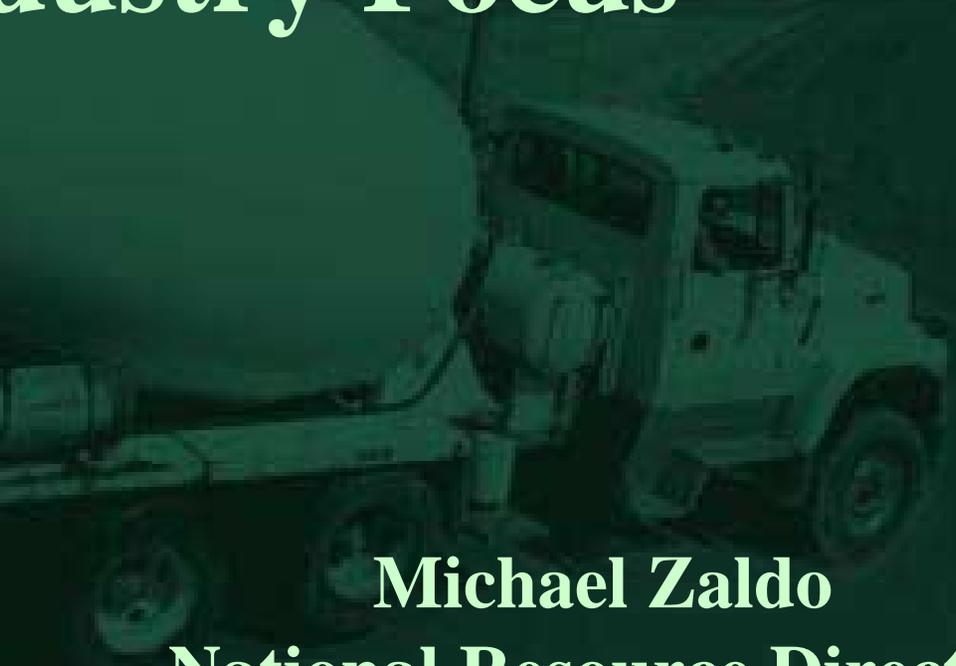


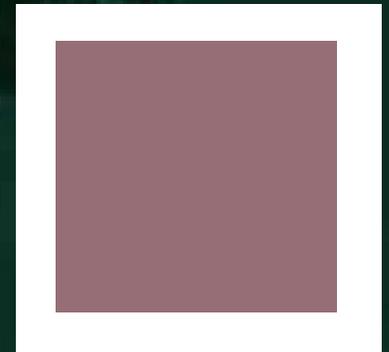
# Pervious Concrete Pavements Industry Focus



**Michael Zaldo**  
**National Resource Director**  
**NRMCA**

# Announcement

- This program is registered with the AIA/CES for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product.



# Announcement

- Qualifies for
  - 1 AIA/CES Learning Unit
  - 1 Professional Development Hour (PDH)
  - 0.1 Continuing Education credit





# Topics of Discussion

- Applications
- Properties of Pervious Concrete
- Benefits
- Design Considerations
- Placement Guidelines
- Freeze-Thaw Durability
- Project Review

# Typical Applications for Pervious Concrete

**Parking Areas**

**Nature Trails / Park Pathways**



**Greenhouses / Nurseries**

**Erosion Control**

**Environmentally Sensitive Developments**

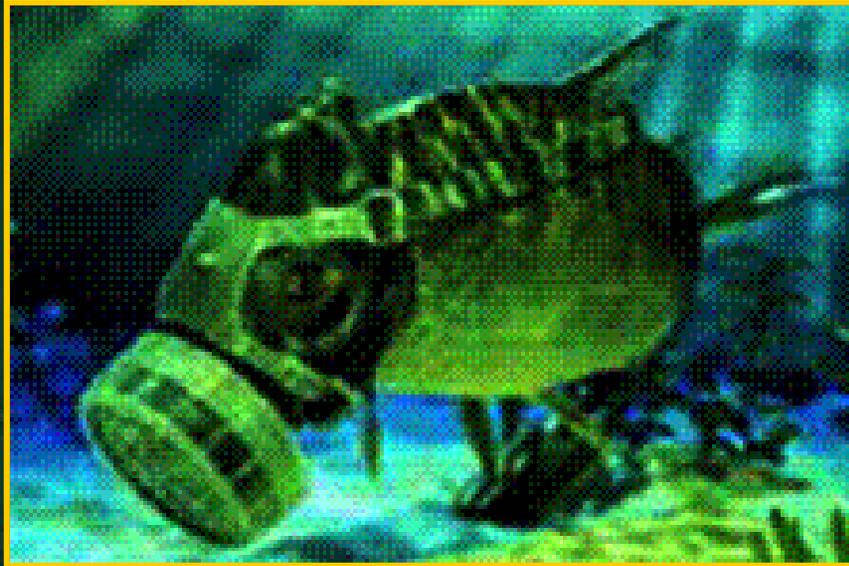
# Reduced Runoff



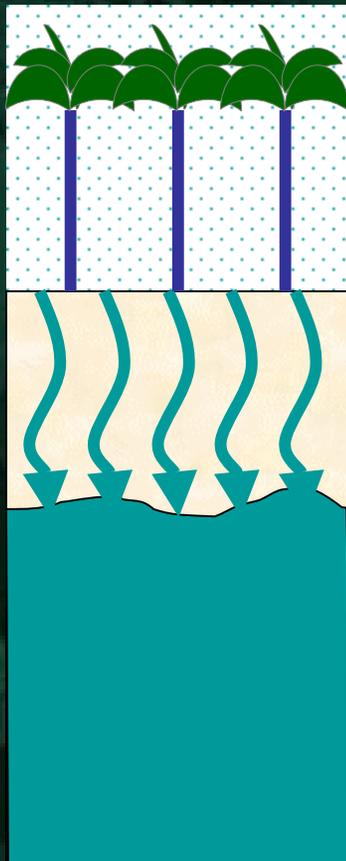


.....keeping our little friend Wally healthy!!

