

Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Awards Program



2009 Program Information

PURPOSE:

This program honors residential, commercial and public development projects in the Lower Cape Fear Region that demonstrate outstanding environmental stewardship through the protection, conservation, improvement, and awareness of our natural resources.

THREE LEVELS OF DISTINCTION:

Outstanding Stewardship Award is the highest level of distinction available in the Stewardship Development Program. This honor is only bestowed on projects that have achieved high marks in all applicable criteria. The project must be sufficiently complete and demonstrate accomplishment or financial commitment to accomplishment of project goals to receive Outstanding Stewardship status.

Significant Achievement is the next level of achievement. A project may not be eligible for Outstanding Stewardship for a variety of reasons. This is based on 1) level of project completion or 2) accomplishment of applicable criteria. If a project falls short on one or more criteria, the Selection Committee may elect to spotlight specific aspects of a project with a Significant Achievement Award.

Special Recognition shall be awarded if a project does not qualify for the Outstanding Stewardship or Significant Achievement Distinction, but the project does have element that the judges find to merit recognition for those characteristics. Projects that have an approved site plan but construction has yet to commence would fall under this level of award.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Project must be located in New Hanover, Brunswick, or Pender Counties.
2. Project must be in compliance with or exceed all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
3. Participating Developer/Owner must allow visits to site by the Selection Committee and provide additional information as requested for evaluating the project.
4. If a project is awarded, it is subject to future periodic evaluation by the Selection Committee.
5. The Selection Committee, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke recognition for failure to comply with program requirements or criteria.

SELECTION:

An independent Selection Committee, made up of recognized experts in applicable fields, will review the applications. Projects may be determined worthy of Outstanding Recognition, Significant Achievement or Special Recognition Awards, or no award at all. The sponsoring agencies (see last page) will appoint professionals to serve as members of this independent Selection Committee.

CRITERIA:

Applications will be judged on the overall creativity, design, and environmental impacts of projects. Primary emphasis will be placed on the following criteria, applicable to the project. **Please note that these criteria are intended to serve as guidelines only, and that it is not necessary to meet all the criteria. All categories may not apply to each and every project.**

1) Site Inventory & Development Plan

- Site evaluation (soils, drainage, wildlife, vegetation, etc.)
- Preservation of natural features, open spaces and habitat
- Establishment of neighborhood connectivity

2) Water Quality Protection

- Erosion control and sediment reduction
- Innovative stormwater management
- Surface and groundwater protection
- Floodplain, wetland and riparian preservation and/or restoration

3) Green Building

- Choice of construction and building materials and methods
- Preservation of natural features during construction
- Energy efficiency and water conservation

4) Wetland Riparian Preservation/Restoration

- Protection of existing wetlands
- Enhancement of riparian buffers
- Preservation of existing topography and natural features

5) Habitat Protection/Improvement

- Protection and/or restoration of native plant and animal communities
- Wildlife management efforts
- Preservation of open space and wildlife corridors

6) Vegetation Protection/Enhancement

- Utilization of native vegetation in landscaping plan
- Eradication of invasive exotic plant species
- Preservation and management of existing trees

7) Natural Project Amenities

- Integration of development with the natural landscape
- Protection of outstanding landscape views

- Neighborhood-enhancing recreation areas

8) Long-term Management and Maintenance

- Long-term resource protection through conservation easements
- Identification of funding source and organization to implement the conservation management plan
- Pet management and homeowner education

9) Community Outreach/Education

- Public education on natural features and/or processes present on the site.
- Publicity, marketing campaign, and community outreach on the environmental benefits (open space, wildlife habitat, water quality) of the development.
- General public education of financial and quality of life benefits of low impact development

10) Re-use/Revitalization of Existing Site

- Environmental assessment of natural systems and/or environmental issues
- Creative re-use of existing site
- Innovative approach to revitalization of an existing site or facility

RECOGNITION:

Stewardship Development honorees receive promotion through:

- 1) Acceptance into awards program
- 2) Exposure through releases and related literature
- 3) Awards banquet
- 4) Display of approved Stewardship Development signage on site (*Outstanding Recognition status only*)
- 5) Use of Stewardship Development logo in promotional materials for the site or project (*Outstanding Recognition status only*)
- 6) Significant Achievement and Special Recognition awardees can only use their designation in marketing text (*use of Stewardship Development logo is not permitted*).

The Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Program is administered by:

Brunswick County

Brunswick County Association of REALTORS®

Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District

Business Alliance for a Sound Economy (*Representing Wilmington-Cape Fear Homebuilders & Brunswick County Homebuilders*)

Cape Fear Resource Conservation & Development

City of Wilmington

New Hanover County

New Hanover Soil & Water Conservation District

North Carolina Coastal Federation

North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Pender County

Pender Soil & Water Conservation District

UNC W Master of Public Administration Program

Wilmington Regional Association of REALTORS®

Please contact your local Planning Department for more information:

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.stewardshipdev.com

Applications Accepted Anytime

Applications may be submitted to any of the four local planning offices or the office for the New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District.

July 31	Application Deadline
Sept - Oct	Project Presentations
November 19	Awards Recognition