
APPENDIX A. GLOSSARY

303(d) List	A listing of Pennsylvania streams that have not met or cannot maintain required water quality standards. See Integrated Waterbody List.
305(b) Report	A listing of Pennsylvania streams that have documented water quality issues. See Integrated Waterbody List.
Abandoned Mine Drainage	A groundwater discharge that emanates from former underground or surface mines.
Acid	Having a pH less than 7.
Acidity	The capacity of water for neutralizing a basic solution.
Agricultural Security Areas	Lands enrolled in a statewide program that has been established to promote the conservation and preservation of agricultural lands and the agricultural community.
Alkaline	Having a pH greater than 7.
Alkalinity	Buffering capacity; the ability to resist pH change.
Alluvial	Pertains to the environments, processes, and products of streams or rivers. Materials deposited by flowing water are referred to as alluvial deposits.
Bedrock	The solid rock that underlies the soil and other unconsolidated material, or that is exposed at the surface.
Best Management Practices	Refer to the most environmentally appropriate techniques for agriculture, forestry, mining, development, urban stormwater management, and other practices that are potential threats to natural resources.
Biodiversity	The number and variety of organisms found within a specified geographic region, or a particular habitat; the variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species and within and between ecosystems.
Bog	Peatland that has virtually no contact with groundwater.

Brownfield	A piece of industrial or commercial property that is abandoned or underused and often environmentally contaminated, especially one considered as a potential site for redevelopment.
Buffer	To cushion, shield, or protect; any substance capable of neutralizing both acids and bases in a solution without appreciably changing the solution's original acidity or alkalinity.
Channelization	The physical cutting or forming of a desired channel or path to direct a stream or river.
Colluvial	Of or pertaining to loose earth material that has accumulated at the base of a slope.
Colluvium	Deposited at the edge of the slope.
Combined Sewage Overflows	Exceeding the capacity of a sanitary sewage system allowing untreated wastewater to be discharged to the stream.
Comprehensive Plan	A general policy guide for the physical development of a municipality, taking into account many factors, including locations, character, and timing of future development.
Confluence	The meeting of two waterways.
Coniferous Forest	A forest consisting primarily of trees that are evergreen.
Conservation	The maintenance of environmental quality and physical, biological, and cultural resources; ecosystem management within given social and economic constraints; producing goods and services for humans without depleting natural ecosystem diversity, and acknowledging the natural dynamic character of biological systems.
Conservation Easement	A deed restriction that landowners can voluntarily place on their properties to protect natural resources.
Contamination	The act of making impure or unsuitable by contact or mixture with something unclean, bad, etc.
Critical Areas	Areas that have constraints that limit development and various other activities.
Cropland	Land used for cultivating crops.

Cultivation	Preparation and use of land for crops.
Deciduous Forest	A forest consisting primarily of trees that shed their leaves annually.
Dendritic Drainage Pattern	A drainage pattern of a branching form.
Drumlins	Clusters of elongated hills of unstratified mixtures of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders.
Easement	A deed restriction that a landowner may voluntarily place on a property to protect its future uses.
Ecology	The study of the interrelationships among and between organisms, and between them and all aspects, living and nonliving, of their environments.
Elevation	The height above sea level of a location.
Encroachment	The act of advancing beyond established or proper limits.
Environmental Education	A learning process that increases knowledge and awareness of the environment and associated challenges, develops skills and expertise to address these challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivation, and commitment to make informed decisions and take responsible actions.
Envirothon	An environmental competition among high school students.
Ephemeral Streams	Streams that flow for a short time, usually after a rain or snowmelt event.
Erosion	The mechanical transfer by water and air of soils and rocks that have been weathered into finer particles.
Eskers	A sinuous ridge of sediment, typically gravel or sand, deposited by streams that cut channels under or through a glacier's ice.
Fauna	Animal life.
Fens	Nutrient rich, high alkalinity, wetlands composed of decaying matter.

Floodplains	The level land along the course of a river or stream formed by the deposition of sediment during periodic floods.
Flora	Plant life.
Fluvial	Of or pertaining to rivers or streams.
Fragipan	Dense subsoil that roots cannot penetrate.
Fragmentation	Broken or split into several pieces or portions.
Geology	The study of the development of the earth's crust, including rocks, fossils, etc.
Glaciers	A river of ice moving very slowly.
Greenway	A corridor of open space.
Groundwater	Water beneath the earth's surface; found in pore spaces in rock material. Supplies wells and springs as a source of drinking water for many; also contributes to surface water.
Hazardous Areas	Those areas that pose danger, risk, or difficulty.
Headwaters	Refers to upstream reaches of a stream or river.
Herpetological	Dealing with reptiles and amphibians.
Hydrology	The study of the movement of water on the earth; includes surface water and groundwater.
Illegal Dumps	Sites where trash and other unwanted items are disposed of illegally. Typically along streams and roadways.
Impervious Cover	Material that covers the land that water cannot penetrate.
Important Bird Areas	Those areas protected for outstanding avian habitat as determined by a group of scientific advisors, based on strict scientific criteria. IBAs include migratory staging areas, winter feeding and roost sites, and prime breeding areas. They also include critical habitats, such as grasslands, bogs, marshes, and bottomland hardwood swamps.

