Grove Terrace

Application

250 cubic yards of Foam-Control® EPS15 Geofoam was used as retaining wall stabilization fill along Grove Terrace Road in Dubuque, Iowa.

Project Details

Spring 2008, heavy rains caused the retaining wall along Grove Terrace Road to collapse, resulting in limestone blocks tumbling onto the roadway below, prompting the closure of West 11th Street. Engineers selected Foam-Control® Geofoam for its high compressive strength and because it had already been used in newly constructed areas of West 11th Street.

The limestone blocks were restored and used in the construction of the new retaining wall. This was the first time the design team had worked with Foam-Control® Geofoam. As a result of the project’s success, two other retaining walls have been fixed using Geofoam as the retaining wall’s stabilization fill.

Foam-Control® Geofoam has been used for over 30 years in the construction industry for its light weight, high compressive strength, predictable material behavior, and ability to reduce lateral or bearing loads. Other fill materials such as foamed concrete, waste tires, soil, woodchips, or wood fiber have higher densities but are variable in their makeup, have limitations in handling and can be weather sensitive, requiring staged construction, preloading, surcharging, and draining.

Geofoam

Grove Terrace
- Dubuque, IA
- Spring 2008
- Foam-Control® EPS15 Geofoam Wall Stabilization
- 250 Cubic Yards

Contractor
Mike Portzen
Portzen Construction

Engineers
Robert Schiesl
City of Dubuque

Dennis Waugh
IIW Engineers & Surveyors