

Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc.
lakeeriewaterkeeper.org
3900 N. Summit TYC Bldg 2 Toledo, Ohio 43611



Western Lake Erie Fleet



Stream Sampling Sign Up

Name: _____

Organization(if applicable): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Stream(Water testing) Location _____

(Two sampling locations are required at least a mile apart.)

Name of Stream _____

Crossroads – Location One _____

Crossroads Location Two _____

(If you have not decided streams and location – simply put TBD – to be determined – you can still sign up)

Liability Waiver Attached

Rotary & Lake Erie Waterkeeper Monitoring Data Report – complete one sheet for each sampling location

Name of Stream _____

Upstream_____ **Downstream**_____

Near what crossroads_____

GPS Location_____

Name of person(s) Sampling _____ **Phone**_____

Date _____ **Time** _____

Air Temperature _____

Wind Direction/Speed if known _____

Rain Last 24 hours Yes _____ No _____ If Yes Amount _____

Water Temperature(if taken) _____

Water Clarity Clear(see bottom) _____ Cludy _____ Muddy _____

Nitrate 0 to 50 _____ **Nitrate 0 to 3** _____

pH 0-14 _____

Ammonia 0 thru 6 _____

Orthophosphate 0 thru 50 _____

Comments _____

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Dear Interested Water Tester:

Lake Erie Waterkeeper is working with the District 6600's International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) Western Lake Erie Fleet to get volunteers to test waters in the Lake Erie Watershed. Lake Erie Waterkeeper is excited about this partnership and even more excited that we will learn more about our streams and nutrient inputs.

For the past three years, Lake Erie Waterkeeper board member, biology teacher and researcher, Tim Bollin, has been helping to devise a simple testing system for nutrient inputs. Tim chose Hach test strips which are highly reliable as an indicator. At first testing was done at a single location once a month. But the results did not show much and lacked purpose. A large portion of the nutrient runoff going into Lake Erie is in the spring when there are heavy rains. Because of this, it became apparent that the time testing was needed was in the spring after a heavy rain.

Most of us own property. Our land often has to tie into storm water drainage systems. Do you know how the water from your land travels to Lake Erie? Do you know how much phosphorus and nitrogen are in the receiving streams from your storm water runoff?

You can help provide these answers by signing up to test a ditch, stream or river near you.

The tests are simple – like strips used to test swimming pools. The tests are for phosphorus, nitrates, nitrites, ammonia and pH. The cost is \$30 for ten sets of test strips. After dipping a test strip in the bucket from the stream, you merely match the color on the strip to the color on the container to get a reading. It is easy. Usually, especially in the spring, the phosphorus levels will increase after a heavy rain. If the test locations that are at least one mile apart show increases after the rain, then the changes are occurring over the whole testing area. If there are differences between the two locations tested, then some input is causing the changes. If there are no differences in tests before and after spring rains, then testing will cease at those locations.

Waterkeeper will work with you to address the differences. The tests do not qualify for official monitoring or for legal purposes but do help to identify where the highest phosphorus and nitrogen inputs to Lake Erie are coming from. Testers will be identified with a number which will be used with results that will be entered on an excel spreadsheet and mapped on line. If more sophisticated testing is needed, Waterkeeper will help with locating others who do more traditional monitoring.

WHY NUTRIENTS?

The source of harmful algae is excess nutrients. Like calories, we all need some but too many calories/nutrients are bad. Algae's 'food' is phosphorous, nitrogen and sediments that flow from ditches, streams and rivers into Lake Erie. Lake Erie shores also have runoff etc. that contributes to algae growth. There are thousands of miles of streams and ditches in the Lake Erie watershed. Wood County alone has nearly 3,000 miles of rivers and ditches.

