



2/3/2006

Volunteers Needed To Assess the Alexauken Creek

For More Information Contact:
Faith Zerbe, Monitoring Coordinator
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
(610) 291-1403

WHAT: LOCAL CITIZENS ARE NOW BEING RECRUITED TO ASSESS THE ALEXAUKEN CREEK

WHEN: FEBRUARY 25 & MARCH 11, 2006

WHERE: THE ALEXAUKEN CREEK, PARTS OF WEST AMWELL, DELAWARE, EAST AMWELL AND LAMBERTVILLE

The Alexauken Creek watershed, which flows into the Delaware River at Lambertville, NJ and covers areas of Delaware, East Amwell and West Amwell townships, is now at a critical stage. Available data suggest that the Alexauken's water quality and ecological integrity may have begun to decline even though this stream is designated as a C1 water, the highest water quality designation afforded to streams in New Jersey.

To protect and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of the streams within the watershed, a watershed protection plan is now being developed by local partners and township officials with help from a New Jersey DEP state grant. The first stage in the development of the watershed protection plan is a stream visual assessment of the entire Alexauken watershed which spans over 45 square miles. "We are excited to be working with residents to document conditions along the Alexauken Creek and have had a very good response from local citizens who have stepped up to volunteer for the assessment," said Catherine Urbanski, Chairperson of the West Amwell Environmental Commission. Citizen volunteers are now being recruited to help collect data for the assessment that will begin in February. They will be given free training in visual assessment protocols and will be required to attend one of two trainings being offered on February 25th and March 11th, 2006 from 8:30-5pm at the West Amwell Township Building. After training, volunteers will pair up with a partner and be assigned about a 1-mile stream segment to walk for a one-time survey in February and March. Volunteers will examine riparian buffer quality, document pollution inputs and areas of significant erosion, take photos and GPS coordinates, assess stream conditions, and identify unmapped headwater tributaries.

If you are interested in volunteering with this important monitoring effort, contact Faith Zerbe, Delaware Riverkeeper Network at faith@delawareriverkeeper.org or 610-291-1403 and register to attend one of the training sessions.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
300 Pond Street, Second Floor
Bristol, PA 19007
tel: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
drkn@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org