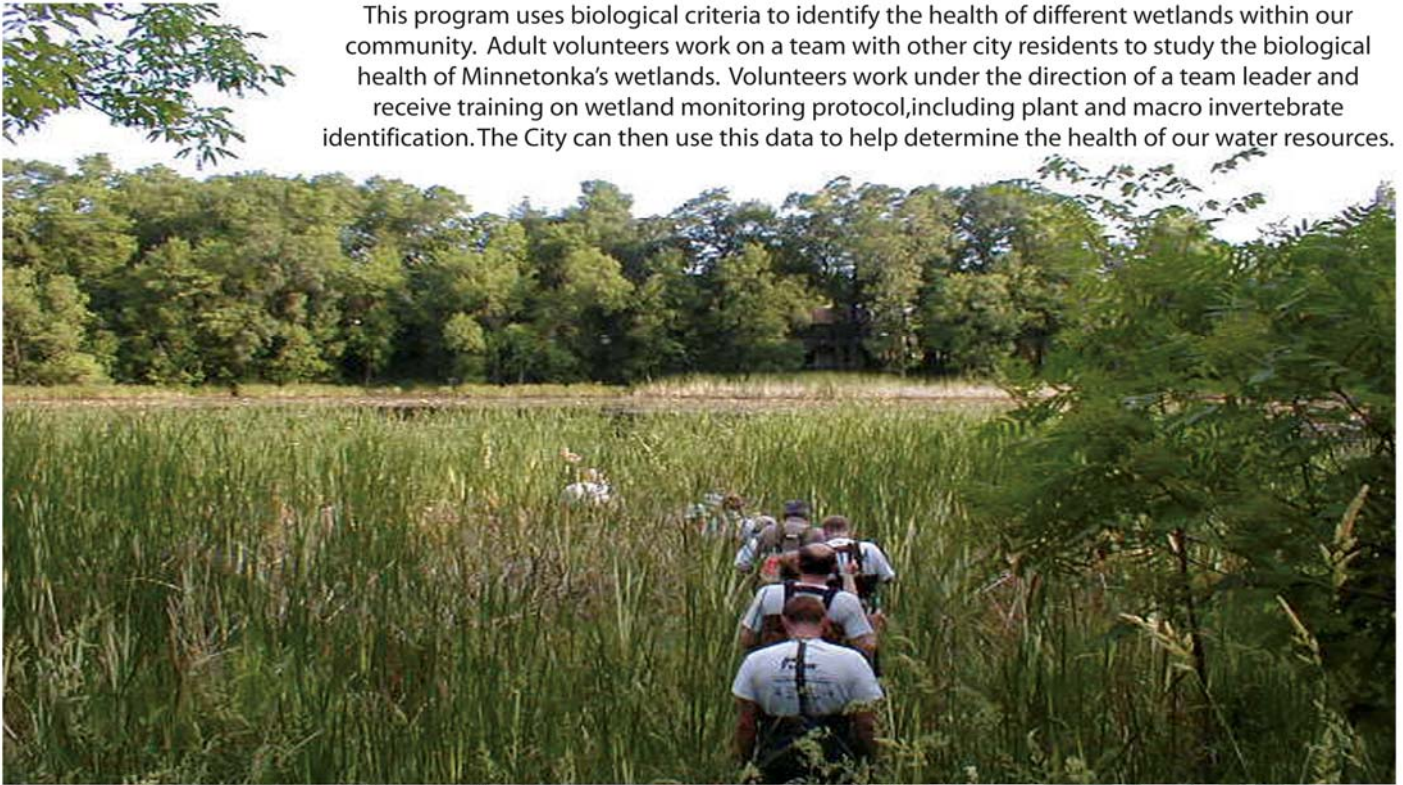


# Volunteers In Action

## Wetland Health Evaluation Program

The City of Minnetonka evaluates our wetlands using the Wetland Health Evaluation Program. This program uses biological criteria to identify the health of different wetlands within our community. Adult volunteers work on a team with other city residents to study the biological health of Minnetonka's wetlands. Volunteers work under the direction of a team leader and receive training on wetland monitoring protocol, including plant and macro invertebrate identification. The City can then use this data to help determine the health of our water resources.



Wetlands are an important component of our landscape. They provide many functions that include:

- Absorbing water which reduces flooding
- Filtering the nutrients and pollutants found in storm water before these contaminants reach the lakes, creeks and ponds that wetlands are connected to
  - Serving as a recharge zone for our drinking water
  - Providing habitat for amphibians, reptiles and migratory birds
  - Providing aesthetic benefits
- The Wetland Health Evaluation Program helps the city determine the health of our wetlands.