



Protecting Seattle's Waterways

Appendix A

Definitions

CITY OF SEATTLE
STORMWATER MANUAL

JANUARY 2016



Note:

Some pages in this document have been purposely skipped or blank pages inserted so that this document will copy correctly when duplexed.

DPD	Director's Rule 21-2015
SPU	Director's Rule DWW-200

Applicant: Department of Planning & Development Seattle Public Utilities	Page: 3 of 16	Supersedes: DPD: 15-2009, 16-2009, 17-2009, 18-2009, 13-2010, 15-2012, 16-2012 SPU: 2009-003, 2009-004, 2009-005, 2009-006, 2010-005, DWW-201.1, DWW-201.2, DWW-202.8
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Subject: Stormwater Manual Appendix A of I	Code and Section Reference: SMC 22.800-22.808	
	Type of Rule: Code interpretation	
	Ordinance Authority: SMC 3.06.040 and SMC 3.32.020	
Index: Title 22.800 Stormwater Code	Approved: _____ /s/ (signature on file) Ray Hoffman Director, Seattle Public Utilities	Date: _____
	Approved: _____ /s/ (signature on file) Diane M. Sugimura Director, Planning & Development	Date: _____

- “Agency” means any governmental entity or its subdivision.
- “Agency, City” means “City agency” as defined in Section 25.09.520.
- “Approved” means approved by the Director.
- “Aquatic life use” means “aquatic life use” as defined in WAC 173-201A-200. For the purposes of this subtitle, at minimum the following water bodies are designated for aquatic life use: small lakes, creeks, and freshwater designated receiving waters.
- “Arterial” means “arterial” as defined in Section 11.14.035.
- “Basic treatment facility” means a drainage control facility designed to reduce concentrations of total suspended solids in drainage water.
- “Best management practice” (BMP) means a schedule of activities, prohibitions of practices, operational and maintenance procedures, structural facilities, or managerial practice or device that, when used singly or in combination, prevents, reduces, or treats contamination of drainage water, prevents or reduces soil erosion, or prevents or reduces other adverse effects of drainage water. When the Directors develop rules and/or manuals prescribing BMPs for particular purposes, whether or not those rules and/or manuals are adopted by ordinance, BMPs prescribed in the rules and/or manuals shall be the BMPs required for compliance with this subtitle.
- “Building permit” means a document issued by SDCI authorizing construction or other specified activity in accordance with the Seattle Building Code (Chapter 22.100) or the Seattle Residential Code (Chapter 22.150).
- “Capacity-constrained system” means a drainage system or public combined sewer that the Director of SPU has determined to have inadequate capacity to carry existing and anticipated loads, or a drainage system that includes ditches or culverts.
- “Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead” (CESCL) means an individual who has current certification through an approved erosion and sediment control training program that meets the minimum training standards established by Ecology.
- “Civil engineer, licensed” means a person who is licensed by the State of Washington to practice civil engineering.
- “City agency” means “City agency” as defined in Section 25.09.520.
- “Combined sewer.” See “public combined sewer.”
- “Combined sewer basin” or “public combined sewer basin” means the area tributary to a public combined sewer feature, including, but not limited to, a combined sewer overflow outfall, trunk line connection, pump station, or regulator.
- “Compaction” means the densification, settlement, or packing of earth material or fill in such a way that permeability is reduced by mechanical means.
- “Construction Stormwater Control Plan” means a document that explains and illustrates the measures to be taken on the construction site to control pollutants on a construction project.

