

Creating an Environmental Road Map

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AN OLD PROVERB professes, "A journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step." Although this is logical, the 1,000-mile journey will be even more pleasant if you take that first step in the correct direction — preferably toward your ultimate goal. Creating an environmental "road map" gives direction to your environmental efforts. It helps you figure out where you're going and how to most effectively get there. It keeps you *on course*, so to speak.

An environmental road map is more than simply a method of keeping an inventory of resources, although that is an excellent beginning. The purpose of an environmental plan is to help you:

- Define goals.
- Plan strategies.
- Assess what works.
- Assess what needs fine-tuning.
- Assess new directions.

It will help to establish written goals, detail timeliness, and assign tasks to appropriate personnel so that what you want to accomplish really gets done.

Although your environmental plan can be relatively simple or very complex, it should be comprehensive and include a range of environmental areas such as habitat and wildlife enhancement, water conservation, water quality management, and integrated pest management (IPM). Your environmental plan might also include an element of education. Let's look a little more closely at these environmental areas.

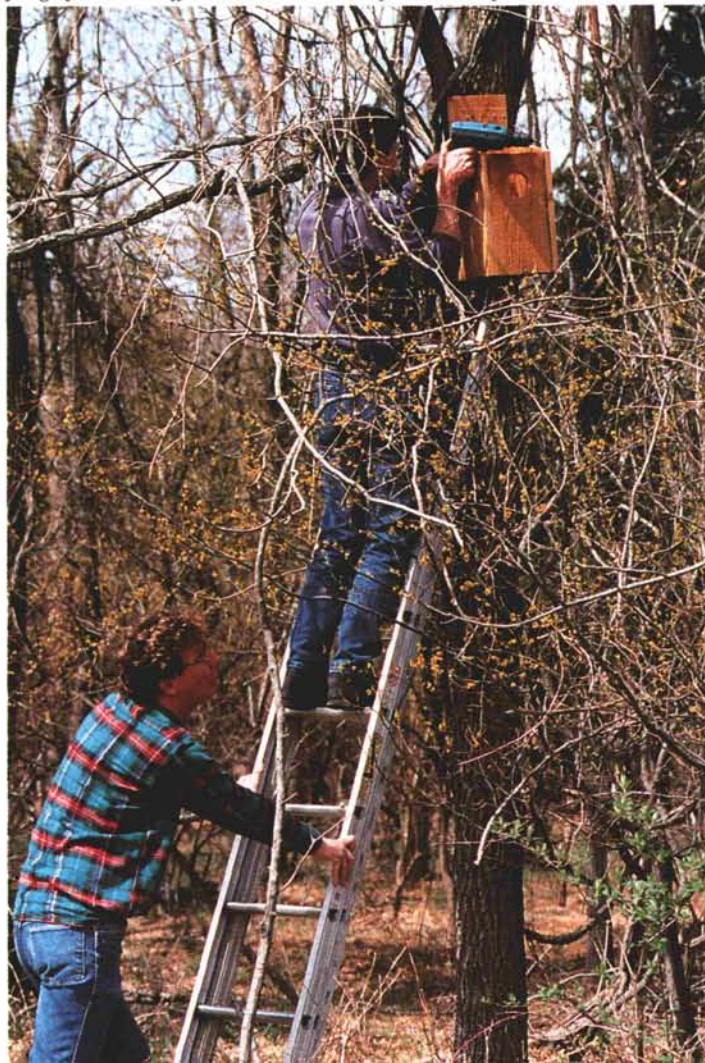
Define Overall Objectives

As you consider your environmental plan, think about the property, its specific characteristics, and your human and

financial resources. These steps will help you define your overall objectives. Start by writing a paragraph describing the strengths, weaknesses, and unique qualities of your property. Define in broad terms what you want to accomplish.

As you consider each of the environmental areas, start by simply writing a paragraph or a checklist or chart — whatever makes it easiest for you to begin. Try to define what projects you'd like to implement, who will be responsible for implementing the projects, and develop a time-

A comprehensive environmental plan that is written with clear goals and specific projects provides excellent direction for golf course staff and volunteers to implement the plan.



line for when projects will be initiated and completed.

