



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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CHUCKATUCK CREEK Growing Area # 062 Isle of Wight County and City of Suffolk Shoreline Sanitary Survey

Date: 22 May 2023

Survey Period: June 30, 2022 – February 31, 2023

Total Number of Properties Surveyed and Samples Collected: 502

Surveyed By: E. Yeargan, J. Dickerson, T. Egerton, I. Geeson, F. Monis, L. Sakach, & C. Turner

SECTION A: GENERAL

This survey area extends from Reference Point 63 at the most prominent northeast point above the northern boundary of Ballard Marsh to Reference Point 64 at Barrel Point, including the James River shoreline between these two points, Ballard Creek, Kings Creek, Cooper Creek, Batten Bay, Ragged Island Creek, Chuckatuck Creek, Winall Creek, Muddy Cove (Smith Neck Creek), Brewers Creek (Creer Creek and Green Swamp Creek), Sleepy Lake, and all of their tributaries.

The topography of the area is characterized by a large area of marshlands extending from reference point 63 along the shoreline and continuing to the northwestern edge of Ragged Island Creek. This area exceeds one mile in width in the vicinity of Cooper Creek and Ragged Island. Elevations rise from sea level around the shoreline to a maximum of 25' near the western survey boundary.

The Chuckatuck Creek and Brewers Creek watersheds fall within City of Suffolk and Isle of Wight County. The population in Suffolk is estimated to have increased by 14% from April of 2010 from 84,585 to 98,537 as of July 2022. Data from 2021 indicate there are 39,558 housing units. 669 new building permits were issued in 2022.

The population in Isle of Wight County is estimated to have increased by 12% from April of 2010 from 35,270 to 40,151 as of July 2022. Data from 2021 show 16,761 housing units. In 2022, 514 new building permits were issued.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221>

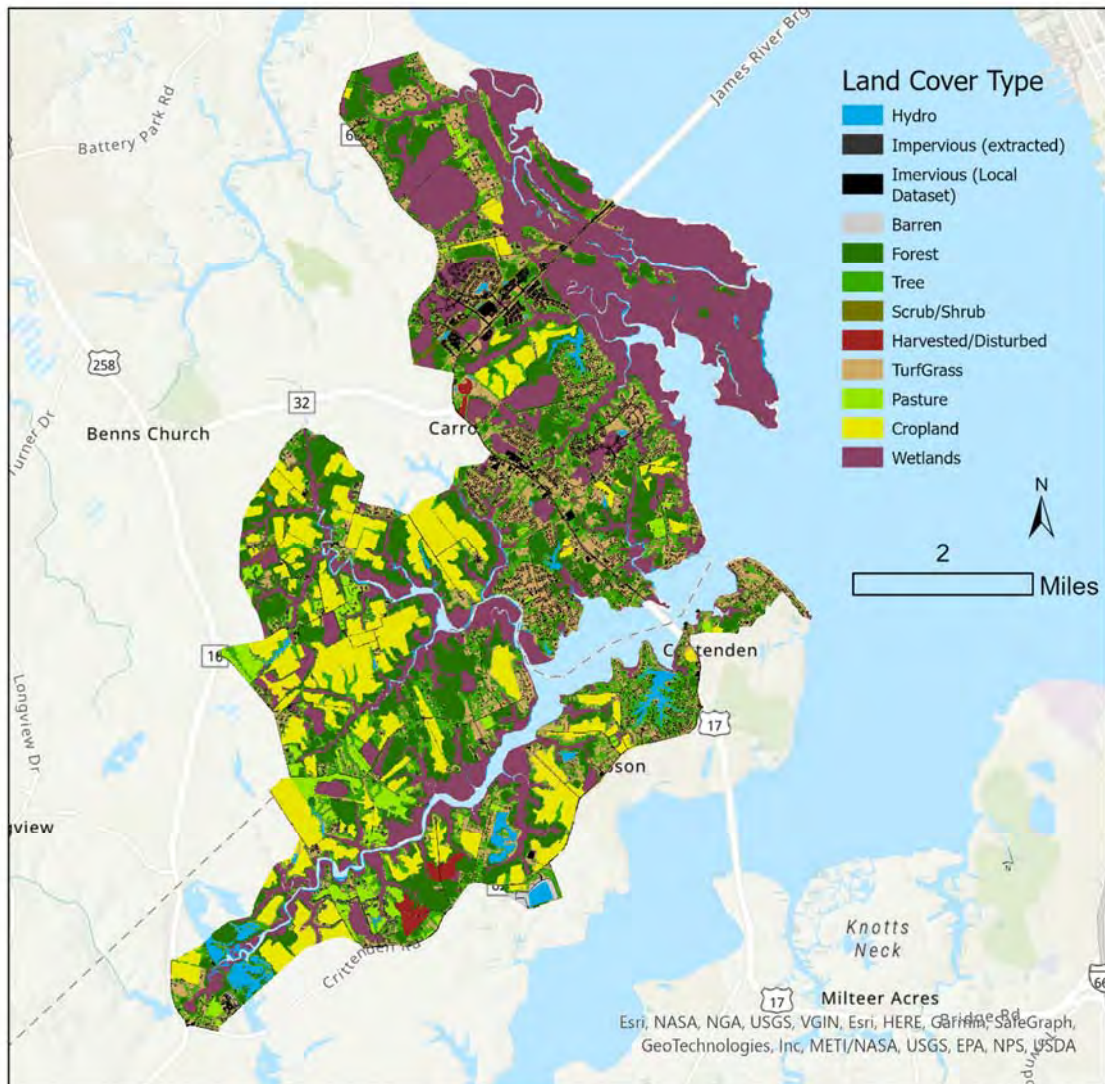
Boating activity is moderate, with seasonal recreational boaters and commercial fishermen comprising much of the activity.

