



RESIDENTIAL LOW IMPACT DESIGN

Residential Low Impact Design (LID), sometimes called green infrastructure, treats rainfall as a benefit rather than a nuisance in our yards, and encourages the capture and use of rainwater on site. Common LID applications include rain gardens, pervious pavers, canopy trees and rain barrels. Successful applications of LID can have many benefits, including:

- Smarter, more attractive landscaping;
- Reduced maintenance effort and costs;
- Higher “curb appeal” and value; and
- Neighborhood revitalization.

Our yards are connected to our waterways. Rainfall that soaks into the ground nourishes our landscapes and recharges the water table. Rainfall that’s allowed to run off our yards carries nutrients and other pollutants that feed algae blooms and harm aquatic life, impacting the places where we fish, swim and play.

Low Impact Design improves the beauty and value of our homes, neighborhoods AND our environment.

You’ve probably already noticed LID being used by your neighbors. Learn what’s possible for your yard ...



A Rain Garden is a shallow planted area that collects rainfall from your yard so it can quickly soak into the ground and be used by plants. **Above**, Sapphire Shores resident and environmental consultant Jack Merriam designed a rain garden to capture runoff that previously rushed down his driveway, down the street and directly into Sarasota Bay. His rain garden nourishes a fabulous assortment of edible and flowering plants. It features a relaxing fountain and attracts butterflies, birds and the occasional sandhill crane.



“The great thing is there’s no one design for rain gardens. They can be anything that is part of your landscape that reduces runoff.”

– JACK MERRIAM, environmental consultant

Canopy Trees and Shrubs with large leafy surfaces can intercept rainwater before it hits the ground, keeping it out of the bay.

Rain Barrels and Cisterns can capture clean rainwater and store it for irrigation, when plants really need it.

Florida-friendly Plants grow naturally in our subtropical climate without fertilizers, pesticides and mowing. There is a huge variety of colorful choices.

Porous Pavers or Shell are beautiful alternatives to concrete. They allow rainwater to recharge our groundwater.

Groundcover Plants create a low maintenance alternative to lawns, with no need for fertilizer, pesticides or mowing.