

2014 RIVER WATCH

INTRODUCTION:

Since 1995, the River Watch Volunteer Monitoring Program has provided hands-on environmental education opportunities for students throughout Hennepin County. Every spring and fall students and their teachers venture into Hennepin County streams to collect important data that helps assess the overall health of the biological communities within them.

In 2014, 16 schools and 20 stream stretches were monitored in the spring and/or fall. More than 35 classes, including approximately 707 students and more than 2,300 volunteer hours participated in the River Watch Program.

GRADING SCALE:

The grading scales used in River Watch takes into account three major biotic indices used routinely in biological monitoring programs. The first component is the Family Biotic Index which measures the overall community of invertebrates and their tolerance to pollution levels. The scale ranges from 0 to 10, with the lower values indicating high sensitivity and good water quality. EPT stands for Ephemeroptera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies), and Trichoptera (caddisflies). These three families include the most sensitive individuals and their presence indicates better water quality (higher scores). Finally, the number of families measures the overall abundance of families or total diversity of family units. The higher the number indicates the better ecosystem quality.

Letter Grading Scale			
3.83 - 4.00	A	1.83 - 2.16	C
3.50 - 3.82	A-	1.50 - 1.82	C-
3.17 - 3.49	B+	1.17 - 1.49	D+
2.83 - 3.16	B	0.83 - 1.16	D
2.50 - 2.82	B-	0.50 - 0.82	D-
2.17 - 2.49	C+	0.00 - 0.49	F

2014 Monitoring Group					
Site	School	2014 Grade	Cumulative Ave. Grade	Teacher	Years Monitoring
Lion's Park	Calvin Christian High School, Fridley	D+	C	James Van de Glind	5
Park Center High School	Park Center HS, Brooklyn Park	D+	C-	Cindy Jahnke	18



Shingle Creek #10 is located on the grounds of Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park, near the intersections of Brooklyn Boulevard and Noble Avenue. This site has one of the longest data records for the River Watch program in Hennepin County. Cindy Jahnke and her students from Park Center High School have been monitoring this site since 1996. *(above)*



Lion's Park is located near the intersection of Russell and 55th Avenues in Minneapolis, near Centerbrook Golf Course. A walking path leads to the stream site. *(right)*

For more information about the River Watch Program or to receive the complete report, contact Mary Karius, Hennepin County Environment and Energy, 612-596-9129, Mary.Karius@hennepin.us. Or view it on the Hennepin County website, http://www.hennepin.us/~media/hennepinus/Business/work-with-hennepin-county/environmental-education/RiverWatch_2014Report.pdf