



STORMWATER is a leading cause of poor water quality. Rain or melted snow runs off of paved surfaces, carrying dirt, oil and other pollutants to our waterways. Polluted runoff causes erosion and degrades plant and wildlife. Left unchecked, untreated stormwater can contaminate drinking water sources.

INTRODUCTION

For the past few decades, developments have sprawled across New England- moving at nearly double the rate of population growth. Past development practices have led to more impermeable surfaces, forcing water that was normally absorbed and filtered through the soil to now run across pavement, picking up pollutants. The contaminated stormwater is finding its way to our waterways, causing environmental damage and impacting our societies. Some developers are leading the way with better- and often less expensive- ways to develop... the following are examples of their best practices:

INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES

Select your site wisely- Developing in an already developed area can lower infrastructure costs.

Choose the areas of your site to develop carefully- You can avoid putting the development where it will have an out-sized impact on natural resources. In addition, you can cluster buildings, leaving at least half of the property undeveloped so that it can process rainwater naturally. This will reduce cost *and* add to open space.

Use Low Impact Development (LID) practices- Roads, parking lots and other impermeable surfaces are the largest contributors to stormwater runoff. The less porous an area, the worse the condition of nearby bodies of water. **LID** allows developed land to handle water the way it did *before* it was developed by mimicking the natural hydrology of the land.

Address barriers early- Developers interested in LID are often concerned with cost, cold weather, drinking water, and public safety. Many of these concerns do not create barriers...

Costs- An EPA study found grading, landscaping, paving, and infrastructure costs were lower for **LID** than conventional development. **LIDs** also reduce the size of stormwater systems, leaving more space for buildable lots.

Cold Weather- Most **LID** stormwater approaches monitored by the *UNH Stormwater Center* worked well, year round.

Drinking Water- The *UNH Stormwater Center* found that filtering stormwater with natural filtration practices removes pollution, and can, on occasion, reduce contaminant levels beyond requirements. Infiltration also replenishes groundwater for future use. Developers should contact state and local authorities before implementing infiltration practices.

Public Safety- The narrower streets associated with **LIDs** continue to provide ample access and can often times create safer traffic conditions.

IMPORTANT LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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