

# ELGA Application Questions

## General Information

Before proceeding to award-specific questions, you will have to provide some general information. This information will apply to all ELGA awards you apply for.

1. Full name (as you prefer it appear on promotional materials should you be selected a winner):  
Are you a certified golf course superintendent?
2. Number of years as a golf course superintendent:
3. Number of years at current facility:
4. How did you get started in the profession?
5. Education (high school, technical school, college, short courses):
6. Awards/honors/other environmental achievements:
7. Primary GCSAA affiliated chapter to which you belong (if a member of multiple chapters indicate chapter you want to be considered for an award with):  
Preferred mailing address (Club/Company or Home):
8. Industry/organization memberships:
9. Preferred Mailing Address:
10. Golf course name (as you prefer it appear on promotional materials):
11. Facility type: Public, Private, Resort, or International
12. Golf course city and state:
13. Number of holes:
14. Brief description of course (500 words maximum) (number of acres, turf types, terrain, soil, special challenges, etc.)
15. Estimated annual budget:
16. When was the course built?
17. Who was the builder/architect?
18. Has your facility developed a program to comply with environmental laws and regulations?
  - a. If yes, please explain your program
19. Name and contact information of local media for award announcement (Chapter publications automatically receive award announcements)

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## Healthy Land Stewardship Questions

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices

*(Integrated pest management involves using a variety of management measures to keep turfgrass pest populations below levels that are economically and aesthetically damaging, without creating a hazard to people and the environment.)*

1. Do you have a written IPM plan? Yes or No
2. Does your golf course set aside time for employee training in IPM practices? Yes or No
3. Do you have a written environmental policy statement included in your IPM plan? Yes or No
4. Does your IPM operation use proper record keeping including cost of products, application amounts and timing of application? Yes or No  
If Yes, what types of record keeping do you use? What observations do you record?
5. If your IPM plan contains goals, please list them below. (optional)
6. Are there any regulatory compliance practices that you maintain on your course related to IPM? Yes or No  
If yes, what are they?
7. Do you regularly scout for pests on your course? Yes or No
8. What turfgrass species can be found on your course that you have implemented for greens, tee's and fairways?  
Please make a bulleted list below.
9. Do you use course mapping techniques to analyze soils, course features, and turfgrass species? Yes or No  
If yes, what techniques do you use?
10. Do you use course mapping techniques to analyze location of pests and application of pesticides? Yes or No
11. Do you use biological pest management controls? Yes or No
12. Do you use manual labor pest management controls? Yes or No
13. Is your facility certified by Audubon International, ePar, GEO, etc.? Yes or No  
Please attach your certification here.
14. Do you use non-traditional cultural practices or pest control practices? Yes or No  
If yes, please list those practices below.

### Pollution Prevention

*(Pollution prevention is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source.)*

15. Do you have a written pollution prevention plan? Yes or No
16. Does your golf facility use employee training for emergency spills and pollution prevention procedures? Yes or No
17. Do you have a written environmental policy statement included in your pollution prevention plan? Yes or No

18. What types of record keeping do you use? What observations do you record?
19. If your pollution prevention plan contains goals, please list them below. (optional)
20. Do you have designated chemical/fertilizer storage areas apart of your maintenance facility? Yes or No  
If Yes, please describe the storage location.
21. Do you have policies and procedures in place to prevent a fuel spill or fire? Yes or No
22. Do you mix and load pesticides on a contained pad? Yes or No
23. Do you use organic products for fertilizer and chemical usage? Yes or No
24. Do you properly dispose of hazardous wastes? Yes or No
25. When cleaning off golf course equipment, do you use dry methods of cleaning, such as blowing of grass clippings? Yes or No
26. Are grass clippings kept out of ponds and waterways? Yes or No
27. Have you conducted a pollution prevention audit on your facility? Yes or No
28. Do you regularly manage your inventory for all chemicals and fertilizers? Yes or No
29. Do you actively seek out products that are safer for the environment? Yes or No  
If yes, please make a list below.

