

Green Stormwater INFRASTRUCTURE



What is LID?

Low Impact Development (LID) is a water quality and stormwater management strategy that maintains or restores the natural ecological and hydrologic functions of a community and/or site to protect and improve water quality, manage stormwater runoff, achieve natural resource protection objectives and fulfill environmental regulatory requirements.

What is GSI?

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) is a built approach to slow, infiltrate, use, and/or treat stormwater runoff using vegetation, soils, and natural processes to make stormwater runoff cleaner, absorb it back into the ground, and create healthier environments.

Sidewalks, roofs, streets, and parking lots are everywhere in the built environment. Stormwater runoff originating from these surfaces is a significant source of water pollution. The impact of that pollution extends beyond the human sphere.

Wildlife that depend on clean, abundant water resources — including species of recreational and economic value — cannot thrive in contaminated water bodies.

Green stormwater infrastructure offers tools that can manage stormwater runoff, improve water quality for wildlife, restore wildlife habitat to the built environment, and invite beneficial species such as pollinating insects, birds, and fish back to the places we live.

The City is currently developing a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan to identify and prioritize green stormwater infrastructure projects that can be built to reach pollution reduction targets for PCBs and mercury by 2020, 2030, and 2040.