

## Meet a Water Quality Expert

*"We study water chemistry and aquatic bugs in 17 counties.*

***By studying the water,** we can note problems or changes in sediment, nutrients, pH, and other ecological concerns.*

***By studying the bugs,** we learn more about what can live in the streams and if there are issues with toxicity, habitat disturbance, or chronic stressors."*



Ann Marie Traylor is the Executive Director of the **Environmental Quality Institute (EQI)**, a small nonprofit in Black Mountain. EQI has focused on stream monitoring in Western NC for 34 years. The staff and volunteers of EQI study water chemistry and aquatic invertebrates to indicate the health of streams in 17 counties.

Stormwater washes contaminants from our hardened surfaces into nearby creeks and rivers. These contaminants include soil, bacteria, road salt, oil, and chemicals like pavement sealants, herbicides and pesticides. The higher temperature and velocity of stormwater can also negatively affect the way cold-water streams function.



Biological communities of invertebrates and fish often can't tolerate the higher temperatures, toxins, and the sediment that smothers their habitat.

### Did you know?

**Stormwater is the #1 pollutant in the French Broad system. Reducing rain runoff helps protect these tiny creatures and their habitat.**

RIVER  
LINK



Protect our rivers –  
keep rain runoff onsite.

LEARN MORE at:  
[riverlink.org/reduce-rain-runoff/](https://riverlink.org/reduce-rain-runoff/)