

What are Water Quality Standards?

The State Water Control Law mandates the protection of existing high-quality state waters and provides for the restoration of all other state waters. The State has adopted water quality standards that consist of statements and numeric limits that describe water quality necessary to meet and maintain certain designated uses. These standards serve as a tool for accomplishing the purposes of the State Water Control Law. Generally, the standards are intended to protect state waters for swimming and other water-based recreation, public water supply, wildlife, propagation and growth of aquatic life, and the production of edible and marketable fish and shellfish.

Which local waters are impaired?

Stormwater from the VPCC campuses ultimately drains to the following impaired surface waters:

- **Chesapeake Bay:** Impaired due to excessive **sediment and nutrients**. Both the Hampton and Historic Triangle campuses are within the bay's watershed.
- **Back River** (Hampton campus) and **Powhatan Creek** (Historic Triangle Campus): Impaired due to exceedance of water quality standards for **bacteria** to support recreational use.



Save our waterways!

For more information visit VPCC's stormwater management webpage at: <http://www.vpcc.edu/about/environment/>

To **report** a suspected or potential non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain, visit the website or use the contact information below:

Director of Facilities, Planning & Capital Outlay

Phone: 757-825-3964

Email: masonj@vpcc.edu

DID YOU KNOW?



Dog poop can contaminate our local streams with bacteria if left out in the rain. This bacteria can make people sick.

**REGULARLY
PICK UP AFTER
YOUR PET!**



VIRGINIA PENINSULA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Local Water Quality Issues



Why are the impairing pollutants of concern?

Concerns related to the pollutants identified as causing local surface waters to be impaired can be summarized as follows:

- **Sediment** discharged to surface waters blocks sunlight from reaching underwater grasses, smothering the aquatic homes of oysters and other life. As grasses and marine life die, fish and other creatures that rely on them are imperiled. Other pollutants also adhere to sediment.
- **Nutrients**, in excess, spur algae blooms that cause low oxygen and kill fish.
- **Bacteria** levels exceeding standards impacts human health with increased risk of contracting waterborne illness.

What is the plan to address the problem?

In response to the impairments of local surface waters, total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies have been conducted and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The TMDLs provide a calculation of the maximum amount of the impairing pollutant a waterbody can assimilate and still meet water quality standards. In response, plans are developed to achieve the reduction in pollutant(s) necessary to achieve the TMDL.

VPCC has developed TMDL Action Plans for the Chesapeake Bay and Back River that are available on the college's stormwater webpage. Additional information for how you can help save the bay is available from the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#).



“Citizen information and participation can ultimately speed the cleanup of impaired waters ...”

- Environmental Protection Agency

VPCC Stormwater Program

VPCC implements a stormwater program that inherently addresses the reduction of bacteria to local creeks and rivers and sediment and nutrients impairing the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, practices are implemented for the following:

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater issues;
2. Public involvement and participation to engage the public in pollution prevention activities;
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination to prevent pollutant discharges from the storm sewer;
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control that ensures proper practices are used during construction;
5. Post-construction stormwater management to treat runoff from developed areas; and
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping practices.