

# The EARLY ADOPTER

## Spring Collection Results



**Thank You  
To All Of Our  
Volunteers!**

**The Adopt-A-  
Stream Program  
depends on the  
help of volunteers.**

**Thanks for joining  
us this Spring!**

**Casey Abbott  
Mike Adriaansen  
Mike Burtch  
Niki Dailey  
Leslie Elizalde  
Rich Farero  
Abby & Lori  
Fitzgibbons  
Jeff Grund  
Jeff Heston  
Kenny Price  
Josiah Rentschler  
Douglas & Tami  
Shaw  
Tia & David  
Wysocki**

Overall the spring data shows the Upper Grand River water quality is improving. According to the MiCorps scoring system, three sites achieved “Excellent” ratings this spring (compared to only two in the fall). Although this may be partially due to our improved collecting skills, it still indicates portions of the watershed are healthy.

Stoneflies were not found in the fall, but during the spring collection stoneflies were found at multiple sites. Some sites (Sandstone Creek at Minard Mills Park, Springbrook at Robbins Road and Sandstone Creek at Kate Palmer Sanctuary) had more than one family of stoneflies present. Stoneflies are important because they are sensitive to pollution and their presence indicates that those areas of the river are doing well.

Although the Grand River at Onondaga scores are low, this may be attributed to the higher water levels in the watershed this spring. The higher water made this site more difficult to access and monitor.

Scores and ratings in Table 1 below present two different ways of analyzing the data. Procedure 51 scores follow the methodology used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (MDNRE); MiCorps scores follow the Michigan Clean Water Corps methods. The two scoring systems stress different measures, so they yield somewhat different ratings. The number of different families (taxa), their oxygen requirements and sensitivity to pollution, and whether one or a few taxa dominate the collection are some of the metrics used to determine the scores.

**Table 1. Spring 2010 Upper Grand River Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring Results**

Map Site #	Site Location	# of Sensitive Taxa	# of Total Taxa (Species Richness)	MDEQ Proc. 51 Rating	MiCorps Rating
1	Springbrook @ Robbins Road	5	26	Acceptable	Excellent
2	Grand River @ Onondaga ( Baldwin Park)	0	9	Poor	Fair
3	Sandstone Creek @ Springport Road (Minard Mills Park)	5	25	Acceptable	Excellent
4	Sandstone Creek @ McCain Road (Kate Palmer Sanctuary)	8	28	Excellent	Excellent
5	Portage River @ Wooster Road (Haenle Sanctuary)	3	17	Acceptable	Good
6	Grand River @ High Street (west crossing)	2	18	Acceptable	Good
8	Sharp Creek @ Wickwire Road (Dahlem Center Farm)	2	17	Acceptable	Good
9	Huntoon Creek @ Bellevue Road	1	10	Acceptable	Fair

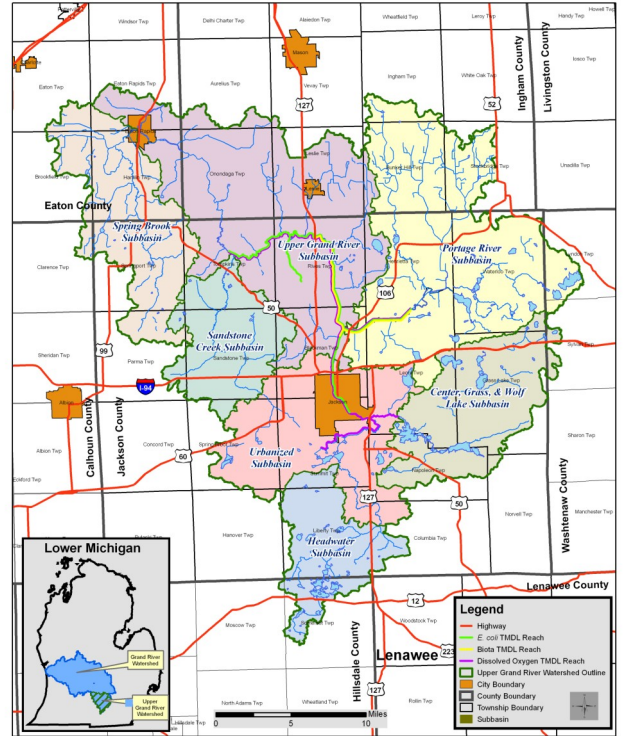
**What is Adopt-A-Stream?**

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



**What is a “Benthic Macroinvertebrate”?**

Benthic means “bottom”, “macro” means large (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.



