

## 14.0 GLOSSARY

**Alignment:** Arrangement in a correct or appropriate relative position.

**Alternative Solutions:** Feasible alternative ways of solving an identified problem (deficiency) or addressing an opportunity, from which a preferred solution is selected. Note: alternative solutions include the "Do Nothing" alternative.

**Arterial Roads:** High-capacity urban roads that act as major traffic corridors delivering traffic from major collector roads such as highways.

**Bankfull:** The water level, or stage, at which a stream, river or lake is at the top of its banks and further rise would result in water moving into the flood plain.

**Biodiversity:** A term describing the variety of species, both flora and/or fauna, contained within an ecosystem.

**Deleterious:** causing harm or damage to the natural environment.

**Downcutting:** Downward or vertical erosion is a process by hydraulic action the deepens the channel of a river or valley by removing material from the stream's bed or valley floor.

**Easement:** A legal right to use another's property/land for a specific limited purpose. The easement might restrict use of the property/land and require formal permission from the legal property/landowner.

**Environment:** As defined in the Environmental Assessment Act subsection 1.(1), "environment" means:

- a) air, land or water,
- b) plant and animal life, including human life,
- c) the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or community,
- d) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans,
- e) any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from human activities, or
- f) any part or combination of the foregoing, and the interrelationships between any two or more of them, in or of Ontario.

**Environmental Effects:** Any effects resulting in a change to the biophysical environment, adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from human activity.

**Environmental Study Report (ESR):** The documentation for a specific project planned in accordance with the procedures for Schedule C projects for Ontario's Class Environmental Assessment process. The ESR sets out the planning and decision-making process, including consultation practices, which has been followed to arrive at the preferred solution. The ESR also sets out the mitigating measures proposed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

**Environmentally Significant Area:** An area which contains significant natural features, ecosystems and/or ecological functions which warrant identification, conservation, and protection in the long-term interest of the environment and the public at large.

**Erosion:** A term used in this document collectively referring to:

- a) The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice or other geological agents;
- b) Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice or gravity; and,
- c) Instability of a slope.

**Fauna:** A collective term for animal species present in an ecosystem.

**Floodplain:** an area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river that is subject to flooding in storm events.

**Flora:** The collective term for the plant species present in an ecosystem.

**Fluvial:** The features (morphology) and process related to flowing water. Fluvial processes, including the movement of sediment due to erosion, transportation and deposition, and the formation of river channel features (morphology) such as (but not inclusive of): sediment bars, banks, channel sinuosity, floodplains, pools, riffles, and islands.

**Freshet:** a significant inundation of flood plains from snow and ice melt in the river's watershed during the spring thaw.

**Geomorphology:** The physical features of the earth and ongoing processes which shape landforms.

**Grade:** The degree of incline (or steepness) of a slope; represented as a percentage.

**Greenspace:** Land covered with grass, trees or other vegetation that may be used or created for recreation, education, or aesthetic purposes in an urban environment.

**Habitat:** The place or site where an animal or plant community naturally or normally lives. The environment in which the life needs of a plant or animal organism, population, or community are supplied.

**Hydraulic:** Relates to a liquid moving in a confined space under pressure (in this instance an open channel).

**Hydrology:** The science of water on and beneath the Earth's surface and its relationship with the environment.

**Infrastructure:** Basic physical structures and facilities (e.g., boardwalk, sewer systems, roads, bridges, etc.) needed for daily operations.

**LiDAR:** A remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distance to the Earth. These light pulses, combined with other data, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the surface characteristics.

**Multi-use Trail:** Facilities separated from the roadway, which support a number of non-motorized uses such as walking, running, cycling, inline skating, wheelchair users, and dog walking, amongst others. In order to accommodate these uses, the multi-use trail must be approximately 3.5 to 4 m in width with an asphalt surface. Where possible, the trail will meet accessibility requirements and provide access for EMS and maintenance vehicles.

**Objective-base Evaluation:** An approach that considers the advantages and disadvantages for alternative solutions, relative to their ability to accomplish project goals, or objectives, developed through community and stakeholder input.

