Regional Connecticut Parking Study
Northwestern Connecticut

Description

FHI conducted a two-phase study of parking demand and parking space requirements in northwestern Connecticut for the Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments and Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials. The project were to examined current parking usage in the two planning regions, evaluated the amount of parking necessary for different land uses, and defined strategies to decrease impervious parking area in an effort to reduce the adverse effects of stormwater runoff. In Phase I, FHI conducted an extensive survey of existing parking lot usage associated with diverse types of land uses and compared usage to the actual number of parking spaces and relevant local zoning requirements for parking lot configuration. The final survey found that the majority of surveyed parking lots were underutilized and the Phase 1 report described strategies that could be used to reduce impervious parking areas and improve stormwater runoff from parking lots in suburban and rural settings. In Phase II, FHI developed model zoning language for alternative parking requirements to minimize impervious surface area dedicated to parking and reduce the adverse water quality effects of contaminated runoff originating from paved parking surfaces. The model offers practical zoning language encompassing provision of parking and parking lot design for water quality management, based on an extensive literature review of strategies applied elsewhere to reduce the need for parking spaces in suburban and rural settings. In recognition that there is more than one possible strategy for achieving water quality improvements, the model addresses parking lot surface area (number of parking spaces), location, alternatives to traditional parking such as shared parking and bicycle parking, physical design, and use of vegetation for filtering stormwater.

Client

Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments; Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials