



Cincinnati Recreation Commission Golf Portfolio

Protect Our Outdoor Escape

Mission Statement

To sustainably manage our golf courses in ways that protect natural resources while delivering an exceptional community golf experience.

Vision Statement

CRC golf courses will set the standard for environmental stewardship by protecting waterways, supporting ecosystems, and enhancing urban recreation.

Core Value

We preserve our heritage as an outdoor escape by responsibly stewarding our land, water, and green spaces to enrich the lives of our community.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission Golf Portfolio recognizes its responsibility to serve as both a recreational resource and steward of vital urban green space within the Ohio River Basin ecosystem. Our golf courses are sustainably managed to protect natural resources, preserve water quality, and support healthy ecosystems while delivering an exceptional community golf experience. Through responsible stewardship of our land, waterways, and habitats, we preserve our heritage as outdoor escapes that enrich the lives of Cincinnati residents and visitors.

Operational Sustainability Initiatives

Carbon Reduction & Energy Efficiency

- Utilization of lithium-electric utility vehicles across golf operations
- Lithium-powered hand tools including blowers, trimmers, drills, and other maintenance equipment
- LED lighting upgrades in clubhouse and maintenance facilities
- Motion-activated lighting systems to reduce unnecessary energy usage
- Installation and use of energy-efficient food & beverage equipment
- New 2026 Club Car Tempo golf cart fleet featuring improved fuel efficiency and reduced CO₂ emissions compared to the previous fleet. This includes 10–20% lower carbon emissions and 10–18% better fuel efficiency, overall, the entire CRC Golf fleet will reduce emissions by roughly 80–140 metric tons of CO₂ annually.

Waste Reduction & Recycling

- Portfolio-wide recycling program includes clubhouse facilities, parking lots, and on-course waste stations. Based on annual play exceeding 300,000 rounds, CRC Golf Courses have the potential to divert more than 100 tons of recyclable material from landfills each year through comprehensive recycling and waste reduction initiatives
- Elimination of Styrofoam products in food & beverage operations
- Water refill stations in each clubhouse to encourage reusable water bottles and reduce plastic waste
- Hand dryers installed in restrooms to reduce paper towel consumption
- Sale of recycled golf balls through golf shop operations
- Digital scorecard functionality through the mobile app to reduce paper scorecard usage

Environmental Protection & Resource Management

- Strict used-oil containment and disposal procedures across maintenance operations
- Protection and preservation of wetland areas throughout the golf portfolio
- Expansion of naturalized no-mow areas to support wildlife habitat and reduce fuel and resource consumption

Agronomy & Golf Course Stewardship Practices

Water Quality & Runoff Protection

- Conservative fertilizer and chemical application practices are designed to minimize runoff into surrounding waterways including the Ohio River, Little Miami River, Mill Creek, and Muddy Creek
- Use of natural buffer zones around ponds, streams, and environmentally sensitive areas
- Application timing and operational practices designed to reduce environmental impact during spraying and turf management operations

Sustainable Turf Management

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices focused on reducing unnecessary chemical usage through monitoring, prevention, and targeted treatment methods
- Professionally trained agronomy teams following best management practices for safe and responsible turf applications
- Expansion of no-mow native areas to reduce inputs while supporting pollinators and natural ecosystems
- Preservation and protection of wetlands and environmentally sensitive habitats located throughout the golf courses

Education & Environmental Outreach

- Partnership with GCSAA's First Green program, utilizing the golf course as a living laboratory for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) education
- CRC Golf course superintendents actively support First Green initiatives by helping provide hands-on outdoor learning opportunities focused on wildlife habitat, soil science, environmental sustainability, water conservation, water quality, and career exploration
- The program helps connect students and the community to the environmental importance of golf courses and the role sustainable land management plays within the Ohio River Basin ecosystem
- Education of over 300 local kids annually through partnership with the First Tee and CRC's Community Outreach Program

Future Sustainability Initiatives

The CRC Golf Portfolio remains committed to expanding its environmental stewardship efforts through continued investment in sustainable operations, resource conservation, and responsible golf course management practices.

- Development of composting programs to reduce food & beverage waste across clubhouse operations
- Implementation of GPS-powered sprayer technology to improve application accuracy and reduce chemical overspray
- Installation of designated wash pads for agronomy equipment and golf carts to better contain and manage runoff
- Continued investment in lithium-powered maintenance and operational equipment to further reduce emissions and fuel consumption
- Expansion of partnerships with vendors and suppliers that demonstrate strong environmental and sustainability practices
- Support of fundraising and community engagement initiatives that promote and strengthen local green and environmental programs

Through these initiatives, the CRC Golf Portfolio continues to balance exceptional public golf experiences with responsible environmental stewardship while protecting the waterways, ecosystems, and green spaces that serve the Cincinnati community for generations to come.

PROTECT AND PRESERVE
SAVE OUR ECOSYSTEMS
RESPECT OUTDOOR LIFE
ENJOY A GREAT ESCAPE