

## An Eco-Friendly Golf Course the Solution

Limpid blue skies. Immaculate air. Crystal clear water. Prospering economy. A magnificent time to be alive in the beautiful country that we are blessed beyond measures to be a part of. -But then it all went downhill from there. No more nights looking up to the heavens to see the astonishing stars looking back down. No more enjoying the deep breathes taken on a warm morning run because the air is full of harmful substances. No more camping trips ended with a fish fry because there is very little healthy life wildlife left to catch due to polluted water. No more magnificent times to be alive in the no longer beautiful land we have created. There is way to stop this devastating change from taking place, but smart decisions have to be made by citizens in how we get rid our waste, conserve our resources, and use our land. Recently, a large tract of land was purchased and the use is being decided. This is one of those decisions that help to decide the future of the environment. There are several different proposals submitted for the purpose of the land, but the best option is the building of a golf course. The best proposal for this land is the construction of a golf course because we can use natural fertilizers and turf grass. Additionally, golf is a huge revenue source to our tourist economy.

Because of the topography of our land, the preservation of the watershed is very important. Golf courses are known for their lush, well-kept grass. Of course, grass is not kept perfect without some help. The use of fertilizers is not a secret, but the use of natural fertilizers that many golf courses have referred to is not widely known. According to Mike Hurdzan, a brilliant golf course architect, the argument against pesticides and fertilizers is invalid. "The criticism regarding pesticides and fertilizer is almost a nonissue

now, because the amount of real containment that we put into the environment is really small" ("Turfgrass absorbs and filters rain and runoff water"). Legumes, manure, guano, and sludge are some various natural fertilizers. No doubt, they contain much smaller nutrients levels than chemical fertilizers of the same weight. On the other hand, they help the soil retain moisture and resist erosion. They do the same job as chemical fertilizers, but do not cause the destruction of the watershed. The natural fertilizers are well worth the money to produce because of the benefits and problems they solve. Also, livestock on farms in the U.S alone produce at least 1 billion tons of manure annually, so the shortage of animal waste will never be an issue ("Fertilizer").

Because of the water cycle and natural causes, when rain comes down, it must make its way back up. In the process, some runoff soaks into the ground and becomes groundwater. It then flows into the local rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans. While flowing as groundwater, the water can sometimes be damaged by the area. When using the chemical fertilizers, they seep into the ground and mix in with the passing water. This affects the pollution rate and local wildlife. However, there are two solutions to that issue. As stated earlier, one solution is to use the natural fertilizers that do not harm the soil and the runoff. The other solution is to use turf grass. Turf grass helps with filtration of water used on the golf course before it gets to the larger bodies of water. "As water soaks into the grass and the soil below, it is filtered and cleansed. This process is so effective that many golf courses have become water recycling sites for their communities, using treated wastewater for irrigation" ("Golf Courses Benefit People and the Environment"). Also, the turf grass does not damage or change the animal in habitation. It is still home for many species and provides all of their needs. Installing turf

grass is worth the money because it filters water before it gets to the larger bodies of water, and it does it damage the thriving golf course ecosystem.

Another reason that the golf course is the best proposal idea is because of the revenue that it would bring in. Myrtle Beach is known for our beautiful beaches and golf courses that pull in tourists from every state and sometimes different countries. Our economy thrives on the money that they spend. Without attractions to draw them in, such as golf courses and country clubs, our economy would drop significantly. As of December 2015, United States golf courses total revenue figures were around 24 billion dollars. Almost 321,000 citizens were employed. There were around 11,000 working clubs ("Golf Courses & Country Clubs in the US: Market Research Report"). As a result, golf courses are a huge way that helps the economy stay afloat.

Many argue against golf courses because of the amount of water they use. Using the previously-mentioned turf grass would not cut down water usage, however it would make it possible to use nontreated waste water. This is because the turf grass filters the water that is used for irrigation between the stages of runoff and groundwater. So, the nontreated water can be used and be filtered by the grass to make it easier to treat and return to available drinking water. The same study conducted by the United States Golf Association on the use of turf grass explained,

In urban areas, the water collecting in parking lots, streets and vacant lots can be full of pollutants. Turf areas provide a good growing environment for many microorganisms. These microorganisms, in turf, help cleanse water by digesting the pollutants in the trapped water and speeding up their normal breakdown ("Golf Courses Benefit People and the Environment").

Therefore, there is a valid solution to that argument.

If we want to continue to enjoy those camping trips, stargazing nights, and morning jogs, we have to make those smart decisions that will preserve our Earth and be in the best interest of us as citizens. The best proposal for the use of the land is the construction of a golf course because conservation issues may be solved through the use of natural fertilizers and turf grass, and golf is a huge revenue source to our tourist economy.

## Works Cited

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