UFC 3-210-10
25 October 2004

UNIFIED FACILITIES CRITERIA (UFC)

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

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UNIFIED FACILITIES CRITERIA (UFC)

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND (Preparing Activity)

AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER SUPPORT AGENCY

Record of Changes (changes are indicated by \1\ ... /1/)

Change No.	Date	Location
1	Dec 2005	FOREWORD

FOREWORD

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The Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) system is prescribed by MIL-STD 3007 and provides planning, design, construction, sustainment, restoration, and modernization criteria, and applies to the Military Departments, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities in accordance with USD(AT&L) Memorandum dated 29 May 2002. UFC will be used for all DoD projects and work for other customers where appropriate. All construction outside of the United States is also governed by Status of forces Agreements (SOFA), Host Nation Funded Construction Agreements (HNFA), and in some instances, Bilateral Infrastructure Agreements (BIA.) Therefore, the acquisition team must ensure compliance with the more stringent of the UFC, the SOFA, the HNFA, and the BIA, as applicable.

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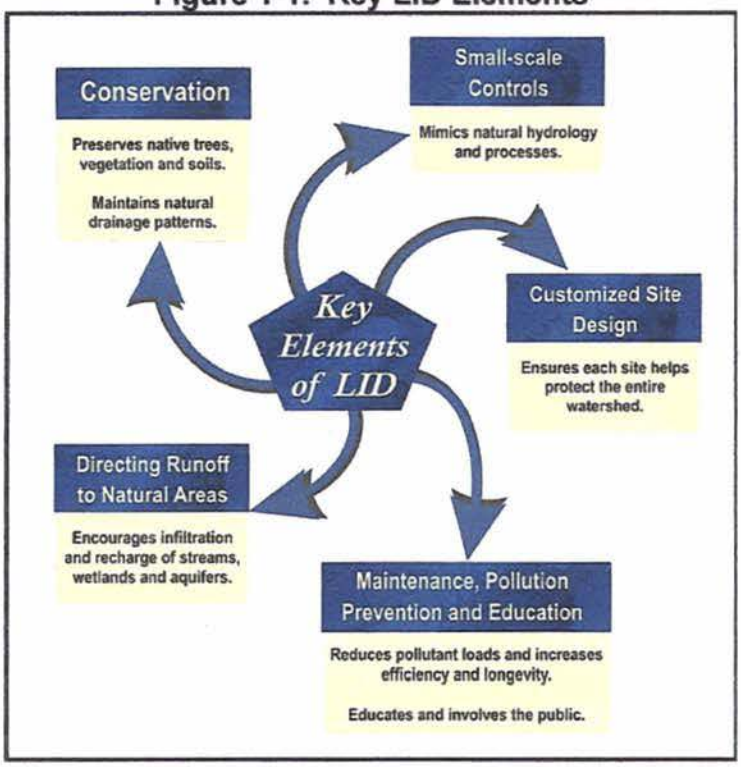
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO LID AND MANUAL OVERVIEW

1-1 **DEFINITION OF LID.** Low Impact Development (LID) is a stormwater management strategy concerned with maintaining or restoring the natural hydrologic functions of a site to achieve natural resource protection objectives and fulfill environmental regulatory requirements. LID employs a variety of natural and built features that reduce the rate of runoff, filter out its pollutants, and facilitate the infiltration of water into the ground. By reducing water pollution and increasing groundwater recharge, LID helps to improve the quality of receiving surface waters and stabilize the flow rates of nearby streams.

LID incorporates a set of overall site design strategies as well as highly localized, small-scale, decentralized source control techniques known as Integrated Management Practices (IMPs). IMPs may be integrated into buildings, infrastructure, or landscape design. Rather than collecting runoff in piped or channelized networks and controlling the flow downstream in a large stormwater management facility, LID takes a decentralized approach that disperses flows and manages runoff closer to where it originates. Because LID embraces a variety of useful techniques for controlling runoff, designs can be customized according to local regulatory and resource protection requirements, as well as site constraints. New projects, redevelopment projects, and capital improvement projects can all be viewed as candidates for implementation of LID.

Figure 1-1. Key LID Elements



1-2 **BACKGROUND ON THE USE OF LID.** The use of LID was pioneered in the 1990s by the Prince George's County, Maryland Department of Environmental Resources (PGDER). Prince George's County has a population of over 800,000, and land uses within the County are very diverse, ranging from sparsely populated natural and agricultural areas to densely populated urban centers. The LID effort in Prince George's County began with the development and use of bioretention cells. A bioretention cell is created by replacing existing soil with a highly porous soil mixture, grading the area to form a shallow depression, and replanting the area with specially selected vegetation. The vegetation must be able to tolerate temporarily saturated soil conditions as well as the pollutants contained in the local runoff. When it rains, bioretention areas collect the runoff and then filter out the pollutants as the water passes down through the soil.

The County's initial experience with bioretention led to a full-scale effort to incorporate LID into the County's resource protection program. In 1998, the County produced the first municipal LID manual. This was later expanded into a nationally distributed LID manual published in 2000.[1] A feasibility study was prepared by the Low Impact Development Center in 2002 that provided guidance on how LID could be used to retrofit urban areas.[2] Numerous municipalities, including Portland, Oregon,[3] are incorporating LID techniques into their urban resource protection programs. Although LID concepts and techniques are new to many planners in the United States, many of these techniques have been successfully used in Europe and Asia for many years.[4]

Several successful pilot projects have been constructed by the Navy and other Department of Defense (DoD) agencies during the last several years. The effectiveness of these projects in managing runoff, reducing construction and maintenance costs, and creating ancillary benefits such as community involvement has created significant interest in LID. The challenge is to adapt these approaches and techniques to the unique requirements of DoD facilities on a wider scale.

1-3 **INTRODUCTION TO UFC.** This UFC provides guidelines for integrating LID planning and design into a facility's regulatory and resource protection programs. It will be useful to engineers, planners, maintenance personnel, regulatory compliance staff, and community outreach staff who want a basic understanding of the technical and administrative concepts associated with the design, construction, and maintenance of LID features. The UFC answers the following questions:

- What is LID and what value does it have for DoD facilities?
- What are the basic planning, design, construction, and maintenance considerations?
- How can this approach be incorporated into facility operations?

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[1] PGDER, 2000a.
[2] LID Center, 2002.
[3] BES, 2000.
[4] Ibid.

- Where are successful examples of LID DoD facilities and programs?
- What does a typical LID design look like?
- Where can additional guidance be obtained?

This UFC is divided into ten chapters, including this introductory chapter. Chapter 2 provides a brief summary of issues related to compliance and the review process for any DoD project. Chapter 3 discusses regulations that apply to water resource and sustainability concerns for DoD projects, and how implementation of LID will affect compliance. Chapter 4 compares the ways that LID and conventional stormwater management approaches utilize hydrologic data and concepts in the design process. Chapter 5 discusses the goals of an LID design and the principles and strategies to meet them. Chapter 6 provides an overview of LID devices and the objectives they are designed to meet. Chapter 7 discusses the relative benefits of LID and conventional stormwater management practices. Chapter 8 details the appropriate use, cost, and maintenance issues for the LID devices introduced in Chapter 6. Chapter 9 provides a detailed outline of the LID planning process. Finally, Chapter 10 offers two examples of LID techniques put into practice, with accompanying calculations.

1-4 **LID SITE DESIGN STRATEGIES.** The goal of LID site design is to reduce the hydrologic impact of development and to incorporate techniques that maintain or restore the site's hydrologic and hydraulic functions. The optimal LID site design minimizes runoff volume and preserves existing flow paths. This minimizes infrastructural requirements. By contrast, in conventional site design, runoff volume and energy may increase, which results in concentrated flows that require larger and more extensive stormwater infrastructure.

Generally, site design strategies for any project will address the arrangement of buildings, roads, parking areas, and other features, and the conveyance of runoff across the site. LID site design strategies achieve all of the basic objectives of site design while also minimizing the generation of runoff. Some examples of LID site design strategies discussed in this UFC include:

- Grade to encourage sheet flow and lengthen flow paths.
- Maintain natural drainage divides to keep flow paths dispersed.
- Disconnect impervious areas such as pavement and roofs from the storm drain network, allowing runoff to be conveyed over pervious areas instead.
- Preserve the naturally vegetated areas and soil types that slow runoff, filter out pollutants, and facilitate infiltration.
- Direct runoff into or across vegetated areas to help filter runoff and encourage recharge.

- Provide small-scale distributed features and devices that help meet regulatory and resource objectives.
- Treat pollutant loads where they are generated, or prevent their generation.

1-4.1 **LID Devices.** Reevaluate the site design once all of the appropriate site design strategies are considered and proposed to determine whether the stormwater management objectives have been met. Stormwater management controls, if required, should be located as close as possible to the sources of potential impacts. The management of water quality from pavement runoff, for example, should utilize devices that are installed at the edge of the pavement. These types of controls are generally small-scale (because the site planning strategies have created small-scale drainage areas and runoff volumes) and can be designed to address very specific management issues. The objective is to consider the potential of every part of the landscape, building(s), and infrastructure to contribute to the site stormwater management goals. When selecting LID devices, preference should be given to those that use natural systems, processes, and materials. The following list briefly defines the LID devices (or IMPs) described in this UFC.

1-5 **BASIC LIST OF IMPs.** Here is a basic list of IMPs that are available. More detailed descriptions are presented in Chapter 8. Appendix B contains a list of acronyms and abbreviations cited in the UFC.

Bioretention: Vegetated depressions that collect runoff and facilitate its infiltration into the ground.

Dry Wells: Gravel- or stone-filled pits that are located to catch water from roof downspouts or paved areas.

Filter Strips: Bands of dense vegetation planted immediately downstream of a runoff source designed to filter runoff before entering a receiving structure or water body.

Grassed Swales: Shallow channels lined with grass and used to convey and store runoff.

Infiltration Trenches: Trenches filled with porous media such as bioretention material, sand, or aggregate that collect runoff and exfiltrate it into the ground.

Inlet Pollution Removal Devices: Small stormwater treatment systems that are installed below grade at the edge of paved areas and trap or filter pollutants in runoff before it enters the storm drain.

Permeable Pavement: Asphalt or concrete rendered porous by the aggregate structure.

Permeable Pavers: Manufactured paving stones containing spaces where water can penetrate into the porous media placed underneath.

Rain Barrels and Cisterns: Containers of various sizes that store the runoff delivered through building downspouts. Rain barrels are generally smaller structures, located above ground. Cisterns are larger, are often buried underground, and may be connected to the building's plumbing or irrigation system.

Soil amendments: Minerals and organic material added to soil to increase its capacity for absorbing moisture and sustaining vegetation.

Tree Box Filters: Curbside containers placed below grade, covered with a grate, filled with filter media and planted with a tree in the center.

Vegetated Buffers: Natural or man-made vegetated areas adjacent to a water body, providing erosion control, filtering capability, and habitat.

Vegetated Roofs: Impermeable roof membranes overlaid with a lightweight planting mix with a high infiltration rate and vegetated with plants tolerant of heat, drought, and periodic inundation.

CHAPTER 2

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

2-1 **INTRODUCTION.** As with other types of construction projects, LID designs must meet DoD criteria and specifications before they can be approved. In addition, state and local zoning requirements and building codes may apply. This section provides an overview of these institutional issues and how they can be addressed effectively.

2-2 **COMPLIANCE WITH DOD CRITERIA.** Three primary concerns associated with obtaining DoD approval for using LID are listed below.

2-2.1 **Compliance with DoD Design Criteria.** LID techniques will comply with DoD design criteria. This UFC has the approval of Naval Facilities Engineering Command for compliance with Navy and DoD criteria and is written with the express purpose of assisting site engineers with satisfying DoD design criteria.

2-2.2 **Cost-Effectiveness.** The cost-effectiveness of LID-based projects may affect DoD approval. LID projects that incorporate newer technology may involve higher design and construction costs and may take more time to receive approval as a result. Whether or not this is the case for a particular site will depend on the level of experience that the project managers, engineers, and contractors have with LID techniques, and on the receptiveness of permitting authorities to LID practices. As with any new approach, the cost of implementing LID will decrease as institutional experience increases and the benefits of using LID are realized in practice.

2-2.3 **Antiterrorism/Force Protection.** All DoD facilities must comply with UFC 4-010-01, *Design: DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings.* If any conflict occurs between this UFC and UFC 4-010-01, the requirements of UFC 4-010-01 take precedence.

2-3 **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE.** Every new construction or retrofit project must meet applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements pertaining to construction materials, elevation and drainage, stormwater management, historic features, and wetlands protection. Because LID may be a new concept in some areas, DoD personnel may have to plan for additional reviews to gain support for LID as an effective alternative to traditional stormwater management control.

2-4 **BUILDING CODES.** For some DoD facilities, all projects, including LID designs, must meet UFC 1-200-01, *Design: General Building Requirements.* As with any project, the project manager or contractor must ensure that the project meets all applicable zoning, land use, or development regulations and must identify any special waivers, modifications, or processes that may be needed to gain approval. The design details should be evaluated for conformance with standard building codes to address access, safety and health issues.

