

Missouri Nonprofits Get Scrap Tire Grants

Scrap tire materials are used for playgrounds, tracks and other projects in twelve Missouri counties

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has awarded nearly \$238,000 in scrap tire grants to 15 nonprofit organizations around the state to promote the beneficial use of scrap tire materials for use in playgrounds, tracks and other projects.

The department provides the Scrap Tire Surface Material Grants through the state's Scrap Tire Fee, a 50-cent-per-tire fee collected on new tires sold in Missouri. The department also uses the fee to finance cleanup of illegal scrap tire dumps, inspections, enforcement and permitting activities.

Among the communities receiving grant funds, Clay County will use its \$16,950 for a new playground surface at Liberty City Park. The city will install a pour-in-place rubber surface made from shredded recycled tires mixed with a polyurethane resin. This seamless surface eliminates trip hazards and requires minimal maintenance through its life cycle, according to the local Kecocommunitynews.com.

Virtually indestructible, this type of surface also provides excellent wheelchair mobility, automatically meeting Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

The life expectancy of pour-in place is 10 years or greater, with a minimum three-year warranty, parks officials said.

According to research from the Mayo Clinic, 70 percent of playground injuries are due to falls to the surface. Because pour-in-place surfaces are shock absorbent, durable and self-contained, they reduce liability associated with these amenities, according to the press release.

This material also will eliminate dust and mud around the playground, providing a cleaner play area. It also prevents soil erosion and provides firm footing and traction.

The grant will cover 46 percent of the cost to install the surface.

Staff is targeting the project to begin late summer or early fall once all necessary documents are complete. Dovel, Liberty parks director, said the total cost of the project was \$35,135 with \$2,500 coming from a loss control fund and \$15,185 from a quarter-cent sales tax for parks. ♦

GSU Researches Crumb Rubber Use In Pavement

Junan Shen, associate professor of civil engineering at Georgia State University (GSU) is conducting a laboratory study to determine if the performance of a rubberized asphalt mix, which contains crumb rubber derived from scrap tires-- considered a 'green' material-- will make a viable alternative for use in road construction in Georgia.

"The state of Georgia spends about \$9 million on paving roads. This new research should help save some of this money," Shen said of his research work which was initiated by a request from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

The research began on July 1, 2011 at GSU's Renewable Energy Lab. According to Shen, two materials -- rubber modified asphalt and conventional asphalt pavement mix-- will be compared during and after three years of field-testing on the same road locations with the same amount of traffic.

If the rubber material is proven better, it could replace the former way of paving the roads as an alternate material. "If it works, the roads will not have to be paved as often because normal pavement has to be replaced every five or so years," he said. "This crumb rubber modified material will not have to be replaced as often."

According to a press release, Shen will be assisted by a senior civil engineering technology major, Jeremy Todd Earnest, and the project will cost around \$75,000. Shen said, "Upon approval of the new material, we could use it even on campus to further our 'green' campus." ♦

Source: *The George-Anne*

China Bolsters Controls,
continued from page 1...

A key focus of the report is that China has a lot of rubber resources and has made it a priority to first deal with its own domestic waste rubber. For starters, China intends to increase its consumption of used tires to 80 percent from the existing level of 65 percent under its current five-year plan, the report said.

In 2010, according to CRIA's report, the country produced 256 million scrap tires. The report also notes that China is intent on using its own domestically-generated production of scrap tires and scrap rubber to support its own resource recovery, recycling and product manufacturing industries.

It outlines the current solid waste management and recycling situation for tires in China and gives details of China's proposed strategy to deal with the problem. ♦