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## CONCRETE GRID PAVEMENTS

### BACKGROUND

As cities grow, man-made surfaces contribute to urban heat and stormwater runoff. Heat is generated by the high concentration of pavements and buildings. It forms a dome of warm air, or an urban heat island, over cities that can be as much as 12° F (7°C) higher than outlying areas. The urban heat island also increases electricity consumption for air conditioning. This dome of heat traps dust and gases, increasing the concentrations of air pollution from automobile exhaust and industrial sources (1).

A high concentration of pavements and buildings, or impervious surfaces, generates additional runoff during rainstorms. Washed from the air and pavements, excess runoff carries pollutants that enter water courses. The runoff generated by impervious surfaces erodes streams, degenerating riparian environments, and pollutes sources of drinking water. Increased runoff volumes and velocities deprive ground water from recharging, decreasing the amount of available water in many communities.

Concrete grid pavements or “green parking lots” originated from the need to reduce the urban heat island and stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. Perforated concrete units as pavement were introduced when hollow concrete building blocks were placed in the ground to support cars. They first appeared in 1961 to handle overflow parking at a major cultural center near Stuttgart, Germany (2). They were a replacement for temporary steel runway matting. Figure 1 shows the genesis of grids.

Since then, concrete grids developed in Europe were applied in North America as a method for reducing lakeside erosion, as well as for ditch liners. Concrete grids were later used as a utility grade pavement for driveways, main and overflow parking areas, shoulders along airfields and highways crossovers on medians, boat launching ramps, emergency fire lanes and for access roads adjacent to buildings. See Figure 2. Figures 3–12 illustrate many uses of concrete grid pavers.

This technical bulletin provides guidance on the design, specification, construction, and maintenance of concrete grid pavements for a wide range of applications. Concrete grids

are an environmentally friendly technology that can help earn credits under green building rating systems such as LEED® and Sustainable SITES. For more information on how grids can earn credits see *Tech Note PAV-TEC-016–Achieving LEED® Credits with Segmental Concrete Pavement*.

### PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE GRID PAVING UNITS

The properties of concrete grid units are defined in ASTM C1319, *Standard Specification for Concrete Grid Paving Units* (3). This specification defines concrete grids as having maximum dimensions of 24 in. long by 24 in. wide (610 mm by 610 mm) and a minimum nominal thickness of 3 1/8 in. (80 mm). The minimum required thickness of the webs between the openings is 1 in. (25 mm). Dimensional tolerances should not differ from approved samples more than 1/8 in. (3.2 mm) for length, width, and height.

The minimum compressive strength of the concrete grid units should average 5,000 psi (35 MPa) with no individual one less than 4,500 psi (31 MPa). Their average water absorption should not exceed 10 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>



Figure 1. Grids first used in Germany in 1961 for overflow parking were building blocks placed in the ground. They emerged from the need to cool cities and decrease stormwater runoff.



Figure 2. A typical grid pavement for occasional vehicular traffic

Revised August 2023



Figure 3. Residential driveway



Figure 4. Lakeside stabilization



Figure 5. Cossover



Figure 6. Service access lane

(160 kg/m<sup>3</sup>). Freeze-thaw durability is based on three years of proven field performance of units that conform to the above web thickness, compressive strength and absorption criteria.

Concrete grid unit designs fall into two categories: lattice and castellated as shown in Figure 14. Lattice pavers have a flat surface that forms a continuous pattern of concrete when installed. Castellated grids include protruding concrete knobs on the surface making the grass appear continuous when installed. Concrete grid pavers generally range in weight from 40 lbs. (18 kg) to 90 lbs. (40 kg). ASTM C1319 requires that the solid area range from 45% to 75%.

## DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES FOR VEHICULAR PAVEMENTS

Guidelines are provided for a dense-graded, crushed stone, aggregate base under bedding sand, topsoil and grass or aggregate in the grid openings. The choice of grass or aggregate in the openings depends on the expected intensity of use. Most grasses require at least five hours of sunlight each day to survive. Grass can be placed in the grid openings in intermittent or overflow parking areas, as well as in fire lanes. If a parking area is covered by cars all day for consecutive days, aggregate should be used in the openings as constant shade and engine heat can kill the grass.

Before a parking lot is constructed, existing pedestrian paths across the lot should be studied and defined. Parking spaces and pedestrian paths as well as spaces for disabled persons can be delineated with solid concrete pavers. Paths with solid units will make walking more comfortable, especially for pedestrians with high-heeled shoes. Likewise, parking spaces accessible to disabled persons and bicycles should be marked with solid pavers (Figure 14).

**Design with a dense-graded, crushed stone base** — A typical grid pavement installation consists of compacted soil subgrade, a dense-graded base of compacted crushed stone, 1/2 to 1 in. (13 to 25 mm) thick bedding sand, and grids. The openings in the grids are filled with topsoil and grass (Figure 15), or aggregate (Figure 16).

Thicknesses required under conventional asphalt pavements are generally sufficient under concrete grids. A minimum of 8 in. (200 mm) of compacted aggregate base is recommended for emergency fire lanes supporting fire trucks, and truck axle loads, (which includes AASHTO H-20 and HS-20) as well as for parking lots and driveways. Parking lots and driveways loads should generally not exceed 7,500 lifetime 18,000 lb (80 kN) equivalent single axle loads (ESALs). Thicker bases may be required when extremely heavy vehicular loads are expected.

For bases over poorly draining soils, perforated plastic, geotextile wrapped drain pipe is recommended for removing excess water. The pipe should be directed to a drainage swale, storm sewer, or stream. If draining soils is impractical, aggregate bases can be stabilized with 4 to 6 percent (by weight) of cement to increase strength during drainage or freeze-thaw.



