

## Auburn tests porous paving systems near Lake Auburn pullout



Robert Fecteau, Auburn Water District foreman, connects GEOPAVE® plastic paver units along the side of Lake Shore Drive. Once connected, half-inch aggregate is filled in the paver units to improve drainage and make the shoreline safer for vehicles and pedestrians who stop along Lake Auburn just beyond Taber's Lakeside Stand in Auburn.



Presto GEOPAVE® paver unit

**AUBURN, Maine** — Asphalt wasn't the answer for the improved turnout lane along Lake Shore Drive, Water District officials said.

"We wanted something that would drain," said Sid Hazelton, district engineer for the Auburn Water District. "When we had rain and runoff, we wanted something water permeable, so we didn't just have sheets of water running right from the road into the lake."

But loose gravel and rock didn't work, either. They'd been tried before, and Water District officials found that rain and road runoff just carried them into the lake.

"We wanted something stable, that a truck could pull onto," Hazelton said.

The district is testing two new paving systems designed to provide a solid parking place while letting runoff drain.

The first, called GEOPAVE®, is a series of plastic paver units with a monolithic mesh bottom filled with crushed rock. It's being installed on the first half of the 600-foot gravel turnout along Lake Shore Drive just north of Taber's Lakeside Stand.

The second system, called GEOWEB®, will fill an expanded accordion-like structure with gravel. Crews should finish installing both systems this month.

Auburn is testing the system using a \$50,000 Federal Highway Authority Surface Water Quality Protection grant. The Maine Department of Transportation awarded the grant to the Water District and is managing it. Water District crews are performing all of the work, Hazelton said.

"The state is looking at this because there are a couple of different places with similar situations that it might work," he said.