

Watershed Management Plan

Hunnicutt Creek

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County

December 2010

Department of Transportation and Public Works
120 West Dougherty Street
Athens, GA 30603

Contents

Chapter 1	Introduction
	1.1 Purpose of Hunnicutt Creek Watershed Management Plan
	1.2 Outline of Hunnicutt WMP
	1.3 Snapshot of Hunnicutt Creek
Chapter 2	Methodology
Chapter 3	Current Conditions in Hunnicutt Creek
	3.1 Physical Stream Assessment
	3.1.1 Stream Walk Assessment Method and Scores
	3.1.2 Hunnicutt Creek Stream Bed, Banks, and Buffers
	3.1.3 Potential Stressors Effecting Hunnicutt Creek's Stream Assessment Scores
	3.2 Biological Stream Assessment
	3.2.1 How Macroinvertebrates Are Indicators of Stream Health
	3.2.2 Macroinvertebrate Collection and Scoring Method
	3.2.3 Biological Score Results for Hunnicutt Creek
	3.2.4 Potential Stressors Effecting Hunnicutt Creek's Biological Score
	3.3 Water Quality Data
	3.3.1 Why Sample?
	3.3.2 Three Water Quality Sampling Methods
	3.3.3 Water Quality Data for Hunnicutt Creek
	3.3.4 Potential Stressors Effecting Hunnicutt Creek's Water Quality
	3.4 Conceptual Model of Hunnicutt Creek Conditions and Concerns
Chapter 4	Hunnicutt Creek Watershed Management Plan
	4.1 Summary of Management Needs
	4.2 Hunnicutt Creek Best Management Practices to Achieve Goals and Objectives
	4.2.1 Centralized BMPs
	4.2.2 Distributed BMPs
	4.2.3 Stream Channel Restoration
	4.2.4 Sewer Line Maintenance/Replacement
	4.2.5 Streambank/Riparian Area
	4.2.6 Citizen Education
	4.2.7 Other BMPs
	4.3 Evaluation and Location of BMP Priority Areas
	4.4 Estimated Load Reductions of Best Management Practices
	4.4.1 Characteristics of the Management Plan Strategy
	4.4.2 Modeling and Assessment Approach
	4.4.3 Modeling Results
	4.5 Implementation Cost and Schedule
	4.6 Evaluation Methods for Measuring Success
	4.6.1 Quantitative Evaluation Techniques

4.6.2 Qualitative Evaluation Techniques

Appendix of Charts and Data

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Hunnicutt Creek Watershed Management Plan

The Hunnicutt Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is part of an effort undertaken by Athens-Clarke County Stormwater to address stream health throughout the county. The primary purpose of the Hunnicutt Creek Watershed Management Plan is to guide County staff, elected officials, community organizations, and the citizenry to protect and where needed restore the beauty and function of the watershed. The plan is intended to be a practical tool with specific recommendations on practices to improve and sustain a healthy, productive environment. Hunnicutt Creek is listed on the federal 303(d) list of impaired streams due to fecal coliform contamination and thus part of the management strategies in this plan will seek to address this concern and ultimately allow for removal of the stream from the 303(d) list.

1.2 Outline of Hunnicutt Creek WMP

The plan consists of the following pieces:

- **Chapter 1** provides an introduction including the purpose and an outline of the Hunnicutt Creek WMP. It also provides a brief description of the watershed including its physical boundaries and landmarks found within the drainage area.
- **Chapter 2** describes briefly the methodology that was used in assessing the watershed's health.
- **Chapter 3** presents the current conditions of Hunnicutt Creek including its physical, biological, and water quality conditions. It describes the potential stressors effecting Hunnicutt Creek.
- **Chapter 4** explains the watershed management plan, a summary of the management needs, the BMPs to be used, estimated load reductions, and implementation schedule and cost assessment, and evaluation methods.
- **Appendix** provides the stream assessment data including physical, biological, and water quality data.

1.3 Snapshot of Hunnicutt Creek

The Hunnicutt Creek Drainage Basin (HCDB), as shown in Figure 1.3.1, lies just west of the center of Athens-Clarke County and is roughly in the shape of a triangle pointing north. It has a land area of 2.67 square miles. Jefferson Road forms the border on the east and Whitehead Road roughly traces along its western boundary. You'll find the Breckenridge neighborhood and Mill Creek at the southern end of the basin. The headwaters of Hunnicutt Creek, as shown in Figure 1.3.2, are approximately 800 feet southwest of Jefferson Road / Highway 129. Hunnicutt Creek discharges into the Middle Oconee River approximately 350 feet north of Mitchell Bridge Road. All of the land in this area drains into the Middle Oconee River before eventually flowing into the Oconee River, which is the source of our local drinking water.

Most of the land in this drainage basin is used for residential homes; also present are recreational areas, commercial areas, and transportation corridors. Neighborhoods located here include Homewood Hills, Tallassee Station, Putter's, Hawthorne Park, Bowden Park, Elder, Moss Side, and the Cottages at

Homewood. Bishop Park and parts of Ben Burton Park are located here, as well as a 1.6 mile section of loop 10. Other areas within the watershed include Oglethorpe Avenue between Hawthorne and Loop 10, commercial areas, the YMCA along Hawthorne Ave, and properties west of Sunset Ave between Oglethorpe and Prince Avenue. Figure 1.3.3 provides a bird's-eye view of these locations within HCDB.

Figure 1.3.1: Location of Hunnicutt Creek Drainage Basin in Athens-Clarke County

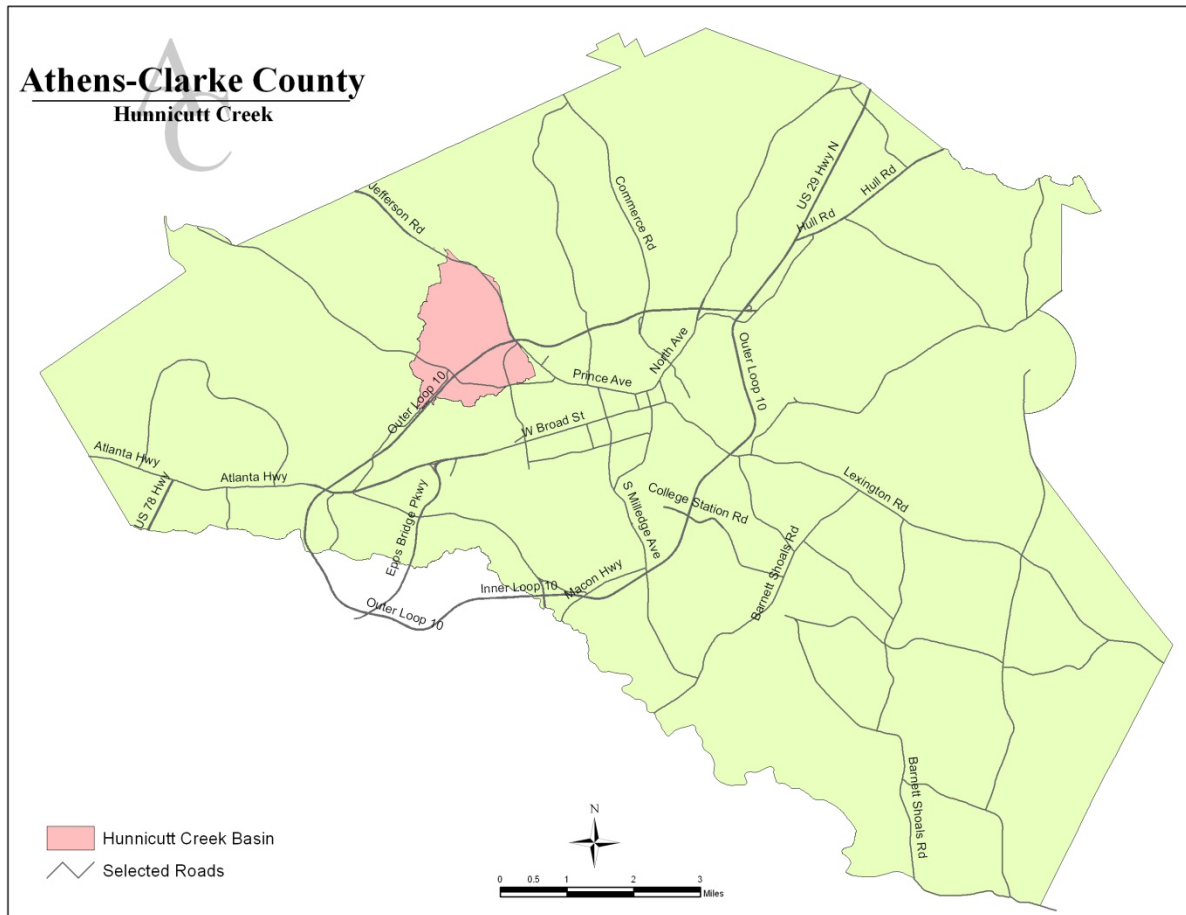


Figure 1.3.2: Close-up of Hunnicutt Creek Drainage Basin

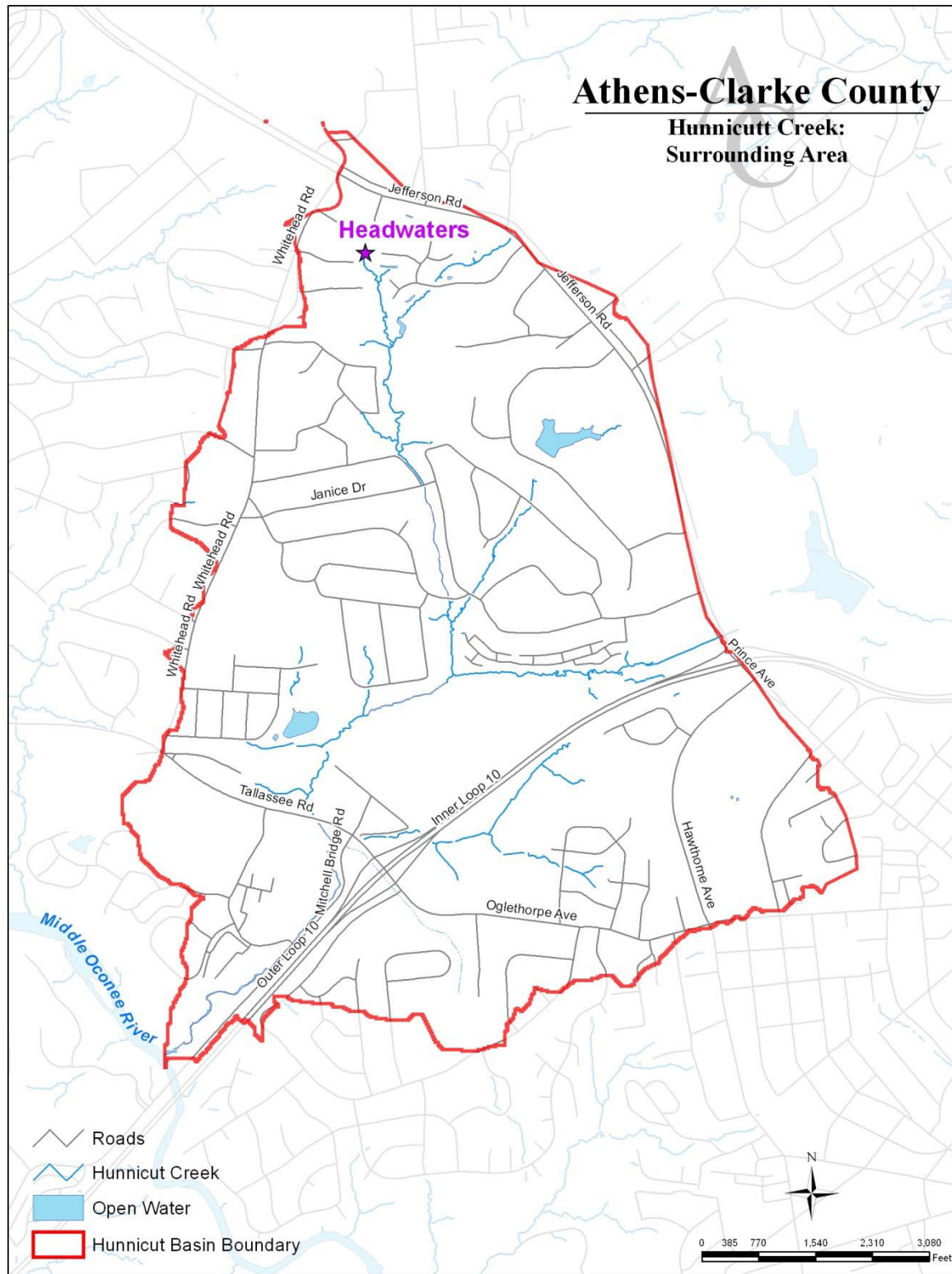
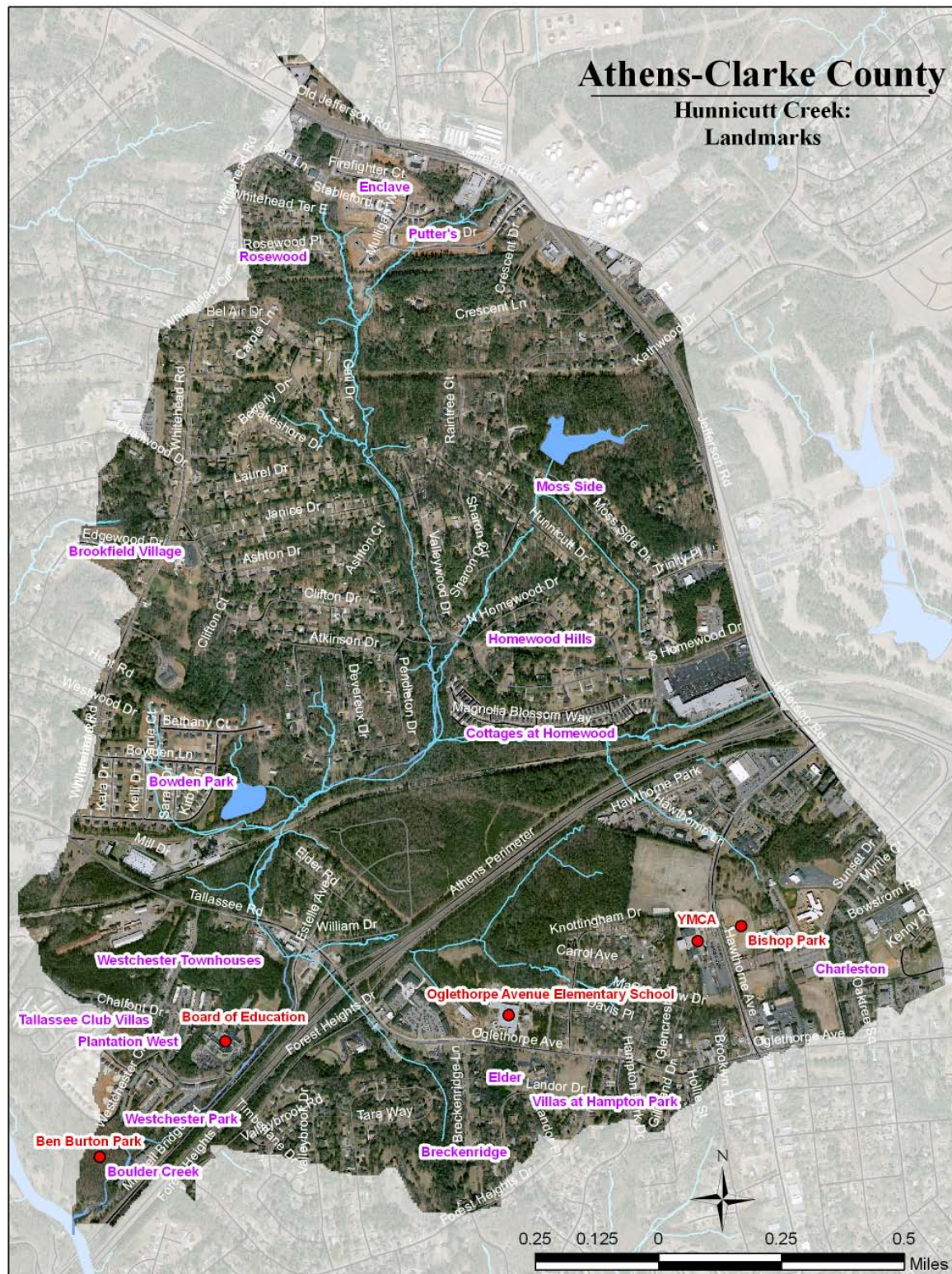