Figure 7. Emergency access lane for fire trucks



Figure-8. Overflow parking



Figure 9. Embankment stabilization



Figure 10. Fence



Figure 11. Airfield taxiway shoulder



Figure 12. Air for tree roots and a warning for drivers

Thicker bases may also be required when the soil subgrade is weak (California Bearing Ratio < 4%) typically with high amounts of clay or silt. Likewise, thicker bases or those stabilized with cement will be required over a high water table, in low-lying areas subject to flooding, or over continually saturated soils. For unstabilized aggregate bases, geotextile is recommended to separate the compacted soil subgrade from the base material for these situations.

**Construction of dense-graded bases** — Prior to placing a dense-graded base, the soil subgrade should be uniformly compacted to at least 95% of standard Proctor density per

ASTM D698 (4). Dense-graded aggregate bases should be compacted to a minimum of 98% standard Proctor density (4). A well-compacted base is essential to shedding water and remaining stable in freeze-thaw conditions. Specifications for crushed stone aggregate base materials typically used under asphalt pavements are suitable under concrete grid pavements. If no local standards exist, gradation of the base material should conform to ASTM D2940, *Standard Specification for Graded Aggregate Material for Bases or Subbases for Highways or Airports* (5). Figure 15 illustrates a typical cross-section with a dense-graded aggregate base.

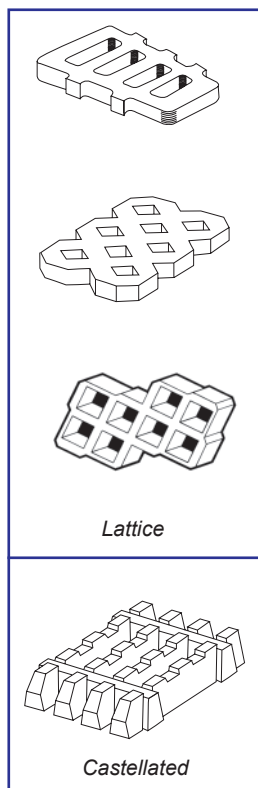


Figure 13. Types of Grid Pavement Units

The maximum surface tolerance of the compacted base should be  $\pm \frac{3}{8}$  in. ( $\pm 10$  mm) over a 10 ft (3 m) straightedge. The base should extend beyond the perimeter of the grids a minimum of 12 in. (300 mm) when there is no building or curb to restrain them. The extended perimeter increases the stability of the grids and facilitates installation of staked edge restraints.

The gradation of washed bedding sand should conform to ASTM C33 (6) or CSA A23.1-FA1 (7). Gradations are provided in the guide specification at the end of this bulletin. Limestone screenings, stone dust or masonry sand should not be used. The thickness of the bedding sand should be between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 in. (13–25 mm), and screeded to a consistent thickness. This is typically accomplished with screed rails or bars placed on the compacted base. The bedding sand over the bars is pulled across them with a screed board to establish a consistent sand thickness. The sand should have a consistent moisture content but not be saturated. It should not be

disturbed prior to placing the grids.

The grids are placed on the screeded bedding sand with consistent joint spacing between  $\frac{1}{8}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (3 to 6 mm). The units shouldn't be pushed or hammered such that they touch each other. If the grids touch, they may crack, chip or spall under repeated traffic.

The units should be cut to fill any spaces along the edges prior to compaction. All installed units should be compacted into the bedding sand at the end of each day. Rainfall settles uncompacted sand, preventing the grids from pressing into the sand when compacted. If bedding sand is left uncompacted, it should be covered with plastic to protect it from rain. Otherwise, bedding sand saturated with rainfall prior to compaction will need to dry, be raked and re-screeded or be replaced. If left uncorrected, the grids will settle unevenly and move under traffic.

After the grids are placed, topsoil is spread across them and swept into the openings. Fertilizer may be mixed with the topsoil as well. Quantities should account for the concrete surface.

The grids are vibrated into the sand with a high-frequency (75-90 Hz), low-amplitude plate compactor. It should have a minimum centrifugal compaction force of 5,000 lbs (22 kN). Rollers or a mat should be attached to the plate of the compactor to protect the grids from cracking and chipping. The primary purpose of

compaction is to create a level surface among the units. An occasional cracked unit from compaction will not compromise performance. Extensive cracking should be addressed on a job-by-job basis.

The openings should be seeded and completely filled with topsoil. Adding topsoil to the entire surface can assist in germination. Straw can be applied to protect the grass while it is growing. While labor-intensive, sod plugs can be inserted into the openings as an alternative to topsoil and seeding. Sod plugs require a reduced amount of topsoil in the openings so space is available for them.

The choice of grass variety is important to longevity under tires and drought. A limited amount of research on concrete grid pavers has shown that Merion Kentucky bluegrass, Kentucky 31 tall fescue, and Manhattan perennial ryegrass have a high tolerance to wear, a high potential for recuperation from damage, and a low tendency toward thatch build-up (8). Turfgrass specialists may have further recommendations on species and seeding rates.

Sediment from runoff and dust from adjacent areas must be kept from entering the openings during and after establishment of the grass. Sediment clogs the topsoil and prevents grass from growing. The grass should not be exposed to tires until it is well established. A period of time for establishing grass should be part of the construction contract and schedule. This is typically three to four weeks.

