

# Chapter 4

## GETTING STARTED: REGISTERING YOUR STREAM, WETLAND OR LAKE

- Identify a Stream Segment, Wetland or Lake Area To Monitor
- Determine the Official Name of Your Waterbody
- How To Obtain Maps and Other Information
- Determine Which Watershed You Are In
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- Sample Delineated Watershed
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- Determine What Equipment and Resources You Need
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- Make a “Who To Call” List
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It is important to register your waterbody as soon as you are sure you can commit to a year of monitoring. When you register your waterbody you will be registered in the Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) database. You will also receive a certificate of adoption. This database is used by local and State agencies and by citizens who wish to form watershed networks.

Answering the questions on the **Registration Form** and the **Watershed Survey and Map Assessment** will help you create a clear picture of your waterbody and a clear set of goals for your monitoring efforts. These forms are located in Chapter 3.

### Identifying a Stream Segment, Wetland or Lake to Monitor

Some general guidelines to follow for selection of a stream segment, wetland or lake:

- Select a waterbody meaningful to you or your group.
- Select a location that has **easy, safe, and legal** access.
- Select a project that meets your monitoring goals.

## **Stream**

Choose a stream that is meaningful to you and your group. Do you want to learn more about a stream that flows near your home or school? Many communities study an entire watershed and monitor several sites. Comparing the effect of land uses on water quality can be interesting (sample upstream and downstream of a farm, an urban area, etc.). If your community has a local AAS program, they may have mapped stream segments that need to be monitored.

We suggest you choose a ½ mile segment of stream to monitor. During the watershed survey, you will locate one monitoring point representative of your stream segment. From this location, you will conduct the visual surveys, chemical and biological monitoring. Once you have registered your stream segment or have attended a workshop, you will receive the *Visual Stream Survey Manual* and the *Chemical and Biological Stream Monitoring Manual*.

## **Wetland**

Wetlands are not as common and easy to find as streams and creeks. For this reason, it is advisable to work with a local partner who may own land where a wetland is located or contact a government agency for permission to work on publicly owned land. By purchasing a USGS topographical quadrangle of the area of interest, you may learn if a wetland is present. A better estimation of wetland location will be found on a NWI map (National Wetland Inventory). These quadrangles correlate to the USGS topographic maps and are specifically made to identify and classify wetlands. Both the USGS and NWI maps may be purchased at the State Geological Survey office in Atlanta (information in this chapter). You can also learn more about wetlands on our website at [www.georgiaadoptastream.com](http://www.georgiaadoptastream.com)

The *Wetland Monitoring Manual* will guide you through determining if you have a wetland. Call the State office at (404) 675-6240 to request the manual.

## **Lake**

In Georgia there are many small and large lakes ranging from farm ponds to large reservoirs. Do you want to monitor a small pond, a larger lake or one or more sites on a large reservoir? In Georgia, you have many choices.

Most of the larger lakes have lake associations and/or citizen monitoring programs. Contact the Georgia Lake Society to find out if your lake has one of these. The Georgia Lake Society will also provide workshops and technical assistance. *If you have chosen a lake to monitor, contact the State office for an Adopt-A-Lake Manual.* Call the State office at (404) 675-6240 to request the manual. The contact numbers for the Georgia Lake Society are in the manual.

## Determine Official Name of Your Waterbody

Many streams, wetlands and small ponds are not named on the maps. If this is the case for your waterbody, contact your county or city water or utilities department and ask them if they have named the waterbody. Some groups make up their own names, but if this does not correspond to the name used by the municipality or State, it will be hard to associate your data to the appropriate waterbody.

If you are looking at a stream or wetland associated with a larger stream that is named, you should call the stream “a tributary to (name of bigger stream)” or “wetland adjacent to (name of waterbody).” For example, a small tributary running into Peachtree Creek would be called “unnamed tributary to Peachtree Creek.” Also include the location such as, “flows under Sycamore Street in Downtown Decatur”.

