

Glossary of terms as defined by the Lake Sunapee Watershed

Infrastructure Project:

Watershed - An area of land in which all of the water that drains from it goes to the same place (lake, river, etc). Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state, and national boundaries; for example, in this project, the watershed crosses boundaries of six towns around the Lake Sunapee.

Culvert – A conduit used to enclose a flowing body of water. It may be used to allow water to pass underneath a road, railroad track, footpath, or through an embankment. Culverts can be many shapes including round, elliptical, flat-bottomed, or box, and constructed of stone, concrete, plastic, or metal

Impervious Surface – Structures, primarily artificial (such as buildings, roads, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots), that are covered by impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick, and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water and prevent precipitation and melt-water from infiltrating soils. Soils compacted by urban development are also highly impervious.

Infrastructure - The fundamental facilities and systems serving a country, city, or region such as transportation and communication systems, power plants, and schools.

Stormwater Infrastructure - Infrastructure established for the purposes of stormwater management.

Surface Run-Off – Water from rain, snowmelt, or other source that flows over the land surface. Run-off is a major component of the water cycle.

Peak flow – A maximum water level reached during a precipitation event.

Adaptation - The adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected stimuli, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

Capacity - The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals.

Stakeholder - A person, group, organization, or system which affects or can be affected by an organization's actions.

Public awareness - The extent of common knowledge about disaster risks, the factors that lead to disasters, and the actions that can be taken individually and collectively to reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards.

Low Impact Development (LID) - A comprehensive stormwater management and site-design technique to encourage more infiltration, filtration, evaporation, and storage of water when development of the watershed occurs. Within the LID framework, the goal of any construction project is to design a hydrologically functional site that mimics predevelopment conditions. LID addresses stormwater through a variety of small, cost-effective landscape features located on-site, which benefit communities by dispersing, rather than concentrating, large amounts of stormwater run-off.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - Strategies or combinations of strategies considered effective and practicable for preventing the release of pollutants and hazardous substances into the ground and surface waters. Many times, these pollutants are carried in stormwater run-off.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – An agency that enriches life through science. Their main goal is to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them: weather forecasts, severe storm warnings and climate monitoring, fisheries management, coastal restoration etc. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens,

planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) - A Rating System that is administered by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and is currently the most accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings and neighborhood developments in the U.S. By design, the LEED system promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health including sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. Projects are awarded Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum certification depending on the number of credits they achieve.