INTRODUCTION

The Patuxent River watershed includes the land and water resources within the boundaries of the Patuxent River Basin, as defined by the U.S. Geological Survey. The basin encompasses approximately 2,000 square miles of land and water resources within the states of Maryland and Virginia. The Patuxent River is a major tributary of the Potomac River, and it serves as a vital source of water for the region.

Generalized Geohydrology

The Patuxent River Basin is characterized by a variety of geologic and hydrologic features. The basin straddles the boundary between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain physiographic provinces, which are characterized by different geological structures and hydrologic conditions. The Piedmont Province is characterized by a series of uplifted and eroded mountain ranges, while the Coastal Plain Province is characterized by a series of coastal plains and low-lying areas.

The Patuxent River Basin is drained by the Patuxent River, which flows from the north to the south, and several major tributaries, including the Wicomico River, the Wye River, and the York River. The river is characterized by a series of rapids and waterfalls, which are the result of erosion by previous ice sheets. These features have created a unique and diverse ecosystem within the basin.

The Patuxent River Basin is home to a variety of plant and animal species, including a number of endangered species. The basin is also home to a number of industries, including several major highways and transportation networks. The basin is also home to a number of recreation areas, including parks and trails, which provide opportunities for outdoor activities.

The Patuxent River Basin is an important source of water for the region, and it provides a variety of services, including drinking water, irrigation, and recreation. The basin is also an important source of recreation, and it provides a variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking, fishing, and boating.

The Patuxent River Basin is under pressure from a variety of threats, including pollution, development, and climate change. Efforts are underway to protect the basin and its resources, and to ensure that the basin remains healthy and productive for future generations.