

*Water Watch Program*

*Community*



Monroe  
County  
*Community  
Water Watch  
Program*

You can make  
a difference....

Volunteer  
today!

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# What is the Community WaterWatch Program?



The Community WaterWatch program is a volunteer activity involving the residents of Monroe County in efforts to improve and sustain the quality of the waterways in our community.

# How can we help?



Do you belong to any business, civic, homeowners' association, recreation, religious or youth organization in the county?

Would you like to do something to help improve water quality? Then consider participating in the Community WaterWatch program.

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# Why do we need a WaterWatch Program?



Do you use water at home? At work? To drink? Bathe? Or clean? Do you live on or near a stream, lake, pond or wetland? Do you live on a street that has storm sewers? Do you use any of the water bodies in Monroe County for recreation? If you answer yes to any of these questions, you should be concerned about water quality in Monroe County.

Monroe County has been blessed with a rich diversity of water resources. Its northern border is the shoreline of Lake Ontario; the last lake in the Great Lakes System, the largest lake system in the world. The Great Lakes contain 20% of the fresh water in the world, and if drained they would cover the continental United States to a depth of 10 feet. All of the bays and ponds along Lake Ontario's border, the Genesee River, the top quality trout streams, and the wetland areas within Monroe County's borders, eventually drain into the Lake. Any pollutant that is found on the land may eventually be transported to our water resources as part of storm water runoff.



Monitoring is essential in order to identify water quality problems and trends. Although many government agencies conduct regular monitoring, smaller streams may not be monitored because of limited resources. The Community WaterWatch program encourages volunteers to fill these gaps.

## How the program works



Send in the form on the back of this brochure. Assemble a "stream team" and decide on a stream you would like to monitor. If you would like suggestions, please contact the Program Coordinator. After your team has made a decision, you will be contacted to set up a training session for your group.

Activities may include:

- Stream and shoreline visual surveys.
- Physical monitoring:
  - Temperature
  - Stream velocity
  - Stream depth
- Monitoring aquatic insects.
- Storm drain stenciling.
- Litter clean up.
- Reporting problems to proper agencies.
- Interaction with local Planning/Conservation Boards
- Any other approval activity your group and partner determines will help improve the condition of your selected waterbody.

As a minimum, your group will be expected to conduct stream monitoring at the site at least four times a year for two years and to report the results to the Program Coordinator.

# Application Form



**Yes!** Let's get started.

We want to participate in the  
*Community WaterWatch Program.*

Group (or Individual Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town/Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
List Streams you would like to monitor above

If you would like a representative of the  
Community WaterWatch Program to give  
a short presentation to your group about  
the program, please call 274-7638.

**Please return this form to:**

Monroe County Department of Health  
Room 962, PO Box 92832  
111 Westfall Road  
Rochester, New York 14692  
FAX: 716/274-6098  
PHONE: 716/274-7638



The Community WaterWatch Task Group  
is an all volunteer effort dedicated to  
cleaner streams in the  
Rochester Embayment Watershed.  
We believe that maintaining clean streams  
requires the cooperation of individuals  
throughout the whole watershed.



**Department of Health**

Andrew Doniger MD, MPH  
*Director*

Jack Doyle  
*County Executive*