

City of Toronto Wet Weather Flow Program Glossary of Terms

Anaerobic - Describes an organism or metabolic process that functions in the absence of air, or, more precisely, in the absence of molecular oxygen.

Aquifer – A porous water bearing geologic formation generally restricted to materials capable of yielding an appreciable supply of water

Backfill - Earth used to fill a trench or an excavation.

Backwashing - Reversing the flow of water back through the filter media to remove the entrapped solids.

Baffles - Fin-like devices installed vertically on the inside walls of liquid waste transport vehicles that are used to reduce the movement of the waste inside the tank.

Guides, grids, grating or similar devices placed in a pond to deflect or regulate flow and create a longer flow path.

Bankfull Flow - The condition where streamflow fills a stream channel to the top of the bank and at a point where the water begins to overflow onto a floodplain.

Barrel - The closed conduit used to convey water under or through an embankment; part of the principal spillway.

Base flow - The portion of stream flow that is not due to storm runoff, and is supported by groundwater seepage into a channel.

Bedload - The sediment in a stream channel that mainly moves by jumping, sliding or rolling on or very near the bottom.

Berm - An earthen mound used to direct the flow of runoff around or through a structure.

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.

Bioaccumulation - A process where chemicals are retained in fatty body tissue and increase in concentration over time. The accumulation of chemicals in the tissue of species higher in the natural food chain increases as contaminated food species are eaten.

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) - The quantity of oxygen consumed during the biochemical oxidation of matter over a specified period of time (see also COD).

Biodegradable - The ability to break down or decompose under natural conditions and processes.

Biofilters - A collection of living organisms (bacteria), growing on small particles or substrates which give a very large surface area. Biofilters are used as a watertreatment and waterquality method. The biofilter has requirements that must be met if the bacteria are to survive and function. Any deviation from these requirements may impair the performance of the bacteria or, if severe, may result in the collapse of the biofilter, through death of the bacteria.

Biomass - The total quantity or weight of organisms (living matter) in a given area or volume.

Bioretention - A water quality practice that utilizes landscaping and soils to treat urban stormwater runoff by collecting it in shallow depressions before filtering through a fabricated planting soil media.

Bioretention Areas - Area to mimic the functions of wooded wetlands removed by land development

Bioventing - The process of inserting air into the soil matrix due to withdrawing soil gas from the recovery well.

Brownfield Sites - Existing development areas, primarily commercial and industrial. Can also refer to a way of redevelopment. May include existing residential areas as well as infilling, depending on the context. This item is generally used in the discussion of providing stormwater management, best management practices, or site remediation cleanup to control runoff from older uncontrolled "brownfield" areas.

Buffer Strip or Zone - Strips of grass or other erosion-resistant vegetation between a waterway and an area of more intensive land use.

Calibration - A check of the precision and accuracy of measuring equipment.

Catchbasin - Box-like underground concrete structure with openings in curbs and gutters designed to collect runoff from streets and pavement.

Catchment Area - Also referred to as drainage basin, a catchment area is an area drained by a stream or other body of water. The limits of a given catchment area are the heights of land-often called drainage divides, or watersheds-separating it from neighboring drainage systems. The amount of water reaching the river, reservoir, or lake from its catchment area depends on the size of the area, the amount of precipitation, and the loss through evaporation (determined by temperature, winds, and other factors and varying with the season) and through absorption by the earth or by vegetation; absorption is greater when the soil or rock is permeable than when it is impermeable. A permeable layer over an impermeable layer may act as a natural reservoir, supplying the river or lake in very dry seasons. The catchment area is one of the primary considerations in the planning of a reservoir for water-supply purposes.

Cementitious Coatings - A coating of cement (portland cement by-products or calcium aluminates) that can be used to prevent leaks on defective manholes.

Channel - A natural stream that conveys water; a ditch or channel excavated for the flow of water.

Channel erosion - The widening, deepening, and headward cutting of small channels and waterways, due to erosion caused by moderate to large floods.

Channel Stabilization - Erosion prevention and stabilization of velocity distribution in a channel using jetties, drops, revetments, structural linings, vegetation and other measures.

