

## **GOLF & WATER:**

### ***How Best Management Practices Guide Irrigation*** *The measures we take toward water conservation.*

Have you ever noticed sprinklers running on the golf course early in the morning before your tee time? That scheduling is carefully planned using best management practices (BMPs) designed to keep our course healthy while conserving water. Watering the course in the morning hydrates the turf before daily heat stress, minimizes evaporation, and reduces disease risk. Ensuring healthy turf conditions for our golfers.

BMPs are science-based guidelines we follow to maintain beautiful playing conditions while preserving natural resources. These practices guide how we manage water, turfgrass, wildlife habitat, and natural areas across our course. One of the most important areas for BMPs is irrigation; our goal is to ensure the course receives the right amount of water at the right time to ensure healthy turf and avoid waste.



Our team is committed to water conservation, and when you have more than 200 courses across the state, what we do as an industry makes a real impact. The [Colorado Golf Economic and Environmental Impact Report](#) showed that golf courses across the Rocky Mountain region use less than one percent of the state's total annual water consumption. That shows dedication and focus.

Golf course irrigation systems today are designed to deliver water precisely where and when it is needed. At our course, we use several tools and processes to support water conservation:

### **Best Management Practices**

- Precision targeting: Hand-watering allows us to address specific, small areas of dry turf, or “hot-spots,” that automated sprinklers often miss or cannot target without soaking surrounding moist areas.
- Protecting non-play areas: Planting drought-resistant native or other well-adapted, noninvasive plants that provide an attractive and low-maintenance landscape.
- Selection of plant-life: Native plant species are important in providing wildlife with habitat and food sources. Site-appropriate plants normally require little to no irrigation.
- Utilizing moisture meters: Soil moisture meters help determine moisture thresholds and precise plant needs.
- Measuring water usage: Monitor and record the amount of water being applied, including system usage and rainfall.



### What are moisture meters exactly?

Moisture meters are handheld devices that we use to measure the water content in soil, particularly on greens and fairways. The probe helps pinpoint exactly where, and how much, water is needed, allowing for precise hand-watering rather than universal irrigation. Using these meters for monitoring gives us efficient and accurate measures so that we can make data-driven decisions for irrigation and water conservation. This technology helps us save water while providing better and more consistent playing surfaces across the course.

As the golf season gets underway and temperatures rise, water becomes one of our most important resources on the course. Through thoughtful irrigation practices and the use of advanced technology, we can use water efficiently while maintaining the conditions you expect. By following these BMPs, we are doing our part to conserve water and protect Colorado's natural resources.

