

The Signature Program

What is the Signature Program?

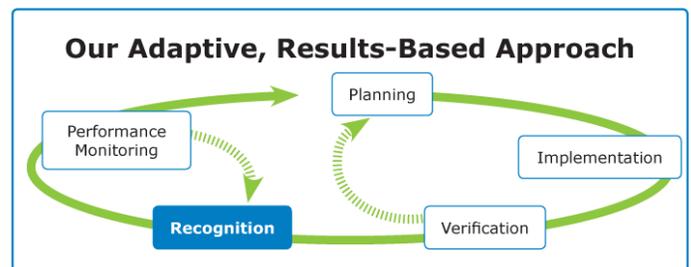
The Signature Program is an environmental education and conservation assistance program created to help landowners and managers follow comprehensive sustainable resource management principles when developing and managing properties. By working closely with planners, architects, managers, and key stakeholders, the Signature Program helps landowners and developers design for the environment so that both economic and environmental objectives are achieved and sustained in the long-term.



Make the Environment Part of Your Land Plan

The Signature Program starts where minimum environmental compliance leaves off, offering a "beyond compliance" approach, continues through construction, grand opening, and long-term management. In addition to minimum certification standards, each project is given the opportunity to work towards different levels of certification. The program is flexible and adaptable to the project, but generally involves:

- **Initial Site Assessment-** An on-site assessment is conducted by Audubon International staff of the natural resources that the property has to offer and how those resources may be impacted by the development project.
- **Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) -**The plan serves as a guide for the construction and management of the property focusing on wildlife management, habitat enhancement, waste management, energy efficiency, water quality and conservation, and integrated pest management.
- **Implementation-** To become certified, a project must implement the NRMP, meet the minimum certification standards and site-specific requirements set forth by Audubon International, and pass an on-site environmental audit. Site visits are conducted by Audubon International staff during the major phases of the project to supplement training and education of construction and operational personnel as well as consulting staff.
- **Environmental Audit-** An on-site Environmental Audit by Audubon International staff will assess compliance with program and site-specific requirements for long-term management in accordance with Signature Program standards.
- **Recertification-** Demonstrating continued maintenance of program criteria, implementation of the NRMP, and Outreach and Education activities are necessary for recertification. Projects will host a site visit from a member of a local environmental group on year three after the Environmental Audit. Subsequent site-audits are conducted every third year by Audubon International staff.



"Being part of the Signature Program has given Canopy Creek more exposure in these difficult economic times. It set the development apart from others that may offer similar products of similar price points. The program has been nothing but a benefit to the Canopy Creek community. In addition, the staff of the Signature Program have been a delight with which to work."

- Doug Bruk, Senior Project Manager,
Kolter Communities

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