Check dam - (a) A log or gabion structure placed perpendicular to a stream to enhance aquatic habitat. (b) An earthen or log structure, used in grass swales to reduce water velocities, promote sediment deposition, and enhance infiltration.

GLOSSARY

Chemical oxygen demand (COD) - A monitoring test that measures all the oxidizable matter found in a runoff sample, a portion of which could deplete dissolved oxygen.

Clarifier - A large circular or rectangular tank or basin in which water is held for a period of time, during which the heavier suspended solids settle to the bottom. Clarifiers are also called settling basins and sedimentation basins.

Clay (SOILS) - 1. A mineral soil separate consisting of particles less than 0.002 millimeter in equivalent diameter. 2. A soil texture class. 3. (Engineering) A fine grained soil (more than 50 percent passing the No. 200 sieve) that has a high plasticity index in relation to the liquid limit. (Unified Soil Classification System)

Compaction (SOILS) - Any process by which the soil grains are rearranged to decrease void space and bring them in closer contact with one another, thereby increasing the weight of solid material per unit of volume, increasing the shear and bearing strength and reducing permeability.

Conduit - Any channel intended for the conveyance of water, whether open or closed.

Conveyance - Any natural or manmade channel or pipe in which concentrated water flows.

Corrosion - The dissolving and wearing away of metal caused by a chemical reaction such as between water and the pipes that the water contacts, chemicals touching a metal surface, or contact between two metals.

Culvert - A covered channel or a large-diameter pipe that directs water flow below the ground level.

Curbs - Concrete barriers on the edges of streets used to direct stormwater runoff to an inlet or storm drain and to protect lawns and sidewalks from vehicles.

Dam - A barrier to confine or raise water for storage or diversion, to create a hydraulic head, to prevent gully erosion, or for retention of soil, sediment or other debris.

Dechlorination - The deliberate removal of chlorine from water. The partial or complete reduction of residual chlorine by any chemical or physical process.

Denitrification - Bacterial reduction of nitrite to gaseous nitrogen under anaerobic conditions.

Design storm - A rainfall event of specific size, intensity, and return frequency (e.g., the 1-year storm) that is used to calculate runoff volume and peak discharge rate.

Detention - The temporary storage of stormwater to control discharge rates, allow for infiltration, and improve water quality.

Detention Structure - A permanent structure for the temporary storage of runoff that is designed to not create a permanent pool of water.

Detention time - The amount of time a parcel of water actually is present in a BMP. Theoretical detention time for a runoff event is the average time parcels of water reside in the basin over the period of release from the BMP.

Dewatering - A process for removing excess water from solids to lessen the overall weight of the wastes.

Dike - An embankment to confine or control water, for example, one built along the banks of a river to prevent overflow to lowlands; a levee.

Discharge - A release or flow of storm water or other substance from a conveyance or storage container.

Diversion - A channel with a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across the slope to divert water to areas where it can be used or disposed of safely. Diversions differ from terraces in that they are individually designed.

Draft EA - A document which a proponent can opt to submit, before submission of a formal EA document to the Minister, so that issues or concerns respecting the documentation can be resolved between the proponent and the reviewers before the formal submission.

Drainage - 1. The removal of excess surface water or ground water from land by means of surface or subsurface drains. 2. Soil characteristics that affect natural drainage.

Drainage Area (Watershed) - That area contributing runoff to a single point measured in a horizontal plane, which is enclosed by a ridge line.

Emission - Pollution discharged into the atmosphere from smokestacks, other vents, and surface areas of commercial or industrial facilities and from motor vehicle, locomotive, or aircraft exhausts.

Environment - Environment means: (i) air, land or water; (ii) plant and animal life, including man; (iii) the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of man or a community; (iv) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by man; (v) any solid, liquid, gas odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from the activities of man, or; (vi) any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them.

Enviro Whirl - a dry vacuum sweeper exhausted through cartridge filters, and various other street sweeping machines

Erosion - 1. The process by which the land surface is worn away by the action of water, wind, ice, or gravity. 2. Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice or gravity. The following terms are used to describe different types of water erosion:

Erosion Gully - The erosion process whereby water accumulates in narrow channels and removes the soil from this narrow area to considerable depths ranging from 1 or 2 feet to as much as 75 to 100 feet.

