

## RiverWatch Water Quality Monitoring Program Description

### Location:

- Measurements are taken at 32 sites throughout the watershed: 10 sites are on major tributaries and 22 sites are on the mainstem of the Ipswich River. Towns covered include: Wilmington, Reading, North Reading, Middleton, Topsfield, Boxford and Ipswich. The specific site will depend on availability and proximity.

### 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.
- Define baseline conditions over the range of annual conditions for dissolved oxygen, water temperature, conductivity, water level and flow as well as habitat and wildlife observations.
- Annual reports are compiled and shared with state and local agencies, members and the general public.

### Responsibilities and Duties:

- Monitor on the last Sunday morning of each month from March-December, between **8am and 12:30 pm**. Tidal locations are sampled within 1 hr. of low tide closest to the 8am -12:30pm time span. Sampling in January and February is optional. Holidays will move the date up.
- All monitors **must** attend an annual training event.
- Help find coverage for your site if you cannot make a monitoring date.
- Maintain supplies in good working condition and notify the program coordinator when materials need to be replaced.
- Submit data within 2 weeks after the sampling date.

### Qualifications:

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

### Commitment:

- Monitors are asked to make at least a 1-year commitment to the program.

### Training:

- Training will be provided at our annual training event in March. New volunteers may also receive training on site anytime during the year.

### Contact:

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

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