

Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility Program Program Audit & Verification Guidelines



Golf Facility Name _____
 Applicant Name _____
 Relationship to Facility _____
 Address Info _____

 Phone & Fax Numbers _____
 Website address _____
 Email address _____

Other Information
 total site acreage _____
 total number of golf holes _____
 total membership _____
 total number of employees _____
 public or private? _____
 number of ponds/lakes _____
 streams/rivers onsite? _____ **YES / NO**

Program Requirements

R1	The golf facility is currently registered in the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Rating Program, and maintains annual membership fees?	Y / N
R2	The golf facility has adopted and publicly displays a Sustainability Charter for the Golf Facility?	Y / N
R3	A map of the golf facility with wildlife habitat, water sources, and management zones and other features used for planning has been sent to Audubon Lifestyles for review.	Y / N
R4	The golf facility has a Natural Resource Inventory (RMP), or a written assessment of the golf facility's natural resources, strengths, and limitations, and a copy has been sent to Audubon Lifestyles for review?	Y / N
R5	The golf facility meets the minimum point requirements for each section of the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Rating Program Audit, and a copy of the audit has been sent to Audubon Lifestyles?	Y / N
R6	An Exit Interview with an Audubon Lifestyles representative is scheduled (or has already taken place) either onsite or via telephone?	Y / N


I (print name) _____ do attest to the accuracy of every item presented within this audit. The Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Rating Program is a voluntary program, and I recognize that the principles upon which drive the program can only be made possible through honest participation from all participants.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Economics & Business

verification options & points awarded

* Please note that only one method of verification is required for any Topic Criteria, and only one method of verification can be applied to total points for any specific Topic Criteria. Multiple methods of verification does not accumulate additional points.

Topic	Criteria	Photo / Image	Written	Verbal	Map / Drawing	On-site Verification		
a01	Business	The golf facility has developed a printed business plan that encourages successful strategies for running and a managing the golf facility		3	1		4	
a02		The golf facility has a clearly written Vision & Mission Statement in Place		2	1			
a03		The golf facility has preformed a SWOT Analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)		2	1			
a04		The golf facility performs an annual review of all business plans, SWOT, etc.		2	1			
a05		The golf facility has an appropriate accounting system in place			1		2	
a06		The accounting system and tax prep are reviewed by an accountant			1			
a07		The golf facility has preformed a Competitive Analysis		2	1			
a08		The golf facility provides golf learning opportunities and/or classes			1		2	
a09		The golf learning programs are reviewed annually and changed as necessary			1			
a10		The golf facility has a written annual budget		2	1		3	
a11		The golf facility has a written marketing plan		2	1		3	
a12		The golf facility has adequate revenue considerations/subsidizations in place			1			
a13		A written customer service model has been created by the golf facility		3	2			
a14	Marketing	The golf facility has a logo that is used specifically for the golf facility	2		1			
a15		The golf facility has a brochure that is used to promote the golf facility		2	1		3	
a16		The golf facility has a website or web page specific to the golf facility		2				
a17		The golf facility has and uses a answering machine or service and returns all calls within a 24 business hour window			1			
a18		The golf facility has a newsletter and client data base		2	1		3	
a19	Insurance/Legal	The golf facility has a General Liability insurance policy		2	1			
a20		The golf facility has a Comprehensive insurance policy		2	1			
a21		The golf facility has Workers Compensation		2	1			
a22		The golf facility has Health Benefits for staff		2	1			
a23		All Release of Liabilities are reviewed by an attorney			1			
a24		Proper signage regarding risk exposure has been posted	2		1		3	
a25	Staff	Clean, safe and desirable working conditions for staff exist on site			1		2	
a26		Fire Alarms are installed and checked biannually	2		1		3	
a27		Cleaning expectations are written		2	1			
a28	Employees	Job descriptions are clearly defined, written, and on file for each employee		2	1		3	

a29	References are checked for new employees			1			
a30	Annual review for employee performance are preformed			1			
a31	Drug testing performed on all employees			1			
a32	W-4 and I-9 are filed annually		2	1			
a33	The golf facility has a written employee manual or Rules and Regulations document and is given to all employees		4				

Maximum Allowable Points		6	42	12	0	30
Unadjusted Verified Point Totals						


Innovation The golf facility is doing something that is not listed in this section and would like to apply for additional points. Up to two items can be listed for this section for a maximum total of 6 points. Points and items are awarded exclusively by Audubon Lifestyles, and at their sole discretion. Use the space below to list additional items for this section, and attached any necessary verification documentation/photos etc.