Erosion Rill - An erosion process in which numerous small channels only several inches deep are formed. See rill.

Erosion Sheet - The spattering of small soil particles caused by the impact of raindrops on wet soils. The loosened and spattered particles may or may not subsequently be removed by surface runoff.

Evapotranspiration - The loss of water from the soil both by evaporation and by transpiration from the plants growing in the soil.

Excavation - The process of removing earth, stone, or other materials.

Exfiltration - The downward movement of water through the soil; the downward flow of runoff from the bottom of an infiltration BMP into the soil.

Extended Detention - A stormwater design feature that provides for the gradual release of a volume of water in order to increase settling of pollutants and protect downstream channels from frequent storm events

Facility - Is a collection of industrial process discharging storm water associated with industrial activity within the property boundary or operational unit.

Fertilizer – Materials such as nitrogen and phosphorus that provide nutrients for plants. Commercially sold fertilizers may contain other chemicals or may be in the form of processed sewage sludge.

Filter Fabric – Textile of relatively small mesh or pore size that is used to (a) allow water to pass through while keeping sediment out (permeable), or (b) prevent both runoff and sediment from passing through (impermeable).

Filter Strip – Usually long, relatively narrow area of undisturbed or planted vegetation used to retard or collect sediment for the protection of watercourses, reservoirs, or adjacent properties.

First flush - The delivery of a disproportionately large load of pollutants during the early part of storms due to the rapid runoff of accumulated pollutants. The first flush of runoff has been defined several ways (e.g., one-half inch per impervious acre).

Floodplain - Areas adjacent to a stream or river that are subject to flooding or inundation during a storm event that occurs, on average, once every 100 years (or has a likelihood of occurrence of 1/100 in any given year).

Fluorometric - a unit of measurement when undertaking dye testing.

Geosynthetic Liners - Synthetic fibers that are made into a flexible, porous fabric for separation, reinforcement, filtration, drainage or a moisture barrier.

Grading - The cutting and/or filling of the land surface to a desired slope or elevation.

Ground Cover - Plants which are low-growing and provide a thick growth which protects the soil as well as providing some beautification of the area occupied.

Groundwater - Water stored underground in the pore spaces between soil particles or rock fractures.

Gully - A channel or miniature valley cut by concentrated runoff through which water commonly flows during and immediately after heavy rains or snow melt. The distinction between gully and rill is one of depth. A gully is sufficiently deep such that it would not be obliterated by normal tillage operations, whereas a rill is of lesser depth and would be smoothed by ordinary farm tillage or grading activities.

Habitat - An area or type of area that supports plant or animal life.

Halogenated VOCs - Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) that are chemically composed of chlorine, bromine, or iodine. VOCs evaporate readily to the atmosphere and significantly contribute to photochemical smog production and certain health problems.

Hazardous Substance - 1. Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Hazardous substances can be toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.

Hazardous Waste - By-products of human activities that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity), or appears on special EPA lists.

Heterogeneities - Soil that is varying in structure or composition at different locations in the area.

Hydrocarbon - A chemical compound that consists entirely of carbon and hydrogen.

Illicit Connection - Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges authorized by an NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer) and discharges resulting from fire fighting activities.

Impervious Area - A hard surface area (e.g., parking lot or rooftop) that prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil, thus causing water to run off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow.

Infiltration - 1. The penetration of water through the ground surface into sub-surface soil or the penetration of water from the soil into sewer or other pipes through defective joints, connections, or manhole walls. 2. A land application technique where large volumes of wastewater are applied to land, allowed to penetrate the surface and percolate through the underlying soil.

Infiltration Rate (f) - The rate at which stormwater percolates into the subsoil measured in inches per hour.

Inlet - An entrance into a ditch, storm sewer, or other waterway.

Irrigation - Human application of water to agricultural or recreational land for watering purposes.

Lagoon - A shallow pond where sunlight, bacterial action, and oxygen work to purify wastewater.

Landfills - An area of land or an excavation in which wastes are placed for permanent disposal, and which is not a land application unit, surface impoundment, injection well, or waste pile.