## How To Obtain Maps And Other Information

Stream headwaters, length, tributaries, final stream destination, and watershed boundaries are best determined through maps. Of greatest value are U.S. **Geological Survey 7.5- minute topographic maps** (on a 1:24,000 scale where 1 inch = 2,000 feet). They depict landforms, major roads and political boundaries, developments, streams, tributaries, lakes, and other land features. Sporting goods stores and bookstores often carry these maps, especially for recreational areas that are likely to be hiked or camped. The maps can also be ordered through the U.S. Geological Survey (see Obtaining USGS Topographic Maps below). Small versions are available online at <http://www.topozone.com>.

**Road, state, and county maps** might also prove helpful in identifying some of these stream and watershed features. **Hydrologic unit maps**, also available from the U.S. Geological Survey but at a 1:100,000 scale of resolution (less detail than the 7 1/2-minute maps cited above) might also help you determine hydrologic watershed boundaries. **Atlases** and other reference materials at libraries can prove helpful in determining facts about population in the watershed.

Land uses in the stream’s watershed might also be depicted on maps such as those discussed above. You will verify this information in the second half of the watershed survey, when you are actually in the field observing land around your waterbody. Information from maps is particularly useful in developing a broad statement about general land use in the watershed (e.g., land use in the hypothetical Volunteer Creek watershed is 60 percent residential, 20 percent parkland/recreational, and 20 percent light industrial).

Much information about your local watershed can be obtained from the internet. **EPA’s Surf Your Watershed** (<http://www.epa.gov/surf/>) is a good place to start, however there are other sources for obtaining detailed maps, both topographical and aerial views. On the following page is a list of potential sources to begin your exploration, though there are probably more sites popping up everyday.

## Obtaining USGS Topographic Maps

Start by checking with the Regulatory Support Program (RSP) of the Water Resources Branch (the old Georgia Geologic Survey). They offer 1:24,000 scale maps for the entire State of Georgia at a cost of \$6 a map. They also offer a multitude of other maps including land use, agriculture, ecoregion, wetland, and different scale maps

Regulatory Support Program  
19 Martin Luther King Dr. SW  
Suite 400  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
(404) 656-3214

Order online at <http://ggsstore.dnr.state.ga.us>

The U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Science Information Centers can provide you with a catalog of available USGS topographic maps, a brochure on how to use topographic maps, and general information on ESIC services. Contact the main ESIC office at:

USGS Earth Science Information Center  
507 National Center  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 22092  
1-888-ASK-USGS

If you know the coordinates of the map you need, you can order it directly from:

USGS  
Branch of Information Services  
Box 25286  
Denver, CO 80225  
Or call 1-888-ASK-USGS, TDD (703) 648-4101.

Place your order in writing and include a check for \$4.00 per map plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling. The ESIC can also refer you to commercial map distributors that can get you the topographic maps sooner, for a higher fee.

For more detailed information, contact one of the Earth Science Information Centers.

USGS topographic maps might also be available from sporting goods stores in your area, i.e. REI, Sports Authority, etc.

There are also several websites that have topographic map search abilities. Two that we have found helpful are [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com) and <http://tiger.census.gov>.

## **Other sources of information include:**

- Plans from local planning offices, include information not only for current land uses but also for potential uses for which the area is zoned. Additionally, many planning offices have a Geographic Information Service Department to assist you with obtaining maps.
- Conservation District offices or offices of the Agricultural Extension Service or Natural Resources Conservation Service (Formerly the Soil Conservation Service). These offices might be able to provide information on agricultural land in rural areas.
- Local offices of the U.S. Geological Survey, which might provide a variety of publications, special studies, maps, and photos on land uses and landforms in the area.
- Aerial photographs, which might provide current and historical views of land uses.

## **Aerial Photographs**

Historic and current aerial photographs can be obtained from local, state, and federal governments, as well as private firms. Try planning offices, highway departments, soil and water conservation districts, state departments of transportation, and universities. Many of these photographs are now available over the internet.

