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**In Play with the
New York Golf Course Foundation**



The New York Golf Course Foundation (NYGCF) is a newly launched nonprofit designed to promote sustainable golf management efforts in New York State. This organization is an evolutionary step for the New York State Best Management Practices (BMPs) project that began in 2012 and established the state's first golf industry BMPs.

The Foundation's mission is to continue and expand on the work of the BMP committee, raise the profile of the state's golf industry with respect to its environmental sustainability efforts, and to fundraise to provide a sustainable source of revenue to continue these efforts. Scientists from Cornell University will continue working with NYGCF to update the BMPs, address new topics as the need arises, and provide education to the target audience of golf course superintendents.

The current focus of the NYGCF is outreach and education aimed at promoting the acceptance and implementation of BMPs by the state's golf course superintendents. In addition, the Foundation will continue to promote the recognition of BMPs as the best way to protect and preserve our water resources and enhance open space. State lawmakers and regulators have applauded our past efforts and the Foundation's directors will continue to inform these key stakeholders of the activities of the new Foundation.

Under a current Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund (TESF) grant, the Foundation is working on an update to the state's BMPs that will be incorporated in a template that can be used by any superintendent in the state to create a site-specific facility BMP. Once completed, the Foundation will provide information and workshops for superintendents to become more familiar with the process of completing their own BMP document. Taking the time to create a facility BMP can pay off in a number of ways. For example, superintendents can use their site-specific BMP document as a resource during the permit negotiating process with local towns by recognizing the club's commitment to protecting water quality or as a tool to educate golfers and/or the interested non-golfing public regarding the industry's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The facility BMP tool is expected to be available to superintendents through the GCSAA[NW1]'s BMP portal by October.

In addition to the facility BMP template development, the Foundation is currently working on re-establishing its Twitter feed ([@NYS_GolfBMP](#)), publishing new blogs on the website, and documenting case studies of BMP implementation. The Twitter feed, blogs, and case studies are designed to inform, update, and educate superintendents about time sensitive BMP-related methods for completing various environmentally sensitive tasks. The NYGCF will also continue to maintain and update the BMP website (<http://nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu/>).