MAD RIVER VALLEY

VERMONT

Mad River Valley Community Dashboard
Project Summary

The Mad River Valley Community Dashboard is a new initiative of the MRV Planning District launched in summer 2020. This community and data-driven project aims to incorporate community voices and vision to help answer the question, "How is the Mad River Valley doing?"

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

- To improve overall wellbeing and resilience in the MRV by supporting the ability of community members and decision-makers to review and incorporate local data.

PROCESS

- Convene Advisory Committee to develop Dashboard framework based on existing town plans and visions.

- Work with local stakeholders to identify leading MRV indicators.

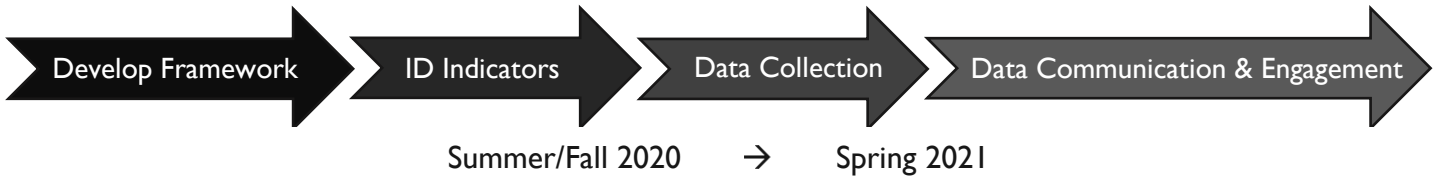- Create an online dashboard to effectively communication data.

PRODUCT

- Strengthened relationships & communication networks.

- An interactive online tool that increases the accessibility and usability of local data.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The towns of Warren, Waitsfield & Fayston are a socially, economically, ecologically, and geographically connected community;

- Change is a constant - the MRV is a dynamic community facing ongoing challenges, disruptions, and opportunities;

- MRV-wide vision & goals are tools for articulating its future and guiding how it should approach change;

- Community members are best positioned to define the future they want to see;

- Indicators are needed to understand and track progress toward shared goals;

- Data must be incorporated into decision-making to make effective change.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Develop Framework → ID Indicators → Data Collection → Data Communication & Engagement

Summer/Fall 2020 → Spring 2021

Develop Framework (Summer/Fall 2020): The MRV Community Dashboard Advisory Committee was created in summer 2020, consisting of three MRVPD Steering Committee members and three "community connectors." The Committee worked with MRVPD staff to develop a framework for the Dashboard based on current town plans, MRVPD MOU data requirements, similar community indicator projects, and recent MRV visioning efforts.

Identify Indicators (Fall/Winter 2020): The Advisory Committee conducted stakeholder outreach through December 2020 to solicit feedback on the Dashboard Framework and identify new indicators.

Data Collection (Winter 2021): Beginning in January 2021, MRVPD staff will collect the most recent indicator data from town, regional, state, and federal data sources. Staff, with Advisory Committee assistance, will also develop and distribute a MRV Wellbeing Survey to collect new indicator data.

Data Communication & Engagement (Spring 2021): MRVPD staff will develop a digital data dashboard site to share annual local data in a new, engaging format. Staff will work to assist local partners in incorporating indicator data into their work. Recognizing ongoing changes in community needs and priorities, indicators will be periodically evaluated through public and stakeholder engagement.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To support the MRV in working toward its shared vision, the MRV Community Dashboard Advisory Committee will lead the development of the Community Dashboard framework and updated indicators. Specifically, the Advisory Committee will conduct research and stakeholder outreach to produce a framework based on existing town work and visions. The Advisory Committee and MRVPD staff are dedicated to creating an inclusive, respectful, and productive process.

While MRVPD is spearheading the Community Dashboard project, the Advisory Committee will lead the framework and indicator development as a separate, though connected, piece of the overall project to ensure that they are driven and owned by the community.

Advisory Committee Members:
- Brian Voigt (Co-Chair), Waitsfield
- Helen Kellogg (Co-Chair), Waitsfield
- Dan Raddock, Warren
- Lindsey Vandal, Waitsfield
- Jared Cadwell, Fayston
- Laura Brines, Waitsfield