

Walking on a Sponge

The pathways at this community garden demonstrate one way to minimize stormwater runoff to let rain soak into the ground where it lands. This helps reduce the downstream effects stormwater can have such as flooding, erosion, and pollution.

There are many types of permeable pavement including:

- Interlocking Pavers
- Open Block Grids
- Lattice/Geocells
- Pervious Concrete
- Porous Asphalt
- Recycled/Salvaged Materials
- Soft Paving

The pathways you see here are an example of soft paving. The coarse wood chip mulch applied over a weed-barrier landscape fabric allows rain to soak into the ground like a sponge rather than running off a hard surface.. Steel edging keeps the woodchips in place.



Interlocking Pavers



Open Block Grids



Lattice/Geocells



Pervious Concrete



Porous Asphalt



Recycled/Salvaged Materials



Soft Paving - systems using crushed rock, gravel, nutshells, woodchips

Whether a new installation or retrofitting an existing impermeable surface, permeable pavement can be used for driveways, sidewalks, patios, stables & paddocks, even low-traffic roads and major highways - depending on conditions.

Permeable pavement is generally not appropriate in areas with steep slopes, landslide hazards, poor draining or contaminated soil, or shallow groundwater. A qualified professional can help assess your site and help you design a solution that will succeed.

Maintenance Matters

Consider the maintenance requirements when choosing a type of permeable pavement for your project. Regular weeding, mowing, reseeding/refilling, and/or sweeping will be needed to keep water infiltrating into the soil on site. Consider permeable pavement for *your* property!