



# The Role of Compost in Healthy Soil



# George Washington did it!

Horse manure compost application at Mount Vernon (circa 1776)



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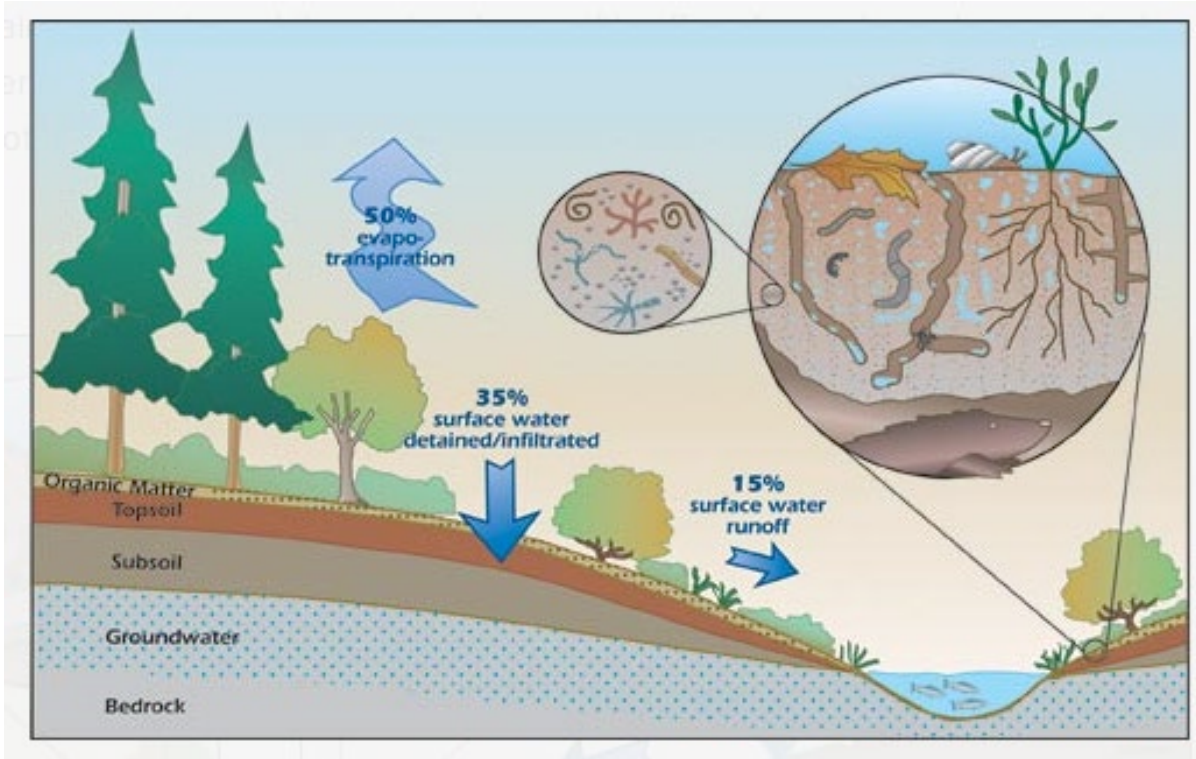
# compost for soil health

- Mitigate GHG emissions
- Increase soil carbon sequestration
- Improve soil health indicators
  - Aggregate stability
  - Water infiltration & water holding capacity
  - Organic matter percentage
- Enhance disease suppression
- Prevent erosion
- Sequester heavy metals, bioremediate toxins
- Provide plant-available nutrients & storage

