
Volunteer Stream Watchers Needed!

MANOTICK, MAY 2, 2005 —The very successful City Stream Watch program is continuing in 2005 with volunteer scientists monitoring and checking out three new urban streams in order to protect them into the future. Sampling and recording the basic natural characteristics of Graham Creek, Stevens Creek and Greens Creek are the high priorities for this field season.

Join with other environmental stewards and take the opportunity to observe wildlife such as red-winged blackbirds, flickers, goldfinch, robins, herons, raptors, ducks, etc. Check out creek dwellers such as turtles, frogs and toads, fish and invertebrates, as well as mammals such as deer, raccoon, muskrat and more. Monitor the stream with astute observation of temperature, stream features, pollution, bank stabilization and erosion levels. Show your enthusiasm for city streams by signing up for stream clean-up activity. It is with the support of our many dedicated volunteers that important scientific information on our streams is gathered, recorded and managed with the goal that these these streams remain respected and valued for their natural features in the communities through which they flow.

Volunteers are requested to come to a Community Training Session to learn the easy and basic techniques of stream assessment. The Community Training Session is on May 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the small park at the mouth of Sawmill Creek about 100 m east of Billings Bridge Shopping Centre (Bank Street at Riverside Drive). There is no cost and all necessary equipment is provided. Volunteers can choose which stream or streams they wish to work on over the summer. This is an excellent opportunity for interested members of the community to learn about and help care for their local streams. Make sure you register early!

City Stream Watch is a partner program lead by the Heron Park Community Association and includes the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Flyfishers Society, the Ottawa South Community Association, The Rideau Roundtable, National Defence Fish and Game Club and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Please check out the website for program details, including the final reports of streams previously studied at www.rideauvalley.on.ca/programs/streamwatch/index.html. For more information on the Community Training Session and how to get involved in 2005, contact Grant Nichol, City Stream Watch Coordinator at 580-2424 ext. 22886.

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More information: Grant Nichol, City Stream Watch Coordinator
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