Discovery Room
- Shuttle stop, electric car charging, wifi
- Gear rental



MOTIO RECREATION

- Indoor field
- Batting cage
- Rock wall
- Golf Simulators
- Workout space
- Multipurpose room
- Toddler hours
- Climbing club and fieldtrips
- Individual or staff-led use



CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER

- Provides access for sculling, skiing, running, biathlon, and cycling.
- Fitness center and classes
- Food and lodging
- Memberships and day passes
- Events, races, and camps



UPCOMING REC HUBS!

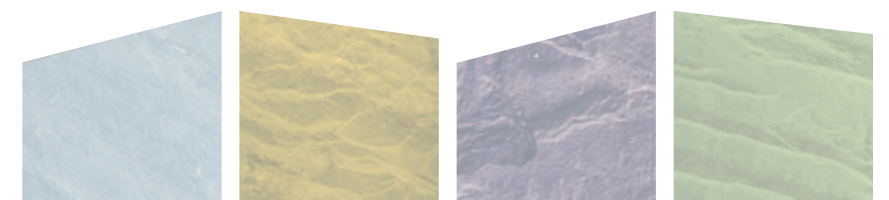
MRV RECREATION HUB

- Trail connectivity and accessibility in the Mad River Valley
- Located at Local Folk Smokehouse
- Indoor Welcome Center - maps, rec resources, and visitor information
- Trailhead with parking and port-o-lets
- Environmental Stewardship

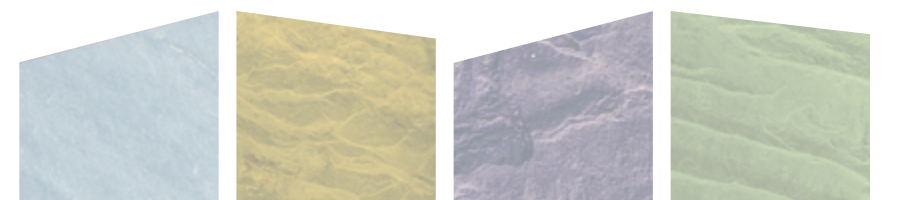


DANVILLE TRAIN STATION

- Adjacent to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail
- Proposed restrooms, information kiosk, rotating historical exhibits
- Ideas for bike donation and repair program; fitness and rehabilitation program
- Idea as base for local bike tours
- Recipient of multiple State and local grants

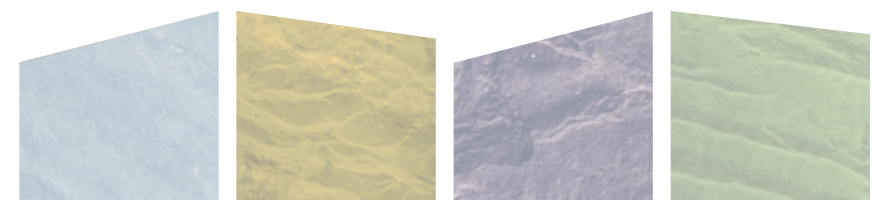


REC HUB ELEMENTS



YOUR TURN!!

HELP US DESIGN YOUR DREAM REC HUB



Appendix D: Virtual Workshop Vibrant Village and Complete Streets Presentation



HOW WE GOT HERE



Final Report: Main Street and Downtown Improvements for Poultney, Vermont

Project funded by the:
VT Department of Development and Community Affairs
Municipal Planning Grant Program



Prepared for:
The Village of Poultney
and the
Poultney Downtown Redevelopment Committee

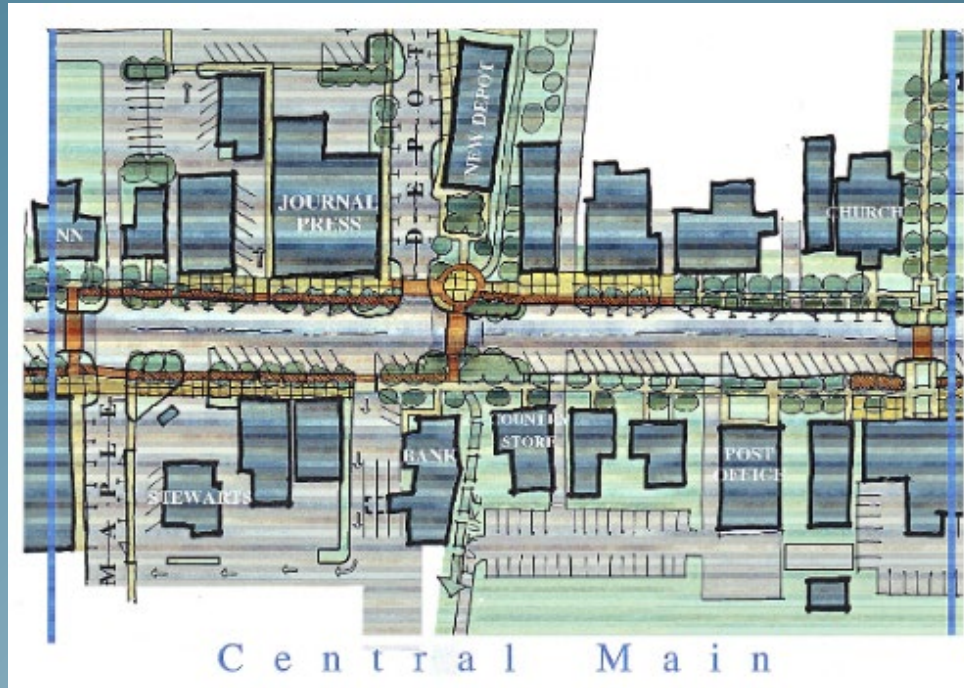
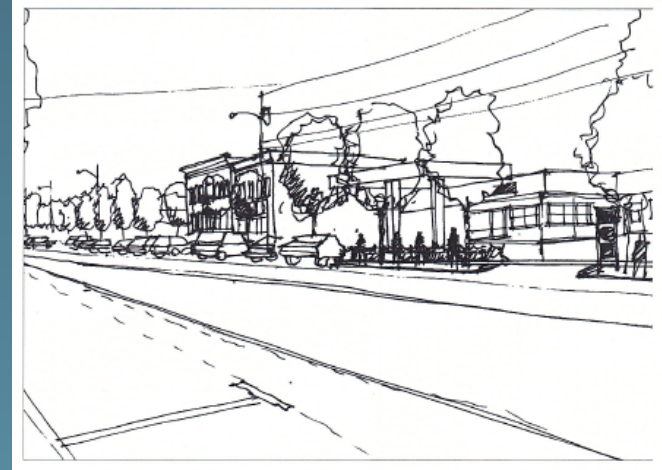
Prepared by:



Guertin - Elkerton Associates and
Engineers and Planners
Shaftsbury, VT and Stoneham, MA

The Office of Robert A. White, ASLA
Landscape Architects and Planners
Norwich, VT

April, 2002



HOW WE GOT HERE

Poultney Comes Together

Report and Action Plan, August 2019



Produced by the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development
In partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation



Priority Action Steps

1. Support existing businesses and organizations.
2. Improve mapping/marketing/promotion of Downtown assets and evenings.
3. Build streetscape improvements and focus on the arts to create a sense of place and attract residents. Utilize street art, poetry, public murals, and theater.
4. Create a Community Supported Enterprise (CSE) shop/gathering space such as a coffee shop.
5. Create physical space in the downtown to connect with the trail network users.
6. Create gathering spaces for events along Main Street.
7. Improve communications – promote the town on social media. Create a community calendar to better publicize events.
8. Provide financial incentives for Downtown Businesses such as rent forgiveness by the municipality, incentives to relocate downtown, or tax stabilization for downtown businesses.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Downtown Poultney

Overview

The Town to Trails project boundary uses Poultney's established Designated Downtown Boundary, and expands to encompass the D&H Rail Trail corridor and residential neighborhoods surrounding downtown.

This chapter examines the physical structure of Downtown Poultney, including its public streets, parking capacity, trail connections, gateway and outdoor recreation hub opportunities.

Designated Downtown Area

The designated downtown, illustrated in red at right is a state-designated area that provides historical tax credit benefits to property owners within the area, and opens opportunities to state grants, loans, and other opportunities to enhance the economy and vitality of this important area. [Learn more about the Poultney's benefits as a designated downtown from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.](#)

The project team chose to examine beyond the designated downtown as part of this study to ensure that major gateways, and the D&H Rail Trail were included within the designated downtown.

Land Use

The land use pattern of Poultney is centered on a historic commercial Main Street running east west, with the Green Mountain College campus acting as an anchor at the western edge of downtown. Surrounding the commercial core are several residential neighborhoods along Bentley, Church, and York streets.



Legend

- Residential Neighborhoods
- Designated Downtown Area
- Town to Trails Downtown Study Area
- D&H Rail Trail

DOWN TOWN

WHAT WE LEARNED

Downtown Streets

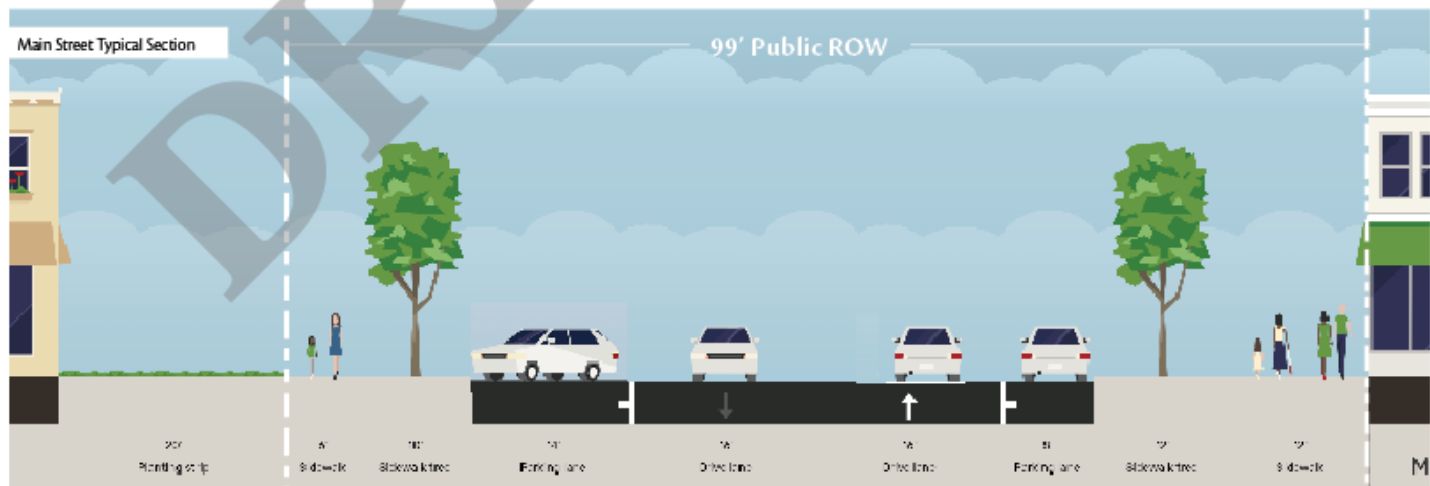
These pages detail the dimensions and layouts of key streets in the core downtown, specifically, Main, Church, and Bentley. Not every roadway is described in this segment to keep the focus on the major streets and opportunities downtown.

Main Street

Poultney's Main Street enjoys a broad, near 100 foot wide right of way. A pleasant pedestrian streetscape and mixture of historic and new shops line this right of way, with sidewalks along both sides of the street, and a broad mixture of uses fronting on either side. Hardware store, bicycle shop, hunting and fishing supply, or gas station, pub or pizza, Downtown Poultney has something for everyone.

However, car-centric uses such as gas stations erode the walkability of the area, by creating large unbroken areas of access between their sites and the road travel lanes.

Vehicles travel along wide lanes, nearly 16 feet in width. On street parking is free downtown. Parking stalls are arranged with parallel parking on the north side of the street, using 8 feet of space, and angled parking on the south, using 14 feet of space. A wide grassy strip of approximately 10-12 feet separates the sidewalk from the edge of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are primarily 6 foot wide through the whole of Main, with key commercial sections (north side of Main, west of Depot, and south side of Main, west of Maple) as wide as 12 feet. These wider sidewalk areas currently allow for accessible travel for many people in both directions but may also offer unique opportunities to explore outdoor cafe seating and other commercial / placemaking opportunities along the Main street streetscape in the future if desired.



DOWNTOWN POULTNEY

WHAT WE HEARD



Downtown is a magnet, a gathering place, and a great place to visit, live and work. From local residents to occasional visitors, nearly everyone agrees: what would make it even better is even more accessible and interesting things to do and places to eat, shop, play and hang out. Here's a high-level overview of what we heard.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Authentic small town.

Quiet pace and calm traffic. Friendly people and familiar faces. A real downtown and authentic Main Street. Beautiful streetscape and well-kept town.

Walkability & bikeability.

Great access to walkable, hikeable trails and gravel roads. Well-maintained sidewalks and parks.

Library, shops & eateries.

Amazing library. Appealing restaurants and unique shops. Schools, housing and amenities close to downtown.

Big potential.

Great "bones," creative and committed people. Strong potential to grow.

WISHES & NEEDS

More food, shops & services.

Increased number and variety of places to shop, eat, and spend time. Curated finds, specialty foods, and everyday goods.

Activities & hangout places.

Events, activities, diversions, gathering places, and options for people of all ages and interests. Free, family-friendly play spaces and rec facilities.

Accessibility, amenities & info.

Easier access to what's here. Accessible parking and sidewalks. Public bathrooms, water fountains, and seating. Clear signage and information.

Color, beauty & activation.

Bright flowers, public art, street life, visual interest, and activity.

IDEAS

Placemaking & amenities.

Benches, bike racks, art, play spaces, planters, trash cans, public restrooms, WiFi for locals, tourists and rec visitors.

Wayfinding & signage.

Signposts, info kiosks, directories and information on outdoor recreation and downtown offerings.

Accessibility & connections.

Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. Safe walk and bike routes to outlying villages, parks and trails.

Community building & curation.

Programs, projects, incentives and support to help businesses thrive, nurture new efforts, and fill gaps in offerings.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Poultney downtown's authentic small town feel is one of the top things that people love about the community. Downtown is already a hub, and most people love what they find here now: beautiful and well-maintained streetscapes and sidewalks; great places to walk, shop, eat, and spend time; and easy access to everything. Asking what people love is not just a feel-good question—the key themes we heard (below) help identify top things that Poultney can market and promote to draw more investment, visitors and residents. They also help identify critical assets and values that can be lost without care and attention; Poultney should work to strengthen, expand on and protect these beloved assets.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT DOWNTOWN POULTNEY?

- **Cultural assets and activities.** Poultney Public Library, Stone Valley Arts, churches, schools, historical society, special events.
- **Shops & eateries.** Variety of practical and unique services and amenities for diverse tastes (locals and visitors):
 - Restaurants (Taps Tavern, Perry's Main Street Eatery, Toad's Burgers)
 - Convenience stores, hardware store and everyday goods
 - Specialty stores (Mart's Sporting Goods, Analog Cycles, Hermit Hill Books)
- **Access to outdoors.** Downtown access to Rail Trail and other village trails; Slate Quarry Park, town office lawn, former GMC campus; easy access to walking, hiking and more.
- **Small town character and community.** Friendly and creative people, familiar faces, slow pace. Authentic Main Street character with historic buildings, well-kept streets and
- **Walkability/bikeability and convenience.** Well-maintained sidewalk network and connections, safe roads for biking, free parking and minimal traffic.



WHAT KEY STAKEHOLDERS WANT IN DOWNTOWN POULTNEY

KIDS & FAMILIES. Playground and sports/rec facilities (pool, splash pad, rink). Free, family-friendly activities. Welcoming parks and public spaces for kids and adults. Color, art, flowers, games, and activation of parks and streetscapes. Safer streets for biking and walking. Public bathrooms, trash cans, benches, and outdoor seating.

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS. Hangout spaces and gathering places to meet, study, work, and visit. Fast and affordable food options. Things to do after school, evenings, and in winter. More fitness and sports facilities, fields, and programs.

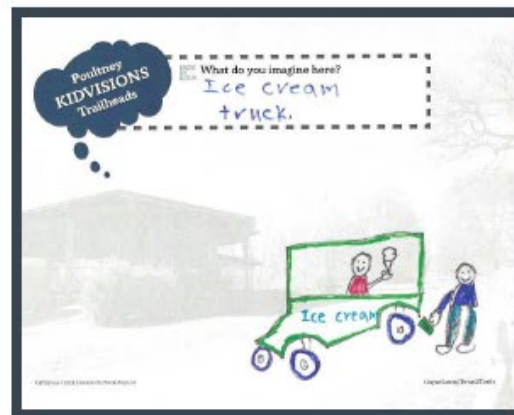
OLDER ADULTS. Accessibility improvements, including benches, designated ADA parking near the library and stores. Better etiquette and safety from bikes on trails and roads. Bank, pharmacy, and places to buy basic goods. Retention of small town character, traditions, and close community.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES. Off-street parking for staff and trail users. Business signage, directories and information (on the Rail Trail, at trailheads, at outdoor rec events, and in other formats/media). Downtown beautification, plantings, art, events, and activities. Inclusive outreach and communication from town and village officials, committees, and leaders. Targeted economic development to encourage downtown retail and restaurants.

TRAIL AND RECREATION USERS. Amenities like bathrooms, bike racks, repair station, phone charging, maps and info, showers, parking, gear rentals. More eating and shopping options catering to outdoor rec interests. Improved trailhead connections, routes, and visibility.



Above:
East Poultney Green.
*A piñata tree with
swings, a dog dish,
and fireworks.*



Right: D&H trailhead.
Ice cream truck.



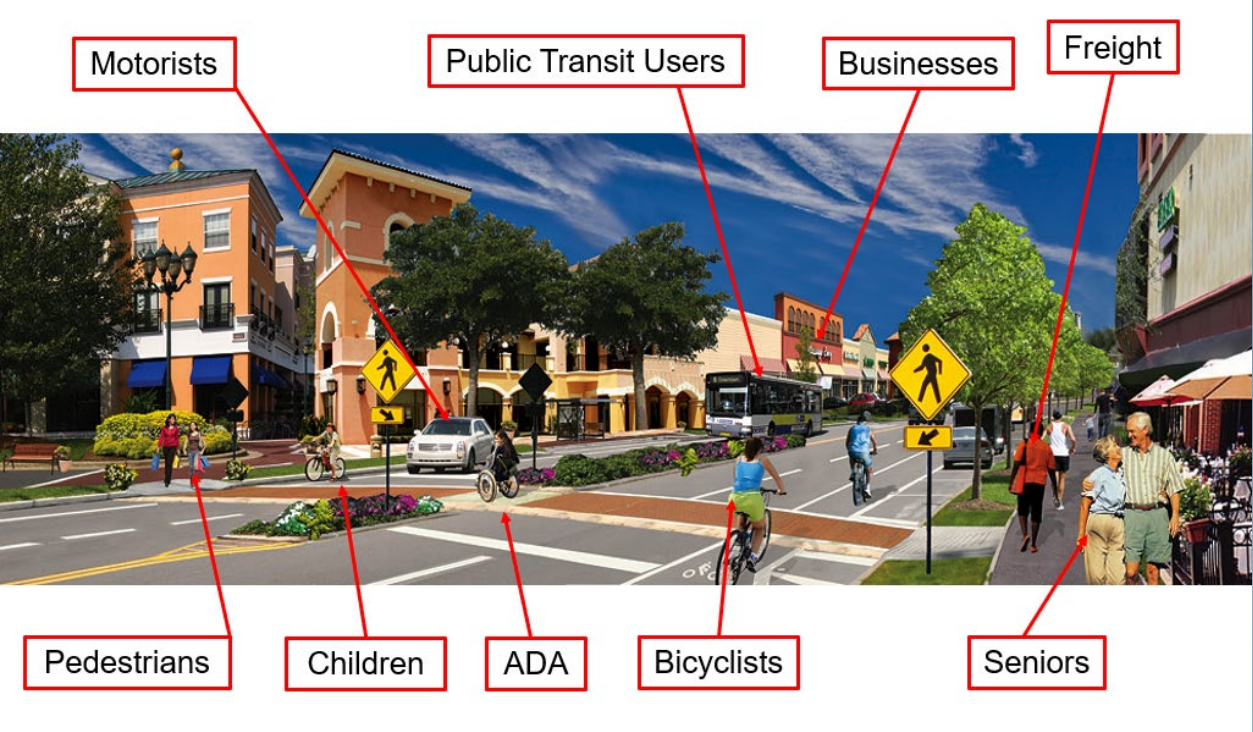
Left: Main Street.
*A colorful crosswalk
painted by kids, a slide,
a bench with shade tree,
and water fountain.*

KIDVISIONS

What do kids imagine for village streets and public spaces? Many of the same things as adults—with a little more creativity. Here are three visions from young residents.

COMPLETE STREETS

During the 2011 legislative session, the Complete Streets Bill (Act 34) was passed to "ensure that the needs of all users of Vermont's transportation system - including motorists, bicyclists, public transportation users, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities - are considered in all state and municipally managed transportation projects and project phases."



