Low Impact Site
A Low Impact GESC Permit is a simplified and streamlined permit program that applies to projects with a disturbed area less than one acre where there is a potential for negative impact to adjacent properties or drainageways, requiring the activity to be permitted to protect the storm drain system.

GESC Report & Drawings
A simplified permitting document process is associated with a Low Impact GESC Permit. A Low Impact Permit does not require GESC Drawings to be prepared or stamped by a Professional Engineer because typically the work does not involve engineering design. A hand-drawn plan can be submitted by an Applicant.

Violations & Enforcement
Even with streamlined application and inspection procedures, the erosion and sediment control practices on the drawing for a Low Impact site will be enforceable. If SEMSWA finds a Low Impact Permittee to be non-compliant, violations will be identified and the Permit may be revoked so that a Standard GESC Permit process can be initiated.

Review and Permit Fees
Fees for a Low Impact GESC Permit is per the approved SEMSWA Fee Schedule. The review fee is less than other permits because of the Live Review meeting and the limited information to review. The Permit Fee reflects the inspections that are still required, even with a streamlined GESC Permit process. There is typically no collateral required with a Low Impact GESC permit, although SEMSWA reserves the right to assess collateral if the work complexity requires security.

#8: Low Impact Permit

Overview of streamlined Low Impact Permit Process. The following outlines the general steps in Low Impact permitting through project completion:

- Confirm that a Low Impact GESC Permit can be used for a project
- Prepare a Low Impact Permit Application and Drawing (can be hand-drawn)
- Bring the Low Impact Permit Application and Drawing to SEMSWA for review and acceptance during the ‘Live Review for Low-Impact Permits’ open meeting, Thursdays from 10 to noon, or TBD
- At meeting, review drawing and scope of work, pay Permit fee, and execute Permit application
- Install Initial BMPs on the project site per the GESC Drawing
- Start construction, maintaining erosion and sediment control BMPs as needed
- The Low Impact GESC Permit and Drawing are kept on site at all times during construction
- Adequately address issues raised during SEMSWA GESC Inspections
- Stabilize all disturbed areas in accordance with the GESC Manual final stabilization requirements
- Schedule Close-out Inspection when vegetative growth has reached the required coverage and receive written acceptance of vegetation establishment from SEMSWA
- Remove the on-site BMPs to complete the project

Low Impact Permit Application
For Low Impact Permits, the GESC Drawing is accompanied by a completed Low Impact GESC Permit Application. No GESC Report is required for the Low Impact Permit, but the application form requires descriptive information regarding the proposed project. The Review and Permit fees are in accordance with the current SEMSWA Fee Schedule and are to be submitted with the Low Impact GESC drawing and application.

Low Impact Live Review Meeting
After the GESC Drawing has been prepared and a Low Impact Permit Application form has been filled out and signed, the items can be brought to a SEMSWA ‘Live Review’ meeting where the Permit application can be reviewed, discussed, approved, paid for, and executed in the same meeting, if no issues.

The GESC drawing and proposed work detailed in the permit application will be reviewed with an eye toward the effectiveness of the overall Plan. Changes can be made to the drawing in real-time and issues resolved such that the Applicant can walk out of the meeting permitted and ready to begin installing GESC controls detailed on the drawing and start construction.

Alternately, the GESC Drawing and a Low Impact Permit Application form can be submitted to SEMSWA without a meeting. The permit will be reviewed, and comments issued within a week of submittal. After a revised GESC Drawing is received, a Permit will be issued within 24 hours for pickup.

Low Impact GESC Drawing
Although a detailed GESC Plan and Report are not prepared for sites where a Low Impact Permit is appropriate, the following GESC Drawing information is submitted to SEMSWA to provide enough information to determine if a Low Impact Permit is acceptable and will be adequate for the proposed work:

- General location map – at a scale of 1-inch to 1000-feet to 1-inch to 8000-feet, indicating the general vicinity of the site location, including all roadways and north arrow.
- Detailed plan showing:
  - North arrow.
  - Approximate scale of drawing.
  - Limits of work area.
  - Proximity of work area to property lines.
  - All surface water hydrologic features within 100-feet of proposed work area.
  - Directional flow arrows indicating stormwater runoff.
  - Erosion and sediment control BMPs for construction in accordance with the GESC Manual criteria.
  - Final stabilization controls