

SAN LUIS OBISPO GUIDE TO THE USE OF

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT



Disconnected downspout from roof of house.



Cistern storage.



Vegetated swale under construction.



Swale infiltrates stormwater



Rain garden captures and infiltrates rain water from the roof.

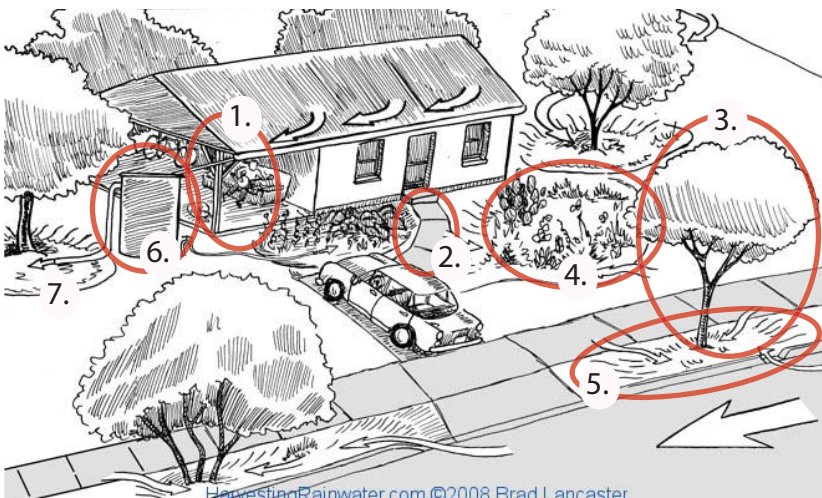
STORMWATER AS A RESOURCE

Stormwater is an important natural resource that can be used to replenish our creeks, lakes, and groundwater supplies. By using stormwater as a resource and not a waste, we are protecting our community and our environment.

WHAT IS LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT?

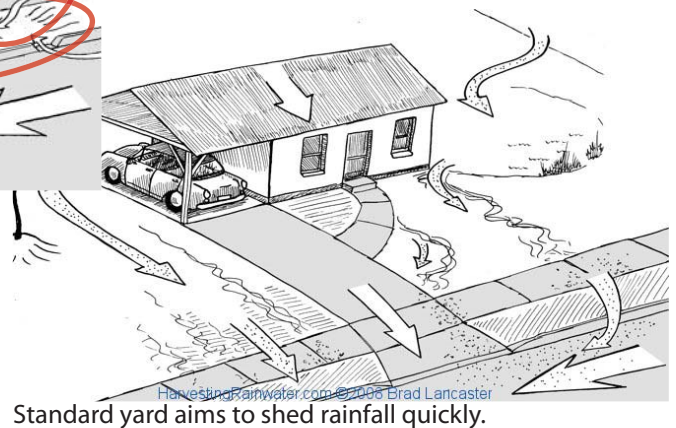
Low Impact Development (LID) manages stormwater by modeling nature with uniformly distributed, decentralized, small scale techniques that capture, spread and infiltrate stormwater at the source. This is in contrast with traditional stormwater systems. It is generally more efficient and cost-effective to prevent problems rather than attempt to correct them after the fact. LID practices can reduce stormwater runoff, pollution and erosion typically associated with development while recharging the groundwater table. LID practices can also play an important role acting as an additional water source to standard supplies when kept on site.

Figure 1. Movement of Stormwater in a Yard



HarvestingRainwater.com ©2008 Brad Lancaster
Yard with low impact development retains rainfall as a resource.

- LID incorporates:
1. Disconnected downspouts
 2. Alternative paving materials
 3. Interceptor trees
 4. Rain gardens
 5. Vegetated swales
 6. Rain barrels/cisterns
 7. Soil amendments
 8. Other infiltration techniques



HarvestingRainwater.com ©2008 Brad Lancaster
Standard yard aims to shed rainfall quickly.

LID is particularly suited for household yards:

- Situated in a closed depression
- With permeable soil types
- Adjacent to or draining to wetlands, riparian areas, fish or wildlife areas and/or estuaries
- Located in an area underlain by a critical aquifer recharge area
- With open space area
- That aggravate community flooding with an increase in the volume or rate of surface water leaving or arriving at the site