

Bacteria TMDL Action Plan 2025 (DRAFT)

Project Engagement

VIEWS

264

PARTICIPANTS

9

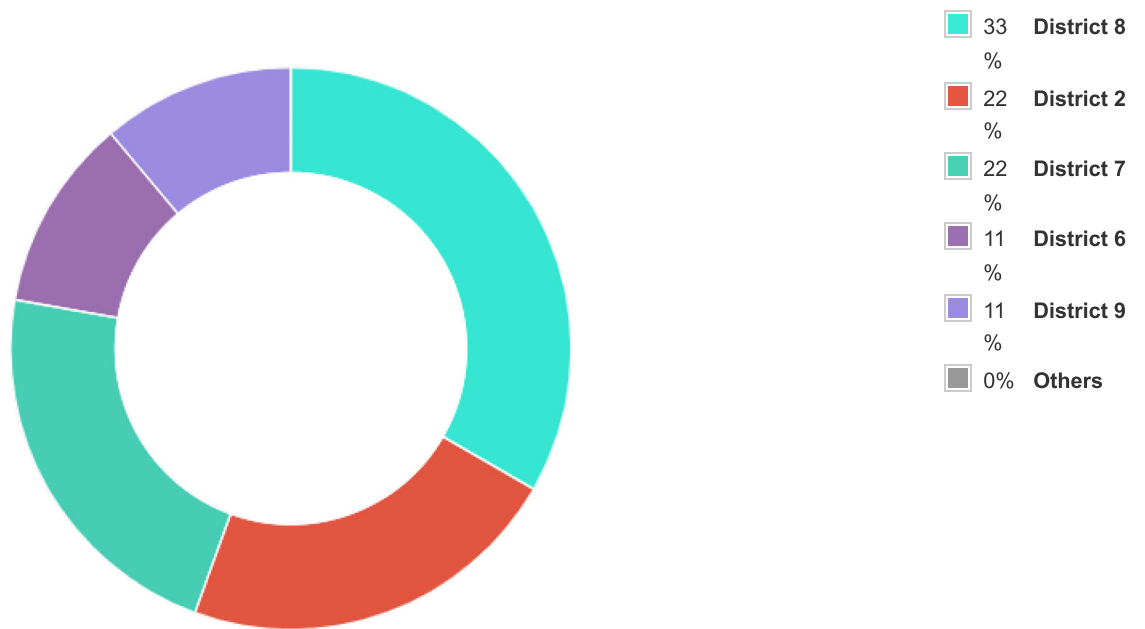
RESPONSES

9

COMMENTS

5

To help us understand who we are hearing from, please select the appropriate local election district that you reside or own real property in.



9 respondents

Please provide your input on the updated Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plan 2025 below. **(Don't forget to select "Comment" to record your input!)**

I didn't see any strategies to reduce the resident Canada Goose population in the urban areas of Virginia Beach.

Why no strategy for bacteria source tracking in the urban areas to determine if the impairment is human or wildlife induced?

I also didn't see anything about testing of the storm sewer system in sumped drainage structures and reverse graded pipes effectively being Petri dishes (year round) for bacteria.

Next, in the County, how much of the bacteria load comes from wildlife vs human sources? If wildlife (as the majority of rural bacteria impairments come from) what does the City actually propose to do?

6/8/2025

The root cause of TMDL is human population density. The number of times controlling pet and wildlife waste is presented as a top line action is ridiculous - animals have always pooped outside. So many of the sources mentioned such as pet waste, litter, sewage drains, runoff, etc, all come from too many people and development in a given area. In multiple areas of VB numerous high density apartment buildings and condo developments continue to spring up. How about an action to stop approval for high density housing areas of new homes and apartments which will not only continue to degrade the environment, but also cause traffic problems, eventually overload schools, and in the process degrade the residents quality of life.

6/7/2025

P.11 states that city ordinance prohibits feeding geese on public property. My suggestion is that the draft plan needs to go much further in addressing the environmental threat the out of control geese population presents. The city now has a large non migratory population of geese. While geese used to migrate and pass through Virginia Beach for a short time, thousands of geese now live year round in the City. They foul the waterways with massive waste. Walk on an area that geese have been in and you can see the massive waste they leave behind. All of that flows into waterways.

I am most familiar with the Lynnhaven Bay area and geese waste is likely one of the largest contributors of pollution. The city should take water samples to estimate how much they contribute to the problem. The plan needs to add an action strategy to have the city work with USDA and other partners to cull the geese population. Prohibiting people from feeding them on public property is not enough. The city needs to cull geese which remain in the city past a normal migration date. Also, having so many geese so close to household pets and people presents public health risks. We don't want a strain of avian flu to jump from a goose a person or household pet. Culling the geese which remain past the migration time would reinstate a fear of humans and that is desirable to prevent viruses from jumping species.

The non migratory geese need to be treated like an invasive plant specie that has many bad environmental effects.

6/7/2025

Seems reasonable. I wondered about encouraging rain gardens and other natural water filtration features in residential areas. I would add discouraging the feeding of waterfowl to the public education portion.

6/6/2025

A lot of this comes down to the community caring about itself and each other. In adults who already don't have the habit of taking care of public spaces or know what happens when there is runoff— seen particularly in people who are not going to live in Virginia Beach for large amounts of time or those with money to pay fines if it ever came to that— don't particularly care enough to change. The group that should be target with education initiatives is younger children. I remember I had an assembly as a kid where we learned about wastewater and the processes involved with it (obviously at an age appropriate level) but it worked. My parents didn't know anything about picking up after animal waste— which, in curriculum, should include mentioning personal property like backyards as spaces that need to be cleaned— or monitoring storm drains for blockages and things like that. Host community days at schools to teach families together. It might only get people who are involved in schools, but that is a new group that has been educated. Similarly, involve students at the science academies. Ask them to help in developing curriculum and infrastructure. Give them projects that get them more interested in helping the community so they see there is opportunity here and come back to continue contributing to the health of the environment here.

6/5/2025
