

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE**

### Water Quality Testing in **CITY/TOWN** Shows **Promising/Disappointing** Results

#### *Izaak Walton League **XX Chapter** Is Working To Ensure Clean Water for our Community*

**CITY/TOWN, STATE** — **XX stream** is vital to the health of **CITY/TOWN**, flowing through our parks and neighborhoods **and contributing to local drinking water supplies [IF APPLICABLE]**. The critical question is: do local residents have the information they need about water quality in **XX stream**?

The **XX Chapter** of the Izaak Walton League is working to provide that information. Through a volunteer program called Save Our Streams (SOS), chapter members **and other volunteers** tested the water in **XX stream** and found that **[explain results and compare them with earlier results, if possible]**.

The greatest threat to water quality today is polluted runoff from farm fields, parking lots, industrial sites, and yards across America. That runoff – much less visible than discharges from a factory pipe – flows unchecked and untreated into our streams and rivers. It carries animal waste, bacteria, cancer-causing chemicals, and countless other pollutants through our communities.

As sources of water pollution become more dispersed, the public has limited information about water quality in most local streams. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 80 percent of streams nationwide are not assessed for pollution. And that's only half the problem. Of the fraction of streams that are monitored, EPA reports that more than half do not meet basic safety standards for fishing, swimming, or as sources of drinking water.

Volunteer stream monitors provide the first line of defense for clean water, highlighting potential problems – and solutions – and providing local communities with the water quality information they deserve. The Izaak Walton League is working to empower more Americans to collect water quality information in local streams. Through the Clean Water Challenge, the League will mobilize and train volunteers to monitor 100,000 more stream sites across the country by 2022.

We believe every American deserves access to clean water. Visit the **XX Chapter** website at **[URL here]** for more information about stream monitoring and other local conservation efforts. And visit [iwla.org/sos](http://iwla.org/sos) for information about the Save Our Streams program and Clean Water Challenge.

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*Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America ([www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org)) and our more than 42,000 members protect America's outdoors through education, community-based conservation, and promoting outdoor recreation.*

Contact:

**Name and daytime phone/e-mail address**

*Event photos available by request*