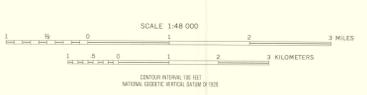


DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS
Note: More detailed descriptions are included in tables 1-4

- NONCONSOLIDATED MATERIALS**
 - ARTIFICIAL FILL—Includes major graded areas of highway and railroad fill, trash fills, gravel pits, and earthworks. Fill of variable thickness and extent may overlie natural materials in urban centers and other areas of dense development.
 - ALLUVIUM—Flood plain and valley fill—Sand, silt, clay, gravel, and boulders transported and deposited by streams or rivers on valley bottoms or in lowlands. Terraces—Sand, gravel, silt, and clay deposited by ancestral Potomac River (in Hills Valley and Mason Neck) or along modern streams above present-day flood plains.
 - COLLUVIUM AND GRAVEL—Colluvium consists of soil, spherule, and coarse angular rock fragments, loose, heterogeneous, fine grained, accumulated by mass wasting, generally on or at the base of hillsides. Mapped only where it contains significant amounts of coarse material. Lag gravel similar to colluvium, but consists of coarse fragments remaining after finer material removed by erosion or chemical weathering.
 - UPLAND GRAVEL—Pebbles and cobbles of quartz, quartzite, and chert, mantled to submantled, with interstitial sand, silt and clay.
 - POTOMAC FORMATION (CRETACEOUS)
 - Sand—Commonly fine to coarse or pebbly; may contain gravel lenses. Clay and silt beds may make up as much as 30 percent of unit.
 - Silt and clay—Contains some sand and gravel lenses. Silt and sand beds may make up as much as 30 percent of unit. Also includes silt and clay moved by slumping and landsliding.
- SEDIMENTARY ROCKS AND RESIDUUM**
 - CONGLOMERATE—Gray to reddish-brown conglomeratic, interbedded with lesser amounts of sandstone, siltstone, and shale. Residuum gray to reddish-brown and purple-brown, gravelly, sandy, silty.
 - SANDSTONE—Gray, pink, and reddish-brown sandstone, interbedded with lesser amounts of conglomerate, siltstone, and shale. Residuum reddish-brown and purple-brown, sandy, silty.
 - SILTSTONE—Reddish-brown siltstone, mudstone, and shale interbedded with lesser amounts of sandstone. Locally gray green. Residuum reddish-brown, rich.
- CRYSTALLINE ROCKS AND SAPROLITE**
 - METAMORPHIC ROCKS
 - Hornfels—Thermally metamorphosed sedimentary rocks surrounding dike-base intrusive bodies. Sandstone commonly altered to gray green; siltstone altered to gray and spotted. Saprolite very thin, gravelly.
 - Phyllite—Light to dark-gray phyllite, lustrous, foliated, interbedded with gray meta-siltstone and dark-gray slate. Saprolite thin, gravelly, contains abundant clay fragments.
 - Gneiss, schist, and metagraywacke—Gray gneiss, massive silver-gray schist, foliated, and light to medium gray metagraywacke. Includes lesser amounts of schistose gneiss, impure quartzite, pelitic schist, and phyllite. Saprolite thick, silty, and sandy.
 - IGNEOUS ROCKS
 - Ultrabasic rocks—Dark-green rock, dense, primarily serpentine. Saprolite very thin, contains highly plastic clays in upper 1 m.
 - Mafic rocks—Dark rock, dense, foliated, commonly known as greenstone. Saprolite thin, contains highly plastic clays in upper 1 m.
 - Granitoid rocks—Light-colored granite, adamellite, aplite, pegmatite, tonalite, and gneissoides layered to massive, finely, medium, and coarsely crystalline. Saprolite thick, sandy.
 - Diorite—Dark gray to black diorite, hard, dense, massive. Saprolite clay rich, contains highly plastic clays in upper few meters. Sandy at depth. Quartz—White quartz, very hard, fills fractures in softer schist, gneiss, phyllite, and granite.
- AREAS WHERE RESIDUUM OR SAPROLITE THICKER THAN 3 M OVERLIES BEDROCK
- CONTACT

Base from U.S. Geological Survey



SURFACE MATERIALS MAP OF FAIRFAX COUNTY AND VICINITY, VIRGINIA