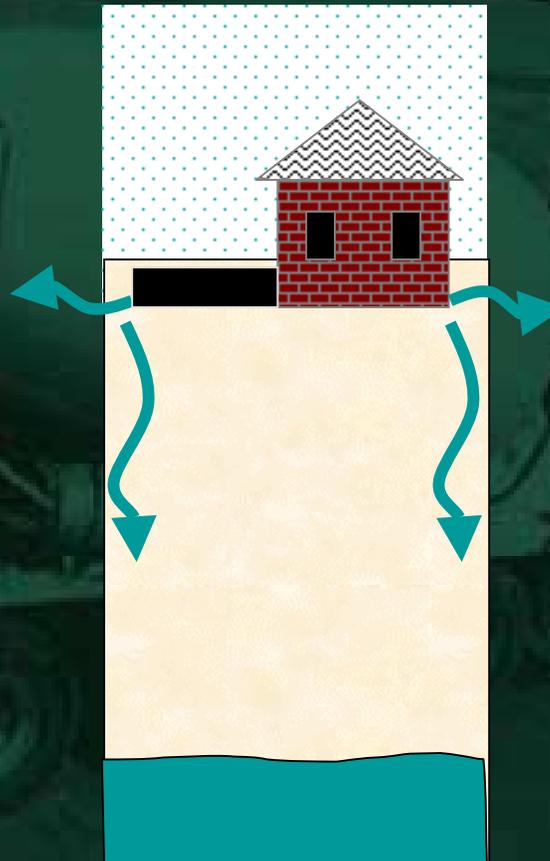
NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION



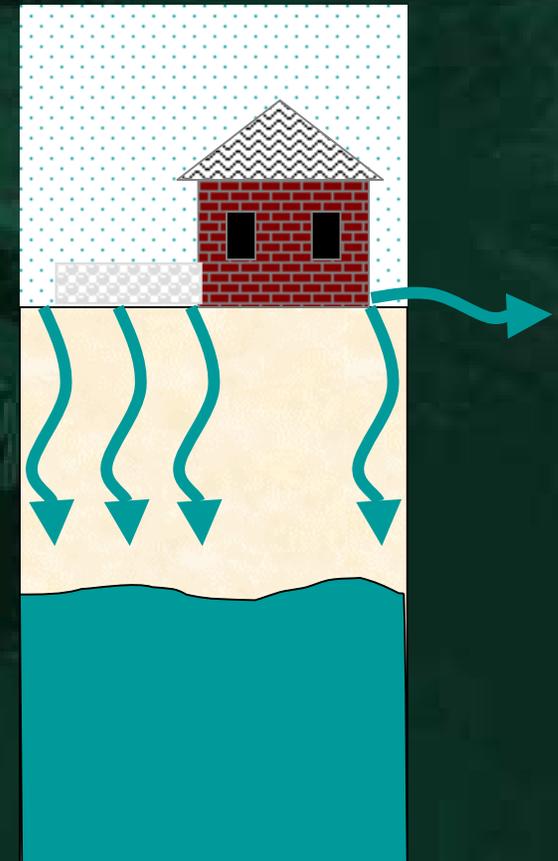
# Your Drinking Water



Pre-Development



Post-Development



Low-Impact Dev.

# What is Pervious Concrete?

- A No-Fines Concrete Mix
  - Coarse Aggregate
  - Portland Cement
  - Water
- Intended for use as an open-graded drainage material



# Typical Pervious Concrete Mix Design

- 550 – 650 lbs. Portland Cement
  - Fly Ash / Slag Cement substitute acceptable at standard rates
- 27 ft<sup>3</sup> Coarse Aggregate
  - Aggregate size will affect drainage rate
- 0.25 – 0.35 W/C Ratio
  - Sufficient water to display a wet, metallic sheen on the aggregate



# Pervious Concrete Properties

- 15% to 35% air void content
- 100 to 120 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> unit weight
- 500 to 3000 psi strength\*
  - Introduction of small amount of fine aggregate can increase strength to 4000 psi (+/-)
  - compressive strength typically not used as acceptance criteria. Air void structure and unit weight are used instead.

# Pervious Concrete Properties

- Drainage rate = 3-5 gal/min/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Equivalent of 275" to 450" of rain per hour!
  - *More than half of all rainfall is provided in rain events that total one-half inch or less.*
- 6" section with 20% voids holds 1 – 1 ¼" of rain water



# Standard C-Factors

Soil Texture	Coefficient of Runoff
<b>Concrete or Asphalt</b>	<b>1.00</b>
Gravel - Compact	0.70
Clay - Bare	0.75
Clay - Light Vegetation	0.60
Clay - Dense Vegetation	0.50
Gravel - Bare	0.65
Gravel - Light Vegetation	0.50
Gravel - Dense Vegetation	0.40
Loam - Bare	0.60
Loam - Light Vegetation	0.45
Loam - Dense Vegetation	0.35
Sand - Bare	0.50
Sand - Light Vegetation	0.40
Sand - Dense Vegetation	0.30
Grass Areas	0.35

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Pervious Concrete should fall between these factors

# Parking Lots & Pavements: Environmental Disasters

- Almost Total Runoff
- Public Water Needed for Vegetation
- Valuable Water Resources are Wasted
- Runoff Has Chemical Pollutants, Requiring Treatment
- Runoff is Hotter, Damaging Ecosystems
- Rapid, High Volume Runoff Requires Larger Public Drainage Facilities
- Hot Parking Lots Add to Urban Heat Island Effects

# First Flush

- First 1" of rain
  - Contains contaminants
    - USGS study – Austin, TX
    - High concentration of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)
    - Attributed to asphalt parking lot runoff
    - Runoff from asphalt-based sealants 10 times higher
    - Runoff from coal-tar based sealants 65 times higher
- EPA requires collection and treatment prior to release
  - Current practices missing high % of contaminants

# First Flush

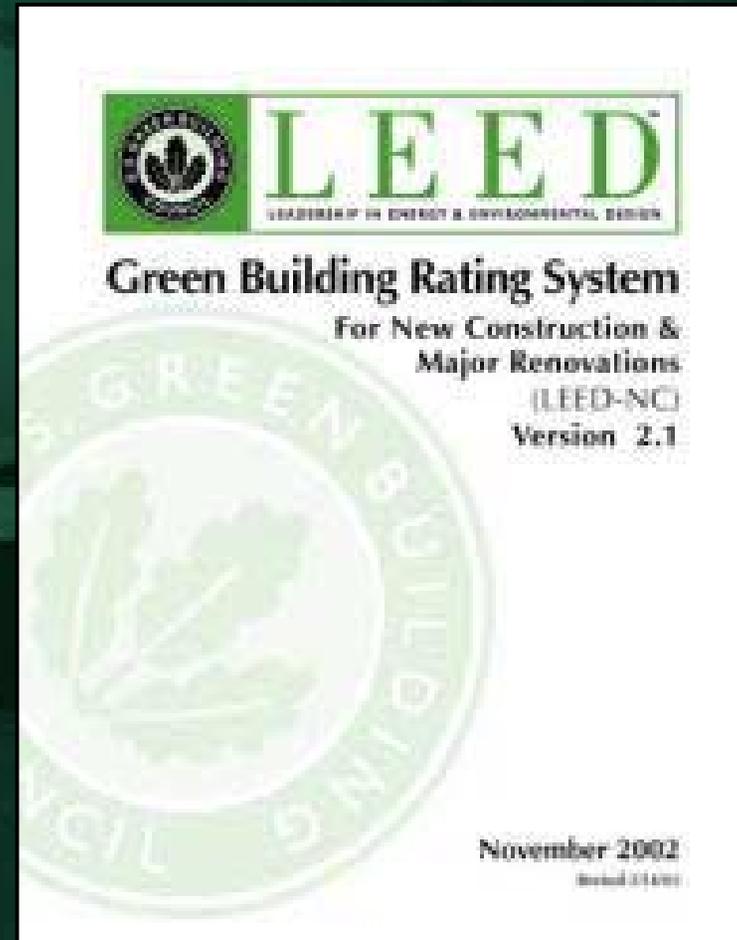
- Pervious concrete pavement reduces runoff
  - Cleaner first flush
  - Captured by void structure
  - Minimization of PAH
- Soil chemistry and biology will naturally treat water
  - Oil drips and other automotive pollutants are “attacked” by naturally occurring soil microbes

# An EPA Approved BMP

- For stormwater pollution prevention
- Lower heat island effect
- Pervious concrete is eligible for one LEED credit point for the USGBC Green Building Rating System.

