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# Appendix I: Definitions

acquisition – the process of acquiring fee title or interest of real property

Adopt-A-Trail – program in which groups or businesses “adopt” trails and provide volunteer work parties to help maintain trails on a periodic basis

alignment – the layout of a trail in horizontal and vertical planes; the drawing of the curves and slopes of a trail

assessment, trail and corridor – site visits to help understand a trail corridor better, including descriptions/documentations of native elements and built structures

buffer – large strips of forested land adjacent to a water body that filters sediments and pollution from runoff

bike lane – portion of road designated for cyclists by striping and signage

bike route – road segment that is designated as a “bike route” by signage; cyclist must share the road with cars

bikeway – any road, path, trail that is open to bike travel

connectivity – functionally contiguous blocks of land or water through the linkage of parcels of land; linking of trails, greenways and communities

conservation – controlled use and protection of natural resources

conservation easement – places permanent restrictions on property in order to protect natural resources

conservation subdivision – a method for subdividing land in which open space and natural landscape features are set aside, and the building of homes, roads and infrastructure is accomplished in a compact form to reduce the amount of land that is developed.

design standards/guidelines – minimal design details; criteria for designing facilities for this plan

easement – grants the right to use a specific portion of land for a specific purpose

ecosystem – system formed by interaction of plants and animals, including humans, with their environments

flood fringe – difference (width) between the floodplain and floodway

floodplain – elevation and width of water in a hundred year storm

floodway – width needed to contain 100 year flood water if flood elevation is raised one foot; used to determine how high to build roads and structures

GIS – Geographical Information Systems – spatial database mapping system that contains natural and cultural features of a site; used to determine the appropriate place for open space and greenways

greenway – linear open space that is established along a corridor that can be used for connectivity (trails) or water quality protection

impact fee – a fee levied on a developer or builder by a public agency as compensation for impacts produced by their project; can be used for the purchase or maintenance of parks, open space, trails or recreation facilities

intermittent stream – channels that naturally carry water part of the year and are dry other parts of the year

loop trails – circular trails that give users the option of not traveling in the same section more than once

multiuse trails – corridors that are physically separated from vehicular traffic and can be accessed by multiple users, such as cyclists, walkers, runners, wheelchairs, rollerbladers, etc.

open space – **protected** lands and waters that are owned and managed by the County, its public sector partners, the municipal governments of Wake County, State of North Carolina, the United States government, and the County's private sector partners, including non-profit land trusts. Open space consists of any parcel or area of land and water that is devoted to 1) the preservation of natural resources and habitat; 2) the managed production of resources (farmland); 3) outdoor recreation; 4) preservation of historic and cultural property; 5) protection of scenic landscapes; and 6) protection of public health, safety and welfare.

perennial streams – channels that carry water year round

preservation – maintaining an area or structure intact or unchanged

rail corridor – path of a railroad right-of-way, including the tracks and any land owned by the railway on either side; generally 100' wide

revegetation – process of restoring a denuded and/or eroded area close to its original condition.

riparian zone – the land and vegetation directly adjacent to a body of water

runoff – water that is not absorbed by the soil and therefore runs over the soil surface

sidewalk – paved strip directly adjacent to a roadway for pedestrian and wheelchair use

sustainable development – development practice that maintains economic opportunity while protecting the natural environment within a community

tread width – width of the portion of a trail used for travel

watershed – area bounded by a water parting formation, such as ridge, hill, mountain range, and ultimately draining into a body of water