



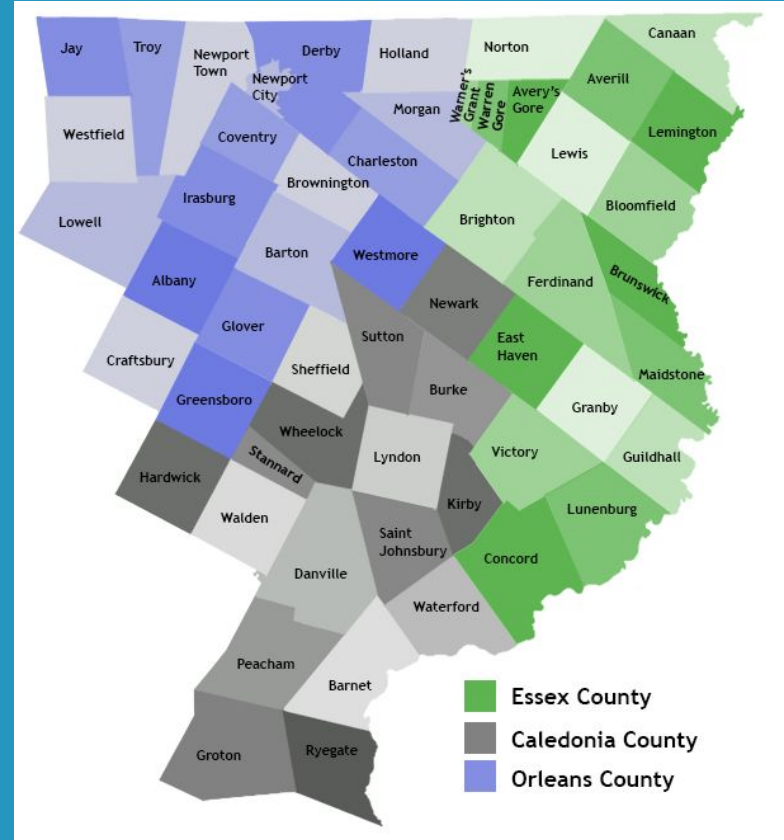
Northeastern Vermont Development Association's (NVDA) Regional Plan

Share Out • 11.13.2025



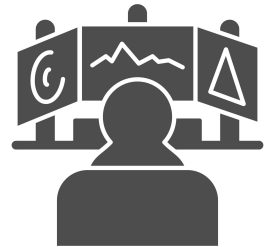
What is NVDA?

- As the Regional Planning Commission, NVDA assists municipalities, organizations, committees and individuals with a wide variety of planning and technical services. From assisting municipalities with regulatory options, to administering grants, creating maps, and implementing transportation and natural resource plans, NVDA is actively working with land use issues in the region.
- As the Regional Development Corporation, NVDA works on infrastructure improvements, assists companies relocating to the area, helps existing businesses to grow, and administers revolving loan funds. NVDA also fosters key partnerships with the [Small Business Development Center](#), the [Northeast Kingdom Collaborative](#), and the [NEK Chamber of Commerce](#).



