



FOR NATURE FORWARD'S WATER QUALITY MONITORING VOLUNTEERS

Rusty Crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*) are an aggressive, non-native species that threaten native crayfish species in Maryland. Here is information from Montgomery Parks and Maryland Biological Stream Survey about recognizing Rusty Crayfish and what to do if you think you've found one.

We are grateful to have stream monitoring volunteers keeping an eye out! The species is in the Monocacy River drainage, so it's particularly relevant to be alert in Little Bennett and other upcounty locations.

WQ monitoring volunteers are encouraged to:

- [recognize the species](#), which have prominent reddish-brown spots on each side of their body
- take clear dorsal (top down) and lateral (side view) photos of any suspected individuals
- document the exact location
- notify cleanstreams@natureforward.org via email ASAP for further coordination.

If you have ethanol and a large enough container, you can also collect a specimen, but the photos should suffice.

Also, please record the species using the [Maryland Invasive Species Tracker](#), per scientific collection permit guidelines.

Maryland DNR regulations prohibit the possession and sale of the species, and especially prohibit movement of live Rusty Crayfish from one stream to another. A suspected Rusty Crayfish may be returned to the stream at the point of collection but may not be released elsewhere (or transported alive as individuals could escape). If you found one, there are more. So, please notify us so that we can respond accordingly.

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