Golf courses and their supporting industries benefit New York State residents directly and indirectly:

- **Environmental benefits**: Golf courses provide open space, and their well-managed turfspaces protect water and other natural resources.
- **Economic benefits**: The golf industry contributes more than $3 billion and 50,000 jobs annually to the state’s economy. Golf fundraisers also contribute more than $3 billion and 50,000 jobs annually to the state’s economy. Golf fundraisers also contribute approximately $100 million annually to charities across New York State. These BMPs will help those in the golf industry work in concert with policymakers and regulators in a shared commitment to water quality protection.
- **Recreational and health benefits**: Golf courses provide excellent recreational and health benefits for golfers of all ages. A Swedish study found golfers who walk when playing live five years longer than non–golfers. Golf courses foster the best traditions of golf, as defined by golf’s inherent values: honesty, integrity, and fair play (including upholding the rules when no one is watching). These are core values of golf turf professionals and serve as the basis for this innovative environmental effort.

Authors from Cornell University have integrated the latest research on BMPs specifically for New York’s climate and environment, and are dedicated to protecting New York’s natural resources…

As the stewards of golf courses in New York State, superintendents are dedicated to protecting New York’s natural resources...
BMPs are methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical means of achieving an objective, such as preventing water pollution or reducing pesticide usage. Many BMPs reduce stormwater volumes, peak flow, and improve source pollution through evapotranspiration, infiltration, denitrification, filtering, as well as biological and chemical actions. This new guidance provides information for using BMPs to prevent or minimize the effects of golf course management on surface and groundwater to insure and enhance public health and environmental quality. Pollution prevention is easier, less expensive, and more effective than addressing problems "downstream." Essentially, BMPs are a sustainable approach to pollution prevention that preserves and protects water quality.

Why are BMPs important to the golf industry?

Golf courses rely on a healthy environment that includes water and wildlife. It is of paramount importance to enhance management and water. Using these concepts, a thorough site-specific understanding of vulnerable areas can focus BMP implementation in every stage of golf course design, construction, renovation, and maintenance.

BMPs for irrigation and nutrient management and the role of cultural practices in promoting turf density, protecting water quality during turf establishment, and conserving water.

How to align golf course management with BMPs

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