

Blue River Report Card

Glossary of Terms

Aquatic Habitat Quality - one of the four different aspects of stream health that is evaluated under the *Stream Visual Assessment*, which looks at the stream's, flow; macrohabitat types (pool, riffle, run); and the cover that is available for fish and *Benthic Macroinvertebrates*.

Awareness - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Community Connections Category* that uses Mid-America Regional Council's Community Planning Survey responses to measure people's awareness of the health of their local waterways and what issues are affecting the health of local waterways.

Behaviors - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Community Connections Category* that uses Mid-America Regional Council's Community Planning Survey responses to measure people's behaviors that affect, positively or negatively, the health of their local waters.

Benthic Macroinvertebrates - bottom-dwelling aquatic animals and insects in larval stages of life.

Category - a group of *Indicators* that revolve around a specific theme of *Watershed* health.

Collaborative Governance - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Governance Category* that evaluates the degree to which different municipalities within the watershed are working together to maintain the health of the watershed.

Community Connections - a *Category of Watershed* health that is measuring how aware the community is of their waterways' health and the behaviors they are taking or not taking that affect the health of their waterways.

Development - a *Category of Watershed* health that is measuring whether the land is being converted to impervious surfaces or whether it is being protected as open space and how much of that land has trees.

Governance - a *Category of Watershed* health that is measuring what local governments (city and county) are doing to protect the watershed, both within the government's jurisdiction with ordinances and outside of the government's jurisdiction by collaborating with other governments.

Habitat - a *Category of Watershed* health that is measuring the existence of natural environments for plants and animals, both within and outside of the *Riparian* corridors.

Impervious Surface - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Development Category* that measures the percentage of impervious cover (roads, houses, buildings, etc.) within 1,000 feet of the river or one of its tributaries.

Indicator - a specific measurement that tends to show whether the river and its tributaries are healthy or not.

Local Ordinances - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Governance Category* that assesses the ordinances that cities and counties have in place that protect *Watershed* health.

Macroinvertebrates - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Water Quality Category* that assesses the presence or absence of bottom-dwelling aquatic animals and insects in larval stages of life that are sensitive to pollutants in the water.

Native Habitat - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Habitat Category* that measures how much of the land within the watershed is being actively managed to restore environments for plants and animals that are native to the region.

Parks - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Recreation Category* that measures how much of the land within the *Watershed* is available for public enjoyment in a public park.

Protected Open Space - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Development Category* that measures how much of the land within the *Watershed* is protected from being converted from open land to houses, buildings, roads, etc., accomplished by either being within a public park or with a conservation easement.

Recreation - a *Category of Watershed* health that is measuring people's access to spaces and infrastructure that facilitate people's ability to recreate, which include both *Parks* and *Trails*.

Riparian - relating to the banks of rivers and streams or the wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams.

Riparian Cover - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Habitat Category* that measures the percentage of stream feet that have at least 100 feet of wooded vegetation on the banks on both sides of the stream.

Stream Visual Assessment - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Water Quality Category* that assesses the health of the river and its tributaries by visually inspecting the *Stream Stability*, *Aquatic Habitat Quality*, *Terrestrial Habitat Quality*, and *Water Quality*.

Stream Stability - one of the four different aspects of stream health that is evaluated under the *Stream Visual Assessment*, which looks at the banks and bed of the stream for signs of stability or instability, like the bank cut depth and the composition of the stream bed.

Terrestrial Habitat Quality - one of the four different aspects of stream health that is evaluated under the *Stream Visual Assessment*, which looks at how the land adjacent to the stream is

being used and the amount and composition of the vegetation that is on the banks of the stream.

Trails - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Recreation Category* that measures the percentage of completion of the Metrogreen trails, which are paved trails running along the river and its tributary streams.

Urban Tree Canopy - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Development Category* that measures the percentage of land in the *Watershed* that is covered by trees.

Watershed - the area of land that ultimately drains to a particular watercourse or body of water

Water Quality-

(1) a *Category of Watershed* health that is measuring the health of the river and its tributaries, measuring with three *Indicators*: a *Water Quality Index*, the *Stream Visual Assessment*, and *Macroinvertebrates*, which measure the waterway's chemical, physical, and biological health.

(2) one of the four different aspects of stream health that is evaluated under the *Stream Visual Assessment*, which looks at the amount of silt that is covering the bed of the stream; other undesirable conditions in the stream, like trash; and the number of aquatic organisms that are found, like fish and mollusks.

Water Quality Index - an *Indicator of Watershed* health under the *Water Quality Category* that measures multiple chemicals in the water and chemical properties of the water to evaluate the health of the water.