

Creative Communities Program Priority Projects

By Theme

All twelve towns in the CCP have worked diligently to brainstorm and then define their top priorities. A key component of the CCP involved assembling leadership teams representing state, federal, nonprofit, and private sector resources to visit each community. These Resource Team members participated in early forums, and/or helped the task forces that were developed to build initial work plans and resource lists. Once the community set its priorities, Resource Team members contributed their ideas to the list of final recommendations that each community received as part of their town's report. These can be viewed on the CCP Report DVD.

Though each community found its own priorities, some common themes emerged and are outlined below. VCRD has aggregated the recommendations from Resource Team members to echo these headings in order to assist other communities who may undertake similar projects. This master resource is on this DVD.

Recreation/Parks/Environment

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Expand Recreation in the Hardwick Lake Area
- Bring Arts and Community Projects to Taylor Park (St. Albans)
- Develop an Eastern Avenue Park (St. Johnsbury)
- Make Better Use of the River (Middlebury)
- Develop and Market a Richmond Trails System
- Rutland as a Recreation Center
- Make Downtown Plainfield More Welcoming to Pedestrians

Community, Arts and Business Spaces

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Build an Arts Center (St. Albans)
- Create an Arts Incubator (Windsor)
- Create a Business Incubator and Arts Space (Hardwick)
- Develop the Future of the Hardwick Town House
- Establish a Business Incubator (Middlebury)
- Expand Options for Indoor Community Space (Grand Isle)

Internet and Technology

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Create the Infrastructure for State-of-the-Art Communications Technology (Manchester)
- Improve St. Johnsbury's Online Presence
- Improve Internet Access (Randolph)
- Promote the Digital Culture through a St. Albans Technology Service Provider

Developing Collaborations

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Establish strong Creative Economy Collaborations (Randolph)
- Form a Local Creative Economy Association (Plainfield)
- Form an Alliance for Creative Development of Existing Properties (Richmond)
- Found a Creative Economy Association (Middlebury)
- Begin a Public Relations Campaign (Windsor)
- Form a Local Leadership Group (Windsor)

Sustainability, Energy and Green Business

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Establish Manchester as a Leader in Sustainability and Green Business
- Establish Middlebury as a Pioneer in Alternative Energy Production and Management
- Promote Environmental Initiatives that Define Randolph as a Green Community
- Sustainable Rutland

Agriculture

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Hold a Harvest Festival to Celebrate Local Agriculture (Richmond)
- Establish a Local Foods Retail Center (Manchester)
- Provide Year-round Access to Local Foods (Bellows Falls)
- Develop Trails to Tour Local Farms, Arts, and Other Islands Highlights (Grand Isle)

Cultural Connection

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Highlight Local Cultural Organizations (St. Johnsbury)
- Rutland as an Arts and Culture Destination

Downtown Improvements

Includes goals from these Creative Communities Reports:

- Open Air Mall on Center Street (Rutland)
- Organize Evening Events to Bring Activity Downtown after Dark (St. Albans)
- Support a Strong Restaurant Culture (Bellows Falls)
- Revitalize “The Island” (Bellows Falls)
- Spruce Up Downtown Hardwick

Establish Your Area as a Learning Community

- Establish Plainfield as a Learning Community

Increasing Off-Season Activity

- Task Force on Increasing Off-Season Activity (Grand Isle)