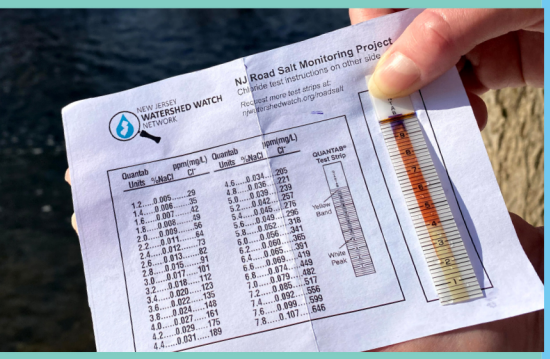
2021

JOIN THE RRWA STREAM TEAM & BE PART OF A COMMUNITY-BASED CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM!

Monitoring our waterways is important for assessing stream conditions and water quality. Understanding the health and quality of our rivers and streams helps us recommend environmental policy and protections, educate the public about how to protect and restore clean water and the environment, and work to restore ailing habitats. We use a number of methods and parameters to determine water quality and stream health.

ROAD SALT MONITORING

Road salt has become an increasing threat to water quality. It is not possible to remove salt from our water supply without expensive desalination equipment. Salt's corrosive properties harm important infrastructure such as the pipes that deliver drinking water to our homes, water processing plants, roads and cars. We use a simple paper test strip that measure the level of chloride in the water. Levels fluctuate based on how much salt has entered the waterway.



VISUAL ASSESSMENT MONITORING

Visual assessments evaluate multiple physical parameters and convert qualitative information to quantitative scores. This is done to determine the health of a stream or river, and assertain its ability to sustain native plant and animal life. By scoring a waterway, it becomes easier to determine a baseline level of ecosystem health, justify the need for a restoration project, or discover how its condition changes over time.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

Biological monitoring gauges populations of benthic macroinvertebrates, which are tiny bottom dwelling organisms that lack backbones. Water quality ratings are based on the abundance, or lack of, various species and their sensitivity to pollutants. If the stream is healthy, a diverse macroinvertebrate population can be found.

Call 908-472-6152 to join!

The Watershed Institute

This program was made possible by a grant from the Watershed Institute and support from the NJDEP

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NEW JERSEY

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