

“LD allows me to
see how all
aspects come
together ...

*LD combines
all areas of
civil ... the
development of
land is not just
the bulldozers”
it is **much
more.....***

Quotes from Virginia Tech land development students.

LDDI
Land
Development
Design
Initiative

Information can also be found at:

www.vtlanddevelopment.com

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So, What are My Options?

Career Paths in Land Development



Career Paths in Land Development

GOVERNMENT AGENCY

Advanced Stages -- 10 - 15+ years

- Department Director
- Deputy or Division Director

(General management of a department including personnel management and representation of agency at public forums and in negotiations with developers and other agencies)

Mid-Level Stages -- 6 - 10 years

- Engineer 4,5, 6 (Highly technical positions or team leader positions; may oversee multiple teams)

Entry-Level Stages -- 0 - 6 years

- Engineer 1, 2 and 3 (Tracks include: design, regulatory or operations)

HIGHLIGHTS

- * Balances competing interests
- * Smaller jurisdictions provide a broader spectrum of responsibilities
- * Larger jurisdictions and state governments provide the ability for niche specialization

BUILDER / DEVELOPER

Advanced Stages -- 10- 15+ years

- Vice President of Land Development
- (Works at a strategic business level including land purchase decisions and market analysis)*

Mid-Level Stages -- 6 - 10 years

- Director of Engineering or Director of Field Operations *(Provides management and direction to single or multiple teams -- instrumental in assessing new projects)*

Entry-Level Stages -- 0 - 6 years

- Engineering Manager or Field Operations Manager *(Oversees outside engineering firms and contractors to ensure accurate and timely performance)*

HIGHLIGHTS

- * Provides ability to move into related career paths such as sales, marketing, construction and land acquisition
- * Provides ownership opportunities
- * Manages both site and building construction

ENGINEERING FIRM

Advanced Stages -- 10 - 15+ years

- Principal / Owner
 - Department Head or Branch Manager
- (General management -- works with major clients, oversees a diverse group of professionals and is responsible for financial management)*

Mid-Level Stages -- 6 - 10 years

- Project Manager/Senior Project Manager *(Manages single or multiple technical teams; interacts with clients and government agencies)*

Entry-Level Stages -- 0 - 6 years

- Design Engineer progressing to Project Manager *(Performs detailed designs and oversees smaller teams)*

HIGHLIGHTS

- * Balances engineering with financial management
- * Frequent interaction with government agencies, clients and the public
- * Provides ownership opportunities

Regardless of the sector one represents, good land development engineers are creative and can visualize the potential of any site. Land development engineers balance engineering skills along with interpersonal and communication skills to create environmentally sensitive, attractive and functional communities. Professional registration is highly desirable in any sector.