
Appendix V

Definitions

Animal confinement area - An area, including a structure, used to stable, kennel, enclose, or otherwise confine animals, not including confinement of a domestic animal on a residential property.

Applicant - A person or their agent who applies for approval pursuant to this chapter.

As-built plan - A set of architectural, engineering, or site drawings, sometimes including specifications, that certifies, describes, delineates, and presents details of a completed construction project.

Best Management Practice (BMP) - Structural or nonstructural practice that minimizes the impact of stormwater runoff on receiving waterbodies and other environmental resources, especially by reducing runoff volume and the pollutant loads carried in that runoff.

Buffer - An area along a stream, river, or other natural feature that provides protection for that feature.

Building permit - Authorization for construction activity issued by the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

Clearing - The removal of trees and brush from the land excluding the ordinary mowing of grass, pruning of trees or other forms of long-term landscape maintenance.

Common plan of development - Multiple, separate, and distinct land disturbing, substantial improvement, or other construction activities taking place under, or to further, a single, larger plan, although they may be taking place at different times on different schedules.

Compacted cover - An area of land that is functionally permeable, but where permeability is impeded by increased soil bulk density as compared to natural cover, such as through grading, construction, or other activity and will require regular human inputs such as periodic planting, irrigation, mowing, or fertilization. Examples include landscaped planting beds, lawns, or managed turf.

Control measure - Technique, method, device, or material used to prevent, reduce, or limit discharge.

Construction - Activity conducted for the:

- (a) Building, renovation, modification, or razing of a structure; or
- (b) Movement or shaping of earth, sediment, or a natural or built feature.

Critical area stabilization - Stabilization of areas highly susceptible to erosion, including down-slopes and side-slopes, through the use of brick bats, straw, erosion control blanket mats, gabions, vegetation, and other control measures.

Cut - An act by which soil or rock is dug into, quarried, uncovered, removed, displaced, or relocated and the conditions resulting from those actions.

Demolition - The removal of part or all of a building, structure, or built land cover.

Department - The District Department of the Environment or its agent.

Dewatering - Removing water from an area or the environment using an approved technology or method, such as pumping.

Director - The Director of the District Department of the Environment.

District - The District of Columbia.

Drainage area - Area contributing runoff to a single point.

Easement - A right acquired by a person to use another person's land for a special purpose.

Electronic media - Means of communication via electronic equipment, including the internet.

Erosion - The process by which the ground surface, including soil and deposited material, is worn away by the action of wind, water, ice, or gravity.

Excavation - An act by which soil or rock is cut into, dug, quarried, uncovered, removed, displaced or relocated and the conditions resulting from those actions.

Existing retention - Retention on a site, including by each existing Best Management Practice (BMP) and land cover, before retrofit of the site with installation of a new BMP or land cover change.

Exposed area - Land that has been disturbed or land over which unstabilized soil or other erodible material is placed.

Grading - Causing disturbance of the earth, including excavating, filling, stockpiling of earth materials, grubbing, root mat or topsoil disturbance, or any combination of them.

Impervious cover - A surface area which has been compacted or covered with a layer of material that impedes or prevents the infiltration of water into the ground, examples include conventional streets, parking lots, rooftops, sidewalks, pathways with compacted sub-base, and any concrete, asphalt, or compacted gravel surface and other similar surfaces.

Infiltration - The passage or movement of surface water through the soil profile.

Land cover - Surface of land that is impervious, compacted, or natural.

Land cover change - Conversion of land cover from one type to another, typically in order to comply with a requirement of this chapter or to earn certification of a Stormwater Retention Credit.

Land disturbing activity - Movement of earth, land, or sediment, including stripping, grading, grubbing, trenching, excavating, transporting, and filling of land.

Low Impact Development (LID) - A land planning and [engineering](#) design approach to manage stormwater runoff within a development footprint. It emphasizes conservation, the use of on-site natural features, and structural best management practices to store, infiltrate, evapotranspire, retain, and detain rainfall as close to its source as possible with the goal of mimicking the runoff characteristics of natural cover.

Major land disturbing activity - Activity that disturbs, or is part of a common plan of development that disturbs, five thousand square feet (5,000 sq. ft.) or greater of land area.

Major regulated project - A major land-disturbing activity or a major substantial improvement activity.

Major substantial improvement activity - Substantial improvement activity and associated land disturbing activity, including such activities that are part of a common plan of development, for which the combined footprint of improved building and land-disturbing activity is five thousand square feet (5,000 sq. ft.) or greater. A major substantial improvement activity may include a substantial improvement activity that is not associated with land disturbance.

Natural cover - Land area that is dominated by vegetation and does not require regular human inputs such as irrigation, mowing, or fertilization to persist in a healthy condition. Examples include forest, meadow, or pasture.

Nonstructural BMP - A land use, development, or management strategy to minimize the impact of stormwater runoff, including conservation of natural cover, or disconnection of impervious surface.

Off-site retention - Use of a stormwater retention credit or payment of in-lieu fee in order to achieve an off-site retention volume under these regulations.

Off-Site Retention Volume (OSRv) - A portion of a required stormwater retention volume that is not retained on site.

On-site retention - Retention of a site's stormwater on that site or via conveyance to a shared best management practice on another site.

On-site stormwater management - Retention, detention, or treatment of stormwater on site or via conveyance to a shared best management practice.

Owner - The person who owns real estate or other property, or that person's agent.

Peak discharge - The maximum rate of flow of water at a given point and time resulting from a storm event.