	Minimum Points Required	Final Section Score
	15	

The Maintenance Facility

verification options & points awarded

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Topic	Criteria	Photo / Image	Written	Verbal	Map / Drawing	On-site Verification	
b01	Energy & Resource Conservation	Goals and objectives for energy conservation are written in a management plan.		2	1		
b02		Goals and objectives for waste reduction and recycling are written in a management plan.		2	1		
b03		Compact florescent lighting is used where appropriate	2		1		2
b04		Conservation easements exist on the property		2	1	3	3
b05		The golf facility has and uses recycle bins for cans, bottles, paper and glass	2		1		2
b06		The golf facility uses recycled paper for all daily office activities			1		2
b07		Motion sensor lights are installed at and in the golf maintenance facility	2		1		2
b08		Staff turns the power off on all office equipment at end of the work day			1		
b09		The golf facility achieves significant energy and money savings through proper use of programmable thermostat	2		1		2
b10		100% of the appliances used on-site are Energy Star Rated or higher			1		2
b11		Solar power, or other alternative energy system is used on-site	2		1		3
b12		At least 10% of human consumables purchased are produced locally			1		2
b13	Pesticides Storage	Storage of pesticides is in a lockable concrete or metal building	2		1		3
b14		Pesticide storage area is separate from other buildings			1	2	3
b15		Pesticide storage building is located at least 50 feet from other types of structures to allow fire department access			1		2
b16		Pesticide storage area is separate area used to store fertilizer			1		2
b17		Shelving used to store pesticides are plastic or reinforced metal.	2		1		2
b18		Metal shelving is painted to avoid corrosion.	2		1		2
b19		The floors in the pesticide storage area have a continuous sill to retain spilled materials and does not contain any drains although a sump may be included.	2		1		3
b20		The floors in the pesticide storage area are seamless metal or concrete and sealed with a chemical-resistant paint.	2		1		3
b21		Sloped ramps are provided at the entrance in order to allow wheeled handcarts access to the building to move materials in and out of the storage area safely.	2		1		2

b22	Automatic exhaust fans are installed	2		1		3	
b23	Emergency wash areas are provided in the pesticide storage area	2		1		3	
b24	Explosion proof lighting is used in the pesticide storage area			1		2	
b25	An inventory of all pesticides is maintained and located at least 50 feet from the pesticide storage area in case of emergency, and includes the Material Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals used.		2	1		3	
b26	Flammable pesticides are separated from non-flammable pesticides.	2		1		3	
b27	Dry bags are raised off of the floor by pallets or some other means to ensure that they do not get wet.	2		1		3	
b28	Liquid materials are always stored below dry materials to ensure that if spilled they do not contaminate dry materials located below them.	2		1		3	
b29	Labeling on all materials are clearly visible an legible.	2		1		3	
b30	Herbicides, insecticides and fungicides are separated to prevent cross contamination and to minimize the potential of misapplication	2		1		3	
b31	Equipment used to apply pesticides and fertilizers are stored in an area protected from rainfall	2		1		3	
Mixing and Loading							
b32	Loading of pesticides and mixing with water or oil dilutents are done over an impermeable surface (such as lined or sealed concrete) so that spills can be collected and managed			1		2	
b33	The Chemical Mixing Area has a sealed concrete floor.	2		1		3	
b34	The Chemical Mixing Area is sloped to a liquid-tight sump where all spilled liquids can be recovered.	2		1		3	
b35	For small spills, absorbents such as cat litter of sand are used to clean up the spill, and then applied as a top dressing in accordance to label rates, or disposed of in waste.	2		1		2	
b36	Solid materials spilled are swept up and reused.			1			
b37	Materials other than concrete, such as tough synthetics, are used for Portable Chemical Mixing areas when a permanent facility is not practical.			1			
b38	Any water (including rainwater) that collects on the floor of the Chemical Mix Area is used as a pesticide of disposed of as waste.			1			
b39	The Chemical Mixing Area is located under a roof with a substantial overhang on all sides to protect against windblown rain.	2		1		3	
b40	All spills are cleaned up immediately, and the sump is pumped dry at the end of each day, or more frequently when materials are changed to something which is incompatible with what was previously used.			1			

b41		Tires and particularly dirty areas of all equipment are thoroughly cleaned prior bringing it into the Chemical Mix Area to minimize the buildup of sediment that gets into the sump.			1			
b42		Sediments are removed from the sump any time that materials are changed to incompatible types so that sediments can be applied as a pesticide to turf at less than the label rate, instead of requiring disposal as a (possibly hazardous) waste.			1			
b43		Pesticide containers are cleaned immediately upon emptying by pressure-rinsing or triple-rinsing and the rinse water is dumped into the sprayer as part of the make-up water.			1			
b44		Non-rigid bags are shaken clean so that all dust and material falls into the application equipment			1			
b45		Clean containers are stored in a clean area, out of rain and weather, until they can be disposed of or recycled.			1		2	
b46		Clean containers are recycled.			1			
b47		Washwater from pesticide application equipment is collected and used as pesticide.	2		1		2	
b48	Solvents and Degreasers	Solvents and degreasers are generally flammable and toxic and are stored in lockable metal cabinets	2		1		3	
b49		Solvents and degreasers are not stored near an area where welding or other similar activities are performed.	2		1		3	
b50		Solvents and degreasers are not stored in the same areas as pesticides or fertilizers			1		3	
b51		An inventory of the solvents stored and the MSDS sheets for these materials is kept on the premises but not in the solvent storage area.		2	1		3	
b52		Emergency response equipment recommended by the manufacture of the solvent is accessible to the storage area, but not inside the area itself.	2		1		3	
b53		Solvents and degreasers are used over a collection basin or pad that can collect all used material.			1		2	
b54		Solvents are not allowed to drain onto pavement or soil, or discharged into the storm drains, sewers or septic systems, even in small amounts.			1		2	
b55		Used solvents and degreasers are collected, placed into containers marked with the contents and the date and properly recycled or disposed of.	2		1		3	
b56	Fertilizer	Fertilizer is stored separately from solvents, fuels, and pesticides since many fertilizers are oxidants and can accelerate a fire.			1		2	
b57		Fertilizer is stored in a concrete building with a metal or other flame-resistant roof	2		1		3	
b58		Fertilizers are stored in an area that is protected from rainfall.	2		1		3	
b59		Fertilizer loading areas are adequately protected from rainfall	2		1		3	
b60		Fertilizer areas are cleaned by sweeping, vacuuming, or washing down the loading area.			1			
b61		Discharge of this washwater to storm drains or septic systems is never permitted. Any washwater generated is collected and applied to the golf facility.			2			


