

Leadership in Practice, Private Business

The Riverside Hotel

In 2016, The Riverside Hotel voluntarily installed 2,625 square feet of permeable pavers to capture and treat stormwater from 1.43 acres of parking lot and landscaped areas – stormwater that for decades had been discharged directly into the Boise River through storm drains.

When stormwater is discharged into the Boise River, it carries with it pollutants – fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grease, and more. This is a common issue in the urban areas of the Treasure Valley, and can be difficult to solve because many of the solutions require a lot of space – something that is limited and expensive.

One popular solution is permeable pavers, which can be installed in parking lots and on roads without taking extra space. The pavers filter pollutants in the stormwater through special materials before the water soaks into the ground.

While the old stormwater system at The Riverside Hotel was “grandfathered” in when Garden City adopted more stringent stormwater regulations, the hotel owners chose to make voluntary improvements to eliminate stormwater discharge from the entire 14-acre facility in phases over the next few years.

The Riverside Hotel has partnered with Ada Soil and Water Conservation District, Ada County Highway District, City of Garden City, Boise River Enhancement Network, and others to ensure that this installation serves as a demonstration project to build support for, and engage the community in, implementation of this type of “green” stormwater infrastructure on private and public land in Garden City and other cities in the Treasure Valley.