#### Waste Management

*(Waste management consists of the disposal or use of hazardous and non-hazardous materials on the golf course property.)*

30. Are there zero waste techniques in place at your facility? Yes or No  
If yes, please list different zero waste methods in use.
31. Do you have a written waste management plan? Yes or No
32. Does your golf facility use employee training for proper methods of waste disposal? Yes or No
33. Do you have a written environmental policy statement included in your waste management plan? Yes or No
34. Does your waste management plan use proper record keeping that includes waste disposal costs? Yes or No
35. What types of record keeping do you use for waste management? What observations do you record? Please list below.
36. Do you purchase your products in bulk? Yes or No
37. Are you currently striving to become a zero waste golf course? Yes or No
38. Do you recycle on your course? Yes or No  
If yes, list what types of materials you recycle.
39. Does your facility have waste reduction goals in place? Yes or No  
If yes, please list your goals below.
40. Do you collect food waste for compost? Yes or No
41. Do you compost recycled material for fertilizer usage? Yes or No
42. Approximately how many pounds of waste do you dispose of per year?

43. Approximately how many pounds of waste is recycled per year?
44. Please list innovative waste management practices found on your facility below.
45. Briefly describe how your efforts embody the purpose of this award or highlight a practice not featured above in the space below (300 word limit).
  
46. If you were to score as the top candidate in more than one ELGA award, you would only be awarded one. Please rank the Healthy Land Stewardship Award as it relates to the importance of you receiving this over the other(s). (If you only apply for one award this year, put a 1 here).
  
47. Additional documentation such as videos, photos, or certifications may be attached with written application to help demonstrate qualifications of winning the award. Uploads are limited to 500 MB (Optional).

## Innovative Conservation Award Questions

### Innovative Practices

*(Unique management strategies that further the profession.)*

Please describe the importance of your innovation and how it has helped your facility, the environment and the golf industry.

1. Briefly describe your innovation or innovative practice. Limit: 900 characters (approximately 100 words)
2. Has your management practice moved your organization forward in developing a new and creative way of doing things? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe.
3. Has your innovation been documented and recorded to provide detailed, measurable results to quantify the impact? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe your measurable results.
4. Has your management practice been adopted by other superintendents in the industry? Yes or No  
If yes, to what extent has your management practice been adopted?
5. How has your innovation shown to improve efficiency?
6. How long has your innovation been impacting the golf course industry? 0-1 years, 1-3 years, 3-5 years, 5-10 years, 10 or more years.
7. Has your innovation initiated other inventions or new management practices within the industry? Yes or No  
If yes, what innovations have been created following yours; how many?
8. How would you differentiate your innovation from existing management practices?
9. Has your management practice saved your facility money after implementation? Yes or No  
If yes, how much?
10. Does your innovation help conserve natural resources on the golf course? Yes or No  
If yes, please provide statistics proving your conservation practices. (Amount of water saved, energy reduction, decreased use of fertilizer or pesticides, etc.)
11. Has your innovative practice been adopted by industries outside the golf industry? Yes or No  
If yes, where has your innovation been adopted and to what extent?
12. Briefly describe how your efforts embody the purpose of this award or highlight a practice not featured above in the space below (300 word limit).
13. If you were to score as the top candidate in more than one ELGA award, you would only be awarded one. Please rank the Innovative Conservation Award as it relates to the importance of you receiving this over the other(s). (If you only apply for one award this year, put a 1 here).

14. Additional documentation such as videos, photos, or certifications may be attached with written application to help demonstrate qualifications of winning the award. Uploads are limited to 500 MB (Optional).

