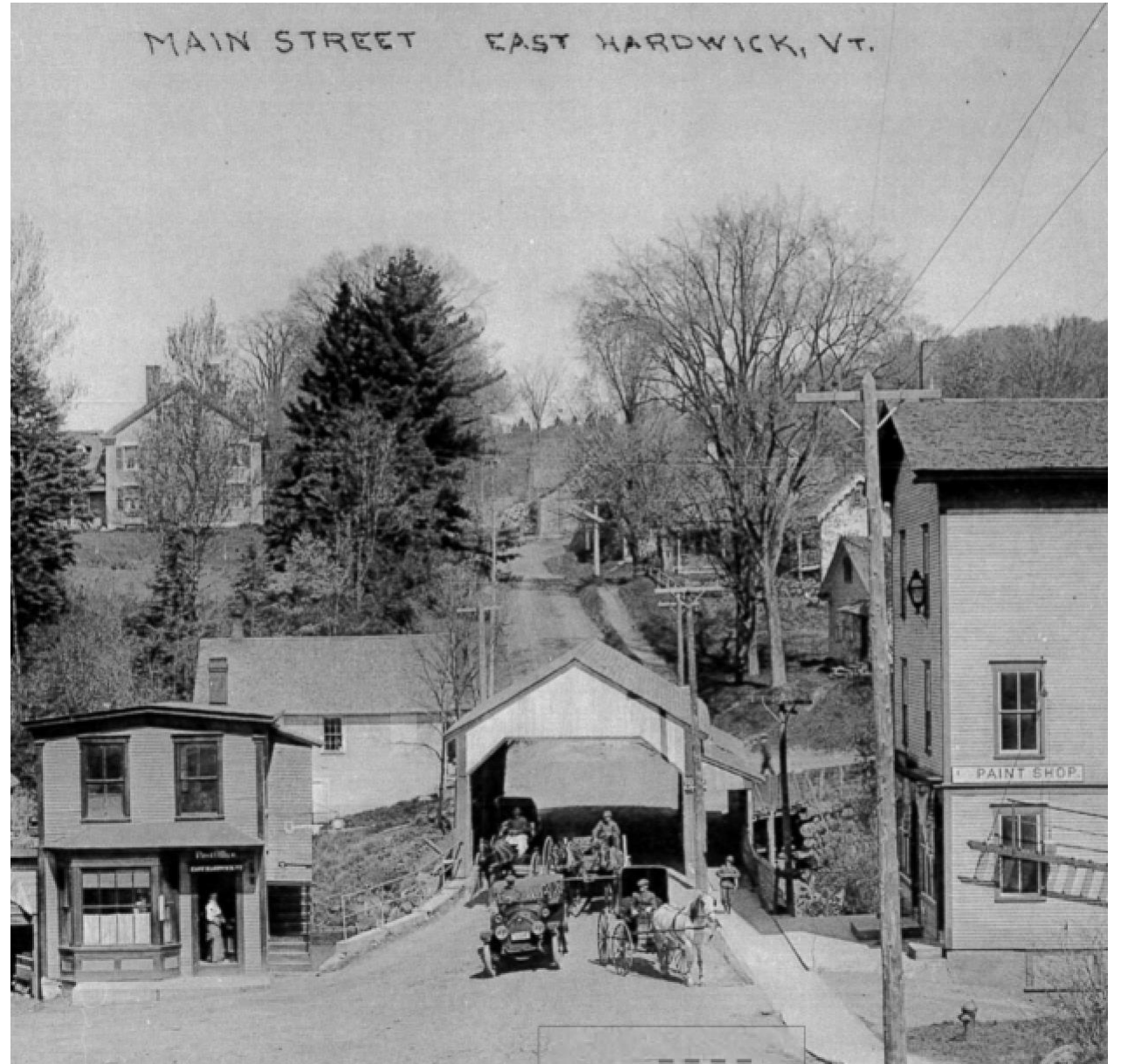


# Presentation to the Select Board on the East Hardwick Better Connections Process

## Agenda

- Introductions
- Review of the Process
- Findings/Recommendations
- Next Steps



# Introductions

## Project Managers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
David Upson	Hardwick Town Manager
Tracy Martin	Hardwick Community Development Coordinator

## Steering Committee

### *Community Members*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Kathleen Hemmens	East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization
Meredith Holch	Caledonia Grange #9
Irene Nagle	East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization
David O'Brien	East Hardwick Fire District #1

### *State of Vermont Members*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Matthew Arancio	VTrans, Planning Coordinator
Faith Dall	VTrans, Planning Coordinator
Natalie Elvidge	ACCD/DHCD, Planning Coordinator

## *Regional Planning Commission Members*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Kyle Dwyer	NVDA Regional Planner
Annie McLean	NVDA Community & Economic Recovery Specialist

## *Municipal Government Liaisons*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Kristen Leahy	Hardwick Zoning Administrator
David Gross	Chair, Hardwick Planning Commission

## Project Consultants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Firm</u>
Peter Fairweather Consulting	Lead Project Consultant, Fairweather
Andrea Day, PE	Dufresne Group

## Review of the Process

The East Hardwick Better Connections Process has sought to identify ways to maintain and enhance the vitality of East Hardwick by:

- improving pedestrian and bicycle pathways, signage, parking
- recommending potential village redevelopment projects
- identifying improvements in stormwater/drainage

## Review of the Process

The process has been based on public outreach, including:

- a community-wide survey (61 responses)
- a Village Supper, July 29, 2024, at the Grange Hall (over 50 attendees)
- a project website ([www.easthardwick.com](http://www.easthardwick.com))

## Review of the Process

Priorities identified in the public outreach process

- Improve Sidewalks
- Improve Infrastructure for Water Distribution
- Improve Drainage and Stormwater Management
- Protect and improve Village Appearance
- Connect to the River and Lamoille Valley Rail Trail
- Improve Housing Opportunities
- Improve Community Connections in General

## A FRAMEWORK FOR THINKING ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES:

### Sociability

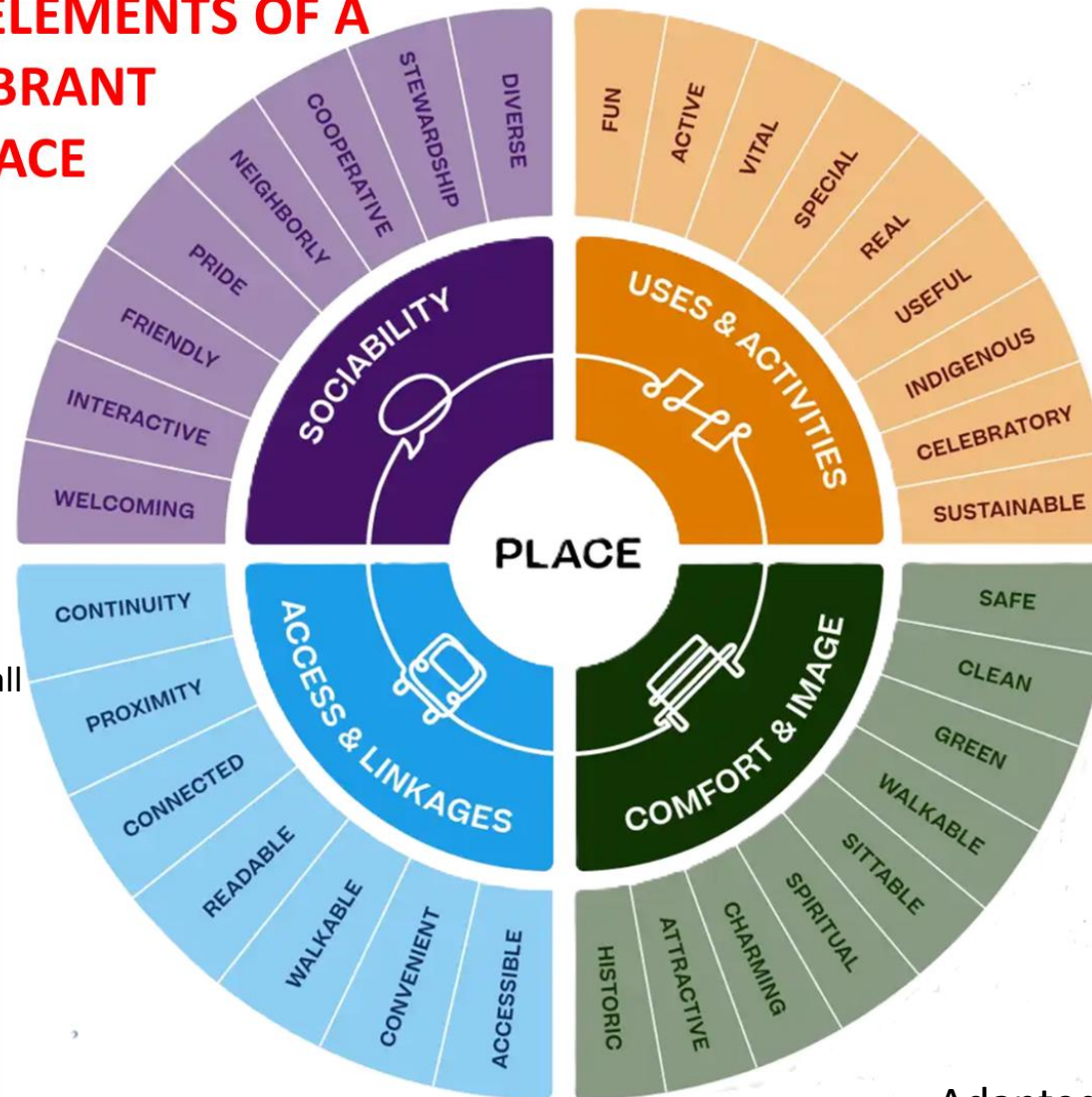
**Sociability:** the quality of a community that makes people feel welcome there and encourages them to interact with others.