- “Containment area” means the area designated for conducting pollution-generating activities for the purposes of implementing source controls or designing and installing source controls or treatment facilities.
- “Contaminate” means the addition of sediment, any other pollutant or waste, or any illicit or prohibited discharge.
- “Creek” means a Type 2-5 water as defined in WAC 222-16-031 and is used synonymously with “stream.”
- “Damages” means monetary compensation for harm, loss, costs, or expenses incurred by the City, including, but not limited, to the following: costs of abating or correcting violations of this subtitle; fines or penalties the City incurs as a result of a violation of this subtitle; and costs to repair or clean the public drainage system or public combined sewer as a result of a violation. For the purposes of this subtitle, damages do not include compensation to any person other than the City.
- “Designated receiving waters” means the Duwamish River, Puget Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Union, Elliott Bay, Portage Bay, Union Bay, the Lake Washington Ship Canal, and other receiving waters determined by the Director of SPU and approved by Ecology as having sufficient capacity to receive discharges of drainage water such that a site discharging to the designated receiving water is not required to implement flow control.
- “Detention” means temporary storage of drainage water for the purpose of controlling the drainage discharge rate.
- “Development” means land disturbing activity or the addition or replacement of hard surface.
- “Director” means the Director of the Department authorized to take a particular action, and the Director’s designees, who may be employees of that department or another City department.
- “Director of SDCI” means the Director of the Department of Construction and Inspection of The City of Seattle and/or the designee of the Director of Planning and Development, who may be employees of that department or another City department.
- “Director of SDOT” means the Director of Seattle Department of Transportation of The City of Seattle and/or the designee of the Director of Seattle Department of Transportation, who may be employees of that department or another City department.
- “Director of SPU” means the Director of Seattle Public Utilities of The City of Seattle and/or the designee of the Director of Seattle Public Utilities, who may be employees of that department or another City department.
- “Discharge point” means the location from which drainage water from a site is released.
- “Discharge rate” means the rate at which drainage water is released from a site. The discharge rate is expressed as volume per unit of time, such as cubic feet per second.
- “DPD” means the Department of Planning and Development.

- “Drainage basin” means the geographic and hydrologic tributary area or subunit of a watershed through which drainage water is collected, regulated, transported, and discharged to receiving waters.
- “Drainage basin plan” means a plan to manage the quality and quantity of drainage water in a watershed or a drainage basin, including watershed action plans.
- “Drainage control” means the management of drainage water. Drainage control is accomplished through one or more of the following: collecting, conveying, and discharging drainage water; controlling the discharge rate from a site; controlling the flow duration from a site; controlling the quantity from a site; and separating, treating or preventing the introduction of pollutants.
- “Drainage control facility” means any facility, including best management practices, installed or constructed for the purpose of controlling the discharge rate, flow duration, quantity, and/or quality of drainage water.
- “Drainage control plan” means a plan for collecting, controlling, transporting and disposing of drainage water falling upon, entering, flowing within, and exiting the site, including designs for drainage control facilities.
- “Drainage system” means a system intended to collect, convey and control release of only drainage water. The system may be either publicly or privately owned or operated, and the system may serve public or private property. It includes components such as pipes, ditches, culverts, and drainage control facilities. Drainage systems are not receiving waters.
- “Drainage water” means stormwater and all other discharges that are permissible pursuant to subsection 22.802.030.A.
- “Earth material” means any rock, gravel, natural soil, fill, or re-sedimented soil, or any combination thereof, but does not include any solid waste as defined by RCW 70.95.
- “Ecology” means the Washington State Department of Ecology.
- “Effective impervious surface” means those impervious surfaces that are connected via sheet flow or discrete conveyance to a drainage system.
- “Enhanced treatment facility” means a drainage control facility designed to reduce concentrations of dissolved metals in drainage water.
- “Environmentally critical area” (ECA) means an area designated in Section 25.09.020.
- “EPA” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- “Erodible or leachable materials” means wastes, chemicals, or other substances which, when exposed to rainfall, measurably alter the physical or chemical characteristics of the drainage water. Examples include: erodible soils that are stockpiled; leachable materials that are stockpiled; uncovered process wastes; manure; fertilizers; oily substances; ashes, kiln dust; and garbage dumpster leakage.
- “Erosion” means the wearing away of the ground surface as a result of mass wasting or of the movement of wind, water, ice, or other geological agents, including such

processes as gravitational creep. Erosion also means the detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity.

