



GLOSSARY + ACRONYMS

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GLOSSARY

accretion: continual deposition of sediments in the riverbed or on banks

anadromous: going from salt water to fresh water to spawn

armored banks: banks lined with a blanket of rock or fill material that touches the river's edge; armoring prevents water from scouring the banks at the expense of also excluding biological productivity on shorelines

bankfull: where stream water just begins to overflow into the active floodplain

base flow: rate of discharge in a stream where only the throughflow and groundwater flow from subsurface aquifers contribute to the overall flow.

bar: coarse grained deposit of sediment from a stream; often separated from the shore by water and more mobile, growing or shrinking with floods

bedforms: structures that are molded on river bed where deposition is taking place

benthic: living on or associated with the bottom of a water body

best management practice (BMP): technique, measure or structural control that is used to manage the quantity and improve the quality of storm water runoff in the most cost-effective manner. BMPs can be either engineered and constructed systems that improve the quality and/or control the quantity of runoff such as detention ponds and constructed wetlands, or institutional, education or pollution prevention practices designed to limit the generation of storm water runoff or reduce the amounts of pollutants contained in the runoff

BioBlitz: a speedy census, conducted in 24 hours, of all animal and plant life in a given area

bioretention: utilizes soils and both woody and herbaceous plants to both remove pollutants from storm water runoff and to retain the water

catadromous: going from fresh water to salt water to spawn

channelized: the artificial enlargement or realignment of a stream channel

coliform: a family of bacteria common in soils, plants and animals, one group of which is fecal coliform

combined sewer: a sewer system that carries sanitary waste and storm water runoff together; can be overloaded during storms, causing raw sewage and excess runoff to be discharged into nearby waterways through combined sewer overflows (CSOs)

curb cut: a break in a continuous curb that allows storm water runoff to flow into a catchment or vegetation area containing soil or another porous medium

desire line: an informal path that pedestrians prefer to take to get from one location to another rather than using a sidewalk or other official route; desire lines can exacerbate erosion and result in trampled vegetation

diadromous: migrating between fresh and salt water

downstream: in the direction of a stream or river's current toward the sea

embeddedness: the degree to which the larger substrate (gravel, cobbles or boulders) on a river bed is buried in fine sediment

entitation: the mapping of vegetation types as homogeneous “entities” using a set of generalized plant communities based on structure (tree, shrub, herb) and dominant species

estuary: the tidal portion of a river where the freshwater enters into a sound, bay or the sea and mixes with salty sea water

exotic species: a species not native to the region (arriving after major settlement in the US)

flat: a level landform composed of unconsolidated sediments—usually mud or sand. Flats are generally continuous with the shore

floatables: floating debris including both street litter (paper, plastics, bottles, etc.) and toilet-generated waste such as hygiene products

floodplain: the flat area adjacent to the channel constructed by the river and overflowed at a recurrence interval of about two years or less.

floodprone width: stream width at the height of twice the maximum bankfull depth

focal species: species that are used as indicators when measuring the impacts of restoration or management activities

frugivore: fruit eater

green roof: a rooftop containing a porous medium such as soil that can support vegetation and has an increased water holding capacity over traditional rooftops

greenway: bike and pedestrian walkway along/within parkland or other open green space

herbivore: plant eater

herps: a contraction for herpetofauna, specifically toads, frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes and turtles

impoundment: the portion of a river upstream of a dam that tends to be wider than the free-flowing river, and have slower moving water like a pond or lake

Indices of Biological Integrity: a method for describing water quality using characteristics of aquatic communities, such as the types of fish and invertebrates found in the water body; it is expressed as a numerical value between 0 (lowest quality) to 100 (highest quality)

insectivore: insect eater

interstitial: volume between granules of soil or sediment that provides habitat for benthic organisms

invasive species: an organism that is so reproductively successful and aggressive that it can dominate an area, often to the point of becoming a monoculture; it interferes seriously with the natural functioning and diversity of the system where it becomes established

large woody debris: large tree parts, generally at least ten centimeters in diameter and two meters long that have fallen into streams; these pieces can become lodged into a stream bed or banks creating stable structures that help grade controls, scour pools and create cover and habitat for aquatic organisms.

low-impact development: landscape planning and design aimed at maximizing green space, natural soils, and on-site storm water retention utilizing best management practices such as uniformly distributed decentralized micro-scale storm water controls

macroinvertebrate: animal without a backbone usually in a nymph or larval stage; the quantity and diversity of macroinvertebrates provide an indication of the health of a stream system

morphology: characteristics, configuration and evolution of land forms, specifically the river channel in this plan

native species: animals or plants that originated and naturally occur in the area in which they are found

neotropical migrant: bird that nests in temperate regions and migrates to the Neotropical faunal region, which includes the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and that part of South America within the tropics

periphyton: algae and associated microorganisms growing attached to any submerged surface

point bar: bar deposit that is normally located on the inside of a channel bend

reach: stretch of water visible between bends in a river; or a certain expanse of river

resident species: animals that live in a region year-round

riffle: the shallow, faster flowing section of a stream, where the water surface is broken as it flows over gravel or cobble substrate; shoals or sandbars wholly or partly submerged beneath the water surface; a stretch of choppy water caused by such a shoal or sandbar; a rapid

ripple: the shallow section of a sand-bedded stream, where the water surface is broken into waves by the presence of a shoal or sandbar; a rapid

river mile: the number of miles measured upstream along the course of a river beginning with zero at the mouth of the river

roughness: features that obstruct or create resistance to the downstream movement of water in a channel, including cobbles, boulders, bank irregularities, live and dead vegetation, and other obstructions to flow

salt marsh: a community of organisms in low-lying coastal habitats composed of plants tolerant of tidal inundation and salinity

sewershed: region of a city served by a particular sewer system or waste treatment plant

shellfish: any aquatic animal with a shell, especially mollusks or crustaceans

species richness: the number of species (usually by groups such as birds or mammals) in any given area

storm water: water that accumulates on land as a result of storms, and can include runoff from urban areas such as roads and roofs

understory: the low-growing vegetation (shrubs, seedlings, saplings, small trees) growing under the tree canopy or overstory

upstream: direction opposite a stream or river's current

watershed: region of land where water from rain or snowmelt drains downhill into a body of water, such as a river; the drainage basin includes both the streams and rivers that convey the water as well as the land surfaces from which water drains into those channels area drained by a river and its tributaries

wetland: an area that is periodically or permanently saturated with water, and in which plants and animals are uniquely adapted to wet conditions; wetlands are extremely biologically productive and perform a wide variety of important ecological functions

ACRONYMS USED

ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers (U.S.)
BMP	best management practice
BRAC	Bronx River Art Center
BxRA	Bronx River Alliance
CDC	Community Development Corporation
cfs	cubic feet per second
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow (or Outfall)
DNAPL	dense non-aqueous phase liquid
DO	dissolved oxygen
DOH	Department of Health
LWD	large woody debris
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (U.S)
MGP	Manufactured Gas Plant
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRG	Natural Resources Group (NYC Parks)
NYC DPR	New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
NYC DEP	New York City Department of Environmental Protection
NYC EDC	New York City Economic Development Corporation
NYCHA	New York City Housing Authority
NYS DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYS DOS	New York State Department of State
NYS DOT	New York State Department of Transportation
NYBG	New York Botanical Garden
OAG	Office of the Attorney General (New York State)
RTB	Rocking the Boat
SSB	Sustainable South Bronx
SVOC	semi-volatile organic compound
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District (NYC)
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USGS	United State Geological Survey
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
VOC	volatile organic compound
YMPJ	Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice