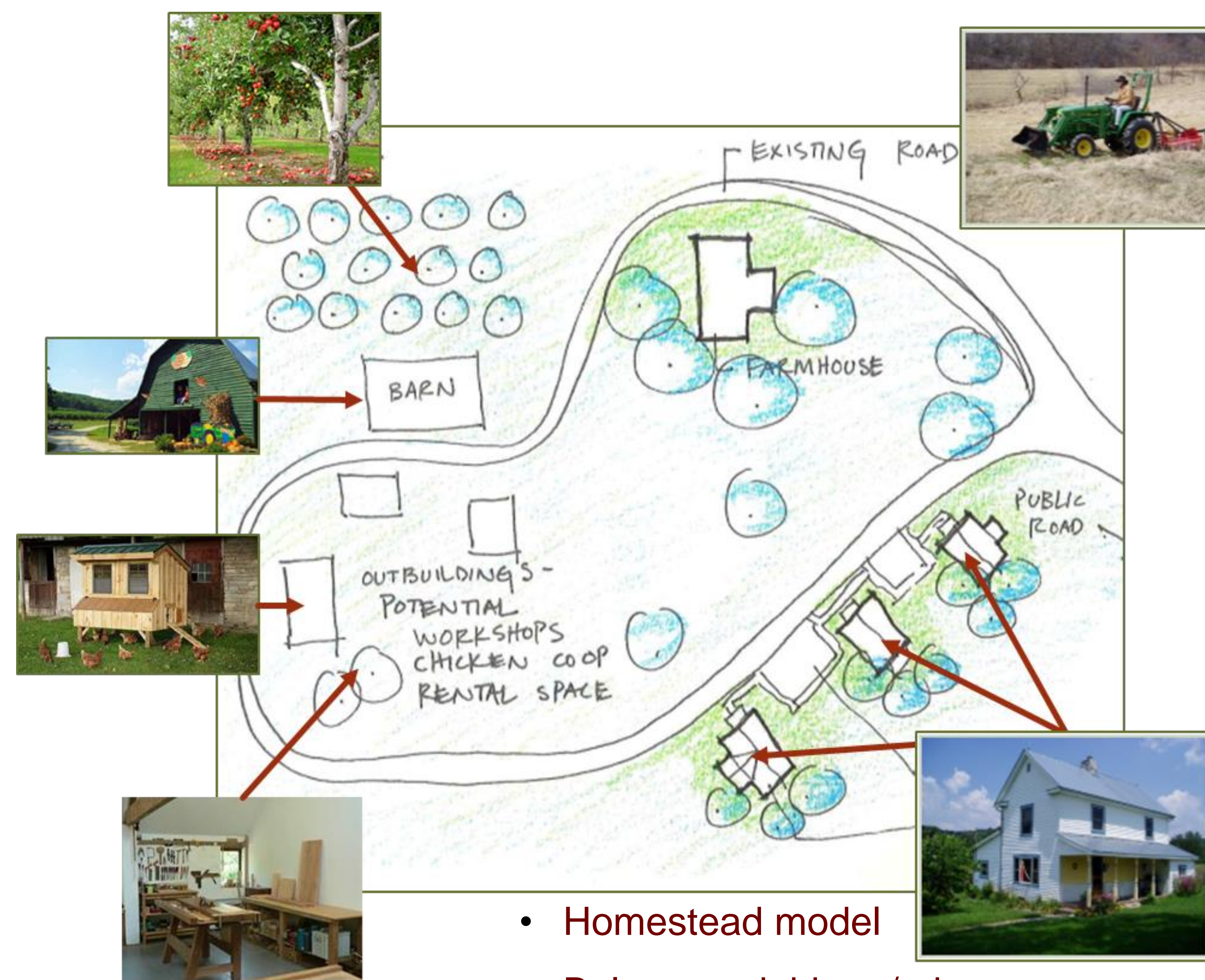


Visions for Tomorrow: Designing Intentional Communities for Rural Southwest Virginia

