

Greensboro Community | Interview Themes Summary

Introduction

Lauren Sopher conducted in-person interviews with members of the Greensboro Community in 2018. Below is a summary of the themes that emerged from the interviews. For further details about this process, please refer to the other pieces within the *UVM Institutional Review Board (IRB) Process Documents* section. The content of the interviews informed the *Greensboro Bend PLACE Program Conservation Recommendations* section. Interview participants are anonymous.

Themes

Background

- “It is a pretty typical small Vermont town. One of those that if you blink, you miss it. And there’s a lot of those in Vermont.”
- “It’s really cool that it is a little valley right where we are. The river’s important—it’s right off the road. I like that it’s a little narrow passageway through. Greensboro Bend is a narrow little cocoon, if you will, with the road and the river through it, and the tracks.”
- “To me, Greensboro Bend is the birthplace of Greensboro, in a sense, because the railroad was the commerce and that’s what built our village. I think the train, the railroad, and the commerce is our heritage; it’s our history and I think we should celebrate that.”
- “I do believe that everybody needs to embrace Greensboro Bend more.”
- “We’ll be Greensboro Bend and happy and they’ll be Greensboro Village and happy, and we’ll be in the same town, happy.”

Landscape

Community members articulated their appreciation for the Silver Family Farm fields in southern Greensboro Bend, the Lamoille River, the Bend Park (Our Community Park), and the forested area of northeast Greensboro Bend as natural areas in the landscape.

- “I think we should be stewards of the land; the land is there for us to take care of, but also utilize.”
- “I hope that people are concerned about the river.”
- “The playground is, I think, one of the best things we’ve ever done.”

Historic Preservation

Residents deeply care about the preservation of historic buildings, such as the Davis’ General Store, Pope Hardware Store, and Train Station.

- “The historical nature of the railroad and the importance of that community as a railroad stop: that gives people a grounding.”
- “We need to embrace the historic value of the village. And everybody embrace it, not just us that live at the bottom of the hill.”

Development

Folks would like to see development of the Lamoille Valley Lumber property, owned by David Ducharme, and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Folks care about creating a balance between development and open spaces; they see a need for community gathering spaces and affordable housing.

“Having a flow of new people come to town: new faces, new ideas, new culture—having that mix with who we are to make something better.”

- “I think development should be focused on the center of the community. I don’t think we should sprawl out from the community.”
- “Doing the least harm to the environment as possible, in terms of development, although I know development is important for the future.”

Cultural

The Hunter’s Breakfast, Game Supper, Chicken Pie Supper, and the Bend Block Party are important cultural events to the Greensboro community.