b62	Grass Clippings	Grass clippings removed from mowers are handled separately from other waste materials and equipment washwater.			2			
b63		Compressed air is used to blow off equipment to remove grass clippings. This method is more protective of hydraulic seals on the equipment, eliminates the washwater, and produces dry clippings that are more easy to handle.			1		3	
b64		Mowers are cleaned over a separate concrete or asphalt pad that allows water to run off onto turf or soil, but not into a surface water body or canal.			1		3	
b65		The Chemical Mix Area is not used to clean equipment. This is to ensure that clippings and other debris are not contaminated with pesticide residue.			1		2	
b66		Grass clippings are composted or spread in a wooded area or rough.	2		1		3	
b67	Used oil, antifreeze, and lead-acid	Used oil and antifreeze is collected in marked containers and recycled or disposed of according to state law.	2	2	1			
b68		Lead-acid batteries, such as those used in golf carts and for starting other equipment, are classified as special waste and are recycled.	2	2	1			
b69	Gasoline, Diesel Fuel	All underground tanks greater than 110 gallons and above ground tanks with volumes over 550 gallon are located within secondary containment systems.	2		1		3	
b70		Concrete or asphalt surfaces are provided near fuel pumps.	2		1		3	
b71		The pumps are not located where a spill or leak would allow fuel to flow onto the ground or into a storm drain or surface water body.			1		2	
b72		Above ground fuel tanks have secondary containment and are roofed	3		1		3	
b73		There is no discharge port on the secondary containment. Instead a portable sump pump is used to remove water when necessary	2		1		3	
b74		If the structure has a discharge port, it is closed and locked at all times except when uncontaminated rain water is to be drained.	1		1		2	
b75		Water discharged is always checked for contamination prior to discharge. Contaminated water is treated on site using commercially available treatment solutions, or discharged to an offsite			1		2	
b76	General Equipment Washing (non pesticide application equipment)	Washwater generated from the cleaning of equipment is not discharged to surface water directly, or through ditches, storm drains or canals.			1		3	
b77		In quantities less than 500 gallons per day are generated washwater drains to a grassed retention area or swale, as long as no direct contact with surface water body occurs	2		1		3	
b78		The facility operators and maintains a washwater recycling system or	2		1		3	
b79		discharge to a permitted treatment system	1		1		2	
b80		The amount of water used to wash equipment has been reduced by using spray nozzles that generate high pressure streams of water using low volumes			1		2	
b81	An oil/water separator is used and managed properly. Equipment used to apply pesticides are never washed on pads using oil/water separator, because the pesticide residue will contaminate the oil that is salvaged.			1		2		
b82	Waste Management	We dispose of all non-hazardous wastes and litter in trash cans, dumpsters or other appropriate and properly maintained receptacles.	2		1		3	

b83	We use septic systems for domestic (sewage) waste only and do not dispose of process wastewater, hazardous waste, or raw chemicals down the drain because they can pass untreated to ground water.			1				
b84	We store, recycle or dispose of waste products such as used motor oil, electric batteries and unused solvents properly according to the law and available community disposal techniques.			1				
b85	We ensure that solid waste dumpsters have plugs intact and covers closed and that spillage won't drain to surface waters, drinking water wells or storm drains.			1		2		
b86	Hazard Spills We have a written plan to be followed in case chemicals are spilled. The plans detail the specific potential hazards posed by each chemical used on site and identify all potential hazards, develop safe-handling measures, and outline appropriate spill response procedures.		3	1				
b87	We have clearly identified the appropriate responding authorities – DEP, state police, or local emergency response, and maintain a list of people to be notified in the event of a spill, including drinking water suppliers, if the facility is in a public water supply watershed. The policy is written, employees are acquainted with it and it is posted in an easily accessible place.		2	1		3		
		Maximum Allowable Points	85	19	40	5	121	
		Unadjusted Verified Point Totals						
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							Minimum Points Required	golf facility Final Section Score
							50	

