

Appendix D

Glossary

Bureau abbreviations

- BES - Bureau of Environmental Services
- BES - Bureau of Environmental Services
- BPS - Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- PBOT - Portland Bureau of Transportation
- PBEM - Portland Bureau of Emergency Management
- PPB - Portland Police Bureau
- PP&R - Portland Parks & Recreation
- PWB - Portland Water Bureau

Local, State and Federal Agency abbreviations

- DEQ - Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- MCDD - Multnomah County Drainage District
- Metro - Elected regional government for the Portland metropolitan area
- ODOT - Oregon Department of Transportation
- ORPD - Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- RWPC - Regional Water Providers Consortium
- USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture

Portlanders: People who live, work, do business, own property, or visit Portland, including people of any race, ethnicity, sex, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, belief system, political ideology, ability, socioeconomic status, educational status, veteran status, place of origin, language spoken, age or geography.

Active transportation: Transportation that involves physical activity, including walking, biking, and using transit (because usually one must walk or roll to the bus or train).

Adaptive management: A dynamic planning and implementation process that applies scientific principles, methods, and tools to improve management activities incrementally as better information and as analytical tools become available. Involves frequent modification of planning and management strategies, goals, objectives and benchmarks. Requires frequent monitoring and analysis of the results of past actions and application of those results to current decisions.

Asset management: The continuous cycle of asset inventory, condition, and performance assessment that has as its goal the cost-effective provision of a desired level of service for physical assets. Investment decisions consider planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, rehabilitation, and replacing assets on a sustainable basis that considers social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Best practice: An activity that has proven its effectiveness in multiple situations and may have applicability in other situations.

Center: Places with concentrations of commercial and community services, housing, gathering places, and transit connections. Centers provide services to surrounding neighborhoods and are intended to be places that are a focus of growth, where increasing numbers of people will live, work, and visit. Different types of centers have varying functions, levels of activity, and scale and intensity of development:

Central City: Corresponds to the Central City plan district, which serves as the region's premier center, anchoring an interconnected system of centers.

Centers and corridors: When used together, "centers and corridors" refers generally to places where development is concentrated, including the Central City, Gateway Regional Center, Town Centers, Neighborhood Centers, Transit Station Areas, Civic Corridors, and Neighborhood Corridors.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): A federal law, commonly known as Superfund, that was enacted in 1980 and established requirements for hazardous waste sites; authorized actions to address releases or threatened releases of hazardous waste; provided for liability for responsible parties; and established a trust fund to provide for cleanup of hazardous waste when no responsible party can be identified.

Civic Corridors: These are a prioritized subset of the city's most prominent transit and transportation streets. They connect centers, provide regional connections, and include segments where commercial development and housing are focused. Civic Corridors are intended to become places that continue their important transportation functions while providing livable environments for people and evolving into distinctive places that are models of ecological design.

Clean Water Act (CWA): A law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1972 that makes the discharge of pollution into surface or ground waters without a permit illegal, and that encourages the use of the best achievable pollution control technology to reduce the impact of discharged effluent.

Combined sewer overflow (CSO): In areas with combined sewers that convey both sewage and stormwater in a single pipe, stormwater runoff during rainstorms can exceed the capacity of pipes, causing overflow of sewage and stormwater into a waterbody.

Corridor: When an area is designated as a corridor (such as a Civic or Neighborhood Corridor), it may be a single major street or a broader mobility corridor for a range of transportation modes (transit, pedestrians, cyclists, freight, motor vehicles, and so forth), although not necessarily on the same street.

Critical infrastructure: Assets and systems that are essential for the functioning of society and the economy, including energy generation, transmission and distribution; telecommunications; water supply and wastewater; transportation systems; public health; and security and emergency response services.

Ecological function: The physical, chemical, and biological functions of a watershed such as flow conveyance and storage, channel dynamics, nutrient cycling, microclimate, filtration, control of pollution and sedimentation, water quality, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and biodiversity.

Ecosystem services: The contribution of ecosystem conditions and processes to human well-being. Examples include pollination of trees and plants, climate regulation, clean air and water, flood mitigation, stormwater management, recreational opportunities, and satisfaction of aesthetic and spiritual needs.