### Access & Linkages

**Access:** enabling people to get to all locations in a community easily and safely.

**Linkages:** strong connections between important public spaces & neighborhoods.

### 4 ELEMENTS OF A VIBRANT PLACE



### Uses & Activities

**Uses:** the ongoing functions to which parcels of land are devoted. They can include housing, retail, open space/recreation, civic functions, etc.

**Activities:** those things that happen in a community that bind it together and make others feel welcome.

### Comfort & Image

**Comfort:** the creation of a physical environment that readily supports human activity and manages the byproducts of human activity (e.g., stormwater, wastewater, etc.)

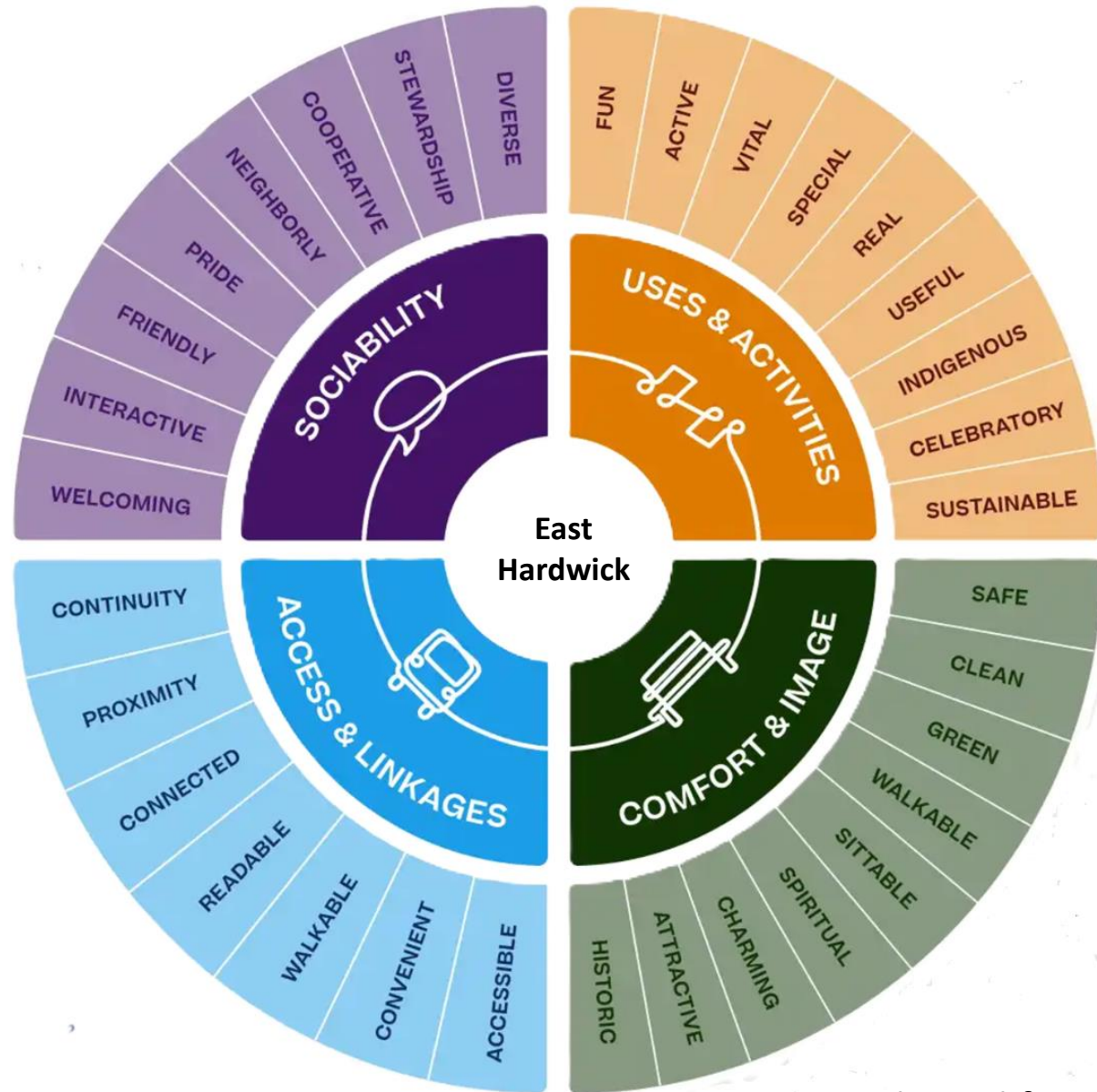
**Image:** the creation of a community image that enables both residents and visitors to feel connected to the place and understand what it offers to them.



# Findings/Recommendations

77

## A FRAMEWORK FOR THINKING ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES:



Grange Hall  
Other  
Community  
Connections/Civ  
ic Engagement

Sidewalks  
Traffic  
Calming/Redesign  
Main Street  
intersections  
Bicycle  
Infrastructure/  
Safety Measures  
Wayfinding

