

Landmarks

HIGH POINTS



There are some erosion-control products that haven't been used in our area, but maybe should be. Products that we think are worth a closer look.

So, in this issue of e-Landmarks and in the next one, we'll feature these products that we think have potential to be very effective. And very easy to use.

We're working with area developers and organizations to put these products to the test in the field. And as we gather information on how they perform, we'll let you know. Perhaps they'll work in some of your next applications, too.

BlackHawk Inlet Filter Mat



Newly installed BlackHawk Inlet Filter Mat



Three weeks after installation

If you're looking for an alternative to inlet filter bags, this product may be the answer. It's essentially is a large, sponge-like mat that's been magnetized to fit securely to the top of an inlet.

We were interested in it for a number of reasons. One of the big ones is that, unlike a clogged inlet filter bag, it does not have the potential to cause flooding. Other pluses are that installation is fast and easy... and initial feedback is that it does a good job of letting water pass through but not sediment and debris (no small challenge with our clay soils).

Here's how it works: A person simply positions the mat on top of the inlet grate (this really is a one-person job; no machinery needed!). Heavy-duty magnets do the rest, holding it in place even in field tests where it was subjected to some 1,200 gallons of water per minute from a fire hydrant.

The sponge-like quality of the material and the holes spaced in it allow high volumes of water to quickly flow through, while trapping sediment on its surface.

After a storm, the mat can be lifted off by hand, rinsed, and reused.

We have several of these mats in place in Penn Township, and plan to put a few more in earthmoving locations with various amounts of activity in North Huntingdon, Unity, and other parts of the county. We also raffled one off at our recent Municipal Roundtable.

Westmoreland Conservation District
J. Roy Houston Conservation Center
218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg PA 15601
Phone: 724-837-5271 email: jen@wcdpa.com

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