

Abbreviations List

A

AASHTO	American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials
ACJ	Amended Consent Judgment
ADA	American Disabilities Act
AEM	Agricultural environmental management
AFT	America Farmland Trust
ASLF	Atlantic States Legal Foundation

B

BMP	Best management practices
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C

CAOD	Conservation area overlay district
CBD	Central business district
CCE	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County
CLWC	Canandaigua Lake (New York) Watershed Council
CNY	Central New York
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CSO	Combined sewer overflow
CWA	Clean Water Act

D

DDT	A colorless contact insecticide toxic to humans and animals, d(ichloro)d(iphenyl)t(richloroethane)
DNA	A nucleic acid that carries the genetic information in a cell, deoxyribonucleic acid
DO	Dissolved oxygen
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOS	Department of State

E

EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentive Program
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F-G

GSA	United States General Services Administration
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H-I

IMA	Inter-municipal agreements
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J-L

LISWIC	Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council
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M

MDA	Metropolitan Development Association
MDA	Mudboil depression area
Metro	Metropolitan Syracuse Wastewater Treatment Plant
MOST	Museum of Science and Technology
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

N

NEH	National Endowment for the Humanities
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	Non-point source
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service

NYC	New York City
NYS	New York State
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Conservation
NYSDOS	New York State Department of State
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
NYSERDA	New York State Department of Energy Research and Development
NYSOSC	New York State Office of the State Comptroller

O

OCRIP	Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan
OCSWCD	Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District
OEI	Onondaga Environmental Institute
OLP	Onondaga Lake Partnership

P

PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl
pH	A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution
PRISM	Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
Project Team	Onondaga Creek Project Team
PWSR	Interior National Park Services's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

Q-R

RTF	Regional treatment facility
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S

SCBIC	Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission
SDAT	Syracuse Sustainable Design Assessment Team
SUNY ESF	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

T

TMDL	Total maximum daily load
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U

USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

V-W

WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
Working Group	Onondaga Creek Working Group
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program

X-Z

YBP	Year before present
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Glossary

A

Aggrade – to raise the level of a stream bed by the deposition of sediment

Amended consent judgment – a final, binding judgment in a case in which all parties agree to a particular outcome

Aquifer – a geologic formation that is water bearing; water is often accessed for use via wells or springs

Artesian groundwater – groundwater under pressure when tapped by a well and able to rise above the level at which it is first encountered

B

Bank grade – the gradient of a slope on a stream bank

Bedrock – solid rock beneath soil and superficial rock

Best management practices - methods that prevent or reduce water pollution from nonpoint sources

Biota – the plants and animals of a region

Body burden – a measure of total amount of toxic substances that have built up over time in the body of an organism

Brine aquifer – geologic formation characterized bearing water saturated with salt

C

Carcinogenic hydrocarbons – an organic compound containing carbon and hydrogen (for example, fossil fuels) that produce cancer

Channel reconfiguration – a stream restoration practice that involves manipulation of the landscape to reshape/grade banks

Channelization - human engineering to enlarge or straighten river channels to protect existing channels or adjacent structures

Chlorination – to treat or cause to combine with chlorine; often for the process of water purification

Class B standard – a letter classification assigned by New York State to denote the best uses of a waterbody, the best uses of Class B surface waters are primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing

Combined sewer overflow – an overflow of a sewer that is designed to collect rainwater, runoff, domestic sewage and industrial wastewater in one pipe; usually the overflow discharges to nearby streams

Community – an association of interacting populations, usually defined by the nature of their interaction or the place in which they live

Conceptual - based on ideas, formed from reasoning and imagination

Connectivity – the property of being connected or the degree to which something has connections

Creel survey – also angler survey; a method to gather information on fisheries, by interviewing anglers on their fishing and consumption practices

D

DDT – dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, an insecticide that is toxic to animals and humans, banned in the US since 1972

Deforestation – the state of being cleared of trees

Design charrette - a collaborative planning exercise where design ideas are developed during intense work sessions

Detention – temporary storage of water, to delay water flowing downstream

Disease vectors – plants or animals that harbor or transmit disease organisms or pathogens

Diversity - the variety of organisms found within a specified region

Drop structure – a natural or human-engineered structure that produces a rapid drop in surface water level

E

Ecosystem – a system defined by the interaction of a community of organisms with their physical environment

Eutrophication - excessive plant growth and algae blooms, usually caused by high concentrations of nutrients in a waterbody; can lead to widespread variation in oxygen levels

Exceedance – an instance where a monitored measurement exceeds, or goes over, the state or national water quality standard

F

Flood stage – the elevation at which overflow of the natural banks of a stream begins

