



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Position Paper

The Verona Environmental Commission (VEC) petitions the Verona Township governing body as soon as possible to recommend the County reducing impervious area where possible. Please ask the County to consider using Green Infrastructure such as Permeable Pavement, instead of impervious materials, in projects such as the upcoming new parking lot in Verona Park.

According to the EPA Green Infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits. The cost of porous pavement can be somewhat higher than that of conventional pavement, but long-term savings and benefits make it competitive because it is not susceptible to freeze-thaw cycles that often damage conventional pavement.

Green Infrastructure Practices include: Depaving, Green Parking Lots, Permeable Pavement, Pervious Paths, Green Streets, Bioswales, Curb Cuts, Rain Gardens, Filter Strips, Infiltration Bump Out, Downspout Disconnection, Rain Barrels, Cisterns and Green Roofs.

The Impervious Cover Assessment prepared for Verona Township by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program states that the primary cause of the pollution, flooding, and erosion problems is the quantity of impervious surfaces draining directly to local waterways. As the amount of impervious surfaces like roadways, parking lots and rooftops increase, stormwater runoff increases. The report recommends implementing Green Infrastructure, and concludes that setting a goal of a 10% reduction of impervious area would be a reasonably achievable reduction for each subwatershed in Verona Township. The VEC formally extended those recommendations to the Verona Township governing body in July 2017.

New Jersey has the highest percent of impervious cover in the country at 12.1% of its total area. Based upon the 2012 NJDEP land use/land cover data, approximately 31.5% of Verona has impervious cover, suggesting that the streams in Verona Township are likely non-supporting. A total of 82.5% of the municipality's land use is classified as urban.

During the 2002-2007 period, New Jersey added 33.4 square miles of additional impervious surface. This is an annual rate of 4,270 acres of impervious surface increase per year or 9 American football fields of new impervious surface per day (including end zones), resulting in an annual run-off increase of over 5 billion gallons per year.

Green Infrastructure can mitigate increases in impervious cover by reducing their impact to local waterways. The overall goal of Green Infrastructure is to eliminate, reduce, or disconnect impervious surfaces that are connected (i.e., drain directly to sewer systems or local waterways), where possible and practical, in order to repair our waterways, improve water quality and reduce flooding.

Kind Regards,
The Verona Environmental Commission