

You can help

By picking up your pet waste you are preventing pollution and enhancing the habitat of fish and other organisms that live in the waterways.



Don't put leaves and grass in the drainage

ways. Leaves and grass can be taken to the trash facility for recycling.



Minimize fertilizer use and only apply what is needed and recommended



Wash cars where water does not enter storm drainage systems

Hanover County has been proactive in taking steps to protect the Chesapeake Bay. The county has to continue to meet new required standards that may have impact on the Bay's water quality.

For more information on the Chesapeake Bay program visit these web-sites:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net>

<http://www.epa.gov>



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Wading thru Stormwater



*Hanover County's
Guide to Stormwater
and the Chesapeake
Bay*

Stormwater and the Chesapeake Bay

Stormwater comes from roadways, rooftops, lawns, driveways and parking lots carrying pollutants to our local streams and rivers and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

The Requirement

The Chesapeake Bay program has been working to restore the quality of the Bay's water. Despite significant progress, the Bay continues to fall short of meeting water quality standards.

Hanover along with other counties, towns and cities in the state must have programs which reduce the effects of stormwater on the Bay.

The law requires Hanover to reduce pollutants. The EPA, under the authority of the Clean Water Act, mandates localities like Hanover to have a discharge permit because it owns and operates a public system that collects and discharges runoff through ditches and storm sewers. Hanover is required by law through this permit to achieve designated levels of pollutant reductions.

The Pollution Diet

The EPA established a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) or "pollution diet" for the Bay. As a result Virginia and other states were mandated to reduce pollution. Virginia in-turn is mandating that localities implement the plan.

Excess Nutrients

- Low dissolved oxygen levels are primarily the result of excess nutrient pollution. This fuels the growth of algae blooms.
- The algae eventually die and sink to the bottom.
- As the algae decomposes, it uses up oxygen and leaves little for fish, shellfish and other aquatic life.
- These areas of the Bay are known as "dead zones"

Excess Sediment

- When there is too much sediment in the water it becomes cloudy blocking sunlight from reaching underwater plants.
- Excess sediment can bury aquatic habitats and smother bottom-dwelling organisms.

Reductions

Hanover County must implement measures to reduce excess nutrients and sediment according to the state plan and must be able to demonstrate reduction of the nutrient load under the county's permit.

- Install biological filters, detention ponds, and other Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Tree in Filter Box

- Restore severely eroded stream corridors to reduce the sediment load and associated nitrogen and phosphorus loads from these areas.



Restored Stream Channel