



The Watershed Resources Registry (WRR)

An Innovative, Collaborative Approach to Improving Regulatory Streamlining, and Achieving Sustainable Watershed Restoration & Protection

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AASHTO 2014 National Stormwater Practitioners Meeting
July 31, 2014
Washington, D.C.



























Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford



























History

- A collaborative national/regional pilot that grew out of the *Green Highways Partnership* and the Maryland State Highway Administration (MDSHA) proposal for making the Route 301 Project the 1st Green Highway in Maryland.
- Purpose 1: Develop transferable framework for integrated watershed management to address the Federal Compensatory Mitigation Rule – ultimately enabling creation of "watershed banking" capability.
- Purpose 2: Achieve increased regulatory efficiencies through integration of CWA Sections 401, 402, and 404 (303(d), 319, etc.) in a watershed context thereby also enabling greener (more sustainable) stormwater management.



































What is the WRR?

- It is a comprehensive replicable framework and GISbased targeting tool that:
 - Integrates and streamlines regulatory programs
 - Guides resource planners
 - Saves time and \$\$, and increases program efficiencies
 - Screens for preferred actions and maximizes watershed benefits
 - Is transparent, predictable and reliable
 - Facilitates multiagency input and coordination

























WRR

watershed resources registry

Why is the WRR unique?

Unlike many mapping and targeting tools...

There is extensive participation by federal, state and local government, including:

Regulators

EPA USACE FWS MES

FHWA MDE MDNR MDP

MDSHA ICPRB County Governments

There is agency collaboration and program integration between:

- CWA 319, 401,402,404, 303(d)
 - Watershed planning, permit review, mitigation assessments
 - TMDL and WIP applications
 - Stormwater management
- NEPA review

- Green Print and Rural Legacy priorities
- Section 7 (Endangered Species Act)
- Transportation and land use planning
- Resource conservation/ environmental resource planning



Allows

For

Concurrent

reviews

























Interagency Partnering - Objectives:

- 1. Integrate watershed data from multiple agencies and programs in a single database
 - Increase decision-making efficiency regarding users' particular priorities
 - Achieve secondary benefits to watershed as a whole; the decision of one regulator or planner aids the priority of another.
 - Addresses both agency and watershed needs



























- 2. Increase regulatory and non-regulatory program integration via the watershed approach
 - Begin with CWA 401, 404, 402, 303(d), and 319
 - Provide support to local planning & watershed efforts
 - Seek best ways to coordinate and streamline application of regulatory tools to address greatest watershed-driven resource needs for sustainable performance & results



























- 3. Streamline and improve regulatory efficiencies and resource planning via minimization of redundancies in decision-making
 - Ensure compliance with federal compensatory mitigation rule
 - Incorporate all information into the decision-making framework for regulators, planners, nongovernmental organizations, permit applicants, industry, and others.



























WRR NEPA Streamlining & Regulatory Efficiency

Linked permit process with NEPA

Collaborative decision making process among agencies – linked review of 7-11 additional processes & resources

collaborative decision-making process with GIS and Ecological Analysis

Watershed based analysis tool used to streamline many agency decision-making processes. Collaborative development of tool by multiple regulatory agencies

Time & Dollar Savings

60 to 80% time reduction & 10- 13% cost reduction

5.6 Yrs Reduced to ~ 2 Yrs

Additional 20 to 30 % time and cost reduction

~ 1-1.2 yr

Additional 30% reduction in time and cost with decisions based on integrated ecological analysis

~ 9 mos - 1 yr

WRR can provide an additional 50% reduction in each step of the process that involves data collection, analysis, and evaluation

~ 4-5 mos (Projected)

Other Benefits

Brought the 401/404 regulators evaluations into the NEPA phase of project development thereby reducing redesign and re-analysis of project designs after NEPA

Provided a framework for integrated and collaborative decision-making. Allowed Regulatory/Resource agencies to deliberate a balance decision among varied resources

Provides a broader regional or ecosystem analysis for infrastructure processes. Identification and evaluation of impacts and also assists in developing



regional conservation planning.

Multiple endusers for WRR tool from private sector to many levels of public sector. Can encompass planning & project development & permitting and regulatory/non-regulatory analyses.



























404 (b)(1) Guidelines Analysis

Standard (MD)

CWA 401/404 Permit Process

Corps permit reviewer meets with applicant to explain requirements of 404 including the amount and type of aquatic resource information needed.

Currently 66% or more of applications are not considered complete at time of submittal and often require several iterations before considered federally complete.

Analyzing alternatives including avoidance & minimization can require numerous iterations of data gathering and analysis including field reviews. This includes determination of potential mitigation sites

Average Time: 120 days

s reg

CWA 401/404 Permit Process with WRR

Corps permit reviewer can show the applicant to the WRR website/tool and explain the process and information requirements. Reviewer at this time could ascertain the Corps jurisdiction on the project

The WRR can assist applicants in submitting complete permits quicker and with less revisions. Permit Reviewer will be able to ascertain jurisdiction and type of permit earlier. Initial WRR Perf.

Target = Reduce 66% to 30% or less.

Applicant, permit reviewer and agencies can work to identify any additional avoidance & minimization changes using the WRR. Also potential mitigation sites can be evaluated using the WRR. Field reviews can be expedited.

Projected Average Time: 60-80 days



Application Initial Review Jurisdiction & completeness

Alternatives
Analysis &
Agency
Coordination





WRR Suitability Analyses (SA)

- Upland Preservation
- Upland Restoration
- Wetland Preservation
- Wetland Restoration
- Riparian Zone Preservation
- Riparian Zone Restoration
- Preserve Healthy Stormwater Systems
- Restore Degraded Stormwater Systems





























Factors for Preserving Healthy Natural Stormwater Infrastructure

- in a Blue Infrastructure watershed
- in area with well-drained soils
- in a 100-year (1 point) or 500-year (½ point) floodplain
- within 100 ft (1 point) or 500 ft (½ point) of an impaired (303-D listed) stream
- in a Tier II watershed
- in a Stronghold Watershed (1 point for "1"; ½ point for "2")
- in Chesapeake Bay Commission Critical Area (LDA or RCA only)
- in a Green Infrastructure hub or corridor
- in an area of potential Forest Interior Dwellings Species Habitat

- is forested riparian buffer (1 point if within 200 ft of stream; 2/3 point if within 400 ft of stream;
 1/3 point if within 600 ft of stream)
- is relatively high in impervious surfaces
- is forested near (200 ft) or in an area where impervious surfaces are relatively higher
- in an unprotected Targeted Ecological Area (GreenPrint)
- is within 200 ft of a protected Targeted Ecological Area (GreenPrint)
- is near (200 ft) but not in a protected Targeted Ecological Area (GreenPrint)
- in a Priority Funding Area
- in a wetland

cannot already be protected

cannot be open water



























Factors for Restoring Degraded/Failing Stormwater Infrastructure Systems

- in a Blue Infrastructure watershed
- in a Biological Restoration Initiative (BRI) watershed
- in an area that was probably developed before 1985 (1 point) or between 1985 and 2000 (1/2 point)
- · is an area of relatively higher impervious surfaces
- in an impaired watershed (as indicated by \$303-d)
- is within 200' (1 point) or within 600' (1/2 point) of a stream designated for uses II, II or IV
- in a Stronghold Watershed (1 point for "1"; ½ point for "2")
- in a Tier II watershed
- flood plains
- forested areas
- karst geology
- in a wetland



























Philosophy of the WRR: Stormwater Models

- Any relatively healthy or intact system (including wetlands, streams, uplands, etc.) will have positive stormwater benefits and should be preserved.
- Direct users to general areas that should be considered for restoration (or preservation) and to sway them away from areas that are less desirable for restoration (or preservation) based on landscape characteristics or other factors.
- The intent is not to identify all areas that are technically feasible but to use the Watershed Approach to guide users to areas that are both strategic and preferred for restoring healthy hydrology.
 - For example, the goal is to direct users to areas of high imperviousness rather than previous approaches which directed users to existing green space.



























Setting the Stage: How did we get here?

- Not intended to be site specific
- Planning level tool designed to direct users to a general area that then needs to be ground investigated
- Feedback from stakeholders that the model outputs were too general
- Potential to refine and increase the utility of the tool by applying NPDES – specific BMP data





























Request for Input from Agency Stakeholders

- Letter of request sent out in July of 2013 with initial comment end date of 8/16
 - Stormwater Model Criteria
 - Potential New Data Sources
- Continued follow up and interagency coordination throughout the fall
- Weekly stormwater conference calls between EPA and MES – intermittent participation by DNR and SHA



















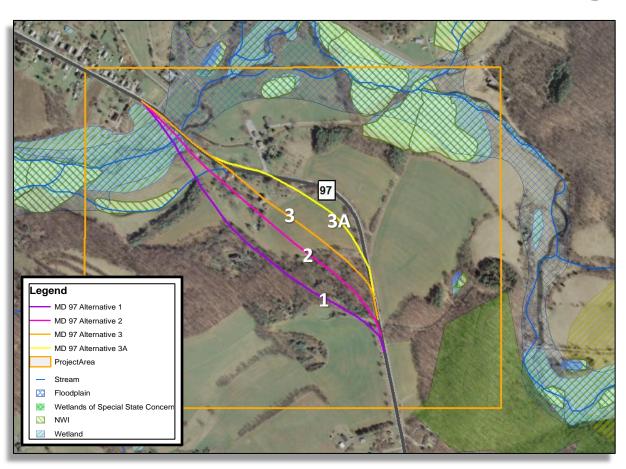








Avoid and Minimize Using the WRR



Considerations for Potential Alignments:

