



Water Quality Impact Assessment Application

Site Development and Inspections Division (SDID)
Fairfax County Land Development Services
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 535, Fairfax, VA 22035
Phone: 703-324-1720, TTY 711
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment



A Water Quality Impact Assessment (WQIA) is an analysis of the impacts on water quality when a project is proposed within a Resource Protection Area (RPA). The purpose of the WQIA is to ensure protection of RPAs consistent with the goals, objectives, and requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance of Fairfax County to:

1. Identify the impacts of the proposed project on water quality;
2. Ensure that the proposed land disturbance will occur in a manner that will be least disruptive to the natural function of RPAs;
3. Propose mitigation that will address water quality protection through preserving or restoring all buffer functions including stormwater pollutant removal, erosion, and sediment and runoff control.

Per [§118-3-3\(a\)](#), a WQIA is required for any land disturbance, development, or redevelopment within a RPA unless exempt under Article 5 or unless waived by the Director of Land Development Services in accordance with the provisions of [§118-6-5](#). A WQIA may also be required for development or redevelopment within a Resource Management Area (RMA) if the Director determines that such an assessment is necessary because of the unique characteristics of the site or because the intensity of the proposed development may cause significant impacts on the adjacent RPA.

Please print or type the following information:

Associated Plan and/or Building Permit Number (if applicable): _____

Tax Map Number: _____ Magisterial District: _____

Property Address: _____

Applicant Name: _____ ☐ Owner ☐ Developer ☐ Engineer ☐ Agent

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

The WQIA submittal requirements are divided into “Minor” and “Major” categories. The two categories differentiate the required detail on submittals based on potential RPA impacts. The narratives, descriptions, proposed mitigation, and supporting documentation will be different corresponding to the scope of the project and/or encroachment into the RPA, as further identified in the below table.

Table 1: Minor & Major WQIA Eligibility Criteria

Minor WQIA (Application and Plat Only)	Major WQIA (Application, WQIA Documents, and Technical Drawings)
<p>A required WQIA is considered “minor” and may be satisfied by submitting this application form and required exhibits if the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land disturbance in the RPA is less than or equal to 2,500 square feet; and • No disturbance in the 50 seaward feet of the RPA buffer; and • Additional proposed impervious area in the RPA is less than 256 square feet, and total RPA impervious area is no more than 1,000 cumulative square feet since adoption of the RPA, except for minor additions which are permitted by §118-5-5. <p>Example projects for these criteria include sheds and small accessory structures, and the removal or management of vegetation.</p> <p>The above list is not all inclusive. Upon review of the Minor WQIA application, staff may request additional information be provided as necessary to evaluate potential water quality impacts of the proposed activity, per § 118-4-3(g).</p>	<p>A required WQIA is considered “major” and requires additional analysis beyond this application form if the following criteria apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land disturbance in the RPA exceeds 2,500 square feet; or • Any disturbance in the 50 seaward feet of the RPA buffer; or • Any disturbance of wetlands or streams (core components); or • Any RPA disturbance that does not qualify for a Minor WQIA. <p>Major WQIA criteria must address all Minor WQIA criteria <u>and</u> the additional requirements noted in LTI 20-02.</p> <p>Example projects for these criteria include large accessory structures such as pools and detached garages.</p>

For all requests associated with agricultural land, further coordination may be required with the Site Development and Inspections Division (SDID), as well as the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District prior to the submission of this application.

For further information, contact a Stormwater Engineer in SDID, Herrity Building – 5th floor, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035, or by phone: 703-324-1720, TTY 711.

Please Print or Type (use additional sheets as necessary)

a) Display the boundaries of the RPA on a house location plat, survey or site drawing, and attach that document to this form. The RPA boundary may be taken from County record or mapping for Minor WQIA. Site-specific delineation required for Major WQIA.

b) Display on the same plat, survey, or site drawing:

- ☐ Proposed RPA encroachment area including all areas of clearing, grading, filling, excavating, and otherwise removed or damaged vegetation;
- ☐ Existing and proposed improvements including impervious surfaces, structures, utilities, and sewage disposal systems;
- ☐ Existing vegetation including trees and shrub locations, and groundcover areas to be impacted.

Describe the location and nature of the proposed encroachment into and/or impacts to the RPA, including any clearing, grading, impervious surfaces, structures, utilities, and sewage disposal systems. Include a description of any vegetation to be removed and how the proposed vegetation removal is the minimum necessary to accommodate the proposed encroachment (e.g., number, size, and type of trees or area of woods). Address how indigenous vegetation is preserved to the maximum extent practicable. Include an invasive species management plan (e.g., type of vegetation removed, preserved and replaced, and methods proposed) if invasive species management is an objective of this application.