- “Excavation” means the mechanical removal of earth material.
- “Exception” means relief from a requirement of this subtitle to a specific project.
- “Existing grade” means “existing grade” as defined in Section 22.170.050.
- “Fill” means a deposit of earth material placed by artificial means.
- “Flow control” means controlling the discharge rate, flow duration, or both of drainage water from the site through means such as infiltration or detention.
- “Flow control facility” means a drainage control facility for controlling the discharge rate, flow duration, or both of drainage water from a site.
- “Flow duration” means the aggregate time that peak flows are at or above a particular flow rate of interest.
- “Garbage” means putrescible waste.
- “Geotechnical engineer” or “Geotechnical/civil engineer” means a person licensed by The State of Washington as a professional civil engineer who has expertise in geotechnical engineering.
- “Grading” means excavation, filling, in-place ground modification, removal of roots or stumps that includes ground disturbance, stockpiling of earth materials, or any combination thereof, including the establishment of a grade following demolition of a structure.
- “Green stormwater infrastructure” means distributed BMPs, integrated into a project design, that use infiltration, filtration, storage, or evapotranspiration, or provide stormwater reuse.
- “Groundwater” means water in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of land or below a surface water body. Refer to Ground Water Quality Standards, Chapter 173-200 WAC.
- “Hard surface” means an impervious surface, a permeable pavement, or a vegetated roof.
- “High-use sites” means sites that typically generate high concentrations of oil due to high traffic turnover or the frequent transfer of oil. High-use sites include:
 1. An area of a commercial or industrial site subject to an expected average daily traffic (ADT) count equal to or greater than 100 vehicles per 1,000 square feet of gross building area;
 2. An area of a commercial or industrial site subject to petroleum storage and transfer in excess of 1,500 gallons per year, not including routinely delivered heating oil;
 3. An area of a commercial or industrial site subject to parking, storage or maintenance of 25 or more vehicles that are over 10 tons gross weight (trucks, buses, trains, heavy equipment, etc.);

4. A road intersection with a measured ADT count of 25,000 vehicles or more on the main roadway and 15,000 vehicles or more on any intersecting roadway, excluding projects proposing primarily pedestrian or bicycle use improvements.
- “Illicit connection” means any direct or indirect infrastructure connection to the public drainage system or receiving water that is not intended, not permitted, or not used for collecting drainage water.
 - “Impervious surface” means any surface exposed to rainwater from which most water runs off. Impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, formal planters, parking lots or storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, areas with underdrains designed to remove stormwater from subgrade (e.g., playfields, athletic fields, rail yards), gravel surfaces subjected to vehicular traffic, compact gravel, packed earthen materials, and oiled macadam or other surfaces which similarly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater. Open, uncovered retention/detention facilities shall not be considered as impervious surfaces for the purposes of determining whether the thresholds for application of minimum requirements are exceeded. Open, uncovered retention/detention facilities shall be considered impervious surfaces for purposes of stormwater modeling.
 - “Industrial activities” means material handling, transportation, or storage; manufacturing; maintenance; treatment; or disposal. Areas with industrial activities include plant yards, access roads and rail lines used by carriers of raw materials, manufactured products, waste material, or by-products; material handling sites; refuse sites; sites used for the application or disposal of process waste waters; sites used for the storage and maintenance of material handling equipment; sites used for residual treatment, storage, or disposal; shipping and receiving areas; manufacturing buildings; storage areas for raw materials, and intermediate and finished products; and areas where industrial activity has taken place in the past and significant materials remain and are exposed to stormwater.
 - “Infiltration” means the downward movement of water from the surface to the subsoil. “Infiltration facility” means a drainage control facility that temporarily stores, and then percolates, drainage water into the underlying soil.
 - “Integrated Drainage Plan” means a plan developed, reviewed, and approved pursuant to subsection 22.800.080.E.
 - “Interflow” means that portion of rainfall and other precipitation that infiltrates into the soil and moves laterally through the upper soil horizons until intercepted by a stream channel or until it returns to the surface.
 - “Inspector” means a City inspector, their designee, or licensed civil engineer performing the inspection work required by this subtitle.
 - “Land disturbing activity” means any activity that results in a change in the existing soil cover, both vegetative and nonvegetative, or the existing topography. Land disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, clearing, grading, filling, excavation, or addition of new or the replacement of hard surface. Compaction, excluding hot asphalt mix, that is associated with stabilization of structures and road construction is also considered a land disturbing activity. Vegetation maintenance practices, including landscape maintenance and gardening, are not considered land

disturbing activities. Stormwater facility maintenance is not considered land disturbing activity if conducted according to established standards and procedures.

