

ANNEXATION IS OPPORTUNITY FOR CITY GROWTH & SUCCESS

A Letter to the City of Sheboygan Residents:

The Sheboygan Common Council meets Aug. 7 to discuss annexation, including property owned by Kohler Co. and site of the company's proposed 18-hole, public golf course. The proposed annexation is a significant opportunity for the City of Sheboygan to grow and create a stronger future. The Common Council is vested with the responsibility to fully evaluate opportunities such as this one that will directly benefit City residents.

Like any project, we understand that there will be other opinions, but sometimes the information presented is not always accurate. We wish to take the opportunity to highlight a few points about our proposed golf course project to help inform the Common Council's discussion and decision.

State parkland and project oversight/regulation

We have proposed an easement of 4.46 acres of State parkland for a maintenance facility and an improved entrance into the park. This parcel of property will continue to be owned by the State of Wisconsin and represents less than 1 percent of the total park area. Our company will construct a roundabout to ease traffic flow and reduce lines at the park entrance. The new maintenance facility will be located in an area where a State Park maintenance facility already exists. This State Park maintenance facility is not easily accessible and is rarely seen by the public.

Even with annexation approval, our project requires several other approvals and permits from agencies such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin State Historical Society and others. All along, our approach has been to avoid and minimize impacts, such as to wetlands. We will avoid rare interdunal wetlands altogether, and will impact 3.69 acres of wetlands in total, which is about 1.5 percent of the overall project site. Where there are impacts, we will participate in a mitigation program that will result in an increase of wetland habitat. Our plan also removes invasive species, allowing the land to breathe, and we will plant native species to enhance the natural habitat and help attract wildlife.

More on the web:

Facts about the project
can be found at
www.ProposedGolfCourse.com

Golf course supports jobs, the economy and municipal services

Our golf course will create over 200 new jobs and provide a positive local economic impact of nearly \$21 million annually. It will expand the City of Sheboygan's tax base, provide more revenue for local schools and support municipal services. If annexed, municipal water will be used for irrigation, the clubhouse and the maintenance facility, ensuring that area wells will not be impacted due to golf course operations. Once operational, this project will enhance Sheboygan's status as a place for visitors to enjoy, and it will boost the City's reputation as a world-class tourism destination.

Responsible and contributing corporate citizen in the City of Sheboygan

Our company was founded in 1873 in the City of Sheboygan and we look forward to contributing to its growth again in the 21st century. At Kohler Co., we believe that good business practice and sound environmental policy must work together. This belief has guided our work on this project from the outset, ensuring that we create a world-class public golf course that respects and captures the property's natural character.

We look forward to the Common Council discussion about the City's bright future and growth potential, and a thoughtful, fact-based decision.



Sincerely,

Dirk Willis
Group Director of Golf
Hospitality and Real Estate
Kohler Co.