

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to provide general guidance and instruction on Low Impact Development (LID) requirements for New Kent County. This manual will provide direction for implementation of the requirements.

LID refers to site design, layout, and storm water management philosophy that provides post-development runoff to that of pre-development rates, volume, and quality. It should be noted that the LID requirements do not replace existing storm water management regulations, but rather are intended to complement them.

Proper LID implementation will achieve the standard goals of reducing peak storm water runoff rates from developed sites while enhancing water quality. In addition to these goals, LID methods can return surface water to ground water through infiltration techniques, thus mimicking pre-development hydrology. Using the 2-year storm for the hydrologic analysis can provide the required downstream protection for the complete range of storms including the 10-year, 50-year and 100-year.

One benefit of LID is savings in construction. Traditional SWM practices which typically pipe storm water to ponds are being replaced with LID techniques that are more cost effective due to the reduction of storm drains, piping and ponds. This reduction of traditional SWM can also increase the developable area making a site more profitable.

LID practices offer the developer additional methods of addressing New Kent County, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Chesapeake Bay Act (CBAY) regulations while improving the aesthetics and environmental quality of New Kent County.