



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Freeport, Maine

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New Freeport Community Center Parking Lot Leaks

Freeport, Maine, a town known for innovation in “Bean” boots and a McDonald’s with traditional Maine coast architecture, has taken another novel approach to the ordinary. The new Freeport

Community Center just installed a parking lot and pedestrian walkway that, literally, leak. These “porous pavement” technologies are specially designed to allow rainwater to infiltrate the ground rather than running off the pavement to nearby coastal waters, carrying pollutants with them.



Porous pavements are not necessarily new in the U.S. but their applications in Maine are. Porous pavements are a modification of traditional hard pavements such as concrete and asphalt that allow water to drain through them into a special medium or “base course”. Under the pavement, the “base course” slows down the flow of water and allows time for it to infiltrate into the ground where pollutants can be naturally treated.

The Freeport Community Center project includes a small porous parking lot and pervious pedestrian walkway that will serve to demonstrate how these technologies work. Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP), which provided a \$28,725 grant to fund the Freeport Community Center project, has been working to promote low impact development demonstration projects like these porous pavements, the green roof on the new East End school in Portland, and other technologies in order to reduce pollution to Casco Bay. “It is our hope that demonstration projects like the Freeport Community Center will show that these systems are not only better for the environment but are also attractive and easier to maintain than conventional systems. In the future, we hope that other community and commercial sites will follow suit and install these low impact development technologies.” said Karen Young, Director of CBEP.

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, part of the USM Muskie School, works to protect and restore the Casco Bay ecosystem while sustaining compatible human uses. For more information, visit www.cascobayestuary.org

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