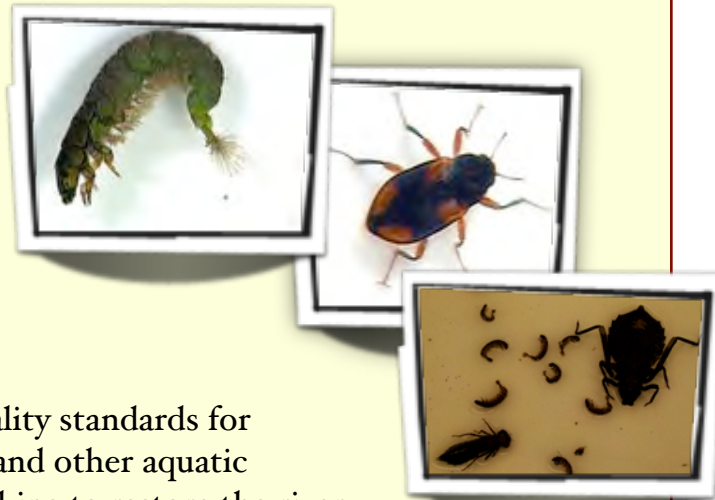


What is Adopt-A-Stream?

Adopt-A-Stream is a program where volunteers monitor water quality, describe the habitat in and around the river, and collect “benthic macroinvertebrates” to track the health of the river system.

What’s a “Benthic Macroinvertebrate?”

Benthic means “bottom,” “macro” means large (at least large enough to see without a microscope), and “invertebrates” are animals with no backbones. So, we’re talking about things like snails, clams, insects, worms, and crayfish. “Bugs” for short.



Why Do We Do Adopt-A-Stream?

Parts of the Upper Grand River fail to meet water quality standards for *E. coli* bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and the support of fish and other aquatic animals. Numerous individuals and organizations are working to restore the river and Adopt-A-Stream volunteers help to both identify where work should be targeted and to track progress.

Because Michigan has so many rivers, the Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is only able to monitor the Grand River every 5 years. Even then, budget constraints limit the number of sites they sample. The data you collect as Adopt-A-Stream volunteers help provide greater watershed coverage and fill in the gaps to establish trends.

