



WATER RESOURCE CENTER

FACT SHEET

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

WATER RESOURCE CENTER

Mission

To promote regional collaboration on water topics; be a leader in facilitating coordination and education; and provide technical assistance to its member governments.

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MINIMIZE IMPERVIOUS AREA NON-STRUCTURAL STORMWATER BMPS

Reducing Street Imperviousness (RSI) and **Reducing Parking Imperviousness (RPI)** are two non-structural best management practices (BMPs) that can be highly effective for stormwater management when incorporated into site design and development. RSI includes minimizing street widths and lengths; RPI includes reducing the impervious area associated with parking through practices such as designating overflow parking on an area that is pervious. Specific stormwater management functions of reducing impervious cover include runoff volume reduction, peak rate control, groundwater recharge, and improved water quality.

The PA Stormwater BMP Manual groups RSI and RPI into the overall category of *Reduce Impervious Cover*.

BMP Profile	
Name	Reduce Street Imperviousness and Reduce Parking Imperviousness
Type	Non-Structural
Grouping	Reduce Impervious Cover
Stormwater Management Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Peak Rate Control ◆ Groundwater Recharge ◆ Volume Reduction ◆ Water Quality
Potential Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Residential ◆ Commercial ◆ Industrial



Reducing the impervious area associated with streets and parking can be done through a variety of innovative ways such as installing curb bump-outs (left) or using permeable pavers for parking areas.

Key Considerations for Reducing Street and Parking Imperviousness

- ◆ RSI can be achieved through alternative street layouts, on-street parking restrictions, minimizing radii of cul-de-sacs, and using permeable pavers
- ◆ Consult local fire code standards, construction codes, and ADA requirements
- ◆ Preventative stormwater management
- ◆ RPI can be achieved through narrowing traffic lanes, using slanted parking stalls, and utilizing pervious materials in the primary and/or overflow parking areas
- ◆ Reduction in paved area can significantly reduce costs
- ◆ RSI and RPI are components of Low Impact Development

This information was adapted from the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Practices Manual. Check out SPC's other fact sheets to learn more about specific BMPs, flooding, and more.

Photo: phillywatersheds.org

