



## Red Wing Municipal Golf Corp.

### Beyond Golf

Other cities have successfully involved non-profits in partnership to manage golf courses. The city of Baltimore won a national award for innovation when it put the management of its five struggling municipal golf courses in the hands of a citizen nonprofit much like RWMGC.

The best thing about public/nonprofit partnerships, such as what RWMGC offers, is that the bottom line is not the bottom line. The bottom line is the community. That's not to say that the Red Wing municipal golf course won't be operated as a serious, legitimate, business, but rather to say that RWMGC will always consider what is best for the golf course and the community.

It can change the way the "City" interacts with the community. We hear term the term "new normal", and we'll be discovering what that will mean for some time to come.

A question to answer is whether the risk to the community in not moving forward with this public/private partnership is larger than the financial risk to the City.

Building Community Engagement. Large scale long-term projects.

Help develop the brand/image of the city, as an innovative, progressive community. What will this mean to businesses looking to relocate or emerge?

## **Audubon Sanctuary Program**

*A cooperative effort between the United States Golf Association (USGA) and Audubon International, this program promotes ecologically sound land management and the conservation of natural resources. Its positive impact extends beyond the boundaries of the golf course and helps benefit the community beyond. Golf courses work toward certificates of recognition in six categories. Audubon International provides each golf course with one-on-one assistance in devising an appropriate environmental plan.*

### *Environmental Planning*

*Each club generates a written plan outlining their goals and proposed projects. It provides a useful tool for clubs to monitor their progress in meeting their goals.*

### *Wildlife and Habitat Management*

*Management of non-play areas is crucial to providing habitat for wildlife on the golf course. Emphasis is given toward maintaining the best possible habitat for the course considering its location, size, layout, and type of property.*

### *Outreach and Education*

*Gaining the support of golfers for an environmental program is an invaluable asset. Focus is placed upon generating public awareness through education. Recognition of tasks well done continually reinforces the worth of the program.*

### *Chemical Use Reduction and Safety*

*A comprehensive and responsible program to control pests will ensure a healthy environment for both people and wildlife. Managing turf areas with environmental sensitivity requires educating workers and members about plant management, pesticide application, and use of fertilizers.*

### *Water Conservation*

*Consumption of previous water resources remains an issue at most golf courses. Attention is directed toward irrigation systems, recapturing and reuse of water sources, maintenance practices, and turf-grass selection.*

### *Water Quality Management*

*Questions about the impact of golf course chemical use on the water quality of lakes, streams, and groundwater sources abound. Strategies are devised to monitor water quality, protect wetlands, reduce erosion, filter runoff, and, if warranted, improve conditions.*

No restrictions are placed on the property as a condition of participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. All decisions concerning the implementation of program suggestions remain with the golf course superintendent and course officials.

*Each course pays a \$200 (U.S.)/\$250 (International) annual registration fee to participate in the program. Among the benefits that clubs receive are a Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course, 2nd edition, a Certification Handbook that helps to plan, organize, and document environmental efforts, and a subscription to Stewardship News, Audubon International's newsletter.*

This is an important program for the course and the community. We envision working with the Red Wing school district to help provide valuable experiential learning for students as the course pursues certification.

## **Solar Energy**

We are tremendously excited about the possibility of installing a solar electrical system for the course's irrigation, golf cart charging, lighting, and heating and cooling. Estimates show that 25-50% of a course's energy use is used just by pumping stations for the irrigation system. Even during the off-season, we could be generating income.

A solar electrical system could significantly reduce operational costs, generate income, while at the same time help the community gain expertise in the analysis of, and contracting for, solar utility programs.

*"Golf courses provide an ideal venue for solar energy as a significant portion of their electric expenses result during daylight hour usage, enabling them to go green on the green..."* said Standard Solar President Scott Wiater.

## **Where Golf is Played**

This precious space, that the people of Minnesota and the generous citizens of Red Wing have entrusted to us all, is so much more than a golf course. True, it is a place where people play golf. But it's not just a golf course, and it's not just a line in a budget, and, unlike a depreciated tractor, it's useful life has not ended.

Trails, Hiking, Cross-Country Skiing, Special Events, Field Classroom & Laboratory.

Special Events: Possibilities include Spring Bird Migration Seminar, Summer Solstice Concert, 4th of July Fireworks, Romantic Dinner on the Bluffs, Harvest Moon Highland Hay-rides.

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Thinking "Beyond Golf", we see us creating broad community interest, support, and participation. From student involvement, to non-golfers, all wanting to be involved in Audubon Certification, Solar Energy, or other projects. These are concrete plans that can be commenced immediately, with City Council approval, and will pay dividends to the community for many years, in many ways.