



AUTUMN HALLSM

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Wilmington Tree Commission Awards Autumn Hall for Outstanding Functional Design of Chapel Park

Community's children's park recognized for preservation and landscape

July 8, 2009 – For the second year in a row, Autumn Hall has earned an award from the Wilmington Tree Commission. On July 7, at the Wilmington City Council Meeting, representatives of the tree commission praised the community's "Save Tree Mandate" and awarded the Tree Preservation and Landscape Award for Outstanding Functional Design of Chapel Park. The park is situated in Autumn Hall's first phase and features numerous climbing apparatus beneath a canopy, or "chapel," of mature live oaks, water oaks, darlington oaks and loblolly pines. Judges were particularly impressed that the park was designed and built around the existing tree landscape. This is the third award presented to Autumn Hall by the Wilmington Tree Commission. In 2008, the community won two awards: one for outstanding tree preservation and another for outstanding use of native trees.

Having saved more than 200 trees in its first phase alone, Autumn Hall has achieved streetscapes and parks that hardly appear new for the mature trees that appear throughout. Early on, the development team sought hands-on guidance from Arborist Scott McGhee of Scott's Treescap. Mr. McGhee and the developers challenged the construction team, city officials and utility providers to reconsider typical development practices and apply more advanced tree-friendly techniques. As a result, the 200-plus trees saved in the first phase were spaded and replanted elsewhere in the community for a more mature streetscape, or were simply left in place, thus forcing the re-direction of roads and utility lines. Some mature stands of trees determined the location of parks, while others, due to their majesty, simply rendered lots unbuildable. Developer Raiford Trask says he expects that similar practices through the second and third phases of the project will result in another 200 trees being saved.

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The awards are presented annually by the Wilmington Tree Commission, which was established by the Wilmington City Council in 1996. The commission presents awards in up to nine categories for properties located within the city of Wilmington. The awards and criteria for nominations recognize outstanding tree preservation, outstanding landscapes and outstanding commitment to tree maintenance.

About Autumn Hall

Autumn Hall is located just a bicycle ride from Wrightsville Beach and minutes from historic downtown Wilmington. When complete, the project will include approximately 300 single family residences and 200 multi-family units. Some 51 acres of parks, walking trails and green space, in addition to an eight acre lake, a pool and tennis facility and a Creek Club on Bradley Creek will contribute to the community's natural and recreational amenities. Autumn Hall will also be home to a wide range of retail, dining and shopping establishments. For more information, visit www.autumnhall.com.

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