

Minnesota Businesses for Clean Water

www.CleanWaterMN.org/Businesses

Being Green Can Save You Green!

Low Impact Development (LID)

Cut your construction, infrastructure and maintenance costs with LID while also protecting lakes, rivers and groundwater supplies!



Also known as Green Infrastructure, LID uses **community planning, Better Site Design**, and specialized techniques like **bioretention, porous pavement, green roofs** and **trees** to maintain the natural hydrology of a site during and after development.

We Minnesotans love our water. Minnesota boasts the birthplace of the mighty Mississippi River, the Boundary Waters, Lake Superior and the Wild and Scenic St. Croix River.

But, our beloved lakes and rivers are at risk.



Better Site Design means working with your site, not against it - only clearing and grading the areas where you will build, designing skinnier streets and parking lots with less pavement.

Dry up those puddles! **Bioretention** captures stormwater runoff from rooftops and parking lots in shallow landscaped depressions, then soaks it into the ground. **Raingardens** are a common type of bioretention.



Make your parking lot safe with **porous concrete, asphalt and pavers** that allow rainwater to pass through and soak into the ground naturally. Porous pavement needs no salt or sand in the winter and it melts ice more quickly, reducing the threat of slip and fall injuries.



Green roofs, planted with flowers and grasses, soak up rain and melting snow but also insulate your building and last twice as long as conventional roofs.

Trees reduce stormwater runoff, decrease your heating and cooling costs, absorb CO₂, improve air quality and add to your property value.



A whopping 40% of Minnesota lakes and rivers that have been tested are impaired - that means polluted. Rain and melting snow wash pollution off the land and into the water. The culprits - dirt, nutrients, salt, and chemicals - come from construction sites, farms, lawns, roads and even businesses.

Happily, there are solutions that will help you to save money, reduce liability, beautify your business AND keep our lakes and rivers clean.

Assistance is available!

Many local watershed districts offer **cost-share grants** for raingardens, porous pavement and features that reduce stormwater runoff.

The Washington Conservation District can **design projects** to help you fix erosion and drainage problems.

Find watershed and conservation district programs for your area at www.mnwcd.org/cleanwater.

The MPCA **Small Business Environmental Assistance Program** can help you reduce regulatory burden while staying in compliance and reducing emissions and waste. Their services are free, **non-regulatory**, and impose no obligations.

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Maintaining Outdoor Areas

Looking for cost-saving measures that will benefit the environment? There's no better place to start than outside.



When it comes to pavement, **less is better**. Trim costs for upkeep with help from the **turf maintenance program** or replace your turf with **native plants and trees** to save even more money. Take the extra step to **prevent pollution** when caring for company vehicles and make **litter management** a habit.



Shrink your Pavement and retain more green space. Within your parking

lots, use porous pavement, raingardens and vegetation to eliminate parking lot puddles and get rid of ice in the winter.

No one wants slippery pavement, but too much salt kills fish and contaminates our drinking water.

The **Winter Maintenance** program teaches contractors



when to plow, when to salt, how much to use and where to put it.

Get a cheaper, healthier lawn that's green in more ways than one with help from the **Summer Turf Maintenance Program**.

Or you can replace turf with low-maintenance **native plants**. Find plants, landscaping companies, garden designs and more at www.BlueThumb.org.



Company vehicles advertise your business. Put your best foot forward by fixing leaks, cleaning up spills and capturing wash water to prevent water pollution.



If you think **litter** looks bad in your parking lot, you should see the Mississippi River after it rains. Use covered trash cans and store materials inside or under cover from the rain and wind.