

The Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD) has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), an Audubon International program.

The final step for certification requires a visit by a local community representative. Jill Kombrink, the Naturalist at Oldfield Community Association, was given a tour of the property and sent her observations to Audubon International. "It's impressive to see a public service department going above and beyond," reported Kombrink. "What a great example!"

"Hilton Head Public Service District has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on their property," said Christine Kane, CEO at Audubon International. "By taking action to implement indoor and outdoor conservation projects, the management and staff at the Hilton Head Public Service District have demonstrated their commitment to the sustainable management of their natural resources."

PSD General Manager Pete Nardi said the certification is the utility's way of leading by example. "The PSD is a leading environmental organization for our island, from our stewardship of our precious water sources to our recycled water program that nourishes vital wetlands. The Cooperative Sanctuary program is a great way to 'do the right thing' for the environment and set a strong example in the management of our property and business" Nardi said.

To reach certification, a property must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Water Quality and Conservation, Resource Management, and Outreach and Education. Properties go through a recertification process every three years.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program provides information and guidance to help businesses and organizations preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Businesses, schools, parks, and other properties from the United States, Africa,

Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

About Audubon International

Audubon International is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental education organization dedicated to providing people with the education and assistance they need to practice responsible management of land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources. To meet this mission, the organization provides training, services, and a set of award-winning environmental education and certification programs for individuals, organizations, properties, new developments, and entire communities. For more information, contact Audubon International at (518) 767-9051 or visit the website at www.auduboninternational.org .