



## COUNTY OF LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Public Works Stormwater Division

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### LAND DEVELOPMENT MANUAL DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to all chapters of the Land Development Manual except to Chapter 10. Definitions relative to floodplain management are included in the floodplain ordinance. Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this manual shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this manual its most reasonable application.

As-built certification – a certification by a professional engineer that the constructed components of a development have been installed as designed and meet the design requirements established by the Stormwater Management Ordinance and the Land Development Manual.

BMP – best management practice - BMPs are structural or non-structural measures installed to manage stormwater quality and/or quantity.

Culvert - enclosed symmetrical channel of comparatively short length installed to convey water from one side of an embankment to the other, typically under a roadway, and mainly used to divert stream or rainfall runoff to prevent erosion or flooding on highways.

Contour - an imaginary line, or its representation on a contour (topographic) map, joining points of equal elevation.

Construction buffer - an area, strip, or plot of dense undisturbed perennial native vegetation, either original or reestablished, surrounding streams and rivers, ponds and lakes, wetlands, seeps, or other surface waters within which construction activities are restricted, and which are established for the primary purpose of protecting water quality and maintaining a healthy aquatic ecosystem in the receiving surface waters (from SCR100000). Construction buffers are to be maintained as undisturbed (except as provided in SCR100000) during construction activities.

"Defined" natural drainage channel - a natural drainage channel depicted on the Lexington County Soil Survey.

Detention - the collection and storage of stormwater runoff in a surface or sub-surface facility for subsequent controlled discharge to a watercourse or water body.

Ditch - a drainage channel in earth created by natural or artificial means to convey surface and/or subsurface water, flowing continuously or intermittently.

Drainage - a general term applied to the removal of surface or subsurface water from a given area either by gravity via natural means or by systems constructed so to remove water, and is commonly applied herein to surface water.

Drainage easement – A right granted from a property owner to another to maintain the drainage system. It does not convey ownership.

Drainage facility - any component of the drainage system.

Drainage system - the surface and/or subsurface system which collects and conveys stormwater and surface water, and includes all watercourses, waterbodies, and wetlands.

Easement - right granted from a property owner to another for a specific use of a portion of the owner's land. It does not convey ownership, only a specific use.

Ephemeral stream – a stream that generally has a defined natural watercourse that flow only in direct response to rainfall or snowmelt and in which discrete periods of flow persist no more than 29 consecutive days per event (from DHEC R61-68 Water Classifications & Standards June 2012).

Embankment or fill - a deposit of soil, rock or other material placed by man.

Final stabilization - means that all land-disturbing activities at the construction site have been completed and that on all areas not covered by permanent structures, either (1) a uniform (e.g., evenly distributed, without large bare areas) vegetative cover with a density of 70 percent of the natural background vegetative cover has been established excluding areas where no natural background vegetative cover is possible (e.g., on a beach), or (2) equivalent permanent stabilization measures (such as the use of landscaping mulch, riprap, pavement, and gravel) have been implemented to provide effective cover for exposed portions of the construction site not stabilized with vegetation.

Flood - a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland or tidal waters, or the unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

- a) Two (2) year flood - The flood having a fifty (50) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- b) Five (5) year flood - The flood having a twenty (20) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- c) Ten (10) year flood - The flood having a ten (10) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- d) Twenty-five (25) year flood - The flood having a four (4) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- e) Fifty (50) year flood - The flood having a two (2) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Green infrastructure – the patchwork of natural areas that provides habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water through stormwater management systems that mimic nature by soaking up and storing water.

Impaired stream – a stream identified by SCDENR where required pollution controls are not sufficient to attain or maintain applicable water quality standards.

Impervious surface - a hardened surface that doesn't allow water to seep into the ground. Developed areas that are traditionally impervious include roadways, roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots. Alternative surfaces such as pervious pavers and green roofs can be included in a development design to turn traditionally impervious areas to pervious areas. Gravel parking lots, roads, and driveways are considered impervious.

Illicit connection - any man-made conveyance connecting an illicit discharge directly to a small municipal separate storm sewer.

Illicit discharge - refers to any discharge to the County's stormwater system or to a Waters of the State not totally made up of stormwater, except discharges authorized under an NPDES permit or otherwise identified in the Stormwater Ordinance.

Land development permit – a permit issued by PW/SWD that allows construction to begin on a new development or redevelopment site.

Lexington County inspector – any staff of the PW/SWD that is a Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector (CEPSCI) or equal certification. CEPSCI is a program conducted by Clemson University Extension and approved by SCDHEC.

