



# Water Quality Monitoring

## What is Water Quality Monitoring?

It is an opportunity for students, teachers, and community citizens to participate in river monitoring activities. The ultimate goal of water quality monitoring is to sustain or improve the Red River's ecosystem health and conditions for human use. This can be achieved by:

- Educating students and adults about water quality monitoring and river ecosystems.
- Determining the current health of the river and the impact it receives from the cities.
- Making the collected data available to the community and its decision makers.



River Keepers uses a sonde and a sechi tube to get instant data from the river on pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and others.

Water samples are analyzed by the North Dakota Department of Health for parameters such as dissolved oxygen, conductivity, fecal coliforms, total phosphorous and others.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the North Dakota Health Department use the data to analyze the health of the Red River for the Clean Water Act requirements mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Parameter definitions and water quality monitoring data can be viewed at [www.fmriver.org](http://www.fmriver.org).

## Why do we need water quality monitoring?

There have not been any systematic year-round testings that assess the impact of the metro area on the Red River. City water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, state health departments and others monitor some parameters. Coordinated monitoring efforts are needed to test problem area, and identify the impact of the metro area on the Red River.

Without the right educational and monitoring activities, the rate of pollution events that can occur in the Fargo & Moorhead area are likely to increase as the population increases.

Currently River Keepers monitor the Red River twice a month at 3 locations on the mainstem: one location upstream, one downtown, and one downstream of Fargo and Moorhead.

## Who are the partners?

- River Keepers
- International Water Institute
- Red River Basin Monitoring Network
- North Dakota Department of Health
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Environmental Protection Agency

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### For more information:

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