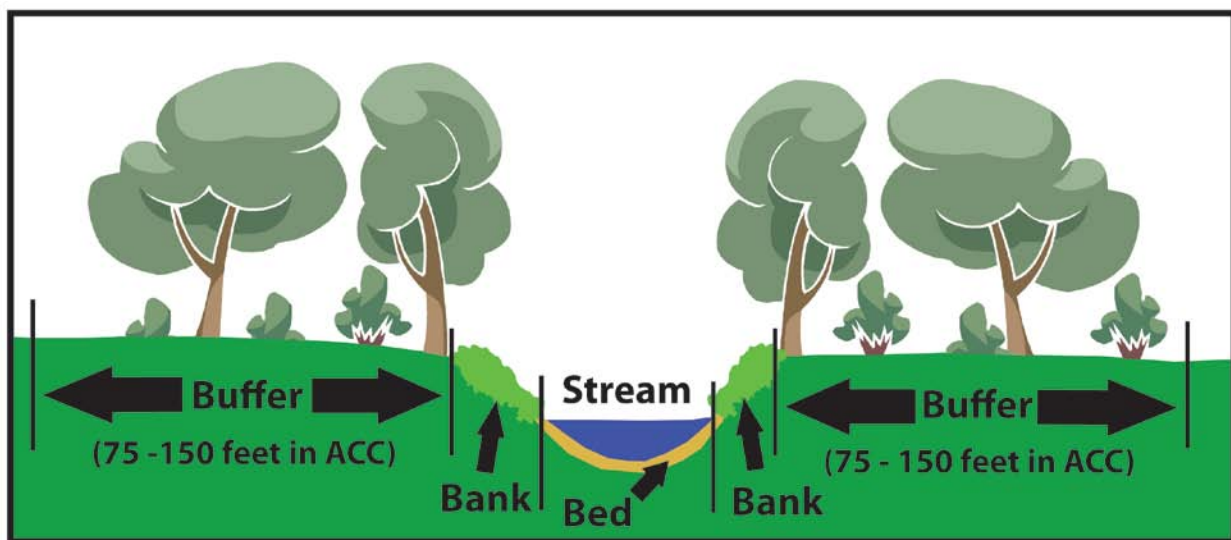
Figure 1.3.3: Landmarks in Hunnicutt Creek Drainage Basin



Chapter 2: Methodology

We used three different methods of data collection to gain a full picture of the current health of Hunnicutt Creek. Each data collection method will be described in detail, as will our findings and how they compare to “healthy” water quality standards. First, we conducted a stream assessment. ACC Stormwater staff walked Hunnicutt Creek and its larger tributaries to take physical measurements of the stream bank, stream bed, and stream buffer (Figure 2.1), as well as qualitative measurements of other factors like surrounding land use and stream crossings. A second assessment method was to determine current biological status of the creek. UGA collected macroinvertebrates (tiny aquatic bugs) living in the stream. The type and quantity of macroinvertebrates found is very useful for determining how healthy the stream is through the organisms’ adaptability and survival capabilities. Some macroinvertebrates are more sensitive to pollution and stream bed silting than others, so by assessing what species are present, we can determine whether the stream’s ability to support life has been impacted. The third assessment method was to collect water quality data. We have collected both periodic and long-term water quality data, and we use data collected by GAEPD and local watershed groups that have been sampling and recording water quality data for many years.

Figure 2.1: Cross Section of a Stream



The data from all of these methods is combined to give us a picture of how healthy Hunnicutt Creek is at this moment in time, and it guides us towards discovering potential watershed “stressors,” which are sources of pollution and impairment. Let’s look at the data collected through each method and consider what could be stressing the health of Hunnicutt Creek.

Chapter 3: Current Conditions in Hunnicutt Creek

3.1 Physical Stream Assessment

3.1.1 Stream Walk Assessment Method and Scores

Stream walks were conducted in the Hunnicutt Creek watershed in January and February of 2009. The stream was divided into sections, and each section is called a “reach.” ACC Stormwater Staff physically walked each reach and conducted an inventory of stream bed, stream bank, and stream buffer

condition. (A stream buffer is the vegetated strip of land along either side of the stream.) Figure 3.1.1.1 shows the reaches surveyed in HCDB and the following photos highlight some of the areas in HCDB (Photos 3.1.1.1-3.1.1.4). Reaches are named alphabetically on the main stem of Hunnicutt Creek and the tributaries are named numerically. In some cases, a reach was subdivided in the field (e.g. HC-1fi and HC-1fii) due to a change that could affect its scoring.

Figure 3.1.1.1: Hunnicutt Creek Stream Reaches

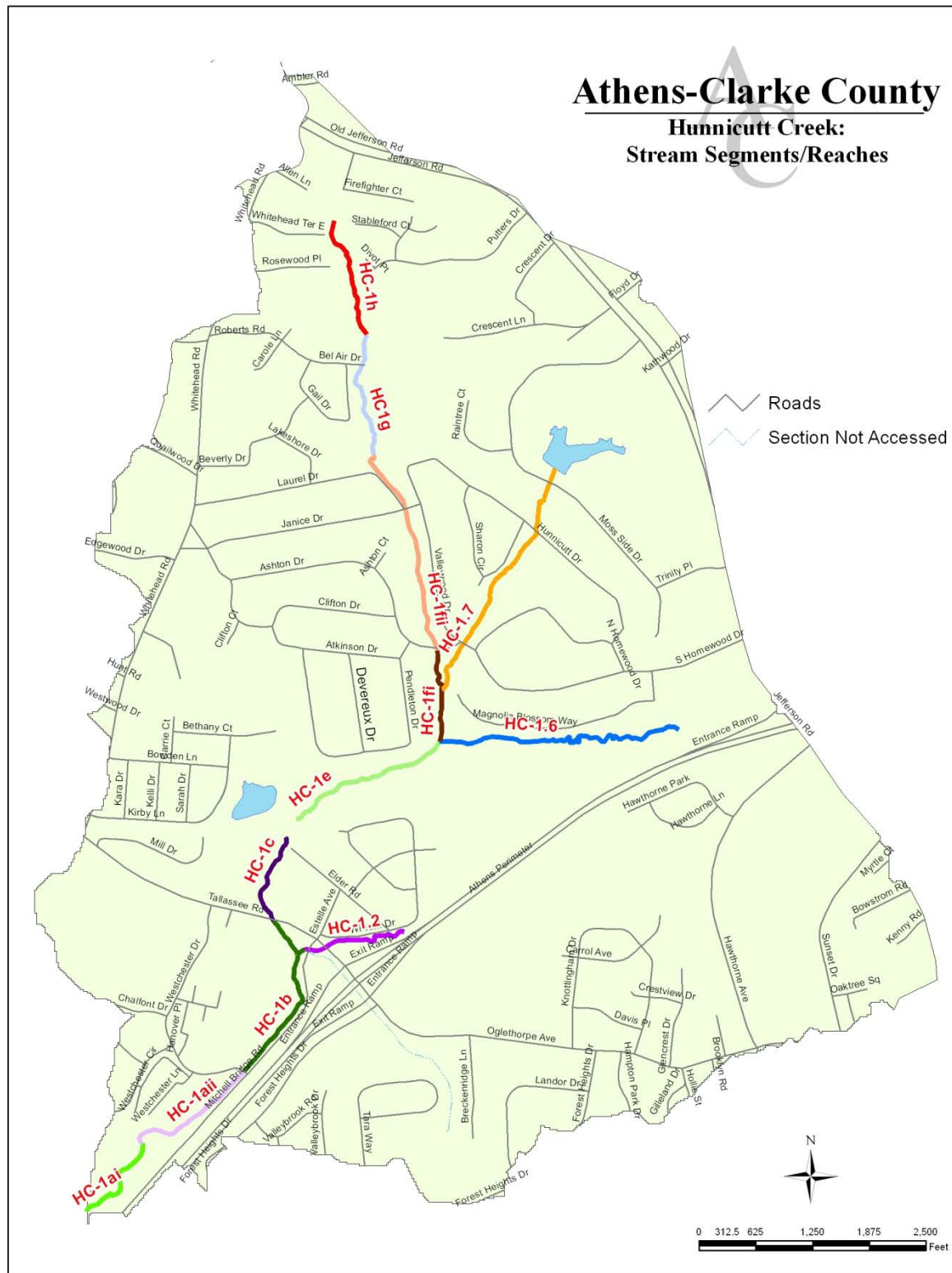


Photo 3.1.1.1: Stream Assessment of Hunnicutt Creek – Taking Bed, Bank, and Buffer Measurements



Hunnicutt Creek near Pendleton Drive

Photo 3.1.1.2: Stream Assessment of Hunnicutt Creek – Buffer Completely Removed



Moss Branch (HC-1.7) near Hunnicutt Drive

Photo 3.1.1.3: Heavily Aggraded Stream Bank



HC-1.6 near Magnolia Blossom Way

Photo 3.1.1.4: Silt Covering the Stream Bed



Hunnicutt Creek near Bel Air Drive

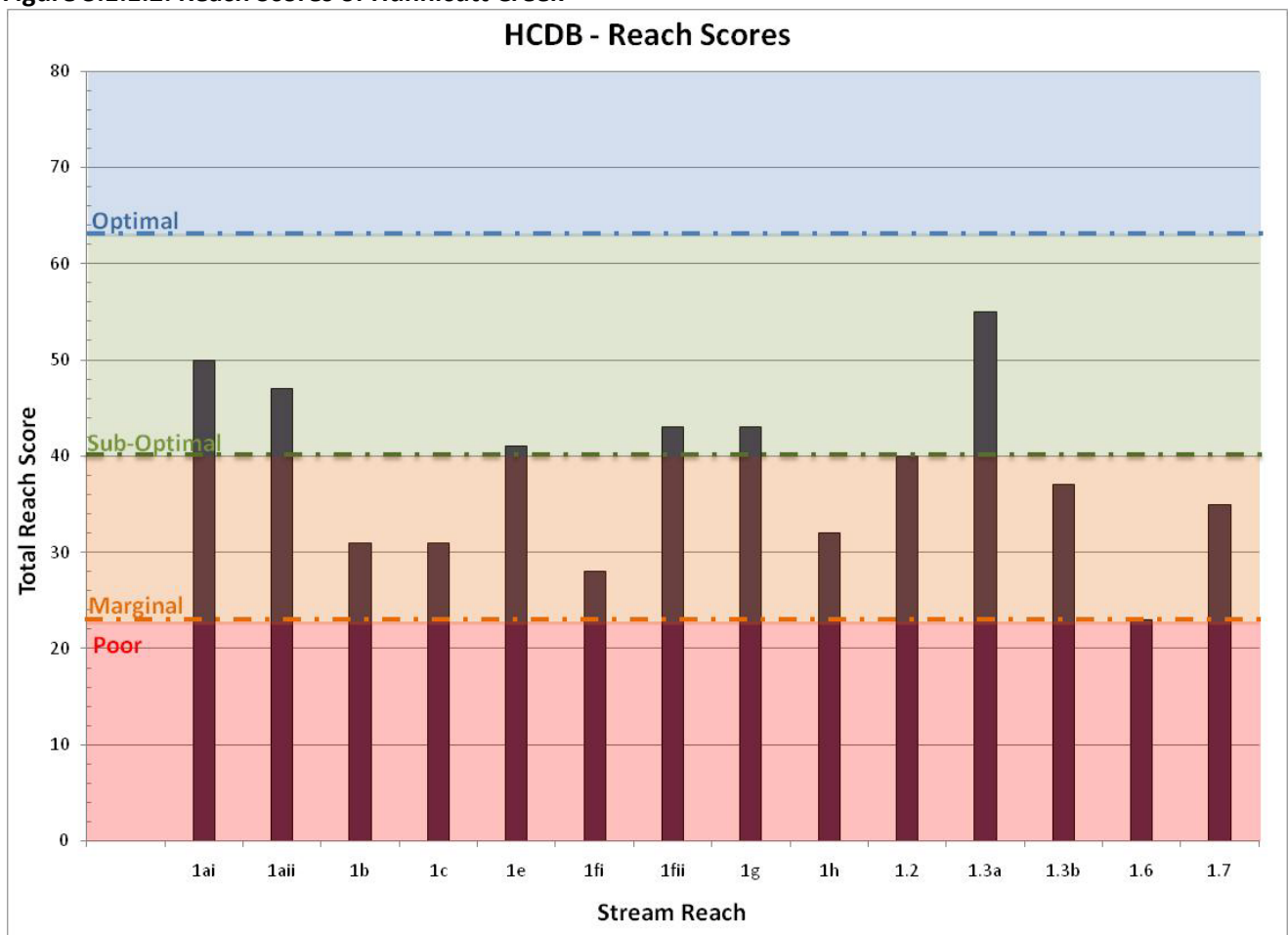
Each reach was rated by the average of the data collected there. The in-stream habitat, vegetated buffer width, bank erosion, and floodplain connection were also evaluated in each reach and assigned a score. Table 3.1.1.1 shows the results of the stream survey. Each category could receive a maximum of 20 points, with vegetated buffer width and bank erosion scores allowed 10 points for each bank. A reach's maximum score is 80. The benchmark set for a "healthy" rating is a score of 63 or above. A score of 63 or greater suggests that a stream has optimal bed, bank, and buffer conditions for a healthy functional stream ecosystem compliant with state and federal regulations. The ranges for the stream assessment scores are: (Poor: 0-23, Marginal: 24-40, Sub-Optimal: 41-63, Optimal: 64 – 80). Figure 3.1.1.2 provides a summary of total reach scores for each stream reach in HCDB. The average reach score is 38, indicating Marginal stream health. Driving this marginal score is impairment of the bed, banks, and buffer of the stream. Figure 3.1.1.3 shows the reach scores and their locations.

