

RiverWatch Macroinvertebrate Monitor Description

Location:

- Macroinvertebrate samples are taken at 9 sites throughout the watershed: Mill St. Reading, Parish Park and Martin's Brook North Reading, Boston St. and log Bridge Rd. Middleton, Fish Brook Boxford, Howlett Brook Topsfield, Gravelly Brook and Winthrop St., Ipswich.

Purpose:

- Collect high quality data on the health of the Ipswich River and its tributaries.
- Establish baseline data in order to identify and address impairments to water quality and quantity, as well as to promote awareness and stewardship of the river.
- Quantify water quality impairments based on the relative abundance of macroinvertebrate groups.
- Address whether or not low flow episodes in the upper watershed are adversely affecting the macroinvertebrate population compared to reference sites.
- Annual reports are compiled and shared with state and local agencies, members and the general public.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Sampling will take place on a Saturday in the fall (late September-early October).
- Two groups of 2-3 monitors will be needed to collect samples from the upper and lower watershed.
- All monitors must attend an annual training event.
- Collect two composite samples of two fast and two slow flowing sections at each site.
- Preserve samples in denatured alcohol.
- Take care of equipment and notify the program coordinator of missing or damaged items.
- Assist with sorting and identifying samples for metric calculations.

Qualifications:

- An interest in environmental and water quality issues is preferred, but no prior experience with water quality monitoring is required.

Commitment:

- Monitors are welcome to help with collecting samples, sorting samples or both.
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Training:

- Training will be provided at our annual training event in September.

Contact:

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For more information, visit: <http://ipswichriver.org/make-a-difference/volunteer/>

<http://ipswichriver.org/macroinvertebrate-monitoring/>