

Sustainability to boost water collecting efforts with drain

LID project plans to redirect rain from campus to river

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Sustainability at Sacramento State is working with the Office of Water Programs to install stormwater Low Impact Development drains around campus by fall 2015.

Stormwater Low Impact Development is a project that will capture rain water throughout the campus. It would have the water filtered and released into the American River.

The “Best Management Practices” for the LID are bio-retention planters, rain gardens, and compost amended bioswales. The largest LID will replace the inactive fountain in front of the Library.

The fountain has sat idle for two years and Sustainability wants to put the vacant space to good use.

The landscapes will be made of soil, sand and compost. Plants on the landscape have been chosen to handle drought conditions. The landscapes and other retention areas around campus

are estimated to collect 490,000 cubic feet of runoff per year.

The project is designed to limit the amount of runoff from campus to the American River. Runoff from campus and parking lots can pollute the American River water.

Sac State could also restore its groundwater supply as a result of the project.

Maureen Kerner, a research engineer for the Office of Water Programs, said the project will cost about \$3.5

million and will be installed come June 2015.

The State Water Resource Control Board has issued a grant of \$2.8 million to the OWP for the project; the rest of the funds are coming from various OWP partners.

OWP civil engineering interns are assisting in the project’s 18

month process of planning and designing.

“The project includes an extensive education and outreach component for practitioners and the general public,” Kerner said. “...including serving as a

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-Joey Martinez,
Recycling and
Sustainability
coordinator

demonstration project from retrofitting existing infrastructure to improve stormwater management.”

Kerner believes the LID project can benefit Sac State

and the Sacramento region. The Office of Water Programs is working with the City of Sacramento and other professionals that address Sacramento’s water resources.

Working with the City of Sacramento ensures that the designs of the project meet specific regulation requirements for the

Sacramento region.

Kristina Cullen, the sustainability and operations analyst for Sustainability, said she thinks the project is a good opportunity for campus to save water during the ongoing drought and can be set as an example for other campuses to become more sustainable.

“A project of this magnitude will offer research opportunities for students and faculty, the likes of which we have never had before,” Cullen said.

Sustainability’s recycling and sustainability coordinator, Joey Martinez, said students should be excited about the project and what is to come of Sac State’s sustainability elevation.

“Students can take pride in knowing that their campus is taking this drought seriously by implementing projects revolved around water conservation,” Martinez said.

For more information on the project, there will be a Science Technology Engineering Mathematical lecture held on Sept. 24, 2015.