

# Birmingham River Champions:

## Project overview

Birmingham River Champions (BRC) is a **citizen science** project led by the University of Birmingham, partnered by the Environment Agency, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent. We are connecting with **volunteer** groups across the West Midlands to help **monitor** our **vulnerable rivers**. Our aims are to:

- Provide training and equipment on citizen science techniques assessing river health;
- Monitor the condition of river health of West Midland's rivers;
- Communicate citizen science findings back to volunteers to see how their data is being used;
- Create a network of river champions passionate about their local watercourse.



We value the time of our river champions, so have picked 4 quick techniques:

1. **Urban Riverfly** – ‘rivers answer to pond dipping’;
2. **Water quality monitoring** – checking pollution levels;
3. **Urban Outfall Safari** – visually spotting pollution being discharged into rivers;
4. **Invasive species spotting** – (e.g., signal crayfish, Himalayan Balsam).

We suggest groups commit about 1-2 hours monthly alongside their normal activities.



Want to get involved or find out more? Please see our online [web application](#) or contact [birminghamriverchampions@gmail.com](mailto:birminghamriverchampions@gmail.com)



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Wildlife Trust