- “Large project” means a project including 5,000 square feet or more of new plus replaced hard surface; one acre or more of land disturbing activity; conversion of 3/4 acres or more of vegetation to lawn or landscaped area; or conversion of 2.5 acres or more of native vegetation to pasture.
- “Listed creeks” means Blue Ridge Creek, Broadview Creek, Discovery Park Creek, Durham Creek, Frink Creek, Golden Gardens Creek, Kiwanis Ravine/Wolfe Creek, Licton Springs Creek, Madrona Park Creek, Mee-Kwa-Mooks Creek, Mount Baker Park Creek, Puget Creek, Riverview Creek, Schmitz Creek, Taylor Creek, and Washington Park Creek.
- “Master use permit” means a document issued by SDCI giving permission for development or use of land or street right-of-way in accordance with Chapter 23.76.
- “Maximum extent feasible” means the requirement is to be fully implemented, constrained only by the physical limitations of the site, practical considerations of engineering design, and reasonable considerations of financial costs.
- “Municipal stormwater NPDES permit” means the permit issued to the City under the federal Clean Water Act for public drainage systems within the City limits.
- “Native vegetation” means “native vegetation” as defined in Section 25.09.520.
- “NPDES” means National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, the national program for controlling discharges under the federal Clean Water Act.
- “NPDES permit” means an authorization, license or equivalent control document issued by the EPA or Ecology to implement the requirements of the NPDES program.
- “Nutrient-critical receiving water” means a surface water or water segment that is determined to be impaired due to phosphorus contributed by stormwater, as prescribed in rules promulgated by the Director of SPU which shall be based on consideration of waterbodies reported by Ecology, and approved by EPA, under Category 5 (impaired) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for total phosphorus through Ecology’s Water Quality Assessment.
- “Oil control treatment facility” means a drainage control facility designed to reduce concentrations of oil in drainage water.
- “On-site BMP” means a best management practice identified in subsection 22.805.070.D.
- “Owner” means any person having title to and/or responsibility for, a building or property, including a lessee, guardian, receiver or trustee, and the owner’s duly authorized agent.
- “Parcel-based project” means any project that is not a roadway project, single-family residential project, sidewalk project, or trail project. The boundary of the public right-of-way shall form the boundary between the parcel and roadway portions of a project.

- “Person” means an individual, receiver, administrator, executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust estate, firm, partnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust, municipal corporation, the State of Washington, political subdivision or agency of the State of Washington, public authority or other public body, corporation, limited liability company, association, society or any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, nonprofit or otherwise, and the United States or any instrumentality thereof.
- “Pervious surface” means a surface that is not impervious. See also, “impervious surface.”
- “Phosphorus treatment facility” means a drainage control facility designed to reduce concentrations of phosphorus in drainage water.
- “Plan” means a graphic or schematic representation, with accompanying notes, schedules, specifications and other related documents, or a document consisting of checklists, steps, actions, schedules, or other contents that has been prepared pursuant to this subtitle, such as a site plan, drainage control plan, construction stormwater control plan, stormwater pollution prevention plan, or integrated drainage plan.
- “Pollution-generating activity” means any activity that is regulated by the joint SPU/SDCI Directors’ Rule titled “Seattle Stormwater Manual” at “Volume 4 - Source Control” or any activity with similar impacts on drainage water. These activities include, but are not limited to: cleaning and washing activities; transfer of liquid or solid material; production and application activities; dust, soil, and sediment control; commercial animal care and handling; log sorting and handling; boat building, mooring, maintenance, and repair; logging and tree removal; mining and quarrying of sand, gravel, rock, peat, clay, and other materials; cleaning and maintenance of swimming pool and spas; deicing and anti-icing operations for airports and streets; maintenance and management of roof and building drains at manufacturing and commercial buildings; maintenance and operation of railroad yards; maintenance of public and utility corridors and facilities; and maintenance of roadside ditches.
- “Pollution-generating hard surface” means those hard surfaces considered to be a significant source of pollutants in drainage water. See definition of pollution-generating impervious surface in this Section 22.801.170 for surfaces that are considered significant sources of pollutants in drainage water.
- “Pollution-generating impervious surface” means those impervious surfaces considered to be a significant source of pollutants in drainage water. Such surfaces include those that are subject to: vehicular use; certain industrial activities; or storage of erodible or leachable materials, wastes, or chemicals, and which receive direct rainfall or the run-on or blow-in of rainfall; roofs subject to venting of significant sources of pollutants; and metal roofs unless coated with an inert, non-leachable material (e.g., baked-on enamel coating). A surface, whether paved or not, shall be considered subject to vehicular use if it is regularly used by motor vehicles. The following are considered regularly-used surfaces: roads; unvegetated road shoulders; bike lanes within the traveled lane of a roadway; driveways; parking lots; unfenced fire lanes; vehicular equipment storage yards; and airport runways. The following are not considered regularly-used by motor vehicles: paved bicycle pathways separated from

