Huron River Watershed Council

Protecting the river since 1965

Honey Creek at Wagner Road
Fact Sheet

Site History

In the mid-1980's, dioxane, a probable carcinogen, was found in lakes and wells around the Honey Creek watershed. Gelman Sciences had been discharging their chemical wastewater into unlined lagoons and spraying it on lawns around the plant.

Pall Life Science, which bought Gelman in 1997, has since been cleaning the dioxane from the groundwater. The MDEQ has allowed Pall to discharge the wastewater from its cleanup process into Honey Creek.

Honey Creek flows into the Huron River upstream of the Barton impoundment, which is the main source of drinking water for Ann Arbor. However, the city continues to test for dioxane and reports that the water source remains safe.

Watershed Information

Area of land draining to this site: 63 mi^2

Local government: Washtenaw Co, Scio Twn.

Watershed land use: 31% Agriculture, 38% Urban, 9% Forest, 13% Open, 8% Wetland.

10% of this land is impervious surface

Photo credit: Dick Cahse

Google 2009

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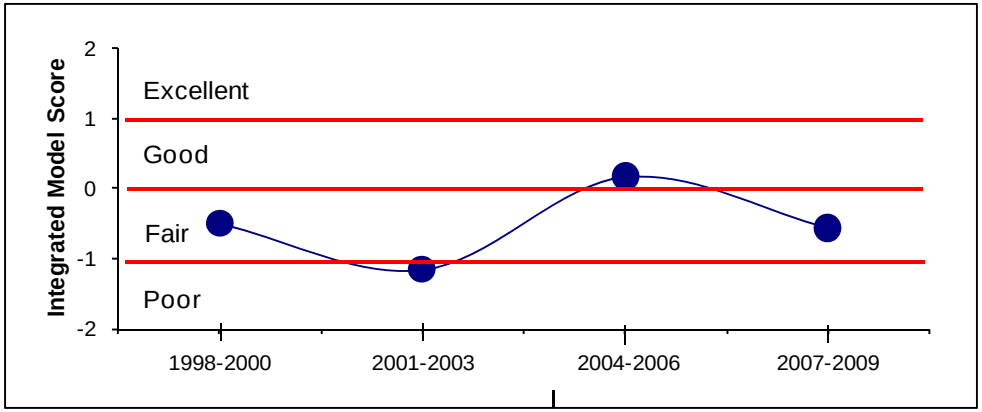
Last Updated: 11/12/09, Updates to this fact sheet? Email psteen@hrwc.org

Site Rating: Fair

Each site is rated as one of the following categories (going from worst to best): poor, fair, good, and excellent. This rating comes from an integrative model that is based on the last 3 years of insect data, the most recent habitat data, stream temperature, and stream size.



Insect Community

First Monitored: 4/24/93 Times monitored: 31

During 2007-2009, the average number of insect families found at this location are:

Total Insect Families: 8

Sensitive Insect Families (quickly affected by pollution): 1.3

Mayfly, Stonefly, and Caddisfly Families: 2.0

Stonefly Families (Winter Stonefly Search): 1.3

Insects found from 2007-2009:

Perlodidae*- patterened stonefly
Notonectidae- back-swimmer
Hydropsychidae- net-spinner caddisfly
Calopterygidae- broad-winged damselfly
Corydalidae*- helgrammite
Elmidae- riffle beetle
Chironomidae- midge
Chaoboridae- phantom midge
Dixidae- dixid midge
Simuliidae- black fly larva
Tabanidae- deer fly larva
Tipulidae- crane fly larva

*Sensitive Family

Stream Habitat

Water Temperature (Summer 2009):

Average weekly minimum: 60 °F

Average weekly maximum: 66 °F

Conductivity: 1007 µS

This is a 3 year average of samples taken 1-3 times per year. 800 µS or lower is considered normal.

Measuring and Mapping Program Times monitored: 5

Measurements and Observations from most recent event held on 8/14/04:

Avg. Depth (ft): 0.9 Max Depth (ft): 2

Avg. Width (ft): 19.7 Bank Height (ft): 0.8

% Fine Substrate: 25 % Coarse Substrate: 75

% Riffle Embeddedness: 25-50 % Banks Bare: 2

Bad Appearance or Odor: No

Overall habitat score (100 max): 78