Invitation to submit short abstracts for consideration before 25 June 2014
We invite authors to provide abstracts of papers they intend to submit for the ‘Soil in The City’ Special Section of the Journal of Environmental Quality before 25 June 2014. These abstracts should include a list of contributory authors, an appropriate title and brief abstract of <300 words following the JEQ style.

Suitable abstracts invited to submit full manuscripts between August 2014 and November 2014
Submitted abstracts will be considered by the Guest Editors and JEQ Editor. Those deemed suitable will be invited to submit full manuscripts to the ‘Journal of Environmental Quality’ between August 1, 2014 and November 31, 2014. Criteria for evaluating the suitability of submitted manuscripts is available at the link provided below and on JEQ’s website: https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/about
All full manuscript submissions will be subject to the standard JEQ peer review process, author instructions for preparing manuscripts are available at the link provided below: https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/author

Special Section Rationale
Deindustrialization of metropolitan areas worldwide has resulted in a large amount of available land of interest to city planners, community organizations, and natural resource professionals who envision new future uses of land including green infrastructure, urban habitat, community gardens and urban farms. Restoring the available urban land and optimizing local resources, while protecting environmental and human health and enhancing socio-cultural dialogue is maturing into a viable strategy to help address pressing environmental and societal problems that cities face today. The study of soils is becoming an important issue in urban areas. Human-impacted soils and engineered soils are central to urban planning. Understanding the properties, processes, and the ecologies of urban soils is paramount in bringing more urban land into productive use and improving the quality of life for a large segment of urban population, strengthening neighborhoods and local economies and enhancing food security and quality. Local renewable resources like wastewater treatment residuals (biosolids), urban yard and food waste composts, and other byproducts can play a vital role in revitalizing these degraded urban soils such that they can provide an array of ecosystem services from providing a regional food system to optimizing capture/use of urban stormwater.

The special section aims to integrate research findings to advance a coherent, science based, and conceptually rigorous framework of knowledge about: (i) Urban Farming, (ii) Urban Ecology and Green Infrastructures, and (iii) Greening (Re-Vegetating) Brownfields. Manuscripts are sought that critically examine characteristics of urban soils; improving quality/productivity of urban soils; pollutants (organic/inorganic) in residuals-amended urban soils; uptake of pollutants by food crops; food quality in urban environment; and regulatory concerns and challenges facing urban farming. Environmental/economic/social benefits of incorporating residuals in urban farming, brownfield reclamation, and their use in engineered soils for urban uses like green infrastructure BMPs. Integrating resource recovery and recycling in urban areas to improve urban ecosystem. Manuscripts are expected to address implications of their findings, and where appropriate, address policy issues at local, regional or international scale. Multi-disciplinary contributions which critically examine the role of urban soils in improving urban environment and vitalizing local communities are encouraged.