Leaching - The process by which soluble constituents are dissolved in a solvent such as water and carried down through the soil.

Level Spreader - A device used to spread out storm water runoff uniformly over the ground surface as sheetflow (i.e., not through channels). The purpose of level spreaders are to prevent concentrated, erosive flows from occurring and to enhance infiltration.

Liner - 1. A relatively impermeable barrier designed to prevent leachate from leaking from a landfill. Liner materials include plastic and dense clay. 2. An insert or sleeve for sewer pipes to prevent leakage or infiltration.

Live Fascines - A bank protection measure consisting of bound and staked rolls of live willow and dogwood cuttings which are laid in trenches that run along the tops of stream banks. The vegetative cuttings grow quickly to establish a shrubby riparian edge which helps to shade the creek and resist bank erosion. The new riparian vegetation also provides habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Live Crib Walls - A bank protection structure in which logs are spiked together and backfilled with soil. Live stakes are planted between the logs. The logs act to retain the soil which when compacted provides a moderate mass for retaining steep slopes. The vegetative cuttings provide shade and erosion protection. These walls are used where habitat is essential at areas of severe slope.

Low flow channel - An incised or paved channel from inlet to outlet in a dry basin which is designed to carry low runoff flows and/or baseflow, directly to the outlet without detention.

GLOSSARY

Master Plans - Master Plans are long range plans, integrating infrastructure requirements for present and future land use with environmental planning principles. These plans examine the whole infrastructure system in order to outline a framework for planning for subsequent projects and/or developments.

Material Storage Areas - Onsite locations where raw materials, products, final products, byproducts, or waste materials are stored.

Methanogenic - Referring to the formation of methane by certain anaerobic bacteria during the process of anaerobic fermentation.

Mitigation - The activities carried out, or proposed, by a proponent of an undertaking to minimize or ameliorate the environmental effects of the undertaking.

Monitoring - The activities carried out by the proponent after approval of an undertaking to determine the environmental effects of the undertaking ("effects monitoring"). Monitoring can also refer to those activities carried out by the MOE in ensuring that a proponent complies with the EA as accepted and the terms and conditions of the approval of the undertaking ("compliance monitoring"). "Effectiveness monitoring" is a third type of monitoring in which a proponent evaluates how effectively its class EA parent document or proposal, plan or program EA is working in the planning and implementation of its class EA projects or constituent undertaking, respectively.

Naturescaping - Naturescaping is a way of inviting wildlife into your backyard by using native plants that provide shelter, food, and water for our urban wildlife neighbors

Nitrification - The biochemical transformation of ammonium nitrogen to nitrate nitrogen.

Nonpoint Source Pollution - Pollution that does not come from a point source. Nonpoint source pollution originates from aerial diffuse sources that are mostly related to land use.

Off-Line - A management system designed to control a storm event by diverting a percentage of stormwater events from a stream or storm drainage system.

Oil and Grease Traps - Devices which collect oil and grease, removing them from water flows.

On-Line - A management system designed to control stormwater in its original stream or drainage channel.

Open Space - Land set aside for public or private use within a development that is not built upon.

Organic Solvents - Liquid organic compounds capable of dissolving solids, gases, or liquids.

Outfall - The point, location, or structure where wastewater or drainage discharges from a sewer pipe, ditch, or other conveyance to a receiving body of water.

Outlet - The point at which water discharges from such things as a stream, river, lake, tidal basin, pipe, channel or drainage area.

Ozonation - The application of ozone to water for disinfection or for taste and odor control.

Pan Lysimeters - Collect soil water as it percolates down via gravity through saturated soils. This device only gathers fluids under saturated gravity flows. A lysimeter is a device for collecting water from the pore spaces of soils and for determining the soluble constituents removed in the drainage.

Permeability - The quality of a soil that enables water or air to move through it. Usually expressed in inches/hour or inches/day.

Permeable - Soil or other material that allows the infiltration or passage of water or other liquids.

Permit - An authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved State agency to implement the requirements of an environmental regulation; e.g., a permit to operate a wastewater treatment plant or to operate a facility that may generate harmful emissions.

Phytoremediation - the use of trees and plants to help clean up toxic waste sites

Point Source - Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.

