



## Golf course: The Epping Golf Course.

Golf courses tend to waste both water and fertilizer. **Epping Golf Course** opted to manage and store rainfall to irrigate the course, and installed minimal drainage. Attractive, wildlife friendly ponds were dug close to each green to store winter rainfall. Wet spots were identified and single drains run to the ponds. Any leached fertiliser runs back into the ponds and is reused next watering. Rotted green waste spread on the fairways aids retention of rainfall through the summer and negates any need to water fairways. Run off drains top up ponds with summer storm water.

As a second phase extension the ponds are being lined with Bentonite Mat to greatly increase retained volume by over five times. This encourages wildlife, brings security in drought and saves staff time by negating the need for midnight watering (to avoid high midday evaporation loss).

On average a golf course will spend £400K on drainage and £400K on the irrigation system and £12-£20k per year on water. These systems each cost less than £20K and the water bill is Nil! (£800 for human use only). Pumping and fertiliser bills are also about 25% of the usual £8000 for other courses.

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