LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT

PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF MESA

BY THE TEAM OF:

LOGAN SIMPSON

WITH FUNDING FROM:

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

APRIL 2015
Example of a traditional stormwater system: An 84” stormwater pipe installed down the center of Main Street, Mesa, AZ 1968

“The downtown core area has a large amount of impervious surface, and is served by a mature, traditional stormwater system, typical of cities across Arizona.

By implementing and evaluating how LID techniques can impact this ‘typical’ area, the City can find ways to manage its stormwater in more effective and sustainable ways.”
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The Cities of Mesa and Glendale, with a grant from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA), have partnered to develop this Low Impact Development (LID) Toolkit, with the support of consulting planners and designers and the input of city agencies. The Toolkit is intended to identify current stormwater management practices and national and regional LID best practices, ultimately providing a living document with simple, updatable tools, that can guide the city and their businesses and residents, toward more sustainable stormwater design practices.

While the Cities of Mesa and Glendale are distinct entities with their own development and stormwater management challenges, goals and policies, there are enough similarities - in their maturity, development potential, geography and proximity to the metro area - that practices and recommendations from this effort can be readily applied in both communities, as well as elsewhere in the Valley. Representatives from both cities’ engineering, transportation, planning, environmental, and parks agencies generously contributed their ideas, concerns and challenges.

City policies can either encourage or discourage the use of LID tools. As with other cities in the Valley, Mesa and Glendale have adopted a modified form of Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) standards for guiding development policy and implementing public works projects. This Toolkit includes some practices that are not currently recognized by MAG or the Cities, but should be reviewed and adopted before being acceptable for use.

Many cities have already adopted incentives for both public and private development to encourage increased LID use. For the developer and builder, benefits can include expedited reviews, tiered fees, and even exceptions to certain planning requirements such as overall density, setbacks, parking, and landscaping requirements. For homeowners, potential incentives include rebates, and reduced landscape water use.

The Cities’ role in this effort is to lead by example -- by providing funding for pilot projects in highly visible areas to increase public awareness, by updating and supporting policies that encourage more sustainable stormwater management, and by considering the integration of LID into all municipal projects.
Low Impact Development (LID) is a sustainable approach to stormwater management that utilizes the landscape to absorb storm runoff, reducing offsite flows that can contribute to flooding and infrastructure costs. The goal of LID is to mimic and sustain predevelopment hydrologic regime by using techniques that are included in this Toolkit. LID tools can be used to divert, store and utilize stormwater runoff to support native and designed landscapes. They can be utilized to supplement, and sometimes reduce the need for, traditional methods for stormwater management. While conventional methods often channelize and pipe runoff away from development, LID methods utilize this water close to its source, to support vegetation and reduce runoff volume.

LID is adaptable to a wide range of land use types and project scales. Breaking down developed areas into their constituent components – private property and public realm; buildings, paved areas and landscape – presents a way to organize potential actions to implement LID. That is the goal of this Toolkit.

Increased stormwater runoff is directly related to the amount of impervious surfaces in a given area and to how land is developed and improved. Improvements in managing stormwater can have multiple benefits for cities and their residents and businesses. LID actions can be taken by governments, organizations and private interests. The benefits of LID have been published for many national and local examples, and are supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements.

**Direct Benefits**

- Detains stormwater close to its source, potentially reducing runoff volume and velocity downstream.
- Collects sediment and reduces pollutants in storm-water runoff.
- Utilizes stormwater to support native vegetation and landscape improvements.

**Indirect Benefits**

- Reduces irrigation water requirements for landscape areas.
- Reduces impacts on existing stormwater infrastructure and the need for new channels and pipes.
- Is compatible with the protection and restoration of natural systems, which supports climate resiliency.
- Complements site improvements for human activities.
- Provides and sustains habitat for wildlife.
- Supports tree canopy growth for increased shade, which can significantly decrease urban heat-island effects.
- Adds value to property through efficient use of space and resources.
- Provides multiple-use opportunities, such as open space and landscaping, that improve a community’s quality of life.
Focus Area

While LID tools can be scaled to all types of development that create stormwater runoff, this study focuses on the urbanized downtown core area. In these areas the intensity and diversity of land uses provide a multitude of opportunities for incorporation of LID strategies into existing and upcoming redevelopment projects. In addition, the downtown core area has a large amount of impervious surface, and is served by a mature, traditional stormwater system, typical of cities across Arizona.

By implementing and evaluating how LID techniques can impact this “typical” area, the City can find ways to manage its stormwater in more effective and sustainable ways. The ultimate goal for utilizing LID strategies is to reduce stormwater impacts on natural systems, reduce capital and maintenance costs of stormwater infrastructure, and increase quality of life and property value for community residents and businesses by improving streets, parks and even home landscapes.

Scope

The three main components of the LID Toolkit are:

• The LID Toolkit in Chapter 2 includes a user-friendly catalogue of tools including the description, installation methods, and maintenance needs for each LID practice.
• Best practices in Chapter 3 includes examples of current practices compared with LID best practices that can be used in new or existing development.
• Case studies in Chapter 4 includes supporting information for local and national case studies of LID implementation and City-specific data.

Uses

The LID Toolkit can be used to:

• Assess current construction methods to determine where LID methods should be used to improve stormwater management.
• Review and assess current city policies, codes, regulations and checklists to determine which updates are required to enable and encourage the implementation of LID techniques.
• Educate City agencies, residents, businesses, and developers about the advantages and benefits of LID.
• Immediately enhance the built environment by implementing LID projects that use ecologically friendly and aesthetically pleasing design solutions that provide multiple benefits for the community.
• Identify appropriate LID standard engineering details as part of site development planning.
Mesa is located about 20 miles east of downtown Phoenix, mostly within the watershed of the Salt River. There are several freeways through the City that create barriers to surface water movement, and where stormwater is conveyed into traditional channel and pipe stormwater systems.

The Central Mesa project focus area was selected to be representative of a typical urban or suburban developed downtown in central Arizona. This area is characterized by mature development and infrastructure with a large amount of impervious surfaces, and numerous opportunities to implement LID techniques in adaptive or new infill redevelopment projects.
“The Toolkit is developed to be compatible with urban and suburban development methods and building codes.”
LID TOOLKIT
Technical Variations

Many of the BMP techniques illustrated in the LID Toolkit have multiple variations and/or site specific adaptations. The arid region in which we live, requires special understanding and care when implementing these techniques. Within the appropriate site and project context, LID tools can be effectively deployed to achieve cities’ stormwater management goals.

Other context and site related issues that must be considered when applying the LID Toolkit to a stormwater management system include:

- Knowledge of local codes and regulations (City of Mesa will test and examine which tools may require updates to local codes to facilitate).
- Anticipating high intensity storms exceeding the capacity of the LID Toolkit designs.
- Intermittent rainfall requiring vegetation to have access to supplemental irrigation.
- Periods of drought and/or extreme heat requiring adapted and highly tolerant vegetation.
- Extreme temperatures and/or daily temperature fluctuations leading to expansion and contraction and effecting installation parameters.
- Advantages and constraints associated with the type and use of local and regional materials.
- Dust and debris accumulation between storms.

Source

The tools included in this document have been collected, reviewed and refined from many sources, including research of professional organizations, onsite observation and research of project data provided by cities and other resources. The EPA has published several guides to LID that describe the various LID methods that have been developed and implemented throughout the country, and not-for-profit interest groups, such as the Watershed Management Group, have documented several examples that have been implemented in the desert Southwest.

While not intended to be all-inclusive, this LID Toolkit provides a representative cross section of best management practices (BMPs) that can be deployed in Maricopa County, Mesa, Glendale and throughout the region. *

Tools

As described in the LID Toolkit Diagram at left, each tool is categorized by its context within a site or system, and by which action(s) the tool is intended to perform with respect to the stormwater it manages.

The Toolkit is developed to be compatible with urban and suburban development methods and building codes. For the purposes of this document, tools that are appropriate in developed or developing areas, and consistent with current or proposed city policies, will be the focus.

* The LID Toolkit is not intended to address all of the requirements of local, state, regional, and other codes, regulations, and standards. Additional research and analysis will be required for each project, feature and site.
Functions

Many LID tools provide a specific function related to stormwater. Some LID tools can perform several functions. The function intended by the designer is often a determining factor in the selection of which tool/technique to use in the design.

- **Flow Control** - the regulation of stormwater runoff flow rates.
- **Detention** - the temporary storage of stormwater runoff in underground vaults, ponds, or depressed areas to allow for metered discharge that reduce peak flow rates.
- **Retention** - the storage of stormwater runoff on-site to allow for sedimentation of suspended solids.
- **Filtration** - the sequestration of sediment from stormwater runoff through a porous medium such as sand, a fibrous root system, or a human-made filter.
- **Infiltration** - the vertical movement of stormwater runoff through soil, recharging groundwater.
- **Treatment** - processes that use plant materials, natural phytoremediation and/or bacterial colonies to metabolize contaminants in stormwater runoff.

Benefits

LID tools can provide benefits that go beyond stormwater management. By managing stormwater close to its source, they can nourish a healthy stand of vegetation, which provides interest in the landscape, reduces water and energy use, and reduces the cost of stormwater infrastructure and contaminants downstream. The following icons identify the indirect benefits associated with each LID practice.

- **Shade** - promotes vegetated shade
- **Recreation** - creates recreational areas
- **Design** - encourage creative solutions to stormwater manage
- **Heat Island** - mitigates heat island effects
- **Habitat** - provides wildlife habitat area
- **Aesthetics** - enhances aesthetics
- **Education** - provides learning opportunity
- **Infrastructure** - reduces impact on existing or future infrastructure
- **Street Buffer** - landscaped area between street and building
- **Street Median** - distinct island in middle of road designed to guide traffic
- **Parking Island** - distinct island in parking area designed to guide traffic
- **Pedestrian Path** - designed walkway for pedestrians
- **Driveway** - private vehicular accessway
- **Parking Lot** - designated area for parking
Description
This section includes a description of the type of tool, the materials used to construct or implement it, its potential uses, and the category that the tool fits within. When applicable it also includes definitions of key terms commonly associated with the technique.

Installation *
This section describes common installation methods, including locations for use, typical material, and common steps needed. Each application of any LID tool in the LID Toolkit should be designed and constructed on a site-by-site and project-by-project basis, consistent with approved City standards and guidelines.

Maintenance
This section describes management and maintenance items that users should take into account when considering the application of LID tools. The long term functionality of LID practices is crucial to their value in any design, and proper maintenance is key to their functionality. A complete understanding of required maintenance from an operations and cost perspective is critical to making informed design choices when evaluating each tool.

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Images
The images on each LID Toolkit page are of representative installations that use the tool described on that page. Each tool can have several variations as described in the LID Toolkit introduction. The intent is not to recreate the exact installation shown in the image, but to provide examples that can be adapted to city standards, site context, the project and regional climate influences.

Details and Resources
Several existing City and MAG details related to LID, along with relevant details currently being used in these areas, are included in the Appendix. Diagrammatic details depicting specific components are included in the Best Practices chapter. Links to other resources that can provide additional information about the application and operation of certain tools are denoted by a footnote at the bottom of the LID Toolkit page, with the full reference provided in the Document Resources section of the Appendix.
Curb cuts are openings created in a curb to allow stormwater from an impervious surface, such as roads, parking lots, or hardscape areas, to flow into a lower landscaped storage and infiltration area (LID facility).

