

# Your Guide to Low Impact Developments in Greater Grand Rapids

## Grand Rapids Water/Environmental Services

1900 Oak Industrial Drive, N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan



### History

The City of Grand Rapids Water/Environmental Services Facility is the first public works facility in the Midwest to seek LEED® certification. The City had not originally planned to seek certification but was encouraged by the Planning Commission after seeing the many green building features planned for the project. After a LEED® Scorecard review and budget assessment, it was determined that certification was within reach and the City moved forward with the process.

### LID Features

It was always the City's intention to create a facility that would showcase a variety of storm water management systems. A grass swale was established to absorb storm water and pollutants from the north parking lot. Porous pavers were used on the west parking lot to minimize runoff and heat island effects. A swirl concentrator was also placed in this location to capture sediment, debris, and floatable oil.

### Other Green Features

- ◆ Energy savings through efficient building design.
- ◆ Use of local and regional building materials.
- ◆ Use of building materials composed of recycled content throughout the facility including carpet, steel, ceiling tiles, and insulation.
- ◆ Employee access to public transportation, bike storage, and shower facilities.
- ◆ Recycling systems.
- ◆ A clean air handling system.

### Grand Rapids Water/ Environmental Services Facility

Grand Rapids, Michigan  
2005

#### LID Features

Grass swale

Porous pavers

Swirl concentrator

#### Awards

First municipally owned  
LEED® certified building in  
Michigan

#### Design, Construction

FTC&H

Dykema Excavators

Terhorse & Rinzema  
Construction

Post Associates, Inc.



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Page 2

### Social and Economic Benefits

The LEED certification has enabled the City to promote environmentally friendly building practices to local developers and contractors. It also provides the opportunity to educate the general public about environmental issues. In addition, employees gained the benefits of the LEED criteria, such as natural light and views, no fumes from building materials, a clean air handling system, and thermal comfort, just to name a few.



### LID Lessons Learned

"One of the lessons we learned was that we should have started the LEED certification process earlier. We were very pleased with how the process went and the that the building was certified. However, we could have incorporated more credits into the plans to gain a higher level of certification. Although the process started later than desired, we still finished on time, on budget, and continue to be good stewards to our community and our environment."

*Joellen Thompson, Assistant Water System Manager*



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