

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet Upper York River Watershed in the Counties of Louisa, Orange and Spotsylvania

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, forestry or agricultural activities. Additional information on Virginia's TMDL program can be found at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>

Why were TMDLs prepared for the Upper York Watershed? 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 recreational use standard. Portions of **Goldmine Creek** (Louisa Co.), **Beaver Creek**, **Mountain Run**, **Pamunkey Creek**, **Terry's Run** (Orange Co.), and **Plentiful Creek** (Spotsylvania Co.) which are all part of the **Upper York Watershed**, do not support the recreational use standard.

What portion of the Upper York River Watershed is addressed in the TMDL study? The impaired segments include: **7.33 miles in length of Goldmine Creek** which begins at the headwaters and continues downstream to Lake Anna, **2.51 miles of Beaver Creek** which begins at Cooks Run and continues to the North Anna River, **2.52 miles of Mountain Run** which begins at the confluence with Madison Run and continues to the North Anna River, **12.15 miles in length of Pamunkey Creek** which begins with the confluence of Tomahawk and Church Creeks and continues downstream to Lake Anna, **1.83 miles of Terry's Run** which begins at the confluence of Riga Run and continues downstream to Lake Anna, and **3.12 miles of Plentiful Creek** which begins at Route 601 and continues downstream to Lake Anna (please see attached map). The TMDL study can be viewed at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/apptmdls/yorkrvr/lakeanna.pdf>.

Since the August 2005 TMDL study, additional sections of **Terry's Run** (7.81 miles from the headwaters downstream to the confluence with Riga Run), **Tomahawk Creek** (3.25 miles from its headwaters near Route 231 downstream to its confluence with Church Creek), and **Berry Run** (2.25 miles from the confluence with Little Creek downstream to the confluence with Clear Creek) were determined to be impaired for bacteria. These impairments and their watersheds are also included in this plan.

What happens now that the TMDLs have been completed? EPA approved the Bacteria TMDLs for the York River Basin for Orange, Louisa and Spotsylvania Counties, on November 4, 2005. After approval, a **TMDL Implementation Plan (IP)** is developed to identify the corrective actions needed to meet the TMDL 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 IP begins in January 2011 and is anticipated to be complete in approximately 8 months.

How will the TMDL be implemented? Nonpoint source TMDLs are implemented through **best management practices** (BMPs) that will reduce the amount of the pollutant loadings identified in the TMDL. Implementation will occur in stages and local, state, and federal agencies and other organizations

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will assist landowners and other citizens in facilitating the actual implementation of BMPs. Progress will be monitored during the implementation phase through the tracking of practices installed and water quality monitoring.

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 public meeting** will be held January 25 and 26, 2011 (same meeting in two different locations to cover the large area) to inform the public about the impairments, implementation plan development process, and to obtain public comment. The second meeting will be held in late summer/early fall 2011 to present a draft IP.

What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and implementation efforts? Implementation of the bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial uses of these streams so they support various recreational opportunities. Implementation of the bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial use of these rivers, making it possible for individuals to swim and wade without the risk of waterborne illness. In addition to improved recreational opportunities, the installation of certain BMPs may result in improved riparian habitat and property values.

What funding will be available to help support the stakeholders' efforts in implementing the TMDLs? The Water Quality Improvement Fund may be a possible funding source for best management practices that address bacteria. Other sources of funding, such as the Virginia Revolving Loan Funds and various federal grant programs that can be utilized to fund corrective actions, will be identified in the TMDL IP. The Virginia 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 and www.dcr.virginia.gov

Whom may I contact to participate in, comment on or learn more about the Upper York River Watershed TMDL IP development?

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The first set of **public meetings** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 7 pm, at the Louisa County Administration Building, 1 Woolfolk Avenue, Louisa, Virginia** and **Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 7 pm, at the Town of Orange Public Works Community Room, 235 Warren St., Orange, Virginia**. Agricultural and residential stakeholder working groups will also meet during those times. These 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. The agenda and presentations will be the same for both meetings. The 30-day public comment period on the information presented at these meetings will end on **February 26, 2011**. All public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.