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Through its widespread usage, GIS has proven that it can make our lives more efficient. The technology also has the ability to improve the quality of our lives as well. By addressing public health concerns and through numerous environmental applications, GIS has proven to be a vital but soft-spoken tool in keeping our communities safe. The geographic representation of soil sampling is helping federal, state, and municipal employees attach a pathology to a number of harmful pollutants. Early detection and containment are simplified by new technology so that these harmful toxins are eliminated before any serious health problems arise. The distribution of soil lead concentrations is the subject of an article by Daniel A. Griffith, a Professor of Geography at Syracuse University. His methods for using statistics and spatial representation to better understand polluted landscapes highlight this issue of the URISA Journal.