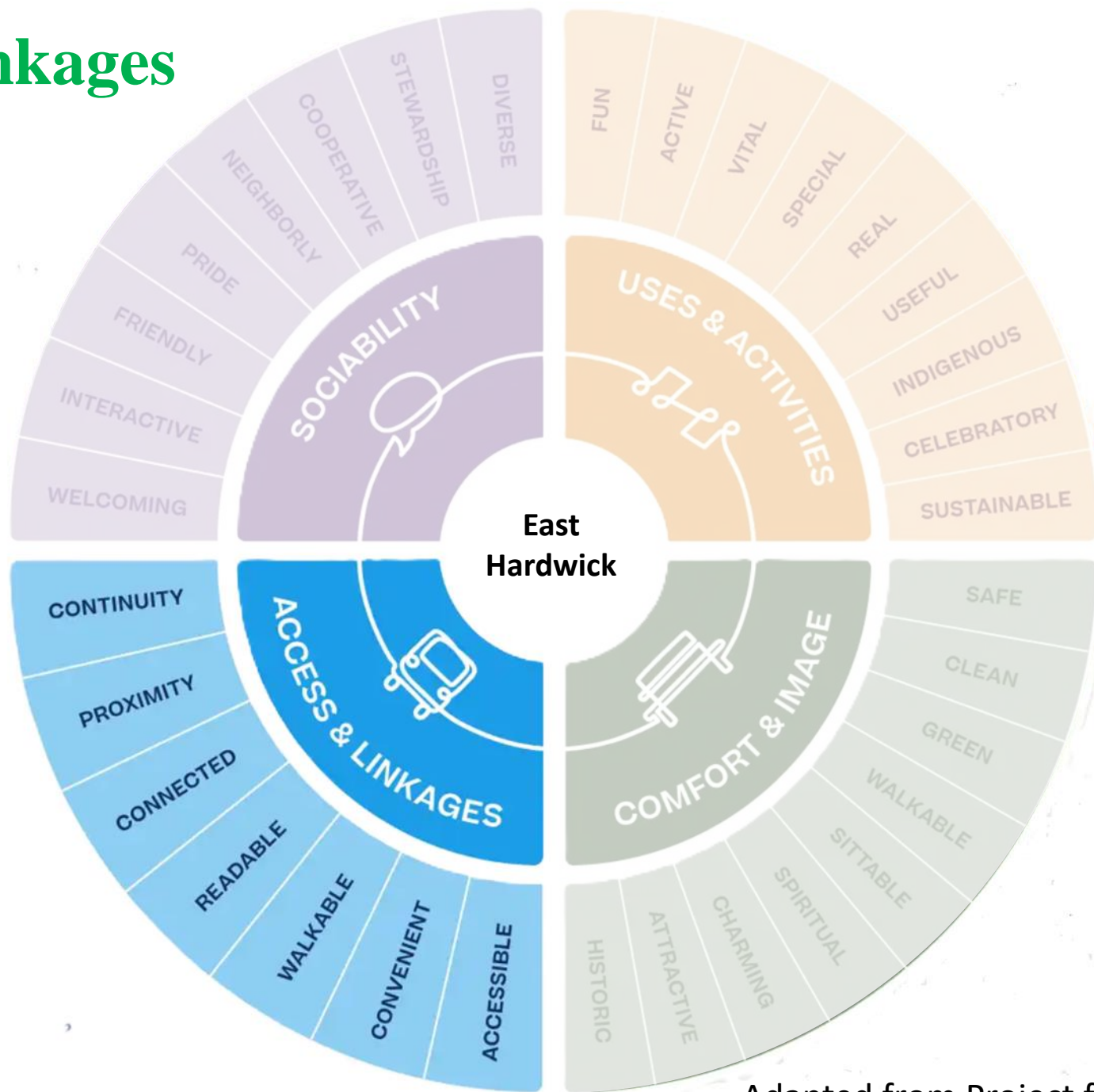
River Access  
LVRT Trailhead  
Green  
Space/Playground  
Housing  
Arts/Tourism/  
Commerce

Water Systems  
Wastewater Treatment  
Stormwater/Drainage  
Overlook Park  
Streetscape/Village  
Appearance

Adapted from Project for Public

# Access & Linkages

Grange Hall  
Other Community  
Connections/Civic  
Engagement



River Access  
LVRT Trailhead  
Green Space/Playground  
Housing  
Arts/Tourism/Commerce

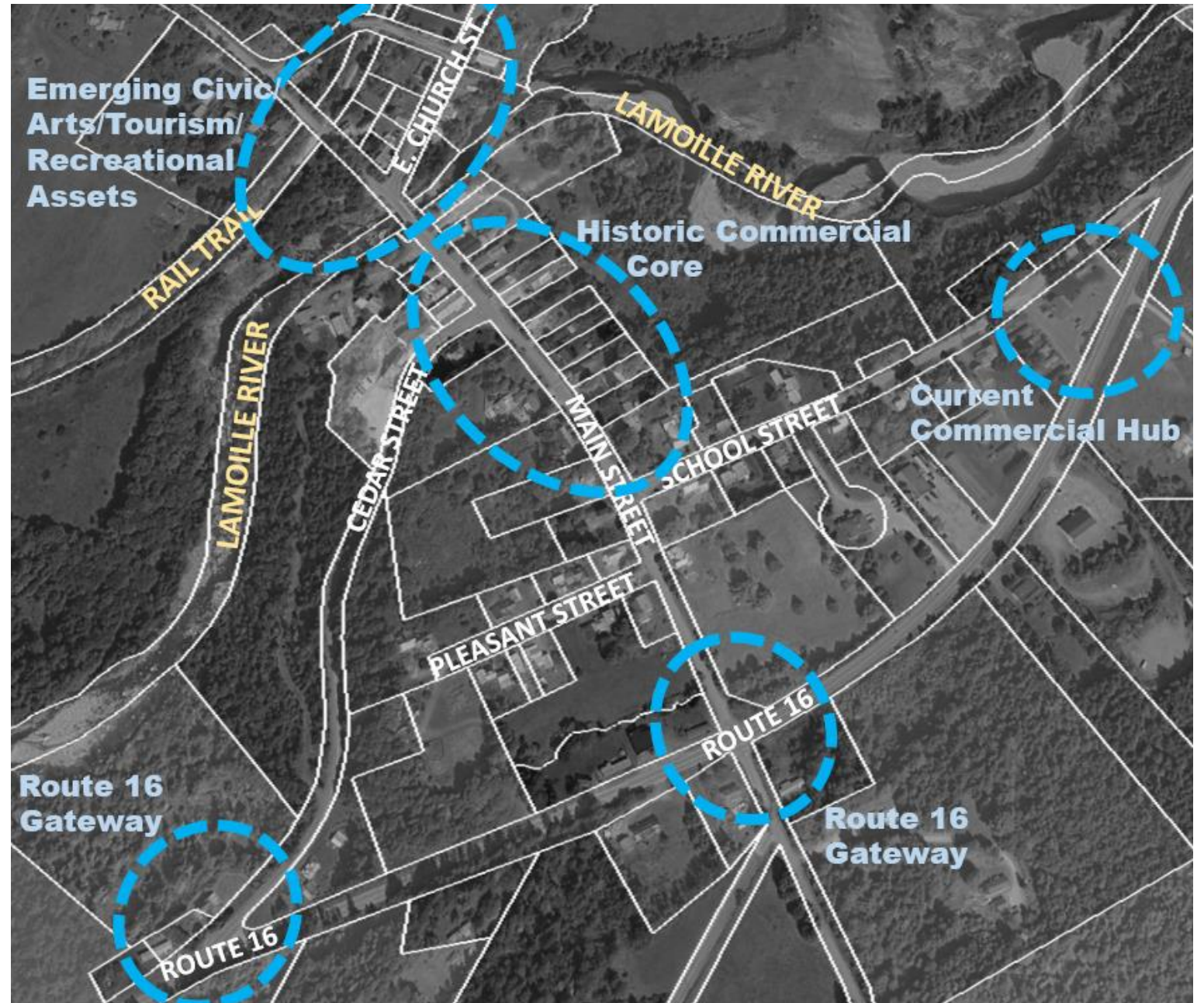
Water Systems  
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Streetscape/Village  
Appearance

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Bicycle  
Infrastructure/Safety  
Measures  
Wayfinding



# Access & Linkages

Current and Emerging Activity Centers in East Hardwick



# Access & Linkages

## Replace Sidewalks (potentially including streetscape enhancements)

**Main Street** – Replace existing sidewalk with one of concrete with granite curbing along existing alignment between School Street and East Church Street.

“Sharrows” could also be added to Main Street to enable riders on the LVRT to access the traditional commercial core and, for the time being, to access the LVRT via Ward Hill Road.



Sidewalks being replaced.



