

Physical Survey - Definitions/Meanings

Terms	Definitions
Agricultural	Cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock (a farm).
Bank Sloping	The natural or artificial incline of a stretch of ground adjoining a body of water; measured from the water's edge to the highest visible point of land.
Boulders	Large fragment of rock that has a diameter greater than 256 millimeters.
Braided	A stream channel that splits and comes back together.
Channeled	A stream or river that has been straightened to allow water to travel through more quickly (often for flood control).
Clay	1. A fine-grained, firm, earthy material that is plastic when wet and hardens when heated. 2. A sedimentary material with grains smaller than 0.002 millimeters in diameter.
Cobble	Fragment of rock with a diameter between 64 and 256 millimeters.
Concrete/Cement	A human-made building material made by mixing a cementing material.
Cross Section	A view of a section of the stream, formed at a right angle to its flow.
Dam	A barrier preventing the flow of water.
Detention Basin	A human-made depression in the surface of the land that detains or holds large amounts of water.
Detritus	Loose fragments of logs/limbs or coarse plant material.
Down Stream	The flow of the river/creek as it moves away from you.
Dredging	To deepen (as a waterway) by digging, gathering, or pulling out of the bottom of the river.
Effluent Pipes	Pipes that discharge waste material (such as smoke, liquid industrial refuse, or sewage) into the environment.
Erosion	The wearing away of the surface of the earth by natural forces.
Erosion Wall	Wall designed to slow down the removal of material from the sides or bottom of a river by the forces of water.
Estimated Flow	A mathematical formula to estimate the amount of water that flows in a river or stream.
Fibrous Peat	Consisting of partially decomposed plants.
Grassland	An uncut or not mowed grassy area left to nature.
Gravel	Unconsolidated sediments composed of rock fragments with a size that is greater than 2 millimeters.
Industry	A business, manufacturer or factory.
Land Debris	Materials or items discarded or thrown away by humans on the land.
Latitude	Angular distance north or south of the earth's equator measured through 90 degrees.
Longitude	Imaginary circles around the planet intersecting at the north and south pole, measured east and west of the prime meridian.
Meandering	A section of the river that follows a winding or intricate course (snake like).
Muck	Black, very fine decomposed plants.
Nature Preserve	An area that is protected in order to keep natural features, flora and fauna safe from injury, harm, or destruction.
Open Field	Open land area free of woods and buildings.
Pebbles	Fragment of rock with a diameter between 4 and 64 millimeters.
Pool	A deep, quiet area of water in a river or stream.
Pulpy Peat	Unrecognizable decomposed plants.
Retention Basin	A human-made depression in the earth that retains or holds large amounts of water.
Riffle	An area of a river or stream with shallow, fast-moving, turbulent water running over rocks.
Sand	Loose, gritty particles of worn or disintegrated rock; mineral particle with a size between 0.06 and 2.0 millimeters in diameter.
Silt	Loose particles that are finer than sand; mineral particle with a size between 0.004 and 0.06 millimeters in diameter.
Stability	Resistance to change.
Surface Debris	Natural or human-made materials or items found floating on the water's surface.
Tributary	A stream or river flowing into a larger stream or into a lake.
Undercut Bank	Stream or riverbank that has been cut into by erosion so that water actually flows under the edge of the bank.
Up Stream	The flow of the river/creek as it moves toward you.
Weir	A fence or enclosure set in a waterway for taking fish.
Wetland	Land or areas containing much soil moisture most of the year, which results in characteristic soils and vegetation.
Wetland Drainage	The act or process of draining or removing moisture from a wetland.