

Join Our Team!

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking volunteers to help monitor our state's lakes and ponds through 3 different programs.

Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIP) Early detection is vital to protecting Vermont's water bodies from harmful invasive plants and animals. With more than 800 lakes and ponds throughout the state, volunteers play a key role in our surveying efforts. VIPs commit to one or more surveys per year; monitoring lakes for new introductions of invasive species, and reporting their findings to the DEC.



Cyanobacteria Monitoring Since 2003, the DEC has partnered with the Department of Health (VDH) and the Lake Champlain Committee to monitor cyanobacteria on Lake Champlain. Volunteers are trained to assess conditions at shoreline sites weekly during the summer season. They provide reports via a secure online interface and these are shared with the public through the VHD's Cyanobacteria Tracking map. Our volunteers have been very successful on Lake Champlain and we are looking to recruit monitors for smaller lakes across Vermont.

Lay Monitoring Program (LMP) Since 1979, the Vermont LMP trains and equips volunteers (Lay Monitors) to conduct periodic lake water quality sampling using quality-assured methods. Lay Monitors collect a minimum of eight lake samples every week to ten days from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In total, more than 90 inland lakes and 40 Lake Champlain stations have been monitored by this dedicated group of citizen scientists, with support from the DEC.



Join 1, or join all 3!

Contact us at

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