An academic building renovation and a plan for a newly paved plaza space threatened a mature Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) on the Cornell University campus. The standard method for installing a new paved area, which involves excavating down into the soil 18” or more, would have destroyed much of the tree’s root system and led to its demise.

Working with the designers during the initial stages of design, it was found that CU-Soil® could play a role in saving the tree. Rather than using the standard methods, the paved plaza space was built on top of the existing tree root system, which experienced very little damage during construction. In 2014, soil was first cleared from the tree roots using a minimally invasive air excavation tool. On top of the newly exposed roots, CU-Soil® was placed and compacted to form the base course for the plaza. On top of this, pavers with an open, porous joint were installed. This project provides a unique example of how CU-Soil® can be utilized to save mature trees when new paving threatens their root systems.
The nearly finished plaza space
Car Dealership Turf Median, Birmingham, AL

Turf on CU-Structural Soil® has been successfully used at a car dealership in Birmingham, AL. At this installation, the soil in an entire median was excavated and replaced with CU-Structural Soil® and sod was placed on top. After installation, the entire median can properly withstand the compaction from the weight of the cars and serves as a flexible open space for the dealership, providing additional space to display inventory, or as overflow parking.

*Installation and compaction of the CU-Soil®. Photo courtesy Southpine, Inc.*

*The turf median is used as a parking and display space. Photo courtesy Holcombe Norton Partners*

*The finished installation. Photo courtesy Southpine, Inc.*

*The turf median in winter. Photo courtesy Southpine, Inc.*