

Guide to Low Impact Development

Green Country Low Impact Development Design Competition



What is Stormwater Runoff and how does it affect me?

Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off the land and into rivers and lakes, often through storm drains in the street. Excessive stormwater runoff can lead to numerous problems:

- Impaired water quality
- Increased flooding
- Decreased recreational opportunities
- Loss of fisheries and natural habitat
- Less groundwater recharge

Bixby's Bentley Park Roundabout



What is Low Impact Development (LID)?

Impervious surfaces, such as pavement and roofs, cause stormwater to flow more quickly to rivers and lakes while eroding the land and picking up pollutants along the way. Low Impact Development (LID) is a design approach that helps protect water resources by using techniques that absorb and filter stormwater. Improved water resources are an asset to communities and benefit everyone downstream. There are numerous benefits to developers, municipalities, and the environment when LID is incorporated into existing and future developments.

Bioretention at Guthrie Green, Downtown Tulsa



What can I do?

Homeowners, developers, and municipalities can lead the way by encouraging and demonstrating LID techniques at their home, development, and within their municipal codes. Steps to take may include:

- Communicate with neighbors, community organizations, and local leaders about water quality protection and the benefits of LID.
- Evaluate the potential of implementing LID techniques at your business, home, or development property.
- Get involved in the Green Country LID Design Competition and get excited about the possibilities!

Rain Barrel



Low Impact Development!

Because every drop counts!

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Examples of LID Techniques

LID can be used on a residential scale or larger development. Some of the LID techniques that can be incorporated into new or existing developments include: rain barrels or cisterns, disconnecting downspouts and reusing rainwater, permeable pavement, bioswales or bioretention, green roofs, use of soil amendments, and conservation of existing plant material.

Trench Drain and Bioswale



Permeable Pavement



Disconnected Downspout



Green Roof at TriArch Office, Tulsa



What is the Green Country LID Competition?

A multidisciplinary team competition to design potential development sites using Low Impact Development (LID) techniques. The objective of the competition is to:

- Demonstrate the use of LID and provide data to support the economic benefits and quality of life benefits for Green Country.
- Educate the community and promote good development and infrastructure practices that protect our land and water resources.
- Encourage the adoption of best management practices by public agencies and to promote positive change.

For more information and to enter the competition, visit us at our website:

LIDCompetition.okstate.edu



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