

Glossary

Acidic Deposition:	Acid rain fallen on an absorbent stone. The leading cause of damage and decay to calcium carbonate based rock, including most marble and some limestone.
Animal/Pet Waste:	Animal manure, litter or bedding; water that has contacted animal manure, litter, or bedding; water from washing, flushing, or cleaning animal pens; and liquid or solid waste from pens used at kennels, animal hospitals, poultry processing facilities, dairies or rendering plants.
Bedrock:	Solid rock that underlies the covering of soil, sediment or other material found at the Earth's surface.
Cloud:	A cloud is a visible mass of condensed water droplets or ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere above Earth's (or another planetary body's) surface.
Condensation:	The process by which a gas or vapor changes to a liquid.
Dumped Oil:	Oil that has been improperly or illegally disposed of either by being discarded or poured out into the environment.
Erosion:	The wearing away of land or soil by the action of wind, water, or ice.
Estuary:	A bay or inlet, often at the mouth of a river, in which large quantities of freshwater and seawater mix together. These unique habitats are necessary nursery grounds for fish and shellfish.
Evaporation:	The process by which a liquid changes into a gas or vapor.
Fertilizers:	Any substance or combination of substances used principally as a source of plant food or soil amendment.
Flooding:	An overflowing of a body of water onto normally dry land.
Grass Clippings:	The tops of grass leaves cut off as a result of mowing the lawn. Grass clippings are not considered waste, but a valuable resource best left on the lawn.
Groundwater:	Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials, such as sand, soil, or gravel; supplies wells and springs.
Impermeable Layer:	A layer of material (clay, blacktop) that does not permit water to flow through it.

Infiltration:	The movement of water through soil or other porous material; the entry of stormwater into the sewerage system through faulty pipes.
Lake:	A large body of inland water or an expanded part of a river.
Land:	The solid part of the earth's surface including all things of a permanent nature affixed thereto.
Litter:	Waste that is improperly disposed of on the street, sidewalk, lakes and other bodies of water, and in the general environment.
Nonpoint Source Pollution:	Pollution from numerous widespread locations or sources that have no well-defined points of origin. May originate from land use activities and/or from the atmosphere. Examples include leaching of excess fertilizer from fields and acid rain.
Ocean:	Body of salt water occupying 71% of the earth's surface. The oceans are divided into the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic Oceans. A sea is subdivision of an ocean.
Percolates:	The downward flow of water or other fluid through the pores or spaces of unsaturated rock or soil.
Permeable Layer:	A layer of porous material (rock, soil, unconsolidated sediment); in an aquifer, the layer through which water freely passes as it moves through the ground.
Pesticides:	A group of human-made or natural chemical compounds that are used to kill unwanted pests and other living things (insects, microbes, fungi, and weeds). Insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are all forms of pesticides.
Point Sources (of Pollution):	A well defined source of pollution from a single point, such as a pipe (e.g., discharges of wastewater from municipal or industrial plants)
Precipitation:	Process by which water falls to Earth from the atmosphere in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail.
Raw Sewage:	Untreated wastewater and its contents.
River:	A natural stream of water of considerable volume.
Runoff:	Water from precipitation or irrigation that flows over the ground and into bodies of water. It can contribute to soil erosion and carry harmful pollutants.

Sediment:	Any particulate organic or inorganic material derived from the weathering of soil, alluvial and rock materials; removed by erosion and transported by water, wind, ice and gravity.
Soil/Sand:	The top layer of the Earth's surface, containing unconsolidated rock and mineral particles mixed with organic material/ a loose granular material that results from the disintegration of rocks, consists of particles smaller than gravel but coarser than silt.
Storm Drain:	A pipeline or channel system that carries surface water and/or runoff to public waters, but does not feed into sewer system.
Stormwater:	Term used to describe precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice). Storm water that does not soak into the ground becomes runoff, which either flows into surface waterways or is channeled into storm sewers. Stormwater that flows over permeable (pervious) surfaces can infiltrate into the ground.
Stream:	A small body of moving water. Also called creek, brook, and spring, depending on location and size. Smaller than a river.
Transpiration:	The process by which plants give off water vapor to the atmosphere through the surface of their leaves.
Trash:	Material considered worthless, not necessary or offensive that is usually thrown away. Trash is generally defined as dry material and excludes food waste (garbage) and ashes.
Water Cycle:	The process, also known as the hydrologic cycle, in which water travels in a sequence from the air through condensation to the earth as precipitation and back to the atmosphere by evaporation.
Watershed:	A watershed is the area of land that drains into a particular body of water such as a river, lake, stream or bay. It is separated from other systems by high points in the area such as hills. It includes both the waterway itself and the entire land area whose streams and rainfall eventually drain into it.
Water Table:	The level below the land surface at which the subsurface material is fully saturated with water. The depth of the water table reflects the minimum level to which wells must be drilled for water extraction.
Well:	A shaft or hole into the Earth to tap an underground supply of water.