

# Millers Creek at Plymouth Road Fact Sheet

## Site History

Whenever a substantial amount of rain falls or snow melts, this small stream rapidly becomes a torrent. The potential of Millers Creek to cut its banks and move the channel results from three features. First, the creek's path was shortened when the City constructed Huron Parkway. Second, it has a very steep gradient. Third, the watershed is covered by extensive impervious surface, which results in excess runoff during rain events. The rapid change in water levels makes Millers Creek very inhospitable to macroinvertebrates which are indicators of stream health. This site, located just south of Plymouth Road, drains the Georgetown housing area, a large residential community north of Plymouth. HRWC is working with this community to build rain gardens and install rain barrels in order to hold more of the rain on-site and prevent it from quickly washing into the creek.

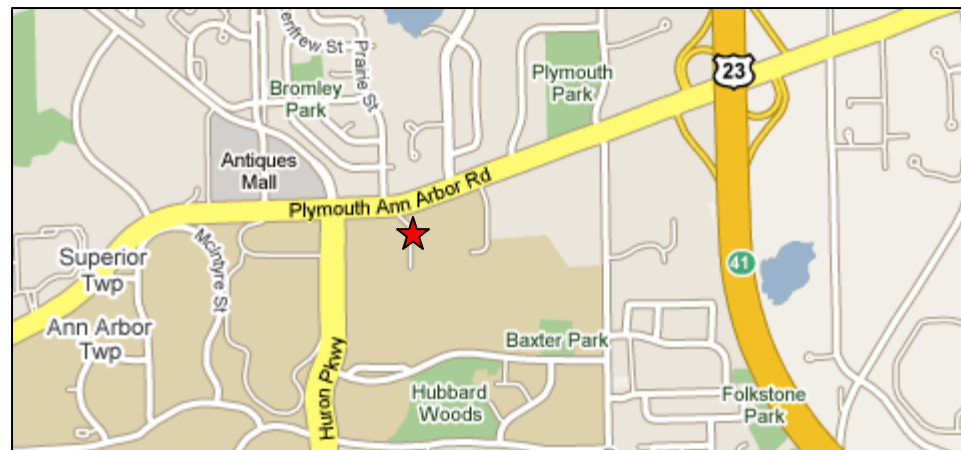
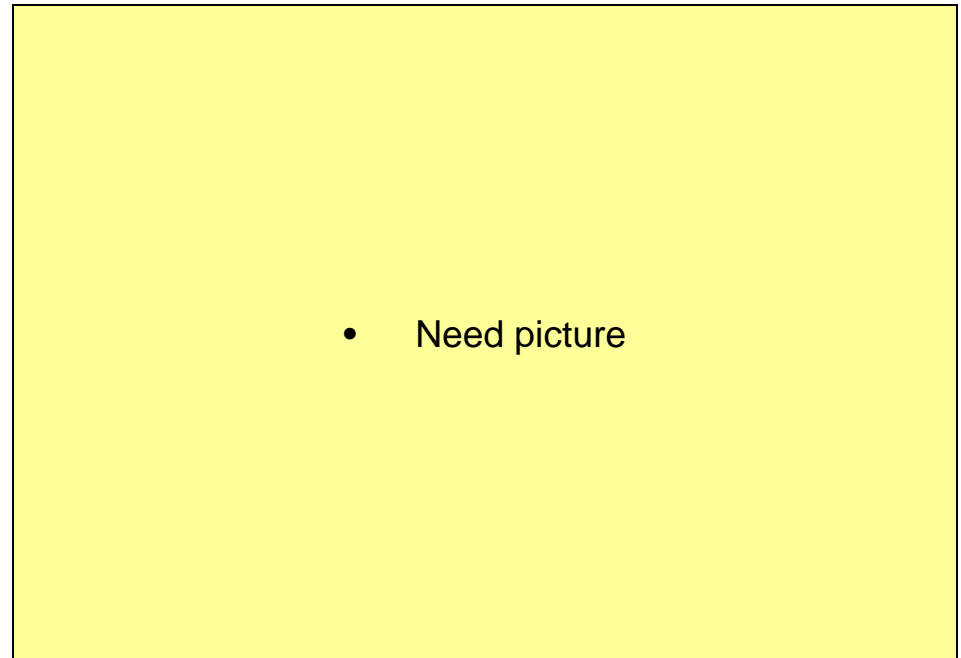
## Watershed Information

*Area of land draining to this site:* 0.4 mi<sup>2</sup>

*Local government:* Washtenaw Co, City of Ann Arbor

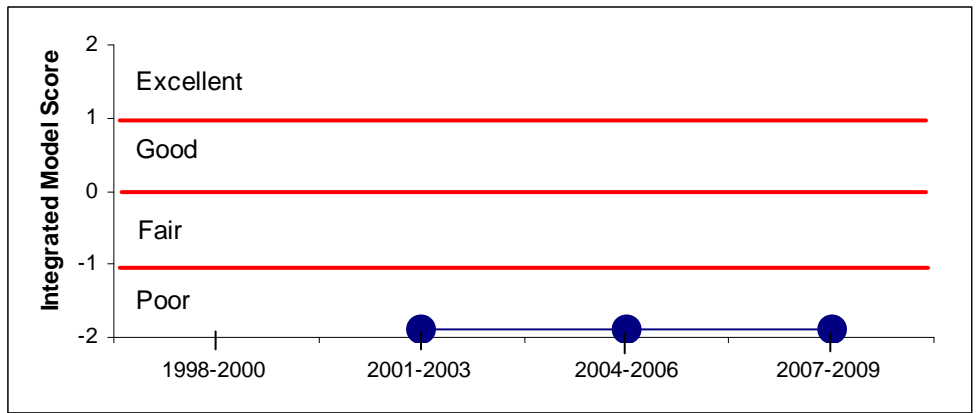
*Watershed land use:* 0% Agriculture, 94% Urban, 4% Forest, 2% Open, 0% Wetland.

41% of this land is impervious surface



# Site Rating: Poor

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: 4/13/02    Times monitored: 20

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

Total Insect Families: 2.6

Sensitive Insect Families (quickly affected by pollution): 0.2

Mayfly, Stonefly, and Caddisfly Families: 0.2

Stonefly Families (Winter Stonefly Search): 0

*Insects found in sampling events from 2007-2009:*

Aeshnidae- darner dragonfly

Coenagrionidae- narrow-winged damselfly

Athericidae\*- water snipe fly

Chironomidae- midge

Tipulidae- crane fly larva

\*Sensitive Family

## Stream Habitat

*Water Temperature (Summer 2006):*

Average weekly minimum: 63 °F

Average weekly maximum: 75 °F

*Conductivity:* 3078  $\mu$ S

This is a 3 year average of samples taken 1-3 times per year. 800  $\mu$ S or lower is considered normal.

*Measuring and Mapping Program*

Times monitored: 2

Measurements and Observations from most recent event held on 7/29/2006:

Avg. Depth (ft): 0.4

Max Depth (ft): 1.5

Avg. Width (ft): 7.8

Bank Height (ft): 3.6

% Fine Substrate: 84

% Coarse Substrate: 13

% Riffle Embeddedness: <25

% Banks Bare: 80

Bad Appearance or Odor: No

Overall habitat score (100 max): 49.5