

Presenter: Steve Kahl

Invited talk at the 2012 GrowSmart Maine annual conference, Augusta Maine.

The future of stormwater management: the end of ‘pipes and ponds’

Stormwater is intermittent runoff that does not soak into the ground because of impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, roads, and roofs. It carries pollutants such as gasoline, fertilizers, pet waste, sediments, and heavy metals into surface waters, potentially leading to water quality violations. The solution is to use alternatives to impervious surfaces, of which there are many techniques and designs that infiltrate runoff before it becomes a problem. These so called Low Impact Development methods are well known but not widely applied in Maine. They range from simple rain barrels to collect runoff from rooftops for later use, to porous asphalt roads and parking lots that infiltrate stormwater over large areas. This talk will focus on the benefits to using LID stormwater methods and the incentives that communities can use for wider acceptance of LID.