

## The National Arbor Day Foundation

[www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

“7 Tips for Successfully Building with Trees” and “Awards of Excellence”

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<http://www.arborday.org/programs/Buildingwithtrees/7tips.cfm>

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### **7 Tips for Successfully “Building With Trees”**

1. Show the location of trees you want to save on a plat of your property.
1. Show the location of trees you want to save on a plat of your property. In general, keep only those trees that are in good health. Save a mix of ages and sizes. Save groups of trees if you can rather than single trees.
2. Harmonize your project with the natural terrain and the trees you want to save. Consider this natural arrangement when you plan the location of buildings, sidewalks and driveways.
3. Protect “save” trees from soil compaction and severed roots with barrier fencing of the critical root zone. Vehicles driving or parking over roots or construction materials stored over roots result in compaction of the soil which cuts off the air and water passages in the soil. Some cutting of roots near construction is inevitable but much is avoidable. For example, the routing of underground utilities does not have to follow a straight line from street to house. Route selection can often avoid important trees. When this is not possible, tunneling can be used to significantly reduce root damage.
4. Choose a builder who shares your commitment to saving trees and who has tree preservation experience. In building as in most other undertakings, experience matters.
5. Communicate your tree-preservation goals to everyone working on the project. Work with planners and architects, engineers and utility managers to place improvements where the impact on trees will be at a minimum.
6. Provide aftercare to help trees recover from the stress of construction. Water periodically, especially in times of drought, and mulch the trees. Remove aggressive or noxious plants from natural areas.
7. In wildfire prone areas, break up solid areas of evergreens and avoid planting trees close to buildings. Keep trees watered, regularly pruned and in healthy condition. Visit [www.firewise.org/communities](http://www.firewise.org/communities).

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/Buildingwithtrees/BWTawards.cfm>

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### **“Building With Trees” Awards of Excellence**

Recognizes builders and developers who save trees during construction and land development. Criteria considered includes: creativity and attention to protecting trees during planning, design and construction; planting and providing for long-term tree care; demonstrating a commitment to tree protection by having a certified tree-care professional on the development team; taking inventory of existing trees and using information to help preserve trees; and adherence to tree protection goals throughout the construction process.

Selected examples to visit, contact, or search the Internet for project details:

#### **Residential Development Category of 2 to 25 lots**

Located among a forest inside the Capital Beltway, Endicott Hill is made up of eight homes distributed among six acres of trees. Homes were planned around pockets where few trees grew to keep the forest in tact, which resulted in unusual placements chosen with the priority of saving trees in mind. Other tree-saving examples included installing a common driveway for six of the eight homes and landscaping the understory of the forest to prevent owners from expanding their yards. Homeowners said they were motivated to purchase because of the homes' setting among so many trees. • *Endicott Hill, Mitchell & Best Homebuilders LLC, 1686 East Gude Dr, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-762-9511* • *Arbor Care, Inc., 18001 Bowie Mill Rd, Rockville, MD 20855, 301-570-6033*

#### **Residential Development Category of 26 to 100 lots**

Recognized as the Environmental Development of the Year for 2003 by the Maryland National Capital Building Industry, 70 percent of Bancroft's 100 acres were left open so trees can be enjoyed by residents. Coordination between the developer, subcontractors, local utilities and county government resulted in better planning of the Bancroft development. Excavators were required to notify the developer of trees scheduled for removal that weren't in the path of a home or road. A separate bike path meandering through the trees meant an extra 12 feet of pavement could be eliminated from plans by the side of the road. • *Bancroft, Mitchell & Best Homebuilders LLC, 1686 East Gude Dr, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-762-9511* • *Arbor Care, Inc., 18001 Bowie Mill Rd, Rockville, MD 20855, 301-570-6033*

#### **Residential Development Category of 101 to 500 lots**

The Eagles Club at Quail Hollow, developed by Pulte Homes of Ohio, Concord Township, Ohio, with the tree expertise of Davey Resource Group. The project design team visited each established tree several times in the planning of this 115-home development. Significant trees to be saved were flagged and homes were carefully sited around trees based on the initial assessments of the design team. A booklet explaining the ideas used to preserve trees was produced to help educate homebuyers about how the homes were strategically located and built. • *Pulte Homes of Ohio, 30575 Bainbridge Rd, Ste 150, Solon, OH 44139, 440-349-9640* • *Davey Resource Group, PO Box 5193, Kent, OH 44240, 330-673-5685*