

# LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

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Incorporating LID Practices and Other Stormwater  
BMPs in Site Plans and Designs

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## WHAT IS LID?

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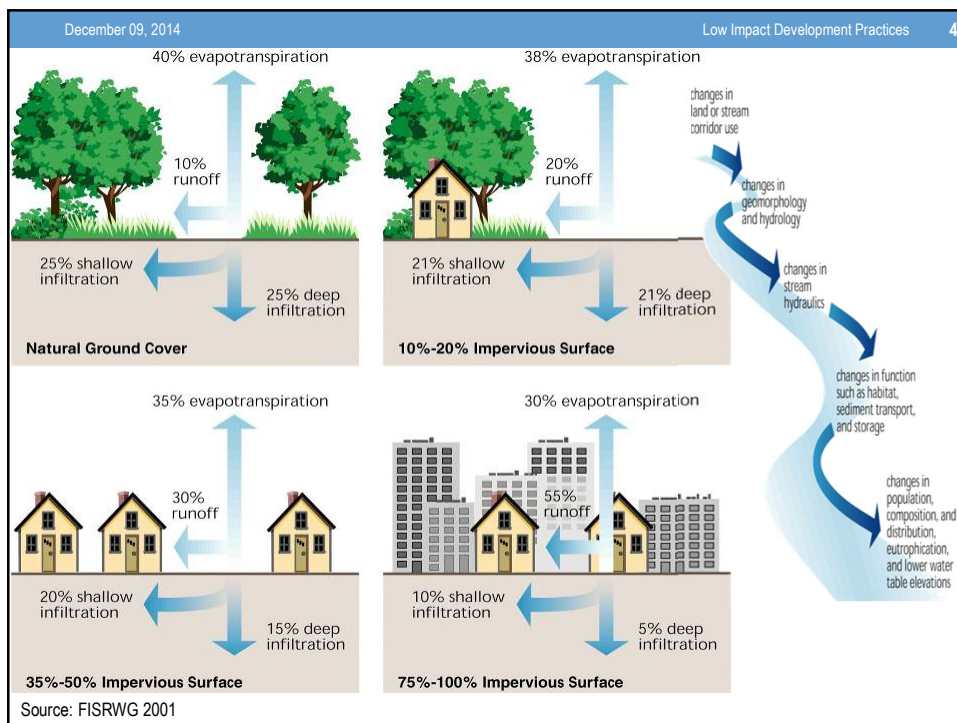
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## Low Impact Development (LID)

An approach to land development (or re-development) that works with nature to ***manage stormwater as close to its source as possible***. LID employs principles such as **preserving** and **recreating natural landscape features**, **minimizing effective imperviousness** to create functional and appealing site drainage that treat stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product.



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## Green Infrastructure

Systems and practices that use or **mimic natural processes** to infiltrate, evapotranspire (the return of water to the atmosphere either through evaporation or by plants), or reuse stormwater or runoff on the site where it is generated. Green infrastructure can be used at a wide range of landscape scales in place of, or in addition to, more traditional stormwater control elements to support the principles of LID.



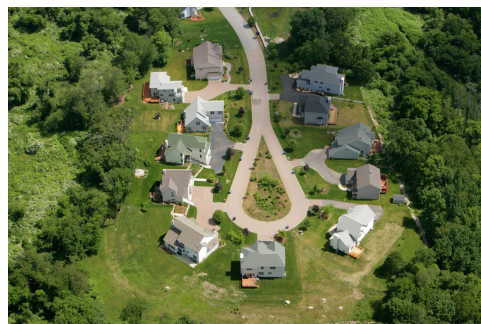
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## Smart Growth

A range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger and more socially diverse



*Jordan Cove Watershed Project  
NEMO Program, University of Connecticut*

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## Complete Streets

Integrates people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of our transportation networks.



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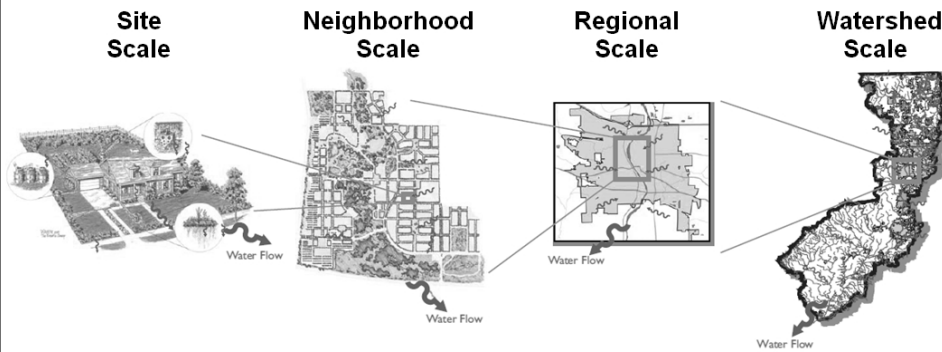
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## SCALES OF IMPLEMENTATION



## Scales of Implementation



Source: Conservation Design Forum

## Regional or Watershed Scale

At the regional or watershed scale we . . .

