



2010 Rhode Island Stormwater Design Manual and Municipal LID Site Planning and Design Handbook

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Coastal Resources Management Council

The 2007 “Smart Development for a Cleaner Bay Act” required the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to amend the 1993 Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual to:

- Maintain groundwater recharge at predevelopment levels;
- Maintain post-development peak discharge rates so as not to exceed pre-development rates; and
- Use Low Impact Design (LID) techniques as the primary method of stormwater control to the maximum extent practicable.

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) has recently completed an update of the 1993 Design Manual to provide enhanced stormwater practice performance criteria and to mandate the use of LID strategies for stormwater management in site planning and design for all new development and redevelopment projects in Rhode Island. HW staff also conducted training for DEM and CRMC staff, as well as Rhode Island engineers and developers, to describe the new manual and introduce new concepts.

In addition to the revised state-wide design manual, HW also developed a companion LID Site Design Guidance Manual targeted at local Rhode Island municipalities. This local LID guidebook will help communities revise applicable ordinances and/ or adopt new regulations to reduce impervious cover and facilitate the implementation of LID at the local level.

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