



## Albemarle Stewardship Development Program

### PURPOSE:

The Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council developed the Stewardship Development Program to honor residential, commercial and public development projects in the Albemarle Region that demonstrate outstanding environmental stewardship through the protection, conservation, improvement and awareness of our natural resources.

### LEVELS OF RECOGNITION:

*Outstanding Stewardship* 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 expected accomplishment of project goals in order to receive Outstanding Recognition status.

*Significant Achievement* is the next level of recognition. If a project is well underway, but is not sufficiently complete or has not yet accomplished all of the expected project goals, the project may qualify for Significant Achievement status.

- Unlike Outstanding Recognition, an approved Project Plan (at any level of the process) may receive a Significant Achievement award.
- 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.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY:

1. A project must be located in Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and/or Washington Counties.
2. A project must be in compliance with or exceed all applicable local, state and federal regulations, codes or ordinances.
3. The Project Developer/Owner must allow visits to the project site by the Selection Committee, and provide additional information, as requested, for project evaluation.
4. If a project is awarded, it is subject to future periodic evaluation by the Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council. The Council, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke recognition for failure to comply with program requirements or criteria.

### SELECTION PROCESS:

An independent Selection Committee, made up of recognized experts in the field, will review all applications and determine the worthiness of projects to receive recognition. The sponsoring agencies will appoint professionals to serve as members of the Selection Committee.

**AWARD CRITERIA:**

Applications will be judged on the overall creativity, design and environmental impacts of the project. Primary emphasis will be placed on the criteria applicable to the project.

**Please note that the following criteria are intended to serve as guidelines only, and that it is not necessary to meet all the criteria. Not all categories will apply to most projects.**

**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 press releases and related literature
- 3) Awards banquet
- 4) Display of approved Stewardship Development signage on site
- 5) Use of Stewardship Development logo in promotional materials for the site or project.

**To obtain a copy of the Application Guidelines, including a more detailed description of these criteria and the Application Form, contact the ARCD office at 252-482-7437 or download the forms from the ARCD website at [www.albemarlrcd.org](http://www.albemarlrcd.org).**

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The Albemarle RC&D Council is a 501(C)(3) private non-profit organization that serves the people of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington Counties

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