Edge restraints are required for containing concrete grid pavements and preventing them from shifting under tire traffic. Concrete, plastic, or metal edge restraints are recommended when subject to automobile tires. *Tech Note PAV-TEC-003 – Edge Restraints for Interlocking Concrete Pavements* provides further guidance on their selection (9). For parking applications, tire stops are recommended to help prevent lateral movement of perimeter units. Tire stops should be anchored into the base at least 2 ft. (0.6 m) from the outside edge of the units.

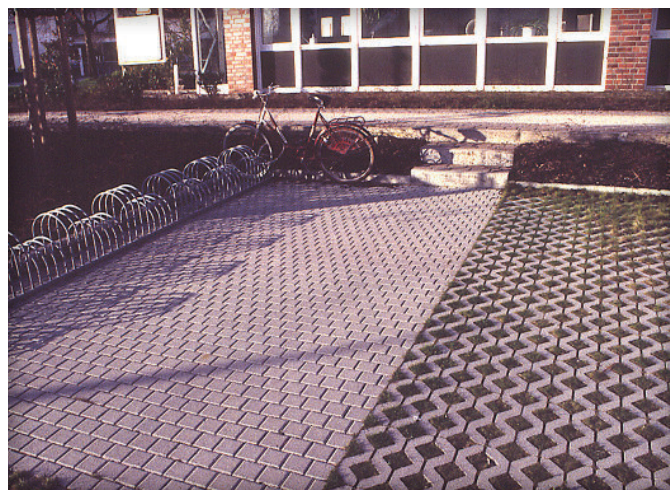


Figure 14. Solid pavers used for bicycle parking and pedestrian access.

**Maintenance** — Concrete grids with grass will require maintenance ordinarily required for lawns such as watering, mowing, removal of weeds and occasional fertilizing. If grass in grid pavements can not be maintained by the project owner or tenant, then crushed stone aggregate should be placed in the openings. See Figure 16. Aggregate should be used if sediment from the site or adjacent impervious areas is expected to wash onto the grids or be deposited on them by vehicles.

Snow can be plowed from grids if the plow blade is set slightly above their surface. Rotary brushes for snow removal are not recommended. De-icing salts should never be used on grass because salt will kill it. Re-establishing grass in openings with contaminated soil is difficult without removing and replacing the soil in each opening.

Due to their slab shape and openings, concrete grids may crack during compaction or while in service. In most situations, one or two cracks in a unit will not diminish structural or functional performance. If units crack from soil or base settlement, they can be removed and replaced. Likewise, the same units can be reinstated after repairs to the base or to underground utilities.

Bean (10) documented clogging and infiltration rates of concrete grid surfaces on new to 20 year-old projects. He demonstrated increases in infiltration rates after removal of clogged soil from grid openings. His research demonstrated the importance of keeping sediment from gathering on grid surfaces which can kill the grass in decrease surface infiltration.

## DESIGN FOR RUNOFF REDUCTION

Peak flow runoff calculations for storm sewers and water courses are typically determined using the Rational Method. For drainage calculations an average runoff coefficient of 0.2 to 0.4 can be used for grids with established grass (11) or on a dense-graded aggregate base. These coefficients are substantially lower than the 0.9 to 1.00 for conventional impervious pavements. The runoff coefficient of 0.2 to 0.4 is similar to that for natural grassed areas. Runoff coefficients will be 0.2 to 0.25 when No. 8 stone is used to fill the openings over a dense-graded aggregate base. This open-graded aggregate material provides additional runoff storage.

Open-graded aggregates for bedding and base materials are not recommended. They can cause grids to tilt and crack under vehicular traffic. While research (12) (13) (14) has demonstrated the storage, filtering, pollutant reduction benefits of these materials, they do not provide needed structural stability for grid units under repeated vehicular traffic. When these benefits are

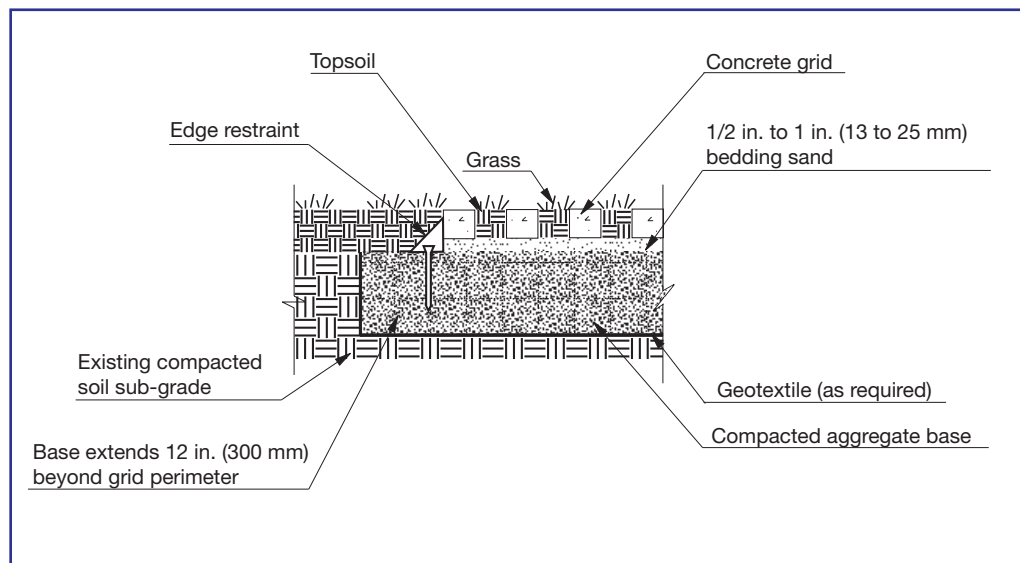


Figure 15. Typical concrete grid pavement over dense-graded base

needed with traffic loads exceeding that recommended for grids (i.e., 7,500 ESALs), permeable interlocking concrete pavement (PICP) should be considered. CMHA has design (PICP Manual PAV-MAN-001), construction (Tech Note PAV-TEC-018) and maintenance (Tech Note PAV-TEC-023) guidance for PICP.