Pollutant - Any dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, filter backwash, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discharged equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water.

Polyureas - A non-corrosive coating that provides a infiltration barrier.

Porous Pavement - A human-made surface that will allow water to penetrate through and percolate into soil (as in porous asphalt pavement or concrete). Porous asphalt pavement is comprised of irregular shaped crush rock precoat with asphalt binder. Water seeps through into lower layers of gravel for temporary storage, then filters naturally into the soil.

Precipitation - Any form of rain or snow.

Proposal, Plan Or Program EA - An EA for a group of related undertakings and/or initiatives which are proposed collectively to achieve the same purpose.

PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) - A plastic used in pipes because of its strength; does not dissolve in most organic solvents.

Rain Barrels - Barrels designed to collect and store rooftop runoff.

Recharge Rate - Annual amount of rainfall which contributes to groundwater as a function of hydrologic soil group.

Reclaim (water reclamation) - Planned use of treated effluent that would otherwise be discharged without being put to direct use.

Recycle - The process of minimizing the generation of waste by recovering usable products that might otherwise become waste. Examples are the recycling of aluminum cans, wastepaper, and bottles.

Redevelopment - Any construction, alteration, or improvement exceeding five thousand square feet of land disturbance performed on sites where existing land use is commercial, industrial, institutional, or multifamily residential.

Rehabilitation - To restore to good or normal condition

Remedial – Fix a problem. i.e. remedial action on a stream to improve erosion conditions.

Remediation - Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a (Superfund) site.

Residual - Amount of pollutant remaining in the environment after a natural or technological process has taken place, e.g., the sludge remaining after initial wastewater treatment, or particulates remaining in air after the air passes through a scrubbing or other pollutant removal process.

Retention - The amount of precipitation on a drainage area that does not escape as runoff. It is the difference between total precipitation and total runoff.

Retrofit - The modification of storm water management systems in developed areas through the construction of wet ponds, infiltration systems, wetland plantings, stream bank stabilization, and other BMP techniques for improving water quality. A retrofit can consist of the construction of a new BMP in the developed area, the enhancement of an older storm water management structure, or a combination of improvement and new construction.

Return interval - A statistical term for the average time of expected interval that an event of some kind will equal or exceed given conditions (e.g., a stormwater flow that occurs every 2 years).

Reuse (water reuse) - (see Reclaim)

Riparian - A relatively narrow strip of land that borders a stream or river, often coincides with the maximum water surface elevation of the 100 year storm.

Riparian Area - Vegetated ecosystems along a waterbody through which energy, materials, and water pass. Riparian areas characteristically have a high water table and are subject to periodic flooding.

Riparian Habitat - Areas adjacent to rivers and streams that have a high density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands.

Roughness Coefficient (Hydraulics) - A factor in velocity and discharge formulas representing the effect of channel roughness on energy losses in flowing water. Manning's "n" is a commonly used roughness coefficient.

Runoff - That part of precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface water. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into the receiving waters.

Sanitary Sewer - A system of underground pipes that carries sanitary waste or process wastewater to a treatment plant.

Sanitary Waste - Domestic sewage.

Secondary Containment - Structures, usually dikes or berms, surrounding tanks or other storage containers and designed to catch spilled material from the storage containers.

Sediment Trap - A device for removing sediment from water flows; usually installed at outfall points.

Sedimentation - The process of depositing soil particles, clays, sands, or other sediments that were picked up by flowing water.

Sediments - Soil, sand, and minerals washed from land into water, usually after rain. They pile up in reservoirs, rivers, and harbors, destroying fish-nesting areas and holes of water animals and cloud the water so that needed sunlight might not reach aquatic plants. Careless farming, mining, and building activities will expose sediment materials, allowing them to be washed off the land after rainfalls.

Sheet Flow - Water, usually storm runoff, flowing in a thin layer over the ground surface.

Slide Gate - A device used to control the flow of water through storm water conveyances.

Sludge - A semi-solid residue from any of a number of air or water treatment processes. Sludge can be a hazardous waste.

Soil - The unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of plants.

Soakaway Pit - A pit into which liquids may flow and then percolate slowly into the subsoil.

