

Glossary

5-Day BOD - measurement of oxygen at the beginning and at the end of a 5-day period. Difference in the level of oxygen indicates the consumption of oxygen by microorganisms.

Acid Rain - Acid precipitation in the form of rain.

Boulders - Rocks greater than 10 inches in diameter.

Citizen Monitoring Biotic Index - A water quality index using the pollution tolerances of macroinvertebrates.

Cobbles - Rocks 2 - 10 inches in diameter.

Embeddedness - The extent to which rocks are buried by silt, sand, or mud on the stream bottom.

Gravel - Stones that are 0.1 - 2 inches in diameter.

Impervious Surface - A surface that does not allow water (e.g. rain) to pass through (infiltrate).

Indicator Species - Indicator species are unique environmental indicators as they offer a signal of the biological condition in a watershed or ecosystem, and are a warning system that contamination has entered a system.

Nitrate - Nitrate (NO_3) is a water -soluble molecule made up of nitrogen and oxygen. It is formed when nitrogen from ammonia or other sources combines with oxygenated water.

Orthophosphate - Chemistry based term that refers to the phosphate molecule all by itself. Orthophosphate is the form of phosphate which is utilized by plants and algae for growth.

pH - A measure of acidity and alkalinity of a solution that is a number on a scale on which a value of 7 represents neutrality and lower numbers indicate increasing acidity and higher numbers increasing alkalinity and on which each unit of change represents a tenfold change.

Riffle - Shallow area in a stream where water flows swiftly over rocks.