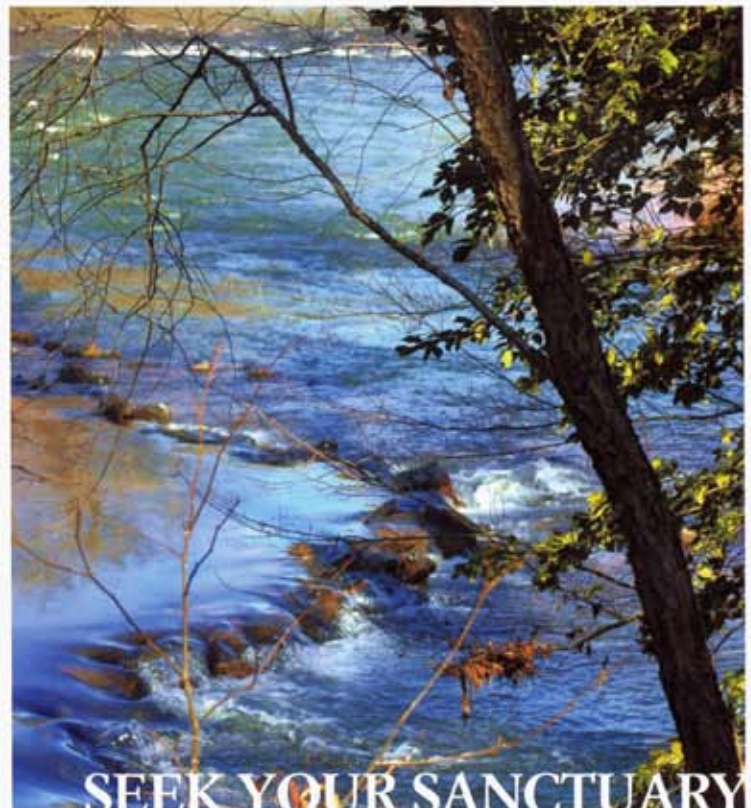
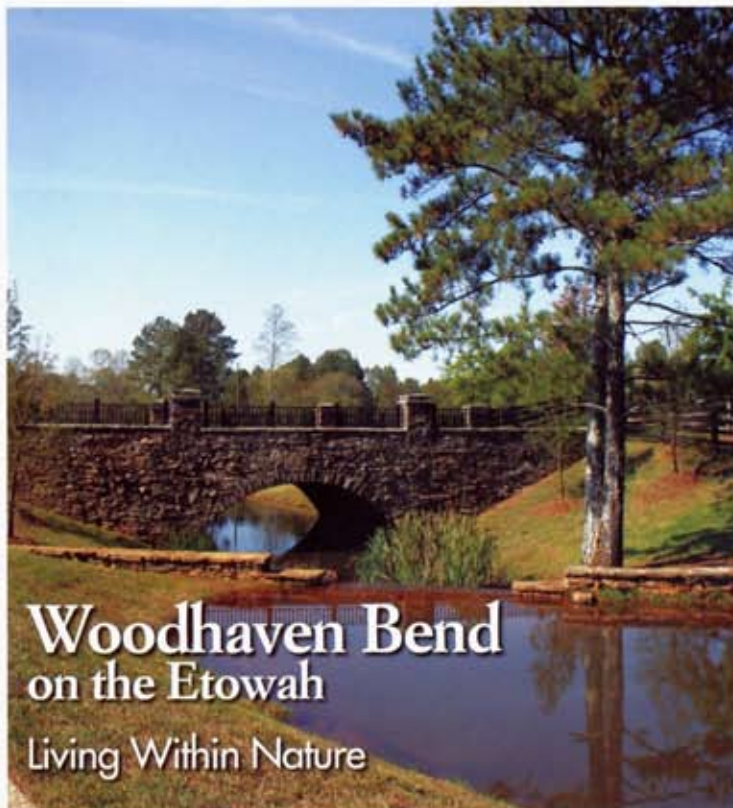