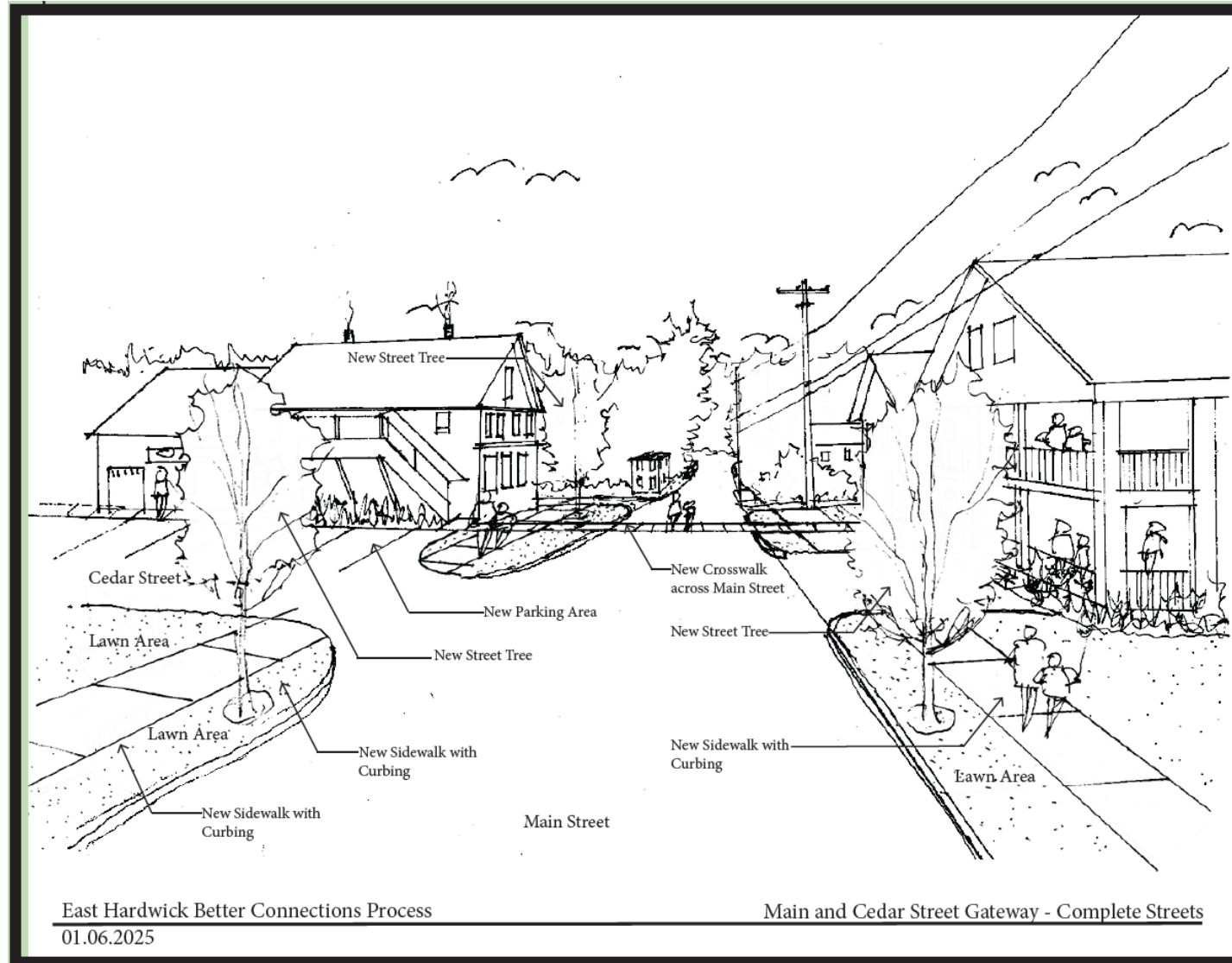
An example of a strong streetscape.

**Brickhouse Road** – Replace existing sidewalk between East Church Street and the LVRT.



# Access & Linkages

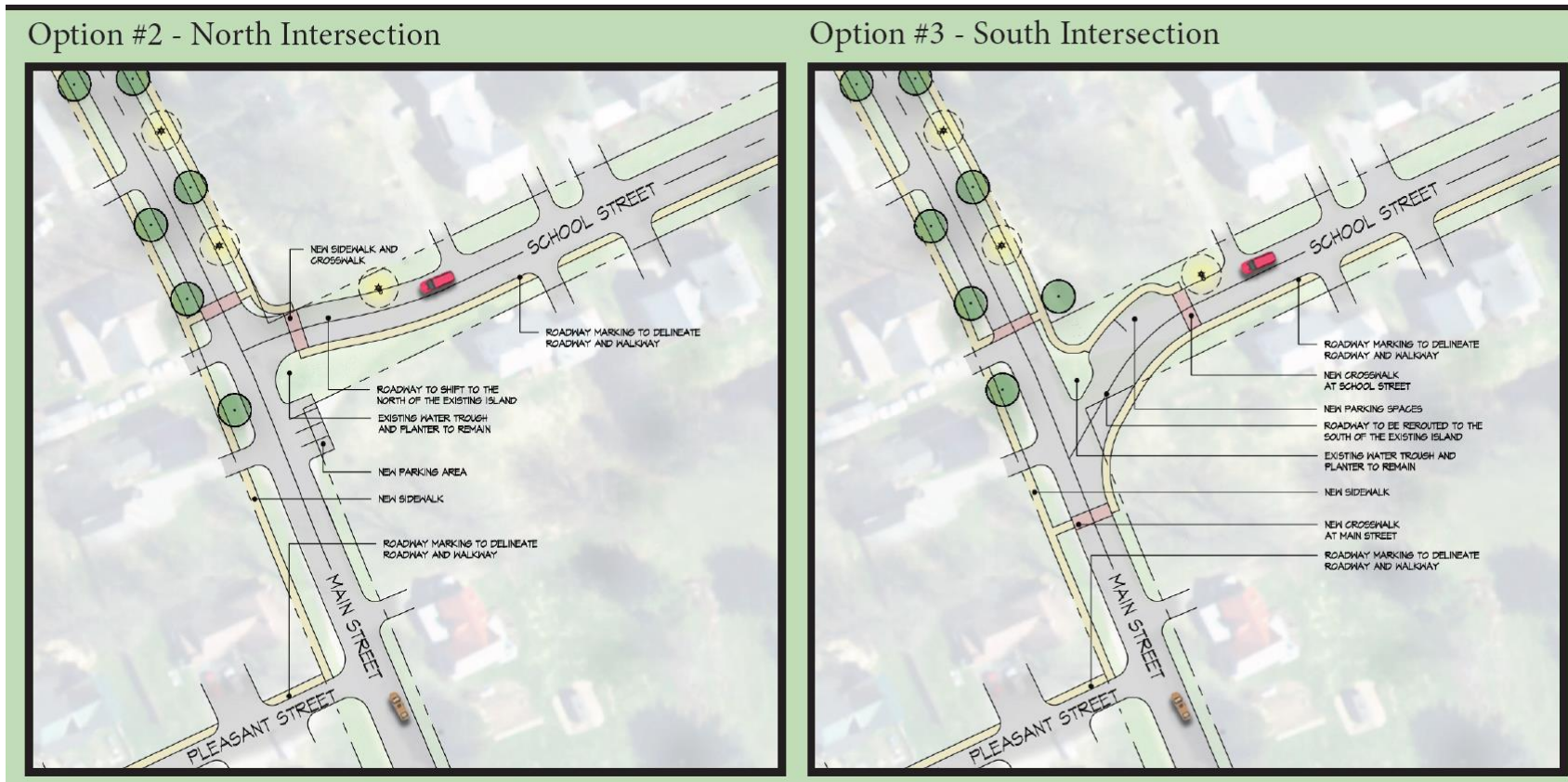
**Options for Main Street Streetscape: The report endorses the full streetscape**