## URBAN HEAT ISLAND CONTROL THROUGH URBAN MICROCLIMATES

Besides abating runoff, concrete grids generate lower temperatures than asphalt. Impervious pavements and buildings hold heat, thereby contributing to the urban heat island and capturing urban air pollution. Research has shown that grid pavements can have 2° to 4° F (1° to 2° C) lower local air temperatures than asphalt and 4° to 6° F (2° to 4° C) lower radiometric than asphalt (12). Lower temperatures create more comfortable microclimates for pedestrians in urban surroundings. Concrete grid pavements can be an integral part of cooling the urban climate and reducing air pollution. They can be incorporated with tree-lined streets, a managed urban forest, fountains, roof top gardens, vegetation on building walls,



Figure 16. Concrete grids with aggregate in the openings

plus park spaces to cool areas and filter urban air pollutants. The result is more comfortable, cleaner and livable cities.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR EROSION CONTROL

In areas where the grid pavements are exposed to hydraulic forces of rapidly moving water, additional design information can be obtained. Grid pavements provide immediate stabilization of embankments until grass or other vegetation is established. Table 1 provides the recommended maximum slopes for stabilization. Grids can be placed directly on geotextile, graded and compacted soil, working from the bottom to the top of the embankment. The grids should be staked every third row to secure them while vegetation establishes. Stakes should be steel (Figure 17). Grids are also effective liners for ditches with intermittent flows of water (Figure 18). The grids protect ditches from erosion while the openings accommodate vegetation to increase stability.

Preparing lake sides for concrete grids includes grading and compacting the area above the water prior to placing the units. Aggregate is often placed under grids on banks to further prevent erosion. This layer should be at least 4 in. (100 mm) thick. Geotextile should be placed prior to installing the grids and anchored with large aggregate at the "toe" (bottom) and sides of the installation (Figure 19).

Aggregate should be placed in the openings of the submerged grids. Topsoil and riparian vegetation can be planted along the banks in areas subject to high water levels. Grass can be used in areas not subject to frequent inundation.

Boat ramps in recreation facilities can be made from concrete grids. They can be installed without partitioning the area and removing the water prior to construction. The design guidelines

above for lake sides apply except that a minimum of 8 in. (200 mm) of open-graded aggregate should be compacted to provide a base for the grid pavers (Figure 20). This provides a base for automobiles and pickup trucks with boat trailers. The maximum recommended slope is 12% (8:1) for grid boat ramps.

Table 1 summarizes the maximum recommended slopes for non-vehicular and vehicular applications (other than boat ramps).

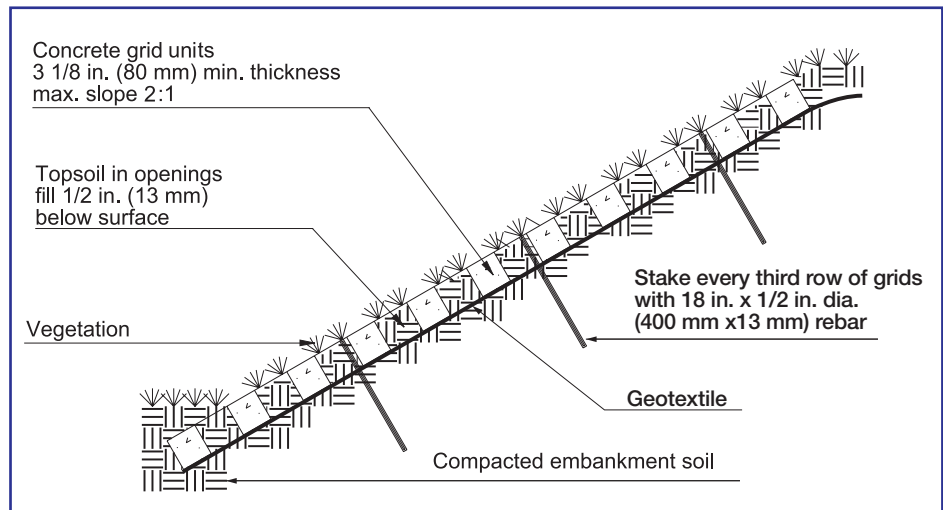


Figure 17. Embankment stabilization with concrete grids

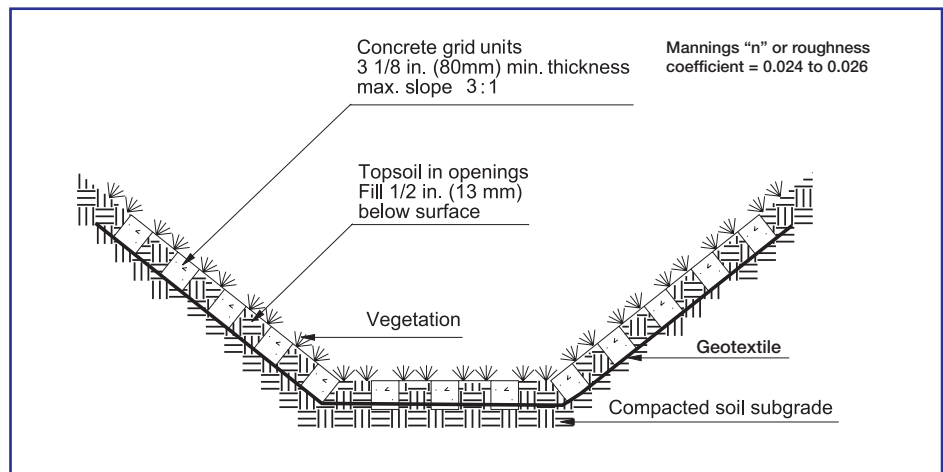


Figure 18. Ditch lined with concrete grid pavers for intermittent flow

Table 1: Maximum Slopes for Grid Pavements

Condition	Non-vehicular Applications	Vehicular Applications
Maximum slopes without stakes	3:1 (18 degrees, 33%)	8:1 (7 degrees, 12%)
Maximum slopes with stakes or grade beams	2:1 (26 degrees, 50%)	3:1 (18 degrees, 33%)