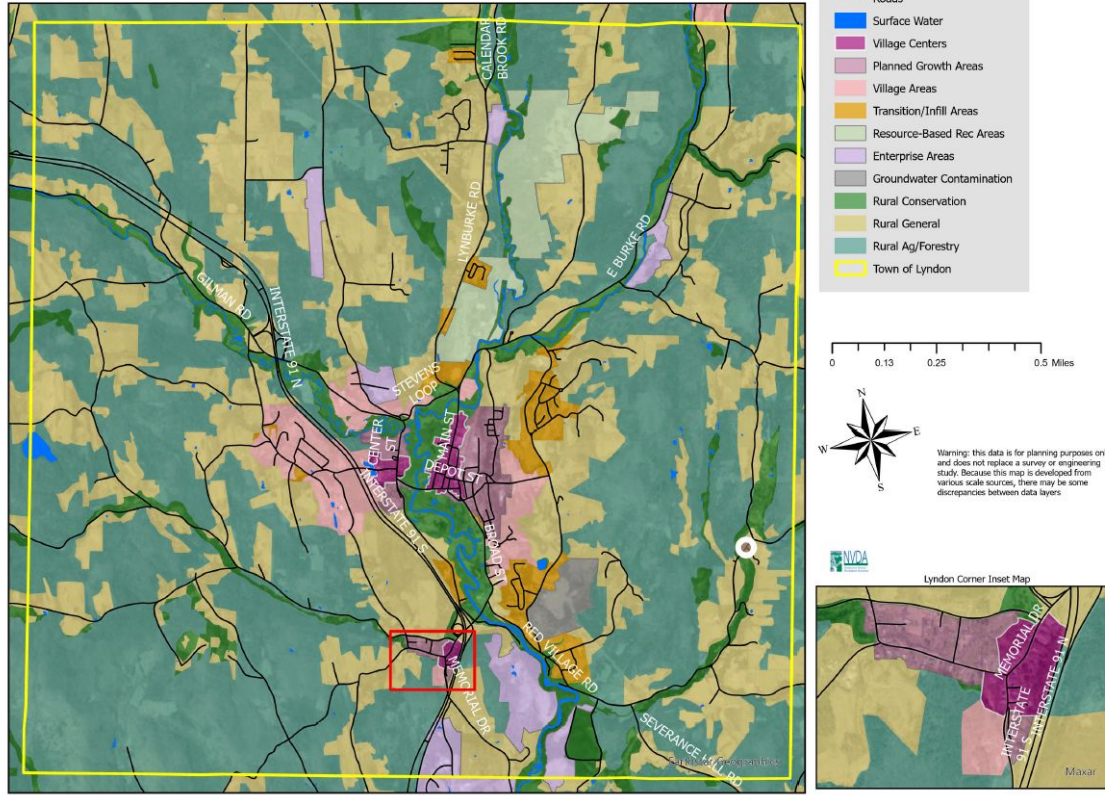
Overview

- Act 181 Future Land Use Mapping
- Rewrite of Regional Plan
- Public Outreach
- Findings



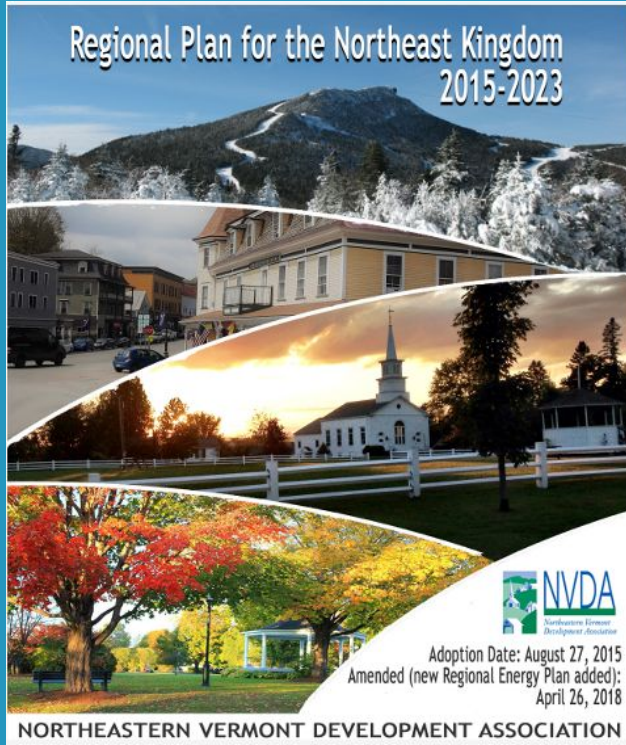
Act 181 Future Land Use Mapping

DRAFT of Lyndon's portion of the Caledonia County future land use map, as of 10/08/25



- RPCs were tasked with mapping each region in VT
- Mapping identifies village centers, neighborhoods, and rural areas
- Potential benefits include Act 250 exemptions and priority funding
- Presented to towns to gather feedback

Rewrite of Regional Plan



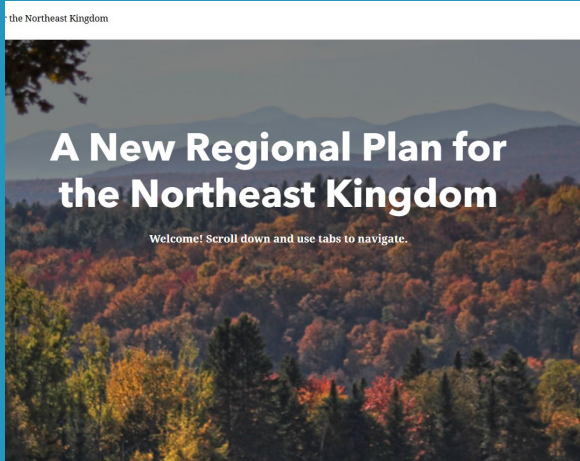
Focus Areas

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Energy Plan
- Utilities & Facilities
- Economic Development
- Housing Historical, Cultural & Recreational Resources
- Environmental Sustainability & Natural/Scenic Resources
- Water Resources & Flood Resilience

