



## MINIMALIST DESIGN RESPECTS THE LAND: GOLF COURSE TO IMPACT FEWER WETLANDS AND LESS STATE PARKLAND, REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES AND PRESERVE NATURAL CHARACTER

March 22, 2015

### A Letter to the Sheboygan County Community:

Kohler Co.'s proposed 18-hole, public golf course in the Town of Wilson – in addition to creating more than 220 full-time jobs, generating \$20-plus million in annual economic impact and boosting the local tax base – represents an extraordinary opportunity to open the land to public use and ensure minimalist development for the future. The project would transform private property the company has owned for more than 75 years into an exceptional public golf course, designed by Hall of Fame golf course designer Pete Dye and destined to be among the top 50 courses in the world.

We first unveiled the golf course project in early 2014. In the interest of making the public aware of the company's intentions as early as possible, we shared high-level plans prior to detailed engineering and design. Over the past several months, our plans have evolved based on the results of our due diligence and field work, as well as valuable input from the public. We have made concerted efforts to avoid, minimize or mitigate environmental impacts.

Our modified, balanced approach: (1) sharply reduces encroachment on wetlands acreage from more than 25 acres originally estimated to less than five acres; (2) significantly cuts the use of state parkland from 33 acres to less than four acres for an entry road and maintenance building in an area currently used by the state park for maintenance equipment and not normally accessed by the public; and (3) removes invasive species, such as the predominant Japanese barberry – a thorny tangle that makes portions of this land impenetrable and whose removal will allow the land to breathe. Upon completion, the project will open private land to the public.

Whether at Whistling Straits, Blackwolf Run, the River Wildlife land preserve, the Kohler Environmental Center – a leading-edge secondary education institution in Wallingford, Conn. – Kohler corporate headquarters or our many facilities worldwide, Kohler has always believed that good business practice and sound environmental policy must work together. This approach reflects our commitment to sustainability, responsibility, innovation, quality and high standards.

The approval process for the proposed golf course will be an open, fact-based discussion with public meetings for community members to share their thoughts and feedback. A cross-section of public input is important to us. Our goal is to have a world-class destination that creates jobs and provides other economic benefits for the Town of Wilson and the region, and to do it in an environmentally responsible manner that will serve the community and enhance the land for generations to come.

Thanks to those who have expressed support for and interest in our project. We'll work to continue to keep the lines of communication open. More information on the proposed golf course, a revised course map and a report on its economic impact can be found at [www.ProposedGolfCourse.com](http://www.ProposedGolfCourse.com).



Sincerely,  
**Jim Richerson**  
Group Director of Golf  
Hospitality and Real Estate  
Kohler Co.

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