COMPLETE STREETS

2022 PROJECTS THAT INCORPORATED COMPLETE STREETS PRACTICES

Project Name	Project Number	Project Location	COMPLETE STREETS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES INCORPORATED IN PROJECTS									
			Sidewalks	Crosswalks	Lighting	Signals	Streetscaping	Pavement Improvements	Shoulder Improvements	Bike, Shared Use	Public Transit	Other
Municipal Assistance												
Brandon	STP MM18(5)	VT 73 Park Street	x	x				x	x			
Burlington	MEGC 5000(1)	Champlain Parkway	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Essex Junction	STP 5300(13)	Crescent Connector – Phase 2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
Hardwick	ST BP21(3)	Church Street	x									
Milton	ST BP22(5)	TH 49 Bombardier Road	x									
Poultney	ST BP19(27)	Furnace Street	x									
Rutland City	ST BP22(7)	TH 7 Pierpoint Avenue, Crescent Road	x	x								
South Burlington	STP SGNL(53)	Dorset Street, US 2		x	x	x						
Stowe	ST BP21(8)	VT 108 at Stowe Barnes Camp	x	x		x						
Williston	CMG PARK(29)	VT 2A	x		x			x			x	x



Brandon

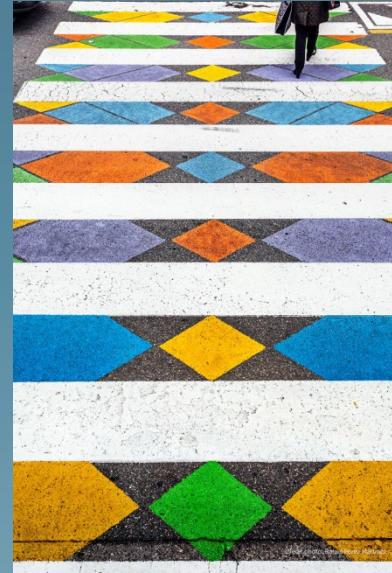


Essex Junction



St. Johnsbury

COMPLETE STREETScAPE



LETS TAKE A WALK!



Appendix E: Big Ideas Posters: Poultney Comes Together Again Open House



Prioritizing Big Ideas

The Poultney Town to Trails Study contains recommendations to make Poultney's core village streets, town gateways, and recreation elements safer, more comfortable, more enjoyable, and more economically successful. But like any project of this scale, there are not the resources (funding & people) to tackle it all at once. **VOTE WITH YOUR POULTNEY BUCKS!**

We want to use this plan to illustrate public priorities, so please take a tour around these streets, connections, and other big ideas tonight and let us know which are your top priorities for future community investment and which specific elements should be included.

HELP US PRIORITIZE! SPEND YOUR POULTNEY BUCKS!

Tour the room tonight and take your voting dollars with you. Which of these recommendations do you feel are the most important to prioritize in coming years? Use your **POULTNEY BUCKS** wisely, spend them all on one project, or spread them among your favorite few. It's all up to you--

PLEASE SPEND YOUR POULTNEY BUCKS IN THE BUCKETS AS YOU LEAVE!

VOTE!

Routes to Town

Gateways

Main Street & Side Streets

Outdoor Recreation Hub

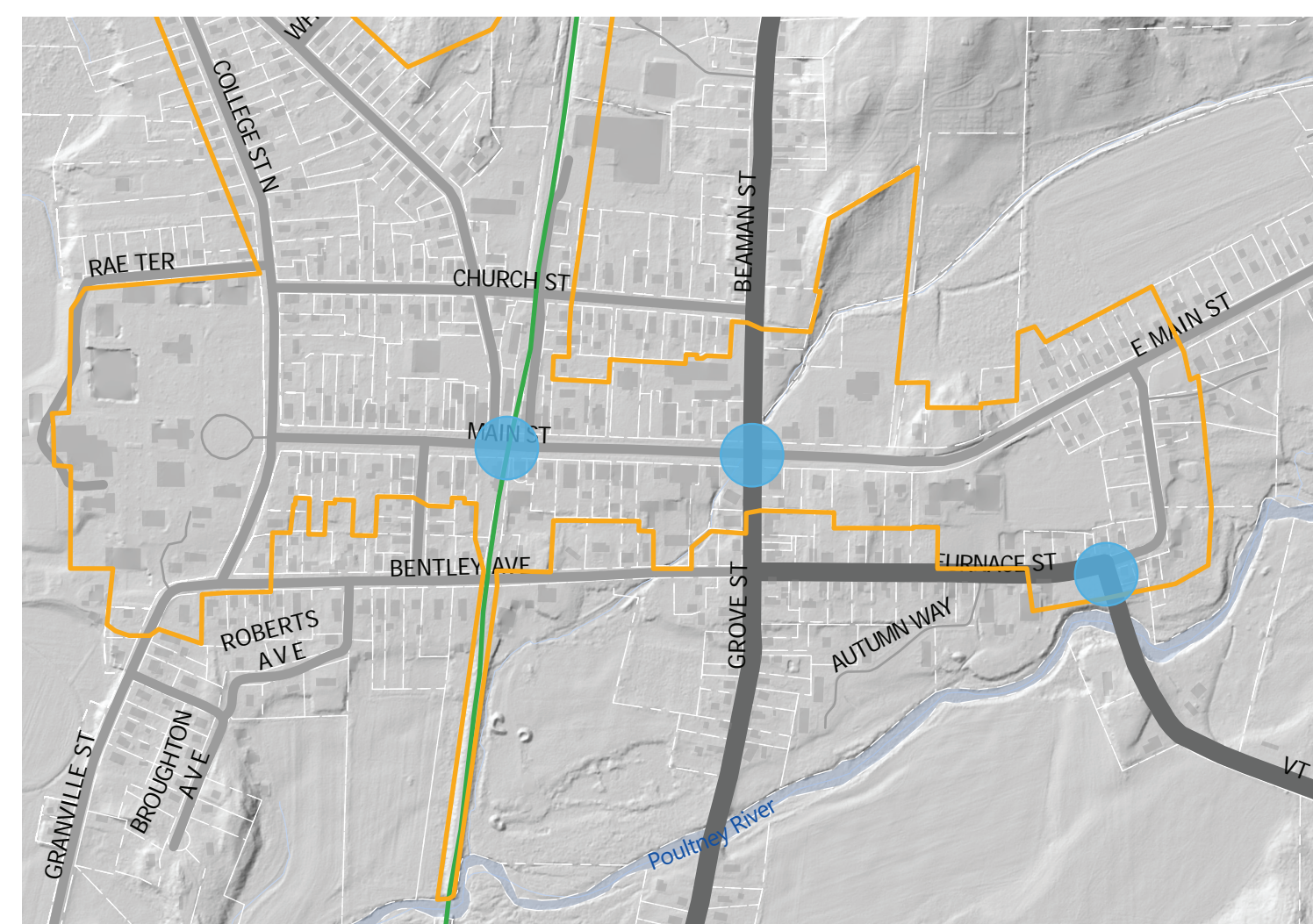


To safely link the network of trails throughout Poultney to downtown there needs to be safe routes.

This plan recommends upgrades to several key locations along Poultney's roads to improve safety for cyclists.

WHAT'S UNDERWAY

- Town is strengthening its relationship with Granville, NY (connected to Poultney via the D&H Rail Trail) with support from EPA RERC Program.
- Relationships and agreements between Slate Valley Trails and key landowners have been made in an effort to connect the rail trail south of town with Thrall Road.
- Thrall Road bridge is set to re-open no later than September 2023.



A key direction from the EPA's Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) planning process was for projects that create a sense of "arrival" to the Village.

Three gateways are demonstrated in this plan to address placemaking concerns and desires.

WHAT'S UNDERWAY

- New Slate Valley Trails Fairgrounds Trailhead wayfinding signs going up Summer 2023
- Programming/use of Young at Heart Senior Center outdoor pavilion and walking track in development



Improvements to streets can calm traffic, increase bike and pedestrian safety, and clarify access for cars.

The plan includes a new, more accessible downtown streetscape, traffic calming throughout the village, and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and intersections.

WHAT'S UNDERWAY

- The Downtown Mural Project is nearing its fundraising goal and will be installed Summer 2023
- Banner Project awaiting grant funding to turn Main Street into a walkable timeline of Poultney's history
- New street trees installed June 2023
- Grant for installing benches and trail kiosk.



The development of an Outdoor Recreation Hub is a key recommendation of the RERC report.

This report reviews existing recreation opportunities within Poultney, examples of other rec hubs, and options for a trails-focused or a multi-user rec hub.

WHAT'S UNDERWAY

- PoultneyRecreation.com is being more fully utilized, with content for Poultney Rec Summer Program.
- Porcupine Bikes set to open on Main Street in June.
- Town is partnering with the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance (VOBA) on workforce development and technical assistance for outdoor recreation businesses.

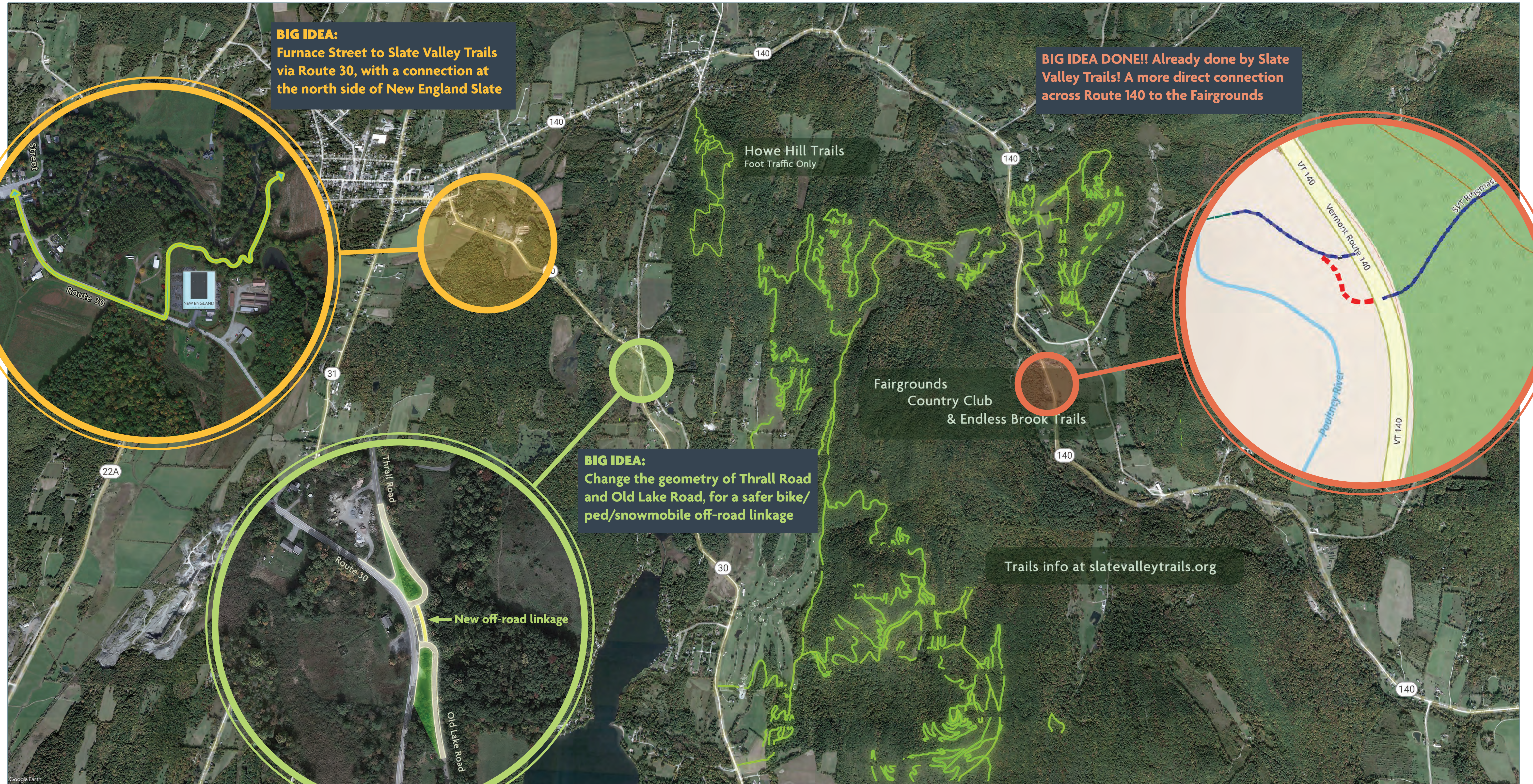
Routes to Town



SVT is a chapter of the Vermont Mountain Biking Association (VMBA). Volunteers, membership dues and donations make these and other trails in the area possible. Please join or make a donation to Slate Valley Trails (SVT) if you appreciate these trails! Get more info and become a member at SlateValleyTrails.org.



BIG IDEAS for connections along Routes 30 & 140, at the Fairgrounds and to and from Slate Valley Trails

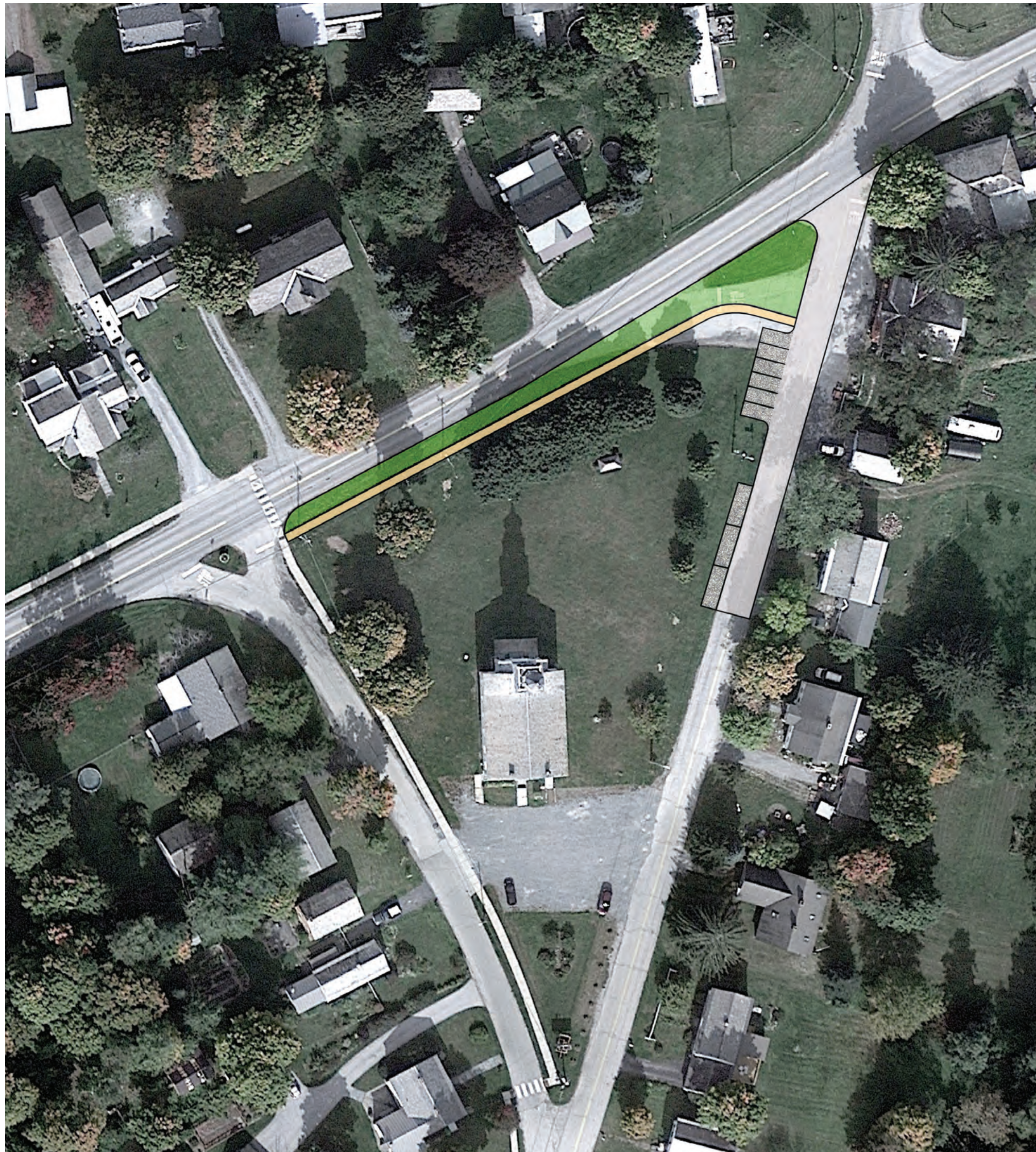


East Poultney Green

A BIG IDEA is to consider concepts for improved circulation and parking at East Poultney Green. Here are 3 sketches to add parking and improve motor vehicle/pedestrian safety



1



Big Idea #1 - Lowest Cost Option

1. Remove separate turn "slip" lane, keep remaining road geometry
2. Add 6 perpendicular and 3 parallel gravel parking spaces
3. Add sidewalk along north side of green (the same for all 3 ideas)

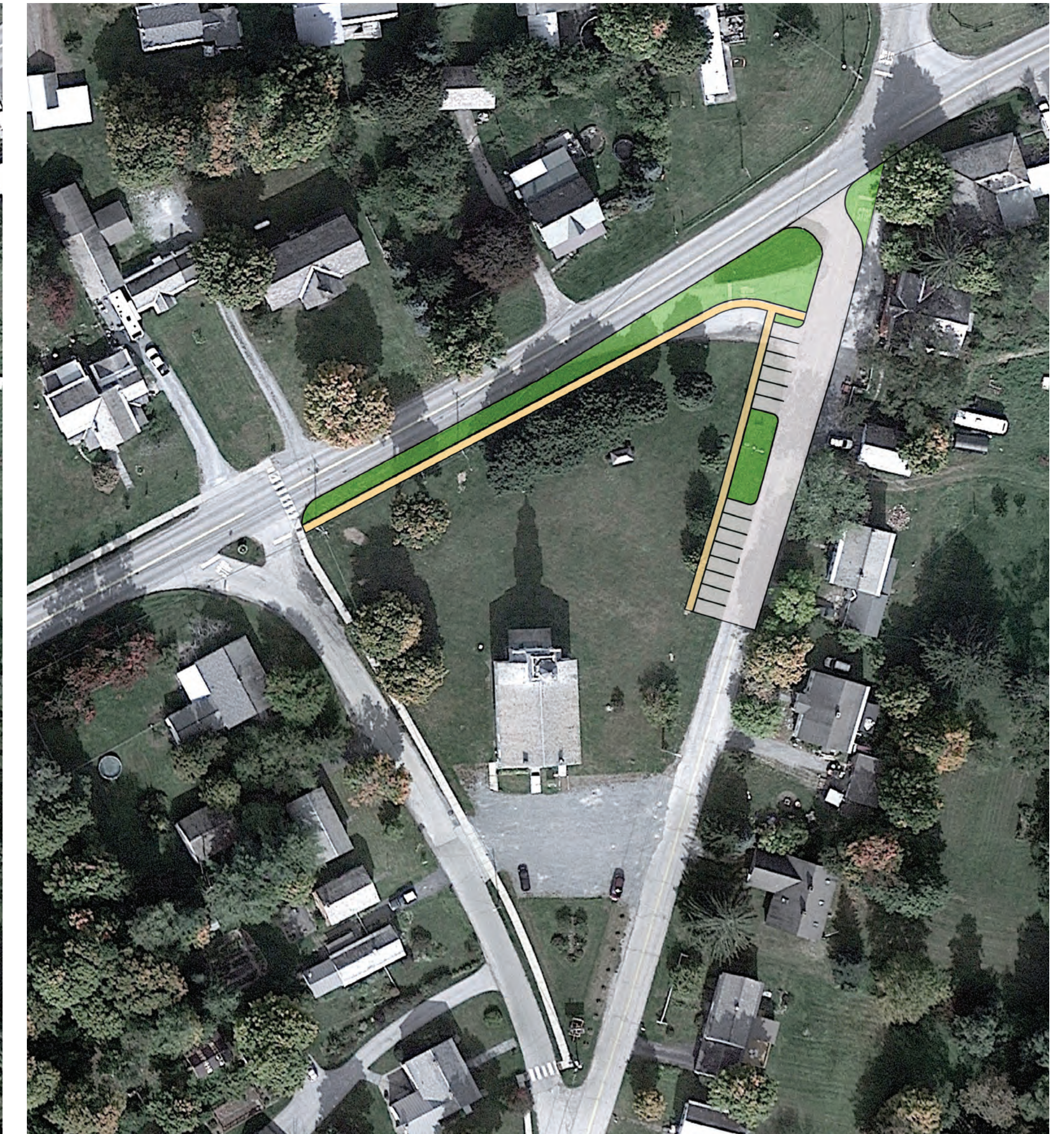
2



Big Idea #2 - Most Flexible Option

1. Remove "slip" lane, create separate turn lanes for east/west & straight
2. Add 6 perpendicular and 6 parallel paved or gravel parking spaces
3. Add sidewalk along north side of green (the same for all 3 ideas)

3



Big Idea #3 - Biggest Change

1. Remove "slip" lane, change On The Green to meet Rt140 at 90 degrees
2. Add 14 perpendicular paved or gravel parking spaces
3. Add sidewalk along north side of green (the same for all 3 ideas)

Gateways

Southern Gateway Idea (Furnace St at Rt 30)



Ideas:

1. Replace chain link fence with attractive screening wall or fence, style to be discussed by Poultney
2. Enhance landscaping along wall or fence
3. Add slate monument welcome sign, or other design to be determined by Poultney
4. Ensure all elements are consistent with VTrans regulations

Central Gateway Idea (Beaman St/Rt 30 at Main St/Rt 140)



Ideas:

1. Change surface material at intersection consistent with VTrans regulations
2. Replace wire-strung traffic signal heads with decorative metal pole/arm mounted signal heads
3. Install "railroad tracks" crosswalks. This style appears to be consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which VTrans uses to confirm suitability of crosswalk designs.
4. Install a sidewalk along the west side of Route 30
5. If the northwest (image right) property is redeveloped, consider a cafe + recreation hub

Main Street

Safe and Vibrant Village - Building a "Complete Street"

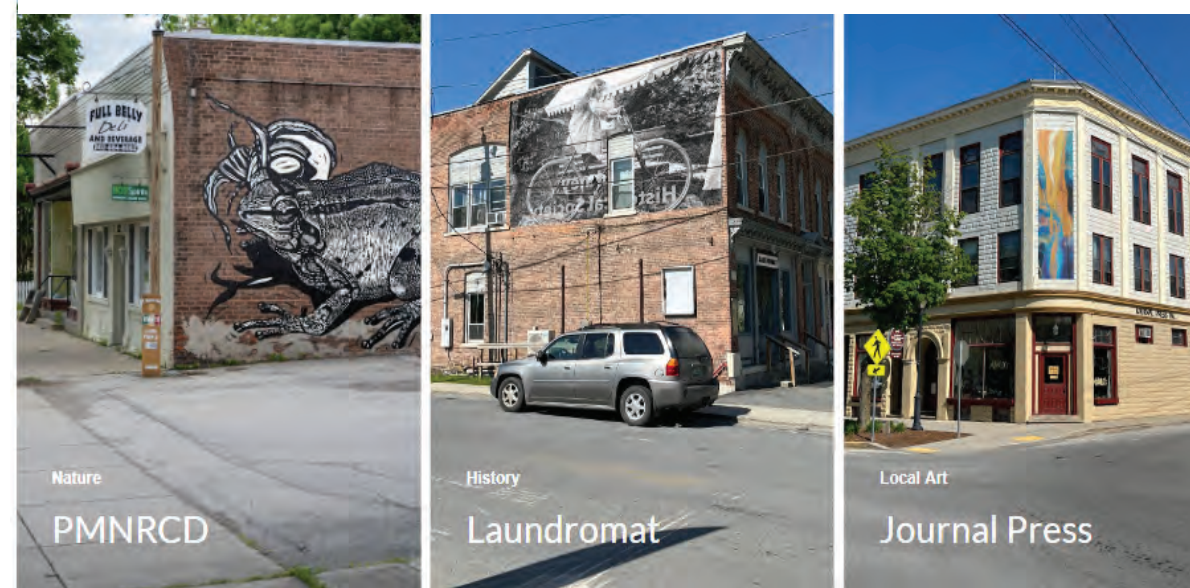
An accessible, multi-modal street network is envisioned as the future of Poultney's Downtown. Using Complete Streets guidance of sidewalk corridors on either side of the street, and facilities for safe bicycle connections, along with amply parking and loading areas to service businesses, the intent is to work together to make a safer, more vibrant, and more inclusive Poultney Village.



