

5 Chilson Creek at Chilson Road

Adopt-a-Stream Site Report

— Updated July 2021 —



Site Condition: **GOOD**

In terms of overall water and habitat quality, this site has above average when compared to streams across the Huron River Watershed. The water is clean and cool and the stream banks, streambed, and streamside vegetation are healthy. However, the sensitive insects are declining, like many locations in Livingston County, as urban sprawl continues.



Photo credit: HRWC

Sampling Experience

Site Access: **EASY**

Park on side of road. Site starts immediately.

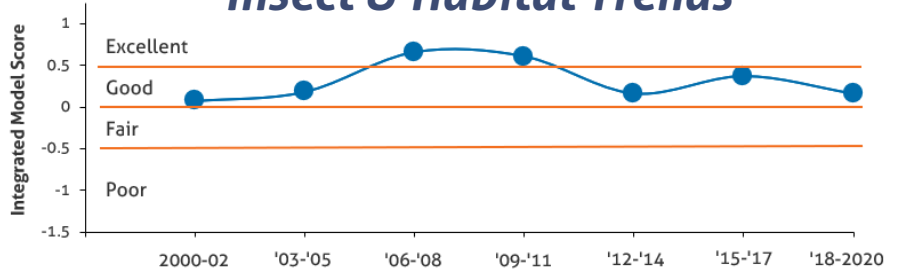
Team Operations: **MODERATE**

Area is wooded, making a team location difficult.

Collection: **EASY**

Gravel substrate and generally shallow waters make this an easy place to sample.

Insect & Habitat Trends



Monitoring Data

		2000 - 2009	2010 - 2019	2020 - 2030
Number of Site Visits	Fall	5	5	0
	Spring	7	8	0
	Winter	8	8	0
Average Insect Diversity		13.13	13.23	-
Average Sensitive Diversity		2.88	2.23	-
Average Winter Stonefly Families		1.75	1.88	-
Habitat	# of Surveys	2 (2001, 2007)	2 (2011, 2016)	0
	Summer Water T (F)	64.4 - 74.15 (2000)	62 - 75 (2010)	-
	Stream Width (ft)	9.42	10.80	-
	% Big Rocks	2.0	9.53	-
	% Rocks & Gravel	33	26.98	-
	% Sand	60.0	45.85	-
	% Muck	4.5	13.1	-

Measuring Stream Quality

Why bugs?

When a stream is rich in habitat variety, it will have many diverse kinds of bugs (called families). Some bugs (known as "sensitive") can only live in good quality streams. Thus, streams with sensitive families have the clean water and good habitat required by those bugs to survive.



Chilson Creekshed

Adopt-a-Stream Creekshed Profile

— Updated April 2021 —



Creekshed Profile

Chilson creekshed is one of the smaller major drainages in the Huron River, draining only 17 square miles. Development consists mostly of single family homes, many clustered around the region's lakes. There are 13 lakes in the creekshed, including East and West Crooked Lake, the dammed Lower and Upper Chilson Ponds, and Bishop Lake which is located in Brighton Recreation Area. Chilson Creek eventually empties into Zukey Lake.

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Water Quality Parameters Grade

75-100	Healthy to Pristine	Land Use	B
		Natural Areas	B
50-74	Slightly Impacted	Stream Flow	Unknown
		Stream Habitat	B
25-49	Highly Impacted	Macroinvertebrates	C
		Fish Community	Unknown
0-24	Extremely Disturbed	Phosphorus	A
		E. coli	Unknown
		Total Suspended Solids	A
		Stream Temperature	A
		Conductivity	A
		Dams	F
		Contaminants	B

