



# Lake Star Notes

City of Norfolk  
Department of Utilities

Spring/Summer 2019

## Dear Lake Star Resident:

As I write this, the cold weather has returned for a few days and we're getting a break from the rain. April showers brings May flowers, but the daffodils are already in bloom in March.

Native plants are one of the best ways to protect water quality and provide food and habitat for birds that migrate or live in Hampton Roads. I have provided information on native plants in previous Lake Star Notes and you can find the references at [www.norfolk.gov/LSH](http://www.norfolk.gov/LSH).

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (757) 441-5678 or by email at [david.rosenthal@norfolk.gov](mailto:david.rosenthal@norfolk.gov).

Sincerely,

David S. Rosenthal, CLM  
Reservoir Manager



## For More Information

**Become a Lake Star**  
[www.norfolk.gov/LSH](http://www.norfolk.gov/LSH)

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Scan with your mobile device  
for more information

## Why does water need to be treated?

“Natural” does not always mean “pure.” As water flows over land on its way to our reservoirs, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from agricultural operations and/or wildlife living in the watershed. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes, and can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In addition to these contaminants, all lakes and streams contain algae, which are microscopic plants that can cause taste and odor in drinking water. We do everything we can to keep these contaminants out of our lakes; then our treatment plants make sure that the water delivered to your home meets all Safe Water Drinking Act standards and is clean and safe for you to drink.

## Water Facts

Your drinking water, provided by the Norfolk Department of Utilities, meets all Federal requirements for health and safety.

<https://bit.ly/2EFnEML>

**PROTECT IT!**



## A brief history...

The City of Norfolk's Water system began in 1873 with the construction of a water pumping station at what is now called Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant. The water from man-made lakes located in Princess Anne County was pumped through redwood pipes to what is now Downtown Norfolk.

Over the past 146 years, Norfolk has made numerous upgrades to the water system which now includes two water treatment plants, eight man-made reservoirs, two river pumping stations and four deep wells. There are over 200 miles of pipelines that transport this water to Norfolk for your use from as far away as Southampton County.

Additionally, the City of Virginia Beach provides water from Lake Gaston that Norfolk treats to ensure Virginia Beach residents also have clean, healthy drinking water. View a video on the Norfolk Water system—<https://youtu.be/S7rJ5BupeJA>

## Native Plants for Water Quality

Native plants are best for protecting water quality and providing food and habitat to local wildlife and birds. By promoting the growth of native vegetation, such as trees, bushes and grasses along the shoreline, you are providing a buffer strip that will prevent pollutants from entering the reservoirs. The vegetation will also slow rain water runoff and decrease erosion along the shoreline.

An excellent source of information is the [Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping Guide](#). This guide is specific to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Other sources include:

- Norfolk Master Gardeners [www.nmgv.org](http://www.nmgv.org)
- Virginia Beach Master Gardeners [www.vbmg.org](http://www.vbmg.org)
  - [Garden Talks and Workshops](#)—Including the Spring Plant Sale, Rain Barrel Workshops and Garden Talks.

### Upcoming Events

#### Great American Cleanup

May 3-4, 2019

<http://askhrgreen.org/programs/great-american-cleanup/>

#### Earth Day Celebrations

April 19-22, 2019

Hampton Road Events: <https://hamptonroads.myactivechild.com/blog/earth-day-events-in-hampton-roads/>

#### Keep Norfolk Beautiful

Through education outreach, interactive programs and community service KNB is growing environmental awareness. [Keep Norfolk Beautiful](#)

#### Norfolk Botanical Garden

The Norfolk Botanical Garden offers a wide variety of programs and events—<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>

### Ask HRGreen

Find local activities that will help improve water quality and your neighborhood— <http://askhrgreen.org/events-happenings/>

#### Chesapeake Bay Foundation

For more information on regional events, visit the CBF Calendar at <http://www.cbf.org/events/calendar>.

#### Lynnhaven River NOW

Group committed to restoring the Lynnhaven River calendar of events—<http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/events-calendar/>.