Public Outreach

Methods of Outreach

Events Attended



StoryMap

- Meeting with every town in NEK to review FLU map (at least once)
 - 2 Surveys
 - Social Media Posts/Constant Contact
 - StoryMap – a dedicated webpage
 - Tabled at 6 community events
 - Raffle!
 - Planning Commission/Selectboard meetings
 - Wednesday on the Waterfront (Newport)
 - Final Friday (St. Johnsbury)
 - Burgers & Brews (Barton)
 - Moose Festival (Canaan)
 - Hardwick Farmers Market
 - Jay Oktoberfest
-

What do you value about your community?



What do you love most about your community? The NEK?

mountains
& lakes

sense of
community

What do you value about
the important places?

libraries

outdoor
opportunities

What are your hopes for the
future of the town/county?

more
young
people

sustainable
living



What do you dislike about
the town or region?

lack of
affordable
housing

Littering

What are the community's strengths?

Community
spirit

Recreation

What challenges is the
community facing?

public
transportation

housing

drug
epidemic



Enter before
Oct 31

RAFFLE Contest

WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!



Weigh in on the next **NEK Regional Plan** and get involved in the planning process this fall! Please take NVDA's quick survey (~5mins) to **WIN** one of the grand prizes: an Electric Lawn Mower OR Chainsaw (worth \$499 and \$279, respectively)! Winner will be announced in **November**!

Take a Quick Survey - <https://arcg.is/05LOe10>
Attend an upcoming event - tinyurl.com/2026NEKplan



Community Outreach Materials

What is a Regional Plan? 2026 NVDA Regional Plan

Learn more here!



Goal

The purpose of the Regional Plan is to guide future growth and development in the NEK. The plan offers goals and strategies to foster economic development, preserve resources, guide development patterns and address other quality of life issues in our region.

Focus

- Land Use
- Energy
- Transportation
- Utilities & Facilities
- Historic & Cultural Resources
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural Resources
- Flood Resilience

Timeline

Oct '23- Jan '24	Public Input Kickoff, Regional Survey
Feb '24- Nov '25	Drafting the Regional Plan
Feb '25- Jan '26	Future Land Use Planning & Community Visits
Aug - Oct '25	Community & Public Events
Nov '25- Mar '26	Final Plan Drafting & Mapping



Contact Info
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802-748-5181



Findings

- What we heard-
 - Demographics
 - Likes, Dislikes, Challenges & Hopes for the Future



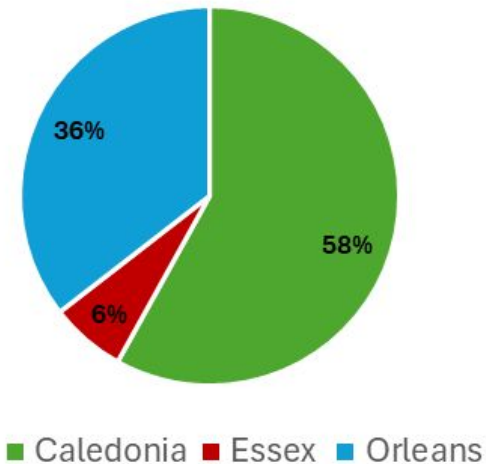
NVDA staff at Burgers & Brews



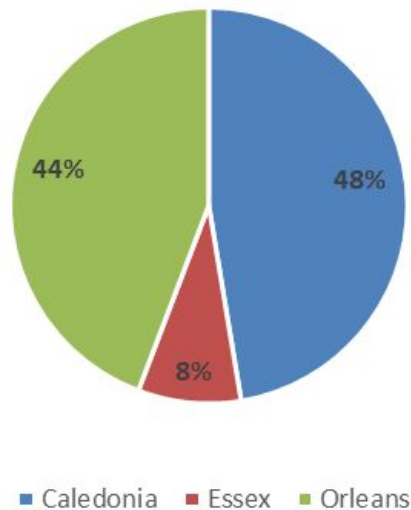
NVDA staff at Final Friday

Participants & Population

What county do you reside in?



