











#### Pedogenesis of bioretention media in Midwest, USA urban watersheds: Understanding soil evolution to guide maintenance

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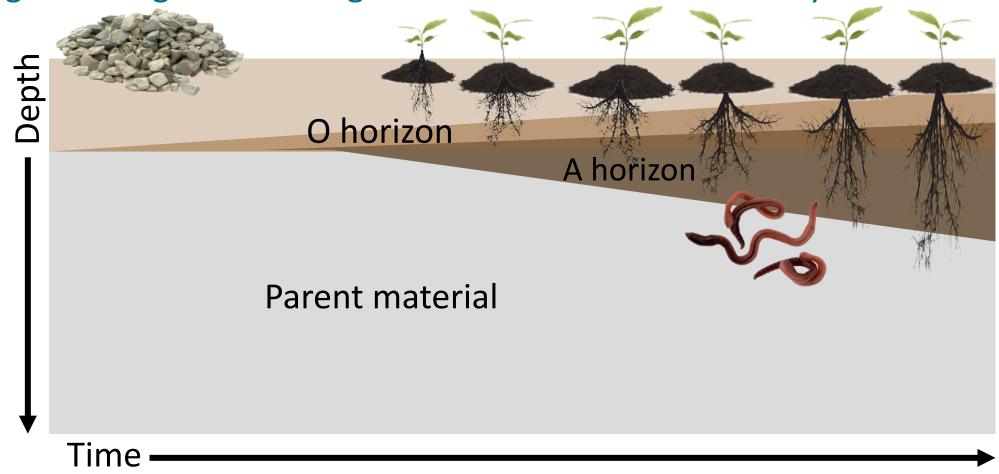




## Introduction



Pedogenesis = gradual changes in a soil that occur naturally over time



# Midwest, USA (Ohio)





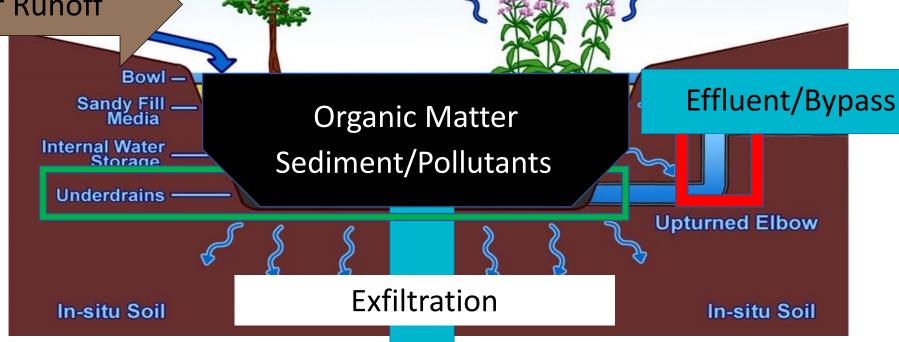
#### Organic matter

- 3-5% by weight
- 8-20% by volume
- source = compost

#### Soil texture

- 80-90% sand
- <10% clay

15-60 mg/kg P



Evapotranspiration

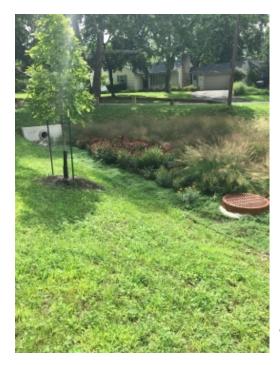
"Organics and small sized particles reduce bioretention flow properties" (Vijayaraghvan, 2016)

# **Research Objectives**



- Describe how bioretention soil media evolves over time
- Determine variables that soil media evolution in bioretention
- Relate bioretention pedogenesis to flow properties and a wider context