## Communications and Outreach Award Questions

### Internal and External Communications and Outreach

1. Does your facility contain a routine maintenance plan with staff training regarding environmental initiatives? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe your plan and initiatives involved.
2. What professionals have you reached out to for communicating your environmental practices within your facility?  
Please describe below.
3. Do you have any internal communication methods in place for increased awareness?  
Yes or No  
If yes, what methods are they? (Ex. Instant messaging system, group discussions, or video conferences.)
4. Does your facility contain a written communications plan specifically for environmental management? Yes or No  
If yes, how long has it been in place? What does it contain?
5. Is social media involved with your external communications? Yes or No  
What types of social media sites do you use? (Ex. Twitter, Facebook, Blog)
6. Have you reached out to people in your community? Yes or No  
If yes, please list community groups you have reached out to.
7. **a.** Please describe on course education opportunities that you have provided at your facility.  
**b.** Do your education opportunities provide material for youth and adults? Yes or No  
**c.** Please describe the benefit of one of your staff members gaining education through what you have provided.
8. Have you given presentations to local civic organizations? Yes or No  
If yes, how many and what types of environmental education did you speak on?
9. Have you reached out to community colleges or other higher education organizations in your area to provide educational opportunities for staff? Yes or No
10. Have regulators and law makers been contacted to promote the course and industry through your environmental efforts? Yes or No  
If yes, explain how they have promoted your Best Management Practices.
11. Watershed and conservation groups have been contacted and have been utilized for providing best management practices on the course. Yes or No  
If Yes, how have they helped promote your environmental initiatives?
12. Has your facility been recognized for its environmental efforts by other non-golf organizations? Yes or No  
If yes, how many? What were you recognized for?
13. Has your course operation used news articles, magazine articles, or other research articles for communicating to the public? Yes or No  
If yes, please attach those articles below.

14. Have you provided professional education to your peers or others incorporating your successful practices at your current facility? Yes or No.  
If yes, please describe the seminar, session or venue/platform the education has been given and the frequency of presentations.
15. Briefly describe how your efforts embody the purpose of this award or highlight a practice not featured above in the space below (300 word limit).
16. If you were to score as the top candidate in more than one ELGA award, you would only be awarded one. Please rank the Communications and Outreach Award as it relates to the importance of you receiving this over the other(s). (If you only apply for one award this year, put a 1 here). Uploads are limited to 500 MB (Optional).
17. If your course operation used news articles, magazine articles, or other research articles for communicating to the public, you may upload them here.
18. Additional documentation such as videos, photos, or certifications may be attached with written application to help demonstrate qualifications of winning the award. Uploads are limited to 500 MB (Optional).



## Natural Resource Conservation Award Questions

### Water Conservation

*(Water conservation is to ensure adequate water supplies for irrigation, but also for the healthy ecological functioning of water bodies that include rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, and ponds.)*

1. Does your facility have a written water conservation plan? Yes or No
2. Does your facility have a water conservation policy statement? Yes or No
3. Is employee training in water conservation practices provided for your maintenance staff? Yes or No
4. Has your facility tracked water consumption usage over time including costs of water usage? Yes or No
5. Are water conservation goals in place at your facility? Yes or No  
If yes, please list those goals below.
6. Do you conduct routine irrigation system maintenance on your course? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe your maintenance routine.
7. Do you participate in agronomic cultural practices such as hand watering or proper height of mowing cut? Yes or No
8. Have you used wetting agents within the past 2 years? Yes or No
9. Are evapotranspiration rates used to monitor water application efficiency on your course? Yes or No  
If yes, at what rate do you decide to apply irrigation?
10. Is scouting turf a part of your practice when deciding to water certain areas of your course? Yes or No
11. Are low maintenance native plants found on your golf course? Yes or No  
If so, what types of native plants can be found?
12. How many acres are designated for naturalized native area?
13. Are soil sensors used with your maintenance practices? Yes or No
14. Is there a weather station found on your course? Yes or No
15. Where do you obtain your water for maintaining turf? (Ex. Municipal, wells, reclaimed water resource, lakes and ponds).
16. Do you have specific water conservation and drought management goals included in your environmental management plan? Yes or No  
If yes, please list your goals below.
17. If unique conservation practices have been implemented on your course, please list them below.
18. Have you been recognized for water conservation achievements? Yes or No  
If yes, please list those achievements below.
19. Have you had an irrigation audit? Yes or No  
If yes, when and what changes did you make as a result of the audit?
20. Do your irrigation pumps use variable frequency drives? Yes or No

### Water Quality Management

*(Water quality management ensures clean water supplies for oceans, rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes and ponds.)*

