

Appendix F: Acronym List & Glossary

Acronym List

AU	Animal Units
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
BMP	Best Management Practice
BWSR	Board of Water & Soil Resources
CAMP	Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program
CCWMO	Carver County Watershed Management Organization
CDA	Community Development Agency
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CTIC	Conservation Technology Information Center
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWF	Children's Water Festival
DWSMA	Drinking Water Supply Management Area
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning System
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
ISTS	Individual Sewage Treatment Systems
JAM	Joint Agency Meeting
LA	Load Allocation
LGU	Local Government Unit
LWP	Local Water Plan

MCBS	Minnesota County Biological Survey
MDA	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH	Minnesota Department of Health
MGS	Minnesota Geological Society
MLCCS	Minnesota Land Cover Classification System
MN DNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MN DOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MUSA	Metropolitan Urban Service Area
NCHF	North Central Hardwood Forest ecoregion
NEMO	Non-point Source Education for Municipal Officials
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRA	Natural Resource Assessment
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
NURP	National Urban Runoff Program
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
OHW	Ordinary High Water Level
RFPE	Regulatory Floodplain Elevation
RIM	Reinvest in Minnesota
SHEP	Stream Health Evaluation Program
SSTS	Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems
SWCD	Soil Water Conservation District
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TEP	Technical Evaluation Panel
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TP	Total Phosphorus
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
US FWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

VSMP	Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership
VSQG	Very Small Quantity Generator
WCA	Wetland Conservation Act
WCBP	Western Corn Belt Plains ecoregion
WENR	Water, Environment, & Natural Resource Committee
WEP	Wetlands Education Program
WFVA	Wetland Function & Value Assessment
WLA	Waste Load Allocation
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMO	Watershed Management Organization
WOMP	Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program
WPA	Wellhead Protection Area
WWMD	World Water Monitoring Day
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

Glossary

A

aquiclude	A layer that stops vertical water movement
aquifer	A permeable body of rock that both stores and transports groundwater and will yield a sufficient quantity of water to serve as a private or public water supply.

B

base flow	the flow coming from ground water inputs to a stream or river system
best management practice (BMP)	Recommendations regarding development and maintenance of varied land uses, aimed at limiting the effects of development, such as soil erosion and stormwater runoff, on the natural environment. See the Council's Urban Small Sites Best Management Practices Manual for specific examples of best management practices.
bioretention	a soil and plant-based stormwater management best management practice (BMP) used to filter runoff
Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)	12-member board that coordinates the water and soil resources planning activities of counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations through approval of local plans and administration of state grants
buffer	a vegetative setback between development and streams, lakes, and wetlands whose aim is to physically protect and separate the resource from future disturbance or encroachment

C

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

An itemized program for a five year prospective period, and any amendments thereto, subject to at least biennial review, setting forth the schedule, timing, and details of specific contemplated capital improvements by year, together with their estimated cost, the need for each improvement, financial sources, and the financial impact that the improvements will have on the local governmental unit or school district. (M.S. 473.852, Subd. 4)

cost-sharing

Contractual arrangement whereby a local unit of government or other governmental body enters into an agreement to pay for part of a physical facility or a service.

D

degradation

A decline to a lower condition, quality, or level.

design storm

streamflow from a storm event used as a standard for which performance of stormwater management practices are measured

drain field

A soil treatment system where the final treatment and disposal of the septic tank effluent takes place. A properly designed and installed soil treatment system will destroy all disease-causing pathogens and filter out the fine solids contained in the septic tank effluent.

