

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FILED

April 19, 2015

## An Update for the Town of Wilson:

Kohler Co. has always believed that good business and environmental responsibility are interwoven – it's a commitment at work every day at our many facilities worldwide, including Whistling Straits and Blackwolf Run golf venues, River Wildlife Land Preserve and our corporate headquarters here in Sheboygan County. That philosophy also extends to our proposed 18-hole public golf course on property the company has owned in the Town of Wilson for more than 75 years. The principles of avoiding, minimizing or mitigating any potential environmental impact have guided our due diligence, field work and planning on this project.

We recently filed a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that shows how Kohler Co. intends to meet or exceed all the rigorous standards laid out for this project. This scientific and engineering analysis factually reviews a number of important issues, including impact on wetland, land use, sensitivity to wildlife and habitat, sustainable practices, surface and groundwater protection, public access, traffic flow, economic benefit and more.

As part of our effort to maintain openness and transparency, we have posted the complete report on the project website, **[www.ProposedGolfCourse.com](http://www.ProposedGolfCourse.com)**.

The EIR contains valuable information for everyone who cares about Sheboygan County's natural character and economic strength. Highlights include a net increase in protected wetland, removal of invasive species and reintroduction of native plants to increase biological and wildlife diversity. Also, pesticide and fertilizer use will be far below state and federal authorizations, and there is a plan in place to protect groundwater, the watershed and neighboring wells.

There is no public access today. The modest development will create public access for a restaurant and golf, and include a permanent easement for Timberlake homeowners to access the Lake Michigan shoreline. It also will route traffic to the south to avoid neighboring homes to the north and keep traffic moving on local roads.

There is positive economic news. When fully operational, this golf in forest and dunes is projected to create the equivalent of 227 new full-time jobs, generate nearly \$21 million in annual economic benefit and boost the local tax base to help fund schools, public safety and other government services.

The factual information included in the EIR reflects Kohler Co.'s commitment to sustainability, responsibility, innovation, quality and high standards. It's one of many steps in an extensive environmental review and approval process for the project. Over time, our plan will be augmented as new information becomes available and input is received from various constituencies. This process includes public meetings and numerous opportunities for community members to share their thoughts and feedback. We welcome that input because it will help us create a better project for all.

Please visit our website, **[www.ProposedGolfCourse.com](http://www.ProposedGolfCourse.com)**, to learn more about the EIR and our plans in the Town of Wilson. Feel free to share your thoughts via email at **[info@ProposedGolfCourse.com](mailto:info@ProposedGolfCourse.com)**. Many thanks to all of you who have expressed support and interest in our project.



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