Wildlife and Habitat Management

Use this category to explore the management of non-play areas to provide habitat for wildlife on the golf course. The property size and diversity of existing habitats will impact what you are able to do. The objective is to maximize the available space to provide the best possible habitat given the location, size, layout, and type of property. In order to assess your success over time, you should also begin and maintain a wildlife inventory. Consider projects that will enhance the food, cover, and water sources for birds, mammals, and amphibians.

Water Conservation

Having a comprehensive water conservation program in place helps to demonstrate commitment to judicious water use and environmental stewardship. It is a key environmental concern for golf courses across the country. Consider your irrigation practices, choice of turfgrasses and ornamental plantings, and gardening practices.

Water Quality Management

Water quality is an important issue for governing agencies, environmental groups, and the public. Concerns are often raised about the impact of golf course chemical use on the water quality of lakes, streams, and groundwater. It is important to be able to demonstrate that you have a strategy in place to monitor water quality, improve conditions if warranted, and deal with any problems that arise. Establishing baseline data for water quality is a necessary

first step in assessing the success of any future projects.

Integrated Pest Management

A comprehensive IPM program will help to ensure a healthy environment for both people and wildlife, along with good quality turf for the game of golf. Your IPM program should include efforts to manage turf areas with environmental sensitivity, educate workers and members about responsible plant management, and provide a clean and efficient maintenance area.

Education

If you want to gain recognition and support for your environmental programs, you need to increase golfer understanding of wildlife and environmental quality on your golf course. Let the public know that golf courses can be valuable community assets. You can do this by setting up a Resource Advisory Committee that includes your own members, members of the community with special interests (gardeners, birdwatchers), local university or college faculty, or students. They can help you develop an environmental plan of action. You can publicize your efforts through newsletter articles and press releases, or by involving your members in helping you keep a wildlife inventory, inviting scout troops or school children to build nest boxes and monitor them. The idea is to develop visibility for what you're doing



Environmental efforts can result in many satisfied participants.

and include others in a joint effort toward environmental awareness.

In the Spotlight

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club is a Charter Member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. They joined the program in 1991 and returned their Resource Inventory in 1992. At that time they had very few natural areas, no nest boxes, no vegetative buffers around water features, and no member or public involvement. By June 1995, they became a fully certified Cooperative Sanctuary with over 100 acres of natural area, extensive vegetative buffers at all water features, nest boxes for a variety of birds, and an extensive list of member and public involvement projects.

Members of the Resource Committee played an invaluable part in obtaining certification by developing an Environmental Plan that established goals and specific projects for each category. The projects were described in a way that was easy to implement, and feasible for course staff and volunteers to complete. The plan also discussed projects that had already been completed as well as the current status of the course specific to particular projects.

Outside organizations working with the Resource Committee were a factor in the success of many of Fiddler's Elbow's projects. Staff from the Great Swamp National Wildlife

Refuge lent their expertise to help begin an inventory of plants and animals on the course. The North American Bluebird Society assisted the course in designing and implementing a bluebird nest box trail. Raptor Trust and Hawk Watch International helped get the course involved in raptor projects, including adopting injured raptors and releasing rehabilitated raptors on the course.

With a diverse Resource Advisory Committee, strong support from the community and local organizations, and a thorough and well-written environmental plan, Fiddler's Elbow met its goals and developed plans for the future. The club has taken the initiative and provided the leadership to visibly demonstrate its commitment to the environment.

Local environmental organizations worked closely with the Fiddlers Elbow Country Club (New Jersey) Resource Committee to successfully develop naturalized areas, buffer zones, and nest boxes throughout the property.



AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY



Baltimore Oriole

Registered for Year: 1995-96

Does the name of your golf course appear on the following list? If not, it should! Why? This list represents facilities that actively participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP), and have achieved certification in one or more of its categories.

Registration requires only a modest \$100 fee. In return, you'll have the chance to enhance your course's maintenance program and help your facility achieve recognition as an environmental leader in your community.

Experts from the Audubon Society of New York State will work with you to formulate strategies designed to complete six achievement categories:

- environmental planning
- public/member involvement
- wildlife and habitat management
- integrated pest management

- water conservation
- water quality management

And, if you have plans for a new golf course on the drawing board, consider the Audubon Signature Program. It helps landowners assess and develop appropriate strategies for natural resource issues during the planning and development phases of construction. Two Florida courses, Colliers Reserve and Summerfield Golf Club, have successfully completed the program.

