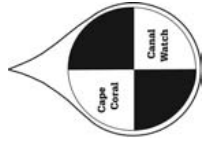


## Canalwatch Volunteer Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



I want more information about:

- Receiving the Newsletter       Adopt-A-Canal       Environmentally Friendly Landscaping  
 Water Sampling / Data Collection       Shoreline Clean-ups       Exotics Removal

**Call (239) 574-0785, fax this completed form to (239) 574-0721, or mail it to:**

*City of Cape Coral • Environmental Resources Section  
P.O. Box 150027 • Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027*

**C**analwatch is a proactive component of the City's canal management effort. Program goals are to:

- educate local homeowners about water quality issues;
- open up communication between citizens and water managers;
- increase residents' sense of ownership of our common resources.

Each month, volunteers collect water samples and record environmental data throughout the City. Then they bring the samples and data to the Cape Coral water quality laboratory for analysis. This volunteer monitoring process provides information about canal dynamics throughout the City, enabling better management of our waters.



*Canalwatch bottles lined up for distribution.*

***An Opportunity to Protect and Enhance Cape Coral's Aquatic Environment***



*Photo by Jeanette Chupack, site 74B*

## ***Cape Coral's Canalwatch Volunteer Program***

*Sponsored by the City of Cape Coral  
Environmental Resources Section  
P.O. Box 150027  
Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027  
(239) 574-0785*





Shoreline plantings create an attractive waterfront.



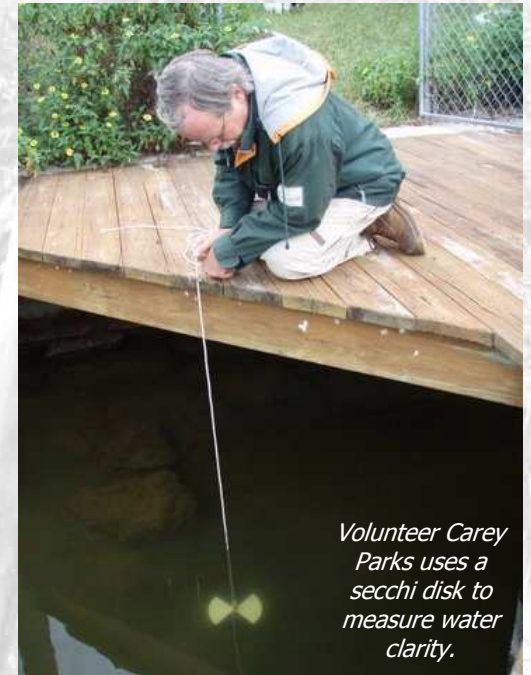
The presence of wildlife, such as these turtles, is one of the attractions of canalfront living.

Photo by Nancy Patti, site 55B

The Canalwatch program offers volunteers many opportunities to broaden their awareness of local ecosystems, meet like-minded people, and participate in community activities that benefit the environment. The hands-on skills developed through sampling and data collection enhance volunteers' understanding of the science behind water quality. Data can be used to detect cycles and trends within the canal system.

*The Canal Current*, our quarterly newsletter, presents the results of sample analyses, informs volunteers of upcoming environmental events, and discusses natural phenomena that affect Cape Coral residents. Newsletter readers, including non-volunteers, are then better able to observe and react to issues that involve water quality.

For many volunteers, knowledge leads to action: they install drought-tolerant landscapes, use responsible fertilization and pest control methods, and enhance habitat using shoreline plantings or rip-rap.



Volunteer Carey Parks uses a secchi disk to measure water clarity.

Photo by Ruth Parks, site 26D

Cape Coral's 400-mile canal system is a definitive feature of the City and one of its most vital economic assets. Canals offer residents waterfront living and recreation. They also protect our homes from floods, enhance property values, supply irrigation water, and attract wildlife to our City. Cape Coral's citizens recognize the canal system's impact on their quality of life and are highly protective of the area's aquatic assets. This protective attitude is our canal network's first line of defense against pollution, as calls from alert residents are often the first indication of a canal-related problem. Our citizens' concern for their canals led to the formation of the Cape Coral Canalwatch Volunteer program in 1995.

The Canalwatch program subscribes to the strength-in-numbers philosophy. Additional volunteers are always welcome to join this cooperative effort. If you would like to become a Canalwatch volunteer or receive the quarterly *Canal Current* newsletter, please call our office or mail in the attached Volunteer Registration Form. Volunteers who wish to collect monthly samples will receive an initial training and sampling supplies. If you have any questions concerning Canalwatch or Cape Coral's aquatic resources, please call Cape Coral's Environmental Resources Section at 574-0785.