

PENALTY TURNED INTO A POSITIVE FOR BOWMAN PARK

(reprinted from TMACOG Big Picture)



A permit violation at Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Buckeye Basin Project resulted in a notice in April 1999 from the Ohio EPA that storm water runoff from the project was washing sediments into Detwiler Creek. In addition to repairing the erosion controls at the site, ODOT was fined a civil penalty; however ODOT took the option of donating funds, in lieu of a fine, to the Maumee RAP Urban Runoff Action Group (URAG).



When the City of Toledo Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry announce that they would be adding a parking lot off Laskey Road to service Bowman Park, the Urban Runoff Action Group seized the opportunity to use the ODOT funds to improve the project and the environment. Frank Mortali and Scott Sibley, engineers with the City of Toledo and members of the URAG, worked with the Parks Department on methods to improve the quality of the storm water runoff from the proposed parking lot. Frank and Scott recommended using a bio-filter to collect and clean the storm water runoff.



"The bio-filter is the best management practice for water quality on a confined urban site," Scott Sibley said. Storm water runoff from the new parking lot would first pass through a plant bed and a sand filter before entering the storm water system and being discharged into a stream or river. This filtering process removes from the storm water runoff many of the pollutants that can collect on parking lots, such as oil grease, and metals that are left behind by cars. "We hope projects like this can be a demonstration project for other sites within the city," he added.



The URAG voted to provide \$20,000 of the ODOT funds to cover the additional materials, labor and planting required for the bio-filter at Bowman Park. The project provides treatment for storm water runoff, lessening the potential environmental impacts. Through the prudent use of ODOT's funds, the URAG helped to bring to fruition this innovative practice which can be seen in the parking lot located off Laskey Road, west of Jackman Road.

