

THE AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Program for Existing Golf Courses

What is the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program?

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses is an environmental program designed specifically for golf courses. Through the program, golf course personnel receive information, support, guidance and recognition for undertaking proactive environmental projects to enhance wildlife habitat, conserve natural resources and protect environmental quality on the golf course. The program is administered by the Audubon Society of New York State and is sponsored in part by the United States Golf Association. The Audubon Society of New York is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of the environment through education, research and public involvement.

Why Is Habitat Enhancement Important For Golf Courses?

The "open space" of your golf course not only provides challenging opportunities for golfers, it can also provide valuable wildlife habitat. This is especially pertinent in urban and suburban areas where population expansion and development have significantly diminished existing wildlife habitats. By undertaking projects to enhance habitat in non-play areas, your course can attract and sustain a diversity of wildlife species.

Why Is Environmental Quality Important For Golf Courses?

Over the years, golf courses have been criticized for their use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. Concerns have also been raised regarding the displacement of natural plant communities and the introduction of exotic plant species to the manicured golf course landscape. To reduce potentially adverse impacts to the local environment, golf courses need to take action to protect and conserve natural resources and preserve the character and integrity of the land.

How Does the Program Work?

When your course joins the program, course personnel receive a Resource Inventory Handbook to fill out. The handbook asks for information on course layout, natural features, management strategies and goals, and current conservation practices. Once this information is returned, New York Audubon prepares a report for your course which suggests habitat enhancement and environmental conservation projects that are suited for your site. The course then determines which projects to pursue and forms a team to implement Audubon suggestions. Over time, New York Audubon staff and course personnel communicate about projects taking place to ensure the success of your golf course sanctuary.

How Will The Program Affect The Game Of Golf?

Through participation in the program, your course may choose to naturalize non-play areas to create better wildlife habitat. In some cases, naturalized areas may present a challenge should your ball go astray. However, a diversity of vegetation and wildlife will add uniqueness and distinction to your course, and will offer you a chance to enjoy the variety, complexity and beauty of the natural world while playing golf.

Will Audubon Be Checking Up On Us Or Making Demands On The Course?

There are *no restrictions* placed on the golf course as a condition of participation in the program. All decisions concerning the implementation of Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary suggestions remain with the golf course superintendent and course officials.

However, New York Audubon *is* interested in keeping in touch to see how projects are proceeding. If your course needs assistance or special information, New York Audubon staff is available to help. By working together, your golf course sanctuary will be a success.

What Do We Have To Gain By Participating In The Program?

As a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, your course will be recognized for its commitment to wildlife and environmental quality. Certificates of Recognition and press releases are issued to highlight the outstanding efforts of golf courses involved in the program. The projects you undertake to provide wildlife habitat will also add beauty and distinction to your course and enhance enjoyment of the golfing experience. In addition, conservation measures adopted by the course may result in financial savings from reduced maintenance costs. Finally, your course's care for the environment will set a positive example for others to follow and preserve a healthy, diverse and beautiful landscape for future generations.

How Can I Get Involved In Sanctuary Projects On My Course?

Contact your superintendent for more information. Your suggestions and involvement are invaluable for successful project planning and implementation. If you have special skills and interests that you would like to contribute to the development of your golf course sanctuary, please let your superintendent know. You can also join your course in preserving environmental quality by managing your home with the needs of wildlife and the environment in mind. The **Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Individuals** provides information and guidance to homeowners to help them enhance backyard habitat.

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The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP) was created by the Audubon Society of New York and is sponsored by the USGA. Together, the USGA and New York Audubon are striving to:

- Enhance wildlife habitats on existing golf courses by working with the golf course superintendent and providing for ecologically sound course management.
- Recognize the people who are actively participating in environmentally responsible projects.
- Educate the public and golfing community on the benefits of golf courses and the role they play relative to the environment and wildlife.

THE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

What Does Membership Include?

Membership includes a Conservation Report providing direction and guidance for a variety of conservation activities and projects, various publications, conservation fact sheets, access to New York Audubon staff advisory service, Certificates of Achievement and recognition for conservation efforts.

CURRENT MINNESOTA MEMBERS

Anoka Technical College	.....	Anoka
Baker National G.C.	.....	Keith Greeninger
Edinburgh USA	.....	Tom Fischer, CGCS
Falcon Ridge G.C.	.....	Lyle E. Kleven
Golden Valley C.C.	.....	Mike Olson
Greenhaven G.C.	.....	Maurice Anderson
Hazeltine National G.C.	.....	Patty Knaggs
Hillcrest C.C.	.....	George Ostler
Izaty's Golf & Yacht Club	.....	Steve Schumacher, CGCS
Lake Milona G.C.	.....	Bob Shields
Lodge at Sugar Lake	.....	Steve Ross
Mankato G.C.	.....	Fred Taylor
* Minikahda Club	.....	Doug Mahal, CGCS
* Minnesota Valley C.C.	.....	Larry Mueller
North Oaks G.C.	.....	John Mackenzie, Jr., CGCS
Oak Ridge C.C.	.....	Keith Scott, CGCS
Pines at Grand View Lodge	.....	Tom Kientzle, CGCS
Rich Acres G.C.	.....	Robert Borovansky
River Oaks Municipal G.C.	.....	Tom Parent
Rochester Golf & C.C.	.....	James Gardner
Ruttgers	.....	Patrick Kruiper
Somerset C.C.	.....	Jerry Murphy, CGCS
Stonebrooke G.C.	.....	Matthew Hanson
Superior National (Lutsen)	.....	Mike Davies
* Town & Country Club	.....	Bill Larson
Valley View G.C.	.....	Jim Hoffman, CGCS
Wayzata C.C.	.....	Bob Distel
Wedgewood Valley G.C.	.....	Jerry Webb, CGCS
Wendigo G.C.	.....	Jim Haroldson
White Bear Yacht Club	.....	John Steiner
Wildflower G.C.	.....	Peter Bortnem
Woodhill C.C.	.....	Rick Fredericksen, CGCS

* Fully certified member.

What Is The Resource Inventory?

After the course registers in the program, New York Audubon then sends a packet of materials including the **Resource Inventory**. *The Resource Inventory is the critical step in initiating your involvement in the program.* It is usually filled out by the course superintendent and provides basic information to New York Audubon concerning the "nature" of the course and other information which is used to prepare a Conservation Report for your course.

What Is the Conservation Report?

After New York Audubon staff receive the completed Resource Inventory, they prepare a **Conservation Report** which includes a variety of wildlife enhancement projects and resource conservation programs that specifically focus on the interests and needs of the individual course or club. Additional educational materials are included with the report.

How Do We Become A Certified Cooperative Sanctuary?

After reading the Conservation Report, the golf course may begin working toward certification in Environmental Planning, Member/Public Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Water Conservation and Water Quality Management. A Certificate of Achievement for each category will be granted once the category is properly developed and implemented. The golf course will become a **Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary** once all certificates have been achieved.

Additional information about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program can be obtained by calling or writing New York Audubon or the United States Golf Association.

Audubon Society
46 Rarick Road
Selkirk, NY 12158
Phone: (518) 767-9051

USGA — Green Section
Golf House, P.O. Box 708
Far Hills, NJ 07931
Phone: (908) 234-2300



Pebble Creek's Cary Femrite and Scott Turtinen, MGCSA executive director, check out the putting surface at California G.C.