What are Water Quality Standards?

The State Water Control Law mandates the protection of existing high-quality state waters and provides for the restoration of all other state waters. The State has adopted water quality standards that consist of statements and numeric limits that describe water quality necessary to meet and maintain certain designated uses. These standards serve as a tool for accomplishing the purposes of the State Water Control Law. Generally, the standards are intended to protect state waters for swimming and other water-based recreation, public water supply, wildlife, propagation and growth of aquatic life, and the production of edible and marketable fish and shellfish.

Why is Wolf Creek Impaired?

Wolf Creek was listed as impaired by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) based on monitoring data that indicated recreational use and aquatic life goals were not being met. The impairment listing requires a study to determine the pollutants causing the impairment and the total maximum daily load (TMDL). A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of the impairing pollutant a waterbody can assimilate and still meet water quality standards. The pollutants impairing Wolf Creek were determined to be bacteria and sediment.

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Save our waterways!

For more information visit VHCC's stormwater webpage at: https://www.vhcc.edu/faculty-staff/procedures

To **report** a suspected or potential non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain, please report using the contact information below:

Superintendent Buildings & Grounds

Phone: 276-739-2510
Email: enunley@vhcc.edu



Notice:
Wolf Creek Does Not Meet Water Quality Standards!



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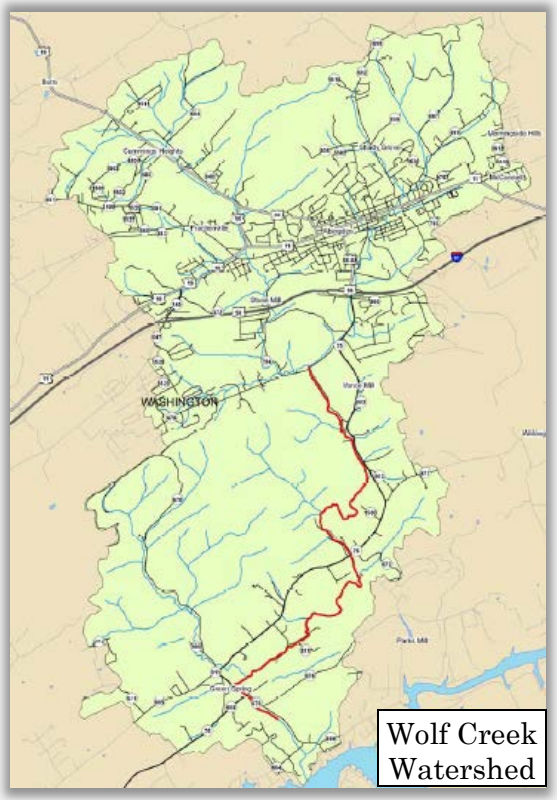
Local Water Quality Issues



Where do the impairing pollutants come from?

Bacteria and sediment can be generated from numerous sources throughout the watershed and transported to the creek in runoff from rainfall. Potential sources of each pollutant include:

- **Sediment** –In urban areas, excess sediment is generated from construction sites, erosion in areas lacking stabilization, and erosion of stream banks as a result of increased runoff. Many pollutants adhere to sediment.
- **Bacteria** – Outside of permitted discharges from wastewater treatment facilities, the sources include applied and deposited manure from livestock, leaking sanitary sewers, failing septic systems, pet and wildlife waste.



Wolf Creek Watershed

What can we do on campus?

We can each reduce the pollutants from campus impairing Wolf Creek by being aware and addressing or reporting:

- ✓ Disturbed areas without grass or other stabilization to prevent erosion
- ✓ Stockpiled erodible material without perimeter controls to keep it in place.
- ✓ Instances of frequent dog walking where waste is not collected
- ✓ Observed leaks from sanitary sewer systems.

"Citizen information and participation can ultimately speed the cleanup of impaired waters …"

- Environmental Protection Agency

VHCC Stormwater Program

VHCC implements a stormwater program that inherently addresses the reduction of the pollutants impacting Wolf Creek. Specifically, practices are implemented for the following:

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater issues;
2. Public involvement and participation to engage the public in pollution prevention activities;
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination to prevent pollutant discharges from the storm sewer;
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control that ensures proper practices are used during construction;
5. Post-construction stormwater management to treat runoff from developed areas; and
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping practices.