

Low Impact Development Driving Tour of Anchorage

Drive yourself around the Municipality of Anchorage to view Low Impact Development sites. An accompanying map can be found at AnchorageRainGardens.com. The sites are listed in order for you to start downtown, then work your way outward south and east. The online map has thumbnails colored red for (heated) pavement techniques, yellow for rain gardens, green for non-vegetated or grassed systems, and purple for parking lot management. *This handout was printed on January 29, 2010. Please check at AnchorageRainGarden.com for updated versions in the future.*



Downtown Sidewalks and Intersections

Heated pavers used to melt snow on sidewalks, crosswalks, and intersections cuts down on snow management and storage by melting it as it lands. **Location:** E and F Streets between 5th Ave and 7th Ave



Central Middle School

Built by the students of CMA in the fall of 2008. The rain garden treats runoff collected from the patio and up gradient lawn area.

Location: The rain garden is located at the NE corner of the school site near the intersection of C St. and 15th Ave opposite the main parking area. Best parking, for a couple short term vehicles, is a small paved area by the dumpsters accessed from C St across from 14th Ave.



Steller Secondary

Built by the students in the spring of 2009. The two rain gardens treat runoff from the school roof. Before the rain gardens were built the water would run across the grass, sidewalk, street and into the storm drain.

Location: On Blueberry Rd between Fireweed and Northern Lights just west of C St.



Habitat for Humanity Apartments

There are heated pavers in the courtyards between the three apartment buildings. Rain gardens are between the buildings and 32nd Ave. Runoff from the paved courtyard areas and the driveways is directed to the rain gardens.

Location: 1121 W 32nd Ave; East of Spenard Rd on 32nd Ave.

Centerpoint

The parking lot features gardens around storm drain beehive inlets and curb cuts to allow water in. Find an inlet in one of these gardens and look for evidence of runoff travelling in. See if there is a channel or path where mulch has been washed away. How could this have been designed better? How could the runoff be utilized or treated if the design were altered?

Location: 3801 Centerpoint Dr. From C St and W36th Ave. go west. Turn south onto Eureka Drive, Centerpoint is the second large parking lot on your left.



Big Box Store Parking Lots

Curb cuts are used to direct runoff to the rock swale. Non-vegetated rock swales are used to slow down runoff before it enters the storm drain inlets.

Locations: 515 E Tudor Rd; Home Depot is found north of Tudor on Denali.



Roger's Park Elementary

Infiltration vaults, located on either side of the entrance and exit to the parking lot, collect and infiltrate runoff. These look like 10ft x 10ft rock patches on the surface but actually extend many feet below grade. The rock area creates pore space below the surface for water to run into during a storm and infiltrate into the ground from there. Curb cuts are used to direct water from the parking area to the infiltration area.

Location: 1400 E Northern Lights Blvd, just south of where Benson joins Northern Lights.



UAA Arts Building

Pavers are used as an alternate to asphalt in a low-vehicle-use area. Pavers allow more water to infiltrate than a concrete or asphalt surface. Pavers are behind the art building, between sidewalk and building, near the forest

Location: From Providence Drive, take Alumni Drive to the arts building. Turn left just after you pass a large art sculpture and park, otherwise it is a small walk from the main parking lot. Location on Google map is precise.

Creekside Towncenter

This development features high density row housing, grassed swales, and curb cuts. The high density housing limits impervious area created by roof and cuts down on runoff from lawns. Grassed swales are used to collect and infiltrate runoff from walking trail and apartment building roofs. Curb cuts are used to direct water from the parking area and road to the grassed swales. **Location:** From Muldoon and DeBarr head south, take a right into the Grass Creek development



Taku Lake Rain Garden

Demonstration Rain Garden built by the MOA in 2007. This garden filters parking lot and road runoff. While you're here notice the plants in the garden, ferns, iris, and columbine, are any in bloom? Look at how the runoff enters through a small gravel channel, is it flowing?

Location: From Seward Hwy going south take the 76th exit, drive .5 miles to the end.



Cross Estates

This development features check dams in the road side drainage ditches. The check dams serve to slow down the runoff, holding back small volumes from the peak flow event and allow for infiltration. **Location:** From Huffman and Elmore go east, take a left on heritage Heights Rd, follow the road through to Birch. Check dams are located along Heritage Heights Rd.

Alaska Commercial Fishing Bank

The new CFAB parking lot drains into a rain garden around two sides. Built 2009. Roof gutters are directed to a planted area as well. Notice how the water is able to flow freely into the landscaped area from the pavement. Look for channelization through the landscaping. Where does it seem the most water is entering the garden area? There are also heated pavers across Lakeshore Dr from the CFAB building.

Location: 3040 Lakeshore Dr. At the corner of Lakeshore Dr



and Wisconsin Street west of Spenard.