

Definitions

AERATION The physical process by which oxygen and other atmospheric gases become dissolved in water. Much oxygen is added to water by the simple effect of wave action. Lakes which circulate tend to become more reaerated than those which are calm or "stagnant". Streams with rough channel beds tend to be more highly aerated than those with smooth beds. See **DO**, **Respiration**, and **Photosynthesis**.

ALGAE A type of plant, generally considered more "primitive" than "higher" plants such as flowering plants and trees. Many algae are microscopic (invisible to the naked eye) and are referred to as **Phytoplankton**, but many other algae may be as large as some of the higher plants. The giant kelp which grows to lengths of 30 ft. or longer off the coast of California is an alga. See also **Bluegreen algae**, **Macrophyte** and **Plankton**.

ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION The transfer of any material, through wet or dry media, from the Earth's atmosphere to its surface by normal atmospheric processes. Traditional deposition products are rain, snow, ice, etc. Atmospheric deposition includes materials such as volcanic ash, pollutants from industrial smoke stacks, aerially applied pesticides, or any material that may become airborne and later settle to the Earth's surface.

ATTENUATION To limit stormwater flow so as to reduce downstream impacts.

BASE FLOOD The flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (i.e., the 100-year flood).

BEACH The zone of unconsolidated material that extends landward from the mean low water line to the place where there is marked change in material or physiographic form, or to the line of permanent vegetation, usually the effective limit of storm waves. "Beach", as used in the Coastal Management Element requirements, is limited to oceanic and estuarine shorelines.

BENTHIC Refers to things found on the bottom of a stream. Benthic fauna, for example, refers to the kinds of animals that live in or on the bottom.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE Method or combination of methods determined after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation, to be the most effective and practical means of reducing or preventing non-point source pollution to levels compatible with water quality goals. These measures could include both structural (e.g. sediment/ debris basins, etc.) and nonstructural (e.g., street sweeping, public education, etc.) approaches to abatement of nonpoint source pollution, and would vary on a regional and local basis depending on the nature of the problems, climate, physical characteristics, land use, soil types and conditions and other factors.

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE Sometimes called photosynthetic bacteria. These are generally single celled or strands of cells, and consist of a more primitive or lower form of life similar to bacteria. Like other higher plants, however, they contain chlorophyll, and have the ability to photosynthesize.

BUILDING Any structure, either temporary or permanent, having a roof intended to be impervious to weather, and used or built for the shelter or enclosure of persons, animals, or property of any kind.

CHLOROPHYLL Is the green molecule with which plants carry out photosynthesis. Plants can take raw materials, nutrients and carbon dioxide, right out of the water and by means of photosynthesis, manufacture the carbohydrates and other compounds they need to live. To do this, they need light. In the process, oxygen is produced. Even though plants use oxygen, especially at night when there is no light, they generally make more than they need during the day. The excess is available for fish and other animals. Chlorophyll levels greater than 20 are generally considered eutrophic (see **Trophic State**). Some of the most eutrophic lakes in Florida have levels in excess of 300.

COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREA (CHHA) The area, as defined by the *Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH)* model to be inundated from a category one hurricane, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.

COASTAL STORM AREA The CHHA, including all properties connected to the mainland by bridges and/or low-lying properties that have restricted evacuation and emergency access.

CONE OF INFLUENCE The depression, roughly conical in shape, produced in a water table or other potentiometric surface by the extraction of water from a well at a given rate. The volume of the cone varies with the rate and duration of withdrawal of water, also called Cone of Depression.

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS PROGRAM A program created by the Florida Legislature (Section 253.023, F.S.) to provide a means of acquiring and managing environmentally endangered lands and other lands for recreation, water management and preservation of significant archaeological and historical sites. The areas to be proposed projects according to criteria based on recommendations made by the Committee.

