

## MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Monitoring Fact Sheet



**Organization Name:** Au Sable Institute

**Monitoring Program Name:** Upper Manistee River Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

**Watersheds Monitored:** Manistee River

**County(ies):** Kalkaska

**Program Manager:** Paul Wiemerslage (paul.w@ausable.org)

**Fact Sheet Updated:** 1/28/2022



### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Au Sable Institute in partnership with the Kalkaska Conservation District actively monitors four tributaries within the upper Manistee River Watershed. These efforts, in combination with other organizations participating in the MiCorps stream monitoring program, ensure robust sampling within the watershed from West Sharon Rd bridge upstream to Deward. This area is well known for its fishing, kayaking, camping, and other recreational activities. In recent years monitoring efforts have discovered the presence of New Zealand mudsnails (NZMS) within upper stretches of the main branch. Additionally, didymo (rock snot) a nuisance algae has been identified in upper portions of the stream. Increased attention must be given to sampling efforts and educational efforts to help contain and control the spread of these invasive species. To date, neither NZMS or didymo has been identified at our sampling locations.

### PROGRAM FAST FACTS

**# of Years Monitoring:** 7 (Since 2014)

**# Volunteers participating annually:** 15-20

**# Active Monitoring Sites:** 4

**# Excellent Quality Sites:** (3-spring)

**# Very Good Quality Sites:** (1-spring / 3-fall)

**# Good Quality Sites:** (1-fall)

**# Fair Quality Sites:** 0

**# Fairly Poor Quality Sites:** 0

**# Poor Quality Sites:** 0

**# Very Poor Quality Sites:** 0

**Link to Monitoring Program:** [www.ausable.org](http://www.ausable.org)



## RESULTS

### Spring 2021

Big Cannon Creek, 44.58333, -85.07306  
WQR: 3.11  
Comments: Stream has consistently scored very good to excellent. Recent improvements to road stream crossing should continue trend.

Big Devil Creek, 44.585722, -85.043833  
WQR: 3.41  
Comments: Big Devil Creek is a small natural stream with a good amount of woody debris and cover. Trending stable with high WQR.

Pierson Creek, 44.64107, -85.08803  
WQR: 2.97  
Comments: Interesting score. Not outside of trend but also seems to have hit a magic number within composition of diversity and sensitivity rating that allowed it to score this well.

Maple Creek, 44.58361, -85.10503  
WQR: 4.33  
Comments: Maple Creek is small tannic tributary with beaver activity. It is unique in it's profile (small with good flow) and scores well.

Flowing Wells, 44.68989, -85.00736  
WQR: NA  
Comments: Discontinued site. Beaver activity has flooded the stretch for several years now.

### Fall 2021

Big Cannon Creek, 44.58333, -85.07306  
WQR: 4.13  
Comments: Stream continues trend of very good to excellent WQR. No NZMS identified yet. We have had to be dilligent with decontamination efforts.

Big Devil Creek, 44.585722, -85.043833  
WQR: 4.26  
Comments: Results to be expected and follows baseline trend. High simuliidae count (36) could account for poorer WQR than spring.

Pierson Creek, 44.64107, -85.08803  
WQR: 4.93  
Comments: Slight variability is normal for this stream. WQR within trend, but lower than I would like. Culvert is very undersized restricting flow.

Maple Creek, 44.58361, -85.10503  
WQR: 4.06  
Comments: Beaver activity on the stream is threatening our ability to sample this stretch in the future. The riparian was very marshy to begin with and is now becoming more and more inundated with water.

Flowing Wells, 44.68989, -85.00736  
WQR: NA  
Comments: Discontinued site. Beaver activity has flooded the stretch for several years now.