# 10 LEED

- **LEED:**
  - Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design
- **Green Building Rating System**
- **Developed by US Green Building Council**



# Cost Advantages

- Savings to Municipalities
  - Reduces stormwater utility fees
  - Minimize upgrade of existing systems to keep up with development
    - Cerritos, CA
    - 90,000 ft<sup>2</sup> Pervious Concrete Parking Lot
    - City saved between \$250K and \$500K
- Savings to Owners/Developers
  - Eliminates need for retention ponds & other costly stormwater management practices
  - Provides for more efficient use of land development

# Shelter Systems Ltd. Westminster, MD

- Approximately 8 acres of pavement
- Saved \$400,000 in underground drainage construction costs
- Eliminated 1 ½ acre retention pond



# Pavement Design Thickness

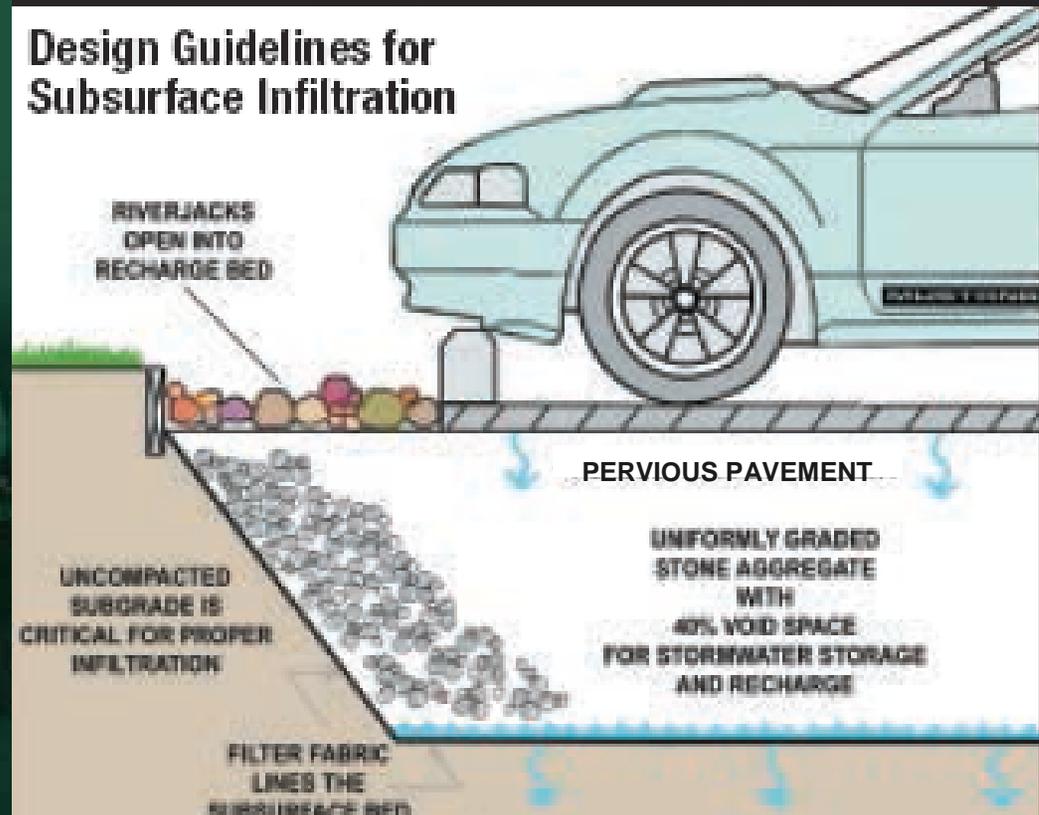
- Hydrological Design Considerations of pavement & related base materials (stormwater storage capacity)
- Mechanical Properties (load carrying capacity)
- Choose greater thickness of these needs
- Base design important to storage as well
- Design software is currently being developed

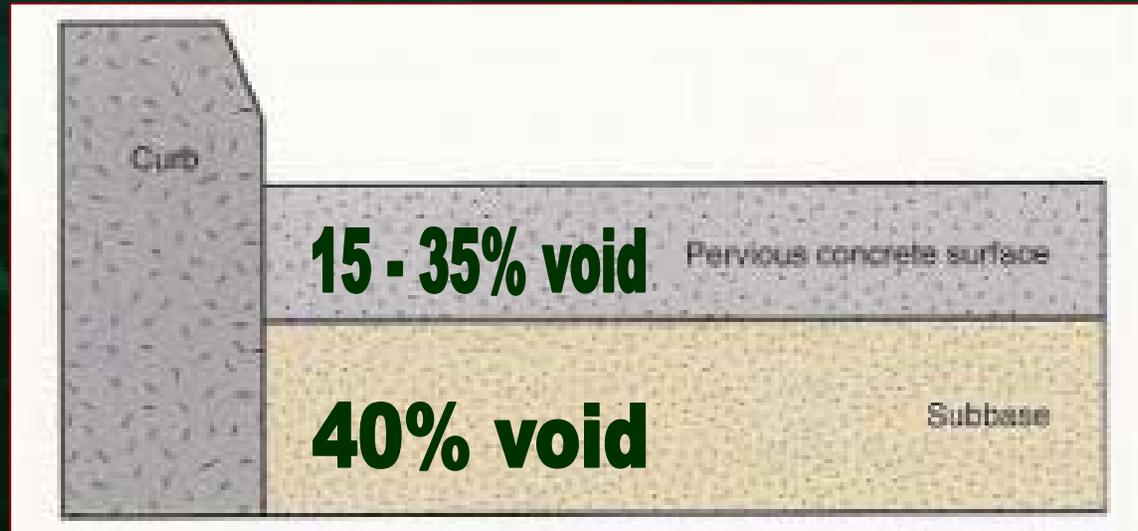
# Infiltration Systems

- Developed in 1970's
  - Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA
  - Have been used for over 20 years
- Successful with concrete and asphalt

# Infiltration System

- Porous Pavement
- Underlying, open-graded stone bed
  - 6-24" clean aggregate base
- Filter fabric minimizes migration of fines
- Perforated pipe to capture water & let it drain (optional)