CHAPTER 3

WATER RESOURCE PROBLEMS, ISSUES, AND CHALLENGES

3-1 **INTRODUCTION.** Stormwater management efforts at DoD facilities will have a higher value when the design objectives involve not only the control of runoff at the drainage area outlet but also on-site water conservation, strategic conveyance of runoff, pollution prevention, stormwater treatment, and habitat preservation. DoD facility staff, however, currently face several significant challenges when pursuing these objectives because they must simultaneously consider mission, environmental, facility and budgetary goals. In many instances, LID can benefit several of these goals at the same time. For instance, LID can help to reduce expenditures on piped or channelized conveyance systems and large retention basins, because a fundamental LID technique is to provide storage and treatment on-site before runoff builds up in significant quantities. The following sections present the key issues and challenges associated with implementing LID on DoD facilities.

3-2 **COASTAL ZONE ISSUES.** Coastal zone issues are of particular concern for the DoD. DoD facilities located on the coast or along major water bodies often receive increased public and regulatory scrutiny. The primary stormwater management challenge facing DoD facility managers is minimizing uncontrolled runoff from industrial operations (e.g., ship maintenance operations and fueling areas) and from impervious areas (e.g., cantonment areas, docks, parking lots). Retrofitting a site using strategically placed LID components will enable DoD to conduct operations on a landscape that is less detrimental to water quality.

3-3 **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.** This section lists the major federal laws concerning stormwater management and natural resource conservation at DoD facilities, and how implementing LID can help reduce the burdens associated with complying with these regulations.

3-3.1 **Clean Water Act.** The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the primary Federal law concerned with protecting the quality of the nation's waters. The major CWA programs pertaining to stormwater management are:

3-3.1.1 **Section 303. Total Maximum Daily Loads.** Section 303 of the CWA requires states, territories, and authorized tribes to develop lists of impaired waters and establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) allowable for these waters. States use the TMDL process to allocate pollutant loadings among pollution sources in a watershed and to provide a basis for establishing controls to reduce both point and non-point source pollutant loadings. LID can be used to help states meet TMDL targets in designated watersheds.

3-3.1.2 **Section 311. Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Requirements.** Section 311 addresses pollution from oil and hazardous substance releases, providing EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard with the authority to establish a program for preventing, preparing for, and responding to oil spills that occur in navigable waters of the United States. EPA requires that certain facilities develop and implement

oil spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plans. The goal of an SPCC plan is to ensure that facilities install containment and other countermeasures to prevent oil spills from reaching navigable waters.

3-3.1.3 **Section 319. State Non-Point Source Management Program.** This section delegates the regulation of non-point source pollution to the states and establishes the Non-Point Source Management Program. Although Section 319 of the CWA includes no enforcement mechanism to ensure that states actually develop and implement programs, CWA Section 303 requires that states identify all the activities that are causing a water body to be impaired, including non-point source pollutants, and develop mitigation plans.

3-3.1.4 **Section 401. Certification and Wetlands.** Section 401 of the CWA gives states, territories and authorized tribes the authority to review and approve, deny or condition all Federal permits or licenses that might result in a discharge to State or Tribal waters, including wetlands. State wetland water quality standards will limit the degradation of its waters and wetlands resulting from Federal activity. (In states without such standards, Federal water quality standards apply.) In order to obtain state certification, a development project may be required to prevent potential degradation of receiving waters caused by the discharge of stormwater runoff. LID can be used to reduce pollutant concentrations in stormwater runoff. Because of their small footprint and their manner of operation (i.e. filtering and dewatering devices rather than wet systems) LID devices themselves will not be subject to regulation as wetlands.

3-3.1.5 **Section 402. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program.** The CWA prohibits the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a NPDES permit. Facilities that discharge stormwater from certain activities (including industrial activities, construction activities, and municipal stormwater collection systems) require NPDES permits. These facilities must implement commonly-accepted stormwater discharge management controls, often referred to as best management practices (BMPs), to effectively reduce or prevent the discharge of pollutants into receiving waters. Using LID to eliminate the volumes of effluent discharges of permit-requiring activities can help reduce the need for NPDES permits.

For many DoD facilities, the CWA Stormwater Phase II rule will expand their NPDES permitting requirements. Under the CWA Stormwater Phase II rule, EPA (or a state given CWA enforcement authority) can require a facility with a stormwater system to obtain a permit, even if it is not automatically regulated, if the facility's stormwater system discharges via a point source to an impaired water (the CWA 303d list), or to sensitive waters. Facilities that fall under the Phase II rule must develop and implement various BMPs including expanded stormwater management. LID techniques can help a facility to meet stormwater control requirements in a manner that minimizes impacts to the facility and natural environment and reduces the amount of infrastructure to be constructed and maintained.

Stormwater management solutions must qualify as state and local government-approved BMPs and meet technical performance criteria. For

example, an infiltration trench must provide a minimum level of pollutant removal as well as meet other performance requirements. A number of regulators are specifically encouraging the use of LID techniques and other innovative stormwater management solutions that reduce pollution associated with runoff. Many already encourage the use of bioretention, dry wells (where permitted), filter strips, vegetated buffers, grassed swales, and infiltration trenches. In some cases, stormwater credits may be given for using LID approaches.

3-3.1.6 **Section 404. Regulation of Dredged or Fill Material.** Section 404 of the CWA establishes programs to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into U.S. waters, including wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA jointly administer Section 404. According to these regulations,[5] no discharge of dredged or fill material can be permitted if a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment, or if the nation's waters would be significantly degraded. In other words, a permit applicant must demonstrate that they have:

- taken steps to avoid wetland impacts where practicable;
- minimized potential impacts to wetlands; and
- provided compensation for any remaining, unavoidable impacts through activities to restore or create wetlands.

LID features can reduce potential impacts to wetlands in several ways. First, filtering out pollutants from runoff helps to preserve the quality of water reaching the wetlands. Additionally, enhancing infiltration in the vicinity of the wetlands helps to sustain the supply of groundwater that feeds them. Finally, by reducing runoff energy, LID devices help prevent downstream erosion, reducing the volume of material that must ultimately be dredged from a channel or reservoir.

3-3.2 **Safe Drinking Water Act Wellhead Protection Program.** The Wellhead Protection Program protects the recharge areas of public water system wells from all sources of contamination. Groundwater recharge often results from LID techniques that increase rates of infiltration. Care should be taken, however, to ensure that any pollutants contained in runoff are adequately filtered out before the stormwater percolates down to aquifers in wellhead protection zones.

3-3.3 **Coastal Zone Management Act.** The Coastal Zone Management Act requires DoD facilities located in coastal states with approved coastal zone management programs to conform to the state program. As part of their programs, states must develop and implement coastal non-point source pollution control programs. States may object to permits for activities that are inconsistent with the state's coastal zone management plan. LID techniques can comprise a constructive response to state implementation of a non-point source pollution control program.

[5] http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/facts/fact10.html

3-3.4 **Energy Policy Act of 1992.** The Energy Policy Act of 1992 created conservation and energy-efficiency requirements for the federal government and consumers. The Act requires federal agencies to install, by January 1, 2005, energy and water conservation measures that will achieve acceptable payback periods. (A payback period is the time required to recoup the initial investment in a product or service.) LID techniques such as vegetated roofs and landscape shading can help a facility treat stormwater runoff, meet energy reduction goals, and possibly extend the life of infrastructure such as roofs. Water collected from rain barrels and cisterns for landscaping can be used to reduce a facility's water consumption, again helping to meet the Act's goals.

3-3.5 **Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000.** The Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 established a program to utilize federal, state and private funding to support locally proposed watershed restoration projects. Under the Act, all Chesapeake Bay agreements are now codified, meaning that all agreements that DoD has signed are now law. Under the Act, federal agencies that own or operate a facility within the Chesapeake Bay watershed must participate in regional and sub-watershed planning and restoration programs. Additionally, the Act states that:

> "The head of each Federal agency that owns or occupies real property in the Chesapeake Bay watershed shall ensure that the property, and actions taken by the agency with respect to the property, complies with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, the Federal Agencies Chesapeake Bay Unified Plan, and any subsequent agreements and plans."

Lastly, by 2010, the Chesapeake Bay watershed must be off the impaired waters list or it will be subject to TMDL requirements. Stricter discharge limits may result. Wherever discharge limits are imposed, LID techniques can be used to control the discharge of pollutants in stormwater.

3-3.6 **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.** The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires facilities to conduct and document environmental analyses and seek advice, participation, or comment from appropriate governmental agencies, and inform interested public and private organizations. The analyses include many aspects covering land use, air and water quality, wildlife and their habitats, socioeconomic factors, human health and safety, and natural and historical resources. By incorporating LID into site design, facilities can minimize adverse affects of new development on the environment (e.g., topography, stormwater, vegetation).

3-3.7 **Sikes Act.** The Sikes Act requires facilities to manage natural resources via an approved Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. This plan serves as the facility plan for managing its ecosystems, including watersheds and wetlands. Consistent with the goals of the Sikes Act, the use of LID techniques will help maintain the natural landscape and its hydrology.

3-4 **DIRECTIVES.** DoD facilities also must meet various Presidential Executive Orders (EOs) or directives in addition to meeting federal laws. This section lists the

major directives that relate to stormwater management and conservation and indicates how implementing LID designs can help reduce compliance burdens.

3-4.1 **EO 13148, Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management.** Each agency must strive to promote the sustainable management of federal facility lands through the implementation of cost-effective, environmentally sound landscaping practices and programs designed to reduce adverse impacts on the natural environment. Sustainable environmental management can be implemented directly and visibly through the use of LID.

3-4.2 **LEED Green Building Rating System™.** The U.S. Green Building Council has developed the LEED Green Building Rating System™, a national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Projects can earn LEED™ certification for sustainability based on the number of sustainable practices incorporated into the project. DoD facilities that implement LID techniques can receive LEED™ points for limiting the disruption of natural water flows by minimizing stormwater runoff, increasing on-site infiltration, and reducing contaminants. Currently, Navy and Air Force policies encourage the use of the LEED checklist, which the Army soon plans to adopt as well. Other DoD criteria such as the Army's Sustainable Project Rating Tool (SPiRiT), which is adapted from the LEED checklist, may also apply.

3-5 **VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS AND AGREEMENTS.** Partnerships between federal, state, local, and private entities have developed voluntary, watershed-wide guidelines aimed at preserving and restoring water quality in water bodies such as the Potomac River or Chesapeake Bay. One such partnership is the Chesapeake Bay Program, of which DoD is a partner. The Chesapeake Bay Program offers specific guidelines such as providing riparian buffers and implementing new stormwater management technologies in targeted watersheds. (Riparian land is adjacent to a stream or river and has an elevated level of biological activity because of that proximity.[6]) The use of LID as a design approach will help to fulfill the aims of these facilities agreements and partnerships.

3-6 **COSTS.** LID practices offer opportunities to reduce the life cycle cost of a site's stormwater infrastructure. It is impractical to make broad generalizations about costs for stormwater facilities because of the inherent variability between sites and the complexity of management issues. Although initial construction costs for LID practices may be higher than initial costs for conventional stormwater practices, this initial expense is often offset by cost savings in operations and maintenance. This savings is possible because the maintenance of LID features can generally be incorporated into regular landscaping maintenance activities and does not require expensive training or hiring of a separate contractor for maintenance. Details for specific LID practices are presented in Chapter 8.

3-7 **RETROFITS.** Older DoD facilities were developed either with traditional approaches or with no stormwater management at all. Eventually, stormwater management components will have to be installed, replaced or retrofitted – a costly

[6] Lee, 1998.

task. DoD will inevitably need to replace pipes and dredge stormwater ponds. LID techniques, particularly non-structural techniques such as disconnecting impervious areas, can significantly reduce the cost of retrofitting or providing stormwater management.

CHAPTER 4

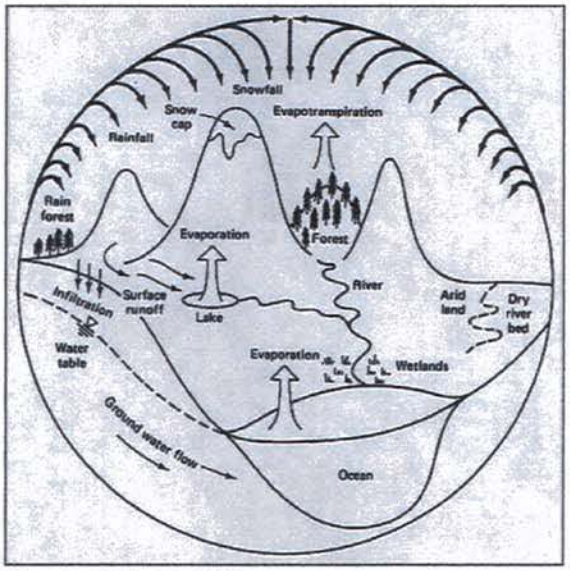
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT USING THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE APPROACH

4-1 **INTRODUCTION.** Development affects the natural hydrologic cycle as shown in Figures 4-1 and 4-2. The hydrologic cycle consists of the following processes: convection, precipitation, runoff, storage, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, and subsurface flow.

