



Green Infrastructure

Innovative Solutions to Stormwater Woes



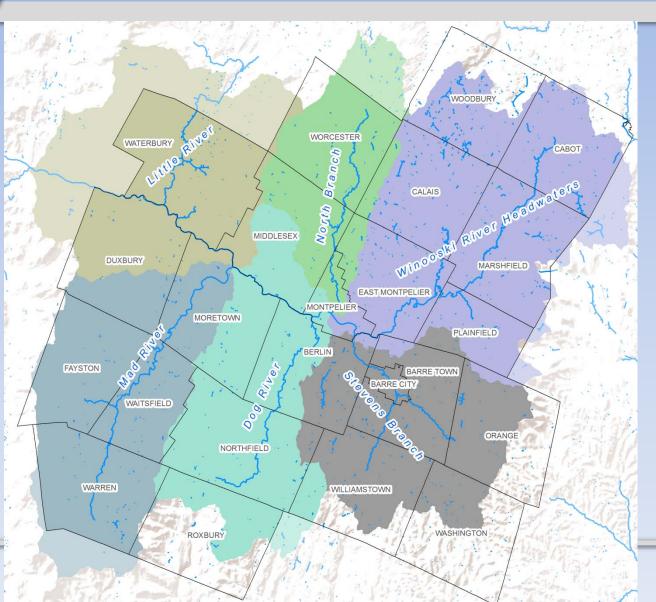








Central Vermont Watersheds





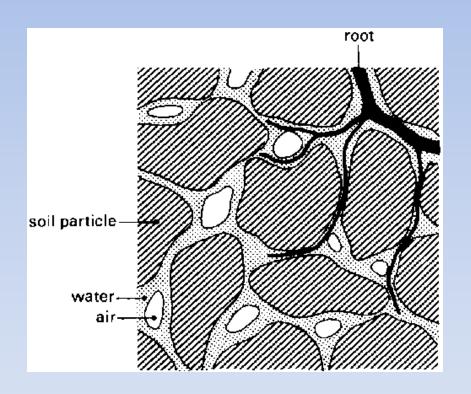
Overview

- Hydrology, Impacts of Development & Traditional Management
- Green Infrastructure Planning, Design & Techniques
 - Site Walk
- Implementing GI with Zoning, Permitting, and other Tools
 - Group Exercise



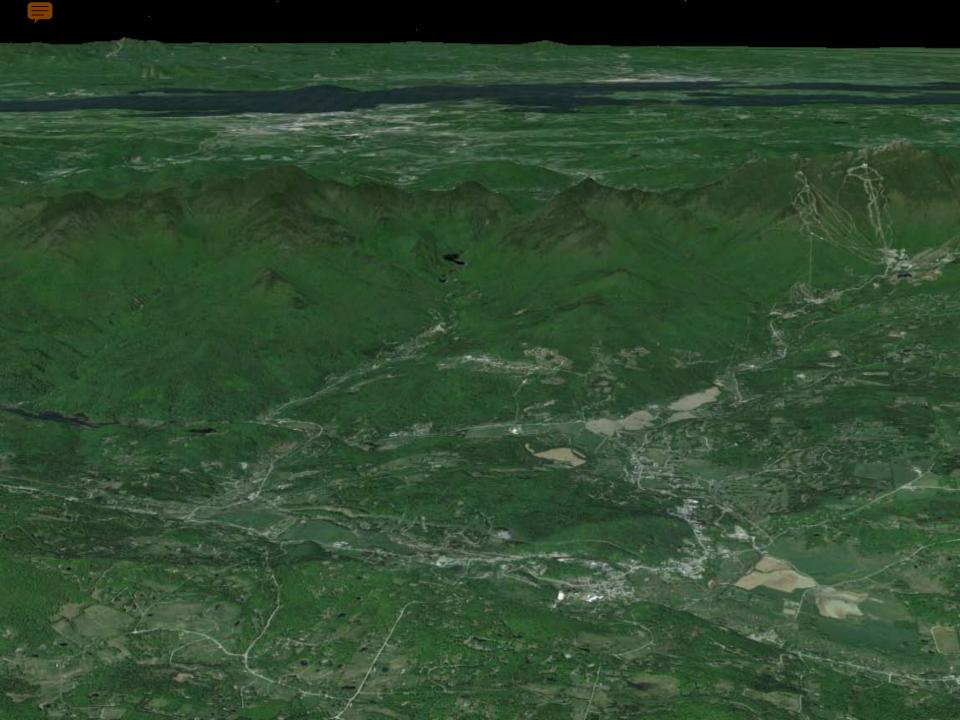


Soil & Vegetation





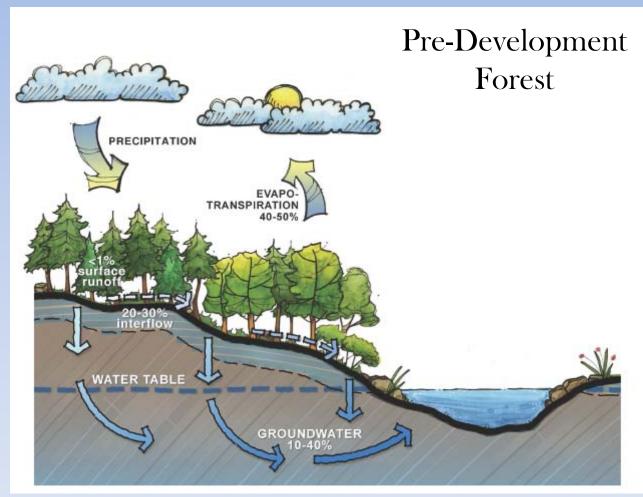
Evaporation + Transpiration = EvapoTranspiration (ETo)







