

The Signature Sanctuary Program

What is the Signature Sanctuary Program?

The Signature Sanctuary Program is an environmental education and certification program created to help landowners and managers follow comprehensive sustainable resource management principles when developing and managing properties. By working closely with planners, architects, managers, and key stakeholders, the Signature Sanctuary Program helps landowners and developers design for the environment so that both economic and environmental objectives are achieved and sustained in the long-term.

How does it work?

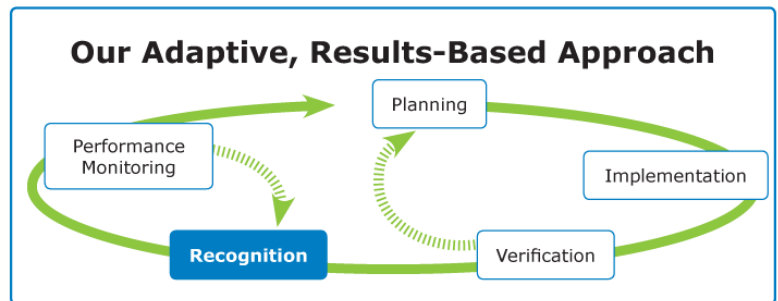
The Signature Sanctuary Program starts where minimum environmental compliance leaves off, offering a "beyond compliance" approach, continues through construction, grand opening, and long-term management. In addition to minimum certification standards, each project is given the opportunity to work towards three (bronze/silver/gold) different levels of certification. The program is flexible and adaptable to the project, but generally involves:



Collier's Reserve, Naples, Florida

First certified Signature Sanctuary in the world –1994!

- **Initial Site Assessment**- An on-site assessment is conducted by Audubon International staff and the project team to evaluate existing natural resources and how the resources may be impacted by the development project.
- **Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP)**-The site-specific plan serves as a guide for the construction and management of the property focusing on wildlife management, habitat enhancement, waste management, energy efficiency, water quality and conservation, integrated pest management, and chemical/petroleum storage and usage practices.
- **Environmental Audit**– Once construction is complete, Audubon International will complete a final audit with the project team and assess compliance with program and site-specific requirements for long-term management in accordance with Signature Sanctuary Program standards.
- **Certification**- To become certified, a project must implement the approved NRMP, meet the minimum certification standards and site-specific requirements set forth by Audubon International, and pass the final on-site environmental audit.
- **Recertification**- Demonstrating continued maintenance of program criteria, implementation of the NRMP, and Outreach and Education activities are necessary for recertification. Project staff will submit an annual update describing progress in major program areas. Projects will host a site visit from a member of a local environmental group on year two after the environmental audit. Subsequent site-audits are conducted every third year by Audubon International staff.



What is the cost?

\$7,500 to register which includes two site visits (excluding expenses), AI labor through certification, and first year membership fee. There is a \$500 membership fee each year thereafter and an \$800 recertification site visit fee every three years.

"We have always shared Audubon International's philosophy that nature and golf can coexist in a shared environment. We worked hand in hand to achieve this balance and found in many cases that the Audubon habitat requirements enhanced the beauty and intrigue of the golf experience. For example, the restoration of the dunes will stabilize them from serious wind erosion, restore valuable wildlife habitat, and serve as one of the key aesthetic backdrops for the golf course. It's certainly a win-win situation for everyone."

- J. Drew Rogers, ASGCA, Oitavos Dunes, Cascais, Portugal
- Oitavos Dunes ranked #55 Golf Course in the World!

For more information, please contact:

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