

58 Portage Creek at Unadilla

Adopt-a-Stream Site Report

— Updated August 2021 —



Site Condition: **FAIR**

There is a below average level of insect diversity at this site, and the bugs found are not from sensitive groups. This section of Portage Creek has a high amount of sand and muck on the stream bed, which limits aquatic life. In 2005, a habitat study found that nearly 100% of the streambed was covered in these fine particles. Studies then found less fine sediment, but recent reports show the muck increasing again.



Photo credit: HRWC

Sampling Experience

Site Access: **EASY**

Park at the nearby store and walk to the creek.

Team Operations: **DIFFICULT**

This is a tricky place to navigate with a team. It can be wet and muddy.

Collection: **DIFFICULT**

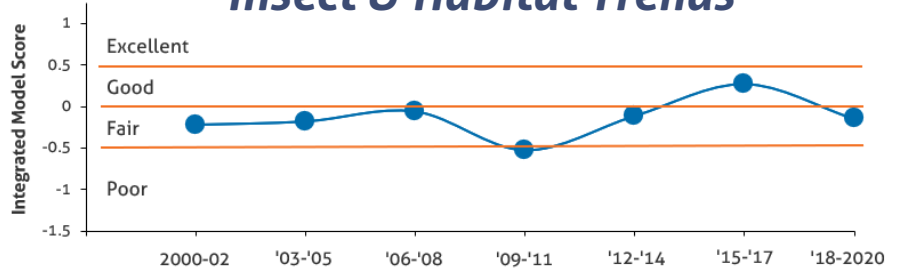
There is substantial muck here making the sampling challenging.

Measuring Stream Quality

Why bugs?

When a stream is rich in habitat variety, it will have many diverse kinds of bugs (called families). Some bugs (known as "sensitive") can only live in good quality streams. Thus, streams with sensitive families have the clean water and good habitat required by those bugs to survive.

Insect & Habitat Trends



Monitoring Data

		2000 - 2009	2010 - 2019	2020 - 2030
Number of Site Visits	Fall	12	1	1
	Spring	8	3	0
	Winter	7	4	1
Average Insect Diversity		10.4	12.9	12
Average Sensitive Diversity		0.6	0.9	1
Average Winter Stonefly Families		0.1	0	0
Habitat	# of Surveys	2 (2005, 2009)	2 (2015, 2018)	0
	Summer Water T (F)	72.5 - 74.5 (2000, 2001, 2010)	Not Monitored	-
	Stream Width (ft)	19.7	27.3	-
	% Big Rocks	4.1	0	-
	% Rocks & Gravel	11.5	5.5	-
	% Sand	54.5	22.2	-
	% Muck	28.5	59.3	-

Portage Creekshed

Adopt-a-Stream Creekshed Profile

— Updated April 2021 —



Creekshed Profile

Portage creekshed is geologically unique due to glacial activity. Water retention in the wetlands, floodplains and lakes, coupled with fast water drainage from upland areas creates a mosaic of different habitats and ecological communities of plants and animals. Much of the creekshed lies in the Pinckney Recreation Area, which has great opportunities for paddling, hiking, and mountain biking.

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Water Quality Parameters

Grade

75-100	Healthy to Pristine	Land Use	A
		Natural Areas	A
50-74	Slightly Impacted	Stream Flow	A
		Stream Habitat	B
25-49	Highly Impacted	Macroinvertebrates	C
		Fish Community	A
0-24	Extremely Disturbed	Phosphorus	Unknown
		E. coli	C
		Total Suspended Solids	Unknown
		Stream Temperature	A
		Conductivity	A
		Dams	C
		Contaminants	B