Understanding Hydrology





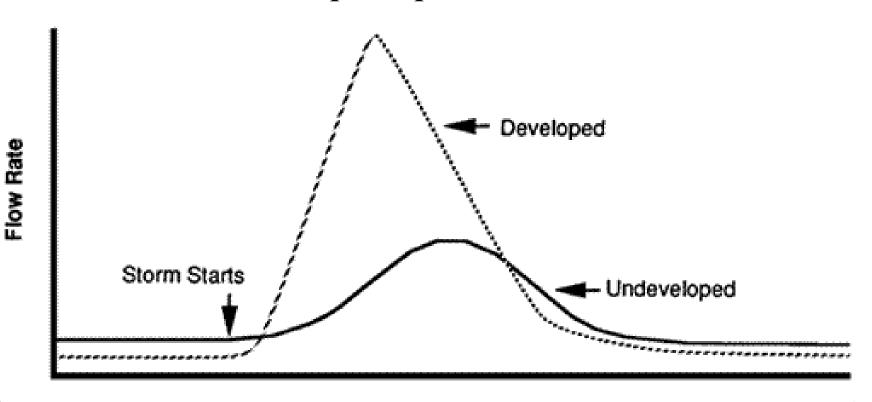
Understanding Hydrology

- While there is a lot of variability, generally under <u>natural forested</u> conditions:
 - 40% evapotranspiration
 - **–** 10% runoff
 - 50% into ground
 - Half shallow infiltration, half deep infiltration



Understanding Hydrology

What happens in streams & rivers after precipitation?



Time

Source: R.R. Horner



- Humans tend to alter the hydrologic cycle
 - Agriculture
 - Deforestation
 - Industry (including Dams and Water Extraction

- And via Development
 - Roads (and ditches and culverts and ...)
 - Parking lots (and curbs and driveways and ...)
 - Buildings (and roofs and sidewalks and...)

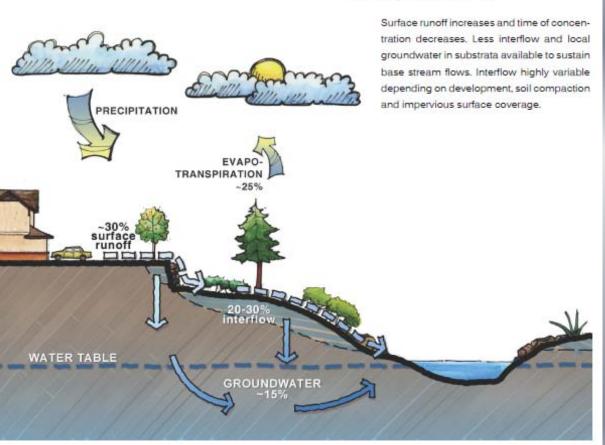


- Those alterations lead to:
 - Increased surface runoff due to additional impervious cover
 - Reductions in water holding capacity due to the compaction and removal of top soil
 - Reductions in evaporation & transpiration due to vegetation clearing













- Generally, under urbanized conditions:
 - 30% evapotranspiration
 - 55% runoff
 - 10% shallow infiltration
 - 5% deep infiltration





1" rain storm over 1 acre

Forest runoff = 2,715 gallons

Urban runoff = 14,934 gallons +

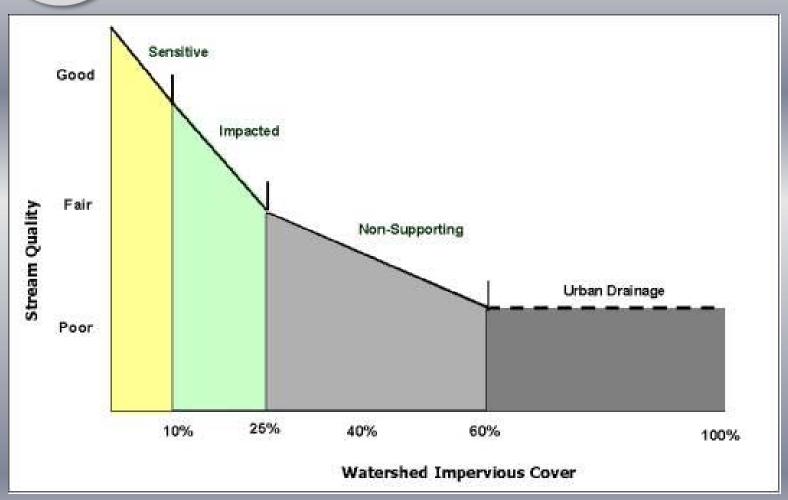
1" storm over Burlington

148,145,280 gallons

225 Olympic size swimming pools











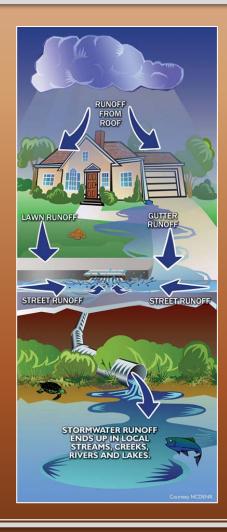
























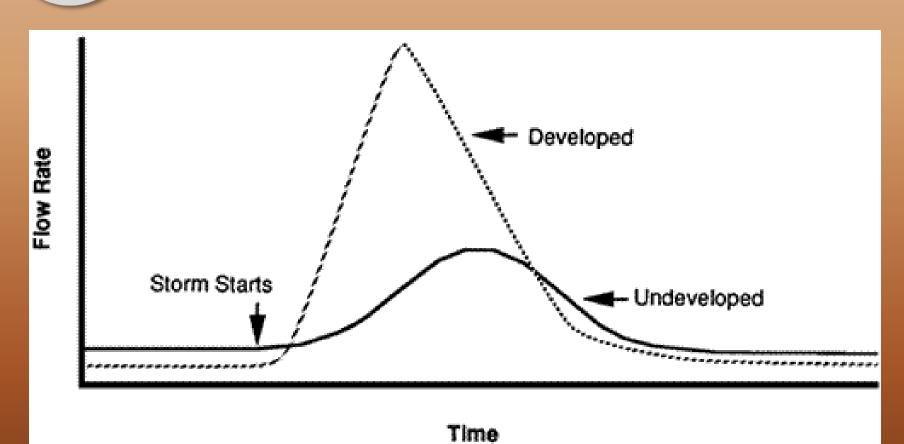


- Sedimentation and erosion
- Nutrient loading
- Bacteria
- Trash and debris
- Trace metals
- Increased runoff volume
- Reductions in groundwater
 base flow





