



## STORMWATER GLOSSARY

**Best management practices (BMPs)** – Control measures taken to mitigate changes to both quantity and quality of stormwater runoff caused through changes to land use. Example structural BMPs include detention ponds, forebays and rain gardens. Example source control BMPs include cleaning up pet waste and trash and minimizing the use of pollutants such as fertilizer and salt.

**Combined sewer system** - means a system of combined sewers that:

1. is designed, constructed, and used to receive and transport combined sewage (both sanitary sewerage from sinks and toilets and stormwater) to a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant; and
2. may contain one or more overflow points that discharge untreated combined sewage to streams and rivers when the hydraulic capacity of the system or part of the system is exceeded as a result of a storm event.

**Construction BMP** – products used on construction sites to control stormwater discharge or pollutants commonly found in stormwater. Construction BMPs are intended to control erosion, sediment, and stormwater flow. Examples include but are not limited to:

1. Silt fencing
2. Inlet protection
3. Dewatering bags
4. Mulch
5. Grass or other vegetation

**Conveyance** – channel, pipe or waterway designed to carry stormwater runoff.

**Dechlorinated/debrominated swimming pool discharges** - pool discharge that contains chlorine or bromine concentrations below five one-hundredths (0.05) milligram per liter.

**Detention Basin** – a flood control measure and an area where excess stormwater is stored or held temporarily and slowly drained through a low-level orifice. The water in a detention basin is temporarily detained and slowly released as additional room becomes available in the receiving channel.

**Forebay** – smaller bodies of water preceding a larger body of water that are designed to treat stormwater runoff by allowing flowing water to pool so that pollutants such as sediment settle out.

**Hybrid Ditch** – a ditch system plus a perforated underground pipe. These work together to both collect stormwater and allow it to soak into the ground and subsurface drain. Hybrid ditches help reduce the amount of water that flows downstream during peak rain events, avoiding adverse impacts to downstream property owners and preventing capacity issues in public storm sewers and streams. They also filter pollutants out of stormwater runoff, helping the City meet its Clean Water Act requirements.

**Hydrodynamic Separators** – underground structural treatment devices that use cyclonic separation (spinning water) to remove pollutants such as sediment from stormwater.

**Illicit connection** - means a physical connection to an MS4 conveyance that conveys illicit discharges into the MS4 conveyance.

**Illicit discharge** - means any discharge or seepage to an MS4 conveyance that is not composed entirely of stormwater except discharges authorized by the City's MS4 NPDES permit. Illicit discharges include non-stormwater discharges through illicit connections, and dumping of motor vehicle fluids, household hazardous wastes, grass clippings, leaf litter, animal wastes, or any other waste directly into an MS4 conveyance.

**A municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)** - a conveyance or system of conveyances (sewers, roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, storm drains) that is:

- 1.Owned or operated by a state, city, town, county, district, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes that discharges to waters of the United States;
- 2.Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water;

**Outfall** - the area where storm water is collected, concentrated, and/or conveyed and then discharges into a stream or river. Point source outfalls include, but are not limited to, any points from which pollutants are or may be discharged such as pipes and ditches.

**Permeable Pavers** – permeable paver systems include a layer of concrete or fired clay brick (pavers) that are separated by joints and surrounded by curbing. Below the pavers are layers of aggregate (stone) and possibly a pipe (underdrain) that connects to the stormwater drainage system. This system allows the movement of water and air around the pavers. Water enters the joints between the pavers and flows through the aggregate beneath. Permeable pavers are often installed to prevent street flooding in or along streets and curbs that may lack adequate capacity or slope during rain events. Permeable pavers are swept by City street sweepers, deep cleaned, and inspected for clogging. [More info here.](#)

**Post-Construction BMP** – Permanent practices that reduce stormwater volume and/or the discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff. Examples include but are not limited to:

- 1.Green infrastructure such as constructed wetlands
- 2.Detention and retention basins
- 3.Forebays
- 4.Hydrodynamic separators

**Rain Garden** – a rain garden (also called a bioretention facility) is a depressed area in the landscape that collects rain water from a roof, driveway, or street and allows it to soak into the ground. Planted with grasses and flowering perennials, rain gardens can be a cost effective and beautiful way to reduce runoff from your property. Rain gardens are a type of stormwater bioretention system. Bioretention areas typically consist of a flow regulating structure, a pretreatment element, and engineered soil mix planting bed, vegetation, and an outflow regulating structure. Bioretention systems provide both water quality and quantity stormwater management opportunities. More info [here \(EPA\)](#) and [here](#).

**Retention Basin** – a flood control measure and stores stormwater until stormwater infiltrates and/or is released into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. If the stormwater reaches a high level, it is released through an emergency spillway.

**Sanitary Sewer** – a system of underground pipes that carries sewage from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, and other plumbing components to a wastewater treatment plant where it is filtered, treated and discharged. Storm, surface, and ground waters are not intentionally allowed to enter sanitary sewers.

**Stormwater** – Rainfall, snow, snow-melt, ice-melt and the associated run-off.

**Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)** – a document used to identify potential and actual storm water pollutant sources, and to determine best management practices and measures that will minimize the pollutants transported in storm water run-off. The SWPPP is retained at an industrial facility or construction site, and should be updated as conditions change.

**Watershed** - an area of land that drains all the rainfall to a common point

**Watershed management area** - means a geographical land area that corresponds to an eleven-digit Hydrologic Unit Code watershed. Marion County currently has seven (7) identified watershed management areas: Eagle Creek, Upper White River, Fall Creek, Grassy/Buck Creek, Lower White River, and the East Fork of White Lick/Goose Creek.

**Watershed team** - means a group of individuals with an interest in a watershed management area that meet to coordinate, among other things, stormwater quality projects and issues on a watershed basis.