

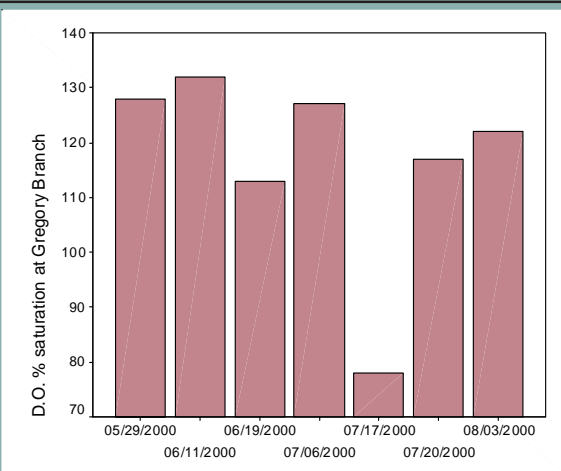
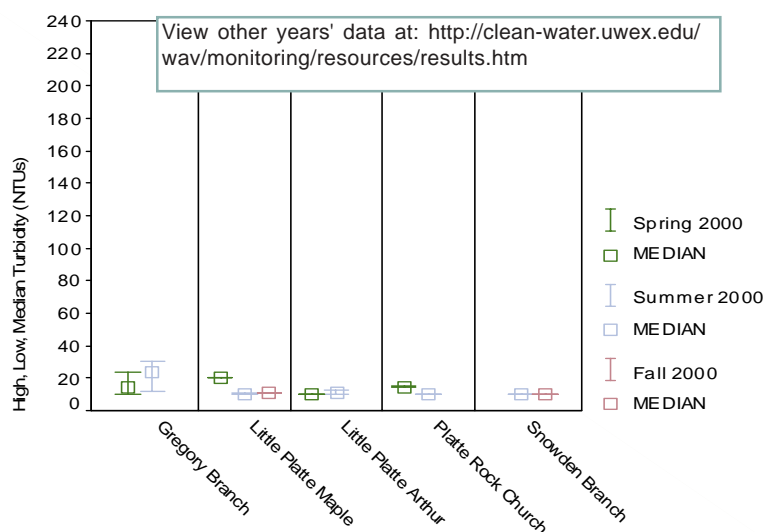
Turbidity

Turbidity was measured monthly. In the chart below data were compiled to show low, median and high turbidity values at each site for year 2000 sampling (other years' data are available for viewing online at: the web address shown on the chart). Sites are on the horizontal axis while turbidity (NTUs) is plotted on the vertical axis.

Between 2000 and 2003, turbidity was most often <10 NTUs (plotted as 10 NTUs for graphical purposes), which indicates those sites had good water clarity, with no negative effects on aquatic life.

Within the four year time period, only four monitoring visits found turbidity values that exceeded 85 NTUs*. These were at both sites on the Little Platte River, Rountree RR, and at Snowden Branch. The turbidity was only >240 NTUs at Little Platte Arthur and Snowden Branch when it was raining during spring 2002. Prolonged turbidity levels of this magnitude can have a negative effect on aquatic life.

Fish begin to show signs of stress when turbidity is



Dissolved Oxygen

At Gregory Br. D.O. was always monitored mid-afternoon, except July 17, 2000, when it was tested at 5:30 A.M. Because D.O. varies daily, based on such factors as sunlight and temperature, it is expected to be lowest just before sunrise. The results in the chart give a glimpse into the daily D.O. range in this stream.

>10 NTUs and up to 100 NTUs when such levels persist for a number of hours. When turbidity exceeds 100 NTUs for hours or days fish can experience increased respiration,

cover abandonment, or reduced feeding. The fact that it was raining when highest turbidity values were recorded suggests that streamflow and erosion were affecting turbidity (and not, say, something such as construction near the streams). A next step might be to investigate sources of and ways to mitigate areas where erosion is occurring. Additional monitoring to assess how long turbidity values stay elevated following a storm event is also an important next step.

*Monitoring may not have been conducted at times when turbidity was high at other sites.