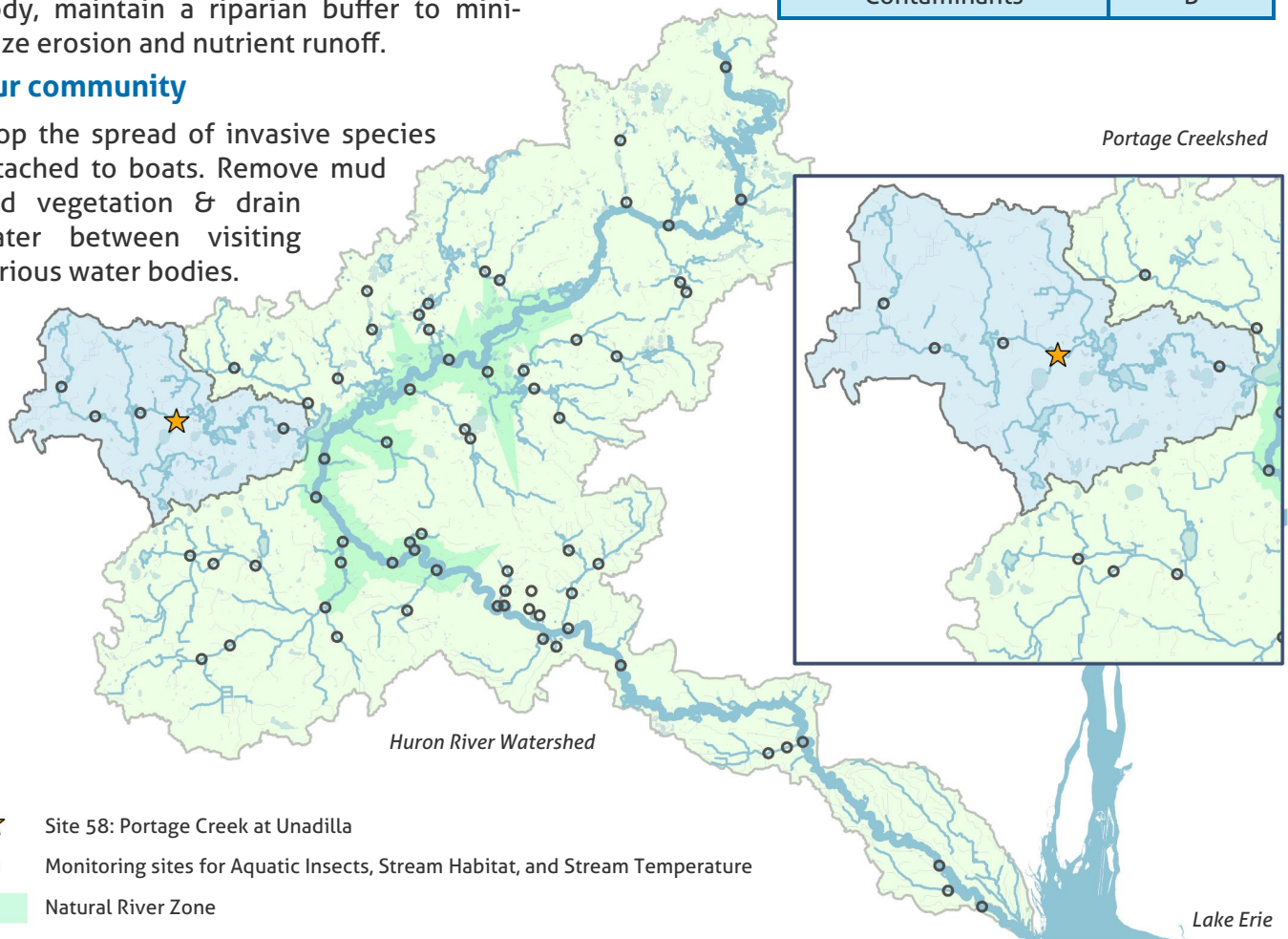
What You Can Do!

At home

- If you own property adjacent to a water body, maintain a riparian buffer to minimize erosion and nutrient runoff.

In your community

- Stop the spread of invasive species attached to boats. Remove mud and vegetation & drain water between visiting various water bodies.



- ★ Site 58: Portage Creek at Unadilla
- Monitoring sites for Aquatic Insects, Stream Habitat, and Stream Temperature
- Natural River Zone

Lake Erie