

Lafayette River Steering Committee

Convened by Elizabeth River Project and Chesapeake Bay Foundation

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A Cleaner River Starts Here.



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Portsmouth, VA 23704 • (757) 399-RIVR
www.ElizabethRiver.org*

The Plan for Restoring the Lafayette River

Strategies for Community-Wide Action

April 27, 2011

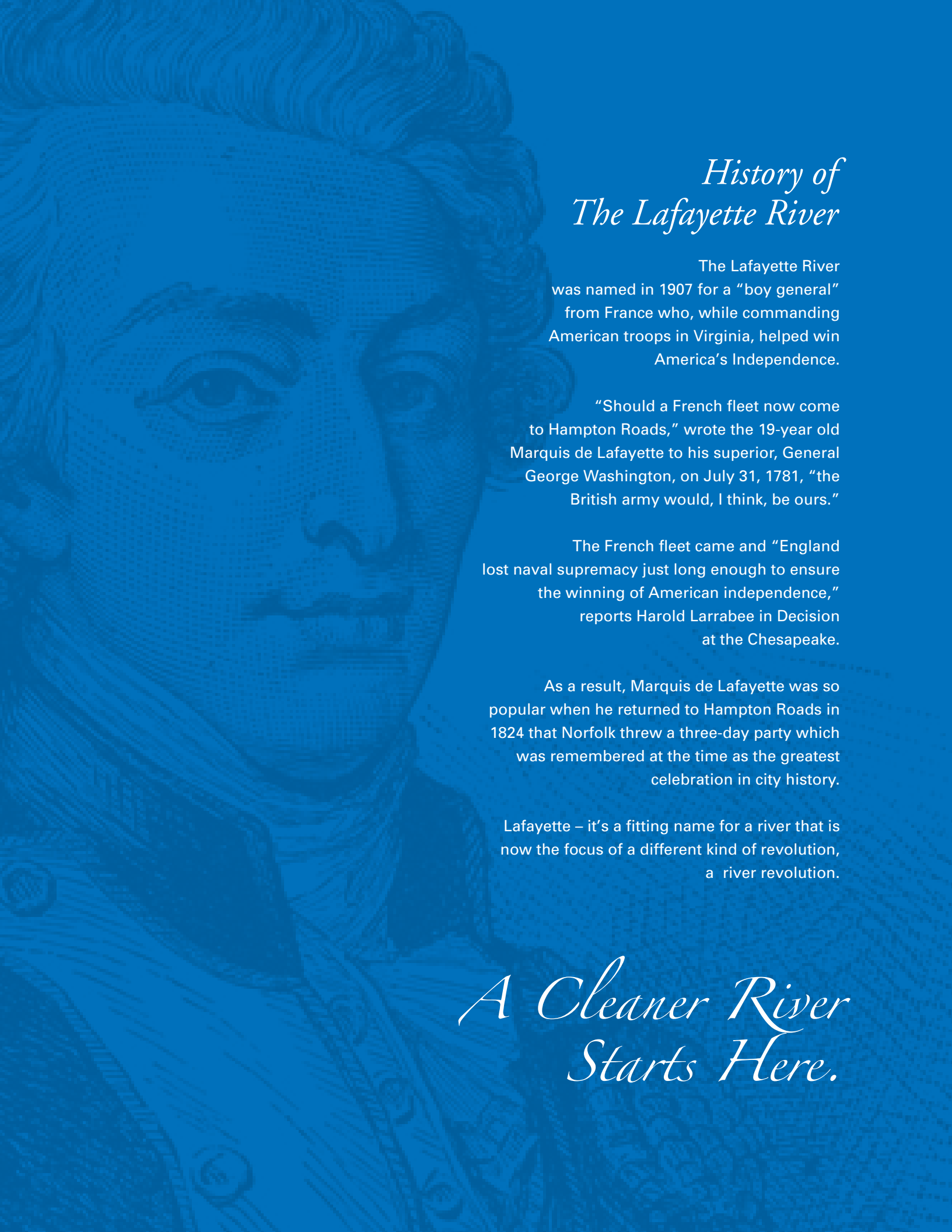
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared by the Swimmable-Fishable
Lafayette River Steering Committee
Convened by the Elizabeth River Project
and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION





History of The Lafayette River

The Lafayette River was named in 1907 for a “boy general” from France who, while commanding American troops in Virginia, helped win America’s Independence.

