

PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

As a Harpers Ferry Water Works customer, we are pleased to update you on the many ways we are protecting our drinking water source, the Elks Run.

We have an amazing Water Works staff that work diligently to treat our water and we are incredibly blessed for their leadership, but safe, clean drinking water doesn't start at the treatment plant. It starts on the land and with the actions we must all take to keep our water clean before it reaches the intake.

This is known as "source water protection" – i.e., protecting our water at the source on the land around the Elks Run stream. Our full Source Water Protection Plan can be found on the city's website at harpersferrywv.us under the Water/Sewer tab.

Some of our recent source water protection activities include:

- **Participating in local and regional partnerships.** Harpers Ferry Water Commission is a partner in the Safe Water Conservation Collaborative, a vibrant network of more than 25 local organizations working together to "*Protect Drinking Water through Land Conservation*". The Collaborative is led by WV Rivers Coalition, a state-wide leader in source water protection. More information at safewatercollaborative.org. On a regional scale, we are a member of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin's Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership, consisting of dozens of water suppliers throughout the Potomac Watershed working to ensure that people's most basic need for clean, safe, and abundant water is reliably met.
- **Assisting community partners with implementing priority actions in our Source Water Protection Plan.** We work with a team of partners led by WV Rivers Coalition to install conservation practices (such as tree plantings along streams, septic pumping, and more) to improve water quality in the Elks Run. Through this project, called Safe Water Harpers Ferry, we are also fostering opportunities for youth education. Two elementary schools in the Elks Run Watershed – TA Lowery & Driswood – received funding from WV Rivers Coalition to participate in the Potomac Valley Audubon Society's Watershed Program. The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District and WV Rivers Coalition are also working together on a special septic pumping program in targeted subdivisions in the Elks Run Watershed.
- **Creating opportunities for citizen engagement.** These actions, and others like them, provide opportunities for you as a Harpers Ferry Water Works customer to become active and engaged in your community – safe water begins with all of us. We invite you to join the Elks Run Watershed Group, a group of community members like you working together to reduce pollution and connect citizens to their land and waters. More information at elksrunwatershed.org.



Interested in learning more or getting involved? Contact Christy Huddle, our Water Commission Chair, at huddlec@yahoo.com with subject line "Drinking Water".