- Wetlands
- Streams
- Floodplains
- •Green/Blue Infrastructure
- Land Use/Land Cover
- •Forest Interior Dwelling Species
- •Targeted Ecological Areas
- Sensitive Species Area
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area
- Property Owner Information

Watershed Resources Registry Case Study



















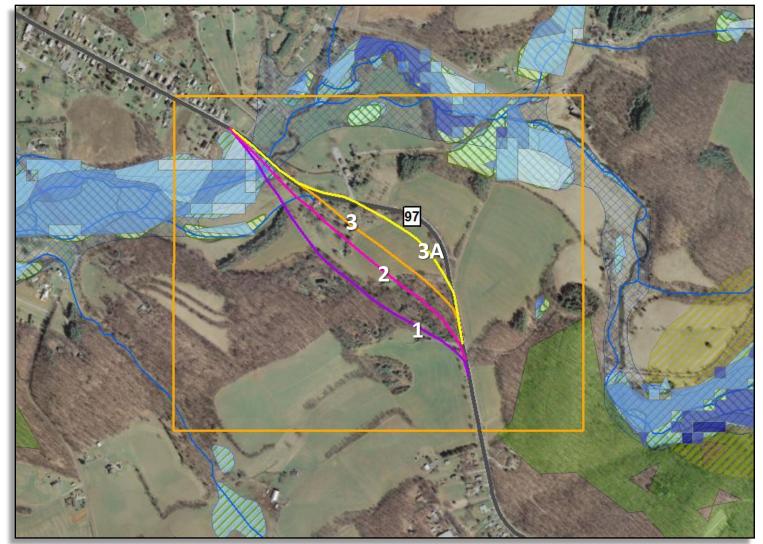








Potential Preservation Impacts: Wetland Preservation





















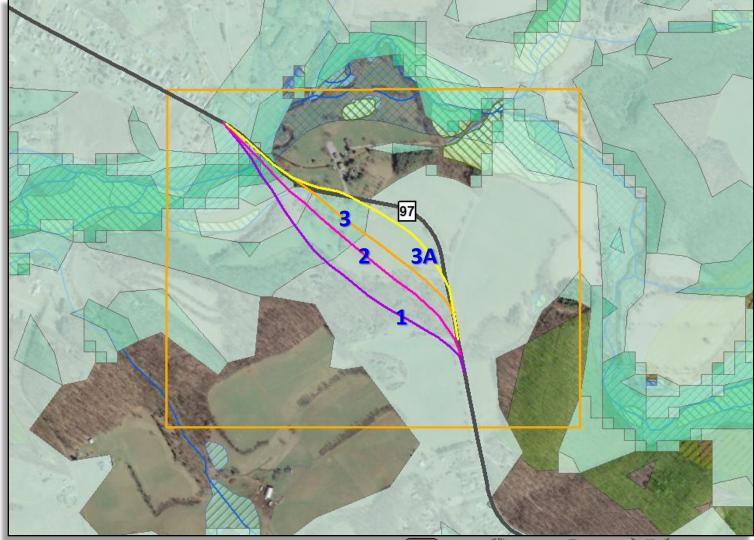








Potential Preservation Impacts: Stormwater Preservation























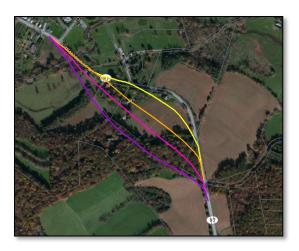






Avoidance and Minimization Results

	No-Build				
Impact Types	Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 3A
Community Impacts					
Residential Displacements	0	1	1	2	0
Residential Properties Impacted	0	7	9	9	6
Range of Natural Environmental Impacts					
			. =0		
100-Year Floodplain Affected (acres)	0	1.64	1.78	1.77	0
Wetlands Affected (acres)	0	1.35	1.36	0.56	0
Streams (If)	0	289.3	409	113.7	11.1
Woodlands Affected (acres)	0	7.6	3.8	4.1	1.1
WRR Preservation Opportunity Impacts					
Wetland Preservation (acres)	0	1.77	10.6	0.6	0
Upland Preservation (acres)	0	15.4	11.45	11.29	8.5
Riparian Preservation (acres)	0	8.9	6.6	5.09	3.02
TOTAL ACRES	0	26.07	28.65	16.98	11.52



Typical PACM Matrix Using the WRR Results

Watershed Resources Registry Case Study



















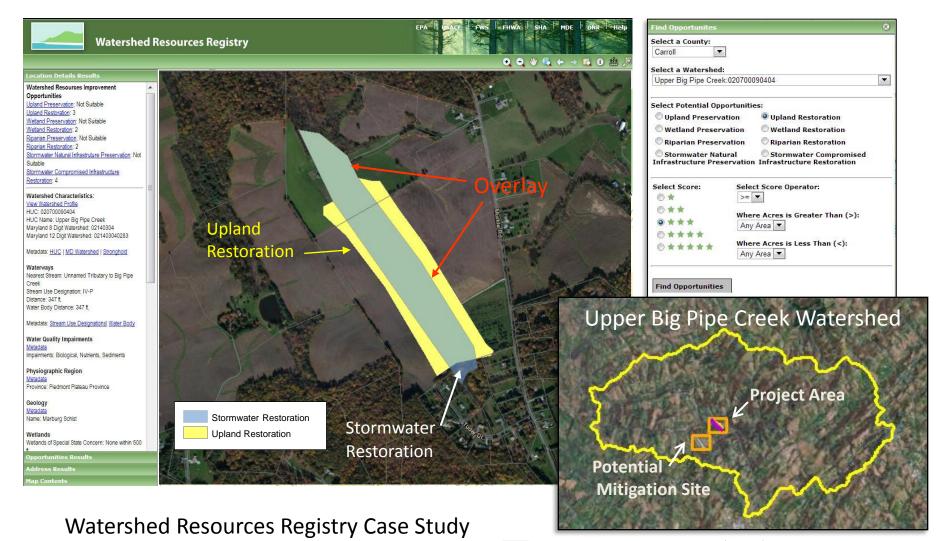








Using the WRR to Identify Mitigation Sites





















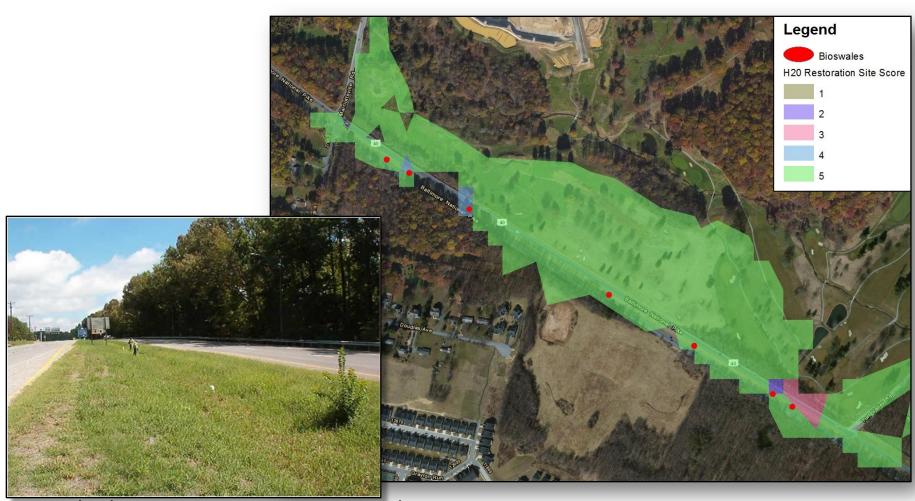


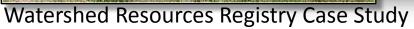






Stormwater Facilities































Alternative Strategies



I-695 and MD 150 Baltimore County Site Score: 3



Watershed Resources Registry Case Study



























Capitol Program

	Costs	Time	Cost Savings with WRR	Time Savings with WRR
Site Search	\$50,000	4 months	\$37,500	3 months
Design	\$210,000	18 months	\$60,000	6 months
Agency Coordination/R egulatory Review	\$10,000	12 months	\$2,500	3 months
Total	\$270,000	2.8 years	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>1 year</u>

^{*}Cost/time savings would be post Location Approval and includes only mitigation tasks.



























In Summary, the WRR is....

Transferable

- National datasets and Maryland datasets
- Uses web services for readily available & public domain datasets

Transparent

- All applicants have same results available to them, consistent approach to protection
- Maps and scores governmental agencies' preservation and restoration priorities
- Information is available prior to making large investments of time and money
- Tool developed collaboratively with widespread agreement among multitude of regulatory agencies



























In Summary, the WRR is....

Predictable

- Tool developed collaboratively with widespread agreement among multitude of regulatory agencies
- WRR Suitability Analyses incorporate CWA guidelines allowing for early designs to meet regulatory requirements

Efficient

 Saves applicant design & agency review time: no need to recreate an analytic review tool for each application, or when mitigation is offered.

Effective

Improved transportation & environmental outcomes



























In Summary, the WRR is....

