GEORGIA
*A*dopt-A-Stream

Georgia's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

The goals of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream are to (1) increase public awareness of the State's nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues, (2) collect baseline water quality data, (3) encourage volunteers to take observations of their adopted site and surrounding environment, (4) encourage partnerships between citizens and their local government and (5) to provide citizens with the tools and training to evaluate and protect their local waterways. To accomplish these goals, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream encourages individuals and communities to adopt sections of streams, wetlands or lakes. Manuals, training and technical support are provided through the state office and local Adopt-A-Stream coordinators throughout the state.

Getting Started

- Attend a **Getting To Know Your Watershed** and a **Chemical Stream Monitoring** workshop sponsored by Georgia Adopt-A-Stream
- Locate a stream, wetland or lake you would like to monitor
- Register your monitoring site on the on-line database
- Conduct a watershed assessment using the data forms and directions in the manual
- Set up a monitoring schedule and secure partners to assist with your activities
- Plan one cleanup event and one outreach activity for the year
- Visit the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream website to find out about additional materials to help you protect your watershed



Free Resources Available from Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

Getting To Know Your Watershed Manual
Visual Stream Survey Manual
Macroinvertebrate and Chemical Stream Monitoring Manual
Bacterial Monitoring Manual
Wetland Monitoring Manual
Adopt-A-Lake Manual
Amphibian Monitoring Manual
Adopt-A-Stream Educator's Guide
Life at the Water's Edge: A guide to stream care in Georgia
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Newsletter
Online Water Quality Database
Training Workshops
Teacher PLU Credits
Drinking Water/Wastewater Treatment Operator CE Credits

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream
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Visual Stream Survey

What
A visual and physical evaluation of stream conditions
Why
Most of the critical water pollutants and habitat damage (sedimentation, erosion, excessive nutrients) can be detected through the visual survey
When
Monitor quarterly or once every season



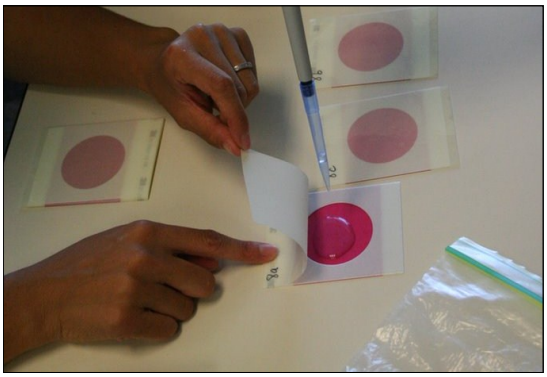
Chemical Monitoring

What
Testing for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and conductivity
Why
Oxygen is needed for respiration, temperature is directly related to biological activity, pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of the water and conductivity measurements can indicate potential inorganic or organic pollution
When
Monitor once a month



Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

What
An inventory of macroinvertebrates in the stream
Why
The overall health of the stream can be determined by the diversity of macroinvertebrates found; the presence of macroinvertebrates indicate the quality of both water and habitat
When
Monitor quarterly or once every season



Bacterial Monitoring

What
Sampling for *E. coli* bacteria
Why
The presence of *E. coli* bacteria in our waterways is an indicator of potential health hazards associated with polluted water
When
Monitor once a month

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