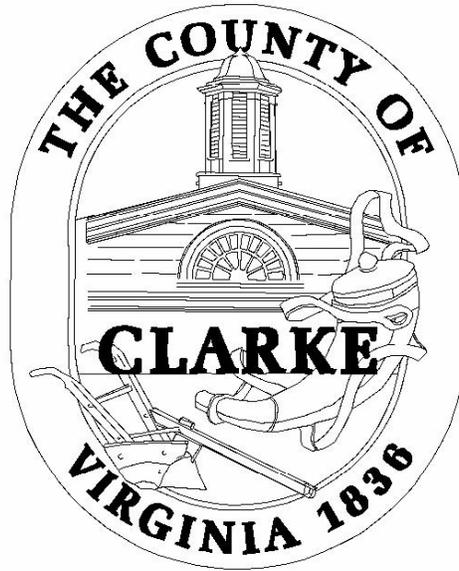# WATER RESOURCES PLAN

Clarke County
Comprehensive Plan
Implementing Component
Article 5

CLARKE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

CHAPTER III-5

WATER RESOURCES PLAN

ARTICLE 5a
GROUNDWATER RESOURCES PLAN
ADOPTED OCTOBER 20, 1998

ARTICLE 5b
SURFACE WATER RESOURCES PLAN
ADOPTED DECEMBER 7, 1999

Preface

The Clarke County Comprehensive Plan establishes basic land use policy for the County. The critical nature of water resources to public health as well as the overall environment warrants the establishment of a Water Resources Plan to implement the goals, objectives, and policies of the County Comprehensive Plan.

Water resources include both ground and surface waters. These water features are integrally linked together by the hydrologic cycle: water moves from the atmosphere to the surface as rain; rain then percolates through the soil to groundwater and is discharged at springs to streams, becomes surface water, and evaporates back to the atmosphere. Land use practices have an impact on the quality and quantity of these water features.

The Groundwater Resources Plan, Article 5a of the Water Resources Plan, specifically addresses issues relating to groundwater, including groundwater contamination from nonpoint sources, protecting the Prospect Hill Spring water supply, and increasing public understanding of the sensitive nature of limestone geology.

Surface waters in Clarke County include the perennial secondary streams, the Opequon Creek and the Shenandoah River. The Surface Water Resources Plan, Article 5b of the Water Resources Plan, addresses issues relating to surface waters. These include surface water contamination from point and nonpoint sources, off-stream water use such as domestic supply and irrigation, and recreational uses.

The Surface Water Resources Plan was developed, in part, from a draft Water Resources Plan developed by the Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission in 1990. It has been updated and expanded to reflect current planning efforts, and original text has been cited where appropriate.