

Profile: City of Essex Junction, Vermont

Essex Junction is a progressive, growing, high-quality-of-life small city in the Greater Burlington metropolitan area within a short distance of the University of Vermont and UVM Medical Center, Champlain College, St. Michael's College, Burlington International Airport, and Lake Champlain. Albany, Boston, Montreal, and New York City are readily accessible by car, commuter flights, bus service, and Amtrak.

Of the 10,590 Essex Junction residents counted in the 2020 census, 27% are under 18; 58% are 19-65; and 15% are over 65. Approximately 82% identify as White; 1% as Black; 10% as Asian; 2% as Hispanic; and 5% as two or more races or Other. The median household income is \$80,019 and 48% of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. Essex Junction is a founding member of the Essex-Westford School District, consistently ranked among the best in the state for college acceptance, special services, and test scores.

Global Foundries, a multinational microchip manufacturer, has a fabrication plant in Essex Junction which is the state's largest private employer. Other nearby large employers include the University of Vermont, UVM Medical Center, USCIS Department of Homeland Security, and the Vermont Air National Guard and Army National Guard.

With 4,500 households in 4.6 square miles interlaced with sidewalks and mostly residential streets, the City has a neighborly, tree-lined, family-friendly feel. The community prioritizes investment in education, health-wellness, and recreation. Besides a full slate of year-round recreation programs and community activities, the Essex Junction Parks and Recreation Department offers licensed pre-school and childcare programs. The Brownell Library is the state's second largest municipal library and is located next to the Essex Area Senior Center, which is operated jointly by Essex Junction and Essex Town.

In 2014 the City began intensive collaborations with private developers and state agencies to revitalize its small historic downtown with the aim of creating a lively and sustainable high-density residential-commercial core. This effort grew from an earlier citizen-based initiative, funded by the Orton Family Foundation, that incorporated shared community values into a plan for thoughtful growth in the 21st century. Among other improvements, four multi-story commercial-residential buildings were constructed between 2015-2022, providing over 200 new housing units, including 42 units of senior housing. In the same period the City received over \$8 million in state and federal funds for major infrastructure projects in the downtown core and is on track to receive an additional \$3.5 million in federal funds to renovate the Essex Junction Amtrak Station, the state's busiest.

As Vermont's newest city, with ready access to the diverse educational and employment opportunities of Chittenden County/Greater Burlington and the year-round recreational resources of the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, Essex Junction is one of northern New England's most desirable communities for those seeking to create their own, meaningful work-life balance.