LID – Low Impact Development - an approach to land development (or re-development) that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible.

MEP – Maximum Extent Practicable - the technology-based control standard used in the NPDES municipal storm water program against which SC DHEC Bureau of Water and permittees assess whether or not an adequate level of control has been proposed in the storm water management program (SWMP). This term is defined by §403(p)(3)(B) of the Clean Water Act, by SC Water Pollution Control Permits Regulation 61-9 122.34(a)

Non-erosive - a flow condition that does not cause erosion. Soil types and slopes should be considered in determining if a flow condition will cause erosion.

Outfall point (as it relates to new development) – the point where concentrated stormwater discharges from a new development site to a downstream property or receiving system.

Permanent water quality buffer – area of undisturbed natural or re-established vegetation that borders streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and wetlands; permanently maintained as undisturbed vegetation.

Post-development conditions – those conditions which are expected to exist, or do exist, after alteration of the natural topography, vegetation, and rate, volume or direction of stormwater runoff, (resulting from development activity).

Pre-development conditions - those conditions, in terms of the existing topography, vegetation and rate, volume or direction of stormwater runoff, which exist at the time the applicant submits an application form for a land disturbance permit (before development activities occur).

Primary permittee – the person that has operational control over construction plans, SWPPPs, and specifications; typically the owner or developer.

Rate – volume of water passing a point per unit of times, generally expressed in cubic feet per second (cfs).

Re-development – as it applies to Land Disturbance Permits, any project such as expansion or addition that results in additional impervious area. Re-development projects greater than 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> must obtain a permit.

Retention – the collection and storage of stormwater runoff without subsequent discharge to surface waters.

Retrofit – the process of altering an existing drainage system to function properly or more efficiently that currently exists.

Runoff: that part of rainfall that is not absorbed into the ground, transpired by plants, or stored on site but that flows over the ground to surface waters.

Secondary Permittee - the person that has day-to-day operational control of activities at a construction site, which are necessary to ensure compliance with a SWPPP for the construction site or other permit conditions; typically a contractor or builder.

SMS4 – small municipal separate storm sewer system – is defined at South Carolina Water Pollution Control Permits Regulation 61-9 122.26(b)(16) and refers to all small separate storm sewer systems that are owned or operated by the United States, a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States, but is not defined as “large” or “medium” municipal separate storm sewer system. This term includes systems similar to separate storm sewer systems in municipalities, such as systems at military bases, large hospital or prison complexes, and highways and other thoroughfares. The term does not include separate storm sewers in very discrete areas, such as individual buildings.

Sediment – fine particulate material, whether mineral or organic, that is in suspension and is being transported, or has been transported, from its site of origin by water or air.

Sedimentation - the process which operates at or near the surface of the ground, or deposits soils, debris and other materials either on other ground surfaces or in the waterbody.

Sedimentation facility - any structure or area which is designed to retain suspended sediments from collected stormwater runoff, to include sediment basins.

Site - any tract, lot, or parcel of land or combination of tracts, lots, or parcels of land which are in common ownership, or are contiguous and in diverse ownership where development is to be performed as part of a unit, subdivision, or project.

Storm frequency - rate of likely recurrence of a rainstorm.

Stormwater Management Plan - a drainage system plan which fully indicates necessary land management and treatment measures, including a timetable of the schedule for their installation, operation, and maintenance which will effectively minimize construction and post-construction stormwater pollutant discharges, and which is approved for application to a particular area or parcel of ground. This plan includes the technical report containing all engineering calculations and construction drawings.

TMDL – Total maximum daily load – a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that load among the various sources of that pollutant.

Unified sizing criteria – a comprehensive stormwater design approach that addresses the full range of storm events up to and including the 100-year event and water quality.

Water quality volume treatment credits – better site design practices that are incorporated into the Unified Sizing Criteria stormwater design for a development to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and minimize the pollutant loads from the development.

Watercourse - any natural or man-made conveyance used to transport runoff from one location to the next.

Waters of the State (WoS) – Per the SC Pollution Control Act, waters of the state are lakes, bays, sounds, ponds, impounding reservoirs, springs, wells, rivers, streams, creeks, estuaries, marshes, inlets, canals, the Atlantic Ocean within the territorial limits of the State and all other bodies of surface or underground water, natural or artificial, public or private, inland or coastal, fresh or salt, which are wholly or partially within or bordering the State or within its jurisdiction.

Watershed – area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.

Wetlands – those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.