

Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City in Association with South Keys
Greenboro Community Association Present:

SOUTH KEYS GREENBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Summer 2022



THANK YOU!

The creation of this
Community Sustainability Plan
could not have been possible without the
generous contributions of both
the **Ottawa Community Foundation** and
the **TD Friends of Environment
Foundation**.
Thank you!



WHAT IS A BIOSPHERE ECO-CITY?

The Biosphere Eco-City (BEC) is an urban-centred region where people and organizations create a culture of sustainability. Biosphere means “sphere of life” and is the Earth’s outer shell of land, water and atmosphere that supports all life. The term Eco-City refers to an international movement for sustainable cities.

Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City

The Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City (OBEC) is a local, grassroots charity that engages with community members, partners and stakeholders for sustainability. OBEC pursues several initiatives including: a database of hundreds of sustainability projects, a self-guided Ottawa Sustainability Tour, public workshops on individual Themes of Sustainability, Sustainability Plans, and a Council of Stakeholders where anyone can share ideas for sustainability. More details may be found on the website (obec-evbo.ca).



DEFINING SUSTAINABILITY

“Sustainability is the ability of things to **continue to exist**. It applies to **natural** and **human** dimensions. We use the **earth's resources** to meet our needs, but we also want to **leave enough** of the natural resources for **future generations** to live **healthy and happy lives**. It is the **coexistence** of all dimensions of life living **responsibly**.”

What we do matters. YOU impact the environment—the environment impacts YOU.



INTRODUCTION

TO SOUTH KEYS & GREENBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The South Keys and Greenboro Community Sustainability Plan (CSP) workshop took place on Saturday June 18th at the Greenboro Community Centre

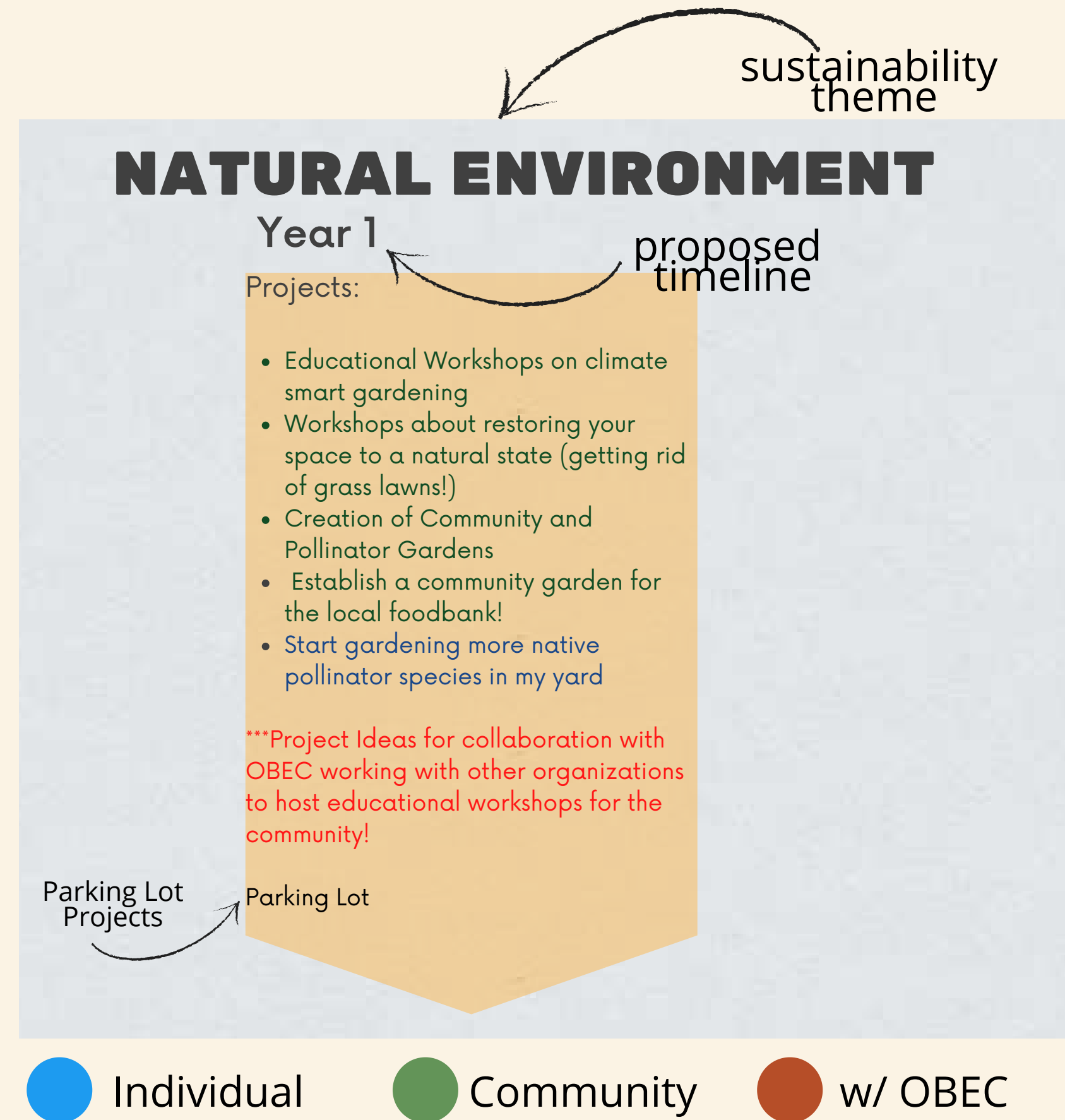
This document is meant to be used as a preliminary draft of the CSP. It is a LIVING document that will be updated regularly with ongoing input from the community.