- Underlying stone bed provides 40% void space
- Water drains through pavement into stone bed and infiltrates slowly into underlying soil mantle
  - 0.1 – 0.5 in/hr acceptable
  - Total drawdown time should not exceed 5 days
- Geotext prevents movement of fines into stone bed

# Pervious Concrete Placement

- For fixed-form placement
  - Place and level forms to desired grade
  - Place  $\frac{3}{4}$ " furring strip on top of forms



# Pervious Concrete Placement

- Place and screed pervious concrete level to furring strip.
- Remove furring strip and compact to desired final grade





# Pervious Concrete Placement

- Can also use paving equipment
  - May still require side forms
    - Material usually not stiff enough for edges to hold under pressure of compaction
  - Conventional asphalt paver provides 90% (+/-) compaction
  - For denser surface, follow behind with plate tamp or small roller



# Jointing

- Roughly  $\frac{1}{2}$  the shrinkage of normal concrete
- Pervious concrete parking areas are “sometimes” placed with no joints\*\*\*.
- If used, joints are typically placed every 20’
- Best practice is to tool joints
  - Sawing can cause raveling





“Pizza Cutter”

# Curing

- Curing pervious concrete is perhaps more important than curing conventional concrete
- Without curing, surface will dry out and deteriorate easily
- Moist cure (7 days preferred)



Curing pervious concrete is critical due to the porosity and low W/C ratio

# Durability of Pervious Concrete

- Directly related to proper placement
  - Maintain W/C ratio
  - Proper compaction of pervious surface
  - Proper curing is a must!

# Can Pervious Concrete Withstand Freeze-Thaw?

- Proper mix design
- Proper placement
- Proper maintenance

# Consider Conventional Concrete

- A/E required to relieve pressures in conventional concrete mix
  - Tight matrix holds moisture
  - Critically saturated > 91%
- A/E provides void structure for expansion of moisture during freeze
  - 4% to 8% air entrainment
  - 0.01 inch spacing factor

# Pervious Concrete

- 15-35% void structure means little moisture trapped in matrix
  - Less likely to be saturated
- Expansion of moisture due to freezing does not exert undue pressures on matrix
- 0.25-0.35 W/C equals high quality paste
- Air entraining admixture protects the coating paste

# Freeze-Thaw Resistance

- Depends on saturation level
- Avoid critical saturation
  - Maintenance
    - Annual cleaning in severe climates
  - Design
    - Infiltration System
    - Secret of success is to provide the water a place to go

# Types of Freeze

- Dry Freeze
  - > 15 freeze-thaw cycles
  - Little precipitation
  - Pervious unlikely to be saturated
- Hard Dry Freeze
  - Same as above except ground stays frozen as a result of continuous average daily temperatures below freezing

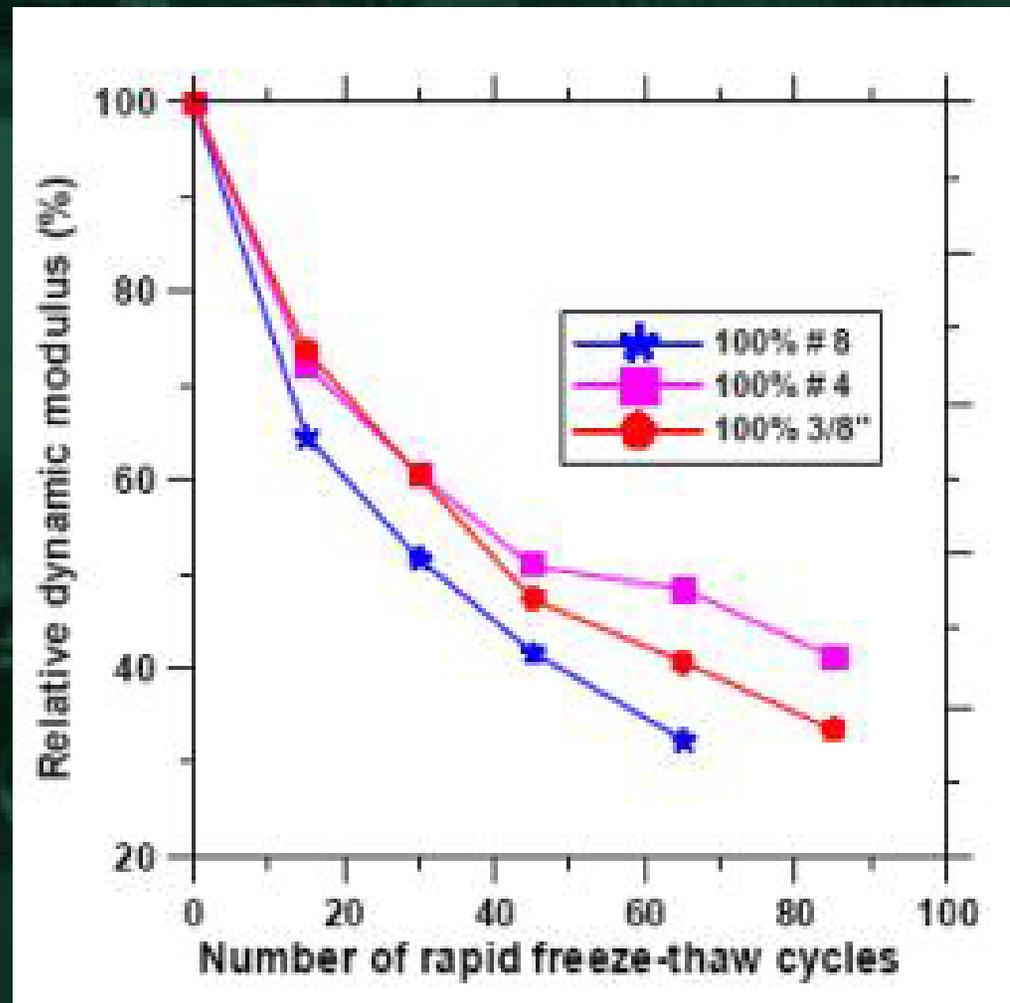
# Types of Freeze

- Wet Freeze
  - > 15 freeze-thaw cycles
  - Precipitation is common
  - Ground does not stay frozen
- Hard Wet Freeze
  - Ground stays frozen for prolonged period

