



GEO Certified® Report

TPC Summerlin

Prepared by independent verifier William Fleming

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2027

“TPC Summerlin is a beautiful private golf course that allows members to feel connected with the sport and the natural terrain of the desert. This course is actively finding ways to reduce water consumption through out of the box thinking without compromising the sport of golf. TPC Summerlin has built an ecosystem within their ponds with the help of several local children and their families. This story ties together their commitment to the environment and the community around them. This club has a strong foundation for today’s focus on environmental impact, and I look forward to seeing their growth in community outreach and waste reduction.”

*William Fleming
(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that TPC Summerlin 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.

TPC Summerlin 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, TPC Summerlin should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, TPC Summerlin 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
Manager, Data and Reporting, 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 – that 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.isealliance.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	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	TPC Summerlin was built upon desert land and utilizes the natural terrain throughout the course. The biodiversity and habitats are recognized as standard for the region, but also go one step further by actively trying to enhance diversity in certain areas.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	Protected species in the area are Canadian Geese and American Coots, which are federally protected species.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	None aware of at this time.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	TPC Summerlin has gone through 15 phases of land removal per the water smart rebate program through southern Nevada Water Authority. Currently removing about 150,000 sqft.
N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	4 lakes onsite that have been restored to build habitats for fishery. Ponds are refilled every 3-5 years through browns fish farm, a local provider.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		Working towards habitat for kill deer bird, road runner, antelope squirrel, and burrowing owl.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and	Select appropriate grass species for climate	Greens are a cool season bentgrass with no need for overseeding. Fairways are Bandera Bermuda grass and are not overseeded. In the winter months the course sprays the dormant grass green. This reduces water and fertilization usage.

	other geomorphological factors		
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Understudied 2" core profile completed every 2 years on greens, and 3 years on tees and fairways. Core is sent to 3 rd party for evaluation.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Using playbooks to track all fertilizers applications. Using a climate appraisal to determine needs for applications.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Daily hand weeding on greens, spot treating fairways and roughs. Course inspection is done daily to identify attention needed for weed/disease control.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Establish patterns and levels of risk for pests and diseases; Scout the course daily for early signs of pests and disease; Accurate pest and disease identification; Map and track pest and disease hotspots; Establish pest and disease thresholds	Course is scouted daily for signs of pests and disease. At the same time the course is hand weeded. Spot spraying is used when necessary.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use only legally registered and approved products; Ensure staff are fully qualified and licenced to use pesticides; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Use appropriate protective equipment; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf .	Grounds team has 4 people with certifications, Las Vegas does not have a requirement that each person must be certified. Provide in-house training for those without a license.
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; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas;	No established buffer zones when greens are near waterways. Fairways naturally sit at least 20' from ponds. CCIP: Please explore measures to establish buffer zones and spray control processes to ensure no runoff.

		Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	All materials are safely stored accordingly to local regulations. Local OSCHA inspection documentation provided and approved.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Maintenance equipment is washed on impermeable surface with proper drainage. Course worked with local municipality to develop a drain system that allows the chemicals to be treated.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	All materials are safely stored accordingly to local regulations. Local OSCHA inspection documentation provided and approved. Eye wash, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits are available, along with emergency response and spill containment kits.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Confirmed water discharge is per local regulation through the local municipality.

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	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	Fairways are Bandera Bermuda grass and greens are dominator bent grass. Both are considered normal practices for this area. Bermuda grass has a lower demand for water compared to other potential species.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	In 2024, the city limited the water usage from 6.3 to 4 acre-feet per irrigated acre per year. This has led to TPC Summerlin following a policy that regularly inspects their irrigation performance to reduce excess watering. They also scout the course daily verifying if any irrigation leaks or overly watered areas are present.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	Clubhouse is equipped with low gallon automatic flush toilets/urinals. Locker rooms are going to be remodelled in 2025 and upgraded to low gallon automated system.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	Las Vegas regulates all rainwater and course is not allowed to operate any recapture.

R2 Energy

R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	Facility is supplied power from the city municipality. Clubhouse is over 60% LED and working toward 100% over time.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills;	Golf course is going through renovations within the facility that include water fixtures and lighting.

		Categorise and track energy consumption	CIP: Please introduce an annual log of all utility bills to track usage and peg against an aggregate goal. E.g., by 2030, reduce electricity usage by 10%, and have 20% solar energy.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	No renewable forms of energy supplied at this time. CIP: The clubhouse is approximately 35,000 sqft and running roughly 30 AC units. I would recommend reviewing plans to provide solar energy for the clubhouse.
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	Undertake a review of materials consumed	Naturals consumed within the golf course are not locally sourced. Nothing local in the restaurant. CIP: Please try to work with local food growers to reduce your supply chain environmental impacts.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	Golfers are provided with water refill stations. Plus golfers are provided single use plastic water bottles. CIP: Please try to remove all single use plastics and styrofoam cups from the facility. This includes lids, cups, straws, and to-go containers. Consider using plant-based plastics that are biodegradable.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	Clubhouse separates trash and cardboard for proper disposal. Golf course separates aluminium cans from trash. There is no composting on site, and no 3rd party support at this time. CIP: Please explore the opportunity to compost all maintenance clippings, as discussed.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	All waste is collected by Republic Services, the local municipality.

COMMUNITY

C1 Outreach

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		There is a social calendar for members that includes a variety of events. Some of these events in the recent past include summer cookouts, Trivia Night, Murder Mystery Night, a Luau, live music on the patio, etc. There is also a very active racquet sports, swim, and fitness program and facilities at TPC Summerlin.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		TPC Summerlin's Adopt-A-Charity, REAL TALK, is a charitable program with a focus on at-risk youth. The Real Talk Youth Impact Program is focused on providing positive direction to youth in Southern Nevada and keeping children from entering the juvenile justice system. They achieve this by providing positive role models, reinforcing family values, and redirecting kids to extracurricular activities. All funding, and support needed for them to participate in an extracurricular activity of their choice is provided at no charge to the child. Real Talk will host their fifth annual golf tournament as part of their fundraising efforts. Each of these fundraising events have been held at TPC Summerlin with minimal cost to REAL TALK. To date, Real Talk has assisted more than 2,200 at-risk youth and \$300,000+ sponsored for extracurricular activities.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	Create a 'sustainability working group'	TPC Summerlin has 4 ponds on site that have a maintained ecosystem for fishery. Club worked with local kids to establish an ecosystem within the lakes on the golf course. CIP: Discussed ways the course could be more engaged with sustainable communications through their golfing community and other stakeholders. Please develop future goals that have involvement from neighbours and the local community groups.

C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		Members are encouraged to participate in multiple events such as tennis, pickleball, Pilates, the gym, and fitness programs. Staff members are allowed to play the course on Mondays, but the club also focuses on employee engagement and health through cookouts, hockey games, and other group outings.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	The average age of members is about 54. Golf course offers a junior membership, ladies league, junior clinics and camps.
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	TPC Summerlin is an equal opportunity employer and is a safe and professional work environment.
C3 Communications			
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	TPC Summerlin provides a weekly newsletter that provides an update on all things related to club. There are specific call outs regarding sustainability.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	TPC Summerlin has 4 ponds on site that have a maintained ecosystem for fishery. Club worked with local kids to establish an ecosystem within the lakes on the golf course. This allows for a more sustainable lake system, as well as community engagement.

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