



MIKE DAVIS PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

2025 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The USGA Davis Program supports non-biased research for a healthier environment, community, and playing conditions for the game of golf. This year, we anticipate splitting funding equally between priority research areas and our traditional call for proposals. Our goal is to advance research in priority areas by investing more funding in fewer, larger projects while maintaining the opportunity to continue to support research in other important areas. Interested investigators should review our accompanying [Guidelines](https://greensectionresearch.smapply.org/prog/mike_davis_program_for_advancing_golf_course_management/) for proposal development and submit proposals through our program website (https://greensectionresearch.smapply.org/prog/mike_davis_program_for_advancing_golf_course_management/) no later than Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

I. PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS (50% OF FUNDING)

The USGA is especially interested in advancing research in the following three areas identified by USGA leadership and our Davis Program advisory committee. Projects should seek to provide golf courses the necessary strategies and tools to maintain quality playing conditions with fewer resources or similarly optimize resource use and golfer experience. Proposals may request up to \$100,000 per year for one to three years, and we anticipate selecting 1-2 priority projects. Funding may be split over multiple institutions.

1. Turfgrass Persistence and Playability under Multiple Stresses

Intensively evaluate the establishment and durability of important turfgrass species and newer cultivars under various soil water potentials (and with other interacting environmental stresses). Projects would ideally include multiple locations with diverse environmental conditions, and potentially utilize large, replicated plots on golf courses.

2. Integration of Decision-Support Tools to Advance Outcome-Based Turfgrass Management

Develop and demonstrate the resource conservation and playability benefits of the integration of existing and emerging technologies (e.g., sensors and sensor networks, remote sensing platforms, predictive modeling, automation, etc.). Water, fertilizer, and pesticide conservation are especially important, as is better scheduling disruptive practices such as cultivation.

3. Agronomic Components of Golfer Expectations

Precisely defining the ways agronomic decisions affect golfer experiences will help golf course superintendents optimize playing conditions and the use of resources such as labor, water, fertilizers, pesticides, and energy.

II. TRADITIONAL DAVIS PROGRAM INITIATIVES (50% OF FUNDING)

Research that advances scientific knowledge or provides agronomic, economic, or environmental solutions to golf's stakeholders will be considered. Research should advance the initiatives and supplemental research priorities in the accompanying [Guidelines](#) for this call. Projects should explain how research could be implemented to produce *measurable* economic, environmental, or playability benefits. Proposals may request up to \$50,000 per year for one to three years. Projects over multiple institutions may request up to \$75,000 per year.

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