Highly Adaptive

Tool allows the transfer of data into other personal GIS platforms

Compatible

 Can be used in conjunction with other tools, such as the EPA National Stormwater Calculator, to determine most cost effective BMP options within WRR opportunity sites





















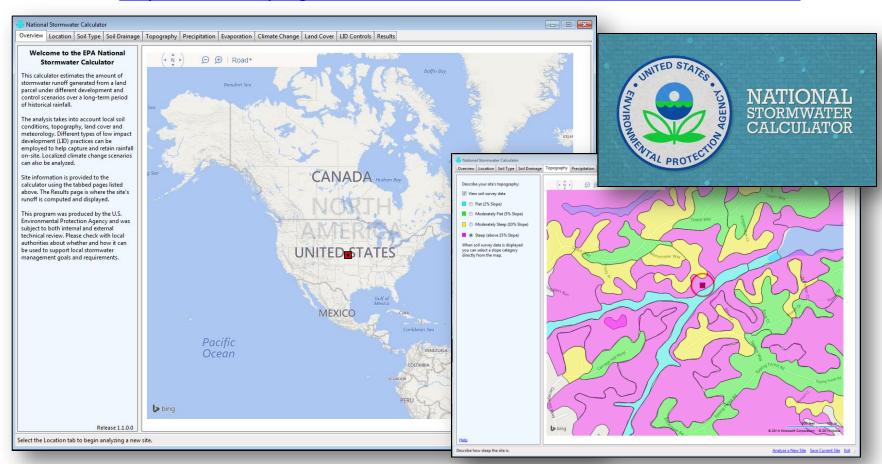






EPA National Stormwater Calculator

http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/national-stormwater-calculator

























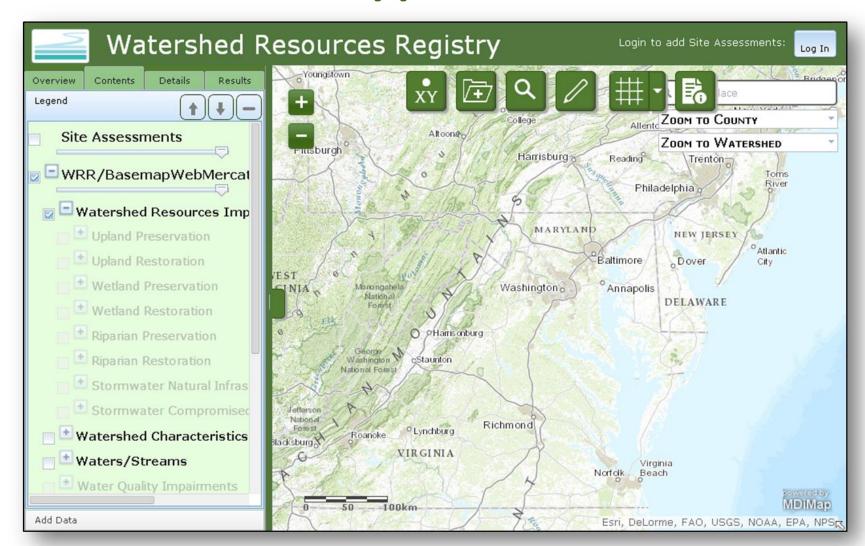


National & Regional Roll-out Strategies

- AASHTO Technical Implementation Grant Awarded (September, 2013)
- National Workshop Planned (October 15 & 16, 2014, Inner Harbor of Baltimore, Holiday Inn)
 - 19 States will be invited
 - EPA Regions, Corps' Districts, and DOT's Invited, among others
- Watershed driven GIS tools such as WRR mentioned in (Section 5102 of The Grow America Act) for Transportation
 - "watershed-driven web-based geographic information systems; and use of innovations in design, procurement and purchasing to improve project delivery and efficiency and reduce costs"
- Development of Prototypes for Chesapeake Bay States
 - Maryland WRR Implemented & Complete
 - Delaware held first Meeting May 9, 2014
 - DNREC, DELDOT, Corps' and EPA
 - Others to follow



New WRR Application Interface



























WATERSHED RESOURCES REGISTRY WORKSHOP

October 16 - 17, 2014 - Baltimore, Maryland

Holiday Inn Inner Harbor (301 West Lombard Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201)



The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has selected the Watershed Resources Registry (WRR), (http://www.watershedresourcesregistry.com/) for accelerated advancement to transportation agencies nationwide.

Keynote Speakers:

- Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, US EPA
- Eric Beightel, Senior Environmental Policy Advisor, US DOT
- Jennifer Moyer, Acting Regulatory Chief, US ACE



























WATERSHED RESOURCES REGISTRY WORKSHOP

October 16 - 17, 2014 - Baltimore, Maryland



The 1 ½ - day event will provide an overview, including:

- WRR background and development
- Benefits/applications of use
- What's needed for early adopters
- Implementation assistance
- Implementation plan and timeline

Join us to learn how the WRR has helped drive a shared watershed vision for the transportation and regulatory/resources communities in Maryland. And, more importantly, how it can help you, too!

Hosted by the AASHTO Innovation Initiative and MD SHA:































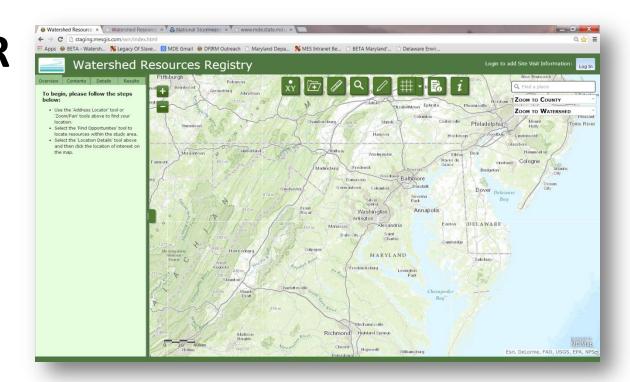








Using the WRR to Avoid, Minimize, and Mitigate





























Scenario 1

- Transportation Planner
- •Engineers have provided several roadway alignment options in ESRI Shapefile format for upcoming project
- •Need to perform avoidance and minimization techniques to determine what would be the best alignment with the least amount of environmental and financial impacts
- Need to find potential mitigation opportunities within the watershed
- Need to share findings with interagency review team





















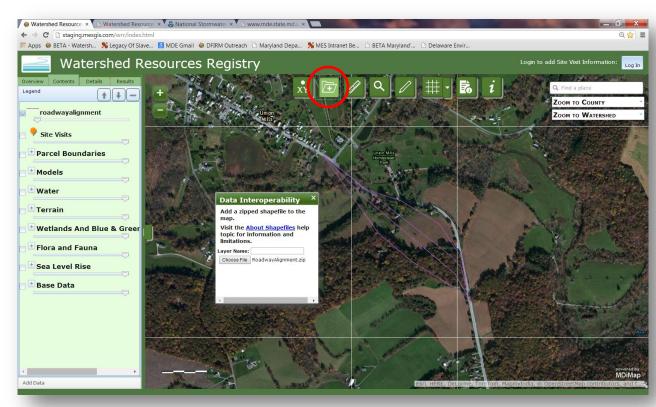






Loading Data into the WRR

- •Use Add Data Button to overlay shapefile atop map
- •Shapefile must be compressed into zip file format
- Projection must be defined in Shapefile
- •Zooms user to immediate extents























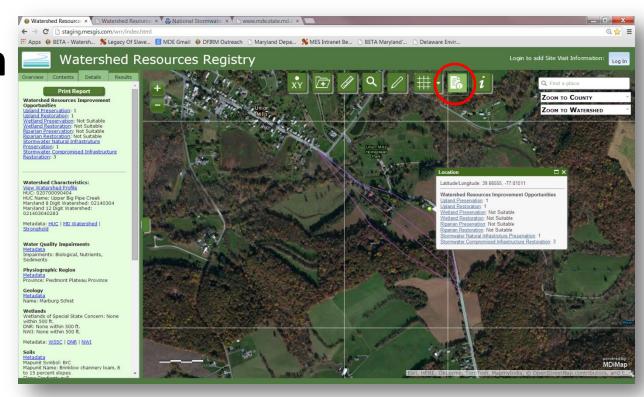






Using Location Details Tool

•Quickly determine and assess watershed, soils, green infrastructure hubs, gaps, corridors, impairments, potential restoration and preservation opportunities, site visits, etc. at the click of a button





























Using Location Details Tool Continued

- •Results are returned in the Details tab just left of the mapping interface
- •Follow links to metadata, criteria sheets, and to view watershed profile
- •Click on buttons to find Site Visit Information near your map selection along with printing the map and report

Print Report

Watershed Resources Improvement Opportunities

Upland Preservation: 1 Upland Restoration: 1 Wetland Preservation:

Wetland Preservation: Not Suitable Wetland Restoration: Not Suitable Riparian Preservation: Not Suitable Riparian Restoration: Not Suitable Stormwater Natural Infrastruture

Preservation: 1

Stormwater Compromised Infrastructure Restoration: 3

Watershed Characteristics:

View Watershed Profile HUC: 020700090404

HUC Name: Upper Big Pipe Creek Maryland 8 Digit Watershed: 02140304 Maryland 12 Digit Watershed:

021403040283

Metadata: <u>HUC</u> | <u>MD Watershed</u> |

<u>Stronghold</u>

Water Quality Impairments

<u>Metadata</u>

Impairments: Biological, Nutrients,

Sediments

Physiographic Region

Metadata

Province: Piedmont Plateau Province

Geology

<u>Metadata</u>

Name: Marburg Schist

Wetlands

Wetlands of Special State Concern: None

within 500 ft.

DNR: None within 500 ft. NWI: None within 500 ft.

Metadata: WSSC | DNR | NWI

Soils

<u>Metadata</u>

Mapunit Symbol: BrC

Mapunit Name: Brinklow channery loam, 8

to 15 percent slopes Slope Gradient: null

Drainage Class: Well drained

Hydrologic Group: B

Hydric Classification: Not Hydric

Green Infrastructure

There are no hubs within 500 ft. There are no gaps within 500 ft. There are no corridors within 500 ft.

Metadata: Hub | Gap | Corridor

Blue Infrastructure

Metadata

There is no blue infrastructure within 500 ft.

Species Related Data

There are no forest interior dwelling species areas within 500 ft.