Table 3.1.1.1: Reach Scores of Hunnicutt Creek

Reach	In-Stream Habitat Score	Vegetated Buffer Width Scores		Bank Erosion Score		Floodplain Connection	Total Reach Score	Percent Score
		Left Bank	Right Bank	Left Bank	Right Bank			
1ai	8	6	7	9	9	11	50	62.5%
1aii	10	3	7	8	8	11	47	58.8%
1b	7	4	5	3	6	6	31	38.8%
1c	8	3	4	4	4	8	31	38.8%
1e	6	5	5	7	7	11	41	51.3%
1fi	8	5	3	3	3	6	28	35.0%
1fii	14	2	3	8	7	9	43	53.8%
1g	15	6	4	5	5	8	43	53.8%
1h	5	5	5	5	5	7	32	40.0%
1.2	8	4	4	5	6	13	40	50.0%
1.3a	9	6	8	9	9	14	55	68.8%
1.3b	10	4	4	6	6	7	37	46.3%
1.6	2	8	7	1	1	4	23	28.8%
1.7	8	2	4	5	5	11	35	43.8%
Average	8.4	4.5	5	5.6	5.8	9	38.3	47.9%
Percent	42.1%	45.0%	50.0%	55.7%	57.9%	45.0%	47.9%	

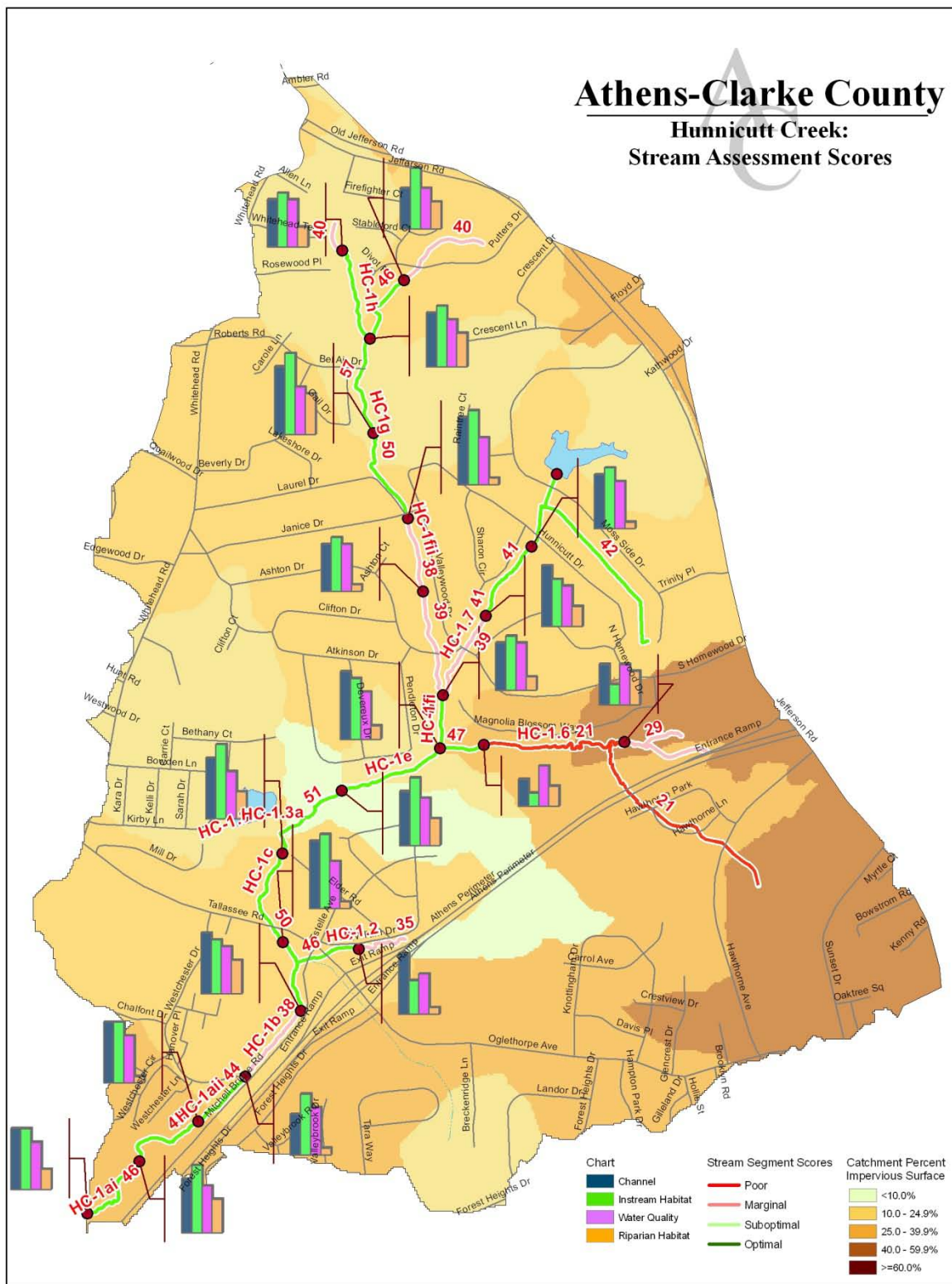
Table 3.1.1.1 shows the breakdown of the reach assessment scores and the combined scores, as well as the average score of 38.

Figure 3.1.1.2: Reach Scores of Hunnicutt Creek



Reach HC-1.3a rated the highest (55). This reach had low banks with very little erosion and had the best floodplain connection in all of HCDB. Reach HC-1.6 rated the lowest (23). This reach was severely eroded and highly incised with the bed consisting largely of silt and sand leading to poor in-stream habitat.

Figure 3.1.1.3: Stream Assessment Scores and Their Reach Locations



3.1.2 Hunnicutt Creek Stream Bed, Bank, and Buffer

The stream bed of Hunnicutt Creek is heavily aggraded and choked with sand and sediment for all but two reaches walked during the field survey. Near its confluence with the Middle Oconee River, reach HC-1ai, the stream bed is healthier and consists of bedrock with few sand deposits. Hunnicutt Creek's stream banks are also severely eroded throughout all but four survey reaches. Reaches HC-1ai and HC-1aii had relatively low banks with minimal localized erosion, while reach HC-1fii was largely armored due to homeowners trying to protect their property. Reach HC-1.3a had a variety of ferns stabilizing the banks and it was also fed by a residential pond that slows flushing flows through the reach. The bank erosion is one likely source of the sand and sediment in the bed of the stream. Other possible sources of excess sediment found in streams include sediment from previous agricultural land use and sediment that has runoff from construction or development sites. Erosion is harmful to the health of a stream because it impacts the ecosystem. Macroinvertebrates and other wildlife can't survive if their habitat has been eroded and destroyed by sediment. If the creatures at the bottom of the food chain are unable to survive in an eroded stream, they will never exist in large enough numbers to support wildlife higher up in the food chain like fish and birds.

A stream buffer is the strip of stream bank closest to a stream that should contain trees, shrubs, and other plants. In Athens, the buffer is protected by state law for 25 feet from the stream, and local ordinance protects the buffer for additional 50 feet for a total protected buffer of 75 feet. This means that it is unlawful to remove trees and other vegetation for 75 feet to either side of the stream. The plants in this protected strip of land surrounding streams shade the stream, reducing water temperatures. The plants also protect stream banks from erosion, filter pollutants like oil and sediment out of runoff entering the stream, and provide habitat for fish and other wildlife. An intact buffer stabilizes the stream banks while providing a multitude of benefits for plant and animals that live in and around the stream. Development and construction has occurred in Athens for over a century prior to the 75 foot buffer ordinance, and many stream buffers were removed to make way for agriculture, residential homes, commercial areas, and transportation corridors during this period. Also contributing to buffer removal is the fact that many current residents are unaware of the importance of a buffer and remove it for aesthetic landscaping purposes. In the Hunnicutt Creek drainage basin, the stream buffer along all survey reaches is largely disturbed by residential and commercial uses as well as roadway and railroad encroachments. Residential disturbances include landscaping and lawn maintenance inside the 75 foot protected buffer, particularly in reaches HC-1fi and HC-1fii. Other residential disturbances include trash and debris placement in the buffer zone, which could lead to water quality concerns. Where Hunnicutt Creek crosses Tallassee Road (HC-1c), at the stream's headwaters (HC-1h), and particularly at the headwaters of stream section HC-1.6, commercial development has encroached and thinned the buffer. As shown in table 3.1.1.1 the HCDB averaged a 4.5 and 5 points out of 10 possible points for the left and right bank respectively. These scores reflect the current conditions and the result of severe buffer disturbance throughout the creek lowering the overall health score of the stream.

All the development in the HCDB has created a large amount of impervious area. Impervious areas are spaces in which water cannot penetrate to the soil such as buildings, roads and parking lots. Rainwater that falls on these surfaces cannot soak into the soil but instead collects into stormwater runoff when it rains. The larger the impervious area the higher speeds at which stormwater runoff enter streams and subsequently the greater impact a rain fall event will have. The subwatersheds in HCDB range in impervious surface area from less than 10 percent to from 40 to 60 percent. Approximately 75 percent of HCDB has 25 percent imperviousness or greater. Percent impervious is calculated by dividing the total impervious surface of a catchment by the total catchment area. Increase in impervious area can

decrease water quality and habitat. Increased impervious surface area leads to increased flow, which is a direct cause of scouring of banks and buffers. The amount of erosion in HCDB is evidence of the impact increased development has had on the stream. Reach HC-1.6 rated the lowest on bank erosion and in-stream habitat and has the highest impervious area in HCDB.

The reduction of the buffer also poses a problem for animal migration. Wildlife in urban and suburban watersheds depends on stream corridors to move from habitat to habitat. As buffers diminish wildlife may become stranded in isolated pockets of remaining habitat.

3.1.3 Potential Stressors Effecting Hunnicutt Creek's Stream Assessment Scores

Now that we've collected data and compiled what we've seen going on in Hunnicutt Creek, we look at the data to try and identify what could be contributing to both the good and bad conditions found in the stream. It is important to remember that we're working with just one data set, which is just one glimpse of stream conditions at one point in time. It can be compared to a doctor trying to diagnose a chronic condition in a patient by only seeing him once; the patient may have been having a good day or a bad day, and we won't know what's really going on until we collect repeated data in the future. This first round of findings does still give us enough information to make some general conclusions about what is impacting Hunnicutt Creek and what is not. The two greatest pieces of evidence we found are the aggraded, silted stream bed and the extent of buffer disturbance in Hunnicutt Creek.

The erosion problems of the bed and banks, the washing away of the banks, and the general aggradation are caused by increased runoff entering the stream at increased velocities. Remember that all rain water that cannot soak into the ground is routed directly into the nearest stream via the stormwater system. The more water there is entering the stream and the faster it is moving, the more the stream banks and bed are scoured away. Erosion increases, and once the stream flow slows down this eroded sediment is dropped onto the stream bed where it impacts the stream's ability to sustain wildlife. This increased runoff flow and volume is caused by an increase in the amount of impervious surface in a drainage basin. When there are more roads, parking lots, and buildings with impervious surfaces, less rain water can soak naturally into the ground. More runoff must be directed into the stormwater system to prevent flooding. When it rains, this increased water volume flows at a controlled rate into our rivers and streams only if structural stormwater controls are in place to slow the runoff down. So, a heavy rain in an area with a high percentage of impervious surfaces and insufficient stormwater controls means that a lot of water is traveling very fast into a nearby stream. Twenty percent of the Hunnicutt watershed is covered in impervious area with some drainage areas exceeding 30% impervious area. There is a correlation between increased residential, commercial, and roadway development with erosion, incision, and aggradation in streams.

