

Dandelions on the Fairway: Westview Golf Course's Quiet Statement on Sustainability

Golfers at **Westview Golf Club** in Aurora, Ontario, may have noticed an unexpected guest on the fairways this season: **dandelions**. Bright, yellow, and sometimes controversial, these flowers are blooming in full view — and that's no accident.

🌼 Why Dandelions Are Being Left Alone

Westview Golf Club is proudly certified by the **Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Program**, a designation that recognizes golf courses committed to environmental best practices. This includes reducing chemical herbicides and encouraging native plant growth — like dandelions.

By letting these blooms flourish, Westview supports:

- **Pollinators** like bees and butterflies
- **Naturalized habitats** that promote biodiversity
- **Reduced chemical use** on the grounds

🐝 Dandelions: Not Just a Weed

There's a lot more to dandelions than meets the eye:

- **First food for pollinators:** Dandelions are often the earliest bloom in spring, providing nectar and pollen when other plants aren't available.
- **Soil support:** Their deep roots help aerate compacted soil and cycle nutrients.
- **Human benefits:** Dandelions are rich in vitamins and antioxidants. They're edible and commonly used in teas, salads, and natural remedies.

🚩 Changing the Way We See the Course

Traditionally, golf courses have aimed for “perfect” greens — immaculate, uniform, and weed-free. But times are changing.

At Westview, a few dandelions are more than just tolerable — they're **intentional**. They're a sign that the course is cared for in a way that respects nature.



🌻 A Small Flower With a Big Purpose

So next time you're at Westview and see a dandelion near your tee, don't pull it — **appreciate it.**

It's not just a weed.

It's a wildflower.

It's a pollinator's pit stop.

It's a symbol of balance between sport and sustainability