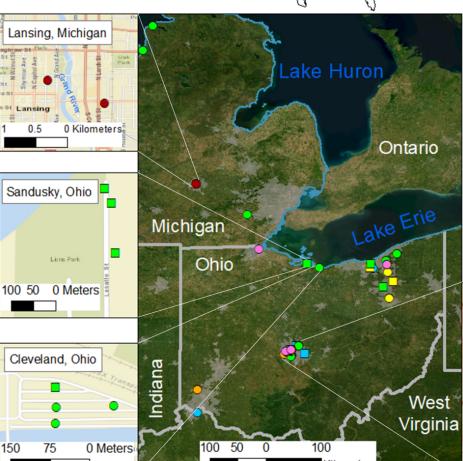
"Bioretention media needs more than two years to settle" (Spraakman et al.,

## **Field Sites**









#### **Number of Visits**

- 1 visit
- 2 visits
- 3 visits

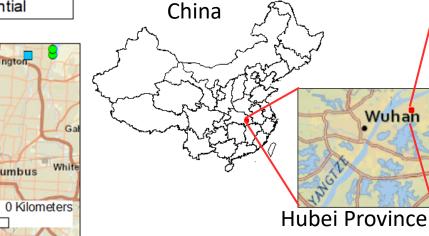
- 57 sites, 70 unique visits
- 3 states in Midwest, USA
- 3 sites Wuhan, China
- 657 soil samples
- 172 infiltration tests

#### Land Use

- **Urban Areas**
- Commercial
- Downtown Urban
- **Fueling Station**
- Industrial
- Parking/Roads
- Residential

Central Ohio Worthington

Columbus



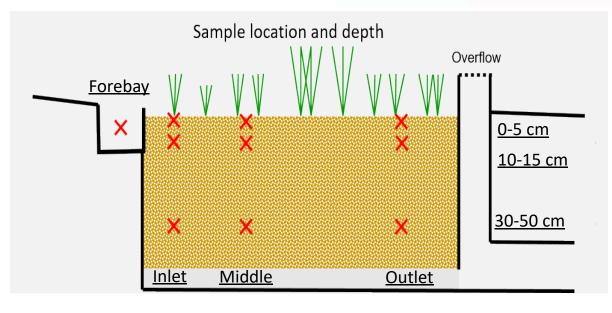


# Field and Analysis Methods



eau dans la ville Urban water





Rain Garden Name SHEETZ KENT #452 600 N MANTY 4 ST KENT, OH 44240 Photo taken' **Built Design Details** Type of Rain Garden (on/offline ON Number of Downspot 6,5,45,65 Conc towards Sheet Z, diffuse law Description of drainage area impervious, pervious, etc. Inlet Path Erosion (Y/N) N N Y but not block-1

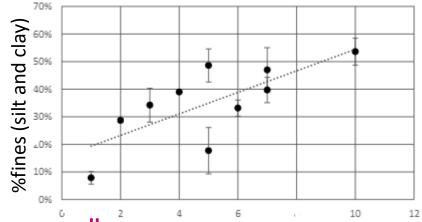
"Surface infiltration rate"

Soil samples with depth and location

Checklist

Response variables <

Organic matter
Soil texture
Surface infiltration rate



"Chronosequence"

