

The current Jordan Lake clean-up plan was developed over many years starting in 2003, and was approved by the General Assembly in 2009. In 2010 and 2011 legislation was enacted that delayed sections of Jordan Lake rules. The rules took almost 30 years to develop and begin to implement. They have never been entirely implemented, so water quality has not improved significantly. In 2013 the Senate voted to get rid of the Jordan Lake rules altogether. The bill that ultimately passed delayed the rules by 3 years. (The plan is to instead install Solar Bees, which will stir up algae at a cost of over 1.5 million dollars from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund).

Pollution in Jordan Lake primarily comes from upstream sources - creeks and rivers (e.g. its watershed). The lands adjacent to these creeks and rivers often have impervious surfaces, like pavement, that prevent storm water from seeping through the ground. As a result, runoff often goes directly into streams, carrying pollution that doesn't get filtered out by soil. Additionally, wastewater released at upstream sources includes pollutants. Both of these sources need to be controlled to solve the pollution problem. The pollutants that are entering the Jordan Lake watershed are nitrogen and phosphorous.

The most cost effective way to remove pollutants is by preventing them from getting into the water in the first place. This can be done through a number of ways including the construction of water infrastructure that slows down storm water and uses the landscape to filter out pollutants.