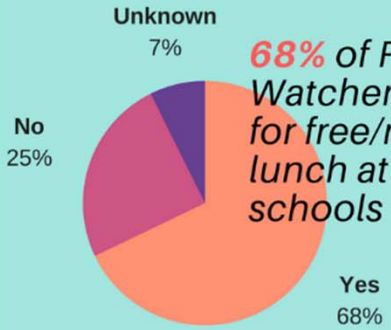
AUSTIN
YOUTH
RIVER
WATCH
EST 1991

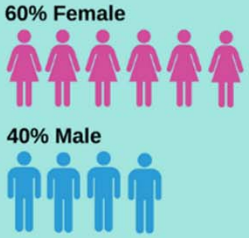
# STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

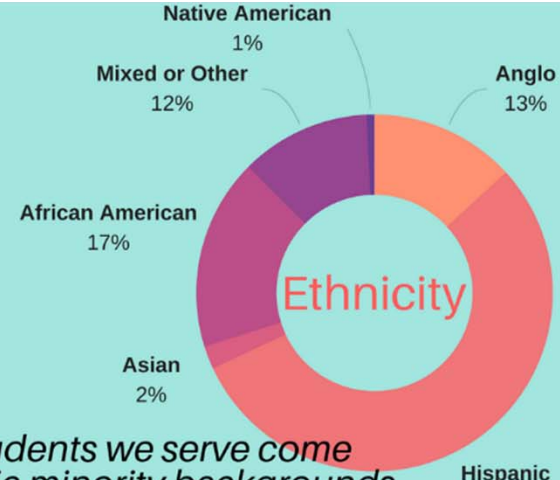
## Economic Background




***68%*** *of River Watchers qualify for free/reduced lunch at their schools*

## Gender




***88%*** *of students we serve come from ethnic minority backgrounds*

## Water Quality

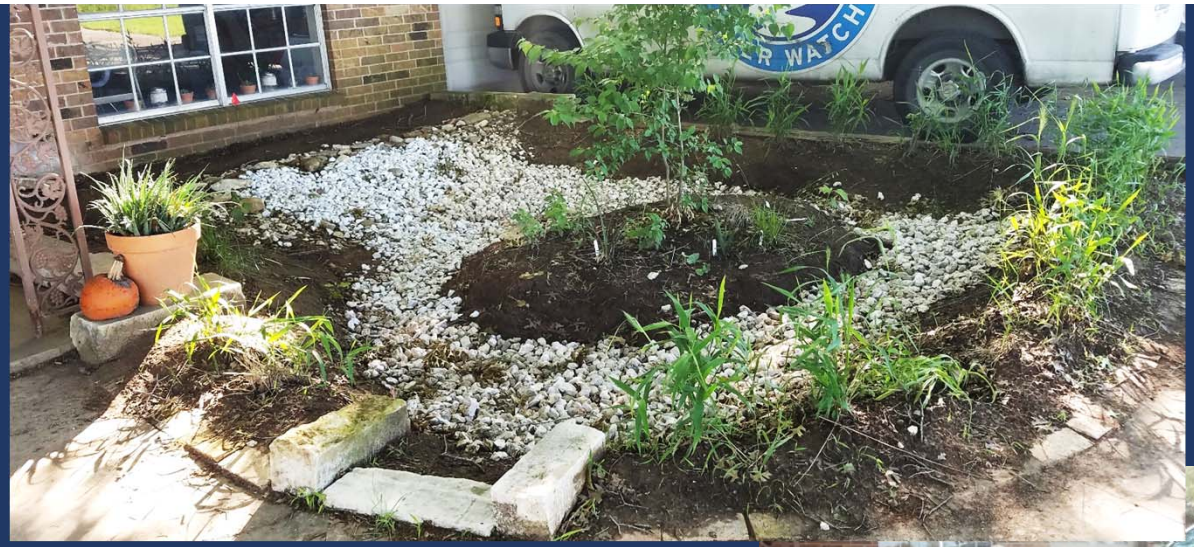
- 28 LCRA and other sites
  - Tests for dissolved oxygen, nitrates, conductance, pH, turbidity, and more
- Zebra mussel monitoring
- E. coli tracking (WPD defined critical sites)
  - Waller at 9th Street
  - Confluence of Buttermilk & Little Walnut
  - Poquito at Northwestern Avenue

*Past Issue Example: Williamson Creek at Dove Springs Park, next to Roy Kizer Golf Course*

- AYRW reported extremely high nitrate levels to WPD, found consistently over several weeks
- Provided WPD more data to substantiate the problem:
  - Irrigation with treated wastewater can put an overabundance of nutrients in creeks, and produce adverse water quality affects
- Lesson: Complications of some environmental solutions

## Restoration w/Community Partners

- Rain gardens and other stormwater control measures
- Native plantings
- Invasive species removal
- Creek clean-ups



> 40-50% of our service learning activity is now restoration (compared to 10-25% in past years)

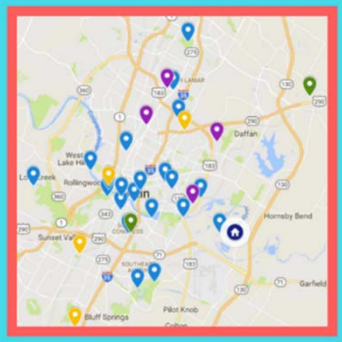
*Community Partnerships!*

## Transportation

**Food – all meals provided**

## GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT

*We served 164 students from 10 local high schools: Akins, Austin, Crockett, Eastside Memorial, Lanier, LBJ/LASA, McCallum, Reagan, Travis, and Manor High Schools.*



***River Watchers live in 24 Travis County zip codes.***

*With 27 water quality testing sites and more than 12 different restoration sites, our* ***geographical impact is far reaching!***

## Modest Student Stipends

# AYRW Impacts

***100% Graduation Rate!*** since 1992. Almost all students defined as "at-risk."

Class of 2019
- 39 seniors graduated
- 67% plan to pursue careers in science and environmental fields

Alumni – where are they now
- Working at TCEQ
- Working at the Capitol
- Working at a law firm
- Lab Techs
- Studying to be:
  - Wildlife Biologists
  - Geologists
  - Health Professionals
  - Business People
  - Web Designers
  - Engineers
- *On the AYRW Board!*

# Strategic Direction 2023 Alignment

- Economic Outcome and Affordability
  - Skills and capability of our community workforce (including education)
    - AYRW is helping to create a more equitable community workforce, and diversifying the workforce for STEM and environmental fields
- Health & Environment
  - Climate change & resilience
  - Access to quality parks, trails, and recreational opportunities
  - Accessibility to quality health services, both physical and mental
- Culture & Lifelong Learning
  - Quality, accessibility, and diversity of civic and cultural venues, events, programs, and resources
  - Lifelong learning opportunities
- Government that Works for All
  - Condition and quality of City facilities and infrastructure and effective adoption of technology
  - Satisfaction with City services
  - Stakeholder engagement and participation
  - Equity of City programs and resource allocation