

GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report
Cordova Bay Golf Course

Prepared by independent verifier Craig Dewey

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2029

GEO Foundation
Sustainability in and through golf

“Cordova Bay Golf Course is another outstanding example of how exceptional golf course conditioning and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. The superintendent and his entire team deserve tremendous recognition for the pride, care, and attention to detail they bring to the property every day.

The condition of Cordova Bay is exceptional, with an obvious commitment to presentation, playability, and the health of the turf and surrounding landscape. What stands out just as much, however, is the detail beyond the playing surfaces. The floral gardens, natural areas, landscaping, and overall presentation demonstrate a level of care that makes the entire property feel thoughtfully managed rather than simply maintained.

From the immaculate course to the beautiful gardens and the thoughtful environmental practices behind them, the superintendent and his team have created something that deserves recognition. Cordova Bay Golf Course is a wonderful example of golf course professionals taking genuine pride in both the game and the environment.”

Craig Dewey
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Cordova Bay Golf Course has successfully achieved GEO Certified® status for its outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community.

GEO Certified® is the most respected certification for golf, based on a credibly and transparently developed modern sustainability Standard of best practice.

Cordova Bay Golf Course has:

1. Met the required certification criteria for sustainable golf operations
2. Successfully completed the official third-party verification process
3. Successfully passed the final evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd. (autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation)

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points (CIP) set for the future and Critical CIP's (CCIPs) to be reviewed at recertification, Cordova Bay Golf Course should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Cordova Bay Golf Course can therefore claim a position as a leader in advancing sustainability in golf – making important contributions in protecting nature, conserving resources and strengthening communities.

The GEO Certified® Report that follows comments on the actions undertaken against the criteria, as observed by the independent verifier during the assurance process.

Certification is nearly always the result of a dedicated team effort resulting in many practical and valuable social and environmental results around the golf course, maintenance facility and clubhouse. These dedication and leadership qualities are an important part of ensuring the resilience of the golf facility and the golf industry into the future and also as part of society's wider effort to pull together for people and planet.

We congratulate all involved.

Jonathan Smith
Founder and Executive Director, GEO Foundation
GEO Certification Ltd. Board Member

Kelli Jerome
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Carole Kerrey
Director, Certification and Credibility,
GEO Certification Ltd.

Verification and Certification

Verification

The official third-party audit was carried out by an independent verifier, accredited by GEO to undertake verifications of golf facilities applying for certification.

Verification involves reviewing practices and data, using the International Voluntary Standard for Sustainable Golf Operations as the guide to ensure comprehensive and consistent evaluation of performance. A detailed verification report is submitted for evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd, a subsidiary of GEO Foundation.

Certification

GEO Certification Ltd, an autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation [both not-for-profit entities], undertook a full review of all content submitted through the OnCourse® online platform and the report submitted by the verifier, ensuring:

- Comprehensiveness – activities undertaken touched on all elements of the Standard
- Consistency – that the verification approach was balanced, well weighted and with consistent depth of evaluation across each theme
- Accuracy - matching the verification report with evidence submitted by the golf facility to ensure statements and claims were accurate

GEO Foundation is an international not-for-profit founded to advocate, support and reward sustainability in and through golf. Over more than ten years, the group has worked collaboratively with dozens of golf industry associations and government and non-government organisations around the world, to help golf become a sustainability leader, striving for a net positive social and environmental impact. In addition to managing and assuring GEO Certified®, GEO Foundation also provides a suite of credible, practical programmes for golf facility management, new golf developments and golf tournaments called OnCourse®, often delivered in partnership with national golf bodies. Find out more at **www.sustainable.golf**

Credibility

GEO Certified® is part of the ISEAL Alliance, a group of the world's foremost credible certification systems including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council and many others. GEO Foundation earned and retains full membership of the ISEAL Alliance global association following a rigorous evaluation against the ISEAL Codes of Credibility in Sustainability Standards and Certification. The ISEAL Codes cover standard-setting, assurance, and monitoring and evaluation. Find out more at **www.isealalliance.org**

Verifier's Report

The Sustainability Agenda for golf covers the following themes and action areas:

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	• Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	• Water • Energy • Materials
Community	• Partnerships & Outreach • Golfing & Employment • Advocacy & Communications

Included below are the observations made by the Independent Verifier against each item in the Standard.

