

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IP) FACT SHEET

Browns Run, Craig Run, Marsh Run - Upper Rappahannock River Watershed Fauquier County, Virginia

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 Browns Run, Craig Run and Marsh Run? 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. Segments of **Browns Run, Craig Run and Marsh Run**, all part of the **Upper Rappahannock River Watershed**, do not support the recreational use standard.

What portion of the Upper Rappahannock River Watershed is addressed in the TMDL study?

The impaired segments include: a **2.39 mile segment of Browns Run** which begins at an Unnamed Tributary to Browns Run near the Route 17 bridge, and continues downstream to its confluence with Marsh Run; a **3.61 mile segment of Craig Run** beginning at its headwaters and continuing downstream to its confluence with Marsh Run; and a **8.16 mile segment of Marsh Run** that begins with its confluence with Craig Run and continues downstream to its confluence with the Rappahannock River.

What happens now that the TMDLs have been completed? EPA approved the Upper Rappahannock River TMDL's, of which these streams are part, in January 2008. The TMDLs for these streams may be found in the Upper Rappahannock River Basin Report on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.apptmdls/rapprvr/urappaec.pdf>. 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 will begin on May 4, 2010 and is expected to be completed in late 2010.

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 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? A formal public meeting is planned as part of the TMDL IP development process. The first **public meeting on the development of the IP for the bacteria TMDLs will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cedar Lee Middle School, 11138 Marsh Road (Route 17), Bealeton, Virginia.** After a one hour public meeting, stakeholders will break into two working groups to begin the public participation input process for the implementation plan.

The 30-day public comment period on the information presented at this meeting will end on **June 4, 2010.**

What funding will be available to help support the stakeholders' efforts in implementing the TMDLs? Currently, state funding from the Water Quality Improvement Fund is used to address agricultural sources of 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

What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts? Implementation of the bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial uses of **Browns Run, Craig Run and Marsh Run** 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 BMP's may result in improved riparian habitat and property values. Impairments to the aquatic life use standard in these stream segments may also be improved with these measures.

Whom may I contact to participate in, comment on or learn more about the Browns Run, Craig Run and Marsh Run IP development?

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Agricultural and residential stakeholder working group meetings will also take place during the May 4th meeting. 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. All public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.