

Vermont Board of Libraries
GEOGRAPHIC NAMING PETITION

The Vermont Board of Libraries (the Board) is the statutorily designated body to name Vermont geographic locations, including mountains, streams, lakes, and ponds. (10 V.S.A. § 151-154).

According to state statute, “The Board in choosing names shall give preference to historical events, historic persons, and flora and fauna native to Vermont; names characteristic to Vermont; and its traditions and local place names where long usage has made them appropriate and useful.” (10 V.S.A. § 154)

Please note:

- The Board will not name state roads, highways, bridges, or other transportation-related entities. These come under the jurisdiction of the Vermont Transportation Board.
- The Board will not name city streets or town roads. These come under the jurisdiction of the municipalities.

This Geographic Naming Petition is a request that the Vermont Board of Libraries consider the geographic naming proposal as described below.

A. Required Information and Materials

1. This petition is a request for the Board of Libraries to (select one):

____ Name a currently unnamed geographic feature.

____ Rename a geographic feature, which is currently named:

2. Proposed Name: _____



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

3. Does the petition include signatures of not less than twenty-five persons who support this proposal of a new name or name change of a geographic location?

___ Yes ___ No

4. Is the geographic feature located in the State of Vermont?

___ Yes ___ No

5. The geographic feature is located in the municipality/municipalities of

in the County/Counties of

_____.

6. The Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of the geographic feature are:

Longitude: _____

Latitude: _____

7. A map with the geographic feature clearly labeled must accompany the petition.

Is a map included with your petition? ___ Yes ___ No

8. Description of the exact geographic feature to be named (e.g. mileage, shape, length, width, mouth, confluence, source, headwater, relevant adjacent features):

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

9. Written documentation including historical information, government records, and any other documents or publications relevant to the proposed geographic name must be included with the petition to support the proposed geographic name consistent with 10 V.S.A. § 154.

9a. Is written documentation included with your petition? Yes No

If yes, please indicate what types of written documentation is included with your petition (check all that apply):

- Historical Information,
- Government Records,
- Newspaper articles or clippings,
- References in books or other bound publications
- Historic maps

B. Reason for Proposal

10. Please provide an explanation of the reason for proposing this name for this geographic feature:

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

11a. Is this petition to name a geographic feature after a person? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, please respond to 11b-f. If no, please skip to 12.

11b. Has the individual been deceased for at least five years? ___ Yes ___ No

11c. Individual's date of birth: _____

11d. Individual's date of death: _____

11e. Please explain the individual's connection to the geographic feature or the significant contribution they made to the area, or to Vermont:

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

11f. If the individual did not have a connection to the feature, the area, or Vermont, please share their outstanding national contributions or international reputation and why it would be appropriate to name this geographic feature in their honor:

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

C. Supplemental Information and Materials

12. Because local use and acceptance of a name is important, the Board encourages the Petitioner to seek assistance in researching the proposed name from the Vermont Historical Society, local historical societies, local libraries, and the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration prior to submitting the petition.

12a. Has research been conducted in support of the proposed name?

____ Yes ____ No

If yes, please respond to 12b-c. If no, please skip to 13.

12b. Please share what research has been conducted (including which libraries, historical societies, municipal records, or archives were consulted):

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

12c. Please share a what historical information about the geographic feature and the proposed name was discovered through research into the proposed name:

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

13. Because local use and acceptance of a name is important, the Board encourages the Petitioner to provide evidence of any published or verbal usage of the proposed name.

13a. Has evidence of any published or verbal usage of the proposed name been found?

____ Yes ____ No

If yes, please respond to 13b. If no, please skip to 14.

13b. What evidence of published or verbal usage of the proposed name has been found?

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

14. The Board strongly encourages the Petitioner to include written support for the proposal with the petition.

14a. Are letters of support included with the petition? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, please respond to 14b. If no, please skip to 15.

14b. Which groups have offered support for the petition:

- ____ Federal, State, or local (municipal or county) agencies and governing bodies,
- ____ Native American Tribes,
- ____ Civic organizations, Historical societies, libraries,
- ____ Owner(s) of the property on which the geographic feature is located or
- ____ Others familiar with the geographic feature and the appropriateness of the proposal included with the petition



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

15. The Board strives to name Vermont geographic features consistent with the Domestic Geographic Names Editorial Guidelines of the U.S. Bureau of Geographic Names, which can be found in Chapter 5 of their Principles, Policies, and Procedures Domestic Geographic Names document (https://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pubs/DNC_PPP_DEC_2016_V.2.2.pdf).

Is the proposed name consistent with these guidelines?

____ Yes ____ No ____ Not Sure

D. Primary Contact for the Petition (the Petitioner)

16. Petitioner's Full Name: _____

17. Petitioner's Mailing Address (P.O Box / Street, Town, State, ZIP):

18. Petitioner's Primary Phone Numbers: _____ (primary)
_____ (secondary)

19. Petitioner's Email Address: _____

20. Do the signers of the petition represent a group/organization? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, please provide the name of the group/organization:



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

21. Is this petition being submitted on behalf of an administrative department of State government? _____Yes _____No

If yes, please indicate the Agency or Department of State Government and Petitioner's title:

E. Acknowledgement of the Geographic Names Procedure

The Petitioner acknowledges that they have read the Vermont Board of Libraries' Geographic Names Procedure and agrees to work with the Board of Libraries regarding their Geographic Names proposal.

The Petitioner acknowledges that the entire petition is a public record and may be subject to public inspection and copying as well as subject to being published by the Department.

Petitioner's Signature: _____

Date: _____



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

F. Documentation Included with Petition (*please check all that apply*):

- ___ Minimum of 25 signatures in support of the Geographic Naming Petition
- ___ At least one map of the geographic feature (photocopies accepted)
- ___ Additional documentation re: exact location of geographic of feature
- ___ Historical records, government records, other documents or publications relevant to the proposed geographic name
- ___ Additional documentation re: evidence of written or verbal usage of the proposed name
- ___ Letters of support for the petition

Please be sure to include the proposed name and municipality on all additional pages submitted with the Petition.



Vermont Board of Libraries
GEOGRAPHIC NAMING PETITION – Signature Pages

To initiate consideration of a new name or a name change of a Vermont geographic location by the Board of Libraries, a geographic naming petition signed by not less than twenty-five interested persons must be submitted to the Board.

The undersigned request that the Board of Libraries initiate consideration of _____ (proposed name) for the geographic feature described above, located in (municipality/municipalities) _____, Vermont.

Printed Name	Signature	Street Address	Municipality, State, ZIP	Date
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				

*Please be sure to include the name and location of the geographic feature to which the Geographic Naming Petition pertains on **each additional** signature page **before** it is signed by interested persons.*



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

Printed Name	Signature	Street Address	Municipality, State, ZIP	Date
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				

*Please be sure to include the name and location of the geographic feature to which the Geographic Naming Petition pertains on **each additional** signature page before it is signed by interested persons.*



Proposed Name: _____
Municipality: _____

Printed Name	Signature	Street Address	Municipality, State, ZIP	Date
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				
23.				
24.				
25.				

To submit a petition by 25 interested persons, please attach additional copies of these signature pages.

*Please be sure to include the name and location of the geographic feature to which the Geographic Naming Petition pertains on **each additional** signature page before it is signed by interested persons.*



G. Submittal of the Geographic Names Petition to the Board of Libraries

Please Send the completed Geographic Names Petition and all documentation including the **original signed petition** via USPS to:

Board of Libraries
c/o Vermont Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05401-4209