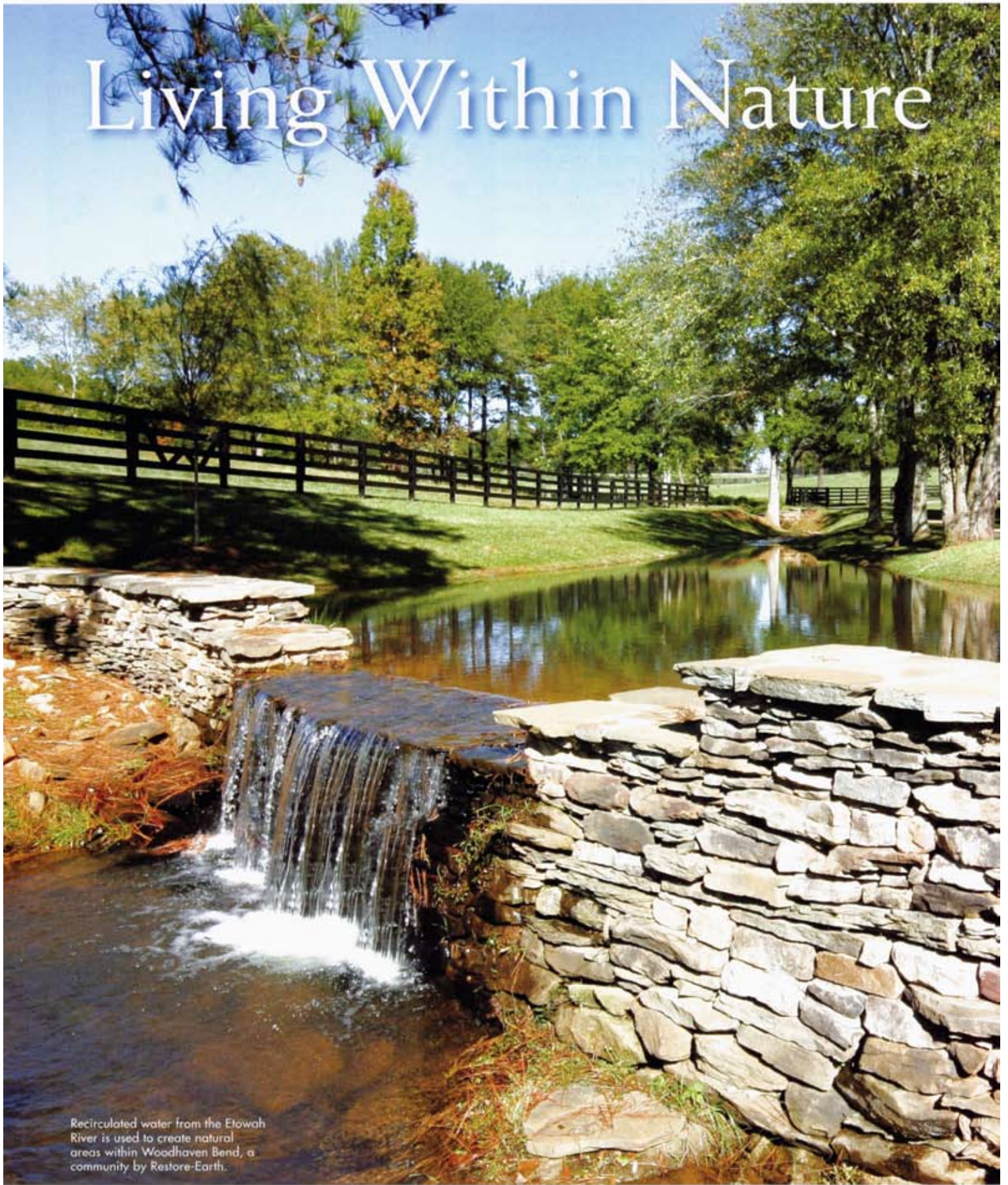


