

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT FOR WATER QUALITY



Merrillville Stormwater Utility

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What is Low Impact Development?

The Town of Merrillville is supporting Low Impact Development (LID) which is an approach to environmentally friendly land use development. It includes a suite of landscaping and design techniques that attempt to maintain the natural, pre-developed ability of a site to manage rainfall. LID techniques capture water on site, filter it through vegetation, and let it soak into the ground. This compensates for development impacts on hydrology and water quality. LID can save money over conventional approaches through reduced infrastructure and site preparation work including reductions in clearing, grading, pipes, ponds, inlets, curbs, and paving. An important LID principle is the idea that storm water is not a waste product to be disposed of, but rather that rainwater is a vital non-renewable resource. LID protects the natural ability of the site to capture precipitation, keep it clean and allow it to recharge the local water table. Often LID techniques require less constructed infrastructure, increase the value of properties, and preserves natural site features like trees and wetlands.

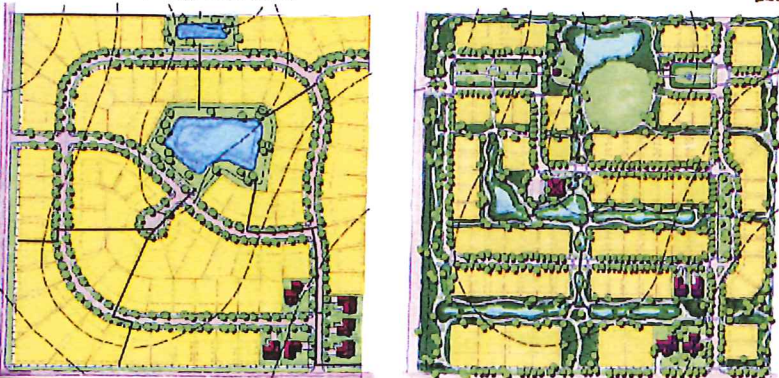


LID Techniques

LID practices include:

- IMPROVED SITE DESIGN
- OPEN CHANNELS
- RAIN BARRELS AND CISTERNS
- VEGETATED BUFFERS
- VEGETATIVE SWALES
- RAIN GARDENS
- GREEN ROOFS
- TREE PRESERVATION/REFORESTATION
- PERMEABLE PAVING
- SOFT ARMORING
- DISCONNECTIVITY
- OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

Source: Conservation Design Forum (2003)



Benefits of LID

LID offers several benefits to developers, municipalities, and residents including but not limited to:

- REDUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE/MAINTENANCE COSTS \$\$
- REDUCTION OF DEVELOPMENT COSTS \$\$
- INCREASED POLLUTANT REMOVAL
- INCREASED RECHARGE OF GROUND WATER
- REDUCTION OF FLOODING
- REDUCTION IN DOWNSTREAM EROSION
- IMPROVED AESTHETICS
- PROVIDE MORE AMENITIES



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LID

- <http://lowimpactdevelopment.org/>
- <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/lidnatl.pdf>
- <http://www.raingardens.org/Index.php>
- http://www.stormwatercenter.net/Assorted%20Fact%20Sheets/Tool3_Buffers/BufferZones.htm
- <http://www.greenroofs.com/>

