

The Clean Water Act requires that States set appropriate uses for their waters and adopt water quality standards that protect those uses. When waters do not meet these standards, the Act requires that a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or "pollution diet" be established that sets the maximum amount of pollutants that a waterway can receive without violating water quality standards.

## **CHESAPEAKE BAY**

The Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions, established a TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay. This TMDL sets overall pollution limits for Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids and allocates required reductions in those pollutants of concern to the various states. The Commonwealth of Virginia has developed strategies to meet its required reductions in Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids. One of Virginia's strategies is to require MS4 permittees (such as the City of Portsmouth) to achieve specific reductions in Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids that drain through stormwater runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The City of Portsmouth, in accordance with its Individual MS4 Permit (issued by the Department of Environmental Quality on July 1, 2016), must demonstrate its ability to meet the required reductions in pollutant discharges through the development of a Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan. This plan was developed, posted for public comment, and submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality on June 28, 2018.

### [CHESAPEAKE BAY TMDL ACTION PLAN](#) [CHESAPEAKE BAY TMDL ACTION PLAN APPENDIX](#) **LOCAL WATERWAYS**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality establishes TMDLs for impaired waterways of the Commonwealth for various pollutants of concern. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has established two TMDLs for the City of Portsmouth: "Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development for the Elizabeth River Watershed (dated April 2010 and approved by the SWCB on September 30, 2010)" and "Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development for the Hoffler Creek Watershed (dated September 2011 and approved by the SWCB on June 29, 2012)." Both of these TMDL reports require reductions in bacterial discharges from various sources of pollution. As a MS4 permittee, the City of Portsmouth must achieve specified reductions in bacteria that drain through stormwater runoff into local impaired waterways.

The City of Portsmouth, in accordance with its Individual MS4 Permit (issued by the Department of Environmental Quality on July 1, 2016), must demonstrate its ability to meet the required reductions in bacterial discharges through the development of TMDL Action Plans for the Elizabeth River Watershed and Hoffler Creek Watershed. This plan was developed, posted for public comments, and submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality by June 28, 2018.

### [BACTERIA TMDL ACTION PLAN](#)