



## Milestone Reached in Golf Course Sustainability Study

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***Research by two prominent universities has illustrated the environmental value golf courses have on their communities.***

Through funding provided by the USGA, researchers at the University of Minnesota and Michigan State University have reached a key milestone in the most comprehensive study ever conducted on the environmental impact that golf courses have on their communities.

The **Community Values of Golf Courses** project quantified the environmental benefits of 135 golf courses in the Twin Cities metropolitan area as compared with five other land uses: natural areas, city parks, suburban residential zones, urban residential zones and industrial parks.

The researchers demonstrated that **properly managed golf courses provide the greatest amount of cooling among land uses, are more supportive of pollinators than urban residential or industrial areas, and retain more nutrients from stormwater runoff than suburban or urban residential areas.** In general, this demonstrates that **golf courses enhance surrounding** communities in much the same way as city parks or open green spaces.

Correspondingly, the conversion of golf courses to residential or industrial use would sacrifice associated environmental value afforded to communities and could result in reduced biodiversity and increased temperatures and nutrient transport to surface and ground water.

A summary of preliminary conclusions from the ongoing project can be found in the [Sept. 4 edition of the Green Section Record](#), the USGA's digital magazine that offers the latest information on turfgrass culture, environmental issues, economic sustainability and research.