**Physical Barriers:** Structural obstacles in natural or manmade environment that prevent or block mobility.

**Physiography:** The physical geography of an area.

**Prolific:** Present in large numbers or quantities.

**Proponent:** The entity that has the responsibility to carry out the project.

**Ravine:** A small narrow steep-sided valley and that is usually worn by running water.

**Reach (river):** a small section of a stream or river.

**Regulations:** Statutory controls, enacted through legislation, for the purpose of controlling land and water use.

**Restoration:** To repair or re-establish functioning ecosystems; the process of altering a site to establish a defined, native, historic ecosystem; the goal is to emulate the structure, function, diversity and dynamics of a specified ecosystem.

**Review Agencies:** Means government agencies, ministries or public authorities or bodies whose mandates require them to have jurisdiction over matters affected or potentially affected by projects planned under this Class EA. This includes municipalities other than the proponent.

**Right-of-way:** A type of easement granted or reserved over the land for transportation purposes, such as a highway, public footpath, rail transport, as well as utility transmission lines and sewers.

**Sediment:** material deposited by water, wind, or glacier melt.

**Slope:** The degree of deviation of a surface from horizontal, measured in a numerical ratio, percent, or degrees.

**Subwatershed:** The area of land that water flows over or through to drain a larger body of water.

**Successional:** A progressive change in an ecological community where species composition and ecological community processes change over time. Some species may become more abundant while others fade out.

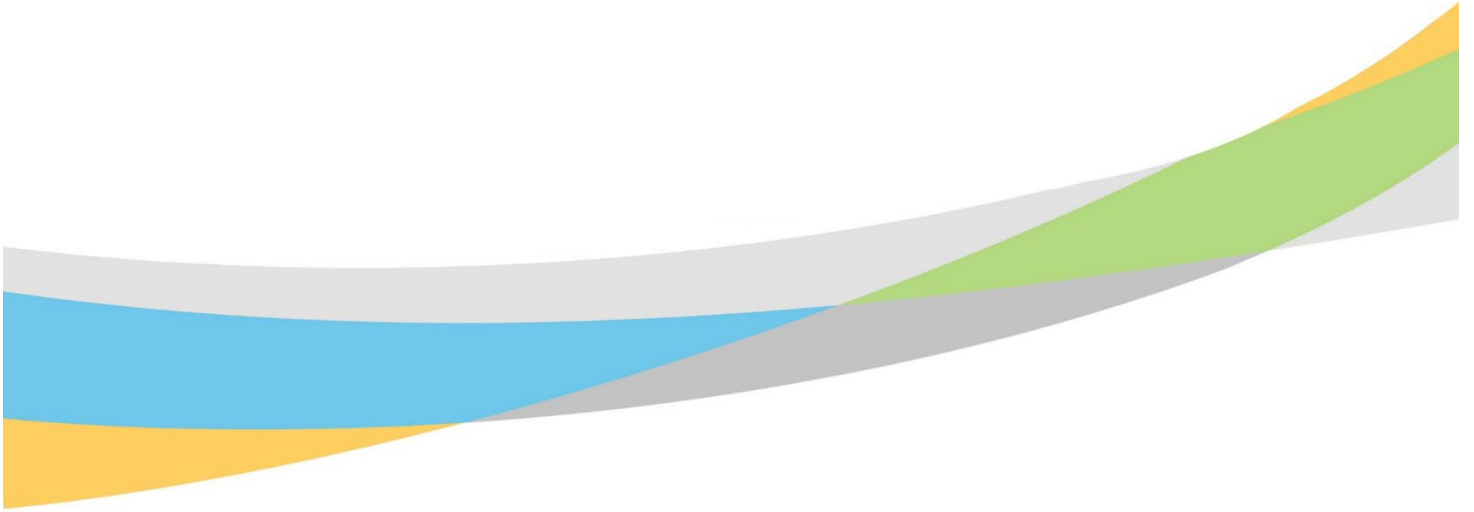
**Switchback:** A portion of a trail that zigzags or switches back and forth up a steep ravine, slope, or mountain, often creating a longer route.

**Topography:** The arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area.

**Watercourse:** Flowing water, though not necessarily continuous, within a defined channel and with a bed and banks which usually discharges itself into some other watercourse or body of water.

**Watershed:** The area drained by a river or lake system. A drainage area, drainage basin, or catchment area.

**Wayfinding:** Information systems to guide people through a physical environment and enhance their understanding and experience of the space.



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