

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: LOW IMPACT DESIGN

Low Impact Design (LID) is an approach to land development that uses various land planning, design practices and technologies to preserve and protect essential aquifers and waterways such as the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) while reducing infrastructure costs. LID allows land to be developed in a cost effective manner to ensure that home, habitat and quality of life are sustained for the future.

LID incorporates site specific practices that include:

- Preserve open space and minimize land disturbance
- Use existing topography for drainage design
- Protect natural features and processes
- Plan for the enhancement of the larger area system of natural and conservation lands
- Implement on-site rain water capture practices such as bio-swales, rain gardens, green roofs and pervious pavements

These practices and others used in LID will benefit all the stakeholders of development in the IRL Basin:

DEVELOPER

- Reduces land clearing and grading costs
- Reduces infrastructure costs (streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, retention ponds)
- Reduces rain water management costs
- May increase lot yield and may reduce impact fees
- Increases lot and community marketability

MUNICIPALITY

- Reduces infrastructure and utility maintenance costs
- Improves resident's quality of life
- Balances growth with the need to protect the Indian River Lagoon and the aquifer

HOMEBUYER

- Preserves/protects recreation opportunities of natural areas and habitats (IRL)
- Improves aesthetics of home and area for livability and re-sale
- Provides habitat for birds, butterflies and bees
- Reduces utilities costs

ENVIRONMENT

- Improves water quality
- Preserves the balance and integrity of ecological and biological systems
- Ensures the future health of the Lagoon by preventing additional pollution
- Increases carbon and nutrient absorption and improves soil health
- Preserves tree canopy and natural areas
- Provides aquifer recharge