

79 Mill Creek at Mill Creek Park

Adopt-a-Stream Site Report

— Updated August 2021 —



Site Condition: **Good**

Following a 2008 dam removal by the bridge, this site has improved and is a very interesting and healthy location. That being said, there are E.Coli concerns in Mill Creek so be sure to wash your hands well after touching the water.



Photo credit: Dave Wilson

Sampling Experience

Site Access: **EASY**

The parking lot is close but can fill up, so you might have to park somewhere else in Dexter.

Team Operations: **EASY**

You might even find an open picnic table for the team.

Collection: **MEDIUM**

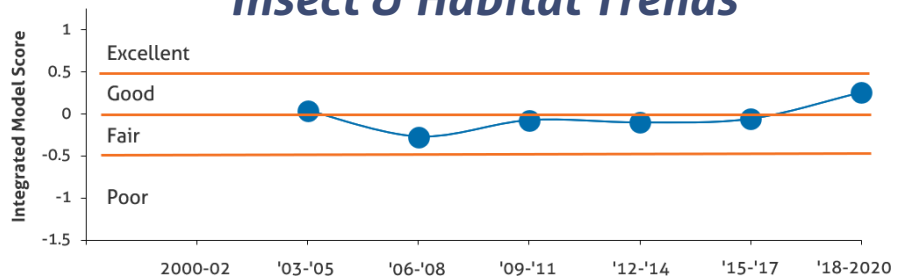
There are fast areas and large rocks, making some areas of this creek tricky.

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	6	10	1
	Spring	6	5	-
	Winter	6	9	1
Average Insect Diversity		13.45	13.07	14
Average Sensitive Diversity		1.55	1.8	4
Average Winter Stonefly Families		2	1.78	2
Habitat	# of Surveys	2 <small>(2004, 2009)</small>	2 <small>(2014, 2018)</small>	0
	Summer Water T (F)	66.5 - 76 <small>(2002, 2006, 2009)</small>	Not Monitored	-
	Stream Width (ft)	48.53	44.05	-
	% Big Rocks	38.23	39.75	-
	% Rocks & Gravel	38.21	27.35	-
	% Sand	13.52	23.7	-
	% Muck	9.76	8.53	-

Mill Creekshed

Adopt-a-Stream Creekshed Profile

— Updated January 2020 —



Creekshed Profile

Mill Creekshed spans 143 square miles, and is the largest and most agricultural creekshed in the Huron River watershed. While there are many beautiful places on Mill Creek, some portions fail to meet minimum water quality standards. The Michigan DEQ has listed the creek as “impaired” due to excess phosphorus and poor fish and aquatic insect populations.

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Water Quality Parameters Grade

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

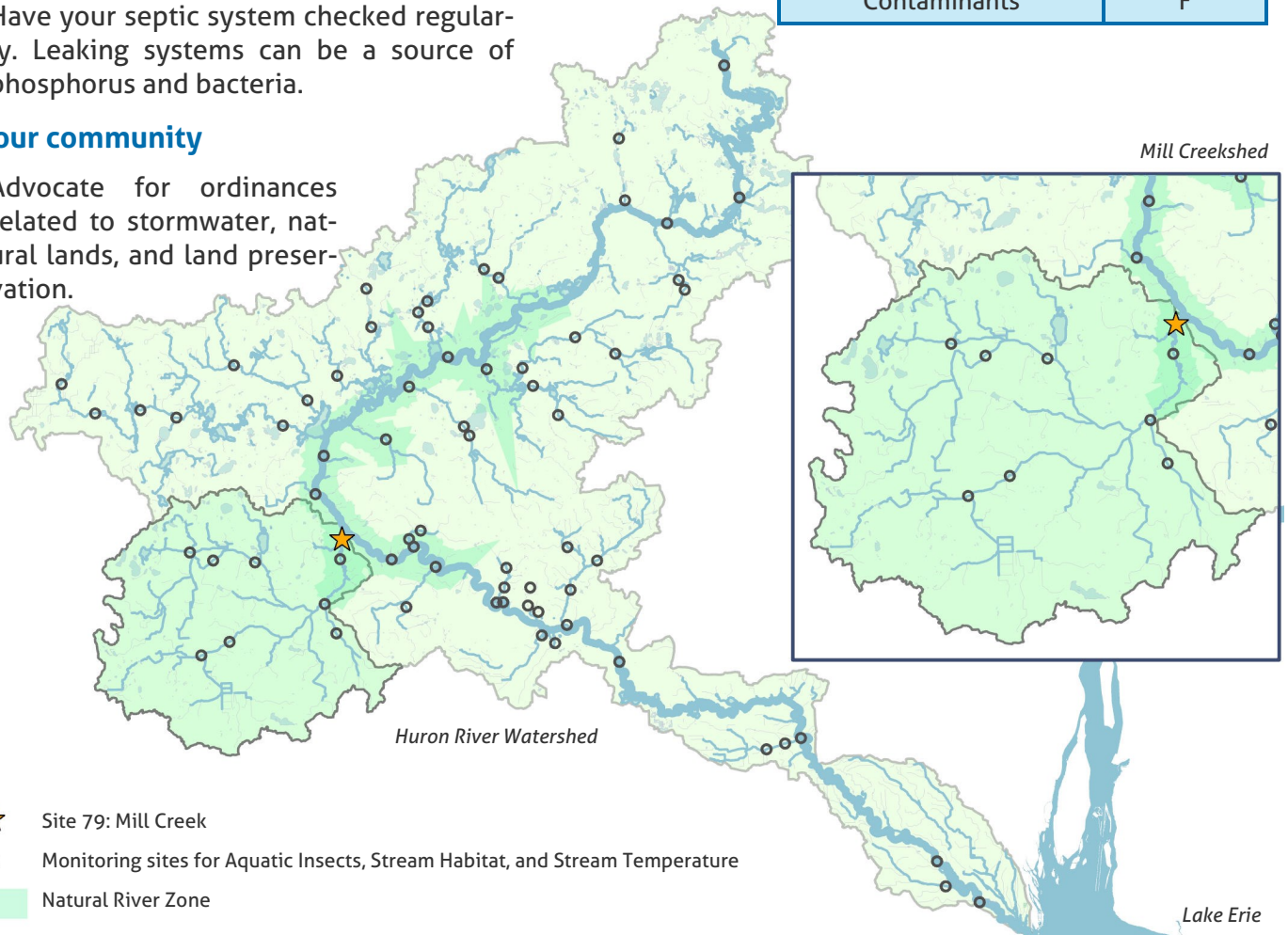
What You Can Do!

At home

- Maintain a 25 foot vegetated buffer from all ditches, creeks, and water bodies.
- Have your septic system checked regularly. Leaking systems can be a source of phosphorus and bacteria.

In your community

- Advocate for ordinances related to stormwater, natural lands, and land preservation.



- ★ Site 79: Mill Creek
- Monitoring sites for Aquatic Insects, Stream Habitat, and Stream Temperature
- Natural River Zone

Lake Erie