WATER TESTING SIGN UP

Water testing will begin in the spring. Before receiving test supplies, you will need to participate in a webinar that will show testing and procedures and answer questions. If you are not familiar with a webinar it is like a conference call on the internet. You will need access to a computer that has internet services. You are also required to sign a liability waiver before participating. When testing you will be required to provide the GPS location of the testing (usually on most cell phones) and you will record the information on the data sheet. Once the testing is done, the results can be sent by scanning and sending by email, faxing or mailing.

Visit lakeeriewaterkeeper.org to sign up to test water sources near you!

Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc.& International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Western Lake Erie Fleet Volunteer Monitoring Liability Waiver Form

I understand that there are risks and dangers inherent to volunteer monitoring including stepping into the waters, contact with chemicals and other activities relating to sampling in streams, rivers, and lakes. I also understand that in order to participate in the Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc. Volunteer Monitoring Program, I must give up my rights to hold the Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc. International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Western Lake Erie Fleet, Waterkeeper Alliance, officers, directors and members liable for any damage which I may suffer during volunteer monitoring activities.

Knowing this, and in consideration of being permitted to participate, I hereby voluntarily release the Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc. International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Western Lake Erie Fleet, Waterkeeper Alliance, officers, directors and members resulting from or arising out of all volunteer monitoring activities..

I understand and agree that I am releasing not only the entities set forth in the two paragraphs above, but also the owners, officers, directors, members, agents, affiliates, and employees of those entities.

I understand and agree that this release will have the effect of releasing, discharging, waiving, and forever relinquishing any and all actions or causes of action that I may have or have had, whether past, present, or future, whether known or unknown, and whether anticipated or unanticipated by me, arising out of my participation as a volunteer monitor. This release constitutes a complete release, discharge, and waiver of any and all actions or causes of action against the Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc. and/or the Waterkeeper Alliance and their owners, officers, directors, members, agents, and/or employees.

I understand and agree that this release applies to personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death which I may suffer, even if caused by the acts or omissions of others.

I understand and agree that by signing this release, I am assuming full responsibility for any and all risk of death or personal injury or property damage suffered by me while conducting all activities related to volunteer monitoring sampling.

I understand that and agree that this release will be binding on me, my spouse, my heirs, my personal representatives, my assigns, my children and guardian ad litem for said children.

I understand and agree that by signing this release, I am to release, indemnify and hold the the Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc. International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Western Lake Erie Fleet, Waterkeeper Alliance, and their owners, officers, directors, members, agents, and/or employees harmless from any and all liability or costs, including attorney fees, associated with or arising from my participation in volunteer monitoring.

Name(Printed)_____ Date _____

Name Signed _____

Address: _____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Phone_____ Cell _____

Email: _____

SAFETY FIRST Lake Erie Watershed Stream Sampling

Sponsored by Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc. IYFR Western Lake Erie Rotary

Dear Sampling Participant:

As you may know, Lake Erie had the largest algal bloom in recorded history in 2011. The lake needs algae but like calories too much. Sources are agriculture, manure, wastewater plants, storm water, failing septic systems, lawn fertilizer, sewage overflows and existing

The goal of this monitoring program is to test ditches, creeks, and rivers as far upstream and downstream as feasible in dry and wet weather. The headwaters (upstream) are in Northwood and its downstream outfall is to Maumee Bay. The dry weather tests should be conducted after a rain. The first wet weather test should be conducted as soon as possible after a 1/2 inch or more rain.

There are three test coordinators, Tim Bollin, Janina Douglas and Tony Sziglay. . You will be assigned a test coordinator to work with you. If there are spikes and a suspected location determined, the results may be shared with the property owner and the Soil and Water Conservation District. This is to help reduce phosphorous loads to tributaries and Lake Erie. Where tests indicate the phosphorous 'spike' is from a specific location, then additional tests will be conducted to verify.

These test results are indicators. Your help in detecting phosphorous sources could be invaluable to the health of Lake Erie. All sampling is done on a voluntary basis. A hold harmless form is required before obtaining the information and a monitoring kit. The tests include phosphates, pH, and dissolved oxygen. Your understanding of nutrients in the watershed. Test kits are paid for by Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc. donations appreciated.