A hydrologic budget describes the amounts of water flowing into and out of an area along different paths over some discrete unit of time (daily, monthly, annually). Grading, the construction of buildings, and the laying of pavement typically affect the hydrologic budget by decreasing rates of infiltration, evaporation, transpiration and subsurface flow, reducing the availability of natural storage, and increasing runoff. In a natural condition such as a forest, it may take 25 to 50 mm (one to two inches) of rainfall to generate runoff. In the developed condition, even very small amounts of rainfall can generate runoff because of soil compaction and connected impervious areas. The result is a general increase in the volume and velocity of runoff. This, in turn, increases the amount of pollution that is carried into receiving waters and amplifies the generation of sediment and suspended solids resulting from bank erosion.

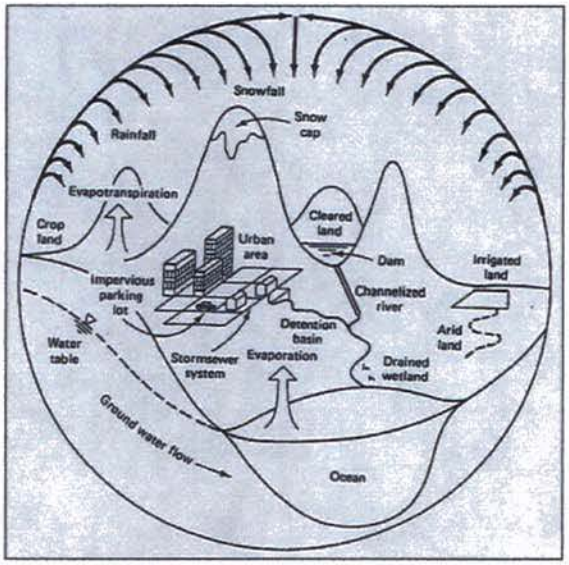
4-2 **DESIGN INPUTS.** Both LID and conventional stormwater management techniques attempt to control rates of runoff using accepted methods of hydrologic and hydraulic analysis. The particular site characteristics that are considered will depend on the nature of the project. Land use, soil type, slope, vegetative cover, size of drainage area and available storage are typical site characteristics that affect the generation of runoff. The roughness, slope and geometry of stream channels are key characteristics that affect their ability to convey water.

Figure 4-1. Natural Hydrologic Cycle



Source: McCuen, 1998.

Figure 4-2. Hydrologic Cycle of a Developed Environment



Source: McCuen, 1998.

While conventional approaches to stormwater management design typically include only the hydrologic components of precipitation, runoff conveyance and storage capacity within their scopes, LID design recognizes the significance of other components of the hydrologic cycle as well. How these other components are actually taken into account will depend on the information available and purpose of the design. One LID design objective, for example, may be to maintain a natural groundwater recharge rate for a given site. Determining the appropriate number, size, and location of infiltration devices can require an extensive atmospheric data set (temperature and precipitation) to calculate evapotranspiration rates, along with measures of soil hydraulic conductivity.

The following section describes how LID design can make use of precipitation, storage, infiltration, evaporation, and transpiration data. The discussion includes a brief description of each of these types of data, and compares the use of these data from LID and conventional stormwater management perspectives.

4-3 **PRECIPITATION DATA.** Precipitation data is often analyzed in terms of the frequency at which storm events of different magnitudes and durations occur at a given location. Stormwater management designs may take into account the total annual depths or the volume generated by a storm of a specific frequency and duration (e.g. 2-year 24-hour storm event). Hydrologic models may use precipitation data to develop a synthetic design storm that reflects the pattern and intensity of precipitation for the project location region or use actual gage data from a given storm event.

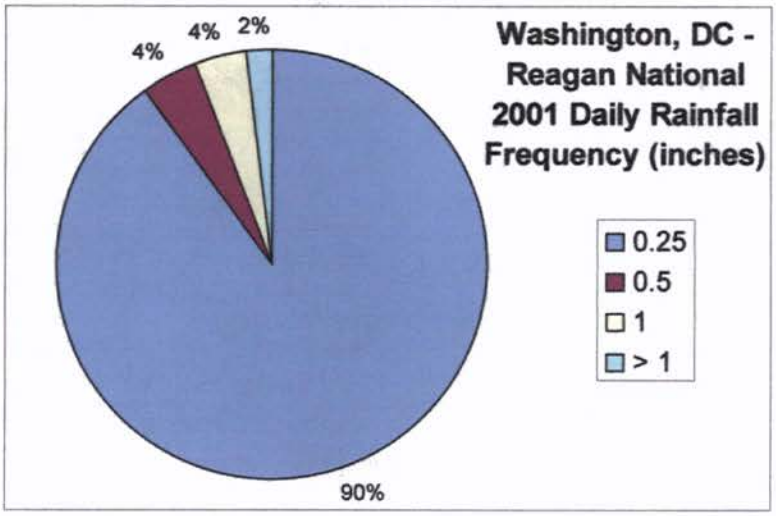
The level of detail and accuracy of data used is dependent on the requirements of the hydrologic model. For example, to develop a simple water balance for on-site irrigation only a few years of annual rainfall totals may be required. Some advanced urban

hydraulic models, on the other hand, may require the collection of rainfall data in 2-minute intervals over several years to determine the appropriate system design.

4-3.1 **LID Precipitation Analysis.** An important approach to analyzing the effectiveness of an LID design is to consider the number of storm events for which the design will provide enough storage and infiltration capacity to capture all of the precipitation on-site. This is useful because maintaining the hydrologic integrity or water balance of a site is better accomplished by managing the frequent smaller events rather than the occasional large events.

For example, in the Washington, D.C. region there are approximately 80 storm events per year that collectively generate approximately 1000 mm (40 in) of precipitation. Approximately 75 of these storm events generate 13 mm (0.5 in) or less of precipitation. Figure 4-3 illustrates this concept.

Figure 4-3. Frequency of Small Storms



Source: NOAA.

This kind of analysis allows the designer to determine the overall storage and infiltration capacity required to control the desired number of storm events within any given year or period. The analysis can also be undertaken in terms of the precipitation depth associated with discrete storm events such as the 1-year 24-hour storm.

4-3.2 **Conventional Precipitation Analysis.** Conventional practices, as well as many state and local regulations, often require site engineers to control only specific events such as the 2-year 24-hour storm events. In the Washington, D.C. area, this would mean reducing the peak runoff to predevelopment rates for only those events in which 76 mm (3 in) of rainfall. Events that occur more or less frequently would be less effectively controlled.

4-4 **STORAGE.** Precipitation may be temporarily detained within site depressions or held in the soil. When the capacity of a depression is exceeded, the water is released as runoff that may be captured further downstream. Water that is not

released as runoff will be infiltrated into the soil, taken up by plants, or evaporated back into the atmosphere. Natural land cover often provides depression storage in small undulations in the topography. Greater storage capacity is provided in ponds or lakes.

4-4.1 **LID Storage Concepts.** LID employs site planning and grading techniques to direct or maintain the flow of runoff to naturally occurring storage areas such as wetlands. Keeping the storage area volume stable helps to maintain the existing hydrologic and biological function of the storage area.

An LID design may also include small-scale retention components (retention is defined as the volume of runoff that never reaches the drainage area outlet). Retention can be provided in a variety of ways that not only support the management of runoff, but also supply water for on-site use. For example, a cistern may be used to store and release water for peak flow control as well as to store water for domestic purposes. Additionally, some industrial buildings can provide roof storage and release water for use in cooling systems. Another example, shown in Figure 4-4, is a green wall within a building. The green wall is used to modify temperature and improve air quality by having stored roof water flow across the vegetation.

Capturing runoff in small volumes helps to prevent erosion, because the runoff is less likely to reach damaging flow rates. The distribution of storage components also tends to result in a more robust stormwater management system, because the failure of one component will not cause the entire system to fail. Care must be taken when ponding or storing water to make sure there is adequate flow, infiltration, evaporation, or discharge, and that unwanted carriers of disease such as mosquitoes are adequately controlled.

Figure 4-4. Greenwall

Source: Greenland International Consulting, Inc., Ontario, Canada.

4-4.2 **Conventional Storage Concepts.** Conventional stormwater strategies often include the storage of water in large centralized end-of-pipe facilities. Site designs direct and convey most runoff as quickly as possible to these facilities and then discharge through an outlet structure at a limited release rate (e.g., 2-year 24-hour pre-development runoff rate). Conventional runoff management techniques can dramatically reduce the flow of runoff into natural storage areas such as wetlands, depriving a variety of organisms of the level of moisture they need.

Conventional approaches can have other negative impacts. By removing opportunities for storage onsite, rates of ground water recharge will be reduced. In addition, the concentrated flow conveyed to large-scale facilities accumulates pollutants and increases the erosive force of the water, which must be slowed down and treated to maintain the natural energy and chemical balance of the ecosystem. An increase in temperature as the water is pooled may also be detrimental to the ecological integrity of the receiving water.

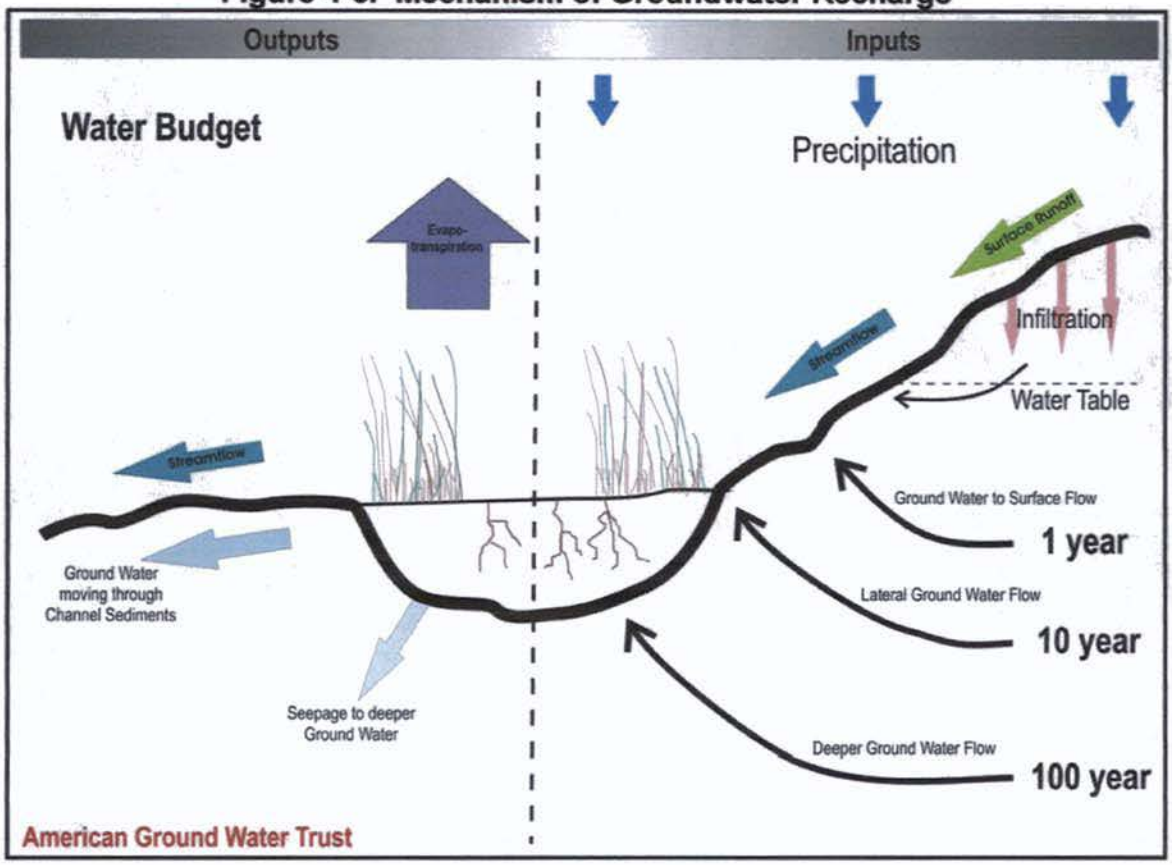
4-5 **INFILTRATION.** Water stored in depressions will infiltrate into the soil at different rates, depending on the soil type and the amount of moisture already in the soil. Some of the water that infiltrates into the ground may then percolate further downward into an aquifer, or travel horizontally and reappear as surface flow in a stream. A portion of the water will be held in the soil and extracted by vegetation.

The capacity of the soil to absorb and infiltrate water is dependent on a variety of factors such as soil structure (e.g., pore spaces and particle size), classification (percentage of sand, silt, and clay) and biological activity (e.g., roots, worms). Water is filtered by the soil system by various mechanisms such as adsorption and chemical and biological reactions. Under natural conditions, a significant portion of the annual precipitation may infiltrate into the ground. As land is developed, however, many natural depressions that would otherwise collect water are eliminated, the soil is compacted, and impervious area is added in the form of buildings and pavement. Consequently, levels of infiltration typically decrease when a site is developed. The additional runoff generated often results in degradation of the watercourse because of bank erosion, increased flooding, and alteration of habitat characteristics.[7]

The infiltration flow patterns and processes are extremely important to maintain the water balance in wetlands and the base flow in stream channels. Figure 4-5 illustrates how groundwater feeds an aquatic system.

[7] Gordon et al., 1992.

