

7.0 Definitions

The following words help to unify the communities and provide consistency in conducting the work associated with this living document.

Alternative - a collection of measures that are associated by project site to address a mission; synonymous with plan.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - measures intended to provide an on-the-ground, practical solution to diffuse pollution problems from all sources and sectors. They are technology and education based requirements in federal stormwater regulations that call for the implementation of controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable in municipal stormwater systems.

Comprehensive Plan - A planning document to determine a community's goals and aspirations of how future development will occur. The comprehensive plan dictates public policy for housing, land use, recreation, transportation, and utilities. The United States Army Corps of Engineers defines a comprehensive plan as a plan including recommendations for new and operating projects, primarily for USACE implementation, but in coordination with other agency efforts, and focusing on one or more USACE mission areas in Civil Works.

Dynamic Modeling - a framework, consisting of a language and a set of key concepts. These are embedded in a process for representing, understanding, explaining, and improving, specifically how dynamic systems are put together and how they perform over time.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - a database of points, lines, shapes, and a set of attributes that are geospatially referenced and enable quality communication of the interrelationships of the data via visual aids, such as maps.

Ecosystem Restoration - the practice of restoring degraded significant ecosystem structure function and dynamic processes to a less degraded more natural condition; to improve or re-establish structural components and functions of natural areas; to mimic as closely as possible conditions which would occur in the area in the absence of human changes to landscape and hydrology.

Feasibility Study - for the Corps of Engineers, this is a study lasting less than three years, when adequately funded, and uses specific six step planning process to form projects composed of alternatives that are acceptable to the locals and the federal government to solve a problem. Also synonymous with Feasibility Planning Study.

Flood Risk Management - the shared practice among local communities, state and federal agencies of flood damage reduction that includes and extends beyond structural measures to include the proper management of all parts of watersheds to address flooding, to address opportunities for wider, shared, programmatic approaches and multi-purpose flood damage reduction projects, and to better clarify the level of risk associated with flood damage reduction measures.

Low-Impact Development (LID) - a site design strategy with the goal of maintaining or replicating or minimizing the change in the pre-development stormwater runoff conditions to create a functionally equivalent hydrological landscape.

Measures - features (structural measures) or activities (non-structural measures) that can be implemented at a specific site to address one or more objective or goal;

Model - a method, often including a set of computer program code, which allows the user to simulate a system.

Multipurpose - the ability to use several purposes to strengthen benefits that are used to justify a project; taking advantage of opportunities to include several functions as part of the goal of one project and improve efficiency in spending construction funds and meeting goals of a systems approach; the combination two or more of the following: flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation mission areas.

Non-Structural Measures - measures that do not include physical or constructed components but rely sole on policies, maintenance practices, or management activities.

Risk Communication - integrating effective communication of risk and reliability concepts, alternatives levels of risk, and the associated consequences to the public and other stakeholders.

Shared Vision Planning - a process that incorporates collaboration among stakeholders, sound technical analysis, and planning principles into a practical forum in which resource management decisions are made. Integrates a planning process, public participation, and a technical systems model.

Sponsor - an entity that participates in funding a project.

Stakeholders - those that have a stake in the outcome of a project; those that can provide vital input on issues that affect data, and possible alternatives.

Structural Measures - measures that include physical alterations or constructed components as part of an alternative or plan.

System - a whole compounded of several parts, where an understanding of the complexities of the entirety presents benefits to those that are part of the system.

Systems Approach - a method for framing a problem considering space, time, and function.

Systems Problems - problems with the characteristics of being dynamic, changing over time; including multiple players and/or diverse interests; having interdependencies across borders and/or disciplines; and being difficult to communicate.

Water Quality - a measure of the suitability of water for specific uses based on chemical, biological and physical characteristics. These characteristics are compared to standards and guidelines to determine if the water meets designated uses. Water quality is affected by both natural process as well as human activities, and a healthy environment supports a diverse community of organisms and protects public health.

Watershed - the area that drains rainfall to a common point along a stream or river. Synonymous with basin.

Watershed Management Plan - a document that presents a watershed's vision and goals, beyond the focus of quantity of stormwater to both quantity and quality; also presenting the actions and policies, and the order or timing for the actions that result from a watershed planning effort. The plan details who will do what over a definite or indefinite time frame.

Watershed Master Plan - a document that presents to a community the results of study that may or may not have truly included the entire watershed. The document typically includes a list of prioritized projects, where prioritization and project formulation often did not include a systems approach or a watershed approach and is usually limited to the confines a political boundary.

Watershed Study - a study to plan a better way to manage water resources in a watershed and includes a comprehensive watershed assessment, which has a significant amount of data; data often used in a management process developed in a watershed management plan.