

Legends

The grandfather of pervious in North America is a man named Dan Brown. I was inspired by his enthusiasm for this product and his work. He showed me a puck and talked about the hydrology. I thought of him and this structural malfunction, every time I rested my bar of soap on it. It clearly appears to be nothing but rock pockets. The puck was clearly tougher than it looks and I examined it every time I rinsed out the soap from the voids. I didn't see him again until he spoke in Ohio, promoting pervious concrete pavement.

Dan made an interesting statement after he had done this work for about fifteen years. To paraphrase, it was a mistake to call this material pervious concrete. We should have called it anything but concrete because everyone immediately assumes that we could design it, produce it, install it and test it like conventional concrete. As such, pervious will not fit into any of these traditional patterns. Since they began using pervious and paying attention to it, the potential benefits are clear for storm water management and effective land use management. However, the difficulties for pervious concrete were beginning to show by this time, when pervious started being used in freezing climates. As well, pervious done in the southwest and the high desert was developing a nasty reputation for hydration/dehydration issues and the raveling that goes with it.

By this time, I was developing a relationship with the IRMCA during experiments and promotion of pervious mix and method. The Indiana association was headed by Pat Kiel, with the northern areas being covered by Rich Gardner and Brian Lutey covered the southern part of the state. The group had received funding to research pervious pavement and this is where Brian dragged me into studying what might be done to overcome some of the inherent problems with pervious installation and mix design. Certain individuals come to mind when I think of "mix wizards" and Brian is one of them. To evaluate his role in the ready mix community and in concrete construction generally, Mr. Lutey would be classed as a national treasure. I offered what I could with equipment and configuration as we snooped into the effects of Brian's mix variations. This was not my first experience with rednecks from flyover country but it was my first opportunity to actually enjoy it. Enjoy it we did, with latitude to try anything that works. We found that soybean based curing compound helps it work, when Jim Miller got involved with the mixes too.