

## LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM TARGETS COUNTY PLANNERS TO ADDRESS IMPLEMENTATION BARRIERS AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

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Low impact development (LID) is an approach to stormwater management that emphasizes conservation and uses on-site natural features to protect water quality. Osceola County is the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the US by percentage. As the county develops, there is opportunity to implement rain gardens, bioswales, impervious pavement, and other LID methods to manage stormwater runoff and protect water quality. Currently, the county's land development code only *encourages* the use of LID, leaving many county-employed planners unmotivated to include non-traditional stormwater methods in development plans. A technical symposium targeting county planners, engineers, and decision makers was developed to address barriers and misconceptions about LID. The objective of the program is that participants will have a 50% increase in knowledge about LID principles and practices. In addition, 10% of participants will include LID in a future project, as measured by a follow-up survey.

The Low Impact Development Symposium includes a technical overview of LID by UF faculty, and case study presentations for both urban retro-fit projects and newly constructed subdivisions by area engineers. An afternoon panel allows participants to clarify their regulatory and maintenance questions. The panel consists of a South Florida Water Management District representative, local government staff managing LID projects, and a representative from the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Programmatic outcomes and impacts will be evaluated and presented. Knowledge gain results will be measured by a retrospective post-/pre-test. A follow-up survey for behavior change will collect results regarding the specific LID methods implemented in projects following the conference. In addition, data will be collected to analyze barriers to implementation if LID practices were not used following the conference. Potential impacts include a change to the land development code, improved water quality, and better infrastructure resilience.

**PRESENTER BIO:** Krista Stump is a Natural Resources Extension Agent in Osceola County for UF/IFAS Extension and a PhD student in the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department at UF. Her Extension programs focus on water quality and quantity, BMPs, invasive species, and environmental literacy for youth and adults.