



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Explore the River and Help Conserve the Park River Watershed**  
Volunteers Needed for Park River Assessment Program

**WEST HARTFORD, Conn., May 9, 2009** – The Park River Assessment Program is looking for River Explorers to investigate streams in Hartford, New Britain, and West Hartford this summer. River Explorers are volunteers who survey stream habitats and collect water quality data that will be used to identify problem areas and plan river conservation and improvement projects.

Volunteers are required to register for and attend two training sessions. Stream Survey training will be on Saturday, June 13, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Water Quality Assessment training will be on Saturday, September 12, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

River Explorers assess streams in the Park River Watershed, including the North and South Branches of the Park River, Trout Brook, Bass Brook, Piper Brook, and the smaller, year-round streams that feed into these. They look for things like aquatic insects and plants, fish barriers, erosion, and what the stream bed looks like, such as whether it is sandy, gravelly, or full of boulders. Volunteers must be age 8 or older. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to register for training, contact Sandy Weiss, Program Coordinator for the Park River Assessment Program, at 860.231.2830 x33 or [sweiss@thechildrensmuseumct.org](mailto:sweiss@thechildrensmuseumct.org).

The Park River Assessment Program is a joint effort of The Children's Museum, the Farmington River Watershed Association and the Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative. The program is funded, in part, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. More information is available at [www.frwa.org](http://www.frwa.org) and [www.parkriver.org](http://www.parkriver.org).

The Children's Museum offers over 100 live animals, hands-on science exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. With over 210,000 visitors annually, it is one of Connecticut's top museum attractions. The Children's Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org).

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