Federal sources of aerial photographs include:

USGS Earth Science  
Information Center  
507 National Center  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 22092  
1-888-ASK-USGS (1-888-275-8747)

USDA Consolidated  
Farm Service Agencies  
Aerial Photography Field Office  
222 West 2300 South  
P.O. Box 30010  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-0010  
801-975-3500 ext. 7

Cartographic and Architectural Branch  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
(301)-837-3200

## Determine Which Watershed You Are In

On the cover page of this manual is a map for the delineation of the 14 major watersheds or river basins in Georgia. On the inside of the cover page is a map that delineates the 52 watersheds in Georgia. The 52 watersheds are smaller watersheds within the larger river basins. They are labeled by common name and by an 8-digit number. The 8-digit Hydrologic Cataloging Unit (HUC) is part of a national coding system. HUC units can range from 2 to 16 digits: the larger the number, the smaller the watershed. Therefore, the 14 major river basins on the front cover will have smaller HUC numbers. For the purpose of grouping and tracking the AAS monitoring sites, please indicate which of the 52 watersheds your waterbody is in, using common name and the 8-digit HUC. For example, if you live in Cherokee County, you can see on the map that you are in the Etowah River watershed and that its HUC number is 03150104.

Additional information about watersheds (e.g., 8-digit hydrological unit codes, rivers and streams in the watershed, land characteristics, river corridor and wetlands restoration efforts, index of watershed indicators, etc.) may be accessed through the USEPA web page at:

<http://www.epa.gov/surf/>

The USGS 8-digit hydrological cataloging unit map for Georgia may be ordered from the USGS Earth Information Science Center (ESIC) at 1-800-USA-MAPS.

## Determine Your Latitude/Longitude

So others can find the exact location of your monitoring site, you will need to know how to determine the latitude and longitude of your site. To locate the coordinates, you will need to work with a topographic map and have access to the web.

The best-quality maps we have found on the web are available at [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com). Scroll down to the bottom of the screen and type the official name of your waterbody in the area designated "Place Name." If you are working with an unnamed tributary to a larger stream, type in the name of the larger stream. Select your state (GA) on the pull-down menu, and click "Search." This should bring up a list of all sites with that name. Select your site by clicking on the link, which will take you to a topographic map of the area. Locate your exact data collection point as closely as possible and click on it, using the green arrows at the edges of the map to change the view if necessary. A small red mark should appear where you click, allowing you to keep track of your site. Now go to the left hand column of the map and under USGS Topo Maps click on the 1:24/25K Series option, which will zoom in on the red mark. Adjust its position if necessary. Select the Map Size you prefer and the 1:50,000 View Scale. Click on the Update Map button. Under Coordinate Format, select the one labeled "DD.DDDD" for decimal degrees. The latitude and longitude of your site and the name of the

quadrangle will appear above the map. Print this map for your records, noting the scale, coordinates, quadrangle, and date of production, which may be obtained by clicking "Quad Info" in the upper right corner of the screen. For online registration (found at <http://www.georgiaadoptastream.org/register.html>) copy the link and paste it into the online registration form. Always keep a hard copy for your record.

To obtain a hard copy of the topographic quadrangle map, contact the Georgia Geological Survey at 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Room 400, Atlanta, GA 30334. Phone: (404) 656-3214. The US Geological Survey may be reached at 1-800-USA-MAPS. Maps cost \$4 each plus shipping and handling. To order the map, you will need the name of the quadrangle, the scale of the map and the date it was printed.

NOTE: Your waterbody may cover more than one quadrangle.

While [topozone.com](http://topozone.com) provides lovely maps, its coordinates may not be precise. Therefore, to determine the exact latitude and longitude of your site (important for future studies!), you should now visit <http://tiger.census.gov>. Scroll down and click on "The TIGER Mapping Service." This will bring up a default map. About three quarters of the way down the page, enter the latitude and longitude you obtained from [topozone.com](http://topozone.com) in the designated spaces under BOTH "Place a Marker on this Map" and "Enter Precise Coordinates." Set the map width to 0.022 and the map height to 0.009, and click "Redraw map." Locate your data collection site, which should be fairly close to the marker. To the right of the map, under "Click on the image to:" select "Place Marker" and click on your site as precisely as you can. When the map reloads, scroll down to the original "Place a Marker on this Map," which will now show the new, more accurate coordinates of your marked site. Record these coordinates for your final data sheets, and print this map for your records.

Send copies of both maps and all information to Georgia Adopt-A-Stream.

## Name Your Group

On the Registration Form and the data forms, a few different names are requested. The first is the official name of your waterbody. The next name is the lead coordinator. That will be the main contact person for the group, and his or her address and phone number should be written on the Registration Form.

