



Greetings, Potential Monitor!

My name is Kara Woods and I am the LagoonWatch Coordinator here at MRC. Thank you for your interest in our LagoonWatch program. Please read the following information about LagoonWatch and feel free to contact me with any questions. You can also access our LagoonWatch page through Marine Resources Council's webpage at www.savetheirl.org. Use the pull-down tab labelled "Science" and select "LagoonWatch". This will take you to the LagoonWatch page where you can find a map of our current monitoring locations and links to Excel spreadsheets of recent monthly data.

MRC's LagoonWatch Program is a Citizen Scientist water quality monitoring program that began in 1991. Volunteer Citizen Scientists take weekly water samples from "their" site along the Indian River Lagoon and run chemical tests for pH, salinity, and dissolved oxygen levels and record observational data. Monitors then enter their testing results into an on-line interactive database that allows for monitors and others to graph data to see trends at a specific site, at several sites simultaneously, or even lagoon-wide over varying timeframes. Having a computer (laptop or desktop) is required.

We ask monitors to make a **year-long commitment** to weekly monitoring with the understanding that there will occasionally be weeks when monitoring doesn't occur. (You're allowed a vacation or two!) When considering whether to participate in LagoonWatch, please be realistic about the time you have available to dedicate as our resources are, unfortunately, quite limited.

Training is conducted at the Lagoon House in Palm Bay and takes approximately 1.5-2 hours. Each monitor is given a testing kit with sufficient chemicals to conduct weekly water testing, a procedures manual with detailed instructions on how to conduct the tests and another that details how to access and use our on-line database, Quality Assurance (QA) samples to be done on a monthly basis, and access to an on-line Google Drive file with resources and information. Yearly mandatory QA "refresher" sessions are also held to ensure monitor proficiency.

LagoonWatch has Citizen Scientists along the Indian River Lagoon from New Smyrna Beach in the north to Jupiter Inlet in the south. Several monitors conduct sampling at more than one location; some also submit water samples to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for red tide monitoring. They are a dedicated group of volunteers - one "founding" monitor has been sampling since LagoonWatch began in 1991!

Monitors typically pick their own sampling site. Many live directly along the lagoon and have a dock from which they collect their water samples. Others live near public access points at parks or boat launches where they can monitor. Some sample at locations along causeways – and a few adventurous types take their canoes or kayaks and sample directly from the middle of the lagoons or paddle upstream in some of the lagoon's tributaries.

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Still interested in becoming a LagoonWatch monitor? If so, please send me your possible sampling location. The best way to do this is to visit [google.com/maps](https://www.google.com/maps) to find your location. If you click your mouse on your potential sampling site a gray box will come up at the bottom of the screen with the latitude and longitude coordinates. Copy those into an email to me. If you are unable to do this, please either give me the street address or describe the location of your site as best as possible i.e. “the north end of the first fishing pier just north of the Eau Gallie Causeway in Melbourne”. I will use our GIS mapping program to locate your potential site and to check that your location is not too close to an existing monitoring site.

Thank you for your interest in the Marine Resources Council LagoonWatch program. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

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