Source: R.R. Horner





- Treats stormwater as a waste, not a resource
- Considers stormwater last in the design process
- Centralized
- Looks mostly at surface runoff
- Manages peak flow
- Reliant on large infrastructure



Questions?



Green Infrastructure

Consists of two approaches

Planning & Design via Low Impact Development

Techniques via Green Stormwater Infrastructure

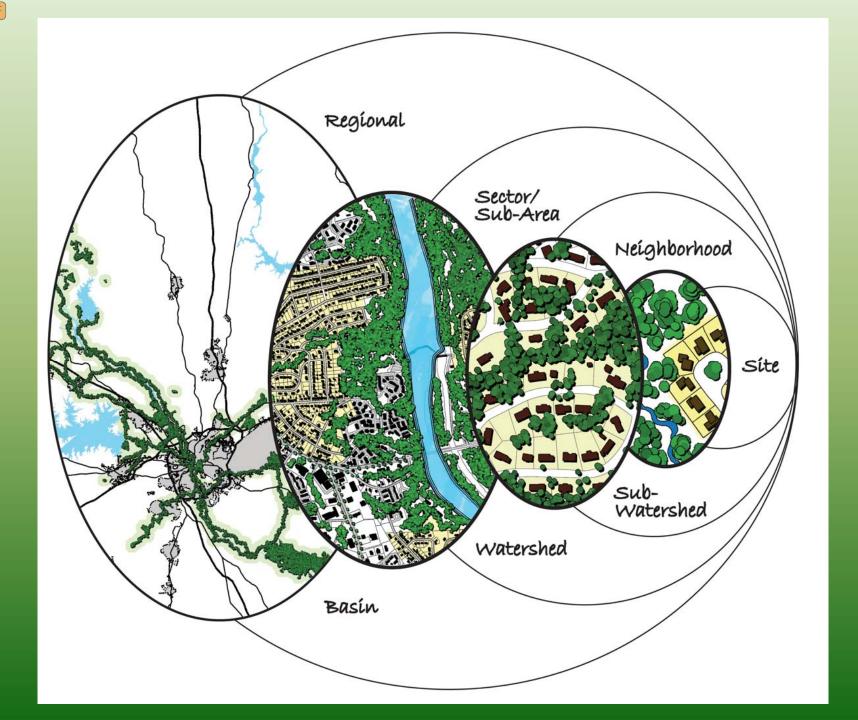




Low Impact Development

- Began in Prince George's County, MD in 1990
- Strategic design process to create a sustainable site that mimics undeveloped hydrologic properties
- An innovative land planning and design approach which seeks to maintain a site's predevelopment ecological and hydrological function through the protection, enhancement, or mimicry of natural processes













- Steer development away from environmentally sensitive and high-value natural areas
- Maintain natural ecological and hydrologic processes





At the watershed-scale

- Buffer, wetland and floodplain requirements
- Development restrictions on steep slopes, ridgetops, etc.
- Conservation easements

• At the community-scale

- Overlay districts
- Cluster or open space development
- Flexible site design incentives

• At the site-scale

- Enhanced site plan review
- Natural drainage protection
- Sensitive area protection





• Lessen the amount of stormwater runoff being generated by reducing the scale and scope of land disturbing activities and impervious cover







- At the watershed-scale
 - Canopy cover goals
 - Education and outreach (Think Blue Maine, Smart Waterways)
- At the community-scale
 - Maximum road widths
 - Parking maximums
 - Revised setback requirements
 - Landscaping requirements
- At the site-scale
 - Limits of disturbance
 - Soil restoration
 - Stormwater disconnection



Benefits of LID

- Reduce use of "traditional (grey) infrastructure"
- Maintain a town's unique character
- Reduce risk associated with flooding and streambank erosion
- Ensure continued provision of environmental goods and services (habitat, recreation, etc.)
- Decrease development costs
- Reduce infrastructure needs
- Reduce long-term maintenance costs
- Improve water quality
- Reduce surface flows



Questions?





Green Stormwater Infrastructure

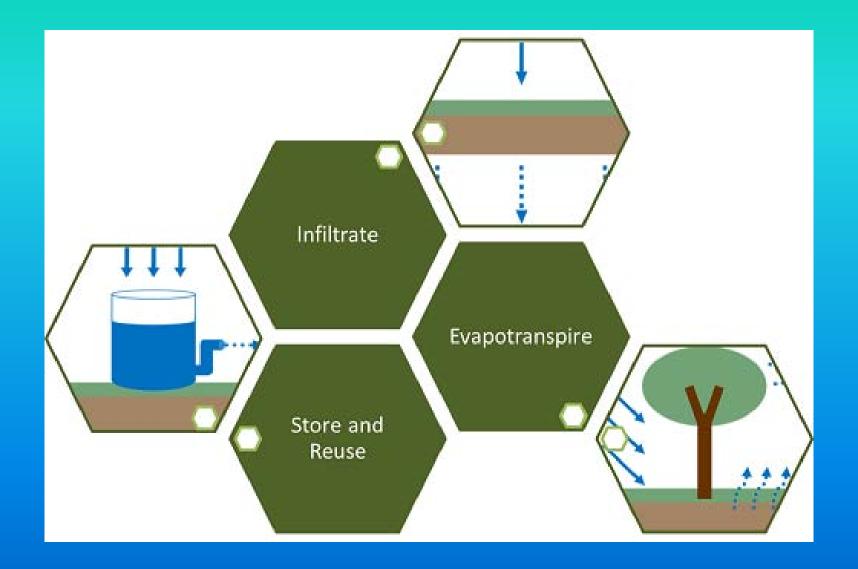
- Coined by EPA around 2007
- Systems and practices that restore and maintain natural hydrologic processes
- Reduces the volume and water quality impacts
 of the built environment while providing
 multiple societal benefits