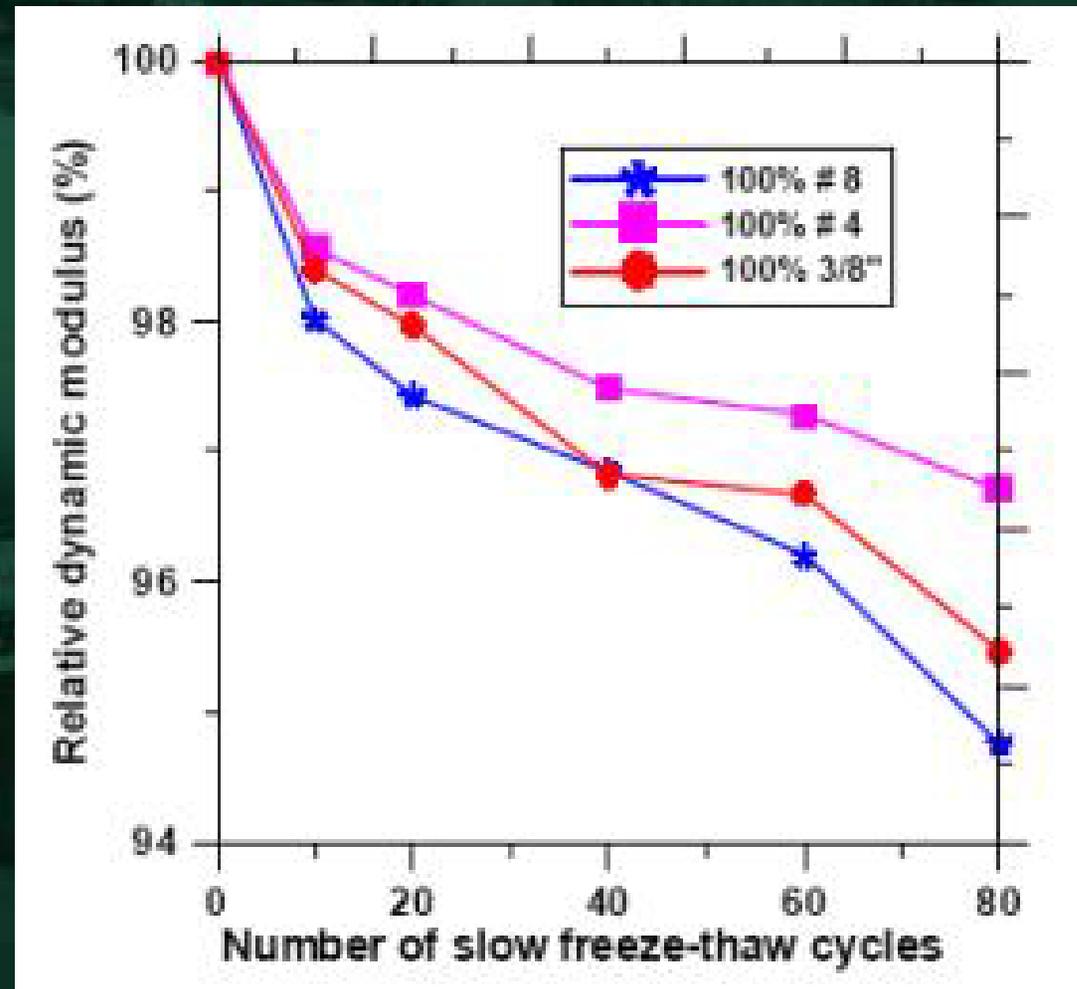
# Purdue University

- Proportioned mixes with different aggregate sizes
- Conducted freeze-thaw study
  - ASTM C 666 Rapid Freeze-Thaw
  - Slow Freeze-Thaw
  - Samples were fully saturated

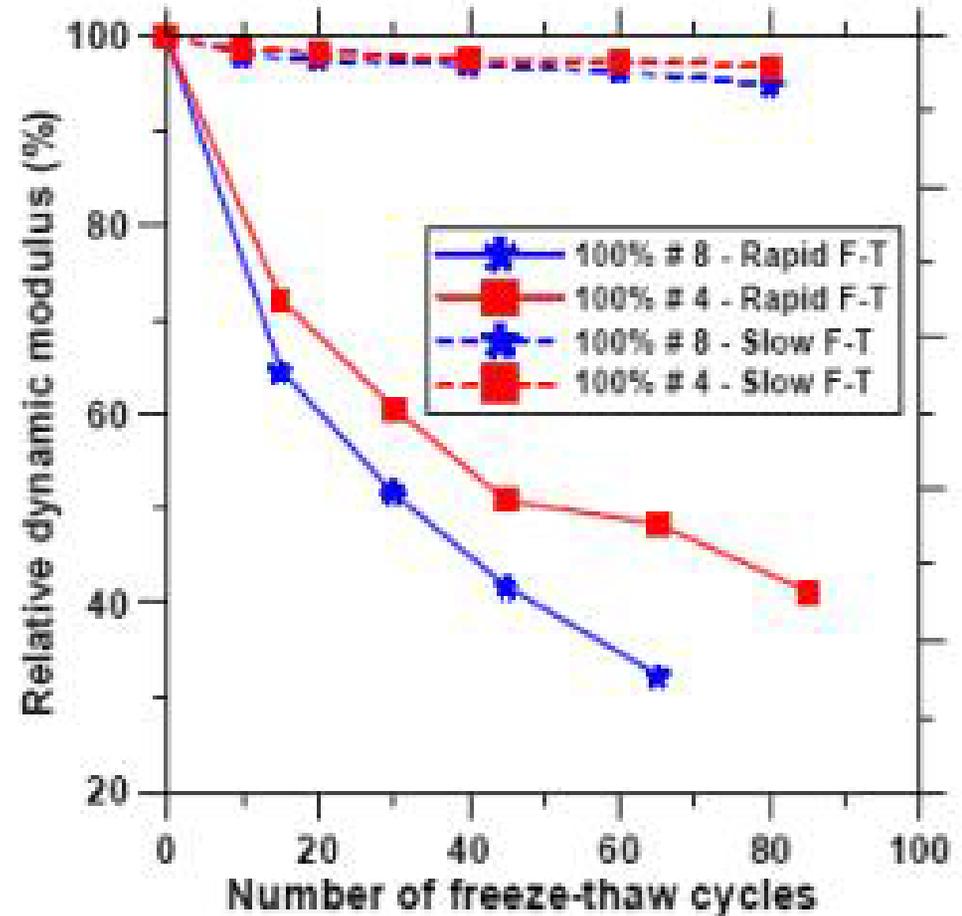
- Rapid F/T
  - 5-6 cycles per 24 hrs
- After 80 cycles
  - 60+% loss in dynamic modulus