Impoundment	Usually refers to a manmade body of water, often through damming a stream or river.
Infrastructure	The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community or society, such as transportation and communications systems, water, sewer, and power lines, and public institutions, including schools, post offices, and prisons.
Integrated Waterbody List	An integrated format for Clean Water Act Section 305(b) reporting and Section 303(d) listing. This document contains summaries of various water quality management programs including water quality standards, point source control and non-point source control. It also includes descriptions of programs to protect lakes, wetlands, and groundwater quality, and a summary of the use support status of streams and lakes.
Invasive Species	Environmentally noxious weeds that grow aggressively, spread easily, and displace other plants.
Kames	Deposits that are formed when running water and stagnant ice come into contact.
Kettles	Blocks of ice left behind on outwash plains by retreating glaciers, or outburst floods from ice-dammed glacial lakes caused by collapse of the ice dam.
Landslides	The falling or sliding of a mass of soil, detritus, or rock from a steep slope.
Limestone	A sedimentary type of rock comprised largely of calcium carbonate.
Lysimeters	Devices used for measuring percolation and leaching losses of water and solute uses.
Macroinvertebrates	Organisms generally associated with soil or stream substrates that lack backbones and can be seen without magnification.
Management Recommendations	Non-regulatory suggestions to improve the quality of life.
Marshes	Wetlands that are seasonally inundated with water.
Mitigate	To lessen or minimize the impacts of.
Moraines	Sediment consisting of mud, sand, gravel, and boulders deposited in long mounds.

Native Plants	Plant species that occur naturally in a given area.
Natural Heritage Inventory	A method of assessing areas of important plants, animals, and ecological communities.
Nitrification	Conversion of ammonium to nitrate by bacteria.
Non-point Source Pollution	Pollutants that have no readily visible source and often require detailed analysis and research to discern the source.
Non-regulatory	Not enforceable.
Nutrient Management Plans	Plans providing information about nutrient allocations, excess manure utilization, runoff controls, and best management practices for farms with an annual density of more than two animal units per acre.
Ordinance	An authoritative decree or law; a municipal regulation.
Outwash Plains	Gentle slopes in front of a glacier where eroded materials, transported by water, were deposited.
Palustrine Community	Animal and plant species found in marshes and swamps.
Peat	Partially carbonized vegetable matter, usually mosses, found in bogs and used as fertilizer and fuel.
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program	A partnership that conducts inventories and collects data to identify the state's most sensitive and significant organisms and features.
Permeability	The rate of flow of a liquid or gas through a porous material.
Permit	A decree granting permission to do something.
pH	A measure of acidity or alkalinity of a medium.
Physiographic	The physical relatedness of all areas within a given region.
Point Source Pollution	Pollutants that can easily be traced to their sources.

Potable	Suitable for drinking.
Preservation	The act or process of keeping something safe from harm or injury; the act of maintaining or reserving.
Prime Agricultural Soils	Soils that are extremely well suited for agricultural uses and meet certain physical, chemical, and slope characteristics.
Rails to Trails	A program that converted abandoned or unused railroad corridors into public trails.
Reclamation	The conversion of wasteland into land suitable for use of habitation or cultivation.
Recycle	To treat or process used or waste materials so as to make suitable for reuse.
Restoration	Returning to its original state or condition.
Riparian Habitats	Area of protective vegetation next to a body of water that serves as a barrier against polluted runoff and provides habitat corridors for wildlife.
Riverine Species	Animals and plant species found in or near a river.
Runoff	Rainfall or snowmelt not absorbed by soil that flows over the surface of the ground to a receiving waterway.
Sanitary Sewage Overflows	Occur when water entering a sanitary sewage system causes it to exceed capacity, resulting in raw sewage being discharged to nearby streams.
Sedimentation	The deposit of particles moved by erosion.
Sewage enrichment	Addition of nutrients to a waterway from sewage waste.
Silviculture	The branch of forestry dealing with the development and care of forests.
Sinkhole	A hole formed in soluble rock by the action of water, serving to conduct surface water to an underground passage.
Smart Growth	A current movement that focuses on redevelopment of established urban areas and other ways to reduce sprawl pressures on undeveloped countrysides.
Soil Associations	A classification of soil types that comprise two to three major soil types and a few minor soil types.

Stakeholder	Anyone who lives, works, and recreates in an area.
Stewardship	Management of a property.
Stormwater	Water that runs off the land into surface waters during and immediately following periods of precipitation.
Stormwater Management	Planning for surface runoff into streams and river systems during rain and/or snowmelt events.
Subsidence	The downward movement of surface material involving little or no horizontal movement.
Subwatershed	The watershed of a tributary stream; it is a sub-unit of the receiving stream, river, or lake's watershed.
Succession	A series of things or events that follow one another.
Superfund Sites	A hazardous waste site placed on the Superfund National Priorities List and financed for clean up by the US EPA.
Swamps	Wetlands with standing or gently flowing water, seasonally inundated from an adjoining stream or lake.
Temperate Climate	A climate without extremes of temperature or precipitation.
Terrestrial	Living or growing on land; not aquatic.
Total Maximum Daily Load	A limit for pollutant load placed on a waterway by PA DEP. TMDLs are determined for a waterway based on how much pollutant it is determined that the waterway can assimilate and still meet its designated use criteria. TMDLs will be used to regulate the percentage of total pollutant load that each source in a watershed can contribute.
Topography	Describes landscape features of an area.
Tributary	A stream that feeds into another (receiving) stream, river, lake, or ocean.
Vegetation	Plants, collectively.
Vernal Pools	Temporary ponds of water typically found in the spring.
Water Budgets	A document detailing water needs, water usage, and water availability.

Water Conservation	The act of using water wisely, as to not waste or injure the quality or quantity.
Watershed	The area of land that drains to a particular point along a stream. Each stream has its own watershed. Topography is the key element affecting this area of land. The boundary of a watershed is defined by the highest elevations surrounding the stream. A drop of water falling outside the boundary will drain to another watershed.
Wetlands	Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.
Woodland	Land mostly covered with trees.