The next name is the name of your group. This can be a fun name or the official name of your organization monitoring a waterbody. Once you have chosen a name, be consistent. This name will be used to track your data forms throughout the year.

## Why Am I Monitoring? Setting Goals

Generally, a *goal* is a broad statement that encompasses the purpose of your involvement in Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. An *objective* is a specific, measurable, action-oriented activity that will help you achieve your goals. Don't get weighed down with the definition of goals and objectives. What is important is you have a clear picture of why you are adopting a stream, wetland or lake and what you hope to achieve from your efforts. Then you can decide which activities you will conduct.

Schools, county water departments, golf course managers, watershed organizations, communities, landowners, and businesses use the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program. As you can imagine, the goals and objectives of each group may be very different. Below are examples of goals and activities you may consider for your program.

### Goals:

- To learn more about my local stream and watershed.
- To educate the community about water quality, watersheds and nonpoint source pollution.
- To collect baseline water quality or stream morphology data.
- To get the community involved in a hands-on effort to protect the lake.
- To form a watershed alliance.
- To work in partnership with local governments and businesses to protect our water.
- To teach aquatic biology to students.

### Objectives:

- Conduct the watershed survey and map assessment.
- Speak at the neighborhood association or local church about your Adopt-A-Stream efforts.
- Obtain \$500 sponsorship from a local business to purchase monitoring equipment.
- Conduct Visual Surveys four times a year.
- Collect data on pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and nitrate-nitrogen once a month for three years.
- Organize two cleanups this year.
- Ask someone at the local water authority to act as your technical advisor.

- Send a letter to a local official, informing him or her of your intentions.
- Write an article in your local paper with information on “Who to Call” if someone sees a water quality problem.
- Collect data that will be useful to at least three entities (watershed organization, county water authority, local college).

## Determine What Equipment and Resources You Need

Think about the equipment and resources you will need to accomplish your goals. This may include topographic maps, boots, chemical test kits, nets, garbage bags or information on how to form a watershed group.

### Equipment List for Watershed Survey and Map Assessment

*Getting To Know Your Watershed* manual and forms

Topographic map

Transparency paper

Land use map

Camera

Tape measure

First aid kit

Boots

Gloves

### Equipment List for Visual Stream Survey

*Visual Stream Survey* manual and forms

Camera

Tape measure

8 – 10 ft. measuring stick

An orange

Calculator

Twine

Line level

Rebar

Pencil

Waterproof paper

Clear jar

### Equipment List for Chemical Monitoring – Details on pricing found in the *Biological and Chemical Stream Monitoring* Manual.

Eye protectors

Boots

Gloves

First aid kit

Test kits for pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrate-nitrogen, Phosphate, Alkalinity, Ammonia

Thermometer  
Conductivity Meter  
Imhoff cone  
Waste bucket  
Chemical data forms

**Equipment List for Biological Monitoring**– Details on pricing found in the *Biological and Chemical Stream Monitoring Manual*.

D-frame or kick seine net  
Buckets  
Forceps  
Spoons  
Pipettes  
Sorting trays  
Macroinvertebrate key (laminated)  
Collecting jar with alcohol  
Biological Monitoring Forms

### **Equipment List for Wetland Monitoring**

Tape measure  
Shovel  
Soil color chart (laminated)  
Local plant ID book  
Wetland survey forms

### **Equipment List for Lake Monitoring**

Secchi Disk  
All equipment listed under Chemical Monitoring

## Find Local Partners

Local partners can help make your project a success in many ways. They can offer technical advice, donate equipment, or facilitate access to the waterbody. The more partners you have, the more your efforts will be magnified throughout your community.

Examples of local partners:

- Large private landowners such as timber companies who may have wetlands on their property.
- Government agencies like the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Extension Service or the US Geological Survey.
- Municipalities who may have an interest in working with citizen monitoring groups.
- Environmental education centers.
- Professors at colleges or universities.
- A local business to sponsor your group.
- A corporation interested in promoting and supporting environmental stewardship.

## Determine What Data Will Be Collected

Before you begin to collect visual, biological or chemical data, determine why you are collecting the data and for what purpose the data will be used. Below are examples of how various people and organizations can use the data you collect.

