

DEFINITIONS

Accessory Dwelling Unit	An additional dwelling unit associated with and incidental to a principal single-family dwelling on the same lot. An accessory dwelling unit must include separate cooking and sanitary facilities and is a complete, separate dwelling unit. The accessory dwelling unit may be within or attached to the principal dwelling unit or within a detached accessory structure, such as a garage.
Activation	Placing into service a new water or sewer main or other facility. Activation may precede final acceptance.
Alley	A private or public right-of-way or easement and runs between two or more lots or located on a single lot, affording primary or secondary vehicular access to the properties which abut it, but not including a street, utility easement, or railroad right of way.
Backflow	The flow of any substance from a customer's property back into the water distribution system. Backflow can result from improper connection of pressurized equipment to the plumbing system or from accidental pressure drops in the public water system which can be caused by pipe breaks or other equipment failure. Backflow of contaminated water into the public system can create a hazardous situation to other customers.
Backflow Preventer	An assembly, device, or method that prohibits the backflow of water into the public water supply system.
Backfill	Soil material or controlled low-strength material used to fill an excavation.
Base Course	Aggregate layer placed between the subbase course and hot-mix asphalt paving.
Bedding Course	Aggregate layer placed over the excavated subgrade in a trench before laying pipe.
Borrow or Borrow Soil	Satisfactory soil imported from off-site for use as fill or backfill.

Charlotte Water Engineer, Chief Engineer, Owner’s Engineer, or Engineer

Charlotte Water engineer with supervisory duties and review, approval, rejection, and signatory authority for applications, permits, methods, and materials.

Contractor

The North Carolina licensed person, firm, or corporation responsible for the completion of the construction phase of a project.

Customer

A person or entity, including a property owner or resident, who is capable of receiving water from the Public Water System through a water service connection for beneficial use or discharges wastewater through a lateral into the Public Sewer System.

Developer

A person, including a governmental agency or redevelopment authority, who undertakes any development and who is the property owner of land to be developed or who has been authorized by the property owner to undertake development on that property.

Distribution Main

Pipes smaller than 16 inches designed to convey water from larger transmission mains to distribute water to street mains including public and private users, and providing fire protection.

Drainage Course

Aggregate layer supporting the slab-on-grade that also minimizes upward capillary flow of pore water.

Duplex, Triplex, or Quadraplex Dwelling

A structure containing two, three, or four dwelling units.

Design Engineer, Consultant Engineer, or Engineer of Record

The North Carolina licensed, professional engineer responsible for the design of the project.

Dwelling

A structure, or portion thereof, designed or used for human habitation.

Dwelling Unit

A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for no more than one family, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Easement	Authorization by an owner for the use, by others for a specific purpose, of a designated part of their property.
Encroachment	Agreement with another utility or jurisdiction, such as NCDOT, CDOT, railroad companies, Duke Power, or Town, to place water or sewer facilities within their right of way.
Excavation	Removal of material encountered above subgrade elevations and to lines and dimensions indicated.
Fill	Soil materials used to raise existing grades.
Final Acceptance	Documented agreement between Charlotte Water and the contractor or developer of a project that the work is satisfactorily completed and that there are no outstanding claims or deficiencies. Completion of the project may also involve submittal of maps, affidavits, tax statements, or other documents that are required by contractual agreement.
Final Backfill	Backfill placed over initial backfill to fill a trench.
Fire Protection	Provision of adequately sized water mains, water volumes, and fire hydrants at suitable intervals to allow use by fire departments in fighting fires. The level of protection varies with land use and development type.
Floodplain	The land subject to inundation by the community base flood and is encompassed by the community special flood hazard area.
Grading	Excavation or fill of material, including the resulting conditions thereof.
Gravity Sewer System	The normal type of wastewater collection system that relies on the natural, downhill flow of wastewater through pipes constructed along drainage patterns and creeks to a wastewater treatment facility.
Initial Backfill	Backfill placed beside and over pipe in a trench, including haunches to support sides of pipe.
Instantaneous Flow	Volume of flow recorded during a fixed amount of time, expressed as a volume per unit time.