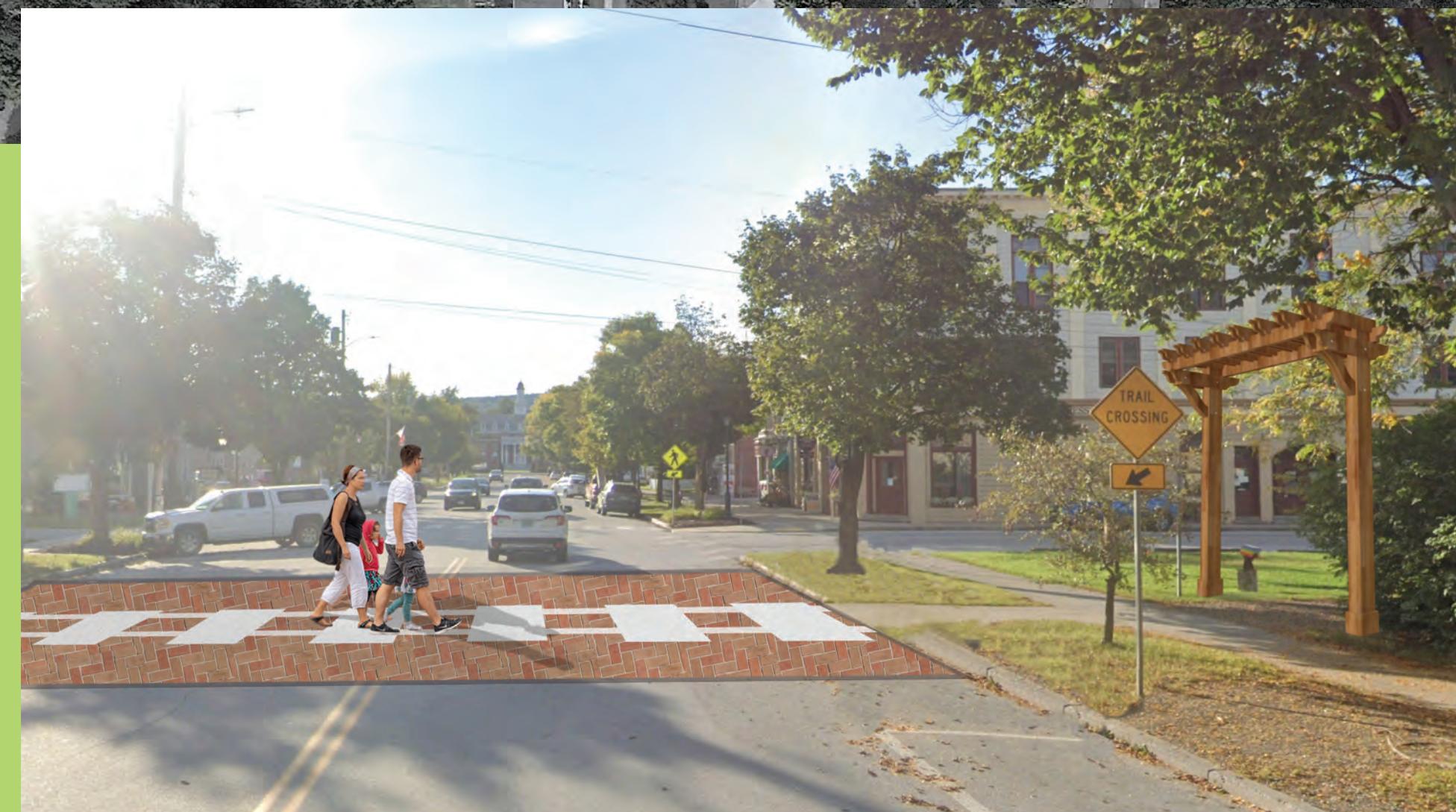
"Railroad Tracks" crosswalk



3 Mural ideas from Downtown Mural Initiative (not final art)



Rain garden bumpouts



At the D&H Rail Trail crossing:

- + Stamped colored asphalt road surface color change, consistent with VTrans regulations
- + "Railroad tracks" crosswalk, consistent with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- + 2-post pergola across the trail..



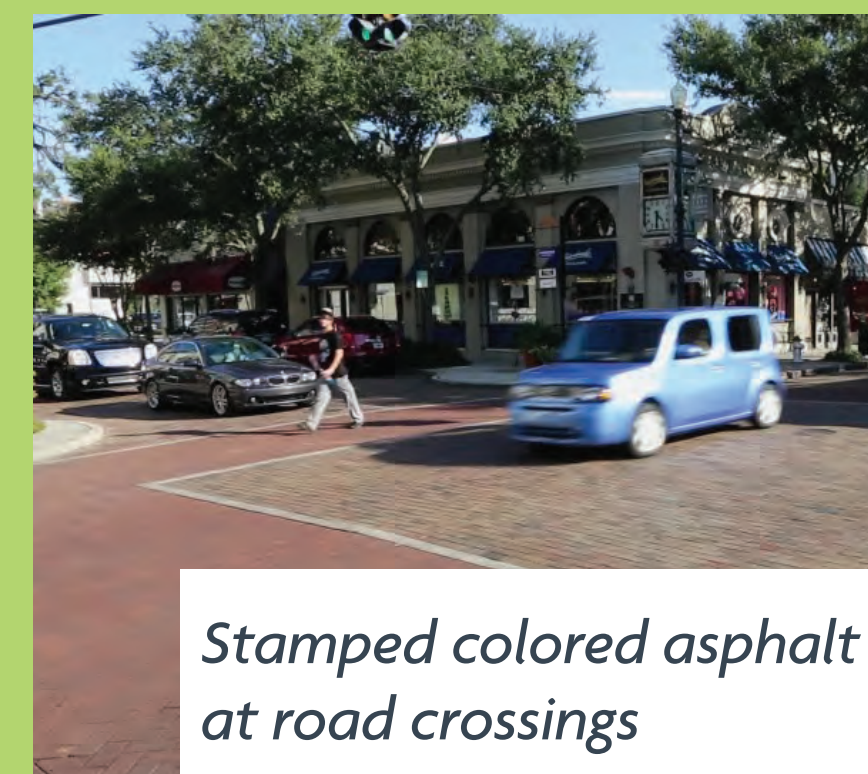
Information kiosk



Rain garden bed



Arbor or pergola at D&H Trail



Stamped colored asphalt at road crossings



"Sharrow" shared road marking



Decorative metal signal poles

Around Main

Safe and Vibrant Village

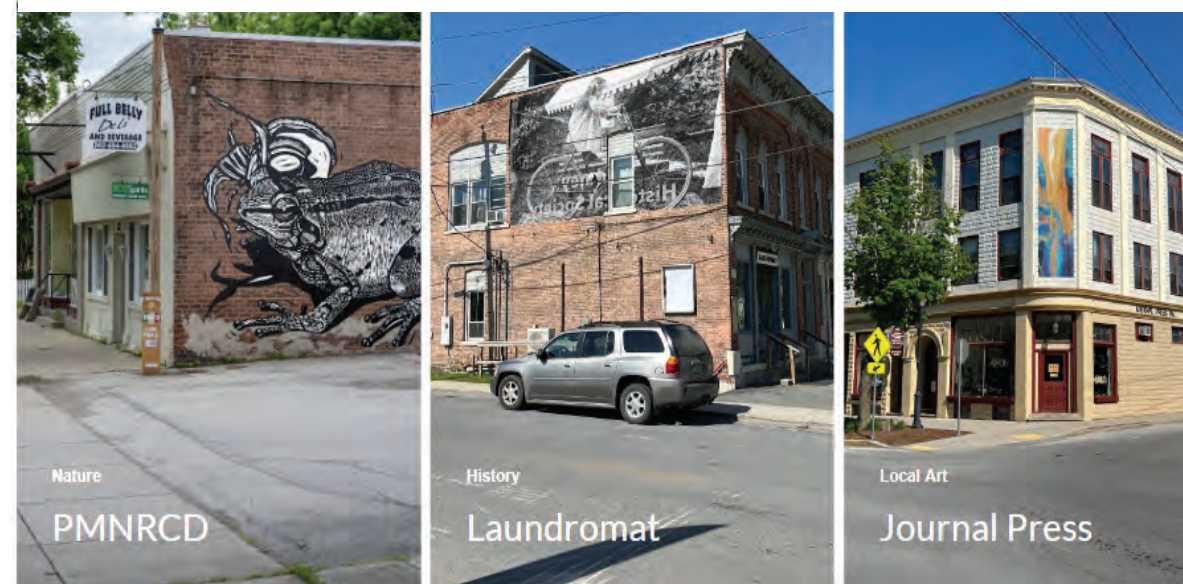
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"Railroad Tracks" crosswalk

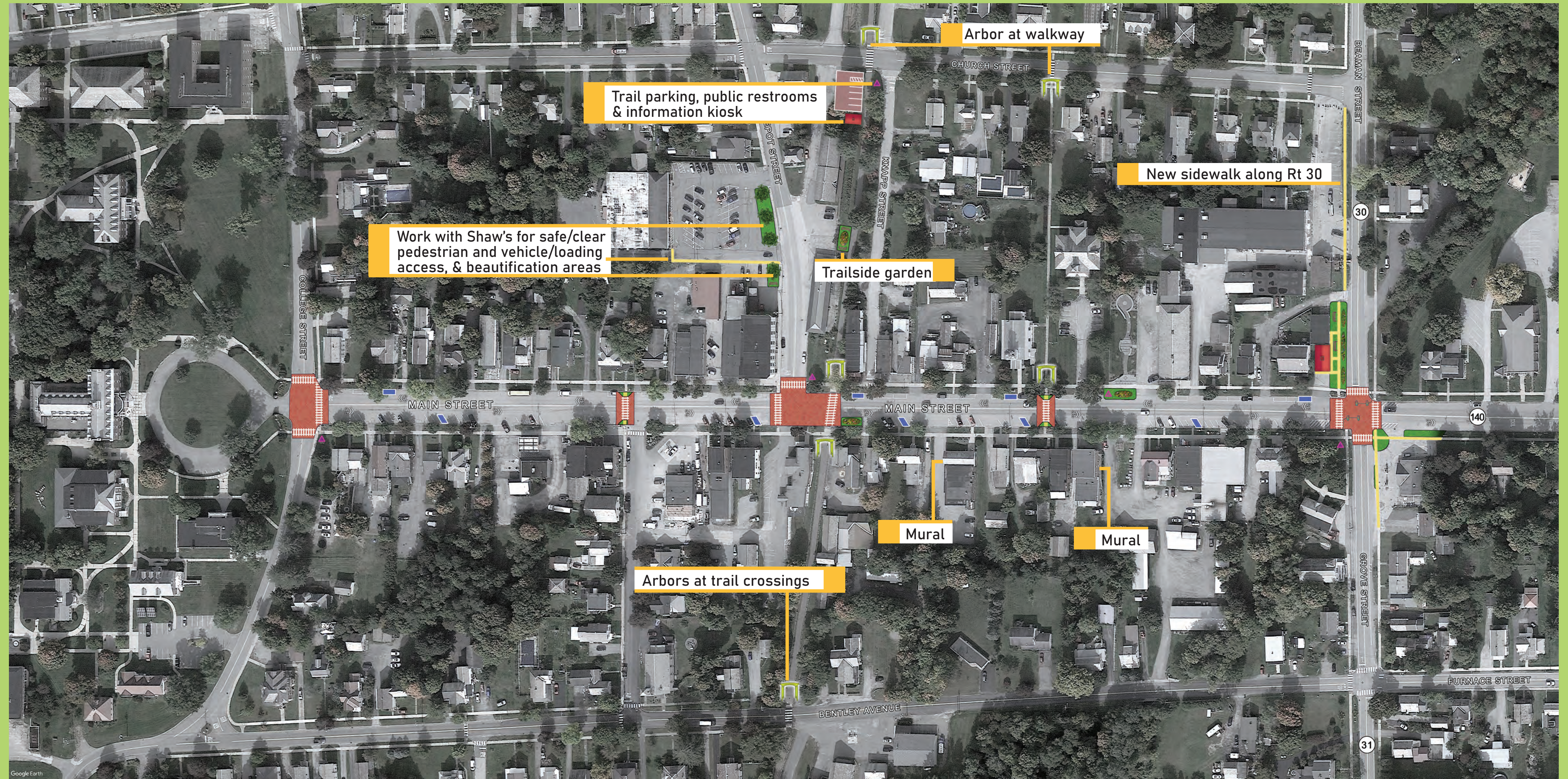
3 Mural ideas from Downtown Mural Initiative (not final art)



Nature PMNRCD History Laundromat Local Art Journal Press



Rain garden bumpouts



Arbor at walkway

Trail parking, public restrooms & information kiosk

New sidewalk along Rt 30

Work with Shaw's for safe/clear pedestrian and vehicle/loading access, & beautification areas

Trailside garden

Mural

Mural

Arbors at trail crossings



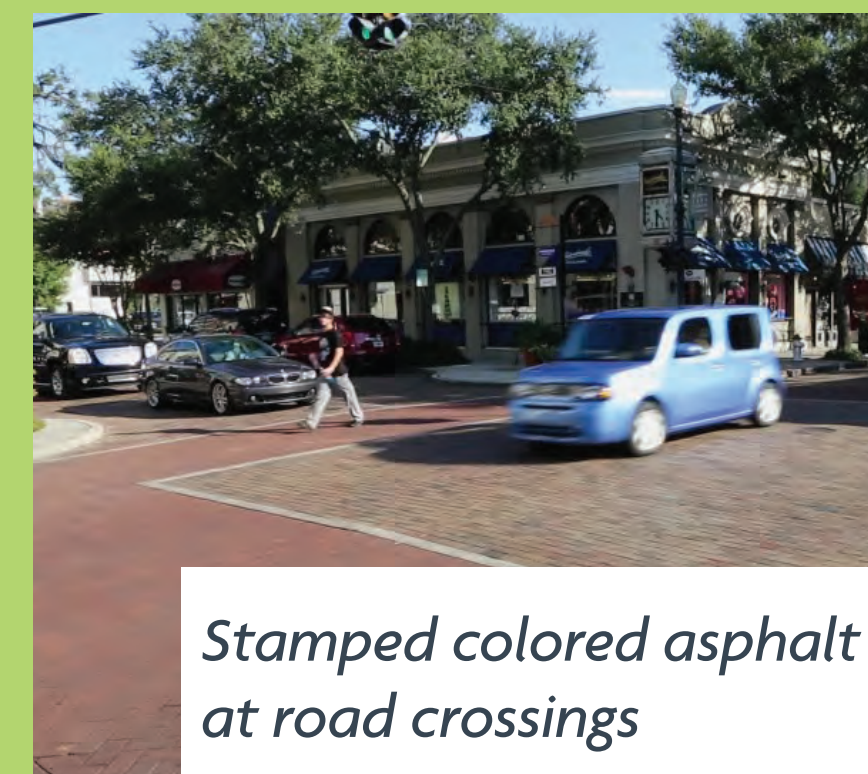
Information kiosk



Rain garden bed



Arbor or pergola at D&H Trail



Stamped colored asphalt at road crossings



"Sharrow" shared road marking



Decorative metal signal poles

Outdoor Rec Hub

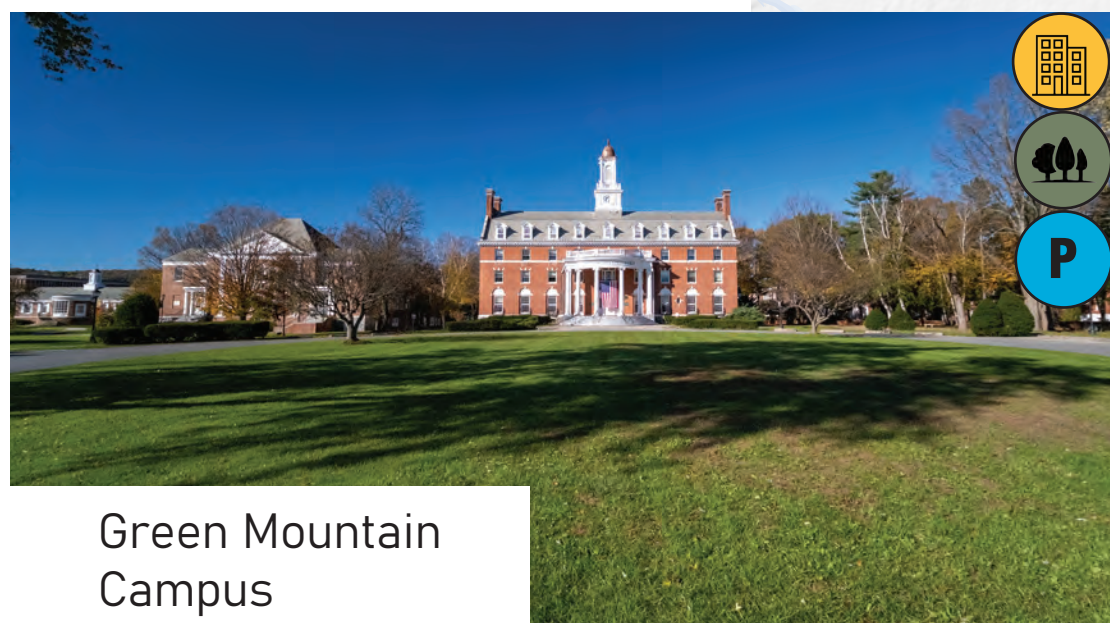
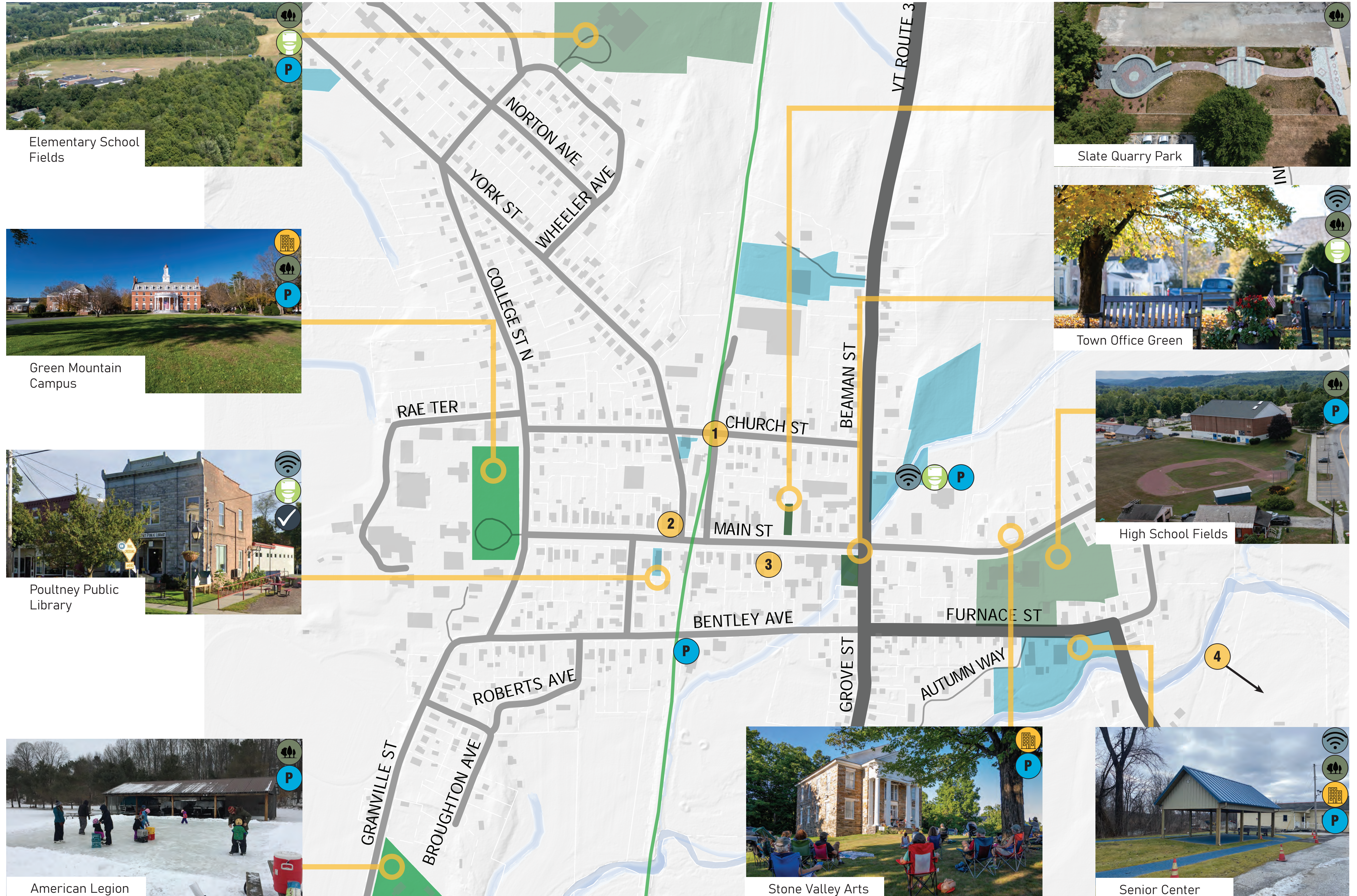
While there are many wishes around an outdoor recreation hub for Poultney, it's important to recognize the existing recreation opportunities in and around the Town. Some of these are publicly accessible and some are privately owned and maintained with limited or restricted public access. These are not all current options! Based on your feedback, next steps would be to explore property owner interest, feasibility of construction, and explore these concepts in greater detail based on each unique site.

Existing Resources

Downtown Poultney's Parks and open spaces are community resources for gathering, recreation, and events. These spaces should be considered in conjunction with an Outdoor Recreation Hub for their potential to offer outdoor recreation programming, info and equipment, and potentially act as linkages for any future trail network planned to connect to Town. Resources include the following:

- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Ball Fields
- Public Art
- Walking Track
- Outdoor Pavilion
- Trail Information
- Bike Racks
- Gear Rentals
- Gear Purchases
- Community Gardens
- Ice Rink
- Swimming Pool

- Off-Street Parking
- Outdoor Recreation Elements
- Indoor Recreation Elements
- Publicly Accessible Restrooms
- Public WiFi
- Rental Equipment
- Informational Signage
- Analog Cycles
- Mart's Sporting Goods
- Lake St. Catherine



Outdoor Rec Hub

Successful outdoor recreation hubs in Vermont communities share several traits that seem crucial to their success including available parking, visibility, current use, proximity to compatible businesses, and trail/recreation adjacency. Below are three examples of outdoor rec hubs in Vermont and New Hampshire that are each focused on a slightly different facet of recreation.

The Gear House & Ridgeline Outdoor Collective Trail Hub, Randolph VT

The Gear House and The Ridgeline Outdoor Collective's Trail Hub were established in 2020 in downtown Randolph. The Gear House provides sales of new and used bike and outdoor gear as well as bike repair and ski and snowboard maintenance. The trail hub provides regional trail information for bike trails and backcountry skiing with 3D and 2D maps of the trails in Randolph, Rochester, Pittsfield, and beyond. A 9,400 sf Town-owned parking lot provides both parking for customers and a staging point for group rides, trail work days, and events. The location is within a mile of three trail networks. Outdoor seating, a bike testing park, and a wash station are provided.



Ascutney Outdoors Trails and Outdoor Center, West Windsor, VT

The non-profit Ascutney Outdoors was formed in 2015 in response to the Town of West Windsor's purchase of Ascutney Mountain and became the operator of the ski area and maintains the Outdoor Center. In addition to skiing and tubing, the Center, along with Ascutney Trail, maintains a robust network of mountain biking and hiking trails, including a trail to West Windsor. It also provides a large parking area (which can also be used for Town events), event and rental space, restrooms, kitchen, outdoor patio space, maps and information, a bike wash station, and hosts events such as outdoor theater and bike and foot races.



Northeast Mountaineering and Bunkhouse, Glen, NH

Northeast Mountaineering specializes in guided mountain adventures including mountaineering, hiking, ice climbing, rock climbing, rappelling, backcountry skiing, and avalanche education for people of all ages and experience. Their headquarters and bunkhouse provide maps and information, gear rental, a community bunkroom, showers, washer/dryer, mini-kitchen, community living room, fireplace, and parking. The building is for bunkhouse reservations and guided adventure participants only; it is not open to the general public, however, bunkhouse reservations can be made without an accompanying guided adventure.



Outdoor Rec Hub

Where should a recreation hub be located? Close to downtown? Farther away? Available Parking, Visibility, Current Use, Business Adjacency, Trail Adjacency, and Ownership are important elements to evaluate when choosing a site. Some sites listed may ultimately not be feasible.

Add a sticker to the site you'd most like to see developed as an Outdoor Rec Hub.

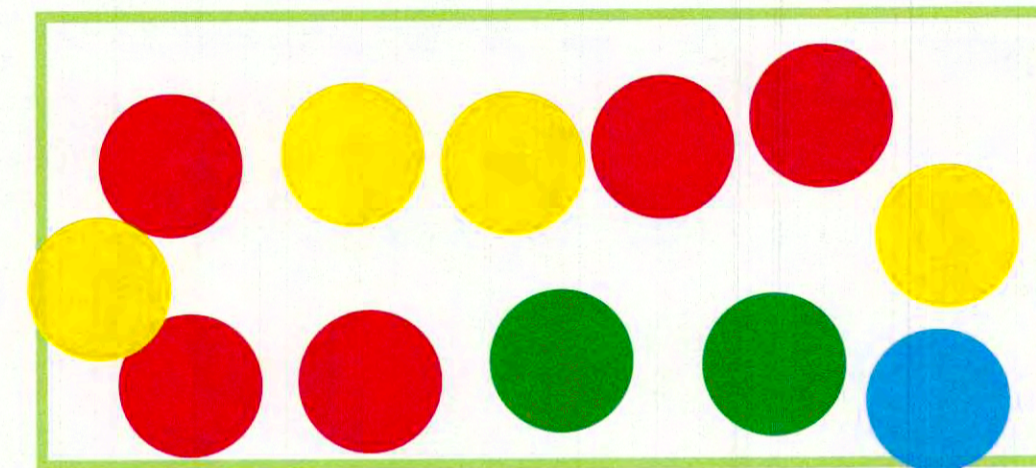
Possible Locations

When considering attributes that could result in a transformative outdoor recreation hub, five sites in Downtown Poultney rise to the top. These sites each offer unique opportunities for their redevelopment to become a destination and starting point for visitors coming to Poultney for outdoor recreation.

1 206 Furnace St.

The Young at Heart Senior Center is located on a 4 acre publicly owned parcel. It also houses a public works facility that must continue to operate but could be re-configured to create additional space for outdoor rec hub use, or potentially relocated.

PUT YOUR STICKERS IN THE BOXES BELOW!



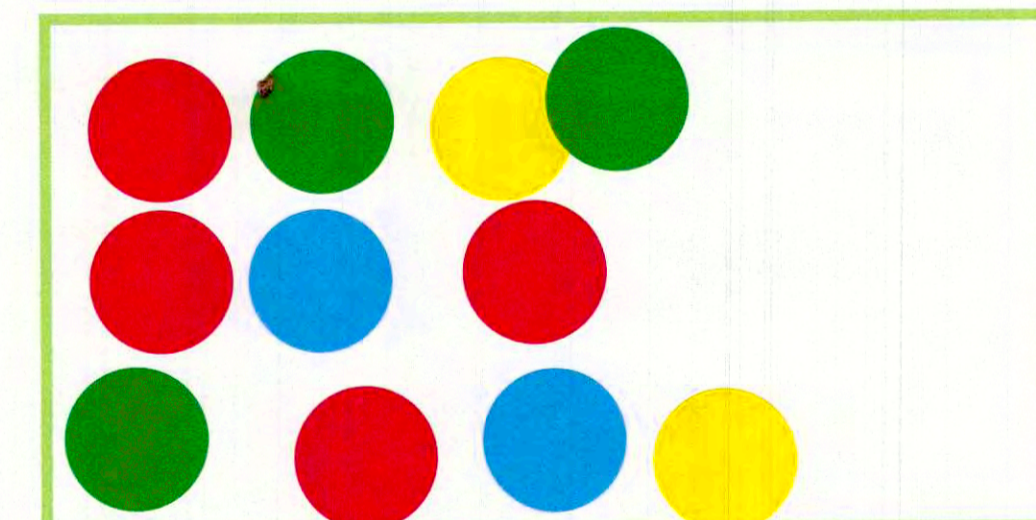
2 201 Main St.

This is a 0.28 acre commercial lot behind the Poultney Public Library. It does not have direct street frontage but is accessed from Main St. and Maple St. through adjacent lots and is within mere feet of Main St. businesses and the Rail Trail.



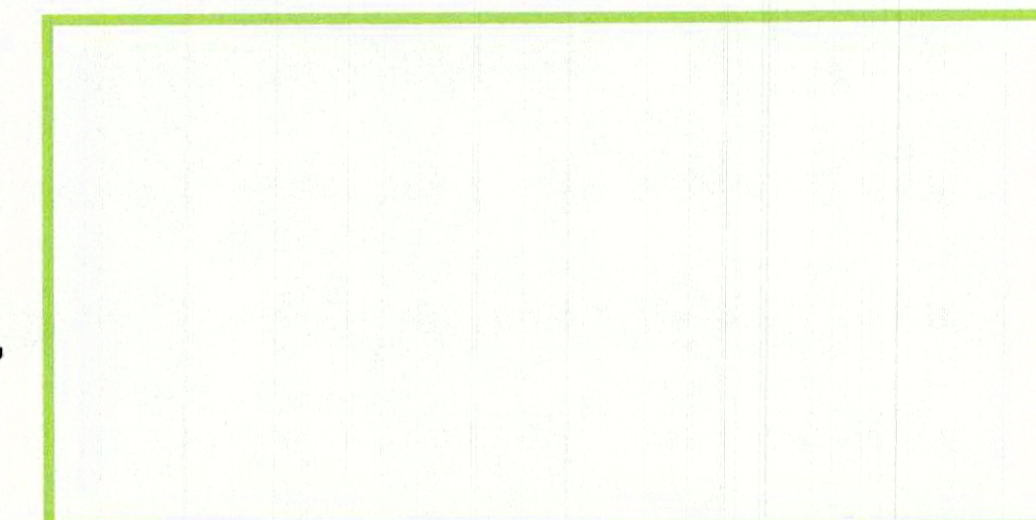
3 GMC Campus

While no formal discussion has occurred thus far on the potential of the GMC campus hosting a future hub, the site has many attributes that may make it a viable location and that potential warrants further discussion as a part of the planned redevelopment process.



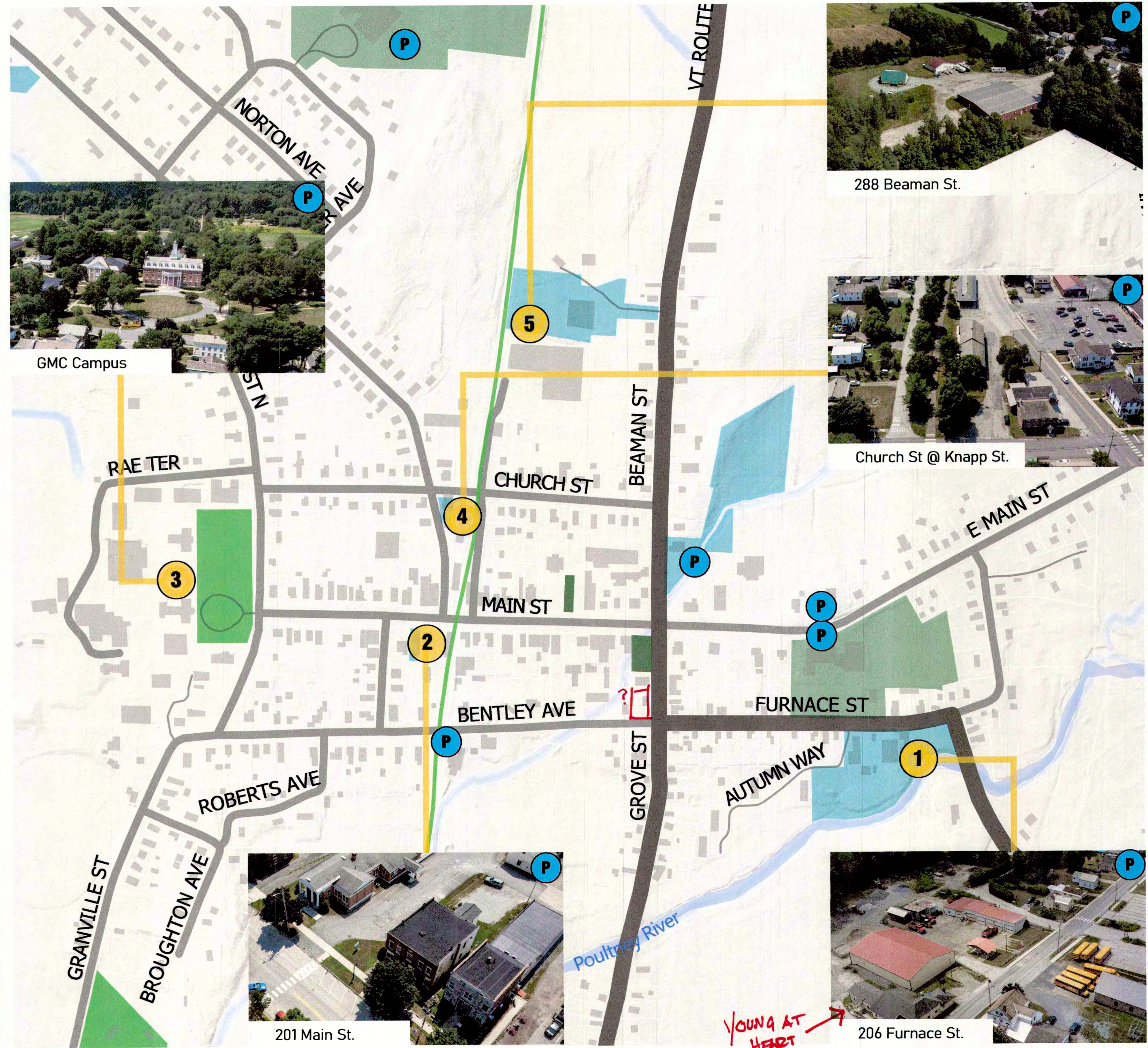
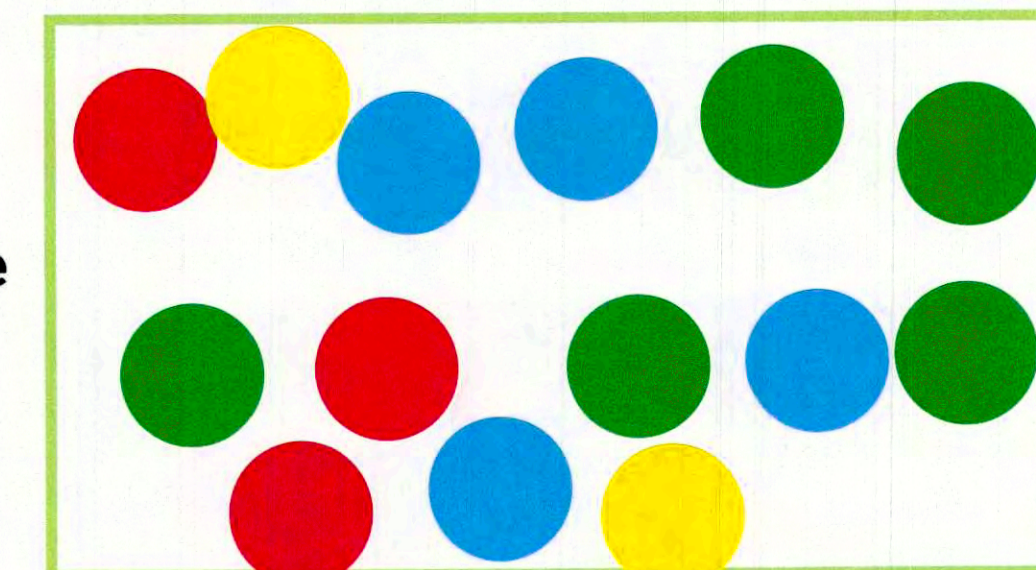
4 Church Street at Knapp Street

This parcel is currently State-owned and part of the Rail Trail corridor as well as directly east of the Village Office. While any reuse of this 0.2 acre parcel will require compact, thoughtful design, its central location, public ownership, and adjacencies make it a viable option.



5 288 Beaman Street

The parcel north of First Light Technologies is owned by the Town of Poultney and contains the fire station and a gravel parking lot. There is a large unused space that could house a number of different elements. While not visible from or directly adjacent to Main Street, it is 1/4 mile via the Rail Trail and provides a great deal of space.



YOUNG AT HEART →

Outdoor Rec Hub

Trail User Focused Hub

There are all types of possibilities for an Outdoor Recreation Hub in Poultney and a variety of users it could service. This alternative explores a focus on trail users, particularly cyclists.

**This photo-simulation represents an example of how the Hub could look and is not intended to mimic any particular building or location within Poultney.

Key desired elements include:

- Bathrooms
- Water fountains
- Showers
- Area maps and information - large scale and pocket maps
- Parking - day and overnight use
- Bike racks
- Bike tools
- Solar phone charges
- EV bike and vehicle chargers
- Secure bike lockers

Other desires for the Hub include:

- Biking distance of trailheads
- Walking distance of Main Street and restaurants
- Potential for shared parking with other Town resources

The Hub can also act a central repository, where people can obtain information for other events and information in the Town and surrounding areas.



Outdoor Rec Hub

Multi-User Focused Hub

An Outdoor Recreation Hub can be for many people and activities. It can include elements for visitors, locals, children, adults, individuals, and groups. This alternative considers what a Hub that open to all could include.

**This photo-simulation represents an example of how the Hub could look and is not intended to mimic any particular building or location within Poultney.

