



AUTUMN HALLSM

Environmental Achievements at Autumn Hall

Save Tree Mandate

200 mature trees were spaded and replanted for community streetscaping in Phase I. Parks' locations were driven by stands of mature trees, and road paving was redirected at considerable expense. Some residential lots were not developed due to stands of mature trees. The use of native trees and plants throughout Autumn Hall also works to create a sustainable community.

Working with Progress Energy, Autumn Hall covered the expense of converting several overhead lines to underground lines at its Englehard Drive entrance. This includes converting three residence meters to accommodate new underground connections and all additional expenses incurred in Autumn Hall's "save tree" mandate, requiring installation procedures, hand-digging and boring that is atypical.

This circumvention of mature trees has also driven installation of all water, sewer, telephone and cable lines, requiring that the entire Autumn Hall construction team be fully educated, engaged and committed to the developers' save tree mandate.

A Pedestrian Plan

A key focus of the Autumn Hall land plan is "live, work and walk." City of Wilmington planning authorities have credited the land plan for its innovative refocusing on vehicular traffic, by accommodating green space, narrow carriageways, smaller turning radiuses and generous pedestrian ways. In general, the plan enhances the importance of sidewalks and multi-use paths encouraging residents to leave their cars behind. Nature trails and pedestrian paths link homes to parks, lakes, clubs and commercial areas. Importantly, every home at Autumn Hall will be no further than 400 feet from one of the community's 11 planned parks. The community's 2.3 mile multi-use path also connects with the city's municipal path, which extends from Wilmington's historic downtown along the Cape Fear River to Wrightsville Beach, with one mile winding through the trees along the northern edge of Autumn Hall.

Irrigation Plan

The pond at Shell Bridge Park was designed to collect the community's stormwater. Autumn Hall common area irrigation then draws from the pond, with well water used in emergencies only. Well automatically replenishes the pond and its collected stormwater when the water table reaches a specific threshold.

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Green Building Practices

Long Leaf Pines that could not be saved during the site construction phase were sent to Our Heritage Preserved flooring company to be converted into heart pine flooring. This flooring will be installed in the Meeting Hall scheduled for construction in 2010. This recycled wood flooring is also available to our builder team for use in their homes.

The Autumn Hall builder team is employing a variety of energy efficient products and systems in their homes including:

- CertainTeed Fiber Cement Siding, a 30% pre-consumer recycled material
- Seashell Tabby accents, relying on local and sustainable resources
- Energy Star rated windows
- Blown-in insulation, which is generally about 20% more efficient than traditional insulation
- Wood alternative decking, that's both eco-friendly and maintenance free
- Metal roofing that lasts longer than traditional shingles, can be recycled when it is replaced and which reduces heat absorption and resists fire ..
- Tankless water heaters, which reduce energy consumption for heating water and diminishes water waste
- Natural gas appliances and exterior lanterns for energy consumption
- Additionally, detached garages are featured on some homes protecting against any spills, fumes or leaks from chemicals stored in the garage.

Public Green Space

Wilmington residents will also be able to enjoy 51 new acres of public green space at Autumn Hall. Eleven parks are planned to serve as recreational fields, contemplative gardens and playgrounds, with one garden accommodating public art installations from local artists. Thought has been given to the green views throughout, even for passing motorists, while numerous stands of mature trees contribute to the sense that this new community has been long established.

Bird Protection

In addition to its eleven parks and numerous trees throughout, Autumn Hall is also taking specific steps to serve as a bird sanctuary. These efforts include the planning and planting of sewer easements to accommodate both migrating and year-round bird populations. Ground cover will encourage nest building, while seed producing plants will provide food. Wood duck boxes are among those to be built to welcome specific species.

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Water Quality

Working with New Hanover County and the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Autumn Hall developers share a commitment to improve water quality in Bradley Creek. Toward this end, developers contributed more than 10 acres to the county for green space. This is intended to mitigate water contamination and improve the filtering of waters leading into Bradley Creek.

During construction of the retention pond in the residential area, which will serve as community open space and as an irrigation source, the contractors removed 60 to 70,000 cubic yards of dirt. The developer went to extra expense to install a special dewatering system that resulted in clean water discharge from the construction dewatering process. This excavation extended below the water table, using a special process to “de-water” the area, and allows for the elimination of all sediment flowing from construction activities into Bradley Creek. To date, there are no signs of impact on this “Blue Line Stream.”

Environmental Awards and Recognition

- The 2008 Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Award –Significant Achievement Recognition in honor of Autumn Hall’s efforts to develop an environmentally sensitive community.
- The 2008 Citizen Planner Award presented to Raiford Trask, III, by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association for leadership in environmental stewardship and creating a “walkable” community.
- The State of North Carolina’s Champion Tree award for having the largest Red Bay tree in the state.
- 2009 Award of Excellence from the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of Home Builders for “Building *With* Trees”
- Three City of Wilmington Tree Preservation and Landscape Awards for Outstanding Tree Preservation (2008), Outstanding Use of Native Trees (2008), and Outstanding Functional Design for Chapel Park, an innovative children’s play area built among mature specimens (2009).

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