Water Quality & Conservation

verification options & points awarded

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Topic	Criteria	Photo / Image	Written	Verbal	Map / Drawing	On-site Verification	
c01	Planning						
	Goals and objectives for water conservation are written in a management plan.		3	1			
c02	Goals and objectives for water quality management are written in a management plan.		3	1			
c03	A qualified professional has performed a watershed analysis to estimate the amount of runoff that could be captured using different sizes, shapes, and locations of storage ponds.		3	1			
c04	A feasibility study has been developed to analyze water supply sources that evaluates all potential sources with respect to adequacy, economic viability, engineering considerations, and environmental impacts.		3	1			
c05	Water Conservation						
	Drought resistant turf species are used in the majority of managed turf areas on the golf facility	2		1		3	
c06	Water harvesting and collection into irrigation ponds, or using reclaimed water as an alternative irrigation water source are used as a water source	2		1		3	
c07	Greens are modified to improve water infiltration and/or percolation and deeper rooting			1		2	
c08	In certain areas, mowing heights are higher and irrigation is limited or nonexistent	2		1	2	3	
c09	Zones are used to improve efficiency of irrigation systems			1	2		
	Irrigation scheduling is based on plant water requirements as estimated by superintendent experience and site-specific weather data.			1			
	Our golf facility uses a combination of water sources to provide system flexibility and minimize environmental impacts under different irrigation scenarios.			1	2	3	
	We use effluent and/or grey water as a supplemental irrigation source.			1		2	
	Our retention ponds capture runoff from the local watershed, and impervious surfaces, and to supplement supply sources.	2		1		3	
	We have contoured the land around irrigation ponds to collect storm water that otherwise would be lost			1	2	3	
c07	We use water from a public water supply as a last resort only, such as when the use of on-site sources causes significant environmental impacts.			1			

c08	Constructed Ponds Location and Design	Ponds are located outside of regulated areas such as inland wetlands and waterfacilitys. Ponds may be located adjacent to a waterfacility to allow for the skimming of flood flows to recharge storage.			1	2	3	
c09		Dependent on pond bottom leakage and/or seepage, ponds are lined with clay or a geotextile to gain any usable storage when appropriate.	2		1		3	
c10		Storage ponds with shallow margins are planted with native wetland vegetation, which is utilized by many wildlife species.	2		1		3	
c11		Buffers of native herbaceous and shrub vegetation are also planted around the perimeter of the storage ponds to enhance wildlife habitat.	2		1		3	
c12		The facility drainage plan includes grass swales or diversions that direct stormwater runoff from the landscape prior to entering a series of collection and storage ponds.			1	2	3	
c13		New ponds and the enlargement of existing ponds are have been done in upland areas only to avoid disturbing wetlands and waterfacilitys.			1	3		
c14		Our ponds have irregular shorelines and bottom contours that are used to enhance wildlife habitat value.			1	3		
c15		When possible our constructed ponds have a shallower side slopes (7:1 ratio) that encourage the establishment of a wetland shelf along the pond shoreline.			1	2		
c16		Our ponds are developed in a series, or "train", that are used to treat stormwater/site runoff. The first pond catches the "first flush", the second provides additional filtering and the later ponds continue to filter and serve as primary withdrawal ponds for irrigation.			1	2	2	
c17		We measure and maintain records of pond levels during both pumping and non-pumping periods.		2	1			
c18		We use a floating intake when withdrawing from a pond, so that the irrigation water is taken from the upper two feet of the water column. Surface water is generally better quality than the bottom water.	2		1		2	
c19		We use a mechanical solution when aquatic weed management is required in order to prevent contamination or corrosion of the irrigation system.	2		1			
c20		We use herbicides as a last-resort measureonly, and only use fully permitted products applied by a licensed applicator.			1			
c21		We have staff gages installed in all storage ponds that show the stage (level) of water to the nearest hundredth of a foot.	2		1		3	
c22	We take staff gage readings at least once per day during water withdrawal operations, and when possible, take readings immediately before and after storm water events to assess the volume of water collected.		3	1				

c23	Stormwater Management	We have minimized the use of impervious surfaces, and maximize sheet flow where possible.			1		2	
c24		We use pervious pavers for walkways, paths and parking lots.	2		1		3	
c25		Large parking areas incorporate landscaped areas to help maintain natural recharge.	2		1		3	
c26		Pervious overflow parking is used to accommodate seasonal parking.	2		1	2	3	
c27		We do not discharge stormwater runoff from parking lots, service areas, buildings and roadways directly into wetlands and waterfacilities.			1			
c28		We control the quality of surface runoff from parking lots, service areas, buildings and roadways with appropriate filtration practices such as grassy swales, filter strips and constructed wetlands.	2		1		3	
c29		We use a combination of vegetative swales, stormwater retention ponds, detention basins and buffers to treat runoff from intensively managed areas such as tees and greens to help reduce the movement of nutrients and pesticides into wetlands and waterfacilities.	2		1		3	
c30		We discharge or divert surface runoff onto wide, relatively flat vegetated areas to promote infiltration and ground water recharge.	2		1		3	
c31		We have designed and installed measures such as catch basin inserts, swirl concentrators or oil/particle separators to treat the runoff from high use parking lots and service areas to minimize the discharge of hydrocarbons and sediment.	2		1		3	
c32		We use appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures during facility construction or modification.	2		1		3	
c33		We minimize the application of sodium chloride chemicals as a deicing agent for snow and ice control, and maximize the use of abrasives, especially in the wellhead areas.			1			
c34		We use chemical pesticide and fertilizers in accordance with a written Integrated Pest Management plan specific to our golf facility.		3	1			
c35		Pesticide and Fertilizer mixing and loading areas are located away from wetlands and waterfacilities and drinking water supply wells			1	3	3	
c36		Stormwater is prevented from coming in contact with all waste and raw material storage areas. Clean stormwater is diverted away from these areas.			1			
c37		Hazardous materials are stored only inside structures with secondary containment	2		1		3	
c38	Irrigation Systems Design and Maintenance	We use professionally certified irrigation technicians and/or landscape water managers to install and maintain the irrigation system.			1			
c39		We perform leak detection on a regular basis several times per year, including in the spring at the start of the irrigation season and at the end of a season to ensure the proper closure of the system.			1			