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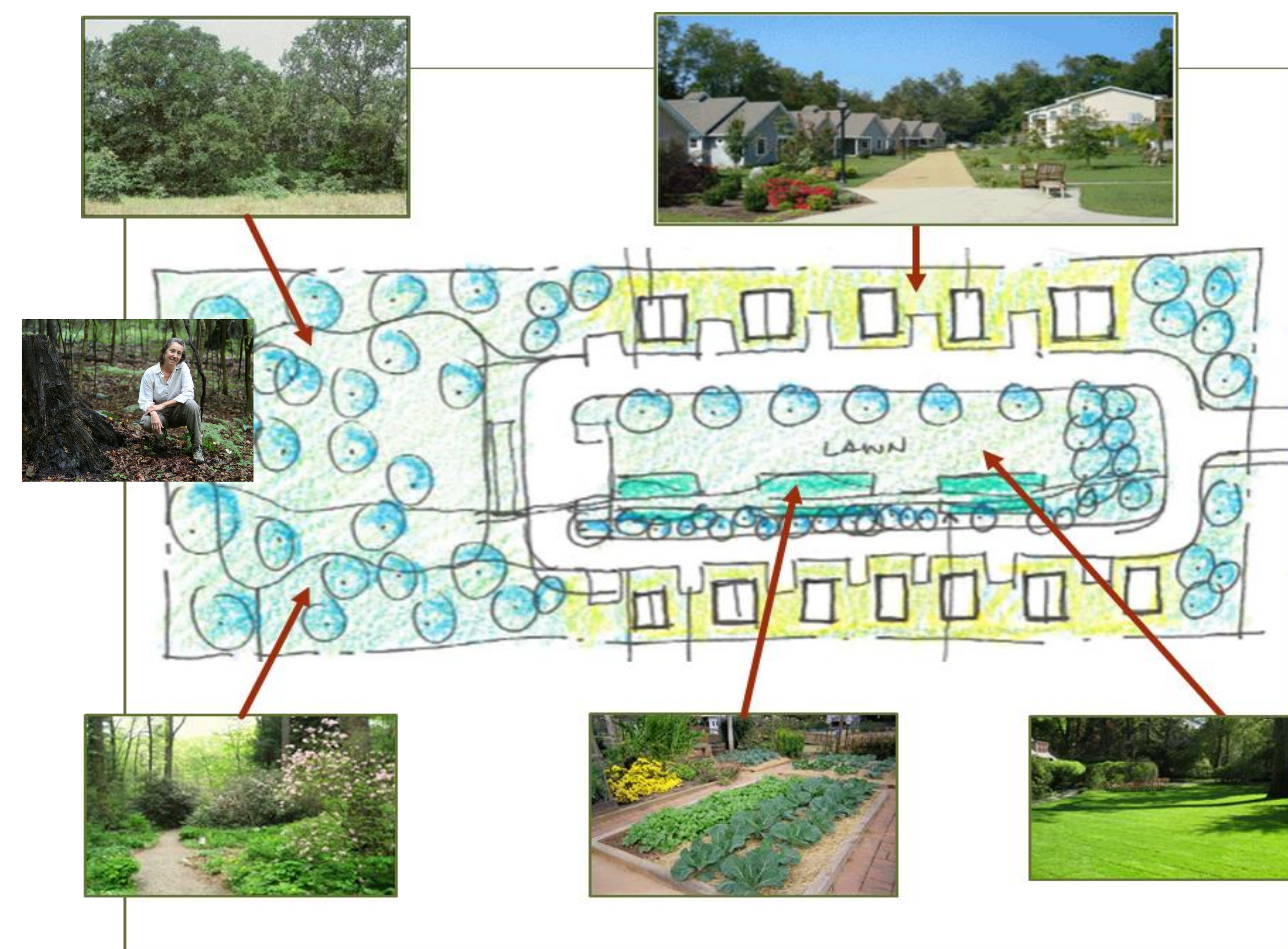
Housing in rural southwest Virginia is aging just like its population. Approximately 70% of homes in the region are more than 30 years old, energy inefficient, and in need of repair. Like many older persons, area residents want to age in place and are looking for ways to achieve that goal. In conjunction with a local livability initiative, local architects, building contractors, aging service providers, community planners, housing professionals, academics, and community members participated in a half day workshop to discuss the meaning of aging in place and to design new intentional communities with new housing options for the regions' rural, suburban, and urban areas. The three intentional community designs highlighted in this presentation feature new single and multi-family homes built within the scope of current community infrastructure and resources and with accessibility features inside and outside the homes.

Rural



- Homestead model
- Balance neighbors/privacy
- Meaningful work
- Open productive space

Suburban



- Balance neighbors/privacy
- Shared outdoor space
- Multigenerational
- Natural spaces
- Cars at periphery

Town



- Balance neighbors/privacy
- Common green spaces
- Walkable to amenities
- Protected courtyard
- Near transportation options

Design Priorities

Homes include some rentals and low income units. Communities provide private and common areas for community members. Each community design took advantage of local geography and integrated concepts identified as important to residents including independence, self-reliance, and prosperity; social networking opportunities; proximity to local businesses; and protecting rural character & the natural environment, and

Next Steps

Next steps include vetting designs to city planners, contractors, elected officials, and the community to generate community planning interest in livable communities across the lifespan and to develop an aging in place strategic plan for the NRV. First steps to implementing new communities include

- Expedite and streamline permitting processes
- Explore zoning revisions for accessory-dwelling units
- Promote use of universal design & accessibility features in new construction
- Provide incentives for using energy efficient materials

The full report **Home Matters**

can be downloaded at

www.communityhousingpartners.org