The curb cut is a useful tool for retrofitting existing development with green infrastructure practices without major reconstruction.

Since curb cut openings are perpendicular to the flow of stormwater on the street, they will usually collect only a portion of the water flowing along the gutter. If attenuating stormwater flows along the street is the goal, place multiple curb cuts at intervals along the street.

Openings should be at least 18 inches wide, but up to 36 inches is preferred for ease of maintenance.

Locate curb cut openings at low points and space them based upon stormwater velocity and volume, and the capacity of the area behind curb for detention, infiltration and access to overflow systems.

The curb cut can either have vertical or angled sides. The design intent is to create a smooth transition from the paved surface to full curb height.

Curb cuts work well with relatively shallow stormwater facilities that do not have steep side slopes that might erode.

Set the elevation of the bottom of the curb cut to maximize flow into the landscape area.

A drop in grade should occur between the curb cut entry point and the finish grade of the landscape area to allow for passage of sediment.

Small amounts of hand placed rip-rap can be used on the LID facility side of the curb cut opening to reduce the potential for erosion in landscaped areas.

Example of standard curb cut detail in Best Practice chapter, page 39.
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The sidewalk addition conveys stormwater a greater distance, and can reduce the potential for erosion behind the curb or close to the paved surface.

Openings should be at least 18 inches wide, and sidewings can be parallel or tapered.

Locate openings at low points and space them based on amount of water being received along curb, and the area available for detention, infiltration, and access to overflow drains.

Sidewings work well to guide stormwater greater distances and with stormwater facilities that have steep side slopes.

Slope the bottom of the curb cut and trench toward the landscape area. The slope should be flat enough to keep flow velocities low and steep enough to keep sediment moving (between 1% and 5% slope).

A drop in grade should occur between the curb cut entry point and the finished grade of the landscape area to allow for passage of sediment.

Small amounts of hand placed rip-rap can be used outside the curb cut opening to reduce the potential for erosion in landscaped areas.

*Regularly clear curb cuts and sidewings of any debris and sediment that prevents the free flow of stormwater into LID facility (1-2 times per year and after storm events).*

*Periodically check rip rap areas for signs of erosion damage. Repair and reinforce as necessary (annually and after storm events).*
Grates allow stormwater to pass through while proving an accrossing pedestrian route.

**Grated Curb Cut**

**Functions**
- Flow Control
- Filtration
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Retention
- Treatment
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design
- Innovation
- Education
- Heat-Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

**Benefits**
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Residential Building
- Parking Shading

**Location**

**Description**
- Grated curb cuts allow stormwater to be conveyed under a pedestrian walkway. Curb-cut openings are described in previous sections to allow stormwater from impervious surfaces to flow into a landscaped area.
- The grated curb cut is a useful tool for urban areas where there is heavy pedestrian traffic and the need for handicap accessible routes adjacent to streets and parking areas.
- Grated curb cuts should only be used where there is not enough vertical distance to install a scupper. Where they are used, only decorative heavy duty, accessible, precast gratings should be permitted.

**Installation**
- The grated curb cut opening should ideally be 18 inches wide, enough to minimize the potential for clogging.
- Grates should be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and have adequate slip resistance.
- Grates should be anchored in a way that deters removal or theft.
- A drop in grade should occur between the grated curb cut channel and the finish grade of the landscaped area to allow for the passage of sediment. Permanent or temporary erosion control may be necessary where concentrated runoff from the channel is deposited into the landscaped area.

**Maintenance**
- Regularly clear grated curb cuts of debris and sediment that may prevent the free flow of stormwater (1-2 times per year and after storm events).
- Periodically check for damage to grate and structural support system that may cause ponding of water or impede accessible pedestrian routes.
- It may be necessary to remove grates to clear sediment and debris.

Footnote: #4
Description

- Sediment removal poses a considerable challenge in the maintenance of green infrastructure sites. In the arid Southwest, high proportions of bare soil are common, resulting in high rates of erosion and sedimentation. Sediment capture can address this issue.
- Sediment catchments capture and collect sand and fine soils at the entrance to bioretention areas, removing them from stormwater and allowing periodic removal. Sediment removal can significantly extend the functional life of these features.

Installation

- Use sediment capture in areas where higher than normal sediment loads are expected.
- Excavate at least 12 inches from the inside of the curb cut, and at least 2 feet square by 8 inches deep. The capture device can either be open or covered with a grate.
- A concrete curb, or steel edge, several inches in height, may be used to separate the capture area from the adjacent landscape detention area or basin, and anchor the grate.
- A berm, several inches in height, may be used to separate the capture area from the adjacent landscape detention area or basin. Plant the berm with native groundcover plantings to stabilize it and allow it to filter stormwater pollutants.

Maintenance

- Check sediment capture device to ensure that the stormwater inlet does not become blocked (before and after rainy seasons and after large storm event).
- Regularly remove sediment from the bottom of the facility (frequency depends on sedimentation rates, but at least once a year).
- Check apron, slopes, edges, etc. for erosion and repair/reinforce as needed (annually and after storm events).
## Green Street - Concrete Flush Curb

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<tr>
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<td>Parking Shading Structure</td>
<td>Residential Building</td>
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### Description
- Concrete flush curbs allow stormwater to sheet drain into landscaped areas and stormwater facilities. Stormwater flow is distributed more evenly which reduces the potential for erosion and clogging along a pavement edge.

### Installation
- Top of concrete curb should be installed flush with the pavement surface, with allowances for subgrade compaction and future settlement.
- A drop in grade should occur between the top of the flush curb and the finished grade of the landscaped area to allow for passage of sediment and debris to drop out.
- Utilize temporary erosion control measures when seeding or planting adjacent areas to reduce the potential for erosion.
- A wider surface area and contrasting color for the flush curb provides an important visual cue when used on roads, driveways and bicycle paths.
- This tool will be considered on a case by case basis for street rights-of-way, per Mesa’s Suburban Ranch Street Detail.

### Maintenance
- Check the flush curb for signs of damage or settlement causing ponding or concentration of stormwater runoff.
- Check landscape edge condition for signs of rilling or erosion and repair or reinforce as needed (annually).
- Remove sediment and debris from landscape area outside of flush curb that may cause water to pond or backup.

Footnote: #6
Wheelstop Curbs are formed sections of curb with gaps between them. They allow stormwater from adjacent impervious surfaces, like parking lots, to flow into adjacent planting areas.

- In flush, or no curb parking areas, poured-in-place wheelstop curbs can be used to define openings and protect infiltration and planting areas.

**Description**

**Installation**

- Space poured-in-place wheel stop curbs as needed for parking/traffic conditions while allowing water to flow into vegetated areas.
- Poured-in-place wheel stop curbs are most common in parking lot applications, but they can also be applied in certain street conditions.
- Provide a minimum of 6 inches of space between the poured-in-place wheelstop curb edge and edge of asphalt paving to provide structural support for the wheel stop.
- Securely anchor poured-in-place wheelstop curbs using foundations or other support to ensure that they resist vehicle impact and overturning.
- A concrete flush curb is advised along the edge of pavement for structural support of poured-in-place wheel stop curbs and visual demarcation of parking area or driveway edge.

**Maintenance**

- Poured-in-place wheelstop curbs have similar maintenance requirements as other poured concrete curbs. Unless they are firmly anchored they can be dislodged creating unsightly and dangerous conditions. They should be check regularly for cracking and settlement and repaired or replaced as necessary.
Vegetated Swale - Meandering or Linear

Description
- Vegetated swales are stormwater runoff conveyance systems that provide an alternative to piped storm sewers.
- They can absorb low flows and direct runoff from heavy rains to storm sewer inlets or directly to surface waters.
- Vegetated swales improve water quality by enhancing infiltration of the first flush of stormwater runoff and promoting infiltration of storm flows they convey.
- Costs vary greatly depending on size, plant materials, and site considerations. Vegetated swales are generally less expensive when used in place of underground piping.

Installation
- Deep-rooted native plants are preferred to promote water infiltration and reduce erosion and maintenance requirements.
- Evaluate site soil conditions. Ideally soil infiltration rates should be greater than one-half inch per hour. Soil Amendments may be needed to achieve ideal infiltration rates.
- A meandering or linear alignment is preferred, with side slopes that do not exceed 4:1. Slopes adjacent to walkways or accessible hardscape areas should not exceed 6:1. In suburban contexts, a meandering installation should be used. Linear installations are appropriate in urban contexts.
- Refer to building codes for maximum depths allowed without a guard rail requirement. In any case, a vertical drop of more than 30 inches will require a guard rail installation.
- Current engineering standards require all swales that detain stormwater use a guard rail system. Linear installations are appropriate in urban contexts.

Maintenance
- Vegetation in the swale will require regular maintenance such as removal of debris and dead branches, and occasional pruning.
- Supplemental irrigation may be required to maintain healthy landscape plants.
- Removal of sediment and regrading will be necessary to maintain the swale shape and volume over time. As with plant waste, sediment should be removed and disposed of properly.

Footnote: #7
### Vegetated Swale – Restored Wash

**Functions**
- Flow Control
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Treatment

**Benefits**
- Shade
- Recreation
- Design Innovation
- Education
- Heat-Island Relief
- Reduction of Impact on Infrastructure

**Location**
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Parking Shading
- Residential Building

### Description
- The natural Sonoran Desert consists of washes that flood infrequently yet allow established native riparian plants to flourish.
- Wash restoration follows natural drainage patterns and supports a healthy naturalistic landscape palette, requiring little or no supplemental irrigation.
- Restored washes provide natural beauty, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities that are valuable to city residents.
- Restoring washes recreates riparian systems while accommodating flood protection.

### Installation
- Channel alignments and side slopes must be designed in close coordination with civil engineers to ensure that they convey stormwater while minimizing erosion damage.
- Employ erosion control and channel stabilization techniques that encourage upland and riparian vegetation to establish over time.
- Provide access for regular inspection and maintenance efforts.

### Maintenance
- Responsive and well-timed maintenance activities are critical to the success of any ecosystem restoration project, particularly within the first 5 years after construction, during initial plant establishment. This time period is referred to as the short-term maintenance period. During this time, plants are most susceptible to drought, competition by weeds and herbivory (browsing by wildlife), all of which can influence the overall success of a project.
- Short-term site maintenance includes supplemental planting and seeding, checking and repairing irrigation lines, weed and erosion control, and remedying mosquito problems.
- The irrigation system should be designed so that it can be turned off after a 2-3 year plant establishment period.
- Long-term maintenance activities include repairing erosion, continued weed control, thinning invasive species such as desert broom and controlling mosquitoes.
- Restored washes have unique maintenance needs due to native and riparian vegetation and the potential for soil erosion. These areas must have a maintenance plan executed by experienced professionals.

Footnote: #8

Restored washes maintain hydrology, reducing infrastructure costs.
Bioretention areas detain stormwater while enhancing the landscape.

Description

- Bioretention basins are shallow depressions in the landscape that typically include plants and a mulch layer or ground cover. Porous soils allow stormwater to infiltrate and supply plants with needed water.
- In addition to increased groundwater recharge, bioretention basins can improve water quality during smaller, more frequent storm events. In addition to removing sediments coming off paved areas, pollutants can also be removed through absorption into plantings and evaporation.
- Bioretention basin, can be used in residential settings, often referred to as rain gardens, to accept runoff from a roof or other impervious surface.

