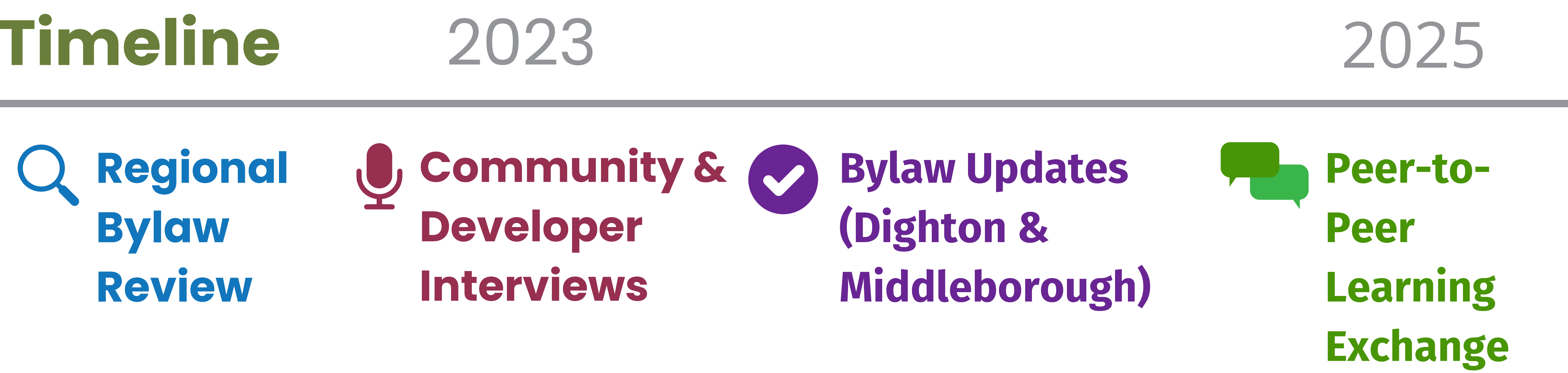








Introduction

What is Open Space Residential Design (OSRD)?

Also known as "Conservation Subdivision," "Cluster" or "Natural Resource Protection" Zoning, OSRD bylaws allow developers to create a subdivision with smaller lot sizes, so long as they place the balance of the project's overall land into permanent land preservation. Developers win by being able to create the same amount of house lots, and in some cases the flexibility to add more, as they would under conventional lot layouts, and communities win by having land preservation accompany development.



Benefits of OSRD

-  Protects unique or fragile habitats
-  Enhances New England community character
-  Provides open space connections between neighborhoods
-  Promotes aquifer recharge
-  Reduces infrastructure and maintenance costs
-  Promotes community involvement

Learn more about
SRPEDD's OSRD work here



Open Space Residential Designs (OSRDs) in Practice

How does the OSRD process work?

OSRDs accommodate the same number of housing units as a conventional subdivision, but with **smaller lot sizes**.

Smaller lots under OSRDs take up less land which allows for the protection of natural resources and open space.

Recommendations for OSRD Implementation

Strategy 1: Planning Boards and other relevant municipal boards and committees take an active role in influencing site designs.

Strategy 2: Provide incentives
Provide incentives that make OSRDs more desirable to developers.

Strategy 3: Ensure better designs.

It is important to note that every community's situation is unique and these recommendations may apply differently, based on local priorities.

What do OSRDs Look like?

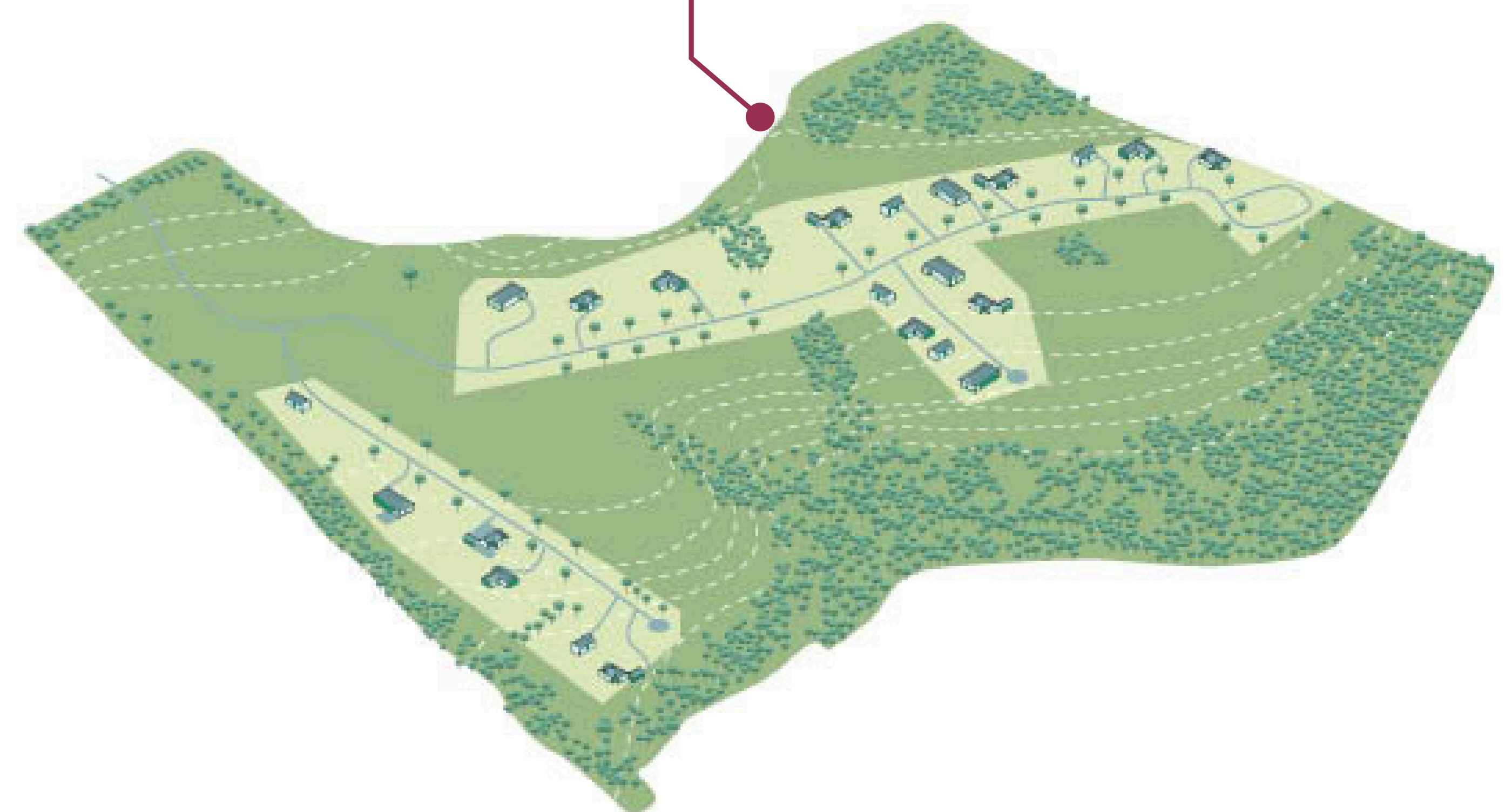
OSRDs preserve the fundamental aspects of a development project while accommodating for more open space than is seen in conventional subdivisions.

Below is an example of this concept, notice how the number of developments stays the same from a conventional to conservation subdivision but the green space increases under the conservation subdivision.

Convention Subdivision



Conservation Subdivision



Did you know?

Municipalities with Planning Boards that take a more active role in development plans have expressed higher satisfaction with the quality of developments

