

Overall Condition: **Good**

It is great to see a good stream quality in a golf course. There are many kinds of bugs here for such a small watershed and several of them are sensitive. The water is clean and cool. Obviously the riparian zone is turf grass, but the banks are surprisingly stable.

Measuring Stream Quality

We use the bugs living in the creek to measure stream quality for two reasons. When the stream is rich in habitat variety it will have many diverse kinds of bugs (called families). Also, some bugs (called sensitive) can live only in good quality streams; they die in a poor quality stream. Any stream with sensitive families has the clean water and good habitat required by those bugs to survive.

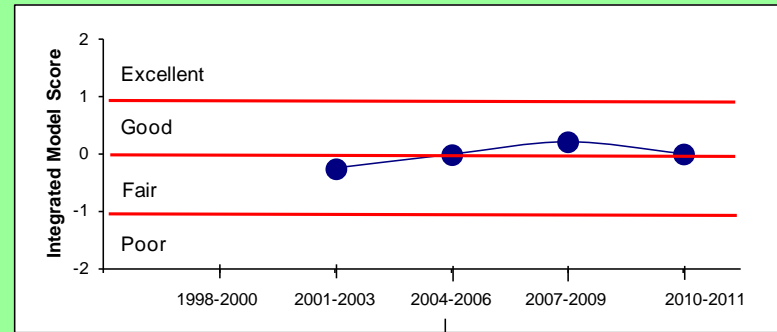
Monitoring Data

These data come from HRWC volunteers who have monitored this site 39 times, starting in 1995. This includes Stonefly Search, River Roundup, Habitat, and Temperature events.

This small site on Boyden Creek is only 8.7 feet wide and shallow (less than half a foot) here, with an occasional 2-foot deep pool. In 2007 we found good habitat here, a sturdy bottom, stable banks and the rocks in the riffles were free of silt. It has clean, cold water (seldom over 67°F) and little urban runoff (only 5% impervious surface).

There is slightly-better-than-average variety of bugs here for a site with such a small watershed, including some that are sensitive. In the spring we typically find an average of nearly 13 different families and usually one or two are sensitive. In the fall an average of 11 different families are typically found, and usually one of them is sensitive.

In the winter we find the smaller of the stoneflies that grow only during the cold, winter months. These stoneflies are dormant during other times of the year.



To determine this overall condition rating, HRWC uses an integrative model that compares this site to all of HRWC's other monitoring sites in the Huron watershed. The model uses insect, habitat, temperature, and stream size data.



Photo credit: Jana Smith

