



# MEMPHIS-SHELBY COUNTY Low Impact Development Design Competition

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## Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability to Launch Low Impact Development Design Competition [www.sustainableselby.com/LID](http://www.sustainableselby.com/LID)

Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability announced today the launch of the Low Impact Development Design Competition. This is an opportunity for design firms to showcase their skills with Low Impact Development and the winning team will receive \$15,000.

Low Impact Development (LID) is a way to treat stormwater runoff that mimics the natural hydrology of the site instead of the traditional method of piping the water directly off the site. The impetus for this competition is the updated regulations that will affect all municipalities as their stormwater permit gets renewed over the next few years.

### **Background & Funding:**

Last fall, Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability received a \$21,900 Green Development Grant from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). With this funding, the office hosted a two-day conference on Low Impact Development (LID), March 6-7, 2014. Over 100 design professionals in the fields of civil engineering, landscape architecture, planning, architecture, development, and others attended. It was a free conference and open to the public.

Speakers came from across the country including keynotes Dr. Barrett Kays, FASLA from Landis LLC, Stephen D. Luoni from University of Arkansas Community design Center, and Robert Adair from Houston Land/Water Sustainability Forum. Robert Karesh, the Stormwater Coordinator for TDEC, presented information on what to expect for the new regulations. All speakers were experts in stormwater design or engineered soils.

**“This conference was a great help to the professionals who attended. It encompassed both the theoretical ideas and in-depth technical data regarding Low Impact Development,”** said Brandon Doss with Blair Parker Design.

A competition is an innovative way to encourage professionals to use Low Impact Development (LID) as a way to treat stormwater on site through natural infiltration. In 2010, the first LID design competition was launched in Houston, Texas on flat, clay land. Over the past few years other cities have followed their lead. Houston’s competition entries showed a 5%-30% reduction in development costs and by 2011 the area saw more than 100 LID-based projects submitted for development up from zero the previous year. Firms that participated in the competition then became the leaders in the new LID marketplace, changing their previous way of doing

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business. Today they continue to foster a long-term collaborative relationship with other team members. If this same result can be extrapolated to the Memphis-Shelby County area, the movement will also trend toward LID designs.

**The Design Challenge:**

The 12.5 acre project site is located near the intersection of McLean Blvd. and James Road in Frayser. It is within United Housing Inc.’s Wolf River Bluffs Planned Development, north of the existing single family units. Design teams will consist of at least one licensed civil engineer and one licensed landscape architect, with a minimum of one being local. Other team members such as architects, planners, developers, construction and homebuilding disciplines, and students are encouraged. Using LID techniques for stormwater design, teams will submit a site layout of the property for senior living townhomes and a small amenity building for community gathering.

**“United Housing is really excited to be a part of the LID Design Competition,” said Tim Bolding, Executive Director of United Housing. “Green, sustainable development is the goal for Wolf River Bluffs and this project fits in perfectly by creating quality living spaces, managing stormwater in an environmentally sensitive manner, and meeting a real need for older adults in Shelby County.”**

**About United Housing:**

United Housing Inc. (UHI) is a non-profit affordable housing agency that serves the City of Memphis, Shelby County, and West Tennessee. UHI targets its services to families that are underserved by the traditional homeownership industry. Founded in 1994, as an affiliate of the United Way of the Mid-South, UHI has continued to serve Memphis and Shelby County by helping more than 3,000 families own a home. United Housing works to support sustainable homeownership throughout West Tennessee by providing homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention, affordable lending products and construction services. For more information on UHI, please visit [www.uhinc.org](http://www.uhinc.org).

March 17	Registration opens & competition begins
April 11	Registration closes (forms due)
July 18	Competition ends - round one due
August 8	Finalists announced
Sept 4	Round two submittals due
Sept 5	Finals Event and Awards Program

**More information:** To learn more about the project please visit: [www.sustainableshelby.com/LID](http://www.sustainableshelby.com/LID)  
 A team finder has been established to help participants locate potential teammates: [Team finder](#)

**Partners:**

Partners are: Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability, United Housing Inc., City of Memphis Stormwater Program, Shelby County Engineering, ULI Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (TNASLA), Tennessee American Planning Association (TAPA), West Tennessee Branch-American Society of Civil Engineers (West TN ASCE), and Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Competition funds are provided by a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT).

