



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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City Seeking Volunteers for Water Quality and Flow Monitoring Program

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, May 17, 2010 – The City of Bainbridge Island is seeking citizen volunteers to conduct water quality monitoring activities in support of its Water Quality and Flow Monitoring Program (WQFMP).

The WQFMP, developed with a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund, is designed to assess and restore the quality of Bainbridge Island's surface waters. Its primary goal is to protect beneficial uses of our streams, harbors and shorelines such as beachcombing, swimming, boating, fishing and shellfish harvesting, and to protect the vital habitat of our aquatic neighbors.

“We’re specifically looking for assistance in the areas of watershed stewardship, stream flow monitoring, stormwater outfall reconnaissance and inspection, and stream benthic macroinvertebrate (stream bug) sampling,” said Cami Apfelbeck, Water Resources Specialist and Program Manager. “There is a lot of important work to be done, and citizen volunteers will be vital to the program’s success.”

Watershed stewards act as community leaders, educators and ambassadors between city staff and citizens. They keep friends and neighbors aware of water quality issues in their neighborhood and of opportunities to get involved in water protection activities throughout the year. Stormwater outfall reconnaissance and stream bug sampling take place once a year during the dry summer months, so time invested is minimal and younger citizens can participate as well. Stream flow measurements are routinely measured twice a month year round, requiring a slightly more significant time commitment.

“While some knowledge and experience is helpful, it’s not critical if enthusiasm and dedication are high,” Apfelbeck said. “Through volunteering, citizens gain a sense of ownership for the watershed in which they live and play.”

For more information, please contact the Water Resources Program at 206-842-2016 or email waterresources@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us.

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