

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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2006 Volunteer River Assessment Program Reports Now Available Online

NHDES Webpage Provides Data and Reports for 24 Volunteer Monitoring Groups

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) has made available on the DES webpage reports for 24 rivers monitored during 2006 by volunteers. The reports and data are available at: <http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/VRAP>.

Established by DES in 1998, VRAP provides an opportunity for direct citizen involvement in monitoring and stewardship of streams they care about. It serves to educate citizens about river and stream water quality, the threats to water quality posed by increasing population, development, and industrialization, and the ways in which concerned citizens work together to minimize these impacts. During 2006, VRAP supported 26 volunteer monitoring groups, providing water quality monitoring equipment, technical support, grants, and other outreach programs. Over 150 volunteers monitored 254 river water quality stations and collected over 90,000 water quality measurements.

VRAP Program Manager Ted Walsh said “VRAP volunteers provide an invaluable service to DES and all New Hampshire citizens who want to preserve and protect our rivers and streams. The VRAP data collected by volunteers can be used to determine how safe our rivers and streams are for swimming, the quality of habitat for healthy fish populations, and to determine if water quality is changing over time.” Planning for the 2007 monitoring season is already underway. Individuals or organization interested in assisting existing VRAP groups or starting a new VRAP group can contact Ted Walsh (603) 271-2083 twalsh@des.state.nh.us or Jen Drociak (603) 271-0068 jdrociak@des.state.nh.us.

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