

A Plan for Clean Water in Woods Creek

Clean streams are important resources for the communities through which they flow. Woods Creek is a unique stream that flows through rural farmland and city landscapes before its confluence with the Maury River. Water quality monitoring has shown that there is too much bacteria in Woods Creek, which means that people face an increased chance of illness or infection after coming in contact with the water.

A study of Woods Creek and the sources of bacteria was completed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in 2017. Sources of bacteria include runoff of manure from pasture, livestock access to the stream, improperly functioning septic systems, sewer overflows, pet waste, and wildlife.

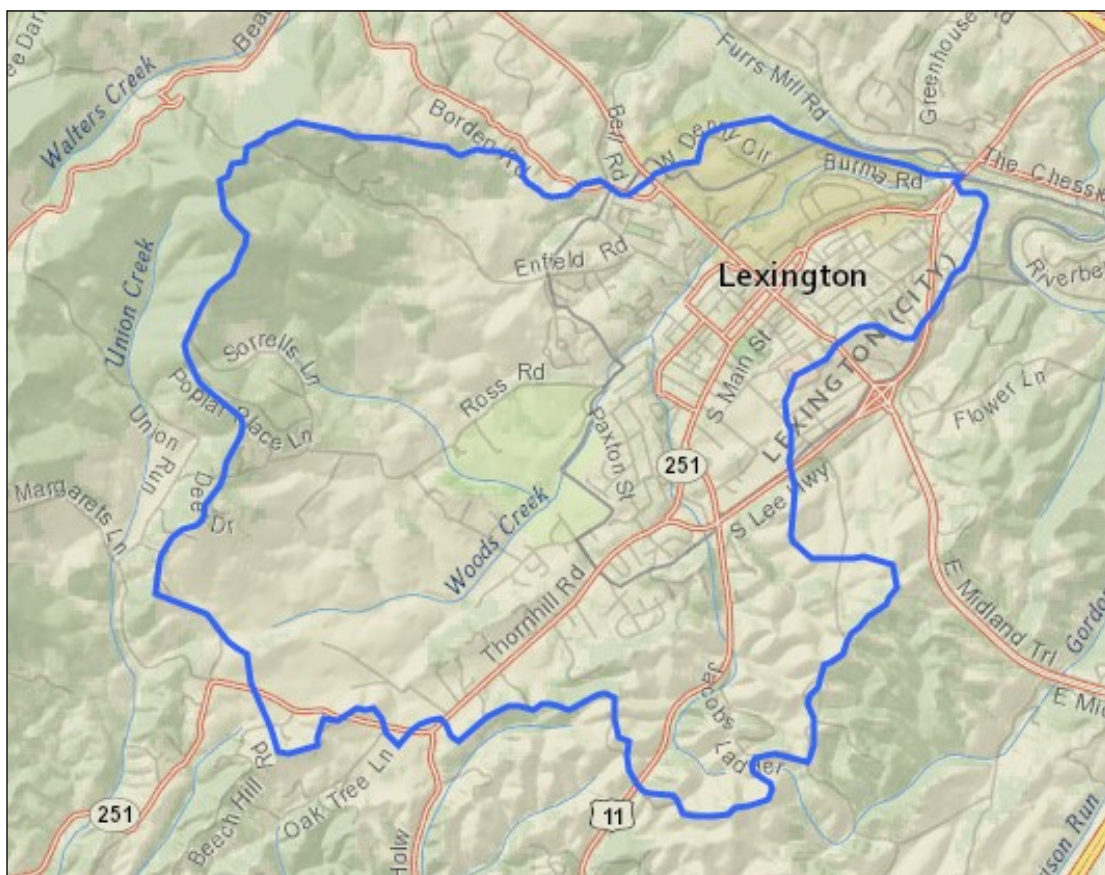
Starting in 2018, DEQ worked with local citizens and organizations to develop a plan identifying the best ways to reduce bacteria in Woods Creek. This water quality improvement plan provides a road map for residents and landowners to take action so that Woods Creek can meet water quality standards again.



**What can
YOU do
to help?**



Improving water quality in Woods Creek depends on local residents to take action! One of the easiest ways to keep bacteria out of the creek is to pick up after your pets so that bacteria from their waste doesn't reach the water.



Woods Creek flows through Rockbridge County and the City of Lexington. All of the land that drains to Woods Creek and its tributary streams makes up the Woods Creek watershed, which is about 5,000 acres in size. The Woods Creek watershed is outlined in blue on the map.

Because the bacteria in Woods Creek comes from multiple sources, the actions needed to reduce bacteria apply to both rural and city land uses. These actions are collectively referred to as best management practices, or BMPs. Some of the BMPs that are included in the water quality improvement plan for Woods Creek are listed below.

- Fencing livestock out of streams
- Improved pasture management
- Tree planting
- Permanent vegetation on critical pasture areas
- Streamside buffers
- Septic system pumpouts
- Repair/replacement of failing septic systems
- Pet waste disposal stations
- Rain gardens

For information about technical and financial assistance to install BMPs:

Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District

Website: www.naturalbridgeswcd.org

Phone: (540)463-7124 Ext. 5

For information about the Woods Creek water quality improvement plan:

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