



The Natural Capital Team at the University of Minnesota is working to determine the benefits golf courses provide to the community.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY GOLF COURSES

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Key Takeaways

- Researchers at the University of Minnesota quantified the ecosystem services provided by the 135 golf courses in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
- The research also analyzed how ecosystem services from golf courses might change if the golf courses were converted to one of five other land uses.
- Urban ecosystem service assessments are critical to ensuring that the value of nature becomes a standard component of urban planning and a more recognized and understood set of benefits provided by golf courses.
- **Golf courses provide the greatest amount of cooling as compared to other land uses and are more supportive of pollinators than residential and industrial areas.**
- Natural areas and city parks export less nitrogen and phosphorus than golf courses, while suburban and urban residential developments export more nitrogen.