

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
AUGUST 4, 2015 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>An ordinance to allow the use of Low Impact Development Techniques as an option for Stormwater Management in commercial, industrial, and multi-family greater than MF-6 Units per acre projects.</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Public Works Department</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">√ Ordinance Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
<p>SYNOPSIS</p> <p>FISCAL IMPACT</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>CITIZEN PARTICIPATION</p>	<p>Permissive, voluntary Low Impact Development (LID) ordinance will allow developers to incorporate environmentally-friendly water quality/quantity techniques into non-residential developments: commercial, industrial, and multi-family greater than MF-6, Multi-Family District, units per acre.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Approval of the ordinance</p> <p>Presentations were made to the Little Rock Sustainability Commission, Downtown Little Rock Partnership, Little Rock Realtors Association, Planning Commission during a field trip and to individual engineers and attorneys for local developers. In addition, a public meeting was held on May 4, 2015. The Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance on July 2, 2015, with one (1) person present to voice support. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval. The vote was unanimous in favor of the ordinance.</p>	

BACKGROUND

In 2012, the City of Little Rock received a grant from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to demonstrate the benefits of rain gardens and other techniques and to educate the community about such. The grant funding has been used to reconstruct parts of four blocks of Main Street using LID techniques. In the grant application, the City expressed a desire to research and consider the passage of a LID ordinance. Due to the fact that Public Works plans to update and revise the Stormwater Management & Drainage Manual soon, to include incorporation of LID principles, staff recommended a limited, permissive, and voluntary ordinance at this time. A second ordinance that will cover aspects of the parking and landscaping requirements is being proposed under separate cover by the Planning Department.

LID is different from conventional stormwater management. While traditional stormwater management focuses on moving untreated stormwater runoff off-site as quickly as possible, LID focuses on retaining stormwater on-site and maximizing pollutant removal and infiltration of runoff through the use of a number of techniques. For example, while a conventional development might use one large retention pond, an LID development might use a combination of smaller measures, such as pervious surfaces, grassy swales, bioretention areas, constructed wetlands, and others to create a “treatment chain” of stormwater management techniques.

In the case of both ordinances, the intent is to facilitate Low Impact Development for those who choose to do it.