

Examples of LID practices

- Rain gardens,
- Rain barrels,
- Vegetated roofs,
- Plants native to Michigan,
- Pavement that absorbs water, and
- Preserving open space.

Getting started with LID

Here are some options to consider doing at your own home:

Install a rain garden. Plant and carefully select native vegetation in an area where it will capture stormwater and filter runoff from rooftops, sidewalks, and streets.

Disconnect downspouts. Disconnect and lead your gutter drains into a vegetated area instead of impervious areas, such as driveways and sidewalks.

Protect and restore areas around lakes and rivers with native plants. Avoid mowing immediately adjacent to open water, such as lakes and streams. Plant native plants near water resources to prevent streambank erosion and prevent pollutants from fertilizers and pesticides from entering the water.

To obtain the LID manual

SEMCOG
www.semcog.org

For more LID information

Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality
www.michigan.gov/deq

SOCWA Healthy Lawn and Gardens Program
www.socwa.org/lawn_and_garden.htm

Rain Gardens of West Michigan
www.raingardens.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid

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*Cover photo: Rain gardens are one LID practice that
can be implemented by homeowners.*

Source: Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

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Homeowners Guide to Low Impact Development



What is stormwater runoff and how does it affect me?

Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off the land and ends up in our rivers and lakes, often through storm drains in our streets. Stormwater runoff can cause a number of problems in communities:

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

These problems could become lost opportunities for homeowners wanting to enjoy their community. Plus, fixing these problems could be costly for your local government.



Homeowners can implement LID by planting native vegetation along rivers and lakes.

Source: City of Troy

What is Low Impact Development (LID) and how does it help me?

When a development is built in your community, such as a business, a school, or even your own home, hard surfaces such as pavement and roofs cause stormwater to flow more quickly to rivers and lakes and carry pollutants. LID is an approach to site design that helps protect our water resources by using techniques that absorb and filter stormwater. Improved water resources are an asset to property owners and the community. Plus, they make the community more attractive and could help enhance property values.

Benefits of LID to homeowners

- Decreases flooding and property damage,
- Decreases heating, cooling, and watering costs,
- Increases property values due to scenic open space and recreation areas, and
- Enhances aesthetics of neighborhoods.



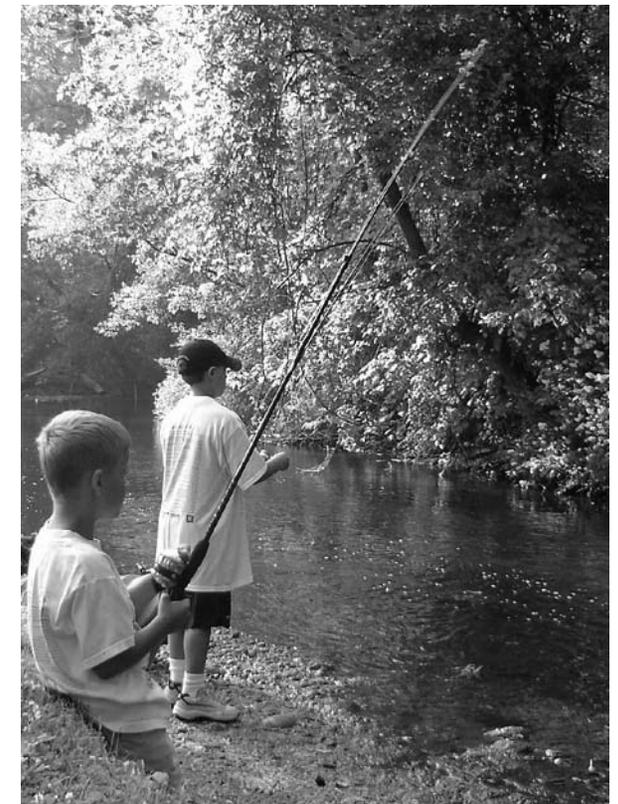
Rain barrels reduce stormwater runoff and can be used for watering plants around the yard.

Source: Harley Ellis Devereaux

What can you do?

If you are reading this brochure, you probably have an interest in protecting water quality, want to learn about what you can do, or both. There are some things you can do:

- Communicate with your neighbors, community organizations, and local leaders about your interest in water quality protection and using LID.
- Evaluate the merits of implementing a LID technique at your home. Some ideas can be found in the “Getting Started” section.



Protecting fisheries is one benefit of implementing LID techniques.

Source: City of Auburn Hills