Figure 4-5. Mechanism of Groundwater Recharge



4-5.1 **LID Infiltration Concepts.** Maintaining natural infiltration rates is an important aspect of LID design. Accomplishing this requires an accurate understanding of the existing soils and groundcover conditions. For example, a clay soil on a pre-development site may have very little infiltration capacity or a sandy soil, which is compacted, may have reduced capacity. The design should take care not to overload the hydraulic conductivity of existing soils.

Soil maps by themselves are not sufficient to determine the capacity of the soils to absorb and filter water; additional field testing is required. Dispersing flows, maintaining natural flow patterns, and directing flows towards soils with high capacities for infiltration will help maintain ground water levels. Amending soils by adding organic materials, reducing compaction by aeration, maintaining leaf or "duff" layers in natural areas, and reducing compaction requirements for non-load bearing areas will also enhance and maintain infiltration rates and patterns.

Although soils and natural areas have a high capacity to filter and treat pollutants, careful planning must take place to ensure that potential pollutants such as nitrates, oils, or other urban runoff contaminants are adequately treated before entering any potential water supply. Infiltration areas should not be located near areas that have potential for hazardous waste spills or contamination. It is important to ensure that runoff is adequately filtered before it is allowed to infiltrate, especially if local aquifers

are particularly shallow. In cases where the water table is very high, it is often advisable to avoid infiltration altogether.

4-5.2 **Conventional Infiltration Concepts.** Conventional approaches concentrate on the infiltration capacity of a single end-of-pipe management facility such as a pond. Infiltration potential elsewhere on the site is often discounted or only analyzed for its effect on the flow of runoff into the facility. The conventional infiltration objective is to concentrate flows in one area and then utilize the infiltration capacity of the natural soil or conduits such as gravel. Natural groundwater flow patterns and recharge are often not considered. Conventional approaches may result in the elimination of critical volumes of flows to sensitive areas such as wetlands. Additionally, in many urban areas, the high loads of fine sediments to centralized facilities and the impacts of construction compaction can severely limit the infiltration capacity of the facility.

4-6 **EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.** Evapotranspiration is the loss of water from the ground by evaporation and transpiration. Evaporation is the return of moisture to the atmosphere from depressions, pond areas, or other surfaces. Transpiration is the return of water to the atmosphere through plants; moisture is absorbed by the roots and released through the leaves. The rate of evapotranspiration is dependent on air temperature, humidity, wind speed, sunlight intensity, vegetation type, and soil conditions.

4-6.1 **LID Evapotranspiration Concepts.** LID designs use open areas and vegetation to promote evapotranspiration. Larger areas used for evaporation, such as ponds, should have a flow regime that controls mosquito breeding. LID designs should not pond water for more than 72 hours as it may provide an opportunity for mosquitoes to breed. By keeping surface areas small and shallow, water can quickly evaporate and pollutants volatilize through plant uptake or evaporation.

LID designs also employ the capacity of vegetated areas to absorb, process, volatilize, and treat non-point source pollution as well as atmospheric pollution. Interception by leaves can significantly reduce the requirement for storage and infiltration. A mature canopy can intercept a significant number of small-volume, frequently occurring storms, absorbing precipitation into the plant leaves or evaporating precipitation from the leaf surface.[8] Additionally, uptake of soil moisture by plants helps to maintain the soil's capacity to absorb rainfall.

4-6.2 **Conventional Evaporation Concepts.** Conventional stormwater approaches are based on peak flow control over a short duration (usually 24 hours or less). For these single event designs, the evaporation process is often discounted or not considered.

[8] Sanders, 1986.

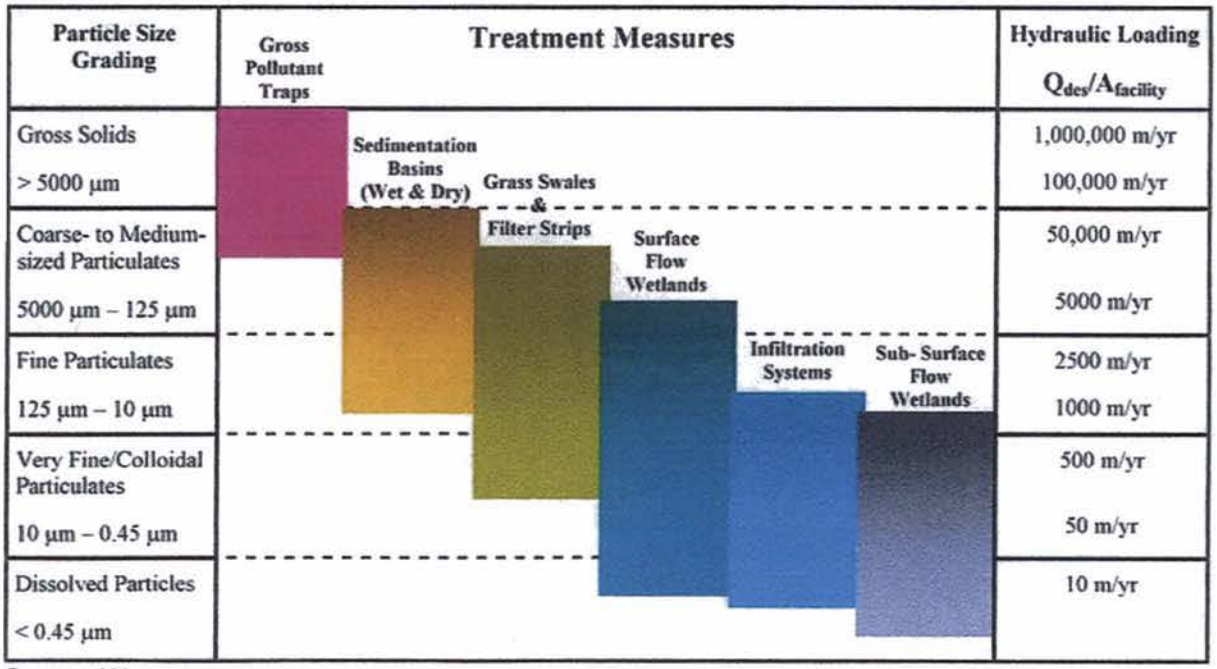
CHAPTER 5

LID DESIGN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

5-1 **INTRODUCTION.** DoD facilities are faced with the responsibility of managing and protecting the natural resources of often large parcels of land reserved for many different functions. Uses can be intensive and can pose a variety of stormwater challenges. For example, a truck maintenance facility or post-exchange may generate stormwater pollutants and alter the downstream hydrology. Alternatively, a vehicle training range may pose a high risk for pollution (e.g., high TSS) but on an infrequent basis. There is no single management practice that can be universally applied to all drainage areas.

Figure 5-1 illustrates the removal effectiveness of various BMPs for a variety of pollutants. The graph illustrates the complexity of stormwater management; there is no single BMP or technique that can be used to effectively address all of the potential watershed issues.

Figure 5-1. Removal Effectiveness of Various BMPs



Source: Wong.

5-2 **REGULATORY AND NATURAL RESOURCE DESIGN ISSUES.** Many regulatory compliance or flood control (peak rate design) schemes for construction are designed to achieve only one objective (e.g., pre-development control for the 2-year 24-hour storm event). Regulations often fail to consider overall natural resource management, hydrologic objectives, and stewardship responsibilities of facilities.

Budget constraints often limit construction funding to that necessary for conveyance or flood control requirements. The limited framework may create situations where regulatory requirements are met but the design results in degradation of the natural resources. LID principles use hydrology as the integrating framework of design, and protect the overall ecology of the watershed. LID allows facilities to meet the regulatory requirement for flood control (by storing and infiltrating a sufficient volume) while sufficiently filtering targeted pollutants through natural and man-made systems.

5-3 **FUNDAMENTAL SITE PLANNING CONCEPTS.** The goal of LID site planning is to allow for full development and function of the intended site activity while maintaining the site's essential natural or existing hydrologic function. The LID site design process is sequential and iterative, and embraces the following five concepts:[9]

- Hydrology is the Integrating Framework for the Design
- Distribute Controls through Micromanagement
- Stormwater is Controlled at the Source
- Utilize Non-structural Systems Where Possible
- Create Multifunctional Landscape, Buildings and Infrastructures

5-3.1 **Hydrology is the Integrating Framework for the Design.** LID designs have the goal of mimicking the natural site drainage processes and functions. Techniques are used to modify hydrologic processes, such as infiltration or storage, to meet the specific water quality, water quantity, and natural resource objectives. LID designs create an effective drainage process for stormwater on the site. A stormwater management system will come closest to mimicking natural flow patterns when storage and infiltration components are distributed across the site.

5-3.2 **Distribute Controls Through Micromanagement.** In order to emulate natural processes, it is imperative to view the site as a series of interconnected small-scale design controls. Such a structure creates opportunities for redundancy in treatment and control, the development of a "treatment train" for water quality control, and the opportunity to strategically locate LID components.

5-3.3 **Stormwater is Controlled at the Source.** Controlling and treating runoff as it is being generated reduces or eliminates the risks associated with transporting pollutants further downstream through pipes and channels. Management of stormwater at the source is especially valuable if remediation is required, such as in the case of an accidental spill of pollutants, because the problem can be easily isolated or the treatment system adjusted.

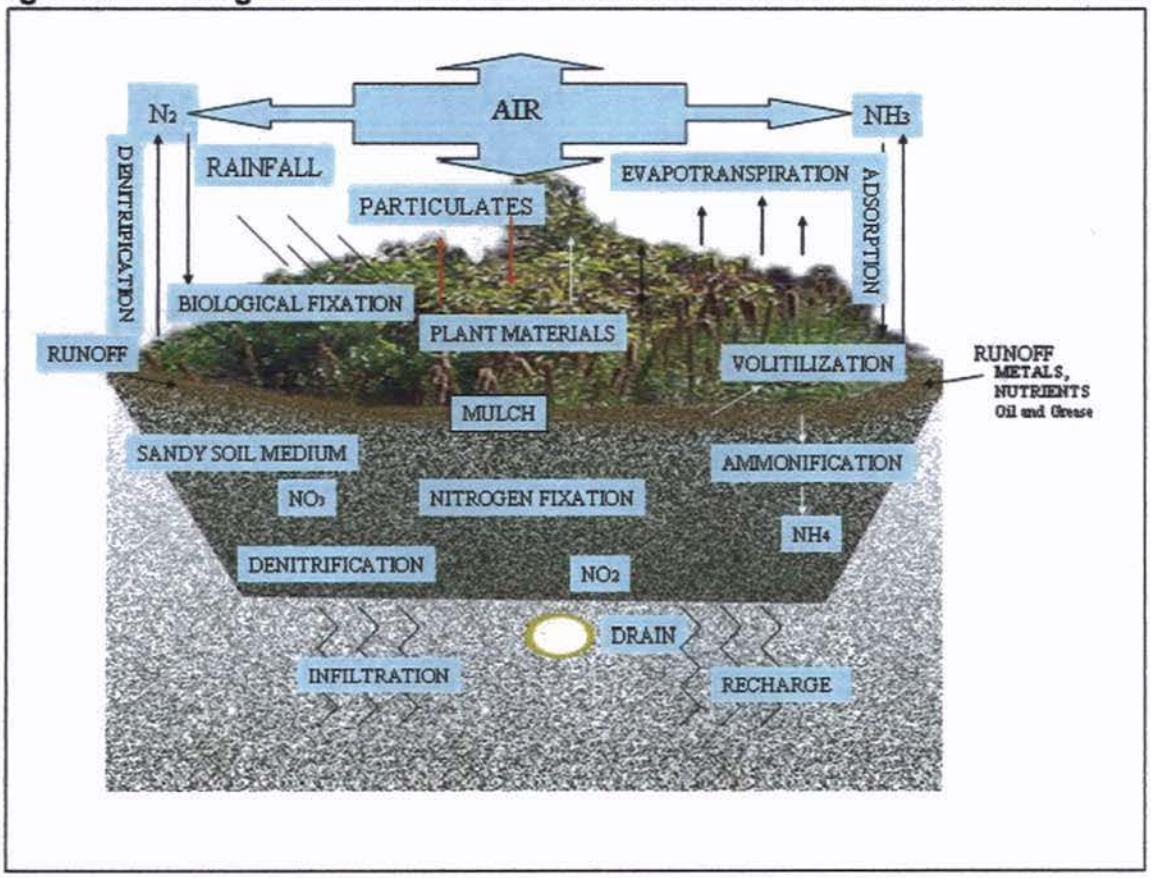
5-3.4 **Incorporate Non-Structural Systems.** LID designs recognize the potential of natural systems to intercept and filter pollutants. Phytoremediation techniques that

[9] PGDER, 2000a.

take advantage of the biological and chemical processes of the plant soil complex have shown tremendous potential in stormwater management. These natural systems are easy to design, construct, and maintain, even though the naturally occurring filtering and treatment processes may be quite complex and multidimensional. Benefits of using these small-scale and simplified systems (such as soil amendments, landscaping, or re-vegetation) include the reduced need for costly large-scale construction projects (such as underground concrete vaults or proprietary filters).

Figure 5-2 illustrates the range of biological and chemical processes that have been documented to occur in a bioretention cell. The bioretention cell is a landscape area constructed of specialized soil and plants that can effectively absorb and treat urban runoff.

