



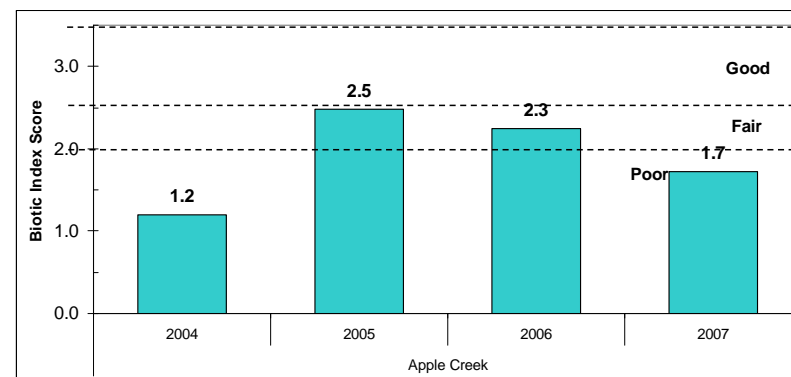
Apple Creek Habitat Quality

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Biotic Index of Apple Creek

Apple Creek has had fair to poor biotic index scores for the last few years, and is currently declining. One hypothesis for why this is happening is that in our French Rd. site, the people living next to the stream are quite fond of building rock dams across Apple Creek. When the new houses were being built, we noticed a lot of construction material lying in and around the stream, and afterwards when the dams started appearing, we would toss them apart, but eventually gave up as the inhabitants would decide how the stream would be, whether we liked it or not.



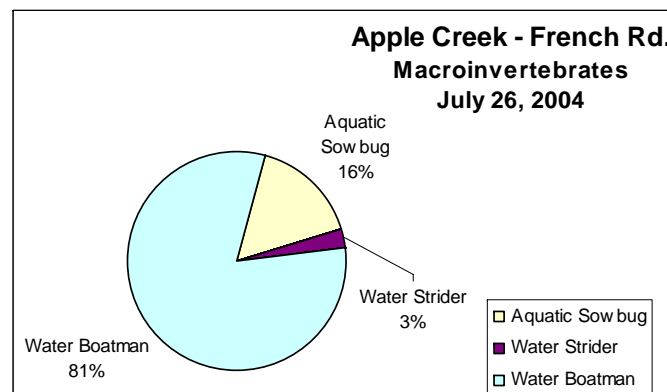
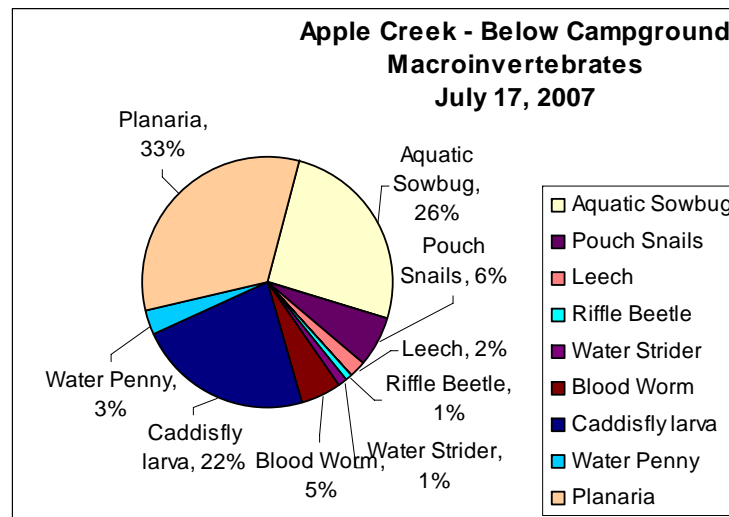
Below Campground Quality

The Apple Creek – Below Campground site has decent biodiversity, with nine different species of macroinvertebrates. Many of these species' existence in the Apple Creek – Below Campground site, such as the caddisfly and blood worm, indicate that this site has good water quality.



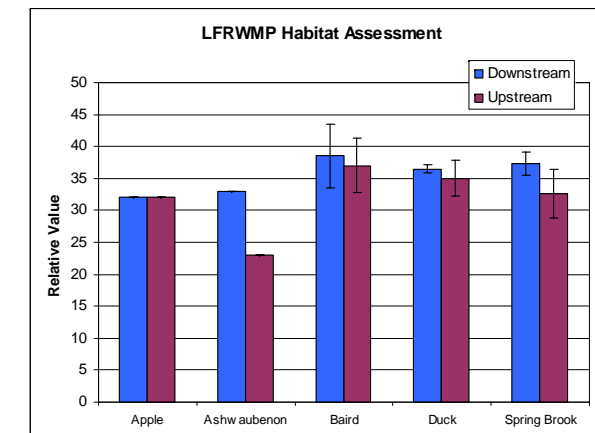
Nutrients Overview

The nutritional state of Apple Creek is below average, but not horrible. It fluctuates over time due to nearby agriculture, and the recent construction of a suburb. When testing for nutrients, we have gotten extremely out of range results, probably from agricultural runoff, or goose feces. Also, in the Ammonia Nitrate test, we have found that the supposedly distilled water is rarely pure enough to produce valuable data.



Habitat Assessment

The Habitat Assessment of Apple Creek shows that its nutritional state is not completely bad, but it is not exceptionally good either. Just within all of the creeks, Apple is second to last in both of its scores, though not by much. The French Road site has many feet of silt/muck as its bottom, which leads to sinking in up to your knees unless you stand on rocks. There are no aquatic plants on the bottom of the stream, without any aquatic structures other than the rock bridges that people living near the stream made. The water level is very low for most of the year, around six inches.



French Rd. Quality

The Apple Creek – French Rd. site has very limited biodiversity, with only three macroinvertebrates found. In addition, the Water Boatman, Aquatic Sowbug, and Water Strider are all very hardy creatures, and do not show that the habitat in this site is very healthy.

