

MINIMAL IMPACT DESIGN STANDARDS

Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) represent the next generation of stormwater management in Minnesota. The emphasis today is on keeping the raindrop where it falls in order to minimize stormwater runoff and pollution, and preserve natural resources.

Low Impact Development is an approach to stormwater management that mimics a site's natural hydrology as the landscape is developed, and preserves and protects environmentally sensitive site features such as riparian buffers, wetlands, steep slopes, valuable (mature) trees, floodplains, woodlands and highly permeable soils.

Minnesota's new MIDS program offers standards and tools that will help Low Impact Development be implemented more uniformly and provides guidance to effectively implement the concepts and practices.

Center City, Chisago City, and Lindstrom were chosen as pilot communities to develop and test the MIDS Community Assistance Package (ordinances, policies, and guidance documents). Meetings were held with each of the city's planning commissions to introduce and work through ordinance language and concepts. In a vote, representatives of the three City Councils showed unanimous support for adoption. The Community Assistance Package is undergoing final review by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



Partners:

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
Center City
Chisago City
Lindstrom
Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.
Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
University of Minnesota Extension
Minimal Impacts Design Standards Workgroup