NATURE

N1 Habitats and Biodiversity

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	**N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site**	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	Superintendent personally responsible for the selection and planting of all trees onsite. Superintendent is intimately familiar with sites flora and fauna. Site is in corridor for migratory birds. Abundance of spectacular flower gardens throughout the grounds. **Highlight: Club has hosted both tree and bird walks.** **CCIP: Please formalise and maintain a documented species inventory list.** **CIP: Please complete a tree (species grouping) inventory of the sites trees.**
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Identify rare, protected or endangered species found on the golf course; Understand legal responsibilities for landscape protection and special area designations, if applicable	No legal designations for protected landscapes. Purple Martins have been identified as endangered species. Site inhabitants include Bald eagles, hawks, otters, migratory birds. **Highlight: Introduction of Purple Martin bird houses has increased the Purple Martin population verified by the Purple Martin Bird Society. Site maintains strong relationship with the Purple Martin Bird Society and constructed bird house based on the society specifications.** **Highlight: Designated location for bee hives that are managed by third party. At certain times honey is sold and proceeds designated to charity.** **Highlight: To reduce flower seeding, horticulturist clips flowers to be used in bouquets that are sold at the clubhouse and proceeds go to charity.**

	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	Site was previously farmland (Daffodils and Cauliflower). No protected archaeological, historical, or cultural designations.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	**N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass**	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	Future irrigation initiative will start naturalisation of project 2 acres. Plans under way for bunker reduction Observations of players habits and traffic helps determine potential naturalisation efforts Addition of cray fish in ponds to help with pond health and maintenance Have stocked ponds with trout in the past. **Highlight: Irrigation initiative projected to save 50K gallons per day.**
N1.3 Actively create and manage habitats for wildlife	**N1.3.1 Projects to create and manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf**	Prioritise native species of varying size and structure when planting Prioritise native trees and shrubs when planting Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	Abundance of bat and Purple Martin houses mostly within naturalised areas throughout the course. Removal of invasive Himalayan blackberry along ponds. Maintenance team identifies invasive species and earmarks for replacement. Resident horticulturalists (4) maintain greenhouse and gardens prioritizing native species.
N1.4 Conserve key species	**N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species**	Follow local best practice to protect or attract endangered, protected or rare species found on site	Visual monitoring and protection of Purple Martin nests. Pollinator areas with bee hives located on site and managed by third party. 20 – 30 bee hives.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health	**N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors**	Select appropriate grass species for the climate	Greens: 70% Poa/30% Bent Tees: Bent Fairways: Bent (some POA) Rough: Rye/Over seeded with Fescue.

			Turf Selection: Poa thrives in the Northwest 10-11 months of the year.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition	No specific international requirement, however, identify course management and agronomic activities and look for continual improvements	Soil samples biannually. Core samples send to USGA 6 times per year and data collected. Aeration of greens biannually. **Highlight: Hand pulling of weeds around ponds and creek. Working with local municipal for managing Scotch Broom invasive species. Use of municipal hand pulling tool for Scotch Broom removal.** **CIP: Please formalise Integrated Pest Management documentation.**
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Test and monitor soil pH; Follow legal requirements when timing fertiliser applications Ensure staff are fully qualified to use fertilisers Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	Soil sampling – Collected bi-annually. Course maintenance is a result of soil analysis. Monitoring clippings for Nitrogen.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	**N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management**	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Change hole locations frequently	As previously mentioned, IPM practices are in place, but a formalised IPM would be recommended. Full-time maintenance team for mowers and equipment.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	**N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues**	Identify and track pest and disease hotspots, including sensitive areas Scout the course daily for early signs and symptoms Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases	Monitor daily, treatment application only when needed. Spot spray when needed.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use legally registered and approved products;	Applicators identified and licensed. Documented spray application guide. Green Keeper application used to track usage.