Figure 5-2. Biological and Chemical Processes that Occur in a Bioretention Cell



Source: Prince George's County, Maryland Department of Environmental Resources (PGDER), 2000.

5-3.5 **Utilize Multifunctional Landscape, Buildings and Infrastructures.** There are a wide variety of LID practices available. The primary criterion in selecting LID practices is that the design of the component contributes to satisfying the design and regulatory objectives. Design features are often multifunctional and satisfy multiple objectives. The development of vegetated roofs is a good example. A vegetated roof can reduce the effects of atmospheric pollution, reduce runoff volume and frequency,

reduce energy costs, create an attractive environment, and have reduced replacement and maintenance, and longer life cycle costs. There are many types of vegetated roofs that can be developed including pre-made grids, or cells, or whole systems.

5-4 **LID MANAGEMENT AND DESIGN STRATEGIES.** LID design is an iterative process that requires a thorough understanding of the management objectives, a detailed understanding of the physical and natural resources of the site, a conceptual site design that can be refined to achieve the goal of a hydrologically functional landscape, and a long-term maintenance plan.

5-4.1 **LID Site Planning Components.** This section presents the aims of LID site planning and, in light of existing site development requirements, describes how LID site design can be best approached to manage runoff.

5-4.1.1 **Hydrologic and Hydraulic Objectives.** The purpose of LID site planning is to significantly maintain the predevelopment runoff volume and flow rate. Ideally, and where site conditions allow, this will be achieved in a way that replicates the site's predevelopment hydrologic functions. Sites that are characterized before development by porous soils, substantial vegetative ground cover, and ungraded topography naturally perform several important hydrologic functions:

- Facilitate infiltration, evapotranspiration, retention and detention of runoff
- Limit runoff flow rates because of ground surface roughness
- Help control water quality through surface and subsurface filtering of pollutants and sediments

On a developed site, these hydrologic functions can continue to be provided by the preservation of natural features or construction of a variety of man-made features (as described in Chapter 9). Taken together, the utilization of these features comprises a distributed source control strategy that is designed to not only meet regulatory requirements but also to provide superior natural resource protection.

Maintaining areas with high soil porosity, vegetative ground cover, and shallow ponding will help meet the following objectives:

- Flood control. Facilitating the infiltration of runoff and decreasing overland flow rates reduces the risk of flooding in receiving waters. To meet design objectives and regulatory requirements completely, supplemental controls may still be required.
- Volume Control. The overall volume of runoff that leaves a site is kept as close as possible to predevelopment levels.
- Peak Control. The peak runoff rate does not increase above predevelopment levels, and the entire runoff hydrograph emulates the predevelopment hydrograph.

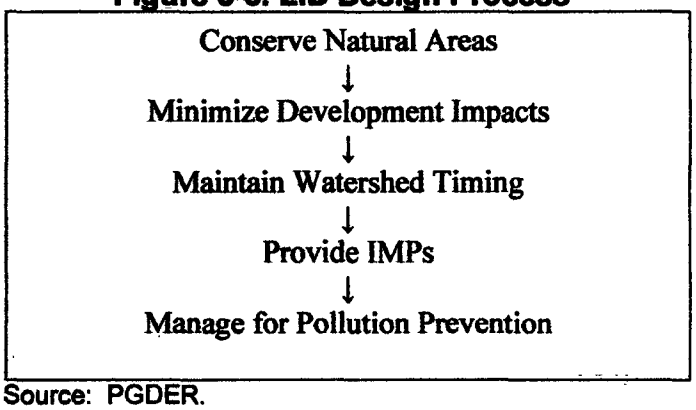
- Filtering and Treatment of Pollutants. Runoff is directed across vegetated areas and through porous media to provide significant reductions in the concentration of sediments and pollutants in the water.

- Groundwater Recharge. Infiltration is expedited to enhance groundwater recharge rates and help sustain base flows in nearby streams.

5-4.2 **LID Design Approach.** The LID approach to site design seeks to maintain or restore the hydrologic impacts of site development using a combination of runoff management strategies, site design techniques, and distributed source controls (IMPs). LID design requires that site plans address the overall natural resource and compliance issues within the watershed. The long-term success of this approach requires an understanding of the maintenance requirements and life-cycle effectiveness of the LID practices and the development of an appropriate maintenance and pollution prevention plan for the facility.

While the influence of each of the components of the design process varies from site to site, a general process has been developed to ensure that all of these components are considered. Although the preference in LID design is to reduce the hydrologic impacts on the site and to retain naturally effective hydrologic features, it is recognized that significant impacts may occur because of the nature of DoD activities. When compensating features are required, LID emphasizes the use of integrated site features that control runoff as close as possible to the source, rather than transporting pollutants and attempting to mitigate for lost functions elsewhere. Figure 5-3 illustrates the general flow of the design process.

Figure 5-3. LID Design Process



Source: PGDER.

This approach is often an iterative process that requires several attempts to balance all of the design components in the most economical and environmentally effective way. Described below are the individual design components.

5-4.2.1 **Conservation of Natural Areas.** LID is a stormwater management strategy that addresses the overall regulatory and resource protection goals of a site in a watershed context. Because development typically occurs incrementally, this approach will allow for adjustments or modifications to site design strategies and techniques to

reflect dynamic resource protection and regulatory issues. Communities and bases often have extensive watershed management and natural resources conservation goals; master plans identify sensitive environmental areas and preservation areas such as wetlands, mature woods, and habitats. The LID site design should address any potential impacts to these areas and encourage conservation of these areas within the site. Examples of conservation include:

- Preserving a forest corridor that connects with an existing stream valley
- Maintaining flow volume and discharge rates to offsite wetlands
- Incorporating buffers around sensitive habitat areas

5-4.3 **Minimization of Development Impacts.** Within the portion of the site selected for the placement of roads, buildings, and other development activities, minimal disturbance techniques (site fingerprinting) can be used to avoid soil compaction, retain mature trees, and limit the environmental impact of staging areas. Examples of minimal disturbance techniques include:

- Delineating and flagging the smallest site disturbance area possible
- Minimizing the size of construction impacts or offsite easements and property acquisition
- Minimizing the size of material storage areas during and after construction
- Maintaining flow patterns

5-4.4 **Control of Watershed Timing and Runoff Patterns.** Maintaining the site's natural runoff control areas and restricting building over the site's more pervious soils will help keep the infiltration capacity of the site close to predevelopment levels. Maintaining the watershed timing of a site is also important. The cumulative effects of decreasing the post-development watershed times of concentration of several sites can have a significant impact on downstream habitat. It is also desirable to maintain natural vegetation in steeply sloped areas and to retain natural drainage divides. This will encourage dispersed flow paths and, consequently, help reduce the development of channels that lead to erosion and flooding problems.

Adequate drainage from buildings, walkways, and roads must be provided. Traditional designs often create a drainage system that has the effect of increasing the rate at which runoff moves into receiving waters during storm events. In turn, this produces a higher volume of runoff, a higher peak rate of flow, and an earlier runoff event than would occur under less developed conditions. The opportunity for groundwater recharge is eliminated, because infiltration into swales and grassed areas cannot effectively occur if runoff passes through quickly.

The overall grading objective for LID is to provide a surface landform that will distribute flows in a shallow and slow moving pattern toward areas where the infiltration

capacity is highest. Examples of LID techniques to control rates of runoff and watershed timing include:

- Use flatter rather than steeper grades, provided that adequate drainage for buildings and traffic is maintained
- Reduce the height of slopes, to prevent runoff from gaining speed as it moves downhill
- Where flow begins to accumulate, increase the length of flow paths, diverting and redirecting the flow, preferably with vegetated features
- Minimize use of curb and gutter systems and piped drainage systems in favor of grassed swales
- Minimize the amount of impervious area used for pavement
- Disconnect impervious areas by directing runoff from buildings and pavements onto lawns or other vegetated areas, keeping flow velocities at a level that will not cause erosion
- Preserve naturally vegetated areas and existing topography in places where these help slow runoff and encourage infiltration
- Use weirs and check dams in swales

5-4.5 **Use of Integrated Management Practices (IMPs).** Once all of the design strategies and techniques have been implemented, IMPs are selected to achieve the site water quality and quantity objectives. IMPs are distributed, multifunctional, small-scale controls, selected based on their ability to achieve the site design water quality and quantity objectives in a cost effective manner. IMPs are not a "one-size-fits-all" approach. For example, using amended soils to filter and store runoff may be appropriate for a rural road section with high traffic but inappropriate next to a parking area that may be subjected to compaction from overflow parking or vehicle movement. More details on IMPs and their selection are found in Chapter 8.

5-4.6 **Pollution Prevention.** The goal of pollution prevention is to reduce, reuse and recycle a variety of pollutants before they become environmental problems. The final step of the LID design approach is to incorporate programs that keep pollution out of runoff in the first place and, consequently, to increase the longevity of the IMPs. Reduction of fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide use and the implementation of regular street sweeping are some common pollution prevention activities.

NAVY: Pollution Prevention (P2) is one of the four pillars of the Navy's Environmental Quality Initiative (EQI). EQI aims to use P2 to attain environmental compliance, while minimizing life cycle costs. Rather than promoting pollution prevention because it is desirable from an environmental standpoint, EQI uses pollution prevention to minimize the cost of environmental compliance. For example, building a bioretention cell to treat runoff from a parking lot before discharge into a stream is a

much more efficient and cost effective alternative to discharging directly into the stream and paying for stream restoration later.

AIR FORCE: Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7080 lays the framework for P2 implementation. Compliance by all Air Force installations is required. Air and water pollutant reduction is one of the six P2 program elements. P2 is mandated at the Major Command (MAJCOM) level, and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence is the primary provider of P2 technical support services. Installations must implement P2 management plans and conduct regular P2 opportunity assessments, which should be based on existing waste stream management plans when they exist.[10]

ARMY: P2 is a required element in the Army's Sustainable Project Rating Tool (SPiRiT); compliance with SPiRiT is now mandatory for MILCON construction projects. P2 plans for Army installations are developed from opportunity assessments of existing waste stream data and are designed to maximize environmental compliance. The U.S. Army Environmental Center provides P2-related technical and policy assistance.

5-5 DESIGN GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS

5-5.1 Methods to Determine Effectiveness. Stormwater projects are typically designed with a particular objective in mind, such as flood control or water quality improvement. Such projects typically require that the designer evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed treatments at meeting the stated objectives.

A number of hydrologic models have been developed to model surface runoff from a given drainage area. Because conventional models are primarily concerned with computing flow rates or flood hydrographs at a point of interest, this approach to hydrologic analysis must be modified in cases where not all of the runoff from a given site converges to a single point. Typical watershed models take into account general land cover and stream channel characteristics. To account for LID features and runoff management devices, refinement of the analysis may be desirable. A variety of tools are freely available from public agencies:

5-5.1.1 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS, formerly called the Soil Conservation Service, has been developing runoff models for decades. The NRCS models TR-20 and TR-55 account for variations in land cover and the velocity of water movement across a watershed. Of particular interest are the determination of a drainage area's curve number (CN) and time of concentration (T_c). The value of CN reflects the degree to which land surface conditions will generate runoff, while the value of T_c indicates how quickly the runoff will converge at a particular point downstream. TR-20 and TR-55 are popular for watershed modeling but are generally not recommended for predicting runoff from small storms.

5-5.1.2 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA has developed a variety of software packages, primarily concerned with channel and pipe hydraulics.

[10] Air Force, 1994.

These programs are most useful in those areas where detailed analysis of flow behavior based on predetermined flow rates is required.

5-5.1.3 **Hydrologic Engineering Center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HEC).** The Hydrologic Engineering Center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers actively maintains a suite of tools for modeling surface water hydrology and hydraulics.

5-5.1.4 **EPA.** The EPA maintains the Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) that performs simulations of both water quantity and quality for urban runoff events.[11] In late 2002, EPA extensively revised SWMM to include more detailed analysis of small-scale stormwater management devices. The SWMM algorithm is able to explicitly simulate storage and, therefore, is particularly appropriate for simulating discrete LID systems. Obtaining reasonable estimates of storage parameters needed in SWMM is of critical importance. Creative adaptations of SWMM may be necessary because the model does not directly model runoff from an impervious surface onto a pervious one.

5-5.1.5 **Prince George's County, Maryland.** The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources – Programs and Planning Division, working with Tetra Tech, Inc., has developed a BMP evaluation module to assist in assessing the effectiveness of LID technology. This module uses simplified process-based algorithms to simulate BMP control of modeled flow and water quality time series generated from runoff models such as the Hydrologic Simulation Program, FORTRAN (HSPF). These simple algorithms include weir and orifice control structures, storm swale characteristics, flow and pollutant transport, flow routing and networking, infiltration and saturation, evapotranspiration, and a general loss/decay representation for pollutants. It offers the user the flexibility to design retention style or open-channel BMPs, define flow routing through a BMP or BMP network, simulate IMPs such as reduced or discontinuous impervious surfaces through flow networking, and compare BMP controls against a defined benchmark such as a simulated pre-development condition. Because the underlying algorithms are based on physical processes, BMP effectiveness can be evaluated and estimated over a wide range of storm conditions, BMP designs, and flow routing configurations. Such a tool provides a quantitative medium for assessing and designing TMDL allocation scenarios and evaluating the effectiveness of a proposed management approach.

