



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Heather Crichton
hcrichton@tuckerhall.com
(813) 228-0652 x103

Connerton Receives Environmental Award from Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

TAMPA, Fla. (April 10, 2006) – Connerton, the nearly 5,000 acre New Town currently under development in Pasco County, was awarded second place in the Environmental category at the 14th annual Future of the Region Awards. The awards provide “recognition for outstanding achievements and contributions which benefit the regional community.” Connerton was recognized specifically for its environmental conservation efforts, including a wildlife corridor, nature trails and wetland mitigation areas in its first village, the Arbors. The ceremony was hosted by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and was held March 13, 2006 at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa.

“Congratulations are in order for our entire Connerton team, including Biological Research Associates, the Genesis Group and Heidt & Associates,” said Stewart Gibbons, president of Connerton. “Since the beginning, we’ve focused on making Connerton environmentally sustainable. This is a great honor.”

The Connerton team has preserved a critical wildlife corridor that will allow wildlife to move between Connerton and existing or proposed conservation lands to the north and west (including the Conner Preserve, which was purchased by the Southwest Florida Management Water District). Connerton has also created an approximately two-mile long nature trail and boardwalk system that will use signage to teach residents about the natural communities and wildlife found in the area. The trail system has been designed to run through wetland areas with only a minimum impact to these ecosystems.

In preserving the wetland areas themselves, environmental engineers have made extensive use of native foliage by relocating plants that would have normally been lost in the development process. In addition, nearly “mature” wetlands have been created in a short period of time by relocating more than 1,000 mature cypress trees.

“We are proud to be part of the Connerton team,” said Dr. Shirley Denton, vice president and senior ecologist of Biological Research Associates. “They have such a keen understanding of the importance that the regional environment has on a community.”

Connerton is a 4,800 acre mixed-use master planned community in Central Pasco County, and the only “New Town” currently under construction in the greater Tampa Bay area. In total, there are approximately 8,500 residential units planned with over 3 million square feet of commercial space for office, retail and industrial uses. Over half of the 264 residences in The Arbors, the first village in Connerton, are sold. The community will feature many amenities, including a Town Center, fitness and aquatics complex, amphitheatre, parks, walking trails and conservation areas. A hospital, regional park and 3 schools are also planned.

###