

Haw River Watch

A Citizen Water Quality Project of the Haw River Assembly



Part 2: Introduction to the Haw River Watch Project

What River Watch Teams Do:

- ◆ River Watch teams monitor their sites four times a year, once in each season.
- ◆ They measure pH, water transparency, and temperature, and assess other factors to determine the condition of their stream.
- ◆ They collect and identify macroinvertebrates which indicate water quality.
- ◆ They record their results on monitoring survey forms which are turned in to the HRA River Watch Coordinator.
- ◆ The Coordinator posts data from all teams online.



Here's how a team can get started:

- ◆ **Locate a good place to monitor.**
- ◆ **Invite team members.**
- ◆ **Arrange to be trained by HRA: HRA provides training and equipment.**
- ◆ **Remember stream safety.**
- ◆ **Monitor your creek by doing simple tests and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates.**



◆ *Locate a good place to monitor.*

Make sure that:

- ◆ The site is safely accessible.
- ◆ You have permission to monitor there.
- ◆ Ideally, there is a good riffle area, where the water flows over rocks in the stream.



◆ *Invite team members.*

**Monitoring with others is fun and builds community.
It is a great activity for:**

- ◆ Families
- ◆ Friends
- ◆ Neighborhood groups
- ◆ Clubs, such as 4-H and Scouts
- ◆ School and church groups.



◆ *Arrange River Watch training.*

- ◆ Contact Cynthia at riverwatch@hawriver.org, (919) 967-2500, to set up a time and place to train in the Haw River Watch monitoring methods.
- ◆ Periodically, the project provides opportunities to expand your expertise by attending River Watch monitoring events.



◆ *HRA provides training and equipment.*

- ◆ Training and equipment used in our monitoring method are provided free of charge.
- ◆ We encourage your support of this program by donating to the Haw River Assembly to offset these expenses, and by becoming an HRA member if you are not already one.

NOTE: Donating and enrolling are not requirements in becoming a River Watcher.



◆ *Remember Stream Safety!*

- ◆ Wear good protective shoes for wading.
- ◆ Use bug repellent for tick and insect control.
- ◆ Watch out for poison ivy and snakes.
- ◆ Be cautious about slippery rocks in the stream.



◆ *During monitoring, we will:*

- ◆ Take air and water temperature.
- ◆ Test pH.
- ◆ Measure the transparency (clarity) of the water.
- ◆ Collect and identify macroinvertebrates (insect larvae, crustaceans, and mollusks) that indicate water quality.
- ◆ Note signs of wildlife.
- ◆ Assess stream banks, bottom composition, riparian buffers, odor, algae, foam, and other stream characteristics.
- ◆ Note impacts in the watershed.



Welcome to Haw River Watch!

Continue with this presentation to learn about all aspects of the project.

- ◆ Welcome to Haw River Watch!
- ◆ Part 1: Overview of Haw River Watershed Issues
- ◆ Part 2: Introduction to the Haw River Watch Project
- ◆ Part 3: Measuring Water Quality, Monitoring Survey Section A *Assessing stream health using simple tests, observations, and macro sampling*
- ◆ Part 4: Collecting Aquatic Macroinvertebrates as Water Quality Indicators
- ◆ Part 5: Identifying Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
- ◆ Part 6: Assessing Stream Health, Monitoring Survey Section B *Observing stream characteristics such as condition of stream banks, shade, and land uses*