



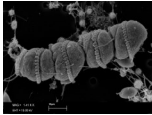


Lafayette Scorecard 2013

Your Home River — Returning to Life

- **Almost there— with your help, we'll be swimming safely in the Lafayette next year...** and eating the once famous Norfolk oyster. Those are the key goals set community-wide in a plan for improving the Lafayette by 2014.
- **Historically improved trends for bacterial contamination, achieved for the first time last year, held again this year for the most part.** Investigation of elevated bacteria levels is underway at a monitoring station near Granby Street bridge. We remain confident that with continued concerted effort from government, citizens and businesses, we will reach the goal of the Lafayette River becoming the first branch of the Elizabeth to be "swimmable-fishable." Fishable is defined as safe consumption of oysters, and the goal is for the state to reclassify harvest of oysters from "prohibited" to "restricted," meaning they may still need to be moved to cleaner waters for 15 days before eating. Both bacteria and toxics have been trending lower which we hope will lead to the historic re-classification.
- **A pregnant seahorse (see photo) made news and buoyed hopes.** Scientists captured and released the little hero from the mouth of the Lafayette in June 2012, just one of more than 20 species of marine life found in the Lafayette during 2012 trawl surveys.
- **This scorecard gives the Lafayette a "C" in each of 4 categories (see reverse):** bacteria levels for safe swimming & safe oyster harvest, size and extent of harmful algal blooms and citizen involvement.
- **One of the warmest years on record contributed to prolonged, intense algal blooms.** This remains the area needing the most improvement for Lafayette River health. You can help by reducing runoff of excess fertilizers from your lawn. Sign up at RiverStarHomes.org for our FREE visit to your lawn.
- **Many organizations and individuals are working together to achieve Lafayette restoration.** HRSD replaced more than 2 miles and the City of Norfolk more than 7 miles of aging sewer pipes in the Lafayette area to reduce the potential for leaking bacterial contamination to the river (Norfolk cleaned more than 148 miles of pipes). The Elizabeth River Project recruited 974 "River Star Homes" in the Lafayette area; 26 "River Star Businesses" and 21 "River Star Schools." Elizabeth River Project built the largest oyster reef yet on the Lafayette and held boater forums to encourage proper handling of boat sewage. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation seeded the reef with 3 million oysters. Wetlands restorations continued by many other partners. Lafayette Wetlands Partnership started a plan to clean up Knitting Mill Creek.
- **Keep the momentum going and together we can achieve our 2014 goal:** A swimmable-fishable Lafayette! Many thanks to all of our partners and donors for this exciting progress.



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<p>Goal: Make the Lafayette River safe for swimming by 2014... Reduce harmful bacteria by 2014 to levels safe for swimming in all practical reaches of the Lafayette.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Dept. of Environmental Quality in 2012 found two bacteria violations (near Granby St. bridge) for state standards for safe swimming. • Investigation is underway to determine the source of the new problem. Overall trends remain promising . 	<p>C</p>
<p>Goal: Eat the Norfolk oyster by 2014... Reach “restricted” rather than “prohibited” oyster harvesting.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 50% of the Lafayette met Virginia Dept. of Health bacteria criteria for eating oysters—2012. • Encouraging trends continue. However, officials are taking a careful look at viruses, nearby wastewater plants, toxics and other factors. 	<p>C</p>
<p>Goal: Reduce algae to non-harmful levels by 2020... Reduce the size and extent of harmful algal blooms.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A warm winter in 2012 led to prolonged, intense algae growth. Between 64% - 88% of the Lafayette harbored harmful algae in June - Aug. 2012 (F for summer, overall, C). • Visit RiverStarHomes.org for how you can reduce algae with a natural lawn. 	<p>C</p>
<p>Goal: Engage citizens to make a difference...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit at least 1,500 River Star Homes in the Lafayette area by 2014. • Enlist all Lafayette area schools as River Star Schools (28 schools; 7/year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Star Homes grew from 611 in April 2012 to 979 in the Lafayette area (1,341 across Elizabeth River area). • Recruited 21 of 28 Lafayette schools, 2011-12. • Sign up today! ElizabethRiver.org. 	<p>B</p>