

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Planning Terminology Glossary 5

- **Aesthetic zoning:** the regulation of building or site design to achieve a desirable appearance.
- **Air rights:** the ownership or control of all land, and that area of space at and above it at a height that is reasonably necessary or legally required for the full use over the ground surface of land used for railroad or expressway purposes.
- **Best Management Practices (BMPs):** a structural or nonstructural management based practice used singularly or in combination to reduce nonpoint source inputs to receiving waters in order to achieve water quality protection goals.
- **Coastal resources of national significance:** any coastal wetland, beach dune, barrier island, reef, estuary, or fish and wildlife habitat, if any such area is determined by a coastal state to be of substantial biological or natural storm protective value (from the Coastal Zone Management Act).
- **Coastal waters:** (A) in the Great Lakes area, the waters within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States consisting of the Great Lakes, their connecting waters, harbors, roadsteads, and estuary-type areas such as bays, shallows, and marshes(from the Coastal Zone Management Act).
- **Coastal zone:** the coastal waters (including the lands therein and thereunder) and the adjacent shorelands (including the waters therein and thereunder), strongly influenced by each other and in proximity to the shorelines of the several coastal states, and includes islands, transitional and intertidal areas, salt marshes, wetlands, and beaches. The zone extends, in Great Lakes waters, to the international boundary between the United States and Canada and, in other areas, seaward to the outer limit of the outer limit of State title and ownership under the Submerged Lands Act (and others). . . The zone extends inland from the shorelines only to the extend necessary to control shorelands, the uses of which have a direct and significant impact on the coastal waters. Excluded from the coastal zone are lands the use of which is by law subject solely to the discretion of or which is held in trust by the Federal Government, its officers or agents and to control those geographical areas which are likely to be affected by or vulnerable to sea level rise (from the Coastal Zone Management Act).
- **Drainage:** (1) surface water runoff; and (2) the removal of surface water or groundwater from land by drains, grading, or other means that include runoff controls to minimize erosion and sedimentation during and after construction or development, the means for preserving the water supply, and the prevention or alleviation of flooding.

- **Ecological impact:** a modification or change in the existing natural environment that could result in the disruption and/or loss of wildlife habitat, vegetation, air quality, soil and water resources, and/or an increase in ambient noise levels.
- **Environmental impact ordinance:** a local legislative act requiring an assessment of the potential harmful environmental effects of a pending development so that steps to prevent damage can be taken.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a statement on the effect of development proposals and other major actions that significantly affect the environment.
- **Impervious surface:** a ground cover such as cement, asphalt, or packed clay or rock through which water cannot penetrate; this leads to increases in the amount and velocity of runoff and corresponds to increases in soil erosion and nutrient transport.
- **Infill:** the development of the last remaining lots in an existing developed area, the new development within an area already served by existing infrastructure and services, or the reuse of already developed, but vacant properties.
- **Mitigation:** for the purposes of administering...Sensitive Areas, mitigation includes: (1) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of actions; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (3) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance of operations during the life of the action; (5) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. While monitoring without additional actions is not considered mitigation for the purposes of these regulations, it may be part of a comprehensive mitigation program.
- **Pervious surface:** a ground cover through which water can penetrate at a rate comparable to that of water through undisturbed soils.
- **Pollution, non-point:** sources for pollution that are less definable and usually cover broad areas of land, such as agricultural land with fertilizers that are carried from the land by runoff, or automobiles.
- **Pollution, point:** in reference to water quality, a discrete source from which pollution is generated before it enters receiving waters, such as a sewer outfall, a smokestack, or an industrial waste pipe.
- **Reforestation:** the planting or replanting of forest plants.

- **Retention basin:** a wet or dry stormwater holding area, either natural or manmade, which does not have an outlet to adjoining watercourses or wetlands other than an emergency spillway.
- **Riparian areas:** the shore area adjacent to a body of water.
- **Sedimentation:** the process of forming and depositing of suspended matter carried in suspension in water through the action of gravity. It is usually accomplished by reducing the velocity of the water below the point where it can transport the suspended material.
- **Sewer service area:** area presently served or anticipated to be served by a sewage treatment system within the sewer service area plan's 20-year planning period.
- **Shoreline stabilization:** the placement of structural revetments or landscaping practices to prevent or control shoreline erosion.
- **Soil erosion:** the removal of soil through the actions of water or wind.
- **Stormwater:** Rain or snow that falls either soaks into the ground to become groundwater, evaporates, or flows off over the land surface. The overland flow is called runoff or stormwater and is the primary water source for vernal pools, wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and water-supply reservoirs.
- **Watershed:** the total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse that drains into a lake, or reservoir.
- **Wellhead protection area:** the critical portion of a three-dimensional zone surrounding a public well or well field, through which water will move towards and reach such well or well field.
- **Wetland inventory map:** a map of wetlands classified according to their vegetation, hydrology, and types of human influence, developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, used to identify wetlands for protection.
- **Woodland:** Land covered with woody vegetation.