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# Living Within Nature



Recirculated water from the Etowah River is used to create natural areas within Woodhaven Bend, a community by Restore-Earth.



This rustically beautiful nature pavilion is one of four within the community where residents can meet to enjoy cookouts and gatherings.

## Woodhaven Bend Restores Earth and Harmony

By Trish Stukbauer • Photography courtesy of Restore-Earth

Most of us have experienced the visual delight of a crisp autumn day in the country, driving along winding mountain roads to view the amazing colors that nature's palette paints on leaves gently falling from towering trees. Now imagine how different your experience of that day would be if you were to relive your childhood by hiking and exploring nature with 200-year-old oak trees towering above. Watching a songbird alight on a nearby branch and then listening as it strikes the perfect note. Hearing the water rushing over river rapids. Breathing the clean, moist morning mist. Tasting the tart goodness of apples fresh from a nearby tree. In essence, living within nature.

That organic view of the natural world and a desire to preserve it for future generations was the vision that inspired Robert C. "Robin" Loudermilk Jr., to create Restore-Earth. Perhaps best known as the President and Chief Executive Officer of rent-to-own company Aaron Rents Inc., Loudermilk is also an avid sportsman, conservationist and real estate developer with a true passion for returning the earth to its natural state.

Restore-Earth was created to do just that, identifying ecosystems that have been impacted by government, agricultural or other uses and restoring their balance. "The natural environment of the world is being damaged, and we are doing everything within our means to restore it," explains Vice President Michael Estrada. "We acquire impacted land and restore it back to its natural state, affecting plant, wildlife and aquatic habitats. We believe that our restoration investments are one step toward offsetting the developmental impact on the environment." Indeed, Restore-Earth taps considerable resources to do just that. "We spend millions of dollars and considerable time and effort gaining governmental approval and restoring the land and hydrologic conditions. The result is a protected mitigation environment for many generations to explore and enjoy." ▶



The natural beauty of the neighborhood is Woodhaven Bend's primary amenity.

### The Land

Woodhaven Bend on the Etowah is one such community developed by Restore-Earth. Located on a spectacular property bordered by two miles of the unspoiled Etowah River, Woodhaven Bend has been a sanctuary for man and nature for centuries. During the Georgia Gold Rush in the 1830s, the land was home to two mines, and remnants of that activity have been preserved on the property. What also has been preserved is the breathtaking beauty of the varied topography. From gentle meadows and steep mountain foothills to riverside retreats, each generously sized multi-acre tract has its own personality.

In all, approximately 30 homes will occupy this breathtaking 280-acre site, which Restore-Earth has meticulously rehabilitated. "We planted over 5,000 trees and native plants in a 50-acre mitigation buffer in Woodhaven. Nature is our primary amenity. We designed the community to allow access for residents to interact with nature,"

Estrada notes. To that end, over 10 miles of interconnected hiking and biking trails wind throughout the community past scenic river rapids, wildlife observation areas, a butterfly garden, a bird sanctuary and rustic river pavilions. Native plants and trees are identified with educational markers. Two miles of preserved green space along the Etowah's shores are ideal for enjoying a hike, a canoe or kayak trip, a fishing venture, a photography outing or simple meditation.

"Woodhaven Bend was designed to allow people to interact with nature at their own pace, in their own way and in a manner that makes them comfortable. Indeed, residents can check gear ranging from mountain bikes to canoes out of the activity center, meaning that whenever the urge strikes, they can act upon it," he says. That connection between land and residents is at the heart of Woodhaven Bend. "Our vision is to restore, protect and allow access to nature. To live within nature." Estrada states. ▶