Metadata: FIDs

Priority Funding Area:

<u>Metadata</u>

Location inside a PFA

Land Use/Land Cover

Land Use Type (2002): Pasture Land Use Type (2007): Pasture

Metadata: Metadata | Metadata

Click for Site Visit Information Within 500ft





















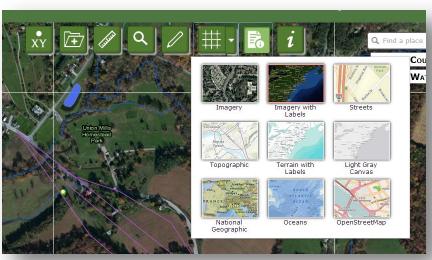




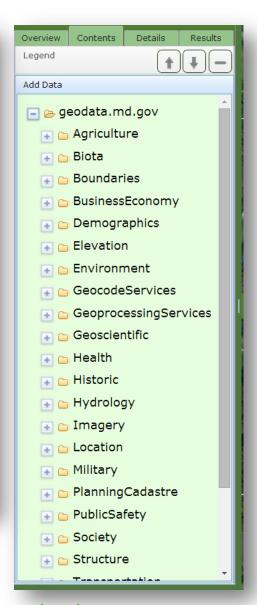


Conduct Visual Analyses

- •~50 Layers Available by default in TOC
- Choose from 9 ESRI Basemaps
- Online linkage to MD iMap data























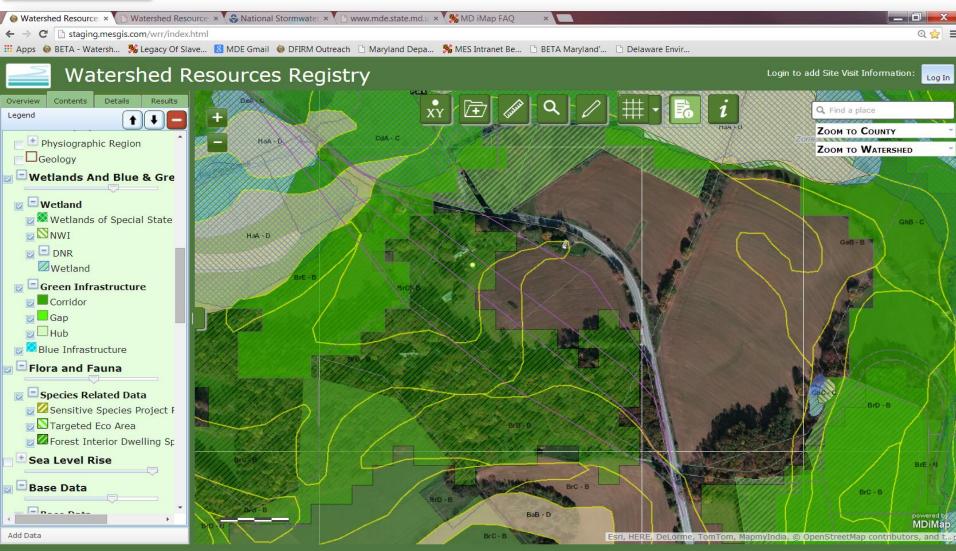




























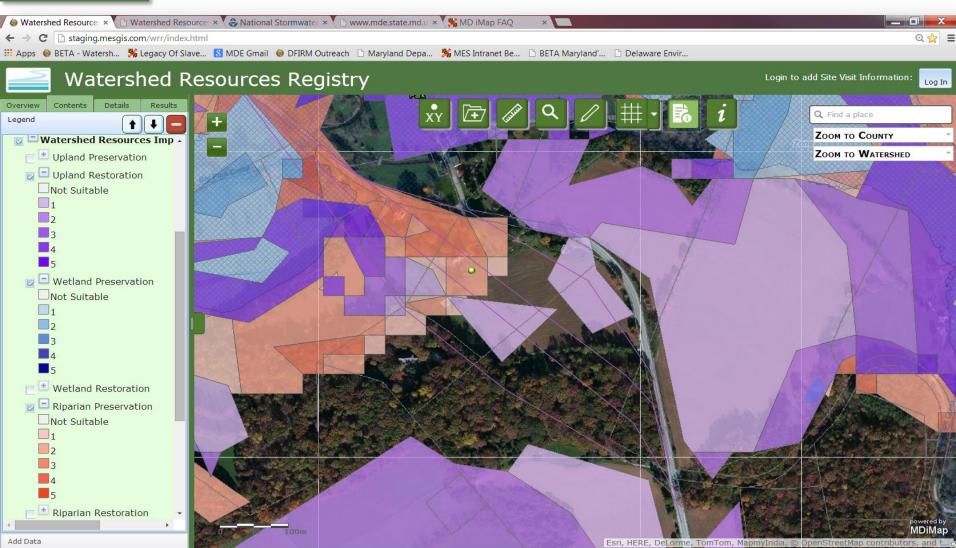






































Export Information for Field Verification

•Key Lat/Long from Print Map into GPS unit for navigating in the field.

28/2014 Watershed Resources Registry

Watershed Resources Map



Selected Location - Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude: 39.66538, -77.01704

Watershed Resources Improvement Opportunities <u>Upland Preservation</u>: 2 <u>Upland Restoration</u>: Not Suitable

http://staging.mesgis.com/wrr/index.htm

Watershed Characteristics: View Watershed Profile

1/3



























Export Information for **Field Verification Continued**

 Add notes and site description characteristics directly to print map page

7/28/2014	Watershed Resources Registry				
affiliates can ma	ke no warranty as to	the accuracy or	ice only. EPA, USACE, correctness of the data cy of data was conduct	generated from this	service. No quantitative
⊕EPA	HAH	rom a William are	OFHWA	SHA	MDE 3

7/28/2014

Wetland Preservation: Not Suitable Wetland Restoration: Not Suitable Riparian Preservation: 2 Riparian Restoration: Not Suitable

Stormwater Natural Infrastruture Preservation: 2

Stormwater Compromised Infrastructure Restoration: Not

Watershed Resources Registry

HUC: 020700090404 HUC Name: Upper Big Pipe Creek Maryland 8 Digit Watershed: 02140304 Maryland 12 Digit Watershed: 021403040283

Metadata: HUC | MD Watershed | Stronghold

Selected Location Information

Water Quality Impairments

Impairments: Biological, Nutrients, Sediments

Physiographic Region

Province: Piedmont Plateau Province

Geology

Name: Marburg Schist

Wetlands of Special State Concern: None within 500 ft. DNR: None within 500 ft. NWI: None within 500 ft

Metadata: WSSC | DNR | NWI

Soils

Metadata

Mapunit Symbol: BrC Mapunit Name: Brinklow channery loam, 8 to 15 percent

Slope Gradient: null

Drainage Class: Well drained Hydrologic Group: B

Hydric Classification: Not Hydric

Green Infrastructure

There are no hubs within 500 ft. Gap Distance: 417 ft. Corridor Distance: 396 ft.

Metadata: Hub | Gap | Corridor

Blue Infrastructure

Metadata

There is no blue infrastructure within 500 ft.

Species Related Data

There are no forest interior dwelling species areas within

Metadata: FIDs

Priority Funding Area:

Location inside a PFA

Land Use/Land Cover

Land Use Type (2002): Open Urban Land Land Use Type (2007): Cropland

Metadata: Metadata | Metadata

dditional Notes:	

http://staging.mesgis.com/wrr/index.html





















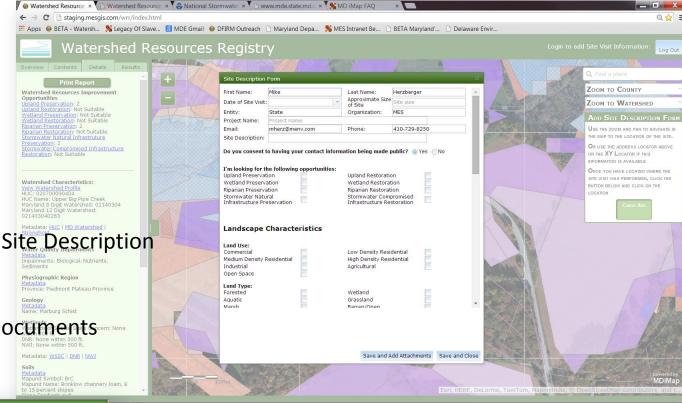






Upload Site Visit Information

- •Login
- Click on Button to Add Site Description
- Click on Map Location
- •Fill Out Form
- Upload Photographs/Documents
- Click Save





The page at staging.mesgis.com says:

Your site visit ID is: 12001.

