Phase II Stormwater Program

Spring 2014

Low Impact Development

What is Low Impact Development (LID)? LID is a simple, effective, economical, and flexible strategy for stormwater management. It integrates green space, native landscaping, natural hydrologic functions, and various other techniques to generate less runoff from developed land. It is very different from conventional engineering in that most engineering plans use a series of pipes to get the water to the lowest point as quickly as possible. One of the primary goals of LID design is to reduce runoff volume by infiltrating rainfall water to groundwater, evaporating rain water back to the atmosphere after a storm, and finding beneficial uses for water rather than exporting it as a waste product down storm sewers. The result is a landscape functionally equivalent to predevelopment hydrologic conditions, which means less surface runoff and less pollution damage to lakes, streams, and water bodies.

Check it out!!

We have a new web page dedicated to Stormwater Management/Erosion and Sediment Control.

www.phenixcityal.us

It is located with the Engineering Department pages.

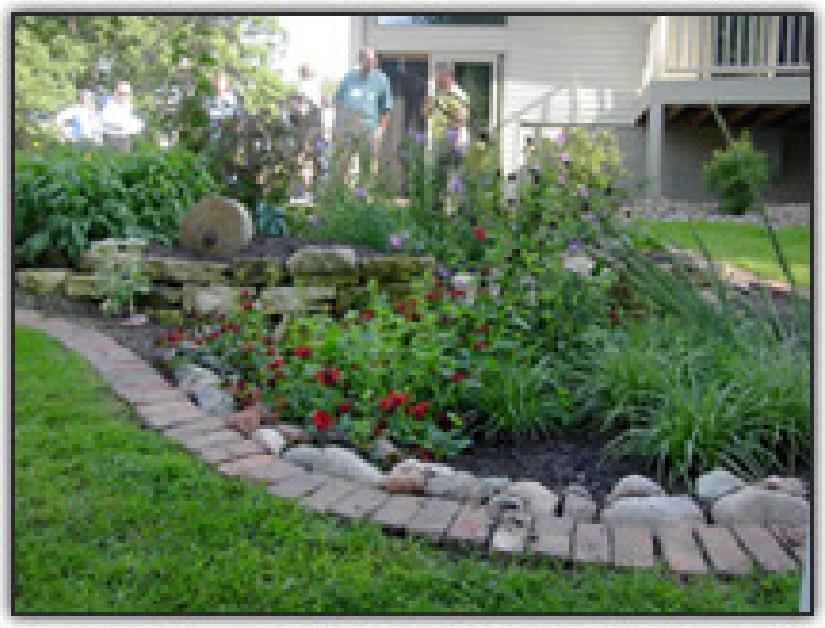
On this page you will find links to helpful and informative sites, information on Phenix Cities rules and regulations, contact information, past newsletters, and other information related to stormwater.

LID is economical. It costs less than conventional stormwater management systems to install and maintain, in part, because of fewer pipe and below-ground infrastructure requirements. But the benefits do not stop here. The associated vegetation also offers human "quality of life" opportunities by greening the neighborhood, and thus contributing to livability, value, sense of place, and aesthetics. This myriad of benefits include enhanced property values and re-development potential, greater marketability, improved wildlife habitat, thermal pollution reduction, energy savings, smog reduction, enhanced wetlands protection, and decreased flooding. LID is not one-dimensional; it is a simple approach with multifunctional benefits.

LID is flexible. It offers a wide variety of structural and nonstructural techniques to reduce runoff speed and volume and improve runoff quality. LID works

in constrained or freely open lands, in urban infill or retrofit projects, and in new developments. In a combined sewer system, LID can reduce both the number and the volume of sewer overflows. Opportunities to apply LID principles and practices are infinite -- almost any feature of the landscape can be modified to control runoff (e.g., buildings, roads, walkways, yards, open space). When integrated and distributed throughout a development, watershed, or urban drainage area, these practices substantially reduce the impacts of development.

As urbanization continues to degrade our lakes, rivers, and coastal waters, LID is increasingly being used to reverse this trend resulting in cleaner bodies of water, greener urban neighborhoods, and better quality of life. LID offers a strong alternative to the use of centralized stormwater treatment. It aims to work within the developed and developing environment to find opportunities to reduce runoff and prevent pollution. LID controls stormwater runoff at the lot level, using a series of integrated strategies that mimic and rely on natural processes. By working to keep rainwater on site, slowly releasing it, and allowing for natural, physical, chemical, and biological process to do their job, LID avoids environmental impacts and expensive treatment systems.



Rain Garden at residence in Rock Island, IL

More information on Low Impact Development is available from:

http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/storm/chap12.asp

http://www.aces.edu/waterquality/nemo/lid.htm

www.epa.gov

www.adem.alabama.gov

http://www.phenixcityal.us

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