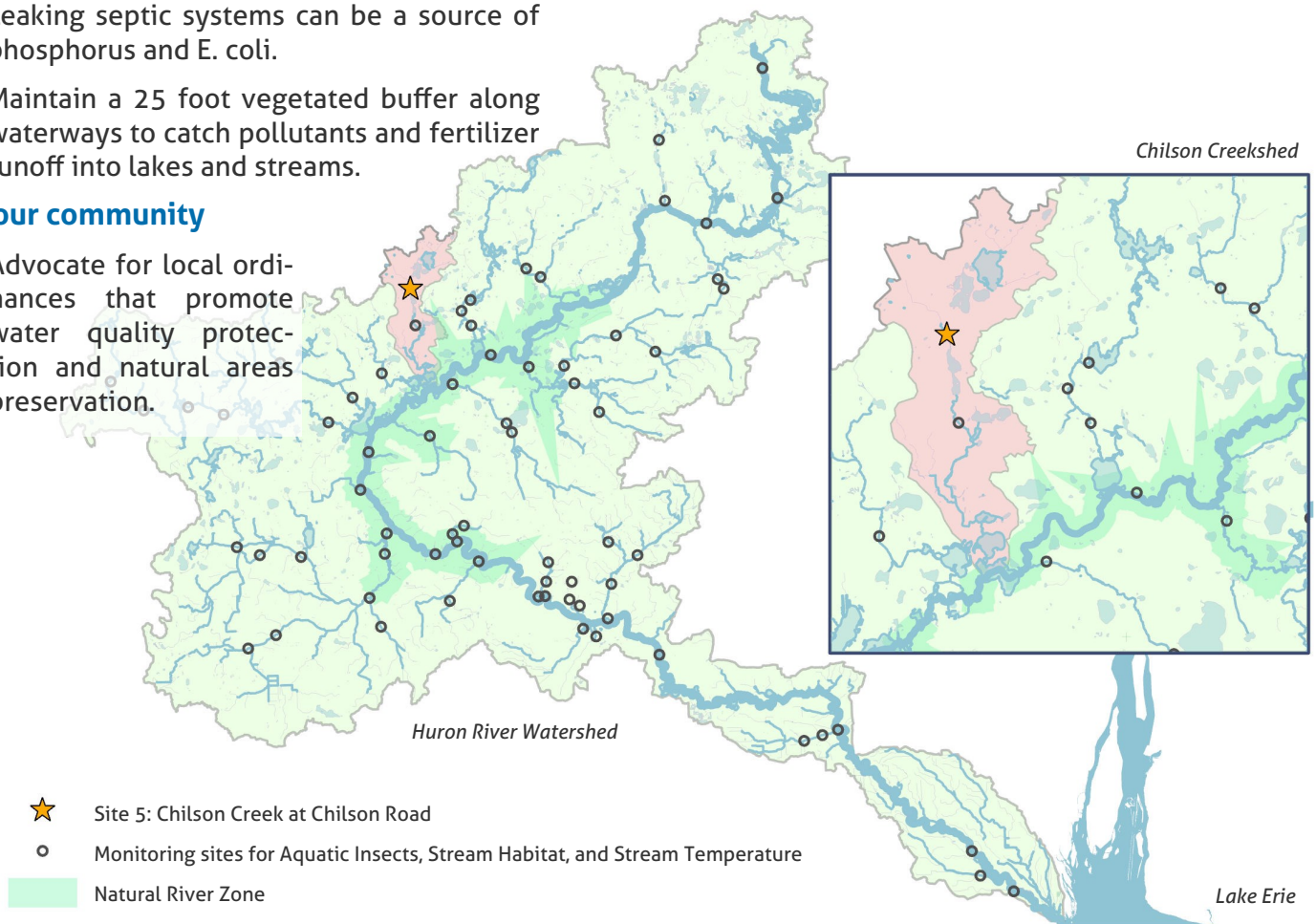
What You Can Do!

At home

- Have your septic system checked regularly. Leaking septic systems can be a source of phosphorus and E. coli.
- Maintain a 25 foot vegetated buffer along waterways to catch pollutants and fertilizer runoff into lakes and streams.

In your community

- Advocate for local ordinances that promote water quality protection and natural areas preservation.



- ★ Site 5: Chilson Creek at Chilson Road
- Monitoring sites for Aquatic Insects, Stream Habitat, and Stream Temperature
- Natural River Zone

Lake Erie