

13.D.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public golf courses have been shown to impact local communities in a number of positive ways. The social, health, economic and environmental impacts have been studied and recognized. Golf courses offer the opportunity to recreate outdoors and provide critically social interaction, both personal and professional. Golf is shown to reduce heart attack by up to 30%-40%, it strengthens bone density, it can lower blood pressure, it improves mood and mobility, and increases endurance. Socially golf benefits mental well-being, reduces stress and anxiety and assists with mental alertness.

And while there are many who question the environmental impacts of golf courses on water usage, in fact golf course water consumption has declined by 21.8% over a period of 8 years. Golf courses account for only 1.44% of all irrigated water in the U.S⁸. Additionally, environmentally, golf courses are known to provide fire protection as a barrier in many locales, including Mountain Home; as well as providing for habitats for species that may be forced to relocate due to commercial or residential development.



13.D.2 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Established in 1963, Mountain Home's own municipal golf course, Desert Canyon, started as a 9-hole golf course.

Then in 1998, the course was expanded by an additional nine holes resulting in a full 18-hole course. The back nine fully utilizes the canyons and streams that it was built around.

Since that time, the City has had the opportunity to provide an enhanced experience for golfers and visitors. 18 holes of golf makes the golf course more attractive to players from all over the area.

A result from having more holes is increased costs. But the City and management are doing many things to mitigate these added expenses such as: facilitating more tournaments, increasing league participation, offering full service food and beverage operations, facilitating events, and more.

As Mountain Home continues to grow in population the golf course will continue to serve an important function as a community-wide asset and economic booster.

13.D.3 Goal 1

Provide quality public golf course and clubhouse facility to community and organizations

- A. Design, build, and maintain appropriate high quality golf recreational amenities to enhance the quality of life for Mt. Home residents and visitors.
- B. Promote a healthy and active lifestyle through the development and fostering of golf programs.
- C. Capitalize on the uniqueness and value of Mtn. Home utilizing community planning and tourism attraction efforts.
- D. Continue to seek public input on programs offered by the golf course.
- E. Develop plan to increase patronage by expanding and updating facilities when feasible, including upgrading golf cart paths and golf carts to enhance user experience.
- F. Evaluate ways to improve the clubhouse revenues, such as through special events during off peak hours or off peak seasons and by expanding the pro shop and patio area.
- G. Develop, market, and maintain strategic partnerships with statewide and local organizations to drive play and revenue.