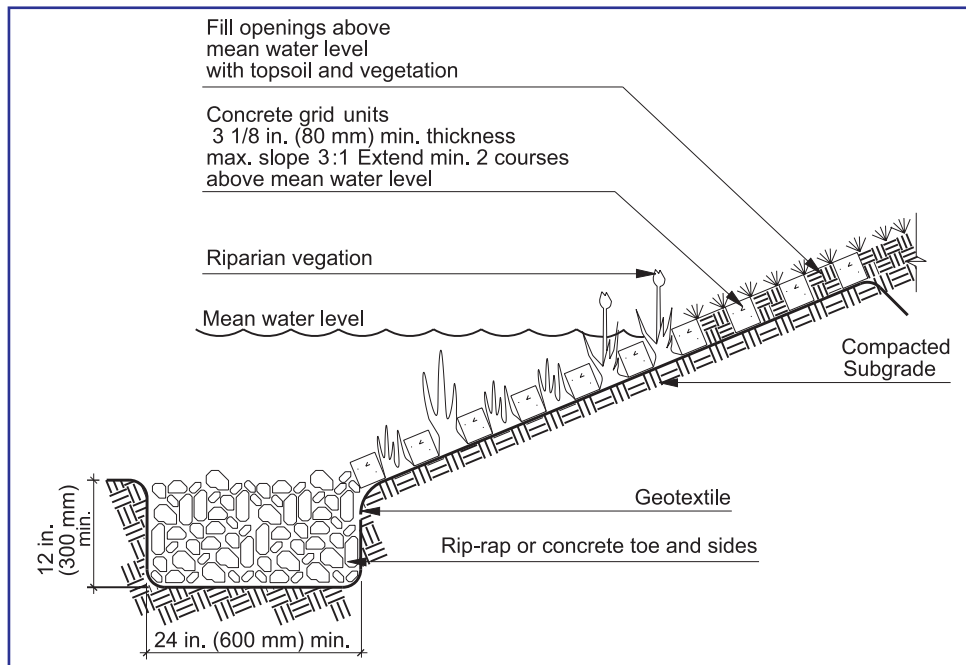


Figure 19. Lake side stabilization with concrete grids

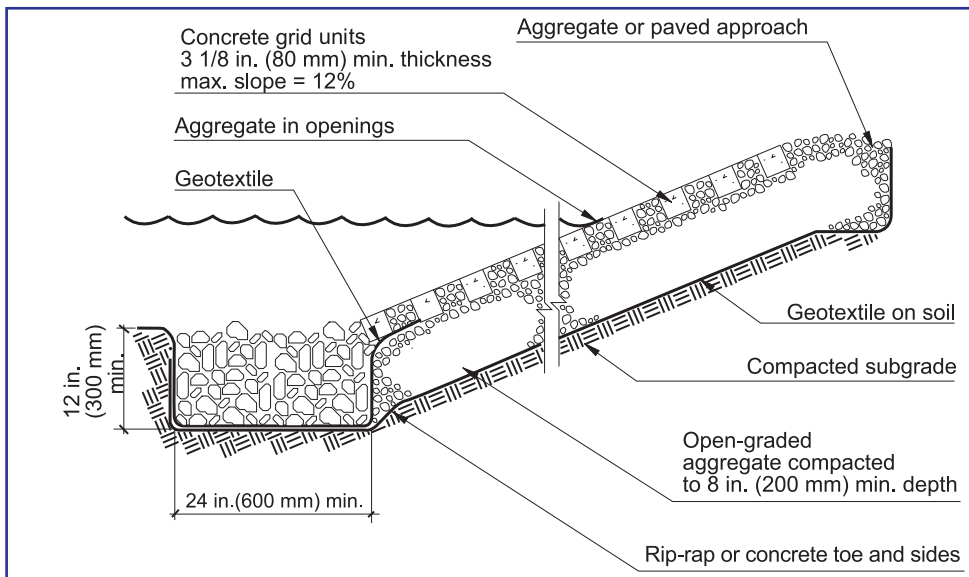


Figure 20. Typical cross-section for boat ramp

## REFERENCES

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2. *Urban Innovation Abroad*, Vol. 2, Number 12, Council for International Urban Liaison, Washington, D.C., August, 1978.
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4. ASTM D698, Test Method for Laboratory Compaction of Soil Using Standard Effort, *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol. 04.08, American Society for Testing and Materials, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, 1993.
5. ASTM D2940, Standard Specification for Graded Aggregate Material for Bases or Subbases for Highway or Airports, *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol. 04.03, American Society for Testing and Materials, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, 1995.
6. ASTM C33, Standard Specification for Concrete Aggregates, *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol. 04.02, American Society for Testing and Materials, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, 1996.
7. CSA A23.1, *Concrete Materials and Methods of Concrete Construction*, Canadian Standards Association, Rexdale, Ontario, 2000.
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14. Collins, K., Hunt, W., and Hathaway, J. Hydrologic Comparison of Four Types of Permeable Pavement and Standard Asphalt in Eastern North Carolina, *Journal of Hydrologic Engineering*, 13 (12), 2008.