E

easement

A grant or authorization by a property owner for the use of a designated part of his or her property, by the public, a corporation, or persons for a specific purpose such as the construction of utilities, drainage ways and roadways.

erosion

the wearing down or washing away of the soil and land surface by the action of water, wind or ice

erosion control

any efforts to prevent the wearing or washing away of the soil or land surface

eutrophication

Pertaining to a lake or other body of water characterized by large nutrient concentrations such as nitrogen and phosphorous and resulting high productivity. Such waters are often shallow, with algal blooms and periods of oxygen deficiency. Slightly or moderately eutrophic water can be healthful and support a complex web of plant and animal life. However, such waters are generally undesirable for drinking water and other needs. Eutrophication of a lake normally contributes to its slow evolution into a bog or marsh and ultimately to dry land. Eutrophication may be accelerated by human activities and thereby speed up the aging process.

F**failing system**

System that discharges sewage to a seepage pit, cesspool, drywell, or leaching pit, and any system with less than three feet of soil or sand between the bottom of the distribution medium and the saturated soil level or bedrock. In addition, any system posing an imminent threat to public health or safety shall be considered failing.

filtration

a series of processes that physically removes particles from water

fragmentation

The continual splitting of large habitat areas by highways and residences, which changes the habitat, therefore effects the acclimation and persistence of wildlife and indigenous plant species.

G**groundwater**

Supply of freshwater in an aquifer.

H

hydrograph	graphical representation of stage or discharge at a point in a drainage as a function of time
hydrologic soil group	an NRCS designation to give different soil types to reflect their relative surface permeability and infiltrative capability. Rankings for from high infiltration rates in Group A to very low infiltration rates in Group D

I

imminent threat to public health	Potential to immediately and adversely impact or threaten public health and safety.
impaired waters	streams or lakes that do not meet their designated uses because of excess pollutants or identified stressors
impervious/ imperviousness	The portion of a sub-basin, sub-watershed, or watershed, expressed as a percentage, that is covered by surfaces such as rooftops, parking lots, sidewalks, driveways, streets, and highways. Impervious surfaces are important because they will not absorb rainfall and, therefore, cause almost all of the rainfall to appear as surface runoff.
individual subsurface sewage treatment system (ISTS)	An individual sewage treatment system or part thereof, as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, sections 115.03 and 115.55, that employs sewage tanks or other treatment devices with final discharge into the soil below the natural soil elevation or elevated final grade that are designed to receive a sewage design flow of 5,000 gallons per day or less. ISTS includes the holding tanks and privies that serve these same facilities. ISTS does not include building sewers or other components regulated under chapter 4715 or collection systems.
infiltration	flow of water from the land surface into the subsurface

J

K

L

Local Government Unit (LGU)

Municipal units of government such as counties, cities and townships.

low impact development (LID)

Simple management and preservation technique used to restore aquatic, terrestrial and biologic natural resources.

M

Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA)

Part of the metropolitan area, as defined by the Regional Development Framework, where the Metropolitan Council will provide regional services and facilities.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

A conveyance or system of conveyances, owned or operated by a state, city, town, county, district, association, or other public body having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, stormwater, or other wastes that discharges to waters of the United States. There are three categories of regulated small MS4s: mandatory, discretionary and petition. MS4s are required to develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) which must cover six minimum control measures and identify best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals associated with each of these minimum control measures

N

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

A federal program to eliminate point source and stormwater discharges to receiving waters of the United States. The NPDES program is mandated in the federal Clean Water Act and is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA has been given authority to delegate the program to individual states

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)	A USFWS program to produce detailed maps of the characteristics and extent of wetland in the US. Maps are used by government and private organizations and have numerous applications including comprehensive resource management plans, impact assessments, facility and corridor siting, oil spill contingency plans, natural resource inventories, and habitat surveys.
Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP)	From 1978 through 1983, the EPA conducted a comprehensive study of urban runoff called the Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP). This study provided a better understanding of the nature of urban pollutants from various urban land uses. This study focused primarily on monitoring runoff from residential, commercial, and industrial land and clearly presents information on the magnitude and variety of pollutants encountered in the urban environment.
Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment (NRI/A)	Database that catalogs natural resources of regional importance, such as major water bodies, habitat areas, regional parks and aquifers.
nonpoint source pollution	Sources of pollution that are less definable and usually cover broad areas of land such as agricultural land with fertilizers or automobile pollution that are carried away by runoff. Discharge of waste cannot be located to a specific source.