c40	Use isolation valves before all main lines and major laterals to be able to quickly shut off leaking areas before turf is damaged and water is lost.	2		1		3	
c41	Assess/test soil to determine percolation and water holding capacity.		2	1			
c42	Low volume irrigation heads are installed. Low volume sprinklers can reduce water loss due to evaporation, wind drift, leaching and runoff from sloping surfaces.	2		1		3	
c43	Use reclaimed water for irrigation and other approved uses.	2		1		3	
c44	Use low or adjustable trajectory nozzles. These allow the irrigation manager to reduce the effects of wind on evaporation during irrigation and to compensate for sloping areas.	2		1		3	
c45	Install rain shut-off devices.	2		1		3	
c46	Install irrigation controllers that have at a minimum the following features: precise minute runtime capability, a minimum of 3 separate programs, 3 cycle start time features, non volatile memory	2		1		3	
c47	Install a self-adjusting weather-based irrigation controller that generates watering schedules to match local weather, plant types, and other site-specific conditions.	2		1		3	
c48	Test irrigation sprinklers 4 times per year to ensure proper operation and coverage and repair all broken or defective sprinkler heads/nozzles, lines and valves immediately.			1			
c49	Adjust sprinklers for proper coverage—optimize spacing, avoid runoff onto paved surfaces and/or over shooting into water bodies.			1		3	
c50	To reduce evaporation losses, our golf facility irrigates in the early morning or evening hours when evaporation and winds are at their lowest.			1		2	
c51	Adjust the irrigation schedule monthly during irrigation season, or as needed.			1			
c52	Choose sprinkler heads that do not exceed the lowest infiltration rate of the specific soil.		2	1			
c53	Adjust run times and the amount of water applied during irrigation and do not apply more than the available holding capacity of the root zone for the specific site. Soil types can vary greatly within small areas, and different turf species may have different root depths.		2	1			
c54	Replace full-circle sprinklers with part-circle sprinklers to reduce water being applied to out of-play areas.			1		2	
c55	Use automatic controllers and/or portable hand-held devices, where feasible, to apply water in a more efficient manner.			1			
c56	Improve irrigation uniformity through careful evaluation of design criteria such as nozzle size, rotation speed, spacing, scheduling coefficient and pressure selection.			1			

c57	Annually inspect and replace nozzles that are worn, partially clogged or do not rotate freely.			1				
	Assure that the correct nozzle sizes are used/replaced in accordance with the position along the system and with pressure head distributions and water requirements for the specific turf and landscape position.			1				
		Maximum Allowable Points		52	26	25	27	70
		Unadjusted Verified Point Totals						
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							Minimum Points Required	Final Section Score
							40	

Turf, Natural Areas, and Wildlife

verification options & points awarded

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Topic	Criteria	Photo / Image	Written	Verbal	Map / Drawing	On-site Verification	
d01	We have designated areas that have been naturalized for lower maintenance, and less water use and provide wilife value.	2		1	2	3	
d02	Provide adequate and balanced levels of nutrients to the turf. Avoid excessive amounts of nitrogen, and apply nutrients based upon turf species and cultivar nutrient requirements, level of use and soil type.		2	1			
d03	Use soil cultivation techniques such as spiking, slicing and core aerification to improve water infiltration and minimize runoff during irrigation or rainfall events.	2		1		3	
d04	Use environmentally safe wetting agents to improve water infiltration.			1			
d05	We use polymers as a means of increasing water retention and reducing water loss to evaporation.	2		1		3	
d06	We limit cart traffic to paths to minimize turf wear and soil compaction.	2		1		3	
d07	We prune roots of trees near critical turf areas to prevent tree root competition with the turf for moisture and nutrients.			1			
d08	We maintain roughs at a 2" to 3" mowing height to act as additional buffers.			1		2	
d09	We do not apply fertilizer to soggy areas until the water table is lowered enough for the turf to be able to absorb the nutrients. These areas are typically in converging and flatter areas in the landscape and can usually be detected during wet periods such as late winter/early spring.			1			
d10	We avoid spraying pesticides when the soil is saturated, when heavy rains are imminent or under any other conditions where surface runoff may result.			1			
d11	We have established pesticide free zones around water bodies and near drinking water wells.	2		1	2	3	
d12	We only spray pesticides when the wind is calm, and are careful to avoid drifting of pesticides towards sensitive areas or water.			1			
d13	We locate compost piles away from surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes and areas with high water tables.			1	2	3	
d14	Trees, signposts, benches and other amenities placed in turf areas are situated in ways as to reduce the need for hand trimming.	1				2	

