

**Office of the City Manager
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Haymaker Golf Course Earns Sustainability Recognition

Steamboat Springs, CO (September 29, 2009) - The second annual 2009 Golf Inc. Green Award recipients were recently announced and the city-owned Haymaker Golf Course in Steamboat Springs, CO, the only Colorado course recognized, received Honorable Mention for its sustainability accomplishments.

The winners, according to an August, 2009 article by Jim Dunlop of Cypress Magazines, “were chosen on the basis of their outstanding and innovative programs and practices that protect and preserve the environment.”

In 2000, Haymaker was the first course in Colorado to receive Audubon International Signature Certification. Environmental sustainability has been a cornerstone of the course, both during development and in continued operations. “We are really excited to have received recognition by the Golf, Inc. awards,” said Course Superintendent Bill Whelihan.

A local environmental consultant, Lyn Halliday, of Environmental Solutions Unltd, has been working with course managers to assist them with their sustainability program. “Sustainable initiatives at Haymaker include improving water quality in surrounding areas, recycling waste and wastewater, preservation of important wildlife habitat, water conservation techniques, energy conservation and reduced use of herbicides and fertilizers,” Halliday said.

The Green Awards recognized Haymaker for practices such as water conservation and wildlife diversity. Water usage has been reduced by an estimated 29% annually through better irrigation management practices and by reducing the acreage irrigated to only 83 acres, small in comparison to other courses. A computer software program is used to monitor and manage turf needs from a central location. Fine tuning adjustments to each sprinkler head are made remotely. The cost of the software has more than paid for itself through energy savings, leak detection, and labor cost savings over the years. Additional water savings are realized through the washwater recycling program where water is treated then reused for cart washing and other non-potable uses.

Another example of the program at Haymaker is continuous monitoring and enhancement of wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Over the years, species diversity has in fact improved to include bald eagles, great blue herons, a variety of water fowl as well as many migrant birds and an occasional endangered species such as the Wilson’s Phalarope. Twenty-two bird nesting boxes and bat houses, built by the High School shop class students, have been placed throughout the course to encourage species to breed. This spring a local birding group made Haymaker a stop on their schedule.

Future programs to expand community outreach are planned. “The Haymaker is a fabulous asset to the community, one in which residents can take pride,” said City Council President Loui Antonucci.

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