

# ACSP FOR GOLF

Christine Kane

Audubon International's executive director





The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf is an award-winning education and certification program that helps golf courses protect our environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf. By helping people enhance the valuable natural areas and wildlife habitats that golf courses provide, improve efficiency, and minimize potentially harmful impacts of golf course operations, the program serves an important environmental role worldwide. Audubon International has developed Standard Environmental Management Practices that are generally applicable to all golf courses. These standards form the basis for ACSP for Golf certification guidelines.

## ABOUT US





## WHO WE ARE

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to create environmentally sustainable environments where people live, work, and play.

### OUR CORE BELIEFS

- The healthy functioning of our planet's ecosystems is worth preserving.
- There are places on Earth where human activity should be limited.
- Maintaining healthy and functioning ecosystems
- Strive to enhance the health and functioning of ecosystems where we live.
- Finding a sustainable balance among environmental, economic, and social systems is key
- By becoming good stewards of the environment
- Scientific information, in conjunction with public participation
- Voluntary efforts are an effective and essential means to protect and enhance the natural environment as well.
- Effective collaboration and partnerships among nonprofits, governments, businesses, and the public





**GET INVOLVED AND  
GET RESULTS**

Audubon International provides a Site Assessment and Environmental Planning Form to provide guidance, as well as educational information to help you with:

- Environmental Planning
- Wildlife and Habitat Management
- Chemical Use Reduction and Safety
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality Management
- Outreach and Education

## **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

### **AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM FOR GOLF YOU WILL RECEIVE**

- The expertise of Audubon International's staff
- Step-by-step instructions to create or enhance your course sustainability effort
- Tools for engaging and educating golfers and members about sustainability
- Regular email updates with new resources
- Fact sheets on common topics
- Access to a network of courses facing similar issues
- Assistance with promoting your successes

### **LONG TERM RESULTS**

- Improved Image and Reputation
- Customer/Employee
- Financial Performance
- Worker Safety and Reduced Liability
- Improved Efficiency
- Environmental Quality



## SUCCESS STORIES



**LOCATION: HARRISON, TENNESSEE**  
**TYPE OF PROPERTY: PUBLIC, 18-HOLE GOLF**  
**COURSE CERTIFIED SINCE: 2008**

The course has made many improvements in water conservation, water quality management, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, and outreach and education since joining the program. The state park course has installed 45 bird nesting houses, created a large plant bed comprised of 218 plants native to Tennessee, and renovated the golf course's chemical storage facility. In addition, 40 acres of the course were naturalized to minimize maintenance. The formerly maintained turf grass area was changed from bentgrass to Champion Ultradwarf Bermuda grass—reducing the course's chemical use and budget from \$39,000 to \$8,000 annually. These improvements and others resulted in abundant positive public recognition and numerous awards for their efforts.

## SUCCESS STORIES



**LOCATION: KENNETT SQUARE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, PA**  
**TYPE OF PROPERTY: PRIVATE, 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE**

Landscape manager Michael B. Loftus suggested the installation of a simple rain garden that doubled as filtration for the wash pad runoff. Results that golf course superintendent Paul Stead noticed include reduction in the amount of water used for equipment washing and fewer clippings in the runoff water. According to Stead, “the plants start growing in early spring, around the same time the seasonal maintenance crew is returning, and the grass is beginning to grow. Throughout the season, when most of the washing occurs, the garden is growing at a high rate, so it is able to filter most of the water and absorb nutrients from equipment washdown. As the year draws to a close, the garden begins to die back for the winter, but the amount of equipment needing to be washed off is very low at this time as well. Since it is basically a living, growing sponge, the garden can accommodate us in our busiest season. “



TREE SWALLOWS AND BIRDHOUSE

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