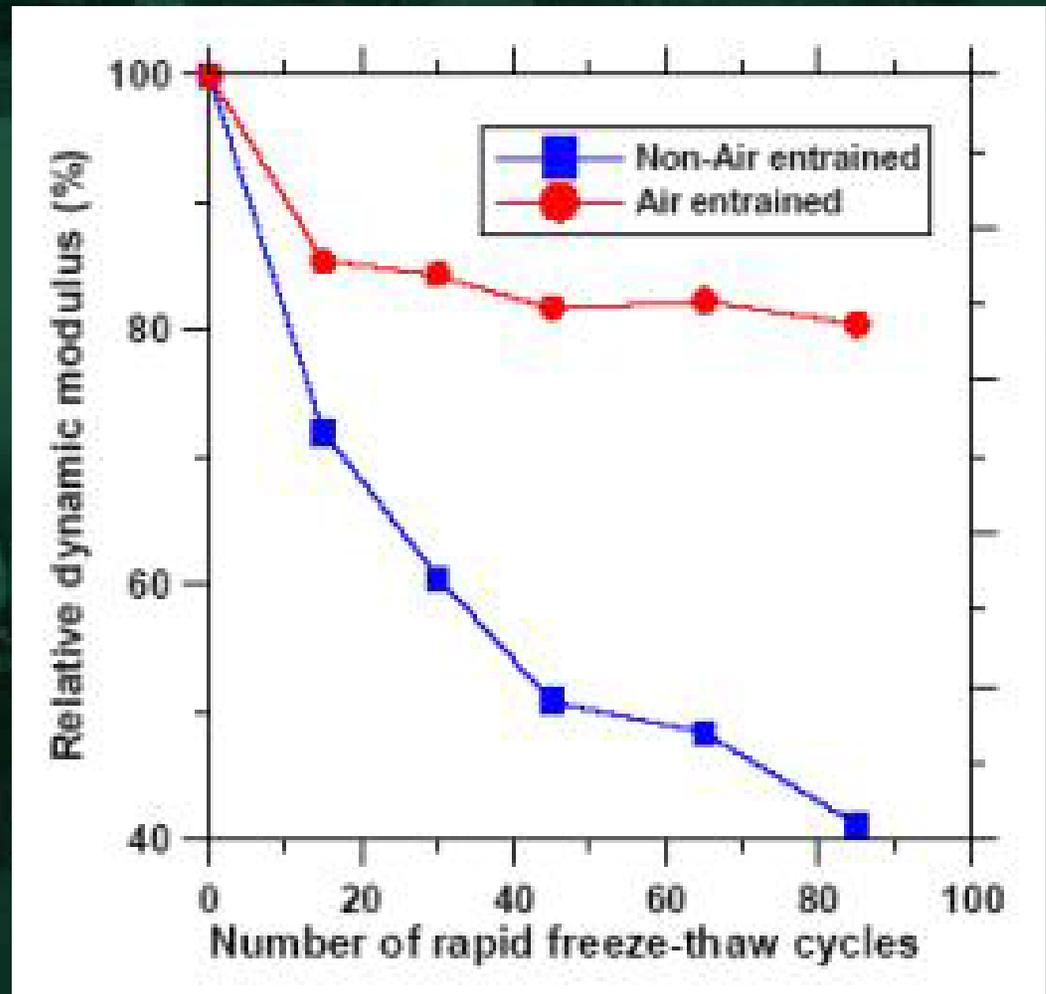
- Slow F/T
  - 1 cycle per 24 hrs
- < 6% loss of dynamic modulus



- Aggregate size does not affect F/T durability



- A/E reduces loss of dynamic modulus
- Non-air 60+% loss
- A/E 20% loss



# Interpreting the Results

- Freezing rate has significant influence on dynamic modulus
- In practice, interconnected void system minimizes chance of total saturation
- Air entrainment enhances F/T resistance
- Actual performance should be superior to what was observed in lab

# Snow Packing

- Anecdotal evidence suggests snow-covered pervious clears quicker than impervious surfaces
  - Less need for snowplowing
- Water drains through pavement into stone bed
- Sufficient void space to prevent heaving
- Water does not pond & re-freeze



# Denver, CO

Pervious Concrete

Conventional Asphalt



Sites directly across street  
Photos: 5 min. differential max

# Denver, CO

Pervious Concrete

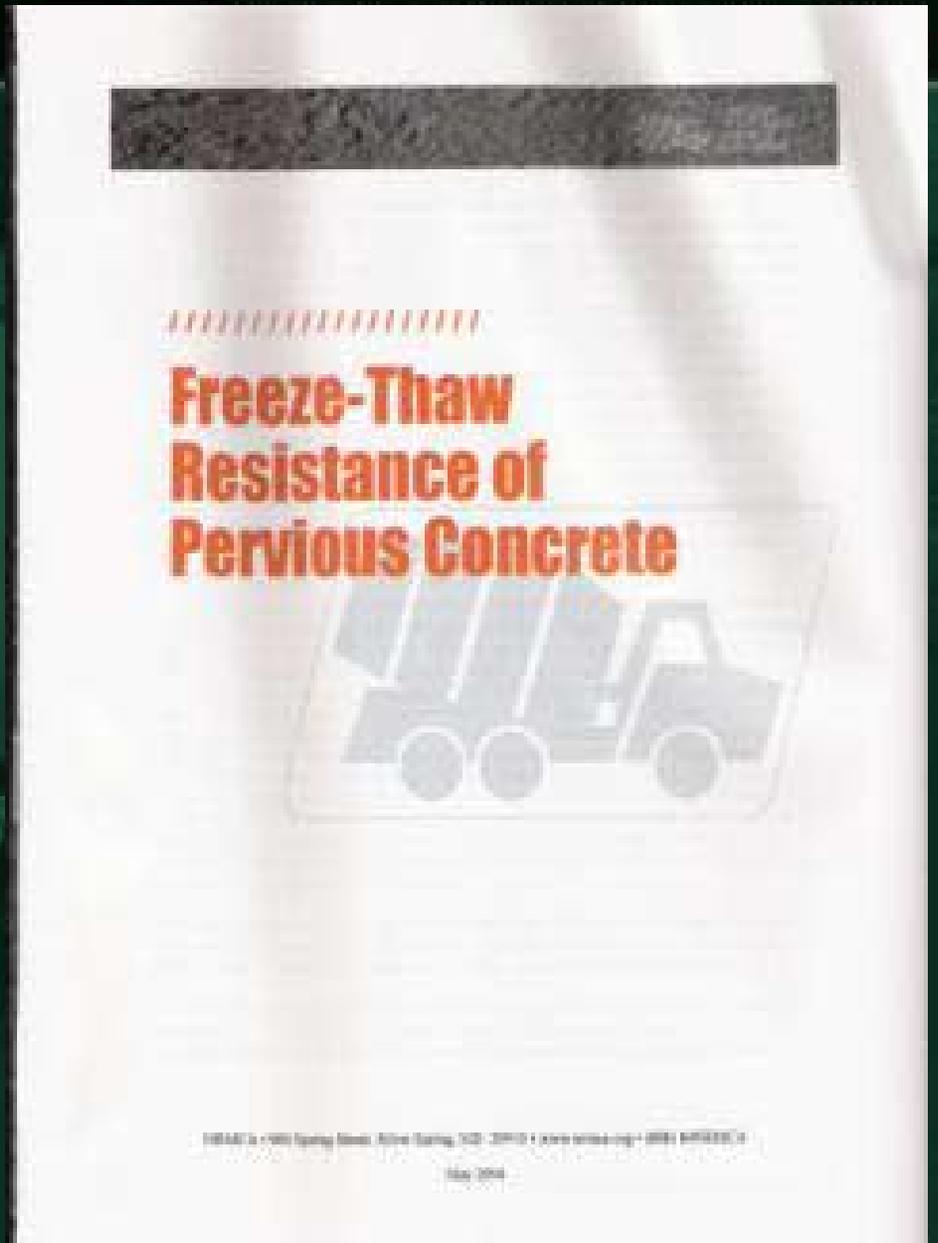
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Sites directly across street  
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Study  
conducted by  
**NRMCA**  
Results available  
at [www.nrmca.org](http://www.nrmca.org)



