

MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Monitoring Fact Sheet

Organization Name: Benzie Conservation District

Monitoring Program Name: Benzie Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

Watersheds Monitored: Platte River, Betsie River and Herring Lakes watersheds

County: Benzie County

Program Manager: John Ransom john@benziecd.org

Fact Sheet Updated: 1/27/22



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Since 2012 the Benzie Conservation District has been working with caring volunteers to help assess the quality and health the Benzie County's lotic (flowing) waters. As part of Michigan Clean Water Corps' Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP) our teams have been collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates at nine sites within the Platte, Betsie and Herring Lakes watersheds. Based on the types (taxonomic orders and families) of macroinvertebrates collected we can compute a Water Quality Rating (WQR) score for each site which will be used to track changes in water quality over time. Over the last 10 years we have discovered that most of our stream sites are in Very Good to Excellent condition. The data collected through this program provides important information for water resource managers in Benzie County.

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

of Years Monitoring: 10 years (2012-2021)

Volunteers participating annually: 30

Active Monitoring Sites: 9 (18 total Spring and Fall)

Excellent Quality Sites: 4

Very Good Quality Sites: 12

Good Quality Sites: 1

Fair Quality Sites: 1

Fairly Poor Quality Sites: 0

Poor Quality Sites: 0

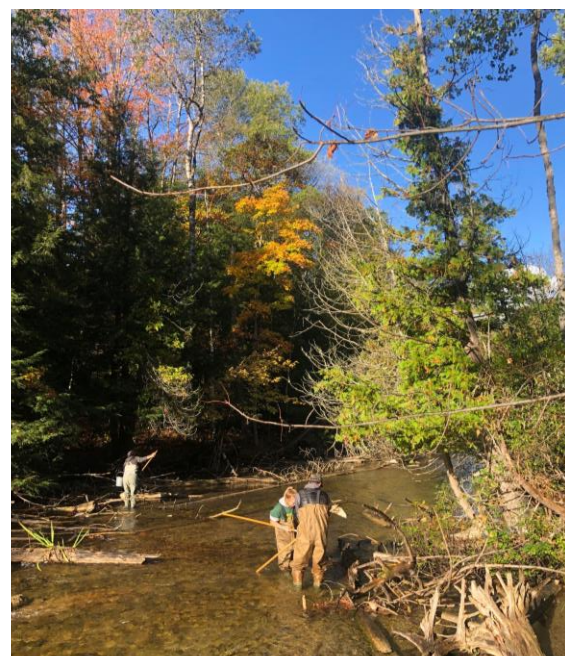
Very Poor Quality Sites: 0

Link to Monitoring Program:

<https://www.benziecd.org/volunteer-stream-monitoring-program.html>

Link to Quality Assurance Plan:

https://www.benziecd.org/uploads/1/1/5/2/11522077/qa_pp_benzie_watersheds_volunteer_stream_monitoring_



RESULTS

Spring 2021

<p>Site Name: Betsie_B1 Adams Rd 44.619016, -86.168264 WQR: Very Good (3.519) Comments: WQR is typically higher at this site in the Spring. Dominated by Baetidae and Siphonuridae mayflies.</p>
<p>Site Name: Betsie_B2 Wolf Rd 44.528670, -85.949008 WQR: Very Good (3.886) Comments: Usually the highest quality and most diverse site in the Bestie river watershed.</p>
<p>Site Name: Bestie_B3 Bently Rd (Little Betsie) 44.534694, -85.909753 WQR: Very Good 4.222 Comments: Little Betsie River, much smaller with less diverse habitat types.</p>
<p>Site Name: Platte_P1 Renyonds Rd 44.706939, -85.861776 WQR: Very Good (3.573) Comments: Slightly warmer water coming out of Lake Ann, still supports high diversity.</p>
<p>Site Name: Platte_P2 Veteran's Park 44.659345, -85.943953 WQR: Excellent (2.936) Comments: Typically the highest rated site in the county. High diversity.</p>
<p>Site Name: Platte_P3 Indian Hill Rd 44.671651, -86.039394 WQR: Excellent (1.902) Comments: Highest rating across all sites in 2021. Dominated by mayflies and caddis flies.</p>
<p>Site Name: Herring_H1 Elberta Resort Rd 44.570722, -86.205473 WQR: Very Good (4.026) Comments: High quality site with good habitat. Abundant stone flies in the Spring.</p>
<p>Site Name: Herring_H2 Swamp Rd 44.542760, -86.140242 WQR: Very Good (3.376) Comments: Small creek with good water quality. Some variability with WQR.</p>
<p>Site Name: Herring_H3 Herring Road 44.550175, -86.192806 WQR: Very Good (4.179) Comments: Very Small stream with limited habitat types. Recent culvert replacement.</p>

Fall 2021

<p>Site Name: Betsie_B1 Adams Rd 44.619016, -86.168264 WQR: Good (4.825) Comments: Tends to have lower WQR in the fall. Lower Betsie supports a large salmon run and has a lot of fishing activity.</p>
<p>Site Name: Betsie_B2 Wolf Rd 44.528670, -85.949008 WQR: Very Good (4.146) Comments: Usually the highest quality and most diverse site in the Bestie river watershed.</p>
<p>Site Name: Bestie_B3 Bently Rd (Little Betsie) 44.534694, -85.909753 WQR: Fair (5.546) Comments: Increase in lentic invertebrates affected WQR. Could be from beaver ponds upstream.</p>
<p>Site Name: Platte_P1 Renyonds Rd 44.706939, -85.861776 WQR: Very Good (3.673) Comments: Slightly warmer water coming out of Lake Ann, still supports high diversity.</p>
<p>Site Name: Platte_P2 Veteran's Park 44.659345, -85.943953 WQR: Excellent (3.473) Comments: Site has remained a high quality site. Although macroinvertebrate abundance seems to be declining.</p>
<p>Site Name: Platte_P3 Indian Hill Rd 44.671651, -86.039394 WQR: Very Good (4.492) Comments: Lower WQR in the Fall follows the typical pattern for this site.</p>
<p>Site Name: Herring_H1 Elberta Resort Rd 44.570722, -86.205473 WQR: Very Good (3.921) Comments: High quality site. Usually has a better WQR in the Fall.</p>
<p>Site Name: Herring_H2 Swamp Rd 44.542760, -86.140242 WQR: Excellent (2.941) Comments: WQR improved since the Spring. Overall improving WQR at this site.</p>
<p>Site Name: Herring_H3 Herring Road 44.550175, -86.192806 WQR: Very Good (4.255) Comments: Very Small stream with limited habitat types. Recent culvert replacement.</p>