#### Putting a LID on Stormwater Pollution

Michele Loudenback, RPES Stormwater Enforcement Water Quality Division



# Outline

- Brief Regulatory History
- Conventional vs. Green Practices
- LID/GI Controls in Use







#### **Clean Water Act**



- First passed in 1972
- Established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Focus on point source discharges
  - Pipes, drains, other easily identified points of discharge
- Amended in 1987
  - Addressed more diffuse sources of pollution, such as stormwater discharges
- Goals:
  - To restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters
  - Swimmable, fishable waters



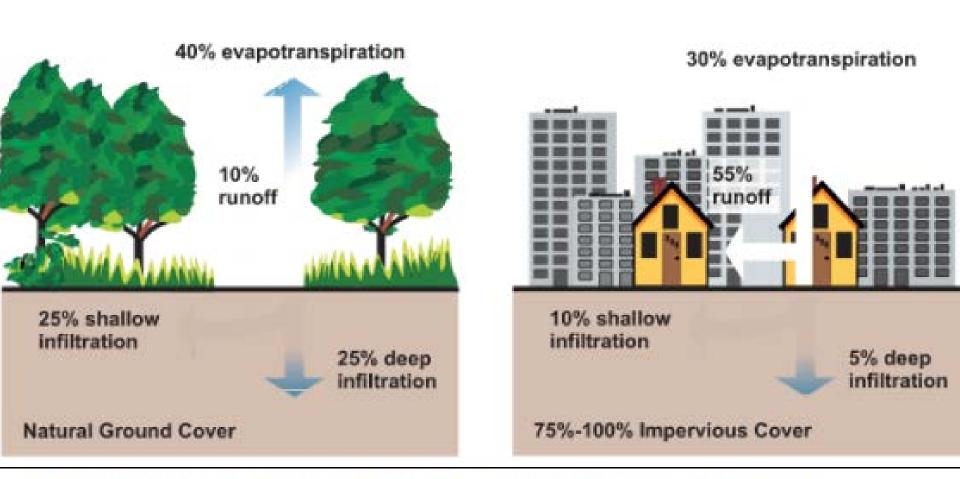


### Some Facts

- 55% of U.S. streams and rivers are in poor condition
  - 40% have excessive phosphorus levels
  - Over 25% have excessive nitrogen levels
- Frequency of flooding events is increasing
  - Increase in heavy rainfall events
  - Increase in damages from flooding

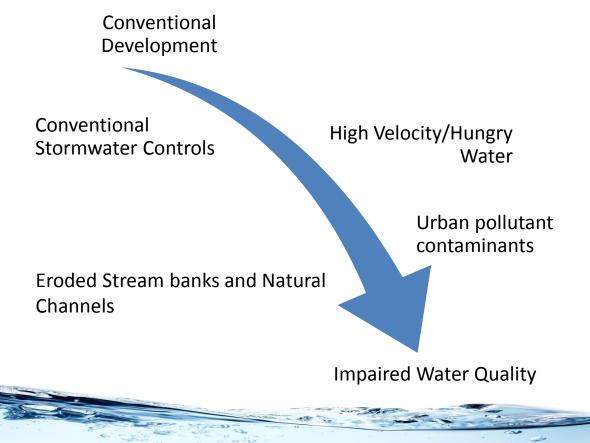


## **Urbanization and Runoff**



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Protecting Water Quality from Urban Runoff, p. 1.

