

City of Santa Monica Urban Watershed Management Program

Low Impact Development Strategies:

Airport Park

3201 Airport Avenue



← [Perimeter Bay Boxes/Infiltration Pits during Construction]



← [Augered Bay Box/Infiltration Pit BMP]

[Permeable Asphalt Paving BMP in Parking Lot] →



[Permeable Asphalt Parking Lot Absorbing Water] →



The new Airport Park is an example of a project that incorporates Low Impact Development strategies with Best Management Practices (BMPs) to harvest most urban runoff for treatment via infiltration (soil ecology does a wonderful job in neutralizing low-level or background concentrations of pollutants). The project is also an example of creating new park land in highly urbanized and built-out areas where impermeable hardscape previously existed, providing additional open spaces for recreational and water quality improvement activities.

Opened April 29, 2007, Airport Park has many BMPs throughout the park. The BMPs include **Bay Boxes** (i.e., Santa Monica's term for a filtering or infiltration device that protects water quality of the Santa Monica Bay) along much of the park perimeter (PHOTO top left) as well as in other locations near impermeable surfaces, such as an adjacent tie-down airplane parking lot (PHOTO top right).

The north and south parking lots use the **permeable asphalt BMP** (PHOTO bottom right and left), allowing runoff to infiltrate. The parking lots allow runoff to pass through the permeable hard surfaces and into the sub-surface for infiltration, where soil ecology filters runoff and protects stormwater quality. Such a strategy prevents polluted runoff from flowing along streets, into storm drains and eventually into the Santa Monica Bay.

The park also includes a synthetic turf soccer field, which eliminates the need for irrigation and saves water at a time of increasing drought concern, and drier and warmer weather predictions. The soccer field and the adjacent dog park can also absorb, infiltrate and treat urban runoff.



Planning for a Cleaner Bay

Urban runoff flowing through storm drains is the single greatest source of pollution to the beaches and near shore waters of the Santa Monica Bay. Unlike sewage and discharges from industrial sources, urban runoff is not generally adequately treated before it reaches the bay and our beaches.

The City of Santa Monica passed an ordinance that is designed to reduce the amount of urban runoff pollution that reaches our storm drain system and the Santa Monica Bay. The ordinance requires a reduction in urban runoff flowing off of all impermeable surfaces from newly developed or retrofitted parcels within the city.

Reducing the amounts of urban runoff and of pollutants contained in the runoff is essential for the health and safety of our community. A cleaner bay means a healthier marine ecosystem and improved quality of life for residents, and increases Santa Monica's appeal to visitors and businesses.

By implementing post-construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) and making these strategies part of our daily lives, we can make a genuine difference - and clean the bay!



Putting the LID on Urban Runoff, the Santa Monica Way

In the city's efforts to reduce runoff pollution through the use of BMPs, we can manage, use and redevelop our lands in a more sustainable manner through the use of Low Impact Development (LID) and smart growth design strategies, and BMPs. LID is an economically and environmentally responsible strategy to site development which still allows land development, but in a long-term cost-saving manner that also mitigates potential environmental impacts. Whether employed at a single-family home or large commercial or public project, LID integrates land planning, and site design practices and techniques to mitigate development impacts to land, water and air, to conserve and protect natural resources and ecosystems, and to reduce infrastructure costs, e.g., storm drain systems.

This strategy views each development project as a small micro-watershed, part of the greater watershed or drainage basin of a particular area. The strategy promotes the concept of "start at the source," that is, to keep as much precipitation on each parcel to minimize the amount of runoff or waste water leaving a site. In the end, watershed management must include the individual and each parcel, and LID approaches should be used in planning and designing phases. The results of these strategies will be to maximize onsite rainwater and runoff harvesting, retention and use, and to minimize runoff pollution in reaching the bay.

For more information contact **310-458-8223** or visit **sustainablem.org**



Urban Runoff & Watershed Management Program

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