



LYNNHAVEN RIVER NOW  
**PEARL HOME**



So much of the progress that we have made in restoring the Lynnhaven River is a result of the great work that our residences are doing to change their practices and adopt more sustainable behaviors. Through our new PEARL HOMES program we want to thank you for all the good work you are doing and encourage others to join you.

Whether you have installed a rain garden or rain barrel, made a pledge to “scoop the poop” and encourage your neighbors to become poop scoopers too by placing a sticker on your black trash can, or planted trees to take up nutrients and reduce your runoff, you are helping to bring the Lynnhaven River back to life and we would like to recognize your efforts.

It takes a community to restore and protect a river. We know how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful place. The river is a large part of our daily enjoyment, our recreation, our local food and our livelihoods. We all want to do our part to restore the health of the Lynnhaven and protect it for future generations.

Fill in the attached application and become one our Inaugural group of PEARL HOMES and help us show the community the great work you are doing.



[WWW.LRNOW.ORG](http://WWW.LRNOW.ORG)



## HOW TO BECOME A PEARL HOME

PEARL HOMES are all over our watershed. PEARL HOMES are places where people care about our community and our environment and want to do what they can to live responsibly and help protect our resources for future generations to enjoy.

In a watershed like ours that is mostly residential and commercial development, our daily habits and decisions make a difference. Think about the things that you do every day. How have they changed? Have you switched to a reusable water bottle and reusable grocery bags? You are making a difference. Have you converted part of your lawn to beds and planted some natives? You are making a difference.

We want to recognize and thank you for the things that you are doing. Please look at the "Making a Difference" list. If you can check off 15 of the things, you qualify as a PEARL HOME and we would like to present you with a yard flag and enter you in a drawing to be held in spring 2012. Prizes in the drawing will include gift certificates to "green businesses" in our community, free tickets to the 10th Anniversary LRNow Oyster Roast, a copy of *The Lynnhaven, Restoring a Legend*, our beautiful book released spring 2011, and many more exciting opportunities.

LYNNHAVEN *River* NOW

*Restoring a legend.*

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# CHECK OFF THE THINGS THAT YOU ARE DOING THAT ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE...



## 15 REQUIRED FOR A PEARL HOME AWARD.

- Pledge to "Scoop the Poop" if you are a pet owner
- Installed a "Scoop the Poop" sticker on my black trash can
- Reduced my lawn area and converted it to a planted bed
- Chose native plants for my landscape and avoided invasive species
- Did not feed wildlife especially the ducks and geese
- Planted a tree
- Switched from bottled water to a reusable water bottle that I refill
- Buy locally made products whenever possible
- Consistently use reusable grocery bags
- Helped with one of LRNow's River Cleanups during the past year
- Installed Lynnhaven River storm drain markers in my neighborhood
- Installed a rain barrel or cistern to reduce the runoff from my property
- Installed a rain garden to reduce runoff, hold storm water and give it a chance to infiltrate
- Grew oysters for our conservation reefs
- Drove fewer miles, consciously eliminating unnecessary trips, used public transportation or a bicycle
- Chose a more fuel efficient vehicle
- Consistently recycle or reuse
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use
- Reduced my fertilizer use to be more water friendly
- Pumped out the holding tank on my boat
- Display a River Keeper sticker on my boat
- Switched to marine approved cleaning products for my boat
- Became a member of Lynnhaven River NOW and helped support our work
- Serve on one of LRNow's Committees
- Installed a Buffer Garden between my lawn and the waterway or between my lawn and the street
- Installed a programmable thermostat or purchased energy efficient appliances
- Installed low-flow faucets and/or toilets
- Did an energy efficiency renovation on my home (new windows, increased insulation, new heating and air conditioning system, etc)
- Dispose of our hazardous waste properly (batteries, paint, etc.)
- Brought an LRNow speaker to my Civic League, Garden Club, Rotary or other civic organization
- Participated in a LRNow workshop or program
- Communicated with one of my elected officials about an environmental issue
- Composted leaves, grass clippings and kitchen waste
- Raised the mower blades to 3 inches or higher to keep the lawn a little longer and healthier
- Turned off the sprinklers and irrigated less frequently, only when really needed
- Got a soil test before applying any fertilizer
- Kept the gutter area in front of my home clear of dirt, leaves and debris to prevent these from going into the storm water drain
- Redirected my downspout into a planted bed away from paved surfaces
- Installed pervious pavers in place of concrete or blacktop
- Created a backyard habitat for wildlife
- Switched to an electric mower or a push mower
- Keep a grease can in my kitchen and reduced or eliminated my use of the garbage disposal

**DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER INITIATIVE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR US TO CONSIDER?**

**LIST IT HERE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Need to know more...

There are many sources of information on all of the things you can do to make a difference. The best place to begin is on Lynnhaven River NOW's website, [www.LRNow.org](http://www.LRNow.org). We have information available on Water Friendly Lawn Care, Landscaping for the River, Wetlands, Oyster Restoration, Scoop the Poop, Clean Boating practices, Rain Barrels, our Committees and our Educational Opportunities and Events.

### **IN ADDITION TO THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE LRNOW WEBSITE, THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU:**

- The Chesapeake Bay Program ..... [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay ..... <https://allianceforthebay.org>
- Virginia Department of Forestry ..... [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)
- Virginia Rainwater Harvesting Manual ..... [www.dcr.virginia.gov/documents/stmrainharv.pdf](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/documents/stmrainharv.pdf)
- Environmental Protection Agency ..... [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)
- Virginia Native Plant Society ..... [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation ..... [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)
- City of Virginia Beach ..... [www.vbgov.com](http://www.vbgov.com)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ..... [www.deq.state.va.us/](http://www.deq.state.va.us/)
- Virginia Natural Heritage Program at DCR ..... [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/nativeplants.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml)
- Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries ..... [www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat)
- HR Green ..... [www.hrgreen.com](http://www.hrgreen.com)
- Buy Fresh, Buy Local Hampton Roads ..... [www.buylocalhamptonroads.org](http://www.buylocalhamptonroads.org)
- National Wildlife Federation, Certified Wildlife Habitat ..... [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife)

## Want to be a PEARL HOME?

**APPLICATION – PLEASE INCLUDE THE CHECKLIST SHOWING THE GREAT ACTIONS YOU HAVE TAKEN.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your application to our office by stopping by or mailing it to us, 1608 Pleasure House Road, Suite 108, Virginia Beach, 23455, emailing it to us, [office@lynnhaven2007.com](mailto:office@lynnhaven2007.com), or calling us to arrange to fax it, 757-962-5398.

**Every person and every home can make a difference.**

