

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

The Solution to Preserving the Natural Environment

Low Impact Development (LID) is both a stormwater and land use best management practice that controls flow rates, provides water quality treatment, and protects receiving waters. The goal of LID is to mimic the natural hydrology of a landscape through a variety of small, cost-effective landscape features. Besides stormwater management, LID offers numerous benefits such as improving aesthetics, creating wildlife habitat, increasing pedestrian safety, and reducing the urban heat island effect.

Most developments are designed with little regard for the landscapes' natural features or hydrology. This typically includes creating unnecessary additional impervious surface through expansive parking lots and wide roads or by straightening or filling in stream channels. Though these practices are done to maximize the land area available for human use, they bring a variety of problems such as destruction of wildlife habitat, decreased infiltration and groundwater recharge, and increased stormwater runoff. Low impact development provides an opportunity to combat these issues associated with development practices.

Low impact development is not just a practice for developers and contractors. The technology can be used almost anywhere, especially in urban and residential neighborhoods.



Typical locations for these LID opportunities include rooftops, parking lots, parks, and right-of-way spaces. These areas can be retrofitted with rain gardens, permeable pavements, rain barrels, or planter boxes.

These and other LID practices also include principles that go beyond stormwater management. The following are common LID land use practices:

- Conservation Design
- Minimize Disturbed Area & Soil Compaction
- Reduce Impervious Surfaces
- Protect Sensitive Areas
- Protect Riparian Buffers
- Protect Natural Water Flows
- Stormwater Disconnection

LID is meant to help watersheds act more like undeveloped watersheds, despite the ever-growing numbers of roads and rooftops. Managing rainfall at the source through distributed LID can help alleviate flooding without the need of adding costly stormwater ponds or underground tanks.



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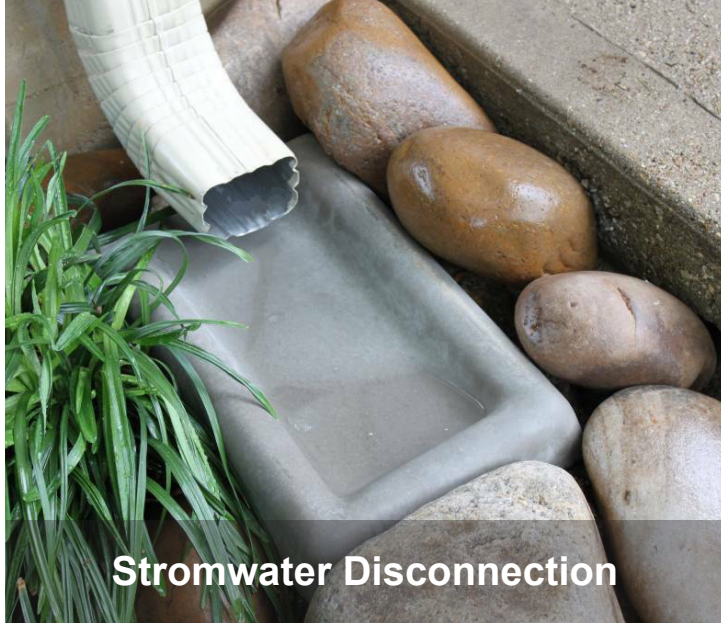
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Stormwater Disconnection



Conservation Design

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Protect Natural Water Flows



Reduce Impervious Surfaces