Key desired elements include:

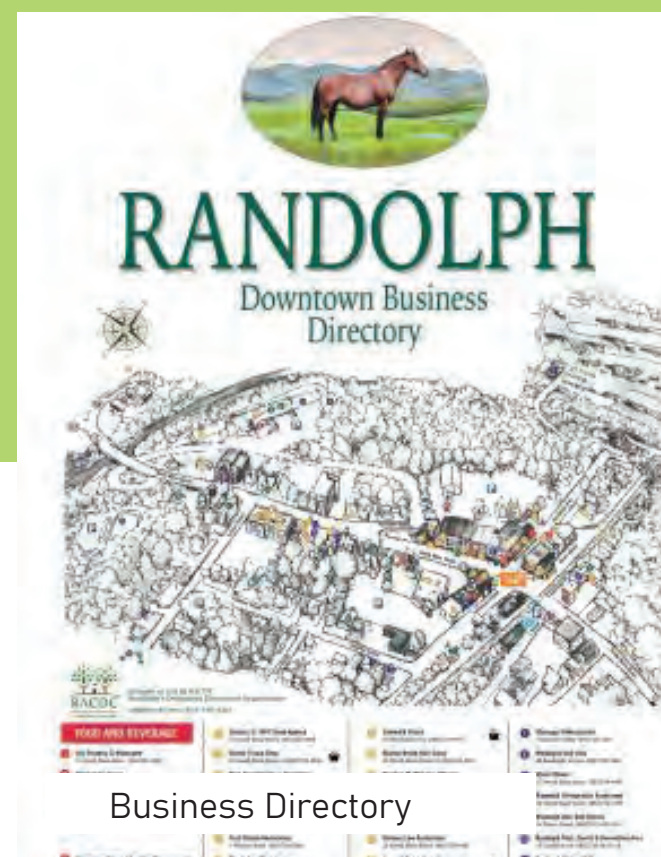
- Bathrooms
- Water fountains
- WiFi
- Area maps and information - large scale and pocket maps
- Parking - day and overnight use
- Bike racks, tools, and secure lockers
- Solar phone charges
- EV bike and vehicle chargers
- Benches and picnic tables
- Fire Pit
- Play elements
- Outdoor pavilion
- Outdoor power access
- Rental equipment

Other desires for the Hub include:

- Space for food trucks or vendors
- Public art and space for local arts and crafts pop-up events
- Business and service directory
- Meet-up point for specific groups and activities
- Community garden
- Pump track and/or skate park
- Indoor and outdoor events



Community Gardens



Business Directory



Food Trucks



Group Ride Meet-up



Information Kiosk

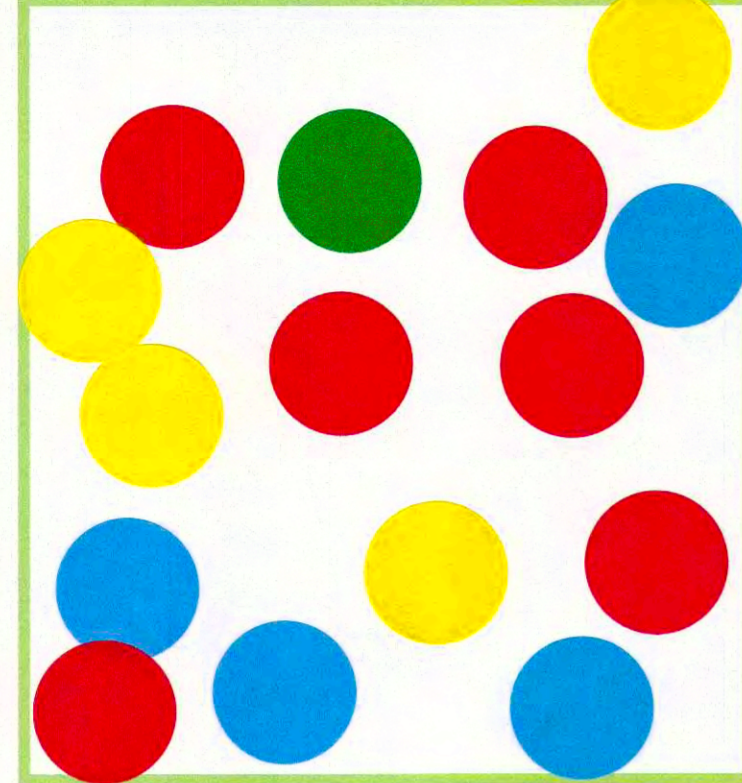
Outdoor Rec Hub

Priorities

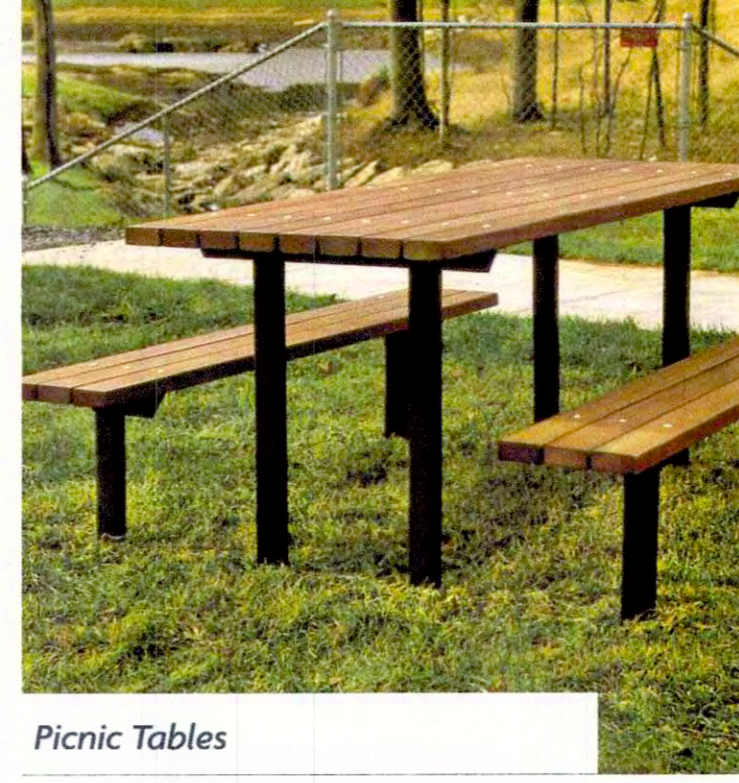
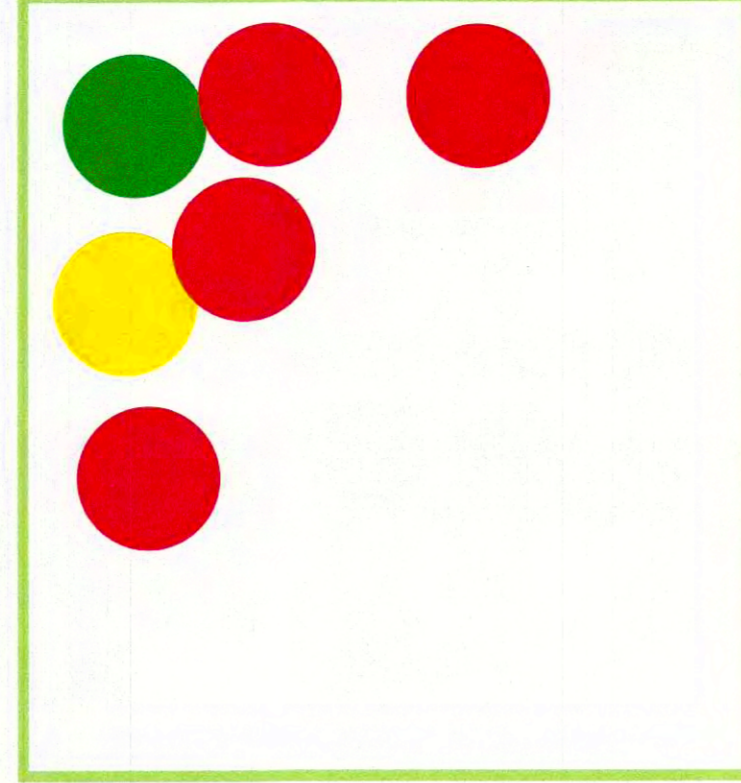
Add a sticker for your Top 5 priorities to include in an outdoor recreation hub.



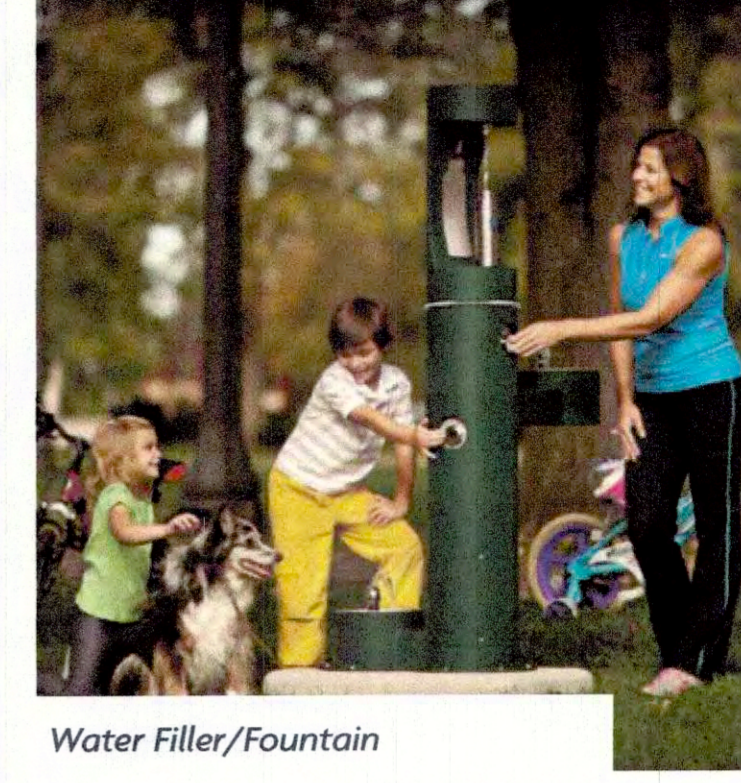
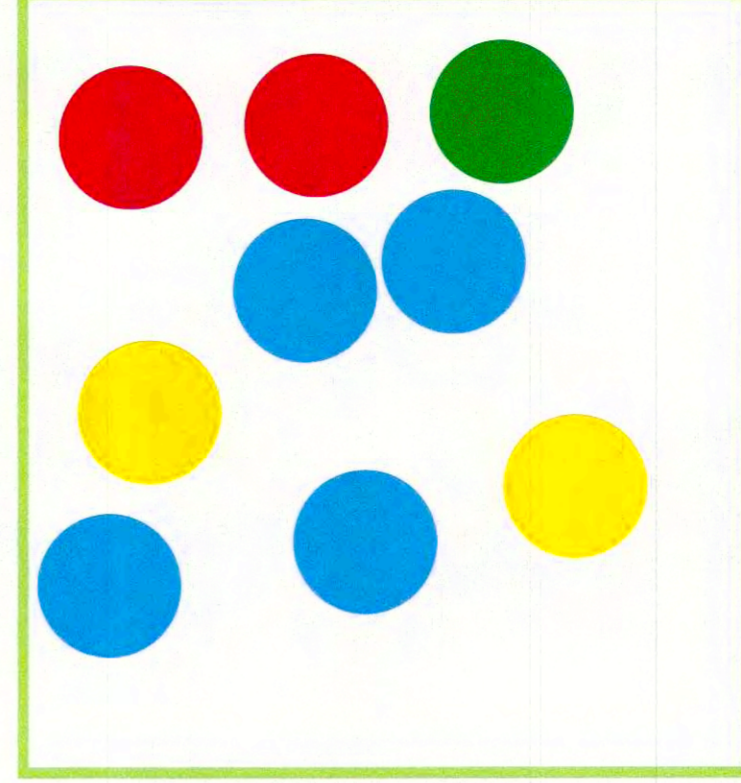
Outdoor Pavilion



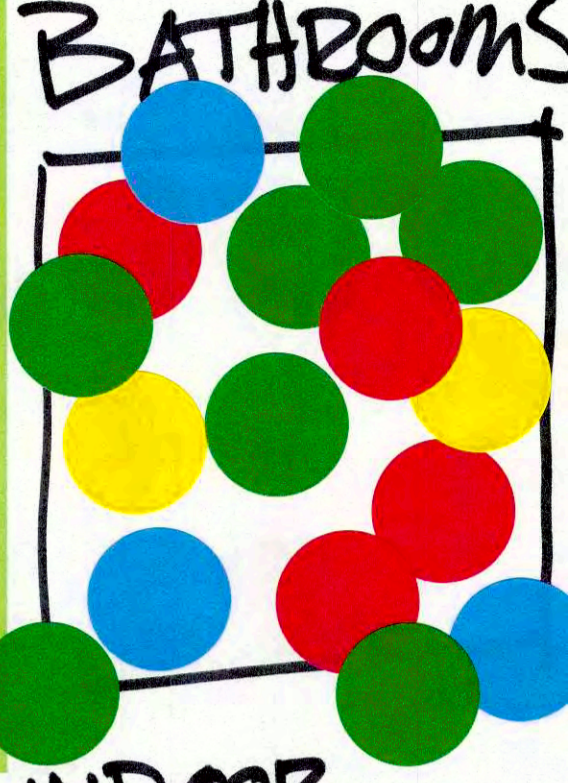
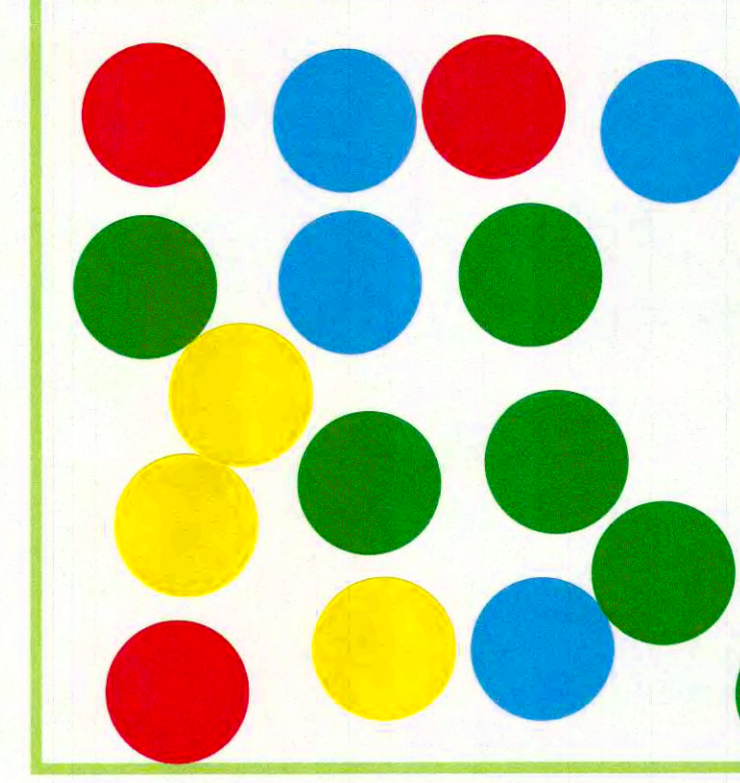
Bike Racks



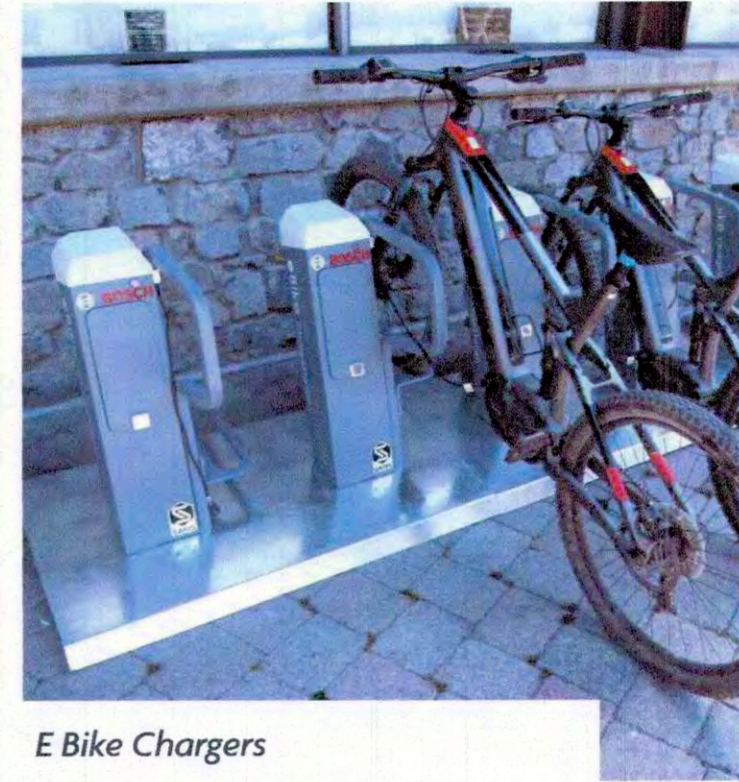
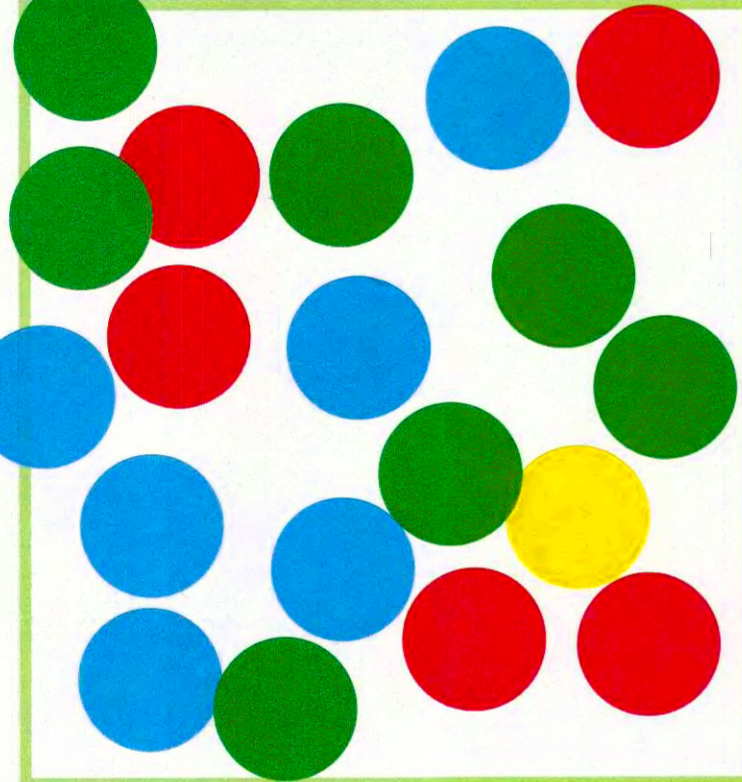
Picnic Tables



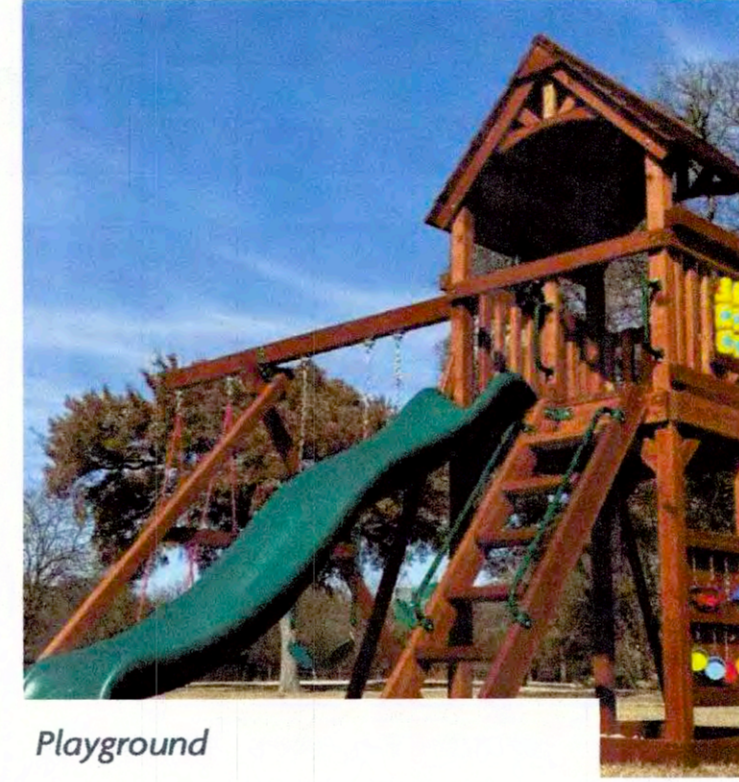
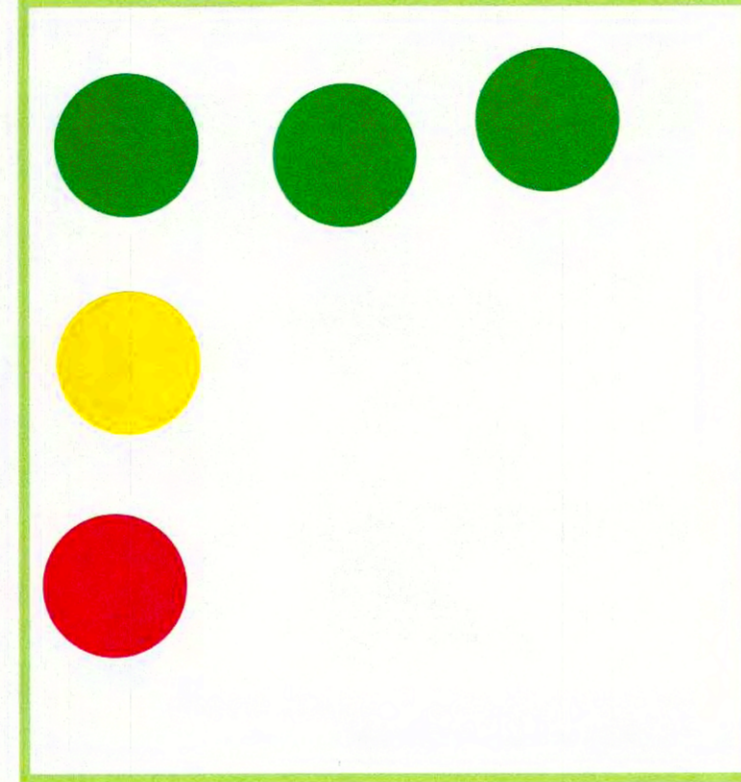
Water Filler/Fountain



