

America's golf industry is a powerful economic driver simultaneously delivering enormous environmental and social benefits. The game is played by people of all ages, races and creed. It is played by people of every income level and of all abilities in every state of the union. In a world where development and technology are crowding out nature and face-to-face interaction, golf brings people together again away from asphalt, concrete and glass. Golf courses enhance property values, increase municipal revenues, help cities attract businesses and companies recruit employees. It may be just a stick, a ball and a hole in the ground but golf is much more than a game.

Economic Benefits

- The total economic impact of golf in America including direct, indirect and induced impacts is \$176.8 billion.
- The total size of the golf economy nationally is \$68.8 billion.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that nearly two million jobs – that's one in 75 of all jobs in the U.S. - is impacted by golf the golf industry.
- Those jobs generate \$55.6 billion in wage income.
- The golf industry generates \$20.6 billion in travel every year.

Environmental Benefits

- Golf courses provide islands of invaluable green space in a highly urbanized world.
- They provide critical sanctuary for all kinds of animal, bird, fish and insect populations.
- Golf courses serve as filters – with turfgrasses and natural areas slowing storm water flow and subsurface microbial populations breaking down pollutants.
- Golf courses return more, cleaner water to groundwater systems than much of what surrounds them.
- Golf course vegetation traps carbon and produces oxygen helping to moderate air temperatures – research shows that a fairway can be as much as 70 degrees cooler than a nearby road or sidewalk.

Social Benefits

- Golf provides healthy recreation and interaction for 25 million people annually.
- Golf facilities provide a hub where groups, networks and communities strengthen ties.
- The game generates \$3.9 billion for charities with the help of more than 12 million participants at events hosted by more than 12,000 courses.
- Values inherent in the game help teach respect, integrity and sportsmanship to children and adults alike.