

THE ATHENS TRAILHEAD

POROUS PAVEMENT

PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

PARKING EXPANSION WITHOUT DETENTION SPACE

THE CHALLENGE

As part of a grant-funded initiative, the City of Athens set out to expand the Eureka Trailhead with a new parking area and trail extension. The improvements were intended to accommodate growing visitor traffic while preserving the natural character of the site and supporting a wide range of users. However, the addition of paved drive aisles and parking spaces introduced new impervious surfaces that increased stormwater runoff, creating regulatory and design challenges.

Traditional paving would have required a separate detention basin to manage stormwater, but the site offered limited space for such infrastructure. At the same time, the parking area needed to meet vehicle loading requirements, provide long-term durability, and stay within the project's budget. The team needed a solution that could manage runoff, support daily traffic, and blend naturally with the trail environment without adding costly or space-consuming detention features.



POROUS PAVERS CONTROL RUNOFF ON BUDGET



THE SOLUTION

To address both structural and stormwater needs, Lose Design specified the GEOPAVE® Gravel Porous Paver System, by Presto Geosystems, for the parking area. The system's high-strength, permeable design allowed runoff to infiltrate naturally while supporting vehicle loads. Wilson Construction installed approximately 5,500 square feet of GEOPAVE pavers in the downstream parking bays, capturing runoff from upstream asphalt areas.



Engineers enhanced the system with an additional 18 inches of 3-inch stone beneath the #57 stone base, along with an underdrain that directed excess water to a nearby grass swale for treatment. GEOPAVE SNAP Delineators were used to define parking spaces. The result was a stable, permeable surface that managed stormwater efficiently while maintaining a natural, gravel-like appearance.

THE RESULTS

The final design kept the project within budget while delivering a durable, high-performance parking area that manages stormwater without a separate detention basin. Since opening in November 2020, the trailhead has received positive feedback for both its functionality and appearance. The project demonstrates how permeable pavement systems can meet structural, environmental, and aesthetic goals while transforming community infrastructure into a sustainable, user-friendly asset.



CONTACT SALES