

GREEN AWARD

Woodlands Edge Wins 2009 Green Development of the Year Award



Homes in Woodlands Edge are nestled within the existing tree canopy.



vehicles that washed materials were required to use a restricted zone to lessen impact on the tree roots surrounding the construction zone.

Mulch and topsoil stockpiles were used to minimize soil disturbance.

Wherever possible, lots were left in their naturally wooded state, and the developer worked with local builders to carefully remove as little tree canopy as possible when building on those lots. The tree canopy was then incorporated into the landscaping of each lot, leaving the impression of mature landscaping around new homes.

In addition to tree preservation, Low Impact Development techniques were used, such as minimized pavement widths, minimal site hydrology disturbance and use of low-maintenance native plant materials that reduced water consumption and added to the run-off filtration process. The developer also used careful land development techniques, including as minimal filling and clearing and grading as could be carried out.

As Tyne explained: “our development planning and low-impact practices lay lightly on the land so as to reduce excavation erosion and preserve topography and natural vegetation.” **LD**

NAHB RECENTLY NAMED WOODLANDS EDGE in Little Rock, Arkansas, the 2009 Green Development of the Year winner. The award was presented at the 11th Annual Green Building Conference in Dallas, Texas in May.

Woodland’s Edge was developed by Rocket Properties of Little Rock, Arkansas. The judging panel named the project the winner because it exemplified green development through careful construction methods that protected a large amount of the native southern deciduous forest on the site.

Judges also were impressed by the attention given to site planning, which guaranteed a lot of interaction between residents and the natural beauty preserved within the site. That planning included walking trails, educational signage, wildlife observation areas and many other opportunities for the residents to both interact with their natural surroundings and to

learn more about the flora and fauna of the southern deciduous forest of the property. Ron Tyne, President of Rocket Properties, was present in Dallas to receive the award.

The native tree canopy of that forest was protected through careful planning and construction oversight. For example, a Conservation Plan was put into place to outline how to protect trees and woodland areas in preservation zones and within rights-of-ways. Small grading equipment was used to develop paved pathways through woodland preserves to minimize the impact of that grading as much as possible. Also, tree root zones were protected from construction equipment, and construction

PHOTOS: BRADFORD GAINES (RIGHT), RON TYNE (LEFT)