



## Local Coordinators

Water Action Volunteers (WAV) is a *statewide* volunteer stream monitoring program in Wisconsin. As a result, the program relies heavily on local coordinators to engage, train and support volunteers in their local area or watershed.

### Who can be a local WAV coordinator?

Anyone! Typically local coordinators are affiliated with an organization, whether that be a local friends group or chapter of a larger organization, a local non-profit, or a County department. Local coordinators may be volunteers, board members, or staff of the organization. What's most important is that the local coordinator has the capacity to support volunteers, and that there is someone able to fill the role and continue supporting the volunteers if the local coordinator leaves the organization.

Some of our current local coordinators include:

- Trout Unlimited chapters
- Rock River Coalition
- Milwaukee Riverkeeper
- Waukesha County Parks and Land Use
- Green Lake Watershed Association
- Riveredge Nature Center
- Friends of Black River
- Valley Stewardship Network

### What is the role of a local WAV stream monitoring coordinator?

The role of a local WAV stream monitoring coordinator varies depending on the capacity of the individual coordinator or organization involved. Here is a basic guide for what most local coordinators do to support stream monitoring in their area:

- Host introductory stream monitoring trainings, including setting dates and locations and recruiting volunteers. A local coordinator who has attended a WAV training alongside a WAV staff member and completed monitoring themselves can be an instructor.
- Provide liability waivers for volunteers to complete at all events. The signed waivers can be stored locally or provided to WAV staff for centralized storage.
- Provide WAV staff with volunteers' contact information, training attendance and demographic information.
- Help WAV staff communicate program changes and events to volunteers.
- Communicate with WAV staff about equipment needs by early March.
- Help distribute equipment to volunteers.
- Help volunteers locate monitoring sites and work with DNR staff to determine local monitoring needs.
- Act as the first line of contact for local volunteers with questions about their stream monitoring.
- Bring local volunteers together for updates, sharing data, learning and stewardship opportunities.
- Apply for external grants and funding to augment WAV-issued supplies and programming.
- Help evaluate and improve the WAV program.

## How do I get started?

1. **Complete the Online Introduction to WAV** to learn about our baseline monitoring program, so that you are familiar with the baseline monitoring activities. Organizations will often expand their monitoring beyond these baseline activities, such as by collecting nutrient samples and purchasing meters, but all volunteers are expected to first conduct baseline monitoring to build a foundation. Access the course on our website here: <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>
2. **Contact WAV staff** at [wav@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:wav@extension.wisc.edu) or 608-331-0173 to set up an initial meeting to talk about your interest in becoming a local coordinator, your organization's goals, and to learn about the WAV stream monitoring program.
3. **Work with WAV staff to schedule a 3-4 hour spring volunteer baseline monitoring training** (ideally April – May), which will initially be taught by a WAV staff member. We typically limit capacity to 20 people or fewer.
4. **Recruit volunteers** to attend the spring training and help WAV staff **identify an accessible stream site** to host the training. Local coordinators typically manage their own training registration, field questions, and send reminders. WAV staff can provide support through this process.
5. **WAV staff will provide initial baseline monitoring kits for volunteers and baseline monitoring training materials.** Our funding is limited since we support volunteers across Wisconsin, so talk to WAV staff to discuss how many kits, and therefore how many 2-person teams of volunteers, we can support initially.
6. After the first spring training, WAV staff will continue to support you and help you as you develop your stream monitoring program. That's what we're here for! We provide refresher trainings for local coordinators every March, provide equipment re-supply and new kits as funding allows, and work with you to meet your needs or pursue new opportunities.

## Ready to talk to us?

Contact WAV staff at [wav@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:wav@extension.wisc.edu) or 608-331-0173.



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