

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **New Public Green Space in Vergennes** ***Park Street Community Project***

**VERGENNES** – Vergennes area residents and visitors can now enjoy expanded public green space in downtown Vergennes. Last year, the Park Street Community Project (PSCP), a domestic non-profit based in Vergennes, was awarded a 2:1 matching grant by the [Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development's Better Places program](#) for the development of green space on the west-facing lawn of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Vergennes. The church made the property available to PSCP for public development and access. The [Vergennes Partnership](#) acted as fiscal agent. A public [crowdfunding](#) campaign, made available through the Better Places program's partner, [Patronicity](#), ran from August 15-Oct 15, 2022 and raised \$22,265. A total of 109 patrons, including individuals, local business, and non-profits donated to the crowdfunding campaign. As a result, PSCP was awarded the Better Place's program \$40,000 matching grant. In addition, PSCP raised additional funds from community members prior to implementation of the project. The total cost for the project, including design services and administrative fees, was around \$64,500.

The effort, led by the Park Street Community Committee, with support from the Vergennes Partnership, was implemented by [Church Hill Landscapes](#) of Charlotte, Vermont. Landscape architect David Burton

drew up a design for the green space in consultation with the PSCP Committee members, based on an original concept drawing provided by St. Paul's, as part of a multi-phase project. The first two phases involved updating elements bordering the green space. In 2019, the City of Vergennes installed a new ADA-compliant sidewalk and Panton stone wall, and in 2019, St. Paul's restored the west-facing stained-glass windows. In the final phase, beginning in 2022, PSCP Committee members took steps to develop the green space for public access. With overwhelming community support and participation made possible through the state's Better Places program, the green space is now in place. It includes beautiful gardens, stone seating, an ADA-compliant walkway, granite siding, and a new, regraded lawn. Many of the original concept drawing elements for the green space were included in the final plans, as allowed by available funding. The installation took place in July 2023.

This entire effort has transformed the west-facing lawn at the corner of Main Street and Park Street, adjacent to Vergennes City Park, into an attractive and usable space that will serve the community. The property is also home to the new [Stephen Bates historic marker](#), making it a welcome spot for residents and visitors to rest, gather, and reflect.

"The Park Street Community Project (PSCP) is designed to provide additional outdoor space downtown right next to Vergennes City Park. Walkers, cyclists, shoppers, and tourists are all welcome to enjoy the beautiful gardens and stone seating. We're especially happy to be able to enhance the area around the Stephen Bates historic marker, bringing attention to the unique history of Vermont's first African-American Sheriff and Chief of Police," said Bo Price, PSCP Committee member.

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**About Better Places**

Better Places is a community matching grant program empowering Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places serving Vermont's [designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas](#). The program is led by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Community Foundation, and Patronicity, our crowdfunding experts. The program supports community-led projects that create, revitalize, or activate community gathering areas that bring people together to build welcoming and thriving places across Vermont.

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**Photos**