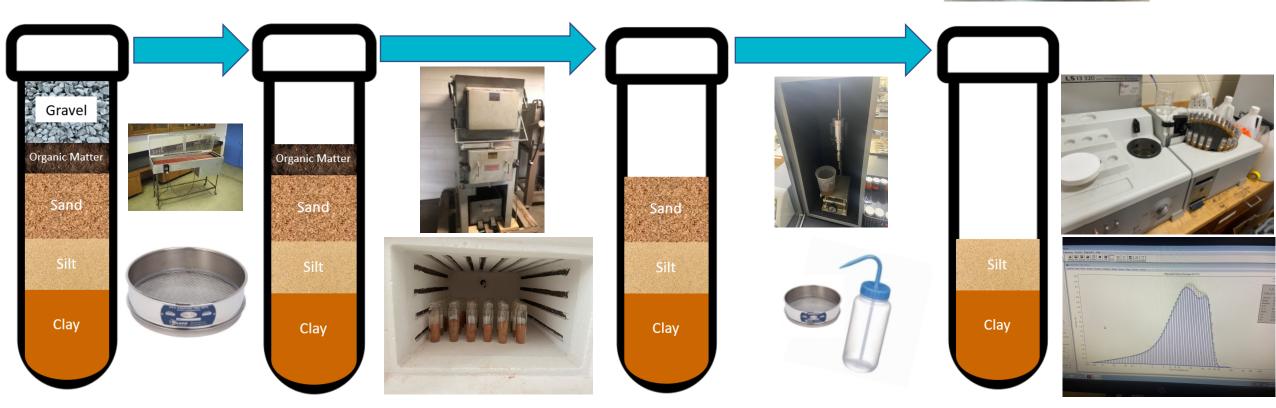
Bioretention age (years)

# **Laboratory Methods**

NÔVQ TECH L'eau dans la ville | Urban water

- Loss on ignition organic matter analysis (ASTM-D2974)
- Laser diffraction particle size analysis (Faé et al., 2019)





# **Organic Matter**

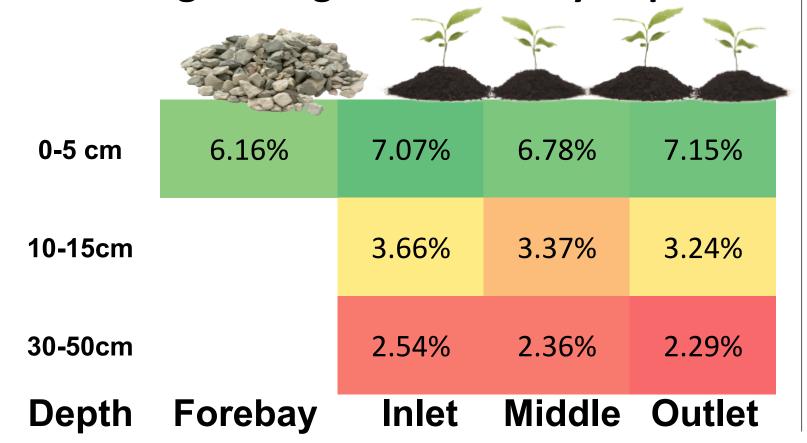
explained by age, land use, and depth





Commercial = Downtown Urban = Fueling Station = Residential > Parking/Roads > Industrial

#### **Average % Organic Matter by Depth**



#### Design standard

- 3-5% by weight
- 8-20% by volume
- source = compost

#### Key message:

Organic matter accumulates at the surface over time (mulch, detritus, wash-off)

