



FoCJC Chemical Monitoring Program

Our sponsor Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) manages a water quality program (WQM) to report chemical levels in watersheds across the country. As a partner, we participate in this program and follow the [IWLA chemical monitoring](#) and reporting process. FoCJC provides the chemical testing kit that complies with the IWLA requirements.

How does it help?

Ensuring clean water is critical to the local ecosystem, wildlife, our health, food (rockfish and blue crabs!), and resiliency of our oceans. Monitoring the chemicals in our streams gives us a gauge of their health. Much of our aquatic life are susceptible to chemical changes in the water (particularly macroinvertebrates). The Cabin John Creek doesn't just end – it continues into the Potomac River which flows into the Chesapeake bay and finally the Atlantic Ocean.

These chemical tests include **dissolved oxygen, pH, chloride, phosphate, nitrate, transparency (sedimentation), and temperature**. This data will be reported in the Izaak Walton league of America (IWLA) [Clean Water Hub](#) and will help to identify issues and trends for lobbying local leaders to take action on water quality in the Cabin John Creek watershed. IWLA submits chemical results annually to the EPA Water quality exchange. In addition, they are a partner (and have dedicated staff) of the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, and chemical and macroinvertebrate quality data is sent to the [Chesapeake Data Explorer](#), the Chesapeake Bay Program, and ultimately to the EPA.

What is The Process?

We measure at several sites quarterly. It is best to have a buddy team of 2 people where one takes the measurements and the other verifies and records the results on the paper form. One of the members then enters the data into the online system from home.

Step 1 (creekside, 30 mins): About 30 minutes at your favorite creek is all it takes! FoCJC provides the backpack kit containing the needed materials and chemical tests. The [IWLA data form](#) was easy to complete in the field, although it is better to have a buddy recording the results.

- [IWLA Detailed Instructions](#)



Step 2 (at home, 30 mins): Once collected, Take pics of your data sheets and email them to: monitoring@cabinjohncreek.org They will be entered into the [Clean Water Hub!](#) [This video shows you how.](#)

Step 3: Return the kit to FoCJC when done so we can rotate it around to other monitoring teams.

Required Training

Step 1 (home): Please review the instruction sheet and video below before attending an in-person training session.

- [Instruction Sheet](#)
- [Review video demonstration of all seven tests!](#)
- [Data Collection Form](#)

Step 2 (creekside): Attend a FoCJC in-person training session along the Cabin John Creek.

How Often Do We Monitor?

We monitor chemicals **quarterly** at several sites along Cabin John Creek and its tributaries (see below). Additional sites are possible depending on the number of dedicated volunteers.

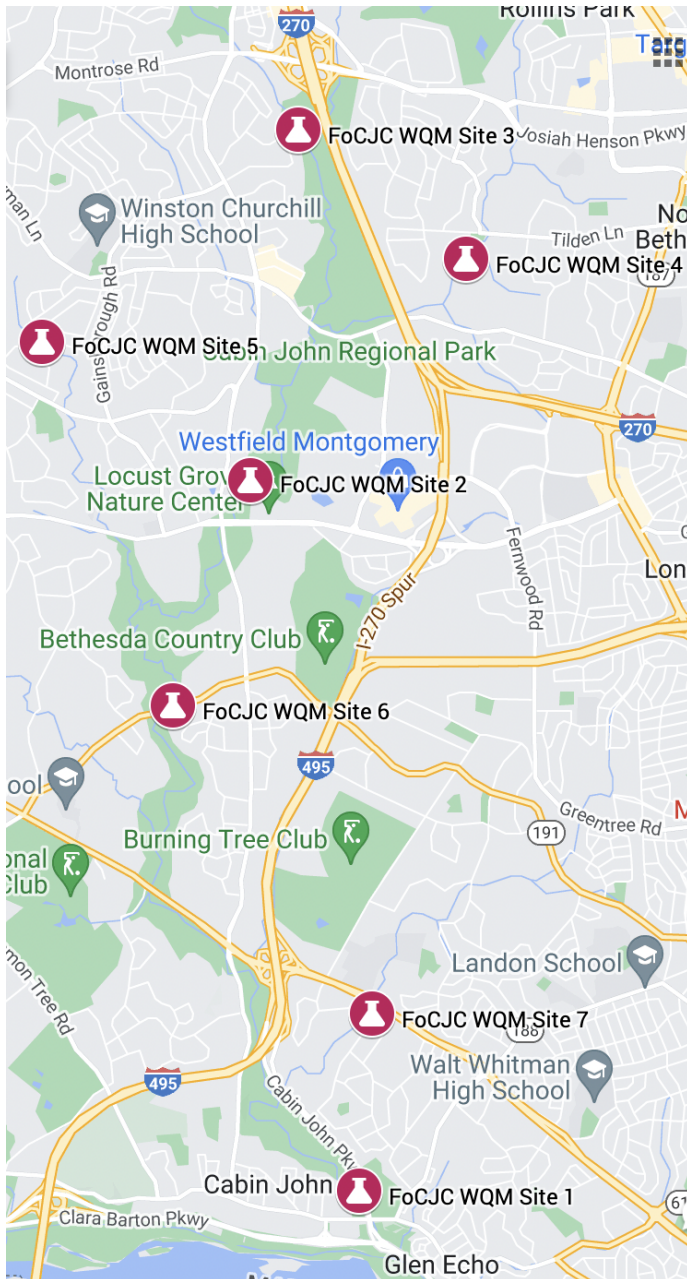
FoCJC WQM Site 1	Cabin John Creek (Cabin John Local Park at MacArthur Blvd)	Walk down to the playground to the trailhead. The site is at the picnic table by the creek at the first trail down to the creek. 38°58'29.5"N 77°08'58.9"W Site 1 Map Location
FoCJC WQM Site 2	Cabin John Creek (Locust Grove Nature Center)	Take the trail at the end of the parking lot near the tennis courts. Walk 50 yards and then turn right onto the CJ Trail to the first bench overlooking the creek. 39°01'34.7"N 77°09'35.7"W Site 2 Map Location
FoCJC WQM Site 3	Cabin John Creek (Goya Drive)	Take the CJ Trail at the end of Goya Dr then your second left down to the creek. This is a popular crossover to the other side for mountain bikers so move upstream a little so you don't get disturbed.



		<p>39°03'05.5"N 77°09'19.4"W Site 3 Map Location</p>
FoCJC WQM Site 4	Old Farm Creek (Tilden Woods Park)	<p>Walk the edge of the ballfield to the path and monitor upstream of the foot bridge.</p> <p>39°02'31.9"N 77°08'23.4"W Site 4 Map Location</p>
FoCJC WQM Site 5	Buck Branch (at Sleepy Hollow Lane off Bells Mill Rd)	<p>Look for the concrete path between the houses and walk it down to the creek. Monitor at the footbridge.</p> <p>39°02'10.7"N 77°10'45.4"W Site 5 Map Location</p> <p>39°02'08.2"N 77°10'47.9"W Parking Location</p>
FoCJC WQM Site 6	Cabin John Creek (at Bradley Blvd)	<p>Monitor on the upstream side of the bridge at the first path down to the creek on the CJ Trail.</p> <p>39°00'35.9"N 77°10'01.6"W Site 6 Map Location</p>
FoCJC WQM Site 7	Booze Creek (at Helmsdale Rd off River Rd)	<p>Park on either side of the road. There is a path along the property fence down to the creek (private property sign).</p> <p>38°59'15.7"N 77°08'54.9"W Site 7 Map Location</p>

[FoCJC WQM Site Map](#)

Questions? Need help? monitoring@cabinjohncreek.org



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