

**Residential/Agricultural Working Group Fact Sheet:  
James River and Tributaries Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan (TMDL IP)**

**Why do a TMDL Implementation Plan?**

Water Quality monitoring conducted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has shown that portions of a number of local streams in the James River Basin watershed have levels of bacteria that exceed state water quality standards and are therefore considered “impaired” by bacteria. This means people face an increased chance of gastrointestinal illness or infection during primary contact with the water. The development of a TMDL Implementation Plan is required by Virginia’s Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act, which directs DEQ to “develop and implement a plan to achieve fully supporting status for impaired waters.” Implementation Plans provide communities with a framework for restoring water quality in their watershed(s), and often provide opportunities to receive funds for restoration efforts from several sources including federal and state government.

Local stream segments with impairments and included within the TMDL IP 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.

**How Can I Participate?**

One of the primary means of public participation in the TMDL IP process will be through advisory working groups. The advisory working groups include Residential/Agricultural, Governmental, Stormwater/Technical. Citizens may also serve on a steering committee, which will guide the overall plan development. The working groups provide citizens with an avenue for active participation in the planning process. Each working group will report their ideas and recommendations to the steering committee for consideration to be included in the IP. Strong public participation in these groups ensures that the final implementation plan reflects local concerns and ideas with regard to water quality.

**What will the Residential/Agricultural Working Group Address?**

The Agricultural/Residential Working Group will focus on sources of bacteria from agricultural operations and general human sources to the watershed. The working group will discuss ways to reduce bacteria from sources including failing septic systems or straight pipes and agricultural operations such as livestock deposition in streams or nearby land. The objective of the group is to identify obstacles to implementation and develop practical solutions to these obstacles.

The group will focus on:

- Ways to identify, address, and eliminate failing septic or straight pipes;
- Identify and consider use of agricultural best management practices;
- Identify difficulties for homeowners or farmers to correct loading problems;
- Identify potential funding opportunities to assist with implementation of practices;
- Evaluate technical assistance or programs necessary for education and outreach; and
- Determine need for educational tools to help utilize solution practices.

**Who makes up the Residential/Agricultural Working Group:**

Consist of local homeowners, farmers, citizen organizations, Soil and Water Conservation Service representatives, and state and local agencies

**Questions?**

Contact Kelly Hitchcock, Senior Planner, Virginia’s Region 2000 Local Government Council, 434-845-3491 or at [khitchcock@region2000.org](mailto:khitchcock@region2000.org)

This document is based off a sample provided by  
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