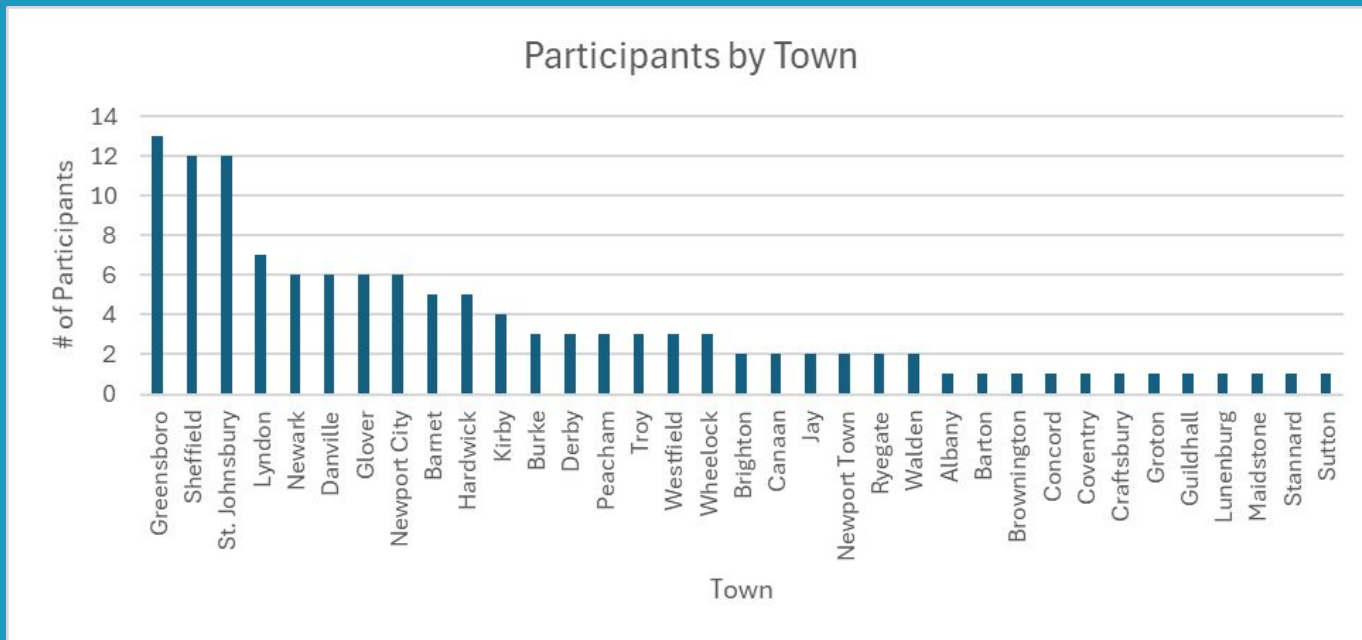
Population by County



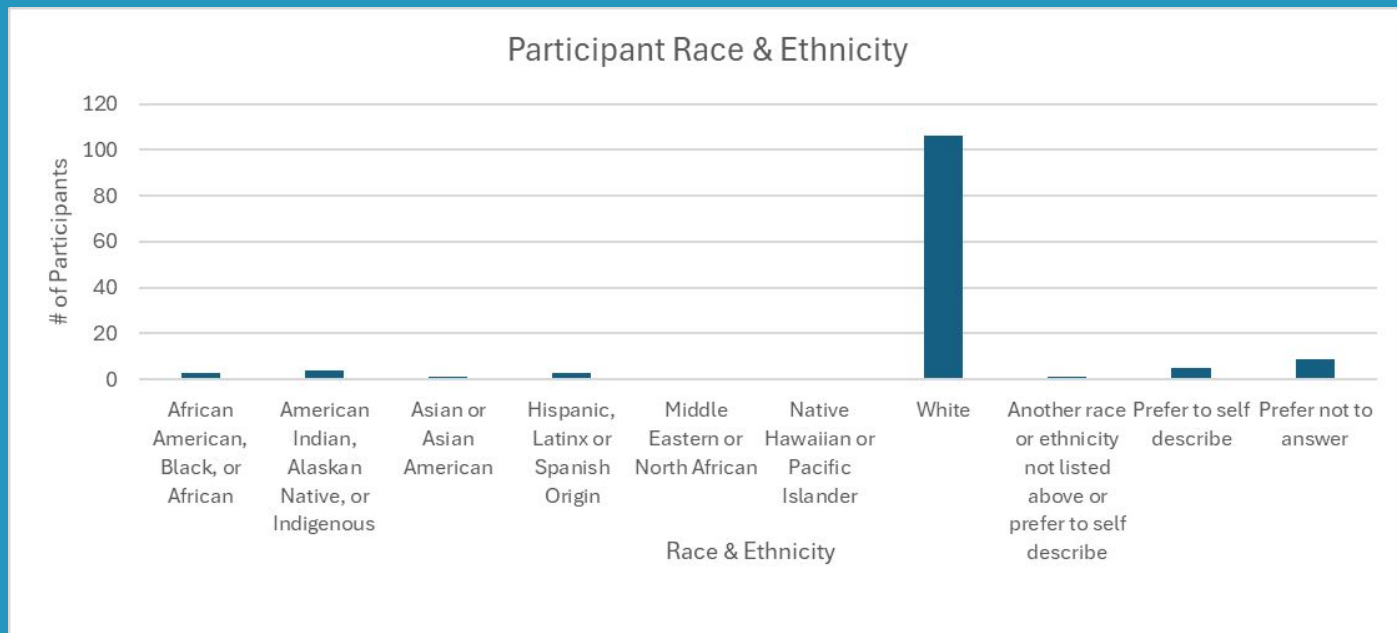
Municipality

Top Populations in the Region:

- St. Johnsbury
- Lyndon
- Derby
- Newport City

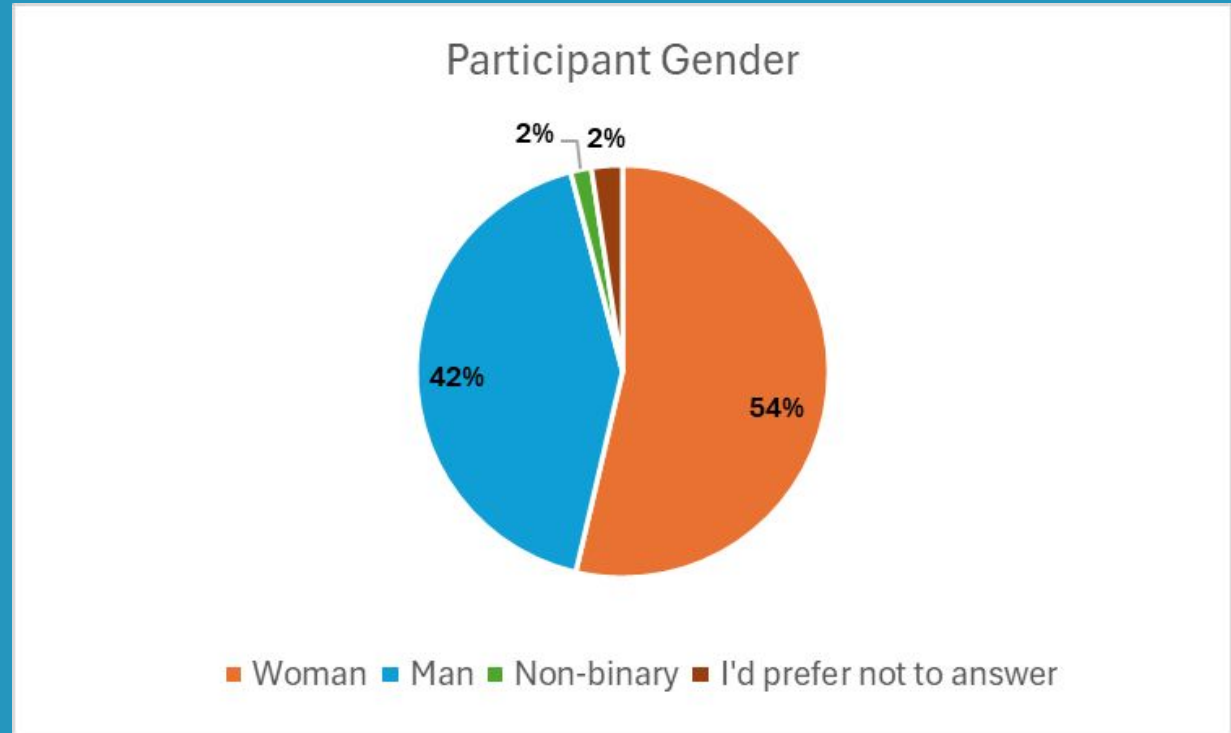


