



Promoting education, protecting the environment and providing enjoyment of our watershed.

Coldbrook Creek Community Newsletter

Volume 6, March 2022

Welcome!

Feel free to share the word about us!

Web: <https://www.lgrow.org/coldbrook-creek>

Email: coldbrookcreek@gmail.com

FB: Search 'Coldbrook Creek Community'

Creek Testing Field Trip All are invited!

Citizen scientists are active these days, constantly logging data in a variety of settings. We are part of that effort and have a goal to test Coldbrook Creek quarterly and [share the data online](#). The testing we do is easy to learn, fun to take part in, and only takes about an hour. No experience is required! You can join in by meeting us at one (or both!) of the following:

Saturday, March 26, 2022

10am: Highland Park

(meet in parking lot at SE corner of park, off Grand Ave.)

11:30am: Aquinas College

([meet in small lot](#) between gym and St. Joe dorm, accessible via campus Fulton entrance)

Dress for the weather, and if you have boots that allow you to wade in shallow water that is helpful. If there are weather concerns, watch our [Facebook page](#) for updates.

Hope to see you there!

Salt Watch



We recently partnered with the [Winter Salt Watch program](#) through the Izaak Walton League. This is a nationwide effort to monitor local freshwater for levels of chloride during the winter months. Levels above 230 ppm is toxic to aquatic life. Two [readings of Coldbrook Creek](#) have been taken at Highland Park:

- Feb. 11, 2022: 650 ppm (after snowfall)
- March 3, 2022: 180 ppm (no snowfall)

Salt is used by municipalities and residents to keep roadways and walkways safe. The city of [GR Public Works Dept. reports](#) it has taken steps to reduce salt use by as much as 30%. Residents who want to keep their icy sidewalks safe can benefit from these tips:

- Elbow grease. Shovel and remove what snow and ice you can, because you don't need to salt what's not there.
- Read the label. Look for deicers that are labeled "Safer Choice" by the EPA.
- Less is more. One 12 oz. container of deicer is enough for a 10 ft x 25 ft area.
- Break out the broom. Clean up residual salt left behind after it is no longer needed.
- Sand and sawdust. These won't get rid of ice, but may provide traction instead



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Project Work Day Time to get something done!

Sunday, May 1

1pm-4pm

GR Public Library, Main Branch

4th floor, GR History Center

(parking free once ticket is validated)

There have been many great suggestions from all corners of the Coldbrook Creek Community for projects which would be beneficial to the group. Some of these ideas require being outdoors or interacting with folks at schools or public events. However, many only require spending a little time to get some thoughts down on a computer or pad of paper. Toward that end, we are hosting our first 'Project Work Day' to do just that. And as they say, many hands make light work, so please consider stopping in for some/all of the time to get these projects off the ground. No prior knowledge of the projects is needed, and all necessary info to get started will be provided.

To mention a few of the ideas:

- Virtual tour
- Organizing/reporting testing data
- Website development
- Newsletter
- 'Tips for City Dwellers' brochure

Bring your ideas and a laptop if you have one. Otherwise, writing material will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

Way to go volunteers!



Thanks to a program through LGROW and CMU, we recently started testing Coldbrook Creek water at Aquinas College and Highland Park for conductivity, turbidity, pH, nitrates, phosphate and dissolved oxygen. On a beautiful morning last November a group of volunteer citizen scientists gathered to do the testing. Big kudos to them for furthering the Coldbrook Creek Community mission! Their results can be found [online](#). See the above article for info about how you can join in the next round of testing.

Upcoming Events

- March 26: Creek Testing Field Trip
- April 23: Earth Day Event at Manhattan Park
(info coming soon on Facebook, hosted by [EGreen Sustainability Initiative](#))
- May 1: Project Work Day
- May 19-22: [LGROW Spring Forum](#)