Huron River Watershed Council

Protecting the river since 1965

Millers Creek at Hubbard 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 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

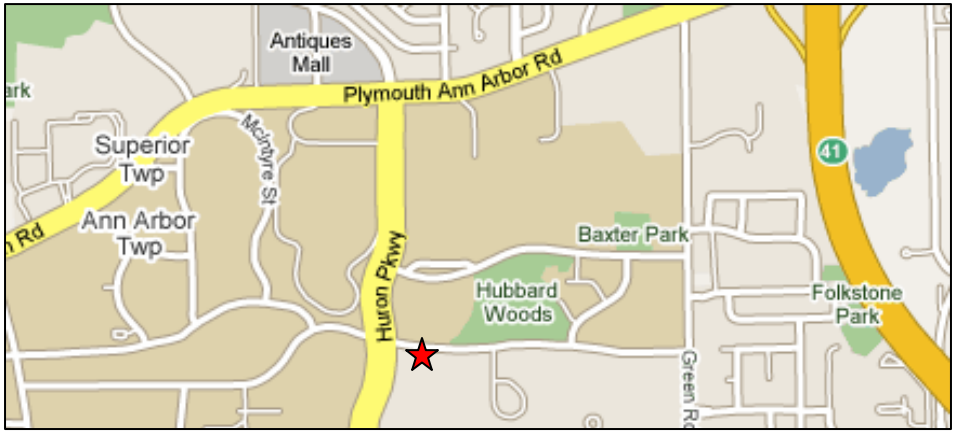
Area of land draining to this site: 1.2 mi^2

Local government: Washtenaw Co, City of Ann Arbor

Watershed land use: 0% Agriculture, 84% Urban, 9% Forest, 7% Open, 0% Wetland.

33% of this land is impervious surface

Photo credit: Dick Chase



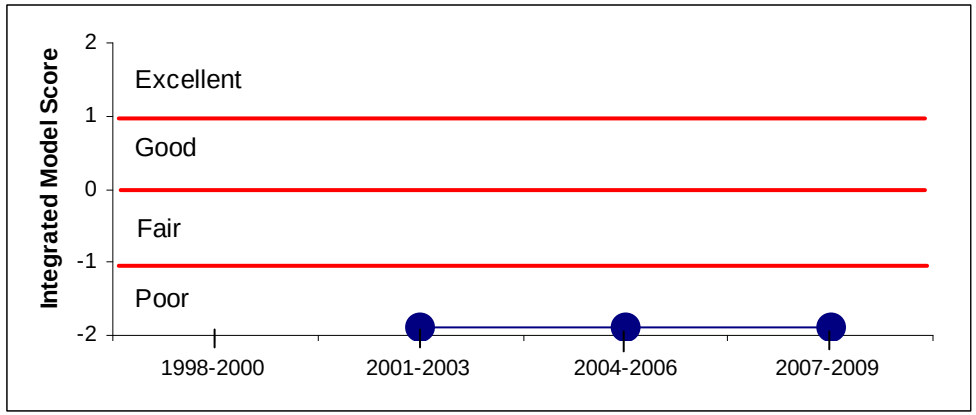
Google 2009

Huron River Watershed Council, 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104, (734) 769-5123

Last Updated: 12/9/09, Updates to this fact sheet? Email psteen@hrwc.org

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: 4/27/02 Times monitored: 18

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

Total Insect Families: 5.0

Sensitive Insect Families (quickly affected by pollution): 0

Mayfly, Stonefly, and Caddisfly Families: 0.5

Stonefly Families (Winter Stonefly Search): 0

Insects found in sampling events from 2007-2009:

Gerridae- water strider

Hydropsychidae- net-spinning caddisfly

Aeshnidae- darner dragonfly

Calopterygidae- broad-winged damselfly

Coenagrionidae- narrow-winged damselfly

Elmidae- riffle beetle

Chironomidae- midge larva

Stream Habitat

Water Temperature (Summer 2009):

Average weekly minimum: 59 °F

Average weekly maximum: 69 °F

Conductivity: 3123 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: 2

Measurements and Observations from most recent event held on 8/21/2008:

Avg. Depth (ft): 0.3 Max Depth (ft): 1.8

Avg. Width (ft): 8.7 Bank Height (ft): 2.6

% Fine Substrate: 1 % Coarse Substrate: 99

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

Bad Appearance or Odor: No

Overall habitat score (100 max): 51.5