d15		When possible, these amenities have the turf immediately surrounding them removed (such as for a tree ring) to protect the amenity and to facilitate more efficient turf care.	2		1		3	
d16		All large turf areas are constructed with a minimum slope of 2% to promote surface drainage and a maximum of 15% to allow riding mowers to safely access the areas.			1	2	3	
d17		Whenever possible, the existing soil is amended with sand and 6" of topsoil to provide a drier surface area. Dry areas allow easier and earlier (in the mowing season) maintenance.			1			
d18		Whenever possible, seeding occurs during the spring or fall months to insure maximum germination.			1			
d19	Mowing, Trimming and Edging	Grass clippings are not removed from mowed turf areas. The plant nutrients and organic material they contain play an important role in developing a healthy, productive environment for root growth.			1		2	
d20		Mowing patterns are alternated to avoid ruts and compaction from the wheels.			1			
d21		We always avoid driving on wet ground where ruts will remain. We walk the site during wet conditions to do a visual inspection.			1			
d22		Mowing equipment is maintained regularly. We pay special attention to ensure that the sharpening and adjusting of cutting edges are maintained properly.			1			
d23		We ensure that grass clippings do not have the potential to be washed into stream or drainage systems, which can degrade water quality.			1			
d24		All trimming is performed by walk behind mowers and line trimmers in areas that cannot be accessed by riding mowers. Our golf facility does not use fly/hover mowers.			1		2	
d25		Edging is performed with metal bladed equipment to prevent damaging turf edges.			1		2	
d26	Steep Slopes	Steep slopes (defined as any slope over 40%), are considered sensitive, or critical areas and preserve as habitat for wildlife.	2		1		3	
d27		Removing vegetation from the ground layer is minimized, and plantings are stabilized with appropriate bioengineering techniques (e.g. netting, wattling, hydro-mulching, etc.).			1			
d28		Slide areas, or areas suspected of being slide-prone, have been evaluated by a geotechnical expert.	2		1		3	
d29		Stormwater runoff is prevented from saturating or loading steep slopes by using appropriate drainage systems that intercept runoff flows before they reach the slope.	2		1		3	
d30	Riparian/Wetland Buffer Zones	We protect and maintain existing woody vegetation as natural buffers, to the maximum extent possible	2		1	2	3	

d31	We have planted grasses, other herbaceous vegetation and woody vegetation in buffer strips where existing vegetation was lacking. Plants included in these zones were native and/or non-invasive.	2		1		3	
d32	We have vegetated buffers located between water bodies, wetlands and wellheads and any potential pollution sources such as fertilized areas or runoff producing areas, such as impervious surfaces and seasonally saturated soil areas.			1	2	3	
d33	Our buffer width have been designed to vary in accordance with landscape position and amount of runoff and potential pollutants entering the buffer at a specific location. Minimum buffer widths vary with the specific site conditions including hydrogeology, slope, vegetation, soil type, presence of wetlands and the type of nutrient or pollutant to be removed.		2	1	2	3	
d34	Where a desired buffer width cannot be met due to facility layout, we prevent runoff from entering the water body at that location by diverting it to adjacent areas where adequately wide buffers are developed and maintained. Methods of diversion include shallow swales, low berms, and grading of fairway slopes away from stream banks.			1	2	3	
d35	We maintain wider temporary buffers for sediment control during construction periods.			1			
d36	We maintain appropriate vegetation on steep or highly erodible stream banks at all times to prevent stream bank erosion.	2		1		3	
d37	We vary the width, height and type of vegetation to meet the specific functions of the buffer and growing conditions at the specific location.	2		1		3	
d38	We use a combination of native trees, shrubs and grasses along or around the wetland, waterfacility or water body to meet the objectives for pollutant control and to provide a variety of habitats at each location.	2	2	1		3	
d39	We have selected some woody vegetation to provide shade, especially along the south side of wide sections of a waterfacility or water body, to provide shading, cool water temperatures and to maintain suitable dissolved oxygen levels.			1	2	3	
d40	We mow grass buffers infrequently, (e.g. 1 or 2 times per year), to preserve the functions of the buffer while controlling woody vegetation.		2	1		3	
d41	We remove clippings after mowing grass buffer zones to help reduce the cycling of nutrients back into the buffer zone and ultimately to a water resource.			1			
d42	We do not dispose of grass clippings or prunings in the buffer areas.			1		2	
d43	We maintain buffer vegetation by regular monitoring of the health of the plants, by disease and pest management using an integrated pest management plan and by appropriate pruning and cutting of woody vegetation when necessary.		3	1			
d44	We protect woody vegetation from root damage caused by heavy equipment during construction and prevent placement of fill within the drip line of woody vegetation			1		2	


