

COLORADO GOLF

LEADER IN WATER STEWARDSHIP, CONSERVATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

WATER CONSERVATION

- 236** golf facilities statewide serve as vital greenspace
- 33,061** acres of managed green infrastructure supporting fire mitigation and urban cooling
- 36%** native acreage, reducing water demand and supporting habitat
- <1%** of state's total annual water consumption
- 32%** of courses use reclaimed water, reducing potable demand

Minimal Reliance on Municipal Water



*Water Sources for Colorado Golf Courses, 2018

Nearly 97% of Colorado golf courses have adopted at least three conservation and demand management measures for water use; 91% adopted irrigation control systems, 84% adopted irrigation control devices, and 80% use drought resistant or native plants in non-play areas.



96.6% at least three water conservation measures

71.6% at least five water conservation measures

Water Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Irrigation Control System to Monitor Water Use	91%
Irrigation Control Devices to Reduce Water Use	84%
Use of Drought Resistant or Native Plants in Non-Play Areas	80%
On-Site Weather Station to Assess Weather Information and ET	73%
Conversion of Maintained Turf to Native Plants, Grasses, or Ground Covers	59%
Use of Drought-Tolerant Varieties of Turf to Minimize Water Use	53%
Automatic Sensors and/or Low-Flow Devices	49%
Stormwater Capture	33%
Grey Water for Equipment Washing	15%
Other	7%

FIRE MITIGATION THROUGH GOLF COURSE GREENSPACE

Courses mitigate wildfire risk by maintaining cooler, irrigated landscapes that retain moisture, reduce fuel loads, and function as strategic fire breaks:

- Maintained, irrigated corridors slow wildfire spread
- Open landscapes provide critical access routes for wildfire response
- In wildland-urban interface areas, elevated urban temperatures increase ignition risk, courses serve as buffer zones between development and wildland
- Defensible space enhances public safety and emergency response
- Ongoing vegetation management reduces fuel loads
- Natural absorption and storage reduce the need for public stormwater infrastructure
- Managed landscapes support climate resilience and wildlife habitat

REDUCING URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECTS

With continued growth, impervious surfaces rise and the cooling effects of greenspace become increasingly important.

- Rising surface temperatures drive heat stress, air pollution, water quality impacts, and higher energy demand
- Impervious surfaces trap and retain heat, intensifying localized temperatures and prolonging exposure
- Elevated temperatures increase vegetation stress and drying, contributing to drought and fire risk
- Golf courses reduce temperatures through evapotranspiration and shading
- Golf courses capture, store, and filter precipitation, supporting stormwater systems