

# COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION MONITORING LANDOWNER PACKET



We strive for clean streams and rivers flowing through resilient landscapes, cared for by the people who live, work, and play in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

-  Monitoring Overview
-  Purpose & Benefits
-  Monitoring Process & What to Expect
-  Data Collected
-  Data Privacy Policy
-  How to Get Involved
-  Our Partners
-  Landowner Expectation Agreement

# MONITORING

## OVERVIEW



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) has implemented numerous restoration practices aimed at reducing the impact of agricultural practices and urban/suburban land uses. As restoration projects continue to be implemented, it is critical for NFWF to assess whether these practices are working and are improving the quality of local streams in order to ensure the investments are helping to meet Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

The Community-Based Restoration Monitoring Program was developed in order to track the progress of stream restoration, riparian forest buffer, and cattle exclusion fencing practices funded through the NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund.

This project is made possible through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

# PURPOSE & BENEFITS

## PURPOSE

- Assess the impact of stream restoration and stream health practices
- Assess the stream's quality of habitat for aquatic life (fish and macroinvertebrates)
- Assess the status of the intervention before, during, and after restoration
- Alert project managers and landowners to potential issues
- Community engagement and education

## BENEFITS

- To track the progress and health of your property's stream
- Get alerts to any potential issues with the practice or waterway
- By collecting water monitoring data, the case can be made to funders to invest in more environmental practices that improve overall waterway health in your community
- There are no additional costs to landowners to include monitoring at your site

# MONITORING PROCESS & WHAT TO EXPECT

In order to assess the benefits of your restoration project(s), our monitoring team will need to monitor your stream before your project is installed and then for at least 5 years after installation. Below is the monitoring schedule.

Year 1 Pre- Installation	Year 2 Post- Installation	Year 3 Post- Installation	Year 4 Post- Installation	Year 5 Post- Installation	Year 6 Post- Installation
Spring/Fall Monitoring	Spring/Fall Monitoring	Spring/Fall Monitoring	Spring Monitoring	Spring Monitoring	Spring Monitoring

**Before** the team's expected arrival, please ensure:

1. Any gates or fences leading to the property and to the stream are unlocked.
2. Electric fences are turned off (agricultural sites).
3. All livestock are in a different pasture (agricultural sites).

Monitoring will take at between 3 - 4 hours.

# DATA COLLECTED

## Water Quality Monitoring Indicators

- Air temperature
- Water temperature
- Water clarity

## Buffer and Streambank Visual Assessment

- Cross section depth
- Stream bed assessment
- Channel geometry
- Biological habitat indicators
- Riparian zone assessment
- General stream reach characteristics

## Standardized Photo Documentation

- Standardized stream photos
- In-stream photos
- Concerns/issues related to the restoration project

## Benthic Macroinvertebrates





# DATA PRIVACY POLICY

The landowner's name and data collected from the property will not be shared outside of the monitoring program and grant funders.

Site-specific information - landowner names, addresses, site coordinates, etc - will only be shared within the monitoring team, volunteer monitors, and grant funders. When sharing data with the public, this program will only share aggregated data from within a watershed or county, not individual property data.

The program is not affiliated with any regulatory agency. There are no consequences if the water quality is poor. The monitoring team is happy to notify you if we notice any major issues.

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in our monitoring program and in tracking the progress of your stream restoration, riparian forest buffer, and/or cattle exclusion fencing practices on your property:

1. Contact your point of contact for the stream practice and let them know you are interested.
2. You will be sent the Landowner Expectation Agreement form to sign and return to the monitoring team or point of contact.
3. The monitoring team will contact you 1 month, 1 week, and a day before monitoring happens as a reminder they are coming out
4. Monitoring occurs as scheduled





# OUR MONITORING TEAM



**Dickinson**

## OUR CONTACT

**Maya Sterett**

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

 [Allianceforthebay.org](http://Allianceforthebay.org)

 [msterett@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:msterett@allianceforthebay.org)

 202-270-82235

**Isabel Ruff**

ALLARM at Dickinson College

 [dickinson.edu/allarm](http://dickinson.edu/allarm)

 [ruffi@dickinson.edu](mailto:ruffi@dickinson.edu)



# LANDOWNER EXPECTATION AGREEMENT

## RESTORATION MONITORING PROGRAM



1. I, \_\_\_\_\_, will allow monitoring staff from the \_\_\_\_\_ and CMC Service Providers and Partners [CMC Service Provider and/or NFWF Grantee], hereby referred to as "Project Partner", to visit my property two times per year, for visits around 4 hours long.

2. I understand that water quality monitoring will occur according to the schedule in the Monitoring Plan below. I will work with the Project Partner to develop this Plan at a pre-construction meeting. The Plan will specify which staff will complete the monitoring, and it will include their contact information.

3. I understand that all collected data will be stored securely. My name and data collected from my property will not be shared outside of the monitoring program and grant funders. When sharing data with the public, this program will only share aggregated data from within a watershed or county, not individual property data.

Optional: I agree to allow my individual property's data to be shared, including my name, address, and water quality data.

*Note: If NFWF would like to showcase your property, either to partners or to the public, as an excellent example of conservation, the Project Partner will contact you to ask your permission to share the story of your projects. You may accept or decline at that time.*

#### 4. Volunteer Safety and Accidental Damage

- I will communicate with volunteers about safety and access to the property according to the Monitoring Plan below.
- I will unlock locked gates or entryways onto the property so staff and volunteers can access the stream, creek, or river.
- The Project Partner will hold all landowners harmless in the case of volunteer injury.
- I agree to hold staff and volunteers harmless in case of accidental damage to property, such as damaged fences or litter. Volunteers and staff will be trained to respect the landowner's property. If any issues arise, I may request the Project Partner to bring all parties together to resolve issues.

5. Optional: In the future, the data storage location may change. I would like to be notified of any changes before they occur.

[ ] Yes [ ] No

6. Optional: I would like to receive a copy of the results of monitoring.

[ ] Mail [ ] Email [ ] Site Visit

Signature of Landowner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Project Partner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# MONITORING PLAN



The following safety or access issues should be considered during monitoring activities.  
 Examples: parking available, hours of operation, locked gates, best path or access point.

---



---



---

Would the landowner like to be contacted before each staff visit is scheduled?

Yes  No

Would the landowner like to be on-site while the staff visit?

Yes  No

Would the landowner like to be greeted when staff arrive?

Yes  No

## Schedule

<b>Practice 1</b>	
Monitoring required <i>Description of tasks</i>	Visual and physical assessment of the stream and buffer, biological assessment of the stream and buffer
Schedule	
Responsible Party	
<b>Practice 2</b>	
Monitoring required <i>Description of tasks</i>	
Schedule	
Responsible Party	