

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet

Four Mile Run Watershed, Arlington and Fairfax Counties, Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church

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 or agricultural activities. Additional information on Virginia's TMDL program can be found at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl>

Why was a TMDL prepared for the Four Mile Run 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** are used to indicate the presence of pathogens in streams and to determine support of the **swimmable use goal**. Bacteria in Four Mile Run exceed the fecal coliform criterion. Four Mile Run was first listed as impaired in 1996, and was subsequently listed in 1998 and 2002.

What portion of the Four Mile Run Watershed was addressed in the TMDL Study? The Four Mile Run impaired segment is located in Arlington County, Fairfax County, the City of Falls Church and the City of Alexandria. The segment is approximately 7.5 miles long, beginning at the headwaters of Four Mile Run and extending downstream to river mile 1.46, approximately 0.27 river miles upstream of the Mount Vernon Avenue Bridge.

What happens now that the TMDL has been completed? The TMDL developed for this portion of the Four Mile Run Watershed was approved by EPA on May 31, 2002. After EPA 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, a monitoring plan, and a target date for achieving compliance with water quality standards. Development in Four Mile Run IP began in May 2003 and is anticipated to be complete in December 2003.

How will the TMDL be implemented? DEQ and DCR intend for nonpoint source TMDLs to be implemented through **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** and expect that implementation will occur in stages. Local stakeholders such as local governments or citizen groups can lead the actual implementation of BMPs. For Four Mile Run, anthropogenic sources of bacteria will be targeted and progress will be monitored during the implementation phase.

How will the public participate in TMDL IP development? Two formal public meetings are planned as part of the TMDL IP development process. The first meeting was held on June 11, 2003 to inform the public about the impairment and the TMDL process, and to obtain public comment. The second meeting will be held on **December 10, 2003** to present a draft IP and to solicit public comment. Additional small meetings can be held with stakeholders, upon

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet

Four Mile Run Watershed, Arlington and Fairfax Counties, Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church

request. Such meetings will help to ensure that the information used in the study is accurate and that the final IP reflects the concerns of the watershed stakeholders. Public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.

What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts? Implementation of the Four Mile Run bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial use of the stream, making it useable for swimming, splashing and wading without undue risk of illness. Additional benefits may be enhanced quality of life through improved public health and improved recreational activities. BMPs installed to control bacteria input to the stream may also result in conservation of natural resources, improved aquatic life and riparian habitat, and reductions in flood damage.

What funding will be available to help support the stakeholders' efforts in implementing the TMDL? DEQ fully realizes that implementation of BMPs is a costly undertaking. There are several sources of funding, such as the Virginia Revolving Loan Fund and various federal and state grant programs, that can be utilized to fund all or part of the corrective actions identified in a TMDL IP. The TMDL IP Guidance Manual, available from the Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Conservation and Recreation (DCR), includes additional information on funding sources. Information on DEQ and DCR programs, including information on TMDLs, may be found at <http://www.deq.state.va.us> and <http://www.dcr.state.va.us>

Whom may I contact to comment on or learn more about the Four Mile Run TMDL IP?

Kate Bennett, Department of Environmental Quality, 13901 Crown Ct., Woodbridge, VA, 22193, telephone (703) 583-3896, fax (703) 583-3841, or e-mail kebennett@deq.state.va.us.