This list of Audubon participants, while impressive, represents only a small portion of the golf courses in the United States. Others must do their part and join the ranks. Contact the Audubon Society of New York State at (518) 767-9051 or the USGA Green Section to receive additional information about these programs. Help your golf course start down the path toward becoming a recognized and admired land steward, both within the game of golf and your local community.

AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM FOR GOLF COURSES

Fully Certified Courses

HINDMAN PARK GOLF COURSE	Little Rock	AR	RIVERWOOD GOLF CLUB	Port Charlotte	FL
FOREST HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	Flagstaff	AZ	ROYAL PALM COUNTRY CLUB	Naples	FL
LINKS AT SPANISH BAY	Pebble Beach	CA	TPC AT EAGLE TRACE	Coral Springs	FL
MORRO BAY GOLF COURSE	Morro Bay	CA	CHICAGO GOLF CLUB	Wheaton	IL
APPLEWOOD GOLF COURSE	Golden	CO	COUNTRYSIDE GOLF COURSE	Mundelein	IL
BRECKENRIDGE GOLF CLUB	Breckenridge	CO	FLOSSMOOR COUNTRY CLUB	Flossmoor	IL
CASTLE PINES GOLF CLUB	Castle Rock	CO	NAPERBROOK GOLF COURSE	Plainfield	IL
HOP MEADOW COUNTRY CLUB	Simsbury	CT	NORTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB	Glenview	IL
WOODWAY COUNTRY CLUB	Darien	CT	OLYMPIA FIELDS COUNTRY CLUB	Olympia Fields	IL
HOLE-IN-THE-WALL GOLF CLUB	Naples	FL	PINECREST GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Huntley	IL
LOBLOLLY PINES	Hobe Sound	FL	QUAIL CREEK COUNTRY CLUB	Robinson	IL
TAMPA PALMS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Tampa	FL	SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB	Orland Park	IL
STANDARD CLUB (THE)	Duluth	GA	ELCONA COUNTRY CLUB	Elkhart	IN
KAPALUA LAND CO. — BAY COURSE	Maui	HI	SAND CREEK COUNTRY CLUB	Chesterton	IN
KAPALUA LAND CO. — PLANTATION COURSE	Maui	HI	HERITAGE PARK GOLF COURSE	Olathe	KS
KAPALUA LAND CO. — VILLAGE COURSE	Maui	HI	TOMAHAWK HILLS GOLF COURSE	Wjawnnee	KS
GLYNNS CREEK GOLF COURSE	Long Grove	IA	UNICORN GOLF COURSE	Stoneham	MA
AURORA COUNTRY CLUB	Aurora	IL	CAVES VALLEY GOLF CLUB	Owings Mills	MD
CANTIGNY GOLF CLUB	Wheaton	IL	PORTLAND COUNTRY CLUB	Falmouth	ME
EVANSTON GOLF CLUB	Skokie	IL	BAY POINTE CLUB	West Bloomfield	MI
IVANHOE COUNTRY CLUB	Mundelein	IL	CADILLAC COUNTRY CLUB	Cadillac	MI
ST. CHARLES COUNTRY CLUB	St. Charles	IL	GULL LAKE VIEW GOLF COURSE	Augusta	MI
VILLAGE LINKS OF GLEN ELLYN	Glen Ellyn	IL	BAKER NATIONAL GOLF COURSE	Medina	MN
PRAIRIE DUNES COUNTRY CLUB	Hutchinson	KS	IZATY'S GOLF & YACHT CLUB	Onamia	MN
HYANNISPORT CLUB	Hyannisport	MA	TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB	St. Paul	MN
EAGLE'S LANDING GOLF COURSE	Berlin	MD	WOODHILL COUNTRY CLUB	Wayzata	MN
EGYPT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	Ada	MI	BLUE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	Kansas City	MO
FOX HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	Plymouth	MI	BILTMORE FOREST COUNTRY CLUB	Ashville	NC
TPC OF MICHIGAN	Dearborn	MI	CARMEL COUNTRY CLUB	Charlotte	NC
TREETOPS NORTH — SYLVAN RESORT	Gaylord	MI	LAKE HICKORY COUNTRY CLUB	Hickory	NC
MINIKAHDA CLUB	Minneapolis	MN	TPC AT PIPER CLEN	Charlotte	NC
