

River Dunes cited by magazine for environmental work

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Sun Journal Staff

Pamlico County's largest planned development has been cited for positive environmental work by a national publication, *Developer* magazine.

River Dunes, a sprawling 1,345-acre development near Oriental, was awarded the magazine's Editor's Choice Sustainability Award. The award was announced in the December issue.



River Dunes was rated the best in the country in the single-family community category.

The magazine cited developer River Dunes Corp. for environmental sensitivity in planning the community, which has a target of more than 600 upscale homes.

The site is scheduled for build-out in the next decade, with a combination of large waterfront homes and clustered village-style units.

The magazine said the development conserved critical natural areas, and controlled stormwater runoff.

"We are very pleased that *Developer* magazine has recognized River Dunes for the efforts of all those who have worked so hard in making this a sustainable community, minimizing the impacts to our environment," said Ed Mitchell, president of River Dunes Corp. "We went into this project determined to make River Dunes a leader in sustainable development. This wonderful award is testament that we have made great progress in achieving that goal."

"The winners of *Developer* magazine's 2008 Editor's Choice Sustainability Awards demonstrate the creativity and forward-thinking of the development community today," said Shabnam Mogharabi, editor-in-chief of the magazine. "These projects represent the best of the best. They employ green practices and embody a true spirit of responsibility and stewardship."

River Dunes worked with more than 20 state and environmental agencies and groups during planning.

The development includes a 238-acre conservation easement along with several hundred acres of green space.

Mitchell said that was intended to preserve the site's sensitive aquatic nursery areas. "It also provides a beautiful ecological amenity for the residents," he said.

Mitchell said the company projected infrastructure costs would top \$90 million.

River Dunes officials cited state Rep. Alice Underhill of Craven County for her work as a liaison between the development and the state throughout the planning and building process.

"I am delighted that River Dunes has been honored for their exceptional environmental focus," Underhill said in a statement. "I have watched this development grow and their hard work to protect our precious natural resources has been outstanding. They have shown that good development and good environmental protection can go hand in hand to produce outstanding living environments."

Developer magazine, published by Hanley-Wood Publishing Group in Washington, has a panel of industry judges select annual winners in categories such as residential, commercial, civic, office and institutional developments.