Citizen Stream Monitoring Data Summary



Grant-Platte River Basin 2000-2003

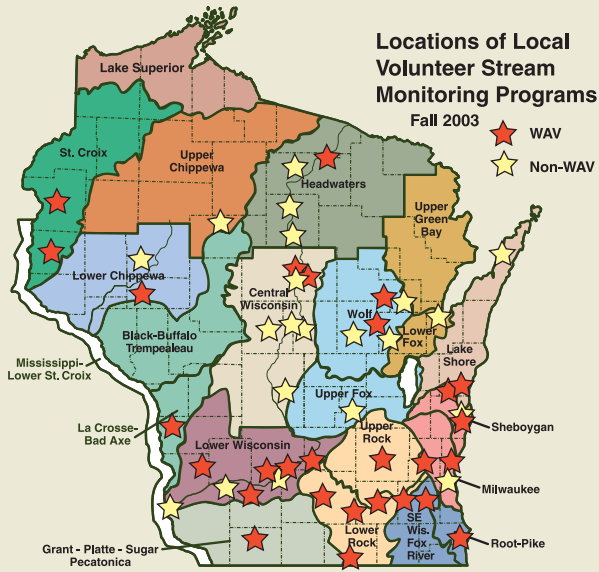
Compiled as part of the University of Wisconsin-Extension's and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Water Action Volunteers' Stream Monitoring Program

Water Action Volunteers



UW Extension

For more information about the monitoring and data described in this brochure contact Kris Stepenuck, WAV coordinator at 608-265-3887 or Nohr Network of Monitors' Coordinators: Peggy Compton (608-342-1633) or Dave Fritz (608-943-8454) or visit the WAV website at: <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav>



Extent of Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Wisconsin

Across Wisconsin citizens are monitoring water quality in wadable streams using Water Action Volunteers' (WAV) methods. As of November 2003, over 250 monitoring sites were registered in the statewide database. The map above shows locations of local stream monitoring programs including both WAV and non-WAV efforts.

WAV program volunteers monitor in at least 26 counties, and have collected data on nearly 2000 days.

The volunteers are led by local program coordinators who organize training and educational events, enter data to the statewide database, and interact regularly with local volunteers. In the Grant-Platte Basin of southwestern WI, Peggy Compton and Dave Fritz head up the Nohr Network of Monitors.

Grant-Platte Basin Monitoring Sites

In the Grant and Platte Rivers' Basin, 8 streams and eleven sites were monitored between 2000 and 2003.



1. Blockhouse Creek at Cty O
2. Gregory Branch off Cty F Little Platte River (2):
3. upstream from Arthur WI
4. upstream from Maple Ridge Rd
5. McPherson Cr., up Airport Rd Platte River (2):
6. at Annaton Rd bridge
7. downstream Rock Church Rd Rountree Branch (2):
8. at railroad trestle bridge
9. at Southwest Road
10. Snowden Branch, upstream from Big Patch Road
11. Unnamed Cr. at Compton's

At the more southern sites, good quality ratings were found, with very high 'fair' ratings or good ratings during each of 3 visits at both Blockhouse Creek and Rountree Br. at Southwest Road.

Habitat

Habitat assessment scores are marked on the map below in the black rectangles. Scores ranged from 28 to 46. Habitat scores can range between 13 and 52. Because watershed specific characteristics (e.g., land slope, soils) can affect the score, it's best to compare scores year to year within a watershed. Thus, the scores below give a basis of habitat quality at the site that may be used in the future.

Biotic Index Score Definitions

3.6 and up:	Excellent
2.6-3.5:	Good
2.1-2.5:	Fair
1.0-2.0:	Poor

Biotic Index

Biotic Index scores are based on macro-invertebrates' tolerance to varied oxygen levels in the water. The scores range from 1 to 3.6 or greater, and a stream is assigned a water quality health rating based on its score. Ratings range from poor to excellent (see box at right).

The map to the right shows sampling sites monitored in the Grant-Platte Basin between 2000 and 2003. The sites are marked with pink dots. B.I. water quality ratings are marked in green or yellow ovals.

Over the four year sampling period, scores ranged from 1.7 (Nov '01) to 2.7 (Oct '00); Both scores were found at Snowden Br. Most B.I. scores in the Basin indicated fair water quality conditions.