- Use structural best management practices (BMP's) that mimic natural processes
 - Stormwater volume
 - Stormwater quality
- Interested in all aspects of the hydrologic cycle





















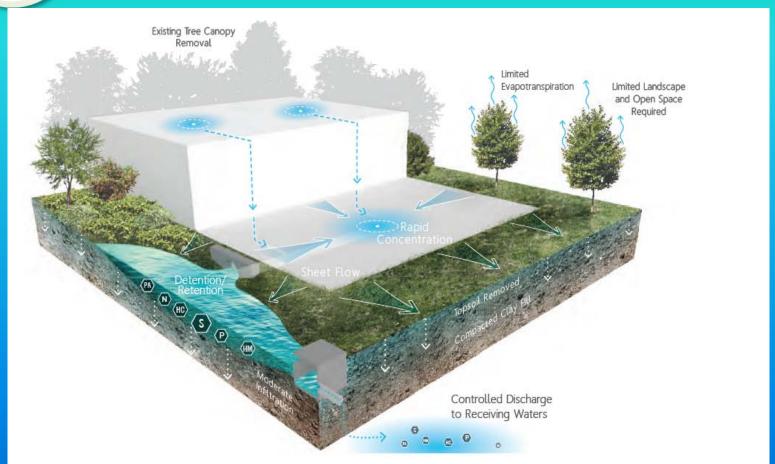


photo credit: University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Landscape Architecture Program





photo credit: University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Landscape Architecture Program



- At the watershed-scale
 - Identify areas of stormwater generation
 - Identify areas of stormwater attenuation
 - Educate the public
- At the community-scale
 - Look for opportunities to retrofit
 - Enact local stormwater regulations
 - Train staff and volunteers
- At the site-scale
 - Promote GSI through local zoning and subdivision regulations





Modular Porous Concrete Slab

Trinity Lot,
UVM Campus





Step Pool Conveyance System Enosburg Falls Village Garage





Subsurface Gravel Wetland

St. Albans/Exit 19
Park and Ride



photo credit: Stone Environmental



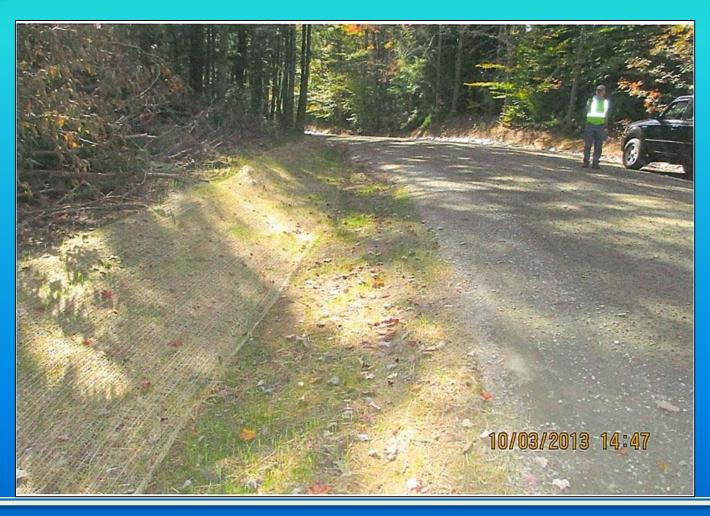
Turf Pavers Burlington



photo credit: Stone Environmental



Grass Lined Ditch





Grassed Waterway





Benefits of GSI

- Distributes the stormwater burden across the landscape
- Reduces water quantity and improves water quality
- Reduces cost over the long-term
- Mimic predevelopment hydrology
- Adds value to the community



Challenges to LID and GSI

• Lack of familiarity with LID and GSI

Lack of expertise with GSI techniques

• Using traditional SW approach is more familiar to engineers and developers

Maintenance of GSI techniques



Questions?



Case Study

















Green Infrastructure & Long Range Planning

- Town Plan
 - Introduce topic in chapters on Natural Resources, Flood Resiliency, Future Development, etc.
- Open Space Plan
 - Where should conservation efforts focus
- Stormwater Master Plan
 - Detailed focus on town's individual drainage areas







Zoning bylaws

Subdivision regulations

Other municipal ordinances

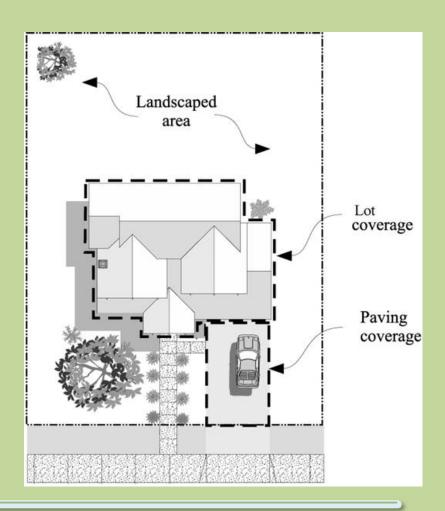






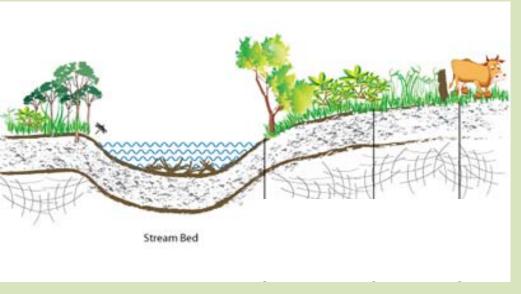
Lot Coverage-Restricts the amount which a parcel can be developed with impervious surface.

