

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT



WHAT IS LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT?

Low Impact Development (LID) is a land development and stormwater management approach that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to the source as possible. LID focuses on maintaining and restoring the natural hydrological processes of a site.

LID practices include but are not limited to:

- Rain gardens
- Bioswales
- Green roofs
- Permeable pavements
- Box planters
- Naturalized drainage ways
- Rainwater harvesting for reuse

WHY DO WE IMPLEMENT LID?

As a city grows and more land is developed, the natural water cycle is altered. Urbanization creates more hard surfaces, which increases runoff, increases immediate evaporation, and decreases the water being soaked up by the ground. These changes can result in increased flooding, decreased water quality, and increased urban heat island effect.



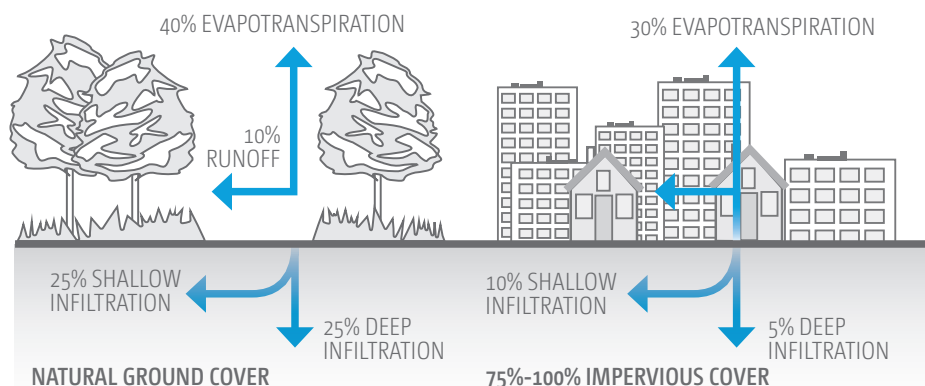
LID is an initiative identified by the City's Stormwater Quality Strategy Action Plan (2008) to improve stormwater management. LID implementation

aligns with Drainage Services' River for Life strategy and directly supports the City of Edmonton's environmental strategic plan, *The Way We Green*, and the City's strategic development plan, *The Way We Grow*.

FUNCTIONS/BENEFITS

By replicating natural hydrologic processes to manage stormwater, LID provides benefits that vary according to actual site conditions and the scale of the application (e.g. the size of the lot, community, or watershed). Benefits include:

- Reduced stormwater runoff
- Reduced flooding
- Reduced combined sewer overflow discharge
- Improved water quality
- Increased groundwater recharge
- Improved air quality
- Reduced urban heat island effect
- Improved aesthetics
- Improved natural habitats



(USEPA 2007)