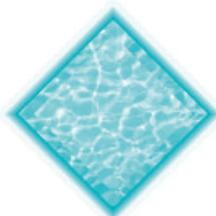


Glossary



Alluvial river — a type of river with a large, well-defined drainage basin that carries a high sediment load and has a large forested floodplain

Aquaculture — the cultivation of fish or shellfish

Aquifer — a layer of underground rock or sand that stores water

Aquifer storage and recovery — the process by which fresh surface water or ground water is injected deep into an aquifer and fresh water pumped to the surface at some later time from the same well

Atom — the smallest part of an element that exists in nature

Best management practices — methods designed to minimize harm to the environment

Blackwater river — a type of river that drains pine flatwoods and cypress swamps and that has dark, stained waters from decomposing plant material

Brackish — fresh water that is mixed with salt water

Capillarity — process by which water rises in tubes (capillaries) because of the attraction of water molecules to each other and to the molecules on the sides of the tubes

Condensation — moisture produced when warm water vapor mixes with cooler air in the atmosphere to form clouds or fog

Conductivity — measure of the ability of a substance to conduct an electric charge; indicates presence of minerals or salts

Coral reefs — structure formed over thousands of years by the limestone remains of millions of tiny animals (coral)

Degradation (habitat) — the result of human disturbances and land-use changes commonly associated with urban and agricultural development, as well as with exotic plant invasion, to the extent that habitat size and/or quality becomes negatively impacted

Desalination — any of numerous processes that remove salt from seawater or brackish water

Detention pond — a pond constructed to slow stormwater runoff and to allow the sediment in the runoff to settle to the bottom

Discharge — flowing or issuing out

Dissolved oxygen — oxygen dissolved in water — comes from the air and as a by-product of photosynthesis

Drainage — process of removing water from the land

Drainage basin — land area that contributes runoff to a water body; also known as a watershed

Drip irrigation — most efficient form of irrigation whereby water is delivered through pipes directly to the plants' roots

Drought — a long period of time with little or no rain

Dry prairies — expansive native grass and shrub lands occurring on very flat terrain

Ecosystem — a community of plants and animals and their physical environment

Ecosystem restoration — Re-establishing and maintaining the health, sustainability and biological diversity of natural systems

Edge habitat — the area between natural community types

El Niño — unseasonably warm ocean current that occurs in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Peru every 3 to 7 years

Endemic — an animal or plant restricted in its distribution to one or a few places

Entisols — soils of slight and recent development, common along rivers and floodplains

Environmental pollution — anything that harms or causes an imbalance in plants and animals in their natural habitat

Estuary — a place where fresh water and salt water mix

Evaporation — process by which water changes from a liquid to a vapor (gas)

Evapotranspiration — the total loss of water to the atmosphere by evaporation from land and water surface and by transpiration from plants

Fill — material taken from the land as a result of drainage

Filtration — to hold and filter runoff through seepage

Finger-fill canals — canals created by dredging wetlands; resulting fill is used to build dry land, usually for houses

First-magnitude spring — one that discharges water at a rate of 100 cubic feet per second or more

Flood — the overflow of water onto an area that is normally dry

Flood control — means used to control floods, may be structural (dams, dikes) or nonstructural (limiting development in floodplains)

Gas — a physical form of a substance as a vapor; generally invisible

Global warming — warming of the Earth's surface thought to result from the burning of fossil fuels

Ground water — water under the ground in aquifers

Habitat fragmentation — isolated patches of habitat remaining after land is cleared

Hammocks — small tree islands in the midst of marsh and swampland

Hardwood hammock — biologically diverse community growing on elevated coastal ridges and islands of ground slightly higher than surrounding wetlands

Histosols — soils that contain large amounts of organic material derived from decayed organisms

Humid subtropical — climate of most of Florida except the southern tip of the peninsula, characterized by cooler temperatures in the winter and lack of distinct wet and dry seasons

Hurricane — a storm with winds of 74 mph or greater

Hydrogenase — catalyst for recycling natural materials produced by microorganisms in mud

Hydrologic divide — area across which water does not flow

Hydrology — study of water's properties, movement and distribution

Hydroperiod — amount of time water is standing on the land's surface

Impervious surface — material such as asphalt and concrete that does not allow water to pass through it

Insectivorous plants — plants that digest insects

Invasive exotics — nonnative species of plants and animals that outcompete native species

Irrigation — the application of water to an area

Karst — type of terrain underlain by limestone and characterized by caves, sinkholes and disappearing streams

La Niña — opposite of El Niño; occurs when stronger than normal Pacific trade winds stir up cooler water from the ocean depths

