

This training resource is designed to help conservation district directors and employees stay informed of key points discussed in recent web-based training. The document should be listed on the district's meeting agenda for discussion and review.

The Basics

OCC's stream monitoring program documents improvements in water quality across Oklahoma. Many of these improvements are the result of district-led and partner conservation practices, not regulation. The data collected by the monitoring program is integral to supporting the conservation work of the agency, districts, and other partners.

Program Focus

- Non-point source pollution (NPS), which is the leading cause of water quality problems nationwide; generally considered to be anything not from a pipe. OCC's program primarily addresses impacts from agricultural processes, but NPS also occurs on urban landscapes.
 - Surface water health
 - Stream impairments, including turbidity (soil in streams) and nutrients in streams
- Conservation practices and other best management practices help to improve water quality. The stream monitoring program collects data to quantify the improvements achieved through voluntary conservation. These improvements, shown through data, may result in an impaired stream improving enough to be delisted.
- OCC is unique in that its program collects and analyzes the data. Many programs only collect raw data.

Rotating Basin Program

- The rotating basin program monitors approximately 250 streams across the state.
- The state is divided into 5 basins with each stream being monitored for 2 out of 5 years.
- Started in 2001, the program is currently in its 6th rotation. The long dataset created from this ongoing program allows the agency to see trends across the landscape.
- Data collected through the program is used for integrated reporting every 2 years (helping to identify impaired waterbodies), for internal data analysis (such as site summaries and web applications), and to identify and report changes.
- Data collection is completed by OCC's rotating basin team.
- Districts are encouraged to join the monitoring team when they are in the local basin. The team will reach out before monitoring begins to let the district know they will be in the area and to gain local perspectives.

Reporting

- Integrated reporting, completed every 2 years, considers a waterbody's beneficial use(s) and examines specific criteria thresholds to determine if it is impaired or not.
- Reporting is completed by OCC's water quality technical team.
- The data is also used by the team for:
 - Site Summaries – a stream's report card
 - District Summaries – an overview of the program's activities within the district
 - And a variety of web applications.

Wetlands Program

- The Wetlands Program works to improve the quality, quantity, and diversity of wetlands in Oklahoma while also supporting others in wetland management.
- Wetlands work to reduce flooding, improve water quality, recharge aquifers, and provide wildlife habitat.
- The program is led by the wetlands team and as of 2026 includes a Wetlands Cost-share program.

Additional Resources

- OCC Stream Monitoring staff
- OCC Wetlands website (<https://wetlands.ok.gov/>)
- [EPA Success Stories](#)
- Site Summaries (available upon request)
- District Summaries (available upon request)
- [Water Quality Data Portal](#)
- [Rotating Basin Report Application](#)
- [Unified Watershed Assessment](#)