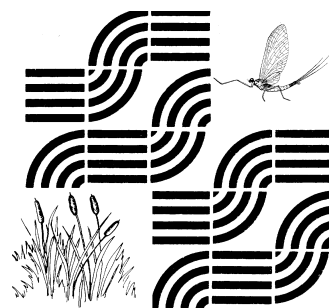


GEORGIA

# Adopt-A-Stream

## *Georgia's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program*

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.



Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division

## 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  
**Chemical Stream Monitoring** Manual  
**Bacterial Monitoring** Manual  
**Macroinvertebrate 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**  
**2 MLK Jr. Drive SE, Suite 1462 E**  
**Atlanta, GA 30334**  
**404.463.1464**  
**AdoptAStream.Georgia.gov**

Georgia   
**Adopt-A-Stream**  
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring



## Visual Stream Survey

### What

A visual and physical evaluation of stream conditions including pebble count, flow, cross section and visual habitat survey

### 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

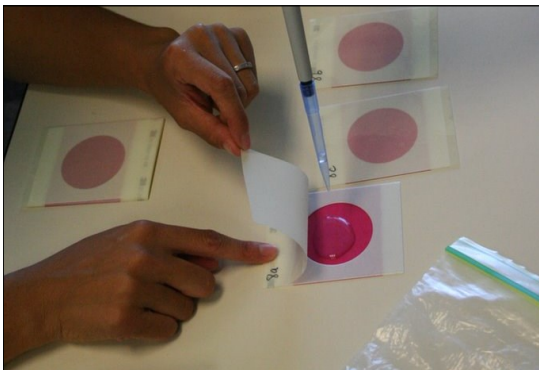
An inventory of macroinvertebrates in the stream

### 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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