Person - A legal entity, including an individual, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, cooperative, the District government and its agencies, and the federal government and its agencies.

Post-development - Describing conditions that may be reasonably expected to exist after completion of land development activity on a site.

Practice - A system, device, material, technique, process, or procedure that is used to control, reduce, or eliminate an impact from stormwater; except where the context indicates its more typical use as a term describing a custom, application, or usual way of doing something.

Pre-development - Describing conditions of meadow land and its relationship to stormwater before human disturbance of the land.

Pre-project - Describing conditions, including land covers, on a site that exist at the time that a stormwater management plan is submitted to the Department.

Publicly-owned or publicly-financed project - Project which is:

- (a) Initially funded in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget or later; or
- (b) Constructed or substantially improved:
 - (1) As a result of a property disposition by lease or sale where District-owned or District instrumentality-owned property is leased or sold to private entities; or
 - (2) Where fifteen percent (15%) or more of a project's total project cost is publicly financed in Fiscal Year 2009 or later.

Public Right of Way (PROW) - The surface, the air space above the surface (including air space immediately adjacent to a private structure located on public space or in a public right of way), and the area below the surface of any public street, bridge, tunnel, highway, lane, path, alley, sidewalk, or boulevard.

Raze - The complete removal of a building or other structure down to the ground.

Responsible person - Construction personnel knowledgeable in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control and certified by a Department-approved soil erosion and sedimentation control training program to assess conditions at the construction site that would impact the effectiveness of a soil erosion or sediment control measure on the site.

Retention - Keeping a volume of stormwater runoff on site through infiltration, evapo-transpiration, storage for non-potable use, or some combination of these.

Retention capacity - The volume of stormwater that can be retained by a best management practice or land cover change.

Retention failure - Failure to retain a volume of stormwater for which there is an obligation to achieve retention, including retention that an applicant promises to achieve in order to receive Department-certified Stormwater Retention Credits (SRCs). Retention failure may result from a failure in construction, operation, or maintenance; a change in stormwater flow; or a fraud, misrepresentation, or error in an underlying premise in an application.

Retrofit - A best management practice or land cover change installed in a previously developed area to improve stormwater quality or reduce stormwater quantity relative to current conditions.

Runoff - That portion of precipitation (including snow-melt) which travels over the land surface, and also from rooftops, either as sheet flow or as channel flow, in small trickles and streams, into the main water courses.

Sediment - Soil, including soil transported or deposited by human activity or the action of wind, water, ice, or gravity.

Sedimentation - The deposition or transportation of soil or other surface materials from one place to another as a result of an erosion process.

Shared Best Management Practice (S-BMP) - A Best Management Practice (BMP), or combination of BMPs, providing stormwater management for stormwater conveyed from another site or sites.

Site - A tract, lot or parcel of land, or a combination of tracts, lots, or parcels of land for which development is undertaken as part of a unit, sub-division, or project. The mere divestiture of ownership or control does not remove a property from inclusion in a site.

Soil - All earth material of whatever origin that overlies bedrock and may include the decomposed zone of bedrock which can be readily excavated by mechanical equipment.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan - A set of drawings, calculations, specifications, details, and supporting documents related to minimizing or eliminating erosion and off-site sedimentation caused by stormwater on a construction site. It includes information on construction, installation, operation, and maintenance.

Soils report - A geotechnical report addressing all erosion and sediment control-related soil attributes, including but not limited to site soil drainage and stability.

Storm sewer - A system of pipes or other conduits which carries or stores intercepted surface runoff, street water, and other wash waters, or drainage, but excludes domestic sewage and industrial wastes.

Stormwater - Flow of water that results from runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

Stormwater management - A system to control stormwater runoff with structural and nonstructural Best Management Practices, including: (a) quantitative control of volume and rate of surface runoff and (b) qualitative control to reduce or eliminate pollutants in runoff.

Stormwater Management Guidebook (SWMG) - The current manual published by the Department containing design criteria, specifications, and equations to be used for planning, design, and construction, operations, and maintenance of a site and each Best Management Practice on the site.

Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) - A set of drawings, calculations, specifications, details, and supporting documents related to the management of stormwater for a site. A SWMP includes information on construction, installation, operation, and maintenance.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) - A document that identifies potential sources of stormwater pollution at a construction site, describes practices to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharge from the site, and may identify procedures to achieve compliance.

Stormwater Retention Credit (SRC) - One gallon (1 gal.) of retention capacity for one (1) year, as certified by the Department.

Stormwater Retention Credit Ceiling - Maximum retention for which the Department will certify an SRC, calculated using the SWRV equation with P equal to 1.7 inches.

Stormwater Retention Volume (SWRV) - Volume of stormwater from a site for which the site is required to achieve retention.

Stripping - An activity which removes or significantly disturbs the vegetative surface cover including clearing, grubbing of stumps and rock mat, and top soil removal.

Substantial improvement - A repair, alteration, addition, or improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the market value of the structure before the improvement or repair is started.

Structural best management practice - A practice engineered to minimize the impact of stormwater runoff, including a bioretention, green roof, permeable paving system, system to capture stormwater for non-potable uses, etc.

Supplemental review - A review that the Department conducts after the review it conducts for a first re-submission of a plan.

Swale - A narrow low-lying stretch of land which gathers or carries surface water runoff.

Waste material - Construction debris, dredged spoils, solid waste, sewage, garbage, sludge, chemical wastes, biological materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial or municipal waste.