

## COMMON STORMWATER DEFINITIONS

**Best Management Practice (BMP):** Practices that reduce pollutants in stormwater. Post Construction BMPs (or permanent BMPs) may include structural or non-structural solutions that are used to prevent or control the discharge of pollutants and minimize runoff to streams and lakes. Examples of non-structural BMPs include a schedule of activities, prohibition of practices, maintenance procedures, and structural BMPs are permanent features of the landscape such as, ponds, wetlands, and bioretention areas.

**Clean Water Act (CWA):** Federal legislation enacted in 1972 with revisions in 1987 that provide the legal basis of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Goals of the Clean Water Act are to reduce the discharge of pollutants to streams and lakes.

**Green Infrastructure:** Is an approach to wet weather management that uses natural systems—or engineered systems that mimic natural processes—to capture, cleanse and reduce stormwater runoff. At the site scale, green infrastructure consists of site-specific management practices that are designed to maintain natural hydrologic functions by absorbing and infiltrating precipitation where it falls.

**Low-Impact Development (LID):** Is a stormwater management approach whose goal is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source. The core concept of Low Impact Development is preventing stormwater runoff by integrating small-scale landscape practices and planning techniques that preserve natural drainage features and patterns. The Low Impact Development approach is similar to Green Infrastructure.

**Impaired Waters:** The goal of the Clean Water Act is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters”. Under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, “states,” are required to develop lists of impaired waters. The waters that fail to meet the water quality standards set by the states are added to the state’s list of “Impaired Waters.” The states are required by the Clean Water Act to create a clean up plan. The main tool for completing this is a process called the “Total Maximum Daily Load,” or TMDL.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4):** Is a publicly owned system of drainage conveyances that discharges to streams and lake. This may include any pipe; ditch or gully; or system of pipes that is operated by a governmental entity and used for collecting and conveying stormwater that is not part of the sewage treatment system. Discharges from MS4s are regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System municipal stormwater program (Phase I and Phase II).

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES):** Is part of the Clean Water Act that provides a permit program for regulating and enforcing stormwater discharges from urban areas.

**Post construction:** Development alters landscapes by increasing impervious surfaces (i.e. roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and rooftops) which can have detrimental effects on aquatic systems. Stormwater runoff from these hard surface areas can contain sediment, nutrients, roads salts, heavy metals, bacteria, petroleum hydrocarbons, and other pollutants detrimental to water quality. Post-construction management's goal is to limit surface runoff volumes and reduce water runoff pollutant to streams and lakes.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** A calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards. These standards are dependent on the intended use of the waterbody such as drinking, swimming, or fishing.