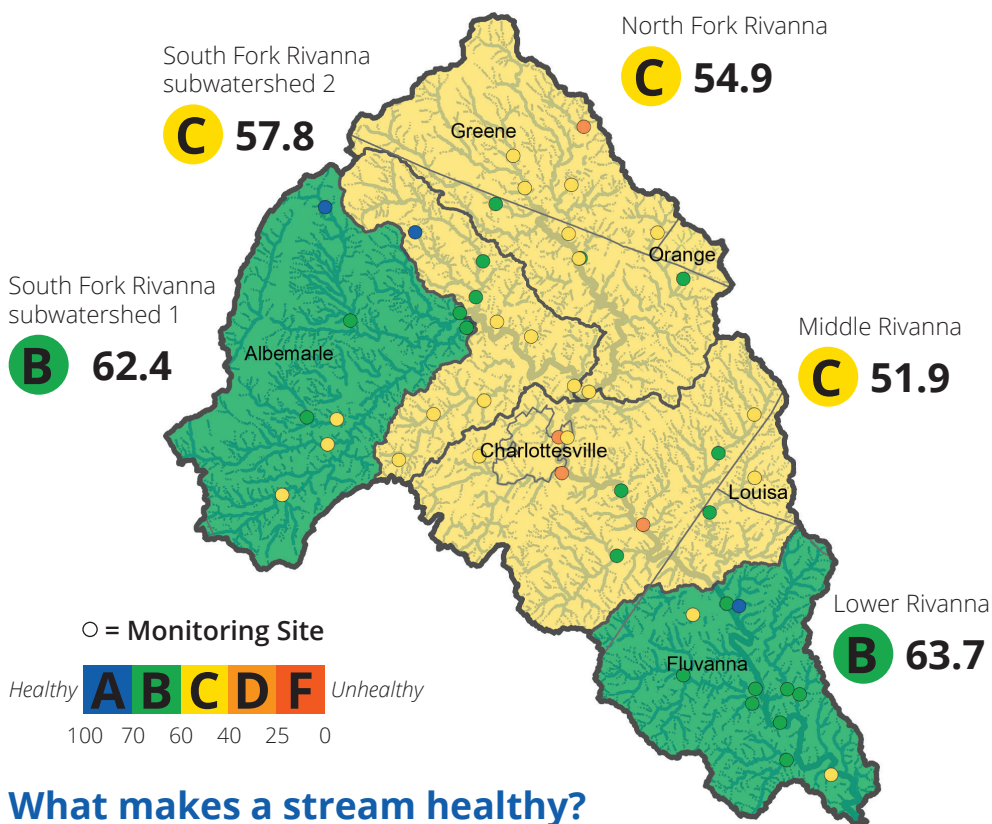




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Biological Health of the Rivanna River Watershed

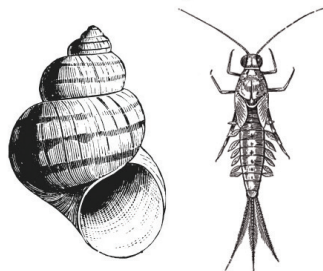
- Data collected from 2015 to 2020 at RCA's 50 long-term monitoring sites.
- Volunteer stream monitors test each site in spring and fall.
- Streams that score 60.0 or higher meet Virginia's water quality standard.



What makes a stream healthy?

A stream's **biological health** is measured by catching, identifying, and counting the different small organisms that live in it. A healthy stream has many different types of organisms living in it (high diversity). It also has organisms that need clean water to survive.

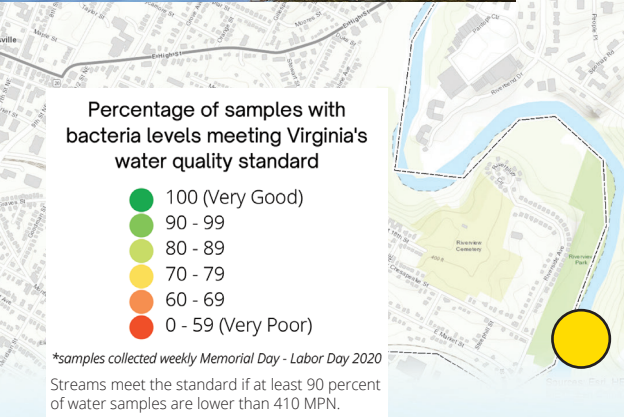
Stream health is important because it affects overall ecosystem health. The organisms in streams are food for many animals in the water and on land and they help break down plant material like leaves.



Learn more: rivannariver.org/long-term-monitoring-program

Bacteria in Our Urban Waterways

- Weekly *E. coli* bacteria samples collected by RCA's volunteer water quality monitors in summer 2020.
- Virginia's water quality standard for *E. coli* is 410 bacteria colonies per 100mL of water.
- When *E. coli* levels are high, swimming and wading can be unsafe. Do not swim after heavy rain because bacteria levels tend to go up with rainfall.



Where do *E. coli* bacteria in streams come from?

- *E. coli* bacteria come from human and animal waste that enters streams through stormwater runoff, leaking sewer pipes and septic systems, and animals in waterways.

How can we reduce *E. coli* bacteria levels in streams?

- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly
- Fix leaking sewer pipes and maintain septic systems
- Fence livestock out of streamside areas
- Plant trees near streams to filter runoff

Learn more: rivannariver.org/bacteria