The stream buffer along Hunnicutt Creek scored an average of 47.5% out of a scale of 100%, putting it in the "Marginal" range. The reason it scored marginally is because the buffer is narrow or non-existent in all but one reach (HC-1.6). Buffer loss is almost entirely a man-made problem. As mentioned before, the buffer was removed by development done prior to buffer protection ordinances. In residential areas stream buffers are sometimes removed by property owners during landscaping. The buffer has also been impacted in this drainage basin in order to build railroad lines and roadways. Some bank supports (such as rip-rap and various types of retaining walls) have been added along private property in the residential areas of the watershed. When applied properly this type of bank stabilization can be very effective. Unfortunately, many residents also dump lawn clippings and other yard debris into the stream or the stream buffer and this does not help in stabilization. Yard debris can have multiple affects on the stream, including using up oxygen which is needed by fish and other stream inhabitants. The

high dissolved oxygen levels collected do not indicate this as being a concern in HCDB. However, yard debris can carry fertilizers or pesticides from yards directly to the stream. While the physical condition of HCDB is “marginal,” it is improvable with the right management as discussed later in this plan.

3.2 Biological Stream Assessment

3.2.1 How Macroinvertebrates Are Indicators of Stream Health

As mentioned earlier, macroinvertebrates are small bugs that can be seen with the human eye that live in the beds of streams. Since different species of macroinvertebrates are more sensitive to pollution and other impairments than others, the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates that are found in a stream can tell us a lot about water quality and stream health.

Photo 3.2.1.1: Macroinvertebrates



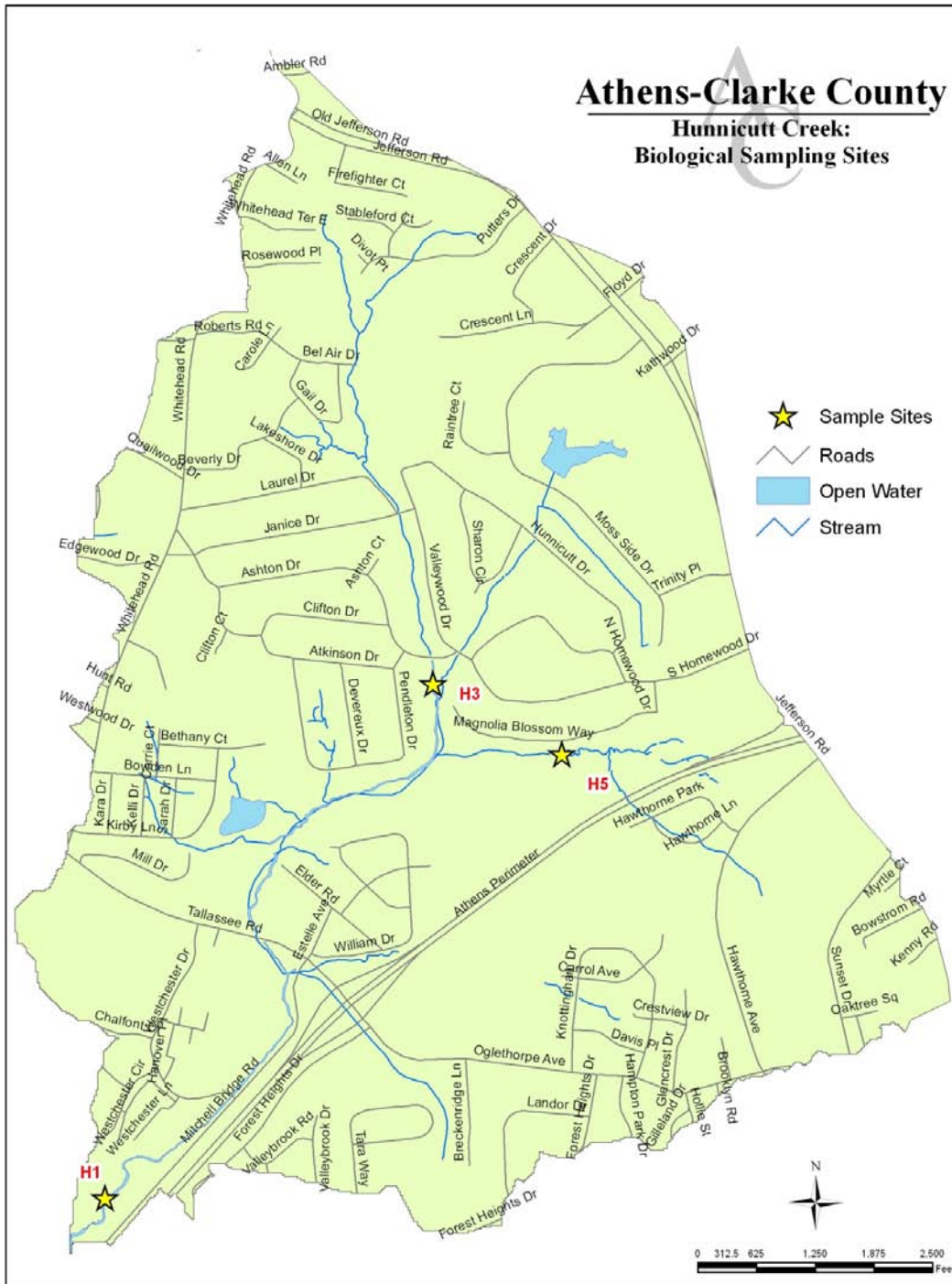
Photo 3.2.1.2: Macroinvertebrate Sampling



3.2.2 Macroinvertebrate Collection and Scoring Method

Macroinvertebrates were collected at three stream sites, shown in Figure 3.2.2.1, in Hunnicutt Creek in March of both 2008 and 2009 using a rapid assessment protocol, which is a time saving but scientifically sound way of collecting macroinvertebrate samples (as seen in Photo 3.2.1.2). The results from the sampling sites were scored using the *Save Our Streams Program* of the Izaak Walton League of America, which is based on the presence or absence of “sensitive,” “somewhat sensitive,” and “tolerant” types of macroinvertebrates. Numerical scores were used to indicate water quality (excellent > 22, good = 17-21, fair = 11-16, poor < 11).

Figure 3.2.2.1: Hunnicutt Creek Biological Sampling Site Locations



3.2.3 Biological Score Results for Hunnicutt Creek

Table 3.2.3.1 below lists the biological score for each sampling site. Please refer to the map to see where each sampling site is located in the Hunnicutt Creek drainage basin.

Table 3.2.3.1 Macroinvertebrate Scores

Sample Site	Score	Rating
H1	18	good
H3	10	fair
H5	4	poor

So, Sample Site H1's score falls in the "good" range, Site H3's score falls into the "fair" range, and Site H5's score falls into the "poor" range.

Table 3.2.3.2 below lists the mean, median, minimum and maximum bed substrate size for each sampling site. In July 2009, 100 stream bed particles were measured at each sampling site from a variety of bed habitats using the Woman Pebble Count (1954). H1 has a larger mean and greater range of pebble sizes than H3 and H5, indicating better invertebrate habitat.

Table 3.2.3.2 Pebble Counts

Sample Site	Mean (mm)	Median (mm)	Min. (mm)	Max. (mm)
H1	209.0	7	1	>2000
H3	6.9	4	<1	44
H5	3.7	1	<1	31

3.2.4 Potential Stressors Effecting Hunnicutt Creek's Biological Scores

Low amounts and decreased diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates in urban streams are caused by the alteration of all aspects of stream habitat. During stream walks in Hunnicutt Creek (see section 3.1), the stream bed was found to be heavily sedimented and aggraded in many reaches. The deposition of fine sediments fills in natural rocky riffle habitat where many macroinvertebrates live. In the Hunnicutt Creek watershed, H1 had a high mean, median and variability in bed sediment size, which corresponded to a "good" score on the index we used to assess macroinvertebrate diversity. This reach (HC 1-ai; Table 4.1)) had one of the highest scores in the reach assessment (50/80; Table 4.1) and little bank erosion was observed.

The substrate in H3 had lower mean, median and variability in bed sediment size than H1 and lower invertebrate scores, signaling that substrate is one likely driver of reduced macroinvertebrate diversity. Scores from the reach assessment (46/80; Table 3.1.1.1) indicate that this area has sub-optimal habitat with reduced vegetated buffers on either side of the stream reach. Reduced stream buffers decrease shading resulting in increased stream temperatures. This may inhibit some macroinvertebrate taxa that are sensitive to high water temperatures. Benchmarks for temperature were set at 30°C (Table 3.3.3.1),

and no temperatures exceeded this during the sampling period in Hunnicutt Creek. Thermal pollution is not a likely source of decreased macroinvertebrate scores. A reduction in vegetated buffers may, more importantly, decrease the amount of leaves and wood being delivered to the stream, important food and habitat sources for macroinvertebrates leading to lower populations.

H5 had the lowest macroinvertebrate diversity of the three reaches sampled on Hunnicutt Creek, scoring “poor” on the index we used. The stream bed was dominated by fine sand (<1mm; Table 3.2.3.2), which is undesirable habitat for many sensitive macroinvertebrate taxa. The reach sampled also had the lowest total score in the reach assessment (HC 1-6; Table 3.1.1.1). This included observations of significant bank erosion and reduced connections to the floodplain.

Photos 3.2.4.1 and 3.2.4.2 provide a comparison between good and poor stream habitat. In Photo 3.2.4.1, cobble is present in the bed and undercut banks provide habitat for macroinvertebrates. In Photo 3.2.4.2, the bed is choked by sand and the heavily eroded banks provide no habitat for biota.

Another factor likely affecting the biotic communities in all reaches of Hunnicutt Creek is stormwater. Stormwater from impervious surfaces often brings organic pollutants and metals that have been shown to decrease invertebrate abundance and diversity. Conductivity levels above 80 μ S/cm on many sampling dates indicate pollution from some of these sources. A combination of sedimentation, reduced or absent buffers and the delivery of organic pollutants are all factors that likely impair the biotic communities in Hunnicutt Creek.