21. Does your facility have a water quality management policy statement? Yes or No
22. Does your facility have a written water quality protection plan within your water management plan? Yes or No
23. Is employee training that describes the importance of water quality management provided for your maintenance staff? Yes or No
24. Is emergency response training provided to employees so that they know how to respond to a chemical spill or fire? Yes or No  
If yes, which employees and how frequently are they trained?
25. Has your facility tracked water quality on your course? (Ex. Dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity, phosphorus, nitrogen) Yes or No  
If yes, what metrics do you record when testing water quality?
26. Are there water quality goals within your water management plan? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe your goals below.
27. Are there any regulatory compliance laws regarding water quality that effect your golf course operation? Yes or No  
If yes, list those laws below.
28. Have you conducted a water quality audit in the past 3 years on your course property?  
Yes or No
29. Are hazardous chemicals and fertilizers stored, handled, and disposed in a proper management area? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe your management area?
30. Do you have groundwater wells on your course? Yes or No  
If yes, are they protected from pollution?
31. Is the use of buffer strips surrounding bodies of water found on your course? Yes or No
32. Is a spill emergency response plan present at your facility? Yes or No
33. Is your equipment washed after use and on an environmentally safe wash pad? Yes or No  
No  
If yes, please describe your equipment washing area.
34. Does your facility contain a mixing and loading station? Yes or No
35. Have you implemented erosion control BMP practices on your course to prevent runoff of fertilizers, pesticides, and sedimentation? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe your methods.
36. Are all your pesticides and fertilizers applied by the label instructions? Yes or No
37. Do you have a written nutrient management plan in place? Yes or No
38. Does your course contain wetlands near bodies of water? Yes or No
39. Have you designed drainage or structural BMPs on your course? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe those specific BMPs.
40. Have you used recycled compost material to fertilize your course? Yes or No
41. Has your facility received certification from Audubon International, GEO, ePar, etc.? Yes or No  
If yes, please list those certifications below.
42. Please list innovative water quality management practices below.

## Energy Conservation

*(Energy Conservation is reducing energy consumption through using less of an energy service.)*

43. Has your facility been improved to increase energy efficiency via new insulation, windows, HVAC, LED's etc.? Yes or No
44. Does your facility have an energy conservation policy statement? Yes or No
45. Does your facility have an energy management plan included in your overall environmental management plan? Yes or No
46. Is employee training in energy conservation practices provided for your maintenance staff? Yes or No
47. Has your facility tracked energy consumption usage over time including costs of energy usage? Yes or No  
If yes, what metrics did you record?
48. Do you have energy conservation goals within your environmental management plan? Yes or No  
If yes, please list them below.
49. Are there any regulatory compliance laws regarding energy conservation that effect your golf course operation? Yes or No  
If yes, please list those laws below.
50. Have you conducted an energy audit in the past 3 years on your course property? Yes or No
51. Does your facility practice behavioral techniques to reduce energy usage? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe your techniques? (Ex. Turning of lights, reduce idling time)
52. Has any new equipment been implemented to reduce energy usage? Yes or No  
If yes, what types of equipment?
53. Are meters installed at your facility to track energy usage? Yes or No
54. Are sensors and timers in place to help reduce energy consumption? Yes or No
55. Does your maintenance staff routinely evaluate, update, and ensure efficient energy pump operations? Yes or No  
If yes, how often?
56. Does your facility use any renewable energy sources such as solar, wind or geothermal? Yes or No
57. Describe your unique energy conservation practices below.

#### Wildlife and Habitat Management

*(Wildlife and Habitat Management enhances natural areas and landscaping on the golf course while protecting native habitats and the wildlife that inhabit them.)*

58. Has an inventory been conducted to identify flora and fauna on the property? Yes or No
59. Does your facility have a wildlife management plan? Yes or No
60. Does your facility have a wildlife conservation policy statement? Yes or No
61. Is employee training in wildlife and habitat management practices provided for your maintenance staff? Yes or No
62. Has your facility tracked wildlife inventory found on the course? Yes or No