OK























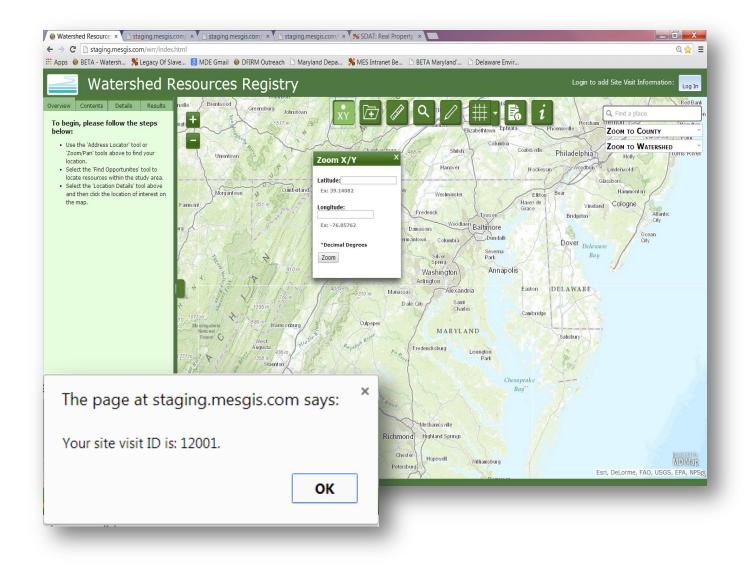






Share Results

Provide Coordinates from location details or print map to isolate location of Interest. Using XY tool, key Coordinates and click Zoom Provide Site ID to isolate specific site visit. Key ID into search panel





















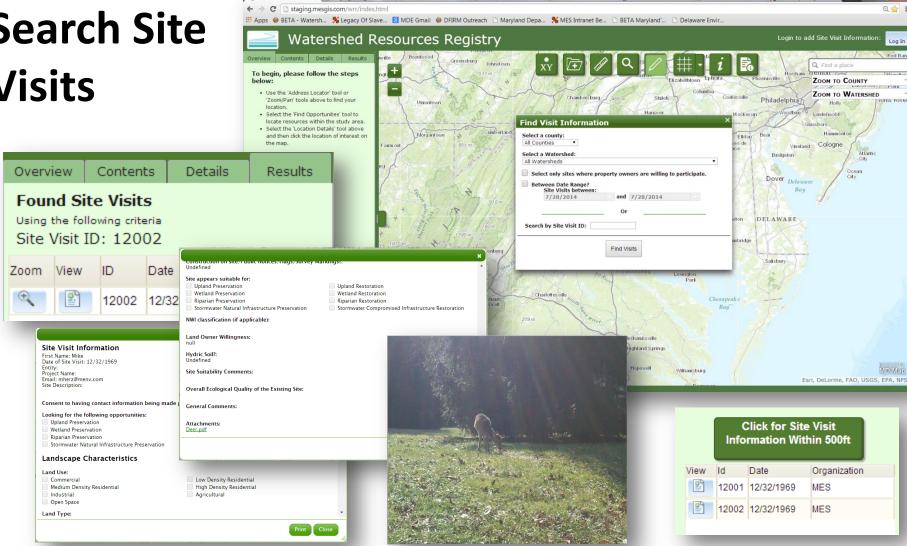








Search Site Visits





























Scenario 2

- Transportation Planner
- •Find Stormwater Restoration-type Opportunities within Back River-Hawk Cove Watershed in Baltimore County, Maryland
- Determine planning-level
 efficiencies that could be gained by
 performing activity in this location
 on State-owned land





















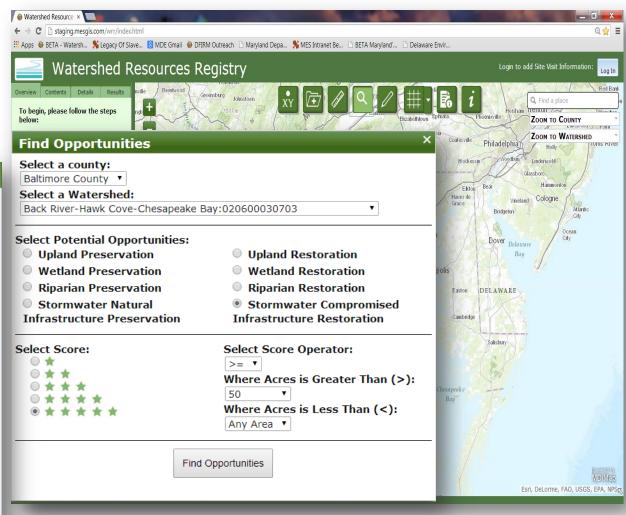






Find Opportunities

























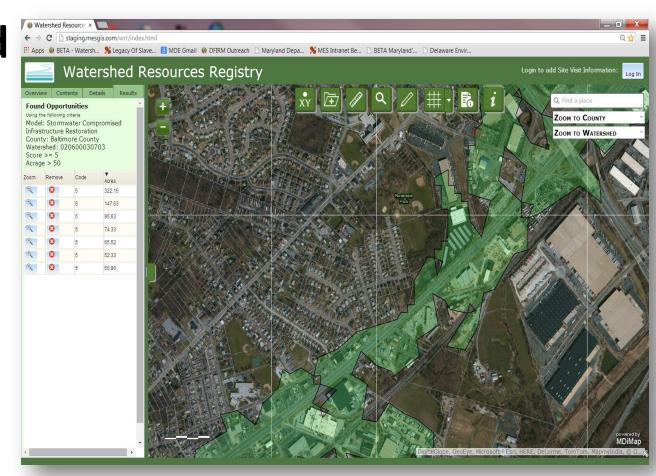






Exploring Find Opportunity Results

- •Use Zoom tool in Results panel by clicking on Zoom icon to review areas
- •Remove records from Results panel by clicking on Remove icon























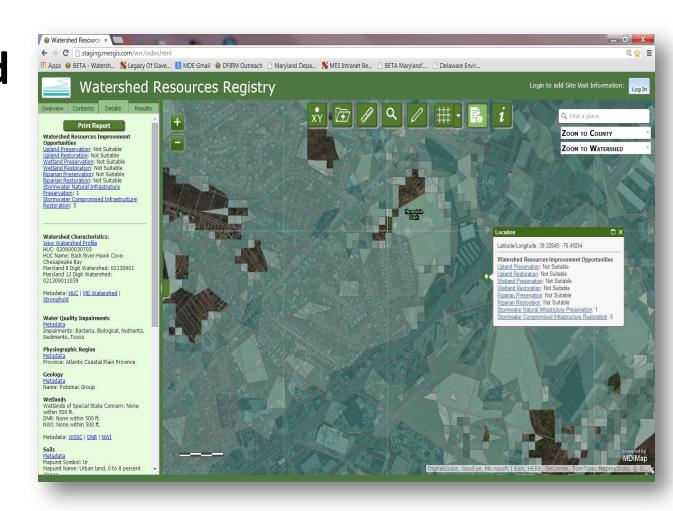






Exploring Find Opportunity Results Continued

- •Run location details tool to determine desktop-level site characteristics
- Toggle layers on/off to perform visual analyses























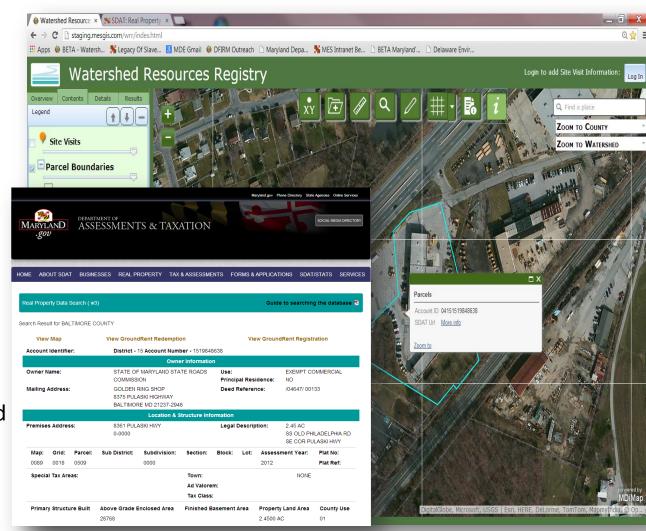






Determine Property Ownership

- •Use Parcel Layer to determine property boundary
- •Use Identify tool to click on parcel boundary to determine ownership status
- Direct linkage to Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Database























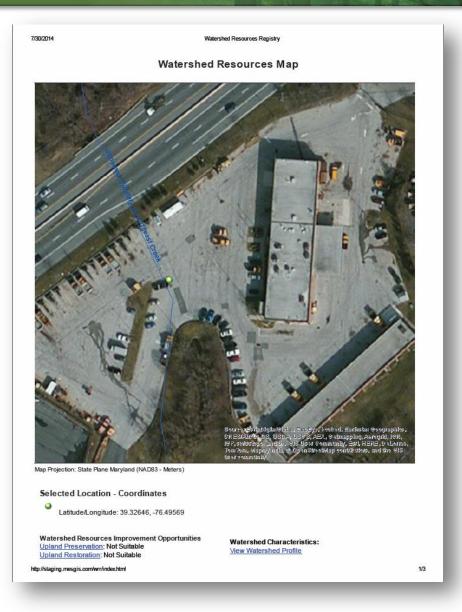






Export Information for Supplemental **Desktop Analyses & Field** Verification

- •Key Lat/Long from Print Map into Stormwater Calculator for further sitespecific LID BMP's that could be implemented.
- •Key Lat/Long from Print Map into GPS unit for navigating in the field post Desktop Analyses.





















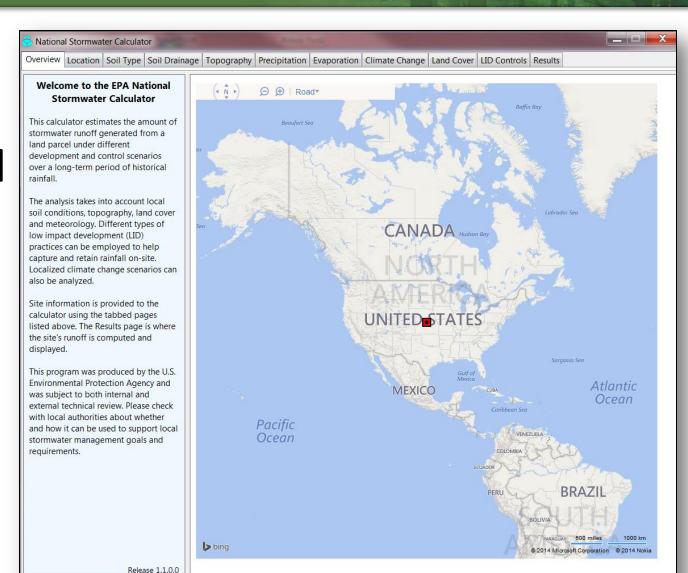








EPA National Stormwater Calculator













Select the Location tab to begin analyzing a new site.













