

WAVE Data are Valuable

The data you collect as a WAVEr supplement the work of DEC's Stream Biomonitoring Unit (SBU) sampling program. They are used in federal and state water quality reports and help to target areas where SBU sampling and local restoration efforts are most needed.

Use NYSDEC Stream Data

Other organizations, including county and municipal agencies and not-for-profits, can request NYSDEC Stream Data, including WAVE data and SBU data, for local monitoring or preservation/conservation efforts. To request data, contact the WAVE Program Coordinator.



Contact Info

To get involved or request data, contact the DEC WAVE Program:

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WAVE Coordinator

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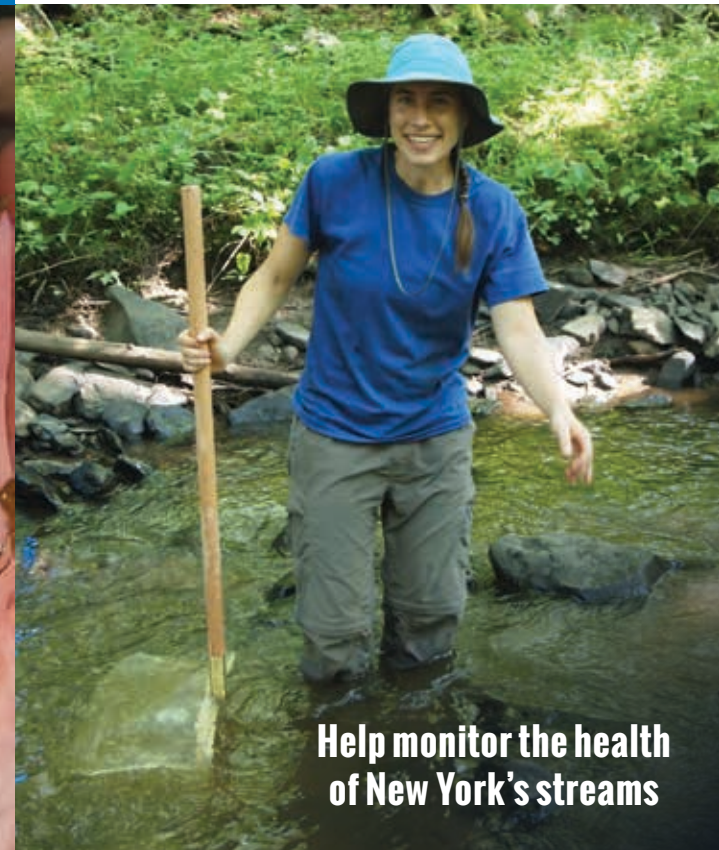
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VOLUNTEER FOR WAVE

Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators



**Help monitor the health
of New York's streams**

Our streams are the lifeblood of our state. We drink and play in their waters. They power our industries and sustain our fields, forests and wildlife. Sometimes these uses can affect stream quality. You can help detect changes in the health of a waterway.

What is DEC's WAVE Program?

WAVE (Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators) is a DEC program where volunteers collect, or *sample* “stream bugs” to assess water quality in wadeable streams in New York State.

The bugs, or *macroinvertebrates*, are the “canaries in a coal mine”, that can tell us if a stream is affected by pollution or not. We call these organisms *bioindicators*.

Volunteer to be a WAVEr

Anyone can be a WAVEr. You don't need any science background.

There are three ways to get involved:

- **Be a local coordinator.**
Coach and coordinate your own team of WAVE participants.
- **Sample independently.**
Prefer to work alone? No problem.
- **Join a local team led by a WAVE local coordinator.**

Local coordinators and independent samplers must attend a one-day DEC training session. The training sessions, held each May, are rotated throughout NYS, targeting watersheds that will be sampled by DEC's Stream Biomonitoring Unit the following year.

Visit on.ny.gov/WAVE to see a list of this year's training dates and locations. Contact the WAVE coordinator to find a WAVE team near you.



What do WAVErs Do?

Select sampling sites. WAVErs select their own sampling sites with guidance from the DEC WAVE Coordinator.

Sample. WAVErs use a net provided by DEC to collect a sample of material from the stream bottom, sort out the stream bugs, and preserve an example of each kind. Sampling is done once per site, anytime from July to September.

Identify. WAVErs are encouraged to learn to identify the organisms in their sample but are not required to do so. The DEC WAVE Coordinator will identify the bugs in all the submitted samples.