Photo 3.2.4.1: Good Stream Habitat

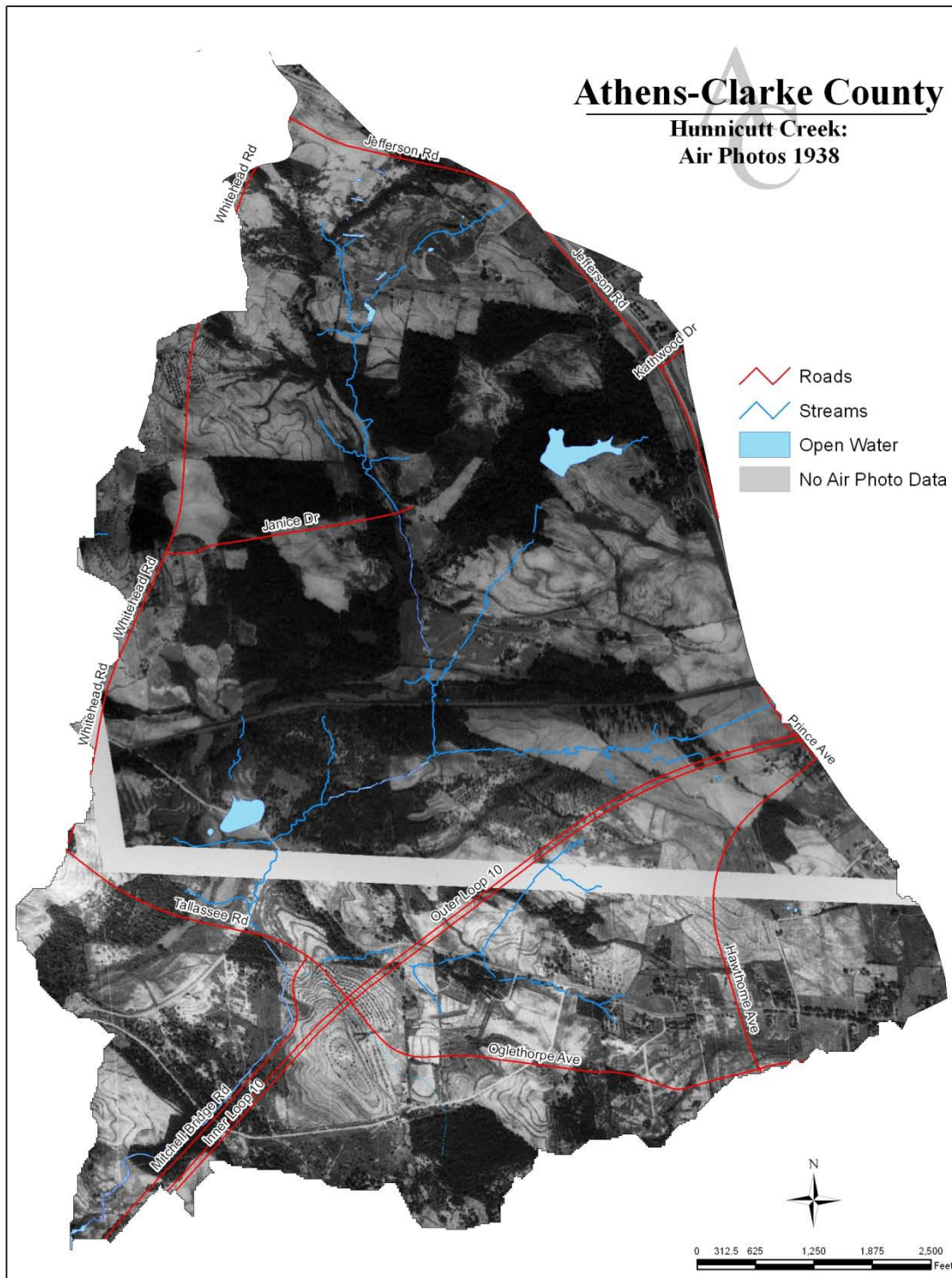


Photo 3.2.4.2: Poor Stream Habitat



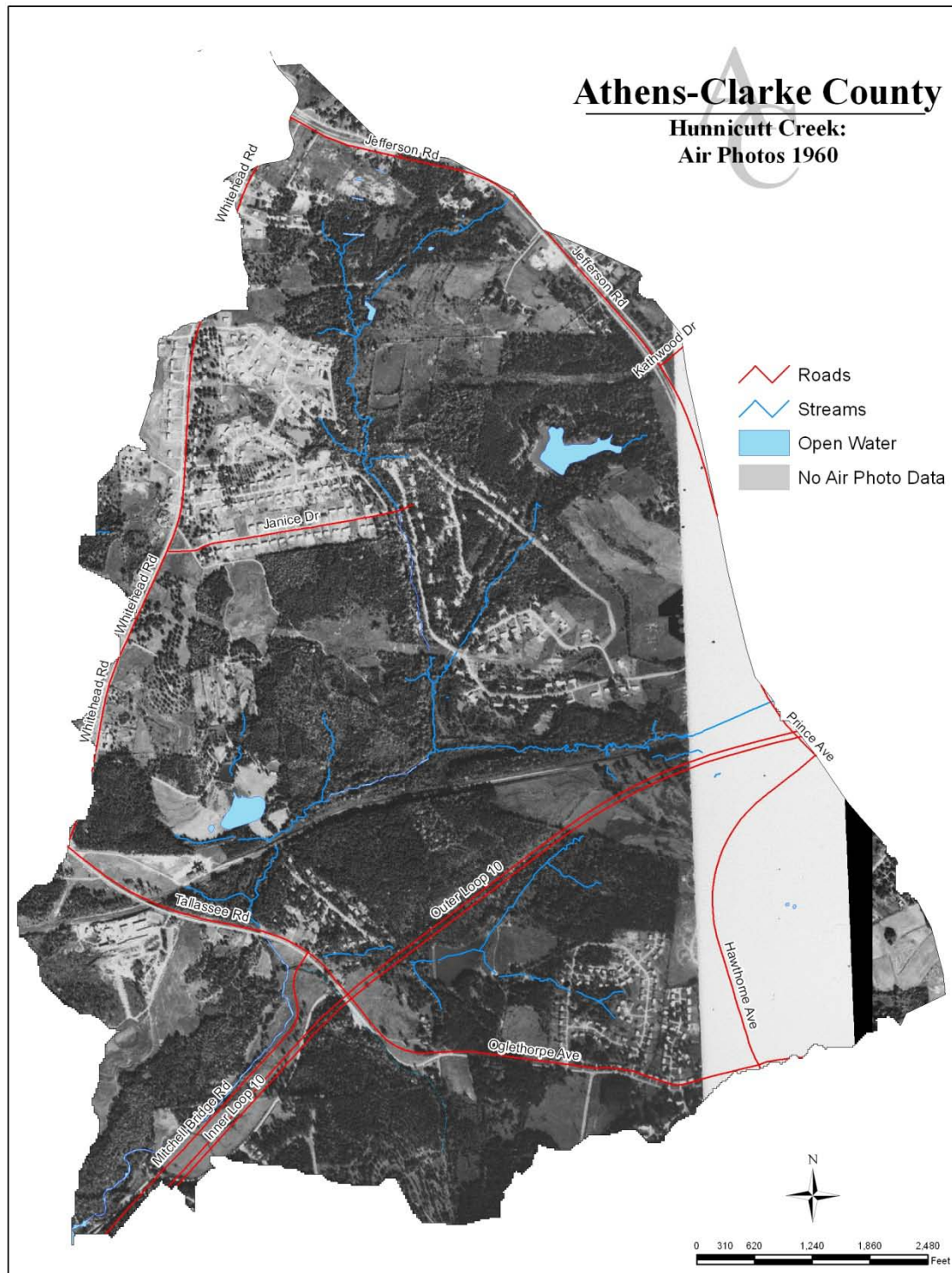
Since excess sediment in the stream is the main cause of the stream bed aggradation, it's important to determine where that extra sediment might be coming from. When considering the impacts of sediment, we need to look not only at what is happening in Hunnicutt Creek right now, but also at what went on in the Hunnicutt Creek basin regarding land use in the past. Review of historical aerial photography (Figures 3.2.4.1 – 3.2.4.3) shows that the Hunnicutt Creek basin area was primarily used for agriculture as far back as the early 1900's up until the 1950's. Terraced-style farming in the 1930's transitioned into large field farming in the 1950's. Maps of this area from the 1960s show the some new growth forest had returned by then, and the primary land use was steadily transitioning from agricultural to residential. By the 1970's and 1980's residential areas dominated the land use of this basin. The effects of past agricultural use on the land often continue to impact local streams even 50 to 100 years after agricultural practices have been abandoned, manifesting as physical and chemical problems in streams (MacTammany, 2004). Refer to the following historical maps to see how land use has changed over time in Hunnicutt Creek.

Figure 3.2.4.1: Hunnicutt Creek 1938



Hunnicutt Creek in 1938. Terraced style farming is evident in the southeastern portions of the watershed. The northern portion of the watershed is largely forested.

Figure 3.2.4.2: Hunnicutt Creek 1960



Hunnicutt Creek in 1960. Residential development has occurred in portions of the watershed, especially in the northwest. Some commercial development has begun along the middle portion.

Figure 3.2.4.3: Hunnicutt Creek: 2008



Hunnicutt Creek in 2008. The watershed is dominated by residential development with some commercial development on two of its tributaries.

Agriculture affects streams in several ways. In the Hunnicutt Creek watershed, clear cutting trees to make way for cropland destroyed much of the stream buffers. Removal of stream buffers and land clearing can increase runoff and sediment entering the stream systems. The wood debris and leaves produced by trees falls into streams and provides food for macroinvertebrates, so as trees disappear so does the primary food source for macroinvertebrates. Agricultural periods can also increase the amount of nutrients present in the stream system. These nutrients can come from fertilizers put on crops that get washed into a stream during a rainstorm, or the nutrients can come from manure, so if livestock are raised on the farmland nutrients and bacteria may wash into the stream. Finally, sediment may leave farmland via runoff as well. Sediment that enters a waterway from agriculture may take a long time to move out of the stream since the sediment is suspended in the water when it is stirred up, then settles and deposits at different points in the stream network. This process of transportation and deposition must be repeated many times before the sediment finally makes its way to a larger river. Because of its historical background, sediment from early agriculture in HCDB may still be present in the stream today.

The history of stormwater controls also has an impact on the amount of suitable macroinvertebrate habitat found in streams. Prior to the early 1980s there were no stormwater design requirements for new development projects. This means that stormwater controls like detention ponds, filtration systems, catch basins, and underground piped systems that collect, filter, and slow down runoff were never installed. Even now, there are very few of these types of best management practices (BMPs) in place in HCDB. Runoff leaving sites without stormwater controls often enters streams at a higher velocity and volume that it does when it leaves a site that does employ stormwater controls. The increased velocity can cause stream bank scouring and erosion when the runoff enters a stream, and it also flushes the stream system of suitable habitat and the macroinvertebrates themselves.

Our data on Hunnicutt Creek indicates that water temperatures are in the normal range, but that buffer damage and sedimentation has reduced macroinvertebrate habitat along several of the reaches. Sampling results also indicate that sediment is sometimes suspended in the water of Hunnicutt Creek at levels that make it difficult for macroinvertebrates to survive. (See Section II: *Water Quality Data* in Appendix A.)

The University of Georgia has also collected algae samples from the biological monitoring sites. In Hunnicutt Creek an above average amount of algae was noted. Also, a seasonal pattern of algal growth was also identified; indicating light might be a factor in algal growth and highlighting the importance of buffers. Above average algae growth in streams is an indicator of increased nutrients from sources such as fertilizer, wastewater, and atmospheric deposition, as well as current problems with sewer spills. Understanding how nutrient concentrations stimulate algal growth in Hunnicutt Creek is important in managing the nutrient inputs and further studies are needed.

3.3 Water Quality Data

3.3.1 Why Sample?

Water quality data are used to characterize waters, identify trends over time, identify emerging problems, determine whether pollution control programs are working, help direct pollution control efforts to where they are most needed, and respond to emergencies such as floods and spills (EPA, *Monitoring and Assessing Water Quality*). We collected water samples from each of the pilot basins along with a reference watershed, Bear Creek. Water quality sample results are compared to a set of water quality benchmarks created by combining both regulatory standards (*Georgia Water Quality*

Standards) and previous research. These benchmarks represent measures of healthy streams. Collecting and testing water quality samples over time gives us a better picture of what pollutants might be traversing our local waterways like Hunnicutt Creek.

3.3.2 Three Water Quality Sampling Methods

Three sampling methods were used to collect water quality data on Hunnicutt Creek. First, monthly sampling was conducted at three sampling sites in the watershed. These grab samples cover a wide range of parameters that indicate water quality. We can compare variation in monthly water quality data with stream walks, biological data, and other watershed activities that have happened during the same timeframe to identify potential sources of pollution. Another method used is in-situ water sampling using data collection units called Datasondes. These data collection units are left in-stream to give us continuous trend-identifying water quality data as indicated by measures of pH, dissolve oxygen, conductivity, turbidity, and temperature. The continuous data is used to identify changes to basic stream chemistry over time and seasonally. The data can also identify significant changes to stream chemistry over time. The third method is using wet weather sampling devices. These devices are also left in-stream, but they are only triggered by rainfall. They automatically take samples at regular intervals after a rainfall event so that we can understand the quantity and type of pollutants that enter a stream after it rains, and how that pollution relates to nearby land-use.

Monthly Sampling

Monthly water quality sampling was collected by the grab method, meaning samples were collected from all sample sites at the same time. This method is in compliance with our EPA-approved Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP) that ensures accuracy of results by standardizing our sampling procedures. The criteria sampled were water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, fecal coliform bacteria, total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, turbidity, total organic carbon, nutrients, and metals. Each criterion is an indicator for a potential type of water pollution. Analysis is conducted by several different labs including the Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Water Treatment Lab and three University of Georgia Labs: The Center for Applied Isotope Studies; The Soil, Plant, and Water Lab; and the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory. The labs follow methods taken from the *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater* as developed by the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation (APHA). Figure 3.3.2.1 includes the water quality sampling sites in Hunnicutt Creek. Sample data is provided in Appendix Section II.1.

In-Situ Water Sampling Using Datasondes

The Datasonde has multiple probes that sense the following water quality indicators: dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, conductivity and turbidity. It is able to store these measurements until a staff member retrieves the unit from the stream and downloads the data. Datasondes make it possible for us to collect real-time continuous data without having to be present. The Datasondes are calibrated and checked after each data collection before being returned to the stream. Sample data is provided in Appendix Section II.3.

Wet Weather Sampling Using Isco Samplers

Similar to Datasondes, Isco samplers allow us to collect stream samples without having to be present in a stream at the sample moment. The Isco sampler is triggered by rainfall and it draws and stores water samples at regular intervals from the stream. This unit does not analyze the water in field; staff members collect the water samples from the unit and take them to their respective labs for analysis. Looking at water quality in regular time intervals after a rainstorm has occurred tells us the quantity and types of pollution moving through the stream during rain events. The type of pollution found can also indicate its origins, which is very helpful information for designing a watershed management plan that intends to reduce pollution in a watershed as much as possible. The results are analyzed with consideration to the surrounding land use of the sampling sites as well. For example, the wet weather sampling results may indicate high nutrient content that could be associated with fertilizer use. If this is the case in a residential area, we may look to homeowners' fertilizing practices. Wet weather sampling results can be found in Appendix Section II.2.

[illegible]

3.3.3 Water Quality Data for Hunnicutt Creek

Georgia's water quality standards are set by the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD). According to the State, the "healthy" range for a number of criteria depends on the designated use of the stream as made by GAEPD. A stream designated for fishing has a higher water quality criterion than one that is just used for outdoor recreation since the fish might be consumed by people. For this project, water quality health is determined using a set of benchmarks defined both by the state water quality standards and previous research. Previous research included a literature review focused on instream, baseflow measurements within the Georgia piedmont. Table 3.3.3.1 shows the benchmarks and monthly averages for all water quality data used in this project, with the bolded benchmarks having regulatory implications. Hunnicutt Creek is designated as a recreational use stream. Based on available water quality data, the primary constituents of concern related to the benchmarks in Table 3.3.3.1 for Hunnicutt Creek are Fecal Coliform, Nutrients, and TSS. To view all sampling results, refer to the charts in Section II.1 in the Appendix where samples scoring outside of the designated "healthy" range are highlighted yellow.

Table 3.3.3.1: Water Quality Benchmarks and Monthly Average Values

Parameter	Benchmark*	H01	H03	H05
Temperature	< 30 deg C	14.88	14.71	15.30
pH	6.0 to 8.5	7.21	7.02	6.94
Turbidity	3 - 30 NTU	9.63	6.49	7.30
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	> 5 mg/L	7.96	7.19	6.01
Conductivity	0 - 1.5 mS/cm	0.09	0.08	0.10
Fecal Coliform	< 500 col	427.29	1012.47	592.14
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	< 13 mg/L	7.47	4.93	6.13
BOD	1 - 3 mg/L	1.75	1.50	1.62
TOC	> 5 mg/L	6.67	6.29	6.14
NO3	0.2 – 0.4 mg/L	0.49	0.49	1.04
NH4	0.01 – 1 mg/L	0.02	0.01	0.08
TN	0.7 – 1.2 mg/L	0.60	0.58	1.12
PO4	0.002 – 0.1 mg/L	0.01	0.01	0.01
TP	0.06 – 0.24 mg/L	0.03	0.03	0.02
Copper	< 5 µg/L	3.70	4.05	4.02
Zinc	<65 µg/L	37.26	29.54	26.66

Bold = Regulatory standard as defined by Georgia State Water Quality Standards (2009). Non-bold items are parameters that were also measured. Values in exceedance are not a violation of water quality standards, but indicate poor stream health.

*Benchmarks are for streams under normal flow conditions.

