

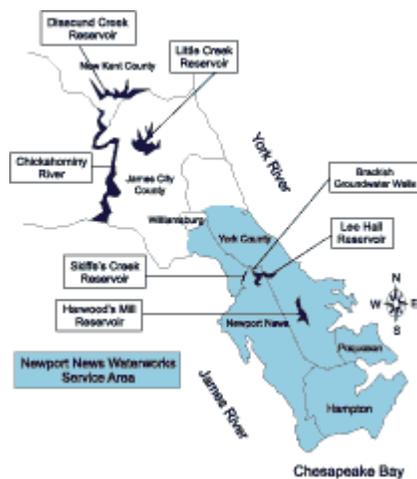
Your Water Utility: Newport News Waterworks

If you live on the Virginia Peninsula, your water probably comes from Newport News Waterworks. Newport News Waterworks is a regional water utility that provides drinking water to more than 400,000 customers in the cities of Newport News, Hampton and Poquoson, and in parts of York and James City counties. On an average day Waterworks treats and delivers between 45 and 50 million gallons of water to its customers. Our employees work every day of the year to keep the treatment plants running and the water flowing in the pipes.

To supply water to so many people, Waterworks operates a system that includes hundreds of miles of transmission and distribution pipelines, two treatment plants and five reservoirs.

A reservoir is a lake that's used to store water until it's needed. Our five reservoirs are:

1. Lee Hall - located in Newport News
2. Harwood's Mill - located in Newport News and York County
3. Diascund - located in New Kent and James City County
4. Little Creek - located in James City County
5. Skiffe's Creek - located in Newport News and James City County



The Lee Hall and Harwood's Mill reservoirs are called "terminal" reservoirs because they're located at the end points of the reservoir system, next to the water treatment plants.

Waterworks gets its water from surface sources and groundwater sources. Most of the water we use is surface water from the Chickahominy River in James City County. We pump water from the river to our outlying reservoirs for storage. We also use surface water in the form of rainfall and runoff that drains directly into our five reservoirs. When we need it, we pump the stored water to the terminal reservoirs and then into our treatment plants.

Waterworks also uses a small amount of groundwater. The water from these wells is brackish, or slightly salty, so we have to take the salt out of the water before we can use it. The process of removing salt from water is called desalination.