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Local policy and economics can support Low Impact Development

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Abstract:

Throughout the US, communities, developers, citizens, and local governments are being asked to consider and implement Low Impact Development to protect natural resources as land use changes from rural to more intense land forms. Local decision making boards need a comprehensive understanding of LID if they are expected to support it. Cooperative Extension and natural resource agencies are well prepared and are teaching the science of LID, e.g. - the hydrologic cycle, canopy cover, stream buffers, BMPs. To help them make more informed decisions, elected and appointed officials are seeking additional information including the economic considerations of low impact development, and how other communities are implementing LID.

Prompted by Appalachian Mountain communities in NC and numerous others for this information, the authors produced two factsheets in December 2008: (1) LID and policy: How does local policy impact a community's ability to implement LID? (2) LID and Economics: How does LID impact everything else in a community?

This poster is based on the factsheets, clarifying these topics and presenting the audience with policy and economic issues for communities to discuss when considering Low Impact Development as a way to protect natural resources. The fact sheets were developed in cooperation with economists policy specialists from NC Cooperative Extension, NCSU Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, ECONorthwest, and NC Sea Grant.

Impact Statement:

Throughout the US, communities, developers, citizens, and local governments are being asked to consider and implement Low Impact Development to protect natural resources as land use changes from rural to more intense land forms. Local decision making boards need a comprehensive understanding of LID if they are expected to support it. Cooperative Extension and natural resource agencies are well prepared and are teaching the science of LID, e.g. - the hydrologic cycle, canopy cover, stream buffers, BMPs. To help them make more informed decisions, elected and appointed officials are seeking additional information including the economic considerations of low impact development, and how other communities are implementing LID.

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Category: Human Dimensions

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