

Build Better, Drain Smarter Low Impact Development Practices for Cleaner Water

Traditional development creates large paved areas that increase polluted runoff. Low Impact Development Practices (LID) techniques manage stormwater where it falls—reducing pollution, recharging groundwater, and easing the burden on municipal storm systems.

LID isn't just good for the environment—it can lower costs and improve site design.

— LID Starts with Preserving Natural Resources

- Use permeable paving – Let water soak in, not run off.
- Install rain gardens and bioswales – Capture and filter stormwater naturally.
- Minimize impervious surfaces – Design smarter with green space and smaller footprints.

LID solutions help developers and commercial property owners meet stormwater requirements and protect local waterways.



**LID: Stormwater the
Sustainable Way**



More on stormwater in
Tompkins County:
tcstormwater.org



BMPs for Low Impact Development Practices

Most of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified below are non-structural and cost little or nothing to implement. This listing is not all-inclusive and other non-structural and structural BMPs can be implemented to further reduce the potential of contributing to stormwater pollution.

DO'S

- Design your site with natural drainage in mind.
- Incorporate green infrastructure early in project planning.
- Use native plants in LID features for easy maintenance.
- Inspect and maintain LID systems like rain gardens and tree trenches.
- Educate contractors and landscapers on LID function and care.
- Look for opportunities to retrofit existing spaces with LID features.

DON'TS

- Overlook LID options during site layout and grading.
- Replace green space with unnecessary pavement.
- Use high-maintenance or non-native vegetation in LID areas.
- Let sediment clog infiltration systems.
- Treat LID practices as “install and forget” solutions.
- Ignore drainage paths and stormwater flow patterns.



Questions about stormwater on your project?
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or visit tcstormwater.org