Application

Foam-Control® Geofoam transformed two subterranean parking garages with 4,000 parking spaces into a green roof.

Project Details

City planners wanted to build a cutting-edge public facility that made a statement, while providing a free cultural venue for Chicagoans and tourists. Foam-Control® Geofoam helped to transform unsightly railroad tracks and parking lots into a world-renowned public space.

Foam-Control® Geofoam was specified instead of soil to reduce the weight of the park on the parking structure below, which transformed the 24.5 acres into usable space. Geofoam was also used in landscape features throughout the park which helped architects with their specific design while maintaining proper water drainage.

The structural deck was designed to support 4’ of growing medium and is not limited by the pattern of the structural columns in the parking garage. The end result is varying profiles of growing medium with sand drainage throughout the project ranging from 8” to a 4’ depth.

The versatility and simple installation of Foam-Control® Geofoam allowed construction to continue throughout the harsh Chicago winter.

The Pavilion is a backdrop to the 7,000-seat Great Lawn. A 95,000-square-foot reinforced natural turf lawn, spanned by a grand steel trellis, holds lighting and a state-of-the-art sound system. Designed for extreme traffic use the Pavilion’s Great Lawn is situated on top of the Geofoam.

Millennium Park also proves that carefully conceived urban centers can be redesigned with green roofs, changing key locations of civic blight into cultural and economic amenities, and generators of urban pride.