

## **Mickelson National Golf Club Becomes Canada's First GEO Certified® Club: Leading the Way for Sustainable Golf Operations**

Rocky View County, Alberta – August 19, 2024 – Mickelson National Golf Club is proud to announce that it has been awarded the esteemed international certification for sustainable golf course and facility operations, GEO Certified®. This recognition confirms we have met the Standard and also underscores our club's efforts for environmental stewardship, resource efficiency, community engagement, and commitment to an ever-higher standard of sustainable practices and performance.

GEO Certification is verified by third-party auditors as part of the credible GEO certification process. Verifier Will Fleming said, "Standing on this course, one is immersed in indigenous plant life that seamlessly integrates nature with golf. The course's use of minimal machinery and chemicals, along with extensive hand weeding and manual bunker maintenance, also reflects a strong commitment to sustainability. I'm eager to see how the course will continue to grow its community ties and lead in environmental and social responsibility."

### **Celebrating Our Commitment to Sustainability**

"Mickelson National Golf Club is honored that this global accolade acknowledges the dedication and hard work of our entire team, from course management to clubhouse staff. Achieving GEO Certified® is a significant milestone, but it is also a steppingstone in our ongoing commitment to sustainable golf.

When this certification was introduced in Canada at the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) conference in November of last year, we knew we wanted to pull our team together to earn the accolade, helping us credibly and proudly share the work we have been doing in this area. We are also hopeful that our leadership can inspire other clubs throughout Canada to join the sustainable golf community." – Robin Sadler, Master Superintendent, Accredited Golf Superintendent, Mickelson National Golf Club.

"Congratulations to Mickelson National Golf Club on your leadership and dedication to sustainability through golf. This is a tremendous program, demonstrating both environmental stewardship and business value within the community. Being the first in Canada to achieve this full GEO certification is a very proud moment to celebrate." – Jeff Calderwood, CEO, NGCOA Canada.

"Congratulations to Mickelson National Golf Club for achieving the GEO Certification for Sustainability in Golf. Your initiative to become the first golf course in Canada shows your environmental leadership by embracing this program." – Kathryn Wood, CMP, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

## GEO Quote:

“Alongside our partners in Canada, NGCOA and Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA), we are excited to congratulate a very dedicated team at Mickelson National Golf Club and recognize their efforts through certification. The facility was able to demonstrate their implementation of best practices throughout a rigorous verification process in a quick and effective manner to become the first Canadian golf course to successfully complete the process. As a result of the certification process, Mickelson National not only joins a global platform for sustainable golf but gained insights to actionable opportunities for continuous improvement through initiatives in water management, emerging technologies, community engagement, and more.” – Carole Kerrey - Director, Certification, Data, & Reporting

## Key Highlights

We are proud to showcase some of the efforts that contributed to our certification:

- **Efficient Water Usage and Management:** The course has achieved year-on-year reductions in water use through minimal irrigation of rough areas and precision watering, ensuring water is utilized efficiently and only where needed.
- **Eco-Friendly Algae Control with Solar Power:** The newly installed solar-powered Ultrasonic Algae Control System minimizes algae growth ponds, fostering a healthier aquatic ecosystem and enhancing the visual appeal of the course, all while operating off the grid.
- **Biodiversity and Sustainable Honey Harvesting:** By participating in Operation Pollinator and collaborating with Harmony Honey, the club supports pollinator habitats and harvests honey onsite.
- **Efficient Water Recycling through Grass Clipping Separation:** A grass clipping separation system ensures recycled water can be used in equipment washing, helping to conserve water usage.
- **Irrigation with Reclaimed Water:** Using Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE) for irrigation improves turf health with natural nutrients, lowers environmental impact, and helps ensure a reliable water supply, especially during drought conditions.
- **Reduced Carbon and Noise with Lithium Fleet:** The shift to a fully lithium-based cart fleet has significantly cut carbon emissions, reduced fuel costs, and minimizes noise pollution, enhancing the experience for golfers and benefiting wildlife.
- **Fostering Community and Education:** The club partners with Harmony Junior Camp, First Tee, and Edge School Golf Program to host events and practice sessions. Since 2022, over 12 educational events have benefited more than 1,407 participants.

## A Vision for the Future

“Our journey doesn’t end here. As we celebrate this achievement, Mickelson National Golf Club remains committed to continuous improvement and innovation in sustainability. We will continue to seek cutting-edge practices that can enhance the golfing experience and also

contribute positively to our environment and community. Ideas and enthusiasm have started to come in from more and more people across our team, making sustainability a cornerstone of our operations.”. – Robin Sadler, Master Superintendent, Accredited Golf Superintendent, Mickelson National Golf Club.

### **About Mickelson National Golf Club**

As the first Phil Mickelson course in Canada, the facilities embody a legacy of excellence that’s second to none. From unique events to casual gatherings, Mickelson National Golf Club is where extraordinary moments become cherished memories. This private world-class course, situated minutes west of Calgary and nestled in the upscale community of Harmony, features dramatic elevations to entice golfers of every level.

Stretching over 240 acres, this leading-edge course offers a new benchmark for Alberta golfers, with challenging design, water features and sensational landscaping to reflect the nearby Rocky Mountains.

The club was rated #20 in all of Canada by SCOREGolf Magazine in its first year of eligibility.

### **About GEO Sustainable Golf Foundation**

The GEO Sustainable Golf Foundation is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to accelerating sustainability and climate action within the golf industry. Founded 18 years ago as a pioneer in the sport and sustainability movement, the Foundation focuses on advocacy, strategy, innovation, and credible recognition across both amateur and professional golf. GEO Certified® is the symbol of a great golf environment, validated by the Foundation’s ISEAL Code.