

Montgomery County Golf Courses Recognized for Environmental Excellence



ALL NINE MCG GOLF COURSES ACHIEVE PRESTIGIOUS AUDUBON CERTIFICATION



ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND – Falls Road Golf Course, Hampshire Greens Golf Club, Rattlewood Golf Course, and Sligo Creek Golf Course have all recently achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf Courses. With the addition of these now certified courses, all nine Montgomery County Golf courses hold Audubon International certification. Jon Lobenstine, Director of Agronomy for Montgomery County Golf, as well as the individual Golf Course Superintendents, led the effort to obtain sanctuary designation on these properties. These courses now join the elite group of only 750 courses worldwide to hold certification from Audubon International.



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"Montgomery County Golf has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on all their golf course properties. This is a great achievement."

- Christine Kane, CEO at Audubon International

MCG Golf would also like to recognize Needwood Golf Course, which just recently received its 10-year certification for its ongoing adherence to ACSP standards, making it the longest-running golf course to receive the accreditation in the MCG Golf catalog of golf courses.

To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Kane. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. The courses' accomplishments include:

- Providing quality wildlife habitat*
- Protecting water feature with vegetative buffer*
- Utilizing low maintenance grasses*
- Conducting water quality testing*
- Educating golfers and the community regarding sustainability*

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program.

Audubon International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Troy, NY. In addition to golf courses, Audubon International also provides programs for businesses, schools, communities, and new developments with the purpose of delivering high-quality environmental education and facilitating the sustainable management of natural resources. For more information, call Audubon International at 1-844-767-9051 or visit www.auduboninternational.org.



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