# Access & Linkages

## Reconfigured Intersections

**School Street/Main Street Intersection** – Reconfigure intersection to have one point of access.

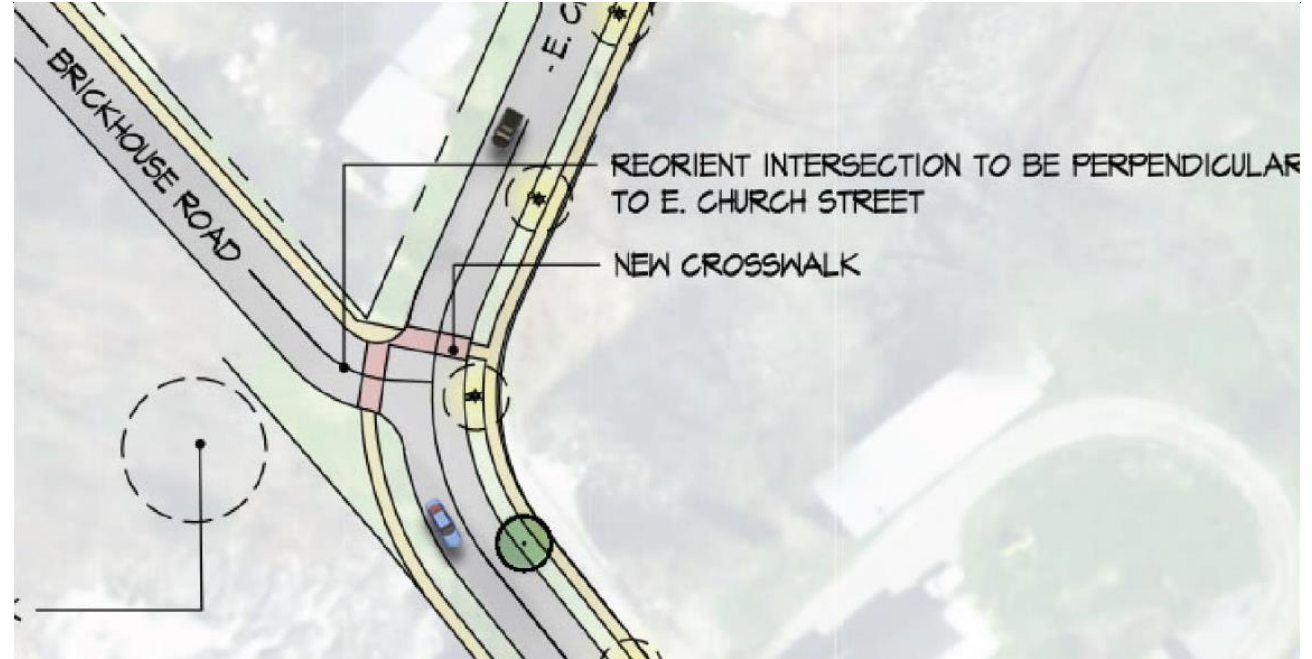


**Report calls for options 2 or 3**

# Access & Linkages

## Reconfigured Intersections

**Brickhouse Road/Main Street Intersection –**  
Reorient the intersection in accordance with the Local Motion recommendations to create a more perpendicular intersection.



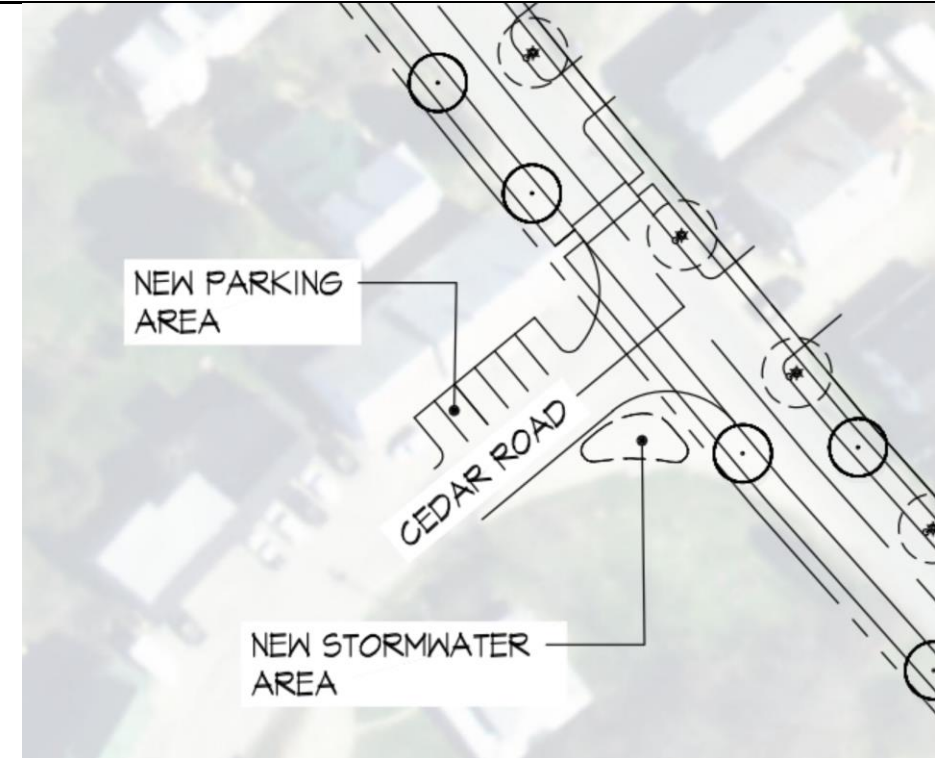


# Access & Linkages

## Reconfigured Intersections

### **Cedar Street/Main Street Intersection –**

Reduce the width of the intersection, add parking along McFeeters and add stormwater infiltration on the uphill side.



# Access & Linkages

## Reconfigured Intersections

## Enhanced Route 16 Gateways

**Cedar Street/VT-16 Intersection** – It is recommended that the intersection be reconfigured to be perpendicular with VT-16.

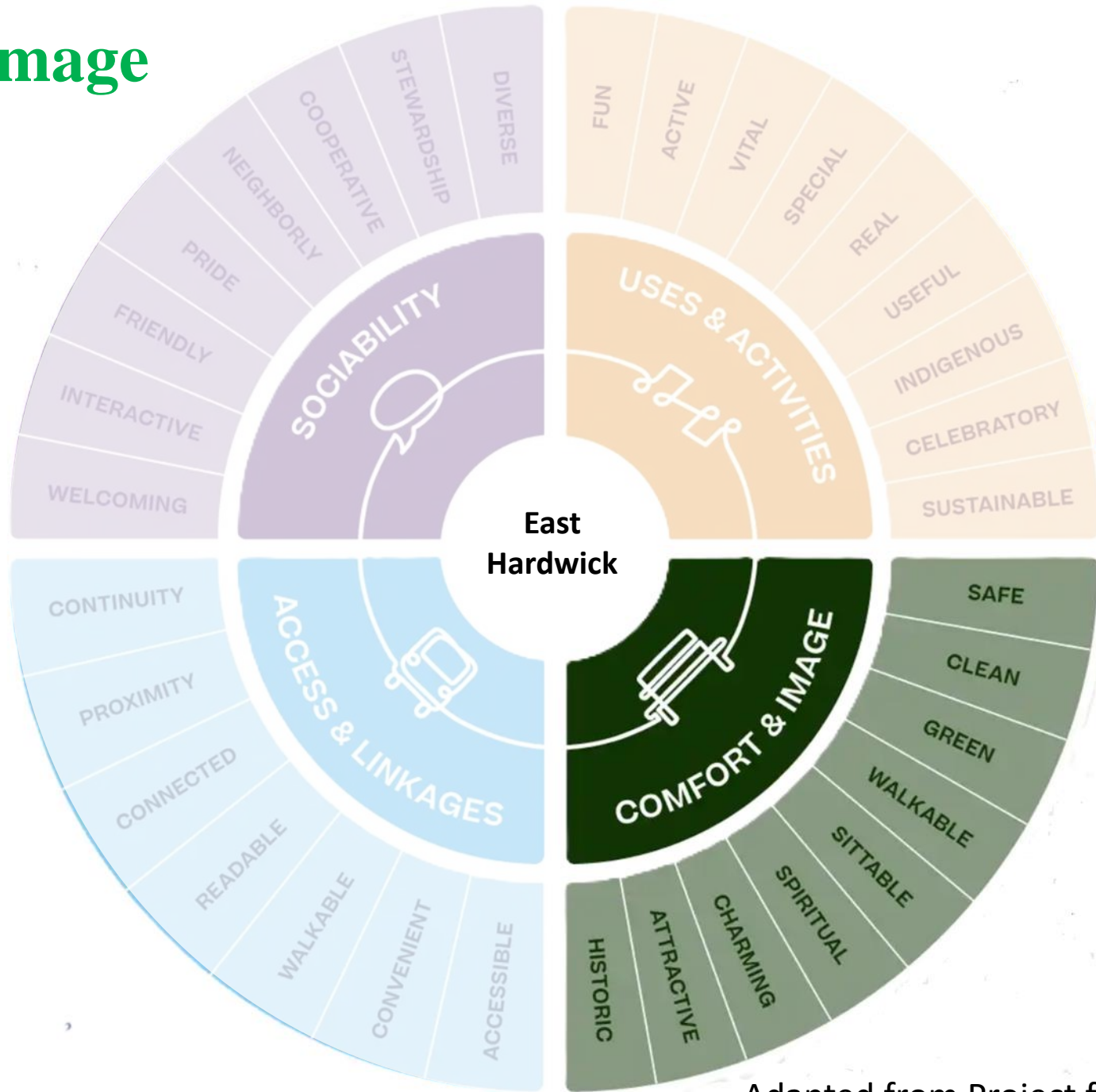


**Main Street/VT-16 Intersection** – Request traffic study by VTRANS.



# Comfort & Image

Grange Hall  
Other Community  
Connections/Civic  
Engagement



River Access  
LVRT Trailhead  
Green Space/Playground  
Housing  
Arts/Tourism/Commerce

