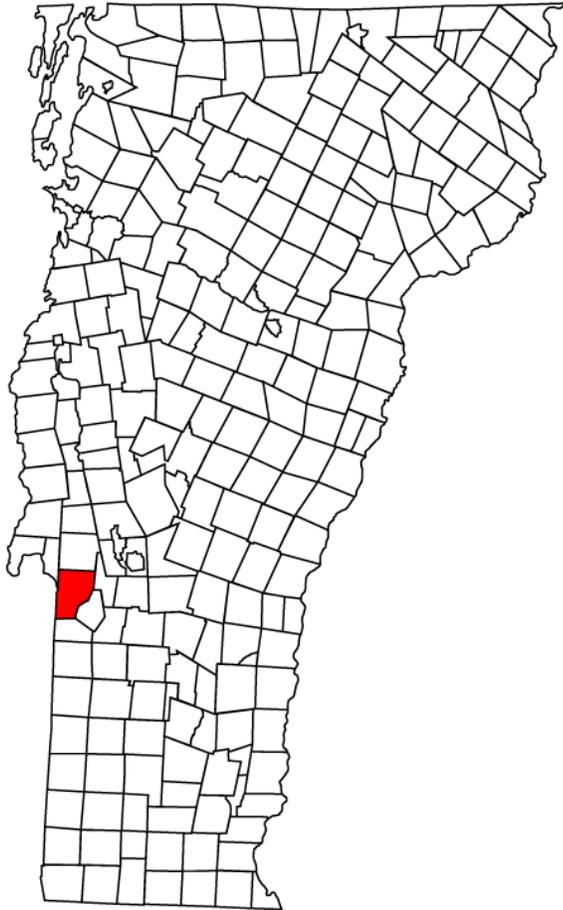




Welcome to Poultney, Vermont

The Starting Place



“Poultney is located on the Vermont-New York border in the Lakes Region of western Rutland county, about halfway between Rutland, VT and Glens Falls, NY. ...the southern surveyed border between the two states meets the Poultney River behind the former Green Mountain College.”

Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce. Map from wikipedia

Poultney Village



East Poultney Village



The Starting Place

“About 3,600 people live in the town, many under 18. Poultney has both an elementary school and small high school, one informal motto is **“small in size, but big in spirit.”** Volunteerism is alive and well in Poultney, and many services are provided by those who are looking to be involved or just “give back” the community.

Major economic drivers in the Poultney area include slate quarrying, light manufacturing, education, recreation, and agriculture. There are many businesses: brick-and-mortar, online or a combination of both. New entrepreneurs are always welcome.”

Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce

The Starting Place



The Starting Place



Trail Use

Photo by Chuck Helfer

...weavers, herons, wood and mallard ducks and muskrats. Along the wooded and more remote sections, especially along the southern half, deer are easy to spot. The many bridges on the trail can be exhilarating to cross, especially the 100-foot spans in Poultney and West Pawlet. The trail right-of-way is a good place to see a wide variety of wildflowers, and is a great place to see many different species of trees and shrubs. These all provide edge habitat for several species of songbirds.

Management of the D & H Rail Trail

FPR manages the two sections of nearly equal length as a multiple use trail open to non-motorized use in summer months and to non-motorized and snowmobile use in winter months. The D&H Trail Advisory Council, established in 1996, provides management input. VAST also provides management input and assistance and maintains portions of the trail as a snowmobile corridor trail. Recent major investments in the trail include using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to rebuild 10 bridges in 2010.

The D & H Rail Trail was created with assistance from the Rails to Trails Conservancy, a 501(c)3 nonprofit devoted to creating a nationwide network of rail trails to promote healthy, connected communities.



rails-to-trails
conservancy

Trail Use Guidelines

Stay on the trail: Please respect the private property of adjacent landowners. Leaving the trail may constitute trespassing on private property.

Yield the right-of-way: When approaching oncoming trail users, always move to your right. When overtaking slower moving users, announce your intentions and pass on the left.

Stop at all road crossings: Trail users must stop and yield to traffic at all intersections with public highways. There are 16 intersections with public roads; please use extreme caution when proceeding.

Appropriate gear: Wear clothing and protective equipment matched to the activity you pursue. Helmets are strongly recommended for bicycling, horseback riding and snowmobiling.

Watch for obstacles: You may encounter natural obstructions such as fallen trees, ruts, washouts or wildlife.

Trail surface: Care should be taken when approaching bridges as there is normally a small transition between the cinder or gravel trail tread and the bridge abutment. The trail has several different types of tread material; some sections may be softer than others.

