Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptive management strategies	An iterative process of evaluating progress toward stated goals and revising and refining implementation actions to ensure that progress is being made toward the goal.
Aeration	The addition of air to a water body in order to increase the oxygen content of the water to benefit the health of the living organisms within the lake.
Arlington Pascal Project	Major Capital Improvement Project undertaken by the District in conjunction with the City of St. Paul. Project includes Como Golf Course Pond, Arlington Underground Storage, infiltration trenches and raingardens.
Bacteria	Microorganisms that can live in a variety of conditions, some types can cause illness in humans. The quantity of *E. coli*, a specific type of bacteria, is used as a metric to evaluate potential fecal contamination in surface water resources.
Best Management Practices (BMPs)	Methods used to control the speed and total amount of stormwater that flows off a site after a rainstorm and used to improve the quality of the runoff water. Can also refer to practices for control of sediment and erosion.
Chloride	A chemical used as a water quality metric. Chloride is a component of many common road salts used for de-icing in the winter.
Chlorophyll-a	A component of algae and other plants used to conduct photosynthesis. Chlorophyll-a is used as a water quality metric to evaluate the amount of algae present in a water body.
Climate change	A long-term change in climate measures such as temperature and rainfall. Changes in climate have a large impact on water quality as well as lake and wetland water levels and stream and river flows.
Ecological integrity	The quality of the plant community compared to a representative plant community for the local area. Higher quality communities have a higher ecological integrity.
Ecosystem	The group of all living organisms in a certain area that are expected to interact within the same habitat.
Floodplain	The land adjacent to a water body that is expected to be inundated with water after a large rainfall event.
Green infrastructure	The design of infrastructure systems such as roadways and building sites to maintain key existing vegetated areas and to incorporate vegetated approaches for stormwater management.
Groundwater	Water located below ground in the spaces present in soil and bedrock.
Groundwater recharge	Water moving through the soil surface and deeper underground to become groundwater.
Hydrology	The movement of water. Often used in reference to water movement as runoff over the soil after a rainfall event as it contributes to surface water bodies.

Term	Definition
Illicit discharges	Any contribution to the storm sewer system that isn't stormwater (i.e. illegal connections to the storm sewer, dumping of materials in the storm sewer).
Impervious surfaces	Surfaces that severely restrict the movement of water through the surface of the earth and into the soil below. Impervious surface typically refers to manmade surfaces such as non-porous asphalt or concrete roadways, buildings, and heavily compacted soils.
Infiltration	The movement of water into the soil.
Internal phosphorus loading	The total amount of the nutrient phosphorus that is contributed to the water column of a lake, stream, river, or wetland from sources within the water body. The sediment at the bottom of a water body is a common internal phosphorus source.
Macroinvertebrates	Aquatic insects used as a metric of water quality. Different macroinvertebrates will live in water with poor water quality than live in water with high water quality, thus the different types of macroinvertebrates present are an indication of the quality of the water.
Mercury	A metal that recycles between land, air and water. The primary source of mercury in water bodies in air pollution. Mercury accumulates in fish and often results in fish consumption advisories for lakes and rivers. Mercury can have toxic effects on the nervous system of animals, including humans, that eat large quantities of fish.
Metals	Metals dissolved in water. Typical metals included in monitoring programs are cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc
Nonpoint source pollution	Pollution, such as nutrients and sediment, that are not from one distinct origin. For example, soil can run off of land throughout the watershed, it does not come from just one point.
Nutrients	A group of chemicals that are needed for the growth of an organism. Within surface water systems, nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen can lead to the excessive growth of algae.
Organic contaminants	Contaminants including synthetic pesticides and herbicides and volatile organic compounds such as the compounds found in solvents and plastics.
Outwash plain	A region of relatively flat to undulating topography covered by sediment deposited by the glacier meltwater. Outwash is usually composed of sand, sand and gravel, or fine sand and silt.
Perched water table	An area that is underlain by a fine grained geologic unit or aquitard that restricts the downward movement of surface water. Perched lakes and wetlands are less connected to groundwater systems.
Perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS)	A synthetic compound used in some fire-fighting foams and other products. It is highly persistent in the environment and is suspected to be detrimental to human health.
Pesticides	A substance intended to prevent, repel, or destroy a pest (insects, mice, bacteria, etc.).
Polychlorinated biphyenyls (PCBs)	A compound historically used in coolants, transformers, and other uses. They are highly persistent in the environment and are suspected to be detrimental to human health.

Term	Definition
Quaternary	Quaternary period is geologic time beginning about 1.5 million years ago to present. Term is often used with respect to geologic deposits: unconsolidated soils deposited during the Quaternary geologic period.
Ramsey County Groundwater Commission	Group formed for groundwater planning and management in Ramsey County. District is a member.
Ramsey County Groundwater Protection Plan	The Ramsey County Groundwater Protection Plan is a policy and strategy document that guides implementation of protection programs and activities to protect groundwater.
Rotenone	A pesticide used to facilitate lake restoration by killing unwatnted fish populations.
Speleologist	A person who studies caves.
Storm drain stenciling	The practice of marking the location of inlets to the storm sewer system with a notice to remind people that the storm sewer system drains to a local river, stream, lake, or wetland.
Stormwater BMPs	Methods used to control the speed and total amount of stormwater that flows off a site after a rainstorm and used to improve the quality of the runoff water.
Stormwater infrastructure	Methods used to control the speed and total amount of stormwater that flows off a site after a rainstorm and used to improve the quality of the runoff water.
Stormwater management facilities	Methods used to control the speed and total amount of stormwater that flows off a site after a rainstorm and used to improve the quality of the runoff water.
Stormwater/Stormwater runoff	The water that flows off a site after a rainstorm.
Subwatershed	A smaller geographic section of a larger watershed unit with a drainage area of typically between 2 and 15 square miles and whose boundaries include all the land area draining to a specified point.
Surficial groundwater	Groundwater present above bedrock units.
Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)	The total amount of a pollutant or nutrient that a water body can receive and still meet state water quality standards. TMDL also refers to the process of allocating pollutant loadings among point and nonpoint sources.
Total phosphorus	The total amount of the nutrient phosphorus that is present in a water sample. Increased phosphorus is a key factor leading to decreased water quality.
Trophic State Index	A measurement combining readings for total phosphorus, water clarity (secchi depth), and chlorophyll-a into one value used as an indicator of water quality.
Trout Brook storm sewer interceptor	Major storm sewer pipe carrying flows through the eastern portion of the District. The District took over ownership from the Met Council which previously owned the pipe when it carried combined storm and sanitary flows.

Term	Definition
Turbidity	A measure of particles in the water, such as sediment and algae. Related to the depth sunlight can penetrate into the water. Higher turbidities reduce the penetration of sunlight in the water and can affect species of aquatic life that survive in the waterbody.