

Town of Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency

Low Impact Development Work Group

Frequently Asked Questions

What is “Low Impact Development?” “Low Impact Development” (LID) is a stormwater management strategy employing land use design techniques to mimic natural hydrologic patterns in developed areas. Key principles include mimicking natural processes, retaining water on-site and encouraging infiltration, conserving natural features and preserving existing vegetation/drainage patterns, and decentralizing stormwater management that integrates natural systems. The aim of LID is to promote sustainable designs thereby reducing environmental impact while enhancing and protecting water resources and associated water quality.

Why is this Low Impact Development Work Group needed? Protecting the water quality of Coventry Lake is vital to our community. The Lake is a crucial asset for our town, hosting many activities that enhance our quality of life. Latest trends in Lake water quality have raised public awareness and concern. LID land use strategies help protect water quality by reducing the adverse impacts of land development.

What is the role of Coventry’s Inland Wetlands Agency (IWA)? Coventry IWA is a municipal land use regulatory agency responsible for protecting wetlands and watercourses by implementing and enforcing State of Connecticut wetland law. By incorporating effective LID practices in the permitting application process, and encouraging proactive measures by property owners in the Lake’s watershed, the water quality of Coventry Lake can be incrementally maintained and protected.

What will be recommended? The IWA LID Work Group, consisting of volunteer representatives from Coventry’s land use entities and selected subject matter experts, will develop recommendations addressing:

- **Educational, Regulatory, and Technical Design Criteria:** Proposed criteria and related materials informed by state-of-the-art lake water quality information and relevant science.
- **Communication Strategies:** Proposed strategies and educational materials for consideration by Coventry land use entities and residents/property owners.
- **Tracking and Monitoring:** Proposed tactics to track and monitor the status and impact of implemented LID measures.

Who will use the LID products? The information and criteria developed are intended for use by property owners, land developers, environmental consultants, town staff, and other stakeholders to plan effective LID measures and lake protection strategies in Coventry Lake Watershed. These resources will support the planning and implementation of land use development measures to protect the water quality of Coventry Lake. They will also provide predictable expectations for LID use within permitting application processes.

How will the IWA LID Work Group proceed? This informal ad hoc LID Work Group operates under the aegis of the Inland Wetlands Agency (IWA). It is a collaboration of volunteer representatives from Coventry's Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC), Inland Wetlands Agency (IWA), Conservation Commission, Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee, various subject matter experts, and Town staff. Draft recommendations will be shared across relevant Town bodies for input, comment, and completion. Work Group members will review and analyze exemplary LID techniques, policy, designs, and measures implemented for other relevant lakes and watersheds to identify relevant techniques for consideration. The Work Group will review contemporary research-generated data and analysis to incorporate current scientific insights into its recommendations.

How will water quality data and scientific analysis of Coventry Lake be utilized? The Work Group's efforts are greatly informed by and benefit from the active participation of Dr. Robert Kortmann. His recent annual analysis and reports on the condition of the Lake underscore the potential likely value of increased and effective LID efforts in the Coventry Lake Watershed. The proactive implementation of LID strategies is a proven approach that will incrementally maintain and protect water quality in the Lake and its Watershed.

When was the LID Work Group formed and how often does it meet? The Work Group was established in Spring 2025 and held its first meeting on April 29, 2025. Meetings will be held at least monthly. Meeting agendas and informal notes are published on the Town web page [Inland Wetlands Agency | Coventry, CT - Official Website](#).

Who are the IWA LID Work Group members:

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