

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet

(James River Basin – Eight Local Streams that drain from Campbell, Bedford, Amherst Counties and Lynchburg City)

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.virginia.gov/tmdl>.

Why were TMDLs prepared for some local streams? The goal of the Clean Water Act is that all streams should be suitable for recreational uses, including swimming and fishing and the propagation and growth of a balanced, indigenous population of aquatic life. By using benthic monitoring, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) determined that portions of the eight local streams did not meet standards for fecal coliform bacteria standards and as such are not supporting the aquatic life standard. The local stream segments include: 18.43 miles of James River, 5.37 miles of Ivy Creek, 5.9 miles of Tomahawk Creek, 3.47 miles of Burton Creek, 10.55 miles of Judith Creek, 5.45 miles Fishing Creek, 10.24 miles of Blackwater Creek, and 8.5 miles Beaver Creek.

What is a TMDL Implementation Plan? A TMDL Implementation Plan is a voluntary watershed management plan that: outlines a menu of actions or activities, or best management practices (BMPs) needed to reduce the sources of bacteria, identifies the benefits of each watershed management activity, provides an overview of local partners and stakeholders that will be involved with implementing BMPs, provides a timeline to achieve measurable goals, and estimates the associated costs of implementing water quality necessary to meet the water quality goals.

What portion of Region 2000 is included within the Implementation Plan? The eight stream segments that will be included in the pending watershed management plan collectively drain from portions of Bedford, Campbell, and Amherst Counties and the entire City of Lynchburg.

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 in the spring and will provide an overview to the public about the impairment, implementation plan development process, and begin discussion on public comment and solicit interest in participating in work groups to develop the plan.

Citizens will also be provided information and an opportunity to participate in working groups – residential, agricultural, governmental, or urban – that will allow for discussion on actions and activities to be included for consideration within the IP. 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.

The second and final public meeting will be held in fall 2010 to present a draft IP and to solicit public comment. Additional working group meetings will be held with stakeholders. Public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, presented with the Region 2000 website, through direct email, and in the Virginia Register.

What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts? Implementation of the TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial use of the local streams so that it supports a healthy aquatic life community. Additional benefits will include improved recreational activities and the BMPs installed to reduce sediment runoff to the stream will also result in conservation of natural resources, improved riparian habitat, and property values.

Whom may I contact to comment on or learn more about the James River Basin TMDL IP?

You may directly contact Kelly Hitchcock, Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council, 828 Main Street, 12th Floor, Lynchburg, VA 24504, telephone (434)845-3491, fax (434)845-3493, or email khitchcock@region2000.org or Paula Nash, Department of Environmental Quality, 7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502, phone: 434-582-5120 or email: paula.nash@deq.virginia.gov. You may also go to the Region 2000 website: <http://region2000.org/environmental-services.html> to learn more about the IP project.