Pets: Pets are welcome on the trail but must be under owner's control at all times. Dogs should be kept on a leash for their own protection as well as other users and wildlife.

Please do not litter.

a daily freight and passenger service that handled 15-30 cars per trip. The trains moved tons of roofing slate from quarries in western Vermont to markets along the eastern seaboard. As transportation modes continued to change in the 20th century, and the quarry businesses declined, the rail line (as well as the whole D & H system) languished. The railroad went bankrupt in the 1970s and the Washington Branch ownership was transferred several times before being used for the last time in 1980. The Vermont Agency of Transportation acquired the northern section in 1983 with the idea of re-establishing rail service to the line.

When this proved unfeasible, it was put into a "rail bank" in a mothballed state for potential future use. Vermont and New York officials met in 1985 to discuss turning the entire line into a recreational trail; as a result of these meetings, VTrans purchased the southern section in 1986. The Vermont sections were then leased to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for development into and management as a Rails-to-Trails corridor. The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers lobbied in favor of this proposal.

The D & H Railway still exists to this day, acting as a bridge line, moving freight between other larger railways. It is the oldest continuously operating transportation company in the U.S.

For more information, contact:
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
271 N. Main St, Suite 215
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 786-0060
www.vtstateparks.com
www.vtpr.org



VERMONT
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

To request this publication in Braille or alternate visual format, please contact parks@vermont.gov
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Multi-Use Trail Open Year-Round
Bicycling
Walking & Jogging
Horseback Riding
Snowmobiling
Snowshoeing
Cross-Country Skiing

Welcome to the D & H Rail Trail

The D & H Rail Trail is a 19.8-mile rail trail that traverses two non-contiguous sections of the former Washington Branch of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. The trail is managed and maintained by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation as a multiple-use trail.

History of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company was incorporated in 1823 in New York and Pennsylvania to construct a canal and towpath system along the Delaware and Hudson Rivers as a means of improving freight movement. As the decades progressed and transportation methods changed, the company built many rail lines in New York and Pennsylvania and eventually became the Delaware and Hudson Company. The rail system connected coal fields in eastern Pennsylvania with the industrial and metropolitan centers in New York and Pennsylvania; the line was also an important connection to the eastern seaboard, being commonly referred to as the "bridge line to New England." The D & H Rail Trail occupies part of the Washington Branch which ran from Eagle Bridge, New York to Castleton, Vermont. This line was constructed as part of a rail system that connected Albany with Montreal.

The Washington Branch line flourished for a time around the turn of the 20th century, running the "slate picker,"

