

water quantity protection in the : X



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Water quantity protection in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley focuses on managing groundwater depletion and maintaining minimum instream flows for agricultural and public use. Key strategies include enacting source water protection ordinances, implementing livestock exclusion fencing to protect watersheds, and establishing drought management plans.  Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley +3

Key Water Protection Measures & Issues

- **Source Water Protection:** Localities like Augusta County have established overlay districts around public springs and wellheads, implementing strict regulations on construction, land use, and potential contamination sources within 1,000-foot radii.
- **Agricultural Water Quality & Quantity:** A significant portion of farms in areas like Augusta and Rockingham lack adequate fencing to keep cattle out of streams, prompting calls for increased state action to protect water quality, which affects overall quantity, according to the [Environmental Integrity Project](#).
- **Minimum Instream Flow (MIF):** Studies on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River define minimum flows necessary for sustaining aquatic habitats, recreation, and public water supply during low-flow periods, as mentioned in [Shenandoah County water resources](#).
- **Groundwater Depletion Threats:** Droughts, such as the one in 2025, show a decline in water tables by nearly 18 feet in some areas, highlighting the threat to wells and the need for water supply planning for both residents and farming operations, reported [WHSV](#).
- **Conservation Organizations:** The [Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District \(SVSWCD\)](#) serves key areas, focusing on conservation programs for landowners and businesses.
- **Surface Water Protection:** Increased reliance on protected water sources like the [Skidmore Fork Lake \(Switzer Reservoir\)](#) helps ensure clean water supply for local communities.  Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley +5

Regulatory Framework

The Virginia DEQ enforces state-level water quality standards, while regional partnerships focus on preventing degradation to ensure both quantity and quality.  Virginia Law (.gov) +1

Source Water Protection Ordinance - One of Virginia's Best

Jun 9, 2020 — The ordinance created Source Water Protection Overlay Districts around 23 public water supplies “to protect public health, safety ...



Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley 

Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

The Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SVSWCD) was founded in 1940. It serves Rockingham and Page counties an...



Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water ... 

Water In Shenandoah County A Primer

8. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commis- sion recently sponsored a three-year Minimum Instream Flow (MIF) study for the ...



Shenandoah County, VA (.gov) 

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Environmental Integrity

<https://environmentalintegrity.org> > shenandoah-valley-...

Shenandoah Valley Bacteria



The interactive map below shows where the **Virginia** Department of Environmental Quality's **water** monitoring found E. coli concentrations higher than the ... [Read more](#)

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Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley

<https://shenandoahalliance.org> > News + Events

Source Water Protection Ordinance - One of Virginia's Best

Jun 9, 2020 — No **water** flows into Augusta County; it all flows out. · The ordinance map designates two boundary areas around public springs and wellheads. [Read more](#)



Shenandoah County, VA (.gov)
https://www.shenandoahcountyva.gov > View > 2...

Water In Shenandoah County A Primer PDF

By law (Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act), **Virginia is committed to protecting all state waters**, including GW. Keys to ensuring quality of GW are ... [Read more](#)



Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
https://svswcd.org

Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

The Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District's Mission is **to promote stewardship and conservation of our natural resources**. [Read more](#)

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Friends of the Shenandoah River
https://fosr.org > monitoring-parameters

E. coli & Monitoring Parameters

The **Virginia Water** Quality Standards are intended to **protect** all state waters for recreation, wildlife, the growth of a balanced population of aquatic life, and ... [Read more](#)



Keck Geology Consortium
https://keckgeology.org > Summer 2018 Posts

Water Quality in the Shenandoah Valley

Jan 3, 2021 — The goal of this Advanced Research Project is to equip upper level students with a deeper understanding of environmental geochemistry, fluvial sedimentology, ... [Read more](#)



Friends of Shenandoah Mountain
https://www.friendsofshenandoahmountain.org > water-q...

Water Quality

The cities of Harrisonburg (Switzer Reservoir) and Staunton (Staunton Reservoir) both benefit significantly from drinking **water** supplies filtered by forests ... [Read more](#)



Virginia Law (.gov)
https://law.lis.virginia.gov > chapter260 > section30

9VAC25-260-30. Antidegradation policy.

1. As a minimum, **existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary** to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected. 2. Where ... [Read more](#)



Southern Environmental Law Center
https://www.selc.org > News

For Virginians, roadless areas mean clean drinking water

Dec 18, 2025 — “The roadless areas are the cleanest source of **water** that we have in the state, and the communities like Harrisonburg and Staunton and the ... [Read more](#)



Harrisonburg City (.gov)

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov> > water > files

UPPER SHENANDOAH RIVER BASIN ^{PDF} Drought ...

Potential prolonged, dry climatic conditions, coupled with growing population and **water** demand, have increased the **Shenandoah Valley's** drought vulnerability. [Read more](#)

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