

Stream monitoring



WHAT TO BRING (FOR THE DAY)

Essentials

- Warm clothing
- Warm hat & gloves
- Hiking boots or strong shoes
- Food (lunch & snacks) for the day
- Drink, e.g. water (at least 1litre)
- Wet weather gear (waterproof raincoat & pants)
- Sunscreen
- Something to carry your gear in (e.g. day pack)
- Towel
- Shoes you can get wet

Optional

- Camera
- Change of clothes
- Music CDs

Who we work with

This project was initiated by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) as part of their Wellington Water Watch project. This is one of our self-managed projects so we do not typically work with any other volunteer groups whilst stream monitoring.

Where we're working

We undertake stream monitoring in urban, rural and natural streams. The urban stream is the Waiwhetu stream located in Lower Hutt; the rural stream is the Mangaroa stream in an area close to Upper Hutt. The natural stream is Gollans stream within East Harbour Regional Park. Each stream we monitor has an upper, middle and lower catchment monitoring site.

Points of interest: There are swimming holes close to several of the study sites.

What we'll be doing and why

The aim of this project is to provide long term data on stream health in the greater Wellington region. The local government is committed to improving stream health and the data we collect will highlight problems and also monitor the efficacy of the restoration work.

The project uses a Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK) which was developed by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) in partnership with Federated Farmers of New Zealand. The kit has two sections; the first is a series of water quality tests such as PH conductivity and clarity. The second section examines the flora and fauna of the stream. The data from the kit allows an overall stream health score to be calculated. This score is then compared against previous results to see if stream health is improving or deteriorating.

Timetable

Each of our study sites are monitored every 3 months. We typically monitor 3-4 sites per working day. If flooding occurs prior to a planned monitoring we have to delay the monitoring, this is due to safety issues and because a flooded stream may give an unrealistic picture of its true health.

Travel time: Eastbourne (natural sites) 30 min drive plus 1hr hike; Lower Hutt (urban sites) 15 min drive; Upper Hutt (rural sites) 40 min drive.

Health, Safety, Security, and Biosecurity

Hazards: The wet and slippery stream environment is a potential hazard so suitable footwear is necessary. Also some of the urban streams we work in are polluted so it is recommended that you wear rubber gloves and wash before handling any food.

Food & meals

You need to pack a lunch for this project

For more information

Information on the monitoring techniques used for this project can be found at:
<http://www.landcare.org.nz/SHMAK/>

Information on Wellington Water Watch can be found at:
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/section1399.cfm>

TEAM GEAR NEEDED (FOR THE DAY)

Work equipment (from GVN office)

- SHAMK kit
- Gum boots
- Data sheets and clip boards