

Talk the Talk

Here is a glossary to help guide you through the maze of acronyms and technical jargon.

Access Systems:

Measures and devices that provide access to facility components by maintenance personnel and equipment.

Aeration:

The process to increase oxygen levels in the water by circulating the water in a lake or pond.

Algae:

A small plant that grows naturally in most rivers, lakes, and bays. Nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen can make algae grow faster.

Anti-vortex Device:

A device that promotes the settling of pollutants by preventing a whirlpool from occurring at the outlet device.

Aquascaping:

Landscaping the shoreline of ponds and lakes with aquatic and wetland vegetation.

Berm:

A ridge of material, typically soil, which is used to retain or redirect stormwater flow.

Bioaugmentation:

Adding naturally occurring bacteria to a pond or lake to reduce nutrient levels, typically used to reduce algae blooms.

BMP:

Best Management Practice; devices used to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff.

Bypass System:

A system which allows maintenance by temporarily diverting stormwater.

Dam/Embankment:

The structure that impounds runoff into a stormwater facility.

Detention Basin/Pond:

A BMP which provides temporary storage of stormwater runoff. Also known as a dry pond.

Emergency Outlet/Spillway:

A structure that safely conveys stormwater overflow from a BMP pond.

Emergent Plants:

An aquatic plant that is rooted in sediment but has leaves at or above the water.

Environmentally Friendly Landscaping:

Landscaping that requires minimal chemicals and improves water absorption.

Filter Fabric/ Geomembrane:

A webbed fabric which serves to filter pollutants or to hold a filter medium, such as sand or gravel, in place.

Fountain:

A decorative water feature that does not improve water quality because it uses a low volume of water at high pressure (not an aerator).

Impervious Cover:

Any hard surface that prevents water from soaking into the soil.

Infiltration Trench:

Stone filled excavations that temporarily store stormwater runoff and allow it to soak into the soil.

Inlet:

The pipe that carries stormwater into the BMP.

Nonpoint Source Pollution:

A type of pollution that doesn't come from a single identifiable source, or point, such as a sewage treatment plant or an industrial discharge pipe. It is generated in day-to-day activities.

Nutrients:

Substances which help plants and animals live and grow. Excess amounts of two nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, can cause algae blooms and fish kills.

Outfall:

A pipe that discharges stormwater directly into a stream, river, or waterway.

Principle Outlet:

The main structure that controls and conveys a facility's flow of water.

Pump System:

Electrical and mechanical components including pipework used to convey BMP discharge.

Retention Basin/Pond:

A BMP which provides permanent storage of stormwater runoff. Also known as a wet pond.

Rip Rap:

Large stones engineered and placed to prevent erosion.

Riser:

A vertical pipe extending from the bottom of a BMP that is used to control the rate of stormwater discharge.

Runoff Pollution:

The pollution caused when water washes chemicals and other pollutants off of farm fields, yards, and roads and carries them to streams and waterways.

Sediments:

Soil particles carried by rainwater into streams, lakes, rivers and bays.

Stormwater:

Rainwater that runs off over land.

Swale:

Gently sloped area of vegetation used to slow the flow of runoff, channeling it to other BMPs.

Vegetative Buffer:

Areas of vegetation that remove pollutants in runoff as the water flows through it (also known as filter strips and buffers).

Watershed:

An area of land that slopes or drains toward or into a lake, river, stream, or wetland. This is also known as a drainage basin.