

The Annapolis River Watershed

A watershed is a drainage basin or catchment area for a body of water. Any drop of water that falls within this catchment area will eventually drain into a central water body. The watershed for the Annapolis River begins in a bog near Berwick and extends all the way to Digby. It is outlined by the North and South mountains.



A watershed does not just include water, but the land and air that surround it. These features are all interconnected and anything that affects one will affect the others as well. For this reason, CARP operates on a watershed basis. Focusing on the entire Annapolis River watershed, which includes tributaries and the surrounding land and air, provides an effective scope for activities designed to restore and protect the ecological health of the region.

Annapolis River Guardians

The Annapolis River Guardians Program is a volunteer water quality monitoring initiative and CARP's longest-running program. It has been in place since 1992 and over 300 volunteers have participated in the program.



Water is sampled every two weeks from spring to autumn for various water quality monitoring parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, fecal bacteria and suspended solids.

Through this program, many problems within the Annapolis River watershed have been identified, including:

- Fecal contamination
- Shoreline erosion
- High summer water temperatures
- Elevated levels of phosphorus
- Depressed oxygen levels in the deeper waters of the estuary

CARP has responded to many of these problems through other programs, such as Sub-Watershed Investigative Monitoring (SWIM), that tracks E.coli bacteria inputs or riparian habitat restoration, which helps combat shoreline erosion.

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CARP keeps an ongoing record of all water quality data measured by the River Guardians program. These data are used to assess problems, track changes in the river's health and keep the public informed and engaged in restoration activities.