

WASHOE GOLF COURSE TO REDUCE
IRRIGATION WATER BY 20%

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why is Washoe County reducing irrigation by 20%?

A: Washoe County Golf Course has multiple sources of water supporting irrigation at the course: Steamboat Ditch (a diversion of the Truckee River), well water, TMWA service and rain/snow. Of these sources of water, the course relies primarily on the ditch water during the summer months, but it is to be turned off on August 19, 2021. The ditch typically runs from May through mid-October.

Irrigating the course without the ditch water is challenging due to many factors including the output from the off-site well, and the cost of purchasing additional water. Based on these factors AND the ongoing drought, Washoe Golf Course has determined that a 20% reduction in irrigation is the right thing to do to protect the asset and provide a playable course while conserving water.

Q: Who decides when the ditch system is to be turned off?

A: The Federal Water Master makes this decision based on flows in the Truckee River system.

Q: Will the golf course still be playable? What will the golf course look like?

A: Washoe Golf Course is an important part of our local history, and Washoe Golf Course has an obligation to preserve this resource for the benefit of the community. That said, Washoe Golf Course staff will prioritize its resources to properly maintain the putting greens, tee boxes and fairways to ensure the course remains playable and enjoyable for our players.

Q: Can Washoe County utilize other sources of water to irrigate the golf course? Is effluent or reclaimed water available or can the County drill another well?

A: No. Currently effluent/reclaimed water is not available to this area of the community, as there is no infrastructure in place to pipe the water from existing water reclamation facilities. Washoe County has previously drilled multiple test wells and has been unsuccessful in finding suitable water on the golf course property. The water that is in this area is geothermal in nature, with extremely high temperatures and Ph levels, not suitable to sustain a golf course.

Q: Will green fees be adjusted due to maintenance changes?

A: Summer rates will remain in effect until further notice. However, Washoe Golf Course staff will continue to utilize its online booking system to determine future rates based on player demand and course conditions.