



## *talking trash*

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# THE GROUNDWORK FOR GREENER STADIUMS

Since Stabilizer Solutions' inception 30 years ago, the company has remained a family operation, and today Jon Hubbs and his son Clay have raised the bar since those early days when Lady Bird Johnson led efforts to beautify US highways. Expanding on the original "Stabilizer" product, the company now provides products not only for the US Department of Transportation but also professional sporting facilities and public parks. As LEED certification has gained momentum, Jon and Clay have found Stabilizer's firm but porous surfaces to be a perfect fit to help gain LEED points, with water-harvesting systems that use local and pre-consumer recycled material.

## FACT/

About 340 billion gallons of water are used every day in the United States. Stabilizer Solutions' products work in tandem with water-harvesting systems for maximum efficiency.

## backgrounder/

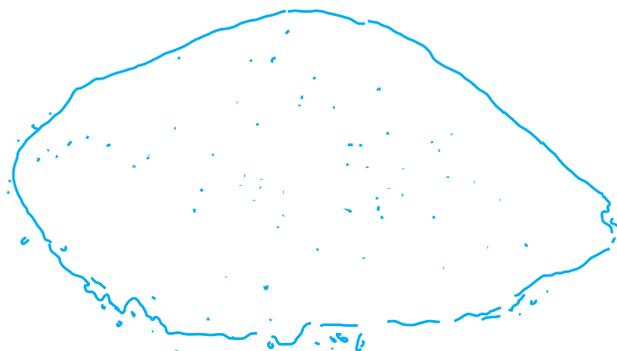
"The product came looking for us," Jon says of the company's catalyst. "My brother Jim and I were providing seed to the Department of Transportation for the Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification Program. While walking through the Arizona desert, we realized nothing was more out of place than an asphalt pathway forcing its way through a valley of 100-year-old saguaros. We started experimenting with adding seed to crushed local granite and other materials to come up with a hard surface that fit the environment—and our Stabilizer product was born." That product has been used on a number of high-profile LEED projects; most notable is the recently completed Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University, the first building of its type to achieve LEED Platinum status in Arizona.

## challenge/

Play a key role in the construction of TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Nebraska, a new \$128 million downtown stadium, which will be completed in spring 2011, and will serve as home to the NCAA Men's College World Series. The stadium, for which Stabilizer Solutions is creating the turf and infield surfaces, has the distinction of being one of the first sport facilities to achieve LEED certification in the country.

## solution/

Stabilizer Solutions' product, a natural soil binder blended with crushed stone or decomposed granite, provides the perfect solution for the project in more ways than one. "Stabilizer is used on more natural pathways worldwide than any other product," Clay explains. "Stabilizer is also blended into infield mixes for baseball, sand horse tracks, and other sport facilities—anywhere better performance is demanded of the soil." The younger Hubbs





## “Stabilizer is used on more natural pathways worldwide than any other product.”

—Clay Hubbs, Director of Operations

TOP: New York’s Lincoln Center features a Stabilized Crushed Stone plaza.

BOTTOM LEFT: Stabilized Decomposed Granite (DG) at work in the ASU Biodesign Institute’s water-harvesting basin. Photo: Bill Timmerman.

CENTER RIGHT: The company’s Stalok Fiber Reinforced Turf is employed at Soccer City, site of 2010 World Cup.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dial-Henkel Headquarters’ green roof with Stabilized DG. Photo: Bill Timmerman.

is familiar with both sides of the job; he served as a groundskeeper for the Arizona Diamondbacks for six years before joining the family business.

The company’s Polymer product is the next generation of the Stabilizer. “It’s also blended in with crushed stone and decomposed granite,” Clay says. “It provides the same type of binding ability but also makes it waterproof. It is more of a completely sealed surface.” Especially useful for arenas is the Stalok Fiber, a product used to stabilize the root zone for natural turf fields, allowing the turf to increase its load-bearing capacity and shear strength in high-traffic areas like football fields, soccer fields, and turf parking.”

Before the Omaha stadium came the Biodesign Institute landscaping project, designed by Christy Ten Eyck, president of Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, and featuring an innovative use of water harvesting—gathering AC condensate and rainwater runoff from the building and capturing it in a stabilized, decomposed-granite mix provided by the Hubbs team. “It’s a retention basin where they store water and reuse it to irrigate the landscape,” Clay notes. “[Ten Eyck] did a similar design for the University of Arizona College of Architecture and Landscape design but...used a lot of the recycled concrete and rubble that was there and incorporated that back into the landscape. She also created a pond as a safe water habitat for animal life. She has done some innovative things to manage water here in the Arizona desert with our products.”

Though the company is also working on the Santa Fe Railroad Park, which focuses

on rainwater harvesting and employs Stabilizer Stalok, the company’s favorite projects are the sports facilities, because for the Hubbs family, its first love is still baseball. “We all played baseball and coached it,” says the senior Hubbs. “It’s our passion.”

The family loves that it can offer its services and solutions to improve the sports opportunities of its community. “Kids would be out on the field, and the infield would have rock or broken glass or pieces of wood; the ball would take a bad hop, and a kid would get hit in the head. That’s it. They would go play video games instead,” Jon continues. “A lot of little leagues and schools can’t afford to make their fields over. So we redo the field as a donation.” The charity is often done in association with both the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Los Angeles Angels; the company donated a little-league field during this year’s All-Star game in Anaheim.

Jon says the major sporting facilities don’t promote sustainable practices enough and is encouraged by the efforts being made for the TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, which is pursuing LEED certification. Among the company’s high-profile projects is the recent World Cup in South Africa. “We supplied four of the main stadiums, four of the practice venues, and five of the base-camp fields,” Clay says. “We waited too long to find a hotel room and didn’t go to the World Cup,” confides the younger Hubbs, but his father is more forthcoming: “To tell you the truth, although they are a great customer, I am not that big of a fan for that kind of football.” But he does know how to build those kinds of stadiums. —by Scott Heskes