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## Set Targets

Based on:

- Community ideology
- Environmental needs



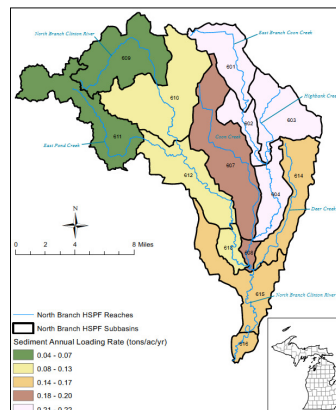
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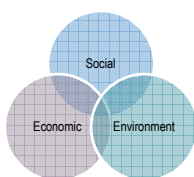
## Study, Plan and Prioritize

- Toolbox
- Programmatic Elements
- Source Identification
- Opportunity Assessment
- Needs vs Opportunities
- Prioritization and Selection



## Regulations, Standards, Policies and Procedures

- Decide what's important
- Evaluate current situation
- Make changes
- Monitor progress and adapt



Guidance (D) Traditional Bioretention

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Entry features     |                                 |
| Permeable             | 1. No requirement               |
| Building              | 2. No requirement with wall     |
| Property boundary     | 3. 2 feet / 24 inch             |
| Groundwater level     | 4. Bottom of practice to 10' 2' |
| Depth                 | 5. 2 feet above water           |
| Depth                 | 6. 2 feet above water           |
| Depth                 | 7. 2 feet above water           |
| 2. Volume             |                                 |
| Surface area          | 8. No requirement               |
| Dimensions            | 9. No requirement               |
| Minimum slope         | 10. 2%                          |
| Depth                 | 11. 24" to 36"                  |
| Depth                 | 12. 24" to 36"                  |
| 3. Vertical Component |                                 |
| Surface Storage       | 13. 6 to 12 inches              |
| Grass Layer           | 14. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |
| Filter Layer          | 15. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |
| Drainage Layer        | 16. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |
| Native Material       | 17. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |
| 4. Change             |                                 |
| Input                 | 18. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |
| Underlain             | 19. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |
| Output                | 20. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |
| Overflow              | 21. 2 to 4 inches of grass      |

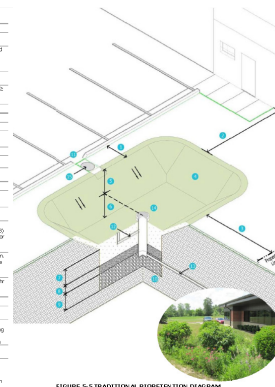
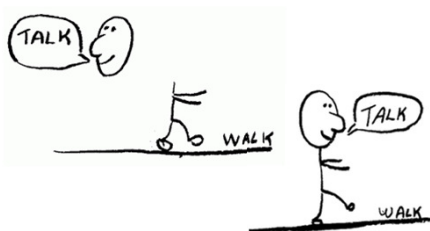


FIGURE 5-5 TRADITIONAL BIORETENTION DIAGRAM

## Set the Tone



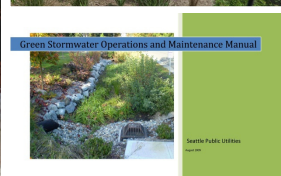
**Vital Street and Sidewalk Investment Guidelines, Grand Rapids MI.**  
*Low impact design will be the default design approach for street, sidewalk and right-of-way repair, improvement and reconstruction . . . to enable the City to achieve a minimum of Stormwater Management Level C investment by FY2022*

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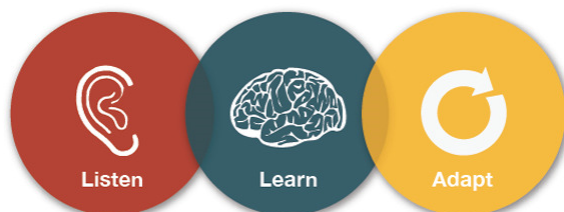
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## Pilots, Demonstrations and Prototypes