Five basic design aspects were used to develop the methodology for the module. They are: (1) the incorporation of input runoff data, (2) design and representation of a site plan, (3) configuration of BMPs of various sizes and functions, (4) schematic representation of flow routing through a network of BMPs, and (5) evaluation of the impact of a site design with BMPs. The module interface is the platform for an interactive linkage between each of the five design features of the module.

5-5.1.6 **Commercial Sources.** In addition to the freely available models, there are a variety of commercial models on the market. Information about these other tools can be found on the Internet.

[11] EPA, 1983.

5-5.2 **Monitoring Strategies.** A variety of techniques are available to monitor the effectiveness of LID features for managing water quantity and quality. A well-implemented monitoring program will be valuable not only for the purpose of local runoff management objectives, but can also provide useful information to the Engineering Service Center, which is developing a web-based expert system.

5-5.2.1 **Water Quantity Monitoring.** The effectiveness of LID in controlling runoff volume and peak flow rates can be monitored either at individual features on a site or at some selected point downstream where flow paths converge and a measurement device can be installed.

5-5.2.1.1 **Small Scale.** On a small scale, both manual and automatic sampling methods can be used to calculate flow rates upstream and downstream of an LID installation, based on the depth measured using a weir or a rate of flow measured using a conveyance device.

5-5.2.2 **Large Scale.** On a larger scale, where LID features are used as retrofits in developed areas, the effectiveness of the retrofits can be assessed by comparing pre-LID and post-LID flow rates downstream. Using these data and some straightforward hydrologic calculations, a characteristic hydrograph can be developed to evaluate the site's response to storm events resulting from the implementation of LID treatments. Data from stream gages should indicate that runoff from smaller storms has decreased after LID implementation. As more LID features are used for stormwater retrofits on a site, the decrease in runoff will become more significant.

5-5.2.3 **Water Quality Monitoring Parameters.** The effectiveness of a runoff management feature can be evaluated using the flow through the feature, the quality of the receiving waters, or both. The Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP) has identified the following "standard pollutants characterizing urban runoff:"[12]

Table 5-1. Standard Pollutants in Urban Runoff

Pollutant	Abbreviation
Suspended Solids Concentration	SSC
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	BOD
Chemical Oxygen Demand	COD
Copper	Cu
Zinc	Zn
Total Phosphorous	TP
Soluble Phosphorus	SP
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	TKN

[12] Ibid.

Nitrate + Nitrite	$NO_2 + NO_3$

5-5.2.4 **Biological Monitoring.** Pollutants in stormwater runoff have a direct effect on the biological integrity of the receiving waters. The effectiveness of water quality controls can therefore be evaluated by assessing the biological health of the receiving waters in the vicinity of the stormwater outfall. The EPA has developed Rapid Bioassessment Protocols (RBP)[13] that can be used to characterize the existence and severity of impairments to streams, and help to identify sources and causes of impairment.

5-5.2.5 **Monitoring Program.** There are four phases to develop a monitoring program:[14]

1. Determine the objectives and scope of the monitoring program
2. Develop the monitoring plan in view of the objectives
3. Implement the monitoring plan
4. Evaluate and report the results

Monitoring programs are shaped by the site characteristics, the goals of the project, regulatory requirements, and available funds.

5-5.2.6 **Variability.** The high variability of stormwater flows and pollutant concentrations at any location makes it difficult to obtain useful monitoring results. Typically, facilities must collect a large number of samples to adequately characterize how a device is functioning under natural conditions. The monitoring approach used on any given site will depend on regulatory requirements, the pollutants of concern, the physical characteristics of the runoff management features, and the availability of funds and personnel for planning, sampling and analysis.

5-5.2.7 **State and Local Program Conformance.** Water quality monitoring programs should be undertaken to conform to state and local protocols. A detailed guidance manual for water quality data collection, management and interpretation is available from the Environmental Protection Agency[15] and the Department of Transportation.[16] The guidelines, which are primarily concerned with meeting the national stormwater BMP database requirements, can be easily adapted for use in a variety of monitoring activities.

5-5.2.8 **Sampling Locations.** An effective monitoring effort for decentralized runoff management requires a judicious selection of sampling locations as well as sampling times and techniques. The challenge is often to complete the monitoring effort

[13] Barbour et al., 1999.
[14] DOT, 2000; EPA, 2002.
[15] EPA, 2002.
[16] DOT, 2000.

effectively under budget constraints. If the site design includes many LID features, sampling only a few may provide a reasonable basis to estimate the effectiveness of the full suite of features.

5-5.2.9 **Sampling Protocols.** Monitoring protocols vary depending on the expected chemical composition of the runoff, the pollutant of concern, the desirability of monitoring the effectiveness of a device at a given location, and the importance of assessing water quality at points downstream. As sampling data is collected over time, trends in the water quality become apparent. Adjustments in the monitoring plan may be appropriate to ensure that across the site samples are not taken any more or less frequently than necessary to ensure that a desirable level of water quality is maintained.

CHAPTER 6

DISTRIBUTED MICRO-SCALE SYSTEMS

6-1 **INTRODUCTION.** In addition to land surface strategies, LID practices include incorporating small landscaped features and manufactured devices into a site. The management of runoff as it is generated reduces the need for management further downstream. Small distributed systems can perform several important runoff management functions:

- Increase rates of infiltration
- Slow down runoff, reducing flow rates from the site and increasing time for infiltration
- Add retention (the amount of water stored at the surface for the duration of the storm event)
- Add detention, which causes water to be restrained temporarily before it moves further downstream
- Improve water quality by filtering pollutants through media

6-2 **REPRESENTATIVE LID PRACTICES.** LID uses design components (IMPs) that can be selected and customized for specific stormwater management objectives. The selective use and customization of these components will involve a variety of standards and specifications for construction and maintenance. Described below is a collection of LID practices and their design, construction and maintenance characteristics.

Distributed micro-scale systems can include, but are not limited to:

- Soil amendments
- Bioretention
- Dry Wells
- Filter Strips
- Vegetated Buffers
- Grassed Swales
- Infiltration Trenches
- Inlet Pollution Removal Devices
- Rain Barrels and Cisterns

- Tree Box Filters
- Vegetated Roofs
- Permeable Pavers

Table 6-1 presents the variety of runoff management functions provided by these features. A more detailed description and design approach for these features is provided in Chapter 8.

Table 6-1. Functions of LID Features

Feature	Effect or Function				
	Slower Runoff	Infiltration	Retention	Detention	Water Quality Control
Soil Amendments		X			
Bioretention		X	X	X	X
Dry Wells		X	X		X
Filter Strips	X				X
Vegetated Buffers	X				X
Grassed Swales	X				X
Infiltration Trenches		X			X
Inlet Devices					X
Rain Barrels			X		
Cisterns			X		
Tree Box Filters					X
Vegetated Roofs	X			X	X
Permeable Pavers		X			X

6-2.1 **Nutrient Processing.** Surface water runoff in urban areas can include significant quantities of chemical nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorous. When these nutrients reach local water bodies, they can contribute to eutrophication. (Eutrophication is a naturally occurring process in which nutrients accumulate in a body of water over time; the term is often used to signify acceleration of this process by human activity.) Several of the LID components described in this UFC (see Chapter 8) filter out these nutrients to various degrees of effectiveness, depending on the design. LID approaches that utilize vegetation not only filter nitrogen and phosphorous out of

the water and into the soil, but also make these nutrients available to the plants to form plant tissue.

6-2.2 **Treatment Train Approach to Water Quality.** Following a typical flow path beginning where runoff is generated from an impervious area, runoff water quality control can be implemented in the following steps:

1. Minimization. Design the site to treat pollutants effectively in small quantities, rather than allow larger quantities of runoff to accumulate before treatment.

2. Natural Filtration. Use the physical, chemical and biological processes of vegetation and soils to filter pollutants.

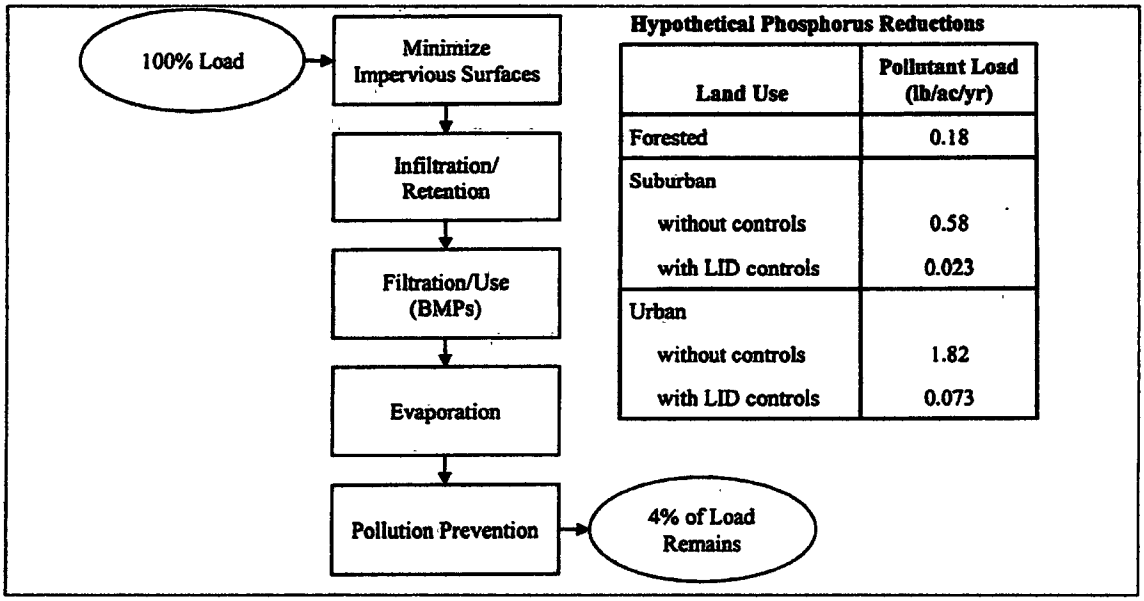
3. Constructed Filtration. Use the physical, chemical and biological processes of distributed micro-scale systems to filter pollutants.

4. Evaporation. Store and evaporate water in shallow depressions so that particulates can be removed.

5. Pollution prevention. Incorporate management practices such as restricted fertilizer use and diligent street sweeping to reduce pollutant loads. (Note that while the first four steps above pertain to site features, this final step pertains to post-construction maintenance).

Figure 6-1 shows a typical treatment train process for phosphorus removal.

Figure 6-1. Treatment Train Process for Phosphorus Removal



Hypothetical Phosphorus Reductions

Land Use	Pollutant Load (lb/ac/yr)
Forested	0.18
Suburban	
without controls	0.58
with LID controls	0.023
Urban	
without controls	1.82
with LID controls	0.073

Source: Adapted from PGDER.

6-2.3 **Energy Processing.** LID features that incorporate vegetation can help to moderate high ambient air temperatures. Even on a small scale, vegetation will have a local cooling effect. Vegetation can be selected and placed to improve shading, or to provide a buffer against winds. Using vegetated roofs can result in significant energy savings in the operation of a building's air conditioning system.

6-2.4 **Multifunctional Infrastructure and Buildings.** Some LID features can simultaneously provide a variety of hydrologic functions. A bioretention area, for example, can filter runoff for quality control, detain it, and infiltrate the stormwater into the ground. Similarly, vegetated roofs on buildings reduce runoff, reduce pollutants in both the water and the air, and moderate the internal building temperature.

6-2.5 **Ancillary Benefits.** This UFC describes LID primarily in terms of hydrologic impacts. LID runoff management strategies can also contribute to an aesthetically pleasing landscape, increasing the value of the property where these strategies are employed. In a variety of completed projects, micro-scale runoff management features have provided architectural interest in various forms, such as employing berms in otherwise open spaces, rainwater channels along pedestrian streets, fountains fed by intermittent stormwater, and bioretention areas that attractively subdivide large parking lots. The visibility of these features also provides opportunities for citizens and property owners to become more aware of the importance of stormwater in our urban environment.

CHAPTER 7

COMPARISON OF LID TO CONVENTIONAL PRACTICES

7-1 **INTRODUCTION.** Conventional stormwater management practices focus on providing an efficient site drainage system that rapidly conveys runoff away from buildings and off pavement, and then attenuates the peak runoff rate at a large stormwater management facility downstream. In contrast, LID provides runoff management as far upstream as possible – where it originates – and if necessary, also at multiple points along each flow path. LID and conventional practices can be further compared in a variety of ways:

7-2 **COMPLIANCE VS. WATER RESOURCE OBJECTIVES.** While conventional stormwater management is primarily concerned with attenuating the peak runoff rate from a developed site, the principal goal of LID is to ensure maximum protection of the ecological integrity of the receiving waters by maintaining the watershed's hydrologic regime.