## SECTION 32 14 13.19 CONCRETE GRID PAVEMENTS

Note: This guide specification is for concrete grid units placed on a sand bedding course over a compacted dense-graded aggregate base. The text allows an option of topsoil and grass in the grid openings over bedding sand or No. 8 open-graded aggregate in the grid openings. This specification is for limited vehicular applications such as access roads and emergency fire lanes, as well as intermittently used overflow parking areas. This text must be edited to suit specific project requirements for projects. This Section includes the term "Architect." Edit this term as necessary to identify the design professional in the General Conditions of the Contract. Use U.S. or Canadian references as appropriate.

If the area is exposed to recurring vehicular traffic and additional stormwater storage in the base is desired, the specifier should consider using permeable interlocking concrete pavements, as they provide additional structural support to vehicles while providing runoff storage in an open-graded, crushed stone base. In such cases, the specifier should refer to the CMHA manual, *Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavements PAV-MAN-001*.

### PART 1 GENERAL

#### 1.01 SUMMARY

- A. Section includes:
  - 1. Concrete grid units.
  - 2. Bedding sand.
  - 3. Edge restraints.
  - 4. Geotextiles.
  - 5. [Topsoil and grass for the grid openings.]
  - 6. [Open-graded aggregate for the grid openings.]
  - 7. [Open-graded aggregate bedding course].
- B. Related Sections:
  - 1. Section [ ]: Curbs and drains.
  - 2. Section [ ]: Dense-graded aggregate base.
  - 3. Section [ ]: Open-graded aggregate base.

#### 1.02 REFERENCES

- A. American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM)
  - 1. C33, Specification for Concrete Aggregates.
  - 2. C136, Method for Sieve Analysis for Fine and Coarse Aggregate.
  - 3. C140, Standard Test Methods of Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units.
  - 4. C979, Standard Specification for Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete.
  - 5. C1319, Standard Specification for Concrete Grid Paving Units.
  - 6. D698, Standard Test Method for Laboratory Compaction Characteristics of Soil Using Standard Effort (12,000 ft-lbf/ft<sup>3</sup> (600 kN-m/m<sup>3</sup>)).
  - 7. D2940, Standard Specification for Graded Aggregate Material for Bases or Subbases for Highways or Airports.
  - 8. D5268, Specification for Topsoil Used for Landscaping Purposes.
- B. Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
  - 1. CSA A23.1, Concrete Materials and Methods of Concrete Construction
- C. Concrete Masonry and Hardscapes Association (CMHA)
  - 1. Tech Note technical bulletins.

#### 1.03 SUBMITTALS

- A. In accordance with Conditions of the Contract and Division 1 Submittal Procedures Section.
- B. Manufacturer's drawings and details: Indicate perimeter conditions, relationship to adjoining materials and assemblies, expansion and control joints, paving slab [layout,] [patterns,] [color arrangement,] installation [and setting] details.
- C. Sieve analysis per ASTM C136 for grading of bedding and base materials.

Note: Include D below if the grid openings will be filled with topsoil and grass seed, or sod plugs.

- D. Source and content of topsoil and grass seed [sod].
- E. Concrete grid units:

1. Color selected by Architect.
2. [Four] representative full-size samples of each grid type, thickness, color, finish that indicate the extremes of color variation and texture expected in the finished installation.
3. Accepted samples become the standard of acceptance for the work.
4. Test results from an independent testing laboratory for compliance of grid paving unit requirements to ASTM C1319.
5. Manufacturer's catalog literature, installation instructions, and material safety data sheets for the safe handling of the specified materials and products.

#### 1.04 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Paving Subcontractor Qualifications:
  1. Engage an experienced installer who has successfully completed grid pavement installations similar in design, material, and extent indicated for this Project.
  2. Hold a current certificate from the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute Concrete Paver Installer Certification program.
- B. Single-source Responsibility: Obtain each color, type, and variety of grids, joint materials and setting materials from single sources with resources to provide products and materials of consistent quality, appearance and physical properties without delaying progress of the Work.
- C. Regulatory requirements and approvals: [Specify applicable licensing, bonding or other requirements of regulatory agencies.]
- D. Mock-up
  1. Locate where directed by the Architect.
  2. Notify Architect in advance of dates when mock-ups will be erected.
  3. Install minimum [100] sf ([10] m<sup>2</sup>) of concrete grid units.
  4. Use this area to determine the quality of workmanship to be produced in the final unit of Work including surcharge of the bedding sand layer, joint sizes, lines, pavement laying pattern(s), color(s), and texture.
  5. This area shall be used as the standard by which the work is judged.
  6. Subject to acceptance by the owner, mock up may be retained as part of the finished work.
  7. If mock up is not retained, remove and properly dispose of.

#### 1.05 DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

- A. General: Comply with Division 1 Product Requirement Section
- B. Deliver concrete grid units to the site in steel banded, plastic banded, or plastic wrapped packaging capable of transfer by forklift or clamp lift. Unload grids at job site in such a manner that no damage occurs to the product or existing construction.
- C. Cover sand with waterproof covering to prevent exposure to rainfall or removal by wind. Secure the covering in place.
- D. Coordinate delivery and paving schedule to minimize interference with normal use of buildings adjacent to paving.

#### 1.06 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- A. Do not install bedding materials or grid units during heavy rain or snowfall.
- B. Do not install bedding materials and grid units over frozen base materials.
- C. Do not install frozen bedding materials.