CONSERVATION AREAS Areas having certain natural use limitations requiring special precautions prior to their alteration or development including measures intended to prevent undue ecological damage. These areas included the following: the hurricane velocity zone; significant aquifer recharge areas; areas of the 100-year flood; and large areas where 50 percent of the area was preservation and the remaining area had some other form of environmental constraint.

CONSERVATION USES Activities within land areas designated for the purpose of conserving or protecting natural resources or environmental quality and include areas designated for such purposes as flood control, protection of quality or quantity of groundwater or surface water, floodplain management, fisheries management, or protection of vegetative communities or wildlife habitats.

CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY Means and includes any building, structure or site which contributes to the overall historic significance of a designated historic district and was present during the period of historic significance and possesses historic integrity reflecting the character of that time or is capable of yielding important information about the historically significant period or independently meets the criteria for designation as a historic resource.

COOL COUNTIES RESOLUTION A resolution committing the County to participate in the Cool Counties Initiative. This commitment involves taking four actions: assess internal policies to determine where greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced; work with communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of current levels by 2050; identify local vulnerabilities to climate change and create a plan to address them; and work with other counties to persuade the federal government to enact legislation reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of current levels by 2050.

CRITICAL HABITAT Viable areas of habitation for Endangered and Threatened species as confirmed by appropriate jurisdictional agency documentation, or by reports which may be submitted by an applicant requesting a development order on a site containing an area of such habitation by Endangered or Threatened species. The extent of these areas shall have a definitive boundary which may vary in extent based upon the individual species, e.g. bald eagle's nest or pond harboring a protected turtle.

DEMOLITION The complete removal of a building, structure, or portions thereof from a site.

DESIGNATION Action by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to approve a Historic Preservation Overlay Zoning District or an Archaeological Preservation Overlay Zoning District for (a) parcel(s) of land or district.

DESIGN STORM A given rainfall event, such as the 25-year frequency 24-hour duration storm, the runoff from which is the amount of flow that forms the basis for which a given stormwater management system or structure is designed to manage.

DETENTION The temporary storage of stormwater runoff to limit the rate of discharge into receiving water bodies.

DETRITUS Organic material composed of dead plants or animals, or parts thereof (e.g. leaves), which settle to the bottom of a stream or lake. Detritus is decomposed slowly by bacteria and fungi, and thus recycled back into the ecosystem. Decomposition of leaf detritus from overhanging trees is a very important source of food in stream food chains.

DO Abbreviation for **dissolved oxygen**. DO is not very abundant in water; it tends to become less soluble as water temperature increases, and is critical for most organisms (plants and animals) that live in lakes. A lot of things, such as decaying litter and other pollutants can influence how much, or how little dissolved oxygen is available. See also **Respiration** and **Photosynthesis**.

DRAINAGE BASIN A subdivision of a watershed; the area defined by topographic boundaries which contributes stormwater to a drainage system, estuarine waters, or oceanic waters, including all areas artificially added to the basin through a storm sewer system.

DRAINAGE DETENTION STRUCTURE A structure which collects and temporarily stores stormwater for the purpose of treatment through physical, chemical, or biological processes with subsequent gradual release of the stormwater.

DRAINAGE FACILITIES A system of man-made structures designed to collect, convey, hold, divert, or discharge stormwater, and includes storm sewers, canals, detention structures and retention structures.

DRAINAGE RETENTION STRUCTURES A structure designed to collect and prevent the release of a given volume of stormwater by complete on-site storage with no outlet.

DREDGING Excavation, by any means, in surface waters or wetlands. Excavation also means the excavation, or creation, of a water body which is, or is to be, connected to surface waters or wetlands, directly or via an excavated water body or series of water bodies.

DRIFT FAUNA Many small forms of life in streams such as insect larvae actually spend a portion of their life cycles up in the water column where they are carried downstream. This is one way they expand their geographic ranges. At other times, they may sink to the bottom, or become attached to a rock or other structure. While drifting in the water column, they are referred to as drift fauna.

