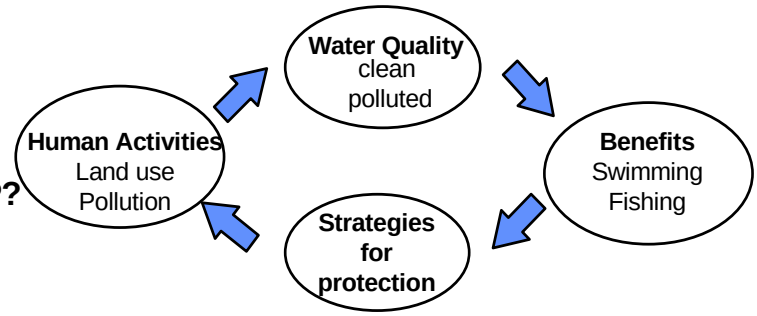
Application Form
Citizen Stream-Monitoring Program

It is important to protect and improve the quality of our state's streams because Minnesotans value streams for recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, transportation, and as a source of clean water for use by plants and animals...including humans. The Citizen Stream-Monitoring Program (CSMP) combines technical expertise of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the CROW with local knowledge of interested citizens to develop a statewide network for monitoring our state's 92,000 miles of streams. A citizen stream-monitoring network will increase understanding of how human activities, such as land use, affect water quality. In turn, we will gain insight on how human activities affect the benefits we obtain from clean water such as swimming and fishing.



What are the goals of the CSMP?

Goals of the CSMP are to:

- Collect valuable water-quality data by expanding our state network of stream monitoring.
- Provide a basic, interpreted program for anyone interested in stream monitoring.
- Compliment and support existing volunteer monitoring programs.
- Facilitate awareness & understanding of water-quality issues, and promote shared goals.

What do CSMP volunteers do?

Once a week from April to September, and following large rainfall events when possible, volunteers visit an established spot on a nearby stream and measure the following:

Measure:	Measurement tool:	What it tells us:
Transparency	Transparency tube - clear, 60 cm-long tube with colored disk on the bottom	The amount of sediment, algae, & other materials suspended in the water
Appearance	Visual assessment of stream-water color	Potential causes of low transparency (e.g. sediment, algae, bog stain)
Recreational Suitability	Visual assessment on a scale of 1-5 (1=Very Good, 5=Very Poor)	The perceived suitability of a stream for fishing, swimming or boating
Precipitation (recorded daily)	Rain gauge	How rainfall events affect stream transparency, appearance, and stage
Stream stage	Visual estimate (Low, Normal, High) or Measurement from benchmark above stream	Water level: if changes in water level, which may occur during rainfall events, affect transparency & appearance

How will the data be used?

Volunteer monitoring data will identify water quality problems, develop strategies and prioritize actions for improving water quality, and track progress toward improvement. Volunteer data can determine how stream conditions change during storm events, and identify links between CSMP measures (transparency, precipitation, stream stage, and appearance) and other water-quality measures such as turbidity and total suspended solids. Over the long-term, information will be used by individuals and organizations to detect trends in water-quality, and to help decide if additional assessments or actions are needed for protection and improvement.

Who can volunteer?

Any person or group willing to devote a small amount of time and energy to conduct simple stream checks on a regular basis can become a volunteer monitor. This includes anyone who lives on or near a stream, or who frequently visits a particular stream.

How do I sign up?

Volunteers will receive a transparency tube, rain gauge, data sheets, instructions for taking measurements, and a copy of the annual report on stream conditions in their region. If you are interested in becoming a CSMP volunteer, fill out the form below and return it to the address listed at the bottom.

I would like to be a volunteer in the Citizen Stream-Monitoring Program!

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (work)

E-mail: _____ (optional)

Name of stream you would like to monitor: _____

County where stream is located: _____

Stream location: _____ **miles** _____ **of** _____
(distance) (N, NW, etc) (nearest town)

Township_____ **Range**_____ **Section**_____ (if available)

Training Video Preference (Please choose one): DVD _____ **or VHS** _____

Where did you learn about CSMP? _____

Please return application to:

Jenny Gieseke
CROW
40322 541st Avenue
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-766-0173
e-mail: crowriverorg@yahoo.com