

WATER FACTS

September - What is Volunteer Monitoring?

Community-Based Research

Volunteer monitoring and citizen science are research models that leverage community resources and knowledge. Local projects include Hawk Watch (counting migrating hawks at Waggoner's Gap) and Project Budburst (observing plants as markers for environmental changes). Volunteer monitoring, or aquatic citizen science, is a unique model engaging communities in other aspects of the scientific process, such as study design creation and data interpretation.

Why Volunteer Monitoring?

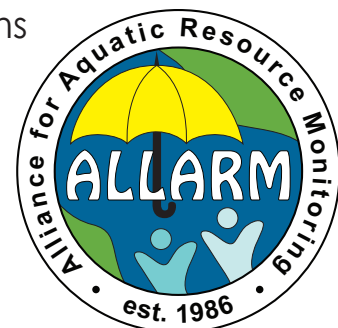
When communities engage in research, they become more engaged in local issues and civic projects. Aquatic volunteer monitoring data have diverse uses, from pollution screening for environmental agencies to informing local stream restoration efforts. In the past 10 years, publications including the topic of citizen science have increased 3,750%, and in 2014, over 1,700 active US volunteer monitoring groups were documented. This year, a federal toolkit and directory was established to recognize and build upon citizen science efforts.



At Dickinson and in the Region

For 30 years, ALLARM has empowered communities to use science as a tool to investigate local stream conditions and use findings to improve or protect water quality. ALLARM works with over 30 communities in Pennsylvania and New York who collect baseline water quality data, assess streams for land-use or industry impacts, and inform remediation projects.

Sources: CitizenScience.gov <https://www.citizenscience.gov/>
EPA <http://bit.ly/EPA1990>
NWQMC <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/vm/>
Web of Knowledge <http://webofknowledge.com>



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