



# Using Volunteer & AmeriCorps Monitoring Data

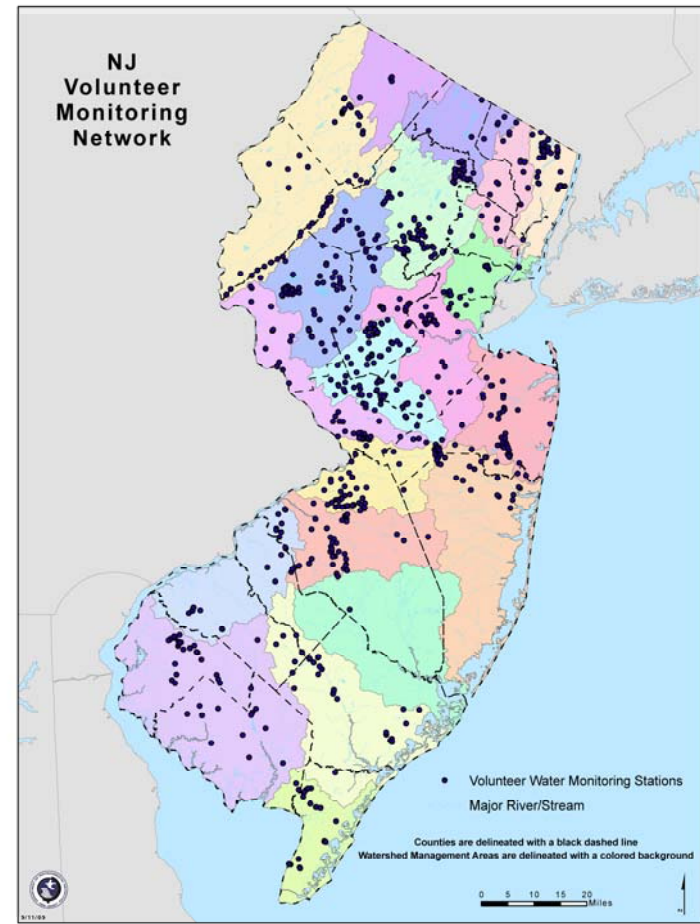
---

Al Korndoerfer, Chief  
Bureau of Freshwater & Biological Monitoring



# NJDEP's Volunteer Monitoring Program

- NJDEP's Volunteer Monitoring Program and the Watershed Watch Network are coordinated within Water Monitoring & Standards.
- Watershed Watch Network acts as an umbrella for all of the volunteer monitoring programs within New Jersey.
- Volunteer monitoring program designs and quality assurance vary according to their data needs and resources. The highest quality assured data, referred to in the program as "Tier D", is comparable to NJDEP generated data.



# NJDEP's Volunteer Monitoring Program

---

- Visual/Habitat Assessments
  - Including pipes and ditches
  - Land use assessment
  - Habitat assessment
- Biological Assessments
  - Common name low level identification
  - Scientific name highest level identification
- Chemical and Physical Assessments



# Parameters Collected By Volunteers

---

- The following are specific examples of the parameters collected by Volunteer Monitors:

- **General**

- Weather
- Water Color
- Water Odor
- Water Temperature

- **Visual**

- Stream Width
- Stream Depth
- Stream Flow
- Embeddedness
- Bank Stability
- Course Particulate Organic Matter (CPOM)
- Stream Habitat
- Land Use
- Pipe and Ditch Inventory



# Parameters Collected By Volunteers (cont.)

---

## ○ **Biological**

- Habitat Types Present
- River Bottom Composition
- Macroinvertebrate Common Names
- Macroinvertebrate Family and Genus/Species

## ○ **Chemical**

- Alkalinity
- Chlorophyll a
- Dissolved Oxygen
- pH
- Salinity
- Secchi Disk Depth
- Specific Conductance
- Turbidity
- Temperature

- [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/vm/docs/E2\\_Parameters.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/vm/docs/E2_Parameters.pdf)



# NJDEP's Volunteer Monitoring Program

---

- If you would like more information about this program please contact Danielle Donkersloot, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator at 609-633-9241 or via email at [Danielle.Donkersloot @dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Danielle.Donkersloot@dep.state.nj.us).



# The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program/AmeriCorps

---

- The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program, hosted by the Division of Watershed Management, is a community-oriented AmeriCorps environmental program designed to raise awareness about watershed issues in New Jersey.
- AmeriCorps members are placed in watershed management areas across the state to serve their local communities.
- Watershed Ambassadors monitor the rivers of New Jersey by visual and biological volunteer monitoring program. The members also work with community volunteers using these two volunteer monitoring techniques.
- For more information about the program, please contact Akili Lynn, Program Manager at (609) 777-1406 or [Akili.Lynn@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Akili.Lynn@dep.state.nj.us).



