

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

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The last year has been exciting and productive for the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program. The project was launched in mid-1998 and is tailored for golf course properties. The program has been developed as a partnership between the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, Michigan State University, the Golf Association of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Over 125 courses are involved in the program that is designed to provide a clear and simple environmental plan for any golf property. The emphasis of the program is to identify the natural resources on the property and then conduct a simple assessment of potential impacts to the resources. Technical assistance is provided that identifies simple upgrades that will enhance protection of natural resources and reduce liability. This assistance is also designed to provide practical tips to resolve regulatory compliance challenges. It is a common reaction for golf course property owners to resist any inquiry into the operation of their golf course and often resolve to get involved after they make changes to obvious problem areas. There is no need to wait! This program is designed to help provide an easy plan to make upgrades and will save money by giving you access to practical information from other professionals that have already faced similar challenges.

Everyone enters the program through attending the introductory workshop. Three workshops are planned for 2000. The first is on Friday January 21, following the Turfgrass Conference at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing. The next one will be held on February 10 at Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Lake Orion. The final one for the winter of 2000 will be held on March 21 at the Shanty Creek Resort. To register, call Debbie Swartz at 517-353-3208 or Pam Lamb at 517-355-8361.