		Prefer products for the specific weed, pest or disease; Follow legal requirements; Ensure staff are fully qualified to use pesticides; Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of amenity turfgrass	Product log located in chemical storage area. Calibration occurs before each spray. Equipment stored indoor and well maintained.
N3 Pollution Prevention			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	**N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations**	Document procedures for emergency spill responses ; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas	Documented Chemical Spill Response. Buffer zones in place for sensitive areas, ponds and streams. Regular water testing at entrance of Burnham Creek, middle and exit point of the property.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	Separate chemical storage with keys only available to maintenance team. Triple rinse method of container disposal. Hazardous waste is collected, secured and disposed of through third party (Waster Collectors).
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Wash machinery over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Mix and load pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Wash and Mixing areas are separate and self-contained on impermeable leak free surfaces. Spill procedures signage is clear in all applicable areas.

	N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	**N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances**	List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff; Product and material data safety sheets; Well ventilated concrete or metal building; Impermeable, leak-free flooring; Sufficient storage capacity; Spill containment kits; Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays; Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station); Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	Register of hazardous materials are posted within storage facilities. Hazardous material stored in secure ventilated storage unit. Self-contained impermeable unit. Presence of spill containment kits. Emergency wash area with procedure signage. Fire extinguisher present in all applicable areas. MSDS for all hazardous materials. Assessments performed yearly by fire services. Health and Safety commitments and internal inspections 1-2 months.
		N3.2.2 Legal compliance in the storage and handling of fuels and gases	Tank secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface; Secondary containment of fuel in the event of spills e.g. bunds and drip trays; Inspection of storage tank(s) at least quarterly, if required; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area	Appropriate treatment of wash stations. Separation of clippings in wash areas.
	N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	**N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage, treatment and discharge**	Impermeable, leak-free surface; Treatment as per local requirements (oil, grease and / or clipping separation; Formal discharge agreement, if applicable	Wastewater is sent to the on-site treatment plant. Wash bay is concrete and grass clippings are collected weekly from the drain.

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
R1.1 Minimise water demand	**R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water**	Select appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance; Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces; Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	Greens: 70% Poa / 30% Bent Tees: Bent. Fairways: Bent (some POA) Rough: Rye/Over seeded with Fescue. Deacon and Rain-bird applications in use. Monthly report on course water usage.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	**R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course**	Schedule irrigation based on informed assessment of soil moisture and weather forecasts; Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	Irrigation of naturalised areas only for Fire Prevention Purpose. Use of wetting agents on all playing surfaces. Regular irrigation checks performed by irrigation technician. USGA Deacon App use extensively to check soil moisture levels and proper response. **Highlight: Future irrigation initiation to save a projected 50K gallons or irrigation per day.**
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record water consumption (bills, flow meter etc.); Encourage water conservation practices amongst players and staff	Water usage monitored daily by Superintendent(s). Data kept for trending purposes. Records kept by property management team.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	**R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water**	Water abstraction permit, if required;	Irrigation map present. 70% City Water.

		Report water consumption to environment agency, if required	30% Irrigation Ponds fed by natural springs
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	**R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in golf course maintenance**	Naturalise non-playing areas to reduce mowing and other energy intensive inputs	Initiative to track golfers' patterns and using this data to decide areas that could be naturalised. Initiative underway to switch to electric maintenance vehicles and equipment. Currently utilising hybrid and electric maintenance vehicles. Naturalised area to be reclaimed by new irrigation.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	**R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings**	Monitor and record energy consumption (bills, meters etc.)	Energy usage tracking and monitored by management. Evidence of data graphs and tracking of energy usage.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	**R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy**	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier; Explore possible greener energy providers	Initiate underway to switch to electric vehicles and maintenance machinery. **Highlight: Maintenance sheds powered by solar.**
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	**R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives**	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for materials and look for continual improvements	Audit report provided monthly by waste management third party. Recycling stations throughout facility with main separation recycling station by maintenance facility where collection bins are located and clearly marked.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	**R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices**	Favour responsible, lower impact products	Difficult due to geographical location but strong efforts are made to source locally **Highlight: Food garden and greenhouse maintained by dedicated onsite horticulturist**
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	**R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity**	Put in place a recycling separation system, according to local rules and availability;	Recycling stations throughout facility with main separation recycling station by maintenance facility where collection bins are located and clearly marked. Waste third party provide site with collection data.