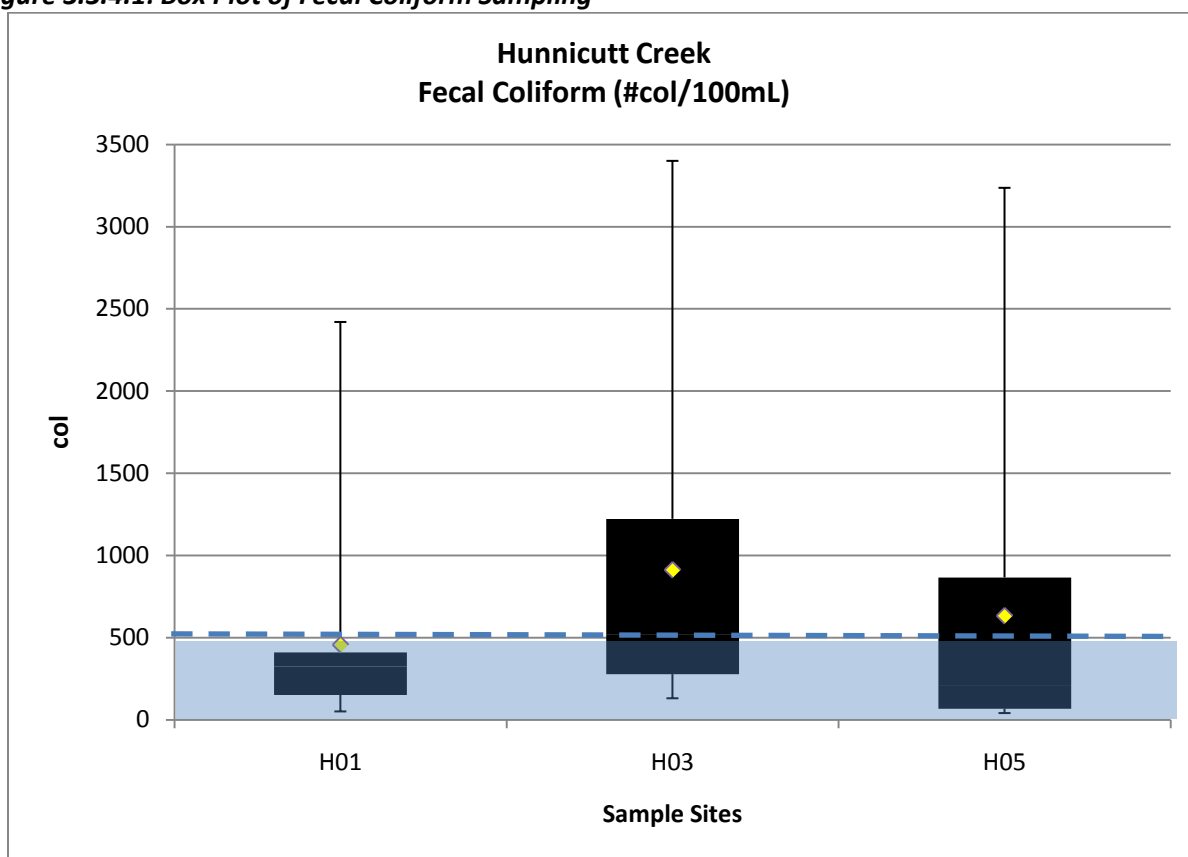
3.3.4 Potential Stressors Effecting Hunnicutt's Water Quality Scores

If a water quality indicator is not within the acceptable range as designated by GAEPD, this means there has been a standards violation. When it exceeds a benchmark, not a standard, this means the

parameter is indicating poor stream health. When we find a violation we look at what might be causing a water quality criterion to be out of range. In Hunnicutt, several fecal coliform bacteria, total suspended solids, and nutrient scores were out of acceptable range, but no identifiable trends were noticed.

In our monthly sampling, samples with fecal coliform results exceeding our benchmarks occurred 13 times spread across the three sampling sites. Our data was not consistent across the watershed and did not indicate any identifiable trends. The fluctuation across the sampling period does not suggest an ongoing source of fecal coliform contamination. Figure 3.3.4.1 contains summary data of all fecal coliform samples showing that the greatest concern lies at site H03.

Figure 3.3.4.1: Box Plot of Fecal Coliform Sampling



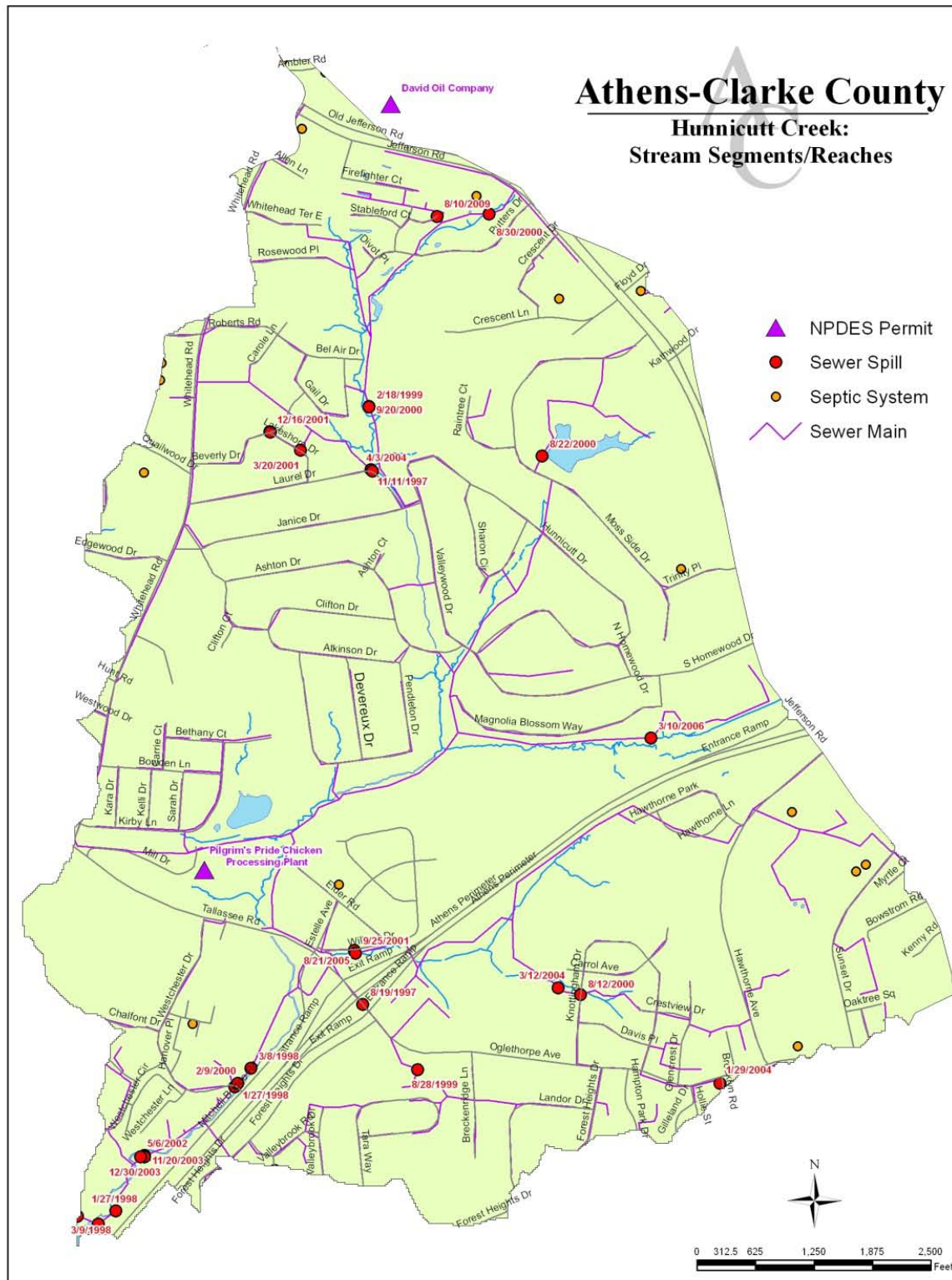
Fecal coliform can come from leaking septic systems or sewer lines, businesses that have permits to put water back into a stream after an industrial process, and from animal waste. There are only 11 septic systems in the Hunnicutt Creek basin with no known septic systems within 750 feet of the stream network. Instead, the area is served by sewer lines throughout the basin. Between November 1997 and December 2008 there were 24 sewer spills within the Hunnicutt Basin reported by the Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department. One of these spills occurred during the study period (August 2009) and is highlighted on the map of all spills in Figure 3.3.4.2. All of these spills were cleaned up and the infrastructure was repaired as necessary.

There are two businesses that have NPDES permits to discharge water in Hunnicutt Creek: Pilgrim's Pride Poultry Plant located at 110 Mill Drive, and Davis Oil Company located on Jefferson Road. The

Pilgrim's Pride Plant creates feed and processes unused portions of poultry. Tributary HC – 1.3 runs along the property line of this location. We have records of at least two illicit discharges into the stream coming from Pilgrim's Pride; the causes of both spills were addressed and the stream was cleaned as much as possible each time using a vacuum truck. While this is a potential source of fecal coliform and nutrient inputs, the data does not support targeting the Plant, as elevated levels were also documented upstream.

Davis Oil Company produces and stores various petroleum products. The facility is mostly located outside of Hunnicutt Creek basin, but an outfall that crosses Jefferson Road deposits runoff from Davis Oil Company into the headwaters of Hunnicutt Creek. There have been spills directly from this plant and from the transportation of goods to and from the location. 6,000 to 14,000 gallons of gasoline product was spilled into Hunnicutt Creek on August 11, 2003. This project is not monitoring for hydrocarbons or petroleum products, but it is important to draw from all pollution data when considering water quality and stream health.

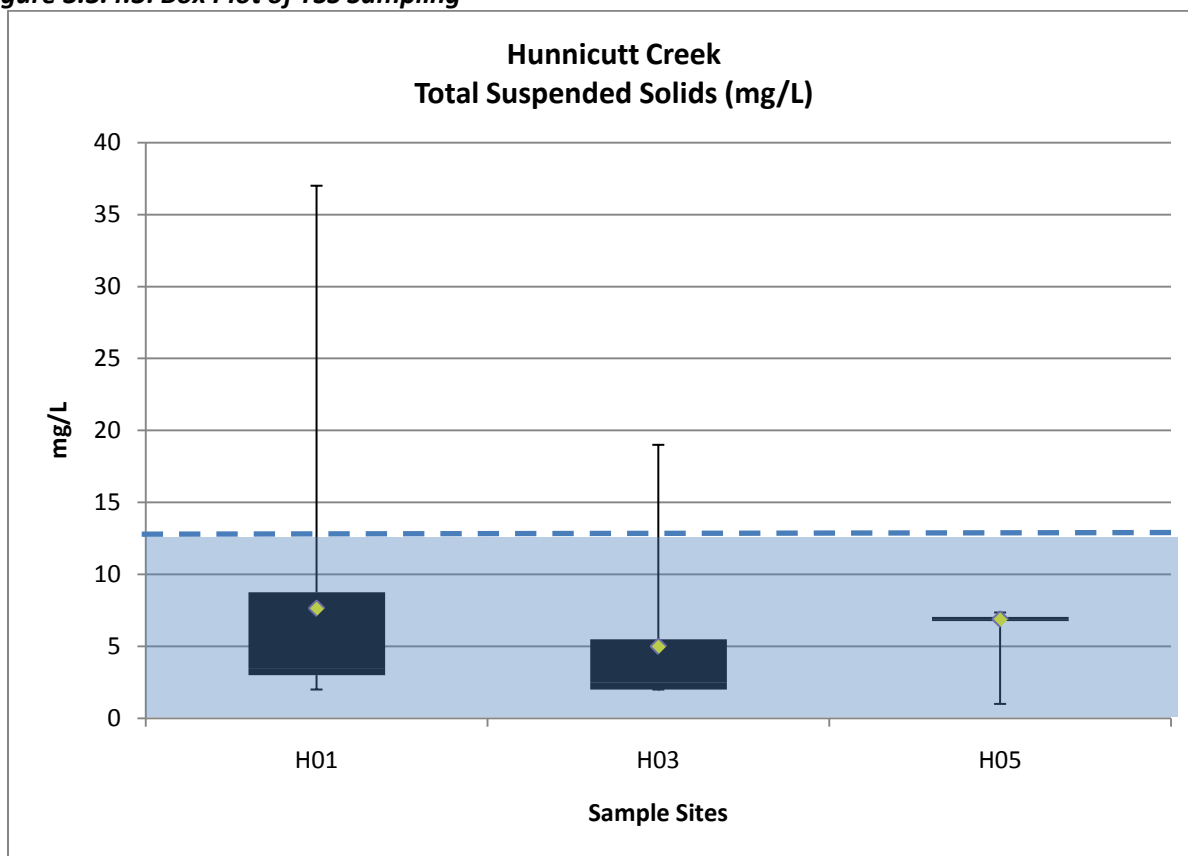
Figure 3.3.4.2 Sewer Spills and Septic Tanks in Hunnicutt Creek Drainage Basin



During stream walks in the watershed evidence of a variety of wildlife was observed, indicating the presence of deer, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and beavers. Large concentrations of animal feces near streams can be a source of elevated nutrient levels. Nutrient contributions from these observed species are typically less significant than contribution by waterfowl due to their more terrestrial nature. However, feces deposited on the land surface can result in the introduction of nutrients to streams during runoff events. Given the level of development within the watershed, the buffers along the stream appear to provide the most desirable habitat for wildlife, potentially concentrating wildlife sources of fecal coliform in the stream corridor. Also, two ponds are located in the Hunnicutt Creek basin at the headwaters of Moss Branch (HC1.7) and alongside HC1.3a, and both had evidence of geese and duck activity that could be sources of fecal coliform and nutrients. We do not have any data on how many domestic pets are in Hunnicutt Creek basin. The area surrounding the stream is highly residential and several dog pens were observed near the stream, but we do not have enough data to know whether pet waste is a significant contributor to the fecal coliform levels found in the stream.

Total suspended solids are the amount of sediment suspended in the water of the stream. The amount of suspended sediment can be increased by bank erosion and bed scouring caused by the increased runoff and water velocities entering a stream as discussed in earlier sections of this report (see sections 3.1.2: Hunnicutt Creek Stream Bed, Bank and Buffer; and 3.1.3: Potential Stressors Effecting Hunnicutt Creek's Stream Assessment Scores). The score for total suspended solids was elevated in five water quality samples. It is important to note, however, that the benchmarks are meant to represent a healthy stream in dry weather conditions. On two of the three dates in which a sample exceeded the benchmark for TSS, there was rain on the night before sampling occurred. Figure 3.3.4.3 shows box plots of the TSS sampling data.