DUNE A mound or ridge of loose sediments, usually sand-sized sediments, lying landward of the beach and extending inland to the landward toe of the dune which intercepts the 100-year storm surge.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES Flora and fauna as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants in 50 CFR 17.11-12; Flora as identified by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as specified by the preservation of Native Flora Act in Section 581.185-187, F.S. and fauna identified by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Section 39-27.003 and 39-27.004, F.A.C. Endangered Species are so designated due to man made or natural factors which have placed them in imminent danger of extinction while threatened species are so designated due to a rapid decline in number and/or habitat such that they may be likely become endangered without corrective action.

ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS Any preserve or management area (including its lands and waterways) that is determined to contain major ecological, hydrological, and physiographic components and whose interdependent biophysical or biocultural components can only be maintained through preservation or extreme limitations on development. These lands and waterways are set aside to protect significant natural and cultural resources, remnant landscapes, open spaces, and/or visual aesthetics and buffering characteristics. All such lands and waterways are managed by the Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Lands Division.

EPHEMERAL POND A pond that periodically does not hold any standing water.

EPIPHYTES Small plants or animals which grow attached to larger plants.

EROSION The wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice, or other geologic agents and by such processes as gravitational creep.

ESTUARY A semi-enclosed, naturally existing coastal body of water which has a free connection with the open sea and within which seawater is measurably diluted with fresh water derived from riverine systems. Estuaries are valued as biologically productive ecosystems that serve as critical habitat for juvenile fish and shellfish, and breeding and nesting areas for shore birds.

EUTROPHIC See Trophic State

EUTROPHICATION The natural process by which a lake becomes more highly enriched as it ages. As lakes become more eutrophic, they tend to become shallower and warmer, and undergo significant biological changes. See also **Trophic State**. Human activities, particularly discharge of sewage and stormwater, cause the process of eutrophication to be dramatically hastened. Not only is this cultural eutrophication faster than the natural rate, it is different in other ways. Macrophytes may increase, but sometimes algae (small, single-celled plants that float in the open water) increase so much the water is green. This is called an algae bloom. Such blooms can cause extreme diel dissolved oxygen fluctuations and massive fish kills. Even long before fish kills occur, bottom-dwelling (benthic) animals they feed on are usually greatly reduced or eliminated.

EXCAVATED STORAGE AREA Approximate areas indicated in the Surface Water Management Program that require structural modifications (e.g. excavation) to artificially provide storage for temporarily detaining stormwater runoff during flooding events.

EXOTIC VEGETATION Vegetation that originated from other parts of the world; vegetation imported to an area from countries or states. A plant on the Exotic Pest Plant Council's 1993 List of Florida's Most Invasive Species.

FILLING The deposition, by any means, of materials in surface waters or wetlands.

FLOODPLAIN The lateral extent of inundation by an event of given statistical frequency, such as 25-year floodplain, or 100-year floodplain, as designated in the County Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP).

FLOODWAY The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the 25-year flood, or 100-year flood (base flood), as stipulated, without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one-tenth of a foot on the applicable property.

FLOW The physical process of moving water downstream, or moving any fluid through any pipe or channel. Technically, flow is equal to the **velocity** times the cross-sectional area of the channel or pipe.

FREEBOARD An extra margin of safety added to the base flood elevation to account for waves, debris, miscalculations, etc.

GREENWAY A linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridgeline, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreation use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route; any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage; an open space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and populated areas; or a local strip or linear park designated as a parkway or greenbelt.

GROUNDWATER Water filling all the unblocked pores of the material below the water table.

HABITAT A specific set of physical conditions that are required by a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

HYDROLOGIC SOIL GROUPS Refers to soils grouped according to their runoff potential. The soil properties that influence this potential are those that affect the minimum rate of water infiltration on a bare soil during periods after prolonged wetting when the soil is not frozen. These properties are depth to a seasonal high water table, the infiltration rate and permeability after prolonged wetting, and depth to a very slowly permeable layer. The slope and the kind of plant cover are not considered but are separate factors in predicting runoff.

