



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Low-Impact Development Barriers

There are significant barriers to Low Impact Development (LID) for both developers and city government. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Stormwater Steering Committee's LID workgroup evaluated LID Barriers and developed the following, priority-ranked list of LID barriers.

- 1. Engineering hesitation:** how to deal with the challenge to traditional best engineering practices for stormwater runoff and to traditional cost figures, a concern of local government or its consulting staff.
- 2. Lack of research – verification of performance.**
- 3. Code problems:** how to get acceptance, staff time, and money to rewrite restrictive local government codes.
- 4. Standards lacking:** local governments need a process to provide the expertise to write new design standards and procedures as well as outline criteria and expectations for LID for their area/region. They need a process to support LID and hold contractors and developers accountable for compliance with the standards. There isn't a process to track, inspect, or approve of adopted standards. (A leverage point could be the state building codes, which could provide a mechanism to meet this need.).
- 5. Unfamiliar waters:** how to navigate an alternative uncharted review process with untraditional concept plans which may cost the developer additional \$ in construction delays or consultant costs.
- 6. Contractors/developers need instruction:** local governments need training processes for contractors and land developers which provide them with the skill and ability to prepare and implement LID.
- 7. LID processes absent:** local governments often lack a plan or a process to phase in LID to new developments and to apply retroactively as practical to existing developments.
- 8. Code issues – lack of credits for LID to offset other restrictions (meeting).**
- 9. No natural resource inventories (NRIs) done in advance:** local governments lack natural resource inventories, which should be the beginning step in the process. They therefore cannot map and list all areas within their regions or jurisdictions (within the

watershed(s)) which identify in advance of development plans which LIDs are applicable to each sub-region and geographical feature, soil type, or resource sensitivity unique to their communities. There is also political opposition to what NRIs might reveal, as the results may restrict land development options.

10. Intergovernmental cooperation needed: local governments need a communication process for collaboration between the township or city, county, state, and watershed district professionals to avoid intergovernmental confrontations, given the common of developers trying for minimum requirements in their proposals. There needs to be a shared responsibility for roles, funding, and expertise between all affected levels of government, resulting from a common vision for regional land and resource management.

11. Re-education of local government staff and new operating procedures needed: patterns of maintenance are a barrier, in that staff must be educated in new procedures (such as where to put snow if there are rain gardens near right-of-way).