

## Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development

The Better Places partners have awarded approximately \$130,000 to eight placemaking projects across the state. These grants will help communities reimagine and reopen public spaces for safe dining, shopping, and recreation, while showcasing the state's unique sense of place. The program is funded and supported by the Vermont Community Foundation, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, Vermont Arts Council, National Life Group Foundation, Vermont Department of Health, and the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The program relies on the expertise and generous support of the Better Places Partners that include AARP Vermont, Local Motion, Vermont Agency of Transportation, and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. Learn more about placemaking efforts in Vermont on our [blog post](#).

Website: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/better-places>

### Awarded Project Summaries



#### **Barton, Natural Amphitheater at Community Gardens; \$18,000**

The Town of Barton will develop a natural amphitheater for community events, educational workshops, performing arts, music concerts, and children's events. The amphitheater will bring the community together safely, create an awareness of the community garden's commitment to help address local food insecurities by providing fresh, local food to residents, and strengthen the relationship to the Barton River through trails, fishing access, and picnic areas.



#### **Ludlow, The Gathering Spot; \$5,866**

Ludlow's "Gathering Spot" placemaking project will expand outdoor dining options and offer new and improved community gathering spaces in downtown. Local artists will engage with high school students to design and create beautiful outdoor tables for restaurant patrons to enjoy their takeout meals and for residents to have better places to connect and gather this summer.



#### **Middlesex, Winooski River Overlooks; \$20,000**

The Town of Middlesex is partnering with Planetary Matters LLC, owner of the historic Camp Meade property to expand publicly accessible trails and develop two river overlooks along the Winooski River. This investment will expand recreational opportunities, offer more connections to the river and village, and celebrate Middlesex's history and relationship to the river.



#### **Northfield, Revitalizing the Town Common; \$18,000**

Northfield will revitalize their town common by adding new lighting, moveable furniture, street banners, public art, and COVID-safety measures. These investments will provide more outdoor dining options for local restaurants, extend the hours of the farmers market, provide COVID-safe gathering areas, install ADA-friendly furniture, and significantly increase the beauty and function of the common.



#### **Rutland City, Center Street Streetscape Improvements; \$19,275**

The City of Rutland will transform Center Street into a safe place to gather, shop, and dine in downtown Rutland. This project will transform a key downtown block into a dynamic and vibrant space with enhanced pedestrian space to walk and window shop, improved parklets for safe outdoor seating for restaurants and local businesses, and add new streetscape amenities with plants, trees, street painting, and public art.

For more information, please contact:

Richard Amore: [richard.amore@vermont.gov](mailto:richard.amore@vermont.gov)

802.585.0061

## Awarded Project Summaries



### Springfield, Concerts at Comtu; \$12,134

The Town of Springfield and its downtown organization, Springfield on the Move, will develop a summertime music series “Concerts at the Comtu” to safely bring residents together and draw people back downtown. The grant will enhance the newly completed Comtu Cascades Park through electrical upgrades, artful banners, and provide a free, family-friendly music series for the community along the beautiful Black River.



### White River Junction, Light River Junction First Fridays; \$18,000

This summer, White River Junction Indie Films will revitalize an underutilized downtown parking lot into a safe and vibrant place for outdoor dining and film screenings. Local artists and filmmakers will transform this parking lot through visual arts, outdoor seating, and independent film screenings. This project will help bring the community together safely through the arts, reuniting social bonds, sparking energy and excitement in downtown, and supporting local business recovery efforts.



### Wilmington, Beaver Street Art Project, \$18,000

Wilmington will transform a large concrete retaining wall into a work of art and beauty that will celebrate and connect downtown Wilmington with the Beaver Street Neighborhood. The downtown organization, Wilmington Works, collaborated with a Vermont artist and the local community to develop a metal sculpture that depicts the rural landscape and history of Wilmington. This creative placemaking project will celebrate the town's history, its resilience through the pandemic, and provide a joyful spark to the revitalization of the Beaver Street neighborhood.



Center Street Improvements in Downtown Rutland

For more information, please contact:

Richard Amore: [richard.amore@vermont.gov](mailto:richard.amore@vermont.gov)

802.585.0061