

TOWN OF CEDAR POINT AND TOWN OF CAPE CARTERET

Stormwater Solutions: Site Fingerprinting

What is a Site Fingerprinting?

Site Fingerprinting is a practice that uses the site design as a stormwater management tool by reducing land disturbance, preserving soil structure, and utilizing suitable natural areas (rather than expensive structural BMPs) for runoff management. Rather than grading land to fit a desired development type, the type of development is dictated by the existing conditions of the site, resulting in developed sites which use the land to maintain and protect the natural balance of the surrounding ecosystem.



Did you Know?

- Site Fingerprinting can be done during the planning process for no additional cost and can often lead to reduced infrastructure costs
- The majority of soils of Cape Carteret and Cedar Point can absorb greater than 5 inches each hour, making them well suited for natural stormwater infiltration
- By fitting the development to the land, it is often easier to preserve existing vegetation, giving a more established look to new developments
- A little preservation goes a long way toward effective stormwater management

Benefits

- Reduced stormwater runoff volumes discharged into our waterways
- Maintained natural drainage patterns
- Reduced infrastructure costs
- Healthier green space

Helpful Hints

- When trying to preserve the health of the local watershed, the best place to start is to enhance and preserve the natural stormwater treatment areas. These include marshes, wetlands, and coastal forests, which have great potential to control and treat stormwater runoff. By preserving these, less time and money will be spent trying to make up for the lost potential if they are impacted.



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Where to Start?

Natural Resources Inventory

1. Start by identifying the natural characteristics of a site

- Wetlands
- Shoreline
- Floodplain
- Forests
- Flow patterns



2. Determine the site's potential for LID stormwater treatment

- Locate development on the least sensitive natural areas
- Protect the preservation areas during construction
- Use density where appropriate
- Minimize soil compaction during construction
- Use disconnected impervious areas to minimize runoff volumes
- Use the natural drainage patterns

References and Resources

- Low Impact Development Center: www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
- Green Growth Guidelines, Chapters 1-6, Site Fingerprinting Utilizing GIS/GPS Technology: <http://coastalgadnr.org/cm/green/guide>
- Urban Land Institute: www.uli.org - search LID
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP): www.planning.org - search stormwater
- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA): www.asla.org - search LID
- Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center: www.wildflower.org - search LID



www.cedarpointnc.org
www.townofcapecarteret.com