and not subject to drainage from roads for motor vehicles; fenced fire lanes; and infrequently used maintenance access roads.

- “Pollution-generating pervious surface” means any non-impervious surface subject to vehicular use, industrial activities, or storage of erodible or leachable materials, wastes, or chemicals, and that receives direct rainfall or run-on or blow-in of rainfall, use of pesticides and fertilizers, or loss of soil. Typical pollution-generating pervious surfaces include lawns, landscaped areas, golf courses, parks, cemeteries, and sports fields (natural and artificial turf).
- “Pre-developed condition” means the vegetation and soil conditions that are used to determine the allowable post-development discharge peak flow rates and flow durations, such as pasture or forest.
- “Private drainage system” means a drainage system that is not a public drainage system.
- “Project” means the addition or replacement of hard surface or the undertaking of land disturbing activity on a site.
- “Project site” means that portion of a property, properties or right-of-way subject to addition or replacement of hard surface or the undertaking of land disturbing activity.
- “Public combined sewer” means a publicly owned and maintained system which carries drainage water and wastewater and flows to a publicly owned treatment works.
- “Public drainage system” means a drainage system owned or operated by the City of Seattle.
- “Public place” means and includes streets, avenues, ways, boulevards, drives, places, alleys, sidewalks, and planting (parking) strips, squares, triangles and right-of-way for public use and the space above or beneath its surface, whether or not opened or improved.
- “Public sanitary sewer” means the sanitary sewer that is owned or operated by the City of Seattle.
- “Public storm drain” means the part of a public drainage system that is wholly or partially piped, owned or operated by a City agency and designed to carry only drainage water.
- “Real property” means “real property” as defined in Chapter 3.110.
- “Receiving water” means the surface water, such as a creek, stream, river, lake, wetland or marine water, or groundwater, receiving drainage water. Drainage systems and public combined sewers are not receiving waters.
- “Repeat violation” means a prior violation of this subtitle within the preceding five years that became a final order or decision of the Director or a court. The violation does not need to be the same nor occur on one site to be considered repeat.
- “Replaced hard surface” or “replacement of hard surface” means, for structures, the removal and replacement of hard surfaces down to the foundation and, for other hard surfaces, the removal down to existing subgrade or base course and replacement.