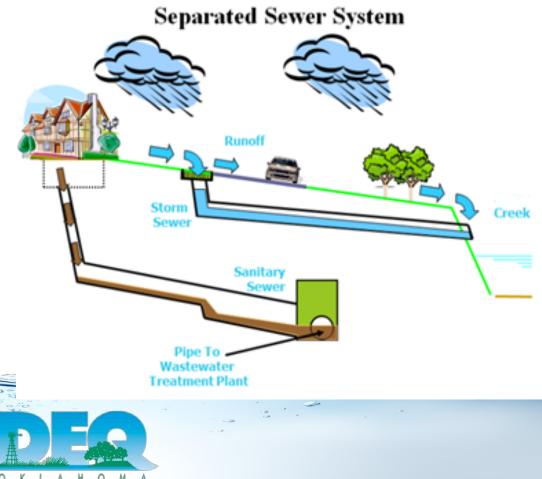
#### **Conventional Practices**





# What is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)?

An MS4 is a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels or storm drains) designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater that is owned/ operated by a public body (e.g. USA, state, city, town, county, university, etc.) that is not a combined sewer system and is not a part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)



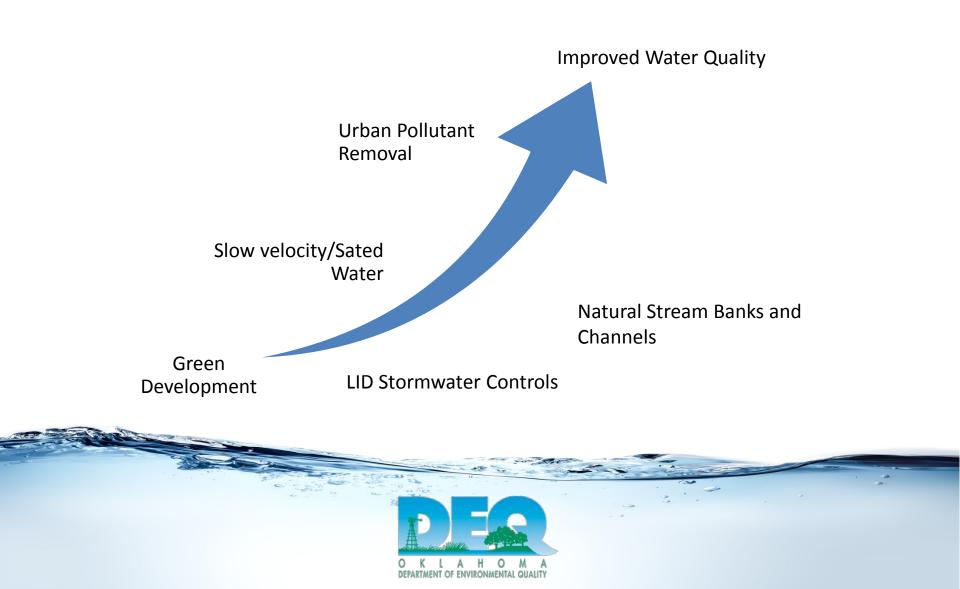
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

# LID/Green Infrastructure

LID is an acronym for low impact development, an approach to land development and redevelopment that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. LID employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features, minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treats stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product.



#### **Green Practices**



# **Benefits of Green Practices**

- Improved water quality
  - Pollutant removal
  - Decreased cost for water treatment
- Decreased costly flooding events
  - Holistic use imperative
  - Decrease in volume and speed of runoff

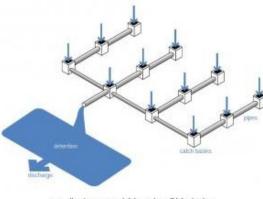


# **Benefits of Green Practices**

- Restored aquatic habitat
  - Decrease in scouring and erosion of banks and channels
- Improved groundwater recharge
  - More rainfall retained and infiltrated on site
- Enhanced neighborhood aesthetics
  - Decrease in use of ugly materials
  - Beautiful, sustainable and wildlife friendly



#### Green vs. Gray Infrastructure



enventional management: "pipe-and-pond" infrastructure drain, direct, dispatch

0

0

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Traditional Street in OK



low impact management: watershed approact slow, spread, soak

Green Street in Washington, DC





# How Is LID/GI Implemented?



Non-structural controls

- Don't involve physical construction
- Are planning and management-related



Structural controls

Involve physical construction



# **Non-Structural Controls**

- Direct growth
- Protect sensitive areas
- Maintain and/or increase open spaces
- Provide buffers along waterbodies
- Minimize impervious surfaces
- Encourage infill
- Educate builders/developers/city employees/public on green infrastructure



