



Groundwater Guardian Green Site program

A program of The Groundwater Foundation created to recognize highly-managed green spaces for their groundwater and environmental stewardship. Site managers complete an application that uniformly evaluates their current practices related to pesticide and fertilizer applications, water use, managing sources of pollution, and protecting water quality.

Participating Groundwater Guardian Green Sites have documented a reduction of roughly 100,000 pounds of fertilizer, a reduction in pesticide use of 38%, a savings of over 224,000,000 gallons of water, and the proper disposal of thousands of pounds of potentially toxic substances like batteries, used oil, antifreeze, and tires.

Sites all across the country are implementing a variety of innovative groundwater-friendly practices:

The **U.S. Geological Survey National Center** in Reston, Virginia is writing components of the Green Site application into their contract with an outside turf maintenance company to ensure practices meet program standards.

The **Salina Country Club** in Salina, Kansas is implementing a number of water conservation measures, including converting to more drought-tolerant varieties of grass throughout the course, updating the club's irrigation system with a state-of-the-art computer system that includes moisture, and recycling water from clubhouse ice machines to supply a small waterfall and to water ornamental plants and gardens.



Numerous sites have increased natural "no-mow" areas on their site to reduce pesticide, fertilizer, and water use. Selected sites include **Arbor Links**, Nebraska City, Nebraska; **Heritage Hills Golf Club**, McCook, Nebraska; **Hickory Hills Golf Club**, Grove City, Ohio; **Wilderness Ridge Golf Course** in Lincoln, Nebraska; **Sand Creek Station Golf Course**, Newton, Kansas; and the **City of Lincoln Park Districts**, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The **Players Club at Deer Creek** in Omaha, Nebraska; **Missouri Baptist University** in St. Louis, Missouri; **Valparaiso Country Club** in Valparaiso, Indiana; **Down Valley Park** in Placerville, Colorado; and **Ricky and Lucy's Country Greenhouse** in Sidney, Nebraska have all begun using organic fertilizers on their site.

Education is an important component of the Green Site program, as The Groundwater Foundation encourages sites to educate both site staff and visitors about groundwater and natural resources. The **Eastern Nebraska 4H Center** near Gretna, Nebraska; the **Lawrence Country Club** in Lawrence, Kansas; **Gifford Farm Education Center** in Bellevue, Nebraska; **Cabot's Museum** in Desert Hot Springs, California; **Sunset Zoo** in Manhattan, Kansas, and the **Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park** in Springfield, Missouri have all expanded their education efforts to include groundwater and their Green Site designation.



Doane College in Crete, Nebraska maintains the Doane College Osterhout Arboretum as part of their site's designation. The Arboretum includes 160 species of trees and shrubs and a wide variety of flowering plants and bushes, all of which are maintained with responsible fertilizer, pesticide, and water use. Doane has also updated their application equipment to ensure proper fertilizer and pesticide applications, and has revised their irrigation plan to reduce water use.

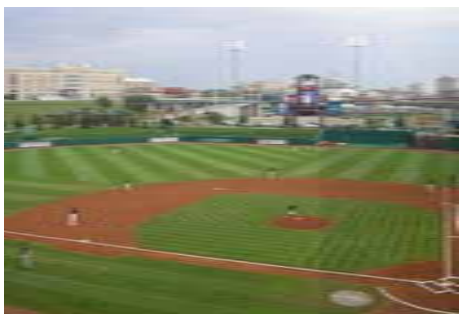
Many sites have implemented other groundwater-friendly practices to earn Green Site designation, such as using native plants, installing buffers along surface water, using recycled water to irrigate the site, recycling, increasing wildlife habitat areas, installing rain gardens, maintaining no-application zones around wellheads, regularly testing private drinking water wells onsite, and regularly testing soil to determine nutrient needs.

The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program:

Prompts site managers to examine their operation and groundwater-friendly practices.

"As a golf course manager, I've always been cognizant of the importance of groundwater protection and usage. At a time when our industry and others are being scrutinized for environmental practices, the Green Site program is a non-invasive program of self evaluation. It is a proactive approach that demonstrates to the public an awareness and a commitment to a future of sustainable ecology."

Bill Bieck, Superintendent
Heritage Hills Golf Course, McCook, NE



Enables participating site managers to see how their practices impact water resources.

"The Green Site application made me think about all the ways that what we do impacts water. I hadn't really thought about our operation that way before."

Jen Roeber, Assistant Athletic
Turf Manager
Haymarket Park, Lincoln, NE

For more information about the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program, please visit www.groundwater.org, call 402-434-2740, or email guardian@groundwater.org.



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