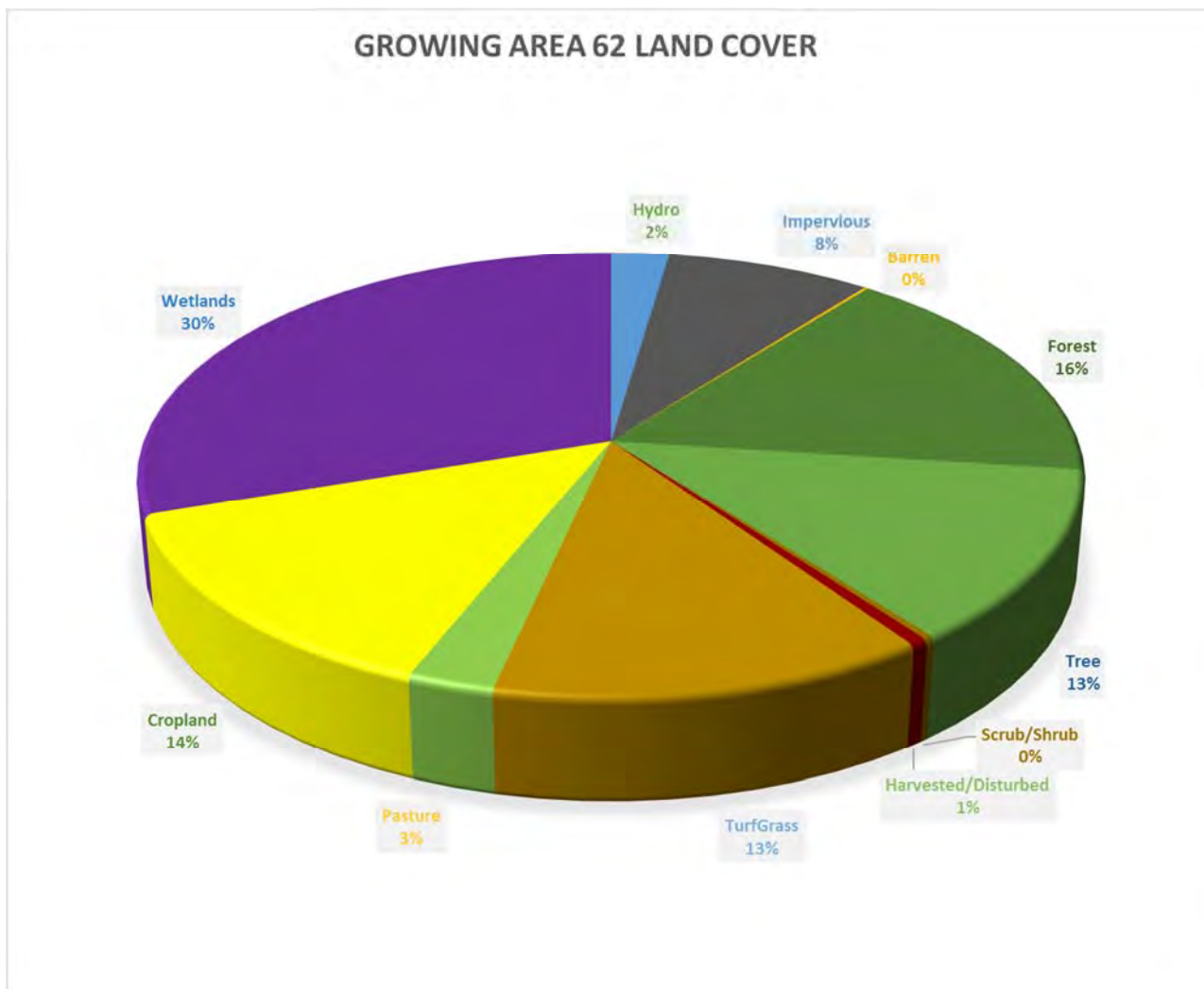
The area includes populations served by sanitary sewer (Hampton Roads Sanitation District) which is conveyed to and treated at the Nansemond Sewage Treatment facility (discharges into James River near Craney Island) as well as those with onsite sewage systems. Sewer service is generally contained to the Eastern/ downstream section of the growing area surrounding the Route 17 corridor and associated developments. Stormwater