Water Systems  
Wastewater Treatment  
Stormwater/Drainage  
Overlook Park  
Streetscape/Village  
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Main Street  
intersections  
Bicycle  
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Measures  
Wayfinding

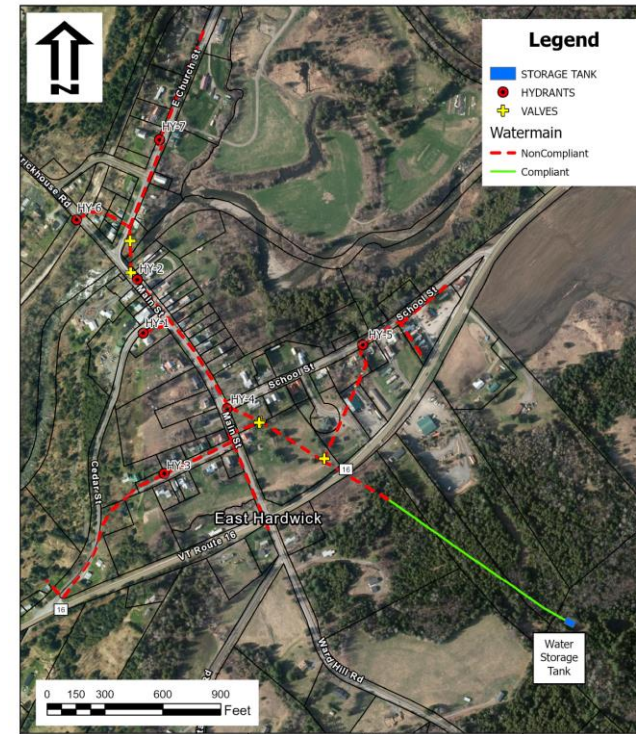
## Comfort and Image

### **Emerging Priorities:**

- **Improve stormwater collection and treatment.**
- **Provide Park areas & River Access.**
- **Maintain and improve the Village water system.**
- **Consider the need for a village-wide wastewater system.**

# Comfort and Image

**Water Systems: Recommendation**  
The East Hardwick Fire District is working to evaluate the water system and identify projects that will allow the system to continue to provide high quality water to their users.



Projects and associated costs will be identified in the study being undertaken by the Fire District.



# Comfort and Image

## **Stormwater Projects**

More detailed information is included in the separate East Hardwick Stormwater Treatment Report.

### **Recommended Locations**

**Main Street**

**E. Church Street**

**Brickhouse Road**

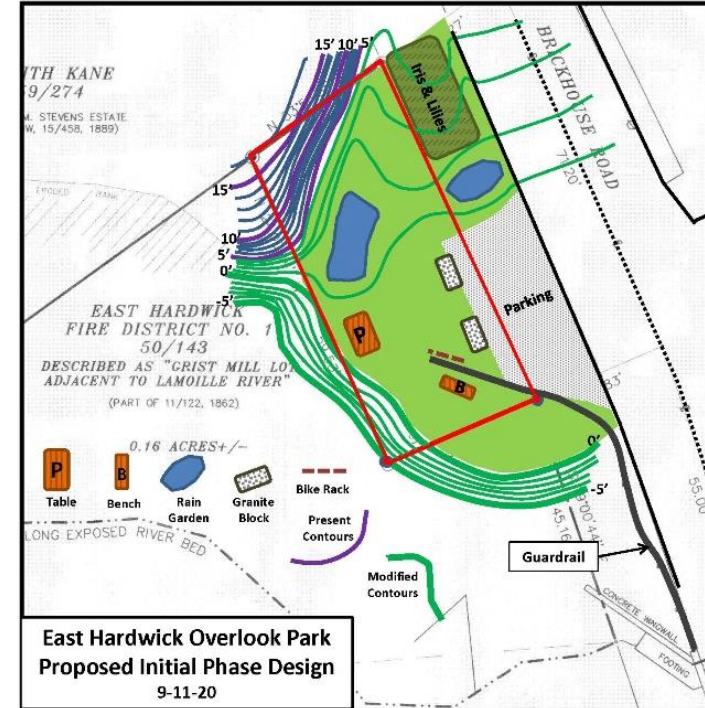
**School Street/Route 16 intersection (Stabilize the bank along School Street)**

# Comfort and Image

## Overlook Park

Overlook Park is making progress towards the vision developed by EHNO. Continued progress is anticipated to occur in the coming year.

No further recommendations are included as part of this study.

