

Clark County Monitoring Resource Center

The Clark County Monitoring Resource Center (MRC) is a service of the Clean Water Program and includes a library as well as water quality monitoring equipment for loan. Use of the MRC is open to the general public, and examples include teachers, environmental organizations and local governmental agencies.

As time allows, Clark County can provide project guidance and technical assistance in regards to the goals and purpose of your project, and how to interpret your results. If you do not have your own project in mind, you can join one of our volunteer teams.

Prior to borrowing equipment for your own project consider the following questions:

- What are the goals of the monitoring project?
- Is there a specific question that needs to be answered?
- What types of monitoring activities am I interested in doing?
- Is there anyone else monitoring at the site I want to monitor, or any historical data for the site?

Equipment available for loan:

Biological monitoring:

- Nets, buckets, bottles and field microscopes for collecting and looking at aquatic macroinvertebrates
- Field guides for identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates
- Information to interpret stream health based on the types of macroinvertebrates found in your stream

Water chemistry monitoring:

- Meters for determining pH, conductivity, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity
- Temperature data loggers for continuous in-stream monitoring
- Laboratory analyses (in certain cases) for parameters such as fecal coliform density and nutrient loading
- Information on laboratories that perform water quality analysis and assistance with interpreting lab results

Physical habitat assessment:

- Methods, tools and equipment for measuring various stream channel characteristics. The size and kind of pebbles, pools, and woody debris in a stream create habitat and breeding ground for aquatic organisms
 - Tools to measure vegetation cover along the stream corridor
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Lake monitoring:

- Secchi disks for measuring lake clarity
- Monitoring instruments
- Equipment for taking grab samples of lake water at any depth up to 70 feet

Hydrologic monitoring:

- Velocity meter and top-setting rod for measuring streamflow
- Methods and procedures for measuring streamflow

Protective gear:

- Knee boots and hip waders
- Neoprene gloves
- First aid kits
- Safety vests for visibility on roadways

Library:**General titles include:**

- Clean Water Act User's Guide: 2nd edition (River Network)
- Field Manual for Water Quality Monitoring: an environmental education program for schools
- Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring: a manual of field and lab procedures (Student Watershed Research Project)
- Impacts of Impervious Cover on Aquatic Systems (Center for Watershed Protection)
- The Volunteer Monitor's Guide to Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA)

Streams:

- Streamkeepers Field Guide: watershed inventory and stream monitoring methods
- Adopt a Stream: a northwest handbook
- A Citizen's Guide to Understanding and Monitoring Lakes and Streams
- Clark County Volunteer Monitoring Program Stream Monitoring Manual
- Streamkeepers of Clallam County Volunteer Handbook (this is the program that the Clark County Volunteer Monitoring Program is modeled after)

Aquatic invertebrates:

- Guide to Pacific Northwest Aquatic Invertebrates (Oregon DEQ)
 - Stream Bugs as Biomonitors: guide to pacific northwest macroinvertebrate monitoring and identification (CD-Rom by the Xerces Society)
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Lakes:

- The Lake Pocket Book
- Management of Lakes and Reservoirs
- Clark County Volunteer Monitoring Program Lake Monitoring Manual

Wetlands:

- Handbook for Wetlands Conservation and Sustainability

Questions about checking out equipment or volunteering? Please contact:

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Need technical assistance in designing a monitoring project? Please contact:

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For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.
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