

GOLF COURSES

IN THE TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN

North Carolina is home to a large number of golf courses, with several internationally known golfing regions. There are golf courses throughout the Tar River Basin; however, the courses are more dispersed than in other regions of the state due to the more rural nature of the basin. There are approximately 28 courses in the Tar River basin, with 6 permitted or registered with NCDENR as major water withdrawers.

Substantial inputs of fertilizers and water to maintain turf systems have led to a perception that golf courses are a major contributor to nonpoint source water pollution. To improve or mitigate any potential pollution impacts, as well as issues with perception from the public, North Carolina State University (NCSU) provides significant resources to both the golf industry and the non-golfing public through the Turf Management Department. The department conducts significant research in the field of turf management with the goal of reducing water quality impacts. Additionally, the NCSU Turf Management Dept. maintains communication with golf course superintendents through varied extension activities statewide, as well as maintaining a website (www.turffiles.ncsu.edu) with extensive information and resources intended to establish and encourage best management practices.