Join us for a unique and fun experience this summer.

"We deeply appreciate how well they work to collect and process the samples while enjoying the wetlands."
WHEP Team Leader Volunteer

"...their work is vital to our Natural Resources in Apple Valley."
City of Apple Valley

"My favorite thing about WHEP is spending summer evenings getting muddy with a handful of really exceptional people."
WHEP Team Leader Volunteer

"Through WHEP I've been able to deepen my understanding of macroinvertebrates."
WHEP Volunteer

"The dedicated volunteers provide reliable and dependable data for city staff and elected officials to make informed decisions."
City of Hastings

Join a group of volunteers in your community to explore and gather information on wetlands. It takes over 150 volunteers to monitor wetlands in Dakota County.

To learn more and to become a WHEP volunteer, scan the QR code, visit www.mnwhep.org, or call 952-891-7117. Volunteer registration is open April 1-May 15.

Watch a video of a WHEP team in action.

Dakota County
Environmental Resources
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Dakota County

WHEP

Wetland Health Evaluation Program

Volunteer • Explore • Protect

VOLUNTEERS Be more

No experience needed. Volunteers have access to eight hours of training, learning everything they need to know.

Join a Team Today

- Apple Valley
- Burnsville
- Dakota County Parks
- Eagan
- Farmington
- Hastings
- Lakeville
- Mendota Heights
- Northfield (North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization)
- Rosemount
- South St. Paul
- West St. Paul

The WHEP program is administered in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

MPCA

Discover the hidden life of wetlands—and help protect them.

Dakota County is seeking volunteers to explore and monitor the health of local wetlands. As a volunteer, you'll head into the field to study plants and aquatic bugs—important indicators of wetland health.

No special experience is required. Volunteers receive eight hours of training that teaches everything needed to confidently conduct wetland surveys and work as part of a field team led by a team leader.

Each summer, volunteers spend 10–30 hours outdoors collecting samples, observing wildlife, and documenting wetland conditions. All equipment is provided, and your WHEP team is there to support you every step of the way.

Data gathered by volunteers is analyzed by professional scientists and compiled into reports used to guide water quality improvement progress, development decisions, and protect wetlands for the future.

Your time in the wetlands helps shape real conservation decisions.

Since 1997, 212 wetlands have been monitored by WHEP volunteers.

Program Timeline

April–May .....Volunteer recruitment season

May.....Program training and season kickoff.

June .....Volunteers set traps and use nets to collect macroinvertebrates living in the wetland and then identify species in a lab.

July.....Volunteers revisit their wetlands to identify and count the plants living in the wetland.

August .....Program wraps up final data collection and trips to the wetland.