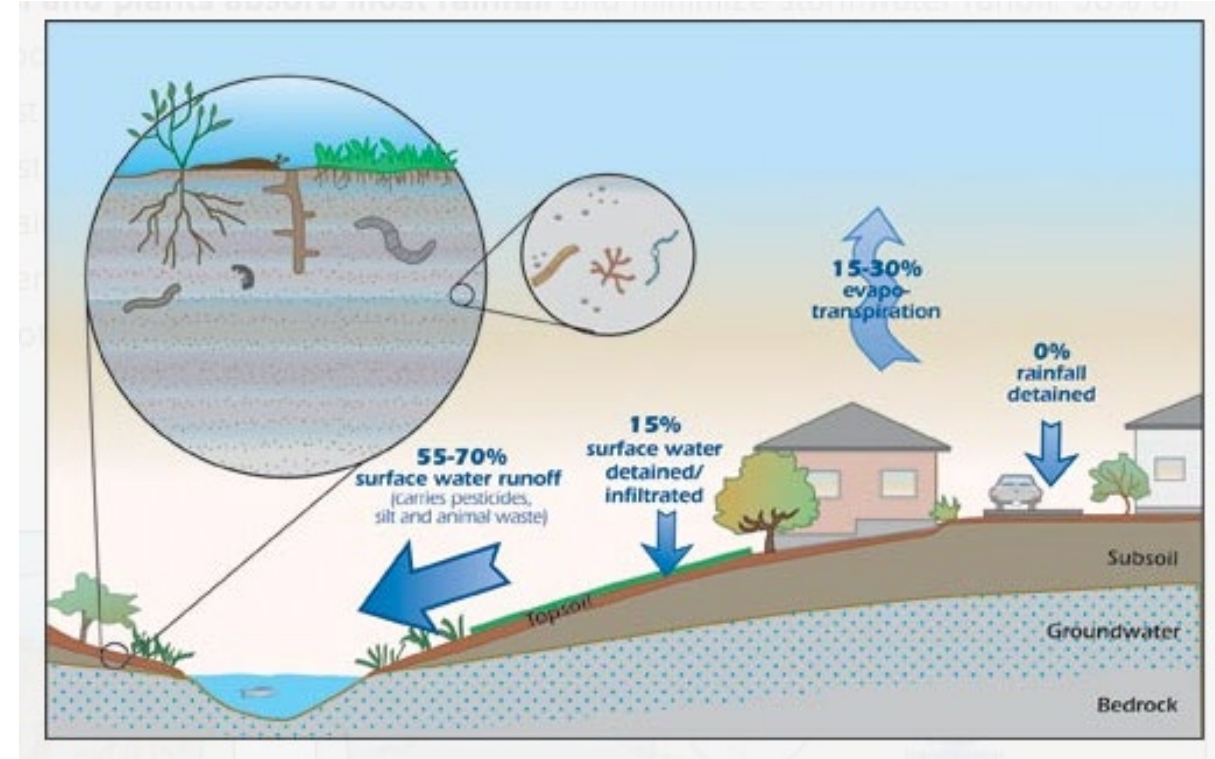




# Soils for Salmon



**Native Soil - rain soaks in**



**After Development - rain rushes off**

Slides Courtesy of [www.SoilsforSalmon.org](http://www.SoilsforSalmon.org)



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Compost to be blended with construction soils at Olmsted Green housing in Boston to reduce stormwater runoff









# What can Anchorage do...

- D R A F T -

- Figure out ways to collect and use organics:
  - Christmas trees and pumpkins are low barrier to entry, as are drop-offs
  - Start to inventory large generators (Grocery stores, Events, etc.)
  - Consider seasonal collection of yard trimmings
  - Continue to support and promote backyard composting
  - Continue to support and promote community composting
- Incentivize compost use (rebates, giveaways)
- Specify compost in roads and parks projects
- Use compost in high profile projects

# What we learned on our global composting adventures

- Similar challenges and concerns everywhere:
  - Get food/organics out of landfills
  - Contamination is a challenge
  - Make quality products
  - Add organic matter to soils
  - Compost practice and science evolving
- Always take your passport everywhere when travelling in China.
- Chicken parm really is the national dish of Australia.
- It is both hot & humid in Guam
- It is good to be tall.