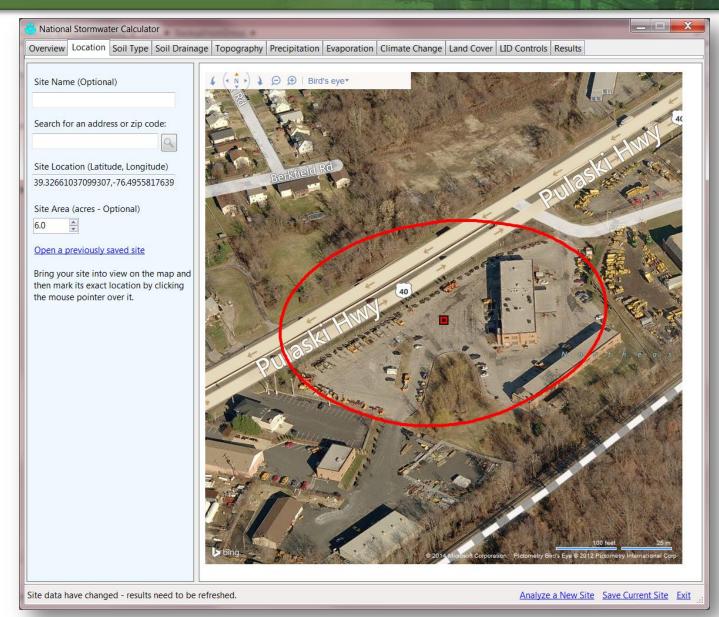
Analyze a New Site Save Current Site Exit





Location Selection:

- Address/zip code
- X/Y coordinates
- Site Area























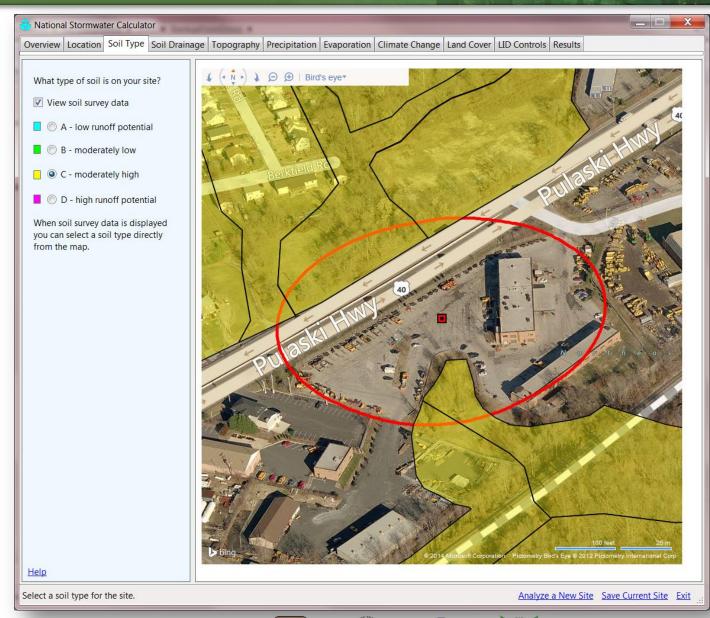






Soil Type:

- runoffpotential
- soil surveydata























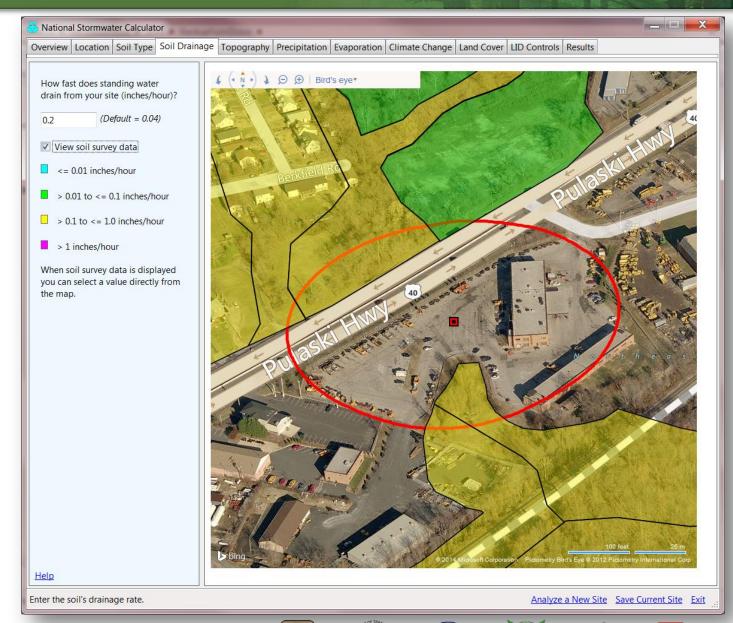






Soil Drainage Rate:

drainagerate(inches/hr)





















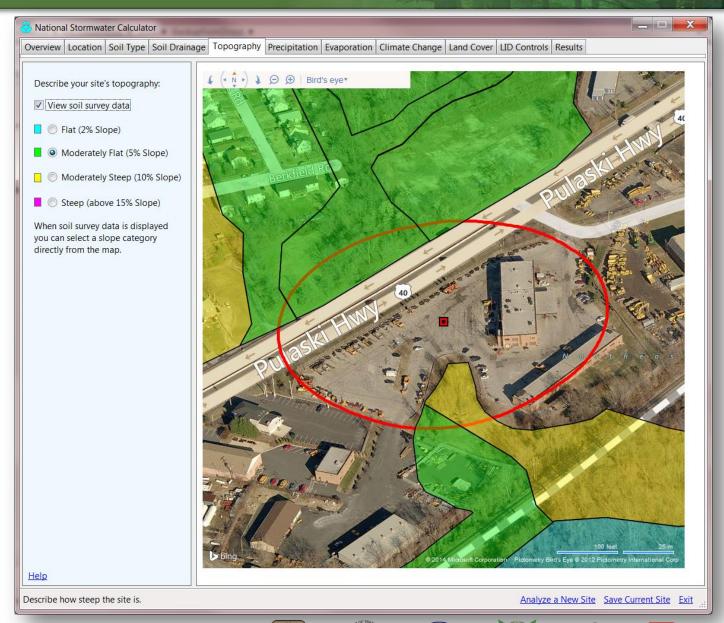








Topography:























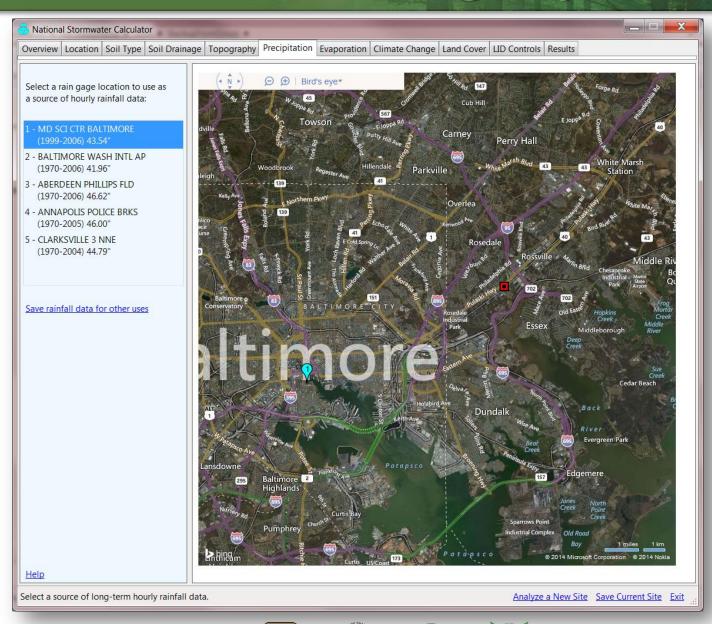






Precipitation Rate:

- rain gauge location
- hourly rainfall data























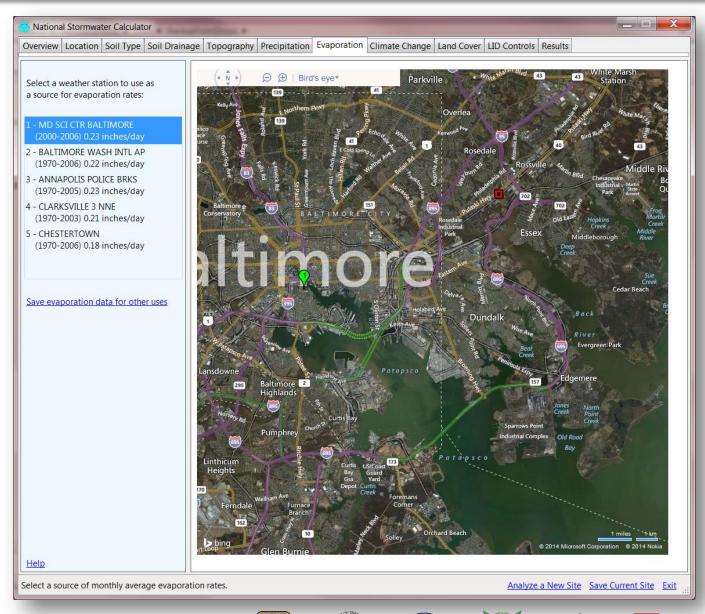






Evaporation Rates:

select closestweatherstation

























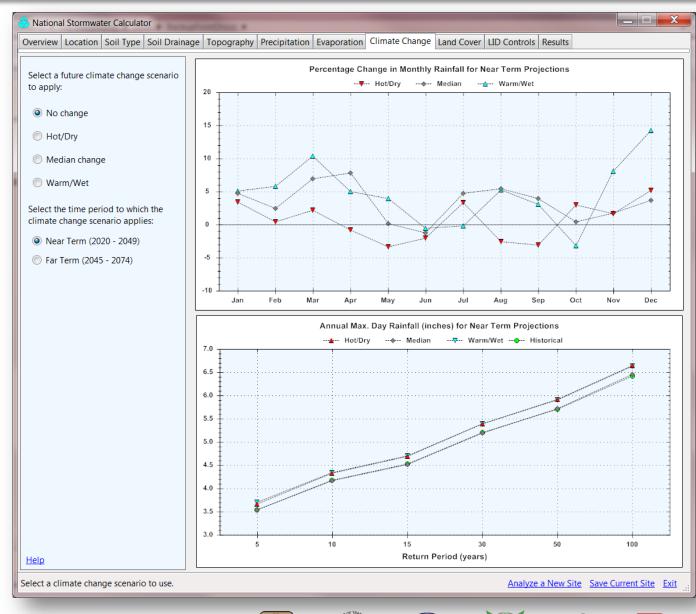




Percent Change in Monthly Rainfall

Climate Change:

