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## Appendix II: Glossary

**Active Transportation:** Any form of human-powered transportation – such as walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating or skateboarding.

**Alternative Transportation:** Alternative Transportation promotes and encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation (e.g., bicycling, walking, vanpooling, carpooling, riding transit) to get to, from, and around destinations instead of a single occupancy vehicle.

**Biodiversity:** The variability among living organisms (plants, animals, genetics, habitats) from terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part.

**Buffering:** Occurs when streamside vegetation filters stormwater and protects stream banks

**Case Study:** An in-depth examination of a particular situation. It is a method used to focus a very broad field of research on one easily researchable topic.

**Community Cohesion:** Community cohesion (also called social capital and neighboring) refers to the quantity and quality of interactions among people in a community, as indicated by the degree residents know and care about their neighbors and participate in community activities (Cochrun 1994; LGA 2004; CASE)

**Conservation:** preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment, natural ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife. Conservation activities include examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care, supported by research and education.

**Connectivity:** Connectivity represents the pattern of core areas of potential habitat or cover that allow the movement of organisms across an intact or fragmented landscape. Landscapes with high connectivity allow species to move freely among core areas, while landscapes with low connectivity tend to isolate species within scattered patches of habitat.

**Ecosystem Services:** Outputs of natural ecological functions or processes that directly or indirectly contribute to human welfare, or have the potential to do so in the future (Boyd and Banzhaf, 2007).

**Greenspaces:** EnviroAtlas defines green space as all vegetated land, including agriculture, lawns, forests, wetlands, and gardens. Barren land, water, and **impervious** surfaces such as concrete and asphalt are excluded.

**Greenway:** A greenway is a long, narrow piece of land, where vegetation is encouraged, and is managed for public recreation and active transportation.

**Habitat:** The home or environment of a plant, animal, or other organism

**Health Outcomes:** A health outcome is a change in health, or lack of, following some factor or treatment. In the study of ecosystem services, this typically refers to environment-related changes in human health.

**Inbreeding:** Breeding with close genetic relatives over generations

**Impervious:** Impervious surfaces are that which do not allow fluid (water) to pass through them; examples include concrete and asphalt.

**Mitigation:** A human intervention to reduce negative impacts on the climate system; examples include strategies to reduce greenhouse gas sources and emissions restoring coastal wetlands to dampen storm surge.

**Neighborhood Connectivity:** Neighborhood connectivity refers to the relative ease and directness of getting from one place to another (e.g. from home to school) by road, path, or trail. One way to measure urban connectivity is with the density of street intersections.

**Patch (habitat):** Refers to an area of distinct habitat type that has a definite shape and is used by species for breeding or survival. The size of a given patch is typically an important consideration when determining habitat quality

**Preservation:** The protection of cultural property and natural lands through activities that minimize chemical and physical deterioration and damage and that prevent loss of informational content. The primary goal of preservation is to prolong existence.

**Public Hearing:** A meeting for receiving testimony from the public at-large on a local issue, or proposed government action. Testimony from both sides of an issue is usually recorded for public record and a report summarizing the key points is generated. All levels of government hold public hearings - from city on up to the national level. Hearings may also be

less formal - they may or may not be sponsored by a government body - and may not require that individuals from multiple sides of an issue get time to speak.

**Restoration:** Return of an ecosystem to a close approximation of its presumed condition prior to disturbance.

**Siting:** Determining where to position or locate a particular structure.

**Social Capital:** The sum of social interactions with other humans and connections within a social network; the idea that social networks have value.

**Sustainability Plan:** A common framework to guide efforts in improving the social equity, environmental, and economic conditions in a government jurisdiction. A sustainability plan ties together a community's goals, strategies, implementation plans, and metrics for improving sustainability.

**Urbanization:** The concentration of development in relatively small areas (cities and suburbs). The U.S. Census Bureau defines "urban" as referring to areas with more than 1.5 people per acre.

**Vector Borne Diseases:** Bacterial and viral diseases that are transmitted by a vector, typically mosquitoes, ticks and fleas.