

# Real-time mapping of water quality

Working with the Rock River Coalition, the “Testing the Waters” project brought high-tech mapping to local schools

Summer 2016

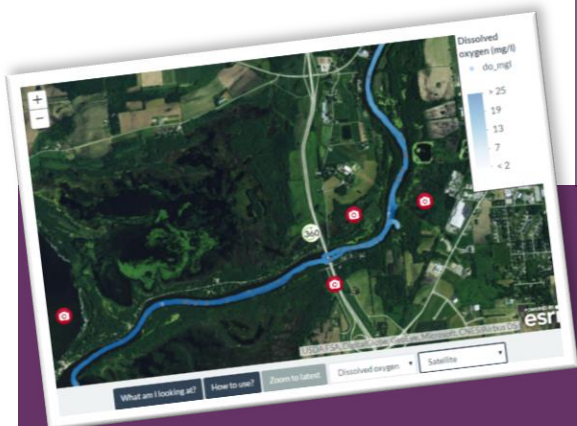


## Tech and the environment

**Novel water quality mapping** A new device, developed was used to map water quality in real-time on the Rock River

**Bringing data to the public** Through a live interactive map and community presentations, the public could follow our progress

**K through 12** Two student educators brought the project to 7 different schools throughout the region



## Seeing water in a new light

Working with our non-profit partner, the Rock River Coalition, the “Testing the Waters” project mapped water quality in the Rock River from May 15 through May 25, 2016. Using a novel water quality array developed by Dr. Eric Compas, over 30,000 data points were collected in these 11 days by student paddlers, Jeff Smyczek and Porter Vande Voort. The mapping revealed both gradual trends and sudden changes to water quality that warrant further investigation.

Outreach included holding 10 public meetings at communities along the river, visiting local schools in the basin, and updating our live map and social media feeds. Along with extensive print and TV coverage, we reached over 2,900 people on Facebook and 400 users on the live map. Rachel Terracina and Karl Brandstaetter, our Science Outreach students, met with 429 K through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students in 7 different schools

The map and data are archived at <http://testingwaters.org>. Photo courtesy Craig Schreiner

## Engaged Scholarship Pilot Grants

The UW-Whitewater School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education funds Engaged Scholarship Pilot grants to launch projects that partner with regional agencies to address local needs.