HYDROPERIOD The duration of inundation in a wetland.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water, with the exception that discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer) are not illicit.

IMPERVIOUS Land surfaces which do not allow, or minimally allow, the penetration of water; examples are buildings, non-porous concrete and asphalt pavements, and some fine grained soils such as clays.

INFILTRATION RATE The rate at which water penetrates the surface of the soil at any given instant, usually expressed in inches per hour. The rate can be limited by the infiltration capacity of the soil or the rate at which water is applied at the surface.

ISOLATED WETLAND Any wetland without a direct hydrologic connection by standing or flowing surface water at seasonal high water level to a lake, stream, estuary, or marine waters.

LACUSTRINE Lake-like; behaving as or having the physical characteristics of a lake.

LITTORAL ZONE The shallow zone along the shore of a stream or lake

MACROPHYTE Latin for "Large Plant". Macrophytes are large enough to be seen without magnification. They may be rooted, such as cattails, or floating such as water lettuce. They include trees such as cypress. Macrophytes can be totally submerged, such as Hydrilla or Eurasian Watermilfoil, or emergent, such as cattails and bulrush. They also include some species of a lower plant form called **Algae**, which see. Submerged macrophytes can also produce a great deal of oxygen (see **DO** and **Photosynthesis**).

MARINE HABITAT Areas where living marine resources naturally occur, such as mangroves, seagrass beds, algae beds, salt marshes, transitional wetlands, marine wetlands, rocky shore communities, hard bottom communities, oyster beds or flats, mud flats, coral reefs, worm reefs, artificial reefs, offshore springs, nearshore mineral deposits and offshore sand deposits.

MARINE WETLAND Areas with a water regime determined primarily by tides and where the dominant vegetation is salt tolerant plant species, including those species listed in Subsection 17-4.02(17), F.A.C., Submerged Marine Species.

MESOTROPHIC See Trophic State

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER Generally means a conveyance, or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains) which are owned and operated by a public body which discharges to a Water of the United States, as defined in 40 CFR 122.2, and is designed for collecting or conveying stormwater.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT Permit issued pursuant to provisions of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, establishing a national program for controlling municipal stormwater discharges to waters of the United States.

NATURAL DRAINAGE FEATURES The naturally occurring features of an area which accommodate the flow of stormwater, such as streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

NATURAL RESERVATIONS Areas designated for conservation purposes and operated by contractual agreement with or managed by a federal, state, regional or local government or nonprofit agency, such as: national parks; state parks, lands purchased under the Save Our Coast, Conservation and Recreation Lands, or Save Our Rivers programs; sanctuaries; preserves; monuments; archaeological sites; historic sites; wildlife management areas; national seashores; and Outstanding Florida Waters.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. Resource availability and opportunity. Variable.

NATURAL RESOURCES OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE Those natural resources identified as regionally significant in the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region.

NITROGEN/NITROGEN LOADING A source of nutrients for the growth of plants and algae in surface water and a contaminant in groundwater, nitrogen in the form of nitrate ions enters these systems from the decomposition of organic wastes in sewage treatment and agricultural animal waste and fertilizer runoff. The accumulation (or loading) of nitrogen in water bodies accelerates the eutrophication process (see eutrophication).

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION Any source of water pollution that is not a point source; examples include roadways, golf courses, lawns, etc.

NUTRIENTS Raw materials needed by plants for growth, and usually in scarce quantities in water or soil. Nitrogen and phosphorus are the two most commonly scarce (that is why we apply fertilizer to our lawns), but occasionally some other nutrient may be scarce. The nutrient which is most scarce is said to be the one limiting the growth of plants. If nitrogen is all used up first but a lot of phosphorus and other nutrients are still available in solution, then nitrogen would be considered limiting, and efforts to control algae should be aimed at controlling nitrogen. The best way to determine which is limiting is by means of an experiment called an **algal assay**. Different amounts and combinations of nutrients are used to see which stimulates growth in experimental containers. A rule-of-thumb often used is that the nitrogen: phosphorus ratio in the lake is less than 10, nitrogen is limiting; if more than 10, phosphorus is limiting.

