



RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Address applicable federal or state regulatory requirements, meet or revisit applicable City regulatory requirements in light of meeting City policy objectives, and provide for periodic reviews of City operations and facilities.
- » Create a Sustainability Plan for the City that sets forth goals and recommendations.
- » Create a periodic report every three years entitled “The State of Virginia Beach’s Environment” to measure progress in meeting Sustainability Plan objectives.

WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

SURFACE WATER

One of the City’s most valuable natural resources is undoubtedly its surface water resources. The geography of the City comprises three major watershed areas: the Chesapeake Bay; Southern Watersheds; and Owl’s Creek/Atlantic Coastal.

The components that make up the watershed areas that require protection and management consist of wetlands, shorelines, riparian buffers, storm drainage systems and the land upon which they drain. These components, collectively, determine the environmental health, quality and sustainability of all of the City’s natural resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Implement plans and programs designed to protect and restore the City’s natural waterways for habitat support and recreational use.



Sustainable Landscape Management

- » Address requirements of the Chesapeake Bay 2000 (C2K) Agreement (as referenced in the online document library at www.ourfuturevb.com), and those which are currently being developed at the federal and state level in light of pending regulatory and legislative actions.

- » Increase public access to Bay tributaries.
- » Working with all stakeholders, identify issues to be addressed and develop a strategy for the formulation of a Watershed Management Plan and a Water Use Conflict Memorandum of Agreement for the Elizabeth River, Lynnhaven River, and Rudee Inlet/Owl Creek watersheds.

- » Continue cooperation between the following watershed restoration projects and organizations:

- › Back Bay Restoration Foundation
- › Elizabeth River Project

- › U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- › Commonwealth of Virginia
- › Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk and Portsmouth
- › Lynnhaven River NOW
- › North Landing River Keepers
- › The Nature Conservancy

- » Demonstrate that the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act are addressed as they apply to achieving total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements.