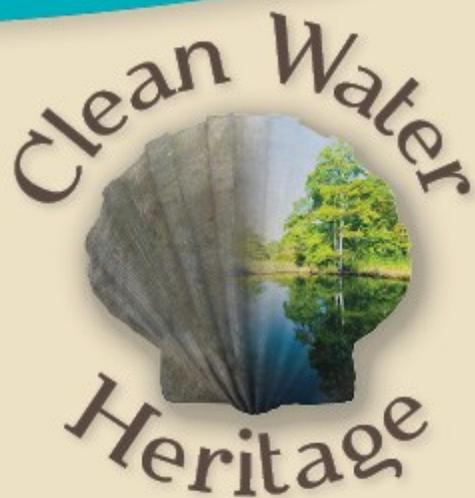


2016 Diascund Creek Watershed



Water Quality Report



Restore & Protect

www.jamescitycountyva.gov/857/Stormwater

James City County Water Quality Strategies

As part of a long term commitment to environmental stewardship, James City County volunteers and staff have been gathering information about stream health throughout the County since 2008. The goal of collecting water quality information is to be able to identify emerging water quality problems, target areas for restoration and preservation, document improvements from citizen and County actions and provide educational and volunteer opportunities for the public.

Volunteers and staff collect two types of data: one looks at the types of small creatures that live in streams and the other provides an indication of the amount of harmful bacteria present in a stream. Together, this information provides evidence of the overall health of the County's waterways.

The following information is a summary of known water quality conditions in the County, gleaned from data collected by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), from the County's volunteer water monitoring program and from completed James City County watershed management plans. As more information becomes available, this report will be updated.

Diascund Creek Watershed

The Diascund Creek Watershed is in the northwestern part of the County and borders the Diascund Creek reservoir, a drinking water source for the City of Newport News. Diascund Creek drains into the Chickahominy River before reaching the James River. The watershed is very lightly developed and is mostly rural residential, with forested upland and pastureland.

Water Quality Conditions

VADEQ has Diascund Creek reservoir listed as polluted for mercury and is listed as impaired for fishing due to mercury toxicity in the tissues of Bass and Bowfin. The tidal portion of Diascund Creek is impaired for enterococcus bacteria,

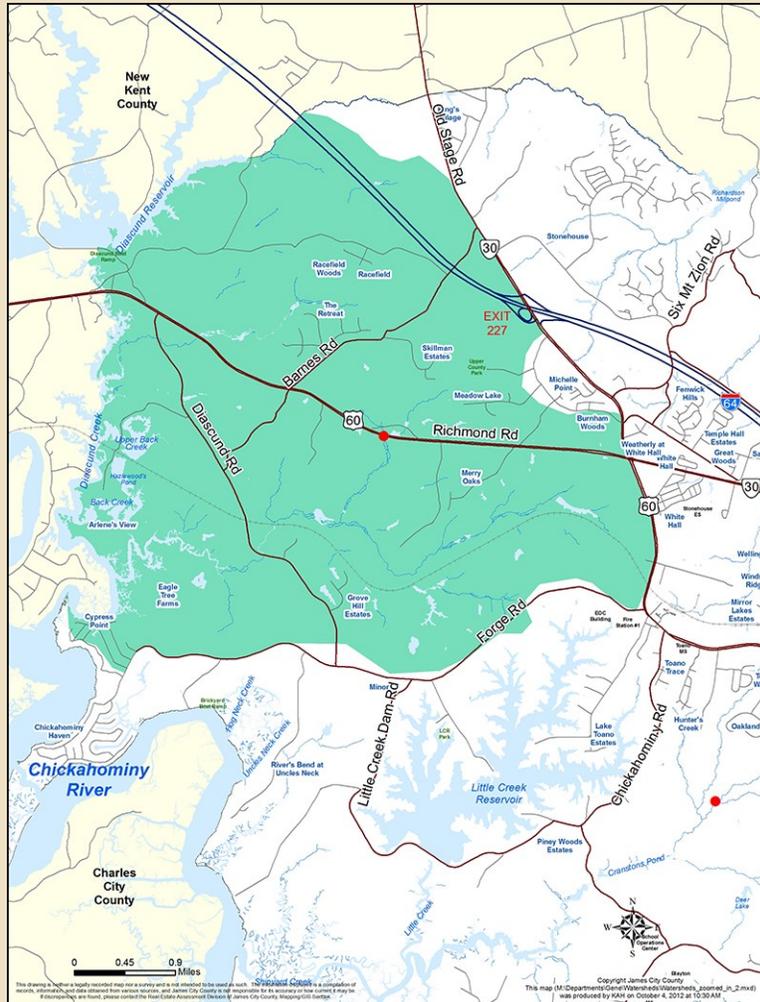
which indicates that people could get sick if they swim in the creek and are advised not to do so. VADEQ has also been performing bacteria monitoring in Diascund Creek. In 2010, when the bacteria levels began to exceed state standards, Diascund Creek was put on Virginia's impaired waters list.

Through the Stormwater Division's Water Quality Monitoring Program, and the efforts of County staff and citizen volunteers, the results show that, overall, Diascund Creek water quality turns out to be marginally acceptable to acceptable in terms of Virginia state water quality standards.

What Can Citizens Do?

- Clean up after your pet. Pet waste contains bacteria and viruses that are harmful to people and the environment.
- Fertilize properly. Learn about your soil and the type of grass in your yard to make a responsible fertilizing plan. Contact Turf Love at 757-564-2170 for help in identifying your yard needs.
- Leave a natural plant buffer around streams or stormwater ponds. Vegetation filters pollutants before they get to the water.
- Don't put fats and oils down the drain. Fatty deposits build up in the sewer system and can lead to sanitary sewer overflows, leaving harmful bacteria and viruses in the environment.
- Wash your car on the grass, not on pavement. Soap and grease will be filtered through the grass and soil before getting into groundwater.
- Plant a rain garden. These beautiful landscaped areas can act as a trap for rain water and can prevent erosion in areas where there is a lot of stormwater run-off.
- Power-wash with care. Look for cleaning products with environmentally-friendly ingredients.
- Don't put leaves and yard clippings in road ditches or on top of storm-drain inlets. Collect leaves and clippings for compost or drop off at a County transfer station.
- Go to askhrgreen.org for more helpful ideas.

Diascund Creek Watershed Map



For More Information

If you are interested in more information, go to jamescitycountyva.gov/857/stormwater or call 757-259-1446.

James City County continues to be proactive in the protection and preservation of natural resources in its commitment to create and sustain a quality community. Remember...caring for our natural resources requires a team effort. Together, we can make sure water quality in Diascund Creek Watershed is protected for generations to come.