

Why Get Involved?

Data collected by volunteers helps track patterns and changes in the health of some of our streams that we may otherwise have no data for.

SC Adopt-a-Stream focuses on forming local partnerships to find solutions to water quality issues.

Educators can use the program for reality-based student science.

Families and groups can make a deeper connection with their natural environment.

The SC Adopt-a-Stream program is led by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Clemson University Center for Watershed Excellence.



Learn. Partner. Protect. Restore.



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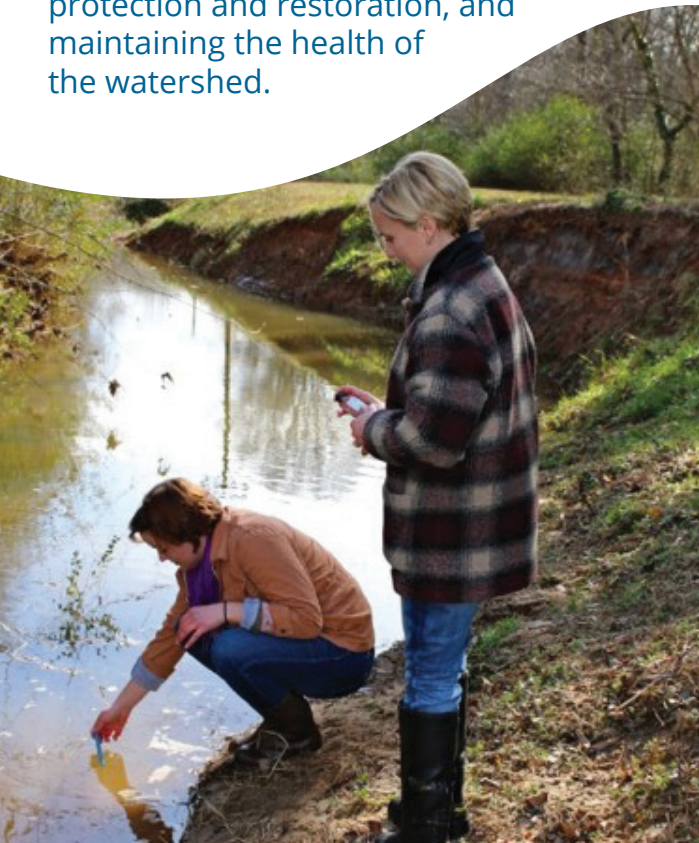
**A Volunteer Water Quality
Monitoring Program for South
Carolina's Freshwater Streams**



What Does it Mean to “Adopt” A Stream?

Adopting a stream means to take on the stewardship of a portion of a stream. You will learn all about the waterway and its part in the local watershed, including stream and habitat quality. Volunteers learn how to collect water quality data that can be shared with their local community.

Adopt-a-Stream volunteers make a positive impact by using their data for environmental education, waterbody protection and restoration, and maintaining the health of the watershed.



What will you monitor?

Volunteers may train in stream habitat surveys, as well as bacterial, physical, chemical, and macroinvertebrate data collection.

Stream Habitat Assessment



Performed once a year to include evaluations of bank stability, channel alterations, bank and aquatic vegetation, and buffers.

Physical and Chemical

Performed monthly to include water and air temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity.

Bacteria

Tested monthly to assess any potential risk for recreation.

Macroinvertebrate

Performed quarterly to assess habitat and water quality using abundance and diversity of macroinvertebrate populations.



Volunteers upload data to a publicly accessible database. Data entry is accomplished by computer or phone.



Why Monitor a Stream?

Citizen monitoring is a means of increasing awareness and understanding of water quality issues, and engaging citizens as watershed stewards.

The South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream program encourages partnerships between volunteers, local communities, and state and local governments, while providing valuable baseline data on local waters. Citizens are provided science-based tools to evaluate local streams, and opportunities to participate in long-term planning initiatives to protect and restore these waters.