# What About Clogging?

- Even if 100% clogged with dirt, pervious concrete will still be permeable
- For maintenance, clean pervious pavement with power scrubber
- And/or power wash

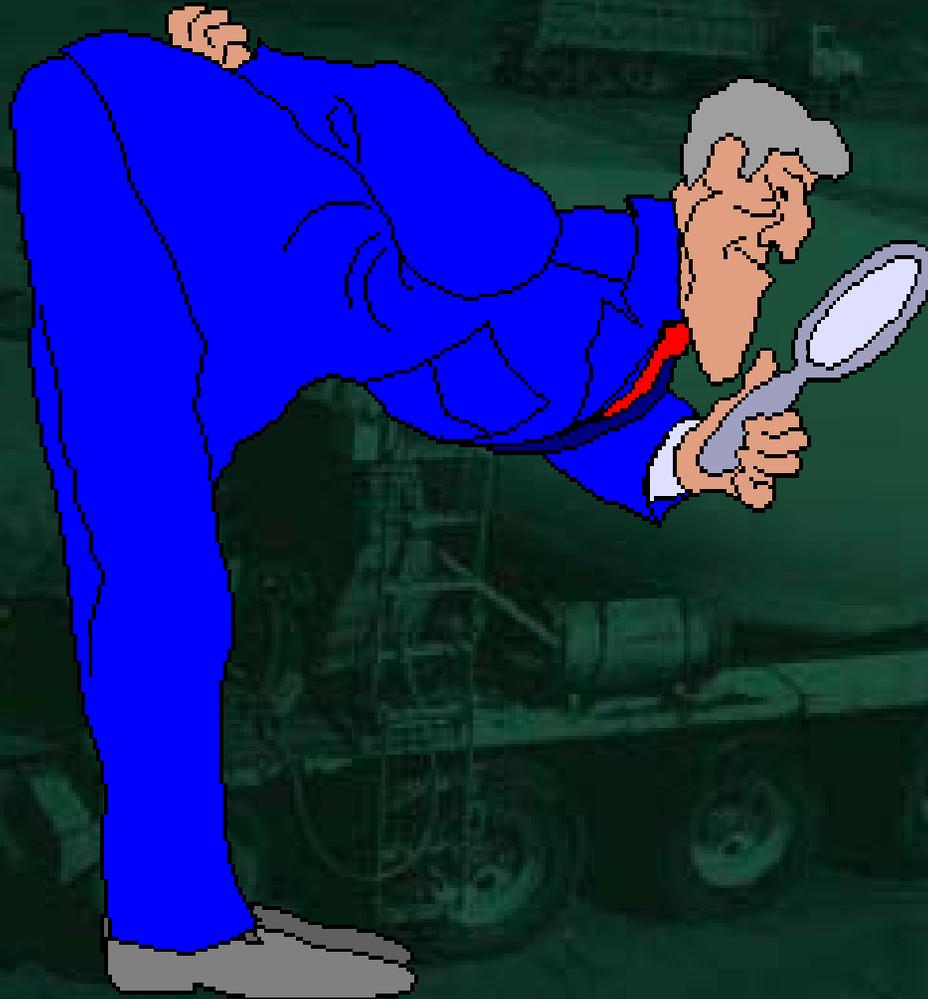


- Conventional pavement sweeper/vacuum equipment can also be used





Cleaning can  
restore 90+%  
of original  
permeability



# Let's Look at Some Recent Projects

# Sam's Club

## Buford, GA





- **Finley Stadium**
  - Chattanooga, TN
  - OCT, 1997
  - At Issue:
    - Parking lot drainage & contaminated soils
  - Total parking lot approximately 6 acres
  - Size of pervious area
    - 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>
    - 10 ½ ft width





- 6" stone subbase under entire parking lot
- 4" Pervious Concrete in parking areas
- 200,000 gal. holding capacity
- 400,000 gal catch basin





## Miller Park Pervious Concrete Parking Lot 2002

Pervious concrete saves trees by providing both AIR and WATER to the tree roots. This allows the trees to thrive and reduces tree-root lifting of the pavement.



- Centre County  
Welcome Center
  - State College, PA
- Placed 1999
- 4" Pervious Concrete  
on 6" Aggregate Base
- Hard Wet Freeze
  - 120 cycles/yr
  - Avg. below freezing  
for 90 days



- Shelter Systems, Ltd.
  - Westminster, MD
- Placed 2004
- Wet Freeze
  - 90 cycles/yr



# Meeting the Customer's Needs

- Required heavy duty pavement
  - 30 to 40 trucks per day
- R/M adjusted mix
  - Added 500 lbs. fine agg. per CY
  - Flexural strength = 650 psi (7 days)
  - Placed with ABG dual-compaction paver
  - Rolled with small static roller

- Approximately 8 acres of pavement
- Mix design can accommodate 80" of rain per hour
- 10 times intensity of 100 year rainfall event!