-Evaluate current limits?





Setback & Buffers



- Reduce front yard property setback
- Stream setback & buffer
- Wetland setback & buffer
- Floodplain
- Restrict not only structures and parking lots but also lawns

PARKING STANDARDS

- Set maximum parking requirements rather than only minimums
- Allow waivers to parking requirements
- Allow shared parking
 - Lower required width and length of parking spaces
 - Incentivize compact car parking



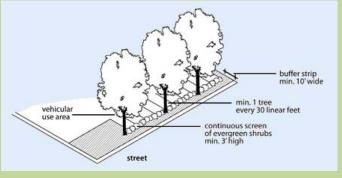


Parking & Landscaping Standards

- Landscaping islands
- o Encourage bio-retention ponds
- Require landscaping and trees based on # parking spaces











Subdivision Regulations









Standard Subdivision Design



- Minimum Lot Size
- Frontage
- No provisions for sensitive area setbacks (i.e. wetlands, streams, etc.)
- Large infrastructure cost



Flexible Subdivision Design

Conservation, Cluster, PUD Subdivisions

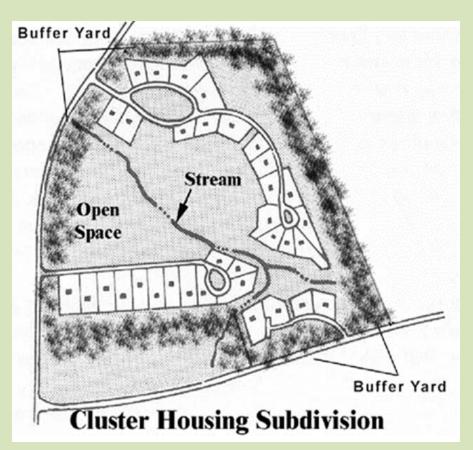
- Waiver(s) for Dimensional Requirements
- Limit Clearing
- Open & Common Space
- Protection of Natural Areas
- Shared Driveways
- Designated Building Envelopes
- Flexibility in Design
- Incentives- Density Bonuses







Benefits



- Preservation of working landscape, agricultural and forest lands
- Preserved wildlife habitat
- Reduced stormwater/impervious surfaces
- Access to open space
- Maintain rural character
- Reduced infrastructure cost



- Perceived additional density
- Current zoning regulations and bylaws
- Lack of familiarity with LID and GSI
- Reluctance to make "new" regulations





Other Municipal Ordinances

Road & Driveway Ordinance

- Reduce impervious surfaces
 - Incentivize low impervious
 - Reduce driveway widths,
 incentivize shared driveways
 - Evaluate road and driveway widths. Consider reducing based on traffic patterns and use.







VLCT Model LID Bylaw

Scope and Applicability

- The requirements of this regulation shall apply to land disturbance, development and any construction activities requiring a municipal land use permit.
- Allows for exemptions
- "Any activity that will disturb an area less than [] square feet or less than []% of contiguous property, whichever is less."
- "Any activity that will increase an impervious area or contiguous impervious area less than [] square feet."
- * *Focus on minimizing Land Disturbance and Preservation of Natural Areas * *



VLCT Model LID Bylaw

Standards & Guidelines

Standard 1: Vegetation and Landscaping

Standard 2: Development on Steep Slopes

Standard 3: Reduce Impervious Surfaces

Standard 4: Integrate Low-Impact Management

Practices.



VLCT Model LID Bylaw

VLCT Model LID Bylaw

- Independent Technical Review
- "The legislative body may establish procedures and standards for requiring an applicant to pay for reasonable costs of an independent technical review of the application." [24 VSA 4440(d)]

VLCT Webinar- "Green Stormwater Infrastructure Simplified Sizing Tool for Small Projects"-

Tues. November 10th 2-3 PM.



Group Exercise



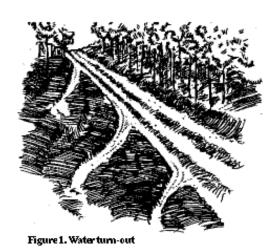
Meeting Regulatory Requirements

- US EPA requires Vermont to change Water Quality Plan
- Lake Champlain Phosphorus Standards
- Municipal Roads Stormwater General Permit
- Vermont Stormwater Management Manual



Purpose of the Roads Permit

• Bring "connected" road drainage systems up to basic maintenance standards



 Implement additional corrective measures necessary to reduce erosion to meet water quality standards





MRGP Timeline

- Fall & Winter 2015
 Begin outreach to towns
- Spring 2016
 Develop permit and standards
- Summer 2016
 Continue stakeholder process
- Fall & Winter 2016 Develop draft General Permit
- Fall & Winter 2017 Issue Final General Permit
- Phase in permit coverage 2018-2021



