



2014 Soil In The City Conference in Chicago

Enhancing Urban Soils for Living
Landscapes and Healthy Communities

June 29-July 2, 2014 (Technical program June 30-July 2)

Abstract submission ends March 31; Early registration ends April 15

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Downtown Chicago, Illinois

Deindustrialization of metropolitan areas worldwide has resulted in a large amount of available land of interest to city planners, community organizations, and natural resources professionals who envision new future uses including green infrastructure, urban habitat, community gardens and urban farms. Soil In The City is a national conference organized by the USDA Research Committee W-2170 on Soil-Based Use of Residuals, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water. The conference theme is “restoring our available urban land and optimizing local resources, while protecting environmental and human health and enhancing socio-cultural dialogue.”

The study of soils is becoming an important issue in urban areas. Human-impacted soils and engineered soils are central to urban planning. Understanding the properties, processes, and the ecologies of urban soils is paramount in bringing more urban land into productive use and improving the quality of life for a large segment of our rapidly growing urban populations, strengthen-

ing neighborhoods and local economies and enhancing food security and quality. Local renewable resources like wastewater treatment residuals (biosolids), urban yard and food waste composts, and other byproducts can play a vital role in revitalizing these degraded urban soils such that they can provide an array of ecosystem services from providing a regional food system to optimizing capture/use of urban stormwater. The conference will be organized in sub-themes and will allow for ample discussion time.

This conference is for anyone working with planning, designing, constructing, and/or maintaining urban infrastructures and outdoor areas, including engineers, landscape architects, designers, biosolids management leaders, contractors/consultants, developers, builders, city planners, arborists, foresters, urban gardeners, researchers and educators. Conference attendees will be eligible to earn up to 15 professional development credits (PDHs/CEUs).



Urban Farming

Focus areas: Different forms/structures of urban gardening; integrating residuals management into urban gardening; challenges facing urban gardening; education and outreach, needs and concerns.

Presentations will focus on characteristics of urban soils; improving quality/productivity of urban soils; pollutants (organic/inorganic) in residuals-amended urban soils; uptake of pollutants by food crops; food quality in urban environment; regulatory concerns and challenges facing urban farming; and environmental/economic/social benefits of incorporating residuals in urban farming.

Urban Ecology and Green Infrastructures

Focus areas: Natural or engineered soils and green infrastructures; integrating residuals management into urban green infrastructure; maintenance strategies and quantifying long-term performance; ancillary benefits; green energy potential (i.e., co-digestion) and integrating resource recovery with urban green infrastructures.

Presentations will focus on integrating residuals into growth medium to improve long-term sustainability and performance of green infrastructures; cost/benefit analysis of common green infrastructures and environmental/societal benefits.

Greening (Re-Vegetating) Brownfields

Focus areas: Vacant lots to vegetable plots; using locally available residuals to convert brownfields into productive green spaces and economic/environmental/social benefits of greening brownfields.

Presentations will focus on innovative approaches to manage pollutant bioavailability; use of residuals to mitigate contamination and enhance soil productivity; beneficial uses of stormwater and improvement of ecosystem services in residuals-amended urban soils.

More information: Contact Dr. Hundal at (708) 588-4201 or hundall@mwr.org

For registration and lodging, go to <http://www.iweasite.org/Conferences/SoilCity.html>