

Glossary

Best Management Practice (BMP) – A structural or non-structural device designed to temporarily store or treat stormwater runoff in order to mitigate flooding, reduce pollution, and provide other amenities.

Biodiversity – Defined by the EPA as “the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur”.

Bio-monitoring – Generally accepted as the most accurate determination of long-term impacts on the health of a stream, “bio-monitoring” refers to analysis of macroinvertebrate life in the stream. Cost effective EPA and DEP rapid bio-assessment protocols have been developed and are in use by those trained in the science.

Brownfields – Abandoned or under-used industrial and commercial sites where future expansion or redevelopment can be directed after site remediation for possible contamination.

Buffer – An area adjacent to a shoreline, wetland, or stream where development is restricted or prohibited.

Build-out – The total percentage of development in a watershed based on current zoning.

Critical area – Any area recognized as a valuable environmental resource because of its outstanding scenic, cultural, historic, recreational, natural, or geologic significance. Critical areas can include those valuable for their cultural or scenic quality, such as woodlands, farms, waterfalls, or scenic views. Critical habitat areas can include vernal pools, headwaters areas, wetlands, swamps, and riparian areas.

Easement – An interest in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use or enjoyment. A right, such as a right of way, afforded a person to make limited use of another's real property

Floodplain – Areas adjacent to a stream or river that are subject to flooding or inundation during severe storm events (often called a 100-year floodplain, it would include the area or flooding that occurs, on average, once every 100 years.)

Greenway – A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land or water based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridgetops, or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines,

or wetlands, and include water trails for non-motorized craft. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage. Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway will protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provide recreational benefits, enhance natural beauty and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities, and stimulate economic development opportunities.

Groundwater recharge – The process through which surface water is infiltrated through the ground and joins underground aquifers. Recharge rates vary according to season, land cover type, and soil type, among other factors.

Impervious cover – Any surface in the landscape that cannot effectively absorb or infiltrate rainfall.

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) – Sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of bird. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. A bird habitat conservation project administered by the National Audubon Society, the IBA program is a global effort to identify the areas that are most important for maintaining bird populations, and focus conservation efforts at protecting these sites.

NPDES – An acronym for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Established by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, this federally mandated system is used for regulating point source and stormwater discharge.

Open Space – Land which is permanently set aside for public or private use and will not be developed with homes or commercial businesses. The space may be used for passive or active recreation, or may be reserved to protect or buffer natural areas.

Outstanding and unique feature – Any area recognized as a valuable environmental resource because of its outstanding scenic, cultural, historic, recreational, natural, or geologic significance.

Stakeholder – Any agency, organization, or individual that is involved in or affected by the decisions made in the development of a watershed plan.

Watershed – All the land which contributes runoff to a particular point along a waterway.

Wetland – Areas inundated by water at or near the surface of the land or covered by shallow water. Wetlands can be scientifically delineated by the presence of hydric soils, hydrophytic plants, and water.

Zoning – A set of regulations and requirements that govern the use, placement, spacing, and size of buildings and lots within a specific area or in a common class (zone).