

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

Greenspace Horticulture Diploma Turfgrass Stream

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Are you looking for a career with lots of job prospects? If so, the turfgrass stream of the *Greenspace Horticulture Diploma Program at Red River College* may be the career choice for you.

In our June blog we discussed the fact that although the golf economy shrunk in the period between 2008-2013, there has been slight resurgence in recent years. Although not a return to its heyday of the 1985-2005 time period, the golf economy is at the very least not showing negative growth, but rather neutral or slightly positive growth across North America. This can likely be viewed as a correction of sorts as the number of golf courses built in North America in the 1990's and early 2000's surpassed demand and the sport saw a decrease in play as a result of the economic downturn in 2007.

Nonetheless, golf course maintenance job prospects have remained positive, and in the period from 2011 -2015 an annual average of 100 golf and turf positions across western Canada have been advertised by the Red River College Greenspace program. These positions range from graduate positions as golf course superintendents and sales representatives to graduate or work co-op positions as assistant superintendents, foreperson's and groundskeepers.

As a result, the ratio of jobs to students is definitely in the students favor as turfgrass management program enrollments across western Canada have declined during this same period. Furthermore, many students entering into turfgrass management programs return to positions that they either were in at the time of enrolment, secured as a work co-op position in their first work co-op or obtained on their own initiative by applying for an unadvertised position with an employer they want to work with.

Consequently, if this is a career you are interested in consider obtaining an education that will set you apart from those who are not trained in this area. Red River College is committed to offering the Turfgrass Stream in the 2016-2017 school year. If this is a field you're interested in, speak with your employer or contact me at 204-632-2302 or e-mail rofficer@rrc.ca

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