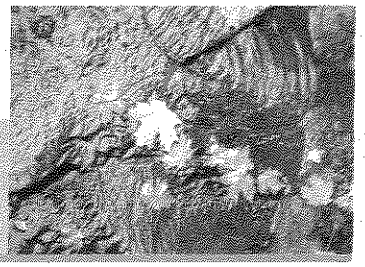
ON THE LAND

CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LEADING CONSERVATION IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE

Fall 2007, Issue 4



Soils ARE Critical Elements

Getting water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the right place is like building a house in the right place — we need to consider structural stability (slippage prone and compressible soils), wet basements (poorly drained soils), and frequently flooded areas (flood prone soils).

Soil is one of the most important elements of infiltration and wetland-type water quality BMPs. Water quality structures that are located and designed based on the type of site and soil conditions function more effectively and require less maintenance.

Information regarding soil morphology, predictions of soil limitations and hazards for selected land uses can be viewed at:

http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/

While the web soil survey is a good planning tool, site specific information regarding the selection of post-construction water quality BMP(s) should be determined in the field. The field determination needs to be done by a trained soil scientist due to soil variability and the type and amount of inclusions. When a site and soil evaluation is performed and recommendations are followed, improved water quality function of the planned BMP(s) is the result.

More information regarding trained specialists that can assist with site and soil evaluation can be viewed at www.ohiopedologist.org/.

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. EQIP is re-authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to:

1. **Promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals and optimize environmental benefits:**
   - Working on private lands with farmers and ranchers
   - Cooperating on a voluntary basis
   - Using local, State, tribal, and Federal partnerships
   - Providing flexible technical and financial assistance
   - Assisting agricultural producers in complying with federal, state, and tribal regulatory requirements
2. **Encourage environmental enhancement**

EQIP provides technical assistance, cost-share payments, incentive payments, and training to producers who enter into contracts based on an EQIP plan of operations.

Cuyahoga County had four applications for USDA NRCS incentive funding through this program. Two of the applications were for conservation practices related to horses and two of the applications were for forestry management conservation practices.

For more information, please contact the NRCS District Conservationist, Jim Storer at 216/524-6580, ext. 11

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

Calendar Of Events

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