“Should a French fleet now come to Hampton Roads,” wrote the 19-year old Marquis de Lafayette to his superior, General George Washington, on July 31, 1781, “the British army would, I think, be ours.”

The French fleet came and “England lost naval supremacy just long enough to ensure the winning of American independence,” reports Harold Larrabee in *Decision at the Chesapeake*.

As a result, Marquis de Lafayette was so popular when he returned to Hampton Roads in 1824 that Norfolk threw a three-day party which was remembered at the time as the greatest celebration in city history.

Lafayette – it’s a fitting name for a river that is now the focus of a different kind of revolution, a river revolution.

A Cleaner River Starts Here.

*We will endow our children with safe
swimming and fishing in a bountiful Lafayette River.*
—The Lafayette River Steering Committee

This plan is your ticket

to a fuller future on the Lafayette. Two non-profits,
The Elizabeth River Project and the Chesapeake
Bay Foundation, convened 100 people from all
walks of life - science, government, business and
citizen interests – to agree on the goals and strategies
needed to restore the Lafayette River to environmental
health in balance with a healthy economy.



Join the River Revolution. These students did
by growing wetland grasses for the Virginia Zoo.

Goal 1: A Swimmable Lafayette River

page 3

Reduce harmful bacteria by 2014 to levels that are safe for swimming in all practical
reaches of the Lafayette.

What Lafayette Residents Can Do Right Now | **page 4**

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Goal 2: Healthy River Life

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Achieve healthy, plentiful wildlife in the Lafayette River.

What Lafayette Residents Can Do Right Now | **page 7**

What Your Community Partners are Doing | **page 8**

Goal 3: Citizens Make the Difference

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Encourage river stewardship in the Lafayette River community
through public awareness and action.

What Lafayette Residents Can Do Right Now | **page 11**

What Your Community Partners are Doing | **page 12**

Community Partners Committed to *A Cleaner River*

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Christ the King School**
- Colonial Place Civic League
- Crossroads Elementary School **
- Elizabeth River Project
- Granby Elementary School **
- Hampton Roads Rowing Club *
- Hermitage Museum and Gardens *
- Highland Park Civic League
- HRSD *
- Jacox Elementary School **
- James Monroe Elementary School**
- Knitting Mill Creek Yacht Club *
- Lafayette Wetlands Partnership
- Larchmont Branch Library *
- Larchmont Elementary School **
- Lindenwood Elementary School **
- Living River Restoration Trust
- NOAA Restoration Center
- Norfolk Collegiate Lower School **
- Norfolk Collegiate School **
- Norfolk Department of Utilities*
- Norfolk Environmental Commission *
- Norfolk Southern Lamberts Point *
- Norfolk Stormwater Management Program *
- Norfolk Yacht and Country Club *
- Norview Elementary School **
- Oakwood Elementary School **
- Old Dominion University *
- Park Place Civic League
- Roland Park Civic League
- Rosemont Middle School **
- Sherwood Forest Elementary School **
- St. Patrick Catholic School **
- Suburban Park Elementary School**
- Tanners Creek Elementary School **
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Health – Division of Shellfish Sanitation
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Virginia Port Authority *
- Virginia Zoo *
- Willard Model School **

* The RiverStar business and government facilities documenting environmental results with Elizabeth River Project

** The RiverStar schools documenting environmental stewardship projects with Elizabeth River Project in 2009/10

Join the River Revolution.

It can make you a star.

Become a shining example of river stewardship. Ask about the Elizabeth River Project's RiverStar programs and discover how you can make a real difference in the health of our home river. For more information, call (757) 399-RIVR.



River restoration is good business. Just ask the more than 80 area corporations who have made a commitment to participate in projects that promote the health and vitality of the Elizabeth River. From voluntary reduction of toxins to building or conserving wildlife habitats, we can help you make it happen.

ElizabethRiver.org



This year, 126 RiverStar Schools spent the year participating in hands-on learning activities centered around the health and restoration of the Elizabeth River. There are more than 200 public and private schools in the Elizabeth River watershed—could your school play a starring role, too?

ElizabethRiver.org



Citizens making a difference at home – that's RiverStar Homes, the Elizabeth River Project's new program to help households experience the pleasure of helping bring back the health of their home river through easy-to-do home projects that reduce pollution. Join us on the home team.

RiverStarHomes.org



Help Amelia Bailey, Riverview resident, achieve a swimmable home river. Photo courtesy of Len Rothman

Goal 1:

A Swimmable Lafayette River

Reduce harmful bacteria by 2014 to levels that are safe for swimming in all practical reaches of the Lafayette.

The Challenge

After a heavy rain, most of the Lafayette River is unsafe for swimming due to high bacteria levels.

Harmful bacteria in the river can come from urban runoff, improper disposal of boat sewage, sewer clogs caused by pouring oil, grease or fat down kitchen sinks, sanitary sewer malfunctions, pet waste, tidal influences and waste from urban resident geese and ducks that no longer migrate.

We'll know we've succeeded when we:

- **Meet state criteria for safe levels of the bacteria fecal enterococci.**
- **Hold regular swim meets on the Lafayette.**

Lafayette Residents: What You Can Do Right Now

- 1. Scoop the poop.** Pick up after your dog in your yard as well as on walks. Throw pet poop in the trash.
- 2. Report suspected sewer problems.** If you see or suspect a sewer problem in the Lafayette area, immediately call 823-1000, Norfolk Department of Utilities' 24-hour response line.
- 3. Keep grease out of your sink drain.** Pour fat, oil and grease into an empty container. When the grease hardens, throw the can in the trash. Grease is one cause of clogged sewer systems and can lead to polluted runoff reaching the river. **For more on what you can do, visit FatFreeDrains.com.**
- 4. Properly pump out boat sewage.** Do not discharge sewage from your boat into the Lafayette!
- 5. Encourage geese and ducks to migrate — don't feed them.** Canada geese populations have increased dramatically across the US, leading to excess bacteria in waterways. In addition to human handouts, geese like to feast on heavily fertilized, manicured lawns. An un-mowed 6-foot wide shore-line buffer of tall native grasses discourages geese. Dogs are also effective goose chasers.
- 6. Become a RiverStar Home.** Pledge your commitment to the Lafayette by becoming a Star. See page 2 to learn more about our RiverStar Homes program.



For more on these AND OTHER ACTIONS that can make a difference, visit RiverStarHomes.org and cbf.org.

A Cleaner River Starts With You.



Groups: Join the Public-Private Momentum Partner Action Begins

Actions already underway to achieve a swimmable Lafayette River include:

■ The City of Norfolk is investing

millions of dollars in renewing the wastewater collection system infrastructure throughout the City. Since 2002, Norfolk has spent \$76 million in sanitary sewer improvement projects in the Lafayette River watershed - more than any other city in Hampton Roads, VA. To prevent stormwater from overwhelming sewer lines, Norfolk is phasing in the upgrade of all 17,000 manholes to add steel inserts that keep stormwater out. Norfolk is replacing leaking sewer pipes and is part of a regional effort to address leaking lines on private property.

Lafayette River Watershed Wastewater Projects | 2002 - Present

Project Name	Amount
Titustown Pump Station	\$326,838.00
Annual Gravity Sewer Contract	\$16,258,893.81
Park Place Pump Station	\$10,624,642.48
Talbot Park	\$4,406,857.66
Glencove / Lochhaven	\$4,477,511.25
Colonial Place Pump Station	\$3,568,526.45
Fairmount Park	\$28,500,182.22
North Shore Road Force Main	\$1,197,856.30
Huntersville	\$6,700,551.01
Total	\$76,061,859.18

■ Testing of bacteria levels in the Lafayette

River has been expanded to more than 15 sites thanks to partners listed in this plan.

■ A "pollution limit" for bacteria - known as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been set

by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The TMDL attempts to establish the amount of bacteria that can safely be discharged into the river while meeting state water quality criteria.

■ Elizabeth River Project's efforts include:

- Installing 15 "scoop the poop" stations in Lafayette neighborhoods
- Pursuing the goal to enlist all 7 Lafayette River marinas as Virginia Clean Marinas and as participants in Elizabeth River Project's RiverStars business program.
- Assisting Virginia Zoo to vegetate the banks of a duck pond to stabilize soil and prevent contaminated runoff, while adding a man-made "floating wetland" to absorb pollution.

