

GEO Certified® Independent Verification Report



Golf Facility: Midland Country Club
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Executive Summary

Established in 1928, the Midland Country Club is located on approximately 100 acres in the heart of Midland Michigan. In addition to a magnificently stunning clubhouse, the site offers its 900 members and families access to resort style recreation that includes banquet facilities, an aquatic center, complete fitness and spa facilities and child care in their 'kids' corner'. The current clubhouse was built in 2010 utilizing the guidance of LEED sustainable building design.

The golf course is a 6,400-yard parkland gem that features a scenic pond surrounding the island green of the 18th hole. The course is bordered by tranquil neighborhoods and the Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens. A winding creek meanders gently throughout the course entering and exiting the property twice during its journey to the Tittabawassee River and eventually emptying into Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron.

Midland Country Club will host the 2019 Dow Great Lake Bay Invitation LPGA team event where many of the top-rated LPGA tour players will compete July 15-20th. In addition to this prestigious event, Midland Country Club has just been awarded an Emerald Certification from Boardroom Magazine Distinguished Club.

The onsite verification visit occurred May 25th, 2019 and was attended by the clubs General Manager, Controller, Superintendent and the facilities Maintenance Director. All participants were extremely well prepared with documentation and evidence supporting their sustainability efforts making verification very effective and efficient.

Nature

It was apparent from the early onset of the verification visit that all participants were very in tune with sustainability and environmental stewardship. It was evident that sustainability was inculcated throughout the organization with leadership from top management and directors. A sincere appreciation of the location, site, golf course and clubhouse were observed.

Naturalization efforts are practiced where ever possible but because of the small footprint of the property, minimizing managed turf areas is quite challenging. The Tree Legacy Program is a specific highlight that is focusing on the identification and evaluation of every tree on property. The goal is to replace invasive species with species indigenous to the location and environment. This is a long-term project that is monitored and updated on a regular basis.

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Midland CC engages several external agencies to assist with soil analysis, water testing, waste removal (including hazardous waste) and irrigation audits in a concentrated effort to improve playability while promoting sustainability.



Midland CC has a well-documented IPM program that includes objectives, structure, best practices, tree management, pest population definitions, threshold levels and monitoring practices. In addition to IPM, a very well designed and documented course maintenance checklist and golf course maintenance departmental guidelines which include several IPM practices. Midland observes buffer zones surrounding water and only spot sprays when necessary. Only two chemical and fertilizer applicators are trained, licensed and authorized to apply both chemicals and fertilizer. Regulations require applicators to obtain recertification every 3 years and current licenses were produced as evidence. An application and product log are updated and posted in the maintenance facility.

Emergency response plans, for both maintenance and clubhouse, are well documented and readily available for employees. All hazardous materials are securely kept in separate storage facilities in both the maintenance facility and clubhouse and both include MSDS sheets that are clearly visible. All appropriate disposal licenses were available for verification.

The maintenance facility at Midland CC is outstanding. Highlights include ventilation sensors and auto exhaust system for the entire facility, secured hazardous waste storage with concrete floors, spill containment kits and wash centers, secondary containment for fuel storage, designated mixing station and storage with impermeable concrete floors, an enclosed grinding/sharpening center and a state-of-the-art enclosed ESD waste2water equipment wash station system.

The clubhouse also employs multiple sustainability practices in its facility. A double grease interceptor in the kitchen separates fats, oils and grease from wastewater and stops it from entering the sewer system. The amount of effluents as a result are well below the regulatory standard. An effort is also underway to replace all fluorescent lighting with LED eliminating hundreds of fluorescent lights from waste facilities.

Resources

Resource management is of paramount importance to Midland CC. This is clearly evident by the multiple Utility Services Consumption Analysis reports that are reviewed and filed. Billing dates, Charge, Consumption and Units are tracked, grafted and filed based on billing date. Electricity is the primary energy source for the clubhouse. Golf carts and a limited amount of golf coursed machinery are electric. The remaining maintenance vehicles are gas operated. As an opportunity for improvement Midland CC should consider monitoring and tracking fuel consumption.

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City water is used by both the clubhouse and for irrigation of the golf course. Irrigation is double rowed and controlled by the Toro Lynx software system enabling the superintendent to monitor and manage irrigation remotely from a mobile smart device. This system was upgraded last year. A current initiative is underway to audit all irrigation heads for proper operation and functionality. Irrigation maps are available within the maintenance facility indicating head location and type. An irrigation map is also available on the Toro Lynx system. The daily maintenance checklist includes a daily test of soil moisture using the Turf-Tec International soil moisture meters that are available in the maintenance facility. No water is abstracted from the stream or ponds for irrigation purposes.

The clubhouse was design according to Leed specifications and is managed by Trane HVAC software that can also be monitored and controlled remotely by the Maintenance Director. All rooms have light sensors and will automatically shut the lights off when the area is not in use. All bathrooms employ automatic wash stations in sinks. Heating and cooling is also monitored and controlled remotely by the Maintenance Director utilizing the Trane HVAC software.

Recycling practices are in place for cardboard and paper within the clubhouse maintenance facility and loading docks, but greater visibility and separation could be realized throughout the clubhouse, golf course and maintenance facility.

Community

Midland CC takes great pride with regards to their community involvement and the treatment of clubhouse and maintenance staff. A well-documented employee handbook is available for review by staff and includes topics such as, club values, mission statements, general policies and information, code of conduct, conflict resolution procedures, equal opportunity employment statements, workplace harassment procedures, and health and safety guidelines.

As health and safety highlights, Midland CC offers its staff and a guest, Monday access to golf course providing push carts, access to fitness center 7 days a week, an employee wellness program that includes yoga, walks and personal training, and a "family meal" twice a day to staff with an emphasis on providing healthy options.

Midland CC is proud of their involvement within the community and charitable events. Many of the managers and directors volunteer their time in community events. The list is long and admirable and includes but is not limited to; donating roughly 100 rounds of golf per year to various charities as well as discounted pricing for charities that are looking to host events at the club. Bread and produce are donated to Open Door food bank, donations to Folds of Honor events spanning 3 years, members sitting on various board of directors, oversight and involvement in a community gardening project that grows produce for the less privilege, community involvement in programs such as Shelter House, Pancake Breakfast, Career Fair and The Rock fundraisers as well as Pantry Initiative (MI

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Pantry) that provides food and essentials to the community. Midland CC is also involved in a community watch program and is actively hosting Townhalls to discuss the DOW GLBI Tournament and how it will affect the community and neighborhood.



Midland CC has an established sustainability workgroup that includes the General Manager, Controller, Superintendent and the Maintenance Director.

Conclusion

As an independent accredited verifier, I recommend Midland CC to be awarded the GEO Certified® eco-label because of its high-quality commitment and dedication to sustainable golf. Midland CC has demonstrated environmental stewardship through its documentation, practices and commitment to continual improvement. This is evident by their efforts in improving water and energy consumption by installing monitoring and managing software, irrigation audits and maintenance, clubhouse energy saving practices, a state-of-the-art golf course maintenance facility and their sincere involvement in their community and desire to make the community a better place.