#### 1.07 GRID PAVER MAINTENANCE MATERIALS:

- A. Supply [ ] sf ([ ] m<sup>2</sup>) of [each type and color of grid unit] in unopened pallets with contents labeled. Store where directed by the Architect [General Contractor].
- B. From the same production run as installed materials.

## PART 2 PRODUCTS

### 2.01 CONCRETE GRID UNITS

- A. Manufacturer: [Specify CMHA member manufacturer name.].
  1. Contact: [Specify CMHA member manufacturer contact information.].
- B. Concrete grid paver units, including the following:
  1. Grid unit type: [Specify name of product group, castellated, lattice, etc.]
    - a. [Material standard: Comply with material standards in ASTM C1319.
    - b. Color [and finish]: [Specify color.] [Specify finish].
    - c. Color Pigment Material Standard: Comply with ASTM C979.
    - d. Size: [Specify.] inches [(Specify.) mm] x [Specify.] inches [(Specify.) mm] x [Specify.] inches [(Specify.) mm] thick.

### 2.02 PRODUCT SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Substitutions: No substitutions permitted.

## 2.03 BEDDING MATERIALS

Note: If openings are filled with topsoil, use sand bedding. If the openings are filled with open-graded aggregate for additional runoff storage, the same aggregate should be used for the bedding. Edit 2.03 and 2.04 accordingly.

- A. General – Sieved per ASTM C136.
- B. Bedding Sand

Note: The type of sand used for bedding is often called concrete sand. Sands vary regionally. Contact contractors local to the project and confirm sand(s) successfully used in previous similar applications. Bedding sand is not used in ditch liner applications, slope protection, riparian stabilization or with boat ramps constructed with concrete grid units.

1. Washed, clean, hard, from natural sand or crushed stone, free from shale, clay, friable materials, organic matter, frozen lumps, and other deleterious substances.
2. Conforming to the grading requirements in Table 1 below.
3. Do not use limestone screenings, stone dust or sand used to make mortar.

Table 1. Grading Requirements for Bedding Sand

ASTM C33 – Gradation for Bedding Sand		CSA A23.1 FA1 – Gradation for Bedding Sand	
Sieve Size	Percent Passing	Sieve Size	Percent Passing
3/8 in.(9.5 mm)	100	10.0 mm	100
No. 4 (4.75 mm)	95 to 100	5.0 mm	95 to 100
No. 8 (2.36 mm)	80 to 100	2.5 mm	80 to 100
No. 16 (1.18 mm)	50 to 85	1.25 mm	50 to 90
No. 30 (0.6 mm)	25 to 60	630 µm	25 to 65
No. 50 (0.3 mm)	5 to 30	315 µm	10 to 35
No. 100 (0.15 mm)	0 to 10	160 µm	2 to 10
No. 200 (0.075 mm)	0 to 1	80 µm	0 to 1

Note: Bedding sands should conform to ASTM C33 or CSA A23.1 FA1 gradations for concrete sand. For ASTM C33, CMHA recommends the additional limitations on the No. 200 (0.075 mm) sieve as shown. For CSA A23.1 FA1, CMHA recommends reducing the maximum passing the 80 µm sieve from 3% to 1% as indicated in Table 1.

## 2.04 FILL MATERIALS FOR GRID OPENINGS

- A. Topsoil: Conform to ASTM D5268.

Note: Consult with local turf grass specialists for recommendations on grass seed mixture or sod materials.

- B. Grass seed [Sod]: [mixture and source].
- OR-

- A. Open-graded aggregate.
- B. Conforming the gradation requirements in Table 2. Do not use gravel.

Table 2. Gradation for filling grid openings.

ASTM No. 8	
Sieve Size	Percent Passing
1/2 in.(2.5 mm)	100
3/8 in.(9.5 mm)	85 to 100
No. 4 (4.75 mm)	10 to 30
No. 8 (2.36 mm)	0 to 10
No. 16 (1.18 mm)	0 to 5

## 2.05 EDGE RESTRAINTS

- A. Provide edge restraints installed around the perimeter of all concrete grid paving unit areas as follows:
  1. Manufacturer: [Specify manufacturer].
  2. Material: [Plastic] [Concrete] [Aluminum] [Steel] [Precast concrete] [Cut stone].
  3. Material standard: [Specify material standard].

Note: Local, state or provincial standards for aggregate base materials for roads should be used for the gradation and quality of dense-graded aggregate base materials under concrete grid pavements. If no standards exist, follow ASTM D2940, *Standard Specification for Graded Aggregate Material for Bases or Subbases for Highways or Airports*. The gradation for base material from this standard is given in Table 3 below. This material should be compacted to a minimum of 95% standard Proctor density per ASTM D698.

**Table 3**  
**ASTM D2940**  
**Gradation for Dense-Graded, Crushed Stone Base**

Sieve Size	Percent Passing
2 in. (50 mm)	100
1½ in. (37.5 mm)	95 to 100
¾ in. (19.0 mm)	70 to 92
⅜ in. (9.5 mm)	50 to 70
No. 4 (4.75 mm)	35 to 55
No. 30 (0.600 mm)	12 to 25
No. 200 (0.075 mm)	0 to 8

## 2.06 ACCESSORIES

### A. Provide accessory materials as follows:

1. Geotextile:
  - a. Material Type and Description: [Specify material type and description].
  - b. Material Standard: [Specify material standard.].
  - c. Manufacturer: [Acceptable to concrete grid unit manufacturer] [Specify manufacturer.].