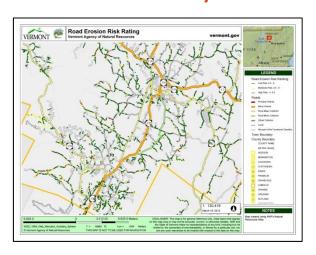




Permit Framework

• Municipalities develop Road Stormwater Management Plan

Inventory



Prioritize



Implement



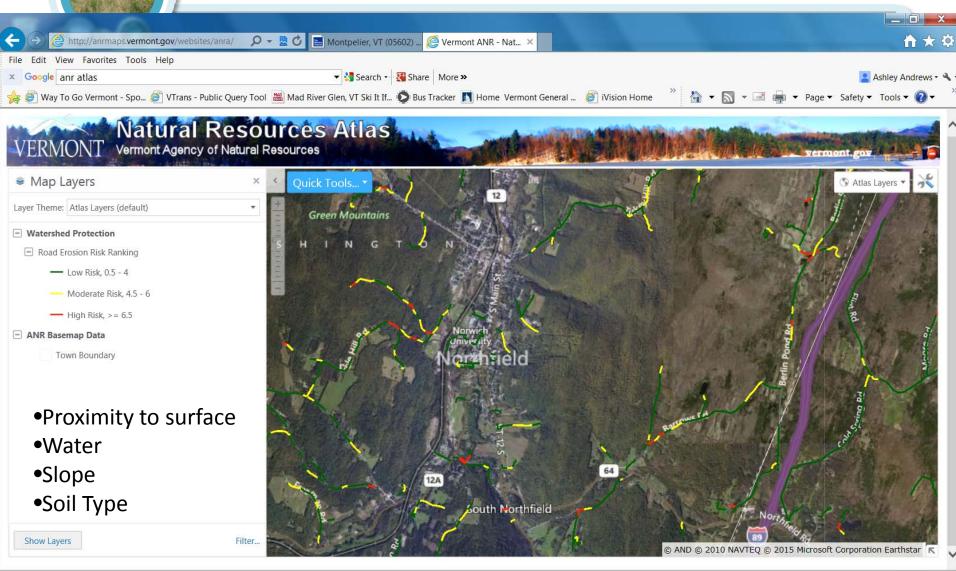


Road Erosion Workflow

- Road Erosion Inventory
- Town Gravel Roads (Class 2 4)
- Consult Road Erosion Risk Analysis Segments
- Consult with Town Staff
- Perform Windshield Survey
- Perform Detailed Assessment
- Prioritize Assessed Sites
- Select Treatment
- Develop Cost Estimates
- Schedule Treatments in Capital Programming



Hydrologic connection



4 125%





Road Segment ID Code:		Date / Time Assessed:	
Town:		Road Name:	
	Make an X to th	e right of your choice for each	criteria
		Vindshield Assessment	
Erosion Present : Yes	: No:	Water Quality Issue?	/es: No:
Problem Fixed?: Yes		Commence of Section 2	/es: No:
Notes:			
NOTE	: If Marking No to Water Qu	ality Issue - STOP. Do not con	duct Detailed Assessment
		Detailed Assessment	
Erosion Location - NOTE:	Please mark all locations wh	nere erosion is present	=
Roadway	Road Shoulder	Ditch	Road Bank
Culvert Headwall	Culvert Outlet	Culvert Inlet	Fill Slope
Off Road ROW	Ditched Stream		
Erosion Type - mark any t	type of erosion observed		
Rill	Incision	Slump	Ditch Scour
	Water Q	uality Risk Assessment Criteria	1
Road/Ditch Material in W	laterbody - the potential for	road/ditch material to reach	water body under normal precipitation
Slight	Moderate	Severe	
Runoff Volume - relative	amount of runoff water to a	and through the erosion point	or area, based on drainage area size
Low	Medium	High	
Slope to Waterbody - the	slope of the conveyance fro	om the road to the water bod	У
Low (0 - 10%)	Medium (10-30%)	High (>30%)	
Ground Cover to Waterb	ody - ground cover of the co	nveyance - only vegetation b	elow knee-height is considered.
>50% Vegetation	<50% Vegetation	Bare Channel	
		d Characteristics Criteria	
Road Slope - average of the slope within the erosion issue drainage area			
Low (<5%)	Medium (5-10%)	High (>10%)	



Vermont Better Backroads

Road Erosion Risk Inventory Manual - 2015

Erosion Type: There are four main types of erosion. Rill and Incision erosion can occur at any location on a road-way. Slump erosion is usually limited to road shoulders or road banks, while Scour erosion typically occurs in ditches or at culvert outlets. Sites can have more than one type!

Rill:

Small, shallow, braided channels that do not cut much below the upper road surface.





Incision Erosion:

Erosion that is actively downcutting through the road surface and sometimes into the road sub-base.





Scour:

Erosion where the velocity of runoff has eaten away at either the bank or the bed surface. Commonly found at culvert outlets.





Slump:

Usually a point, not a linear, feature. Slumps occur when either water undercuts the soil or runoff water saturates a steep bank, leading to a collapse in a certain location.





Erosion type does not necessarily influence the severity of the water quality problem. Instead, Type serves as descriptor which will inform how a solution to the issue is ultimately chosen.

ual



Vermont Better Backroads

Road Erosion Risk Inventory Manual - 2015

Detailed Assessment:

If you have determined that a Detailed Assessment is necessary, proceed by recording the following information:

Town and Road Name: | Segment ID Code: | Date/Time Assessed:

Notes Section: Please use this section to record basic measurements of any erosion features (length of ditch eroded, length/width of road surface erosion, etc), as well as the presence of seeps or blocked culverts.

Frosion Location:

Road erosion can be located in several distinct spots on a road. Use the diagram on page 12 when evaluating erosion location. You can mark multiple locations for each distinct erosion point or area.

