

Stormwater Innovation in Downtown Moorefield  
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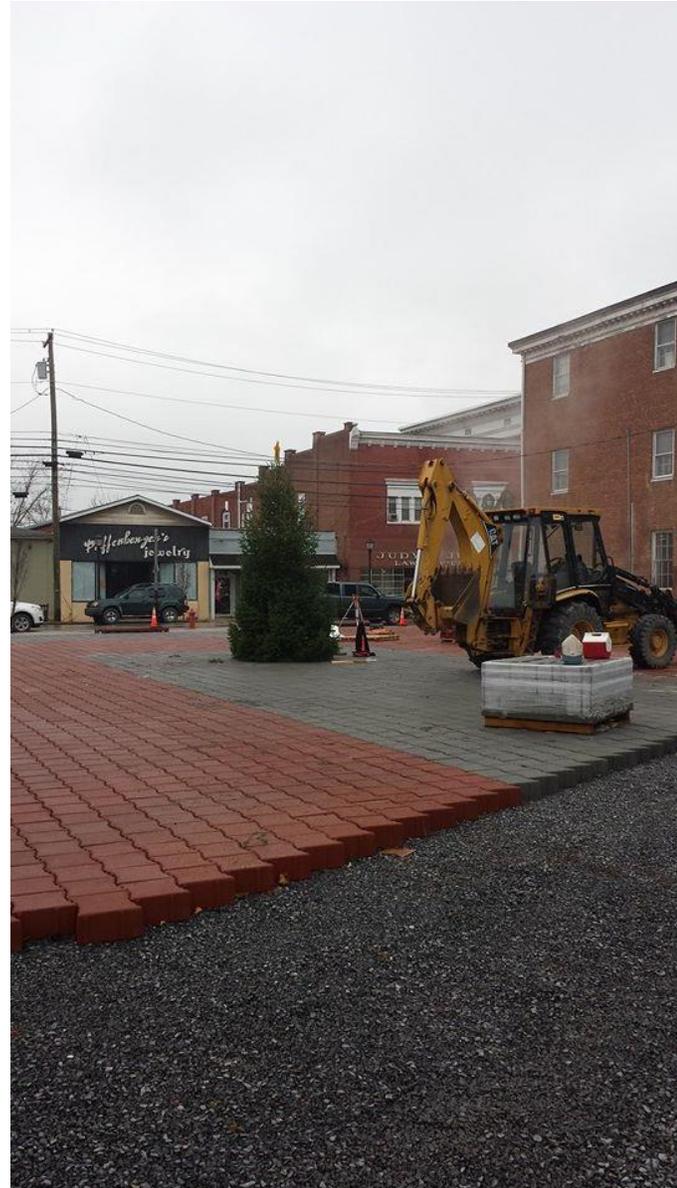
Progressive things are happening in Moorefield! What used to be an unsightly and empty municipal parking lot in the heart of downtown is slowly being turned into a visually attractive, state of the art stormwater management green space.

The West Virginia Conservation Agency approached the Hardy County Rural Development Authority during the summer of 2014 about the feasibility of applying a bit of new and innovative technology in the area of stormwater management practice on their property. The lot had all the qualities desirable for a great demonstration including the fact that it was slated to be blacktopped in the very near future. It is on public property, has high visibility, struggled with existing drainage issues and the county was aware of the challenge of meeting the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. RDA members were very excited to learn about opportunities to make the improvement in their community on a property that was to soon become the focal point of the historic downtown.

Stormwater is classified as precipitation that does not evaporate or soak into the ground but instead runs across the land into the nearest waterway. In this particular case, the stormwater would have entered the drains along Main Street and eventually would have ended up in the river. West Virginia has entered into an agreement with all of the surrounding Bay states and the District of Columbia to reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment flowing to the local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. One of the significant players that must make these mandated reductions is the urban sector.

ACF Environmental was invited into the discussion and several stormwater solutions were explored. In the end, with the historic significance of the property and the desire to maintain as much parking space for local businesses, the Pave Drain system was adopted as the perfect option. The system, as described on the ACF website *"is unlike any other pervious pavement available. It delivers an aesthetically pleasing finished surface with unsurpassed infiltration rates, but adds a unique stormwater storage component with its patented arch built right into the block. With unprecedented infiltration rates of over 4,000 inches per hour – ten times the rate of its competitors – the arch provides temporary detention capacity, providing additional time for the soils to infiltrate stormwater. The PaveDrain System can be installed in singly units by hand, or the blocks can be cabled together in a mattress and placed in large sections."* <http://www.acfenvironmental.com/Product.aspx?PID=538>

The lot is approximately 1,500 square feet in size and will host twenty-five parking spaces along with green space and driving lanes. The parking lot is under final construction and will be the setting for the Second Annual Community Christmas Celebration on December 7, 2014. Residents have watched the area take shape and numerous individuals have stopped in to learn more about the function of the blocks and have all agreed it will be much nicer than the traditional blacktop pavement that typically would have been installed. The blocks are being installed individually by a local contractor. The project is being funded in part with dollars from the Chesapeake Bay Program through the West Virginia Conservation Agency. If you would like more information on the design, product or to learn about how West Virginia continues to do its part to keep our local waters clean, contact Carla Hardy at [chardy@wvca.us](mailto:chardy@wvca.us).



**Progress in the making- clockwise from top.**

Vacant lot prior to construction- base layer of 8' of stone compacted.

Contractors cutting blocks to design driving pattern.

Near completion with Community Christmas tree ready for decoration.

Close-up of Pave Drain interlocking blocks.