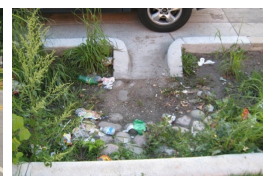
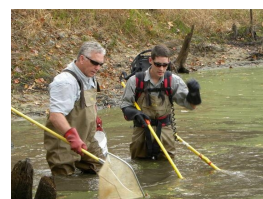


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- Track Performance
- Measure Success
- Revisit Goals
- Periodic Updates
- Oversight
- Communication





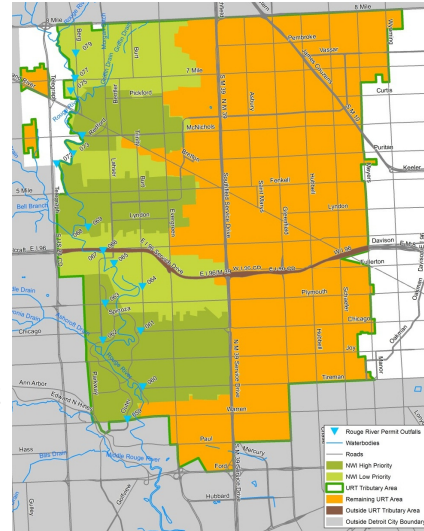
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## Detroit Example

- Policies, Procedures and Standards
  - ◆ Ordinances ◆ Drainage Manual
  - ◆ Design Standards ◆ O&M Guides
- Prototype Projects
  - ◆ Parcel Based ◆ Parks ◆ Roads
  - ◆ Stream Connections
- Continued Implementation
  - ◆ Downspouts ◆ Demolitions ◆ Trees
- Long Term Performance
  - ◆ Model Update ◆ Benefit Evaluation
  - ◆ LTCP Update
- Stakeholder and Community Engagement
  - ◆ Website ◆ Workshops ◆ Forum
  - ◆ Educational Campaign



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## Neighborhood Scale

- Flexibility in Land Planning and Locating Green Infrastructure
- Opportunities
  - Large centralized practices
  - Distributed systems
  - Gateways and corridors
  - Open space
  - Habitat and natural resource protection
- Meaningful Impact
  - Flooding problems
  - Sustainability goals



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## Site Scale



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## LID SITE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

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## Site Design Principles of LID

- Phase I: Site Assessment
- Phase II: Preliminary LID Design
- Phase III: Final Design

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Phase I:<br>Site Assessment     | 1) Identify Regulatory Needs                           |
|                                 | 2) Conduct Hydrologic and Geotechnical Survey          |
|                                 | 3) Protect Key Hydrologic Areas                        |
| Phase II:<br>Preliminary Design | 4) Use Drainage and Hydrology as Design Elements       |
|                                 | 5) Establish Clearing and Grading Limits               |
|                                 | 6) Reduce/Minimize Total and Effective Impervious Area |
| Phase III:<br>Final Design      | 7) Determine LID Practices                             |
|                                 | 8) Determine Approximate Size of LID Practices         |
|                                 | 9) LID Final Design                                    |



## Phase I: Site Assessment

- Step 1: Identify Regulatory Needs
- Step 2: Conduct Hydrologic and Geotechnical Survey
- Step 3: Protect Key Hydrologic Features



|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
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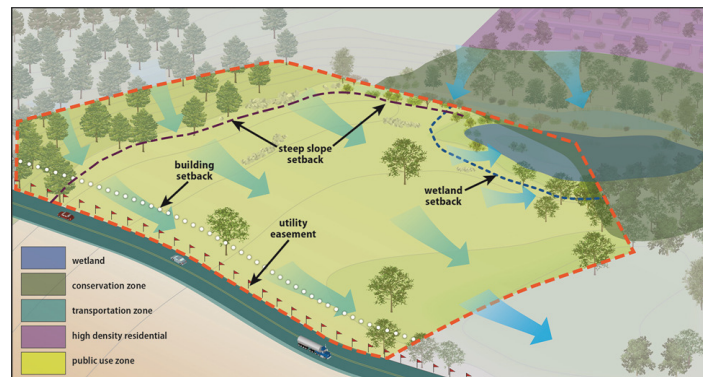
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## Step 1: Identify Regulatory Needs

- Identify applicable zoning, land use, subdivision, and other regulations
- Identify setbacks, easements, and utilities
- Identify targeted pollutants and pollutants of concern



