

Green Landscaping – Is it green or is it “green”?

On May 20, 2010, Joseph Plumpe from Studio 39 shared his insights and knowledge of Green Landscaping with us as part of our “What if ...” seminar series. Below is just a snapshot of the information presented.



Green landscape components include:

- Hydrology / stormwater
- Hardscape materials
- Vegetation
- Soils

Some of the economic benefits include:

- Less water .. less green waste .. less maintenance -- a native garden requires 77% less water, produces 66% less green waste and costs 68% less in maintenance.
- Bio retention can help decrease the cost required for construction storm water conveyance systems.
- Communities experience enhanced property values.

Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) is the Nation’s first rating system for sustainable landscapes. It was created to promote sustainable land development and management practices that can apply to sites with and without buildings. It is a joint effort with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the U.S. Botanical Garden (USBG). The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC – a stakeholder in the initiative) anticipates incorporating these guidelines and performance benchmarks into future iteration of the LEED Green Building Rating System.

Low Impact Development Strategies (LID) include:

- Hardscape Stormwater Collection ... pervious paving: Pervious pavers, pervious concrete, pervious asphalt, and grass pavers.
- Landscape Stormwater Collection ... biofiltration: rain gardens, bioswales, biofiltration planters, green roofs, green walls and screens
- Stormwater Storage .. Rain barrels, Underground cisterns, stormwater ponds, and storage modules
- Stormwater Reuse ... Rainwater harvesting, rainwater irrigation, fountains
- Plant Design .. native plants, adaptive plants, invasive plants, biodiversity in planting
- Soils ... soil amendments, solutions for non-percolating soils, soil compaction, control and retain construction pollutants.
- Sustainable Materials ... recycled content, site lighting and design, solar energy.

Dunlap & Partners Engineers, PC is a full-service engineering firm providing mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection design services, sustainability and energy auditing as well as commissioning services. Our LEED Accredited Professionals work with our clients in evaluating their wants, needs and desires. We ask “what if ...” and utilize a sustainable thought process to determine how best to maximize all resources. For more information on our services and expertise go to www.DunlapPartners.com or call us at 804.358.9200.

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