## PART 3 EXECUTION

### 3.01 ACCEPTABLE INSTALLERS

#### A. [Specify acceptable paving subcontractors.].

### 3.02 EXAMINATION

Note: Compaction of the soil subgrade is recommended to a minimum of 95% standard Proctor density per ASTM D698 for pedestrian and vehicular areas. Stabilization of the subgrade and/or base material may be necessary with weak or saturated subgrade soils.

Note: Local aggregate base materials typical to those used for highway flexible pavements are recommended, or those conforming to ASTM D2940. Compaction of aggregate to not less than 95% Proctor density in accordance with ASTM D698 is recommended for pedestrian and vehicular areas. Mechanical tampers are recommended for compaction of soil subgrade and aggregate base in areas not accessible to large compaction equipment. Such areas can include that around lamp standards, utility structures, building edges, curbs, tree wells and other protrusions. The recommended compacted base surface tolerance should be  $\pm 3/8$  in. ( $\pm 10$  mm) over a 10 ft. (3 m) straight edge.

Note: The elevations and surface tolerance of the aggregate base determine the final surface elevations of concrete grids. The installation contractor cannot correct deficiencies in the base surface with additional bedding materials. Therefore, the surface elevations of the base should be checked and accepted by the General Contractor or designated party, with written certification to the paving subcontractor prior to placing bedding materials and concrete grids.

#### A. Acceptance of site verification conditions:

1. Contractor shall inspect, accept and verify in writing to the grid installation subcontractor that site conditions meet specifications for the following items prior to installation of bedding materials and concrete grid units:
  - a. Verify that drainage and subgrade preparation, compacted density and elevations conform to specified requirements.
  - b. Verify that geotextiles, if applicable, have been placed according to drawing and specifications.
  - c. Verify that base materials, thickness, [compacted density,] surface tolerances and elevations conform to specified requirements.
  - d. Provide written density test results for the soil subgrade and base materials to the Owner, Contractor, and grid installation subcontractor.

2. Do not proceed with installation of bedding materials and concrete grids until [subgrade soil and] base conditions are corrected by the Contractor or designated subcontractor.

### 3.03 PREPARATION

- A. Verify that base is dry, certified by Contractor as meeting material, installation and grade specifications [and geotextile] are ready to support sand, [edge restraints,] grids and imposed loads.
- B. Edge Restraint Preparation:
  1. Install edge restraints per the drawings [and manufacturer's recommendations] [at the indicated elevations.].
  2. Mount directly to compacted, finished base. Do not install on bedding sand.
  3. The minimum distance from the outside edge of the base to the spikes shall be equal to the thickness of the base.

### 3.04 INSTALLATION

- A. Spread the sand evenly over the compacted, dense-graded base course and screed uniformly to ½ to 1 in. (13 to 25 mm). Place sufficient sand to stay ahead of the laid grids.
- B. Ensure the grid units are free from foreign materials before installation.
- C. Lay the grid units on the bedding sand in the pattern(s) shown on the drawings. Maintain straight joint lines.
- D. Joints between the grids shall be consistent between ⅛ and ¼ in. (3 to 6 mm).
- E. Fill gaps at the edges of the paved area with cut grid pavers or edge units.
- F. Cut grid pavers to be placed along the edge with a double-bladed splitter or masonry saw.
- G. Sweep [top soil][No. 8 aggregate] into the joints and openings until full.
- H. Sweep the grid surface clean prior to compacting.
- I. Compact and seat the grids into the screeded bedding sand using a low-amplitude, 75-90 Hz plate compactor capable of at least 5,000 lbs (22 kN) centrifugal compaction force. Use rollers or a rubber or neoprene pad between the compactor and grids to prevent cracking or chipping. Do not compact within 6 ft (2 m) of the unrestrained edges of the grid units.
- J. All work to within 6 ft (2 m) of the laying face must be left fully compacted at the completion of each day.

Note: Some grid applications may cover the entire surface with at 1 to 2 in. (25-50 mm) of topsoil mixed with grass seed. Edit K and L accordingly if a topsoil layer is specified.

- K. [Broadcast grass seed at the rate recommended by seed source.][Place sod plugs into openings.] [Add topsoil to the surface to cover the seeds.]
- L. Remove excess [topsoil][No. 8 aggregate] on surface when the job is complete.
- M. [Distribute straw covering to protect germinating grass seed [sod]. Water entire area. Do not traffic pavement for [30] days.]

### 3.05 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL

- A. After removal of excess top soil/aggregate, check final elevations for conformance to the drawings. Allow ⅛ to ¼ in. (3 to 6 mm) above specified surface elevations to compensate for minor settlement.
- B. The final surface tolerance from grade elevations shall not deviate more than ± ⅜ in. (10 mm) over a 10 ft (3 m) straightedge.
- C. The surface elevation of grid units shall be ⅛ to ¼ in. (3 to 6 mm) above adjacent drainage inlets, concrete collars or channels.
- D. Lippage: No greater than ⅛ in. (3 mm) difference in height between adjacent grid units.

### 3.06 PROTECTION

- A. After work in the section is complete, the General Contractor shall be responsible for protecting work from damage due to subsequent construction activity on the site.

END OF SECTION

## ABOUT CMHA

The Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association (CMHA) represents a unification of the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI) and National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA). CMHA is a trade association representing US and Canadian producers and suppliers in the concrete masonry and hardscape industry, as well as contractors of interlocking concrete pavement and segmental retaining walls. CMHA is the authority for segmental concrete products and systems, which are the best value and preferred choice for resilient pavement, structures, and living spaces. CMHA is dedicated to the advancement of these building systems through research, promotion, education, and the development of manufacturing guides, design codes and resources, testing standards, and construction practices.

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