

Grassing for Water Quality



Canal at the Hole in the Wall Club before restoration project.

BY FRED YARRINGTON

Note: Fred Yarrington is an ACSP Resource Committee Member for the Hole In The Wall Golf Club, Naples

At Hole in the Wall Golf Club, we have approximately 10 acres of land in 4 or 5 areas which are out of play. Most of these areas are adjacent to native vegetation areas or bodies of water.

Our long-range goal is to environmentally restore all of these areas, which are currently mowed on a regular basis, and eventually have a low maintenance area of natural vegetation.

The project started in 1987, when we decided something had to be done about the algae in the canals (*see photo above*). We were told we needed to deepen the canal in order to control the

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GRASSING FOR WATER QUALITY

First Phase: *Deepening the canal*



algae problem (See photo, above). In December, 1994, we selected a one-acre area, approximately 1,000 feet long, adjacent to a drainage canal. This "trial" area was planted with cord grass on 3-foot centers, and we also added aquatic plantings in the canal.

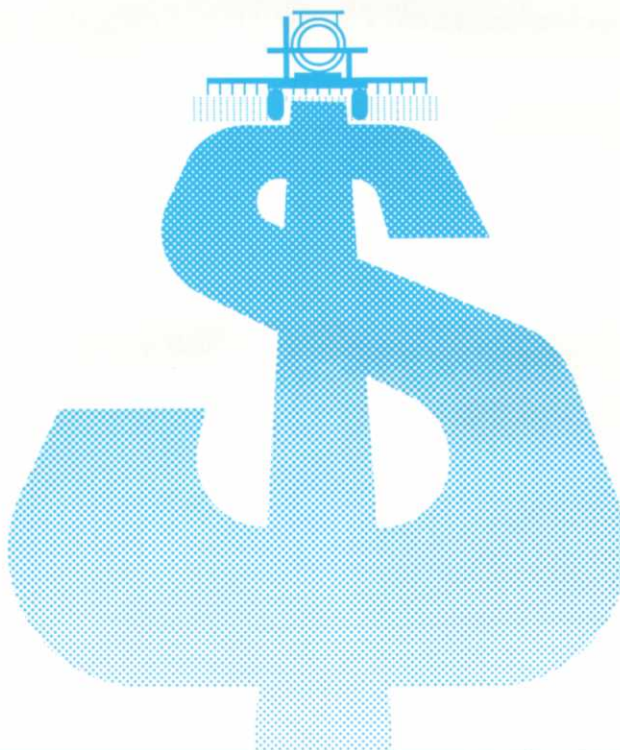
The plantings are six months old and are slowly growing in. We would have preferred a more dense planting, but selected the 3-foot centers for cost reasons. The trade off is that more weeding is required in the interim until the grass grows dense enough to inhibit weed growth.

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May, 1995:
*After the cordgrass
and aquatic
plantings.*



We no longer have a problem keeping the canal clean in this planted area. During construction to deepen the canals, we inserted a weir near the 17th green which enables us to control water levels and flow through the canal. Therefore, we are able to keep the water level in the canal much higher than we were before this project.

Our membership has been very supportive of this project. We got the idea and source of the cord grass from Collier's Reserve Country Club. I believe a key to success in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program is the sharing of ideas and information.



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