**Watershed Survey** data first provides you and your group with a clear picture of your waterbody and the activities on the land that may affect the quality of your waterbody. If your watershed has not been impacted by much development, this is an excellent time to begin collecting watershed data. Your watershed map and data forms may be the only data available on your watershed. Conducting the watershed survey every year will provide documentation of the changes in your watershed. This information may be useful in helping local officials pass ordinances to protect streams and wetlands and to control development.

**Visual Survey** data is collected four times per year. Many of the critical water pollutants and most habitat damage can be detected through the visual survey. In the wetland, stream, and lake manuals there are detailed descriptions on how to conduct the visual surveys. Sedimentation, erosion, excess nutrients and sewage leaks are all recognized and recorded during the visual survey. Photo documentation is highly encouraged. A picture can be worth more than a thousand data points. This data can show the erosion process of a streambank or the increased sedimentation in a wetland.

**Chemical** data is collected once a month. The common parameters we recommend are pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, settleable solids, alkalinity, phosphates, ammonia, nitrate-nitrogen, and conductivity. The chemical kits used in the field are accurate (if used and maintained properly) but are not approved under the standard methods required by EPA and GA EPD for compliance purposes in regulatory matters.

However, data of this type serves an important purpose. County, city and State water quality technicians and environmental consulting groups often use the data for screening purposes. If significant readings are found, a local water authority or EPD agent can be called in to take additional samples. Trend monitoring is also important. Several years of data can show changes in chemical parameters, which may correlate to the data collected in your visual and watershed surveys. This type of information is useful in watershed planning and management.

**Biological** data is collected four times per year (once per season). Collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates is a good way to assess water quality and habitat quality. Biological surveys can provide a good indication of the “health” of the stream. If the dissolved oxygen is low or a toxic substance was spilled into the water or habitats have been destroyed, this will be reflected in the type and number of macroinvertebrates you collect. The overall health of the stream will be better reflected in biological data than in chemical data. Collecting chemical, biological and visual data will provide a more complete picture of your waterbody and its present or potential impacts.

**QA/QC** data refers to the Quality Assurance Plan and the quality controls in place to assure the data is accurate and precise. Georgia Adopt-A-Stream has a Quality Assurance Plan approved by the EPA and states the methods AAS trainers and volunteers use to assure high quality data. Part of the QA/QC process is for volunteers to participate in a chemical and/or biological workshop once a year. During the workshops, the volunteers are given a written and field test to ensure they understand the data collection procedures. **You do not have to collect biological or chemical data to be involved in Georgia Adopt-A-Stream.** If you plan to collect biological or chemical data, we suggest you attend a QA/QC workshop.

Finally, determine who will receive your data. It is a good idea to call a few organizations ahead of time to find out if they will be interested in receiving data. Various organizations and agencies have different data needs and different quality assurance requirements for the data they use. If you want a particular organization or agency to use your data, you may have to adjust your goals and objectives to meet their criteria.

Of course, always send your data to the State Georgia Adopt-A-Stream office. All data is reviewed and filed in your group file and is available to anyone upon request. If your data is QA/QC, it will be posted on the database.

### **Permitted Discharge Information**

Industries and others that discharge to the stream might be identified at the State, city, or county environmental protection or water quality office. At these offices, you may ask to see records of industries with permits to discharge treated effluent to streams. These records are maintained through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). All industrial and municipal dischargers are required to have permits, which specify where, when, and what they are allowed to discharge to waters of the United States. The EPD Permitting and Compliance Program maintain these records at their office. This information can also be found on EPA Surf Your Watershed website at <http://www.epa.gov/surf/>

In older metropolitan areas, combined sewers are also potential discharges. Combined sewers are pipes in which sanitary sewer waste overflow and storm water are combined in times of heavy rain. These combined sewers are designed to discharge directly into harbors and rivers during storms when the volume of flow in the sewers exceeds the capacity of the sewer system. The discharge might include raw sanitary sewage waste. Combined sewers do not flow in dry weather. Maps of sewer systems can be obtained from your local water utility. The EPD should also be able to provide location information on other potential pollution sources such as landfills, wastewater treatment plants, and stormwater detention ponds.

