

Sustainable Montpelier 2030 Design Competition

The focus of the Montpelier 2030 Plan is sustainability. Sustainability has many facets, including environmental sustainability, energy sustainability, economic sustainability, and community sustainability, to name a few. These facets are all brought together with a fundamental planning concept called placemaking.

Placemaking refers to a holistic approach to the planning and design of public spaces. It capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well being. The goal of placemaking is to help a community achieve sustainability in all aspects so that it is a whole community for every resident and visitor.

Given that the Montpelier 2030 Plan has a 15 year planning horizon, the focus is on projects that would have the biggest impact in achieving the desired outcomes of adding housing within the district, reducing the blight of large surface parking lots, creating community gathering places, and reconnecting the community to the river.

Some of the notable aspects of the plan presented here are:

Energy Sustainability

The proposed public market project includes an integrated rooftop solar thermal electrical generation system made by Terrajoule. It solves the typical intermittency problem of solar energy in an innovative way. The system provides energy storage at less than twenty percent of the cost of battery storage systems in a very simple, non-toxic way. The Terrajoule power units are modular and can be the basis of a local distributed generation micro grid.

Economic Sustainability

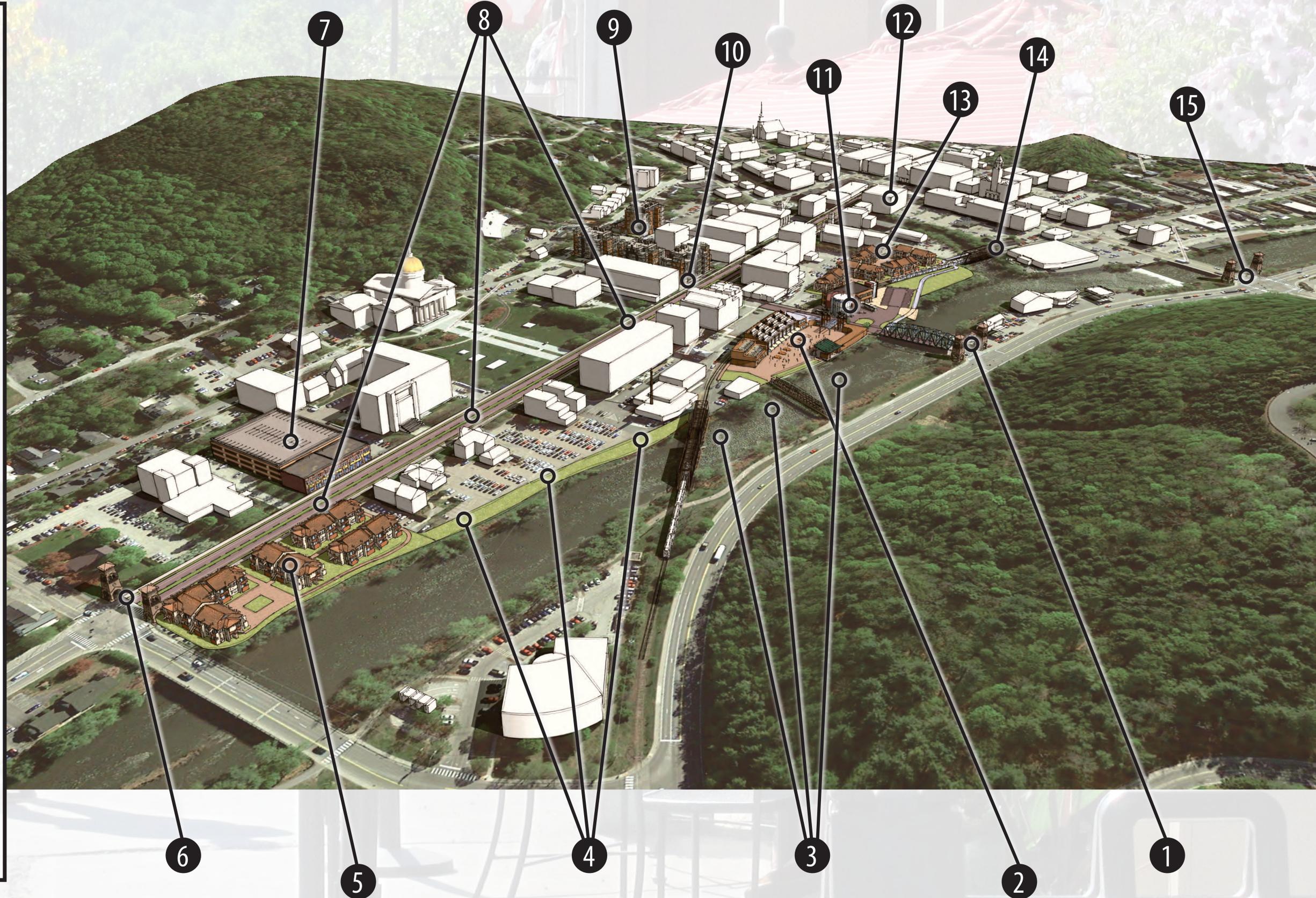
The proposed public market is intended to be a cornerstone of both civic life and economic sustainability. Not only does the public market have indoor and outdoor space for a farmers market, but it also will house food production facilities, a community greenhouse, and small manufacturer "maker" space. The intent is to provide a place that fosters innovation and local entrepreneurship.