Interceptor	A larger sewer pipe usually constructed along a major creek which collects wastewater flow discharged from trunk mains. Interceptors are sometimes also referred to as “outfalls”.
Irrigation Service	A water service requested and installed for the purpose of irrigating lawns or property. Water provided through such a service does not return to the wastewater collection system.
Licensed Utility Contractor	An individual, firm, or corporation which is licensed by the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors to perform public utility and/or unclassified construction projects which have a contract value not exceeding their license limitation.
Lot	Any quantity of land capable of being described in definitive terms with respect to its location and boundaries, which have been established through some legal instrument such as a recorded deed or map. Lots are also referred to as parcels.
Low Pressure Sewer System	A type of wastewater collection system which utilizes individual pumping by each private property owner into a common force main. This type of system is utilized along waterfront property where natural drainage patterns have been disrupted by the creation of a large lake.
Maximum Daily Flow	Largest volume of flow recorded during a continuous 24-hour period, expressed as a volume per unit time.
Multi-Dwelling Development	A development consisting of two or more single-family, twin home, duplex, triplex, quadraplex, townhouse, and/or multi-family structures, constructed on the same lot or parcel of land under single ownership, and planned and developed with a unified design of buildings and coordinated open space and service areas. Accessory dwellings units, where allowed with a principal dwelling, are not considered a Multi-Dwelling Development.
Multi-Family Dwelling Unit	A structure containing five or more dwelling units, with dwelling units either stacked or attached horizontally.

New Construction / Development	The establishment or substantial improvement of streets, buildings, useable property, or infrastructure where such facilities did not exist or were not suitable for the newly intended purposes.
Owner	Charlotte Water or the entity that owns and operates the facilities.
Parcel	See “Lot”.
Peak Hour Flow	Highest/peak volume recorded during a one-hour period, expressed as a volume per unit time.
Permits	Documentation of permission by Federal, State, and/or local agencies which have regulatory jurisdiction over the construction and operation of water and/or wastewater utilities to expand or modify the public water and/or sewer system.
Public Water and/or Sewer System	The water and/or sewer pipes, storage facilities, pumping stations, lift stations, treatment facilities and appurtenances that are owned by the City of Charlotte and operated and maintained by Charlotte Water.
Right of Way	A non-possessory interest in the land of another for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, operating, and maintaining facilities that is dedicated or otherwise legally established for public use.
Rock	Rock material in beds, ledges, unstratified masses, conglomerate deposits, and boulders of rock material that cannot be removed without drilling and blasting, wedging, sledging, cutting, or barring for its removal.
Septic System	A ground absorption sewage disposal system consisting of a holding or settling tank and a ground absorption field.
Single Family Dwelling	A structure containing only one dwelling unit.
Storm Drainage	The natural and manmade network, of structures, channels, and underground pipes that convey stormwater to local creeks, streams, and rivers.

Storm Drainage Facility	The system of inlets, conduits, channels, ditches, and appurtenances that serve to collect and convey stormwater through and from a given drainage area.
Stormwater Control Measure	Also known as "Best Management Practice" or "BMP", a permanent structural device that is designed, constructed, and maintained to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff by promoting settling or filtration; or to mimic the natural hydrologic cycle by promoting infiltration, evapotranspiration, post-filtration discharge, reuse of stormwater, or a combination thereof.
Stream	A channel on the land surface for conveying water.
Street Main	A water or sewer pipe installed along a street, road, or highway primarily for the purpose of providing water or sewer service to the properties along that street.
Structures	Buildings, footings, foundations, retaining walls, slabs, tanks, curbs, mechanical and electrical appurtenances, or other man-made stationary features constructed above or below the ground surface.
Subbase Course	Aggregate layer placed between the subgrade and base course for hot-mix asphalt pavement, or aggregate layer placed between the subgrade and a cement concrete pavement or a cement concrete or hot-mix asphalt walk.
Subdivision	Divisions of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, building sites, or other divisions when any one or more of those divisions is created for the purpose of sale or building development, whether immediate or future, and shall include all divisions of land involving the dedication of a new street or a change in existing streets.
Subgrade	Uppermost surface of an excavation or the top surface of a fill or backfill immediately below subbase, drainage fill, drainage course, or topsoil materials.
Temporary Construction Easement	A temporary right in a specific tract of land for which Charlotte Water has entered into an agreement with the owner that grants Charlotte Water the right to use the land for a limited period of time in order to provide space needed to construct water and sewer facilities.

Top of Bank	The landward edge of the stream during high water or bank full conditions at the point where the water begins to overflow onto the floodplain.
Townhouse	A structure consisting of three or more dwelling units, the interior of which is configured in a manner such that the dwelling units are attached horizontally, separated by a party wall, and each is located on a separate subplot.
Transmission Main	A water pipe constructed primarily for the movement of water from one area to another, typically but not always, pipes 16 inches and larger. Transmission mains usually supply water to smaller distribution mains.
Treatment Facility	A plant designed and constructed for the purpose of removing pollutants and/or other impurities from wastewater or from raw water.
Tributary	A stream or pipe which flows by gravity or is pumped into another stream or pipe.
Trunk Main	A sewer pipe constructed along a drainage pattern or minor creek to collect flows discharged from sewer street mains.
Utilities	On-site above ground or underground pipes, conduits, ducts, and cables as well as underground services within buildings.

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