

What is a watershed?

It's an area of land that drains to a body of water. Precipitation that falls on the watershed drains to a body of water such as a creek, river, lake, etc.

In our region, all precipitation and runoff from Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge and Rockingham Counties and Cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro drains to the Chesapeake Bay, making us part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed:

- Is the largest estuary in the US and 3rd largest in the World.
- Supports more than 17 million people.
- Covers 64,000 square miles.
- Includes parts of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington, D.C.
- Has 11,684 miles of shoreline, more than the entire US West Coast.
- Contains more than 100,000 rivers and streams.
- Helps filter and protect the drinking water of 75% of Bay watershed residents.

Regional Resources:

DEQ: deq.virginia.gov

EPA: www.epa.gov

Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

www.naturalbridgeswcd.org

www.svswwcd.org

www.headwatersswcd.org

Friends of the Middle River:

www.friendsofthemiddleriver.org

Friends of the North Fork of the Shen. River:

www.fnfsr.org

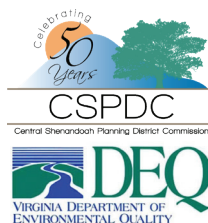
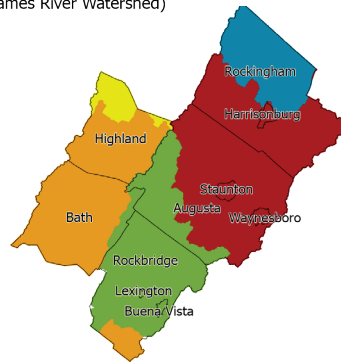
Izaak Walton League: www.va-iwla.org

Virginia Master Naturalist:

www.virginiamasternaturalist.org

Sub-Basin Watersheds

- Maury (James River Watershed)
- North Fork Shenandoah (Potomac River Watershed)
- South Branch Potomac (Potomac River Watershed)
- South Fork Shenandoah (Potomac River Watershed)
- Upper James (James River Watershed)



Central Shenandoah Planning

District Commission:

112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

540-885-5174

www.cspdc.org

Our Rivers, Our Bay

How You Can Help Improve Water Quality

From Your Local Streams
to the Chesapeake Bay

Cleanup Goals

In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, a comprehensive cleanup plan to guide federal, state, local, and individual actions to reach the goal of a clean Chesapeake Bay and connecting waterways by 2025.

In Virginia, the TMDL calls for a 20.5% reduction in Nitrogen, 25.2% reduction in Phosphorous and 20.8% reduction in Sediment delivered to the bay.

Cleanup efforts will reduce flooding, protect groundwater, increase property value, restore fish and wildlife habitats, and improve air quality.

Get Involved

Attend local meetings to provide your input and learn about local events.

Participate in or conduct stream clean-ups.

Become a Citizen Science Water Quality Monitor to monitor your local body of water.

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for recommendations for responsible practices and solutions. Find your district at www.drc.virginia.gov.

Water Quality Matters!



Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!

Shield Your Field
Divert rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.



Don't Overload the Commode
Don't flush diapers, wipes or other items meant for a trashcan down the toilet.

Toilet paper only



Think at the Sink
Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, grease, solids and harsh chemicals down the drain.



Don't Strain Your Drain
Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.



septic smart

www.epa.gov/septic

Drainfield
Groundwater Recharge

Protect It and Inspect It
A typical septic system should be serviced every one to three years by a septic service professional.

Pump Your Tank
Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.

Keep It Clean
If you are on a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.

Well

Aquifer



Help at Home

1. Dispose of all debris and trash in the proper locations, including pet waste, medications, and chemicals.
2. Keep storm drains clear and strive to allow only rainwater into the drains.
3. Plant trees and other vegetation in your community and on your property to prevent erosion and filter rainwater.
4. Fertilize your lawn with clean, natural products and clean up pesticide spills properly.
5. Use eco-friendly cleaning and personal products to keep toxic chemicals out of our drains and waterways.
6. Reduce emissions by carpooling, using public transit and teleworking when possible.
7. Conserve water and collect rainwater in barrels to use on lawn and garden.
8. Maintain a clean septic system by having your tank pumped professionally every 3 to 5 years.