structures also vary within the growing area. Newer residential developments, primarily in the Eastern/ downstream section include piped stormwater networks draining to outfalls, while the more rural sections of the growing area include surface runoff, open swales and ditches.

Within Growing Area 62, there are 4,316 land parcels. Land Cover data are shown below. More information about Land Cover Types can be found at the following link.

https://gismaps.vdem.virginia.gov/Download/Land_Cover/Land_Cover_Use_Case_Scenarios.pdf





Source: <https://vgin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=d3d51bb5431a4d26a313f586c7c2c848>

Meteorological data indicated that 26.8" of rain fell during the survey period. A monthly breakdown follows:

Date range	Cumulative Rainfall (inches)	Avg. Monthly rainfall (2012-2022)
6/30/2022	0	---
7/2022	4.54	5.07
8/2022	2.73	5.65
9/2022	3.7	5.35
10/2022	2.51	4.57
11/2022	3.28	3.20
12/2022	3.44	3.71
1/2023	3.53	3.90
2/2023	3.07	3.37

For this survey, nearshore seawater stations were established to survey the full extent of navigable waters beyond routine classification stations. Stations were created in closer proximity to the shoreline and farther upstream than routine stations and are intended to evaluate drainage entry points of potential point and nonpoint source pollution. Station data were analyzed to compare relative concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria within the waterway to identify potential onshore sources of contamination.

Hydrographic data, sampling times and range of enterococcus concentrations measured are shown in the table below. Maps of the enterococcus sampling are shown at the conclusion of this report.

