

November 15, 2018

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, outreach and education, water quality and 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 efforts to plant Florida friendly plants for pollinators is excellent. Native plantings will also help to reduce maintenance costs, and aide in water conservation efforts. Furthermore, educating residents about the variety of trees and palms on the property through the 2018 tree calendar is a great way to make everyone aware of the variety of flora in the community. In future materials, consider also including information such as links to Florida Friendly landscaping guides and noting the dangers of planting invasives.

Waste reduction is also a great, and often challenging, goal. You mentioned that you are seeing improvements in recycling through your metal recovery efforts, and we commend you for reinvesting the funds in to the community. Educating residents about the importance of responsible waste disposal by encouraging recycling at community events, or by asking residents to bring their own dishware, are great steps to reduce the community's overall impact on the waste stream. We would still encourage you to think about publicizing the tonnage of waste diverted from the landfill through these initiatives, because communities can best celebrate their accomplishments when they 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.

Lastly, your continued trace metal analysis efforts are wise, and we commend you for working towards solutions to lessen Maple Leaf's susceptibility to flooding.

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](http://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. 142. You can also reach me by email at [jessica@auduboninternational.org](mailto: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 Florida community to be recognized as a Neighborhood for Nature in 2018. You have set the bar high, and we hope others will follow your strong lead.

Sincerely,



Jessica Latus  
Director of Sustainable Community Programs