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Project Profile: Blakeley Ravine – Minnesota

GreenArmor™ System Stabilizes Slopes After Severe Mudslides

In the spring of 2014, the small Minnesota town of Blakeley Township, south of the Twin Cities, was ravaged by severe mudslides and flooding. Blakeley's three-dozen residents were evacuated, but the storm destroyed roads and isolated the town. All roads leading into and out of town required repair and stabilization, along with nearby ditches and large channels that flow into the Minnesota River.

Barr Engineering was tasked with the daunting repair job. Steve Klein, vice president and senior civil engineer with Barr, had a long track record of success with Futerra® Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRMs). When Profile introduced the GreenArmor™ System in 2007, Klein began specifying it whenever a situation needed quick germination and extra holding power. The GreenArmor System is comprised of a Futerra TRM infilled with the industry's most advanced hydraulic mulch, Flexterra® High Performance-Flexible Growth Medium™ (HP-FGM™). The combination offers a technologically advanced solution with quick installation to protect high-discharge waterways.

To stabilize the Blakeley Ravine, Klein and Adam Popenhagen, Profile's market development manager, designed a GreenArmor System consisting of 20,000 square yards of Futerra® R45 High Performance-Turf Reinforcement Mat (HP-TRM) infilled with Flexterra HP-FGM. J&L Larson, a contractor from Lakeville, Minnesota, completed the installation in fall 2014 with a quick-germinating dormant seed mix provided by Ramy Turf Products of Mankato, Minnesota.

Thanks to a mild winter and the durability of the GreenArmor System, spring vegetation quickly emerged and turf restoration is happening quickly. Scott County officials and Barr Engineering could not be happier with the results to date. With the Blakeley Ravine stabilized and danger of future mudslides minimized, county and state governments can turn their attention to repairing roads and highways.