

**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 amend provisions of Chapter 36 To allow for the use Of Low Impact Development (LID) Techniques</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Planning & Development Department</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">√ Ordinance Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>Permissive, voluntary Low Impact Development (LID) ordinance will allow developers to incorporate environmentally-friendly water quality/quantity techniques into non-residential developments.</p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>None.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the ordinance.</p>	
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	<p>Presentations were made to the Little Rock Sustainability Commission, Downtown Little Rock Partnership, Little Rock Realtors Association, the Planning Commission while on a field trip, and to individual engineers and attorneys for local developers. A public meeting was held on May 4, 2015, at the Centre at University Park. The Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance on July 2, 2015, with one person present to voice support. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval. The vote was 10 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.</p>	
BACKGROUND	<p>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.</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

The grant funding has been used to reconstruct parts of four (4) 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. This proposed ordinance will cover aspects of the parking and landscaping requirements needed to be changed to facilitate use of LID techniques. It is a companion to another ordinance proposed under separate cover by Public Works.

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.