Race & Ethnicity

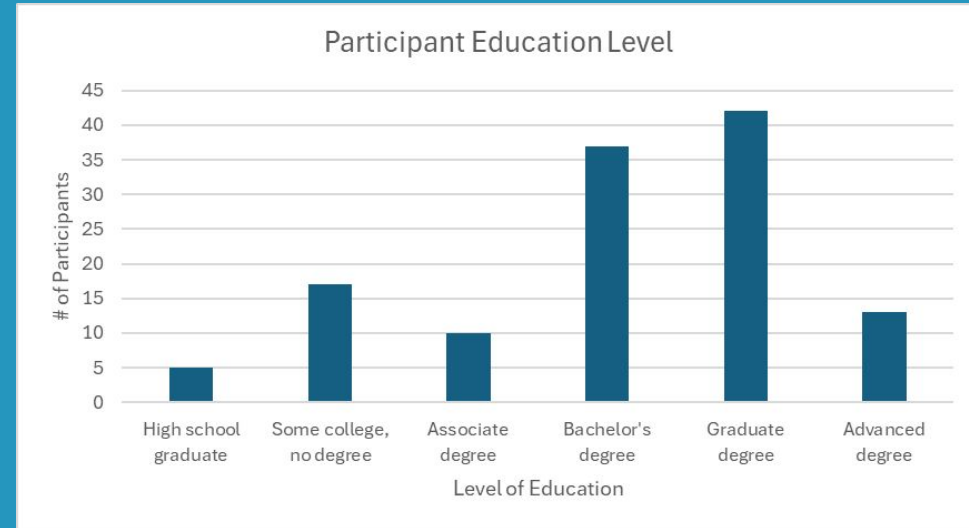
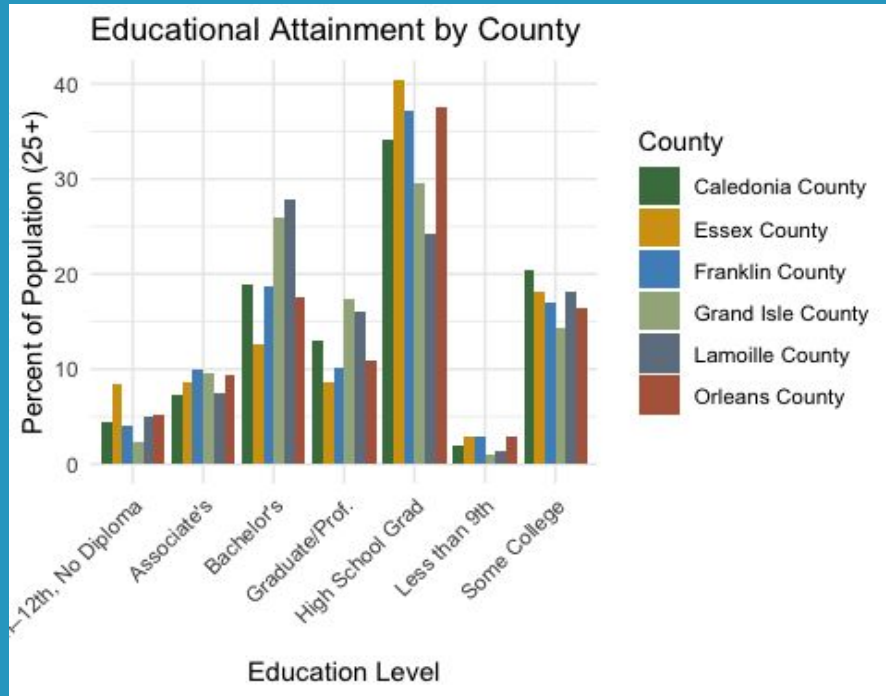


