

## MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Monitoring Fact Sheet

**Organization Name:**

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay

**Monitoring Program Name:**

Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Adopt-A-Stream

**Watersheds Monitored:**

Various streams in Grand Traverse Bay Watershed

**County(ies):** Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Antrim, Kalkaska

**Program Manager:**

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**Fact Sheet Updated:** January 1, 2022

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) is a volunteer stream monitoring program housed at The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay. Twice a year, AAS volunteers use Michigan Clean Water Corps protocols to conduct a macroinvertebrate biotic index and associated habitat assessment. This program generates high quality, reputable data for streams that are, in many cases, otherwise left unmonitored. The Watershed Center and partner organizations use AAS data to establish water quality baselines, flag issues, support advocacy messages, and assess restoration projects. State water resource professionals use AAS data to evaluate streams and identify priority sites needing further assessment. The program simultaneously provides citizens with an opportunity to learn about freshwater science and cultivates a sense of freshwater stewardship in program participants.

**PROGRAM FAST FACTS**

**# of Years Monitoring: 16**

**# Volunteers participating annually: 60-80**

**# Active Monitoring Sites:**

**# Excellent Quality Sites: 2**

**# Very Good Quality Sites:**

**# Good Quality Sites: 8**

**# Fair Quality Sites: 12**

**# Fairly Poor Quality Sites: 0**

**# Poor Quality Sites: 1**

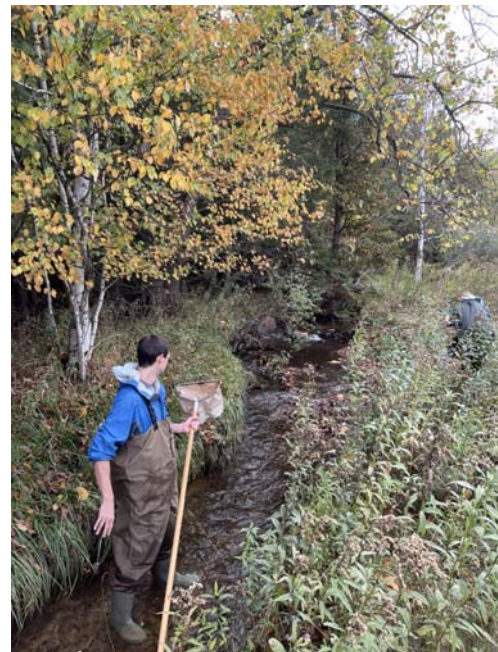
**# Very Poor Quality Sites: 0**

**Link to Monitoring Program:**

[Adopt-A-Stream - The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay \(gtbay.org\)](http://Adopt-A-Stream - The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (gtbay.org))

**Link to Quality Assurance Plan:**

[AAS QAPP](#)



## RESULTS

### Spring 2021

#### **Yuba Creek D/S of US-31**

WQR: 39 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: The Yuba Creek watershed is dominated by agriculture and traditionally scores poor in macroinvertebrate diversity and abundance. However, this site is surrounded by forest and has adequate in-stream habitat.

#### **Rapid River at 7 Bridges Natural Area**

WQR: 37 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: This is the only site still monitored on the Rapid River (used to be two additional sites). Downstream sections of Rapid River have been plagued with sedimentation. This particular section is upstream of impacted areas and serves as a reference site.

#### **South Branch Boardman River U/S of Boardman River Rd**

WQR: 39 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: This site is one of two sites monitored on the South Branch of the Boardman River. It's a highly valued trout fishing stream and has generally high invertebrate scores.

#### **Miller Creek at the Miller Creek Reserve (at Footbridge)**

WQR: 37 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: Miller Creek is a tributary of the Boardman River that runs through the urbanized area of Garfield Township (greater Grand Traverse Area), though is generally high quality as much of its watershed is in a preserve.

#### **Leo Creek at Leo Creek Preserve, U/S of TART Trail**

WQR: 26 (former BI) - FAIR

Comments: This is the only site monitored on Leo Creek. The watershed has a number of forested wetland parcels for sale and the development pressure in the area is increasing.

#### **Kids Creek Trib AA ~200ft U/S of Elmwood Ave**

WQR: 40 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: This site received unpermitted hot, chlorinated water discharge for many years. This discharge has since stopped and the macroinvertebrate community has recovered beautifully from the contamination. TWC continues to use this site as a training location due to its accessibility, scenic beauty, and macroinvertebrates.

### Fall 2021

#### **North Branch Boardman River D/S Broomhead Rd**

WQR: 3.47 (56 with former BI) - EXCELLENT

Comments: This is one of the sites where we've implemented the new BI. We have partners interested in monitoring results at this site due to a replaced culvert.

#### **West Branch Four Mile Creek U/S of Vanderlip Rd**

WQR: 34 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: This is a tributary of Mitchell Creek. There is immense development pressure in the watershed and we hope to establish baseline data at this site to watch for changes over time.

#### **Water Wheel Park Creek U/S of Wheel**

WQR: 34 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: Water Wheel Park Creek is a small tributary that runs through the Village of Suttons Bay. This site has been monitored for about ten years. The Village has expressed interest in removing the wheel.

#### **Kids Creek D/S of Silver Lake Rd**

WQR: 32 (former BI) - FAIR

Comments: This is one of six actively monitored sites on Kids Creek. This particular section is impaired due to a poor macroinvertebrate community and we've been working for nearly 15 years to restore habitat and improve water quality.

#### **East Creek at East Creek Reserve**

WQR: 40 (former BI) - GOOD

Comments: A tributary to the Boardman River; the watershed to this tributary is mostly undeveloped with some agriculture.

#### **Mitchell Creek at Refefit Nature Preserve (U/S of TART Trail)**

WQR: 49 (former BI) - EXCELLENT

Comments: This is another impaired stream; though the impairment is from bacterial contamination. The macroinvertebrate community typically scores in the "good" category so this score is somewhat of a surprise. The watershed itself contains a lot of agriculture and development pressure/urban sprawl has increased in recent years.