

# Volunteers Needed to Help Monitor Water Quality of the Bellamy River

The Bellamy and Oyster River Watershed Protection Partnership (BORWPP) is seeking 12 volunteers to participate in monitoring water quality of the Bellamy River as administered through the NH Department of Environmental Services Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP).

The purpose of BORWPP is to promote the protection of the Bellamy and Oyster River watershed areas for the benefit of present and future generations through coordinated, inter-municipal, natural-resource management and education. BORWPP members include appointed representatives from Barrington, Dover, Durham, Lee, Madbury, Portsmouth and UNH.



The Oyster River has been monitored by the Oyster River Watershed Association (ORWA) since 2001. Little sustained monitoring data exists for the Bellamy River. The Bellamy River Watershed encompasses portions of Barrington, Madbury, and Dover. Portsmouth draws 50% of its water supply from the Bellamy Reservoir in Madbury. Dover has four municipal drinking water wells within the watershed. Residents of Madbury and Barrington use private wells within the watershed.



The VRAP program provides water quality monitoring equipment, technical support, and training to volunteer groups who will conduct water quality monitoring on an ongoing basis. The invaluable work of the VRAP volunteers increases the amount of river water quality information available to local, state and federal governments, which allows for effective financial resource allocation and watershed planning. During the sampling season, trained VRAP volunteers periodically monitor water quality parameters at fixed stations along the river. The volunteers typically measure temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and specific conductance with hand-held meters provided by VRAP. The data are entered in the DES's water quality database and are summarized in water quality reports which are published online and available to the public as a means of understanding long-term trends in the water quality of New Hampshire's rivers.



**If you are interested in helping or finding out more information, please contact Eric Fiegenbaum at 750-7519 or email [info@borwpp.org](mailto:info@borwpp.org)**

The monitoring training will be scheduled in April, with monitoring taking place on a monthly basis from April through October.



More information about VRAP can be found at:  
[www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/VRAP/index.html](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/VRAP/index.html)

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