INTERLOCKING CONCRETE PAVEMENT
EVERY CITY IS A LIVING ENTITY

Each has a character expressing histories, images and meanings. Cities continue developing, renovating and rebuilding to reinforce and sometimes redefine their character.

This process of renewal includes an increased role for interlocking concrete pavements. They contribute to a city’s image and character, making it more convivial and lively.

Many municipalities have hundreds of millions of square feet ($M^2$) of concrete pavers. Why? Because pavers address the engineering requirements of strength, design flexibility, and rapid construction through mechanized installation, durability low maintenance and beauty.

These pages illustrate municipal projects where concrete pavers improve urban character while addressing engineering needs. The projects can be a resource of ideas for your city.

Concrete pavers at The Forks provide a signature urban image for Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In Arlington, Virginia, concrete pavers accent the Metro Station.

Colors and patterns of concrete pavers in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, mirror the movement of ocean waves.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The architecture of homes, their spacing, trees, lights and streets define neighborhood character. Since streets are seen first upon entering a neighborhood, they make a substantial impression on that character. Concrete pavers convey the warmth and feeling of old brick streets.

All paver units are the same size, so they give a smoother ride and are easier to repair than their historic counterpart.

DAYTON, OHIO, and TORONTO, ONTARIO, have used concrete pavers in historic neighborhoods to enhance their image, and support the investment by residents in their homes.

Streets with concrete pavers can be further preserved after utility repairs. By unzipping and zipping the pavers, pavement life is not decreased and there are no ugly patches.

Dayton, Ohio, replaced an old street in its historic Oregon District with concrete pavers to match the old brick streets of yesteryear.
WEAVING URBAN FABRIC

Infinite possibilities exist with concrete pavers for expressing pictures, mosaics, or patterns that reinforce the presence of monuments, parks, intersections, promenades, and points of cultural importance.

The bold colors and modular nature of concrete pavers enable them to be used in super graphic designs to call attention to special places in the urban milieu.

OVERTOWN, FLORIDA made urban fabric from pavers to accentuate the cultural heritage of a neighborhood adjacent to this pedestrian path to Miami. The patterns used are taken from Kente Cloth, a non-repetitive weave from the nomadic tribes of North Africa.

DAYTON BEACH, FLORIDA, used pavers to support an increase in store occupancy and commerce.

Downtown Daytona Beach, Florida, enhanced its image by providing a setting for a revitalized business district.
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Many cities use comprehensive strategies to revitalize downtown and neighborhood business districts. Strategies can include market studies, business development, streetscape improvements to unify the district, sign controls, coordinated advertising, and seasonal sales promotions through merchant associations. An effective means of unifying the streetscape is the use of interlocking concrete pavement in sidewalks, crosswalks, parking areas, and roads.

NORTH BAY, ONTARIO, paved 150,000 s.f. (15,000 m²) in 1983 as part of a complete streetscape revitalization program. Business significantly increased after the improvements were made in this popular summer tourist location. Pavers were selected for their high resistance to deicing salts.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, the site of the famous Alamo and Riverwalk, has 1,000,000 s.f. (93,000 m²) of concrete pavers in streets and sidewalks. As part of a complete facelift for the downtown, the city required a pavement that would not rut from constant bus traffic, especially in high summer temperatures. Five miles (8km) of pavers met this need while visually unifying the historic downtown.
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, has transformed its downtown from an old industrial center to offices, entertainment and cultural facilities. Pavers create an impression essential for attracting suburbanites to enjoy the city’s several museums, sports arenas, and an aquarium.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, concrete pavers direct visitors to shopping, entertainment and the world class aquarium.

MIZNER PARK is a mixed-use, new town development in BOCA RATON, FLORIDA. Housing and offices over elegant shops and restaurants are organized along a wide boulevard that opens to a large park with an outdoor concert stage. Streets and sidewalks in concrete pavers add to the up-market image of the development.

FUND RAISERS

Cities hard-pressed for project funds have used pavers to raise them. The Assiniboine Park Zoo, Winnipeg, Manitoba, sold pavers to contributors with their names engraved on them to support an expansion project. Many other cities use this means to raise additional private funds for publicly funded projects.

Even the animals contributed!
...FOR CIVIC EVENTS

The TORONTO SKYDOME is one of many major civic centers to use concrete pavers as the entry “stage” for sporting events and concert performances. A sense of human scale can be created with pavers in the large plazas around these centers.

Civic events at the Toronto Skydome begin with concrete pavers at the entrance.

...FOR NATURE’S EVENTS

Promenades are a classic means of viewing the outstanding and ever-changing seashore. Coastal cities such as FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, and VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA, have created promenades with concrete pavers from which to view sand and surf.

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, chose over two miles (3 km) of concrete pavers along the beach because they resist damage from occasional high water.
...FOR NATURE’S BOUNTY

With the lure of fresh produce, farmer’s markets attract shoppers to downtowns and business districts. The Dallas Farmer’s Market, in Dallas, Texas, and City Market in Kansas City, Missouri, demonstrate the use of pavers to create a sense of place and direct people toward market entrances.
MECHANICAL INSTALLATION

Mechanical installation can decrease installation time and costs. Instead of placing pavers by hand one at a time, specialized equipment can place many pavers at once.

The units come to the site manufactured in the final laying pattern, stacked in layers of 35-40 pavers each. The equipment can lift and place a layer every 20 seconds.

With this rate of installation, construction time is decreased. Traffic disruptions are minimized, enabling faster opening of streets to traffic service and emergency vehicles.

Pine Crescent, a residential brick street in an established, up-market neighborhood in Toronto, Ontario, was removed and replaced with 70,000 s.f. (6,500 m²) of mechanically installed concrete pavers.

Dayton, Ohio, mechanically paved 11,000 s.f. (1,020 m²)
Concrete pavers...
- Take high loads
- Don’t deform in heat
- Resist freeze-thaw
- Resist deicing salts
- Can be snow plowed
- Resist oil/fuel spills
- Resist abrasion
- Are slip resistant
- Are skid resistant
- Increase safety
- Don’t pollute runoff
- Are ready for traffic
- Can be reinstated
- Bring delight

CONTACT THE ICPI FOR MORE TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER MUNICIPAL PROJECTS USING CONCRETE PAVERS.

City Market,
Kansas City,
Missouri