- “Replaced impervious surface” or “replacement of impervious surface” means, for structures, the removal and replacement of impervious surfaces down to the foundation and, for other impervious surfaces, the removal down to existing subgrade or base course and replacement.
- “Responsible party” means all of the following persons:
 1. Owners, operators, and occupants of property; and
 2. Any person causing or contributing to a violation of the provisions of this subtitle.
“Right-of-way” means “right-of-way” as defined in Section 23.84A.032.
- “Roadway” means “roadway” as defined in Section 23.84A.032.
- “Roadway project” means a project located in the public right-of-way that involves the creation of a new or replacement of an existing roadway or alley. The boundary of the public right-of-way shall form the boundary between the parcel and roadway portions of a project.
- “Runoff” means the portion of rainfall or other precipitation that becomes surface flow and interflow.
- “Sanitary sewer” means a system that conveys wastewater and is not designed to convey drainage water.
- “SDCI” means the Department of Construction and Inspection.
- “SDOT” means the Seattle Department of Transportation.
- “Service drain” means “service drain” as defined in Section 21.16.030.
- “Side sewer” means “side sewer” as defined in Section 21.16.030.
- “Sidewalk” means “sidewalk” as defined in Section 23.84A.036.
- “Sidewalk project” means a project for the creation of a new sidewalk or replacement of an existing sidewalk, including any associated planting strip, apron, curb ramp, curb, or gutter, and necessary roadway grading and repair. If the total new plus replaced hard surface in the roadway exceeds 10,000 square feet, the entire project is a roadway project.
- “Single-family residential project” means a project that constructs one Single-family Dwelling Unit pursuant to Section 23.44.006.A located in land classified as being Single-family Residential 9,600 (SF 9600), Single-family Residential 7,200 (SF 7200), or Single-family Residential 5,000 (SF 5000) pursuant to Section 23.30.010, and the total new plus replaced hard surface is less than 10,000 square feet, and the total new plus replaced pollution-generating hard surface is less than 5,000 square feet.
- “Site” means the lot or parcel, or portion of street, highway or other right-of-way, or contiguous combination thereof, where development is proposed or performed. For roadway projects, the length of the project site and the right-of-way boundaries define the site.
- “Slope” means an inclined ground surface.
- “Small lakes” means Bitter Lake, Green Lake and Haller Lake.

- “Small project” means a project with:
 1. Less than 5,000 square feet of new and replaced hard surface; and
 2. Less than one acre of land disturbing activities.
- “SMC” means the Seattle Municipal Code.
- “Soil” means naturally deposited non-rock earth materials.
- “Solid waste” means “solid waste” as defined in Section 21.36.016.
- “Source controls” means structures or operations that prevent contaminants from coming in contact with drainage water through physical separation or careful management of activities that are known sources of pollution.
- “SPU” means Seattle Public Utilities.
- “Standard design” is a design pre-approved by the Director for drainage and erosion control available for use at a site with pre-defined characteristics.
- “Storm drain” means both public storm drain and service drain.
- “Stormwater” means runoff during and following precipitation and snowmelt events, including surface runoff, drainage and interflow.
- “Stream” means a Type 2-5 water as defined in WAC 222-16-031 and is used synonymously with “creek.”
- “Topsoil” means the weathered surface soil, including the organic layer, in which plants have most of their roots.
- “Trail” means a path of travel for recreation and/or transportation within a park, natural environment, or corridor.
- “Trail project” means a project for the creation of a new trail or replacement of an existing trail, and which does not contain pollution-generating hard surfaces.
- “Treatment facility” means a drainage control facility designed to remove pollutants from drainage water.
- “Wastewater” means “wastewater” as defined in Section 21.16.030.
- “Water Quality Standards” means Surface Water Quality Standards, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Ground Water Quality Standards, Chapter 173-200 WAC, and Sediment Management Standards, Chapter 173-204 WAC.
- “Watercourse” means the route, constructed or formed by humans or by natural processes, generally consisting of a channel with bed, banks or sides, in which surface waters flow. Watercourse includes small lakes, bogs, streams, creeks, and other receiving waters but does not include designated receiving waters.
- “Watershed” means a geographic region within which water drains into a particular river, stream, or other body of water.
- “Wetland” means a wetland designated under Section 25.09.020.

- “Wetland function” means the physical, biological, chemical, and geologic interactions among different components of the environment that occur within a wetland. Wetland functions can be grouped into three categories: functions that improve water quality; functions that change the water regime in a watershed, such as flood storage; and functions that provide habitat for plants and animals.
- “Wetland values” means wetland processes, characteristics, or attributes that are considered to benefit society.

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