■ The Chesapeake Bay Foundation

is installing 300 storm drain medallions on strategic storm drains throughout the Lafayette River watershed. (Storm drain medallions are small metal disks placed on storm drain covers to remind people not to put anything down the drain.)

Keep the Momentum Going

Community partners must now take these next steps:

■ Develop and carry out a plan

for staying below the Total Maximum Daily Load Allocation for bacteria in the Lafayette River (all stakeholders).

■ Support further large-scale improvements

to the sewer systems and stormwater system in the Lafayette drainage area (watershed).

■ Begin public swim meets in 2014.

■ Conduct a boater education forum

to consider a "no discharge" zone.

■ Provide citizen training

for identifying and reporting pollution problems.

■ Develop pro-active plans

to address sea level elevation changes.



Goal 2:

Healthy River Life

Achieve healthy, plentiful
wildlife in the Lafayette River

The Challenge

A massive algal bloom ("red tide") emerges each summer in the Lafayette. From there, it spreads into the Elizabeth and lower Chesapeake Bay, robbing these waters of oxygen and compromising marine life. An excess of lawn fertilizers is a leading culprit.

Elevated nutrient levels in the Lafayette are raising serious concerns. Excess lawn fertilizers and other sources of nutrients in runoff are leading to harmful levels of algae and can cause fish kills. Harmful bacteria in the Lafayette are contaminating oysters, making them unsafe for human consumption. The disappearance of natural filters for controlling algae, including oysters, wetland grasses and other native vegetation along the shore, compounds the problem. Air pollution, another contributor to excess nutrients, is often ignored. As much as 34 percent of the nutrient problem in the Chesapeake Bay is attributed to pollutants in the air that eventually fall either to the ground, where they can wash into the water, or directly into the water itself. Rising sea levels can also disrupt the ecosystem balance. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management anticipates a sea level rise of two feet in the next hundred years.

We'll know we've succeeded when we:

- **Reduce red tide to non-harmful levels by 2020.**
- **Eliminate fish kills.**
- **Reach the 2014 goal of "restricted" rather than "prohibited" oyster harvesting, based on reduced bacteria. Strive for open oyster harvesting by 2020.**
- **Increase or enhance functioning wetlands by 10 acres.**
- **Increase oyster reefs by 10 acres, including "oyster reef balls*."**
- **Identify and protect priority land.**
- **Develop pro-active plans to address rising sea levels.**

*Reef Ball: a conical concrete structure used in groups as an artificial reef to provide oyster habitat and shoreline protection.

Lafayette Residents: What You Can Do Right Now

1. Make your yard truly “green.”

■ Reduce or eliminate fertilizers on lawns.

The typical American applies many times the recommended amount of fertilizer. This leading source of harmful nutrients washes into the river, resulting in oxygen depletion and fish kills.

■ Test your soil to determine nutrient needs

before fertilizing: Send a soil sample for analysis and recommendation to Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory. Soil sample boxes can be found at your library or the Cooperative Extension Office, 830 Southampton Ave. Suite 2069, Norfolk, 683-2816.

■ If you must fertilize, fall is generally the less

harmful season due to less rain. Follow directions, and avoid applications if rain is forecast and avoid sidewalks and streets. Choose natural fertilizers over chemicals.

■ Line your shore with trees, shrubs and

wetland grasses. The zone along the shore is called the “buffer,” a critical place to keep well-vegetated to absorb and filter polluted runoff.

■ Plant trees for Mayor Fraim’s “Celebrate Trees” initiative.

Visit celebratetrees.norfolk.gov to learn how.

■ Plant natives.

Native species of plants, bushes and trees have evolved to provide food and habitat for indigenous wildlife while requiring less fertilizer and water.

■ Compost mowed grass clippings.

2. Only rain down the storm drain.

Don't sweep or dump leaves, grass clippings, litter, motor oil or anything else into the river, the street or your storm drain. In Norfolk, your storm drains lead directly to the river, even if you live blocks away.

3. Switch to re-usable shopping bags.

Disposable plastic bags look like tasty jelly fish to shore birds and other marine life. As many as 25 percent of shore birds have plastic bags in their stomachs.

