

Water Quality Monitoring—You Can be the Key!

Over the years, millions of dollars have been invested in water pollution control efforts throughout Waukesha County. However, it is difficult to know if our lakes and streams are getting cleaner, or if these efforts are outweighed by developmental pressures. Why don't we know? Because, due to state budget constraints, not enough actual monitoring of water quality is going on!

Waukesha County is working to change that through citizen water quality monitoring. In this program, a network of volunteers is trained and equipped to do basic water quality monitoring. Volunteers check a variety of water quality indicators such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and aquatic insect diversity at several key times each year.

Most importantly—what happens to all this information? The data is entered into an internet accessible database. The data is helping to establish long-term trends in local water quality by the people who live here. Land Conservation staff and other groups use the information to help identify where progress has been made and what areas still need attention. This helps us all make good land use decisions in the future.

What does this have to do with you? Right now, the County is taking applications for the next set of volunteers to be trained. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 896-8305 to get in on the next volunteer monitoring training session. The training will be held on a Saturday in May. There is no fee for the training and all the necessary equipment will be supplied for you.

By working together, we can all enjoy Clean Water—One Step at a Time!

###