Installation

- Creative shaping and planting of bioretention basins can utilize soil excavated from the basin to accommodate sloping berms.
- Adding hand placed stones where stormwater enters the basin from a curb cut, pipe or downspout can help dissipate concentrated flows and reduce erosion.
- Vegetation should be selected based on local microclimate and soil conditions. Plants should be set in the ground so the surface soil is level with the bottom of the basin. Once the plants are installed, the area should be mulched to retain soil moisture and reduce erosion.

Maintenance

- Plantings should get regular adequate supplemental irrigation until fully established (normally two full growing seasons). Maintain landscaped areas including pruning shrubs to remove dead material and encourage new growth. The roots of healthy vegetation will improve the function of the bioretention basin/rain garden.
- Regularly check for erosion, remove sediment and debris (vegetative litter as well as trash).
- Long-term maintenance activities include repairing erosion, continued weed control, thinning invasive species such as desert broom and controlling mosquitoes.

Footnote: #9
Bioretention cells fit into constrained urban site.

**Description**

- Bioretention cells are shallow depressions with a designed soil mix and plants adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. These are used in more urban conditions and where subsoils are porous and allow infiltration into the subgrade.
- Bioretention cells capture and infiltrate stormwater into the ground below the cell and have an overflow that carries excess stormwater to a discharge point.
- Bioretention cells that do not infiltrate stormwater into the ground and include an underdrain, are called bioretention planters.

**Installation**

- Bioretention cell bottoms should be relatively flat and not lined. The bottom surface should be loosened several inches deep prior to placing the bioretention soil mix. The cell bottom area should be designed based on the ability of the soil to freely drain into the subgrade.
- Stormwater enters the bioretention cell by surface flow or pipe inlet. A pre-settling area can be a rock or vegetated sediment capture area designed to protect the bioretention cell by slowing incoming flows at the point of entry.
- A minimum depth of specially graded soil is necessary for the proper function of a bioretention cell.
- An appropriate surface mulch layer should be selected to reduce weed establishment, regulate soil moisture and temperature, and add organic matter to the soil.

**Benefits**

- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreational
- Aesthetics
- Design Innovation
- Education
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

**Location**

- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Nonresidential Building
- Residential Building

**Maintenance**

- Regularly check bioretention cells for blockages from debris and sediment. Remove sediment and debris and dispose of properly.
- Maintain landscape by replacing dead vegetation, pruning healthy vegetation and removing weeds regularly. Do not use herbicides in stormwater facilities.
- Bioretention soil may need to be replaced if soil percolation rates fall below the design flow capacity. Check percolation rates if bioretention cells are not draining within 36 hours, or have been contaminated by sediment inflows.

**Footnote: #10**

- Stormwater ponding above the cell provides storage for storm flows, settles out particulates such as sediment, and provides for uptake and filtering of pollutants within the cell.
- Plants used must be drought tolerant, and suitable for occasional saturation.
- Overflow for the bioretention cell should transport excess stormwater to an approved discharge point.
Bioretention planters are landscape planters that also store stormwater in porous planting soils and above the soil surface. Planters may be raised above ground or can be set flush with or even below the ground surface. They capture runoff from downspouts or overflow from rain barrels. There are several types of bioretention planters including:
- Structural soils or Silva Cells.
- Raised flow-through planter boxes.
- In-ground planter boxes.
Like bioretention swales and rain gardens, planter boxes sustain healthy plants with a minimum of supplemental irrigation, while improving the quality of stormwater runoff and reducing runoff volume.

### Installation
- Calculate stormwater volume capacity by using the soil volume and pore space in each planter.
- Planters should be installed on a flat subgrade and surface grade to maximize storage.
- Planting mix soil should be carefully selected and tested to provide proper physical composition, adequate drainage and organic matter to support designated plantings. Planting soil should be at least 18” deep; contain no more than 20% compost and be a desert-appropriate mix.

Bioretention planters provide stormwater storage and promote healthy growth of trees and plants.

### Maintenance
- Bioretention planters should be checked annually to maintain optimum storage, and drainage functions.
- Following storm events, planters should be inspected to ensure that standing water is not present in the planter for more than 36 hours.
- Monitor health of vegetation and maintain them using best landscape maintenance practices. Prune and replace plants as necessary.
- Herbicides should not be used in bioretention planters.
- Special consideration should be taken when replanting in bioretention planters that have structured soils or Silva Cells.
**Permeable Paving - Stabilized Aggregate**

### Functions
- Flow Control
- Filtration
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Treatment

### Benefits
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design
- Education
- Heat Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

### Location
- Street Buffer
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parking Shading
- Residential Building

### Description
- Stabilized aggregate is a mixture of compacted stone aggregate and a binder, used to pave driveways, footpaths and other accessible landscape areas.
- Unlike traditional paving it allows surface water to penetrate into the subgrade, reducing (or eliminating) runoff, and providing significant storage volume.
- Stabilized aggregate should be used in areas that do not have high volumes of vehicular traffic, are used intermittently for event parking or fire lanes. A compacted and graded sub-base, consisting of porous stone layers, can be utilized for additional storage.

### Installation
- Stabilized aggregate paving requires a well compacted base. Crushed rock is placed in layers that allow rapid infiltration of surface water.
- The surface layer can consist of a variety of colored and textured aggregates designed to meet aesthetic choices and required flow characteristics. Binders can be mixed on site or remotely and applied by hand or with specially designed mixing equipment depending on design requirements.
- The finished surface should be relatively flat (less than 2% slope) and screeded to form a smooth, level surface without loose stones.

### Maintenance
- Stabilized aggregate should be checked regularly for signs of settlement, fissuring or ponding. Sediment can clog pores and reduce its effectiveness for stormwater absorption.
- Repair damaged or cracked sections immediately as they occur.
- Regular maintenance is essential to maintain the functionality of the pavement and drainage system.

Footnote: #12

**Stabilized aggregate reduces storm runoff from low-traffic paving areas.**
PERMEABLE PAVING – POROUS ASPHALT

Functions
- Flow Control
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Retention
- Treatment
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design Innovation
- Education
- Heat-Island Relief

Benefits
- Flow Control
- Filtration
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Retention
- Treatment
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design Innovation
- Education
- Heat-Island Relief

Location
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Parking Shading Structure
- Residential Building
- Nonresidential Building

Description
- Porous asphalt consists of standard asphalt pavement in which the fines have been screened and removed, creating void spaces that make it highly permeable to water.
- Porous asphalt reduces the velocity and volume of stormwater runoff delivered into storm sewer systems and can reduce contaminants in runoff prior to its discharge to the storm sewer system.
- Porous asphalt should be used in areas that do not have high volumes of traffic, or are used intermittently for event parking or fire lanes. A compacted and graded sub-base, consisting of porous stone layers, can be utilized for stormwater storage.

Installation
- The porous asphalt mix must be designed and installed by an experienced contractor. Poor materials and/or installation can result in a higher risk of failure.
- The design for porous asphalt consists of several layers, including a compacted sub-base, geotextile, a reservoir stone aggregate, a filter and surfacing, applied with a paving spreader and roller.

Maintenance
- Porous asphalt is normally set flush with adjacent pavements or grades, and contained by concrete curbs or other types of edging to ensure the structural stability of edges.
- The subgrade reservoir should allow for drainage to the stormwater system, especially if the subgrade does not allow adequate infiltration. Underdrain tile or piping is sometimes necessary to achieve proper drainage.

- Maintenance includes the regular vacuuming of surface areas to remove sediment and minimize clogging. With regular maintenance porous asphalt can have a service life of at least 10 years.
- Porous asphalt should be checked periodically for settlement and cracking, and damaged areas repaired to match the original pavement design.

Footnote: #13
PERMEABLE PAVING - POROUS CONCRETE

Functions

- Flow Control
- Filtration
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Treatment
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design
- Innovation
- Education
- Heat Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

Benefits

- Flow Control
- Filtration
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Retention
- Treatment
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design
- Innovation
- Education
- Heat Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

Location

- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Parking Shading
- Nonresidential Building
- Residential Building

Description

- Single size aggregate, also know as porous concrete, consists of a special mix design with void spaces that make it highly permeable.
- Aggregates are normally screened to provide particles that can fall within narrow limits to ensure porosity.
- About 30% to 40% of the material is void space, and its permeability is often measured in hundreds of inches per hour.
- Porous concrete reduces the velocity and volume of stormwater runoff delivered into storm sewer system and can reduce contaminants in runoff prior to its discharge to the storm sewer system.

Installation

- The porous concrete mix must be designed and installed by an experienced contractor. Poor materials and/or installation can result in a higher risk of failure.
- The design for porous concrete consists of several layers, including a compacted sub-base, geotextile, a reservoir stone aggregate, and poured surfacing layer, formed with a screed finish.
- Porous concrete is normally set flush with adjacent pavements or grades.
- The subgrade reservoir should allow for drainage to the stormwater system through underdrain tile or piping, especially if the subgrade does not allow adequate infiltration. Underdrain tile or piping is sometimes necessary to achieve proper drainage.

Maintenance

- Maintenance includes the regular vacuuming of surface areas to remove sediment and minimize clogging. With regular maintenance, porous concrete can have a service life of at least 20 years.
- Porous concrete should be checked periodically for settlement and cracking, and damaged areas repaired to match the original pavement design.

Footnote: #14
Permeable Paving - Structural Grids

**Functions**
- Flow Control
- Detention
- Retention
- Infiltration
- Treatment

**Benefits**
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design Innovation
- Heat-Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

**Location**
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Parking Shading Structure
- Residential Building
- Nonresidential Building

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**Description**
- Structural Grid Systems, also referred to as geocells, consist of plastic, concrete or metal interlocking units that allow water to infiltrate through large openings filled with aggregate stone, or topsoil and turf grass. “Grasscrete” products are one type of structural grid system.
- Structural grid systems can be used in areas that can carry low volumes of traffic, or are used intermittently for event parking or fire lanes. A compacted and graded permeable sub-base, consisting of porous stone or soil layers, provides stormwater storage and landscape cover.

**Installation**
- Existing soils are removed to a depth that accommodates the desired stormwater storage volume. Compact the subgrade, install geotextile fabric, and install drainage filter stone to desired grade.
- Install edge retention and place bedding layer over the geotextile. The structural grid is then placed on the screed bedding layer so that the paver cells sit flat on the surface.
- For grass surfaces, pavers are filled with a topsoil root zone mix to finished grade prior to implementing a normal seeding or sodding, fertilizing and watering program.
- For a gravel surface, angular gravel or aggregate is installed in lieu of topsoil and sod (or seed).

**Maintenance**
- For turf finishes, keep traffic off of geogrid surface until sod or seed has had adequate time to establish. Maintain using landscape maintenance best practices for turfgrass areas.
- Regularly check for dislodged, settled or damaged grid cells, and remove and replace as required. Replenish the top course sod or aggregate as needed.

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Footnote: #15

Structural grid paving reduces runoff in parking areas and firelanes.
Permeability Paving - Permeable Pavers

**Functions**
- Flow Control
- Filtration
- Detention
- Infiltration
- Retention
- Treatment

**Benefits**
- Shade
- Hospital
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design
- Education
- Heat Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

**Location**
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking island
- Driveway
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Residential Building
- Nonresidential Building

Permeable paving is an attractive way to provide runoff reduction in paving and pedestrian areas.

**Description**
- Permeable pavers are comprised of precast concrete unit pavers designed to be set on a compacted base and highly permeable setting bed with joints filled with sand or fine gravel.
- Water enters the joints between the unit pavers and flows through an open-graded base, to infiltrate into the subgrade or be carried out into the storm system via underdrain piping.
- The void spaces in the subbase store water and infiltrate it back into the subgrade, or allow it to evaporate providing local air cooling.
- The sand joints provide surface permeability and helps filter stormwater sediments and pollutants.

