

Watershed Studies Vocabulary

- Bioassessment:** a scientific discipline that uses the response of aquatic organisms to various stressors as a method of evaluating ecosystem health
- Dissolved Oxygen:** microscopic bubbles of oxygen gas in the water
- Erosion:** the process of being worn away by wind, water, or other natural agents
- Indicator Species:** an animal or plant species that can be used to determine conditions in a particular habitat
- Macroinvertebrate:** animals that have no backbone and are visible without magnification (stream-bottom macroinvertebrates include such animals as crayfish, mussels, aquatic snails, aquatic worms, and the larvae of aquatic insects)
- pH:** scale to measure how acidic or basic a liquid is; the scale measures values from 0 all the way up to 14; distilled water is 7 (right in the middle); acids are found between 0 and 7; bases are from 7 to 14
- Riparian Areas:** an area situated on the banks of a stream, lake, or wetland that contains a combination of trees, shrubs, and/or other perennial plants to provide conservation benefits
- Runoff:** the draining away of water (or substances carried in it) from the surface of an area of land, a building or structure, etc.
- Watershed:** an area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water; an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas