



Red River Basin River Watch Program

1995-2017

22 Years of Watershed Education

The International Water Institute (IWI) River Watch (RW) program enhances watershed understanding and awareness for tomorrow's decision-makers through direct hands-on, field-based experiential watershed science. Schools throughout the Red River of the North Basin participate in a variety of unique and innovative watershed engagement opportunities suited to their school, community, and watershed needs.

Water Quality Monitoring: Collect and record conditions at local rivers and streams using state-of-the-art scientific methods and equipment.

Biological Monitoring: Macroinvertebrate monitoring provides additional insights on watershed health.

River Explorers: Guided kayak excursions on local rivers to observe and document watershed conditions.

Ongoing **Teacher Training** provides access to resources and experts on current watershed issues.

River Watch Forum: Annual opportunity for students to share and learn about emerging watershed issues.

New to River Watch!

Snow Study: Students collect snow depth, snow water equivalency, and infiltration rate to help accurately forecast spring flooding.

River of Dreams: Introducing elementary students to watershed science and terminology through geography, reading, writing, and art.

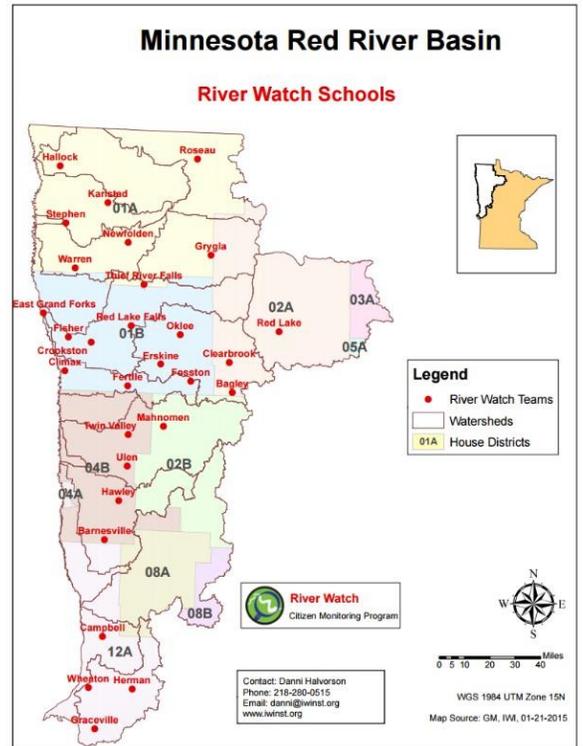




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Support for the Red River Basin RW program is provided by the Red River Watershed Management Board, local watershed districts, and other regional partners. This collaboration has built a sustainable watershed education foundation across the Red River Basin. The RW program provides training to students who monitor physical and chemical conditions of local rivers using standard operating procedures. RW teams have collected data at 150 sites totaling over 10,000 visits to rivers, streams, and agricultural ditches in the Red River Basin. Data are used by the MN Pollution Control Agency to complement the state's assessment of surface waters.

Clean Water funds enable the IWI to build on this watershed education foundation by providing additional learning opportunities, specifically River of Dreams and the Snow Study. These new activities will expand the educational opportunities and provide a more comprehensive understanding of watersheds, promoting land and water stewardship to protect and improve Minnesota's valuable natural resources.



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