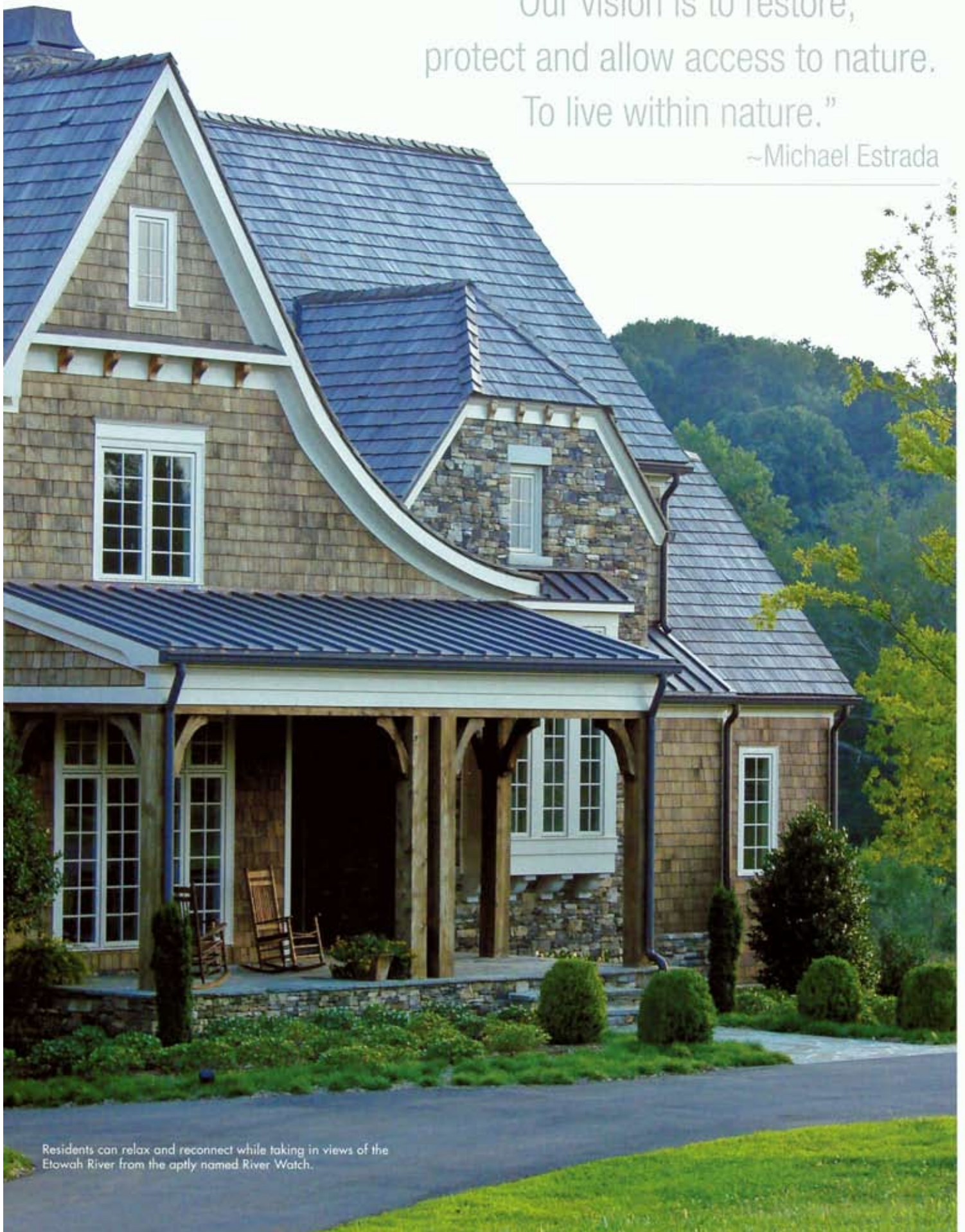
Throughout the community, miles of hiking and biking trails intertwine and wind along the river, streams and natural areas.

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protect and allow access to nature.  
To live within nature.”

~Michael Estrada

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Residents can relax and reconnect while taking in views of the Etowah River from the aptly named River Watch.



Every residence in Woodhaven Bend is a custom-designed home that marries the built environment to the natural world.

### The Architecture

This natural connection is even a part of the homes themselves. Every residence within Woodhaven Bend is a custom home created specifically for its site. "We design and locate each home considering the natural attributes of the property. For example, a sunset view, riverside access or a stand of hardwood trees," Estrada says.

To that end, homes within Woodhaven Bend are designed by renowned architects such as William "Bill" Harrison, AIA, and his talented team at Harrison Design Associates. "Of primary importance when designing these homes was the fusion of the built environment to the natural environment. Getting a blend of those two was paramount in the design of each home, and how it lays on the land - whether tucked into a hillside or perched proudly at the top of a hill - is a key ingredient in that," Harrison notes.

"Bill has so many talents," explains Harrison Design Associates colleague Robert Entenza. "He can look at a site plan and, with what seems to be very little effort but is actually a result of years of experience, perfectly site a home in such a way that it captures the beauty of the terrain and binds it with the home in a manner that makes it seem as if it has always been a part of the land. It

incorporates striking vistas, the patterns of sun as it moves across the property and all of those ingredients dictated by the lay of the land."

"What we have here in Woodhaven Bend is a unique opportunity to do that," Harrison notes. "We try to marry the homes to the pristine natural environment and tie them to the history of the land, which is fitting to Middle North Georgia. As a result, the homes are organic, definitely of the earth and of that land in particular."