Endangered Species Act (ESA): A law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1973 that established programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains the list of threatened and endangered species.

Green infrastructure: Public or private assets—either natural resources or engineered green facilities—that protect, support, or mimic natural systems to provide stormwater management, water quality, public health and safety, open space, and other complementary ecosystem services. Examples include trees, natural areas, ecoroofs, green street facilities, wetlands, and natural waterways.

Greenways: A system of accessible pedestrian- and bike-friendly green streets and trails that link neighborhood centers, parks, schools, natural areas, and other key community destinations. The Greenways system is a prioritized subset of pedestrian and bicycle connections that use multi-objective, distinctive design approaches that draw on and contribute to Portland's pedestrian, bicycle, green street, and parks and open space systems.

Habitat Corridors: Stream and/or vegetation connections that provide habitat values and allow wildlife to move between habitats.

Habitat-friendly development: Strategies to provide habitat for and prevent harm to native resident and migratory wildlife. Examples include habitat-oriented and wildlife-friendly ecoroofs, bridges, buildings and sites, including features such as nest platforms and bat boxes. Strategies also involve development designs and practices that limit the amount of light, noise, vibration, and other disturbance that affect wildlife and wildlife habitat, especially during vulnerable wildlife life cycles (such as mating/nesting season and migration), improve wildlife access and passage, limit fencing, roads, culverts and other barriers between important habitats (between desirable feeding and watering sites, for example), and limit impacts related to construction in rivers.

Healthy watershed: A healthy urban watershed has the hydrologic, habitat, and water quality conditions suitable to protect human health and maintain viable ecological functions and processes, including self-sustaining populations of native fish and wildlife species whose natural ranges include the Portland area.

High-Capacity Transit Corridors: The system of light rail and other high-capacity transit stations. Some of these stations are located along streets that serve as Civic Corridors (such as Interstate Avenue), but

others are located along freeways or other locations where the primary focus of activity and development is in Transit Station Areas.

High-risk infrastructure: Infrastructure assets that have a high risk of failure, based on the likelihood and consequence of that failure.

Hydrologic cycles: The movement of water on, in, and above the earth, through processes of evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration, runoff, and subsurface flow.

Infrastructure: Generally long-lived capital assets that serve whole communities, are normally stationary, and can be preserved for a significant number of years. Two of the most basic types of infrastructure are transportation and utilities. Examples include streets, bridges, tunnels, drainage systems, water and sewer lines, pump stations and treatment plants, dams, and lighting systems. Beyond transportation and utility networks, Portland includes buildings, green infrastructure, parks and recreation, communications, and information technology as necessary infrastructure investments that serve the community.

Level of service standard: A defined standard against which the quality and quantity of service can be measured. A level of service can take into account reliability, responsiveness, environmental acceptability, customer values, and cost.

Low-impact development: Strategies to reduce the environmental impact of development on natural systems, including hydrology and vegetation. These strategies include using paving and roofing materials to reduce effective impervious area, clustered or small lot development that reduces disturbance area, the use of vegetated stormwater management to mimic pre-development site hydrology, alternative road layout and narrower streets, natural area protection, and landscaping with native plants.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4): A publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances that discharges to waters of the U.S. and is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, but is not a combined sewer or part of a publicly-owned treatment system. The MS4 stormwater system is regulated under the Clean Water Act.

National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA): A federal law that promotes protection and enhancement of the environment and established procedural requirements for environmental assessments (EAs) and impact statements (EISs) for proposed federal agency actions.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): Wastewater and Surface water quality program authorized by Congress as part of the 1987 Clean Water Act, and administered by the state Department of Environmental Quality. NPDES provides guidance to municipalities and state and federal permitting authorities on how to meet wastewater and stormwater pollution control goals as flexibly and cost-effectively as possible.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs): A calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. The Clean Water Act establishes and regulates TMDLs.

Underground Injection Controls (UIC): An injection system that distributes or injects fluids such as stormwater runoff or wastewater below the surface of the ground.