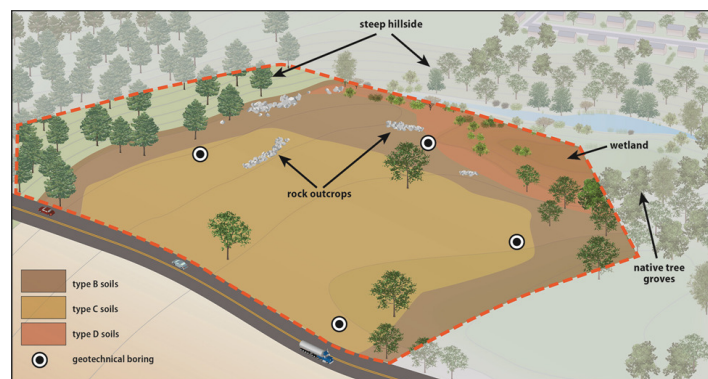
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## Step 2: Conduct Hydrologic, Geotechnical Survey

- Identify natural site features to be conserved or restored
- Conduct a geotechnical survey including drainage characteristics, hydrologic flow paths, and soil infiltration tests



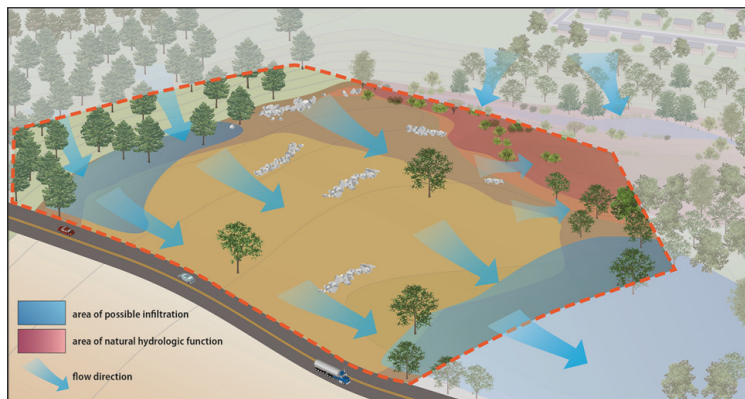
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## Step 3: Protect Key Hydrologic Features

- Protect areas of natural hydrologic function
- Protect possible areas for infiltration



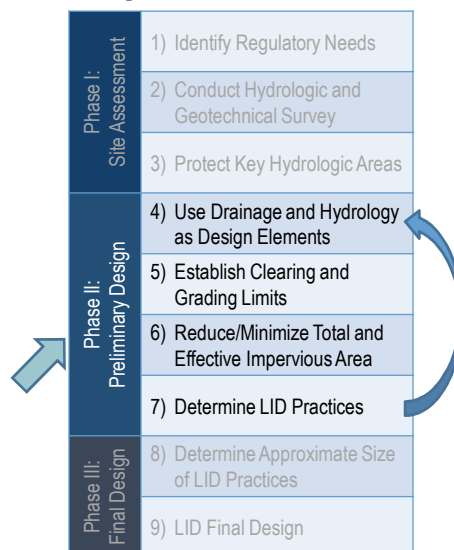
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## Phase II: Preliminary LID Design

- Step 4: Use Drainage and Hydrology as Design Elements
- Step 5: Establish Clearing and Grading Limits
- Step 6: Reduce/Minimize Total and Effective Impervious Area
- Step 7: Determine LID Practices

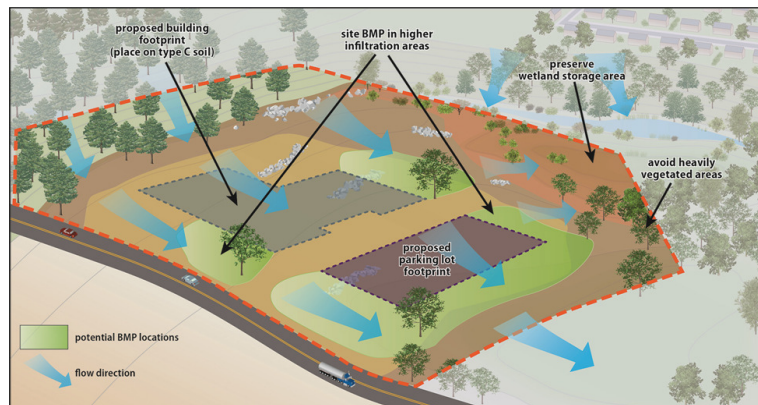


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## Step 4: Use Drainage and Hydrology as Design Elements