4. Wash your car at a car wash that recycles the water.

If you wash your car on your driveway, the detergent – which may include harmful phosphates – as well as the dirt and grease are likely to run into the storm drain and out to the river.

5. Reduce air pollution.

Air pollution contributes as much as a third of excess nutrients in the Lafayette. Support mass transit alternatives like Norfolk's light rail, the Tide. Walk, carpool or ride your bike. Switch to a push mower or electric mower. Mowing your lawn for one hour with a conventional gas lawn mower can cause more air pollution than driving from Norfolk to Charlottesville and back in a new car.

6. Install rain barrels, rain gardens and pervious pavement to absorb storm water.

Instead of creating polluted runoff, collect the rain water from your gutters in a rain barrel or cistern and re-use it to water your yard. Consider planting a rain garden, a planting area strategically placed to collect and absorb rain water from your property before it can run off. Use pervious pavers that absorb rain for your patio or driveway.

7. Move your car on street-sweeping day.

When the city sweeps your street, it prevents debris from entering the storm sewers, and parked cars reduce the effectiveness of this important effort. Visit Norfolk.gov/publicworks/stormwater for a map showing the sweeping schedule by neighborhood.

**For more on these AND OTHER
ACTIONS that can make a difference,
visit RiverStarHomes.org and cbf.org.**



Groups: Join the Public-Private Momentum Partner Action Begins

Our partners already have dozens of projects underway to turn the Lafayette into a thriving wildlife habitat.



Photos left to right: A newly installed “floating wetland” at Virginia Zoo; the belted kingfisher is a common Lafayette visitor; a volunteer plants native grasses on the banks on the Lafayette;

■ **The City of Norfolk has launched “Celebrate Trees”** with a goal to increase tree canopy cover from 33 percent to 40 percent.

■ **Norfolk is conducting wetland restorations in Colley Bay and at Larchmont Elementary.**

The City is the regional leader in voluntary wetland restorations dating back to 1997 with the Birdsong Wetland.

■ **The Virginia Zoo with Elizabeth River Project is installing two “floating wetlands”** (engineered wetland islands) to absorb nutrients from a duck pond. The Zoo also plans to install sediment filters at the inlets to 20 stormwater drains. Prior Zoo efforts, implemented as River Star projects with The Elizabeth River Project, include a wetland restoration and three environmental exhibits.

■ **The Elizabeth River Project is planting 150 trees** native to Virginia in the Lafayette watershed to absorb excess nutrients.

■ **The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and partners are installing three rain gardens in the Lafayette watershed** to absorb nutrients and sediment, and recruiting 30 families for spat-on-shell oyster gardening, an innovative approach to growing oysters that will result in 30,000 oysters in the Lafayette.

■ **The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and volunteers are completing an oyster population assessment in the Lafayette River.**

■ **Partners continue to stock two native oyster sanctuary reefs** constructed by Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Rotary Club of Norfolk.

■ **Norfolk is leading the region with the first light rail system.** Fewer cars on the road will reduce the air pollution that ends up in waterways. Imagine the environmental benefits if “The Tide” could be extended into the Lafayette watershed.

■ **River Star business and government facilities in the Lafayette watershed continue to document pollution prevention and habitat restoration progress:** Hampton Roads Rowing Club, Hermitage Museum and Gardens, HRSD, Knitting Mill Creek Yacht Club, Larchmont Library, Norfolk Environmental Commission, Norfolk Stormwater Management Program, Norfolk Yacht and Country Club, Old Dominion University, Virginia Port Authority, Marine Repair Services – Container Maintenance Corporation, Norfolk Southern Lambert’s Point, U.S. Maritime Administration – Division of Atlantic Operations, and Virginia Zoo.

■ **Prior wetland restorations on the Lafayette include a model “living shoreline” constructed at the Hermitage** to demonstrate natural erosion control; a demonstration wetland restoration along the Virginia Zoo parking lot; and Lafayette Wetlands Partnership’s restoration at 46th Street and Colley Avenue.

Keep the Momentum Going

Community partners must now take these next steps:



a spadefish, one of the diverse species scientists found in the Lafayette in 2010; the Hermitage Museum and Gardens as seen from the Lafayette; river otters are frequently sighted on the Lafayette.

