

Definitions

The following definitions and acronyms apply to the District rules and accompanying guidance materials.

100-year flood elevation: The surface elevation of a waterbody that has a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, as shown on District floodplain maps, where available, or as calculated using a model utilizing the most recent applicable National Weather Service reference data (e.g., Atlas 14).

Abstraction: Permanent retention of runoff on a site by structures and practices such as infiltration basins, evapotranspiration and capture and reuse.

Back-to-back storm events: Distinct rainfall events occurring within 24 hours of each other.

Best management practices (BMPs): Various structural and nonstructural measures taken to minimize negative effects on water resources and systems, such as ponding, street sweeping, filtration through a rain garden and infiltration, as documented in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas and the Minnesota Stormwater Manual.

Bioengineering: Various shoreline and streambank stabilization techniques using aquatic vegetation and native upland plants, along with techniques such as willow wattling, brush layering and willow-posts.

Existing conditions: Site conditions at the time of consideration of a permit application by the District, before any of the work for which a permit is sought has commenced, except that when impervious surfaces have been fully or partially removed from a previously developed parcel but no intervening use has been legally or practically established, "existing conditions" denotes the previously established developed use and condition of the parcel.

Fill: Any rock, soil, gravel, sand, debris, plant cuttings or other material placed onto land or into water.

Groundwater: Water in the interstices of rock and soil that is present at pressures greater than one atmosphere.

High-Risk Erosion Areas are specific locations in the watershed that, because of topography and soil conditions, are particularly susceptible to erosion. High-Risk Erosion Areas are specified in a map published and maintained by the District on its website at www.rpbcwd.org.

Impervious surface: Any exposed surface that has been compacted or covered with a layer of material, or is likely to become compacted from expected use, such that it is highly resistant to infiltration.

Landlocked basin: A localized depression that does not have a natural outlet at or

below the 100-year flood elevation.

Land-disturbing activity: Any alteration of the ground surface that could result, through the action of wind and/or water, in soil erosion, substantial compaction, or the movement of sediment into waters, wetlands, storm sewers, or adjacent property. Land-disturbing activity includes but is not limited to soil stripping, clearing, grubbing, grading, excavating, filling and the storage of soil or earth materials. Typical, routine farming operations (e.g., plowing, harvesting) are not land-disturbing activities for purposes of the rules.

Linear project: Construction or reconstruction of a public road or other transportation route, sidewalk or trail, or construction, repair or reconstruction of a utility or utilities right-of-way that is not a component of a larger development or redevelopment project.

Low floor: The lowest elevation of any floor of any structure, habitable or not.

Nested: A hypothetical precipitation distribution where the precipitation depths for various durations within a storm have the same exceedance probabilities. This distribution maximizes the rainfall intensities by incorporating selected short-duration intensities within those needed for longer durations at the same probability level. As a result, the various storm durations are “nested” within a single hypothetical distribution. Nested-storm distribution (or frequency-based hyetograph) development must be completed utilizing the most recent applicable National Weather Service reference data (e.g., Atlas 14), in accordance with:

1. the alternating block methodology as outlined in Chapter 4 of the HEC-HMS Technical Reference Manual, (USACE, 2000);
2. methods in HydroCAD;
3. methods established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service; or
4. otherwise as approved by the District.

Reference: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2000. Hydrologic Modeling System HEC-HMS Technical Reference Manual.

Outfall: A constructed point source where a storm sewer system discharges to a receiving water. An outfall does not include diffuse runoff or conveyances that connect segments of the same stream or water systems (e.g., when a conveyance temporarily leaves a storm sewer system at a road crossing).

Parcel: A contiguous area of land under common ownership, designated and described in official public records and separated from other lands by its designation.

Protected wetland: A wetland, the draining, filling or excavation of which is regulated.

Reconstruction: For non-linear projects, changes, including addition, expansion or other improvement to a building or buildings on a property that involves a change to the footprint of the impervious surface on the parcel.

Redevelopment: Any land-disturbing activity on an already-developed parcel or any substantial change to existing structures on a parcel.

Regulated feature: A public watercourse, public waters wetland or other protected wetland in the watershed, or any watercourse within a High-Risk Erosion Area. "Regulated feature" is a collective term, used to describe all water resources regulated under Rule D.

Rehabilitation: A maintenance project that disturbs or replaces only the existing impervious surface, does not disturb underlying soils or result in a change in the direction, peak rate, volume or water quality of runoff flows from the parcel, and does not include the addition of new impervious surface. Full-depth reconstruction that does not disturb underlying soils and mill and overlay of paved surfaces are rehabilitation.

Retaining wall: Vertical or nearly vertical structures constructed of mortar-rubble masonry, hand-laid rock or stone, vertical timber pilings, horizontal timber planks with piling supports, sheet pilings, poured concrete, concrete blocks, or other durable materials and constructed approximately parallel to the streambank or shoreline.

Right-of-way: Parcels of land on which a linear project is located, including adjacent area necessary for safe operation of the road, sidewalk or trail and dedicated to such use by fee ownership or other recorded or registered title interest.

Shoreline: The lateral measurement along the contour of the ordinary high water mark of waterbodies other than watercourses, and the top of the bank of the channel of watercourses, and the area waterward thereof.

Site: The location of activities that are the subject of a District permit and are under the control of the applicant.

Stream Power Index: As defined by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Stream Power Index is calculated: $LN ((\text{Drainage Area} + 0.001) * ((\text{Slope}/100) + 0.0001))$. SPI is a function of slope and tributary flow accumulation values, which can be thought of as the volume of water flowing to a particular point on the landscape. SPI represent the ability of intermittent overland flow to create erosion, but the SPI values are not differentiated based on soils type or land cover effects on runoff volume or erosion.

Structure: Any impervious building or other object that is constructed or placed on the ground and that is, or is intended, to remain in place for longer than a temporary period.

Thalweg: The line connecting the points of lowest elevation in a watercourse,

channel, valley, ravine or gully.

Waterbody: A watercourse or water basin.

Water basin: An enclosed natural depression with definable banks, capable of retaining water.

Watercourse: A natural channel with definable beds and banks capable of conducting confined runoff from adjacent land.

Beyond the definitions above, words in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District rules will be interpreted consistently with definitions in Minnesota water law (Minnesota Statutes chapters 103A, 103B, 103C, 103D, 103E, 103F and 103G). The specific definitions above will prevail in the event of a contradiction or deviation.

Acronyms

BMP – best management practice

MnRAM – Minnesota Routine Assessment Methodology for Evaluating Wetland Functions (see <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/mnram/index.html>)

NGVD – national geodetic vertical datum

OHW – ordinary high water level (see Minn. Stat. § 103G.005, subd. 14)