- Identify the spatial layout of the site using hydrologic flow paths and natural drainage as a feature
- Determine approximate locations for infiltration and conveyance BMPs

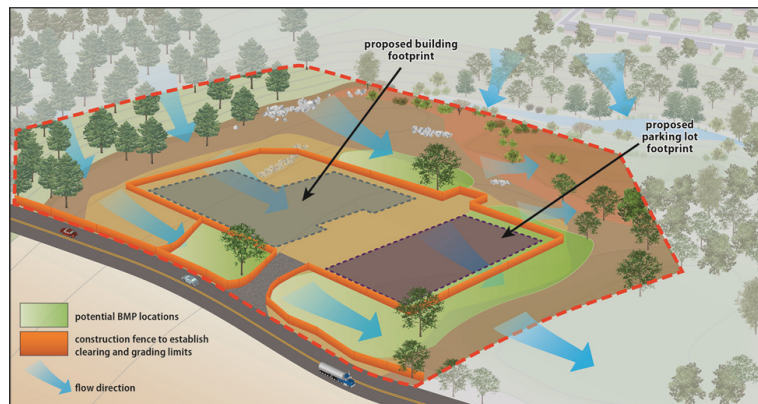


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## Step 5: Establish Clearing and Grading Limits

- Define the limits of clearing and grading
- Minimize disturbance to areas outside the limits of clearing and grading

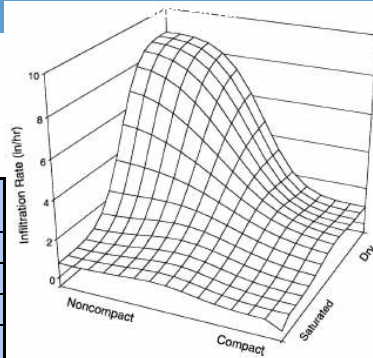


## Effects of Compaction on Infiltration Rates

- Decreased infiltration
- Decreased root growth
- Increased runoff

Source: R. Pitt, S.E. Chen, S. Clark

|  | Number of tests | Avg Infil (in/hr) | COV |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----|
| Noncompacted sandy soils   | 36              | 13                | 0.4 |
| Compacted sandy soils  | 39              | 1.4               | 1.3 |
| Noncompacted and dry clayey soils                                      | 18              | 9.8               | 1.5 |
| All other clayey soils (compacted and dry, plus all wetter conditions) | 60              | 0.2               | 2.4 |



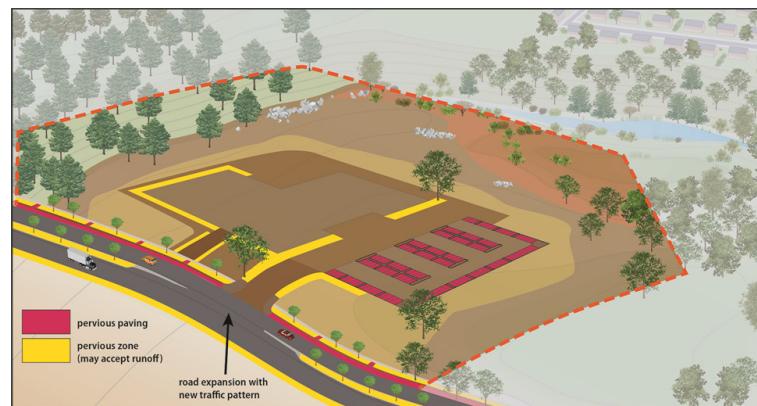
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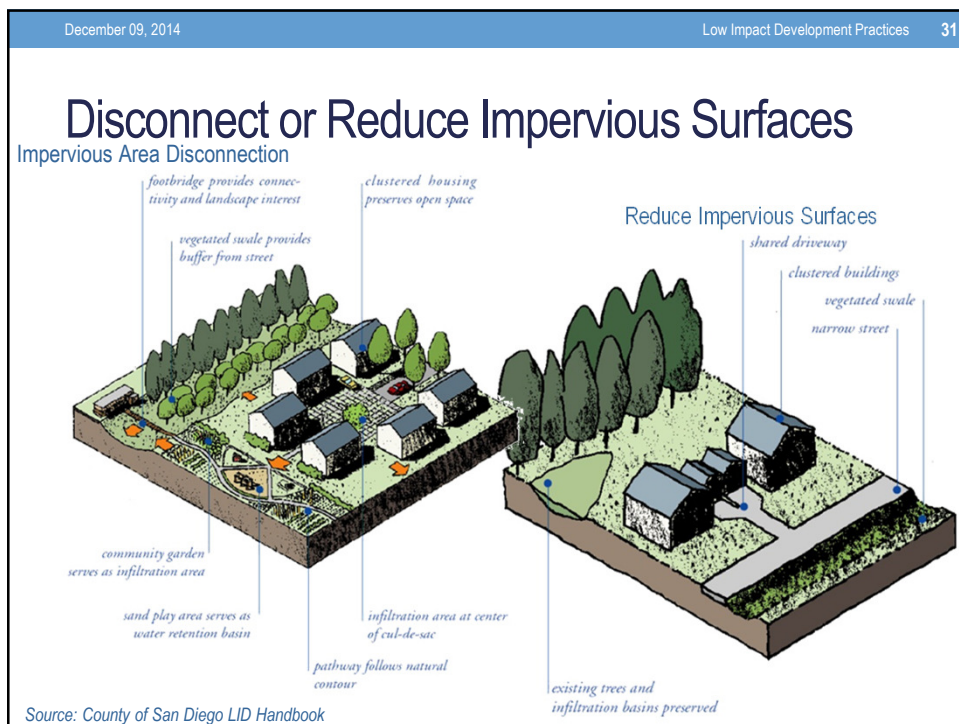
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## Step 6: Reduce/Minimize Total and Effective Impervious Area

