

Managing Our Resources

Management practices are being used across the Rivanna Watershed to treat runoff from urban and agricultural areas.

Stormwater Best Management Practices

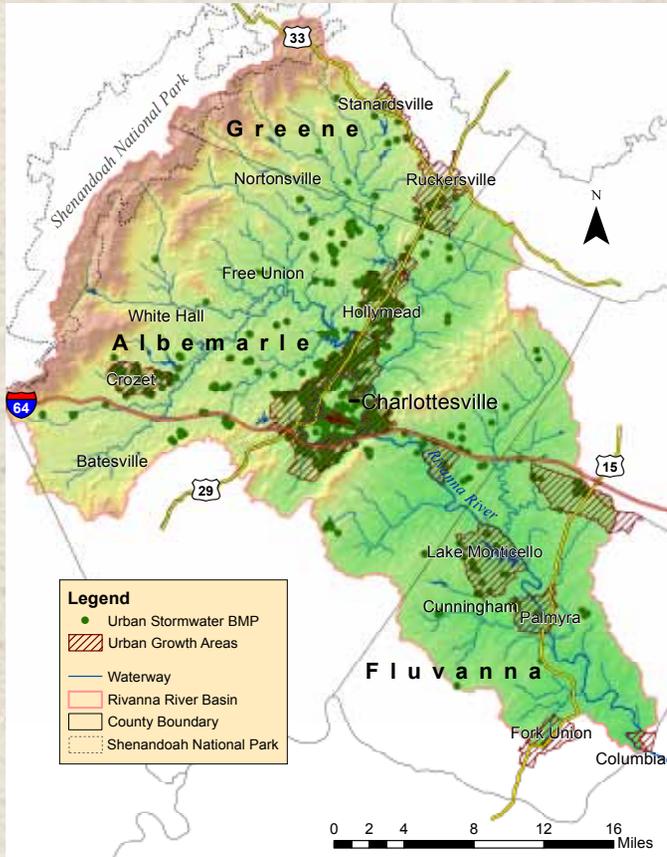
Private landowners and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Greene, the City of Charlottesville, and the University of Virginia together treat stormwater runoff from over 21,800 urban acres (4% of the watershed).

Private landowners and local governments help reduce the impact of development projects on streams by:

- Installing stormwater management practices at public sites wherever possible.
- Encouraging private urban stormwater management practices through incentives and other financial tools.
- Planting stream side buffers where possible and protecting and maintaining these buffers as land is developed.
- Ensuring that streets and parking lots do not create impervious cover in excess of that needed for safe and orderly development.
- Limiting construction on steep (or critical) slopes, especially adjacent to streams and creeks.
- Steering higher density development to Urban Growth (or Development) Areas to help maintain rural character and protect natural resources.

Pet Waste Management

In Moores Creek and other urbanized watersheds, one of the main contributors to bacterial pollution is pet waste from dogs and cats. As our domesticated pet population grows, we need to manage pet waste properly if we want clean water.



The plants on this green roof at the University of Virginia capture rainfall that would otherwise become stormwater runoff. The green roof also helps reduce heating and cooling needs. Photo/UVa



Greene County Community Park's bioswale treats runoff from parking and playing fields. Native plantings ensure survivability during wet or hot and dry conditions. Photo/RRBC



The rain garden at Smith Aquatic Center in Charlottesville treats parking lot and roof runoff. Photo/City of Charlottesville

Virginia's new stormwater regulations require local governments to develop enhanced local programs for reducing the quantity of stormwater and improving the treatment of stormwater before it is discharged to rivers and streams.

