Pervious Pavement

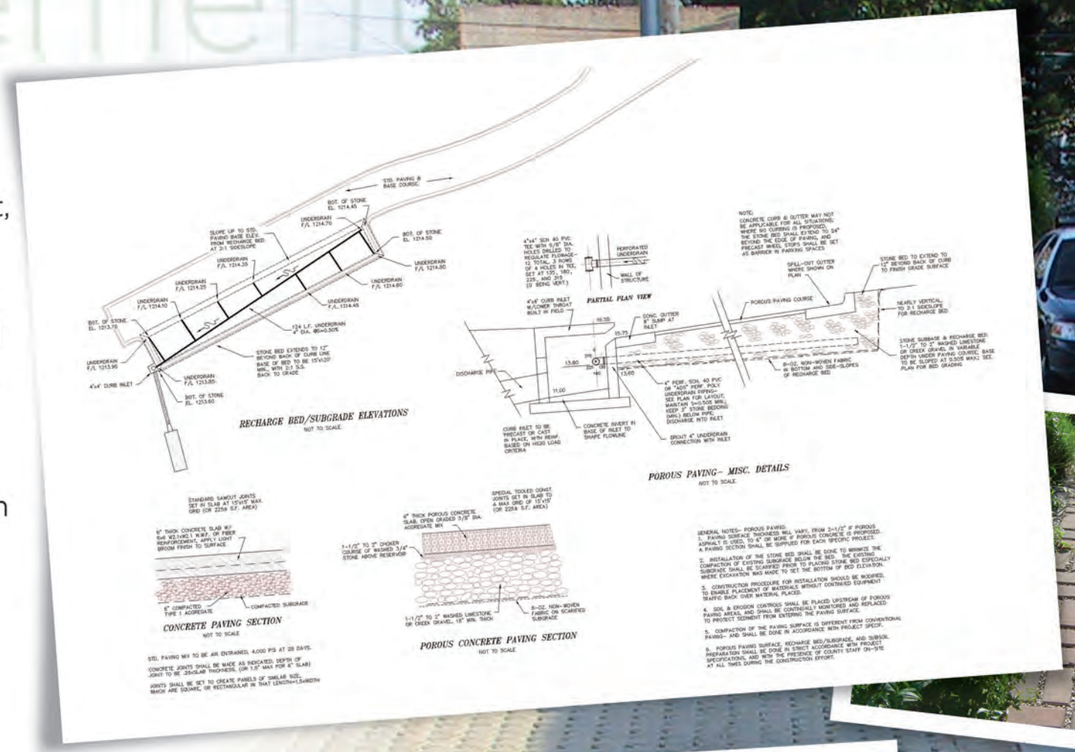
Can water flow through pavement?

The answer is “yes” and “no”. For the traditional pavement we use for roads, sidewalks, parking lots and driveways, the answer is “no.” Water runs **off** these **impervious** surfaces. About **35%** of the land surface in Springfield is impervious! Water on pavement cannot soak in or disperse as it would in a field or forest, creating some disadvantages:

- Runoff from pavement creates the need for **costly infrastructure** like storm drains and storm sewers
- Water from pavement can be **HOT**, low in oxygen, and harmful to stream life
- Pavement **absorbs heat**, making cities hotter than surrounding areas
- Water from pavement can carry **contaminants** like litter, oil, salt, and chemicals to streams and lakes

How it works

Pervious pavement transfers surface flow of stormwater into the pavement, then disperses the water **into** the ground. Pervious Pavement is beneficial to the environment, and a useful alternative to traditional pavement in some situations like **parking stalls, sidewalks, driveways, and walking trails**. Stormwater storage beds within the stone base below the paving can be utilized to *reduce or replace some surface detention basins.*



WATERSHED CENTER

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

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