- selectscenario
- select timeperiod























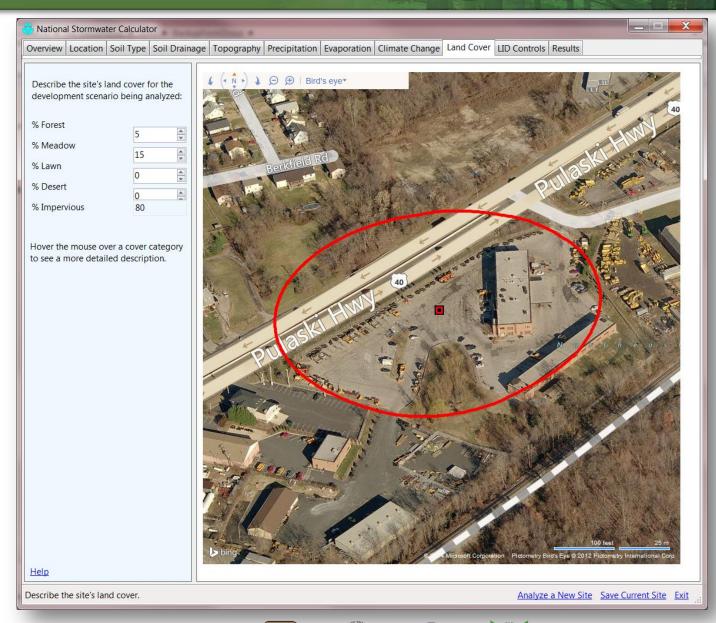






Percent Land Cover:

- forest
- meadow
- lawn
- desert
- impervious























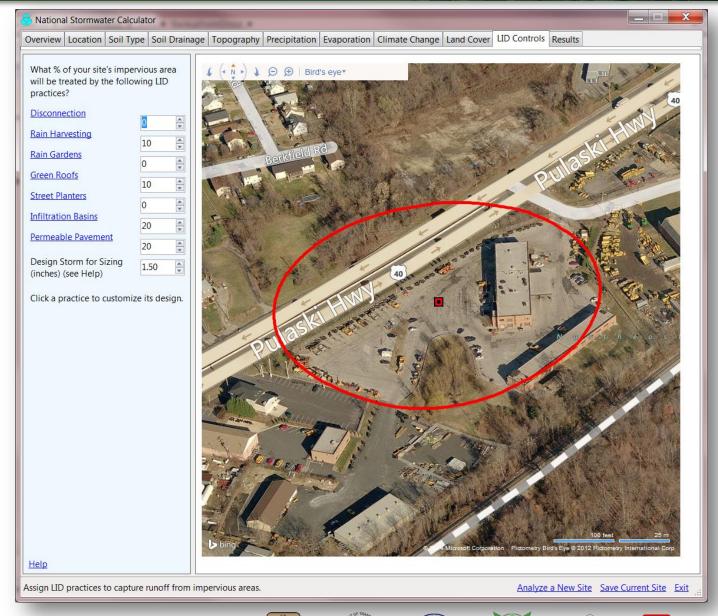






LID Controls:

- Disconnection
- RainHarvesting
- Rain Gardens
- Green Roofs
- Street Planters
- InfiltrationBasins
- PermeablePavement