Figure 3.3.4.3: Box Plot of TSS Sampling



Nutrient levels are one of the most difficult water quality parameters to calibrate in flowing streams due to differences in local geology, historical land use, stream discharge, and stream size. Anthropogenic nutrients in streams can cause algal blooms, which may reduce dissolved oxygen levels and reduce water clarity. Nutrient inputs may also increase the breakdown of leaves and wood in the stream, reducing the amount of food available for macroinvertebrates and fishes. In this study, we sampled three forms of nitrogen: nitrate (NO_3), ammonium (NH_4) and total nitrogen (TN). Nitrate and ammonium sampling measures forms of nitrogen that are dissolved in the water column and available for uptake by biota, while total nitrogen includes the dissolved ammonium and nitrate as well as organic and particulate forms of nitrogen. Two forms of phosphorus are also sampled in this study: phosphate (PO_4) and total phosphorus. Phosphate is dissolved and inorganic, meaning that it is easily utilized by plants and microbes. Total phosphorus includes both inorganic PO_4 and organic and particulate forms of phosphorus. In this study, benchmarks for total nitrogen, nitrate, ammonium, total phosphorus and phosphate were set based on scientific literature values (Herhily et al. 2008, Dodds et al. 2002) and baseline data from this study, creating both an upper and lower bound for nutrients (See Table 3.3.3.1).

While only one sampling event produced a measurement above the upper benchmark for Nitrates (NO_3) (2.35 mg/L in H5), nitrate, ammonium and total nitrogen in all samples were higher than values from other studies in Georgia piedmont streams. Even with nitrogen at moderate levels, nutrients in streams can cause algal blooms. Both phosphate and total phosphorus levels are very low in Hunnicutt Creek, though. Still, it is important to track inputs of phosphorus; if phosphorus were to be added to these streams and nitrogen remained at moderate levels, it would likely cause significant changes in both algal

biomass and organic matter breakdown. Figure 3.3.4.4 shows the summary of nutrient samples for Total Nitrogen and Figure 3.3.4.5 shows the summary of nutrient samples for Total Phosphorous.

Figure 3.3.4.4 Box Plot of Total Nitrogen

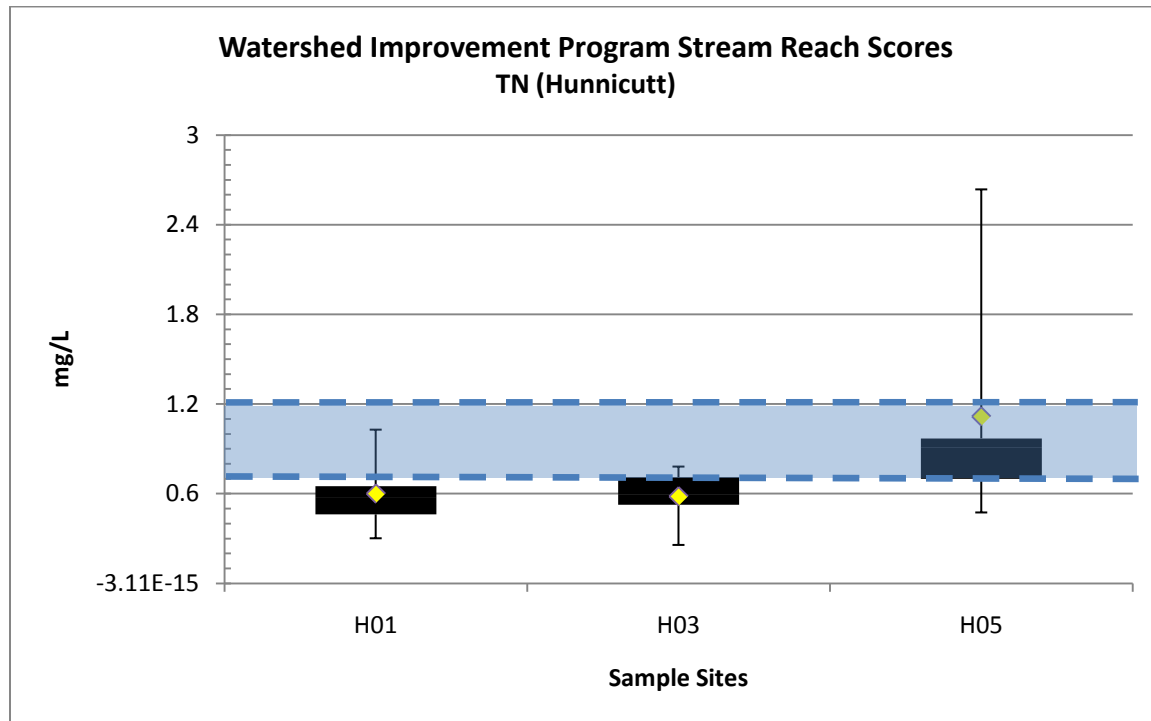
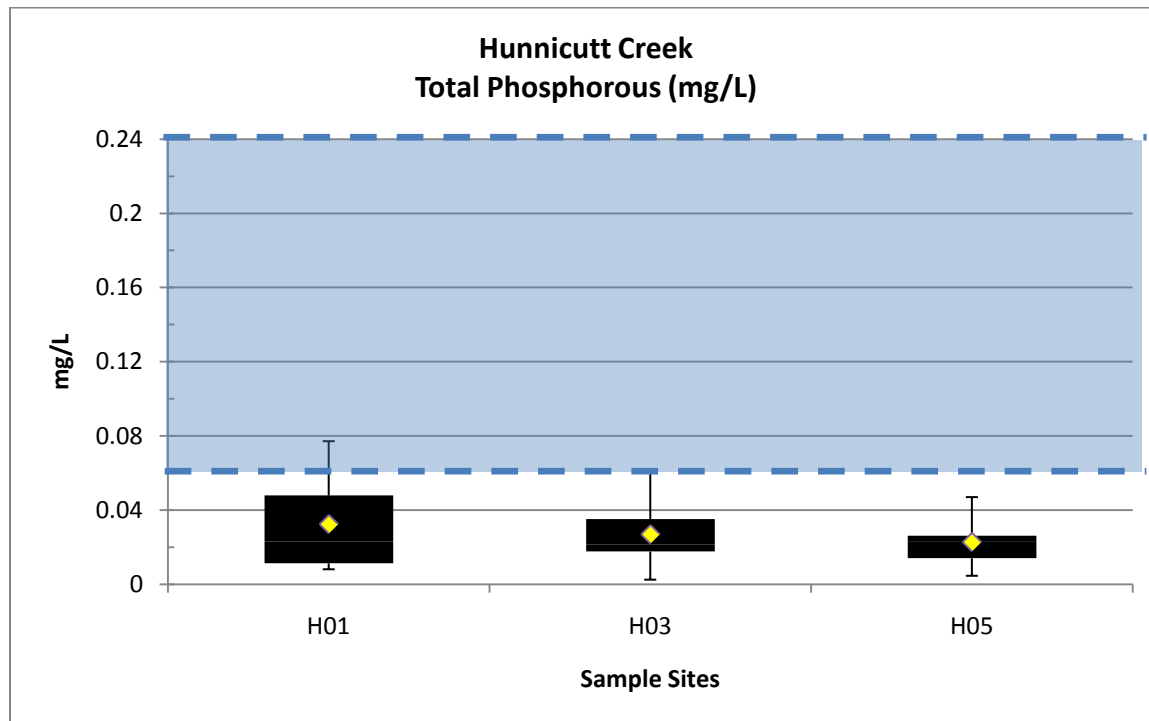


Figure 3.3.4.5: Box Plot of Total Phosphorous



Increased nutrient concentrations can come from a variety of sources such as permitted discharges, fertilizers for landscaping and agriculture, and even natural sources like decomposition of leaf and limb matter. Municipal and industrial entities have permission through NPDES permits to discharge stormwater and treated wastewater into streams. Overland flow of runoff from developed watersheds contains nutrients from lawn and garden fertilizers as well as additional organic debris (leaves and lawn clippings) that is easily washed from urban surfaces. Agricultural areas can also contribute to nutrient increases through poor manure and fertilizing practices and erosion from plowed land. Our observations during stream walks indicate that many residents fertilize their lawns, and in some reaches we found fertilizer bags stored within the stream buffer. Runoff from permitted discharges and developed land uses can convey increased nutrients found in the stream. The impacts of elevated nutrient loading can result in increased algae growth. Excessive growths of attached algae can cause low dissolved oxygen levels, odors, and poor habitat conditions for aquatic organisms (WA Department of Ecology, Chapter 3). Algal samples were collected by UGA in Hunnicutt Creek and analyzed for chlorophyll A and nutrient contents. Overall, seasonal patterns were noticed and correlations can be drawn between the increases in Total Nitrogen and the amount of chlorophyll A present in the algal samples, particularly during winter months. Future sampling is necessary to better define this relationship. Once we have this data we will know more about how much nutrients are impacting the aquatic habitat in Hunnicutt Creek. While increased nutrient levels are not a regulatory violation, they can have regulatory consequences by impacting other water quality parameters.

3.4 Conceptual Model of Hunnicutt Creek Conditions and Concerns

In order to understand the health of Hunnicutt Creek watershed, we utilized three main methods of data collect that provide us with information on stream health: conducting a physical stream assessment, collecting biological scores, and collecting water quality data. A conceptual model (Figure 3.4.1) was created to trace these indicators back to their likely sources and identify areas of particular concern in Hunnicutt Creek.

Indicators

The three indicators for this study are Water Quality Data, Biological Scores, and Stream Assessment Scores. Water Quality Data come from three sources: monthly grab sampling, datasonde long-term monitoring instruments, and wet weather sampling. This data is then compared to water quality benchmarks created using the Georgia Water Quality Standards and comparable studies of water quality. Biological Scores were obtained by collecting and analyzing macroinvertebrate and algae data. Stream health cannot be solely defined by water quality alone. That is why it is important to conduct physical stream assessments as well. Stream walks were used to gain an understanding of Hunnicutt Creek's physical health from the headwaters to the confluence with the Middle Oconee River.

Impacts

Moving up the model, we looked at the local impacts that lead to the indicators mentioned above. These are the "evidence" that a stream is suffering from some type of water pollution. These indicators include specific impacts with a direct correlation to Water Quality Data like regulatory standards violations and missed benchmarks stemming from algal growth and decreased water quality. Degraded aquatic habitat and impaired aquatic life affect biological scores. In the physical assessment of the stream, we focused on the bed, banks, and buffers and noted the particular impact of erosion, incision, aggradation, and degraded riparian habitat in Hunnicutt Creek.

Stressors

A variety of more broad stressors cover some of the larger issues of water quality. These stressors include nutrients, pathogens, and chemicals—all important contaminants to be mindful of in stream studies. More importantly in Hunnicutt Creek, these stressors include increased peak flow and runoff volumes, riparian disturbance, and sediment, which upon analysis are likely the most influential contributors to the declining health of the watershed.

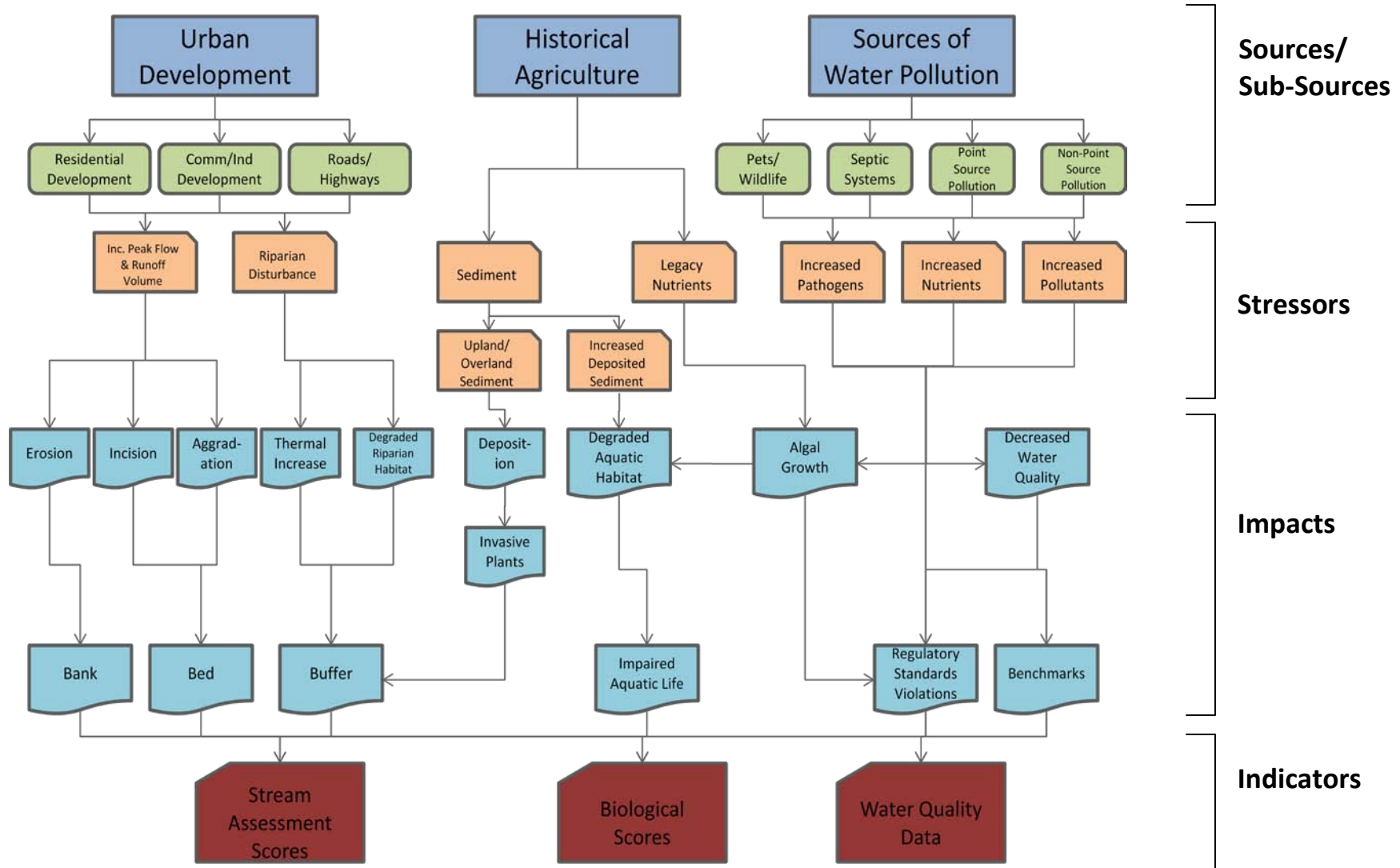
Sources/Sub-Sources

Finally, more global sources of stream degradation include urban development, historical agriculture, and other sources of water pollution. In this study of Hunnicutt Creek, it is evident that a majority of the issues in this watershed stem from human sources, particularly historical agriculture and urban development. Polluters also contribute to poor water quality, but the data does not suggest that the impacts are as great as historical agriculture and urban development.

