

The potential role of GIS soils information for in-ground asset life expectancy analysis

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Abstract

In the water industry, in-ground asset performance is assessed according to factors such as failure frequency, asset condition and material life expectancy. It is known that soil mechanical, chemical, acidity and moisture properties impact on asset life expectancy, but such information is not generally factored into asset life estimates because it is rarely available. In this sense, urban areas tend to be asset rich but information poor. In this paper we show that soils information often exists as archives that can be restored. However, to be most useful, this information requires mapping (hence re-interpretation on the basis of known field relationships), database and software components.

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³ The authors would like to thank Mr Mike Smith for his comments on a draft of this paper.