

BJC Institute of Health

Application

24,500 cubic feet of EPS 39 and EPS 22 Geofoam were installed as lightweight landscape fill in the plaza entrance to the BJC Institute of Health at the University of Washington in St. Louis, Missouri.

Project Details

The plaza entrance with reflecting pool was built over an existing below-grade parking garage. EPS Geofoam was used to lighten the load on the below-grade structure, raise the fountain area, create sidewalk elevation changes, and fill planters. The main entrance walkway is one of the most heavily traveled pedestrian routes at the University of Washington and required access to emergency services.

The vertical elevation constraints of the walkway are designed to support a fully-loaded fire truck while limiting concrete cracking. The walkway design features a unique exposed aggregate reinforced concrete slab placed in two bonded layers which are supported on EPS 39 Geofoam. 13,500 cubic feet of EPS 39 Geofoam were installed in two different walkway areas to limit the total weight placed on the structural roof slab below. The planter areas are designed similarly to the fountain—raised above the sidewalk and incorporating stepped-up layers to create a 3-dimensional surface.

The complicated project design was made simple with the use of installation drawings, which illustrated the layout of each piece of Geofoam. According to Joseph McGahan, Contractor, Superior Waterproofing, "The installation procedure and flexibility associated with Geofoam was very convenient and beneficial to the project we performed." Jim Taylor, P.E., S.E., Technical Manager, ABS Consulting, further explained, "ACH Foam Technologies was a valuable team member for the WUSM Plaza project. Their expertise in specifying, supplying and working with EPS Geofoam contributed significantly to successful design and implementation of a technically challenging and aesthetically pleasing project."

Geofoam

BJC Institute of Health

- St. Louis, MO
- Winter 2010
- Geofoam Lightweight Landscape Fill
- 24,500 Cubic Feet

Engineer

James Taylor
ABS Consulting

Architect

Andrew Gutterman
Michael Van Valkenburgh
Associates



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