

### **Engineered Earth Solutions**

### Jared Hill, EIT Applications Engineer

# Outline

- Erosion Control
  - Conventional Solutions
  - Benefits of Vegetation
- Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM)
- High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM)
- Engineered Earth Armoring Solution
- Surficial Slope Stability
- Case Studies

## **Problem: Earth Moves**











### **US Clean Water Act Regulation Facts**

- US\$13 Billion Cost Annually
- Over US \$1 Billion removing sediment from waterways annually
- EPA estimates sediment removal from reservoirs costs US \$500 million annually.
- Annual water storage replacement costs from sediment range from US \$2 to US\$6 billon



The Driving Force:

EPA Environmental Protection Agency
Via Clean Water Act (CWA)

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System:

 Use of Best Management Practices for NPDES Compliance (EPA TRM Fact Sheet)

### **EPA BMP Fact Sheets**

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water Washington, D.C.

#### Storm Water **Technology Fact Sheet** Bioretention

#### DESCRIPTION

€EPA

Bioretention is a best management practice (BMP) developed in the early 1990's by the Prince George's County, MD, Department of Environmental Resources (PGDER). Bioretention utilizes soils and both woody and herbaceous plants to remove pollutants from storm water runoff. As shown in Figure 1, runoff is conveyed as sheet flow to the treatment area, which consists of a grass buffer

strip, sand bed, ponding area, organic layer or mulch layer, planting soil, and plants. Runoff passes first over or through a sand bed, which slows the runoff's velocity, distributes it evenly along the length of the ponding area, which consists of a surface organic layer and/or ground cover and the underlying planting soil. The ponding area is graded, its center depressed. Water is ponded to a depth of 15 centimeters (6 inches) and gradually the bioretention area or infiltrates

EPA 832-E-99-012

September 1999



#### United States Office of Water Environmental Protection Washington, D.C. Agency Storm Water Technology Fact Sheet Vegetated Swales

#### DESCRIPTION

A vegetated swale is a broad, shallow channel with a dense stand of vegetation covering the side slopes and bottom. Swales can be natural or manmade, and are designed to trap particulate pollutants (suspended solids and trace metals), promote infiltration, and reduce the flow velocity of storm water runoff. A typical design is shown in Figure 1.

Vegetated swales can serve as part of a storm water



United States Office of Water Environmental Protection Washington, D.C. Agency

EPA 832-F-99-027 September 1999

#### Storm Water Technology Fact Sheet Vegetative Covers

#### DESCRIPTION

832-F-99-006

drainage system and can replace curbs, gutters and

storm sewer systems. Therefore, swales are best

suited for residential, industrial, and commercial

Vegetated swales can be used wherever the local

climate and soils permit the establishment and

maintenance of a dense vegetative cover. The

feasibility of installing a vegetated swale at a

areas with low flow and smaller populations.

APPLICABILITY

September 1999

€EPA

Soil erosion and sedimentation caused by vegetation removal, soil disturbances, changes to natural drainage patterns, or increases in impermeable ground cover are two of the primary problems associated with storm water runoff. One of the most effective ways to prevent erosion and sedimentation is to stabilize disturbed land through

> is practice is referred egetative covers can vegetation and/or ey can provide both erosion potential by apping sediment, ating the energy of

vegetative covers is x permanent new an include applying permanently seeding manent grass cover ea to provide an that both stabilizes ites sediment loss. planting grass seed ing to provide soil ver is established. perennial vegetation

vegetative covering ation. This allows a isting trees, vines, n as a natural buffer ctivities

#### APPLICABILITY

Vegetative covers can be applied at any site and are not restricted by the size of the site or local land uses. The type of soil, topography, and climate at the site determine the appropriate tree, shrub, and ground cover species for that particular management practice. Local climatic conditions help determine the appropriate time of year for planting. Temporary seeding is most suitable in areas disturbed by construction where the ground is left exposed for several weeks or more. Permanent seeding and planting is appropriate for any graded or cleared area where long-lived plant cover is desired. Some areas where permanent seeding is especially important are filter strips, buffer areas, vegetated swales, steep slopes, and stream banks.

#### ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Vegetative covering can be a relatively low-cost and low-maintenance practice for controlling dust and preventing erosion. It also adds to the aesthetics of a storm water control area

Limitations of vegetative covers as a management practice include:

- Vegetative covering must be coordinated with climatic conditions for proper establishment. For example, cold climate areas have limited growing seasons and arid regions require careful selection of plant species
- An appropriate maintenance program must be implemented to ensure the optimum performance.

## **The Benefits of Vegetation**

EPA 832, E.99, 027

September 1990

United States Office Environmental Protection Washi

Agency

Office of Water tion Washington, D.C.