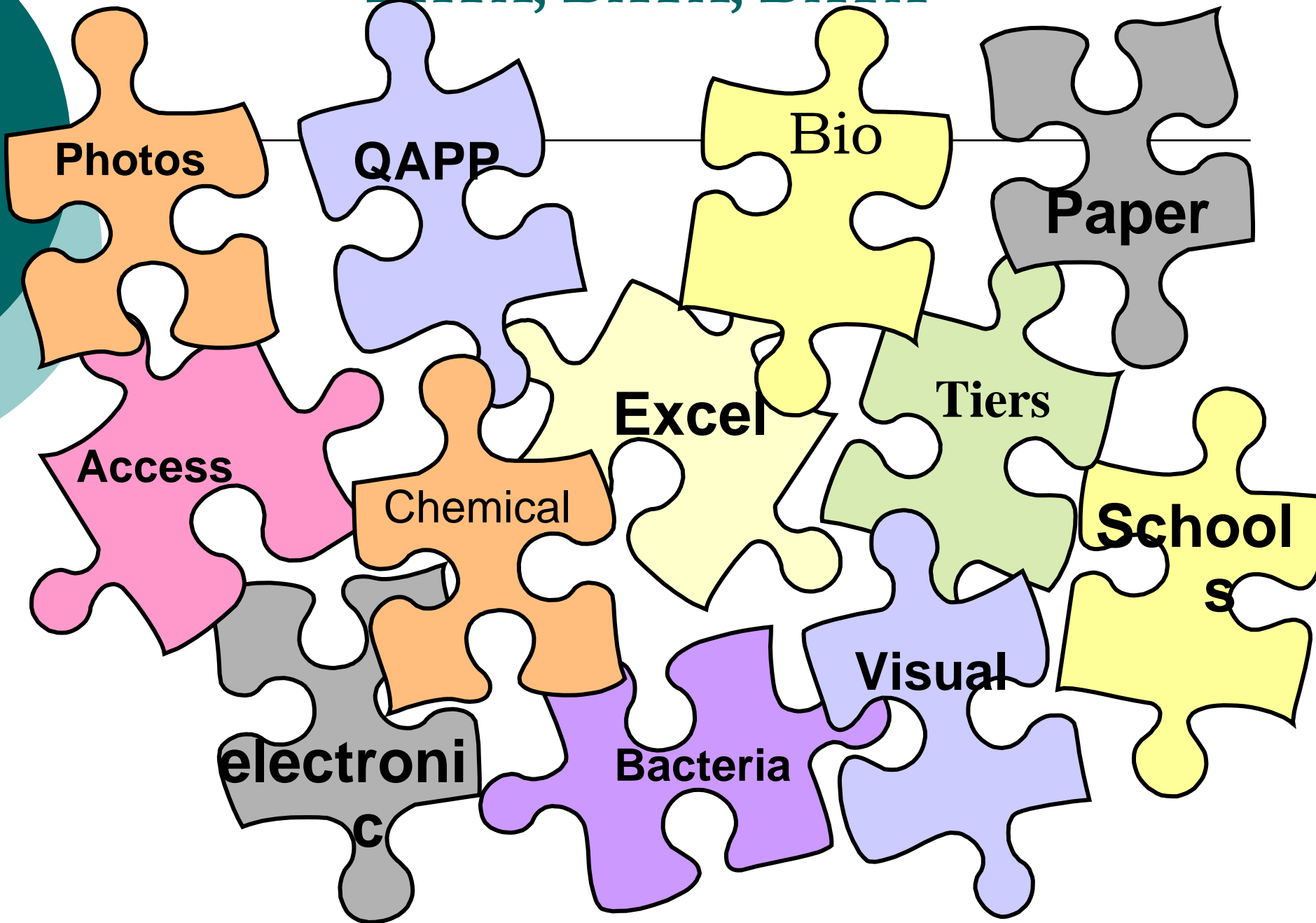
# The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program / AmeriCorps

---

- Conducts 1000 biological, habitat, and visual assessment per year
- Assigned streams by the DEP



# DATA, DATA, DATA



# Volunteer Monitoring Data Management System - Design

---

- Standardize, not change VM business processes

- Collect all data types



- Calculate assessment scores



- Store data at NJDEP and connect with NJDEP Water Quality Data Exchange database

- Provide reports (including photos)



# Volunteer Monitoring Data Management System - Status

---

- Online User Forum
- Mapping Outputs
  - Pipes and Drainage Ditches
  - Monitoring Sites
- Created a Tool for Tracking Problems
- Data Retrieval Reports are in Final Stages of Development



# Thank-you

---

