THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Why Monitor Water Quality

We need clean, healthy water for people, agriculture, recreation, and the environment. What we do on land can influence the water quality in our lakes and streams. Utah Water Watch volunteers monitor this site in partnership with water scientists. Monitoring water quality helps protect Utah's aquatic resources.

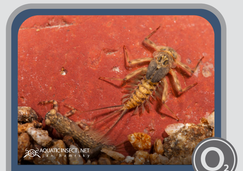
Water Temperature...

starts out cold due to snow melt high in the mountains. Rivers naturally warm as they move downstream. Trees along the river provide shade to help keep the water cool.

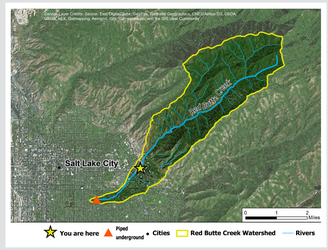
Native trout, like the Bonneville Cutthroat, and aquatic insects need cold freshwater to live. Red Butte Creek water temperature should not exceed 68°F (20°C).

Dissolved Oxygen...

is the concentration of oxygen molecules dissolved in the water (not the air bubbles). Fish and aquatic insects use their gills to absorb this form of oxygen underwater.



Cold water can hold more dissolved oxygen than warm water. Levels lower than 5 parts per million (mg/L) are stressful to cold water species, like this juvenile mayfly.



You are in the Red Butte Creek Watershed. The upper area is a protected natural area and the creek winds through Red Butte Garden, University of Utah, and the city before it is placed in a pipe. The water then travels to the Jordan River and finally the Great Salt Lake. The creek provides water for drinking, recreation, cold water fisheries, and agriculture.

Total Dissolved Solids...

are dissolved salts and minerals in the water that drains from the land. These vary by soils, rocks, and amount of runoff from the watershed. High levels of some dissolved minerals and salts create "hard" water.

We use most of our water in Utah for agriculture. Water that is too salty cannot be used to grow food.

Visit our Website

For more information and graphs of these data, scan the QR code or visit extension.usu.edu/utahwaterwatch/htm/red-butte-sign/

UtahStateUniversity
WATER QUALITY EXTENSION
extension.usu.edu/waterquality

iUTAH EPSCoR
iutahepscor.org

UTAH WATER WATCH
extension.usu.edu/utahwaterwatch

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
waterquality.utah.gov

Red Butte Garden
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
redbuttegarden.org

SALT LAKE COUNTY
watershed.slco.org