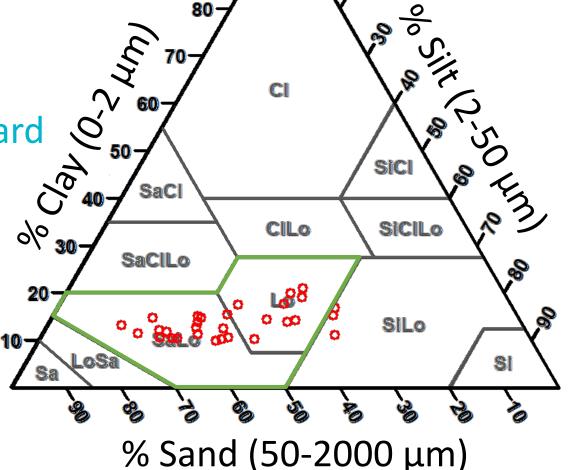
## Soil Texture - Hubei



China design standard

Sandy loam or

Loam

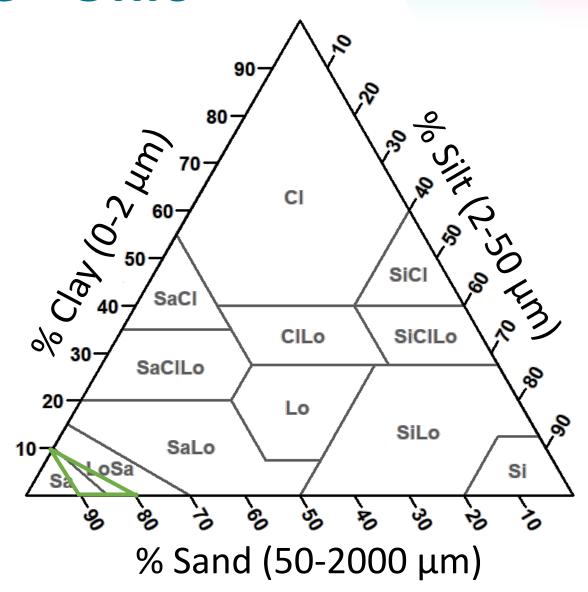


10% of samples are outside of design range

Of those, 100% were too fine

## **Soil Texture - Ohio**

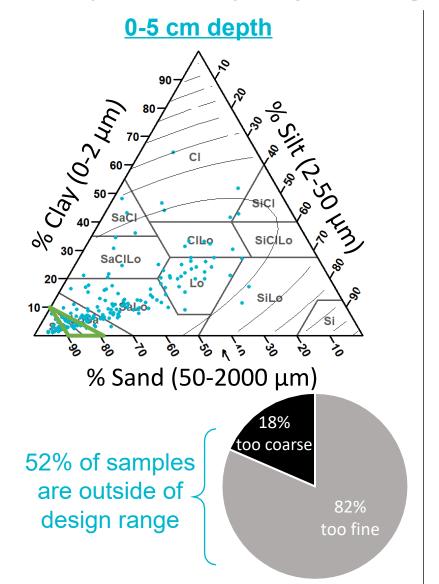


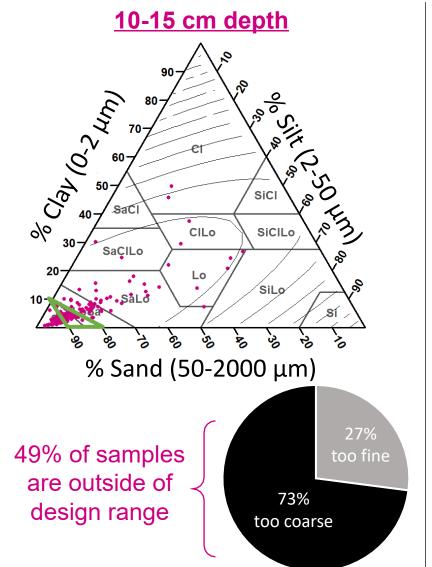


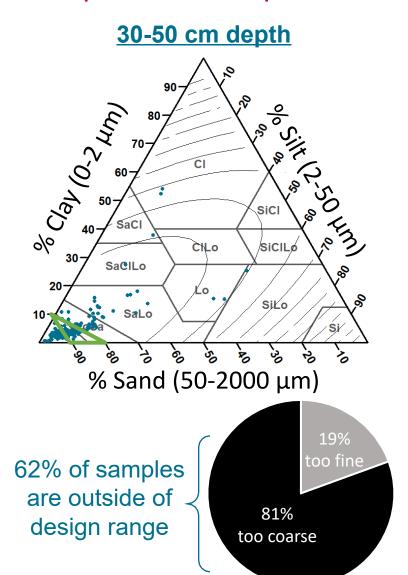
## **Soil Texture**

#### Key message:

>50% of samples were outside the design range, TECH explained by depth & age fines accumulate at surface, coarse particles deeper









