
**CITY OF NEWARK
STORMWATER UTILITY PROGRAM****POLICY: GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS****DISCUSSION:**

Gravel is an issue that needs to be addressed and analyzed for any stormwater utility program implementation. The issue is whether to consider “including” gravel driveways and gravel parking lots in the impervious area polygon calculations (treating gravel as impervious) or whether to “exclude” gravel driveways and gravel parking lots in the impervious area polygon calculations (treating gravel as pervious). The following are basic issues that need to be considered when developing a policy for gravel:

- Gravel surfaces have varying degrees of imperviousness and perviousness;
- Can be costly to perform compaction tests for such surfaces throughout the City;
- Aerial photo interpretation and misinterpretation issues;
- Simplifies or complicates the aerial photo process; and
- City of Newark zoning requires that

Since gravel surfaces have varying degrees of imperviousness, an argument can be reasonably made to “include” gravel in the impervious area polygon calculations. Furthermore, including gravel does simplify the process because it can be very difficult to distinguish gravel from concrete/asphalt when interpreting aerial photography. In some cases, field inspections may be required for a number of properties in order to determine for certain that the surface is paved or gravel if gravel is excluded. Every effort will be made to properly identify gravel areas from impervious surfaces, but there will be situations where it is simply impossible to delineate gravel from hard surface (through aerial photography). This issue is minimized if gravel is treated as impervious rather than pervious.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Project Team recommends that the City of Newark include gravel driveways and parking lots in the impervious area measurements because of the difficulty related to excluding these areas during the photo interpretation and impervious area-calculating phase of the project.

ACTION:

The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed, discussed and approved this Billing Policy Paper on April 26, 2005.

Approved: Tim Weisert

Date: 3/17/2006

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