

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Afforestation — the creation, on a tract that is not presently in forest cover, of a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants, at a density of at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 percent of the trees having the capability of growing to a diameter, at 4.5 feet above the ground (diameter at breast height), of 2 inches or more within 7 years.

Conservation Easement — a restriction on the land and the natural features on this land. This easement is shown on the record plat and its terms and conditions are recorded in the County's land records. Most commonly, the agreement prohibits removal of healthy mature trees and shrubs, and changes to the scenic character of the land without written permission from M-NCPPC's Department of Park and Planning.

Diameter at breast height (DBH) — the diameter of a tree as measured at a height 4.5 feet from the ground.

Drainage Course — a natural or man-made drainage network having a defined channel that appears on either M-NCPPC 200 foot scale topographical coverage, a developer's field topographic, or is located in the field.

Ephemeral Stream — a channel at the terminus of an intermittent stream that has flow only in direct response to precipitation.

Erodibility coefficient (k factor) — value assigned to soil types by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service that identifies the susceptibility to erosion based on topography and various soil characteristics.

Floodplain — a relatively flat or low land area adjoining a river, stream, pond, stormwater management structure, or watercourse subject to periodic, partial or complete inundation; or an area subject to unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface water as a result of an upstream dam failure.

100-Year Flood — a flood that has a one-percent statistical probability of being equalled or exceeded in a given year (or that would occur on the average of once in every one hundred years). Unless otherwise stated, this calculation is based on the contributing watershed being completely under existing zoning.

100-Year Floodplain — the area along a river, stream, pond, SWM structure, or watercourse that would be inundated by a 100-year flood, based on ultimate development of the watershed under existing zoning.

Forest — a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants covering a land area of 10,000 square feet or greater. Forest includes:

- 1) Areas that have at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 percent of those trees having a 2 inch or greater diameter at breast height.
- 2) Forest areas that have been cut but not cleared. Forest does not include orchards.

Forest Stand Delineation — a detailed summary of existing forest and trees on a site, prepared by identifying forest stands based on methodology detailed in *Trees: Approved Technical Manual*. The information gathered in the forest stand delineation is overlaid with the natural resources inventory and becomes the basis for determining priority areas for forest and tree retention.

Forest Conservation — the retention of existing forest or the creation of new forest at the levels prescribed by the Planning Board or the Planning Director.

Forest Conservation Plan (FCP) — outlines the strategies and specific plans proposed for retaining, protecting, and reforesting and/or afforesting areas on a site.

Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) — the evaluation of existing vegetation in relation to the natural resources on a site proposed for development or land disturbing activities. A forest survey is conducted to identify and characterize forest stands according to their condition, structure type and retention potential.

Hydraulically Adjacent Slopes — slopes lying within 200 feet (from bank) of a stream/drainage course, that drain directly to the stream/drainage course or its associated floodplain. When the stream buffer encompasses the toe of a steep slope within the 200 foot section, adjacency will apply to the entire slope even if the 200 foot cutoff is in the middle of the slope.

Hydraulically Remote Slopes — slopes lying beyond the area designated as the stream valley buffer of a stream/drainage course, or slopes lying beyond 200 feet (from bank) of a stream/drainage course if the stream buffer is less than 200 feet, that may or may not drain directly to the stream/drainage course or its associated floodplain.

Intermittent Stream — surface waters, contained within a defined channel or bed, that flow at least once per year. An intermittent stream, for purposes of these guidelines, includes one or more of the following characteristics: (1) Defined or distinct channel; (2) hydric soils or wetlands within or adjacent to channel; (3) hydraulically sorted sediments; (4) removal of vegetative litter; or (5) loosely rooted vegetation by the action of moving water.

Local Genetic Origin — refers to plants whose seed source is from an area within a 150-mile range of Montgomery County.

Native — refers to a plant or animal species whose geographic range during pre-colonial times included the Piedmont of Maryland. Information on native plants can be found in *Woody Plants of Maryland* (Brown and Brown, 1972) and *Herbaceous Plants of Maryland* (Brown and Brown, 1984), as well as other literature sources.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) — a complete analysis of existing natural features, forest, and tree cover on site. The natural resources inventory must cover the development site and first 100 feet of adjoining land around the perimeter or the width of adjoining lots, whichever is less. Natural features include topography; steep slopes; perennial and intermittent streams and major drainage courses; 100-year floodplain; wetlands; soils and geologic conditions; critical habitats; aerial extent of forest and tree cover; cultural features and historic sites; necessary buffers.

Percent Slope — [(Vertical Rise in feet) / (Horizontal Run in feet in the steepest 100 foot segment)] X 100%. Vertical rise in feet divided by horizontal run in feet in the steepest 100 foot segment, multiplied by 100 percent.

Perennial Stream — a stream that has base flow all year.

Preliminary subdivision plan — a plan subject to the review and approval procedures of Chapter 50, "Subdivision" of the Montgomery County Code.

Primary Management Area (PMA) — an area within the Patuxent watershed critical to the Chesapeake Bay that may be included in plans and zoning ordinances. Preferred land uses in the PMA will be agriculture, forest, and recreation. State and local governments will ensure that land use practices within the PMA shall be of such a nature so as to have no (or minimal) adverse impact on water quality of the Patuxent River.

Reforestation — the creation of a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants containing at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 percent of those trees having the potential of attaining a 2 inch or greater diameter at breast height within 7 years.

Riparian Buffer — another term for a stream buffer (defined below). Riparian means "stream-side", so the riparian buffer is the area adjacent to a stream.

River Outwash Savanna — a plant community formed on extensive deposits of the Potomac and dominated by grasses, with hardwoods (often oaks) interspersed. River outwash savannas often provide habitat for many of Maryland's uncommon and State listed (by DNR) plant species.

Serpentine Barren — a plant community underlain by serpentine soils (rich in chromium and magnesium and poor in essential plant nutrients) and dominated by grasses, often with pines interspersed. Serpentine barrens often provide habitat for many of Maryland's uncommon and State listed (by DNR) plant species.

Shale Barren — a plant community occurring on Triassic red shale outcrops and often containing uncommon and State listed (by DNR) plant species.

Shrub — a woody plant, usually with multiple stems, each of which has a dbh (diameter at breast height) of less than three inches. Shrubs are generally less than 20 feet tall at maturity.

Site plan — a plan subject to the review and approval procedures of Chapter 59, "Zoning," Division 59-D-3, "Site Plan" of the Montgomery County Code.

Specimen tree — a tree that is a particularly impressive or unusual example of a species due to its size, shape, age, or any other trait that epitomizes the character of the species.

Step slope — a slope in which the percent slope equals or exceeds 25 percent.

Stream buffer — an undisturbed strip of natural vegetation contiguous with and parallel to the bank of a perennial or intermittent stream that may be designed to:

- Protect hydraulically adjacent slope areas.
- Maintain or improve the water temperature regimen/water quality of the stream(s).
- Protect natural wetlands.
- Provide groundwater storage/recharge for a stream.
- Complement regulations pertaining to the 100-year ultimate floodplain.
- Provide wildlife habitat, open space, or both.
- Complement on-site erosion/sediment control measures by serving as a back-up natural filter/trap.

Tree — a large, woody plant having one or several self-supporting stems or trunks and numerous branches that reach a height of at least 20 feet at maturity.

Water Uses — a distinct designated water use applied to each surface water of the state by the Maryland Department of the Environment. . The designated water uses and their specific standards are described in detail in Appendix A.

Wetland — an area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, commonly known as hydrophytic vegetation.