

Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park



Park reconstruction underway

Situation

In 2015, downtown Atlanta's landmark Centennial Olympic Park suffered a muddy beating from the feet of concert goers. The 21-acre park saw 18 inches of rain in two months during the height of the festival season. A particular three-day event drew 57,000 people in one day. The combination of heavy rains and heavy foot traffic left the area without a blade of grass. This forced a 100-day shutdown of the 3.5-acre concert area to regrow the ground cover. Most of the rain-ravaged section was simply aerated, fertilized and irrigated to bring back the grass, but park officials decided to create a 10,000-square-foot demo area to establish a sand cap-based drainage system similar to those used on golf courses in order to compare mud and damage resistance between the areas with and without a sand cap when rain struck.

The consultant recommended mixing sand with 15 percent Profile® Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade™ — an inorganic soil amendment — to produce a firmer surface and better drainage than the sand/peat mix that is typically used for sand cap projects.

Challenge

- Limit turf damage during concerts and other park events
- Accelerate drainage during and after rain incidents
- Reduce seasonal expenses by minimizing re-sodding
- Create a healthy grass-growing environment with optimal moisture and nutrient retention
- Support the park's expanding event schedule

Solution & Application

- Create a 10,000 square foot demo area to evaluate sand/PPC cap solution
- Install a new subgrade topped by drainage tiles, a 4-inch layer of gravel, and a 6-inch layer of sand mixed with 15 percent Profile® Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade™
- Compare post-rain turf conditions in areas with and without a sand cap

Results

The sand cap demo area with Profile® Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade™ outperformed the untreated native soil, delivering a percolation rate of 13 inches per hour by flushing excess water through the sand and gravel layers and into the drainage pipes. The first big test came in October 2015 at a sold-out Foo Fighters concert attended by 20,000 fans. Despite near-daily rain from the previous week and a steady drizzle during the event, the grass in the sand-capped section survived with little damage.

In contrast, the untreated area turned nearly as muddy as before and was reduced to a hardscrabble expanse of brown with barely a trace of turf when the weather cleared. Those results prompted park officials to sand cap an additional 30,000 square feet of turf the following summer and to make plans to sand-cap the rest of the core 3.5-acre area in coming years in order to keep the grass healthy even in the face of heavy foot traffic and heavy rains.

Contact Profile Products today to learn how our solutions can help eliminate the need to re-sod high traffic areas. Profile Products....Solutions for your Environment™.

“
The sand cap was a tremendous success compared to the untreated native soils. We attribute that to a great design specification.”

-Steve Ware
Ground Operations Manager,
Georgia World Congress Center Authority

For help on your next project site, contact Profile® Sales Support at 800-508-8681 or Technical Services at tech@profileproducts.com.



Solutions for your Environment™

PROJECT PROFILE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA



A Holistic Approach to Erosion Control and Vegetative Strategies

These five fundamentals take the guesswork out of the crucial decisions that need to be made to ensure project success.



1. Creating Optimal Soil Conditions

Soil testing provides essential information to determine what adjustments, if any, need to be made to assure a more favorable growing environment.



2. Picking the Right Plant Species

It is essential to select plant species that are adapted to project locations, site conditions, intended use and maintenance requirements.



3. Selecting the Correct Erosion Control Material

The correct cover is necessary to protect both seed and soil, taking into account erosion control effectiveness, ability to facilitate growth and functional longevity.



4. Ensuring Proper Installation

Correctly installing these products in accordance with the manufacturer's mixing, application and installation guidelines will maximize their performance.



5. Follow-up Inspection & Maintenance Practices

Monitoring project progress will ensure compliance issues are being addressed. Maintenance may be required to mitigate unexpected challenges.



Profile® Porous Ceramics Greens Grade™

- Improves water- and nutrient-holding capabilities, increases oxygen levels at the root zone, and facilitates drainage when soils are saturated
- Retains 93% of its weight in water while increasing drainage
- Reduces organic buildup, soil compaction and water usage
- Eliminates localized dry spots and dries out surface algae



Design Software that Integrates the Major Erosion and Sediment Control Disciplines

- The industry's only web-based tool for selecting the right products for your project
- Design elements encompass: soils, vegetation species, erosion and sediment control material, installation and inspection/maintenance
- Holistic solutions start with a FREE soil test/analysis at www.ProfilePS3.com

For help on your next project site, contact Profile® Sales Support at 800-508-8681 or Technical Services at tech@profileproducts.com.