Each NEK county is approximately 95% White

Gender by Survey Respondents



Level of Education

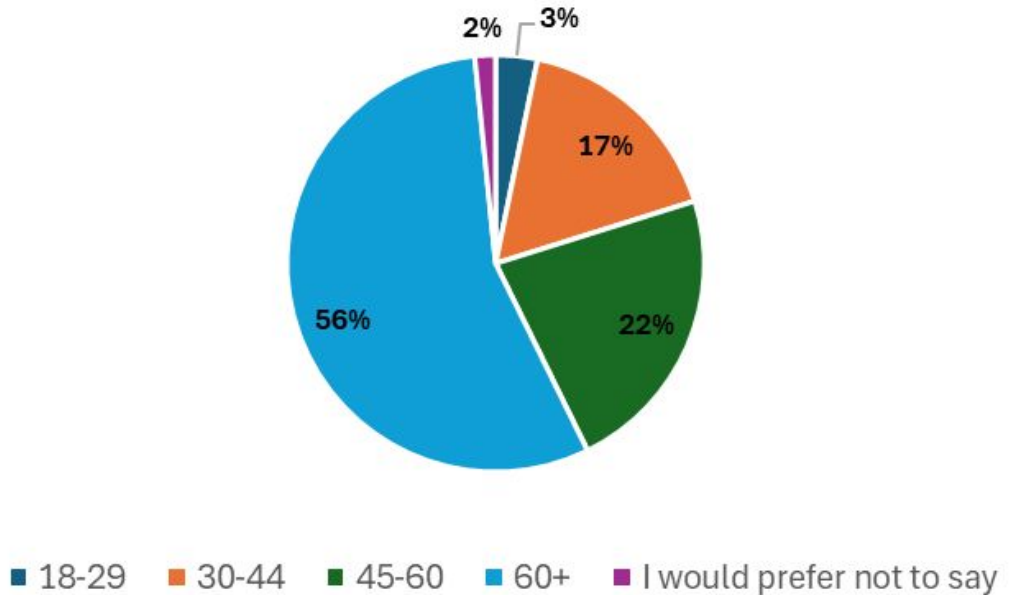


Age

Median Age by County

- Caledonia – 45.6
- Essex – 51.4
- Orleans – 45.4

Participant Age



Income Level

HH Income by County

- Caledonia - \$66,075
- Essex - \$58,985
- Orleans - 66,426



[illegible]

What do you value about the important places?

- Connection to Nature & Environmental Preservation
- Sense of Community & Belonging
- History, Heritage & Local Identity
- Ruralness & Access to Nature
- Culture & Education



Most Valued Places

The most cherished spaces are those that serve multiple roles — a place to meet, learn, vote, or share a meal. The most frequently mentioned gathering types were:

- Libraries
- Town Spaces
- General Stores & Co-ops
- Churches & Fellowship Halls
- Community & Town Halls
- Village Greens & Parks
- Community Centers & Art Venues
- Museums & Cultural Landmarks
- Recreation Trails & Outdoor Areas
- Schools & Athletic Fields





What challenges is the community facing?

- Housing Crisis
 - Employment Challenges- low wages, lack of opportunity
 - Food Security & Local Agriculture- decline of local farms
 - Climate change & Flooding
 - Access to Healthcare & Social Services
 - Substance Use
 - Aging Population
 - Environmental Challenges
 - Lack of Infrastructure- public transportation
-



What do you dislike about the community?

- Infrastructure Challenges- decaying buildings, lack of public transportation, flood damage, lack of broadband
 - Lack of Affordable Housing
 - Cost of Living
 - Lack of Diversity & Inclusion
 - NIMBYism
 - Substance Use
-

What are your hopes for the future?

- Balanced Growth- economic vitality while taking care of the environment
- Affordable Housing
- Redevelopment & Reuse
- Climate Adaptation
- Access to Healthcare & Wellness Centers
- Regional Collaboration
- Preservation of Rural Identity



Looking Ahead: How this input shapes the Regional Plan

The insights gathered through this outreach are shaping the priorities, goals, and policies of NVDA's 2026 Regional Plan. Each theme aligns with strategies for:

- strengthening housing affordability,
- supporting working lands and small businesses,
- improving public infrastructure, and
- building community and climate resilience.

NVDA will continue working with municipalities, regional partners, and residents to translate these priorities into local action and investment over the next 8 years.

Grand Prize Drawing!!

- Electric Lawn Mower -
- Electric Chain Saw -



Thank you!

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