### **Conducting Research**

Historical land uses and the history of the stream might take some legwork to uncover. Local historical societies, libraries, and newspaper archives are good places to start. Look for historical photos of the area and stories about fishing contests, fish kills, spills, floods, and other major events affecting the stream and its watershed. County or town planning offices might be able to provide information on when residential developments were built and when streams were channeled or diverted. State and local transportation agencies might have records on when highways and bridges were built. State environmental regulatory agencies have records of past or current applications to modify stream hydrology through dredging, channeling, and stream bank stabilization.

Long-time residents are another invaluable source of information on the history of your stream. People who fished or swam in your stream in their youth might have witnessed how the stream has changed. They might remember industries or land use activities of the past such as mines or farms that could have affected the stream. They might have tales to tell about fish they once caught or floods that led to channeling and dams. Assembling such oral histories is a particularly good activity for school age volunteers.

### **Data and The Story It Tells**

Data is collected by a number of Federal, State and local agencies and through research done by universities and consulting firms. Most of this data is not compiled in one location and if it were compiled, the data may not be comparable due to different monitoring methods. For this reason, it may take some research to determine if any data has been collected on your stream, lake or wetland. The best place to start is EPA Surf Your Watershed at <http://www.epa.gov/surf/>

## **Make A “Who To Call” List** \ 1 **“V. Who To Call For Problems”**

It is very important to know whom to call if you find a problem on your waterbody! This list can also include technical contacts. Lists will be different for each county and city. Use the blue pages in your phone book and call these numbers to be sure you are calling the right place!

State and regional numbers are located on the next page of this manual. Other numbers you may want to include on your list are the local contacts for erosion and sedimentation violations, storm water problems, sewage leaks, septic leaks, fish kills and toxic spills.

## Who to Call List (State Numbers)

EPD General Information	1-888-EPD-5947 or 404-657-5947
EPD Emergency Operations Center (for requesting assistance)	1-800-241-4113 or 404-656-4863
EPD Emergency Response (for information & follow up)	404-656-4863
EPD Hazardous Waste Program (for illegal dumping)	404-656-7802
EPD Water Protection (responds to underground storage complaints)	404-362-2687
EPD Georgia Safe Dams Program (questions about dams)	404-362-2678
EPD Water Protection (modeling and monitoring or water quality)	404-675-6240
EPD Non Point Source Program (erosion, buffers, stormwater)	404-675-6240
EPD Land Protection Scrap Tire Program	404-363-7027
Sewage Spill	404-362-2680

EPD Environmental Management Districts (for water quality questions, fish kills, erosion & sedimentation problems)

Mountain District – Atlanta	(404) 362-2671	East Central District – Augusta	(706) 792-7744
Mountain District – Cartersville	(770) 387-4900	Southwest District – Albany	(229) 430-4144
Northeast District – Athens	(706) 369-6376	Coastal District – Brunswick	(912) 264-7284
Middle GA District – Macon	(478) 751-6612	Coastal District – Savannah	(912) 353-3225

DNR Coastal Resource Division	912-264-7218
DNR Georgia Wildlife Resources Division	770-918-6400
Endangered Species	770-761-3035
Georgia Cooperative Extension Service	1-800-ASK-UGA1
Georgia Forestry Commission	1-800-GA-TREES
Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission	706-542-3065

US NRCS	State	404-546-2272
	Clayton	770-473-5467
	Fulton	770-393-2849
	Gwinnett	770-963-9288
	Henry	770-957-5705
	Cobb	770-528-2218

EPA	Environmental Education	404-562-8314
	Lakes/Rivers/Streams	404-562-9345
	Wetlands Information	1-800-832-7828
	Wetlands/Oceans/Watersheds	404-562-9355

USGS Water Resources Division	770-409-7700
US Fish and Wildlife Service	404-679-7319
US Army Corps of Engineers	912-652-5279– Savannah Office
US Geological Survey	404-656-3214

Complete list of EPD numbers under “About EPD” at “Contact List” at [http://www.gaepd.org/Files\\_PDF/epd\\_directory.pdf](http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/epd_directory.pdf)

## **Inform Your Local Government**

It is important to have everyone working together as stewards of our watersheds. Involving the local government will give your project respectability and help you establish a working relationship with the people who can help you protect your wetland, stream, lake or watershed. Write a letter to the mayor, a council member, and/or the city/county manager (sample letters in Appendix A). Let them know where your project is located, your goals, and why it is important. Invite them out for a visual survey!

