

## What does 'stewardship' mean in horticulture?

Stewardship of the earth requires knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Decisions that impact directly or indirectly the ecosystem in which we live at Trinity Village are evidence-based and carefully applied to mitigate any known negative cascading effect on the property's ecosystem and beyond. Within best horticulture practices, we consider and balance the ecological and economic realities on the property, for the well-being of elders, employees, and visitors.

## Why consider permeable pavement?

When the old asphalt pavement in the Community Garden needed to be replaced, careful consideration in the choice of material and installation led Trinity Village to select permeable pavement of natural crushed stone over the more manufactured products like asphalt or cement. The choice of a natural product rather than a manufactured product reduced the greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint of the project. The 40-year life span of permeable pavement - as tested by the University of Ottawa - required only one application during this time period rather than two or more required for either asphalt or cement. It was a natural choice.

Furthermore, given its capacity to allow stormwater to flow through and seep into the groundwater reserves naturally, in larger applications, permeable pavement would potentially divert water from the stormwater drains and the ensuing filtration and treatment processes. Something to consider when thinking of larger applications in our community.



## Have you walked the pathway in the Community Garden?

Try it and let us know what you think. And if you have any other thoughts about how we can be better stewards of our property contact the Horticulture Manager



Using permeable paving for the Community Garden pathway provided an opportunity to evaluate its effectiveness over time, in all seasons. Anecdotal observation answered the following questions:

- Does permeable paving allow faster and more complete infiltration of snow melt during the winter months compared to the pathways without permeable paving? **Yes.**
- Will it be slip-free during winter months? **Yes, as the snow melts it drains directly below itself and therefore there is no run-off, water pooling or ice build-up.**
- Would there be an opportunity to expand its use on the property? **It is certainly worth exploring.**

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