



# The Sustainable Sites Handbook: A Complete Guide to the Principles, Strategies, and Best Practices for Sustainable Landscapes

By Meg Calkins

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**The Sustainable Sites Handbook: A Complete Guide to the Principles, Strategies, and Best Practices for Sustainable Landscapes** By Meg Calkins

**Get the definitive resource guide for sustainable site design, construction, and management.**

The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) is transforming land design, development, and management practices across the United States with the first national rating system for sustainable landscapes. The Sustainable Sites Handbook features comprehensive and detailed information on principles, strategies, technologies, tools, and best practices for sustainable site design. Contributors to this book are some of the same experts that carefully shaped the SITES rating tool, ensuring thorough coverage of the broad range of topics related to sustainable site design.

*The Sustainable Sites Handbook* offers in-depth coverage of design, construction, and management for systems of hydrology, vegetation, soils, materials, and human health and well-being. Focusing primarily on environmental site design and ecosystem services, this wide-ranging guide also covers issues of social equity, economic feasibility, and stewardship, which are crucial to the success of any sustainable site.

Equally useful as a handbook for obtaining SITES credits or for the independent development of sustainable sites, The Sustainable Sites Handbook is an indispensable resource for practicing professionals in landscape architecture, landscape design, architecture, civil engineering, land planning, horticulture, ecology, environmental engineering, landscape contracting, and parks and recreation management.

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- Sales Rank: #590318 in Books
- Published on: 2012-01-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.30" h x 1.52" w x 8.20" l, 2.80 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 560 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"The *Sustainable Sites Handbook* is extremely clear and well-structured, synthesizing a wealth of specific information into a useable form. The book brings together sound technical information in a well-reasoned intellectual context. It is destined to become a key reference work for the profession." (Elizabeth Mossop, *The Dirt*, 2012)

"Calkins and other experts cover all of the primary elements of site design in detail, from site assessment to soils, vegetation, and water.... landscape architects looking for a single resource to expand their technical knowledge base on sustainable site design would be hard pressed to find a better place to start." (Examiner.com, August 2012)

"*The Sustainable Sites Handbook* is indeed a major useful expansion of the LEEDS Green Building Rating System by bringing both rural open space and the social landscapes into determined sustainable design standards and appropriate maintenance criteria for use by all professional site planners. Soil mechanics and agricultural/horticultural soil systems are beautifully woven into this comprehensive evaluation of appropriate management of sites planning." (*InSitu (International Institute of Site Planning)*, April 2012)

"The Book provides a thorough introduction to sustainable design, explaining sustainability and its integration into site design." (*Garden Design Journal*, July 2012)

#### From the Back Cover

#### **The definitive resource guide for sustainable site design, construction, and management**

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#### About the Author

**MEG CALKINS, ASLA, LEED AP**, is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Ball State University. As an officer of ASLA's Sustainable Development Professional Practice Network, Meg was part

of a small team that approached ASLA about forming the effort that eventually grew into the Sustainable Sites Initiative. Today, Meg is a member of the SITES Technical Core Committee. She served for many years on the LEED Sustainable Sites Technical Advisory Group. Meg is the author of Materials for Sustainable Sites and is an editorial advisory board member of and contributor to Landscape Architecture Graphic Standards, both published by Wiley. She holds master's degrees in both landscape architecture and architecture from the University of California at Berkeley.

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#### **Chris Wolf:**

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