**Installation**
- A stable compacted subbase is essential for any flexible pavement such as porous pavers. The depth of rock and gravel must be capable of holding rainwater long enough for the soil underneath to absorb it.
- Excavate to required subgrade depth, compact subsoil using a roller or vibratory compactor, and install geotextile fabric.
- Prepare base material and compact using a roller or compactor. Install the crushed rock in separate layers and recompact. Install bedding layer and then paving stones with edge restraints.

**Maintenance**
- Inspect pavers regularly for settlement and broken pavers. Replace broken pavers immediately to prevent structural instability. Pavers can be removed individually and replaced during utility work.
- Do not pressure wash concrete unit pavers. Sweeping and vacuuming should be performed when paver areas are dry.
- Although a more expensive option for permeable pavement, concrete unit pavers are the most effective at reducing runoff and are often the most aesthetically pleasing option.

Footnote: #16
**Description**

- Constructed wetlands for water treatment can be complex, integrated systems of water, plants, animals, microorganisms, and the environment.
- Wetlands provide a number of functions and values including: water quality improvements, flood storage and reducing stormwater surface runoff, cycling of nutrients and other materials, creation of wildlife habitat, recreation, education and research, aesthetics and landscape enhancement.
- Under certain conditions, constructed wetlands can be used to mitigate wetland impacts elsewhere and be traded in a wetlands mitigation bank.

**Installation**

- Constructed wetlands are generally built on uplands and outside floodplains or floodways in order to avoid damage to natural wetlands and other aquatic resources.
- Wetlands are constructed by excavating, backfilling, grading, diking and installing water control structures to establish desired hydraulic flow patterns.
- If the site has highly permeable soils, an impervious, compacted clay liner is usually installed and the original soil placed over the liner.

**Maintenance**

- Constructed wetlands must have a maintenance plan and be maintained by an experienced professional. Privately owned facilities often require an easement, deed restriction, or other legal measure to prevent neglect or removal.
- During the first growing season, vegetation should be inspected every 2 to 3 weeks. Inspections should access the vegetation, erosion, flow channelization, bank stability, inlet/outlet conditions, and sediment/debris accumulation.
- Once established, properly designed and installed constructed wetlands should require little maintenance. They should be inspected at least biannually and after major storms.

Footnote: #17

**Constructed Wetlands**

- Location: Street Buffer, Pedestrian Path, Street Median, Driveway, Parking Island, Parking Lot, Residential Landscape, Nonresidential Landscape, Parks & Open Space, Nonresidential Building, Residential Building.

Constructed wetlands provide aesthetic and educational benefits while they utilize plants to remove contaminants and provide wildlife habitat.
INfiltration & Underdrains

**Functions**
- Flow Control
- Detention
- Retention
- Treatment

**Benefits**
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Design
- Education
- Heat Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure

**Location**
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Parking Shading

**Description**
- Infiltration drainfields are used to store larger amounts of onsite stormwater, allowing it to infiltrate into subsoils and recharge groundwater.
- Drainfields supplement other LID tools to help control large runoff events, and reduce impacts on downstream infrastructure.
- A drainfield system is normally comprised of a pre-filtration structure, a manifold system, and underdrain pipes installed in porous stone bedding.

**Installation**
- Infiltration drainfields are not generally used on slopes greater than 5 percent, and work best when the site is as flat as possible. The infiltration rate below the bottom of the stone reservoir should be at least 1/2 inch per hour.
- Drainage volumes and areas are highly variable. System design should be performed by a licensed engineer. Drainage time for the design storm ranges from a minimum of 12 hours to a maximum of 72 hours, with the ideal being 24 hours.
- Excavate and grade to minimize soil compaction. Divert stormwater runoff away from site before and during construction. A typical infiltration cross section consists of a graded stone reservoir consisting of coarse stone (washed), and sand filters.

**Maintenance**
- Pre-filtration is often used to treat runoff from contributing areas before it reaches the drainfield.
- A dispersion manifold is placed in the upper portions of the infiltration drainfield to evenly distribute stormwater runoff over the largest possible area.
- The pre-filtration facility should be checked regularly, and after major storm events, for debris and sediment that might affect system function.
- The inlet and outlet pipes should be inspected regularly for debris and clogging.
- Sediment should be cleaned out when it depletes more than 10 percent of system capacity.

Drainfields provide for a large volume of stormwater storage and promote groundwater recharge.

Footnote: #18
Green roofs store and utilize stormwater to reduce runoff from building sites.

Description

- A green roof or Xeriscape living roof is when the roof of a building or structure is at least partially covered with a growing medium and vegetation planted over a waterproofing membrane. It may also include a root barrier, drainage mat and irrigation system.
- There are two types of green roofs: Intensive and Extensive. The difference is in the depth of soil and the ability to support simple groundcover planting (intensive) versus larger materials such as trees and shrubs (extensive).
- Green roofs provide stormwater storage and absorption, reduce runoff from buildings, and insulate buildings from solar gain and heat loss.

Maintenance

- Vegetation will require supplemental irrigation and only very hardy plants should be used in our desert environment. Depending on whether the green roof is extensive or intensive, required plant maintenance will range from two to three yearly inspections to check for weeds or damage, to weekly visits for irrigation, pruning, and replanting.
- Both plant maintenance and maintenance of the waterproofing membrane are required.
- To ensure continuity in the warranty and the maintenance requirements, the building architect, structural engineer and/or owner should specify and maintain everything up to and including the waterproof membrane. The greenroof designer and installer is only responsible for those items above the waterproof membrane, including soils, drainage and plantings.

Footnote: #19

Access to the green roof site is crucial - not only for installation and maintenance, but also for delivery of materials, soil and plants.

Installation

- The intended function of a green roof will have a significant effect on its design.
- The height of the roof above grade, its exposure to wind, orientation to the sun and shading by surrounding buildings will all impact types of materials used and maintenance requirements. Views to and from the roof will also determine where elements are located for maximum effect.
- Professionals must be consulted for the design and construction of the green roof. A qualified architect, structural engineer, landscape architect and facility maintenance personnel are critical to the success of a green roof project.
**Description**

- Downspout disconnection is the practice of directing rainwater from the rooftop into a landscaped yard instead of into a piped system or into the street.
- Downspouts can direct stormwater to landscape areas where it is stored and used to irrigate landscape plants or infiltrate into the ground.

**Installation**

- Direct downspout extensions away from building foundations or adjacent properties to avoid structural damage or nuisance flooding.
- Firmly anchored splash blocks or hand placed rock can be installed to direct downspout drainage to landscaped areas.
- Ensure that the offsite overflow is sufficiently lower than the building floor elevation to reduce the potential for building flooding.

**Maintenance**

- Clean gutter at least twice a year, and more often if there are overhanging trees. Make sure gutters are pitched to direct water to downspouts.
- Caulk leaks and holes. Make sure roof flashing directs water into the gutters. Look for low spots or sagging areas along the gutter line and repair with spikes or place new hangers as needed.
- Check and clear elbows or bends in downspouts to prevent clogging. Each elbow or section of the downspout should funnel into the one below it. All parts should be securely fastened together.
- Maintain landscaping so that there is positive drainage away from all structures. Don’t build up grade, soils, groundcover mulches, or other materials near the building that might inhibit positive drainage.
Rainwater Harvesting - Cisterns Above Ground

**Description**
- An aboveground rainwater harvesting system captures stormwater runoff, often from a rooftop, and stores the water for later use.
- A rainwater harvesting system consists of four main components including a gutter system that collects runoff from the rooftop and directs it into the cistern, a cistern that stores runoff for later use, an overflow pipe that allows excess runoff to leave the cistern in a controlled manner, and an outlet pipe, sometimes connected to a pump, that draws water from the bottom of the cistern for irrigation use.

**Installation**
- The most commonly available cisterns are made of plastic, fiberglass, or galvanized metal. The size of the rainwater cistern can have the greatest impact on system cost and performance. Several factors must be considered, including contributing rooftop area, rainfall patterns and anticipated usage.
- The primary constraint in selecting a cistern location is the position of the gutter downspouts. It is generally easiest and most cost effective to place the cistern near an existing downspout. When possible, locate the cistern near the site where water will be used.
- A building, stone or gravel backfill or a poured concrete pad, may be required to provide structural support to an aboveground cistern.

**Benefits**
- Shade
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Design Innovation
- Education
- Heat-Island Relief
- Reduce Impact on Infrastructure
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Parking Shading Structure

**Location**
- Street Buffer
- Pedestrian Path
- Street Median
- Driveway
- Parking Island
- Parking Lot
- Residential Landscape
- Nonresidential Landscape
- Parks & Open Space
- Parking Shading Structure

**Maintenance**
- Some type of overflow or bypass is required to release water when the cistern has reached its capacity.
- To draw water from the cistern, some type of faucet or outlet pipe must be installed.
- An existing gutter system can be easily modified to direct rainwater into a cistern.

- Regularly check the gutters to make sure debris is not entering the rainwater harvesting system.
- Inspect the screens annually to make sure debris is not collecting on the surface and that there are not holes allowing mosquitoes or other insects to enter the cistern.
- Clean the inside of the cistern twice a year to prevent buildup of debris. Clean out debris twice a year, preferably prior to the beginning of each rainy season.
- Cisterns should be fully enclosed or have screens to prevent mosquito breeding.
RAINWATER HARVESTING - CISTERNS BELOW GROUND

Description

- A system of gutters and downspouts directs the rainwater collected by the roof to an underground storage cistern. The underground cistern may be preferable where surface space is limited.
- The cistern may be constructed of various materials including cinder blocks, reinforced concrete, fiberglass or steel.
- The cistern can supply water to the landscape through a standard pump and pressurized plumbing system.

Installation

- The storage capacity of a rainwater cistern depends on several factors, including the amount of rainfall available for use, the roof-catchment area available for collecting rainfall, the daily water requirements of the household and costs.
- The roof catchment area to be used as the collection surface is usually predetermined by the size of the existing structures and roof area. However, when planning a rainwater collection system from the ground up, the size of the catchment can be designed to suit domestic water needs.
- Cisterns should be located as close as possible to the building or where the water is to be used. They may be incorporated into building structures, such as in basements or under porches. Foundation walls can be used for structural support as well as for containment of stored rainwater.

Maintenance

- Cisterns can be constructed from a variety of materials including reinforced concrete, cinder blocks, brick or stone set with mortar and plastered with cement on the inside, ready-made steel tanks, precast concrete tanks, and fiberglass. Cast-in-place reinforced concrete is often the best option for underground cisterns.
- Using a first-flush diverter or sediment trap will reduce sediment inputs into the cistern.
- Check gutter connections every three to four months and after intense rainfall to check for leaking or damage. Clean gutters of leaves and debris as needed and at least prior to each rainy season.
- Maintain pumps or filters used in the rainwater harvesting system in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

• A system of gutters and downspouts directs the rainwater collected by the roof to an underground storage cistern. The underground cistern may be preferable where surface space is limited.

• The cistern may be constructed of various materials including cinder blocks, reinforced concrete, fiberglass or steel.

• The cistern can supply water to the landscape through a standard pump and pressurized plumbing system.