Floodplain – a strip of relatively flat and normally dry land alongside a stream that is covered by water during a flood

Forever wild – to enjoy the highest degree of state protection of wild lands

G

Gradient – a part sloping upward or downward

Green roof – plantings, including waterproofing and drainage systems, over existing roof structures to reduce building temperatures and runoff into storm sewer systems

Green infrastructure - managing stormwater to mimic natural processes to percolate or reuse on-site runoff

Green technologies – application of environmental science to conserve natural resources

H

Habitat - the environment where a population lives; it includes all things an organism needs to survive

Habitat assessment – evaluation of the structure of habitat that influences an ecosystem

Headwaters – the source and upper reaches of a stream

Heavy metals – a group of metals, for example mercury or lead, that are harmful when dispersed in the environment

Hot spots – locations where non-native and/or invasive species are well established, but undesirable for that place

Hydraulic – pertaining to water, especially the movement of water

Hydrograph – a graph that shows changes in water flow or level over time

I

Impervious cover – surfaces that cannot absorb or infiltrate rainfall, for example roads and sidewalks

Implementation - to carry out

Indigenous – produced, growing or living naturally in a particular region or environment

Infrastructure – permanent installations required for certain purposes, for example, networks of storm and wastewater sewers

Input – a statement that expresses personal opinion or belief or adds information

Intermunicipal – between governments

Intermunicipal agreement - agreements between governments to cooperate on land use planning and regulation

Invasive species – with respect to a particular ecosystem, any animal or plant that is not native to that ecosystem whose introduction causes economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health

J

Jurisdiction – the territory within which power can be exercised

L

Liability – the state of being legally responsible

Linear park – a strip of public land, usually adjacent to a stream, canal, or railroad bed

Living machine – biological wastewater treatment designed to mimic the cleansing function of natural hydrologic systems

N

Native species – an animal or plant that originated in a particular place or region

Nonpoint source pollution – pollution deposited in streams, rivers, and lakes that comes from many diffuse sources; usually carried by stormwater runoff or snowmelt

O

Open space – land that is not intensively developed for agricultural, commercial, residential, or industrial use

P

PCBs – polychlorinated biphenyls, synthetic organic chemicals once used industrially that are persistent environmental contaminants

Permeable paving – allows precipitation to percolate through or around pavement into the ground

pH – scale that measures hydrogen-ion concentration used to express the acidity or alkalinity of a water sample, 1 being the most acidic and 14 being most basic

R

Rain garden – planted depression that allows rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas like roofs, driveways, walkways, and compacted lawn areas the opportunity to be absorbed, reduces rain runoff and waterway pollution

Remedial – intended as a remedy or solution

Renaturalization – reintroducing native plant and animal communities to a disturbed, degraded, or engineered area (e.g., a meadow, wetland, stream corridor)

Restoration - to shift a damaged ecosystem to a state where ecosystem composition, structure, and function are within a range that is more desirable than current conditions

Retention – the ability to retain, or hold back; a retention

basin holds water which then percolates into the ground or evaporates

Retrofits – new parts or equipment, not available at the time of manufacture, added to existing structures or systems

Revitalization - the act of giving new life or vigor to something

Riparian – relating to or living or located on the bank of a natural watercourse or body of water

Runoff – precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into surface water

S

Saline – a solution comprised primarily of salt water or having to do with salt

Sewershed – all the land area that is drained by a network of sewers.

Sovereign – autonomous, independent, having authority and control

Stakeholders - those who have a share or interest in an issue

Stewardship – the concept of responsible caretaking based on the premise that humans are managers of resources and are responsible for their condition

Subsidence – downwards shift, sinking, of the Earth's surface

Surface runoff mitigation – efforts made to lessen the runoff of surface water and the pollutants it may contain

Sustainability program – series of workshops, lectures and community activities encouraging awareness of the relationships between human activities and natural systems

Synergies – benefits obtained from combining groups of people or processes

T

Terminal moraine – a hill-like pile of rock rubble deposited at the farthest advance of a glacier

Tributary - a stream that flows into another, larger body of water

Turbid – cloudy or opaque water due to suspended sediments

V

Vegetated buffers – protected areas along stream banks that are planted with native plant communities to help enhance water quality

Visioning – process of identifying future community goals and objectives through public meetings

W

Water quality standards – a law or regulation that consists of the beneficial use(s) of a waterbody, including numeric and narrative water quality criteria necessary to protect the use

Watershed - the area of land that drains into a specific waterbody

Wetlands – an area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater with frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions

Z

Zoning regulations – laws that determine where certain land uses can be located, for example commercial, residential or industrial uses

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