		Clear, simple and visible bin signage; Monitor and record weight of waste for each stream e.g. invoices, bills etc.	Composting in place, and used in site gardens and maintenance.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	**R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations**	Authorised waste collector for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste, if required	Waste connections authorised waste third-party. Compliance with local and municipal regulations.

COMMUNITY

C1 Health & Wellbeing

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Improve health and wellbeing	**C1.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities**	Plans in place to respond to incidents and emergencies	Health and Safety signage present. WHMIS policy in place. Harassment course required by all new hires. Employee manual for harassment and supported by mission statement
C1.2 Be open and inclusive	**C1.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies**	Membership policies free from discrimination across age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic background	Inclusivity and diversity practices in place.
C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	**C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development**	Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment;	Ethical and legal employment, working conditions, health and safety and professional development embrace by top management

		Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	
C2 Outreach & Inclusion			
C2.1 Diversify access and provide multifunctionality	**C2.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility**	No specific international requirement, however, identify multifunctional activities and look for continual improvements	Strong junior program and junior camps, and observation in diversity of golfers.
C2.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	**C2.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes**	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to support volunteering and charity and look for continual improvements	Host to several tournaments and charity events. Volunteers on individual basis, donations to 4 local charities including Christmas donations. Sale of locally produced honey and flower bouquets proceeds going to charity.
C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	**C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups**	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community activities and look for continual improvements	Hosts annual even “Dancing on the Green” for neighbours. Weekly newsletters for golfers and staff that include sustainability. New website design to highlight sustainability efforts.
C3 Communications & Advocacy			
C3.1 Engage staff and golfers	**C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors**	Involve staff and committees in sustainability efforts; Involve golfers in sustainability efforts; Post sustainability information in the clubhouse and / or on the golf course	Weekly newsletter to players and staff. New web design to highlight sustainability efforts.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	**C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and**	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	Monthly communication and website to include sustainability commitments (in flight)

		engage people in the wider community		Flower bouquets regularly available for sale and proceeds going to charity. Onsite garden and green house. **Highlight: Superintendents vast experience and association with the club since it first opened…Longtime Class A Superintendent is deeply committed to course condition, aesthetics, and sustainability and that is propagated to the Cordova team.**
	C3.3 Follow a journey of continuous improvement	**C3.3.1 Measures to help track, review and improve sustainability and climate action**	Put measures in place to ensure that OnCourse can be updated annually	Only the superintendent is involved and is pushing and promoting the program. **CCIP: Please involve more stakeholders in the pathway, program and wider sustainable initiatives. This will ensure efforts are continued if the current superintendent is no longer in place.**

Golf and Sustainability

Among all sports, golf has a particularly close relationship with the environment and communities, golf facilities can bring many benefits to people and nature - from the protection of greenspace and conservation of biodiversity; healthy recreation for all ages; local supply chains; and jobs, tourism and other forms of economic value.

Adopting a more sustainable approach is also good for golf. It's about presenting a high-quality golf course and providing a memorable experience in natural surroundings. It's about being as efficient as possible. And it's about supporting the community in a range of ways that bring increased recognition, respect and contact.

At a broader level, it's important that golf credibly demonstrates its commitment, and its social and environmental value – strengthening the sport's image and reputation for the long term.

Golf facilities that participate in OnCourse®, an international sustainability initiative assured by the non-profit GEO Foundation, are taking a comprehensive approach and striving to be leaders in the community.

Find out more at www.sustainable.golf