- Investigate the potential for impervious area disconnection
- Evaluate the conceptual design to reduce impervious surfaces







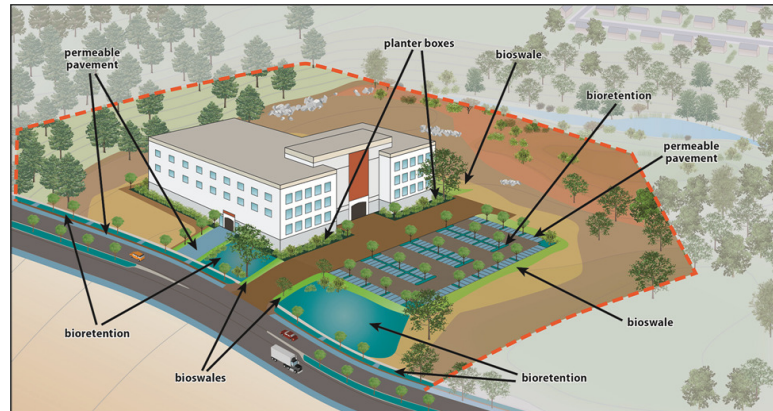
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## Step 7: Determine LID Practices

- Determine potential practices according to hydrologic and pollutant removal process needs and cost estimates



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## Roofs and Walls





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## Downspouts and Water Harvesting

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## Bioretention



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## Parking Lots

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## Trees

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## Roads, Alleys and Trails

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## Bioretention, linear



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## Bioretention, curb extension



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## Bioretention, dense urban areas



## Results of Phase II – Preliminary Site Plan

- ✓ Hydrologic flow paths and natural drainage features (Step 4)
- ✓ Locations where infiltration and conveyance features could be located (Step 4)
- ✓ Limits of clearing and grading (Step 5)
- ✓ Results of an impervious area reduction analysis (e.g., parking area reduction, permeable pavement options) (Step 6)
- ✓ Candidate BMPs and their approximate locations (Step 7)

*This is an iterative process*

## Phase III: Final Design

- Step 8: Determine Appropriate Size of LID Practices
- Step 9: Final Site Design

|                                 |  |
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## Step 8: Determine Appropriate Size of LID Practices

- Place practices at the appropriate locations
- Size practices to meet hydrologic design criteria



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## Step 9: Final Site Design

- Verify that geotechnical and drainage requirements have been met
- Complete designs such as finish details and notes
- Complete the site plans



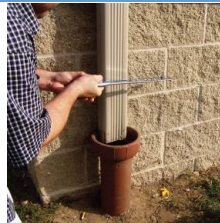
# RETROFITS

How can we reduce impacts from existing development?

## Look For

- Publicly owned land
- Willing property owners
- Roads (ROW)
- Open green spaces
- Existing BMPs that may be modified
- In-line storage opportunities
- Large parking lots
- Connected downspouts
- etc.

*All the same practice types apply*



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# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS



**TETRA TECH**

**Daniel P. Christian, PE, D.WRE**

Senior Project Manager, Water Resources

Dan.Christian@TetraTech.com

517.316.3939