

## Definitions and Acronyms

The following definitions and acronyms apply to the District rules and accompanying guidance materials.

### Definitions

**Back-to-Back storm events:** Distinct rainfall events occurring within 24 hours of each other.

**Best management practices:** Various structural and nonstructural measures taken to minimize negative effects on water resources and systems, such as ponding, street sweeping, filtration through a rain garden and infiltration, as documented in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's *Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas* and the *Minnesota Stormwater Manual*.

**Better Site Design:** A set of development or redevelopment site-design principles and nonstructural techniques, designed to be applied early in the development- or redevelopment-design process, that seek to mimic natural conditions by allowing water to infiltrate into the ground close to where it falls, reduce impervious cover, conserve natural areas, and use pervious areas to reduce the volume of and more effectively treat stormwater runoff. The goal of Better Site Design is to reduce runoff volume and mitigate site impacts when decisions are being made about the layout of a parcel. (See the *Minnesota Stormwater Manual*, ch. 4).

**Bioengineering:** Various shoreline and streambank stabilization techniques using aquatic vegetation and native upland plants, along with techniques such as willow wattling, brush layering and willow-posts.

**Existing conditions:** Site conditions at the time of consideration of a permit application by the District, before any of the work for which a permit is sought has commenced, except that when impervious surfaces have been fully or partially removed from a previously developed parcel but no intervening use has been legally or practically established, "existing conditions" denotes the previously established developed use and condition of the parcel.

**Fill:** Any rock, soil, gravel, sand, debris, plant cuttings or other material placed onto land or into water.

**Governmental project:** Land development or redevelopment or other land-disturbing activities for which a District permit is required that is conducted or sponsored by a federal, state or local governmental entity.

**Impervious surface:** Any exposed area that has been compacted or covered with a layer of material, or is likely to become compacted from expected use, such that it is highly resistant to infiltration of rainwater and snowmelt.

**Landlocked basin:** A localized depression that does not have a natural outlet at or below the 100-year flood elevation.

**Land-disturbing activity:** Any alteration of the ground surface that could result, through the action of wind and/or water, in soil erosion, substantial compaction, or the movement of sediment into waters, wetlands, storm sewers, or adjacent property. Land-disturbing activity includes but is not limited to demolition of a structure or surface, soil stripping, clearing, grubbing, grading, excavating, filling and the storage of soil or earth materials.

**Linear project:** Construction or reconstruction of a public road, sidewalk or trail, or construction, repair or reconstruction of a utility or utilities that is not a component of a larger contemporaneous development or redevelopment project.

**Low floor:** The lowest elevation of any floor of any structure, habitable or not.

**Low Impact Development:** a land-use project design approach that strives to mimic natural conditions by managing rainfall at the source by including small, cost-effective landscape features at the lot level – systems that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source. Low Impact Development employs a variety of natural and built features that reduce the rate of runoff, filter out pollutants, and facilitate the infiltration of water into the ground. By reducing water pollution and increasing groundwater recharge, Low Impact Development helps to improve the quality of receiving surface waters and stabilize the flow rates of nearby streams.

**NURP standard:** The design criteria developed pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's Nationwide Urban Runoff Program and documented in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's *Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas*.

**Nondegradation:** For purposes of these rules, nondegradation refers to the regulatory policy stated in Minnesota Rules 7050.0185, as it may be amended.

**100-year flood elevation:** The highest water elevation of a water body reached during a 24-hour precipitation event with a recurrence interval of 100 years, as determined by the District for specific basins and watercourses and established in the District's flood profile.

**Parcel:** A contiguous area of land designated and described in official public records and separated from other lands by its designation.

**Public waters:** Water bodies designated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.005, subdivision 15.

**Public waters wetland:** Wetlands designated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.005, subdivision 15a.

**Receiving water:** The first of the following encountered by stormwater or snow melt flow from a site: Nine Mile Creek or a water body designated as a public water pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.005, subdivision 15.

**Reconstruction:** changes, including normal maintenance and repair, addition or other improvement to building within any consecutive 365-day period, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the start of construction of the improvement.

**Redevelopment:** Any land-disturbing activity on an already-developed parcel or any substantial change to existing structures on a parcel.

**Rehabilitation:** A maintenance project that disturbs or replaces only the existing impervious surface, does not disturb native soils or result in a change in the direction, peak rate, volume or water quality of runoff flows from the parcel, and does not include the addition of new impervious surface. Mill and overlay of paved surfaces is rehabilitation.

**Retaining wall:** Vertical or nearly vertical structures constructed of mortar-rubble masonry, handlaid rock or stone, vertical timber pilings, horizontal timber planks with piling supports, sheet pilings, poured concrete, concrete blocks, or other durable materials and constructed approximately parallel to the shoreline.

**Retention:** The capacity to indefinitely or continuously keep runoff from escaping a parcel or site as surface flow.

**Right-of-way:** Parcels of land on which a linear project is located, including adjacent area necessary for safe operation of the road, sidewalk or trail and dedicated to such use by fee ownership or easement.

**Seven-county metropolitan area:** The area comprised by Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Anoka, Scott and Carver counties.

**Shoreline:** The lateral measurement along the contour of the ordinary high water mark of waterbodies other than watercourses, and the top of the bank of the channel of watercourses, and the area waterward thereof.

**Site:** The location of activities that are the subject of a District permit and are under the control of the applicant.

**Steep slope:** Land with an average slope of 3:1 (H:V) or steeper.

**Structure:** Any impervious thing that is constructed or placed on the ground and that is, or is intended, to remain in place for longer than a temporary period.

**Subwatershed:** The drainage area of the receiving water for a particular site, encompassed with a watershed.

**Water body:** A watercourse or water basin.

**Water basin:** An enclosed natural depression with definable banks, capable of retaining water.

**Watercourse:** A natural channel with definable beds and banks capable of conducting confined runoff from adjacent land.

## **Acronyms**

**BMP** – best management practice

**BWSR** – Board of Water and Soil Resources

**LGU** – local government unit

**MnRAM** – Minnesota Routine Assessment Methodology for Evaluating Wetland Functions

**MPCA** – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**MS4** – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

**NMCWD** – Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

**NURP** – Nationwide Urban Runoff Program

**NGVD** – national geodetic vertical datum

**OHW** – ordinary high water level

**WCA** – Wetland Conservation Act