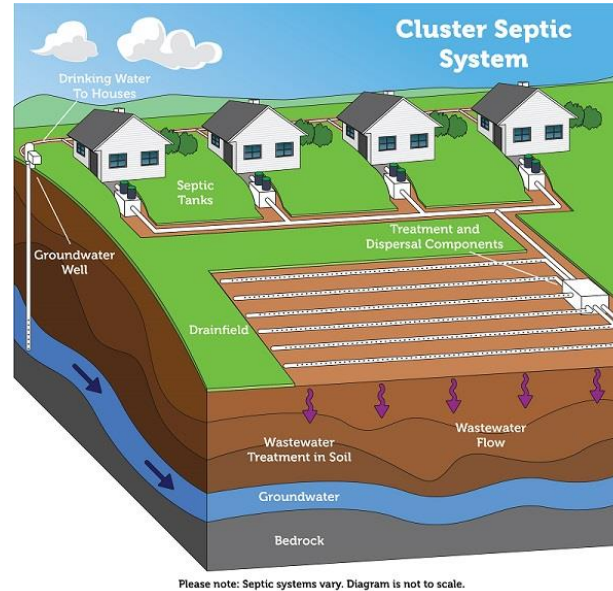


# Comfort and Image

## Wastewater Treatment

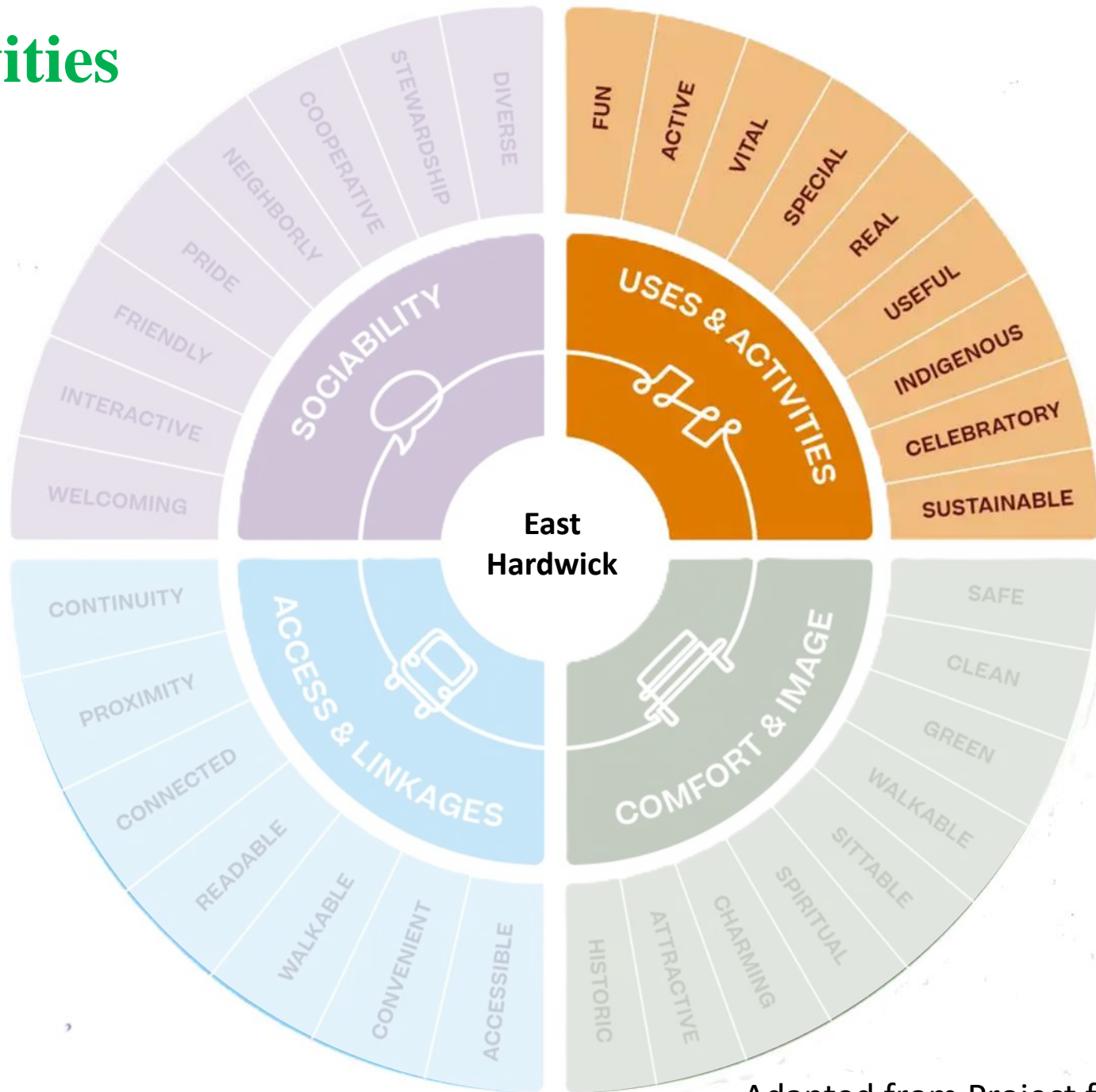
### Village

wastewater is something that could be considered, as much for existing homes and businesses, as for future growth.



# Uses & Activities

Grange Hall  
Other Community  
Connections/Civic  
Engagement



River Access  
LVRT Trailhead  
Green Space/Playground  
Housing  
Arts/Tourism/Commerce

Water Systems  
Westwater Treatment  
Stormwater/Drainage  
Overlook Park  
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Wayfinding



# Uses & Activities

Much of the land in and around East Hardwick is constrained for development due to flood hazards (in blue & purple (and steep slopes (in yellow & tan).

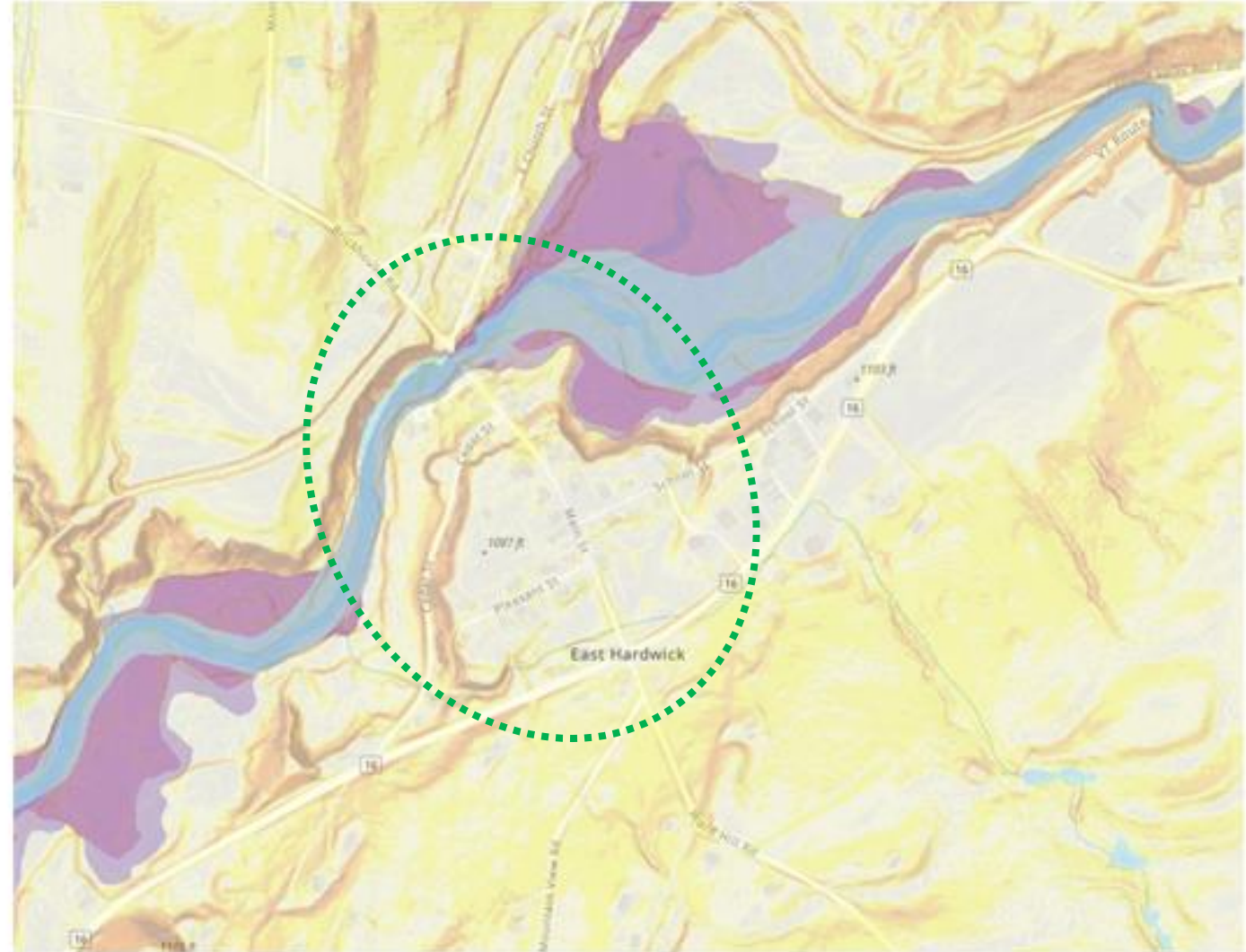
Figure 2. Constrained Lands in and Around East Hardwick

## USA Flood Hazard Areas

-  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Regulatory Floodway
-  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
-  Special Floodway

## Terrain: Slope Map

-  Flat (0°)
-  Nearly level (1°)
-  Gently level (2°)
-  Gently sloping (3° - 5°)
-  Strongly sloping (6° - 10°)
-  Gently steep (11° - 15°)
-  Moderately Steep (16° - 20°)
-  Steep (21° - 30°)
-  Very steep (31° - 90°)





# Uses & Activities

**Emerging Priorities:** Key priorities that have emerged for East Hardwick from the Better Connections Process and other community projects include:

- **Create a coffee shop.**
- **Small office space.**
- **Bicycle and fishing-related businesses.**
- **Maintaining the gas/convenience store.**
- **Using the LVRT to support village vitality** by, for example, having food carts on LVRT.

# Uses & Activities

## Specific Investments in Vitality

**Recognize the Grange Hall as an important community center for East Hardwick.** Obtaining funding for its full restoration is an important component in securing the ongoing vitality of East Hardwick.

**Develop the LVRT Trail head as a major gateway to the Village.** There may also be opportunities to collaborate with similar trail-related initiatives in Greensboro Bend and other nearby communities.

**Develop the Overlook Park** and pursue other opportunities for access to the Lamoille River.

**Explore housing development opportunities** with private developers and groups such as Rural Edge, with a focus on the adaptive reuse of existing buildings. This could include mixed use buildings, with a store or office on the first floor and housing on the floor above.