Land acquisition — purchasing land, as for conservation

Land restoration — returning the land to its former integrity

Limestone — highly porous rock formed over millennia from shells and bones of sea animals

Limnologist — one who studies inland water

Liquid — the physical form of a substance that flows

Mangroves — trees that grow along Florida's southern coasts; most plentiful in salt water where few other trees are able to survive

Marsh — area of shallow water covered with grasses

Microbes — microscopic organisms such as viruses and bacteria

Minimum flows and levels — the limit at which further water withdrawals would cause significant harm to the water resource or ecology of the area

Molecule — group of atoms bonded together

Natural community — interdependent association of plants, animals and microorganisms

Navigation — traveling or transporting goods by water

Non-point source pollution — pollution that does not come from a single point or location

Nutrients — substances that provide sources of energy and growth for plants and animals

pH — a measure of the amount of hydrogen ions (H⁺) and hydroxide (OH⁻) in a solution

Pine flatwoods — characterized by low, flat topography; poorly drained and nutrient-poor, acidic, sandy soils; and an open woodland vegetation with a pine overstory.

Pleistocene — geologic epoch beginning about 2 million years ago and ending about 10,000 years ago; also known as the Ice Ages

Point source pollution — contamination that can be traced to a single point or location

Pollution — contamination of water, soil or air by harmful chemicals or waste materials

Precipitation — condensed water vapor that falls to the Earth in the form of rain, snow, sleet or hail

Prescribed burns — controlled fires set by land managers to mimic natural processes

Prior appropriation — doctrine of water use common in the West whereby the first water user had continued rights to withdraw and use the water

Public supply — water delivered to homes, schools, businesses and other users by a utility company

Reasonable and beneficial use — doctrine of water use set forth in Florida law whereby use of water must be both reasonable and beneficial

Recharge — the process of water seeping into the ground and refilling the aquifer

Reclaimed water — water collected and often treated after use

Retention pond — constructed pond where storm water is held

Reuse — use of reclaimed water for various purposes, most commonly for landscape irrigation

Riparian — along the shore of a river or another water body

Runoff — rainfall that is not absorbed by the soil but flows to a larger body of water

Saltwater intrusion — the phenomenon occurring when salt water moves laterally inland from the seacoast or vertically from saltwater zones in the aquifer, mixing with and replacing fresh water

Savanna — a flat grassland of tropical or subtropical regions

Scrub — a type of natural community found on extremely well-drained sands along ancient shorelines and islands; dominated by sand pine or xeric oak

Seagrass beds — expanses of plants that flower and produce fruits and seeds in seawater

Sheetflow — the movement of water, like a sheet, across a surface — moving not in channels, but as a whole mass

Sinkhole — depression in the land surface caused when rainwater dissolves limestone near the ground surface or when the roofs of underground channels and caverns collapse

Slough — shallow channels of slow-moving water

Solid — the physical form of a substance that has three fixed dimensions

Solvent — a liquid that dissolves other substances

Spring — natural flow of water at the Earth's surface caused by pressure of ground water

Spring-fed river — a type of river with cool clear water issuing from springs

Steepheads — a unique natural community found in Florida and created when water seeps from the aquifer eroding land from the ground up

Stormwater runoff — rainwater that runs off land surfaces into the nearest body of water

Stormwater treatment areas — artificial wetlands used to reduce nutrients and improve water quality

Strand — a linear swamp

Streamflow — the amount of water that flows past a given point at a given time; usually measured in cubic feet per second

Surface tension — attraction of water molecules at the surface of a liquid

Surface water — water found on the surface of the Earth (rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands, oceans and seas)

Swamp — wetland predominantly covered with trees

Symbiotic — characteristic of the relationship between two different kinds of organisms that are interdependent; each gains benefits from the other

Tornado — a violent rotating column of air capable of mass destruction

Transpiration — the process by which plants give off moisture through the surface of their leaves

Tributary — small stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river

Tropical savanna — type of climate found in southern Florida, characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons

Turbidity — the degree of cloudiness of water caused by suspended solids

Uplands — higher parts of the landscape

Wastewater — water that has been used and is no longer clean

Water allocation — the distribution of water among various users

Water budget — formula used by hydrologists to help determine water surpluses and deficits in an area

Water cycle — continuous cycling of water between earth and sky

Water restoration — restoring water bodies to a more natural state

Water supply — amount of water available for human and other uses

Water use caution area — an area that is experiencing, or is anticipated to experience within the next 20 years, critical water resource problems

Watershed — land area that contributes runoff to a water body; also known as a drainage basin

Wetland — area that supports plants adapted to wet soil and often to changes in water level

Xeriscaping — a type of landscaping designed to use water efficiently