

November 14, 2017

Michael Comba
Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club
2100 Kings Highway
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Dear Michael,

Thank you for returning your *Neighborhood Project Forms* -- I enjoyed learning more about what your community has achieved for resource conservation, community awareness, and wildlife! Congratulations! Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club has been granted the **Neighborhood for Nature Award!**

Enclosed you will find a press release and Certificate. We commend you for all of the projects you've undertaken in the **Wildlife, Water, Outreach & Education, Resource Management, and Community Awareness** tracks to enhance wildlife habitat, achieve sensitive maintenance practices, and inform people of your commitment to environmental quality.

We are pleased that you had success with so many projects.

Your completed and planned efforts to provide education and awareness efforts to your residents are excellent. Educating residents about the various initiatives taking place at Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club through the Natural Resources Committee website is a great way to get them engaged. Similarly, as the tree count and inventory project progresses, be sure you're explaining the relevance of this data on the website so that residents know why choosing the right tree for the right place is so important. Also, you could let residents know how they can contribute to any restoration efforts, whether through donations or volunteering their time.

Additionally, converting horticultural waste into mulch is an innovative way to reduce the environmental impact on the waste stream by instead converting it into mulch onsite. You also mentioned that you're reducing truck fuel and oil usage by reducing your shipments of waste out of the community, as well as shipments of mulch into the community. Communities can best celebrate their accomplishments in diverting waste from the landfill when they can provide more precise data in tons or pounds diverted, or dollars saved. Think about collecting data from your waste management providers on the tonnage of trash that now leaves the community annually.

When you reference Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club's involvement in the Green Neighborhoods program, please use wording that Maple Leaf "is a Green Neighborhoods member" or "has received the Neighborhood for Nature Award from Audubon International." The Green Neighborhoods Program is a



unique program at Audubon International that recognizes members through awards, instead of with certification. When looking to expand efforts, the Sustainable Communities Program offers a certification for communities that successfully complete the three-stages of assessment, planning, and implementation across a comprehensive suite of focus areas. Please let me know if you would like more information about the Sustainable Communities Program, which could help your community further achieve its goals.

As you continue to implement Neighborhood-Wide Awareness and Education Projects, please be sure to contact us with any questions and visit our online reference library at www.auduboninternational.org/news-and-resources. Should you find that you need additional resources or educational materials, please don't hesitate to call me at 518-7679051 ext. 124. You can also reach me by email at jessica@auduboninternational.org. We're here to serve as a resource for you and help make your Green Neighborhood a success. We hope to see your property receive a Neighborhood for Nature every year!

We are proud that Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club is the first community to be recognized as a Neighborhood for Nature in 2017. You have set the bar high, and we hope others will follow your strong lead.

Sincerely,

Jessica Latus
Director of Sustainable Community Programs