While Woodhaven Bend allows residents to work with their own builder and architect, Harrison Design Associates coordinates the neighborhood's Architectural Review and has left its mark on several magnificent homes there. The residence on Lot 27, for example, has been named Sunset Point and was crafted by Beecham Builders. Set high on the side of the hill, the driveway and the street approach the back of the home. "It allows us to convey the impression that the home is tucked into the hill, and when you look out the great room windows through a vast expanse of glass, the view is unparalleled," Harrison says. ▶



The Overlook was designed by Harrison Design Associates to take full advantage of its position on the side of a slope overlooking the river and the community.

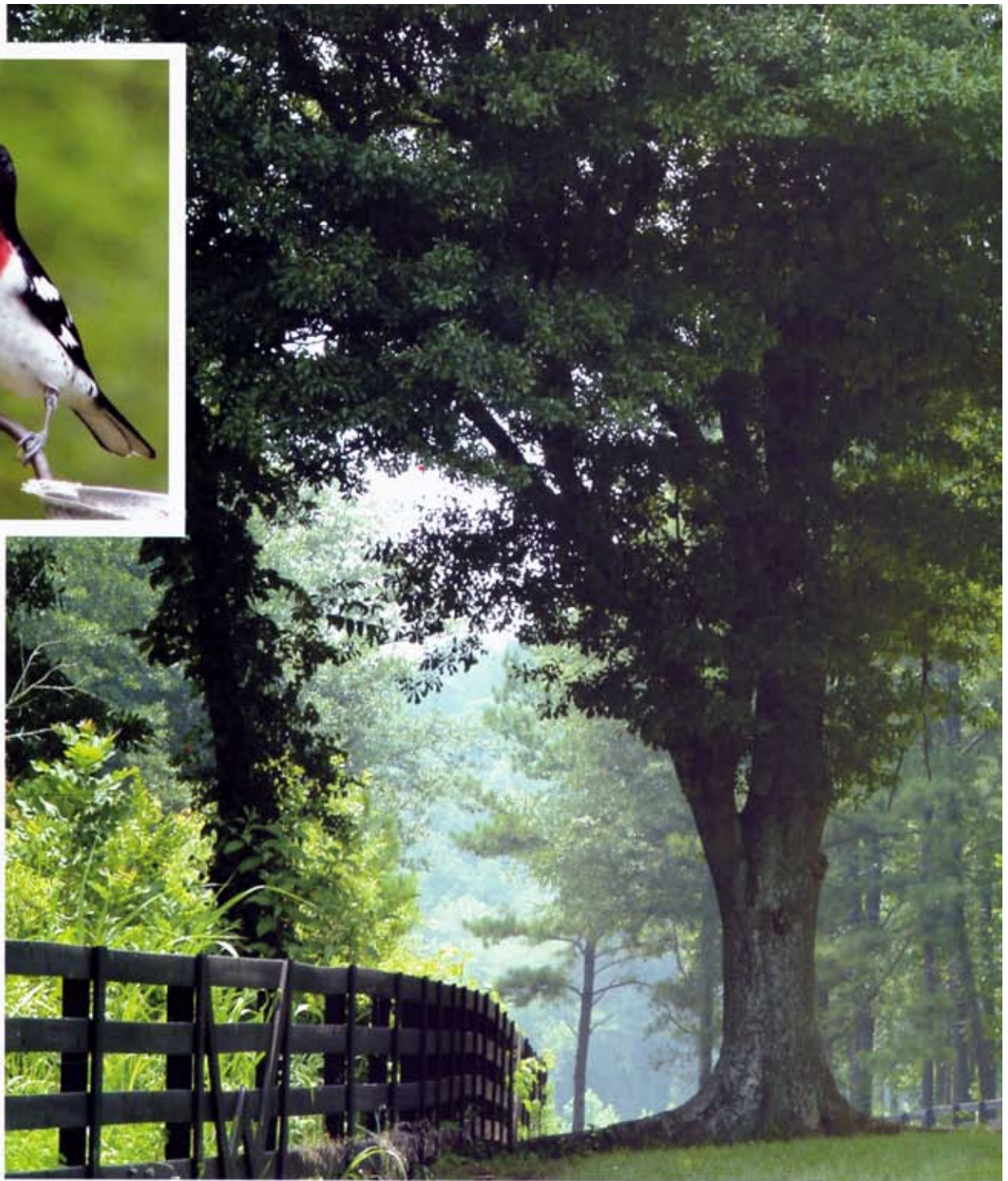


Nearby, The Overlook also sits aside a steep home site. As you drive up the driveway, you're greeted by the home's rear elevation, which at that point soars three stories above. Built by Bob Dernehl of Dernehl Builders, this residence features a dramatic meadow view from a two-story great room that is bordered by traditional timbers and columns. "As large as these homes are, when you're inside, they don't seem rambling or impersonal. They have very livable spaces, due to the organic nature of the layout and the materials," Harrison notes. Beautifully displaying the detailing inherent in a more intimately scaled residence is River Watch, also by Dernehl Builders. Set on a gently contoured five-acre, riverside lot, the home is beautifully married to its site, with a large open air deck that lets residents take in its beauty.

Occupying the highest elevation on the property is The Eagle's Nest, built by Beecham Builders. "It is perched at the top of the community, with a serpentine driveway that has a switchback, so the front of the house faces the street. The rear

of the home has a wonderful, flat backyard that's perfect for an axial pool. It's so unusual to find that attribute on such a hilly piece of property," Entenza notes. The French Low Country style residence is ideally suited to the heavily wooded lot, with a tumbled brick and indigenous stone exterior. On the inside, materials like hand-scraped, wide-plank floors impart instant age. "We strive to make each new residence appear to be an old home, to look as if it has always been an integral part of its site," Harrison notes. Even the wildlife are at home here, such as the eagle that has been seen soaring above.

Throughout the neighborhood, Harrison Design Associates has accomplished that with casually elegant estates that put residents in the center of their environment, instead of making them feel like observers looking in on it. "These homes are welcoming, organic and down to earth," Entenza says. ▶



