# Low Impact Development from DENR's Perspective

Presented by: Tracy E. Davis, PE, CPM Director, Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources

Large scenery photos from www.learnnc.org

# The Department's primary mission is to protect North Carolina's environment and natural resources.





#### What we don't want to see is this:

The cumulative effect of a sustained discharge from multiple developments within a watershed causing severe stream bank erosion and low base flow.



#### **Conventional Stormwater Management**



Why treat stormwater runoff if you can eliminate it?

#### Low Impact Development Alternatives Protect North Carolina's Environment and Natural Resources

LID utilizes engineered systems to:

- Infiltrate, evaporate and reuse stormwater runoff
- Promote pollutant removal through biological processes
- Restore stream base flows protecting vital habitats
- Recharge drinking water sources
- Restore a watershed's hydrologic and ecological functions by mimicking the pre-development hydrology

# DENR's First Fundamental Principle: Philosophy

In its essence, DENR is a service organization. Whether managing parks and zoos or issuing permits, agency personnel must always be a resource of invaluable public assistance, rather than a bureaucratic obstacle of resistance.

### Fundamental Principle: Philosophy

Be a resource of invaluable public assistance



North Carolina Division of Water Quality

Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual

July 2007\*



\*Individual chapters of the BMP Manual will be updated periodically. Individual chapters may be more recent than July 2007. More choices for BMPs that reduce stormwater runoff, including:

- Disconnected Impervious Surface
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Green Roofs
- Bioretention
- Infiltration
- Permeable Pavement

# **Fundamental Principle – Philosophy**

Be a resource of invaluable public assistance

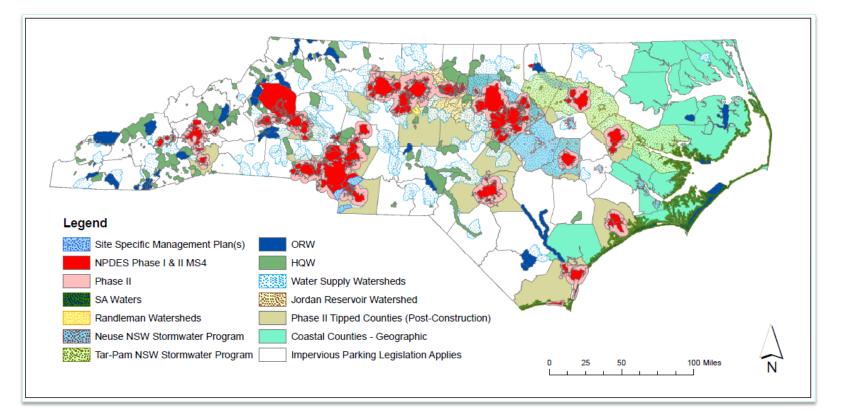
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Contact Information		
Applicant and Titlo:		

# Storm-EZ

- Excel permitting tool
- Developed by Hunter
  Freeman, PE with Withers
  & Ravenel
- User inputs data about pre- and post-development land uses and BMPs

#### **Fundamental Principle – Philosophy**

Be a resource of invaluable public assistance



# An LID approach meets all state implemented stormwater programs.

# **Fundamental Principle: Philosophy**

LID works everywhere – whether it's for:

- New development, redevelopment, or retrofits
- Public roads
- Commercial, industrial, or residential sites
- Ultra-urban or rural developments
- High density or low density projects





# DENR's Second Fundamental Principle: Economics

The agency will be continually cognizant that an economic cost/benefit analysis is an integral component of DENR's public service endeavor.

