

DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
MICHIGAN'S INTERMODAL GATEWAY

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OPENING OF GREAT LAKES SOIL EROSION PROGRAM ON BELLE ISLE

Detroit, April 4th, 2001- Today the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority (DWCPA), in collaboration with the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative, conducted the second part of a two-day training and demonstration workshop on Belle Isle. The purpose of the workshop was to showcase soft engineering principles used to design and implement an innovative shoreline project for soil erosion and sediment control. The project was funded by a \$25,000 grant, one of 7 grants the State of Michigan received from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. The DWCPA received matching funds, in excess of \$10,000 from various private and public stakeholders, resulting in total project funding of \$35,000.

The project's goal is to utilize a portion of the Lake Muskoday shoreline, located across from the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle, as a training field and demonstration project that will produce a cost-effective, environmentally friendly alternative for reducing soil erosion. The project will help rehabilitate the shoreline on Belle Isle. The project is intended to serve as a model for soft engineering practices along Detroit's waterfront. The DWCPA will assist in report preparation and advertising of the end product through its web site (www.portdetroit.com) and various presentations, to help promote the benefits of soft engineering of shorelines.