Erosion Type:

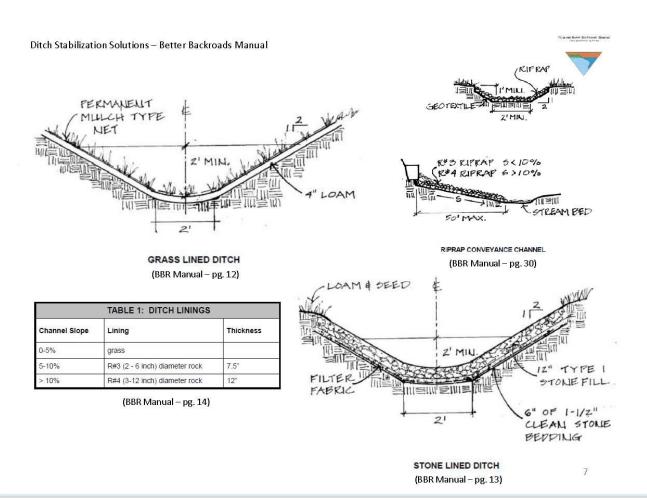
There are several types of road erosion illustrated on page 13. It is important to distinguish between them, as this will help assist in capital budget planning for repair. Erosion types include rill, incision, scour, and slump. It is possible that multiple types will occur for any erosion point or area. Mark all that apply. (Scores shown in parenthesis)

Water Quality Risk Assessment Criteria:

- Road or Ditch Material in Water Body: The opportunity for, or presence of, road-based material in the water body.
 - None (X0.0) no road/ditch material in water body, site is buffered, no connection possible. This site
 should not be evaluated using the Detailed Assessment as there is no water quality risk.
 - Slight (X1.1) some road or ditch material tracking near edge of water body, connection possible or likely.
 - c. Moderate (X1.2) ditches or other channels drain to water body, obvious tracking near water body, some road-based material visible in water body.
 - Severe (X1.3) large channel or multiple channels drain to water body, significant tracking near water body, evidence of significant amount of road-based material in water body.
- Runoff Volume: The volume of water from runoff to and through the erosion point or area this measurement is directly related to the size of the drainage area contributing to the erosion.
 - a. Low (8) erosion point is in the top 30% of the road's drainage area. This contributing area will generate the smallest volume of runoff water.
 - b. Medium (15) erosion point is in the middle 30% of the road's drainage area. This contributing area will generate a moderate volume of runoff water.
 - c. High (25) erosion point is in the lowest 30% of the road's drainage area. This contributing area will generate the largest volume of runoff water.
- 3. Slope to Water Body: Average slope from erosion point or area to the water body not the road slope.
 - a. Low (8) 0-10% slope average from road to water body below point of erosion.



Road Erosion Solutions - BBR





MRGP Practices and Standards

 Will be simple, costeffective, and easy to maintain whenever

possible







What types of practices will be included in the MRGP?

Practices will likely include:

- Stone-lined ditches and check dams
- Turn outs
- Road crowning
- Culvert headers
- Culvert outlet stabilization
- Possible new techniques and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Practices





What about river-road conflict sites?



Towns will identify top river-road conflict sites as part of the Roads SWMP





Are all road classes covered by the GP?

- Yes, All road classes will be covered by the permit (Classes 1-4)
- Paved Roads will likely follow Town Standards and Best Management Practices
- Requirements for Class 4 roads will likely be less stringent





MRGP and VTrans Road and Bridge Standards Compatibility?

- DEC and VTrans
 Standards and BBR
 Manual Practices will be compatible, as they are revised
- Different will apply to different conditions





Vermont's Stormwater Management Manual

Current Manual and Draft Updates

Green Infrastructure Workshop: Alternative Techniques for Managing Stormwater

Amy Macrellis, Stone Environmental October 28-29, 2015











Current Vermont Stormwater Management Manual in Practice

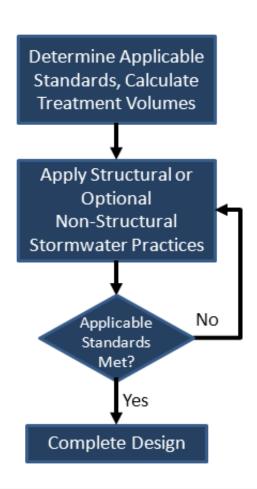
- Stormwater construction permits are administered through an NOI process for any project creating one acre or more of disturbance
 - Approved separately from permits for post-construction stormwater management
- State stormwater discharge permit required for:
 - New impervious surfaces greater than 1 acre;
 - Redevelopment of existing impervious, where the redeveloped portion is greater than 1 acre;
 - Expansions greater than 5,000 sf, if the total resulting impervious surface is greater than 1 acre.



Current Vermont Stormwater Management Manual Practice

- Treatment standards include:
 - Water Quality Treatment Standard (WQv): Capture 90% of annual storm events, remove 80% of TSS and 40% of TP
 - Channel Protection (CPv): Extended detention of the one-yr, 24-hr event for 12-24 hours
 - Groundwater Recharge (Rev): Maintain average annual recharge rate for the prevailing hydrologic soil group on the project site
 - Overbank Flood Protection (Qp10)
 - Extreme Flood Protection (Qp100)
- Optional stormwater credits can be used to reduce the required WQv and Rev (mostly non-structural practices)

2002 Stormwater Manual Framework



- Determine the Stormwater
 Treatment Standards your project is expected to meet,
- Calculate required treatment and/or storage volumes, and
- Choose and size acceptable structural stormwater treatment practices (or optional nonstructural practices) to detain and treat runoff from impervious surfaces.