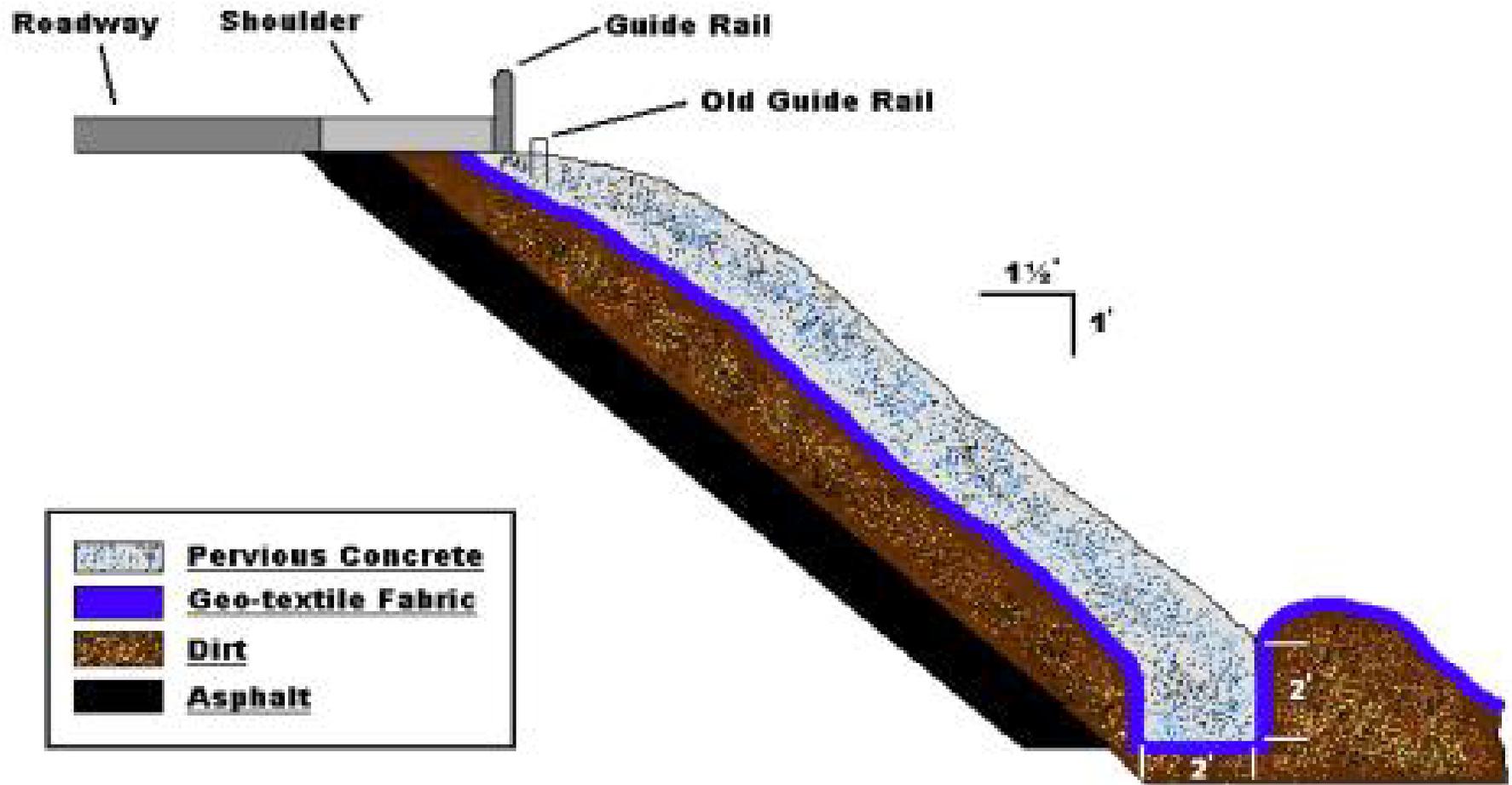


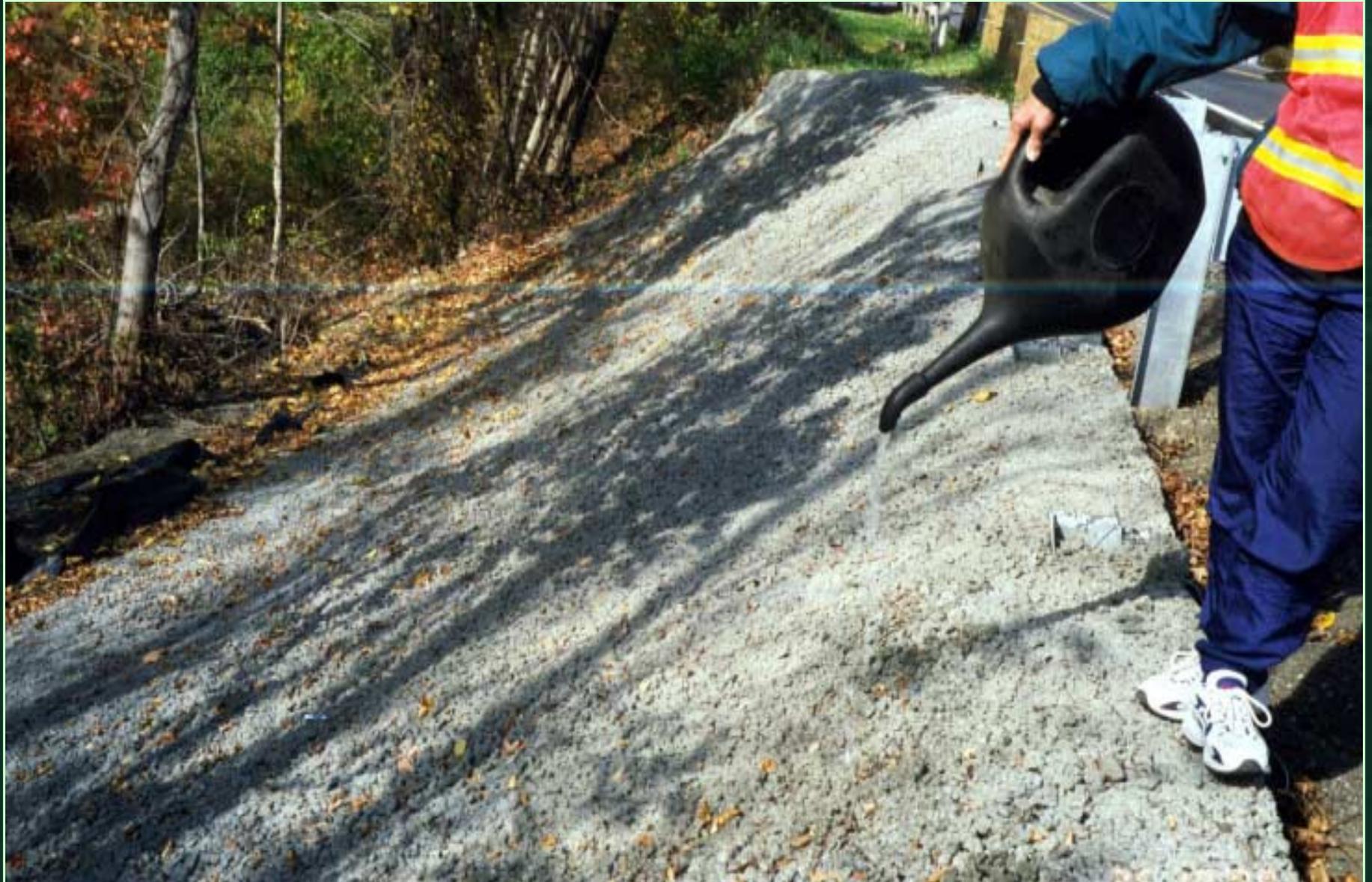
- Saved \$400,000 in underground drainage construction cost
- Allowed owner to close 1 ½ acre retention pond



- SR 23
- Sussex, NJ
- July, 1999
- Slope Erosion







For further  
information . . .

- Available from  
NRMCA  
[www.nrmca.org](http://www.nrmca.org)



**Pervious  
Concrete  
Pavements**

Paul B. Tompkins  
Michael L. Lanning  
Dennis J. Moore



51



NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

# Questions?

[WWW.NRMCA.ORG](http://WWW.NRMCA.ORG)

# Thank You!

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