7-3 **WATER QUANTITY CONTROL.** Conventional drainage practices effectively reduce peak runoff rates, but do not reduce runoff volume. Instead, conventional drainage practices increase runoff volume by not mitigating the effects of the increased impervious area. The LID features that facilitate infiltration, by comparison, help to reduce runoff volume directly. Runoff volume reductions using LID features can be significant when infiltration is increased over a sufficiently large area.

Conventional drainage reduces the amount of subsurface water available to the base flow in nearby streams. LID features that enhance infiltration can have the beneficial effect of helping to maintain those base flows. Other LID features allow the strategic use of stormwater on-site, while conventional drainage designs focus on moving the water rapidly off-site.

A conventional stormwater management facility has a limited ability to manage water quality because it is limited to removal by settlement of pollutants. An LID approach, by comparison, takes advantage of a variety of mechanisms that filter water either overland or via infiltration to the subsurface.

7-4 **CONSTRUCTION COSTS.** Construction costs for LID will vary depending on the characteristics of predevelopment site features, the density of development, the particular LID features selected, and their size and design. For example, the cost of bioretention areas will be a function of the depth of porous backfill and the degree to which underdrains are utilized. Case studies for commercial, townhouse, and detached home residential areas in Prince George's County, Maryland, have demonstrated that LID site design costs can compare favorably with conventional approaches.[17] Costs are not simple to generalize. The scale of the project, availability of materials, and skills and training of staff are all factors. IMPs involving landscaped areas are often simple to maintain because work can often be performed by landscaping crews or residents; hard

[17] Greenhorne and O'Mara, 1998.

structures, such as permeable paving systems with underdrains, may require more specialized maintenance.

7-5 **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.** Regular inspections of conventional stormwater management facilities are required to ensure that the storage volume has not been reduced by sediment, outlets are not clogged by debris, and structural features maintain their integrity. For a site designed using an LID approach, runoff management features will tend to be higher in number and several types of features (e.g., bioretention areas) need to be maintained by the property owner. The maintenance of these LID features is straightforward and can easily be performed as part of regular landscaping. Other LID features typically employed along public streets (such as tree filters) require more specialized maintenance to ensure that the filter media are not clogged and toxic materials such as heavy metals do not accumulate to a level at which they become a health hazard.

7-6 **RETROFIT POTENTIAL.** Retrofitting an already developed area with a conventional stormwater management system requires a considerable amount of space and is likely to involve extensive site disturbance. The LID micro-scale systems listed in the previous chapter require less site disturbance for each installment. LID retrofits may be much easier than conventional retrofits on sites where intensive development has already occurred. Locating sites for installing small devices is far easier than finding a large site for a stormwater management facility. LID retrofits can be customized to pollutant loads, allowing more complete control over pollutant removal.

CHAPTER 8

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

8-1 **INTRODUCTION.** This chapter gives an overview of several of the most common and well-researched integrated management practices (IMPs) currently in use. Information is given on appropriate use, typical cost, maintenance needs, and commonly required corrective actions. This information is meant to facilitate the selection of IMPs appropriate for individual situations. This chapter is not exhaustive: many other IMP types are in use or are under development. Evaluation of other practices is left to the facility and regulatory agencies.

8-1.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** This section outlines how each of the IMPs should be incorporated into a site plan.

8-1.2 **Cost Data.** Cost data is given in 2003 U.S. dollars, except where noted. All costs are estimates, and are given in broad ranges. These represent only initial costs and do not account for life cycle costs such as maintenance. These cost estimates are to be used for general planning purposes, not to create accurate project budgets.

8-1.3 **Maintenance Issues.** This section highlights some of the maintenance requirements of the IMPs. It is meant to give a general sense of the maintenance intensity of each of the technologies.

8-1.4 **Corrective Actions.** This section highlights some of the common problems associated with each of the IMPs.

8-2 **SOIL AMENDMENTS.** Soil amendments, which include both soil conditioners and fertilizers, make the soil more suitable for the growth of plants and increase water retention capabilities. The use of soil amendments is conditional on their compatibility with existing vegetation, particularly native plants.

Figure 8-1. Southern Maryland Wood Treating Site: On-site Thermal Desorption of Contaminated Soils. Final Grading and LeafGro® Placement

Source: EPA.

8-2.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** Soil amendments increase the soil's infiltration capacity and help reduce runoff from the site. They have the added benefit of changing physical, chemical and biological characteristics so that the soils become more effective at maintaining water quality.

8-2.2 **Cost Data.** Compared to the costs of traditional lawn preparation practices, enhancing native soil with soil amendments may have increased upfront costs. However, the cost of using amended soils can be at least partially offset by reductions in the required volume of stormwater ponds or other detention or retention practices. Tilled Compost-Amended Turf (TCT) practices, besides requiring greater site preparation, require larger volumes of material to be delivered to the site as well as methods to ensure that the amendments are well mixed with the existing soil.[18] The following cost estimates are based upon 1996 prices in the Seattle, Washington metropolitan area. Potential soils analysis costs are not included, but can cost as much as $125 per sample.

Table 8-1. Costs Associated with Soil Amending[19]

Component	Average Cost (1996 U.S. dollars)
Soil and Site Preparation	61¢ per square foot
Soil Amendments	$16 per cubic yard
Blower Application	5¢ to 10¢ per square foot

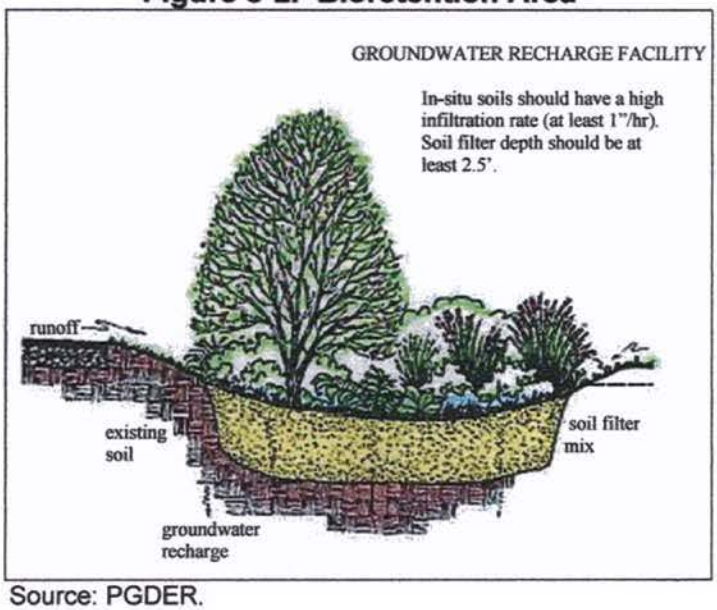
8-2.3 **Maintenance Issues.** In some jurisdictions across the country, soil amendments may be inspected as part of the sediment control plan for a site, usually upon site completion. Routine inspection of amended soils should evaluate factors that may affect the soil's infiltration capacity, aeration and organic content. Typical post construction concerns include areas subject to compaction, hydric or waterlogged soils, poor cover conditions, increased development, and a decrease in organic content. In addition, a routine soil infiltration rate analysis of amended soils in potential problem areas is recommended.

8-2.4 **Corrective Actions.** Corrective actions for soil amendments involve restoring the infiltration capacity of the soil. Reductions in infiltration capacity typically result from compaction or extensive root matting of groundcovers, such as grasses. The first step of corrective action should be extensive mechanical aeration. If this does not restore the infiltration rate, organic amendments should be disked into the soil for a depth of several inches and the site restabilized.

8-3 **BIORETENTION.** Bioretention areas typically have porous backfill under the vegetated surface, and an underdrain that encourages infiltration and water quality filtering while avoiding extended ponding.

[18] Chollak and Rosenfeld, 1998.
[19] Ibid.

Figure 8-2. Bioretention Area



Source: PGDER.

8-3.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** Bioretention features are used to treat stormwater that has run over impervious surfaces in commercial, residential, and industrial areas.[20] Use of bioretention for stormwater management is ideal for median strips, parking lot islands, and swales.

8-3.2 **Cost Data.** Construction cost estimates for a bioretention area are slightly greater than for required landscaping at a new development.[21] Commercial, industrial and institutional site costs range between $107 and $430 per square meter ($10 and $40 per square foot,) based on the need for control structures, curbing, storm drains and underdrains.

8-3.3 **Maintenance Issues.** Routine maintenance should include a biannual health evaluation of the trees and shrubs and subsequent removal of any dead or diseased vegetation.[22] This maintenance can be incorporated into regular maintenance of the site landscaping. If the bioretention feature is located in a housing development, the maintenance responsibility could be delegated to the residents. The use of native plant species in the bioretention cell will reduce fertilizer, pesticide, water, and overall maintenance requirements.

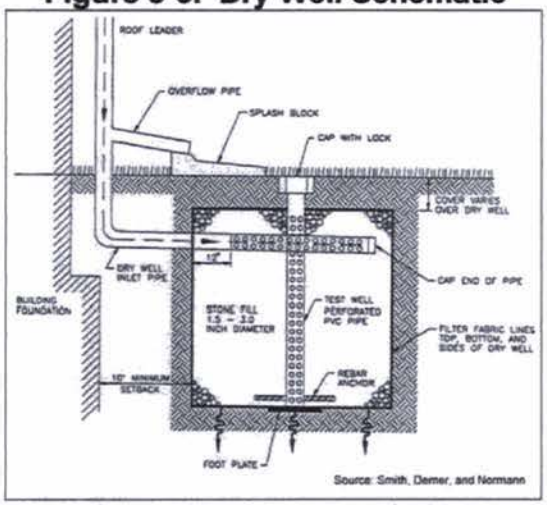
8-3.4 **Corrective Actions.** Treat diseased vegetation as needed using preventative and low-toxic measures. When levels of pollutants reach toxic levels that impair plant growth and the effectiveness of the BMP, soil replacement may be

[20] EPA, 1999a.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Ibid.

required.[23] Other potential tasks include replacement of dead vegetation, soil pH regulation, erosion repair at inflow points, mulch replenishment, unclogging the underdrain, and repairing overflow structures. Depending on pollutant loads, soils may need to be replaced within 5-10 years of construction.[24]

8-4 **DRY WELLS.** A dry well typically consists of a pit filled with aggregate such as gravel or stone and is located to catch water from roof downspouts or paved areas.

Figure 8-3. Dry Well Schematic



Source: Stormwater Management for Maine, 1995.

8-4.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** Dry wells are suitable for treating small impervious areas (as an alternative to infiltration trenches) and may be useful on steeper slopes where trenches or other facilities cannot be installed. Dry wells are particularly suited to treat runoff from residential driveways or rooftop downspouts. It is important to avoid installation in large areas with high sediment loads and in soils with limited permeability. Dry wells are not appropriate for treating runoff from large impervious surfaces such as parking lots.

8-4.2 **Cost Data.** Costs for dry wells are site specific. Cost is determined by the cost of excavation and the price of gravel. This will depend on the well volume and the source of the gravel.

8-4.3 **Maintenance Issues.** Dry wells are typically employed in single-family homes; maintenance is usually the responsibility of the homeowner. Maintenance is minimal and includes clearing the rain gutters of debris that clogs the downspout.

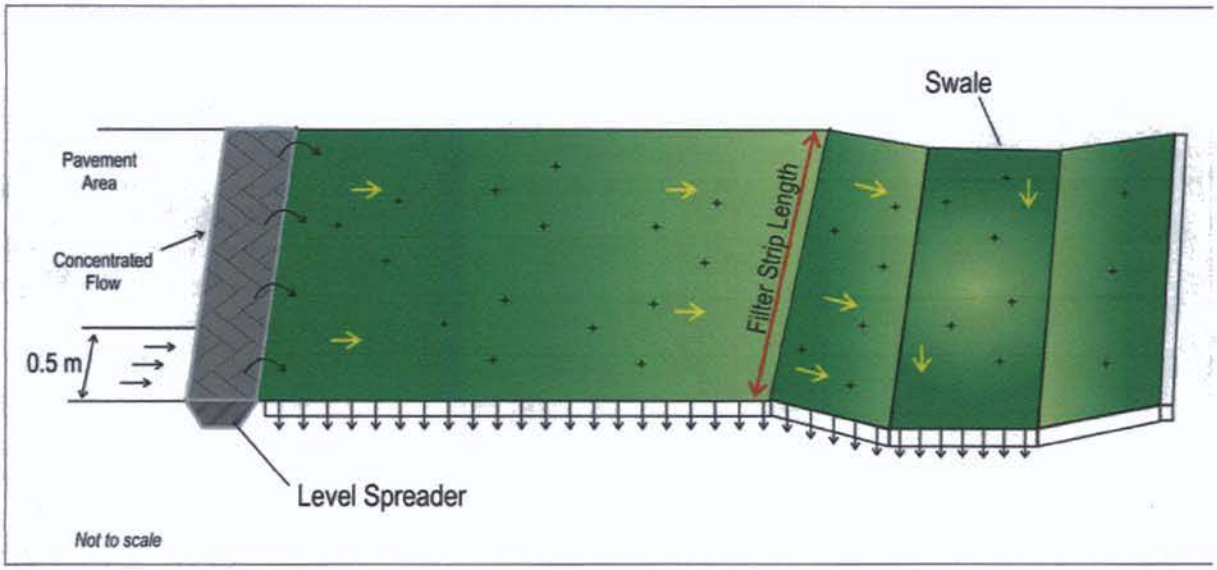
8-4.4 **Corrective Actions.** Dry wells can clog over time if there is extensive loading of fine grained sediment. Clogging is evident if there is standing water after a rain event at the surface of the facility. The appropriate corrective action is to first dig

[23] PGDER, 1993.
[24] LID Center, 2000.

out the gravel and then excavate to remove the sediment and uncover a layer of soils that has sufficient infiltration capacity.