Footnote: #22
“Curb cuts allow stormwater from rain events to collect in landscape areas before they enter drain inlets, lowering peak and total runoff in stormwater systems downstream.”
BEST PRACTICES
Current Practice

Catch Basins are normally located at low points in a paved gutter, transferring surface stormwater runoff from streets and parking areas into subgrade pipes, where they are conveyed to outlets at basins, washes or rivers.

Catch Basins often include a sump at the bottom which collects sediment and trash and requires regular maintenance to prevent clogging. Since Catch Basins are concrete structures, they convey nearly 100% of the runoff that enters them into the piped stormwater system.
**BEST PRACTICE - BIORETENTION CELL**

**Recommended LID Option**

Bioretention Cells allow stormwater to collect in landscape areas and only overtop the basin through the grate when stormwater reaches a certain level. This allows stormwater to infiltrate in the landscape area, supporting vegetation and reducing the need for supplemental irrigation.

Sediment and trash are allowed to settle out in the recessed landscape areas in a basin, where they are visible and can be easily removed by maintenance personnel.

![A Bioretention Cell with sloped grate and sediment capture in landscaped area](image)

![Bioretention Cell Detail](image)
Current Practice

Impervious (not porous) surfaces proliferate in urbanized areas, and are the largest contributor to peak stormwater runoff during storm events.

More than 90% of stormwater that lands on the surface of a rooftop, paved street or parking area, will run off into storm sewers or adjacent properties, often causing erosion and flooding in larger storm events.

To mitigate this potential impact, property owners for new developments are normally required to detain the stormwater resulting from a 100-year rain event on site, often in unattractive basins or expensive storage tanks.
Permeable paving has many potential applications, especially in lower traffic areas, such as sidewalks, parking areas, parallel or diagonal parking strips, alley, and driveways.

There are several types of permeable pavements, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. Porous pavers (as shown) have a proven track record, adding aesthetic value while providing the ability to convey and store most storm events into a subgrade stone storage layer. Porous asphalt and concrete have been used in limited applications, and must be carefully selected, mixed and regularly cleaned to be successful.

Permeable Pavement can capture most stormwater runoff.

Permeable Pavement Detail
**Current Practice**

Raised curbs work with gutters to concentrate and convey stormwater from one impervious surface to another. They are an important part of traditional stormwater infrastructure design, and in many locations curb and gutter systems are the only means of conveying stormwater into downstream areas.

Curbs also provide an important physical and visual cue for drivers to keep vehicles on the road or parking area, and out of protected areas such as sidewalks and planting areas.
Recommended LID Option

Curb Cuts in normal raised curbs provide conveyance routes for stormwater runoff to enter landscaped areas. Often located at low points in a street or parking area, curb cuts allow stormwater from rain events to collect in landscape areas before they enter drain inlets, lowering peak and total runoff in stormwater systems downstream.

Stormwater runoff into landscape areas provides the added benefits of collecting sediment and sustaining vegetation growth, including street trees and native desert plantings, while reducing irrigation demand from potable water sources.

A Standard Curb Cut allows runoff to enter a lower landscaped area.
Curbs, gutters and drain inlets are traditional ways to convey surface stormwater from paved impervious surfaces to a below grade piped system, where stormwater runoff is handled.

Standard “gray infrastructure” practices such as this treat stormwater as wastewater, to be efficiently moved, along with sediments and pollutants, from its source to an outfall some distance away.
**BEST PRACTICE - GRATED CURB CUTS**

**Recommended LID Option**

Grated Curb Cuts convey surface stormwater into landscape areas, where smaller events can be detained, sediments and pollutants captured, and vegetation sustained by the supplemental water received when it rains.

Grated Curb Cuts are fabricated of poured-in-place concrete and include a removable precast or ornamental metal grate at the surface grade to allow for pedestrian traffic. Where the drop-off is greater than might be expected at the back of the sidewalk, a low raised curb can be added to keep pedestrians and wheelchairs on the sidewalk.

A Grated Curb Cuts conveys stormwater across a sidewalk

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**Grated Curb Cut Detail (Section)**

**Grated Curb Cut Detail (Plan)**

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LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT
Street trees are a valuable amenity in our desert climate, providing cooling shade, pedestrian scale and aesthetics that greatly increases the attractiveness of public streets, shopping areas, plazas, courtyards and parking areas.

Conventional street planting practices restrict the area for tree roots to expand, limiting a tree’s ability to grow to its full mature size. Root zones are often limited by highly compacted soils below adjacent pavements, and the ability of irrigation systems to provide enough water to support their growth over time.

The growth potential and lifespan of trees can be restricted by standard tree planters due to impervious surfaces and compacted subgrades.
Recent innovations in structural soils and Silva Cells permit urban street trees to be placed in subgrade structures that expand their roots zones below adjacent pavements. Since trees will only grow as large as their roots can expand, and since ample soil nutrients, oxygen and water are necessary to support that growth. Bioretention Planters support sustained growth of healthier trees. As an added benefit larger subsoil areas, with well-drained soils and healthy root systems, can accommodate increased absorption of stormwater runoff and use the natural uptake and transpiration of the tree.
Stormwater from impervious building roof areas are often conveyed directly to the street or stormwater system.

Landscaped areas around buildings normally use potable water to irrigate vegetation that will not otherwise survive in our desert environment.

Current Practice

Landscapes do not always take advantage of the water available from stormwater runoff from adjacent impervious surface such as rooftops, sidewalks and driveways.
BEST PRACTICE - DISCONNECTED DOWNSPOUTS

Recommended LID Option

Rooftop stormwater can be conveyed to planted areas in adjacent landscapes by disconnecting downspouts, or by piping directly into Bioretention Planters as shown in the detail below.

As an added benefit, well-drained soils and healthy root systems can accommodate increased capacity of stormwater runoff into a subgrade reservoir, which can absorb it using the natural uptake and transpiration of trees, and infiltration into subsoils.

Disconnected Downspouts, with or without subgrade connections supplement irrigation of landscape planters.

Disconnected Downspout to Bioretention Planter Detail (Plan)
Disconnected Downspout to Bioretention Planter Detail (Section)

Footnote: #25
“The bioswale provides much needed green space and supports trees whose shade also helps mitigate the heat island effect in this urban environment.”
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
CASE STUDY - TAYLOR MALL

CITY OF PHOENIX AND ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Data
• Location: Taylor Street and 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ
• Size: 100,000 SF, or approximately 2 acres
• Owner: City of Phoenix
• Completed: September, 2007

Project Specifications
• At the heart of the downtown ASU campus, this project serves as an outdoor classroom for students wanting to learn about current green building techniques. Its use of permeable pavement surfaces, water harvesting techniques, local and native materials, and its demonstrated reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade, are examples of these techniques. The project also uses recycled air conditioner condensate (stored in a cistern) to create an oasis effect, making water visible and celebrating its importance in our arid climate, and supporting the beauty and diversity of Sonoran Desert vegetation.
• 2nd Street to 3rd Street: The existing street was removed and replaced with a narrower road with permeable paver parking bays. Curb cuts installed along the north side of the street collect street stormwater into a bioswale. The bioswale provides much needed green space and supports Palo Brea trees whose shade also helps mitigate the heat island effect in this urban environment.
• Central Ave to 1st Street: Previously completely covered with an asphalt parking lot, vehicle traffic was removed with the exception of fire and loading access. Impervious surfaces were reduced by using porous concrete, stabilized decomposed granite and unit pavers. A continuous bioswale through the project collects and distributes stormwater for reducing potable water use in the landscape.

Estimated Cost
• Estimated Cost of stormwater project: up to $5 million (Public funding: local)
• Related Information: Project covers 3 blocks of downtown Phoenix which spans from Central Avenue to 3rd Street. From Central to 1st Street, landscape cost approx. $850,000.; from 1st Street to 2nd Street: cost unknown; from 2nd Street to 3rd Street: approx. $750,000.

Performance Measures: 1. Stormwater reduction performance analysis: no data available, but would assume at least 50% of the stormwater is retained on site. 2. Community and economic benefits that have resulted from the project: as part of the new campus, this area has been completely renovated with the addition of student housing, renovated structures which now house classrooms, reduction of street width resulting in a pedestrian corridor which now links students and downtown visitors to adjacent entertainment avenues and a central park.

DESIGN FEATURES: The bioswale was inspired by the historic canals that once traversed this area just south of Taylor Street. Canals were integral to the setting of this region and were used to move and regulate water throughout the community. This project was an opportunity to re-envision the canals as stormwater and air conditioning condensate collection points from the adjacent structures for use in the landscape. Curb cuts were included along the street and sidewalk to collect stormwater. Air conditioner condensate is re-directed to a beautiful rectangular natural cast-in-place cistern. The water feature nourishes the landscape and provides a visual story of our connection to nature.

LID Practices Utilized
• Curb cuts
• Vegetated swale
• Permeable pavers
• Permeable paving
• Cistern

Footnote: #25
Chapter 4

Water features can harvest rainfall, making water visible and celebrating its importance in an arid climate.

Porous pavers and permeable pavement at the pedestrian walkway allows infiltration and reduces offsite runoff.

Grated curb cuts convey stormwater from pavement into planting areas.

Standard curb cuts open up planting areas to receive stormwater flow.
**CASE STUDY**

- **SCOTT AVENUE REVITALIZATION**

**SCOTT AVENUE, FROM BROADWAY TO 14TH STREET, TUCSON, AZ**

### Data

- **Location**: Scott Avenue, from Broadway to Cushing/14th Street
- **Size**: Three blocks; approximately 1/4 mile long
- **Owner**: City of Tucson Department of Transportation
- **Completed**: May, 2009

### Project Specifications

- The majority of the benefits are derived from the large number of trees included in the project that obtain some of their water needs from stormwater harvest basins and curb cuts.
- Sonoran Desert vegetation provides shade to the adjacent walkways and a reduction in the urban heat island effects. A portion of the Presidio Trail, an historic walking trail throughout downtown, was highlighted with glass aggregate pavers and solar powered paver lights.

### Estimated Cost

- Estimated construction: $37 million
- Funding Source: City of Tucson
- Maintenance: City of Tucson Downtown Partnership

### Summary

FINISHED PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Scott Avenue is an attractive, shady pedestrian scaled streetscape. Sidewalks are a comfortable 8’ wide minimum; they accommodate crowds attending the theater due to their spacious width and the tree canopies provide climate control. Landscape is lush but comprised of native materials. The natives have low water requirements which are supplemented by water harvesting practices which capture significant flows from rainfall events. New site furnishings include benches, bicycle racks, trash/recycling receptacles and drinking fountains. Solar powered art created a welcoming statement at the entrance to Scott Avenue. These gateway features illustrate through pictures and text the historic and cultural significance of Scott Avenue.

DESIGN FEATURES: Pedestrians were the focus of the design. The pavement section was narrowed from 55’ curb to curb, to a varied 22’ to 33’ width. This allows for wider sidewalks and pedestrian walkways. Water harvesting was an integral part of the design, not an add on. The harvesting principals supplemented the plant water requirements, but also mitigated storm events by decreasing water in the street. New, more comprehensive and energy efficient street and pedestrian lighting, fitted with white lighting for better color rendition was installed.

### LID Practices Utilized

- Vegetated swales
- Curb cuts
- Bioretention planters
- Native vegetation/canopy

Footnote: #26
Curb cuts at the street edge capture significant flows during rainfall events.

Arid LID landscape is comprised of native materials, such as contoured berms, groundcovers and native plants.

