Low Impact Design Guidance for Sensitive Groundwater Areas

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Challenge

- Managing stormwater in karst or sensitive groundwater areas has unique challenges.
- Traditional stormwater management that focuses on runoff may not be as useful in these types of areas.
- Met with a group of selected local governments last November to get input.

Outcomes

- Current programs provide some incentive but more is needed.
  - Financial and buy-in.
  - Approach that is integrated or holistic.
    - Not just a set of practices.
- Challenges.
  - Resistance to change.
  - Lack of local government and agency buy-in to incorporate guidance and associated requirements in comprehensive plans, land development regulations, and local codes.

Outcomes Challenges

- Lack of Florida-specific, data-driven evidence on water quality benefits of LID/GI stormwater management practices.
- Lack of a unified definition and state framework for LID/GI.
  - Perceived or real lack of consistency in the design specifications for individual LID/GI practices and treatment-train approaches.
- Finally, LID/GI and BMAP credits are perceived as “trying to make new developments clean up pollution from existing projects”.

Outcomes Opportunities

- Monitoring installation and demonstration projects to document water quality benefits/costs.
- Coupling water quality and quantity goals in planning and practice (e.g., stormwater reuse for irrigation).
- 319 and other grants to develop BMP ‘cut sheets’ and tailor to unique geologic features (e.g., Alachua County designates criteria for “Karst-sensitive areas”).
- Prioritizing integration of LID/GI practices in redevelopment and retrofit projects.
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Project Purpose

1. Identify, gather, evaluate, and assemble current and regionally-applicable stormwater management guidelines and practices for sensitive groundwater areas in Florida.
2. Provide technical outreach and education to practitioners on stormwater issues, nonpoint source pollution challenges, and potential GIS-based solutions for protecting groundwater resources.

Project Objectives

- **Objective 1**: Identify, gather, evaluate, and synthesize the most current and applicable stormwater management approaches, guidelines, technologies, and practices to meet the overarching goal.

- **Objective 2**: Develop detailed technical guidance for effective techniques most likely to be implemented to capture, treat, and eliminate urban stormwater runoff to meet the overarching goal.

- **Objective 3**: Execute a process that engages stakeholders, solicits their input and feedback, and ultimately develops buy-in to apply these resources to meeting the overarching goal.


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