

## 2014 Stream Health Evaluation Program

Using the same parameters as WHEP (refer to Appendix 6 of this report), Stream Health Evaluation Program (SHEP) volunteers began monitoring streams in the fall of 2008. Teams of volunteers under the direction of a team leader use biological field assessments to determine stream health. They collected macroinvertebrates (spineless organisms such as leeches, snails and bugs) and performed a stream vegetation survey following guidelines and protocols developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Staff from Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE) partnered with Three Rivers Parks District (TRPD) staff to choose the SHEP sites for monitoring within the Elm Creek Watershed. Eight sites were monitored in 2014:

- Elm Creek Preserve: Elm Creek at Bridge
- Elm Creek Preserve: Rush Creek at Rush Creek Campground
- Elm Creek Preserve: Elm Creek at one lane bridge/USGS station
- Diamond Creek; 129th Ave and Archery Range
- Rush Creek; Highway 101 near Corcoran
- Rush Creek - Corcoran City Park
- Elm Creek; Highway 55/101 at Hamel
- Elm Creek at Elm Creek Road

The protocol used in SHEP is the ‘multi-habitat’ method which has been adapted for volunteer use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. To download the manual visit [www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream](http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream).

All samples are collected by the SHEP team and processed using EPA methods. Identification is to the Family level and 100% of the samples are checked for accuracy by HCEE staff. Data is entered into an excel spreadsheet and the appropriate indices are calculated. Evaluation is performed using the multi-metric approach. The Hennepin County SHEP team also participated in using a new protocol for volunteers monitoring the cast skins of Chironomidae. Along with the traditional macroinvertebrate sample, the team used a technique developed by University of Minnesota Entomologist Dr. Len Ferrington.

Results from the 2014 monitoring will be available March 1, 2015. To view the latest available reports go to [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us), keyword SHEP, or contact Mary Karius, Hennepin County Environment and Energy, 612-596-9129, or [Mary.Karius@hennepin.us](mailto:Mary.Karius@hennepin.us).