If, while reading this plan you have further ideas, projects, or issues you want to address, please share them with us by emailing program.manager@obec-evbo.ca



HOW TO USE THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- The sustainability plan is an agenda for action – sustainability practices and projects that people in each community can do individually or collectively to positively impact the level of sustainability of their community.
- During the South Keys and Greenboro Workshop, community members identified what they thought were key sustainability issues in their community and came up with projects to address these issues. The plan is split up into **5 Themes of Sustainability** (see page 8) and each theme is split into “**PROJECTS**” and “**PARKING LOT**” ideas which are then further split into **1 year**, **3 year**, and **5 year** timelines.
- The biggest difference between the **PROJECTS** and **PARKING LOT** sections is that the Parking Lot is for all project ideas the community may have whereas the Project Section is for more concrete ideas that one or many community members are willing to lead and may just need more resources, support, time, etc.
- However the ‘PROJECTS’ section is still made up of suggestions, and does not mean that they will be implemented – it is a catalogue of projects you might try, both at an individual and community level.
- Note, community projects are marked in **BLUE** and individual projects are in **GREEN**. In some sections, there are also additional projects that OBEC can support which are marked in **RED**



HOW TO USE THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONT'D

As you read the plan, you may find a Theme, Issue and/or Project you want to address. Or you may think of an idea for something different.

What you do is up to you, but the plan is meant to be a tool for your reference to help you think of ideas and get started. Write your Issue and Project on the last page. This becomes your personal sustainability plan.

This is a LIVING document, and created through community consultation. We would LOVE more input from the community, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you have ideas you want to add to the plan!



4 THEMES OF SUSTAINABILITY

THIS WORKSHOP IS CATEGORIZED INTO 4 THEMES OF SUSTAINABILITY
THAT WERE CHOSEN SPECIFICALLY FOR THEIR RELEVANCE
TO THE SOUTH KEYS AND GREENBORO COMMUNITY



ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

Transportation focuses on the movement of goods and people. It addresses issues surrounding: travel options and distance, car-reliant cities, safety, mobility, accessibility, and fossil fuel dependency. Energy focuses on how we as individuals and collectives use, create, waste, and distribute energy.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This theme examines how the effects of climate change are affecting the neighborhood (the urban heat island due to the lack of green space etc.) as well addresses preserving and connecting natural spaces to urban areas, increasing native biodiversity, and encouraging the recreation and maintenance of greenspaces for all species.



WASTE AND FOOD

The theme of Waste examines at the lifecycle of waste as a whole. From the design, materials, processing, usage, to disposal- and rethinking our current linear system to a circular, closed loop of resources. The theme of food looks at our relationship with what we eat, where it came from, the impacts associated with this, and how to mitigate our influence individually and collectively. This can relate to agricultural practices, supply, and supporting locally produced food. Also touches on issues of food insecurity.



DESIGN AND SENSE OF PLACE

Sense of place is the sense of belonging, community, and stewardship one can find in natural spaces and through participation in sustainable activities. Design refers to the built environment of landscapes, from cities to specific projects

BACKGROUND ON SOUTH KEYS AND GREENBORO NEIGHBOURHOOD

South Keys and Greenboro are two communities beside each other in Ottawa South, the Gloucester-Southgate Ward. Both communities are part of the South Keys Greenboro association and will be referred to as one neighbourhood throughout this document. The neighbourhood is bordered by Hawthorne Road on the East, Bank Street on the West, between Hunt Club Road in the South and Johnston Road in the North. It is a very diverse neighbourhood with a high population of families and first generation canadian.