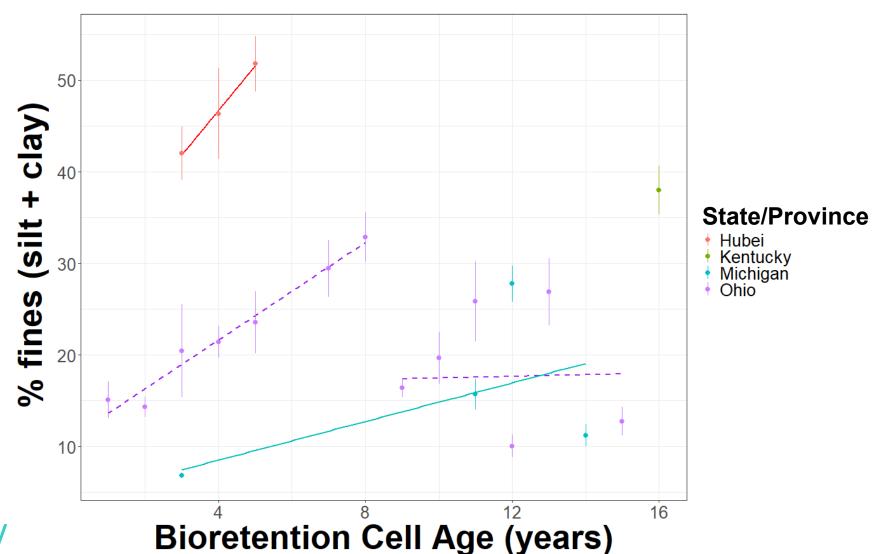
Hubei Kentucky Michigan Ohio

#### **Soil Texture** explained by depth & age

Hubei ↑ 4.9% annually

Kentucky 1 data point

Ohio ↑ 2.7% annually



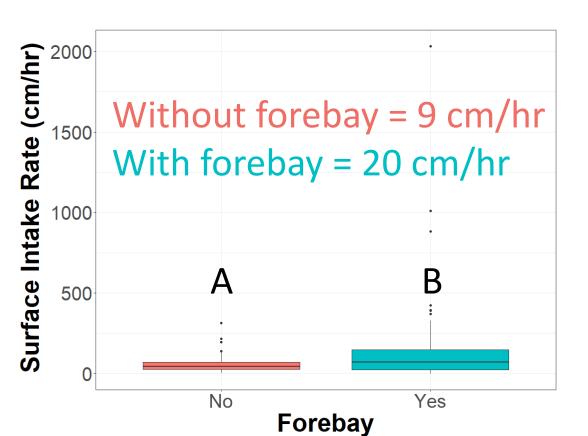
Michigan ↑ 1.1% annually

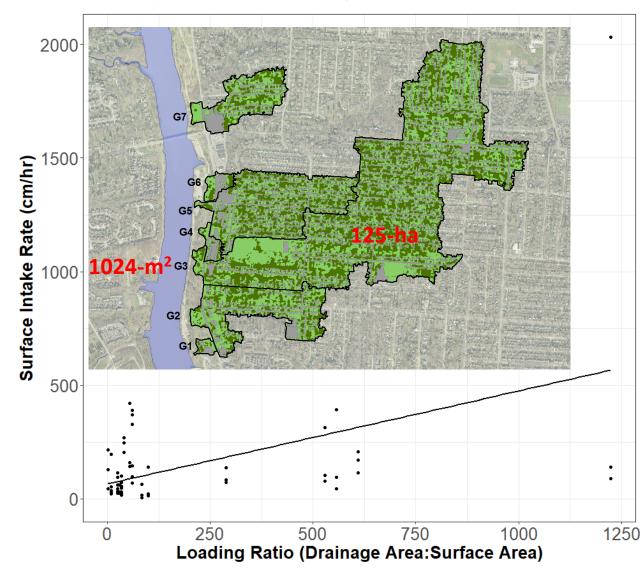
## **Surface Intake Rate**



explained by age, presence/absence of forebay, and loading ratio

Every year ↓ 1.25 cm/hr





## **Conclusions & Wider Context**



- Organic matter and fines accumulate in bioretention soil media over time
- However, the surface intake rate remains high
- Traditional laboratory and analysis methods should be reconsidered
- Applicable to other contexts around the world
- Human factors (design standard, forebay, land use, loading ratio, mulching) and natural factors (accumulation, animals, plants) influence bioretention pedogenesis



