

Program Overview

This designation program increases housing options by reducing the time and cost of state permitting in areas within easy walking distance of commercial centers — whether converting a wing of a house into an apartment or developing an entirely new neighborhood. Municipalities or developers may use this designation to encourage the creation of new homes in development-ready locations near shops and services and to reduce pressure to develop on farm and forest land. Municipalities with an existing designated downtown or village center, with adopted plans and regulations that support housing and compact development can qualify for neighborhood development area designation.

Website: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/designation-programs/neighborhood-development-areas>

Municipalities with NDA Designation

Burlington, Essex Junction, Manchester, South Burlington, Westford, and Winooski

By the Numbers [2015-2019]

6

designated NDAs

586

housing units qualified
for NDA benefits

7

months average time
saved in state permitting

\$50,000

average saved in
state permit fees

Burlington - Designation Lowers Housing Costs



Burlington's housing action plan recognizes the contribution of the neighborhood development area designation in lowering the cost of building well-designed, mixed-income housing, compatible with Burlington's existing character. Among recent projects was the Champlain Housing Trust's Bright Street Coop, a 42-unit mixed income, infill housing project on 1.35 acres of land in Burlington's Old North End. Located within Burlington's designated neighborhood development area, the project qualified for the Act 250 Priority Housing Project exemption - saving over \$50,000 in associated costs and an estimated three months of permitting time (out of an approximately \$6.5 million budget). Additionally, the project saved another \$3,000 in wastewater connection fees and reduced the risk of added costs from a permit appeal. Burlington's neighborhood development area designation continues to help the region address its acute housing shortage by lowering the cost of building new mixed-income development in and around the designated downtown.