

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet Carter Run, Great Run, Thumb Run, and Deep Run Watersheds, Fauquier and Stafford Counties

What is a TMDL? Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a term used to describe the amount of a pollutant that a stream can receive and still meet Water Quality Standards. A TMDL Study identifies sources of pollution and reductions needed to attain standards. A TMDL Study considers both **point sources**, such as residential, municipal or industrial discharges, and **nonpoint sources**, such as residential, urban or agricultural activities. Additional information on Virginia's TMDL program can be found at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl>

Why were TMDLs prepared for the Carter Run, Great Run, Thumb Run and Deep Run Watersheds? The goal of the Clean Water Act is that all streams should be suitable for recreational uses, including swimming and fishing. **Fecal coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria** are used to indicate the presence of pathogens in streams and to determine support of the **swimable use goal**. Bacteria content in Carter Run, Great Run, Thumb Run and Deep Run exceed the bacteria criterion.

What portion of the Carter Run, Great Run, Thumb Run and Deep Run Watersheds were addressed in the TMDL Studies? Carter Run from the confluence with the Rappahannock River to a point 3.55 miles upstream at the confluence with South Run is impaired. The entire 15.69 miles of Great Run is impaired, the lower 2.76 miles were listed as impaired in 1998 and an additional 12.93 miles were added to the impairment in 2004. Thumb Run from the confluence with the Rappahannock River to 6.91 miles upstream at the confluences with the West and East Branches of Thumb Run was listed as impaired in 1998. The West Branch (10.1 miles) was listed as impaired in 2004. Deep Run from the confluence with the Rappahannock River to 4.83 miles upstream with the confluence of Green Branch is impaired. The lower portion of the Deep Run watershed is in Stafford County.

What happens now that the TMDL has been completed? The Carter Run and Great Run TMDLs were approved by EPA in March 2005. The Thumb Run TMDL was approved in May 2002 and the Deep Run TMDL was approved in May 2004. After EPA approval, a **TMDL Implementation Plan (IP)** is developed to identify the corrective actions needed to meet the TMDL's water quality goal. IPs must include a schedule of actions and their respective costs and benefits, measurable goals, a monitoring plan, and a target date for achieving compliance with water quality standards. Development of the Carter, Great, Thumb and Deep Run IP began in March 2005 and is anticipated to be complete in early 2006.

How will the TMDL be implemented? The Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Conservation and Recreation (DCR) intend for nonpoint source TMDLs to be implemented through **best management practices (BMPs)** and expect that implementation will occur in stages. Local stakeholders such as local governments or citizen groups can work with landowners to facilitate the actual implementation of BMPs. Anthropogenic sources of bacteria will be targeted first and progress will be monitored during the implementation phase.

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How will the public participate in TMDL IP development? Two formal public meetings are planned as part of the TMDL IP development process. The **first meeting** will be held on April 12, 2005 to inform the public about the impairment and the TMDL process, and to obtain public comment. The second meeting will be held in November 2005 to present a draft IP and to solicit public comment. Additional working group meetings will be held with stakeholders. Such meetings will help to ensure that the information used in the IP is accurate and that the final IP reflects the concerns/issues of the watershed stakeholders. Public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.

What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts? Implementation of the Carter, Great, Thumb and Deep Run bacteria TMDLs will work towards restoring the beneficial use of the streams, making it useable for swimming and wading without undue risk of illness. Additional benefits may be enhanced quality of life through improved public health and improved recreational activities. BMPs installed to control bacteria input to the stream will also result in conservation of natural resources, improved aquatic life, riparian habitat, and **will help achieve the Rappahannock River Basin Tributary Strategy nutrient and sediment reduction goals.**

What funding will be available to help support the stakeholders' efforts in implementing the TMDLs? There are several sources of funding, such as the Virginia Revolving Loan Funds, Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund and various federal grant programs that can be utilized to fund all or part of the corrective actions identified in a TMDL IP. The TMDL IP Guidance Manual includes additional information on funding sources. Information on DEQ and DCR programs, including information on TMDLs, may be found at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl and www.dcr.virginia.gov.

Whom may I contact to comment on or learn more about the Carter, Great, Thumb and Deep Run TMDL IP? Charlie Lunsford, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 203 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219, telephone (804) 786-3199, fax (804) 786-1798, or e-mail charles.lunsford@dcr.virginia.gov.