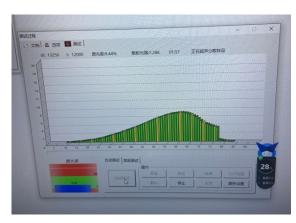
• Soil texture methods



Hydrometer



Sieve



Laser diffraction



- Soil texture methods
- Compare "as-built" data to data sampled years/decades later

#### PARTICLE SIZE (ASTM F1632)

		Gravel %				Soil Separate*			Sieve Size / Sand Fraction Sand Particle Diameter % Retained				
Lab ID#	Sample Name	1" 25 mm	1/2" 12,5 mm	1/4" 6.3 mm	No. 10 2 mm	Sand	Silt	Clay	No. 18 V. Coarse 1.0 mm	No. 35 Coarse 0.50 mm	No. 60 Medium 0.25 mm	No. 140 Fine 0.10 mm	No. 270 V. Fine 0.05 mm
40866-1	Bioretention 4-1-2	0.0	1.0	2.7	14.7	79.6	13.5	7.0	24.4	24.1	18.7	9,6	2.9

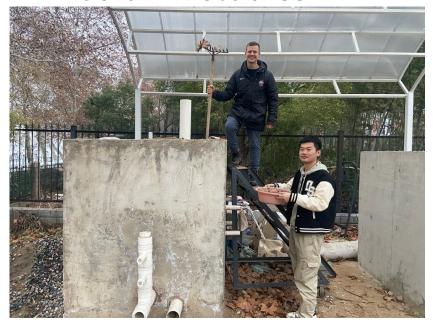
#### INFILTRATION RATE (Ksat) / pH / ORGANIC MATTER / TEXTURAL CLASS

Sample Name	Ksat In/hr	Density g/cc	EC dS/m	pH'	Matter <sup>2</sup>	Textural Class
retention 4-1-2	22.1	1.43		7.2	3.29	Gravelly Loamy Sand
	retention 4-1-2	ln/hr	in/hr g/cc	in/hr g/cc dS/m	In/hr g/cc dS/m 1:1	in/hr g/cc dS/m 1:1 %



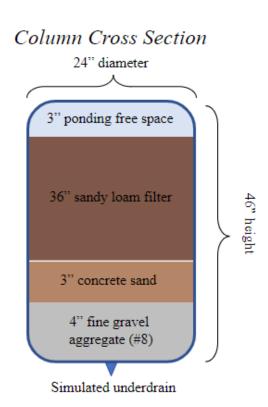
- Soil texture methods
- Compare "as-built" data to data sampled years/decades later

Column studies



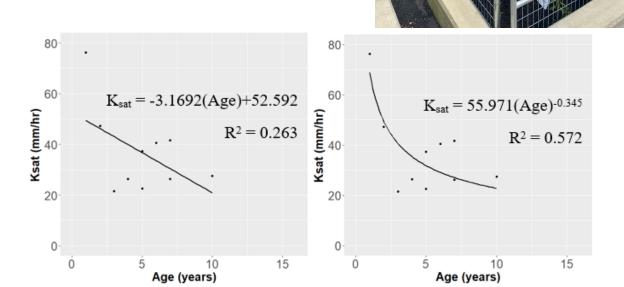








- Soil texture methods
- Compare "as-built" data to data sampled years/decades later
- Column studies
- Long-term monitoring, multiple visits
- Models, pedotransfer functions
- Database



## **Select References**



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# Thank you! Questions?

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