■ **Reduce harmful bacteria in shellfish** to levels that allow the Virginia Department of Health to change the status of shellfish harvesting from prohibited to restricted (requires "relay" of the shellfish from the Lafayette to a clean waterway for a brief period before harvesting) by 2014. Strive to achieve open harvest conditions for all practical reaches of the Lafayette by 2020.

■ **Implement 10 more acres of restored or enhanced wetlands; 10 acres of oyster reefs, including reef balls; and 10 acres of forested shore.** If feasible, restore submerged aquatic vegetation as water quality improves. Potential wetlands and oyster sites include:

- Knitting Mill Creek
- Talbot Hall
- Myrtle Avenue
- Colley Bay
- Old Dominion University
- 49th Street
- Highland Park
- Roland Park
- Virginia Zoo
- Hermitage Museum and Gardens sites
- Norfolk International Terminals

■ **Implement large stormwater improvements** to reduce nutrients entering the Lafayette through stormwater. City of Norfolk and partners to accomplish at potential sites including:

- Haven Creek
- WHRO parking lot
- "Tree box filters" at storm drains on Granby Street and Colonial Place
- Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center
- Virginia Zoo

■ **Identify and achieve long-term conservation for undeveloped areas with the most watershed benefit.**

■ **The Living River Restoration Trust is taking a new role** in urban land conservation on the Elizabeth.

■ **Recruit the majority of high-priority businesses** in the Lafayette watershed into the Elizabeth River Project's RiverStar program for businesses and government facilities, emphasizing nutrient and bacteria reduction projects.

■ **Evaluate artificial aeration** as a way to increase dissolved oxygen in the Lafayette River. Similar to an air pump in an aquarium, rivers like the Thames in London receive dissolved oxygen from aeration vessels (the "Thames Bubbler").

■ **Conduct studies to determine if algal blooms can be converted into biofuels.**

■ **Identify and implement strategies to address sea level rise.**

■ **Continue monitoring of nutrients** in the Lafayette by HRSD, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Old Dominion University.

■ **Collect natural resources data** through seining and trawling surveys for abundance and diversity of fishes.



Goal 3:

Citizens Make the Difference

Encourage river stewardship in the Lafayette River community through public awareness and action.

The Challenge:

Inspiring people like you to join the action for a healthy Lafayette River.

In the end, the restoration of a river depends on the degree to which citizens are actively engaged in stewardship practices. On the Lafayette, many partners are conducting environmental education, but the state of the river is evidence that awareness and action have not yet reached a critical mass.

We'll know we've succeeded when we:

- **Count 1,000 "RiverStar Homes" making a difference.**
- **Enlist all civic leagues in the Lafayette community.**
- **Engage all socio-economic levels.**
- **Enlist all Lafayette schools as "RiverStar Schools"**
- **Secure the necessary resources for this plan through the support of elected officials and other community leaders.**

Lafayette Residents: What You Can Do Right Now

1. Learn more, volunteer and participate.

The partners to this plan offer a wide range of ways to learn more about river restoration, as well as ways to get involved by volunteering or taking part in an inspiring outdoor activity. **Shop this list to find out what's just right for you:**

Chesapeake Bay Foundation cbf.org • 622-1964

- Paddle a Discovery Canoe Trip.
- Take an oyster growing workshop.
- Help install storm drain medallions.

Elizabeth River Project elizabethriver.org • 399-RIVR

- Schedule a student field trip aboard Learning Barge, the world's first floating wetland classroom.
- Sign up for River Star Homes, River Star Schools or River Star Industries – free recognition and assistance in exchange for “doin’ right by the river.”
- Volunteer, display your art or just come by to enjoy the festivities at RIVERFest on the Lafayette, an annual festival.

Hermitage Museum and Gardens

hermitagefoundation.org • 423-2052

- Sign up for Wetlands Enrichment Tours, go to native plant sales and visit the “living shoreline” to learn about natural erosion control.

Norfolk Stormwater, 823-4000

- Learn about workshops for lawn care companies.

Norfolk's Bureau of Environmental Services

- Sign up for a one-day wetlands educational seminar. Contact Kevin DuBois at Kevin.dubois@norfolk.gov.

Ernie Morgan Environmental Action Center

NorfolkBeautiful.org • 441-1347

- Attend an Eco-Do-It-Yourself Workshop and learn sustainable building practices, observe native landscaping, get the scoop on recycling and more. While you're there, sign up for Norfolk's Adopt-a-Spot program to keep your shoreline or street clean.

