

Permeable Pavement

What is it?

With a nearly identical look to conventional pavement, permeable pavement can have a huge impact on stormwater drainage throughout a town. Permeable pavement allows water to trickle through as opposed to just flowing over it. This allows for stormwater to infiltrate the soil and slow down flow rates within stormwater drains. Being as they are a little less durable than conventional pavement, permeable pavement is typically used for sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and low traffic roadways.

Benefits

- Reduces runoff volume for a more natural flow and decrease the risk of flooding.
- Helps trap and reduce concentrations of pollutants, which in turn leads to better water quality for us to consume.
- Controls water temperature downstream so aquatic life isn't as affected from the heat of conventional pavement.
- Minimize ice buildup in the winter, which reduces de-icing agents that can contain harmful chemicals for soil structure and water quality.



Image Credit: [What is "porous pavement" and how does that help soils capture and clean water? – Soils Matter, Get the Scoop! \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.wordpress.com)

Impact on Catasauqua

With an average of 45.35 inches of rain and about 33 inches of snowfall (equivalent of 3.3 inches of rain) each year, Catasauqua gets their fair share of stormwater. As proposed in the MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plan for Catasauqua Borough, replacing approximately 10,000 square feet of conventional pavement with new permeable pavement at strategic locations in the Borough will aid in treating and infiltrating stormwater runoff from an approximately 14-acre drainage area. This will result in a sediment removal rate of approximately 6,100 pounds per year of sediment and pollutants removed from stormwater that is discharged into the Catasauqua Creek and Lehigh River. This can greatly improve the quality of drinking water as well as the wildlife and land by the nearby streams and rivers.