

# York County City of Poquoson



## Community Voices

“Not only have we made a difference in our local water quality, but more importantly, we have also reached out to diverse groups of all ages to talk about the importance of clean water. We encouraged other groups and chapters to engage in water quality efforts. Our ripple keeps spreading.”



**Daina Henry**  
Virginia Master Naturalist

**2,000**  
pounds of plastic  
collected by volunteers

## Partners for Solutions

“Plants act as a protective soil cover to prevent erosion and fertilizer runoff by capturing and filtering rain water and moving particles. Our Master Gardeners, Healthy Virginia Lawns program, and Help Desk help residents identify their lawn and landscape needs and find solutions that reduce pollution outputs in stormwater runoff.”



**Megan Tierney**  
Agent



Virginia Master Naturalist June Hartzler of the Peninsula Chapter performs water tests.

## Sharing Knowledge

Our Peninsula Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer program provides water quality testing in local waterways in York, Poquoson, Newport News, and Hampton through a Department of Environmental Quality grant. The results help localities identify issues contributing to waterway pollution. Since 2014, we have grown to 26 locations and put in over 700 volunteer hours per year.

The water quality testing has had great impacts, one of which helped a locality identify a creek with pollution from an overloaded and failing pump station releasing raw sewage into a local waterway. The pump station is currently being replaced. Water quality testing also helped a locality identify failing city sewer pipes along a shoreline that were releasing raw sewage into a local waterway. Those pipes were identified and replaced.

# York County/City of Poquoson

## Funding by Source



**39% State**

**25% Local**

**8% Federal**

**29% Other**

**Total Funding: \$276,454**

**\$3.04**

return on investment  
for every dollar  
invested by the county  
in York County/City of  
Poquoson

**\$629,090**

value of extension  
volunteer hours in  
York County/City of  
Poquoson

To find out how you can support your local Extension office,  
visit [www.cals.vt.edu/make-a-gift](http://www.cals.vt.edu/make-a-gift).