



# RPC Newsletter

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission  
77 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766 Tel. (603) 448-1680 www.uvlsrpc.org

**Winter  
2003/2004**

## Inside This Issue

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| <i>In the News</i>                   | 2-3  |
| <i>Upcoming Workshops and Events</i> | 4-5  |
| <i>Around the UVLSRPC Region</i>     | 6-7  |
| <i>RPC News</i>                      | 8-11 |
| <i>Did You Know...?</i>              | 12   |

## Stormwater Conference Draws 100+ From Around Region

On November 6 and 7, planners, developers, landscape architects, engineers, and local officials from Vermont and New Hampshire gathered at the Montshire Museum to learn about Low Impact Development (LID), an innovative approach to dealing with stormwater. The LID approach is to manage stormwater as a valuable resource using micro-scale controls at the source rather than conventional, centralized management practices. The Connecticut River Joint Commissions provided funding for this event, which was co-organized by the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley and UVLSRPC.

Stormwater runoff is now recognized as a valuable resource that keeps streams flowing and wells producing. Managing stormwater infiltration for groundwater recharge is a challenging and important aspect of planning for our region, and can achieve economic, ecological, and social benefits, including increased groundwater, reduced pollution, reduces construction costs, greater retention of existing vegetation, and more attractively landscaped development.

The approximately 130 conference participants learned from many experts about how to attain no increase in runoff from development, so that stream functions continue, groundwater is recharged, and pollutants are removed from runoff. Larry Coffman of Prince Georges County, MD, who is spearheading LID techniques in the Mid-Atlantic region, gave an overview of the LID approach and how to apply it. Panel sessions in the afternoon included state, regional, and local professionals and focused on: implementing and maintaining LID approaches; site design and the regulatory framework; and LID applications to roads and cold climates.



*Photo by Barbara McIlroy*

That evening at a free event, Coffman and a regional expert gave presentations on LID and how to apply it in our region. Finally, on the second day, participants made a site visit with Hanover planning staff to the Gile Tract in Hanover, site of Hanover's future affordable housing project. Armed with background information and after a presentation by Coffman, participants gathered in small groups to

**See page 2  
for regional  
boundary  
update**

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

brainstorm applying LID methods to the Gile Tract. The charrette was an opportunity to apply these principles on a real-life site, and the ideas generated are being reviewed by the Hanover Affordable Housing Commission in its evaluation of that site for development.

UVLSRPC plans to partner with local officials and organizations to facilitate follow-up efforts, such as:

- Facilitating training sessions for local officials.
- Posting information, handouts, and charrette results from the session on websites.
- Production of an LID training binder and/or case studies, in conjunction with local official training.
- Development of a model ordinance that integrates LID principles.

Credit for the success of this event is due to more than 50 individuals who helped in some way. At least 20 volunteers helped organize and handle the logistics of this conference and the Montshire Museum provided space and logistics assistance, making the meeting affordable for small towns sending staff.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Low Impact Development?

Low Impact Development (LID) is an innovative stormwater management approach that manages rainfall at the source using uniformly distributed, decentralized micro-scale controls. The goal of LID is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source.

### What are some LID Practices?

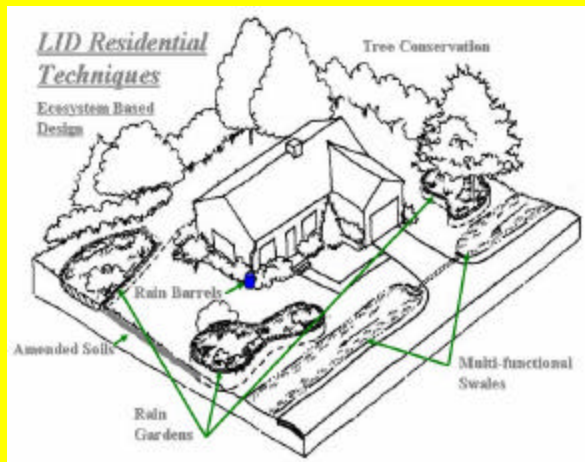
- ◆ Bioretention/Rain Gardens
- ◆ Reduce impervious surfaces
- ◆ Vegetative swales, buffers, and strips
- ◆ Amended soils
- ◆ Strategic grading
- ◆ Flatter, wider swales
- ◆ Rain barrels, cisterns, water use

### What are the benefits of LID?

LID has numerous advantages over conventional stormwater management approaches. By managing runoff close to its source through site design, LID can protect streams and habitat, improve community design and livability, and save developers and communities money. LID techniques require less maintenance, and cost less than conventional stormwater management systems to construct and maintain.

### Where can I get more information?

- Center for Watershed Protection's Stormwater Center: [www.stormwatercenter.net](http://www.stormwatercenter.net)
- Low Impact Development Center: <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/nps/lid](http://www.epa.gov/nps/lid)
- Keep an eye on these sites for materials to download:
  - League of Women Voters: [www.uppervalleyleague.org/stormwater\\_1.htm](http://www.uppervalleyleague.org/stormwater_1.htm)
  - UVLSRPC: [www.uvlsrcp.org](http://www.uvlsrcp.org)



*Schematic of LID lot*

*(Source: Prince George's County, MD, Department of Environmental Resources)*