O

ordinary high water level (OHW)	The boundary of public waters and wetlands which shall be an elevation delineating the highest water level which has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape, commonly that point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominately terrestrial. For watercourses, the ordinary high water level is the elevation of the top of the bank of the channel. For reservoirs and flowages, the ordinary high water level is the operating elevation of the normal summer pool.
--	---

P

peak flow	The highest discharge recorded over a specified period of time, usually a year but often a season. Often thought of in terms of spring snowmelt, summer, fall, and winter rainy season flow.
policy	Specific statement of guiding actions that expresses the general direction that the Metropolitan Council intends to follow in order to meet its goals.
presettlement	A time period prior to European settlement where land cover was either entirely forested, or prairie. An assumption used to calculate stormwater runoff from new development and increased impervious surface.

Q

R

rain garden	a landscaping feature that is planted with native perennial plants and is used to manage stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots
rate control	controlling the rate that stormwater is released from localized holding areas into larger conveyance systems
receiving water	a body of water such as a stream, river, or lake which receives stormwater and wastewater
recharge	the addition of water to an aquifer by natural infiltration or artificial means
retention	the permanent or temporary storage of stormwater to prevent it from leaving the development site
retrofit	the introduction of a new or improved stormwater management element where it either never existed or did not operate effectively

riparian areas areas adjacent to a water body acting as transition zones between terrestrial and aquatic systems

runoff Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water flow that has not evaporated or infiltrated into the soil, but flows over the ground surface.

S

sediment any particulate matter that can be transported by fluid flow

sediment control any efforts to prevent the deposition of particulate matter in a body of water

sedimentation deposition of particulate matter as a layer of solid particles on the bed or bottom of a body of water

septic system See Individual Sewage Treatment System.

shoreland Land located within the following distance from public waters: 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water level of a lake, pond or flowage and 300 feet from a river or stream as shown on the Carver County Zoning Map; or the landward extent of a floodplain designated by ordinance of such a river or stream, whichever is greater. The practical limits of shorelands may be less than statutory limits wherever the waters involved are bounded by natural topographic divides which extend landward from the waters for lesser distances and when approved by the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

soil amendment tilling and composting of new lawns and open spaces within a development site to recover soil porosity, bulk density, and reduce runoff

storm sewer A sewer that carries only surface runoff, street wash, and snow melt from the land. In a separated sewer system, storm sewers are completely separate from those that carry domestic and commercial wastewater (sanitary sewers).

stormwater Surplus surface water generated by rainfall and snowmelt that does not seep into the earth but flows overland to rivers, lakes or streams.

stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) a plan for preventing or minimizing pollution generated at construction sites

surface water Water on the earth's surface exposed to the atmosphere such as rivers, lakes and creeks.

T

tile (drain tile) A component of a drainage system constructed to drain water from property.

total phosphorus (TP) a nutrient that can also be a contaminant because of its use by nuisance algae

total suspended solids (TSS) a measure of the amount of particulate material in suspension in a water column

turbidity the cloudy appearance of water caused by the presence of suspended and colloidal matter

U

V

volume control controlling the overall volume or amount of stormwater that is released from a site or localized holding area into the larger conveyance system

W

wastewater Water carrying waste from homes and commercial and industrial facilities.

wastewater treatment plant Facility designed for the collection, removal, treatment, and disposal of wastewater generated within a given service area.

watershed

An area of land that drains to a common point, usually a waterbody.

watershed management organization (WMO)

Watershed management organizations and watershed districts are special purpose units of local government whose boundaries generally follow those of a natural watershed. Watershed districts are local units of government that work to solve and prevent water-related problems. The functions of a watershed district may include development and implementation of a watershed management plan, review and approval of local water management plans, regulation of the use and development of land, and construction, repair, improvement, and management of drainage systems.

X Y Z