63. Do you have wildlife management goals within your environmental management plan?  
Yes or No  
If yes, please list them below.
64. Are there any regulatory compliance laws regarding wildlife conservation that effect your golf course operation? Yes or No
65. Are naturalized areas (native areas) found on your course? Yes or No  
If yes, how many acres? What types of native vegetation are present?
66. Has developed habitat such as bird/bat houses been implemented on your course? Yes or No
67. Has habitat for pollinators been developed? Yes or No  
If yes, how much?
68. Describe your efforts in reducing harmful activities to wildlife on your course.
69. Have you developed a habitat management plan for native, threatened and endangered species? Yes or No
70. Have you established your native areas to promote biodiverse habitats and species that inhabit those areas? Yes or No  
If yes, describe your species diversity.
71. Does the design and mapping of your course promote wildlife corridors? Yes or No
72. Are aquatic species documented and recorded within your water bodies found on your course? Yes or No
73. Have snags (dead trees) and brush piles been kept on your course to promote wildlife habitat? Yes or No
74. Have you developed education for golfers on successful habitat areas and the importance of those areas? Yes or No
75. Has your facility altered maintenance practices to promote healthy playing surfaces to support wildlife such as reptiles and amphibians? Yes or No  
If yes, please describe those maintenance practices.
76. Has your facility conducted biological research for wildlife conservation and habitat purposes? Yes or No
77. Briefly describe how your efforts embody the purpose of this award or highlight a practice not featured above in the space below (300 word limit).
78. If you were to score as the top candidate in more than one ELGA award, you would only be awarded one. Please rank the Natural Resource Conservation Award as it relates to the importance of you receiving this over the other(s). (If you only apply for one award this year, put a 1 here).
79. Additional documentation such as videos, photos, or certifications may be attached with written application to help demonstrate qualifications of winning the award. Uploads are limited to 500 MB (Optional).

## Helpful Tips for Uploads

At the end of your application, you have the option of uploading additional information to support your application. We strongly recommend you take advantage of this opportunity.

You want to tell the best story you can with your upload in the short amount of time the judges have to go through it. Remember the judges have to go through many applications, so try to find a way to make your application stand out while not fatiguing them with too much text to read. You can only upload one file, so choose the best way to present the information you want to convey.

Suggestions for type of uploads:

- Upload a short video (3 minutes or less) of your course showing off your most interesting and innovative practices.
- Upload a short video slide show narrated with what you want them to understand about the photos.
- Upload a PDF with multiple photos with helpful descriptive captions.

Additional tips: Uploads must be **500 MB** or less and must in one of these formats: .xlsx, .xls, .pdf, .jpg, .jpeg, .bmp, .png, .rtf, .docx, .doc, .txt, .mp4, .wmv

When captioning photos, captions can give general information about the photo like the location, but should also demonstrate what you want the judges to see in each photo specifically. Example: "Our new wildflower planting complete with native milkweed as part of our participation in Monarchs in the Rough."

[Additional help with creating and uploading content](#)

### **How to make a narrated slide show.**

If you have Microsoft PowerPoint, this is very easy. Make each slide a full picture or use margins and borders as you like. Then record narration and set timing for each slide. Then save it as a video file.

[How to record a slide show with narration and slide timings](#)

[Save your presentation as a video](#)

[How to compress your file size](#)

**Your file was rejected for being too large.**

[Compress your video file](#)

[Compress your PowerPoint file](#)

[Compress your PDF file](#)

**How to make a PDF file with photos and captions.**

If you have Microsoft PowerPoint, this is very easy. Open a new document. Insert your photos by going to Insert > Pictures then navigate to where they are saved on your computer. Alternately, you can copy and paste your photos into word.

Once the photos are in your document, you can adjust the size by clicking on the photo and dragging the corners to the desired size. You can make a variety of edits to the photo by right-clicking the photo and choosing an option, for example cropping.

After your photos are placed, add captions by typing into the document. Captions can give general information about the photo like the location, but you should call out what you want the judges to see in each photo specifically. Example: "Our new wildflower planting complete with native milkweed as part of our participation in Monarchs in the Rough."

When finished with your document, save it as a PDF by going to File > Save as and choose PDF from the drop down.

If you experience other issues with your upload, contact Emily Fuger, manager, environmental programs at [efuger@gcsaa.org](mailto:efuger@gcsaa.org) or (785)312-5163.