

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) provide citizens with the tools and training to evaluate and protect their local waterways, (3) encourage partnerships between citizens and their local government, and (4) to collect quality baseline water quality data. To accomplish these goals, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream encourages individuals and communities to adopt sections of streams, wetlands, lakes or rivers. Manuals, training, and technical support are provided through Georgia EPD, Adopt-A-Stream Regional Training Centers and community/watershed Adopt-A-Stream organizers throughout the state.



Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

Getting Started

- Locate a stream, wetland or lake you would like to monitor.
- Obtain the introductory manual, *Getting To Know Your Watershed* from the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream office.
- Read the manual and follow the directions to register your stream, wetland or lake.
- Conduct a Watershed Assessment using the data forms and directions in the manual.
- Plan one cleanup event and one outreach activity for the year.
- Call Georgia Adopt-A-Stream to find out about additional manuals and workshops for visual, biological and chemical monitoring.



Free Resources Available from Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

Getting To Know Your Watershed Manual
Visual Stream Survey Manual
Biological and Chemical Stream Monitoring Manual
Wetland Monitoring Manual
Adopt-A-Lake Manual
Adopt-A-Stream Educator's Guide
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream: It All Begins with You video
Georgia Outdoor: Georgia Adopt-A-Stream & Rivers Alive video
You're the Solution To Water Pollution brochure and poster
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Newsletter
Water Quality Data on Google Earth
Training Workshops
Teacher PLU Credits

Contact: **Henry County Stormwater Management**
120 Work Camp Road
McDonough, Georgia 30253
770-288-7246
www.henrycountystormwater.com



Visual Stream Survey

What

- A visual & 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



What

- The basic tests are pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and settleable solids
- Advanced tests include phosphates, nitrates, ammonia, alkalinity and conductivity

Why

- Oxygen is needed for respiration
- Temperature is directly related to biological activity
- pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of the water
- Phosphates and nitrates are nutrients that cause algal blooms when present in excess

When

- Monitor once a month



Biological 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

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