

Low Impact Development

What is Low Impact Development?

Low Impact Development (LID) includes methods to manage stormwater runoff while mimicing or preserving the natural drainage processes. When hard surfaces are constructed, the movement of water is altered, increasing the amount of runoff and decreasing infiltration. These practices tend to retain rain water, soaking it into the ground as opposed to flowing into storm drains and ditches that could create flooding and pollution problems.

Permeable Pavement

Otherwise known as porous pavement, is a stormwater management system that allows water to move through the surface to infiltrate the soil below. Providing the support of a parking surface, this system reduces runoff volumes that would otherwise be produced by impervious surfaces.



Bioswale

Vegetated landscaped channels designed to concentrate and convey stormwater while removing debris and pollution. As stormwater flows down through the channel pollutants are captured, settled, and broken down till purified water is created.



Rain Garden

Comprised of native plants, these rain gardens are shallow stormwater basins that use engineered soils and vegetation to capture and treat runoff. Water percolates through the soil and drains into groundwater, some of which is absorbed by plants. Rain gardens are especially useful at providing pollutant removal and recharge for the "first flush" of stormwater runoff.



Infiltration Planter

Referred to as a "rain garden in a box," they're enclosed structures that collect stormwater and filter out pollutants as water flows through the vegetation and growing medium. They vary in shape and size and can be found in compact urban spaces such as parking lots or sidewalks to provide LID. This type of structure can be constructed above grade in any structurally sound container.