Lafayette Wetlands Partnership LRWPartners.org,

- Take a free wetland stewardship workshop with Norfolk's Neighborhood University, 823-4210.

Virginia Zoo Virginiazoo.org • 441-2374

- Visit the Virginia Zoo's environmental exhibits including a wetland restoration with education signage next to the main parking lot.

2. Become an advocate. Learn what's going on and plan to speak up at government meetings on decisions affecting the health of the river.

- Report pollution to Norfolk's hotline, 664-4529
- Check the calendar for the Norfolk Wetlands Board meetings at norfolk.gov/Planning/Wetlands-Board.asp
- Attend a hearing. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission holds pertinent hearings on the protection of river resources. For more information, please visit mrc.state.va.us/commission_agendas/commagendaindex.shtm.

Ah, the joy of doing your part! This student helped plant wetlands with Elizabeth River Project.



For more on these
AND OTHER ACTIONS that
can make a difference, visit
RiverStarHomes.org and **cbf.org**.

*A Cleaner River
Starts With You.*

Groups: Join the Public-Private Momentum Partner Action Begins

Our partners are committed to raising awareness and engaging community.

- **To raise awareness of this action plan, project partners will introduce it at the inaugural RIVERFest on the Lafayette**, a community-wide celebration held on April 30, 2011 (rain date May 1).
- **Elizabeth River Project is launching the River Star Homes program** on April 30, 2011 at River Fest. HRSD has provided \$103,000 in a two-year grant to launch the program.
- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation is training volunteers to be river stewards.** Citizens meet weekly for eight weeks and provide 60 volunteer hours each on projects to improve the health of our rivers and waterways.
- **River Star Schools in the Lafayette watershed** are actively involved in hands-on environmental stewardship projects.

Keep the Momentum Going

The critical next steps we **MUST** take to achieve our goal

- **Conduct a "Scoop the Poop" social marketing campaign.**
- **Conduct outreach and cleanup projects that involve all sectors of the community.**
- **Develop a campaign to urge citizens to reduce excess fertilizers in runoff.**
- **Safeguard the Lafayette through active citizen participation in city policy decisions.**
- **Secure broad funding sources for this plan.**
- **Collect stories from Lafayette River citizens on the river's history.**
- **Increase public access to the Lafayette River.**



For more on these **AND OTHER ACTIONS** that can make a difference, visit RiverStarHomes.org and cbf.org.

A Cleaner River Starts Here.

About this plan

The purpose of this plan is to describe the strategies that are needed to restore the environmental health of the Lafayette River, a branch of the Elizabeth River on the lower Chesapeake Bay in southeastern Virginia. Elevated levels of bacteria make most of the Lafayette River unsafe for swimming and unsafe for harvesting oysters. Meanwhile, excess levels of nutrients contribute to algal blooms which stress aquatic life. This plan sets goals for making the Lafayette safe for swimming and limited harvest of oysters ("relay" harvest) by 2014 and safe for open harvest of oysters by 2020.

This plan is intended to serve as a guide for citizens, governments, schools, businesses and non-profits. Under each goal, a special box highlights vital actions needed from citizens, while other sections address what partner organizations already have underway or need to do next.

This plan was prepared by the Lafayette River Steering Committee. A group consisting of more than 100 people representing science, government, business and citizen interests who met from March 15, 2009 to May 6, 2010 to agree on the goals and strategies prescribed. The group was convened by the non-profit Elizabeth River Project, working to restore the environmental quality of the Elizabeth River and its tributaries including the Lafayette, and the Hampton Roads office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the largest non-profit working to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

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 - A grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to the Elizabeth River Project.
 - A grant from HRSD to The Elizabeth River Project.

For a full report on the goals and strategies outlined in this plan, visit ElizabethRiver.org.

Special thanks to:

Photographer Kenn Jolemore for his photographs of wildlife along the Lafayette River.

For more information:

■ **Chesapeake Bay Foundation • 757-622-1964 • cbf.org**

Hampton Roads Office, 142 West York Street, Suite 618, Norfolk, VA 23510

■ **Elizabeth River Project • 757-399-7487 • elizabethriver.org**

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