#### Storm Water Technology Fact Sheet Vegetative Covers

#### DESCRIPTION

Soil erosion and sedimentation caused by vegetation removal, soil disturbances, changes to natural drainage patterns, or increases in impermeable ground cover are two of the primary problems associated with storm water runoff. One of the most effective ways to prevent erosion and sedimentation is to stabilize disturbed land through the addition of vegetation. This practice is referred to as "vegetative covering." Vegetative covers can be used to preserve existing vegetation and/or revegetate disturbed soils. They can provide both dust control and a reduction in erosion potential by increasing infiltration, trapping sediment, stabilizing the soil, and dissipating the covery of hard rain.

One method for establishing vegetative covers is planting either temporary or permanent new vegetation. Specific practices can include applying sod to a site, or temporarily or permanently seeding the site. Sod is a strip of permanent grass cover placed over a disturbed area to provide an immediate and permanent turf that both stabilizes the soil surface and eliminates seediment loss. Temporary seeding consists of planting grass seed immediately after rough grading to provide soil protection until a final cover is established. Permanent seeding establishes perennial vegetation in disturbed areas.

A second method for enhancing vegetative covering is by preserving existing vegetation. This allows a site's natural vegetation (existing trees, vines, bushes, and grasses) to function as a natural buffer zone during land disturbance activities.

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An appropriate maintenance program must be implemented to ensure the optimum "One of the most effective ways to prevent erosion and sedimentation is to stabilize disturbed land through the addition of vegetation."

"...provide both dust control and a reduction in erosion potential by increasing filtration, trapping sediment, stabilizing the soil, and dissipating the energy of hard rain."

TABLE 1 EFFECTIVENESS OF DESIGN SWALES			
Pollutant	Median % Removal		
Total Suspended Solids	81		
Oxygen Demanding Substances	67		
Nitrate	38		
Total Phosphorus	9		
Hydrocarbons	62		
Cadmium	42		
Copper	51		
Lead	67		
Zinc	71		

- Per the EPA Fact Sheet, vegetated swales are most effective at removing particulate pollutants (TSS).
- A conservative estimate is 25-50% removal, but 70-95% has been achieved on most sites.

# **Limitations of Vegetation**



# **Erosion Control Blankets**

- Straw
- Coconut
- Wood Excelsior
- Coir

### **Establish Vegetation**







# **Rock Riprap Performance**

Rock Riprap Size	Riprap Size Permissible (D <sub>50</sub> ) Velocity <sup>1</sup>	Permissible Shear Stress <sup>2</sup>	
(D <sub>50</sub> )		Channel Bottom	2.0H:1V
in	ft/s	lb/ft <sup>2</sup>	lb/ft <sup>2</sup>
3	6.2	1.2	0.9
6	8.7	2.4	1.7
9	10.7	3.6	2.6
12	12.3	4.8	3.5
18	15.1	7.2	5.2
24	17.5	9.6	6.9

- 1. Velocity based on Isbash Method
- 2. Shear Stress based on HEC-15

# **Rock Riprap**



# **Rock Riprap**



### **Paved Concrete Channel**



### **Paved Concrete Channel**



# **Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM)**



# **Reinforced Vegetation**



## **Vegetated Drainage Channel**



# **1**<sup>st</sup> Generation Stitch-Bonded TRM

### **Three Layers**

- Two Nets on the Outside
- Stitch-Bonded Polypropylene Composite

### **Tensile Strength**

- 400 x 300 lb/ft
- 5.8 x 4.4 kN/m

### **Moderate UV Stabilization**

- Up to 10 year life if exposed
- 80% at 1,000 hours (ASTM D 4355)

### **Appropriate Applications**

- Low Flow Channels
- Minor Slopes
- Low stress conditions









# **1**<sup>st</sup> Generation Stitch-Bonded TRM



## Key Lessons from 1<sup>st</sup> Generation TRMs

### **Improper Application**

- Hydraulic conditions exceeded TRM's Performance thresholds
- Non-Hydraulic Stresses not considered
- Limited Design Life

### Inadequate TRM specification

- Must be comprehensive to the application
- Alternate materials must meet all requirements

## **Installation Quality Control**

- Specification needs to stipulate installation guidance
- On site installation meeting with the contractor, engineer & manufacturer

## Key Lessons from 1<sup>st</sup> Generation TRMs

TRMs must also be designed for Applicable Non-Hydraulic Stresses

# **Durability:**

- Non-hydraulic Stresses
  - Heavy Mowing Activity
  - Maintenance Loading
  - Debris Loading
  - Animal Loading
  - Ice Flows
- Design Life
  - Ultraviolet (UV) Resistance
  - Tensile Strength





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Woven TRMs

### **Construction:**

• Three-dimensional, woven polypropylene geosynthetic mat

### **Material Construction:**

- X3<sup>®</sup> Fiber Technology
- Woven into a uniform configuration
- Homogeneous Structure

### **Created to specifically address the Limitations of 1<sup>st</sup> Generation TRMs:**

- Non-hydraulic Stresses
- Design Life





# **Design Criteria**

- Must design for both hydraulic and non-hydraulic stresses
- Resistance to Hydraulic Forces (Velocity & Shear Stress)
- Resistance to Non-Hydraulic Stresses





### **Non-Hydraulic Stresses**

- Heavy Mowing Activity
- Maintenance Loading
- Debris Loading
- Animal Loading
- Ice Flows
- Higher Factors of Safety







# **Design Life**

### **Determined based on:**

- Durability
  - Ultraviolet (UV) Resistance
  - Field Correlation
- Ultimate Tensile Strength
- Non-Hydraulic Stresses
  - Maintenance Loading
  - Debris Loading





# **Design Life**

### **UV Resistance:**

- Antioxidants are incorporated to increase stability
- Xenon Arc testing: ASTM D-4355
  - Accelerated exposure
  - Changes in temperature and moisture
  - up to and over 10,000 hours
- Retained Tensile Strength
- Test results must be correlated to field performance





# **Design Life**

### **Tensile Strength:**

- Material will degrade over time based on environmental stresses
- Retained tensile strength at end of design life of 1,000 lb/ft, 14.6 kN/m required
- Initial Tensile Strength is critical to define the functional longevity
  - 4,000 lb/ft, 58.4kN/m up to 75 year design life
  - 2,000 lb/ft, 29.2 kN/m up to 25 year design life



#### **Functional Longevity**

# Woven TRM



# Woven HPTRM



# Woven HPTRM



# **Engineered Earth Armoring Solution**

### **Composed of:**

- High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM)
- Engineered Earth Anchor

### **Expanded applications:**

- Critical Structures
- Wave overtopping
- Shallow Plane Slope Stabilization
- Underwater protection
- Wave run-up
- Higher Factor of Safety





# **Engineered Earth Armoring Solution**






# Wave Overtopping R&D



#### Wave Overtopping R&D



# Wave Overtopping R&D





#### **Erosion vs. Slope Instability**



#### Mobilization of a large mass of soil



#### Soils are dynamic and complex



#### **Slopes can easily become unstable**



2004 2006 2008 2010 2011 - S20/£3e Fi20/£4ng 2015 2016

# **Causes of Slope Instability**

- Increased Shear Stress vs.
  Decreased Shear Strength
- Over steepening and Removal of Stabilizing Mass
- Increased External Loading
- Seepage Erosion
- Saturation of Soils and Loss of Matric Suction (i.e., the "wet sand castle" effect)
- Dramatic Changes to Pore Water Pressure from Rapid Drawdown
- Vibratory Action
- Tension Cracking













- Flexible/Soft Armoring Solution
- Engineered to resist erosive forces and shallow plane slope instability
- Vegetation provides Environmental and Aesthetic benefits





HPTRM



Securing Pins

Engineered Earth Anchor







Vegetation





### **Slope Stabilization**



- Engineered Earth Anchors are designed to provide resistance to shear and lateral forces, and embedded beyond the predicted plane of failure
- HPTRM distributes loads amongst anchors while providing a continuous compressive cover
- HPTRM is also permeable for pore pressure relief and promotes vegetative establishment











# **Case Studies**

Application: Channel Slope Stabilization

Client: City of Kissimmee, FL

Designer: TY Lin International

**Contractor:** Underwater Engineering Services, Inc.

Installed: 2010

Product: ARMORMAX®

6-12' Type B2 Anchors0.5 anchors per square yard0.6 anchors per square meter

Quantity: 20,000 SY 16,700 SM







#### STANDARD PENETRATION TEST BORING RESULTS

#### Table 5 West City Ditch Soil Profile

Average Soil Layer		Observed "N" Values (bpf)
Depth (ft)	Soil Description	
0 - 7	Very loose to medium dense fine sand (SP) and fine sand with silt (SP-SM) with occasional layers of clayey sand (SC)	3 - 23
7 - 15	Loose to medium dense silty fine sand (SM) with layers of clayey sand (SC)	6 - 22



#### SPT Boring Summary

- Soils encountered consist of fine sand, silty fine sand, and clayey fine sand to a depth of 15'
- Blow counts ranged from 3 to 23, with most above 10 (and categorized as medium dense sand)
- Groundwater encountered between 4-7 feet

Table 1. Summary of Material Properties Used in Slope Stability Analysis

Soil	Moist Soil Unit Weight (pcf)	Saturated Soil Unit Weight (pcf)	Friction Angle (degrees)	
Loose Sand <sup>[1]</sup>	110	115	30	
Medium Dense Sand <sup>[1]</sup>	115	120	32	
Riprap <sup>[2]</sup>	130	130	40	

