# Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet Upper Goose Creek, Cromwells Run and Little River Watersheds in the Counties of Fauquier and Loudon

**What part of the Goose Creek Bacteria TMDL is covered by this Implementation Plan (IP)?** The IP covers the southern portion of the **Goose Creek watershed**, including portions of **Little River** (Fauquier and Loudon Counties) and **Cromwells Run** (Fauquier and Loudon Counties). The impaired segments from the TMDL include: **6.41 miles of Little River** from the confluence of Hungry Run to the confluence with Goose Creek and **3.81 miles of Cromwells Run** from its confluence with an unnamed tributary to Cromwells Run, approximately 0.78 rivermile downstream from Route 715, and continuing downstream until the confluence with Rocky Creek, which is approximately 0.4 rivermile downstream from Route 50.

**Why was the bacteria TMDL study prepared for the Goose Creek Watershed?** 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** may indicate the presence of pathogens in streams and can be used to determine support of the water quality standards for recreational use of freshwater. The streams in the Goose Creek watershed were included in the TMDL study because they did not support the recreational use designation.

The TMDL study can be viewed at:
http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/potrvr/goose.pdf

It is noted that since the TMDL was completed, Virginia has refined its Geographic Information System (GIS) data using high-resolution imagery. The length of each impairment noted above has been updated using the refined GIS data, and is slightly different than the impairment length given in the TMDL.

**Since the TMDL study, additional streams in the Goose Creek watershed have been added to the Impaired Waters List: 2.48 miles of Little River** from its confluence with an unnamed tributary downstream until the confluence with Hungry Run, **5.1 miles of Howsers Branch**, from its headwaters to the confluence with Little River, **6.76 miles of Cromwells Run**, from its headwaters to the confluence with an unnamed tributary at rivermile 4.61, **2.68 miles of Goose Creek**, from its confluence with an unnamed tributary at rivermile 35.28 downstream to the confluence with Panther Skin Creek, **4.31 miles of Goose Creek**, from its confluence with Kettle Run downstream to the confluence with Bolling Branch, **3.21 miles of Gap Run** from its confluence with an unnamed tributary (just downstream from Route 712) downstream to the confluence with Goose Creek, **3.64 miles of Bolling Branch** from its confluence with an unnamed tributary (just upstream from Route 723) downstream to the confluence with Goose Creek, **1.85 miles of Crooked Run** from its confluence with an unnamed tributary (just downstream from Route 724) downstream to the confluence with Goose Creek, and **5.91 miles of an unnamed tributary to Goose Creek** from its headwaters to the confluence with Goose Creek were determined

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to be impaired for bacteria. These impairments and their watersheds are also included in this plan (please see attached map).

**What happens now that the TMDLs have been completed?** EPA approved the Bacteria TMDLs for the Goose Creek Watershed for Fauquier and Loudon Counties on May 1, 2003. After approval, a **TMDL implementation plan (IP)** is developed to identify the corrective actions needed to meet the TMDL(s) 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 began in May 2016 and is anticipated to be complete in approximately 9 months.

**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 can 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 June 21, 2016, 6 pm, to inform the public about the impairments, implementation plan development process, and to obtain public comment. The second meeting will be held in late 2016 to present a draft IP.

**What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts?** Implementation of the bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial uses of these streams 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 BMPs may result in improved riparian habitat and property values.

**What funding will be available to help support the stakeholders' efforts in implementing the TMDLs?** The Water Quality Improvement Fund may be a possible funding source for best management practices that address 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. Information on DEQ programs, including information on TMDLs, may be found at www.deq.virginia.gov .

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**Whom may I contact to comment on or learn more about the Goose Creek Watershed TMDL IP development?**

May Louise Sligh, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – Northern Regional Office, may.sligh@deq.virginia.gov, (804) 450-3802 **or** Jenny Biche, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, jkbiche@rrregion.org (540) 829-7450.

The first **public meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 21, 6 pm, at the Wakefield School, 4439 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, Virginia, 20198.** Agricultural and residential stakeholder working groups will be organized and meet during the second hour of the public meeting. Working group 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 30-day public comment period on the information presented at the public meeting will end on **July 21, 2016**. All public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.