Upper Grand River Watershed  
 Data from the Michigan Center for Geographic Information  
 Funded in part by the Michigan DCEs  
 Nonpoint Source Program under project 2005-012



**Upper Grand River  
 Film Festival  
 CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Want to be a famous director? Here’s your chance! The Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance is hosting a contest for Public Service Announcements and short educational films about water stewardship. Films can cover any aspect of water quality and watershed protection—get outdoors and get creative! Submit your film in one of these categories:

- ◆ 30-second PSAs
- ◆ Short Film (< 5 min.)—Adults
- ◆ Short Film (< 5 min.)—Youth, *Elementary-High School*

Films must be submitted by November 30, 2010. Winners will be shown at the Michigan Theatre in downtown Jackson in February 2011! Visit [www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org) for details and entry forms.



## Upcoming Watershed Events

### Summer Adopt-A-Stream Event Habitat Day

In August we will be conducting the habitat assessment portion of the Adopt-A-Stream program. We won't be collecting any bugs at this event, but we will still need volunteers to make and record observations of the conditions of sites along the Upper Grand River. We will be collecting data on things like stream depth, stream flow, erosion, plants and overall habitat quality.

Habitat Day will be a one day event. Volunteers will meet at The Dahlem Center for training, which will be followed by lunch. Lunch will be provided to volunteers that RSVP by Monday August 16th. After lunch, we will break into teams and complete habitat assessments along different stretches of the river.

Please contact Alison Rauss at the Jackson County Conservation District if you are interested in volunteering for any of these upcoming Adopt-A-Stream events:  
(517)784-2800 Ext. 5 or [alison.rauss@macd.org](mailto:alison.rauss@macd.org)



#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday August 28, 2010**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Habitat Day**

Meet at The Dahlem Center

7117 South Jackson Road, Jackson

Please RSVP by Monday August 16th

**Thursday September 16, 2010**

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Adopt-A-Stream New Volunteer Training**

Meet at The Dahlem Center

7117 South Jackson Road, Jackson

Please RSVP by Monday September 13th

**Saturday October 2, 2010**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Fall Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day**

Meet at The Dahlem Center

7117 South Jackson Road, Jackson

Please RSVP by Monday September 27th

**Tuesday October 5, 2010 (tentative date)**

5:30 - 8:30 pm

**Bug ID Night**

Jackson County Community College

McDivitt Hall (Room tba)

2111 Emmons Road, Jackson

Please RSVP by Monday October 4th



## GREAT Grand River Clean-up

**Saturday September 11, 2010**

9:00 am—2:00 pm

**Join GREAT on their Annual Grand River Clean-up!**

Meet at the CMS Energy Band shell off Cooper St. in downtown Jackson. You may bring your own canoe, but no kayaks. GREAT canoes will also be available. Lunch will be provided at The Elks Club.

For more information visit [www.great-mi.org](http://www.great-mi.org) or contact GREAT at (417)416-4234

## Upper Grand River Adopt-A-Stream

The Upper Grand River Adopt-A-Stream Program is a partnership between the Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD), The Dahlem Conservancy, The Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, the Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT), the Jackson Urban Area MS4 Communities, ASTI Environmental and volunteers throughout the Watershed.

Funding for the program is provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment through the Upper Grand River Implementation Project (UGRIP), by the Jackson Area Storm Water Committee, and a grant through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps).



Jackson County Conservation District  
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If you have any questions, or are interested in volunteering, please contact the Adopt-A-Stream Staff.

### Adopt-A-Stream Program Staff

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