

R.O.M.E.: Revitalization of Montpelier's Ecosystem - Team ID # 80240

The City of Montpelier has a long, rich history of providing a sense of intimacy, culture, and prosperity. To maintain Vermont's capital city, we must look ahead as to how we can provide a secure path to a bright future for the city. R.O.M.E. provides a path that both promotes sustainable community growth and addresses the environmental needs of Montpelier and the surrounding region.

Our first major ecosystem regeneration begins with a riverfront park along the Winooski River behind several state buildings. Visitors and residents can sprawl out on the green lawn to enjoy a bite to eat from local restaurants, host events on the weekend, or spend time to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of Montpelier's natural splendor. Furthermore, the environmental impact of a riverfront park would not only filter runoff into the Winooski, but also implement natural flood mitigation for the city.

Another major enhancement is the construction of mixed-use housing and a pedestrian mall below Court Street. This would not only provide a Church Street-style feel to the city, but it would also serve as a space for both residents and businesses to establish themselves in the heart of downtown. Limited parking for the area would be provided for commercial tenants and some residents, and a rideshare program will provide for those without access to a vehicle. This pedestrian-only street would span from Governor Davis Ave to Langdon Street, also to be converted into a pedestrian-only road.

Another exciting feature is a boardwalk-style path stretching along the riverfront from Bailey Ave to Main Street. It would run through the riverfront park and join up with the current railroad tracks next to the steam plant. Not only would this provide a recreational and alternative pedestrian path spanning downtown, but it would benefit freight going through the city. Trains would not have to stop down to a crawl to travel through downtown, therefore improving efficiency of the Vermont Rail Line.

To address a decrease in parking spaces from the various projects, the construction of a parking structure behind the Capitol Plaza Hotel provides a simplified way to find parking in close or immediate proximity to downtown Montpelier amenities, reducing congestion on both Main and State by directing incoming traffic to Taylor Street. A green roof with solar panels caps the top, providing both runoff mitigation and energy supply to the city. The farmer's market would be moved to the aforementioned riverfront park, a much more suitable space for promoting local agriculture.

Last, the current dam near the Main Street Bridge over the Winooski River would be taken out to improve both environmental and recreational space. Water flow would increase, narrowing the river and providing space for fishing and kayaking, with paths leading down from the riverfront park.

Through addition of recreational space, traffic alleviation and a welcoming residential and commercial atmosphere, R.O.M.E. assists Montpelier in becoming more energy independent, drawing in new faces to the economy, and providing the city with a systematic approach for sustainability.

RIVERFRONT PARK

This Recreational space revitalizes the aquatic ecosystem while providing natural scenery in an urban setting. The park will provide areas for basketball, fishing, kayaking, and playgrounds. The space will increase the city’s square footage capacity for events such as farmer’s markets, concerts, BBQ’s and more! Furthermore, vegetation coverage assists in mitigating flood effects while also filtering runoff from the city, making the Winooski River a much healthier waterway.



Cincinatti Parks Foundation

MIXED-USE

This small mixed residential-commercal complex will provide a space for government housing and businesses in close proximity to state office buildings and the proposed riverfront park across the street.

MIXED-USE & PEDESTRIAN MALL

Replacing the “Pit”, this complex of mixed residential & commercial space provides a centralized location for both living & commerce. Similar to Church Street in Burlington, Vermont, spanning from Governor Davis Ave through Langdon Street, this development enables pedestrains to travel across the city with minimal vehicle interaction. Encouraged use of this pathway would result in a significant decrease of carbon emissions. Limited residential and employee parking will be provided underground, with a ride share program established for residents. Solar panels on the shop overhangs will add a source of energy to the city, tying the complex with the new heating network.



(GreenCityChallenge.com)



(Goexplore.com)

NEW RAILROAD ROUTE

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The re-routing of the railroad traveling through the center of downtown Montpelier will not only provide space for the new pedestrian path, but will also allow the freight trains to bypass or travel through the area in a much quicker fashion, improving operating efficiency for the Vermont and New England economies.



Photo by Caitlin Corkins
(Preservation in Pink Wordpress)

PARKING STRUCTURE

This “green” parking structure, similar to the one pictured below, will assist in providing an adequate amount of parking in close proximity to downtown. The structure will come equipped with a green roof arrayed with solar panels, and will simultaneously direct traffic in a clear, easy-to-understand path down Taylor Street. Alleviating congestion on Main Street and State Street would not only cut down on carbon emissions, but also make trips to Montpelier more accessible.



Live Wall (LiveWall.com)

PEDESTRIAN PATH

In addition to the pedestrian mall, this path will span all the way from Main Street to Bailey Ave. The current railroad tracks, which run behind Capitol Plaza and over the North Branch of the Winooski, will be repurposed for the path. This will include a revival of the truss bridge over the north branch for pedestrian and bicycle use.

DAM REMOVAL

The removal of the dam from this location will provide better flow for the Winooski River, as well as a narrowing of the banks of the waterway. This will open up endless opportunities for kayaking & fishing, while also providing a healthier environment for the plants and animals within the river’s ecosystem.