Sidewalks are comfortable as the mature tree canopies provide ample shade.
CASE STUDY
- TEMPE TRANSPORTATION CENTER

200 E 5TH STREET, TEMPE, AZ

Data

- Location: Tempe, AZ
- Size: up to 5 acres
- Owner: City of Tempe, Arizona
- Completed: 2008

Project Specifications

- The Transportation Center, Courtyard and Transit Center represent a confluence of transportation modes including light rail, bicycle, neighborhood and regional transit, and pedestrian. Located in the heart of Downtown Tempe, the transit center serves the light rail station, provides a bicycle valet and maintenance service, is within walking distance of Arizona State University and Downtown Tempe and provides access to regional bus routes and extensive neighborhood circulators. The building is certified LEED Platinum and includes a vegetated green roof. Stormwater is collected under the bus plazas for reuse to irrigate the roof and transit center plaza trees and plants.
- This project was an initiative by the City of Tempe to promote green building and infrastructure.
- It involved redevelopment of an existing 2-acre surface parking lot with minimal landscape.

Estimated Cost

- Estimated Cost: $200,000 (design)
- Publicly funded

Summary

Stormwater reduction performance analysis: 100% retention in underground storage tanks; approx. 20% siphoned off, filtered and stored for irrigation purposes. Local codes prohibit use of all the water: greywater system not allowed for irrigation use, even to the vegetated roof which has restricted access; stormwater retention must be fully drained within 36 hours per local codes even if underground.

Community and economic benefits that have resulted from the project: This project provides access to a light rail station by bus, pedestrian or bicycle; it has created 2 new businesses - a Bike Cellar and adjacent restaurant; it provides office space for city staff; leasable space on the third floor is available to private organizations; retail space is available for a restaurant or retail shop.

LID Practices Utilized

- Green roof
- Cistern
- Permeable pavers

Footnote: #27
Green roofs absorb rainwater, provides insulation and creates wildlife habitat. It also helps to lower adjacent air temperature, mitigating the heat island effect.

Native materials, used in urban forms, help create a gathering area for people using the Tempe Transit Center.

Native tree canopies provide cooling in the plaza area.

Shade structures at transit stations can harvest rainwater and use it to nourish a green wall.
CASE STUDY
- UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CAPLA

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, TUCSON, AZ

Data
- Location: 1040 N. Olive Road, UA campus
- Size: 0.21 Acres (9,066 sq. ft.)
- Owner: Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of University of Arizona CAPLA (College of Architecture + Planning + Landscape Architecture)
- Completed: 2007

Project Specifications
- CHALLENGE: CAPLA faculty wanted an interpretive learning experience with a range of materials. A fun oasis and attraction for existing and future students, and professors of the CAPLA program. Parking lot runoff all seemed to drain to future building entry space.
- SOLUTION: A new entry and garden/outdoor classroom to provide cleansing biosponge garden for adjacent runoff and discarded building water.
- PERFORMANCE MEASURES: 1. Use local materials. 2. Conserve water by totally integrating building mechanical systems waste water: roof runoff, drinking fountain greywater, university well ‘blow off’ (backwash from well’s sand filter) and HVAC condensate, into landscape. 3. Create sustainable livable space. 4. Reduce urban heat island (UHI) effect 5. Reduce flooding around building.

Estimated Cost
- Estimated Cost: $650,000 (planting, irrigation, lighting)
- CONSTRUCTION: Hardscape constructed for approx. $200,000.

Summary
FINISHED PROJECT DESCRIPTION: 1) Reclaimed 1.2 acres of parking lot to create a Sonoran Desert biotic community landscape; 2) Native fauna introduced (endangered fish and frogs) or immigrated (road runner; gray fox) have thrived; 3) Repopulation and active predation activities have been observed; 4) Establishment period (first 3-5 years) reduced potable water use by 83% (280,000 gallons annually); 5) After establishment, use of potable water should be eliminated; and 6) Reused brick and concrete, salvaged from the partial building demolition, to line the Desert Riparian channels.

DESIGN FEATURES: 1) Stormwater runoff is reduced significantly in the landscape; 2) Landscape fully integrated with building mechanical systems; 3) ET rates integrated into high efficiency drip irrigation system; 4) Significant terrestrial and aquatic habitat created; 5) Utilizes up to 250 gallons/day of well water backwash that previously went to stormwater drainage system; 6) High efficiency drip irrigation system is controlled by monitoring ET rates; and 7) 11,500 gallon water tank (7' diameter x 38' tall)

LID Practices Utilized
- Permeable pavement
- Disconnect impervious surfaces
- Cisterns or underground cisterns
- Native vegetation/canopy
- Infiltration techniques
- Use of condensate

Footnote: #28
A new entry and garden/outdoor classroom provide cleansing gardens for adjacent buildings and pavement runoff.

Stormwater runoff is reduced significantly because of the landscape and is fully integrated with building mechanical systems.

Pedestrian walkways provide shady comfort.
Citywide Slope Map

This map describes the relative elevations, from highest to lowest, through the City of Mesa. The direction from high points to low points illustrates approximate surface water flow in predevelopment conditions. Mesa's surface water generally flows from the Superstition Mountains in the northeast to the Salt River Basin in the western part of the city.
Surface stormwater flows are intercepted by development in the watershed, including streets, highways and canals. These features of urban development function as barriers that interrupt and collect water and convey it through channels and underground pipes. The existing storm water system directs water from these pipes to outfall locations where they enter natural water courses. This map depicts major barriers in the city, including the US 60, Loop 101 and Loop 202 Freeways and major canals that impact surface hydrology.
Land uses within the city range from residential to industrial and from high density to low. Different combinations of land use type and density will influence the selection of stormwater management tools. The mixed-use high-density downtown area was selected for the project focus area because it covers several varieties of land uses and redevelopment opportunities to test different tool kit application scenarios.
Sample Sites in Downtown Area

Within the downtown focus area, four sample sites were selected for stormwater catchment calculation study and analysis. Each of these areas has different land use characteristics and site features. The sample areas include a commercial area, a city government block, a residential area and an institutional area.
FOCUS AREA: IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

This map shows the general distribution of impervious areas from development, such as pavements for roads, parking areas and residential and commercial building rooftops within the downtown focus area. Impervious surfaces shed rainwater, contributing to increased runoff volume and velocities during storm events. Increased peak and total stormwater runoff can contribute to flooding, erosion, sedimentation and property damage if not properly managed. Conventional piped conveyance systems designed to handle these peaks, are a costly part of the city's stormwater infrastructure.
FOCUS AREA: PERVIOUS SURFACES

This map identifies larger areas within the downtown focus area, where much of the surface area is open space or landscaped. In these pervious areas, stormwater infiltrates through porous soils and is absorbed by vegetation, so that stormwater runoff behaves much like it did prior to development. Landscaped areas are able to store and infiltrate stormwater, reducing peak and total surface flows during storm events and treating it to remove sediment and pollutants. Landscaped areas also provide multiple benefits that reduce urban heat islands by providing shade, and add value to neighborhoods by providing recreation opportunities and planted buffers.
85% of site area is impervious

Potential for **24,000,000** gallons of rainwater harvesting yearly

### Potential Rainwater Harvesting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rainfall Amount (Yearly)</th>
<th>Surface Coefficient</th>
<th>Catchment Area (square feet)</th>
<th>Total Yield of Harvested Rainwater (Gallons)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roof</td>
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<td><strong>1,367,272</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The table above represents the approximate volume of stormwater that currently runs off, and is available for rainwater harvesting each year, given existing conditions in the area.

Mesa averages 9.23 inches per year according to National Weather Service data. Rainfall amounts fluctuate widely during the year. A month by month breakdown can be found in the Appendix.

Surface runoff coefficients represent the relative perviousness of the groundcover with 1.0 being completely impervious (all stormwater runs off) to 0.0 (nothing runs off).

For complete calculations please see the tables in the Appendix.
SAMPLE SITE 1: COMMERCIAL AREA

Site Description

This site is characterized mainly by commercial blocks, which are located along Center Street and Broadway Road. The area shown on the map is approximately 115 acres, or 5 million square feet (sf).

Site Conditions

- Building roof area: The total roof area is approximately 28 acres (1,230,000 sf), consisting mainly of commercial buildings.
- Parking areas and roads: The site has approximately 69 acres (3,000,000 sf) of paved areas.
- Vegetated area: The total vegetated area is approximately 8 acres (340,000 sf), including parking lot islands, streetscapes, and parks.
- Vacant lots: There are four large parcels of undeveloped land in the area, which occupy approximately 9 acres (400,000 sf).

Data Analysis

- As the catchment calculation table on the previous page illustrates, total impervious surface (including roof, parking, and road areas) will collect approximately 24 million gallons of rainwater each year. Most of this water normally bypasses the site through piped drainage systems.
- Vegetated areas and vacant lots generally compose the remaining (pervious) surface areas which collect approximately 1.7 million gallons of water yearly. It is likely that the vacant lots will eventually be developed, adding to impervious surface totals.
- To reduce volume and velocity, as well as treat surface flows during storm events, while harvesting rainwater for the benefit of landscape areas, impervious surfaces can be reduced and connected to LID landscape areas.

Potential LID Strategies

Several LID strategies could be applied in this area to achieve reductions in stormwater flows, and improvements in water quality:

- **Curb cuts:** modifying existing curbs in parking and street landscape areas to collect surface water from adjacent pavements. This will allow quick and inexpensive ways to implement LID and rainwater harvesting.
- **Vegetated swales:** creating vegetated swales to guide runoff from paved areas to storm sewer inlets, can improve water quality by slowing and filtering storm runoff and provide interesting landscape treatments that support denser stands of vegetation.
- **Bioretention areas:** creating shallow depressions in landscape areas that typically include plants and ground cover will provide increased groundwater recharge and pollutant treatment.
- **Permeable paving:** replacing existing impervious pavements with porous paving, especially in parking areas and driveways, can provide additional storage and reduce runoff into stormwater systems. It also will filter first-flush contaminants before discharge and helps recharge groundwater.
- **Infiltration and under drains:** As part of a localized stormwater solution, drain-fields can promote storm water infiltration into subsoils. These drain-fields can reduce offsite stormwater runoff by storing and infiltrating it onsite.
- **Cisterns:** Above or below ground cisterns capture stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as building rooftops, and store rainwater for later landscape irrigation use.
- **Disconnected Downspouts:** directing stormwater to landscape areas where it is stored and used to irrigate landscape plants or infiltrate into the ground.
74% of site area is impervious

Potential for 3,000,000 gallons of rainwater harvesting yearly

The table above represents the approximate volume of stormwater that currently runs off, and is available for rainwater harvesting each year, given existing conditions in the area.

Mesa averages 9.23 inches per year according to the National Weather Service. Rainfall amounts fluctuate widely during the year. A month by month breakdown can be found in the Appendix.

Surface runoff coefficients represent the relative perviousness of the groundcover with 1.0 being completely impervious (all stormwater runs off) to 0.0 (nothing runs off).

For complete calculations please see the tables in the Appendix.
SAMPLE SITE 2: GOVERNMENT CENTER

Site Description

The government center includes the City Center site, located at Center Street and Main Street. The area shown on the map is about 14 acres (620,000 sf), which includes government buildings, parking areas, sidewalks and landscape areas.

Site Conditions

- Building roof areas: The total roof area of the site is about 2 acres (80,000 sf), which is comprised of institutional buildings.
- Parking and road areas: The site has approximately 10 acres (450,000 sf) of paved road and parking areas.
- Vegetated areas: The total landscape area is approximately 2 acres (90,000 sf), including parking lot islands, streetscapes and lawn areas.

