

# Neuse Education Team i m p a c t s

## Urban Impacts 1.

**Alternative Thinking** *A special parking lot in Kinston will provide scientists, engineers and local leaders a research and demonstration site that focuses on reducing stormwater pollution.*

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

*“Most developers have not considered using this type of pavement because they have yet to see it work in real-world conditions. This research and demonstration site will provide those conditions.”*

—Bill Hunt, Neuse Education Team stormwater specialist

Traditional pavement is made of asphalt or concrete. Each is very impervious, producing lots of runoff water when it rains. Alternative pavement materials, while not quite as strong, allow some rainfall to pass through the surface into the ground, sending it along a more “filtered” route to the Neuse River.

Alternative pavement materials include concrete blocks with open holes, plastic matrixes filled with washed stone and hard plastic materials filled with soil. These materials allow water to filter through the ground, reducing runoff.

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- Since 1998, ten cities and five counties in the Neuse River Basin have been affected by state-mandated rules. An important part of the rules is to reduce impervious surfaces.
- Not all pavement areas need to be as strong as concrete. Alternative pavement materials include concrete blocks with open holes, plastic matrixes filled with washed stone and hard plastic materials filled with soil.
- Assisting the City of Kinston, the Neuse Education Team helped install an alternative-paving site in the summer of 1999. It will serve as a demonstration parking lot that engineers, architects, planners, contractors and the general public can visit.
- Reducing stormwater runoff keeps streams cleaner because less soil erodes into the water and fewer pollutants enter the waters.
- Engineering students at NC State University used this site as a senior design project. The Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the City of Kinston will monitor runoff reduction.

