Background:

Although low impact development (LID) has become the norm in some parts of the country, its application is relatively limited in coastal South Carolina. Barriers to LID implementation include concerns about cost, maintenance, codes/or ordinances and South Carolina’s unique coastal conditions, specifically the shallow water table, tidal influence and soils. Few, if any, resources exist for developers, landscape architects, and engineers who may be interested in implementing LID in coastal South Carolina as opposed to installing traditional stormwater systems.

Overall Goal:

Create a low impact development planning and design guide specific to coastal South Carolina, and provide associated tools and technical training that target information-related barriers to the implementation of LID practices on the community, neighborhood, and site scale.

Low Impact Development (LID) is an integrated, comprehensive approach to land development or redevelopment that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible, by using techniques that promote storage, infiltration, evaporation, and treatment of runoff (US EPA, 2014).

Methods:

- Initial working group established (2008).
- Formal and informal needs assessment conducted within both private and public sector (2011).
- Funding was secured and project team and advisory committee were formed (2012).
- Preliminary workshop hosted with stakeholder groups to introduce them to the project and recruit technical advisors and professionals willing to provide feedback throughout the process; surveys/informal discussions were used in follow-up (January 2013).
- Outline and preliminary drafts developed from specialty knowledge base of project team and advisory committee.
- Two researcher Roundtable workshops provided technical advice specifically related to coastal conditions (April 2013) and climate change (September 2013).
- Intended user workshop tested and validated the newly designed LID tools, design specifications, planning guidance and case studies (January 2014).
- Information synthesized and draft guidance updated.
- Draft circulated for additional feedback from technical advisors (spring 2014).
- Editing and formatting completed to publish final document (summer 2014).
- Trainings held on using the new guidance to implement LID in coastal South Carolina (October 2014).

Access the manual online:
http://northinlet.sc.edu/LID