# **Structural Controls**

- Retention/Detention Systems
- Water Harvesting Techniques
- Rain Gardens/Bioretention
- Green Roofs
- Green Parking
- Permeable/Pervious/Porous Materials
- Sand/Organic Filters
- Stream/River Restoration

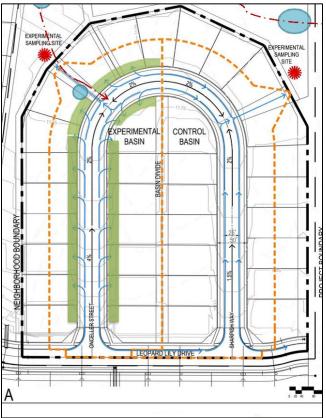
#### **Development Design**



http://www.illinoisfloods.org/documents/2011\_Cost\_of\_Green\_Workshop/2011-10-22-IAFSM\_Green\_vs\_Gray.pdf

#### **Development Design**





# Incentivization

- Incentives
  - PACE-Tulsa
    - Voluntary

For more information



Low Impact Development





- Provides incentive for LID implementation through recognition
- Sites can be added to green tour
- Living Green LID program-BA
  - Voluntary
  - Provides incentive for LID implementation through recognition
  - Can achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum LID Certification Level based on types of LID implemented



# **Retention/Detention Systems**

- Mitigate increased runoff
- Can also reduce pollutants
  - Wet ponds
  - Dry ponds
  - Underground detention
  - Stormwater wetlands











# **Rain Barrels and Cisterns**

- Reduce runoff by disconnecting downspouts from storm sewer system
- Allow for reuse
- Complicated by water rights laws in Western states















O K L A H O M A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

# Rain Gardens/Bioretention

- Provide on-site treatment by filtering out pollutants
- Mitigate increased runoff
- Can be designed for infiltration or discharge via underdrain
- Suitable for small drainage area
- Can use drought-tolerant plant species















DELWYLMEIAL OL FIAAKOMMEIAIWE GOWELLI







# Green Roofs

- Reduce peak flow discharge
- Reduce urban heat island effect
- Use drought-tolerant plant species
- Can be used to support habitat
- Difficult to retrofit structures

















# **Green Parking**

- Reduce parking lot contribution to stormwater runoff by reducing impervious surfaces and increasing infiltration
- Combination of porous paving, reduced lot/space size, and bioretention



http://www.streamteamok.net/Doc\_link/Green%20P arking%20Lot%20Guide%20(final).PDF



#### Permeable/Pervious/Porous Materials

- Includes grassed or grassless pavers, concrete, and asphalt
- Allow water to drain through to a storage/infiltration layer
- Used for parking lots, sidewalks, and residential streets









# Sand and Organic Filters

- Direct stormwater through sand bed
- Remove floatables and pollutants
- Primarily used for water quality improvement
- Requires regular maintenance and filter media replacement



#### Sand filter under construction

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stormwater\_management/do cuments/Chapter\_3-12.pdf









#### Stream Restoration

- Restoration of stream to a more natural state
- Reduction of non-point source pollution using buffer filtration
- Restoration of fish and wildlife habitat



http://www.watershedconservation.org/proj\_brentwood.html











# WQD Stormwater Contacts

- Permitting
  - Michael Jordan (405) 702-8208
  - Karen Milford (South) (405) 702-8191
  - Ismat Esrar (North) (405) 702-8193
- Compliance/Enforcement
  - Wayne T. Craney (405) 702-8139
  - Michele Loudenback (East) (405) 702-8116
  - Michelle Chao (West) (405) 702-8112



#### Questions, Comments, Discussion



O K L A H O M A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY