

Glossary of Terms

Best Management Practices: In this case, used to describe development techniques that help to naturalize and enhance the environmental functions of a completed development.

Green Infrastructure: Stormwater management techniques used to maintain or enhance the natural hydrology and habitat of a development site.

Habitat: The ecologic community where plants, animals, and resources interact to sustain life.

Invasive plant species: Plant species that are not indigenous to an area and dominate native species by monopolizing resources such as sun, water, soil, and nutrients.

Native plant species: Plant species that are indigenous to an area. These species have evolved in conjunction with the local environment and are well suited to provide habitat and water filtration and storage functions.

Permeable surface: Any ground treatment that allows for surface water to soak into the ground through the pavement. Alternatively, traditional methods of ground treatment such as non-porous concrete does not allow for permeability.

Riparian: The land surrounding a body of water up to 50 feet from the waters edge.

Runoff: Water that flows across a surface without penetrating into the ground or other subsurface.

Stormwater: Water that is released on a site from rain events.

Sustainability: Undergoing changes that do not stress the environment in a way that will undermine the ability of the land to provide for future uses for development, environment, and resource use.

Watershed: The land area that drains to a specific body of water.