

Groundwater Guardian Green Site

What

The Groundwater Guardian Green Site (GG Green Site) program was developed to recognize good stewards of groundwater by encouraging managers of highly-managed green spaces to implement, measure, and document their groundwater-friendly practices. The program also serves to expand and enhance the existing community-based Groundwater Guardian program by presenting a land-use/best practices component to Groundwater Guardian teams and other interested partners.

The GG Green Site program will calculate, document, and recognize the environmental and water quality benefit of groundwater-friendly practices on highly-managed green spaces. Designation is based on the completion of an application and earning at least 70% of total applicable points based on current practices related to pesticide and fertilizer use, water use, managing sources of pollution, protecting water quality, and environmental stewardship.



program and no affiliation with a Groundwater Guardian team is necessary.

Why

Being guardians and good stewards of groundwater is something managers and superintendents of highly-managed green spaces strive to do every day, whether it's through protecting a well, using water efficiently, managing fertilizer and pesticide use, or controlling runoff. The GG Green Site program was designed to celebrate and recognize highly-managed green spaces for their groundwater stewardship by:

- Publicly recognizing highly-managed green spaces for their groundwater stewardship.
- Generating positive PR for each site.
- Providing an opportunity for managers and superintendents of highly-managed green spaces to educate themselves, site staff, and site visitors about groundwater.
- Documenting the environmental benefit of each site's groundwater-friendly practices.
- Encouraging the sustained use of groundwater-friendly practices on highly-managed green spaces.

When

There's no time like the present! Sites can take advantage of the exclusive GG Green Site logo and name as soon as they are designated, helping to show off the site's

groundwater stewardship efforts to site visitors and the community.

Managers applying for GG Green Site status complete and submit the application by December 31 to be designated in that program year. To maintain GG Green Site designation, sites simply review their application for accuracy on an annual basis. GG Green Sites designated prior to The Groundwater Foundation's National Conference, held each November, are nationally recognized in conjunction with the Groundwater Guardian National Designation Celebration.

How

Each GG Green Site uses a simple application to collect data and document the environmental impact of their groundwater-friendly practices, such as pounds of fertilizer saved annually by using lower input plants, gallons of water saved annually by using low water/ maintenance plant materials, and amounts of toxic substances disposed of properly. GG Green Sites also document their efforts, both for site staff and externally for site visitors. The application itself serves dual purposes – first, as a way to objectively and uniformly evaluate each site's practices, and second, as an educational tool for site managers and staff to learn about the positive impact of the work they do. All information submitted to

The Groundwater Foundation in GG Green Site program applications is confidential, and will not be shared without the permission of the GG Green Site.

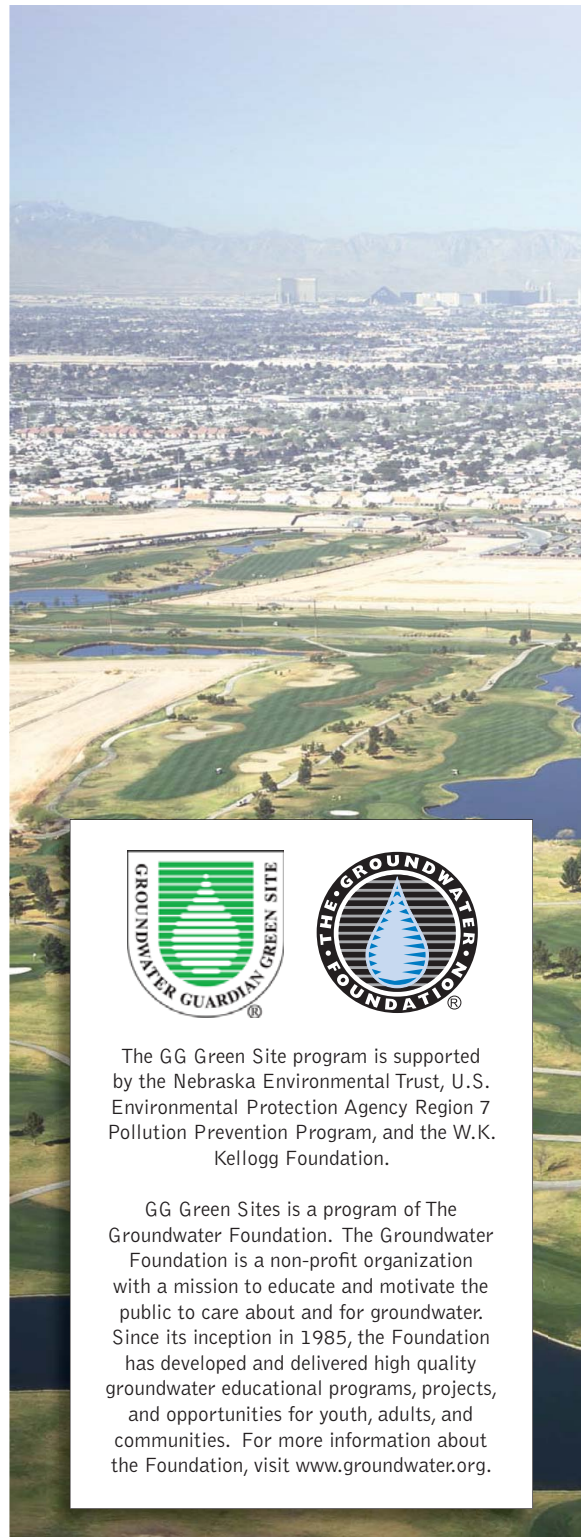
To learn more about or participate in the GG Green Site program, visit www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html or contact The Groundwater Foundation at 1-800-858-4844 or guardian@groundwater.org. To learn more about the Groundwater Guardian Community program, visit www.groundwater.org/gg/gg.html.

Groundwater is important in so many ways. Over 50% of the U.S. population utilizes groundwater as a source of drinking water. Industry, agriculture, and recreation also rely on groundwater to help their businesses thrive. However, because of its hidden nature, groundwater is often misunderstood and underappreciated. Being guardians and good stewards of groundwater is something everyone can do in their daily lives, whether it's protecting a well, using water efficiently, managing fertilizer and pesticide use, or controlling runoff.



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The GG Green Site program is supported by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Pollution Prevention Program, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

GG Green Sites is a program of The Groundwater Foundation. The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and motivate the public to care about and for groundwater. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has developed and delivered high quality groundwater educational programs, projects, and opportunities for youth, adults, and communities. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.groundwater.org.

Become a Groundwater Guardian Green Site