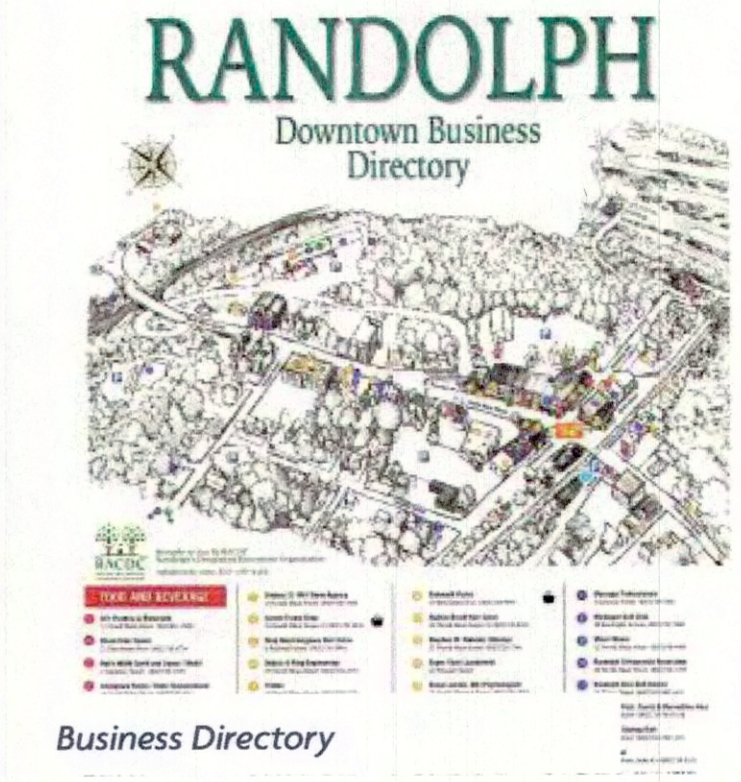
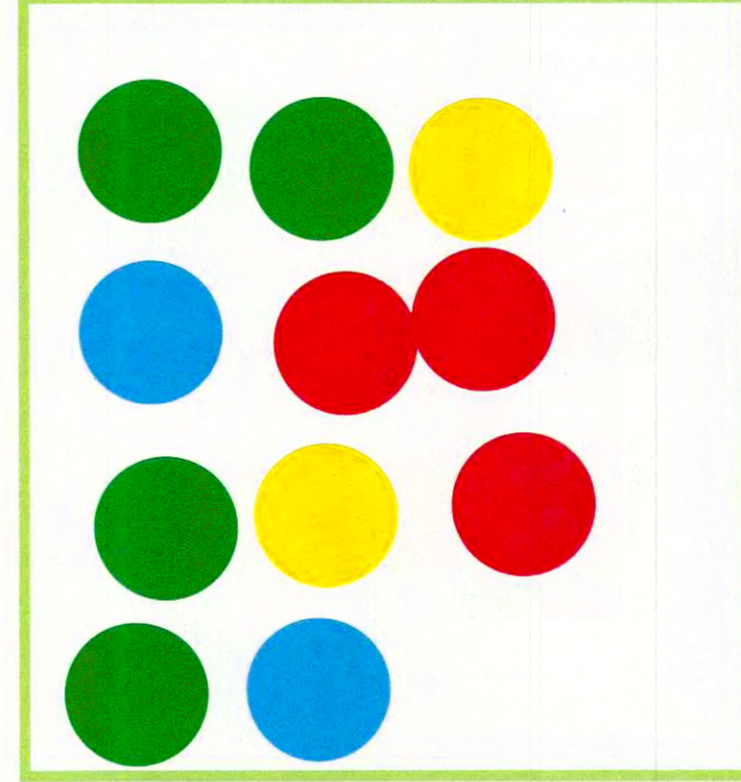
Trail Maps and Information



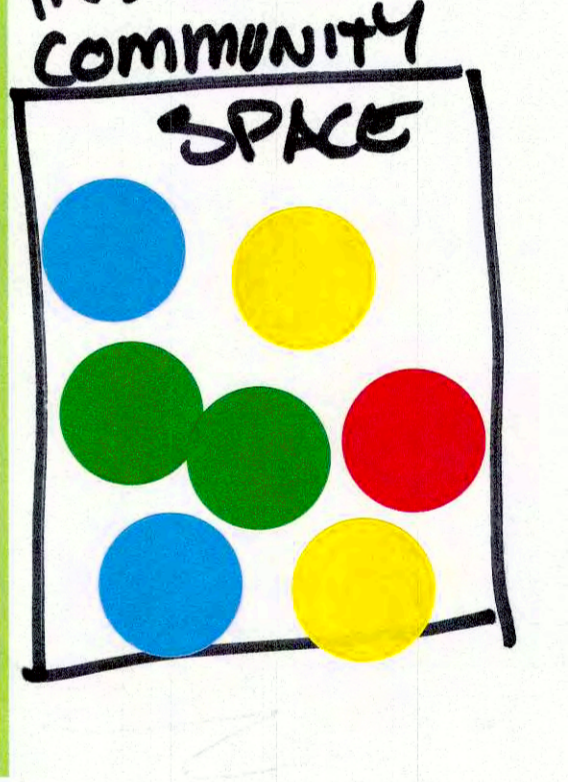
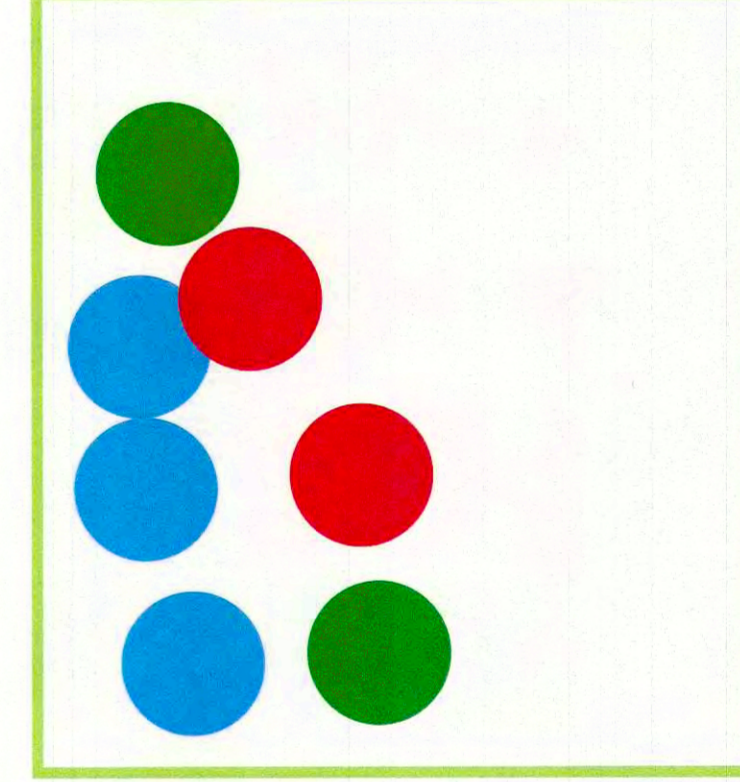
E Bike Chargers



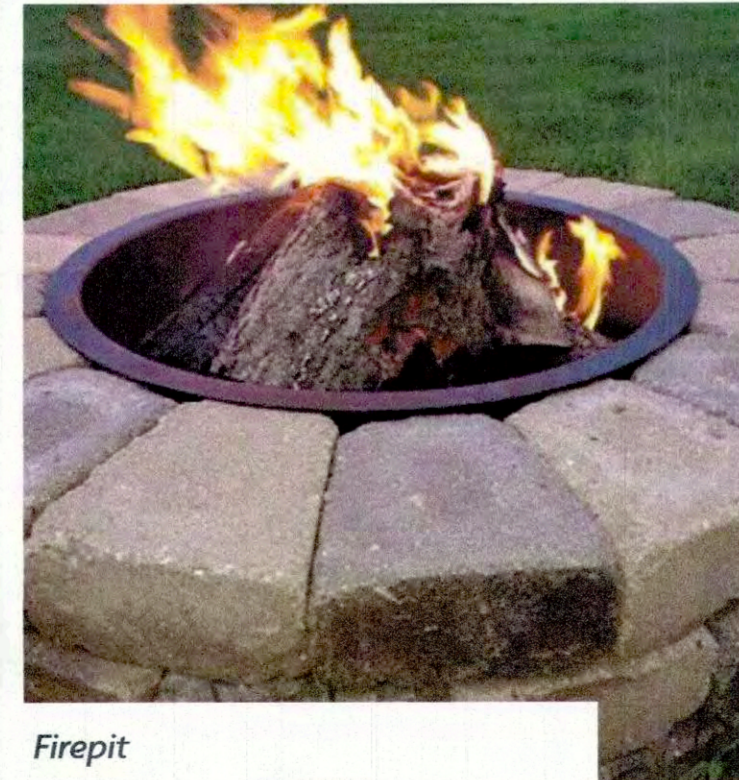
Playground



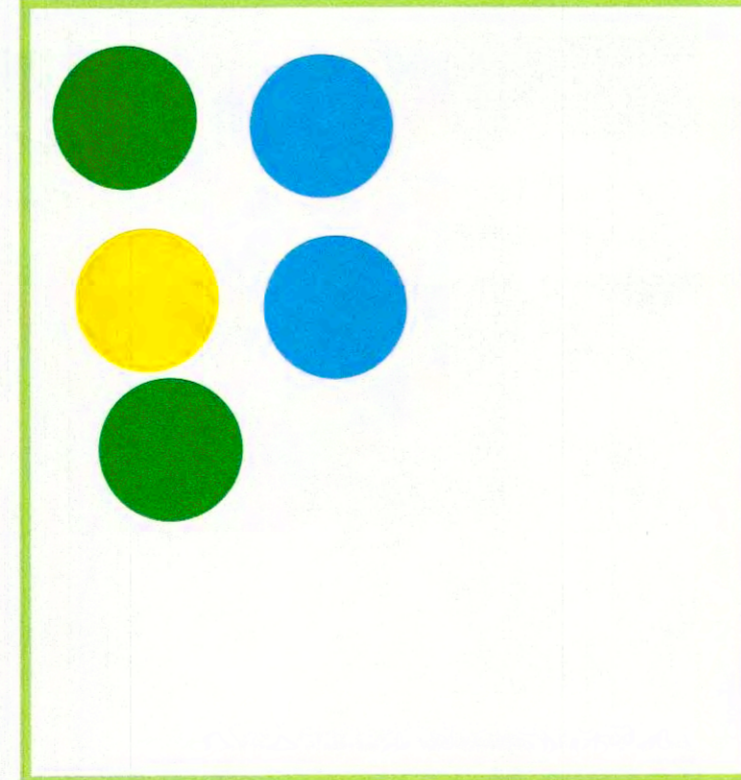
Business Directory



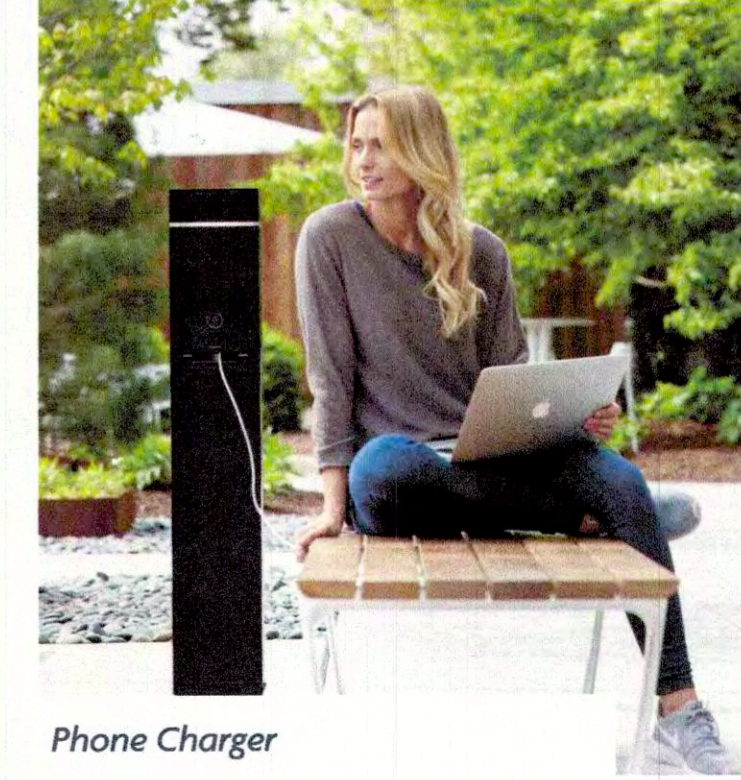
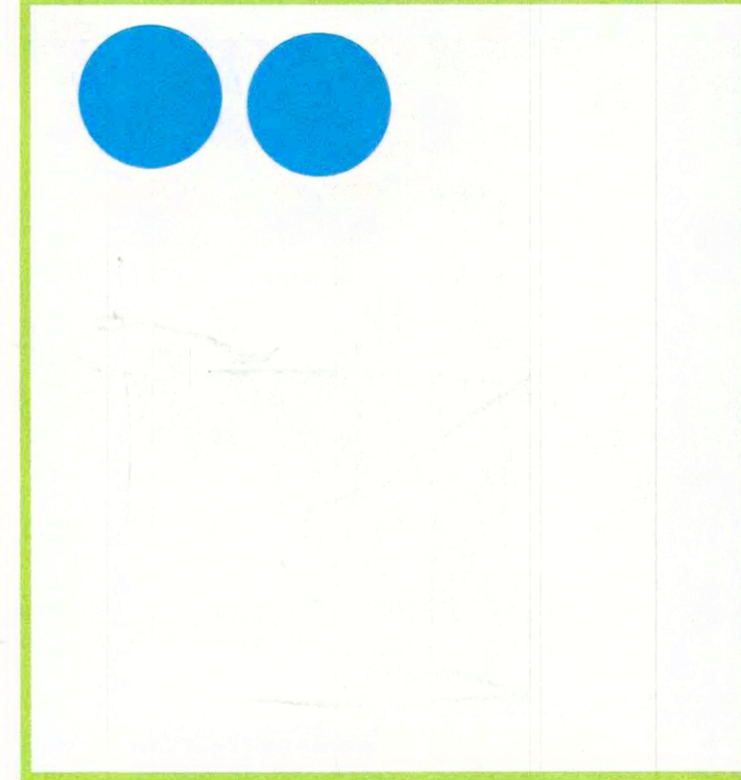
Benches



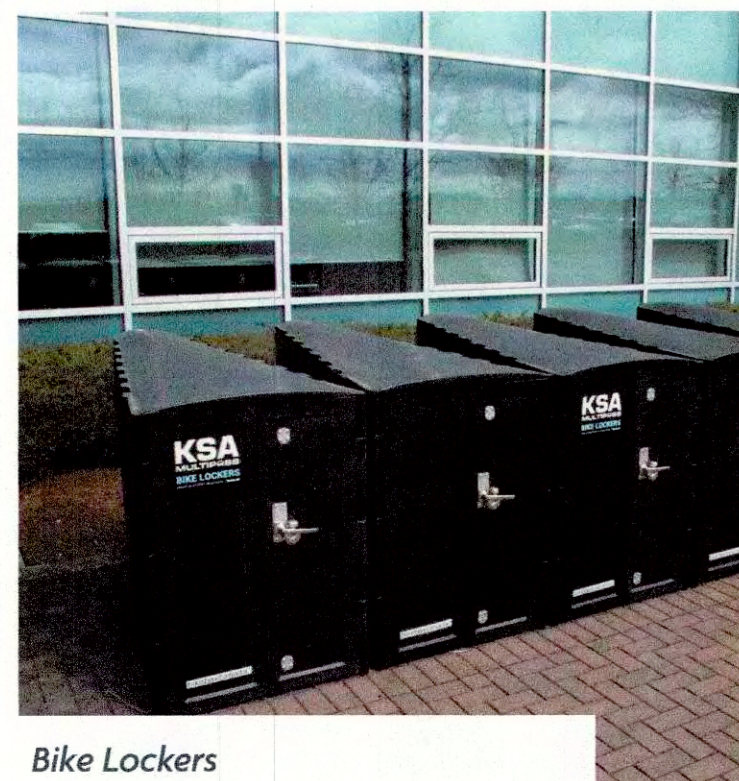
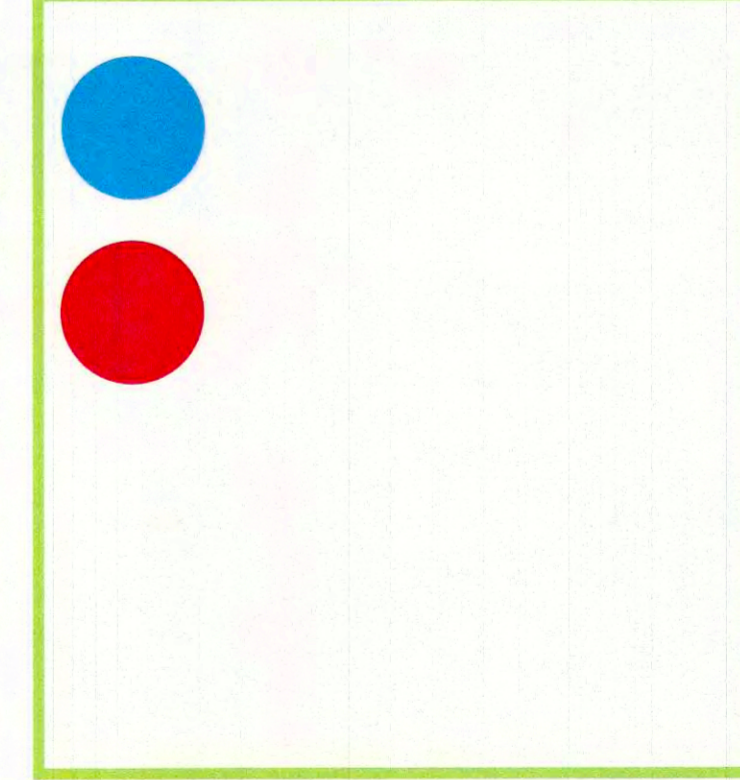
Firepit



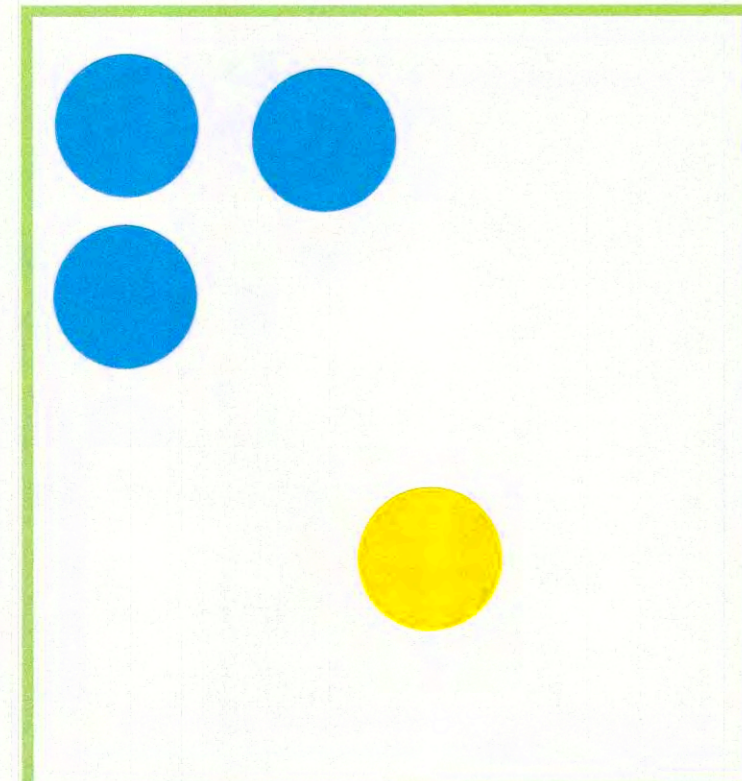
Showers



Phone Charger



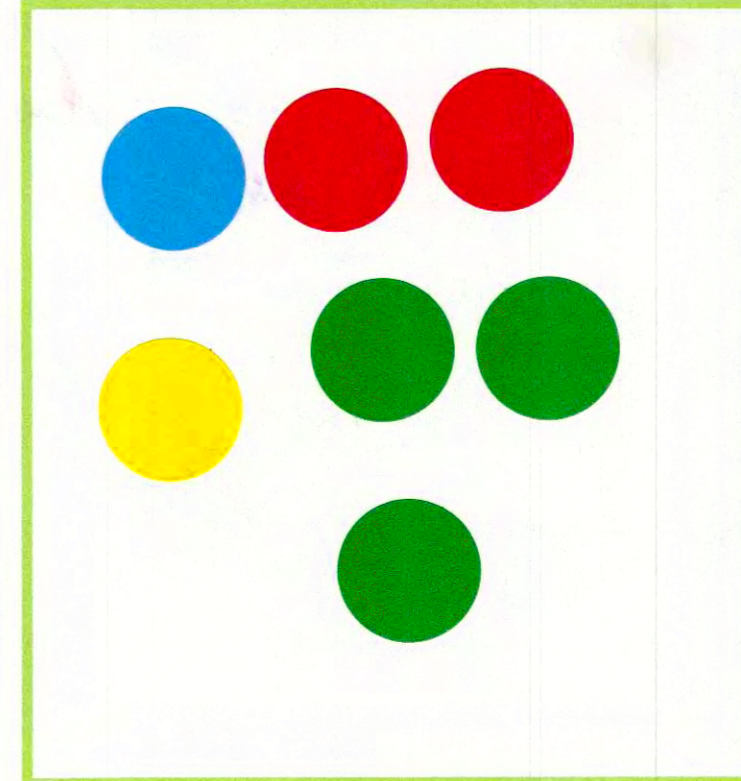
Bike Lockers



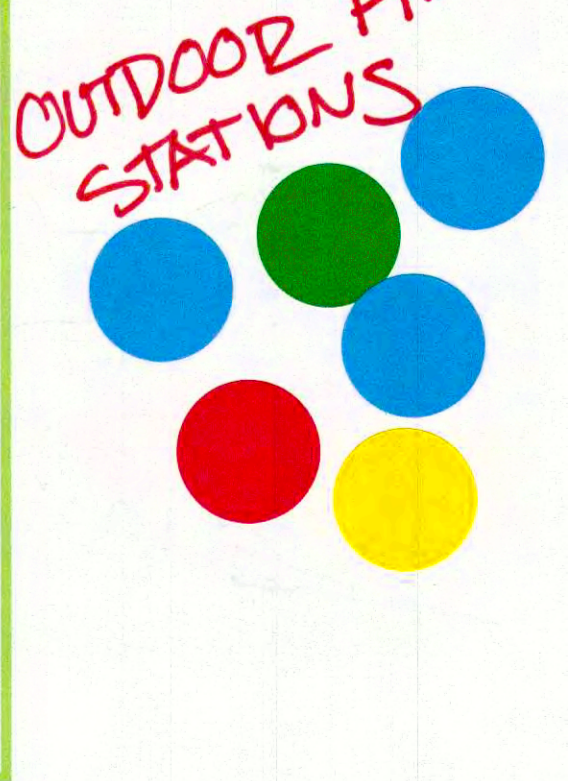
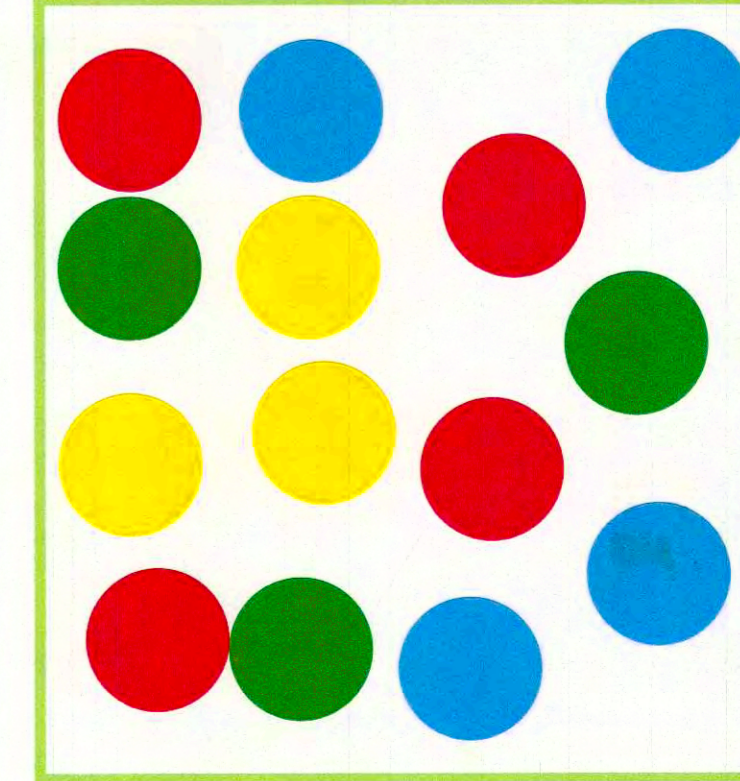
Overnight Parking



