

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
AridLID 2012
March 27-29, 2012
Tucson, Arizona



Conference invitation:

For the past two years, the AridLID Workshops held in Albuquerque, New Mexico have built a growing discussion and exposition of Green Infrastructure (GI) and Low Impact Development (LID) practices that are appropriate to the unique climates of the southwestern U.S. In 2012, we are holding the conference in Tucson, Arizona, with the twin goals of sharing best practices and building professional networks across a wider swath of the region, and of developing a clearer Southwestern vision and voice in the growing national discussion on GI/LID.

The theme of AridLID 2012 is **Integrated Approaches to Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development**. Green Infrastructure projects function best and are most cost-effective when they provide multiple benefits—like a streetside bioretention basin that captures and cleans stormwater while it passively irrigates vegetation that shades the street and sidewalk, beautifies a neighborhood, and calms traffic. Likewise, effective green infrastructure practice often requires that people of various disciplines and perspectives work together—think landscape architects, engineers, and stormwater managers working together with a watershed group, a neighborhood association, and a University laboratory to achieve shared goals! This conference will explore the potentials, best practices and pitfalls inherent in GI at various levels of integration in our region.

We invite you to join us for this dynamic and uniquely Southwestern event. Sessions will be targeted to stormwater, planning, and design professionals; researchers in water resources and urban sustainability; as well as activists and educators interested in implementing these features through grassroots, community-driven models. Participation is especially encouraged from those working in GI/LID in arid regions of the southwestern U.S. (southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, west Texas) and northwest Mexico.

The format of the conference will be two and a half days, primarily in a single-room setting (up to 200 attendees), with breakout sessions and a morning of field trips.

Call for Abstracts:

We are now soliciting proposals for speakers and posters. Speaker opportunities include:

- *Presentations (20-25 minutes) to entire audience:* part of topic-focused panels of 2-4 speakers per session, with additional time for audience Q&A.
- *“Poster Plus” presentations:* present a poster and lead two, 30-minute, interactive discussions on the topic of your poster to small groups (5-15 people). The purpose of these sessions is to share information on more focused topics than may be relevant to the entire audience, and to allow time for interactive Q&A on specific projects or topics. The “poster plus” sessions will be held during a 1-hour breakout session, in which participants will attend two presentations/discussions (this is why presenters will need to present twice). There will also be time for the entire audience to review all posters.

Topics of interest:

Research & technical topics:

- *Applied research on GI/LID in arid climates:* particularly on cost-effectiveness, water quality benefits, use of stormwater as a resource.
- *Innovative and integrative research applications:* citizen science, transdisciplinary research, innovative research partnerships, methods for linking GI/LID study and practice/policy.
- *Unique or innovative GI/LID solutions for arid environments.*

Community-related topics:

- *Successful community engagement models that go beyond traditional outreach, such as:*
 - Hands-on citizen participation in GI/LID development and maintenance
 - Creation of innovative tools for public engagement and empowerment in furthering GI/LID, e.g. open-source manuals, social networking, etc.
 - Projects/case studies that engage citizens in research, regulatory compliance, and policy development

Regulatory & Policy Topics:

- GI/LID stormwater control measures specific to arid environments
- Resolving stormwater use and surface water rights
- Successful public/private partnerships
- Case studies of meeting or exceeding regulations through GI/LID
- Innovative GI/LID policies, ordinances, regulations

Integrated applications of GI/LID:

- In particular, we are looking for 2-3 presentations of projects/programs that demonstrate best practices in integrating various interests (regulatory, community, design, commercial, etc.) into successful GI/LID applications.

Considerations for speakers:

In keeping with the intent of the conference, *all* speakers should be able to meaningfully address an audience that includes a diverse mix of people representing academic, policy, regulatory, design, and community interests and professions.

All presentations should directly address issues related to applications of GI and LID in arid climates. Topics of particular regional interest across disciplines are:

- Use of stormwater as a resource
- Demonstration of cost effectiveness of GI/LID in arid environments
- Physical data on utility of GI/LID practices in arid environments (water quality, plant growth, etc.)

Proceedings:

Presentations and abstracts will be collected in a summary publication, and also placed on the AridLID.org website for future reference.

To submit a Speaker Application and Abstract:

Applications are due by October 31, 2011, and must be completed online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/aridlid>

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by early December 2011. Selected speakers will need to submit their full presentations by February 1, 2012.

Questions can be directed to:

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Conference sponsors