

The Ridge at Castle Pines North

CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION SITE VISIT REPORT

ACSP for Golf Courses

General Information

| | |
|---|--|
| Date | 2022-10-27 |
| Weather | 60° sunny |
| Name and Title of Reviewer | Scott Turner // Environmental Program Manager |
| Telephone and Email | 613.282.8772 // scott@auduboninternational.org |
| ACSP Golf Course Name | The Ridge at Castle Pines North |
| City and State | Castle Rock, CO |
| Golf Course Contact 1 (Name and Title) | Nick Eberhardt // Superintendent |
| Golf Course Contact 1 (Phone and Email) | Eberhardt423@gmail.com |

I. WILDLIFE & HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Conservation Activities

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| Naturalized Areas | Saw |
| Butterfly or Hummingbird Gardens | Saw |
| Habitat Enhancement for frogs/salamanders | Saw |
| Nest Boxes for Songbirds | Saw |
| Brush Piles for mammals | Saw |
| Positives - Wildlife Conservation Activities | Producing excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife Planting vegetation that attracts pollinators Installing supplemental structures for birds Allowing brush piles to accumulate in out-of-play areas |
| Recommendations - Wildlife Conservation Activities | Ensure bait boxes are not being used as they have the ability to poison the food system and cause collateral damage. Consider installing wood duck and bat boxes Consider establishing a honey bee program (Rocky Mountain Bee Supply, Colorado State Beekeepers Association) Consider drilling holes in fallen trees to provide habitat for bees Rope off areas where nesting is present |

Golf Course Natural Areas

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| Maintenance in these areas is kept to a minimum | Saw |
| Invasive exotic plants are removed | Heard |
| Diverse layers of vegetation are maintained | Saw |
| Corridors of natural vegetation connect habitat areas on and of the course | Saw |
| Signs are used in sensitive habitat areas | Heard |

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| Positives - Golf Course Natural Areas | Investing in Geofencing and signage to prevent golf carts and patrons from entering environmentally sensitive areas Conducting minimum maintenance in naturalized areas |
| Recommendations - Golf Course Natural Areas | Continue to plant vegetation that is native to the club's geographical location |

Water for Wildlife

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| 50% of out-of-play shoreline are naturalized | Saw |
| Actual % | 100% |
| Aquatic plants are present | Saw |
| Both | Yes |
| Logs, rocks or other types of wildlife shelter are present in or around the water body | Not Present |
| Water body is connected to other habitats with corridors | Saw |
| Positives - Water for Wildlife | Enforcing no spray zones Encouraging aquatic vegetation growth |
| Recommendations - Water for Wildlife | Consider treating algae bloom exclusively with biological controls |

II. WATER CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Water Conservation Activities

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| Irrigation decisions are based at least partly on current and forecasted weather | Heard |
| The irrigation system is regularly maintained or repaired | Heard |
| Irrigation water goes where it is supposed to, not on sidewalks, roads, ponds etc. (using part circle heads) | Heard |
| Amount of irrigated acreage has been reduced | Saw |
| If so, by how many acres? | 1.5-2 acres |
| Hand watering is employed to better target irrigation without running the entire system | Heard |
| Other - using a weather station? | Yes |
| Upgrades to the irrigation system have made (i.e. new valves, part-circle heads, computer controls) | Heard |

Water Quality Protection

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| Erosion is controlled or minimized | Saw |
| The mowing height is raised around water bodies | Saw |
| Actual mowing height (estimated) | 3-4" |
| Aquatic or shoreline plants are present | Saw |
| Aerator/fountain is used in water to increase oxygen | Not Present |
| "No spray zone" or "limited spray zone" has been designated near water bodies | Heard |
| Actual width of no spray zone | Ten feet |
| Turfgrass weeds and diseases are hand pulled or spot treated near water bodies | Heard |
| Water quality testing is performed | Heard |
| How often? | Biannually |

Positives - Water Conservation & Water Quality Management

Ensuring equipment wash water runoff does not contaminate surface water both on and off the property
Blowing off equipment prior to washing
Expanding acreage that requires minimal irrigation
Utilizing part-circle irrigation heads to eliminate non target watering
Applying wetting agents and growth regulators
Planting drought tolerant turf and vegetation
Utilizing moisture meter technology
Accounting for weather data prior to irrigating (weather station)
Conducting water quality tests biannually
Raising mow heights around the property's water features
Enforcing no spray zones around the property's water bodies
Spot treating and physically removing unwanted vegetation along the property's surface water
Mitigating erosion
Irrigating with partially reclaimed water

Recommendations - Water Conservation & Water Quality Management

Consider tilizing pond aerators to increase oxygen levels to deter algae bloom
Ensure all broadcast spraying does not occur within twenty feet of the property's water features
Consider investing in a closed-loop wash water recycling system (see attached)
Consider using drain covers during treatment events and subsequent irrigation and/or precipitation events. This will limit the effects of the first flush through the drainage system.
Convert managed turf into low maintenance vegetation(where necessary)
Consider investing in drip irrigation for the club's landscaped beds

III. CHEMICAL USE REDUCTION & SAFETY

Maintenance Facility - Chemical Storage Structure

Chemicals are stored in a designated storage building or structure Saw

Impermeable shelving is being use to store chemicals Saw

The chemical storage structure is labeled and locked & personnel access is limited Saw