d45		We control foot and cart traffic in buffer areas through signs and fencing.	3		1		3	
d46		We rotate public access points to buffers as needed to protect or restore vegetative cover.			1			
d47		We maintain pesticide-free zones adjacent to buffer areas and around drinking supply wells.			1	2		
d48		We leave roughs in natural condition but keep vegetation height at about one foot to allow raptors and other predators access to mice and voles and for tick control.	2		1		3	
d49		We have designed detention ponds with a continuous wide band of tall emergent plants around the edges and in the shallow water to discourage geese.	2		1		3	
d50		We inspect buffers several times each year, particularly after runoff events, to assure that sheet flow is occurring across vegetative buffers.			1			
d51		Protected areas such as vegetative buffers are fenced off to keep construction equipment and people out.	2		1		3	
d52		Where channelized flow develops, we re-grade as necessary and use flow spreaders to encourage lateral flow of runoff along the outer edge of the buffer.	2		1			
d53	Wetland and Waterfacility Protection	We do not place fill within or adjacent to wetlands, waterfacilities and floodplains.			1			
d54		We avoid grading when possible within and adjacent to wetlands, waterfacilities and floodplains.			1		2	
d55		We have minimized crossings of wetlands and waterfacilities, and use shortest route possible at the narrowest width of the wetland, when crossings are necessary.			1	2	3	
d56		We use bridges instead of culverts. The use of bridges, which span the waterfacility, instead of culverts, is preferred in order to minimize soil, vegetation and water flow disturbance, fish habitat alteration and direct waterfacility and wetland filling.			1	2	3	
d57		We preserve as much vegetation as possible when installing crossings and replant disturbed areas to restore lost vegetation.			1			
d58		Our ponds are located outside of wetlands or waterfacilities for irrigation water supply, and are used as facility hazards or for stormwater retention.			1	3		
d59		All buildings, parking lots and stormwater management facilities are located outside of waterfacility buffers, wetlands or floodplains.			1	3		
d60		Fairways have been designed to eliminate or minimize the number of wetland and waterfacility crossings.			1	2		
d61		Only invasive and noxious weeds are controlled through mechanical or cultural methods in wetland areas.			1			
d62		Approved wetland herbicides are used only when necessary, and never near standing water.			1			

d63		Only native species are planted within a wetland area, unless the wetland is part of a preserved agricultural area.		2	1				
d64		Trails are kept to a minimum around and through wetlands, and specifically designed to decrease habitat disturbance.			1	3			
d65	Wildlife Habitat	We incorporate fallen limbs and trees into strategically placed brush piles or let them remain where they fall for wildlife uses	2		1		3		
d66		We have established food and water sources for wildlife (ie birdfeeders, bird bathing locations, etc.)	2		1		3		
d67		We provide nesting boxes/structures throughout the golf facility	2		1		3		
d68		Some of the native species located on site provide food sources for wildife offering berries, seeds, and nuts etc.	2		1		3		
d69		Vegetation corridors located on and around the golf facility connect isolated habitat patches and provided connectivity and linkages for wildfie to traverse the site.			1	3			
d70		We provide buffer strips of vegetation along streams and ponds to reduce run-off of sediments and chemicals and provide habitat for wildife	2		1		3		
d71		Goals and objectives for environmental projects are written in a wildlife habitat management plan.		5					
			Maximum Allowable Points		50	18	30	38	64
			Unadjusted Verified Point Totals						
Innovation	The golf facility is doing something that is not listed in this section and would like to apply for additional points. Up to two items can be listed for this section for a maximum total of 6 points. Points and items are awarded exclusively by Audubon Lifestyles, and at their sole discretion. Use the space below to list additional items for this section, and attached any necessary verification documentation/photos etc.								
								Minimum Points Required	golf facility Final Section Score
								40	

Outreach & Education

verification options & points awarded

* Please note that only one method of verification is required for any Topic Criteria, and only one method of verification can be applied to total points for any specific Topic Criteria. Multiple methods of verification does not accumulate additional points.

Topic	Criteria	Photo / Image	Written	Verbal	Map / Drawing	On-site Verification	
e01	Fact Sheets Onsite	Conserving Energy in Maintenance Facility	1				
e02	<i>(1 point for each factsheet up to a maximum total of 10 points)</i>	Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle	1				
e03		Quick Tips for Waste Reduction and Recycling	1				
e04		Environmental Management Systems	1				
e05		The Business Value of Environmental Management	1				
e06		The Benefits of Taller Grasses on Golf Courses	1				
e07		Maintenance Facility Best Management Practices	1				
e08		Outreach and Education Projects for Golf Courses	1				
e09		Attracting Bluebirds	1				
e10		Attracting Hummingbirds	1				
e11		Amphibian Conservation	1				
e12		Bird Feeding Techniques on Golf Courses	1				
e13		Tips for Helping Migratory Birds	1				
e14		Bat Conservation	1				
e15		Dealing with Wildlife Problems	1				
e16		Creating Wildlife Gardens	1				
e17		Butterfly Gardening	1				
e18		Benefits of Naturalization	1				
e19		Natural Landscaping	1				
e20		Wildlife Corridors	1				
e21		Invasive Species Overview	1				
e22		Water Conservation Tips	1				
e23		Wetland Protection on Golf Courses	1				
e24		Water Quality Monitoring on Golf Courses	1				
e25		Managing Lakes and Ponds for Wildlife	1				
e26		Website & Internet	We have a website or web page specific to the golf facility	4			
e27	We have specific web pages within our website that describe the sustainable attributes of the golf facility	3					
e28	We displays the Audubon Lifestyles Logo on our website	2					
e29	We have a weblink to the Audubon Lifestyles website from our website	2					
e30	We have an International Sustainability logo on our website	2					
e31	We have a link to the International Sustainability Council Website from our website	2					
e32	We publicly displayed Our Sustainability Charter on our website.	2					