Community Garden



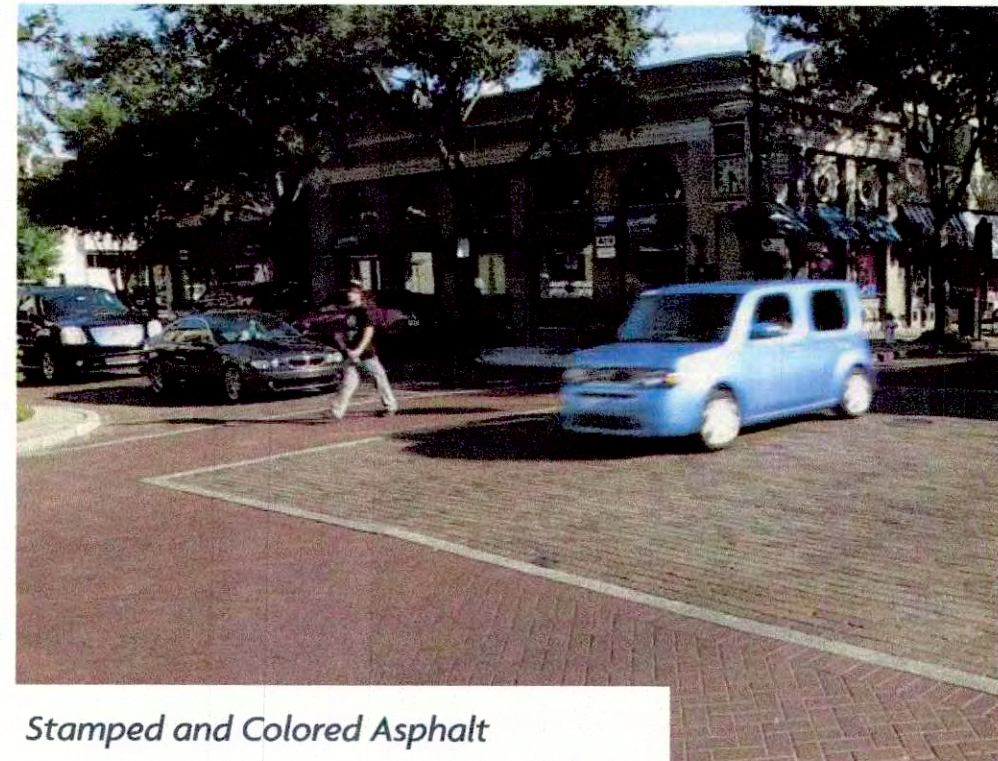
Others:
 Pump Track+
 Skate Park+++
 Food Truck Space+
 Vendor Space+
 Public Art +
 Warming Station
BIKE REPAIR



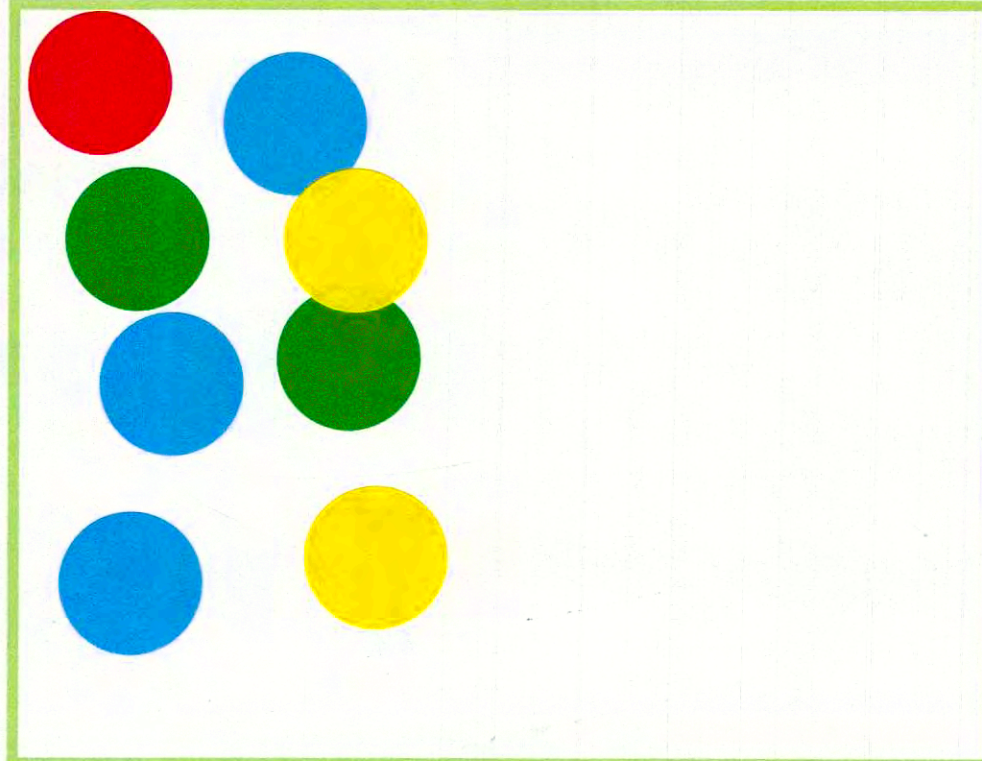
On & Around Main St.

Priorities

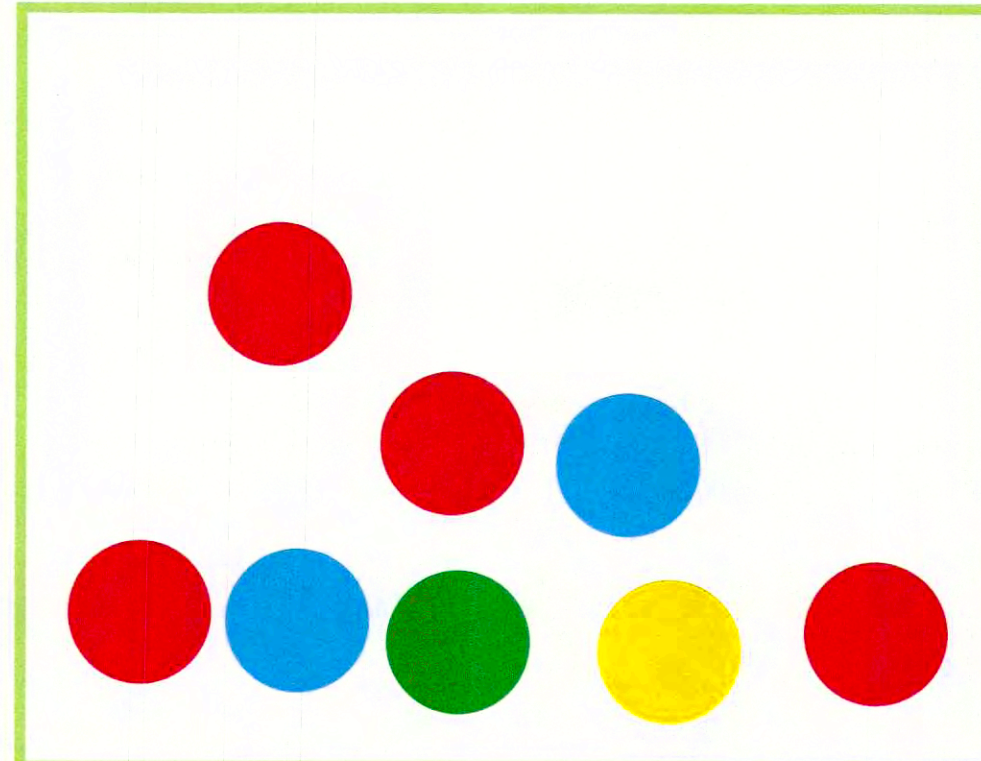
Add a sticker for your Top 5 priorities to install On and Around Main Street.



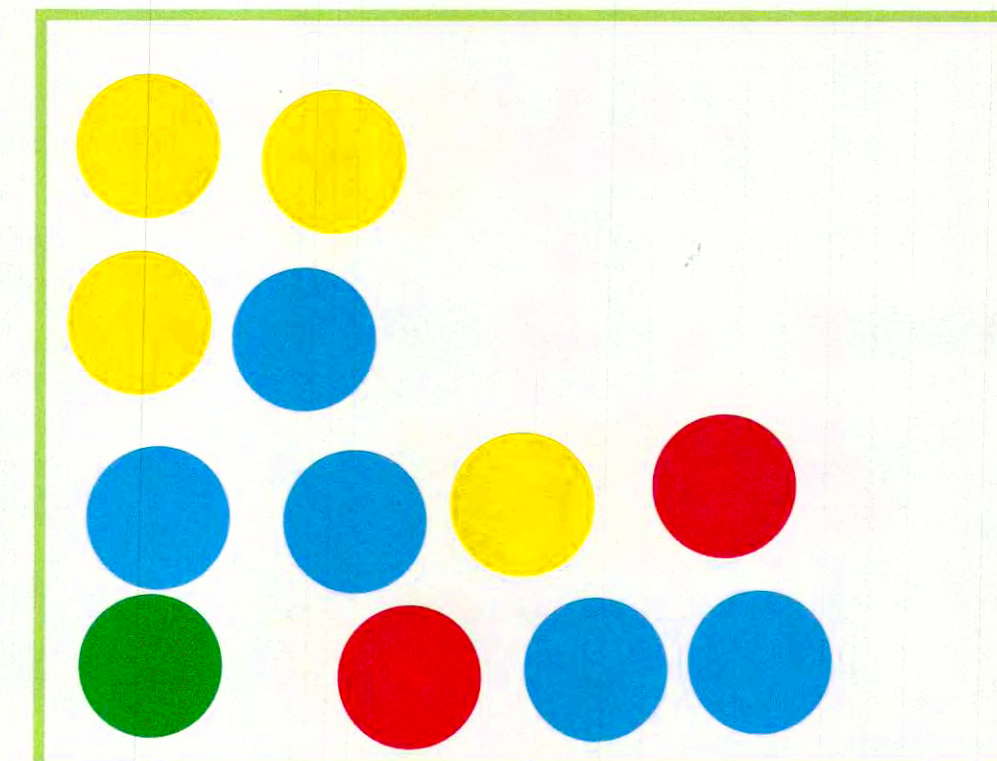
Stamped and Colored Asphalt



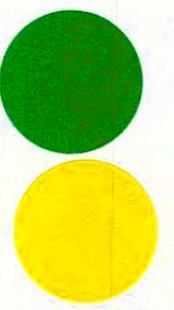
Information Signs



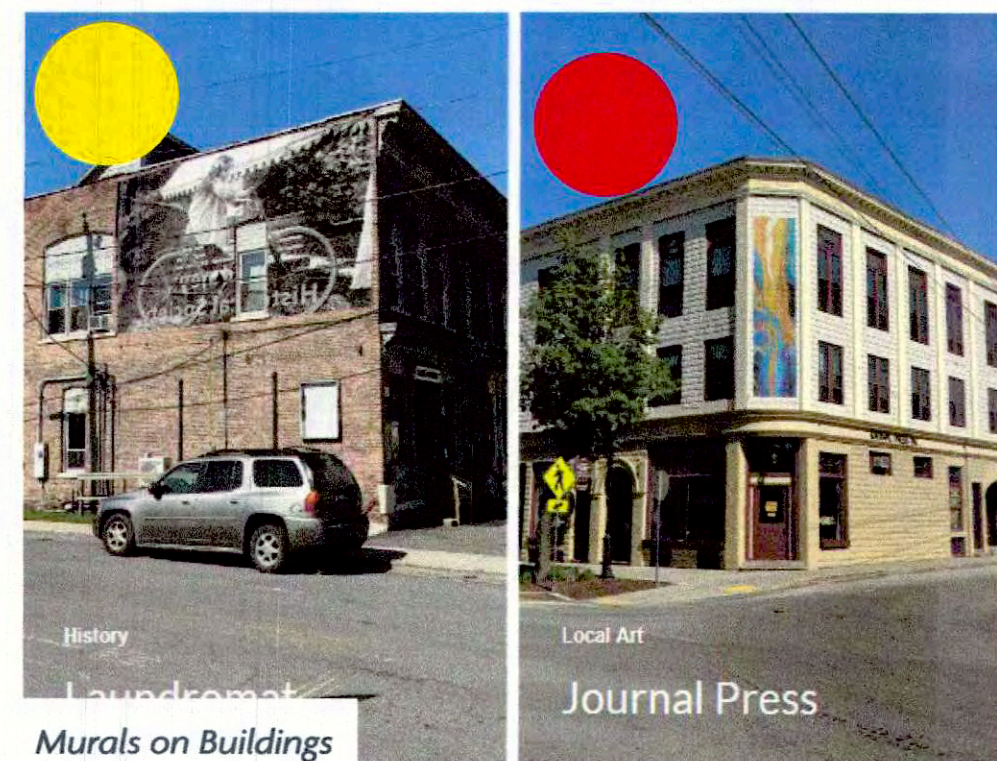
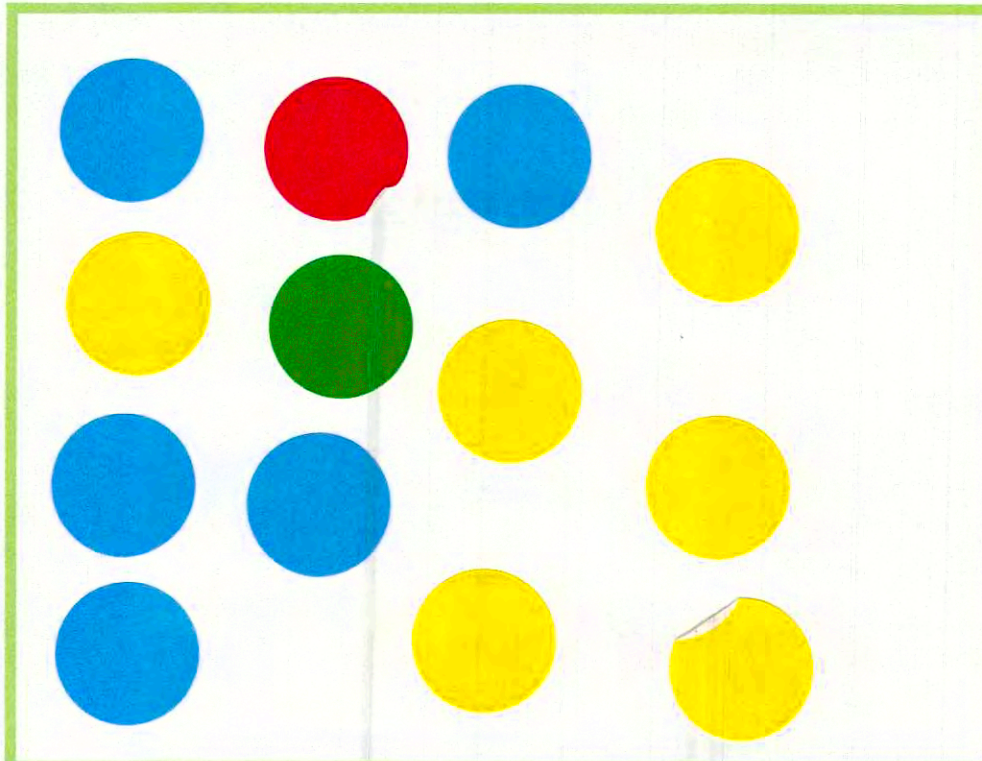
Additional Creative Bicycle Racks



Public Restrooms on Main St.