Restore-Earth has preserved and protected many century-old trees throughout the property, which all of the neighborhood's inhabitants can appreciate.

### The Location

What's also down to earth is the community's location just north of Atlanta in Ball Ground. Nestled between Cumming, Roswell, Alpharetta, Canton and the mountains, Woodhaven Bend sits at the intersection of natural beauty and convenience. "We're in the foothills of the mountains, yet we are still a part of the North Metro Atlanta area. We are

a quick commute into Atlanta, and 60 miles to the airport. It feels like we are about 15 miles from everything - 15 miles to 400, or to 575; 15 miles to Cumming or to Canton; 15 miles to the mountains; and 15 miles to Northside Hospital Forsyth, with easy access to North Point, Perimeter and Town Center malls," Estrada says. ▶




The entrance to Woodhaven Bend is flanked by a waterfall on one side and this pond on the other, which is where several Canadian geese migrate annually to hatch their young

Native plants abound in the neighborhood's mitigation areas.



### Restore Financing

The developers are also intent on restoring potential residents' ability to stake their claim in Woodhaven Bend. "Because of the unique nature of the company, we have the ability to offer owner financing at a time when mortgage loans are very difficult to obtain," he says. Their favorable finance program makes it easy to purchase one of the currently available custom homes or to craft your own dream home from the ground up.

There are many reasons to find your haven in Woodhaven Bend, from its convenient location to its striking homes and the natural beauty of the site that its developers have worked so hard to restore. "Development is naturally going to take place. Yet there are certain people who have a consciousness and a respect for the environment and who will expend the resources to protect it. Robin is one of those types of people, and it has been a dream of mine for many years to be a part of a company like Restore-Earth," Estrada notes. Thanks to the team behind Restore-Earth and Woodhaven Bend, that dream can now be shared by a few more fortunate families. 

*For more information on Woodhaven Bend and its available home sites and homes, which currently range in price from \$200,000 to \$3 million, call (770) 893-3415 or visit [www.woodhavenbend.com](http://www.woodhavenbend.com).*

## Woodhaven Bend on the Etowah



- Gated community
- Homesites from 3.5 to 20 acres
- Architecturally controlled custom homes
- No time frame to build
- Centrally located - 15 miles east or west to major expressways (400 and 575)
- 60 miles from Atlanta Airport
- 2 miles and 50 acres on the Etowah River
- Hiking/biking trails
- Covered pavilions with picnic tables
- Community parks with waterfalls, creeks, butterfly gardens and pond