NONCONTRIBUTING PROPERTY Means and includes any building, structure or site which does not contribute to the overall historic significance of a designated historic district due to alterations, disturbances or other changes and, therefore, no longer possesses historic integrity or was not present during the period of historic significance or is incapable of yielding important information about that period.

OLIGOTROPHIC see Trophic State

OPEN SPACE Undeveloped land suitable for low impact resource-based outdoor recreation and/or conservation purposes. This definition can include land with environmental value such as preserve/preservation lands, and can also include land required or desired to provide for visual relief, and aesthetic and scenic value.

OUTFALL The location where stormwater flows out of a given system. The ultimate outfall of a system is usually a receiving water.

OUTSTANDING FLORIDA WATERS Waters designated by the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission as worthy of special protection because of their natural attributes (17-302.200(16)F.A.C.).

PERVIOUS Allowing penetration of water. A decrease in pervious surface can result in an increase in the rate and volume of stormwater runoff.

PHOSPHORUS A source of nutrients for the growth of plants and algae in surface water, phosphorus in the form of phosphate ions enters these systems from the decomposition of organic wastes in sewage treatment, animal waste and fertilizer runoff and the discharge of phosphate containing detergents. The accumulation of phosphates in water bodies accelerates the eutrophication process (see eutrophication).

PHOTOSYNTHESIS A chemical reaction which only occurs in plants. Plants use a green substance called **Chlorophyll** to perform photosynthesis, and can do so only in the presence of light, hence they can only do it during the day. During photosynthesis, plants use the energy in sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates, which they use as a form of "stored" energy. Animals eat plants to obtain these carbohydrates since animals cannot perform photosynthesis. During the process of photosynthesis, a very important side product is **Oxygen**, which is needed by almost all living things. See **DO**, **Respiration** and **Phytoplankton**.

PHYTOPLANKTON See Plankton. Phytoplankton consist primarily of various species of algae and bluegreen algae that are microscopic. In some lakes, they provide the primary base of the food chain for all animals. They also produce oxygen by a process called photosynthesis. See **DO** and **Photosynthesis**.

PLANKTON Plankton include small, mostly microscopic plants and animals that are too small to outswim most currents, and tend to be moved from place to place by water movement. Plankton consists of **Phytoplankton** or planktonic plants, and **Zooplankton**, or planktonic animals.

POINT SOURCE POLLUTION Any source of water pollution that constitutes a discernable, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are, or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.

PONDING Standing water on soils in closed depressions. Unless the soils are artificially drained, the water can be removed only by percolation or evapotranspiration.

POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE The surface that represents the level to which water will rise in tightly cased wells. The water table is a particular potentiometric surface for an unconfined aquifer.

PRESERVATION AREAS areas having major ecological, hydrological or physiographic significance including the following: Gulf beaches and dunes; the 25-year floodway and floodplain; saltwater wetlands; major freshwater wetland systems; and stream and natural drainage corridors.

PROTECTED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES Collective grouping of endangered and threatened species and species of special concern as defined in this document.

RANGELAND Land on which the potential natural vegetation is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing. It includes natural grasslands, savannas, many wetlands, some deserts, tundras, and areas that support certain forb and shrub communities.

RECEIVING WATERS OF THE COUNTY means surface waters of the County including, but not limited to, open channels, ponds, streams, creeks, lakes, swamps, wetlands located in Pinellas County unincorporated jurisdiction, as well as marine waters extending three leagues, or nine miles, from the coastline.

RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION Recreational activities that are of this orientation are dependent on natural resources and a healthy outdoor environment. These activities have little adverse impact on a site and are compatible with natural and/or cultural resource protection. Depending on the site, uses may include picnicking, low-impact camping, educational nature studies, wildlife viewing, horseback riding on trails, fishing, hiking, saltwater beach activities, or freshwater swimming. Specific types of resource-based recreation for each County Park and Preserve will be identified in the respective management plans. Such uses may be further

defined and, if appropriate, be listed in any land development regulations developed pursuant to s. 163.3202, Florida Statutes.

RESPIRATION The process by which living things obtain energy by chemically breaking down carbohydrates. All plants and animals respire to obtain their energy. To do so, they combine the carbon and hydrogen atoms in the carbohydrates with oxygen, releasing energy in the process. The byproducts of respiration are carbon dioxide and water, which in animals are excreted from the body as waste. Some bacteria are able to use Sulfur instead of oxygen, producing hydrogen sulfide as a byproduct. See also **Photosynthesis**.

RETENTION The prevention of direct discharge of storm runoff into receiving waters; included as examples are systems which discharge through percolation, exfiltration, and evaporation processes and which generally have residence times less than 3 days. (See Drainage Detention Structure)

RETROFIT Enhancements to an existing structure.

RUNOFF The precipitation discharges into stream channels from an area. The water that flows off the surface of the land without sinking into the soils is called surface runoff.

SALINITY The relative concentration of salts, usually sodium chloride, in a given water. It is usually expressed in terms of the number of part per million of chlorine (Cl).

SALT WEDGE In coastal streams, freshwater from the stream's drainage basin flows out into, and mixes with, oceanic saltwater. Since freshwater is less dense than saltwater, the freshwater tends to flow out over the underlying saltwater, which in turn tends to flow for a distance upstream with incoming tides. This bottom layer of saltwater is referred to as a salt wedge.

SATURATION Wetness characterized by zero or positive pressure of the soil water. Under conditions of saturation, the water will flow from the soil matrix into an unlined auger hole.

SILT As a soil separate, individual mineral particles that range in diameter from the upper limit of clay to the lower limit of very fine sand. As a soil textural class, soil that is 80 percent or more silt and less than 12 percent clay.

SINKHOLE A depression in the landscape where limestone has been dissolved.

SLOPE The inclination of the land surface from the horizontal.

SOIL A natural, three-dimensional body at the earth's surface. It is capable of supporting plants and has properties resulting from the integrated effect of climate and living matter acting on earthy parent material, as conditioned by relief over periods of time.

SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN A species of flora or fauna that is of interest to conservation biologists; species of conservation concern include, but are not limited to, those types of organisms listed by state and federal authorities; examples include the Catesby's lily (state-listed), monarch butterfly, barking tree frog, Florida snapping turtle, coral snake, brown thrasher, and bobcat.

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN Fauna identified in Section 39-27.005, F.A.C. which warrants special protection, recognition or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in it becoming a threatened species; may already meet the certain criteria for designation as a threatened species but for which conclusive date is limited or lacking; may occupy such an usually vital and essential ecological niche that, should it decline significantly in numbers or distribution, other species would be adversely affected to a significant degree; or has not sufficiently recovered from past population depletion.

STORM DRAIN/INLET A conduit that collects and transports stormwater runoff.

STORMWATER The flow of water which results directly from a rainfall event, with or without detention, but excluding any discharge of process water from a residential, commercial or industrial site.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM A system which is designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges which are necessitated by rainfall events, incorporating methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use, or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, drainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect the quantity and quality of discharges from the system.

SURFACE WATER A recognizable permanent body of water, including swamp or marsh areas, contained within a discernable boundary or bank created naturally or artificially. Water from natural springs shall be classified as surface water when it exists from the spring onto the earth's surface.

SUSTAINABILITY A process by which governments, private and non-profit organizations, households and individuals make collaborative and individual efforts to achieve continuing economic prosperity while improving the state of the natural environment and providing a high quality of life for the entire community.

