



Glossary of Terms

AIA – The American Institute of Architects

Active transportation – any form of human-powered transportation; eg. walking, cycling. It can also involve combining modes such as cycling with public transit.

Aesthetic – regarding the appeal of an object to one's senses, beauty or attractiveness.

Anaerobic – pertaining to or caused by the absence of oxygen

Attainment area - zone within which the level of a pollutant is considered to meet United States National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Brownfields-abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Build-through acreage – a low density development designed to allow for eventual infill at a greater density when demand increases or municipal services become available.

Bicycle Friendly Community- The Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign is an awards program by The League of American Bicyclists that recognizes municipalities that actively support bicycling. A Bicycle-Friendly Community provides safe accommodation for cycling and encourages its residents to bike for transportation and recreation. There are four awards starting at bronze and then silver, gold and platinum.

Chicane- an artificial feature creating extra turns in a roadway designed to slow traffic.

City – Includes the City of Omaha and its zoning jurisdiction.

Community – General reference to an area or group dependant upon context. May refer to a neighborhood or even a group of cities.

Complete Streets – roadways designed and operated to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, automobiles and transit.

Connectivity index – a measure of the directness and adequacy of links and the density of connections within a street and pedestrian network.

Conservation Development / Conservation Design Practices / LID Techniques- characterized by common open space and clustered compact lots. The purpose of a conservation subdivision is to protect farmland and/or natural resources while allowing for the maximum number of residences under current community zoning and subdivision regulations.

Damaged land- land that has been rendered ecologically comatose by abuse, overuse, pollution, or neglect.

Density - The number of dwellings or principal buildings or uses per acre of land. Measurement may include all ground within the area or be per 'net acre' which does not include the land required for public streets.

Ecological and landscape features – a species, group of species or a community that is nationally or regionally important for biodiversity of conservation value because of the role they play in the environment

Environment Overlay District- additional zoning requirement that is placed on a geographic area but does not change the underlying zoning. These districts are created to protect natural resources, promote safety and protect health.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing- Seeking out goods and service providers that are environmentally responsible. The Federal Government has a website dedicated to the practice and an index to provide assistance at <http://www.epa.gov/epp/>

Fixed guideway system- a mass transportation facility which utilizes and occupies a separate right-of-way, or rail line, for the exclusive use of mass transportation and other high occupancy vehicles. This includes, but is not limited to, rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, automated guideway transit, people movers, ferry boat service, and fixed-guideway facilities for buses (such as bus rapid transit) and other high occupancy vehicles.

Flood Storage Areas- Those floodplain areas where storage of floodwaters has been taken into account in reducing the regional flood discharge.

GHG – greenhouse gas

Goals - the broadest expressions of a community's aspirations. Goals are concerned with the long term, and often describe ideal situations that would result if all plan purposes were fully realized. Since goals are value-based, their attainment is difficult to measure.

Gray Water- waste water that is not polluted by sewage or high amounts of toxic substances. Most commonly the result of household activities such as bathing, dish or clothes washing. Often recaptured and utilized for irrigation purposes.

Grayfields- property, typically commercial, that is underperforming economically or completely unused. The 'gray' refers to the often large expanses of unused parking lot space. Includes outdated or inappropriately located commercial properties as well as, 'dead malls' and 'ghost boxes'. Unlike brownfields, they are not environmentally impacted and can often be revitalized or redeveloped much more easily.

Green Infrastructure- interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas, such as greenways, wetlands, parks, forest preserves and native plant vegetation, that naturally manages stormwater, reduces flooding risk and improves water quality.

Green Roof- roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil, or a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane

Green Solutions- the [procedures](#), [methods](#), and [practices](#) used to abate or remediate problems that cause [degradation](#) of the [environment](#), [ecosystem](#), or [natural resources](#).

Greenfields- previously undeveloped property. May be in agricultural production or in natural condition.

Headway- the time between two vehicles passing the same point traveling in the same direction on a given route. This term is most frequently applied to rail transport, where the number of tracks is limited and signaling capabilities control the headway. A shorter headway signifies a more frequent service.

HERS- Home Energy Rating System, rating homes based upon their level of energy efficiency. The HERS Reference Home (based on the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code) scores a HERS Index of 100, while a net zero energy home scores a HERS Index of 0. Each 1-point decrease in the HERS Index corresponds to a 1% reduction in energy consumption compared to the HERS Reference Home.

Highly Erodible Soil- Areas of incline, whether natural or man-made, lacking sufficient vegetation to prevent instability, erosion, or downstream siltation. Lands underlain by soils which are subject to severe erosion when disturbed.

