

Living With Water Final Report

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

- **Bioswales/rain gardens:** Shallow, planted depressions located along streets, parking lots, or open spaces to capture stormwater.
- **SenR:** Community-engaged research, “a process that incorporates input from people who the research outcomes will impact and involves such people or groups as equal partners throughout the research process.”¹
- **Constructed wetland:** Reconstructed wetland habitat on low-lying land to store stormwater from nearby buildings and streets.
- **DRCC:** Duwamish River Community Coalition, a non-profit community-based organization based in South Park, Seattle.
- **Fenceline community:** A community that lives in direct proximity to polluting facilities and is disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards such as noise, odors, and chemical releases.²
- **Flood Adaptation Hierarchy:** A framework developed by Peck et al. that the Living With Water project team used to evaluate and categorize different flood adaptation solutions.
- **Floodable building:** Adapting a building for flooding by moving utilities to a higher floor, using flood-resistant materials, or raising a building.
- **Floodable parks:** A park with a shallow basin to hold water from the river or stormwater from the neighborhood, depending on design.
- **Floodplain restoration:** Low-lying land next to the river that is converted to a vegetated open space to allow for temporary storage of floodwater from the river.
- **Grey/hardened/engineered solutions:** Flood management solutions, such as retaining walls, that use human-engineered materials like concrete and steel.
- **Green roofs:** Plants installed on top of building roofs to retain stormwater and reduce the volume of it that enters drainage system during storms.
- **King tide:** The highest predicted tides of the year at a coastal location; results in higher than average water levels and potential flooding.³
- **LWW:** Living With Water, a collaborative community-engaged research project co-led by the Duwamish River Community Coalition and the University of Washington to build community capacity for flood adaptation planning and co-design conceptual flood adaptation strategies.
- **Natural buffers:** Strips of vegetation along river banks or shorelines to absorb floodwater and stabilize the banks.
- **Natural levee:** Sediment and silt pushed to the banks of a river by the natural movement of the water that can help with flood management.
- **Nature-based solutions (NBS):** “Natural areas and engineered solutions that mimic natural processes” to address societal challenges.⁴
- **Rain barrels:** Storage containers placed near buildings to collect and store stormwater from roof downspouts when it rains.
- **SASPER:** The Seattle Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response, a community-driven needs assessment conducted in the Duwamish Valley in 2022, which Living With Water builds upon.
- **“Sliver by the River”:** A flood-prone zone in South Park that lies in King County but is not incorporated into the City of Seattle.

- **Street trees:** Trees planted along streets to absorb stormwater and reduce the amount of it that enters the drainage system during storms. Trees can also reduce urban heat and improve air quality.
- **UW:** University of Washington, served as the academic partner on the Living With Water project.
- **Vegetated berm:** Earthen mounds with vegetation that are aligned parallel to rivers to block water from overtopping the river during floods or high tides.

References

1. Yale School of Medicine. What is Community Engaged Research (CER)? Accessed December 1, 2025. <https://medicine.yale.edu/internal-medicine/genmed/eric/cbprguidebook/whatiscer/>
2. NWF Strategic Plan 2024-2030. National Wildlife Federation. Accessed December 3, 2025. <https://www.nwf.org/Home/About-Us/Our-Mission/Glossary>
3. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Climate Change in Coastal Communities. April 10, 2014. Accessed December 2, 2025. <https://www.epa.gov/cre/climate-change-coastal-communities>
4. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management. Nature-Based Solutions. Accessed November 13, 2025. <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/topics/green-infrastructure.html>