TOXICS/TOXIC CONTAMINANTS Any chemical substance or mixture in a gaseous, liquid, or solid state, which substance or mixture causes a significant risk to safety or health.

TROPHIC STATE A new lake contains mostly water, with little in it. Nutrients needed for plants and algae are low, so plant and algae production is slow. Fish and other animals are not abundant. Such a lake is considered **oligotrophic** (poorly nourished). As a lake ages, more and more material enters the lake from its watershed via runoff. Nutrients increase, plant production increases and animals are more abundant. The lake is **mesotrophic**. As aging continues, the lake continues to be enriched from its watershed. Production of plants increases, mostly rooted plants, or **macrophytes**, - animals are more abundant at first, but eventually decline as the lake becomes a swamp, and then a bog, and eventually, dry land. A lake in this later stage of aging is called **eutrophic**. A highly eutrophic lake may be called **hypereutrophic** or **dystrophic**. See also **Eutrophication**.

TROPHIC STATE INDEX A number used to categorize lakes as oligo-, meso-, or eutrophic, on a scale generally from 1 to 100, the higher the number, the more eutrophic. It can be calculated a variety of ways, using chlorophyll (a measure of algae abundance), secchi depth (an indirect measure of algae abundance by measuring water clarity), or nutrients. Lakes with TSI of 60 or more are considered eutrophic.

UPLAND Land at a higher elevation, in general, than the alluvial plain or stream terrace; land above the lowlands along streams.

VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES Ecological communities, such as coastal strands, oak hammocks, and cypress swamps, which are classified based on the presence of certain soils, vegetation and animals.

WATER RECHARGE AREAS The land or water areas through which groundwater is replenished.

WATERSHED The land area which drains into a lake or other waterbody. All the rain or snow which falls into a watershed either seeps into the ground, becoming **Groundwater**, or runs overland either as "sheet flow" or in ditches, streams, or other channels, where it eventually flows into a lake, or into the ocean. The groundwater also tends to flow underground where it eventually seeps into a stream or lake.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN A comprehensive guide to development addressing flood control, water quality, and the protection of natural resources such as groundwater, wildlife habitat, wetlands, etc.

WELLFIELD An area of land that is developed or could be developed with more than one well for obtaining water.

WELLHEAD ZONE OF PROTECTION The total area contributing water to a well under a given set of circumstances. The area changes over time in response to changes in the water table or potentiometric surface, well pumpage, and other withdrawals in the vicinity. It is determined by the construction of a flow net, based on potentiometric surface contours.

WET DETENTION SYSTEM A water quality treatment system that utilizes a design water pool in association with water-tolerant vegetation to remove pollutants through settling, adsorption by soils and nutrient uptake by the vegetation. The bottom elevation of the pond must be at least one foot below the control elevation.

WETLANDS means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and a duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils. Soils present in wetlands generally are classified as hydric or alluvial, or possess characteristics that are associated with reducing soil conditions. The prevalent vegetation in wetlands generally consists of facultative or obligate hydrophytic macrophytes that are typically adapted to areas having soil conditions described above. These species, due to morphological, physiological, or reproductive adaptation, have the ability to grow, reproduce or persist in aquatic environments or anaerobic soil conditions. Florida wetlands generally include swamps and marshes, hydric seepage slopes, tidal marshes, mangrove swamps and other similar areas. Florida wetlands

generally do not include longleaf or slash pines flatwoods with an understory dominated by saw palmetto. The delineation of actual wetland boundaries may be made by any professionally accepted methodology consistent with the type of wetlands being delineated but shall be consistent with any unified statewide methodology for the delineation of the extent of wetlands ratified by the Legislature.

ZONE OF PROTECTION The total area contributing water to a well under a given set of circumstances. The area changes over time in response to changes in the water table or potentiometric surface, well pumpage, and other withdrawals in the vicinity. It is determined by the construction of a flow net, based on potentiometric surface contours.