The Starting Place



Our very own State Park | Photo by Bob Ricketson



Lake St. Catherine State Park | Photo by Evan Masseur

The Starting Place



Photo by Chuck Helfer

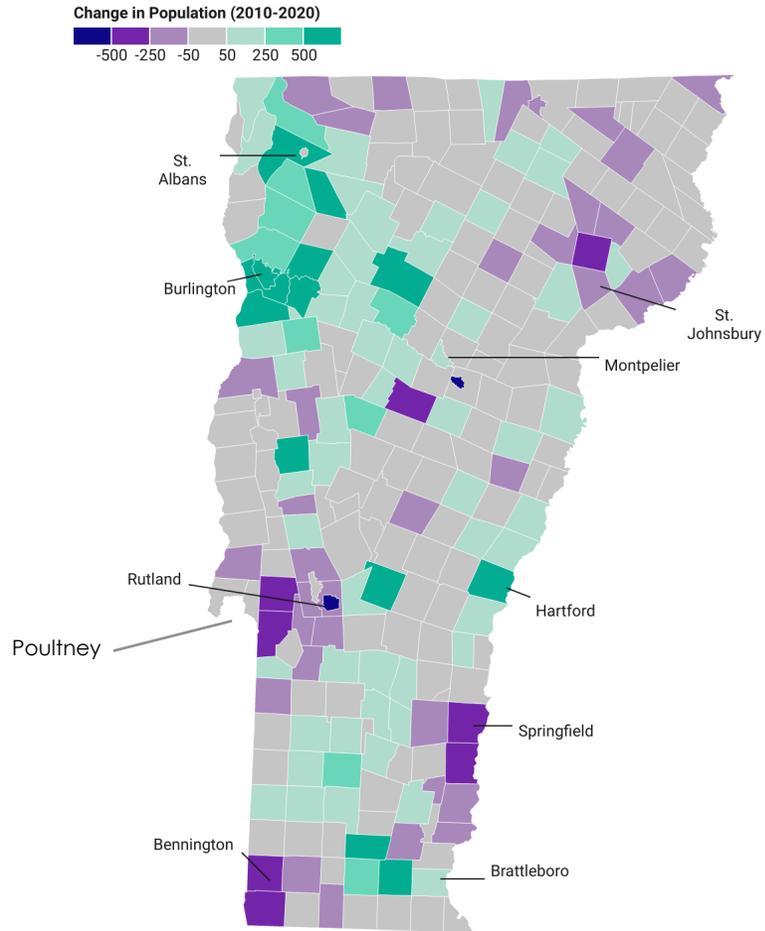
The Inflection Point



The Inflection Point



The Inflection Point



Information from the 2020 Census shows Poultney's population declined significantly since 2010.

The town lost 412 residents during that time – 12% of the population.

Source: Vermont Center for Geographic Information (vcgi.vermont.gov)

The Inflection Point | Scope It!

Poultney 2020 Summer Meeting

When: Thursday, August 25, 2016 @ 6-8:00 pm

Where: **The Meeting House** @ 348 Bentley Ave.

Why should you come? To learn about projects that are on the ground revitalizing Poultney, to have your voice heard, **propose new projects** and be a part of improving our great community.

How do you see Poultney evolving?

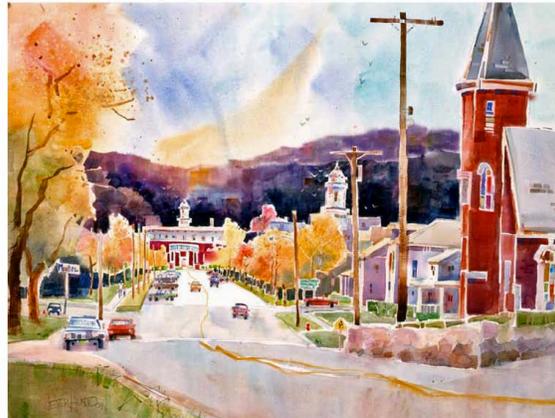
Let us know. We're listening.

Poultney 2020

CREATING A VIBRANT FUTURE TOGETHER

Poultney Comes Together

Report and Action Plan, August 2019



Produced by the **Vermont Council on Rural Development** and the **Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development** in partnership with the **Vermont Community Foundation**



Photo Credit: Chuck Helfer

YOU ARE INVITED

BY THE TOWN OF POULTNEY AND LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP CENTERED AROUND **GROWING POULTNEY'S OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY AND REVITALIZING OUR DOWNTOWN**. THE WORKSHOP WILL TAKE PLACE ON **FEBRUARY 8-11**.

Join us to share your perspectives on what makes Poultney special and create a community action plan that will build our outdoor recreation sector and energize downtown. We'll work together over six 90-120 minute sessions. Sign up for all of them if you can, or as many as you'd like!

TO SEE THE SCHEDULE AND REGISTER, VISIT HERE: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/NJCHKAHULYZLGRBUA](https://forms.gle/NJCHKAHULYZLGRBUA). OR SCAN CODE QUESTIONS- CONTACT SARAH PELKEY, TOWN OF POULTNEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR AT : (802) 287-4297 OR POULTNEYECONOMIC@GMAIL.COM.

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE USDA FOREST SERVICE, AND THE NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.



The Inflection Point | Scope It!

“Poultney, Vermont, will spotlight its recreation assets, encourage more residents and visitors to participate in recreation, connect nearby hiking-biking trails to downtown, and work to attract new recreation-economy investors.”

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (EPA RERC)

The Inflection Point | Scope It!



The Inflection Point | Scope It!

Goal 1: Physical Connections: Continue to expand year-round sustainable recreational assets in Poultney, and to connect them to the downtown and East Poultney Village

Goal 2: Downtown Amenities & Business Development: Develop the town's and village's sense of place and amenities to augment recreational assets. Encourage the development of new businesses and support the expansion of existing businesses that are both directly and indirectly related to the recreation economy.

The Inflection Point | Scope It!

Goal 3: Engagement: Increase youth, senior, and broader community engagement in outdoor recreation and community and natural resource stewardship.

Goal 4: Community Brand: Position Poultney as a center for the recreation economy in the region, recognizing that recreation is a multigenerational lifestyle AND an economic driver that can support business development and entrepreneurship.

The Community | Feel It!



POULTNEY HIGH SCHOOL			
APRIL			
19	BB - PROCTOR	HOME	4:30
	SB - GREEN MT		
20	SB - AT VERGENNES		4:30
22	BB - MILL RIVER		
	SB - PROCTOR	HOME	4:00

The Community | Feel It!

Community &
the Outdoor
Recreation
Economy

Community = Economy. Start with the community and build from there.

Kids are key

Structured, rich community conversations can provide a great base to build on



*Tim Johnson
of Johnson &
Son Bikeworks*

Hampton, NY



*Ryan, teen mountain bike coach,
and his new bike*

*Ryan participates in Poultney Trail
Blazers teen stewardship programs*





*Bob, Ryan's
dad and new
mountain biker*



Owen Teetor participating in a Slate Valley Trails work night



Mark and Owen Teetor – Father and Son & Owners of Ferncliff Camps



Michelle McCarron, former director of the local senior center, EPA RERC participant, and new Slate Valley trailwork volunteer

The Community | Feel It!



The Community | Feel It!



Connect with other community organizations and Civic Groups as partners.

Thank you REclaimED, Stone Valley Arts, Poultney Rotary, Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce, The Poultney Snowdevils, the Poultney Historical Society

The Story Trail @ Slate Valley Trails, in partnership with the Poultney Library

What's Next | Send It!



What's Next | Send It!

Gaining Momentum



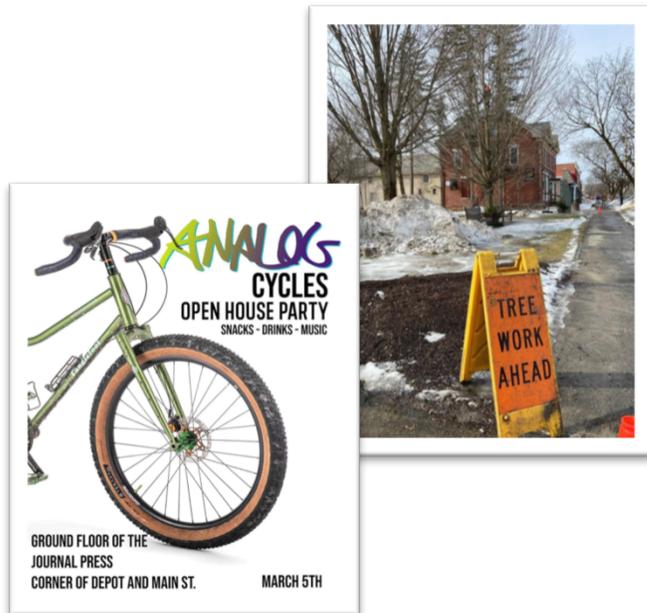
Community is being created around the trails and their potential for Poultney

Ambassadors are sharing the story

Partnerships are being forged with businesses and other civic groups

What's Next | Send It!

Gaining Momentum



Infrastructure is being assessed to ensure it supports a recreation economy and alternative transportation (wayfinding, streetscape improvements and transportation networks). A 'Better Connections' Town to Trails project is kicking-off in Spring 2022.

Strategic marketing to ensure change is incremental and fits the community's goals and commonly held identity.

Welcome new businesses!

2022 by the Numbers



TOTAL TRAIL VISITS

15,878



TOTAL NUMBER OF SVT MEMBERS

283



TOTAL NUMBER OF MAJOR EVENT PARTICIPANTS

380+



TOTAL NUMBER OF FREE COMMUNITY OUTINGS

115



TOTAL NUMBER OF SVT VOLUNTEERS

100+



TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

50+

What's Next



What's Next

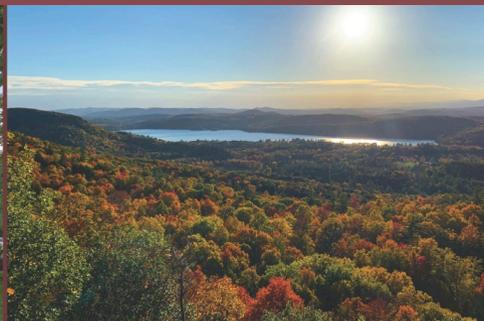


What's Next



Goal 3.4 – Create an outdoor fitness garden at Young at Heart Senior Center.

What's Next



POULTNEY
VERMONT



Home to
Lake St. Catherine,
Slate Valley Trails,
a historic downtown,
and more!

10 minutes south of Route 4
Take Rte. 22A or Rte. 30