8-5 **FILTER STRIPS** are bands of dense vegetation planted downstream of a runoff source.

Figure 8-4. Filter Strip



8-5.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** The use of natural or engineered filter strips is limited to gently sloping areas where the vegetative cover is well-established and where channelized flow is not likely to develop. Filter strips are well suited for treating runoff from roads and highways, roof downspouts, very small parking lots, and pervious surfaces. They are also ideal components for the fringe of a stream buffer, or as pretreatment for a structural practice.

8-5.2 **Cost Data.** A rough estimate of filter strip construction costs includes the cost of seed or sod, approximately 30¢ per square foot for seed or 70¢ per square foot for sod. This amounts to a cost of between $32,000 and $74,000 per hectare ($13,000 and $30,000 per acre) for filter strips. The cost of filter strip construction may be higher than other stormwater management practices, but the construction costs are offset by low maintenance costs, roughly $865 per hectare ($350 per acre) per year.[25] Additionally, maintenance costs might overlap with regular landscape maintenance costs.

8-5.3 **Maintenance Issues.** Filter strips require standard vegetation management, such as mowing, irrigation, and weeding. Typical maintenance activities include inspection of filter strips at least twice annually for erosion or damage to vegetation and additional inspection after periods of heavy runoff. Recent research on biofiltration swales indicates that grass height and mowing frequency have little impact on pollutant

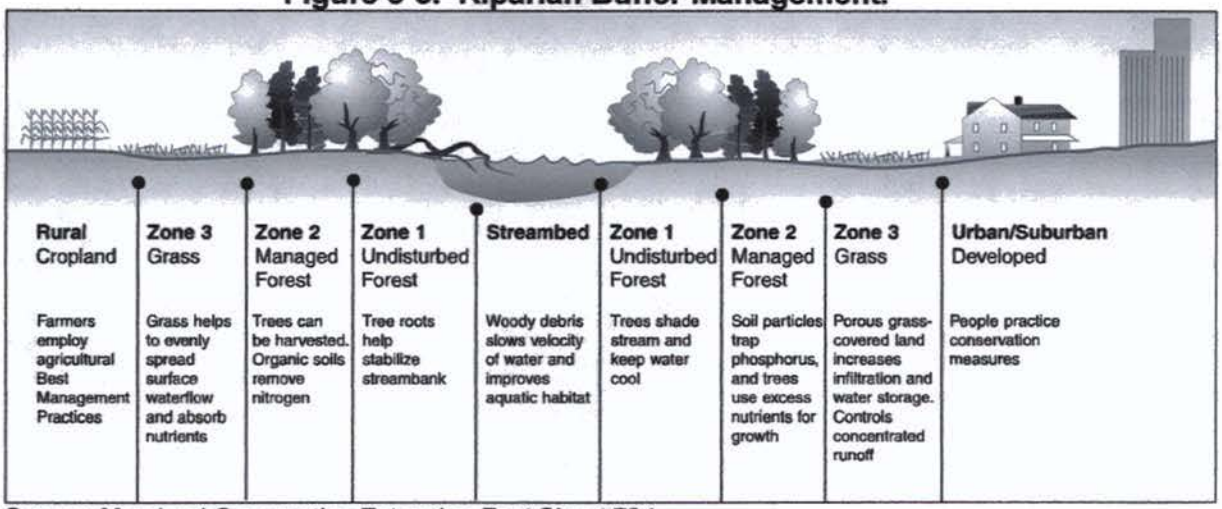
[25] Adapted from SWRPC, 1991.

removal rates.[26] Therefore, mowing may only be necessary once or twice a year for safety and aesthetics or to suppress weeds and woody vegetation.

8-5.4 **Corrective Actions.** Trash tends to accumulate in filter strip areas, particularly along highways. The need for litter removal should be determined through periodic inspection, but litter should always be removed prior to mowing.

8-6 **VEGETATED BUFFERS.** Vegetated buffers trap and filter sediments, nutrients, and chemicals from surface runoff and shallow groundwater.

Figure 8-5. Riparian Buffer Management.



Source: Maryland Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet 724.

8-6.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** Maintaining a vegetated buffer along creeks, streams, and rivers provides an attractive landscape and can improve water quality by removing sediment and chemicals before they reach the waterway. In addition, buffers provide flood control, help recharge groundwater, prevent soil erosion, and preserve or improve certain types of wildlife habitat. Well-designed buffers can also stabilize the stream bank and help absorb stormwater runoff.

8-6.2 **Cost Data.** Forest buffer costs range between $540 and $1800 per hectare ($218 and $729 per acre) to plant and maintain. Planting costs depend on geographic location, number of acres planted, number of trees planted per acre, species of trees, and whether or not the trees are from bare root or container stock. Grass buffers tend to cost less than forest buffers to plant and maintain ($415 to $ 1000 per hectare [$168 to $400 per acre]).

8-6.3 **Maintenance Issues.** Buffers should be monitored and managed to maintain their maximum water quality benefits and, where desired, wildlife habitat benefits. They should be inspected at least once a year, and always within a few days after severe storms, for evidence of sediment deposition, erosion, or development of concentrated flow channels. Weed and invasive species control is essential for the survival and rapid

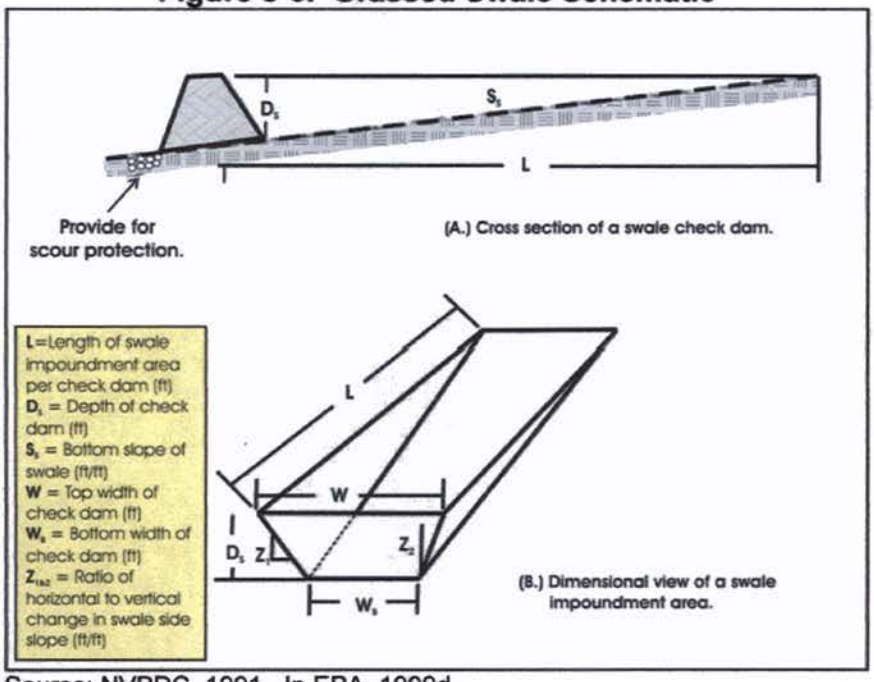
[26] Colwell et al., 2000.

growth of trees and shrubs. It is best to avoid working in the riparian area between April 15 and August 15, when a variety of animals are bearing their young.

8-6.4 **Corrective Actions.** If the buffer width is sufficient, vegetated buffers should be self-maintaining. Changes in hydrology, drought, over-grazing or natural disasters such as flooding or fire may require the replanting or reestablishment of the buffer.

8-7 **GRASSED SWALES** are shallow grass-covered hydraulic conveyances that help to slow runoff and facilitate infiltration.

Figure 8-6. Grassed Swale Schematic



Source: NVPDC, 1991. In EPA, 1999d.

8-7.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** The suitability of grassed swales depends on land use, soil type, slope, imperviousness of the contributing watershed, and dimensions and slope of the grassed swale system.[27] In general, grassed swales can be used to manage runoff from drainage areas that are less than 4 ha (10 acres) in size, with slopes no greater than 5 percent. Use of natural low-lying areas is encouraged and natural drainage courses should be preserved and utilized.[28]

[27] Schueler et. al., 1992.
[28] Young et al., 1996

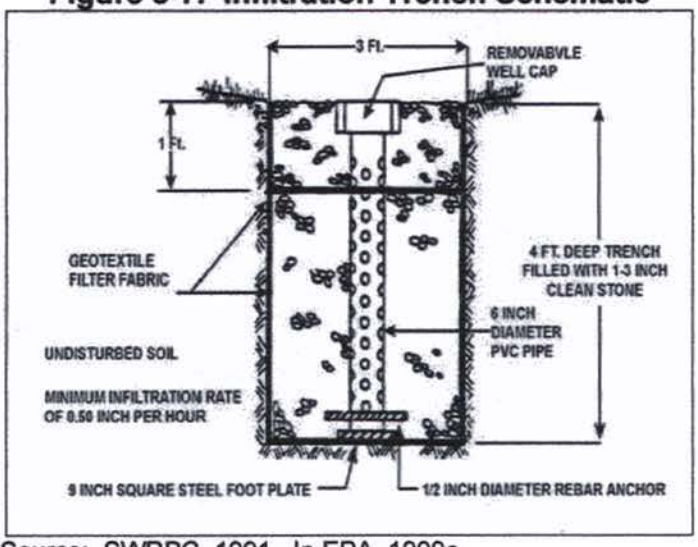
8-7.2 **Cost Data.** Grassed swale construction costs are estimated at approximately $2.70 per square meter ($0.25 per square foot.)[29] These costs, however, do not include design costs, raising the total cost to approximately $5.40 per square meter ($0.50 per square foot.) Grassed swale costs compare favorably with other stormwater management practices.[30]

8-7.3 **Maintenance Issues.** The maintenance objectives include keeping up the hydraulic and removal efficiency of the channel and maintaining a dense, healthy grass cover. Maintenance activities should include periodic mowing (with grass never cut shorter than the design flow depth), weed control, watering during drought conditions, reseeding of bare areas, and clearing of debris and blockages.

8-7.4 **Corrective Actions.** Cuttings should be removed from the channel. Accumulated sediment should also be removed manually to avoid concentrated flows in the swale. Avoid applying fertilizers and pesticides. The grass cover should be thick and reseeded as necessary. Any standing water removed during the maintenance operation must be properly disposed of at an approved discharge location.

8-8 **INFILTRATION TRENCHES.** Infiltration trenches are trenches that have been back-filled with stone. These trenches collect runoff during a storm event and release it into the soil by infiltration.

Figure 8-7. Infiltration Trench Schematic



Source: SWRPC, 1991. In EPA, 1999c.

8-8.1 **Most Appropriate Uses.** Infiltration trenches may be used in conjunction with another stormwater management device, such as a detention pond, to provide both water quality control and peak flow attenuation.[31] Runoff that contains high levels of sediments or hydrocarbons (oil and grease) that may clog the trench are often

[29] SEWRPC, 1991.
[30] Brown and Schueler, 1997.
[31] Harrington, 1989.

pretreated with other devices such as grit chambers, water quality inlets, sediment traps, swales, and vegetated filter strips.[32]

8-8.2 **Cost Data.** Construction costs include clearing, excavation, placement of the filter fabric and stone, installation of the monitoring well and, where desired, establishment of a vegetated buffer strip. The 1993 construction cost for a large infiltration trench (1.8 m (6 ft) deep, 1.2 m (4 ft) wide, and with a 68 m^3 (2,400 ft^3) volume) ranges from $8,000 to $19,000. A smaller trench (0.9 m (3 ft) deep, 1.2 m (4 ft) wide, and with a 34 m^3 (1,200 ft^3) volume) is estimated to cost from $3,000 to $8,500.

8-8.3 **Maintenance Issues.** The principal maintenance objective is to prevent clogging, which may lead to trench failure. Infiltration trenches should be inspected after large storm events and any accumulated debris or material should be removed. A thorough annual inspection should include monitoring of the observation well to confirm that the trench is draining properly. Trenches with filter fabric should be inspected for sediment deposits by removing a small section of the top layer and examining the material in the trench itself. When vegetated buffer strips are used, they should be mowed regularly and inspected for erosion or other damage after each major storm event.

8-8.4 **Corrective Actions.** The corrective action for infiltration trench failure is to remove the stone and sediment that has clogged the system. The trench should be over excavated and scarified to ensure that the infiltration capacity of the soil is sufficient. The stone is washed to remove any sediment and then replaced. It is critical that any surrounding areas be stabilized to eliminate the potential for sediment clogging.

8-9 **INLET DEVICES** (a.k.a. hydrodynamic separators). Inlet devices are flow-through structures with a settling or separation unit to remove sediments and other stormwater pollutants.

[32] SEWRPC, 1991; Harrington, 1989.