

TOWN/VILLAGE OF HARRISON
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HARRISON, NEW YORK 10528
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Stormwater Quarterly

Low Impact Development

WHAT IS LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID)?

LID is an ecologically friendly approach to site development and stormwater management that aims to mitigate development impacts to land, water and air. The approach emphasizes the integration of site design and planning techniques that conserve natural systems and hydrologic functions on a site. The practice has been successfully integrated into many municipal development codes and stormwater management ordinances throughout the United States. Specifically, LID aims to:

- ⇒ Preserve open space and minimize land disturbance;
- ⇒ Protect natural systems and processes (drainage ways, vegetation, soils, sensitive areas);
- ⇒ Reexamine the use and sizing of traditional site infrastructure (lots, streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks) and customize site design to each site;
- ⇒ Incorporate natural site elements (wetlands, stream corridors, mature forests) as design elements; and
- ⇒ Decentralize and micromanage stormwater at its source.

LID BENEFITS

In addition to the practice just making good sense, low impact development techniques can offer many benefits to a variety of stakeholders.

Municipalities

- ⇒ Protect regional flora and fauna;
- ⇒ Balance growth needs with environmental protection;

- ⇒ Reduce municipal infrastructure and utility maintenance costs (streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and storm sewers);
- ⇒ Increase collaborative public/private partnerships.

Developers

- ⇒ Reduce land clearing and grading costs;
- ⇒ Potentially reduce infrastructure costs (streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and storm sewers);
- ⇒ Reduce stormwater management costs;
- ⇒ Potentially reduce impact fees and increase lot yields;
- ⇒ Increase lot and community marketability.

Environment

- ⇒ Preserve integrity of ecological and biological systems;
- ⇒ Protect site and regional water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients and toxic loads to water bodies;
- ⇒ Reduce impacts to local terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals;
- ⇒ Preserve trees and natural vegetation.

Source: Low Impact Development Center

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