

PROJECT WATERSHED VOCABULARY WORDS

- > **advocate** – one who supports or defends a cause.
- > **algae** – any one of various aquatic plants without true stems, roots, and leaves - but containing chlorophyll.
- > **aquatic** - living in or on the water.
- > **aquifer** – a layer of underground sand, gravel and rock in which water collects. (We get our drinking water from wells that tap into this zone.)
- > **biology** – the science of living organisms and life processes.
- > **buffer zone** or **riparian zone** - area of vegetation (trees, shrubs and grasses - along the stream corridor) - ideally at least 30 feet wide - that acts as a sponge soaking up pollutants and eroded soil from runoff, slowing and lessening the fluctuation of stream water volumes of flow in the process.
- > **community service** – volunteering to perform tasks that result in a benefit to the community.
- > **composition** (related to **stream bed** and **stream corridor**) -
 - **streambed** – the make-up of the bed of the stream which could include: bedrock, boulders, rocks, pebbles, gravel, sand, silt, mud – exclusively or in any combination.
 - **stream corridor** – the make-up of the bank and riparian zone (buffer zone) of a stream, including – in any combination – boulders, rocks, shrubs, grasses, trees, logs, crops, and any number of manmade structures.
- > **chemistry** – the scientific study of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of matter.
- > **citizen action** - people of the community stepping up to do something about a problem, problems, or needs they identify in their community.
- > **collaboration** – working with others for the collective good.
- > **degradation (water quality)** – a measurable downturn in the quality of water – gradual or abrupt – in a stream or water body.
- > **diversity** (of organisms in the stream) – a variety of organisms found – the more, the better. For our purposes, organisms found are separated into categories related to their tolerance (or lack there-of) of pollution in the water.

- > **ecosystem**- an ecological community together with its physical environment, usually considered as a unit.
- > **fecal coliform** – types of bacteria that are often found in the intestinal tract and feces of warm-blooded animals.
- > **ground water** - water under the surface of the earth that feeds springs and wells.
- > **invasive species** – a species that does not naturally occur in a specific area and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
- > **kick seine** – a fine-meshed net, suspended between two poles that is used to catch organisms that are purposely dislodged from upstream rocks and the bottom.
- > **macroinvertebrate**- A spineless animal visible to the naked eye or larger than 0.5 millimeters.
- > **meniscus** – the curved surface of a liquid standing in a container.
- > **metamorphosis** – the stages of change an organism goes through from egg to adult.
- > **natural resources** – primarily thought of as anything found in nature that is an asset - or benefit - to mankind.
- > **organic matter** –Naturally occurring organic matter is made up primarily from plant and microbial residues. Human inputs are many, and include sewage, industrial effluents, agricultural chemicals, and medicines.
- > **pH** – measures the hydrogen concentration in water. As quantified on a scale, a reading of 7 is neutral. Below 7 is considered acidic. Above 7 is considered basic. It is a logarithmic scale where, for example, a reading of 6 is 10 times more acidic than a reading of 7.
- > **photosynthesis** – the chemical process by which plants that contain chlorophyll use light from the sun to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates, releasing oxygen as a byproduct.

- > **pollution (point source and non-point source)**
 - * **point source:** pollution entering a stream or body of water directly from a pipe or other conduit
(Ex.- Factory waste or sewage being dumped from a pipe directly into a river.)
 - * **non-point source:** harmful materials dumped or drained on the land, away from a body of water, eventually makes its way into our waterways via ground or surface water.

- > **protocol** – a set of instructions to be followed.

- > **riffle**- A shallow section of a stream where water bubbles over rocks, often found at the bend in a river.

- > **runoff**- Excess water from rain or snow melt that runs off the land into streams or other surface water. Runoff can carry pollutants from the air and land into surface waters.

- > **saturation** (as it relates to oxygen levels in water) – the amount of oxygen dispersed and available in the water at a particular time. (Organisms living in the water, to varying degrees, depend on oxygen to live.) Cold water can hold more oxygen than warm water.

- > **silt** – a deposit of fine particles of minerals (mud-like) on the bottom of a stream.

- > **stewardship** – taking responsibility for the well-being of something.

- > **storm water**- water from rainfall events.

- > **stream flow** or **discharge** - a measurement of the amount of water that passes a given point in the stream every second.

- > **substrate** – the material found at the bottom of a waterway.

- > **tributary**- a stream or river that flows into another larger stream or river.

- > **turbidity** – muddiness created by stirring up sediment or having foreign particles suspended.

- > **velocity** (as it relates to stream flow) – the speed of the water's downstream movement, which varies depending on the slope of the land and corresponding streambed.

> **water monitoring** – periodic scientific tests conducted on a body of water or waterway, to determine its water quality.

> **water quality** – a scientific determination made as to the overall health of a stream.

> **water quality index** – a summary of specific findings from a variety of water quality parameters that can be used to determine if a stream is generally healthy. The index can also be used to compare results from one stream to another or to compare changes in water quality of a particular stream over time.

> **watershed** – an area of land that drains water (rain, snowmelt, springs, etc.) to a particular watercourse or body of water.