Data Analysis

- As the table on the previous page illustrates, total impervious surface (including roof, parking and road areas) will collect approximately 3 million gallons of rainwater each year. Most of this water normally bypasses the site through piped drainage systems.
- Vegetated areas and vacant lots generally compose the remaining (pervious) surface areas which collect approximately 90,000 gallons of water yearly.
- In order to slow and clean surface flows during storm events, while harvesting rainwater for the benefit of landscape areas, impervious surfaces can be reduced and connected to LID landscape areas. The City Center redevelopment project provides a great opportunity to integrate these best practices in a highly visible manner.

Potential LID Strategies

Several LID strategies could be applied in this area to achieve reductions in stormwater flows and improvements in water quality:

- **Curb cuts**: modifying existing curbs in parking and street landscape areas to collect surface water from adjacent pavements. This will allow quick and inexpensive ways to implement LID and rainwater harvesting.
- **Vegetated swales**: creating vegetated swales to guide runoff from paved areas to storm sewer inlets, can improve water quality by slowing and filtering storm runoff and provide interesting landscape treatments that support denser stands of vegetation.
- **Bioretention areas**: creating shallow depressions in landscape areas that typically include plants and ground cover will provide increased groundwater recharge and pollutant treatment.
- **Permeable paving**: replacing existing impervious pavements with porous paving, especially in parking areas and driveways, can provide additional storage and reduce runoff into stormwater systems. It also filters first-flush contaminants prior to discharge and helps recharge groundwater.
- **Infiltration and under drains**: As part of a localized stormwater solution, drain-fields can promote storm water infiltration into subsoils. These drain-fields can reduce offsite stormwater runoff by storing and infiltrating it onsite.
- **Cisterns**: Above or below ground cisterns capture stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as building rooftops, and store rainwater for later landscape irrigation use.
- **Disconnected Downspouts**: directing stormwater to landscape areas where it is stored and used to irrigate landscape plants or infiltrate into the ground.
SAMPLE SITE 3: RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AREA

60% of site area is impervious

Potential for **11,000,000** gallons of rainwater harvesting yearly

The table on right represents the approximate volume of stormwater that currently runs off, and is available for rainwater harvesting each year, given existing conditions in the area.

Mesa averages 9.23 inches per year according to the National Weather Service. Rainfall amounts fluctuate widely during the year. A month by month breakdown can be found in the Appendix.

Surface runoff coefficients represent the relative perviousness of the groundcover with 1.0 being completely impervious (all stormwater runs off) to 0.0 (nothing runs off).

For complete calculations please see the tables in the Appendix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Type</th>
<th>Rainfall Amount (Yearly)</th>
<th>Surface Coefficient</th>
<th>Catchment Area (square feet)</th>
<th>Total Yield of Harvested Rainwater (Gallons)</th>
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SAMPLE SITE 3: RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AREA

Site Description

The site is one of the typical residential areas, which is located at Horne and Main Street. The study area shown on the map is about 80 acres (3,510,000 sf) including residential buildings, residential landscapes and community driveways.

Site Conditions

- Roof area: The total roof area is about 18 acres (770,000 sf). The roof top of the residential building usually is different from non-residential building roof tops in material uses. They can absorb more water and the coefficient is slightly lower.
- Vegetated area: The total vegetated area is about 32 acres (1,390,000 sf), mainly constituted by residential landscapes.
- Parking and road area: The site has 31 acres (1,350,000 sf) of road and parking which is mainly the community’s roads and driveways.

Data Analysis

- As the table on the previous page illustrates, total impervious surface (including roof, parking and road areas) will collect approximately 11 million gallons of rainwater each year. Most of this water normally bypasses the site through piped drainage systems.
- Vegetated areas generally comprise the remaining (pervious) surface areas which collect approximately 1.3 million gallons of water yearly. Much of this area is in residential yards which have a high potential for integrating LID techniques.
- In order to slow and clean surface flows during storm events, while harvesting rainwater for the benefit of landscape areas, impervious surfaces should be reduced and connected to landscape areas. As much of the area is privately owned, opportunities exist in front yards, homeowners association common land and public parks and open space.

Potential LID Strategies

Several LID strategies could be applied in this area to achieve reductions in stormwater flows and improvements in water quality:

- **Curb cuts**: modifying existing curbs in parking and street landscape areas to collect surface water from adjacent pavement. This will allow quick and inexpensive ways to implement LID and rainwater harvesting.
- **Vegetated swales**: creating vegetated swales to guide runoff from paved areas to storm sewer inlets, can improve water quality by slowing and filtering storm runoff and provide interesting landscape treatments that support denser stands of vegetation.
- **Rain Gardens**: creating shallow depressions in landscape areas in front yards and common areas, include plants and ground covers that provide stormwater detention, water quality treatment and groundwater recharge.
- **Permeable paving**: used in driveways and parking areas, porous pavements can provide additional storage and reduce runoff into stormwater systems.
- **Infiltration and underdrains**: As part of a localized stormwater solution, drain-fields can promote storm water infiltration into subsoils. These drain-fields can reduce offsite stormwater runoff by storing and infiltrating it onsite.
- **Cisterns**: These have a more limited application in residential uses due to the size required and given our intermittent rains. Storage and distribution of rainwater over an extended period of time can be accomplished through creative grading and storage options.
SAMPLE SITE 4: INSTITUTIONAL BLOCK AREA

The table on right represents the approximate volume of stormwater that currently runs off, and is available for rainwater harvesting each year, given existing conditions in the area.

Mesa averages 9.23 inches per year according to the National Weather Service. Rainfall amounts fluctuate widely during the year. A month by month breakdown can be found in the Appendix.

Surface runoff coefficients represent the relative perviousness of the groundcover with 1.0 being completely impervious (all stormwater runs off) to 0.0 (nothing runs off).

For complete calculations please see the tables in the Appendix.

### Potential Rainwater Harvesting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Type</th>
<th>Rainfall Amount (Yearly)</th>
<th>Surface Coefficient</th>
<th>Catchment Area (square feet)</th>
<th>Total Yield of Harvested Rainwater (Gallons)</th>
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</table>
SAMPLE SITE 4: INSTITUTIONAL BLOCK AREA

Site Description
This institutional site is located at Horne and Broadway Road. The study area shown on the map is about 40 acres (1,740,000 sf), which includes institutional buildings, several parking lots, and sports fields.

Site Conditions
- Roof area: The total roof area of the site is about 8 acres (360,000 sf), which is constituted mainly by institutional buildings and several residential buildings.
- Vegetated area: The total vegetated area is about 17 acres (760,000 sf), including parking lots islands, street landscapes, residential landscapes and two large lawn sports fields.
- Parking and road area: The site has 14 acres (620,000 sf) of road and parking area.

Data Analysis
- As the table on the previous page illustrates, total impervious surface (including roof, parking and road areas) will collect approximately 5.5 million gallons of rainwater each year. Most of this water normally bypasses the site through piped drainage systems.
- Vegetated areas generally comprise the remaining (pervious) surface areas which collect approximately 750,000 gallons of water yearly. Landscape setbacks and buffers in these areas require a significant amount of management and maintenance.
- In order to reduce volumes and velocities, treat surface flows during storm events, while harvesting rainwater for the benefit of landscape areas, impervious surfaces should be reduced and connected to landscape areas. Large areas exist where LID techniques can be easily implemented on private properties where owners want to reduce their costs of stormwater management.

Potential LID Strategies
Several LID strategies could be applied in this area to achieve reductions in stormwater flows and improvements in water quality:
- **Curb cuts:** modifying existing curbs in parking and driveway landscape areas to collect surface water from adjacent pavements. This will allow quick and inexpensive ways to implement LID and rainwater harvesting.
- **Vegetated swales:** creating vegetated swales to guide runoff from paved areas to storm sewer inlets, can improve water quality by slowing and filtering storm runoff and provide interesting landscape treatments that support denser stands of vegetation.
- **Bioretention areas:** creating shallow depressions in landscape areas that typically include plants and ground cover will provide increased groundwater recharge and pollutant treatment.
- **Permeable paving:** replacing existing impervious pavements with porous paving, especially in parking areas and driveways, can provide additional storage and reduce runoff into stormwater systems. It also filters first-flush contaminants prior to discharge and helps recharge groundwater.
- **Infiltration and under drains:** As part of a localized stormwater solution, drain-fields can promote storm water infiltration into subsoils. These drain-fields can reduce offsite stormwater runoff by storing and infiltrating it onsite.
- **Cisterns:** Especially well adapted in industrial and commercial use areas, above or below ground cisterns capture stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as a building rooftops and store rainwater for later landscape irrigation use.
The table below represents the approximate volume of stormwater that currently runs off, and is available for rainwater harvesting each year, given existing conditions in the area.

Mesa averages 9.23 inches per year according to the National Weather Service. Rainfall amounts fluctuate widely during the year. A month by month breakdown can be found in the Appendix.

Surface runoff coefficients represent the relative perviousness of the groundcover with 1.0 being completely impervious (all stormwater runs off) to 0.0 (nothing runs off).

For complete calculations please see the tables in the Appendix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Rainwater Harvesting</th>
<th>Rainfall Amount (Yearly)</th>
<th>Surface Coefficient</th>
<th>Catchment Area (square feet)</th>
<th>Total Yield of Harvested Rainwater (Gallons)</th>
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**Public Streets Description**

Public streets are generally under the control of the City. Study of stormwater catchment in these areas will help the City better understand how existing stormwater systems can be improved through LID practices.

**Public Streets Conditions**

- Public Streets in Sample Site 1 totals: 19 acres (820,000 sf).
- Public Streets in Sample Site 2 totals: 3 acres (140,000 sf).
- Public Streets in Sample Site 3 totals: 11 acres (500,000 sf).
- Public Streets in Sample Site 4 totals: 3 acres (130,000 sf).

**Data Analysis**

- The existing public streets in the four sample site areas are assumed to be impervious surfaces. Most of the stormwater collected by these surface areas normally flows into the piped stormwater system, or is evaporated from ponding areas.
- In order to reduce stormwater volumes and velocities and treat surface flows during storm events, while harvesting rainwater for the benefit of landscape areas, impervious surfaces should be reduced and connected to landscape areas. In public streets, opportunities exist within landscape buffers and tree strips, medians and porous pavements. Modifications to streets to encourage these practices can be combined with traffic calming and streetscape beautification.

**Potential LID Strategies**

Several LID strategies could be applied in this area to achieve reductions in stormwater flows, and improvements in water quality:

- **Curb cuts**: modifying existing curbs in parking and driveway landscape areas to collect surface water from adjacent pavements. This will allow quick and inexpensive ways to implement LID and rainwater harvesting.
- **Vegetated swales**: creating vegetated swales to guide runoff from paved areas to storm sewer inlets, can improve water quality by slowing and filtering storm runoff and provide interesting landscape treatments that support denser stands of vegetation.
- **Bioretention areas**: creating shallow depressions in landscape areas that typically include plants and ground cover will provide increased groundwater recharge and pollutant treatment.
- **Permeable paving**: replacing existing impervious pavements with porous paving, especially in parking areas and driveways, can provide additional storage and reduce runoff into stormwater systems. It also filters first-flush contaminants prior to discharge and helps recharge groundwater.
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## DOCUMENT RESOURCES

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**LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT** 73
“Downspouts can direct stormwater to landscape areas where it is stored and used to irrigate landscape plants or infiltrate into the ground.”
CURRENT STATE-OF-PRACTICE DETAIL

**NOTES: (TYPE A)**
1. All exposed surfaces to be trowel finished except as shown. See Sect. 340.
2. H=6" or as specified on plans.
3. Contraction joint spacing 10' maximum.
4. Expansion joints as per Sect. 340.
5. Class ‘B’ concrete per 725.
6. When the adjacent pavement section slopes away from the gutter, the slope of the gutter pan shall match pavement cross slope.

**NOTES: (TYPE B)**
2. Broom finish all surfaces.
3. Ribbon curb may slope towards pavement or parkway as indicated on plans.
4. Contraction joint spacing 10' maximum.
5. Concrete shall be Class ‘B’ per Sect. 725 and installed per Sect. 505.

**NOTES: (C & D)**
1. All work and materials shall conform to Sect. 304, 505 and 725, broom finish to exposed surface.
2. Contraction joint spacing 10' maximum.
3. Expansion joints as per Sect. 340.
4. Class ‘B’ concrete per 725.
CURRENT STATE-OF-PRACTICE DETAIL

MOUNTABLE CURB AND GUTTER (TYPE E)

MOUNTABLE CURB AND GUTTER (TYPE F)

NOTES: (E & F)
1. ALL EXPOSED SURFACES TO BE TROWEL FINISHED EXCEPT AS SHOWN. SEE SECT. 340.
2. CONTRACTION JOINT SPACING 10" MAXIMUM.
3. EXPANSION JOINTS PER SECT. 340.
4. CLASS 'B' CONCRETE PER SECT. 725.
5. WHEN THE ADJACENT PAVEMENT SECTION SLOPES AWAY FROM THE GUTTER, THE SLOPE OF THE GUTTER PAN SHALL MATCH THE PAVEMENT CROSS SLOPE.
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES

1. RIP-RAP AREA AND ROCK SIZE VARY PER SITE CONDITIONS CONSULT PROJECT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES
1. RIP-RAP AREA AND ROCK SIZE VARY PER SITE/PROJECT. CONSULT PROJECT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

FINISHED GRADE 2" MINIMUM DROP FROM THROAT OF CURB CUT TO FINISH GRADE OF LANDSCAPE
SLOPE FLUSH CURB TO DIRECT STREET RUNOFF INTO STORMWATER FACILITY
CONCRETE FLUSH CURB CAST CONCRETE, REINFORCEMENT PER STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

CONCRETE FLUSH CURB - SECTION VIEW

STREET/ PARKING LOT SURFACE
COMPACTED AGGREGATE BASE COURSE PER STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

CONCRETE FLUSH CURB - PLAN VIEW

LANDSCAPE AREA
(STREET/ PARKING LOT)
(FLOW)

CONCRETE FLUSH CURB

NOT TO SCALE

DETAI L NO. XXX

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES
1. RIP-RAP AREA AND ROCK SIZE VARY PER SITE/PROJECT. CONSULT PROJECT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

WHEELSTOP CURB - SECTION VIEW

WHEELSTOP CURB - PLAN VIEW

FINISHED GRADE 2" MINIMUM DROP FROM THROAT OF CURB CUT TO FINISH GRADE OF LANDSCAPE

PROVIDE AT LEAST 6" OF SPACE BETWEEN WHEELSTOP AND EDGE OF ASPHALT

STANDARD WHEELSTOP, CAST CONCRETE, REINFORCEMENT PER STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

6" MIN. FLOW

STREET/PARKING LOT SURFACE

COMPACTED AGGREGATE BASE COURSE PER STRUCTURAL ENGINEER.

PEA GRAVEL AT WHEELSTOP OPENING THROAT

STANDARD WHEELSTOP PROVIDE AT LEAST 6" OF SPACE BETWEEN WHEELSTOP AND EDGE OF ASPHALT

FLOW

FLOW

LANDSCAPE AREA

PARKING LOT

NOT TO SCALE
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES
1. RIP-RAP AREA AND ROCK SIZE VARY PER SITE/PROJECT. CONSULT PROJECT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

GRATED CURB CUT - SECTION VIEW

GRATED CURB CUT - PLAN VIEW

NOT TO SCALE

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES
1. CONSULT SITE GEOTECHNICAL REPORT AND CIVIL ENGINEER FOR PROJECT SPECIFIC SUBGRADE REQUIREMENTS.
2. CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM PAVEMENT SECTION WITH GEO-TECHNICAL ENGINEER AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION

PERMEABLE CONCRETE PAVEMENT - SECTION VIEW
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES

1. COORDINATE LOCATION AND SIZE OF BUILDING DOWNSPOUTS WITH CIVIL ENGINEER

2. FINISHED GRADE MATERIAL CAN VARY PER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

STRUCTURAL SOIL OR SILVA CELL PLANTER WITH RAIN LEADERS - PLAN VIEW

STRUCTURAL SOIL OR SILVA CELL PLANTER WITH RAIN LEADERS - SECTION VIEW

STREET

NOT TO SCALE
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES
1. LOCATION, TYPE, AND SIZE OF STORMWATER CATCHMENT PER CIVIL ENGINEER, COORDINATED WITH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
2. DIMENSIONS AND DEPTH OF ASSOCIATED RAIN GARDEN CAN VARY PER SITE PLAN; CONSULT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

STRUCTURAL SOIL OR SILVA CELL PLANTER - PLAN VIEW

STORMWATER CATCHMENT
STRUCTURAL SOIL OR SILVA CELL STRUCTURES
BUILDING
RAIN GARDEN
STREET/PARKING LOT

STORMWATER CATCHMENT
STORMWATER PIPE LINE
STRUCTURAL SOIL OR SILVA CELL STRUCTURES
SIDEWALK OR OTHER PAVING
PLANTER
UNDERDRAIN AS REQUIRED
STREET/PARKING LOT

NOT TO SCALE
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DETAIL

NOTES
1. CONSULT SITE GEOTECHNICAL REPORT AND CIVIL ENGINEER FOR PROJECT SPECIFIC SUBGRADE REQUIREMENTS.
2. CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM PAVEMENT SECTION WITH GEO-TECHNICAL ENGINEER AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION

BIORETENTION CELL - CATCH BASIN

SLOPED STEEL GRATE
CONCRETE PIT, CAST CONCRETE, REINFORCEMENT PER STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

BIORETENTION CELL

STORMWATER PIPE
COMPACTED AGGREGATE BASE COURSE PER STRUCTURAL ENGINEER.
NOTES

1. SLOPE TO DRAIN WITHIN 36 HOURS AFTER STORM.

VEGETATED BIOSWALE - SECTION
### Soil (flat, bare): High 0.75/Low 0.2; Soil (flat, heavy soil): High 0.6/Low 0.1

### Paving (concrete, asphalt): High 1.00/Low 0.90

### Roof (metal, gravel asphalt, shingle, fiberglass, mineral paper): High 0.95/Low 0.9

### Vegetated Area Rainfall Gross Runoff Total Monthly
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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Footage</th>
<th>Gallons</th>
<th>Surface</th>
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### Parking Lots/Roads Rainfall Gross Runoff Total Monthly
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### Vacant Lots Rainfall Gross Runoff Total Monthly
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**Runoff Coefficient:**
1. Roof (metal, gravel asphalt, shingle, fiberglass, mineral paper): High 0.95/Low 0.9
2. Paving (concrete, asphalt): High 1.00/Low 0.9
3. Soil (flat, bare): High 0.75/Low 0.2; Soil (flat, heavy soil): High 0.6/Low 0.1

**Low Impact Development Toolkit**

**Note:**
vacant lots are undeveloped and may change with development
### CALCULATION TABLES - SAMPLE SITE 2 GOVERNMENT BLOCK

#### Roof

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Rainfall Amount</th>
<th>Gallons / Square foot</th>
<th>Square Footage of Catchment</th>
<th>Gross Gallons of Rainfall/Month</th>
<th>Runoff Coefficient for the Surface</th>
<th>Total Monthly Yield of Harvested Rainwater in Gallons</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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#### Vegetated Area

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<th>Square Footage of Catchment</th>
<th>Gross Gallons of Rainfall/Month</th>
<th>Runoff Coefficient for the Surface</th>
<th>Total Monthly Yield of Harvested Rainwater in Gallons</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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#### Parking Lots/Roads

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<th>Gallons / Square foot</th>
<th>Square Footage of Catchment</th>
<th>Gross Gallons of Rainfall/Month</th>
<th>Runoff Coefficient for the Surface</th>
<th>Total Monthly Yield of Harvested Rainwater in Gallons</th>
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<tbody>
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Runoff Coefficient:
1. Roof (metal, gravel asphalt, shingle, fiberglass, mineral paper): High 0.95/Low 0.9
2. Paving (concrete, asphalt): High 1.00/Low 0.9
3. Soil (flat, bare): High 0.75/Low 0.2; Soil (flat, heavy soil): High 0.6/Low 0.1

Note:
Vacant lots are undeveloped and may change with development.
### CALCULATION TABLES - SAMPLE SITE 3 NEIGHBORHOOD AREA

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<th>Roof</th>
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<th>Gallons / Square foot</th>
<th>Square Footage of Catchment</th>
<th>Gross Gallons of Rainfall/ Month</th>
<th>Runoff Coefficient for the Surface</th>
<th>Total Monthly Yield of Harvested Rainwater in Gallons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>770,000</td>
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<th>Square Footage of Catchment</th>
<th>Gross Gallons of Rainfall/ Month</th>
<th>Runoff Coefficient for the Surface</th>
<th>Total Monthly Yield of Harvested Rainwater in Gallons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Runoff Coefficient:
1. Roof (metal, gravel asphalt, shingle, fiberglass, mineral paper): High 0.95/Low 0.9
2. Paving (concrete, asphalt): High 1.00/Low 0.9
3. Soil (flat, bare): High 0.75/Low 0.2; Soil (flat, heavy soil): High 0.6/Low 0.1

Note: vacant lots are undeveloped and may change with development.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT
## CALCULATION TABLES - SAMPLE SITE 4 INSTITUTIONAL BLOCK

### Vegetated Area

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<th>Gallons/Square Foot</th>
<th>Square Footage of Catchment</th>
<th>Gross Gallons of Rainfall/Month</th>
<th>Runoff Coefficient for the Surface</th>
<th>Total Monthly Yield of Harvested Rainwater in Gallons</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>October</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.50463</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>183021.6616</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>173870.5785</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.47971</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>173983.5549</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>165284.3771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.61054</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>221433.6153</td>
<td>0.95</td>
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### Vacant Lots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parking Lots/Roads</th>
<th>Rainfall Amount</th>
<th>Gallons/Square Foot</th>
<th>Square Footage of Catchment</th>
<th>Gross Gallons of Rainfall/Month</th>
<th>Runoff Coefficient for the Surface</th>
<th>Total Monthly Yield of Harvested Rainwater in Gallons</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.62923</td>
<td>760,000</td>
<td>479699.8643</td>
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</tbody>
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## Note:
- Vacant lots are undeveloped and may change with development

### Runoff Coefficient:
1. Roof (metal, gravel asphalt, shingle, fiberglass, mineral paper): High 0.95/Low 0.9
2. Paving (concrete, asphalt): High 1.00/Low 0.90
3. Soil (flat, bare): High 0.75/Low 0.2; Soil (flat, heavy soil): High 0.6/Low 0.1