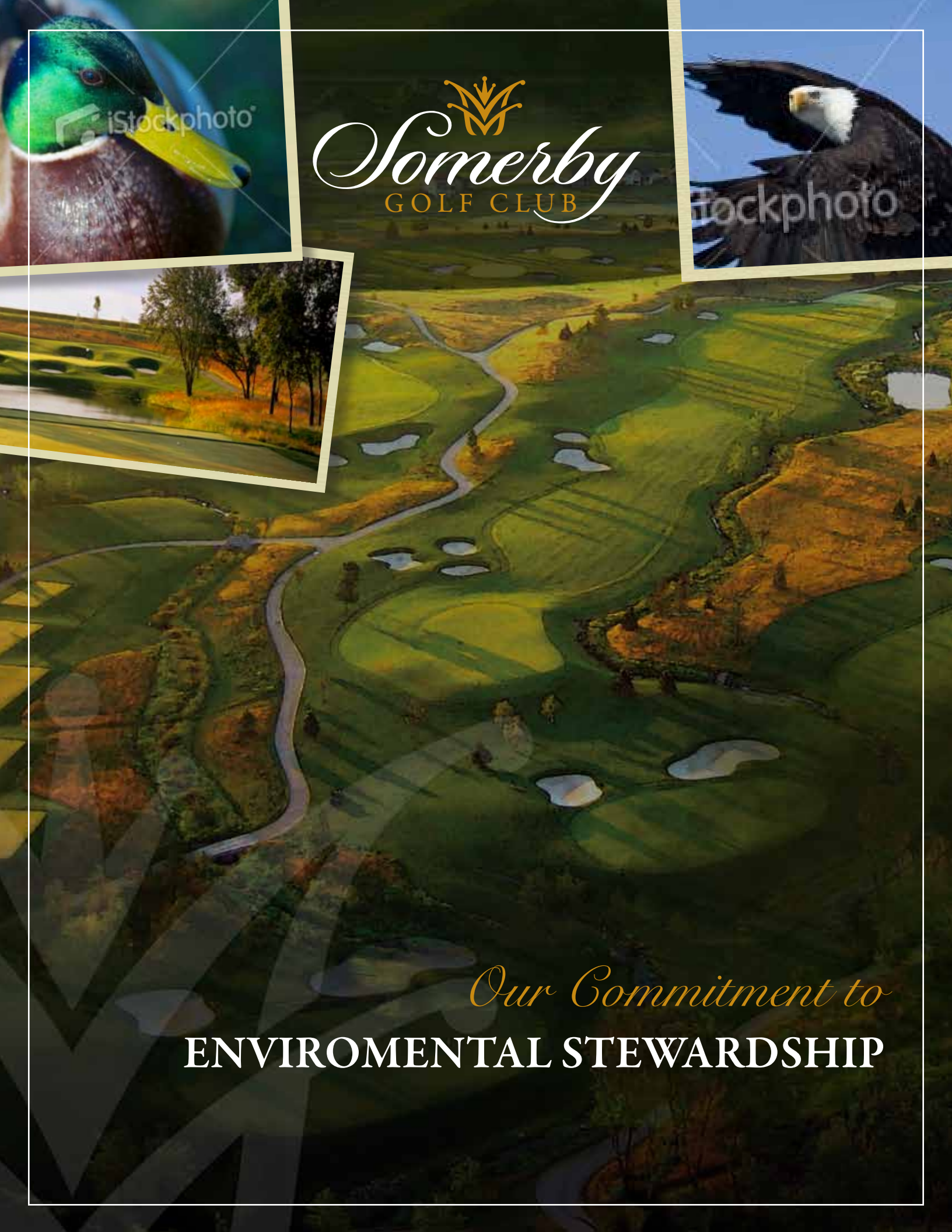




**Sommerby**  
GOLF CLUB



*Our Commitment to*  
**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

*Our Commitment to Environmental Stewardship as a*  
C E R T I F I E D  
A U D U B O N  
C O O P E R A T I V E  
S A N C T U A R Y

FROM ITS BEGINNING, SOMERBY GOLF CLUB HAS BEEN A STEWARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT. GOLF COURSE construction practices such as, irrigation system design and installation, grass species, surface water flow, and wildlife habitat were all selected with long term conservation practices in mind. We have been able to build on that foundation to expand upon environmental stewardship practices and incorporate those practices into our business model.

Somerby partnered with Audubon International to receive information and guidance to implement an environmental management plan. Audubon International is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and the environment through research, education, and conservation assistance. In addition, Audubon International facilitates the successful Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

The primary objective of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP) is to encourage environmental stewardship and conservation. The ACSP certification program is an effective avenue to publicly validate Environmental Stewardship. Somerby Golf Club became a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in February of 2006. Out of the 508 total Minnesota courses, Somerby is one of the 24 golf courses in Minnesota to have achieved this certification status. To become a Certified ACSP, Somerby Golf Club has embraced and successfully met the stringent criteria set for them by Audubon International. As a result, Somerby Golf Club proudly has the ability to provide detailed accounts of five main categories of certification.



## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- **LAWN CARE CLASS:** Provide education for homeowners including effective ways to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) into the maintenance of their lawns such as water, nutrient, and chemical conservation.
- **HOST EVENTS:** Somerby is host to local environmental groups to increase awareness of stewardship and aid their organization.
- **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY:** Somerby members donate their time cleaning up trash from a local section of a highway right of way.
- **MEMBER EVENTS:** Conduct informative meetings educating members of on course accomplishments and efforts.
- **EARTH DAY CLEANUP:** We have an annual Earth Day Cleanup of the Somerby Golf Community where residents and staff do thorough cleanup of residential areas.
- **A LITTER BIT BETTER PROGRAM:** Somerby provides sponsorship and support.
- **GOLF INDUSTRY MAGAZINE ARTICLES:** Somerby staff writes articles promoting their successful efforts while encouraging others within the golf industry to increase their own environmental stewardship.

## CHEMICAL USE REDUCTION & SAFETY

- **PLANT SELECTION:** The turfgrass cultivars grown at Somerby were selected for their superior disease resistance, reducing the amount of chemicals needed.
- **THRESHOLDS:** We inspect and monitor turf to determine when thresholds have been met and chemical use may be required.
- **CHEMICAL INPUTS:** When a certain chemical is utilized, it is typically selected based on its overall environmental impact.
- Chemicals are mixed, stored, and applied in a manner according to local, state, and federal regulations which is safe for the environment and applicator.
- Native areas and buffer strips reduce the total requiring area chemical inputs.

## WATER CONSERVATION

- An on-site weather station gathers and records weather data providing for accurate water use based on environmental factors such as wind speed, ambient temperatures, precipitation, and solar radiation ultimately equating to turfgrass specific evapotranspiration rates.
- Water use is conserved through daily soil moisture monitoring followed by site-specific irrigation, therefore applying additional irrigation only to the small areas that need it rather than larger sections covered via sprinkler irrigation.



- Wetting agents are utilized to increase water penetration and retention in the soil ultimately improving irrigation efficiency.
- Sprinkler irrigation is typically scheduled for overnight and early morning hours application to avoid times of high evaporation thereby having maximum efficiency.

## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- Water quality is tested regularly throughout the course.
- A series of wetlands and ponds located throughout the property, cleanse the water by filtering nutrients, sediment, and other potential contaminants as it flows through the golf course. In addition, preserved wetlands provide for groundwater recharge
- Fertilizer is typically applied in small quantities to allow for optimum plant use efficiency ultimately preventing potential leaching and runoff of mobile nutrients.
- During 2009, a one-acre pond was dredged, removing accumulated sediment that had entered the golf course property from adjacent land to the southeast. Upon completion the pond was restored to a depth of 10 feet hence improving the overall quality of the aquatic system. As part of this project, a sediment trap was installed to contain and inhibit future sediment from entering the pond, and the subsequent creeks thereafter.

## WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

- **NATIVE AREAS:** Of the 185 acres designated to the golf course, 75 acres (41%) are "low to no maintenance" native areas, prairie grasses, wetlands, ponds, and streams.
- **ADDITIONAL BIRDS:** Somerby members and staff feed birds throughout the winter and also have five wood duck houses.
- **EASTERN BLUEBIRD TRAIL:** Somerby members have sponsored an 18 nest bluebird trail throughout the golf course. This is a collaborative effort with the Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program (MBBRP) and is monitored regularly by a MBBRP volunteer.
- **WILDLIFE LOG:** A continuous log of wildlife observed throughout the golf course is recorded for use in outreach, education, and future comparisons (see detailed list).

## OTHER

- **ENERGY USE REDUCTION:** Somerby invited a professional representative from Minnesota Energy Company to conduct an "energy use audit" to analyze energy use, and since has successfully corrected areas of inefficiency.
- **RECYCLING:** Somerby staff separates and recycles waste from the golf course and maintenance operation.





#### ANIMALS

Field Mice  
Frogs and Toads  
Muskrat  
American Brown Mink  
Whitetail Deer  
Cotton tail rabbit  
Coyote  
Raccoon  
Squirrel  
Skunk  
Opossum  
Snapping Turtle  
Red Fox  
Bats  
Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, Sunfish,  
Bullheads, and other Fish

#### BIRDS

Black Bird / Starling  
English House Sparrow  
Killdeer  
Crow  
Canada Geese  
Blue Wing Teal  
Eastern Blue Bird  
Morning Dove  
Red Wing Black Bird  
Belted Kingfisher  
American Robin  
Common Grackle  
Mallard Duck  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Great Egret  
Oriole  
Great Blue Heron  
Barn Swallow  
Tree Swallow  
Chimney Swift  
American Goldfinch  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Red Tail Hawk  
Cardinal  
Northern Shoveler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Brown Headed Cowbird  
Rose Breasted Grosbeak  
Osprey  
Blue Jay  
Buffalohead Duck  
Ring Necked Pheasant  
Bald Eagle  
American Kestrel  
Canvasback  
Common Nighthawk  
Snowy Egret  
Turkey Vulture  
Sea Gull  
American Bittern  
Swan

**SOMERBY GOLF CLUB**  
975 Somerby Parkway NE  
Byron, Minnesota 55920  
(t) 507.775.3700 (f) 507.775.3701

[www.somerby.com](http://www.somerby.com)

