



Verde Watershed Report Card showed a very low certainty about water quality data

A watershed-wide monitoring plan will increase that data certainty and fill in data gaps

Better and more data will help us to know where restoration projects are needed and what type of restoration will have the greatest impact

Water Quality Partners:

- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- The Nature Conservancy
- Yavapai Apache Nation
- City of Cottonwood
- Town of Camp Verde
- Oak Creek Watershed Council
- Tonto National Forest
- Arizona State Parks
- Verde River Institute
- Yavapai County
- Sierra Club

WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN THE VERDE WATERSHED

Friends of the Verde River is working to improve water quality by 1) leading the development of a collaborative watershed wide sampling plan, 2) sampling creek water for pollutants, and 3) reducing sediment and water run-off into the river.

The need for a watershed-wide sampling plan was identified by the Verde Watershed Report Card. The plan will be a collaborative effort by agency and nonprofit partners who monitor the river in different places. This plan will help us improve water quality in the Verde River and its tributaries.

Friends operates a community science water quality sampling program. Volunteers sample at various sites along Oak Creek to measure E. coli and other pollutants. This information is shared directly with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). ADEQ reports this to the EPA and also uses the data to inform on the ground restoration initiatives in the watershed.

By restoring eroded gullies, we can reduce the amount of water and soil that flows into the river. Water runoff carries pollutants with it, so erosion control stops those pollutants from harming our water supply. Too much soil in the river can make the water unhealthy for aquatic life. Erosion control measures also reduce the volume of water that floods rivers, thus reducing the danger to humans and property from flash floods.