## **Public Outreach**

Public outreach is probably the most important activity you can do to help protect Georgia's waters. Outreach and education can help develop an awareness of your local stream, wetland or lake. This is your opportunity to tell people what you have learned about your local water body, what the potential threats are and what the community can do to protect the stream, wetland or lake. We ask you conduct at least one outreach activity each year.

Most of the threats to your adopted water body come from the every day activities of you and your neighbors. In order to reduce those threats, you first have to educate yourself and your neighbors. Then you have to see the link between your actions and the threatened water body. Finally, you have to decide it is important enough to change your behaviors or take action.

Taking others through the process from education to action is not easy but it can be done. Each community is different and you may have to try a few outreach techniques. Below are a few suggestions. For more information, contact Georgia Adopt-A-Stream.

- Write a letter to your neighbors explaining what you are doing. Attach a copy of the brochure "You Are The Solution To Water Pollution." (Available from AAS)
- Organize a cleanup. For in-depth information, go to [www.riversalive.org](http://www.riversalive.org).
- Arrange to speak at the neighborhood association, garden club or local school.
- Put an article in the local newspaper.

## **Conduct a Watershed Survey and Map Assessment and Register Your Waterbody!**

Make enough copies of your Registration Form and Watershed Survey and Map Assessment to send to the State AAS office, local officials and other interested parties. Remember to keep copies for yourself.

Return form to:

**SAMPLE FORMS**

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream  
4220 International Parkway  
Suite 101  
Atlanta, GA 30354

## Georgia Adopt-A-Stream / Wetland / Lake Registration Form

**Complete the following form for each stream segment, wetland or lake you monitor. We must have a completed form on file at the state office in order to include your efforts on our web site and database.**

This form is to register the monitoring of a: STREAM WETLAND LAKE  
(Circle one)

Name of stream / wetland / lake  
you are monitoring (official name) Shoal Creek

Lead Coordinator / Contact Allison Hughes

Complete Mailing Address 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101  
Atlanta, GA 30354

Phone Number(s) 404-675-1635

E-mail Address Allison\_Hughes@dnr.state.ga.us

Topographic Map Quadrangle (include copy of  
map) on which your waterbody can be located NE Atlanta—map attached

Watershed (from 8 digit HUC map) 03070103,

Latitude 33.7581°N Longitude 84.2871°W

County DeKalb Today's Date February 16, 2003

Do not send in your registration form without a map. The map must be a copy of a topographic map (see how to obtain maps on page 43) with an X marking your monitoring site. To easily obtain a map and the lat/long for your site from the web go to [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com) (see detailed directions on page 46).

## SAMPLE FORMS

1. Describe the location of your monitoring site (i.e. "25 yards downstream of North Decatur Road crossing in Emory Village).

75 feet downstream of the bridge crossing Midway Rd, just after unnamed tributary enters Shoal Creek.

2. What is the name of your monitoring group? (i.e. Scout Troop 101, Friends of Hayworth Park, Dukes Creek Ducklings)?

Friends of Shoal Creek

3. If associated with a larger group (i.e. Big Creek Watershed Association) please list them here.

South River Watershed Alliance, Shoal Creek Watershed Alliance

4. Who are your partners (Partners may contribute equipment, provide skills or services, provide technical support or grant you access across their land)?

South River Watershed Alliance, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Oakhurst Community Garden

5. What are the goals you hope to accomplish with the Adopt-A-Stream (Wetland or Lake) program?

To educate my neighbors about the stream and their impact on the stream  
To collect baseline water quality data (visual, chemical and biological)  
To learn about my watershed

6. What equipment or supplies do you need to achieve your goals?

Chemical test kit, D-frame net, boots, gloves, waterproof paper, nonpoint source pollution brochures.

7. Where will you send the data you collect?

DeKalb County, South River Watershed Alliance, GA Adopt-A-Stream, Oakhurst Garden Club

8. Name of the local official or agency that you have informed about your program.

The CEO of DeKalb County  
The president of the neighborhood association

9. Name the QA/QC data collectors in your group.

Allison Hughes

