

## **Low Impact Design Project Overview**

Non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff is a significant contributing factor to water quality impairments in Escambia County. While existing state and local stormwater regulations are necessary to protect water resources from additional degradation, research conducted across the State of Florida has indicated current design standards may not provide adequate treatment to meet water quality goals. Low Impact Design (LID) offers additional tools for design professionals to improve pollutant removal efficiencies through capture and infiltration. Increased removal efficiencies result in the overall reduction of pollutant loading for downstream receiving waters.

LID is not currently common practice in Escambia County. A lack in the local general awareness of LID practices, the need for a Escambia County specific guidance document, and limited training opportunities are a few of the main obstacles that have prevented these practices from becoming common place in local stormwater design.

This project was designed to increase use of LID practices in local stormwater design by lowering barriers, eliminating obstacles, simplifying the design process, and increasing level of comfort for local design professionals and their clients. Project goals were accomplished by developing and distributing an Escambia County LID design manual; holding a series of workshops for professional engineers, architects, land use planners, and developers; providing access to tools designed to aid in LID design; and constructing a LID demonstration project.