In terms of the natural environment the amount of green space and public trails in the neighbourhood is extremely high. Through all of Greenboro there is an extensive multi-use path that connects many different community services like schools, community centre, Conroy Mall and goes throughout so many of the residential pockets. Greenboro actually has the second-highest cycling network density of all Ottawa neighbourhoods. Unfortunately the pathway does not connect all the way through South Keys to the mall However there is a great community group Better South Keys Centre who has proposed a project to extend the pathway.

The South Keys Greenboro neighbourhood already has some incredible access to green space, great active transportations paths and community programs. As well the South Keys Greenboro Community Association has great programming and events, while having sustainability on their mind! Throughout this plan you will see lots of individual, community, and capital projects all focused on making a more sustainable community!



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Issues Identified:

- There are beautiful paths and trails throughout the neighbourhood but they are all just open fields of grass, which requires so much maintenance, water etc.
- The Greenboro pathways do not go into old South Keys area it stops at Albion Rd. Uneven distribution of accessible green space.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Year 1

Projects:

- Workshops about restoring your space to a natural state (getting rid of grass lawns!)
- Creation of Community and Pollinator Gardens
- Establish a community garden for the local foodbank!
- Start gardening more native pollinator species in my yard

***Project Ideas for collaboration with OBEC working with other organizations to host educational workshops for the community on naturalizing your lawn!

Year 3

Projects:

- Convert the Greenboro Pathways to native species gardens, pollinator gardens, community garden plots!
 - No more endless grass on pathways
- School projects to educate children about gardening and natural environment
- Create an inventory/ committee of Green Businesses in the neighbourhood

Parking Lot

- collective approach to tree management - a lot of land owners just cut them down so they don't have to deal with them
- Show facts on Climate Change in the Neighbourhood

Year 5

Projects:

- Extend the Greenboro Pathway across Bank Street to South Keys Mall.
- Working closely with Indigenous communities on green space and land stewardship on natural environment projects

Parking Lot

- Work with school board to allow community to use the public buildings to do projects (Greenhouses, Green roofs)
- Convert some of the South Keys mall parking lot and concrete to more pedestrian friendly space

ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION



Issues Identified:

- Excellent bike trails within the neighbourhood but what is lacking is an extension of these paths to the South Keys or even downtown.
- Need better public transit infrastructure, there is a lack of direct bus routes.
- Need safer bicycle lanes on roads, with barriers not just a lane.

ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

Year 1

Projects:

- Community group Better South Keys Centre advocates for the enhancement of the South Keys Centre, one of their big projects is [Greenboro Pathway Missing Link](#),
- Available Bike Path maps in Bus Shelters and community spaces
- Bike tune up stations at more public places near the bike paths.

Parking Lot

- Invest in electric vehicles!

Year 3

Projects:

- Safer Bike Paths, not just lines on pavement and more bike paths in South Keys area.
- Safer Crosswalks for pedestrians at more intersections
- Community Coffeeshop within walking distance, more public community areas.

Parking Lot

- Local shuttle to move families to shopping and transit from specific apartment buildings.

Year 5

Projects:

- Electric Car charging stations in most parking lots and available hookups in homes

Parking Lot

- Community Solar Panels - Energy community generation plans
 - Decentralized power generation!

FOOD AND WASTE



Issues Identified:

- Terraced (and condos) homes save space but lack of backyard and space to make a garden and grow food - Need more public gardens and outdoor space
- Attitude and behaviour changes is hard in communities re: composting and recycling
- generational attitudes towards recycling and composting

FOOD AND WASTE

Year 1

Projects:

- [Start Composting at home!](#)
[Convincing family that it is important!](#)
- Workshops on Climate Smart Gardening
- Community Shared Agriculture - Local produce from Canadian Farmers sold at a community markets!
- Education and promotion of Rain Water Barrels and gardening!

***Project Ideas for collaboration with OBEC working with other organizations to host educational workshops on gardening for the community and Rainwater collection

Year 3

Projects:

- Composting in Apartments and Condos
- Publishing water test result to see waste in water
- [Reduce plastic water bottle use](#)
- More public recycling, trash and compost bins.
- Community research and explore the obstacles of using compost bins in all types of residents

Year 5

Projects:

- Connecting with local grocery stores to reduce their food waste i.e. donating good-quality food that would otherwise be thrown out
- [Opening up your own garden to help support food banks and your community!](#)

DESIGN AND SENSE OF PLACE

Issues Identified:

- Better community resources to help individuals become more knowledgeable about all the resources in the neighbourhood
- Need more community events and organizations to bring people together
- Need more cohesion between Greenboro and South Keys, more larger community events to bring people together.