Natural Environment Sustainability

One of the features of the 2030 Plan is a bioswale running the length of State Street from Bailey Avenue to Main Street. A bioswale is a landscape element designed to filter surface runoff water. It consists of a swaled drainage course with gently sloped sides and filled with vegetation. In this case, the bioswale does triple duty in that it is also used as a streetscape beautification element, planted with perennial native wildflowers, which in turn could support honey making from local apiaries.

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- 1 Taylor & Memorial District Gateway**
Distinctive structures at major district entry points.
- 2 Riverside Public Market**
Riverside development adjacent to the transit center with space for indoor/ outdoor farmers market, local food production, leasable community greenhouse space, maker space, performance stage, and river access.
- 3 The Bridges Kayak Recreation Area**
Constructed water features that create an area of artificial whitewater for kayaker recreation and competition events.
- 4 Winooski Linear River Park**
Riverside easements and enhancements to make the Winooski River more accessible and usable for recreational purposes.
- 5 West State Residential Village**
Surface parking lot development to address shortage of medium density housing options in the district.
- 6 State & Bailey District Gateway**
Distinctive structures at major district entry points.
- 7 Mixed-Use Infill & Parking Structure**
Parking garage to accommodate the on-street parking displaced by the State Street reconfiguration and surface parking lot redevelopment projects. The garage is fronted by leasable commercial space.
- 8 State Street Reconfiguration & Bioswale**
Reconfiguration of the lanes on State Street to add natural bioswale storm water detention and filtration in the center of the roadway and add dedicated bicycle lanes. The reconfiguration will fit within the existing street right-of-way.
- 9 Capitol East Apartment Complex**
Two-level parking garage below street grade to replace the existing surface parking (east of Governor Davis Avenue and south of Court Street), and affordable apartments built around a pocket park on top of the parking garage. This provides affordable housing options and provides parking in the immediate vicinity of the State House.
- 10 North Taylor Pedestrian Street**
Street closed to through traffic with added pedestrian-friendly features, providing a safe and enjoyable walking connection to the transit center and Public Marketplace to the south on Taylor Street.
- 11 Multimodal Transit Center**
Transit hub for the community with convenient connections to district housing, the new Public Marketplace, government functions on State Street, and adjacent river recreation opportunities.
- 12 State & Main District Node**
Distinctive structures at major district entry points.
- 13 Transit Center Village**
Transit-oriented development (TOD) housing that takes advantage of adjacent transit connections. TOD allows people to access their homes, jobs, shopping, entertainment, and recreation with reduced or eliminated dependence on personal vehicles.
- 14 Shaw's Pedestrian Bridge**
Pedestrian bridge to connect the bicycle/pedestrian trail and linear riverside park with the downtown commercial district and residences to the east.
- 15 Main & Memorial District Gateway**
Distinctive structures at major district entry points.



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