

De-pave Existing Pavement BMP

Prevent Runoff from Landscape and Hardscape Areas

Overview

Tearing out existing pavement and replacing it with landscaping.

Siting

There may be many small and large paved areas throughout the watershed that no one needs or uses, but that collectively impact water quality. Investigate how people use or don't use different sections of pavement. Also consider current or past land use and be cautious with contaminated soils.



A group of de-paving volunteers.

Maintenance

Be sure to determine who will take on the responsibility of maintaining this land to ensure long term functionality after the area is de-paved.

Maintenance for de-paved areas is the same as traditional landscapes:

- Remove weeds twice a year, around May and October
- Replenish compost in gardens to a depth of 2-3 inches and lawns 1/4 inch, annually
- Irrigate

Cost

De-paving existing pavement will always be more expensive than doing nothing, but your watershed is probably already impacted from this pavement. Many de-paving projects have been completed using volunteer labor, which builds awareness of stormwater management as well as fosters community alliance. If you do this yourself it is most effective to rent a backhoe, which increases the cost.