MINNESOTA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	Bloomington	MN	BEATRICE COUNTRY CLUB	Beatrice	NE
APPLE CREEK COUNTRY CLUB	Bismarck	ND	CEDAR CREEK GOLF COURSE	Dayville	NJ
FIDDLER'S ELBOW COUNTRY CLUB	Far Hills	NJ	RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB	Paramus	NJ
TPC T SUMMERLIN	Las Vegas	NV	ATLANTIC GOLF CLUB	Bridgehampton	NY
OLD WESTBURY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Old Westbury	NY	MARRIOTT'S AT WINDWATCH	Hauppauge	NY
SCHUYLER MEADOWS CLUB	Loudonville	NY	STAFFORD COUNTRY CLUB	Batavia	NY
FOWLER'S MILL GOLF COURSE	Chesterland	OH	TWIN HILLS GOLF COURSE I	Spencerport	NY
OREGON GOLF CLUB (THE)	West Linn	OR	WESTCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB	Rye	NY
SALISHAN LODGE INC.	Gleneden Beach	OR	DETWILER PARK GOLF COURSE	Toledo	OH
CHESTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB	Malvern	PA	HERON LAKES GOLF COURSE	Portland	OR
LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB	Houston	TX	PUMPKIN RIDGE GOLF CLUB	Cornelius	OR
SEMAHMOO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Blaine	WA	QUAIL RUN GOLF COURSE	Sunriver	OR
OZAUKEE COUNTRY CLUB	Mequon	WI	HUNTSVILLE GOLF CLUB	Shavertown	PA
CRANBERRY RESORT GOLF COURSE	Collingwood	Ontario, Canada	LORDS VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	Hawley	PA
			NORTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	North Hills	PA
			PITTSBURGH FIELD CLUB	Pittsburgh	PA
			SAND SPRINGS GOLF COMMUNITY	Drums	PA
			CHEROKEE COUNTRY CLUB	Knoxville	TN
			SPRINGHOUSE GOLF CLUB	Nashville	TN
			BENTWATER COUNTRY CLUB	Montgomery	TX
			LAKE HOUSTON GOLF COURSE	Huffman	TX
			RIVERSIDE COUNTRY CLUB	Lake Jackson	TX
			ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF CLUB	Lake Manassas	VA
			EQUINOX: GLENEAGLES GOLF COURSE	Manchester Village	VT
			COUNTRY CLUB OF WISCONSIN	Grafton	WI
			MAPLE BLUFF COUNTRY CLUB	Madison	WI
			MONROE COUNTRY CLUB	Monroe	WI
			SENTRYWORLD GOLF COURSE	Stevens Point	WI
			EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB	Sissonville	WV
			KING VALLEY GOLF COURSE	King City	Ontario, Canada
			OAKDALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Downsview	Ontario, Canada
			PETERBOROUGH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Peterborough	Ontario, Canada
			POINT GREY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Vancouver	B.C., Canada
			VALDERRAMA GOLF CLUB	Cadiz	Spain

Courses Certified in One or More Categories

MUSGROVE COUNTRY CLUB	Jasper	AL
CHENAL COUNTRY CLUB	Little Rock	AR
DESOTO GOLF COURSE	Hot Springs Village	AR
GOLD CANYON RANCH	Apache Junction	AZ
TPC OF SCOTTSDALE	Scottsdale	AZ
CHARDONNAY GOLF CLUB	Napa	CA
DEL PASO COUNTRY CLUB	Sacramento	CA
RESORT AT SQUAW CREEK	Olympic Valley	CA
COUNTRY CLUB OF FARMINGTON	Farmington	CT
GREENWICH COUNTRY CLUB	Greenwich	CT
TPC AT RIVER HIGHLANDS	Cromwell	CT
BEAR'S PAW COUNTRY CLUB	Naples	FL
CITY OF COCOA BEACH COUNTRY CLUB	City of Cocoa Beach	FL
FOXFIRE COUNTRY CLUB	Naples	FL
OLD MARSH GOLF CLUB	Palm Beach Gardens	FL
OLDE FLORIDA GOLF CLUB	Naples	FL
PALM BEACH GARDENS MUNI GOLF CLUB	Palm Beach Gardens	FL
RIVER HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	Valrico	FL

As of October 20, 1995