



Contact:
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PRESS ADVISORY

It's time to get in our river and count critters!

Flint River Watershed Coalition Announces Fall Water Quality Monitoring and Training Dates

Flint, Michigan, September 10, 2014 – Help us collect samples and count critters. It's fun! It's cool! It's gross and creepy! And people of any skill level from 5th graders on up can do it. Join us out in our river and become a scientist for a day with the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC). Fall training for our volunteer water quality monitoring program is this Saturday and the weather should be great.

Water Quality Monitoring is a vital tool that helps the FRWC assess the health of our waterways. This volunteer monitoring program is generously supported by the Genesee County Drain Commission. We collect samples and identify "benthics" also known as macroinvertebrates (caddis fly larva, dragonfly larva, and snails) that live on the bottom of the river.

Water Quality Monitoring Training

Saturday, September 13, 2014

10 am to Noon

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum

2142 N. Genesee Road, Burton, MI 48509

RSVP to [Jaime Welch](mailto:jwelch@flintriver.org)

Participants will need to wear clothing that can get dirty.

Monitoring Training will describe why, how and where we monitor water quality and prepare volunteers to collect benthics; complete a Stream Habitat Assessment form; and conduct basic critter identification.

Instream Monitoring

October 2nd and October 16, 2014

Monitoring occurs at 35 sites across Genesee, Lapeer and neighboring counties.

Monitoring a site requires 2-3 hours and lab evaluations of the samples are an additional hour.

Those who have taken the training may sign up for one or multiple dates, times and sites.

Those new to monitoring will be paired with experienced team leaders. We need 140 volunteers to do a really great job and make sure that all 35 sites are assessed. The data we collect is used by the FRWC as well as local and state agencies to assess the health of our watershed and direct programs and funding to make it even better.

To RSVP, participate or for more information:

Jaime Welch at (810) 767-7140

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(Photos attached separately. Photo credits FRWC)

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The Flint River Watershed Coalition is an organization representing individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local units of government sharing a vision of a healthier Flint River Watershed. We envision a day when the future of our drinking water is secure and the integrity of the Flint River is protected. We believe that all people should have access to the river for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the economic value it provides to our communities.

Visit us on the [Flint River Watershed Coalition](http://www.FlintRiver.org) website

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