Disturbed Area - In determining the disturbed area, add a minimum 10-foot-wide area perimeter to the footprint of any structure. Also, include a single access path, minimum 10-feet-width, from the disturbed area to the street or driveway. Land disturbance should be the minimum necessary to facilitate the requested encroachment.

Table 2: Total Disturbed Area

Proposed Work	Disturbed Area Within the RPA (sq. ft.)	Disturbed Area Outside of the RPA (sq. ft.)	Total Disturbed Area (sq. ft.)
Access Path			
Structure (including work area)			
Other Encroachments (e.g., stockpiles & storage)			
Clearing & Grading (including vegetation removal)			
Total actual unpermitted disturbance (if associated with a Notice of Violation)			
New Drainfield (only with new home construction)			
New Utility Connections (if required)			
Totals			

Is the total of all disturbed areas > 2,500 square feet?

- ☐ Yes (a grading plan per [§104-1-2](#) is required)
- ☐ No (a grading plan is not required)

Is the total of all disturbed areas in the RPA > 2,500 square feet?

- ☐ Yes (meeting the Major WQIA criteria is required, in addition to this application, per LTI 20-02)
- ☐ No (this application and a plat, survey, or site drawing satisfies the Minor WQIA requirement per LTI 20-02)

- c) Provide justification for the proposed encroachment into and/or impacts to the RPA.

Briefly describe why it is not practical to locate the proposed encroachment outside of the RPA (e.g., entire lot located in RPA, house has RPA on all sides, location outside of RPA would not meet minimum yard setbacks, existing utility easements constrain location, etc.). For water-dependent use applications, all non-water-dependent uses shall be located outside the RPA.

- d) Describe the extent and nature of any proposed disturbance or disruption of wetlands. [Note: any disturbance of wetlands requires the submittal of a Major WQIA (see LTI 20-02).] Site-specific boundary delineation by an appropriate design professional (see [§118-1-9\(d\)](#)) will be required if the presence of wetlands is known or suspected. One source of information is the County Potential Wetland Area Map.

Display on the house location plat, survey, or site drawing used for Parts a) & b) above:

- ☐ Proposed buffer area plantings equal to the area of encroachment and meeting the criteria specified under [§118-3-3\(f\)](#), Public Facilities Manual [§12-0316.4](#) and the [Riparian Buffers Modification and Mitigation Guidance Manual](#) published by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation;¹
- ☐ Best Management Practices (BMPs), if planted buffer area is not feasible (or if otherwise required) including location, size, and contributing drainage areas.²

¹Describe the proposed buffer area plantings including species selection and density meeting [§118-3-3\(f\)](#), Public Facilities Manual [§12-0316.4](#) and the [Riparian Buffers Guidance and Mitigation Guidance Manual](#) published by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation:

Table 3: RPA Buffer Area Planting Plan (supplement with the plat, survey, or site drawing to show location)

Plant Name	Quantity	Size (Height/Caliper/Vol.)	Legend, Symbol, or Key used on plat, survey, or site drawing

Other notes as needed to describe the planting plan:

²Describe the location and type of any proposed BMPs (normally required if mitigation cannot otherwise be met via a planted buffer area) used to prevent a net increase in phosphorus load from the proposed encroachment. The [Virginia Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse](#), and the [Manufactured Treatment Devices Approved for use in Fairfax County](#), are the primary sources of acceptable BMP practices.

I hereby certify that the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that all wetlands permits required by law will be obtained prior to commencing land disturbing activities.

Applicant Name (Print): _____ ☐ Owner ☐ Contractor ☐ Agent

Signature: _____ Date: _____

☐ Check here if additional narrative sheets are provided, beyond the plat, survey, or site drawing, to supplement the above information. If more than one attachment, please list below and ensure pages are labeled as "Attachment B" "C," etc.

Attachment A: (check one) ☐ Plat ☐ Survey ☐ Site Drawing

Attachment B: _____

Attachment C: _____

For County Use Only

New RPA impervious area proposed in this application: _____ (ft²)

Total cumulative RPA impervious area on the property (including new area): _____ (ft²)

Prior exception number(s): _____

WQIA Application (Check appropriate action)

☐ **APPROVED**

☐ **DISAPPROVED**

WQIA Reviewer – SDID (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____