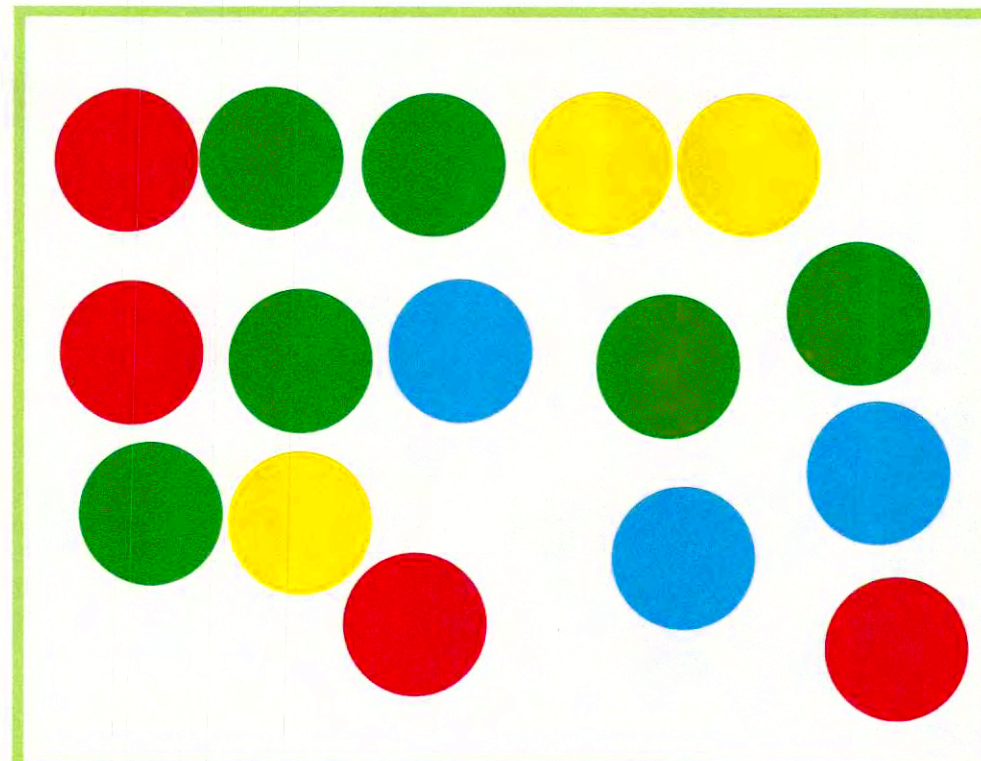


Bioretentions/Rain Garden Bumpouts

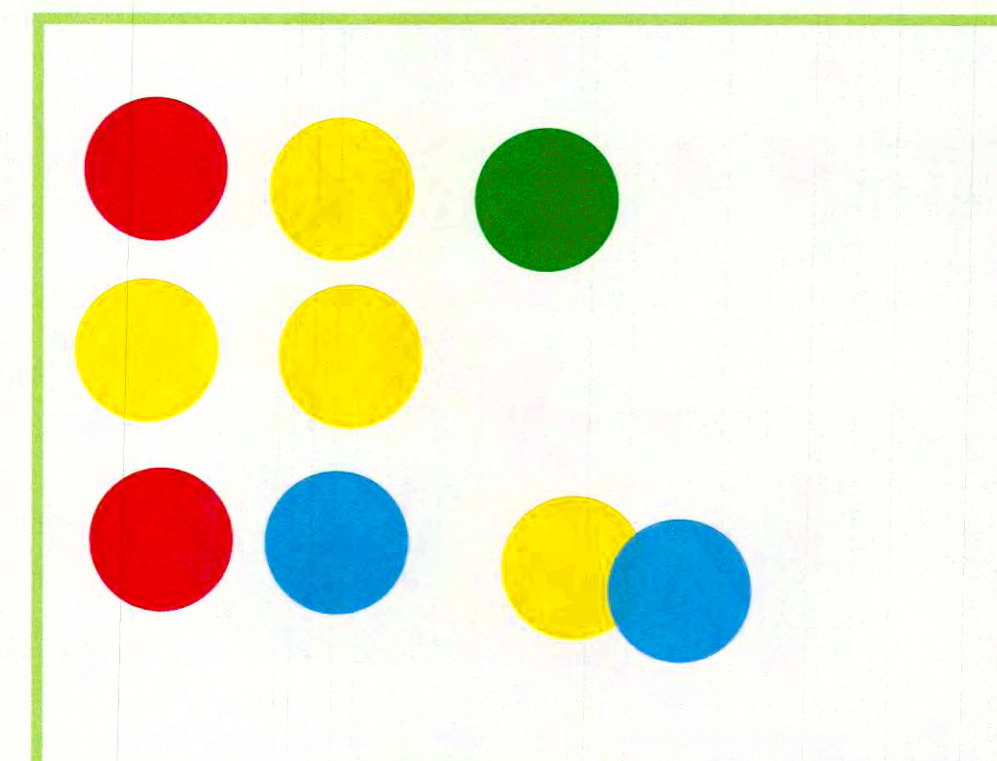


Murals on Buildings

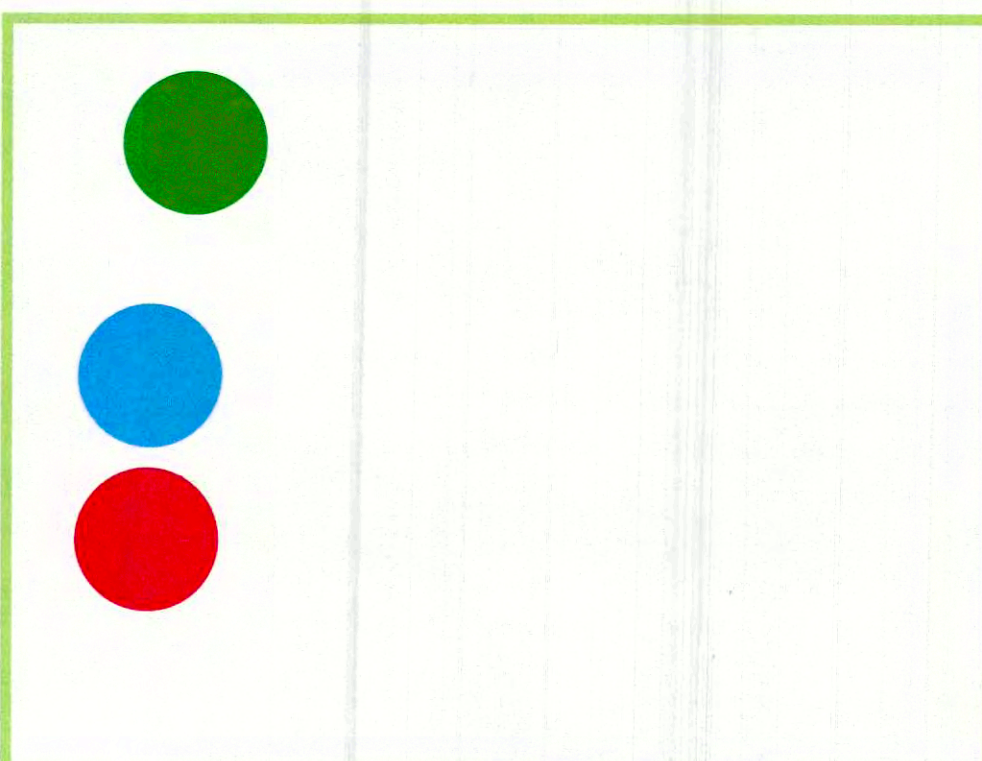
Journal Press



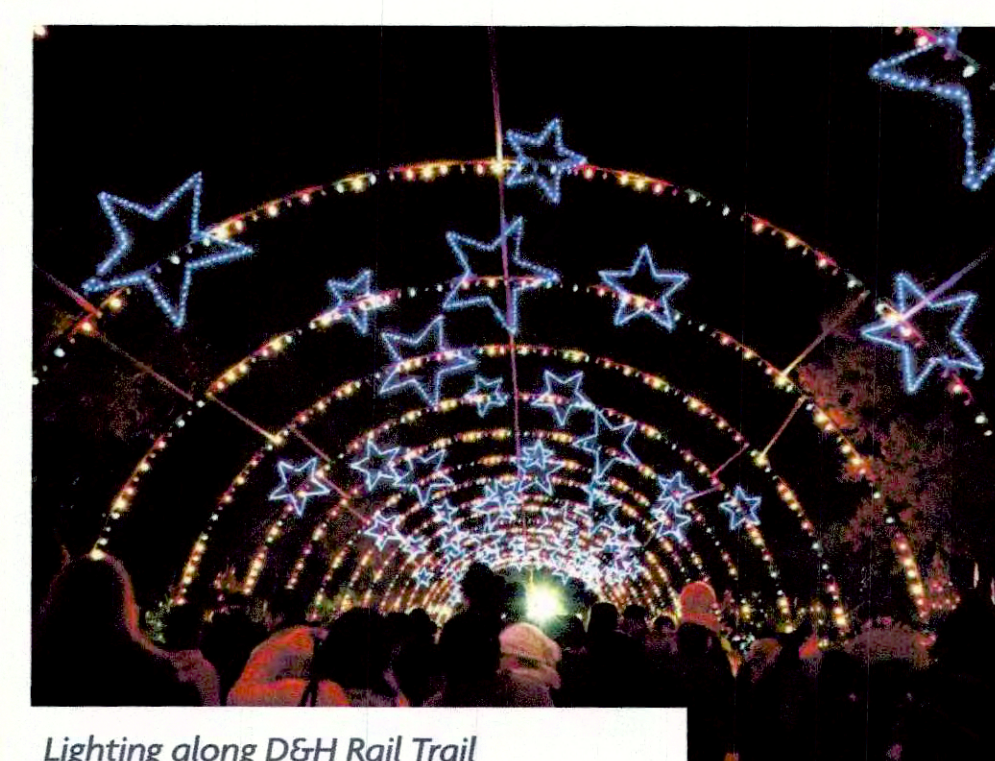
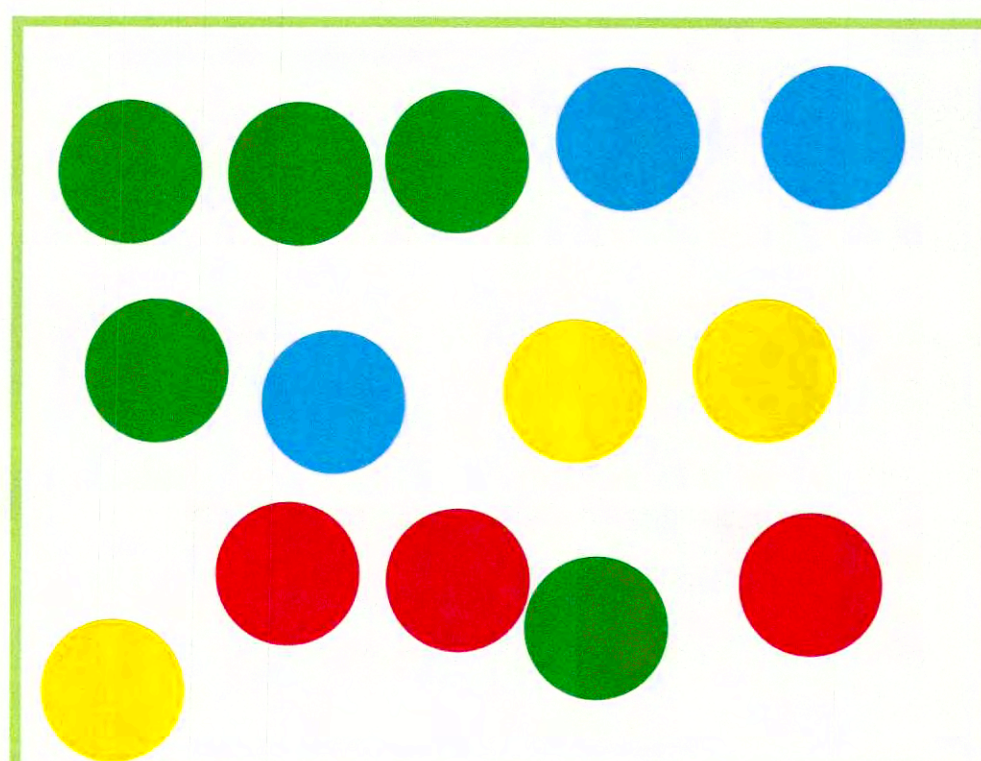
Arbors/Pergolas at Trail and Path Crossings



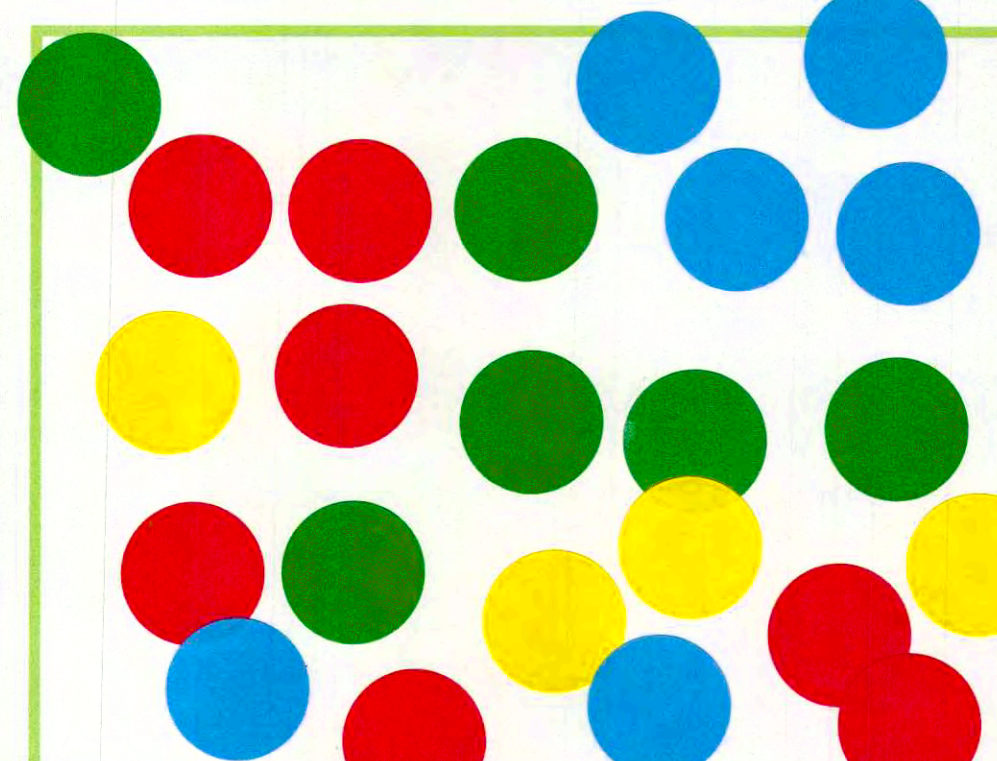
Additional On-Street Accessible Parking



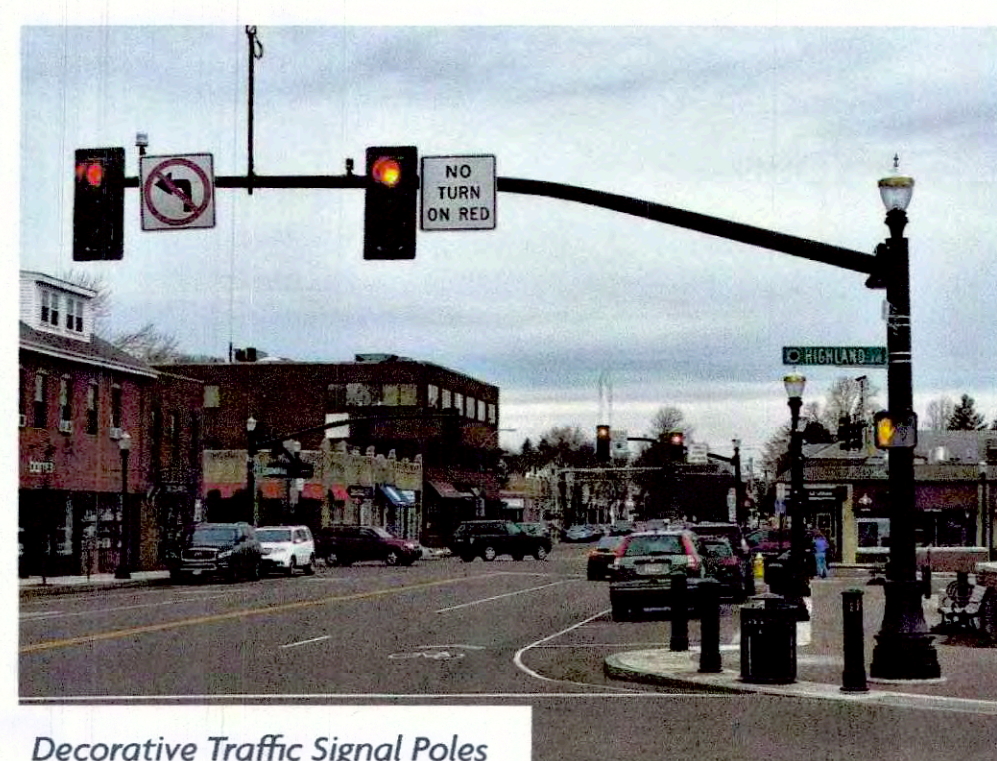
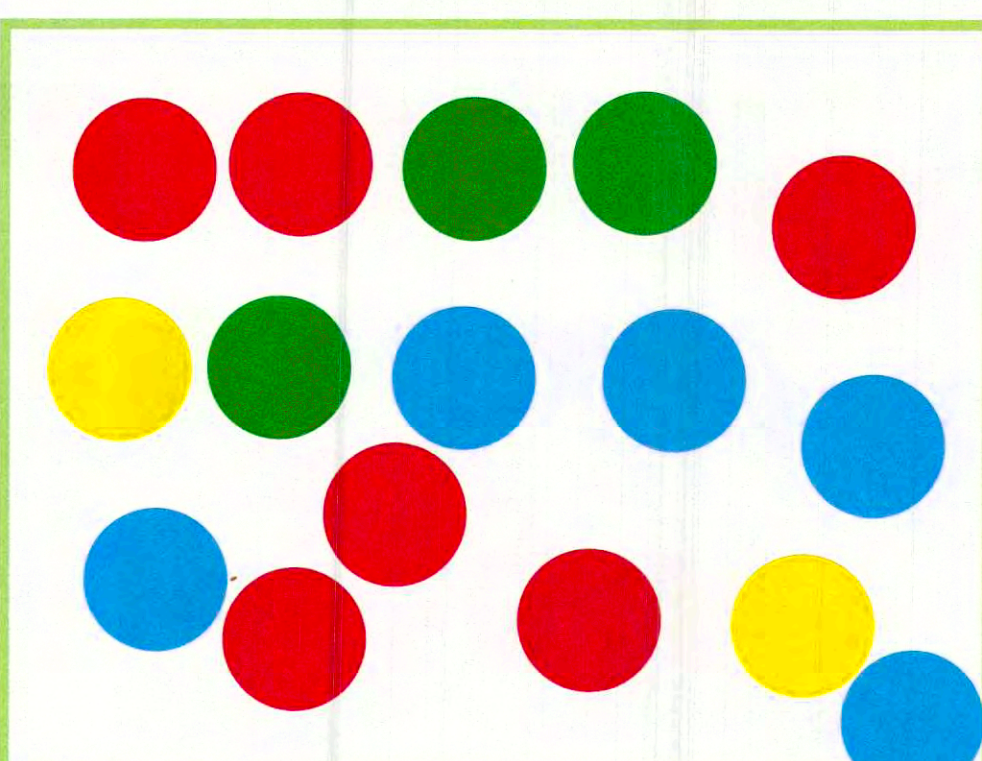
"Railroad Tracks" Crosswalks



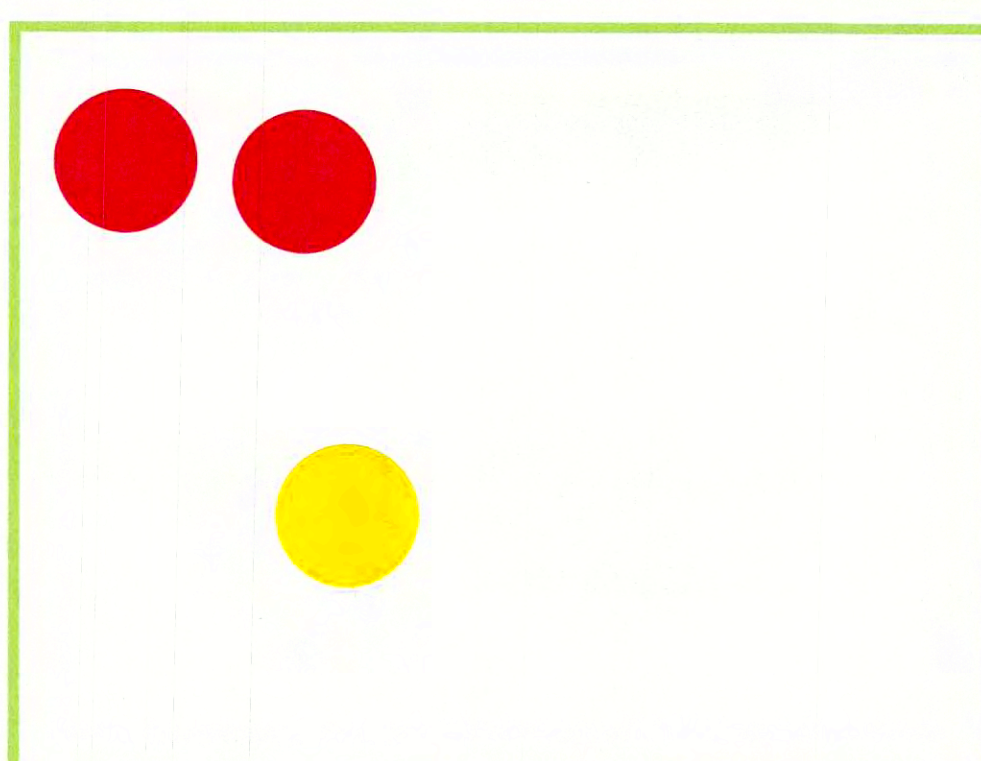
Lighting along D&H Rail Trail



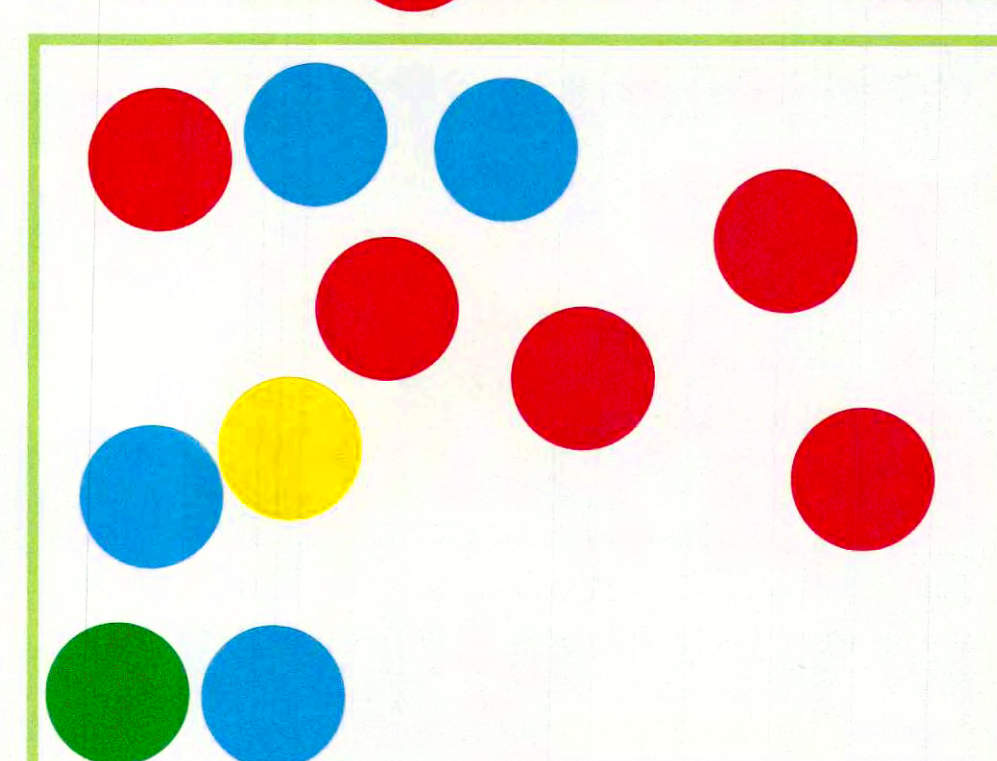
"Sharrows" Shared Road Marking



Decorative Traffic Signal Poles



Additional Gateway Slate "Sentinels"



IDEAS? COMMENTS?

OUTDOOR FITNESS - ONE SPACE OR THROUGHOUT TOWN
+1+1 → YOUNG AT HEART WALKING PATH

TRAIL (Bike) From State Park into town.

Consider Furnance Street Location as a Community Hub for Rec indoor/outdoor space / community meeting space / afterschool rec programs - this location would offer bus transportation during school year and would encourage connection w/ Young at Heart

↑
yes

Murals that help to educate about trail stuff.

Dog Park?

Roundabout Main Intersection

Please protect the character of the East Poultry Green + keep ^{the concept} ~~environment~~ of the ~~area~~ historic nature of the E.P. area @ the forefront