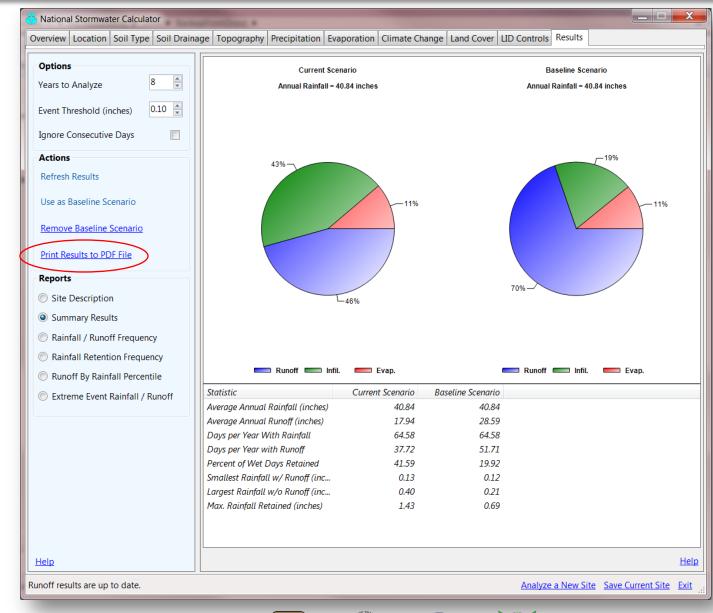






Results

Runoff Scenario Comparison























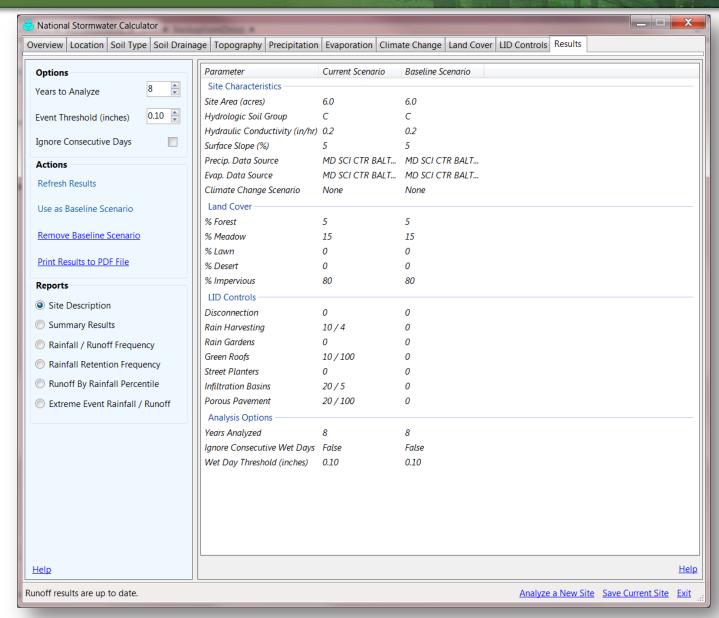






Results

Site Description























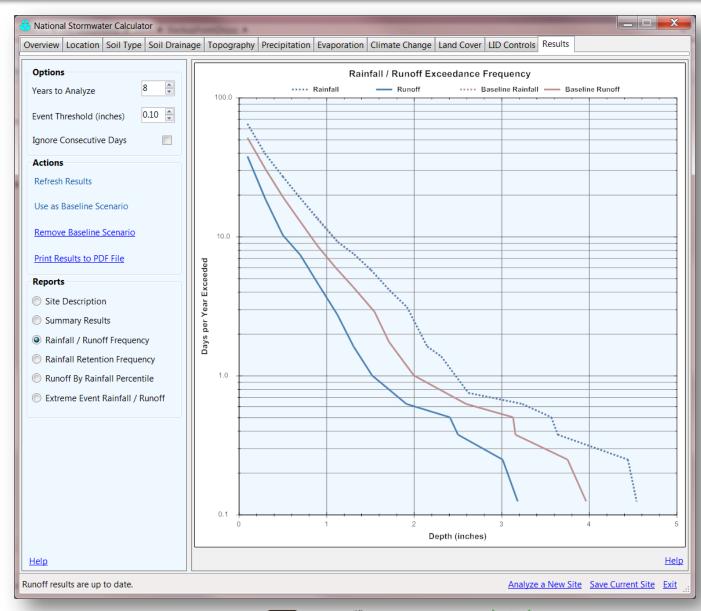






Results

Rainfall/Runoff Exceedance Frequency























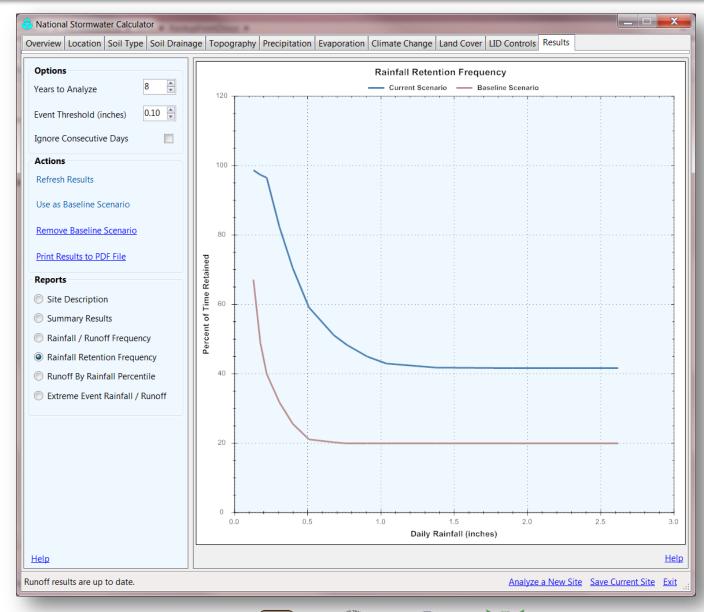






Results

Rainfall Retention Frequency























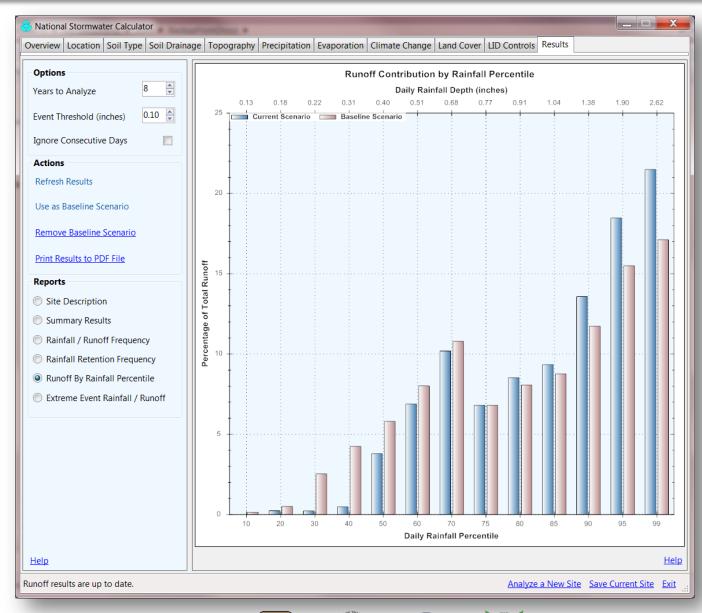






Results

Runoff By Rainfall Percentile























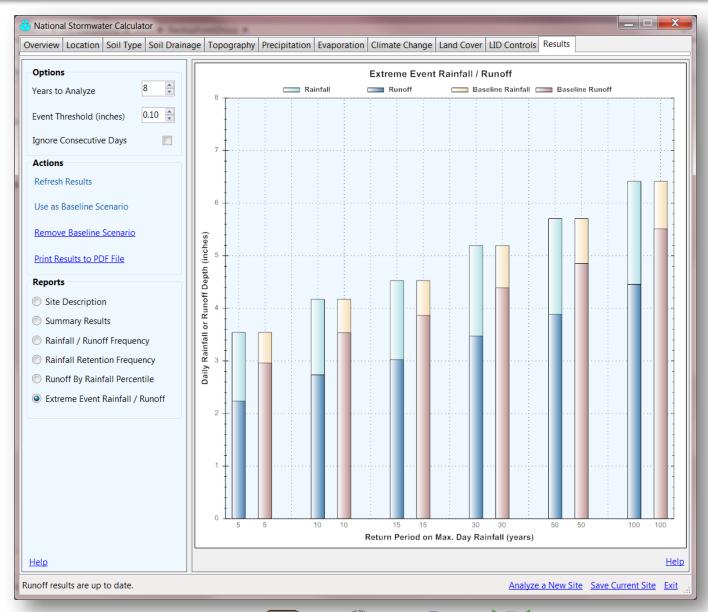






Results

Extreme Event Rainfall/ Runoff





























Modifying LID Parameters

Stormwater Calculator Help

×

Low Impact Development (LID) controls are landscaping practices designed to collect runoff from impervious surfaces and retain it on site.

Enter the percent of the site's impervious area you would like to be treated by the listed LID practices.

Click a practice to learn more about it or to change its design parameters.

Entering a non-zero design storm depth will allow you to automatically size an LID control to capture storms of that size when you click on the LID's name to bring up its design form.



























DISCONNECTION





















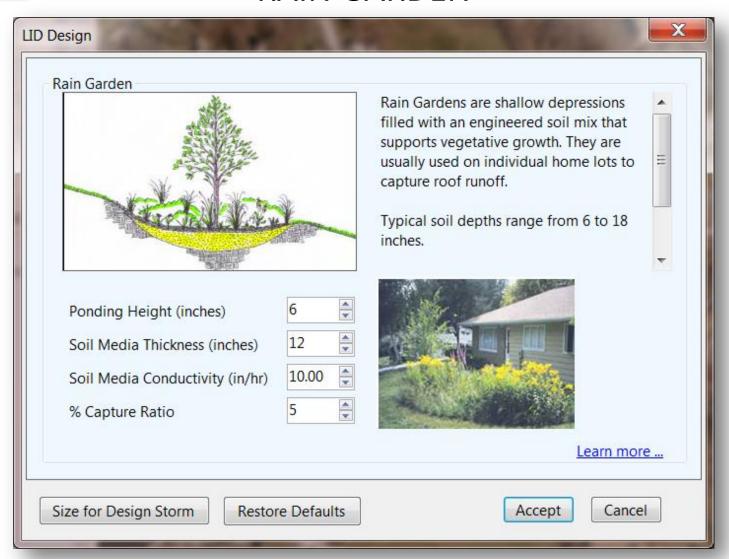








RAIN GARDEN





















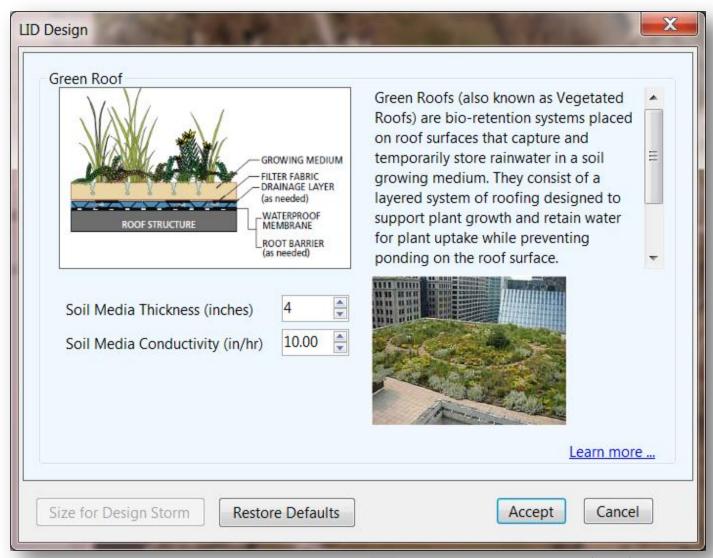








GREEN ROOF





















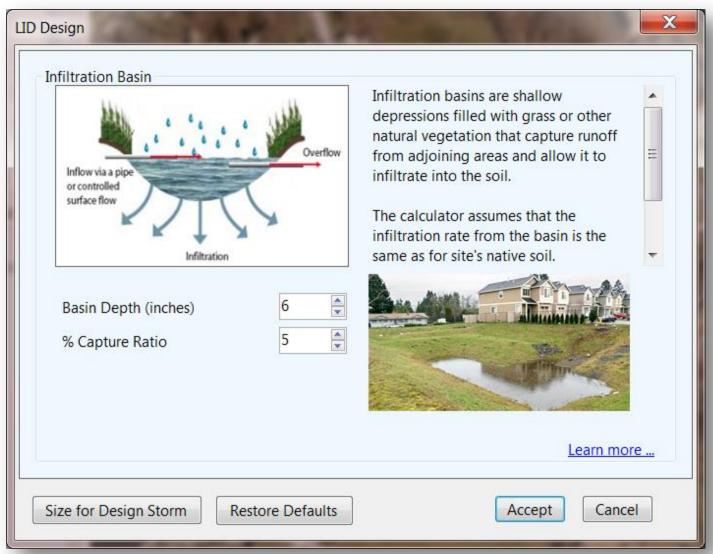








INFILTRATION BASIN





















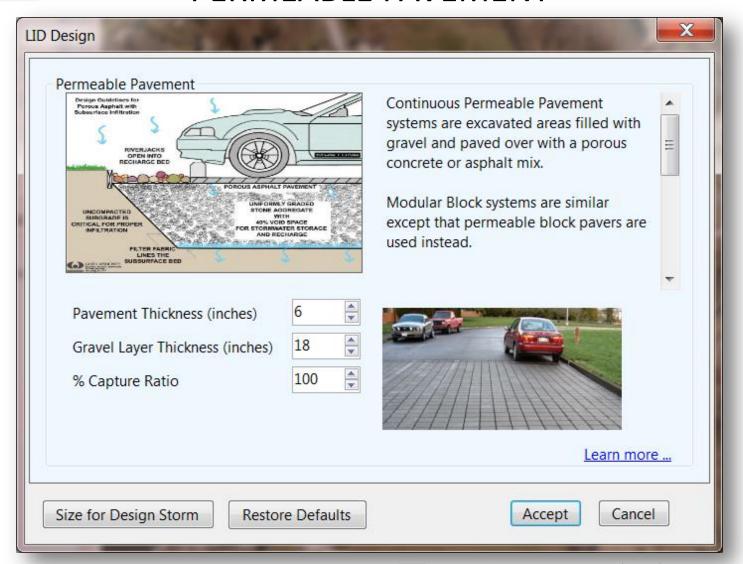








PERMEABLE PAVEMENT































THANK YOU

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Water Protection Division

Lueckenhoff.dominique@epa.gov

http://watershedresourcesregistry.org

http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/nationalstormwater-calculator