DESIGN AND SENSE OF PLACE

Year 1

Projects:

- Create a walking map of Greenboro Souths Keys that highlight services that are easy to walk to.
- Send out multilingual letter to community members listing all resources available through the library and community centre
- Share updated resource map with library to showcase it digitally

***Project idea(s) for collaboration with OBEC- Creating walking map of Greenboro/ South Keys to show resources!

Year 3

Projects:

- More community coffee shops and places to meet up with your neighbours
- Build a Little Library in my front lawn!
- More inclusive events to bring together both South Keys and Greenboro
- South Keys Greenboro Culture and neighbourhood festival to celebrate all the diversity in the neighbourhood

Year 5

Projects:

- City did a great job redoing sidewalks on South Gate but there needs to be new sidewalks on Johnston Road

Parking Lot

- Building a community Centre or library in the South Keys area



SO WHAT'S NEXT?



That last section of the Community Sustainability Plan broke down the different issues, project ideas, and 'parking lot' ideas that were discussed and proposed during the workshop.

Hopefully some of these ideas inspires you!

If any of them do, the next section of the CSP will provide resources and guidance on how to start the implementation process of project ideas!



The 5 Types of Environmental Stewardship

The U.S National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) has categorized environmental stewardship projects into 5 categories. Dividing stewardship projects into different categories helps provide a framework to guide community stewardship projects.

1 | Citizen Science:

refers to the monitoring and collection of environmental data by community members to improve available local, environmental information.

i.e., EDDMapS, iNaturalist, Leafsnap, Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, eBird, Journey North, Bumble Bee Watch, Globe Observer, Zooniverse, Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

2 | Civic Action:

refers to initiatives taken to inform governments and organizations on the specific sustainability concerns of the community.

i.e., letter writing, petitioning, meeting with elected officials

3 | Community Awareness:

refers to initiatives to address community-level issues. This can be done by providing residents with information and taking direct action to address community-level sustainability issues. i.e., host educational events, run awareness campaigns on local issues and initiatives, work as a community to create resources to improve sustainability at the local level (pick-up locations for non-standard waste, Bring Your Own Mug campaign)

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4 | Everyday Choices:

refers to initiatives taken to improve sustainability at the consumer/resident level. This includes efforts to reduce household waste and carbon footprint.

i.e., use active/green transportation, carpool, use public transit, use reusable bags/water bottles/containers, use energy-efficient appliances, dispose of waste properly

5 | Restoration & Protection:

refers to initiatives taken to restore degraded habitat and protect green spaces in the community.

i.e., run a community-wide garbage clean-up, remove invasive species, create local green spaces (community gardens/city orchard)

NEXT STEPS & CONCLUSIONS

The South Keys Greenboro CSP was designed to give you ideas on how to take sustainability action at home, at work or in your neighbourhood. You can now make it your personal plan for action.

Please think of an issue that is meaningful for you. Then choose a project that addresses that issue. It could be something written in the plan, or something you invented. Once you have something started, let us know what you are doing.

We want to share updates on project progress, because it inspires others and gets momentum going. By reaching out to us, we can also get you connected to team leaders (on aforementioned projects) and help you recruit volunteers.

What you do for sustainability will enrich your life, support your community and contribute to the world. Let's get started and build a sustainable future in your community together!

Your priority sustainability Issue(s)

Your Proposed Project(s)

Send your information to:
program.manager@obec-evbo.ca

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

South Keys Greenboro Community Association

They are a great community resource to help improve the neighbourhood. They run great programs, services and advocate for the community!

Greenboro Community Centre and Greenboro Public Library

Runs programs for the South Keys Greenboro Community

Better South Keys Centre

They are a local organization dedicated to making South Keys a vibrant amenity rich community that embraces active transportation and healthy living!

Just Food

Just Food’s mission is to work towards vibrant, just and sustainable food and farming systems in the Ottawa region, They have great resources for starting community gardens!

FIVE BIG MOVES OF THE CITY OF OTTAWA In Relevance to Biosphere Eco-City (BEC) Themes

BIG MOVE	BEC THEME OF SUSTAINABILITY
Growth Management – More by intensification than greenfield development, providing complete communities and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Design– Food (preserving food land)– Natural Capital (preserving green space)– Sense of Place (complete communities)
Mobility – By 2046 majority of trips by sustainable transportation (walking, cycling, and public transportation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transportation
Urban and Community Design – More sophisticated to create good urbanism at all scales (largest to smallest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Design
Climate, Energy and Public Health – Integrate all these in planning, and foster health and wellbeing, with resiliency of the natural and built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Energy– Design– Natural Capital– Health
Economic Development – Opportunities for economic development, with policies for employment lands, industrial areas and knowledge-based campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Design (develop employment areas)

Thank you for reading!

Thank you for reading!

The South Keys and Greenboro Workshop & Community Sustainability Plan were both facilitated and created by Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City, a local grassroots charity in partnership with South Keys Greenboro Community Association

Check us out on social media:



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