Source Control - A practice or structural measure to prevent pollutants from entering storm water runoff or other environmental media.

Stakeholder - Any person, agency or group who has a direct interest in the purpose of a proposed undertaking.

Stopcock Valve - A small valve for stopping or controlling the flow of water or other liquid through a pipe

Stormceptor - Manufacturer of stormwater quality treatment devices.

Storm Drain - A slotted opening leading to an underground pipe or an open ditch for carrying surface runoff.

Storm Water – Includes storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, surface runoff and drainage. It excludes infiltration.

Stormwater Ponds - A land depression or impoundment created for the detention or retention of stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Wetlands - Shallow, constructed pools that capture stormwater and allow for the growth of characteristic wetland vegetation.

Stratigraphy - The order and relative position of strata, which is a layer or set of successive layers of any deposited substance.

Streamflow - Water flowing in a natural channel, above ground.

Sump - A pit or tank that catches liquid runoff for drainage or disposal.

Superfund Sites - In the United States, sites under remediation or clean-up invoked by the CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, Superfund Act) and/or SARA. The "cradle to grave law" is applied holding that the generator of waste is responsible for proper waste disposal and provides for any cleanup of the contaminated sites by the government, with the cost of cleanup being charged to the responsible parties. Basically a generator becomes responsible for waste from its inception until it has been destroyed.

Surface Capping - A layer of clay, or other impermeable material installed over contaminated soil to prevent the entry of rainwater, eliminate direct exposure to contaminated soils, and minimize leachate and the emission of soil gases.

GLOSSARY

Surface Water - All water naturally open to the atmosphere (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, wetlands impoundments, seas, estuaries, etc.); also refers to springs, wells, or other collectors which are directly influenced by surface water.

Swale - An elongated depression in the land surface that is at least seasonally wet, is usually heavily vegetated, and is normally without flowing water. Swales direct storm water flows into primary drainage channels and allow some of the storm water to infiltrate into the ground surface.

Thalweg - Line joining the lowest points of successive cross-sections, either along a river channel or, more generally, along the valley that it occupies. More specifically, a thalweg is the line of the fastest flow along the course of a river. This usually crosses and re-crosses the stream channel.

Topography - The physical features of a surface area including relative elevations and the position of natural and human-made features.

Total Phosphorus (TP) - The total amount of phosphorus that is contained within the water column.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) - The total amount of particulate matter that is suspended in the water column.

Treatment - The act of applying a procedure or chemicals to a substance to remove undesirable pollutants.

Tributary - A river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream.

Turbidity - Describes the ability of light to pass through water. The cloudy appearance of water caused by suspended and colloidal matter (particles).

Two-Year Storm - The 24 hour storm event which exceeds bankfull capacity and occurs on average once every two years (or has a likelihood of occurrence of 1/2 in a given year).

Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) - Storage tanks with at least 10 percent or more of its storage capacity underground.

Urbanization - Changing land use from rural characteristics to urban (city-like) characteristics.

Ultrafiltration - The process in which hydrostatic pressure causes water and small dissolved molecules and ions to move across a membrane against a concentration gradient.

U.V. Disinfection - A process of disinfecting that involves subjecting the item, object, or instrument to ultraviolet radiation.

Waste - Unwanted materials left over from a manufacturing or other process.

Water Surface Profile - The longitudinal profile assumed by the surface of a stream flowing in an open channel; the hydraulic grade line.

Water Table - The upper surface or top of the saturated portion of the soil or bedrock layer, indicates the uppermost extent of groundwater.

Watershed - The topographic boundary within which water drains into a particular river, stream, wetland, or body of water.

Waterway - A channel for the passage or flow of water.

Wet pond - A stormwater management pond designed to detain urban runoff and always contain water.

Wet Well - A chamber used to collect water or other liquid and to which a pump is attached.

Wetlands - An area that is regularly saturated by surface or ground water and subsequently is characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Examples include: swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.

Wind Break - Any device designed to block wind flow and intended for protection against any ill effects of wind.

Xeriscaping - a method of landscaping using rock gardens, cacti, and other plants that thrive in the desert as a means to conserve water.