

Fish Creek Watershed Study Annual Report-for the Year 2016

Vision: *To have and maintain a healthy stream ecosystem that supports both the environmental and economic interest of the community.*

The Fish Creek Watershed Study began in 1998 on behalf of the Town of Gibraltar and the community of Fish Creek, and has been active each year since. It has twice been the recipient of the University of Wisconsin-Extension's Volunteer Stream Monitoring Award thanks to the dedicated work of many volunteers.

Town of Gibraltar - 20 Year Comprehensive Plan (2004):

Chapter 1 – Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Goal 1: The Town of Gibraltar's natural areas and resources – land, water and air, as well as plant and animal life and habitat – are preserved, protected, conserved, restored, enhanced and maintained for future generations.

Objective 1.2: Preserve and protect the quality of ground and surface waters within the Town.

Objective 1.2i: Continue monitoring and collecting data on Fish Creek, its watershed and Fish Creek Harbor.

The Fish Creek Watershed Study was designed to establish physical, chemical and biological baselines. Monthly field testing and periodic sampling results are then compared to the body of baseline data for the purpose of detecting changes in the water quality over time. The data can be used not only to improve the surface waters of the creek but the quality of the ground water beneath it and the surface waters of Fish Creek Harbor.

Lab Tested Grab Samples for 2016 – Town Funded

- Hwy Bridge Site was sampled twice – April snowmelt, June rainfall, Sept. dry
- South (west) headwaters was sampled twice – April snowmelt, June rainfall
- Samples from each site were sent to Northern Lake Service, Inc. Crandon, to test for Alkalinity (total), Conductivity, Ammonia (NH₃), Nitrate + Nitrite, Kjeldahl TKN (nitrogen) and Phosphorus
- Also sent to Analytichem Laboratory Services, Luxemburg, to test for Total Coliform & E Coli
- Field tests for clarity, transparency, pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen were also done at the same time as the grab samples
- All work done by volunteers

Field Testing for 2016 – DNR Water Action Volunteers (WAV) - Hwy 42 Bridge Site

- Field testing was done monthly at the Hwy 42 Bridge Site
- Field tests performed each month – clarity, transparency, pH and dissolved oxygen
- Data was entered into DNR SWIMS data bank. To view the WAV data we collected go to:
<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level2/reportsbycounty/index.html>

On the map of Wisconsin, click on Door Co. then click on Fish Creek - 2016

- A device called a thermistor, provided by the DNR, was placed in the creek to record the temperature of the water 24/7.
- All work was done by volunteers.

Goals for 2017

- Continue to monitor Fish Creek according to current guidelines
- Assist in creating a plan for Fish Creek and its Watershed that would: 1) provide for the improvement of the overall health of the creek and its watershed; 2) outline best practices for maintaining and protecting the creek and its watershed into the future, 3) update guidelines for the Fish Creek Watershed Study

The Fish Creek Watershed volunteers would like to thank the Gibraltar Town Board for their continued support of our work in maintaining quality ground and surface water in the Town of Gibraltar for both present and future generations.

We would also like to thank all the many volunteers that have given their time over the years to monitor the health of our ground and surface water in the Town of Gibraltar.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Fish Creek Watershed Study or would like to become a volunteer can contact Linda Merline at 920-868-3453.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Merline, Volunteer Coordinator
Fish Creek Watershed Study - April 12, 2017

