

# MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Monitoring Fact Sheet



**Organization Name:** Manistee Conservation District

**Monitoring Program Name:** Lower Manistee River Watershed Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

**Watersheds Monitored:** Lower Manistee River Watershed

**County(ies):** Manistee, Wexford, Lake, Mason

**Program Manager:** Chelsea Cooper,  
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**Fact Sheet Updated:** 01/28/2021

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** All 9 sites were monitored both in the spring and the fall of FY21 in addition to 9 habitat assessments. All of MCD's test streams scored within the 3 highest quality tiers of the MiCorps biotic index scoring system, indicating high-quality conditions on average within our 9 test streams. The average score for 2021 was 3.6, which falls at the higher end of "very good". Because we have been collecting data on these sites since 2016, the data is no longer considered "preliminary". However, the changes to the scoring system should be considered, and this year will begin a new data set until all of our historical samples can be recounted. A full recount under the new scoring rubric will allow us to have a more comprehensive timeline of data to interpret overall results from. Differences among streams have been relatively consistent throughout the years and have increased under this more accurate method. It will be interesting to re-score our historical samples and determine if a more accurate system increases our historical ratings. For example, Fletcher Creek and Sickle Creek have increased scores since we began, but they have consistently been the two lowest scoring sites. Going forward into 2022, special attention will be focused on determining the cause for this, including inspections of localized road crossings and culverts. In addition to these areas of focus, we will also be enhancing our volunteer training techniques next year and bringing back our "Stream Team Leaders" strategy to ensure we're continuing to get the most out of this program.

## PROGRAM FAST FACTS

**# of Years Monitoring:** 6

**# Volunteers participating annually:** 18-23

**# Active Monitoring Sites:** 9 (spring/fall)

**# Excellent Quality Sites:** 9

**# Very Good Quality Sites:** 5

**# Good Quality Sites:** 3

**# Fair Quality Sites:** 0

**# Fairly Poor Quality Sites:** 0

**# Poor Quality Sites:** 0

**# Very Poor Quality Sites:** 0

**Link to Monitoring Program:**

<https://www.manisteed2.org/volunteer-stream-monitoring-program>

**Link to Quality Assurance Plan:**

<https://www.manisteed2.org/uploads/b/705b14d0->

Stream Volunteers- Fall 2021



## RESULTS:

| Site ID | Stream (Spring 2021)         | WQR | Result:   |
|---------|------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| BM01    | Adam's Creek @ 16 Rd         | 3.2 | EXCELLENT |
| BM02    | Fletcher Creek               | 4.7 | GOOD      |
| BM03    | Hinton Creek                 | 3.1 | EXCELLENT |
| BM04    | Sickle Creek                 | 4.1 | VERY GOOD |
| LM01    | Little Manistee (Downstream) | 3.0 | EXCELLENT |
| LM02    | Cool Creek                   | 3.3 | EXCELLENT |
| LM03    | Little Manistee (Upstream)   | 3.2 | EXCELLENT |
| BC01    | Bear Creek @ Leffew Rd       | 3.1 | EXCELLENT |
| BC02    | Spirit of the Woods          | 3.1 | EXCELLENT |

| Site ID | Stream (Fall 2021)           | WQR | Result:   |
|---------|------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| BM01    | Adam's Creek @ 16 Rd         | 3.4 | EXCELLENT |
| BM02    | Fletcher Creek               | 4.8 | GOOD      |
| BM03    | Hinton Creek                 | 3.3 | EXCELLENT |
| BM04    | Sickle Creek                 | 4.6 | GOOD      |
| LM01    | Little Manistee (Downstream) | 3.9 | VERY GOOD |
| LM02    | Cool Creek                   | 4.3 | VERY GOOD |
| LM03    | Little Manistee (Upstream)   | 3.4 | EXCELLENT |
| BC01    | Bear Creek @ Leffew Rd       | 4.1 | VERY GOOD |
| BC02    | Spirit of the Woods          | 3.7 | VERY GOOD |

## HABITAT ASSESSMENTS:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>BM01</b> | This site has channeled a bit at transect #1 since 2016 but has stayed relatively the same depth and width through our sample stretch. Sand has increased in some parts of the substrate.  |
| <b>BM02</b> | This site has widened at transect #2 but has channeled at transect #3. Previous beaver dam has been removed but flow is still stagnant in some places within the sample stretch. Odd, concentrated color observed in stagnant areas- specifically ones near the adjacent road crossing. Depth has remained comparable. The stream needs extra attention going forward as it's consistently our lowest rated stream. Will inspect road crossing upon next visit to determine source of degradation. |
| <b>BM03</b> | Stream width increased quite substantially at transect #1 but depth remained comparable. Substrate has changed most notably in transect #1 where we observed the increase in stream width- some areas that were dominated by sand are now a cobble/gravel mix.   |
| <b>BM04</b> | This stream has also widened quite substantially throughout sample stretch, but depth has remained comparable.   |
| <b>LM01</b> | Transect #1 could not be measured in 2021 due to treacherous conditions (flow, turbidity). Depth and width of this stream showed no notable changes.   |
| <b>LM02</b> | Width has decreased and depth has increased overall within our 300' section. Substrate has remained comparable. Culvert at this location could be causing this channelization.   |
| <b>LM03</b> | Only significant change was some observed erosion on left bank at transect #1 (facing upstream).   |
| <b>BC01</b> | Treacherous clay conditions in portions of this site. Only observed change in stream terrain was erosion on right stream bank (facing upstream) at transect #2.  |
| <b>BC02</b> | Transect #3 was too deep to be sampled in 2016. Notable changes as follows: transect #3 was a navigable depth during 2021 measurement, evidence of channelization and erosion of right bank at transect #2 (facing upstream).  |

\*1 transect equals 100 ft. There are 300 total feet (or 3 transects) assessed at each stream.