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Join the Treasure Hunt for Connecticut's Healthiest Streams!

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, the Vernon Conservation Commission will again sponsor the annual Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV). Volunteers are needed to help with this important investigation of water quality in the Tankerhoosen River watershed.

Participants will search for insects, worms and other small animals that live in riffles, or areas of fast moving water, along the brooks that feed the Tankerhoosen River. The variety and numbers of animals found will indicate the relative cleanliness and health of the river system. Vernon's survey results will be compiled along with those for other rivers by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to develop a view of water quality statewide. RBV surveys have been conducted in Vernon for 20 years, giving volunteers the opportunity to learn scientific principles and contribute to an effort that benefits all residents.

Volunteers will meet at 9:00 AM at the Red Barn at Valley Falls Farm, opposite 345 Valley Falls Road in Vernon. An overview of the RBV program will be provided, followed by group field training. We will then split into teams to investigate predetermined survey sites. The project will be completed by 2:00 PM. Participants should wear knee high boots or hip boots, and may bring waterproof gloves. Bring a water bottle – snacks will be provided.

No experience is necessary to participate in this survey, but volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. If you would like to join in this effort, please pre-register by calling Tom Ouellette, Vernon RBV Coordinator, at 860-965-6180. A rain date for this project is Sunday, October 23 – registrants will be notified of any schedule changes.