# Uses & Activities

## Village-wide Initiatives

### Adopt a Village Center District for East Hardwick.

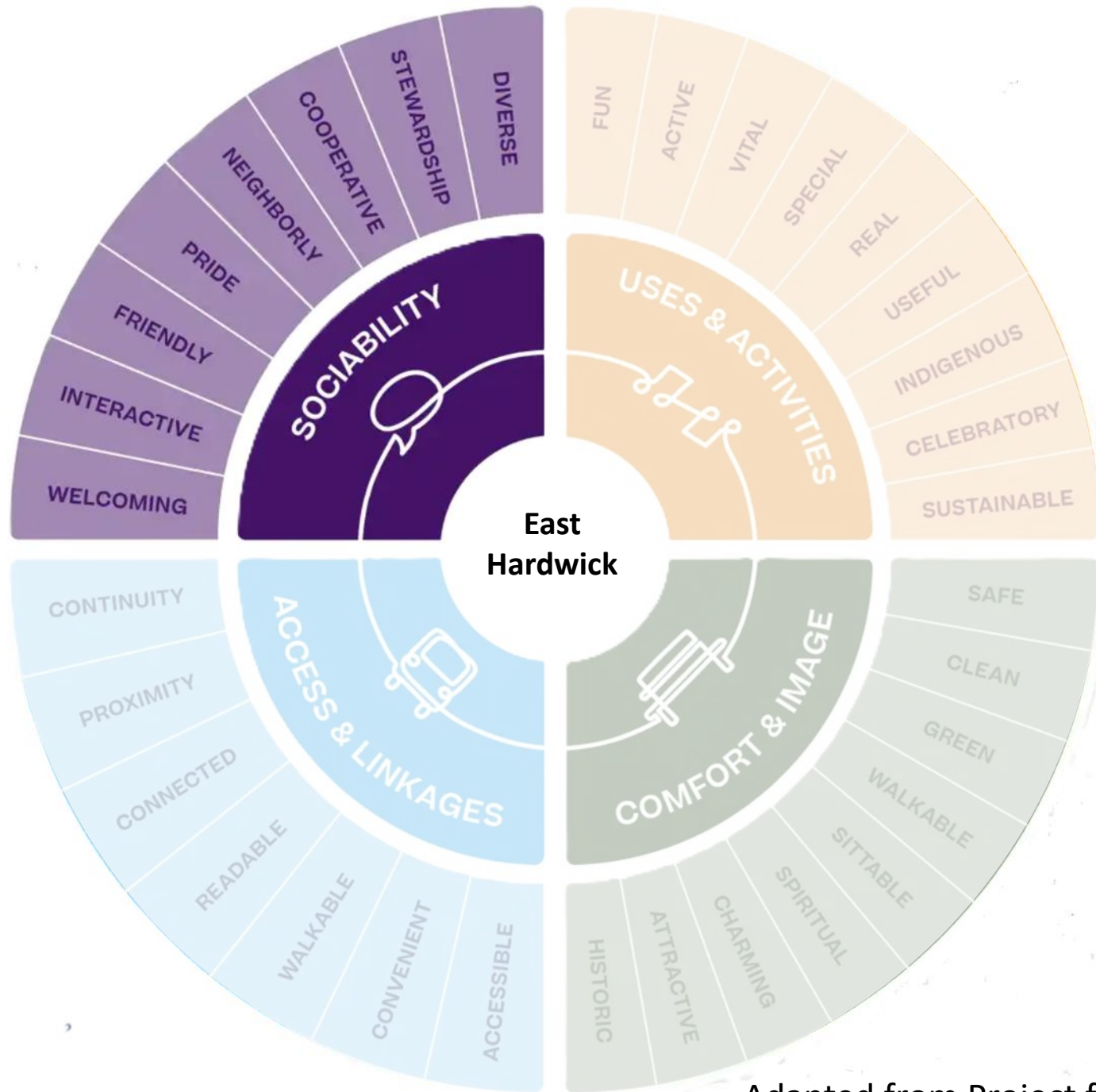
Improve the Village appearance and connectivity to support “experience-based” enterprises in the Village.



East Hardwick's Children's Parade

# Sociability

**Grange Hall**  
**Other Community**  
**Connections/Civic**  
**Engagement**



River Access

LVRT Trailhead

Green Space/Playground

Housing

Arts/Tourism/Commerce

Sidewalks

Traffic  
 Calming/Redesign  
 Main Street  
 intersections

Bicycle  
 Infrastructure/Safety  
 Measures  
 Wayfinding

Water Systems

Wastewater Treatment

Stormwater/Drainage

Overlook Park

Streetscape/Village  
 Appearance

# Sociability

**Emerging Priorities:** Key priorities that have emerged for East Hardwick from the Better Connections Process include:

- **A desire for more community events.**
- **Preserve the Grange Hall, including fixing the kitchen.**
- **Creating public gathering spaces.**
- **Maintain and grow the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization.**



# Sociability

## **Mobilizing Existing Assets: Recommended Actions**

**The Grange Hall should be embraced as a community center.**

**Use the LVRT Trail Head to provide information about community events and activities.**

**Create opportunities for socializing on Main Street.** Development of greenspace at the site of the former Library/Firehouse could be part of this effort.

# Sociability

## **Community Stewardship: Recommended Actions**

**Recognize EHNO as a major contributor to sociability in East Hardwick.**

**Create a formal events calendar for East Hardwick.**

**Celebrate successes.**

# Next Steps

## • Implementation

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:	
IMMEDIATE PRIORITY (within 2 years of plan completion)	LEAD PARTY
A&L-4. Replace Sidewalks on Main Street. (See page 27.)	Town Gov't./VTrans
C&I-5. Enhance the Streetscape on Main Street. (See page 42.)	Town Gov't./VTrans
A&L-5. Replace Sidewalk on Brickhouse Road. (See page 28.)	Town Gov't./VTrans
A&L-7. Reconfigure Brickhouse Road/Main Street Intersection. (See page 31.)	Town Gov't./VTrans
A&L-8. Reconfigure Cedar Street/Main Street Intersection. (See page 32.)	Town Gov't./VTrans
A&L-9. Study Safety Enhancements for Main Street/VT-16 Intersection. (See page 33.)	Select Board/VTrans
C&I-1. Evaluate the Village Water System. (See page 37.)	Fire District
C&I-3. Improve stormwater collection on Main Street, East Church Street, Brickhouse Road and the School Street/Route 16 intersection. (See page 39.)	Town Gov't.
C&I-4. Continue improvements to Overlook Park. (See page 41.)	EHNO
U&A-1. Recognize the Grange Hall as an important community center for East Hardwick. (See page 48.)	Grange
U&A-5. Adopt a Village Center District for East Hardwick. (See page 50.)	Planning Commission
S-3. Recognize EHNO as a major contributor to vitality in East Hardwick. (See page 55.)	Town Gov't.
S-4. Create a formal events calendar for East Hardwick. (See page 55.)	EHNO/Grange
S-5. Celebrate successes in building better connections. (See page 55.)	EHNO/Grange
S-6. Remove the former Library/Firehouse Building and create a small greenspace. (See page 55.)	Fire District/EHNO

INTERMEDIATE PRIORITY (within 3 to 5 years of plan completion)	LEAD PARTY
A&L-1. Paved/Striped Pedestrian Lane for School Street. (See page 25.)	EHNO/Town Gov't.
A&L-2. Paved/Striped Pedestrian Lane for Pleasant Street from Main Street to its end. (See page 25.)	EHNO/Town Gov't.
A&L-3. Study Connectivity Options for East Church Street. (See page 26.)	EHNO/Town Gov't.
A&L-10. Reconfigure the Cedar Street/VT-16 Intersection. (See page 34.)	Town Gov't./VTrans
A&L-11. Create a Wayfinding system tying the LVRT to the other activity centers in the Village. (See page 35.)	EHNO
U&A-2. Develop the LVRT Trail head as a major gateway to the Village. (See page 48.)	EHNO
U&A-3. Pursue opportunities for access to the Lamoille River. (See page 48.)	EHNO
U&A-4. Explore housing development opportunities with private developers and groups such as Rural Edge and the Northern Forest Center. (See page 49.)	Town Gov't.
S-1. Use the LVRT Trail Head to provide information about community events and activities. (See page 53.)	EHNO/Grange
LONG-TERM PRIORITY (within 6 years of plan completion)	LEAD PARTY
A&L-6. Reconfigure School Street/Main Street Intersection. (See page 29.)	EHNO/Town Gov't.
U&A-6. Improve the Village appearance and connectivity to support "experience-based" enterprises in the Village. (See page 50.)	EHNO
S-2. Create opportunities for socializing on Main Street. (See page 53.)	EHNO
C&I-2. Over the long term, consider potential new solutions to municipal wastewater treatment. (See page 38.)	Town Gov't./Fire District