Implementation or Strategy- sets out actions/projects to be pursued.

Important Plant and Wildlife Communities- areas, that because of climate, soils, vegetation, relationship to water, and other physical properties, have been identified as of critical importance to maintenance of wildlife species.

LEED certified or equivalent – certified according to criteria developed by the [U.S. Green Building Council \(USGBC\)](#), or any other method existing or devised that accounts for similar sustainability goals.

LRV- light rail vehicle

Light Trespass- The shining of light beyond the boundaries of the property on which the light source is located.

Loess Hills- a formation of wind-deposited loess soil in the westernmost part of Iowa and Missouri along the Missouri River.

Metro Area / Metropolitan Area – Omaha and its surrounding areas and communities. Not necessarily inclusive of the entire metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

Minimize – To lower as much as is reasonable given the existing situation. Not to be construed as requiring reduction to zero.

Microclimate – Distinct climate deviations within an area such as a city street or a building's courtyard. Differences are impacted by sunlight, shade, or exposure to the wind. Can be favorably altered through functional landscaping, architecture, and other design features.

Natural resources

Neck down - curb extensions at intersections that reduce the roadway width from curb to curb. They "pedestrianize" intersections by shortening crossing distances for pedestrians and drawing attention to pedestrians via raised peninsulas. They also tighten the curb radii at the corners, reducing the speeds of turning vehicles.

NEWANIP- native and ecologically well adapted non-invasive plants

Node- an identifiable grouping of uses subsidiary and dependent upon a larger urban grouping of similar or related uses.

Objective- define a strategic direction or implementation steps to attain the goals. Objectives are more specific than goals, and typically of shorter time-frame. Objectives often are measurable benchmarks that can be used to assess incremental progress in achieving the broader purposes expressed in policies and goals.

Open space – Any land or area, the preservation of which in its present use would: (1) conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources; or (2) protect streams or water supply; or (3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes; or (4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, or sanctuaries; or (5) enhance recreation opportunities.

Pedestrian-friendly – the density, layout, and infrastructure that encourages walking and biking within a subdivision or development, eg. Smaller setbacks, front porches, adequately sized and interconnected sidewalks.

Plan- an inventory, a measurement strategy or item, reduction strategies, and action steps

Policies- establish an approach or guidance to actions, evaluations, and/or reviews. Policies need to be specific enough to help determine whether a proposed project or program would advance community values expressed in the goals.

PTV- personal transportation vehicle

Rapid Transit- an electric passenger railway in an urban area with high capacity and frequency, grade separated from other traffic. Rapid transit systems are typically either in underground tunnels or elevated above street level. Outside urban centres rapid transit lines sometimes run grade separated at ground level.

Rearage – rearage roads, also called backage roads, function much like frontage roads, providing access to parcels that sit on restricted access roadways. However, they access from the rear of the parcels to allow for a greater distance between their connection with cross streets and the intersection of those cross streets, improving overall access.

Reduce - to diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.

Scenic View or Scenic Corridor-an area of land generally adjacent to and visible from a roadway that requires protective measures to ensure perpetuation of its scenic qualities, whether of an urban or rural setting.

Smart Irrigation Control- A system that uses information from a variety of possible sources to provide more water when needed and less or no water when appropriate as well. Smart systems can

simply be set on timers that amend function according to time of day and year, sensors that measure moisture in adjacent soil, or even internet data regarding local weather and other relevant conditions.

Steep Slopes / Steep Bluffs - greater than 17% grade.

Strategy- sets out actions/projects to be pursued.

Triple Bottom Line- A full cost accounting principle that accounts for not only financial costs but ecological and social ones as well. Otherwise referred to as People, Planet, Profit and the Three Pillars.

Vapor Recovery System- Stage I vapor recovery is a control strategy to capture gasoline vapors that are released when gasoline is delivered to a storage tank. The vapors are returned to the tank truck as the storage tank is being filled with fuel, rather than released to the ambient air.

Stage II is the control strategy that captures gasoline vapors when a vehicle is being fueled at the pump. The vapors are returned through the pump hose to the petroleum storage tank instead of being released into the air. On some vehicles, Stage II vapor-recovery systems help capture up to 95 percent of harmful gasoline vapors that may otherwise be released to the atmosphere.

Walkability- a measure of how friendly an area is to walking. Factors influencing walkability include the presence or absence and quality of sidewalks or other pedestrian pathways, traffic and road conditions, land use patterns, building accessibility, and safety.

Wildlife Biologist- one who possesses expertise regarding wild animals and their habitats through either education or professional experience.

Zero Waste- a philosophy that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused. Any trash sent to landfills is minimal.