#### **Fundamental Principle: Economics**

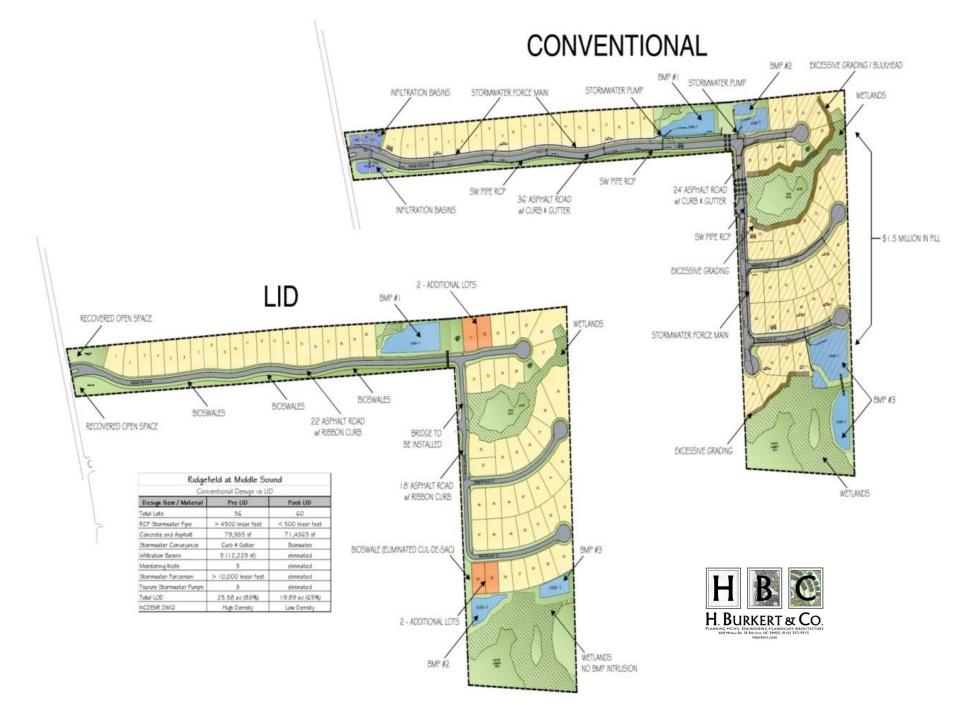
- As a voluntary program, LID is a choice that offers alternatives
- Economic benefits of LID are based on case studies across North Carolina





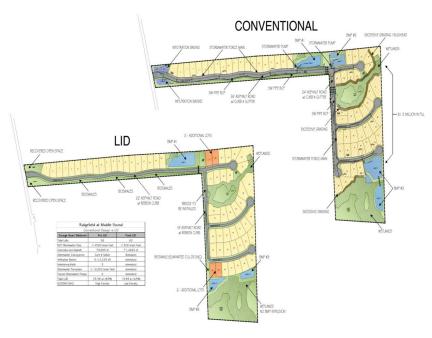






#### **Fundamental Principle: Economics**

- Small BMPs instead of a large, costly collection, conveyance & treatment system
- Reduced stormwater pipe 89%
- Eliminated 9,000 ft of curb & gutter
- Eliminated 5 infiltration basins
- Saved \$1 million in grading costs
- Gained 4 lots





#### **Fundamental Principle: Economics**

#### LID Practices improve aesthetics and increase marketability & value



Stormwater BMPs can be amenities, not eyesores.

#### **Fundamental Principle: Economics**

#### **LID Practices:**

- Cost less to mobilize equipment
  and manpower during construction
- Don't rely on heavy or specialized equipment for installation or maintenance



• If one stormwater control measure fails there is less impact on water quality

# DENR's Third Fundamental Principle: Science

All decisions are made with a respect and understanding that environmental science is quite complex, comprised of many components, and most importantly, contains diversity of opinion. In this regard, all public programs and scientific conclusions must be reflective of input from a variety of legitimate, diverse and thoughtful perspectives.

(Water quality benefits are based on scientific research & case studies reflective of input from a variety of legitimate, diverse and thoughtful perspectives as discussed this morning.)

#### **LID - Joint Statement of Support**

- Business Alliance for A Sound Economy
- N.C. Coastal Federation
- Wilmington-Cape Fear Homebuilders Association
- Bill Hunt, Professor & Extension Specialist, Bio & Ag Engineering, NC State University.
- Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service
- Cape Fear Green Building Alliance
- New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Service
- Burrows Smith, River Bluffs Development Corporation
- David Newsome, Crystal Coast Engineering
- Gary J. McCabe, PE, Red Line Engineering, PC
- Jordan Building Co.
- Ward Shore Builders
- West Fourth Landscape Architecture, P.A.
- Tetra Tech

#### **DENR's Mission Statement: The Outcome**

A collaborative stewardship among the citizens, government regulators and the business community will maintain and enhance North Carolina's environment and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone living in or visiting our great state.

# DENR's Mission Statement: The Outcome LID - Joint Statement of Support

DENR joins the Business Alliance for a Sound Economy, Wilmington-Cape Fear Homebuilders Association, N.C. Coastal Federation, development professionals, academia and local and state government agencies that have collaborated to promote the voluntary use of LID.





#### **Questions?**

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