

Rush Creek Watershed Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Survey Full Grant Project Fact Sheet

Project Name: Rush Creek Watershed Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Survey Volunteer Stream Monitoring Project

Amount of Grant: \$13,838.00

Amount of Match: \$7,000 = 33.6% of grant

Project Duration: June 1, 2017 to August 31, 2019 (per extension request)

Grantee: Ken Bergwerff, Township Supervisory
Jamestown Charter Township
2380 Riley Street
Hudsonville, MI 49426
616-896-8376
Fiduciary for Trinity Christian Reformed Church, Grandville, MI
Pastor Gerry Koning, Senior Pastor
O-60 Port Sheldon Rd.
616-457-1630

Project Location: Rush Creek Watershed, Ottawa County, last several miles before it empties into the Grand River; Rush Creek East Branch, last half mile before it empties into main flow (see map)

Project Partners: Hudsonville High School, Jenison High School, SES Environmental Services, AuSable Institute, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW)

Summary/Goals:

The overall goal is to raise “watershed awareness” in our community so that Rush Creek is not viewed merely as a means of draining water but as an important natural resource. We broke that down as follows:

1. Educate the residents of the Rush Creek Watershed on the importance of Rush Creek for our environment and for the health of our community.
2. Partner with local high schools and their environmental studies programs to educate students about the importance of the watershed and have them become active participants in monitoring its health.
3. Establish four new monitoring sites and train five teams of volunteers in the collection and identification of macroinvertebrates.
4. Identify problem areas in the watershed and begin addressing these in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Project Accomplishments:

- Built ongoing personal connections with area churches, schools and watershed residents who share our interest in care for the watershed, or who are willing to learn about the importance of our watershed
- Held monitoring events twice per year

- Recorded all results twice per year
- Held one training event
- Expanded and added connections with key partners
- Purchased educational resources such as posters, DVD's and outdoor signs to help increase knowledge and awareness of the watershed
- Attended events through MiCorp, AuSable, Hudsonville High School, and LGROW
- Increased social media presence through blogs and webpages

Monitoring Activities:

The summary of our monitoring events is the following:

Fall of 2017 – October 14, 4 sites monitored; October 23, 1 site monitored; 28 volunteers

Spring 2018 – April 21, Training event, May 5, 3 sites monitored, May 10, 1 site monitored, 23 volunteers (note: the training event was at the 5th site, but results were not recorded)

Fall 2018 – October 13, 5 sites monitored, 25 volunteers

Spring 2019 – May 14, 1 site monitored; May 18, 4 sites monitored; 20 volunteers, some doing 2 sites

Significant measurable results:

Main Street		Timmerman's		Sunrise Park		Jackson Street		Bursley School	
Oct-17	36	Oct-17	43	Oct-17	31	Oct-17	27	Oct-17	12 Heavy rain!!!
May-18	26	May-17	N/A	May-18	28	May-18	41	May-18	23
Oct-18	37	Oct-18	22	Oct-18	19	Oct-18	45	Oct-18	23
May-18	30	May-18	25	May-18	35	May-18	36	May-18	26

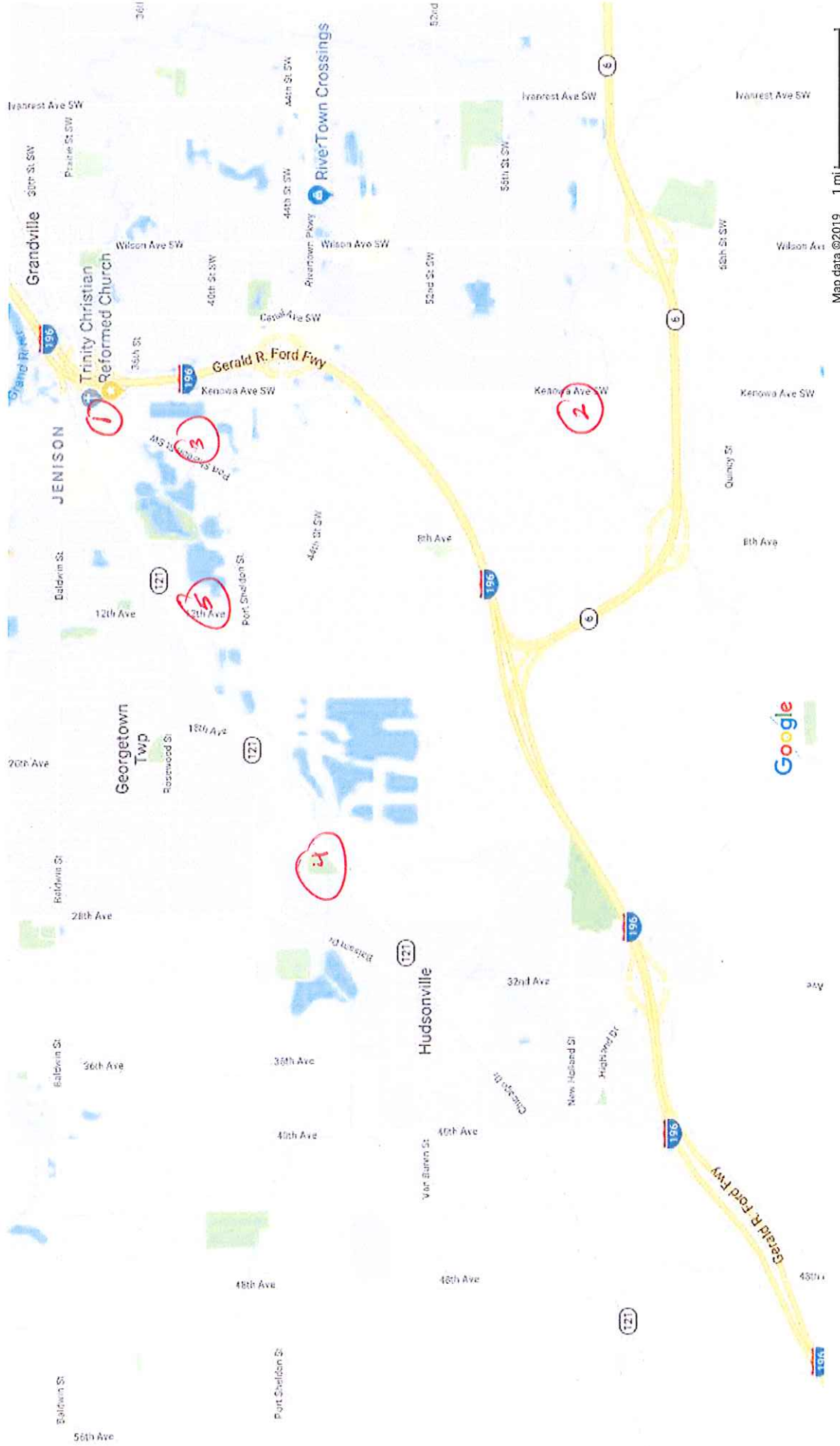
Photos:



Here is an awesome picture of some folks willing to hunt for bugs even in the pouring rain.



Here is a great picture that shows that including kids in the process of sorting bugs is super fun.



Map data ©2019 1 mi