

Greater Triangle Stewardship Development Awards Guidelines

1) Natural Resource Assessment

The applicant should include info on:

- i. Site History and Previous land uses (e.g. Was the land undeveloped, abandoned, or redeveloped?)
- ii. Existing impacts (impervious cover or others?)
- iii. Existing Streams/Lakes/Ponds
- iv. Existing Riparian Buffers
- v. Existing Wetlands
- vi. Soils
- vii. Trees and Vegetative Communities
- viii. Slopes / Topography
- ix. Floodplain
- x. Wildlife Habitat
- xi. Significant Natural Heritage Areas
- xii. Overall context (is the proposed development context-sensitive?).
 - a. Project Location
 - i. Is there adjacency/connectivity to natural features or parcels (e.g. linkage to greenway or wildlife corridor)
 - b. Source water protection?
 - i. Is the property connected to a drinking water source?
 - ii. Is the property having an influence on a drinking water source (Source Water Protection Program)?
 - iii. What are the watershed designations?

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. Did the applicant adequately delineate the natural features of the site?
- ii. In general, does the applicant's site plan respect the natural elements of the site?
- iii. Does the applicant's site plan aim to protect and enhance the existing natural resources on the site?
- iv. How are the natural resources on site expected to add to the quality of life for residents on the site?

2) Water Quality Protection

The applicant should include info on:

- i. Grading plans and limits of disturbance
- ii. Roadway and Utility crossings of natural areas
- iii. Buffers and development setbacks from sensitive areas
- iv. Pre and post development drainage patterns
- v. Treatment of stormwater runoff
- vi. Runoff volume reduction techniques
- vii. Groundwater recharge
- viii. Aquatic habitat protection
- ix. Coordination with local officials – obstacles encountered and solutions reached

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. What is the development's overall impact on downstream surface waters?
- ii. How has impervious surface been managed (reduced or mitigated)?
- iii. How has the impact of development on water quality and quantity been minimized during and after construction?
- iv. What innovative methods have been used to protect water quality?
- v. Is the effort to protect water quality and aquatic habitat evident throughout the development or only within defined stormwater management areas?
- vi. Was water quality protected in spite of obstacles encountered? (financial, permitting, existing conditions etc)

3) Wildlife Habitat Protection

The applicant should include info on how they have addressed and/or protected:

- i. Native species to the area and site
- ii. Wildlife habitats on, adjacent to, and nearby the site, as well as habitat connectivity
- iii. Diversity of habitat
- iv. Buffers and development setbacks from sensitive areas
- v. Habitat management plans
- vi. Local habitat enhancement initiatives

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. How have they addressed or protected wildlife communities on the site?
- ii. How well has the applicant maintained the natural character of the wildlife habitat areas?
- iii. Are the wildlife habitat areas also used as a public amenity on site?

- iv. How well is the project integrated with the natural landscape on and off-site?
- v. Do the natural areas create contiguous green corridors through the project?
- vi. Has the developer incorporated recommendations made in the NCWRC's Wildlife Management Plan?

4) Vegetation Protection & Enhancement

The applicant should include info on how they have addressed and/or protected:

- i. Areas of protected vegetation
- ii. Use of native vegetation in landscaping
- iii. Removal of invasive species
- iv. Tree and forest preservation
- v. Low maintenance landscaping plans
- vi. Long term vegetation management efforts

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. To what degree is vegetation protection and enhancement evident on site?
- ii. What efforts were made to enhance the natural vegetation on site?

5) Green Building

The applicant should include info on:

- i. Green Building / Sustainability certifications and awards
- ii. Innovative building techniques and use of high durability, low maintenance, energy-efficient, or permeable materials
- iii. Construction material handling
- iv. Waste prevention
- v. Use of locally sourced and locally produced materials
- vi. "Green" experience within the project team
- vii. Potable and non-potable water sources
- viii. Efforts to increase water efficiency
- ix. Water reuse systems
 - a. Efforts to increase energy efficiency (include information on energy action plans or restriction plans)
 - b. Efforts to improve indoor air quality
 - c. New technologies

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. What efforts were made to minimize waste and reduce pollution during construction (materials, dust, water, etc)?

- ii. How committed is the applicant to ensuring a “green” future for the development?
- iii. How have the “green” aspects of the project been highlighted (on site and in advertising)
- iv. What percentage of the project's energy needs are generated on-site using renewable resources?
- v. Is the project receiving institutional certification such as LEED?
- vi. What practices and/or technologies is the project using to reduce energy consumption?
- vii. What steps does the project take to reduce water needs? What kinds of water conservation, harvesting, and re-use strategies are employed?

6) Integration with the Community

The applicant should include info on:

- i. Neighboring developments
- ii. Integration with surrounding land uses and natural areas or greenways
- iii. Providing new services and retail to the community
- iv. Providing permanent employment
- v. Becoming a part of the local environment
- vi. Public transportation
- vii. Civic efforts; creation of or connection to civic space and/or public amenities
- viii. Local attractions
- ix. Scenic Views
- x. Affordability
- xi. Ability to walk and bike as alternate transportation
- xii. Cultural resources

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. How well does this project provide a mix of housing types?
- ii. How well does this project embrace the overall feeling of community?
- iii. What does this project add to the local community?
- iv. How well does this project respect the individuality of the nearby population?
- v. What features within this community would make neighbors want to come spend time within this development?
- vi. If this is a redevelopment, did the applicant preserve valuable community features from the previous development (architecture, public spaces, etc)

- vii. Does the project include a commercial or agricultural component (e.g., food producing or processing) offering useful services, shopping and permanent non-service, non-retail employment?
- viii. Does the project include an institutional component offering learning and/or cultural opportunities, child care or elder care facilities?
- ix. How does the project connect with and support local and/or regional transit services?
- x. Does the project integrate other uses into previously single-use areas?

7) Long-Term Management and Maintenance

The applicant should include info on:

- i. Commitment to protection of natural resources
- ii. Long term commitment to water quality protection
- iii. Management plan for public spaces
- iv. Pet waste strategies
- v. Stormwater BMP maintenance plans
- vi. Conservation easements
- vii. Educational signage

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. Is the applicant committed to long-term maintenance of the natural amenities which make this project attractive?
- ii. How are the homeowners (present or future) directly involved with the long term sustainability of the site's natural resources and green elements?

8) Community Outreach & Education

The applicant should include info on:

- i. Environmental Commitments
- ii. Involvement of Community (neighbors) in development process (Were nearby communities surveyed to determine interests, needs, or concerns? What was the public involvement piece, if any?)
- iii. Efforts to enhance neighboring communities
- iv. Publicized environmental efforts
- v. Oversight of builders and third party project partners
- vi. Information available to potential buyers about BMP maintenance or energy conservation measures in the home
- vii. Evaluation feedback mechanism before, during, and after development process.

The judges and applicants should keep in mind:

- i. How have the outreach efforts supported the environmental efforts?
- ii. What impact have the educational components of the project had on the residents and neighbors?
- iii. To what degree do the neighboring residents appreciate the environmental awareness of the applicant?
- iv. Does the development aim to educate its residents and the neighboring community about green building, or highlight techniques and materials used?
- v. Are the landowners educated in some way about things they can do to prevent and improve water quality and natural habitats on an individual or homeowner basis?
- vi. Are the landowners educated in some way about things they can do to conserve energy and water resources on an individual or homeowner basis?
- vii. Hazard mitigation and planning?

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