SWAMP
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

Creek Watch – Using iPhones to Help Our Watersheds

What is it?

Creek Watch is an application that enables people to help monitor the health of their local watershed. Whenever passing by a waterway they can spend a minute using the Creek Watch application to snap a picture and report how much water and trash is seen. Creek Watch aggregates the data and shares it to help watershed groups and agencies track pollution and manage water resources. A map on the Creek Watch Website http://creekwatch.org

displays data that's already been contributed. Data is also accessible in table form. The application is now available as a free download in the iTunes App Store: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/creek-watch/id398420434?mt=8

The new iPhone application was developed by IBM Research in partnership with the State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Team Citizen Monitoring Coordinator, Erick Burres. By enabling countless individuals to gather and submit data, Creek Watch represents a new kind of data aggregation, analytics and visualization. The application empowers citizens worldwide to monitor their watersheds and report conditions. Every update provides vital data that local water authorities can use to track pollution, manage water resources and plan environmental programs. All the user needs to do is simply stop by any waterway and, with the phone's GPS enabled, take a photo and submit three crucial pieces of data based on their observations:

- Water level (dry, some or full)
- Flow rate (still, slow or fast)
- Trash (none, some, a lot)

Creek Watch Website- http://creekwatch.org

Free Download- iTunes App Store

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See a demo on YouTube-http://www.youtube.com/user/IBMLabs#p/a/u/1/_--6KAptDL4

News Report: City of San Jose Uses iPhone App to Monitor Creeks- KQED

http://www.kqed.org/a/californiamoney/R201011020733

http://www.kqed.org/.stream/anon/radio/californiamoney/2010/11/2010-11-02am-calmoney.mp3

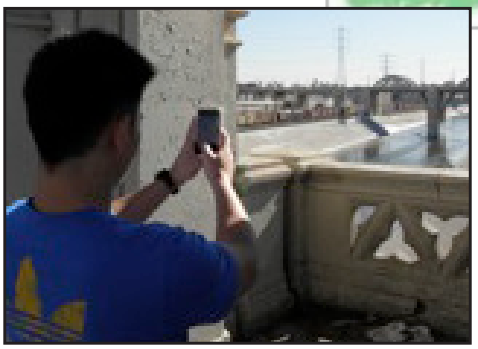
Vist CreekWatch on Facebook-http://www.facebook.com/peopleforasmarterplanet?pp_6009294086

Why is it important to the State?

This is an exercise where every citizen is encouraged to get engaged with their environment. It is helpful in expanding water quality education and supporting citizen monitoring through new technology is an excellent way to promote watershed stewardship.

Why is it important to me?

Getting involved with a water quality effort monitoring is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the streams of your own back yard, and to make a valuable contribution towards protecting and improving water quality.

How will the information be used?

Data obtained through the use of the Creek Watch application can be used in by scientists, environmental resource agencies and watershed organization. Data submitted by Creek Watch users can be used in determining whether creek flow is seasonal or perennial, assisting in the identification of nuisance flows, screening for trash hot spots, tracking climate change impacts and locating areas for specific environmental education and outreach to improve water quality.