

Millers Creek at Huron Parkway, Huron High School 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 across Huron Parkway from Huron High School, is well known to HRWC volunteers as difficult to sample and measure. The velocity of the water slows in this less steep region and the stream deposits sediment and other debris that was carved from the banks further upstream. This delta area is full of braided channels which can shift dramatically after a storm.

Watershed Information

Area of land draining to this site: 1.9 mi²

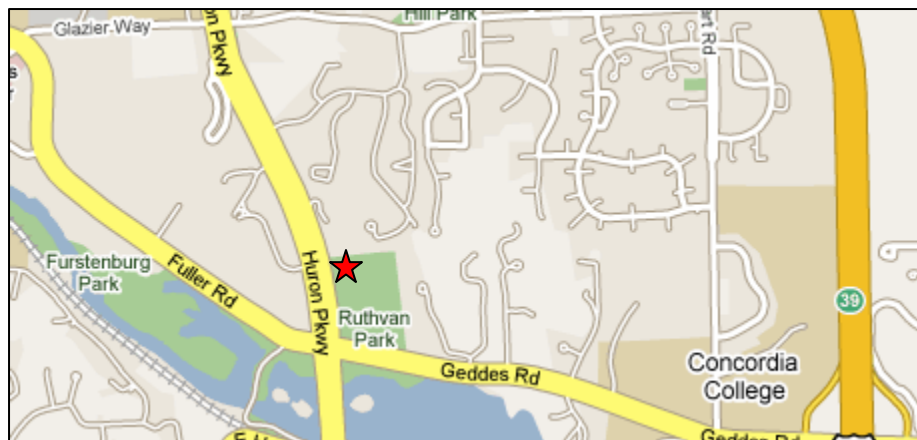
Local government: Washtenaw Co, City of Ann Arbor

Watershed land use: 0% Agriculture, 92% Urban, 4% Forest, 4% Open, 0% Wetland.

44% of this land is impervious surface



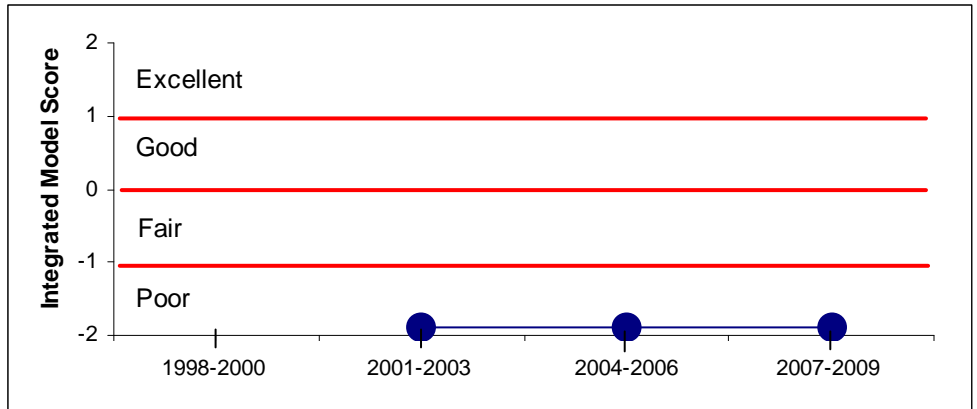
Photo credit: HRWC



Google 2009

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: 4/27/2002 Times monitored: 18

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

Total Insect Families: 3.7

Sensitive Insect Families (quickly affected by pollution): 0

Mayfly, Stonefly, and Caddisfly Families: 0

Stonefly Families (Winter Stonefly Search): 0

Insects found in sampling events from 2007-2009:

Gerridae- water strider

Veliidae- short-legged strider

Aeshnidae- darner dragonfly

Calopterygidae- broad-winged damselfly

Elmidae- riffle beetle

Chironomidae- midge

Simuliidae- black fly larva

Stream Habitat

Water Temperature (Summer 2009):

Average weekly minimum: 58 °F

Average weekly maximum: 67 °F

Conductivity: 1879 μ S

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

Measuring and Mapping Program

Times monitored: 2

Measurements and Observations from most recent event held on 8/10/2008:

Avg. Depth (ft): 0.2

Max Depth (ft): 1.4

Avg. Width (ft): 7

Bank Height (ft): 1.1

% Fine Substrate: 94

% Coarse Substrate: 6

% Riffle Embeddedness: >75

% Banks Bare: 5

Bad Appearance or Odor: No

Overall habitat score (100 max): 31