

Vocabulary Terms

General:

Term	Definition
Watershed	A land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean.
Field Research	Field research, field studies, or fieldwork is the collection of raw data outside a laboratory, library, or workplace setting. The approaches and methods used in field research vary across disciplines. For example, biologists who conduct field research may simply observe animals interacting with their environments.
Botany	The scientific study of plants, including their physiology, structure, genetics, ecology, distribution, classification, and economic importance.
Geology	The science that deals with the earth's physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it.
Entomology	The branch of zoology concerned with the study of insects.
Ornithology	The scientific study of birds.
Native Species	Native species are species that have historically occurred as part of an ecosystem in a specific location.
Non-native Species	Non-native species are species that have been introduced into new areas that have not historically been part of their native range.
Invasive	An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is: 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Appendix: Vocabulary Terms
 Environmental Nature Center
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Geology:

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Geology	The science that deals with the earth's physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it.
Sediment Transportation	Sediment transport is the movement of solid particles (sediment), typically due to a combination of gravity acting on the sediment, and/or the movement of the fluid in which the sediment is entrained.
Sediment Deposition	Deposition is the laying down of sediment carried by wind, water, or ice.
Erosion	The process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, or other natural agents; the gradual destruction or diminution of something.

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Quadrant	A quadrat is a tool used in ecology for sampling purposes. It is a square or rectangular plot of land used to mark off (at random) a physical area to isolate a sample.
Monoculture	The cultivation of a single crop in a given area.

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Ecology:

Term	Definition
Abiotic	Physical rather than biological; not derived from living organisms.
Fertilizers	A chemical or natural substance added to soil or land help plants grow.
Nitrate	A chemical that includes nitrogen and oxygen, often used as a fertilizer.
Riparian	Relating to or situated on the banks of a river.
Watershed	A land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean.
Point Source Pollution	Any single identifiable source of pollution from which pollutants are discharged, such as a pipe, ditch, ship or factory smokestack. Factories and sewage treatment plants are two common types of point sources.
Non-point Source Pollution	Caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters.