



WATER MANAGEMENT

Why we can be proud of our water management at the Metropolitan Golf Course

Since January 2011 we have been using **Table Mountain spring water** to irrigate the golf course. This spring water used to run into the sea. With the new Green Point Urban Park development, of which we are a part, this precious water source is being captured in the water features around the GPUP and the golf course.

Not only this, we are currently using less water for irrigation than we catch, and, because of accurate record keeping we will be able to monitor what the annual figures look like in January 2012.

How do we manage this? The Metropolitan Golf course has installed the new standard in weather-smart irrigation, the **Rain Bird ET Manager**.

Over-watering has always been something people tried to avoid; increasing water scarcity has brought this problem into the spotlight. No matter how efficient an irrigation controller's watering schedule is, it must take into account constantly changing weather conditions – specifically evapotranspiration (ET) and rainfall.

ET is the amount of water lost from the soil through evaporation plus the plant's water loss (known as transpiration), both of which are dramatically affected by weather conditions and seasonal changes. Rain Bird ET Manager uses current weather information and ET seasonal factors to irrigate our golf course only when it needs it and then mainly at nighttime between 9 pm and 6 am.

The ET Manager helps to maintain the optimum moisture balance in our soil. As the weather changes, our ET Manager receives updates automatically, every hour and only allows our controller to irrigate when needed. The result: significant water savings, deeper root systems, and a healthier grass plant.