

**The Four Township Water Resources Council** is a group of concerned citizens dedicated to protecting water quality in Barry and Prairieville Townships in Barry County, and Richland and Ross Townships in Kalamazoo County.

The Council is a Michigan non-profit corporation and donations are deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code.

### *Our Mission*

*To assist in the development and implementation of land use strategies that retain the rural environment currently enjoyed by township residents, protecting lakes, streams, drinking water, agriculture and open space.*

Four Township Water Resources Council  
P.O. Box 634  
Richland, MI 49083-0634  
e-mail: [mail@ftwrc.org](mailto:mail@ftwrc.org)  
[www.ftwrc.org](http://www.ftwrc.org)



### **For more information ...**

The Low Impact Development Center ([www.lowimpactdevelopment.org](http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org)). This web site contains excellent information on the principles of LID and has links to many publications and information sources.

### **Suggested Reading**

Several of the publications listed below are available on the Four Township Water Resources Council web site ([www.ftwrc.org](http://www.ftwrc.org)):

*Site Plan Review Guide for Water Quality Protection*

*Stormwater Management: An Overview of Approaches and Responsibilities*

*Four-Township Water Atlas*

*Principles of Open Space Development*

*Citizen's Guide to the Conservation of the Four Townships*

*Natural Features Inventory – Prairieville, Barry, Ross, and Richland Townships*

# LID

# Low Impact Development

## What is Low Impact Development (LID)?

LID is an approach to land development that uses various land design practices and technologies to simultaneously protect natural resources and reduce infrastructure costs. LID still allows land to be developed, but in a cost-effective manner that helps mitigate potential environmental impacts. The LID approach embodies many of the design principles required to mitigate stormwater impacts and can help communities comply with Phase 2 stormwater mandates.

Essentially, LID's are designed to maintain the natural hydrological cycle by:

- Preserving open space and minimizing land disturbances;
- Protecting natural features and natural processes;
- Reexamining the use and sizing of traditional infrastructure (lots, streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks) and customizing site design;
- Integrating natural site elements (wetlands, stream corridors, mature forests) into site designs; and
- Decentralizing and managing stormwater at its source.

### Potential Benefits of LID:

*Developer:* Reduces land clearing, grading and infrastructure costs; increases lot yields and marketability.

*Home Buyer:* Preserves amenities that can translate into more marketable homes.

*Environment:* Protects water quality, preserves trees and natural vegetation, and protects natural ecosystems.

LID focuses on planning and designing development sites to minimize hydrologic impacts, both in terms of water quality and water quantity. Low impact developments are designed to promote the natural conveyance and infiltration of storm water and to minimize the need and expense of storm water management infrastructure. In an LID, an attempt is made to control stormwater at its source as opposed to conveying drainage to a centralized treatment location.

### Examples of stormwater source controls