Table 2. Summary of Slope Stability Analysis Results (without anchor system)

Cross Section	Side Slope <sup>[1]</sup>	Long-term Normal Condition <sup>[2]</sup>			Rapid Drawdown Condition		
		Calculated	Target	Is FS	Calculated	Target	Is FS
		FS	FS	OK?	FS	FS	OK?
1	Left Slope	1.2	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No
	Right Slope	1.2	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No
2	Left Slope	1.2	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No
	Right Slope	1.2	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No
3	Left Slope	1.1	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No
	Right Slope	0.4	1.5	No	0.2	1.1	No
4	Left Slope	1.2	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No
	Right Slope	0.9	1.5	No	0.3	1.1	No
5 <sup>[3]</sup>	Left Slope	1.1	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No
6 <sup>[4]</sup>	Right Slope	1.1	1.5	No	0.4	1.1	No

Slope Stability Analysis: Material Properties and Existing Conditions Results

- Separate unit weights and φ angles designated using SPT results
- Water table considered in unit weights and rapid drawdown conditions
- Six cross sections analyzed, none met minimum FS values without reinforcement





ARMORMAX<sup>®</sup> was proposed for the channel lining,

but how were the slopes stabilized?







#### ARMORMAX<sup>®</sup> SELECTED INSTALLATION DETAILS



#### Specified Anchoring Pattern

- Spacing of 4 ft in the 'X' direction, 5 ft in the "Y" direction
- 6-inch overlap for HPTRM panels
- Pattern staggered to secure HPTRM efficiently
- Spacing and density modeled in slope stability software

#### FIGURE 4: TYPE B2 ANCHOR / PIN PATTERN DETAIL FOR SLOPE FACE

#### ANCHOR DESIGN LENGTHS PER PLAN VIEW SECTION Station 29+50 Station 28+00 tation 33+28 Station 24+00 Station 10+14 Station 15+76 Station 16+72 Station 38+04 Nominal 12 ft long anchor recommended Nominal 6 ft long anchor recommended

Nominal 9 ft long anchor recommended

ArmorMax anchor system not installed

6-FT, 9-FT, & 12-FT (Nominal) Anchor Lengths Designated in Various Sections, per Factor of Safety Determinations






















Application: Structural Streambank Slope Stabilization

Client: City of Tulsa, OK

Contractor: Tri Star Construction

Installed: 2013

Product: ARMORMAX<sup>®</sup> 6' Type B2 Anchors 0.5 anchors per square yard 0.6 anchors per square meter

Quantity: 5,000 SY 4,200 SM









Geotechnical Engineering Report Flood Control, Vensel Creek . Tulsa, Oklahoma May 6, 2011 - Terracon Project No. 04115025

llerracon

The fill material should be placed on a relatively level surface. Subgrade slopes greater than about 4H:1V should be continuously benched to avoid placing fill on a sloped surface. The benches should be of sufficient width for easy access to dumping and compaction equipment. We recommend that channel side slopes be overbuilt and cut back to the proposed finish grade.

#### 4.3 Gravity Block Retaining Wall

We understand that block walls up to a maximum height of 20 feet are planned on both sides of the creek between Stations 116+00 and 122+00. Wall design considerations are presented in the following sections.

#### 4.3.1 Gravity Block Retaining Wall Global Stability Analyses

We used the STABL program to estimate the global factor of safety against slope failure. For this study, we performed analyses using the Spencer method for circular failure surfaces and the Morgenstern-Price method for block failure surfaces for normal, sudden drawdown, and critical flood stage conditions for an 8, 12, and 20-foot tall block wall and the corresponding base block sizes.



#### **General Information:**

5 to 15 feet deep channel
Maximum 100 year velocity of 11.85 ft/sec
New channel to have 4:1 side slopes
Between stations 116+00 and 122+00 to have gravity block retaining walls
Clayey sands and low plasticity clays.

#### Soil properties:

•Unit weight = 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> unsaturated, 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> saturated
•Cohesion=50 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>
•Phi angle = 31°

#### **Design Scenarios:**

•Normal condition:

- Water table 17' below top of channel
- Required Factor of Safety=1.3-1.5
- Steady state seepage
  - Water level a few feet deep
  - Required Factor of Safety=1.3
- •Rapid draw down condition
  - Water level drops from about 15' deep to 3' deep
  - Required Factor of Safety=1.1

























#### Application: Slope Stabilization

Client: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

**Contractor:** Athena Construction Group CW Matthews Contracting

Installed: 2016

#### Product: ARMORMAX®

9' Type B2 Anchors 0.62 anchors per square yard 0.75 anchors per square meter

Quantity: 1,000 SY 800 SM















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### **Questions?**

### Jared Hill, EIT Applications Engineer