e33		WE have a digital newsletter that is used to provide information describing the sustainability efforts of the golf facility.		3				
e34		Digital versions of factsheets are available on our website (1 point for each factsheet listed up to a total of 10 points maximum)		10				
e35	Signs & Displays	We proudly display the Audubon Lifestyles Logo in a publicly visible location on-site	1				2	
e36		WE proudly display the International Sustainability Council logo at in a publicly visible location on-site	1				2	
e37		We have signs or a displays located at the golf facility describing the value of native plants	2				3	
e38		We have a series of plant id signs to inform guests, clientele, and staff of specific plant species located on-site	2				3	
e39		We have signs or a display at the golf facility that informs the public about, local or migratory birds	2				3	
e40		We have signs or a display at the golf facility that inform the public about, local wildlife	2				3	
e41		WE have signs or a displays at the golf facility describing the local watershed and/or the importance of watersheds	2				3	
e42	Other Outreach Opportunities	The golf facility staff has hosted a group of children (school classroom, 4-H, boy scouts, other) to the site for a tour and discussed the importance of sustainable equestrian facilities			2			
e43		The golf facility staff has hosted a group of children (school classroom, 4-H, boy scouts, other) to the golf facility and provided a workshop to create bird nest boxes.			2			
e44		The golf facility staff has spoken either on-site or off-site to an adult group about the importance of managing sustainable equestrian facilities.			2			
e45		The golf facility has adopted a local school by paying their annual membership in the Audubon International Adopt a School Program		5	5			
e46		Volunteer groups help maintain public trail systems located witin the golf facility premises	3		2			
e47	Monitoring	Our facility has monitoring programs in place. Monitoring can help determine the success of golf facility management practices and the positive or negative effects of practices on natural resources.		4	1			
e48		A Monitoring Program for Pest Management Programs is used		3	1			
e49		A Monitoring Program for Nutrient and chemical applications is used		3	1			
e50		A Monitoring Program for Irrigation Practices is used		3	1			
e51	Education & Programming	Reference book available onsite: Managing Wildlife Habitat on Golf Courses by Ronald G. Dodson	2		1		3	
e52		Reference book available onsite: Sustainable Golf Courses by Ronald G. Dodson	2		1		3	
e53		We have a training program to instruct all employees regarding the importance of environmental performance and specific techniques for ensuring environmental quality.		2	1			
e54		The Golf Facility has been or currently is certified by the Golf Environment Organisation of Europe		5				

e55	The Golf Facility's Superintendent is a CGCS desigantued by the GCSAA		4				
	The Golf Facility has a posted case study on the Environmetental Institute for Golf's Edge Database		2				
e56	The Golf Facility has been or currently is certified in an Audubon International Program		5				
e57	The golf facility recognizes the importance of the carbon dynamics of the facility, and is a participant in Golfpreserves® to create funding for environmental research using the carbon sequestered at the facility.		4				

Maximum Allowable Points		22	89	20	0	24
Unajusted Verified Point Totals						

Innovation The golf facility is doing something that is not listed in this section and would like to apply for additional points. Up to two items can be listed for this section for a maximum total of 6 points. Points and items are awarded exclusively by Audubon Lifestyles, and at their sole discretion. Use the space below to list additional items for this section, and attached any necessary verification documentation/photos etc.

	Minimum Points Required	Final Section Score
	15	

Sustainable Golf Facility Summary Page

Category	Minimum Points Required	Maximum Points Allowed	Adjusted Facility Score
Economics & Business	15	90	
The Maintenance Facility	50	160	
Water Quality & Conservation	40	150	
Turf, Natural Areas, and Wildlife	40	150	
Outreach & Education	15	150	
TOTAL	160	700	0

Audubon Lifestyles & ISC Designations Earned	Points Required	ISC Seal Earned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility – 1 Star	160	NO	
Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility – 2 Star	250	NO	
Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility – 3 Star	350	NO	
Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility – 4 Star	450	YES	
Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility – 5 Star	550	YES	



The Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility Program was created through a collaborative process that involved experts in the golf facility management, wildlife management, sustainability, and others. This includes but is not limited to individuals representing Audubon Lifestyles and the International Sustainability Council.