

## **WEG Receives PREP Award from the USEPA for Excellence in Low Impact Development**

Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. (WEG) was recently awarded one of the inaugural PREP (Policy, Research, Education, Partnerships) awards for Low Impact Development. The award program was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The program was developed to recognize leadership, innovation and excellence in low impact development practices which help to reduce the volume and rate of runoff and improve water quality. “We are so honored and proud to receive such a prestigious award,” said WEG Principal Ron Boyd, P.E. WEG was the only consultant recognized in the first round of awards.

Previously, many jurisdictions relied primarily on conventional engineered stormwater techniques, such as detention basins and wet ponds to collect stormwater. More recently, developers and consultants, government agencies, and watershed groups have placed more focus on innovative LID techniques that are more reliant upon the natural filtering capacity of landscaped areas. The practices involved in low impact development include a more varied array of controls such as rain gardens, reduction of impervious cover, permeable pavements, engineered soils, roof runoff management, and directing stormwater across lawns and gardens to reduce overall runoff and irrigation needs.

Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. (WEG) has been leading the way for the implementation of sustainable/conservation design techniques and LID techniques. Project team members have assisted clients in the public and private sector in developing sustainable site designs and stormwater management approaches which minimize the generation of runoff and provide full-spectrum hydrologic control and treatment.

WEG is also a recognized leader in incorporating LID practices into stormwater master plans. WEG staff members have worked on over 30 projects throughout Virginia incorporating low impact development concepts and/or designs. The application of LID techniques in a master plan setting provides a better framework for evaluating physical constraints and land planning factors to ensure a well-thought out, cost-effective application of LID practices.