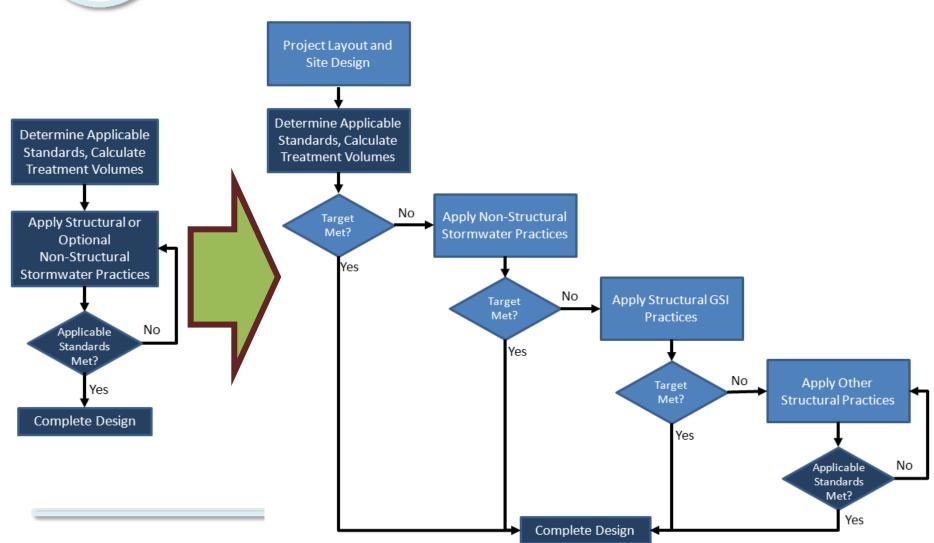
DEC and Stakeholder Goals for Updated Manual's Proposed Standards



- Mimic predevelopment hydrology
- Maximize the use of nonstructural practices
- Promote infiltration and evapotranspiration
- <u>Practical</u> and <u>economical</u> to apply and administer



2015(?) DRAFT Stormwater Manual Framework





DRAFT Stormwater Manual Revisions

- Treatment Standards

- Site Planning and Design: New Post-Construction Soil Quality and Depth Standard. Soils disturbed during construction, AND not covered by impervious surface, stormwater practice, or engineered fill/slope, meet organic matter and other key standards in the top 12" at close-out
- Water Quality Treatment Standard: rainfall depth increasing to 1 inch, required to be managed using non-structural and structural GSI practices
- Channel Protection Treatment Standard becomes a "Hydrologic Conditions Standard" - satisfied by using nonstructural and structural GSI practices to match a project's post-development runoff curve number (RCN) to that of predevelopment woods/meadow in "good condition"

DRAFT Stormwater Manual Revisions



- New Post-Construction Soil Quality and Depth Std.
- New stand-alone section for common pre-treatment practices with improved guidance for sizing
 - Grass Channel / Pre-Treatment Swale
 - Filter Strip
 - Sediment Forebay
 - Deep Sump Catch Basins
 - Proprietary Devices allowed if performance can be independently verified

DRAFT Stormwater Manual RevisionsStormwater Treatment Practices

- Non-structural practices move from optional credits to "acceptable non-structural stormwater treatment practices", with expanded guidance
 - Reforestation (new)
 - Simple (Rooftop) Disconnection
 - Disconnection to Filter Strips and Vegetated Buffers
 - Watershed Hydrology Protection (high-elevation projects)

DRAFT Stormwater Manual Revisions



- Stormwater Treatment Practices

- Acceptable Structural Treatment Practices revised and expanded to include more GSI practices
 - Green Roofs (new)
 - Permeable Pavement and Reinforced Turf (new)
 - Rainwater Harvesting (new)
 - Bioretention Areas and Rain Gardens (expanded)
 - Wet Swales and Dry Swales
 - Infiltration Trenches and Basins
 - Filtering Systems
 - Treatment Wetlands
 - Wet Ponds



Timeline for Stormwater Manual Revisions

- DEC Stormwater Program staff are currently developing supporting information
- Draft manual anticipated to begin formal rulemaking process before 2016 Legislative session begins





Green Infrastructure: Partnerships

- Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District
- Friends of the Winooski
- Friends of the Mad River
- Mad River Valley Planning District
- CVRPC
- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Green Infrastructure: getting your town started

- Town Offices as demonstration site
 - Rain barrel, rain gardens, vegetated swales, pervious concrete/asphalt pavers,
- Town lands for stormwater treatment
 - Constructed wetlands, large rain gardens
 - Be strategic in use of open space funds



Green Infrastructure: getting your town started

- School Programming
- Green Up Day
- Workshops
 - Re-engineering your driveway
 - Installing a rain barrel and/or rain garden
 - Creating a rain-friendly property





Green Infrastructure: getting your town started

- Self-assessment checklists
- Review by RPC
- Work into town plan update
- Work into zoning bylaw update





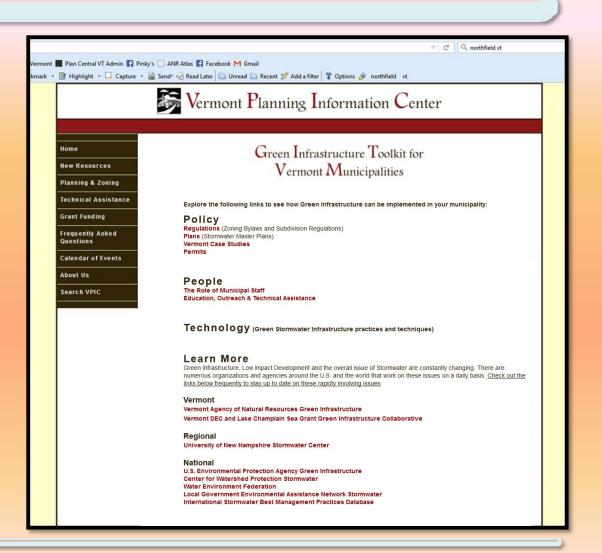
Green Infrastructure Toolkit

Vermont Planning
Information Center
(VPIC) website

http://www.vpic.info/

<u>GreenInfrastructure</u>

Toolkit.html





Additional Resources

- Vermont DEC Ecosystem Restoration Program
- Vermont DEC Stormwater Program
- Vermont FPR Urban and Community Forestry
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- VTrans Better Backroads
- VTrans Transportation Alternatives

Contact

Gail Aloisio - Assistant Planner

Dan Currier - GIS Manager

Steve Gladczuk - Transportation Planner
(802) 229-0389

Amy Macrellis – Stone Environmental (802) 229-1884