

CONTRIBUTE TO SURVIVE

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Because of increasing urbanization, golf courses must begin to strengthen their positions in the public's mind by bettering the total community environment



The cool refreshing environment of the clubhouse is predicted as the golfer approaches through this inviting area of shade.

GOLF courses must improve the physical environment of their section of the city or they fail to fulfill an important function in the mind of the non-golfing public. Without public support, more and more courses will be squeezed out of existence by urban sprawl. Involvement in community ecology programs, therefore, will strengthen the position of the golf course and make it indispensable. Should the physical environment of a golf course start to deteriorate, the club is on its way out. The only reason to bring it back is if it cleans up pollution or replaces ineffective physical features.

Many golf courses are making significant contributions in the creation and maintenance of a desirable environment. All golf courses should be making efforts in these seven areas.

Green belt—City planning should devote space to the cultivation of vegetation that separates areas of high density population and provides privacy. Green belt areas provide fresh, clean air, relief from the noise and rush of the inner city, and space for people to regain their individuality and contemplate nature. Golf courses are the logical means to provide these facilities and should be used to enhance the city environment. Course officials, administrators and golfers should impress these facts upon their local community.

Wildlife conservation—Golf courses varying in size from 15 to 20 acres to 500 or more acres have great potential for wildlife conservation. Birds and small animals, which feed on insects in the soil and turf, and large animals that leave footprints on greens may at times be unwanted and even hazardous to golf course maintenance. However, with more planning, golf courses can play a larger role in wildlife conservation and accommodate more than just man on the golf course.

Soil, water and air pollution—Golf course superintendents should be active leaders in the anti-pollution movement in this country. They should combat water pollution on the golf course because algal bloom and aquatic weeds which develop from excess soil nutrients leaching into streams and ponds, are just as objectionable as solid waste pollutants. They should exercise great care in using pesticides to avoid damage to other vegetation or to wildlife on the golf course. The golf course staff has the capability for community leadership in the control of soil, water and air pollutants.

Noise abatement—Noise on the golf course should be
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different from noise in the surrounding city. Street noises should be suppressed. Desirable golf course noises are created to some extent by landscape and ornamental plants which at the same time screen out objectionable noises.

Visual pollution—Little is accomplished by just cleaning up the mess throughout our countryside. These areas will only be relittered. Natural beauty must be recognized as desirable and respected by all concerned. Golf courses for years have made strides in this movement. They should take the lead in eliminating visual pollution and in creating a beautiful environment.

Real estate values—Golf courses can have a major influence on the preservation of real estate values. The golf course should set the standards for the surrounding area by maintaining a desirable environment. Residents will recognize the importance of golf course staff efforts. They will not be apathetic to the problems of maintaining this environment.

Recreational needs—Golf provides an important type of recreation for millions of people each year. In addition, it should place the golfer in an environment which features good competitive elements to maintain keen interest and concentration on the game. Golf should also bring out a feeling of optimism in the golfer by placing him where he is surrounded by the beauty and orderliness of nature.

A new concept involving the importance of ornamental plants in our environment is developing. Since frame of mind and state of feeling are influenced by our surroundings, every effort should be made to see that they contribute to man's improvement. Landscape and golf course architects may combine their talents to create the kind of golf courses that will revitalize men and women who use these facilities. In all our efforts to feed, clothe and house ourselves, we must never jeopardize the future by failing to satisfy man's hunger for natural beauty. □

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