Growing Area # 62 Nearshore Sampling							Rainfall in inches	
Sample dates	# of boats	High Tide*	Ebb Current* *	Sampling time	Enterococcus range (MPN/100ml)	Day of	Previous 24 hours	Previous 7 days
8/24/22	3	08:39	09:30	9:26-12:10	<10-1,396	0	0	0.21
9/7/22	1	07:39	08:44	9:09-11:52	<10-1,334	0.01	0.04	0.04
9/8/22	1	08:39	09:50	9:34-12:27	10-495	0.04	0.01	0.05
9/14/22	1	13:24	15:08	11:59-12:13	<10	0	0	0.94
9/21/22	3	07:18	08:17	8:01-11:00	<10-638	0	0	0
9/22/22	2	08:07	09:12	8:24-11:27	<10-4,106	0.07	0	0
10/4/22	•	05:17•	06:34•	10:12 – 13:47	10- 14,136	0.13	0.29	3.59
10/5/22	•	06:28•	07:48•	11:04 – 12:56	109 - >24,196	0.02	0.13	3.71
10/24/22	1	09:35	11:16	11:02-12:56	31-1,076	0	.25	.83
10/25/22	2	10:16•	11:59•	10:55-12:33	<10-2,755	0	0	.59
11/28/22	•	13:14•	14:52*	9:07 – 12:40	109 - >24,196	0.00	0.62	1.31
1/5/23	1	08:43•	10:43•	11:40 – 12:15	<10 - 63	0.00	0.08	0.96
Total rainfall for nearshore sampling period (8/24/22 - 1/5/23)								13.35".

Land based outfall collections.

* High tide estimated from Pig Point NOAA Station ID 2235.

**Slack ebb current estimated from 1.8 NE of Pig Point NOAA Station ID 5201,

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in cooperation with Isle of Wight County and the City of Suffolk released a Water Quality Implementation Plan in 2015 for the Chuckatuck Creek and Brewers Creek Watersheds for bacterial impairments in the watershed. The plan called for the reduction of bacterial contamination through implementing agricultural (cover crop, buffers, etc.), residential (septic repairs, pet stations, etc.) and educational programs in multiple phases with a cost estimate of approximately \$2.1 million over a 20 year period.

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8388/637540063402870000>

In January 2021, a 36" primary force main on 16th street in Newport News suffered a major line break resulting in approximately 29 million gallons of raw sewage being released into Growing Area 56. An emergency closure was put in place on 1/5/21 that restricted parts of several growing areas which included portions of Growing Area 62. The impacted waters

reverted to their previous classification status by 4/13/21. Water quality and shellfish tissue samples were evaluated at multiple locations before the closure was lifted.

In addition to the Shoreline Sanitary Survey, the Chuckatuck Creek and Brewers Creek Watersheds are a part of an enhanced pollution source assessment study. Stormwater and sewer conveyance pipes and outfall locations were reviewed in GIS layers made available by the City of Suffolk and Hampton Roads Sanitation District. Stormwater outfalls and conveyance points were identified to visit onshore under both dry and wet weather conditions with water samples collected when water was present. These targeted sample collections were analyzed for enterococcus, a fecal indicator bacterium, as well as the molecular marker gene HF183 which may indicate the presence of recent human-source fecal pollution. The enhanced pollution assessment study is ongoing at the time of this report.

Information in this report is gathered by and primarily for use by the Division of Shellfish Safety, Virginia Department of Health, in order to fulfill its responsibilities of shellfish growing area supervision and classification. However, the data are made available to various agencies participating in shellfish program coordinated activities or other interested parties.

Copies of VPDES permits and inspections are available at the Department of Environmental Quality. A directory and interactive map are available via the internet at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits-regulations/permits/water/surface-water-virginia-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system> and <https://geohub-vadeq.hub.arcgis.com/pages/Water%20Datasets>

Copies of Bacteriological, Hydrographic and Shellfish Closure data are available at the area office for review. Copies of the current condemnation notices and maps are available via the Internet at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/environmental-health-services/shellfish-safety/>

This report lists only those properties which have a sanitary deficiency or have other environmental significance. **“DIRECT”** indicates that the significant activity or deficiency has a direct impact on shellfish waters.