Maintenance Facility - Mix\Load Area

Pesticides are mixed and loaded over an impermeable surface with containment Saw

A spill containment kit is present Saw

If so, where is located? Fuel island

Maintenance Facility - Equipment Wash Area

Equipment washing and chemical mixing and loading occur on separate pads/surfaces Not Present

Where does equipment wash water go Is released on-site

If released on-site, where does it drain to? Low maintenance vegetation

Turf Management Activites

Proper cultural practices are employed (select all that apply) Adjusting mowing heights as needed, Reducing compaction and turf stress, Improving soil structure and drainage

Integrated pest management (IPM) techniques are employed (select all that apply) Setting thresholds for turf diseases and pests, Scouting, monitoring, and mapping

When problems occur, the environmental impacts of the various pest measures are considered and the most appropriate one for the situation is chosen (select all that apply) EIQ used, Choosing lesser toxicity products, Evaluating weather conditions and altering cultural practices, Rotating pesticide products

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| Positives - Chemical Use Reduction & Safety | <p>Improving soil and turf health by using proper cultural practices including mowing, irrigation, fertilization and compaction management</p> <p>Recording disease/pest scouting observations and establish disease/pest tolerance thresholds</p> <p>Hand pulling/spot treating unwanted vegetation</p> <p>Expanding native vegetation and tree populations</p> <p>Applying lesser toxicity products</p> <p>Establishing significant acreage that requires minimal chemical treatment</p> <p>Applying slow-release and organic fertilizers</p> <p>Ensuring the mix/load pad is impermeable with spill containment</p> <p>Enforcing no spray zones</p> <p>Calibrating chemical sprayer nozzles regularly</p> <p>Utilizing GPS equipped chemical sprayer</p> <p>Conducting soil analysis testing</p> <p>Investing in electric/hybrid maintenance equipment</p> <p>Developing a recycling program</p> |
| Recommendations - Chemical Use Reduction & Safety | <p>Follow through with your plans to incorporate organic fertilizers to fairways</p> <p>Consider investing in solar panels (TheFairwaysFoundation)</p> <p>Consider recording scouting reports via Google Docs</p> |

IV. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Education & Outreach Activities

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| Educational display about the ACSP is present | Saw |
| Educational display about the Environment is present | Not Present |
| Written information is available (select all that apply) | Other |
| Educational signs or posters | Saw |
| If so, where are they located? | First tee |
| Club member involvement in projects, such as | Other |
| Community involvement in projects, such as | Other |
| Employee involvement in projects, such as | Nest boxes, Wildlife inventory, Gardens, Other |
| Positives - Education & Outreach | <p>Displaying ACSP prints and certificates</p> <p>Hosting charity events</p> <p>Monitoring nesting boxes</p> <p>Stamping scorecards with educational material</p> <p>Conveying educational material on the club's social media accounts</p> |
| Recommendations - Education & Outreach | <p>Consider hosting a local school class and/scout chapter to teach them about the club's environmental achievements and initiatives</p> <p>Consider applying for environmental grants (The Fairways Foundation)</p> <p>Consider participating in First Green and/or First Tee</p> <p>Repurposing fallen snag trees into signage, benches, tables</p> <p>Consider inviting a local youth group to the property and have them construct bird boxes</p> <p>Consider establishing an internship program with a local college</p> <p>Consider investing in a video display board - highlights photography, important dates, information etc</p> |
| Subjective Comments and Impressions | My time at The Ridge at Castle Pines North was fantastic. It is evident that Nick, his staff and community pride themselves in being stewards of the environment. |
| Did the property meet your expectations of what an ACSP would be? | Yes |
| Please explain | The Ridge at Castle Pines North meets all levels of the ACSP Program. The club and staff's commitment to the environment does not go unnoticed. Well done and keep up the fantastic work! |
| Additional comments about your overall impressions, including any concerns or exceptional areas or projects you observed | As discussed with Nick, I have seen hundreds of golf courses across North America and it takes a lot to impress me. Castle Pines North has done just that. I commend the club for prioritizing the well-being of wildlife and minimizing resources, all while maintaining a championship level golf facility. It is evident that The Ridge at Castle Pines North champion environmental stewardship. |

Based on your expertise, are there recommendations that you would make that would further the course's environmental stewardship efforts?

Given the ever growing concern of water scarcity in the Colorado, we highly encourage you to continue pursuing practices that limit irrigation use. This can be achieved by installing drip irrigation in landscaped beds, expanding native vegetation acreage, recalibrating irrigation heads or planting additional drought tolerant turf and vegetation.

Affirmation

I affirm that I have conducted this site visit to the best of my ability and that this report accurately reflects the observations and results of my visit. I understand that the sole discretion and responsibility in awarding the certification\recertification to the course rests with the Director of Environmental Programs for Golf at Audubon International

Signature



Signed 2022-10-27 15:43:56 UTC

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| Date of Site Visit | 2022-10-03 |
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Certification\Recertification Status

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| Certification\Recertification Issued | Yes |
| Date - Certification\Recertification Issued | 2022-10-27 |