SECTION B: SEWAGE POLLUTION SOURCES

[illegible]

Shoreline Survey # 062

SECTION C: NONSEWAGE WASTE SITES

[illegible]

SECTION D: BOATING ACTIVITY

[illegible]

[illegible]

SUMMARY

Growing Area # 062
Chuckatuck Creek
22 May 2023

SECTION B: SEWAGE POLLUTION SOURCES

1. SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

0 – DIRECT – None.
0 – INDIRECT – None.
0 – B.1. TOTAL

2. ON-SITE SEWAGE DEFICIENCIES – Correction of deficiencies in this section is the responsibility of the local health department.

0 – CONTRIBUTES POLLUTION, DIRECT – None.
0 – CONTRIBUTES POLLUTION, INDIRECT – None.
0 – CP (Kitchen or Laundry Wastes), DIRECT – None.
0 – CP (Kitchen or Laundry Wastes), INDIRECT – None.
0 – NO FACILITIES, DIRECT – None.
0 – NO FACILITIES, INDIRECT – None.
0 – B.2. TOTAL

3. POTENTIAL POLLUTION – Periodic surveillance of these properties will be maintained to determine any status change.

2 – POTENTIAL POLLUTION – # CC2, E30

SECTION C: NON-SEWAGE WASTE SITES

1. INDUSTRIAL WASTE SITES

0 – DIRECT – None.
2 – INDIRECT – # FM3, LS2
2 – C.1. TOTAL

2. SOLID WASTE DUMPSITES

0 – DIRECT – None.
1 – INDIRECT – # E28
1 – C.2. TOTAL

3. STORMWATER OUTFALLS

0 – DIRECT – None.
0 – INDIRECT – None.
0 – C.3. TOTAL

SECTION D: BOATING ACTIVITY

1 – MARINAS – # G985
4 – UNDER SURVEILLANCE – # E24, G924, G971, G983
5 – D. TOTAL

SECTION E: CONTRIBUTES ANIMAL POLLUTION

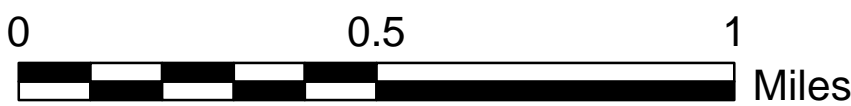
1 – DIRECT – # G2A
16 – INDIRECT – # CC1, CC3, CC4, E25, E26, E27, E29, FA4, FA5, G1A, G2, GA3, G4, LS3, LS5, TE11
17 – E. TOTAL

Virginia Department of Health
Division of Shellfish Sanitation

Chuckatuck Creek
062
Shoreline Sanitary Survey

Isle of Wight County
and City of Suffolk

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Legend

Seawater Sampling Stations

Active

Inactive

Sewered areas

DGIF Boat Ramps

Shoreline Survey Deficiencies

Sewage Treatment Facility - Direct

Sewage Treatment Facility - Indirect

Contributes Pollution - Direct

Contributes Pollution - Indirect

Contributes Pollution (Kitchen or Laundry wastes) - Direct

Contributes Pollution (Kitchen or Laundry wastes) - Indirect

No Facilities - Direct

No Facilities - Indirect

Potential Pollution

Industrial Wastes, Direct

Industrial Wastes, Indirect

Solid Waste Dumpsite - Direct

Solid Waste Dumpsite - Indirect

Boating Activity

A

Contributes Animal Pollution - Direct

A

Contributes Animal Pollution - Indirect

**Near Shore
Enterococcus Sampling
Growing Area # 062
- Chuckatuck Creek
Isle of Wight County &
City of Richmond**

* Highest value was 4106 collected
on 9/22/22 at station # G34.

0 1500 3000
Yards



Legend

Sampling Dates: 8/24/22 - 1/5/23

- < 10
- 10 - 100
- 101 - 1000
- 1001 - 10000
- > 10000

TidewaterSouthside

GA62: Chuckatuck Creek Microbial Source Tracking