Summary

Overall, as mentioned, the driving factor on the condition of HCDB is human activity. We can point to three key stressors as having impacts on aquatic life, hydrologic function, and water quality. These stressors are sedimentation and hydromodification due to development, fecal coliform contamination, and elevated nutrients. The amount of development in HCDB without best management practices has led to increased impervious surface which results in increased storm flows. These increased storm flows result in high flow velocities which erode stream banks, increase sedimentation due to bank instability, and degrade instream habitat quality. Fecal coliform contamination has already resulted in the stream being listed on the state's 303(d) list; however, the sources of this contamination are uncertain at this time and the data shows no signs of a continuous source. The lack of stormwater BMPs and noted urban and suburban development are likely the dominant factors in degrading the health of the Hunnicutt Creek Watershed.

Figure 3.4.1 Conceptual Model of How Pollution Occurs in Streams



Chapter 4: Hunnicutt Creek Watershed Management Plan

4.1 Summary of Management Needs

As mentioned in the previous section, it is human activity that has had the greatest impact on the Hunnicutt Creek watershed. Higher levels of imperviousness associated with suburban and urban development and past agricultural land uses have resulted in widespread flow issues and aggraded Hunnicutt Creek and its tributaries. The most important step in watershed improvement is to stabilize flow in the upstream reaches through the use of centralized and distributed best management practices (BMPs), in order to halt flow impacts upstream as well as downstream. To the extent practicable, BMPs should be designed such that they also provide water quality treatment for nutrients and fecal coliform. Once flow has been stabilized, the next most important step is to target suboptimal reaches for stream channel restoration, as well as streambank stabilization and restoration. Given the stage of channel evolution in Hunnicutt Creek, full stream restoration projects should be given the highest priority in this watershed as this would be more feasible (from a space perspective) and provide the most benefit. The overall goal of these flow control and restoration efforts is to prevent further degradation of the aquatic habitat. Key to this will also be ensuring that new development has adequate flow and water quality BMPs, such as Low Impact Development (LID). Citizen education efforts should target existing and new suburban and urban areas in the watershed to help mitigate runoff from lawn and garden areas, hopefully preventing additional nutrients from reaching the stream. Other BMPs that are important (but not as important) include instream grade control, and riparian buffer revegetation and preservation. However, if the previous BMPs are not implemented first, these BMPs will likely be ineffective. Bacterial source tracking is also recommended in the Hunnicutt Creek watershed in order to identify and eliminate any sources of fecal coliform contamination.

4.2 Best Management Practices to Be Utilized in Hunnicutt Creek Watershed

4.2.1 Centralized BMPs

These centralized BMPs should target the upstream reaches in order to stabilize flow in the downstream reaches, thus improving the effectiveness of downstream BMPs.

Extended detention

These devices store stormwater runoff and reduce stormwater peak flow rates. Stormwater enters the device through an inlet, which may be a grass-lined channel or stormwater pipe. An embankment detains stormwater, and an outlet riser controls the downstream release rate of the impounded water. Stormwater is detained for a longer period of time than in conventional dry detention ponds; the longer detention time allows for more removal of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and nutrients from the stormwater.

4.2.2 Distributed BMPs

Distributed BMPs are larger BMPs that may be spread throughout the watershed. We will consider both priority and secondary distributed BMPs. Priority BMPs are somewhat easier and more cost effective and should be considered first when establishing management practices to be used.

4.2.2.1 Priority Distributed BMPs

Bioretention

Bioretention areas are depressions filled with 2 to 4 feet of sandy soil and planted with drought and flood tolerant plants. Stormwater drains into the surface of the bioretention area and, as the water infiltrates through the sandy soil, the soil and plants remove a portion of pollutants. In areas with sandy loam or other highly permeable soils, the water treated by the bioretention cell will infiltrate into the native soil. In areas that have soils with low permeability (typically clay-dominated soils), a gravel layer and underdrain pipe are placed below the sandy soil layer. Once the stormwater infiltrates through the treatment cell's sandy soil, it is drained out of the device through the underdrain pipe. Most bioretention areas are designed so that up to a foot of water can pond in the cell during a rain event. A weir is included in the bioretention area to bypass excess water above the ponding depth. Since bioretention areas use mulch and a variety of shrubs and small trees, they can be easily incorporated into existing landscaping.

Swales

A grass swale is a grass-lined channel with sloped banks. Culverts are used to pass stormwater under driveways and streets. Unlike water quality swales, grass swales do not have a sandy soil layer or gravel underdrains. Grass swales are used to convey stormwater runoff and slow stormwater flow. They are an alternative to storm sewer pipes, which produce higher stormwater flows than grass swales, especially for smaller storm events. Grass swales also remove some sediment if the stormwater flow is controlled.

Rainwater harvesting

Rainwater harvesting reduces runoff during a storm event by retaining a portion of the runoff for future use. This can be accomplished by using storage tanks called cisterns or rain barrels. Cisterns are tanks that hold rainwater for irrigation and other uses. These BMPs can be pre-manufactured or constructed onsite. They also can be incorporated inconspicuously into the side of a building. Rain barrels typically hold less water than cisterns, about 8 cubic feet per rain barrel. If these devices are designed properly and if water is reused frequently, they can be used to control stormwater runoff, reduce stormwater flow, and remove some pollutants.

Disconnect downspouts

This practice involves reducing the amount of concentrated stormwater runoff leaving a site by disconnecting roof downspouts from drainage systems. Some houses or other buildings may not be directly connected to the municipal storm sewer system, but still may have an onsite drainage system or diffused runoff that could be disconnected. The roof runoff is diffused and directed into natural areas, gardens, bioretention cells, etc.

4.2.2.2 Secondary Distributed BMPs

Retrofit of parking area to disconnect impervious surfaces

This strategy involves the re-design of a parking lot so that runoff is captured and treated in distributed stormwater BMPs like bioretention. Grass swales may be employed as a conveyance to the bioretention, providing additional pollutant removal.

Permeable pavement

Permeable pavement differs from conventional asphalt and concrete in that it allows for infiltration of water during a rainfall event. Permeable pavement types include porous asphalt, porous concrete and

paving stones interspersed with sandy soil or other porous fill. These types of pavement vary in vehicular traffic capacity. Grass parking lots, reinforced with plastic rings, are typically used for overflow parking, while some permeable pavement can be designed to handle more frequent traffic.

4.2.3 Stream Channel Restoration

Stream channel restoration BMPs should target downstream reaches after flow has been stabilized upstream in order to ensure their lifespan and effectiveness.

Stream channel restoration

Stream channel restoration involves removing historic sediments, restoring the bankfull channel at the approximate pre-settlement elevation, and restoring the bankfull channel at the current floodplain. The regenerative approach involves filling and stabilizing the channel to the current floodplain.

Characteristics include:

- Producing more gradually sloping banks
- Reconnecting a stream to the floodplain
- Converting a stream from a straight to a meandering channel
- Restoration of riffles (shallow areas where flow passes over a gravel bed)
- Restoration of pools (deeper, more slow-flowing areas)
- Installing rock or wood structures that promote natural stream flow patterns
- Revegetation of banks
- Maintenance and monitoring of restorative efforts

Instream grade control

Instream grade control is a type of restoration that alters the existing channels and adds structures to the channels that reduce velocity and downstream erosion.

4.2.4 Sewer Line Maintenance/Replacement/Study

This strategy involves replacing or repairing cracks or other sources of leaks in sewer pipes.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) study of sewer pipe condition

A CCTV study involves the use of video equipment to evaluate the condition of sewer pipes and identify those that require maintenance or replacement.

Enhanced CIP for sewer pipe maintenance and replacement (potential enhancement of current programs)

A capital improvement plan/program (CIP) includes an enhanced schedule for routine sewer pipe maintenance and replacement of leaking pipes.

Conduct enhanced bacteria study

A field study designed to observe indicators of bacteria loading can help identify the major sources of bacteria in a watershed and lead to more successful management efforts.

4.2.5 Streambank/Riparian Area BMPs

4.2.5.1 Priority Streambank/Riparian Area BMPs

Streambank stabilization

Streambank stabilization involves adding natural materials or structures to banks to reduce erosion and provide stability. Natural, less structural materials are preferred, but riprap and similar materials may be required along severely unstable reaches.

Streambank restoration

Streambank restoration involves the conversion of vertical banks to gradually sloping banks, which are then stabilized and vegetated.

4.2.5.1 Secondary Streambank/Riparian Area BMPs

Riparian buffer revegetation

Riparian buffer revegetation, or restoration, involves the re-establishment of natural vegetation along streams where it has previously been removed or destroyed. This activity is usually part of a stream restoration project.

Riparian buffer preservation (education and conservation easements)

This activity involves preventing the future disturbance of vegetation along streams by purchasing property rights, either through a conservation easement or fee simple purchase.

4.2.6 Citizen Education

Citizen Education Efforts

Citizen education is an extremely important method for improving stream health. Several different methods would be used for educating citizens, as outlined below. Many of these strategies would be utilized county-wide, not just in Hunnicutt Creek; however they are an important part of this WMP. Each strategy includes:

- 1) Program Description
- 2) Target Audience
- 3) Goals of Program (Broad)
- 4) Expected Outcome (Quantitative)

Stream Clean-Ups

- 1) Residents remove trash and tires from the stream bed, banks, and buffer. Volunteers may also be recruited using Community Connection's network of volunteers. Partner with the Solid Waste Department in order to have access to roll-off containers for disposal of trash.
- 2) Residents living in the target basin, residents living or owning property near streams.
- 3) To improve stream habitat, connect residents to their local environment, and to gain resident investment in the larger Watershed Improvement Program.

- 4) 500 feet of stream cleaned up and involvement of 15 residents per basin. Also measure the tons of garbage removed from the stream and buffer.

Fertilizer Reduction Program

- 1) Residents are taught how to test the soil to determine how much fertilizers they need. They are taught how and when to fertilize properly, using a fertilizer with nitrogen/phosphorous/potassium ratios recommended by UGA Cooperative Extension Office. Residents can be engaged during the neighborhood meetings but will also be mailed test kits. How many kits are sent in by residents to be tested is a measure of some behavior change. Residents will be asked to create a “no fertilizer and no mowing zone” within x feet from the stream, and the change in buffer width over time can be a measurement of behavior change. The landscaping businesses currently used by basin residents will also be engaged and asked to use only what fertilizers are necessary as prescribed by UGA Cooperative Extension. Residents will be asked to show the soil testing results to their landscapers and request that only the necessary amounts of fertilizers are applied during the appropriate season. Signs may be posted that can be changed to give residents a “green” or a “red” light for fertilizing based on when the next rain event is likely to occur.
- 2) Home owners in target basins, approach by neighborhood or even a collection of streets.
- 3) Overarching goal is to reduce improper fertilizer application and therefore to reduce nutrient levels in the stream. The stream will be sampled before, during, and after the implementation of the program. During the program complimentary media will run on local media outlets.
- 4) Outcomes could include:
 - a. Enlist at least 50% of households in a residential neighborhood to sign a pledge to eliminate or reduce fertilizer application to once per year. (Follow up periodically to confirm ongoing adoption.)
 - b. Have 25 number of residents send in soil testing kits per year.
 - c. Change in buffer width over time.
 - d. Fertilizer levels in water before and after program implementation.

Other Desired Behavior Change

- 1) Reduction of soaps and detergents in runoff
 - a. Give residents car clings that remind them to wash their car on the lawn.
 - b. Offer coupons for local car washes. Can track how many coupons are redeemed.
- 2) Reduction of pet waste in runoff
 - a. Give out free doggie bags
 - b. Have residents and their children do “poop patrol,” putting flags in pet waste left on the ground. Repeat 6 months later and measure the change in the number of flags distributed for the same area.
- 3) Reduction of leaf and lawn litter that enter the stormwater system
 - a. Leave door hangers explaining the harm done by lawn debris on area houses.
 - i. Do a visual assessment of lawn debris and leaves in the gutters and stormdrains before and then 6 months after program implementation.

Businesses

- 1) Engage businesses in the Stream Savers Program. This program is still in development but includes business participation in the following types of activities. An “ACC Green Business Award” program might also be effective, and would involve participating in education and behavior change activities designed by ACC Stormwater, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, ACC Water Conservation, and ACC Recycling.
 - Hosting a rain barrel workshop for the general public
 - Installing a rain barrel with educational signage on the business property
 - Having a “Stream Saver Special” food item or product for sale
 - Completing a stormwater audit of the business grounds
 - Organizing a team of business employees to take part in a stream clean-up or other environmental service day
 - Adopting a stream or highway
 - Hosting a visit from the Stormwater mascot, Tortooga
 - Completing a water conservation audit
 - Watching a stormwater or water quality related DVD during a staff meeting
 - Converting to non-toxic cleaners for cleaning the workplace
 - Participating in a lunch-n-learn lecture hosted by ACC Stormwater
 - Making stormwater education materials available for customers

Complementary Media

Complimentary media campaigns will be run on local media outlets to increase awareness of and advertise for the programs themselves, as well as to educate ACC citizens in general about ways they can protect the health of their watersheds. Advertising for localized neighborhood programs to the larger general audience will help to build awareness of the watershed improvement programs ACC Stormwater will offer and hopefully increase attendance at future public meetings and workshops. Staff should create a media campaign approach that speaks to the interests of the Athens population, but should also draw from resources that already exist from national stormwater pollution reduction campaigns.

4.2.7 Other BMPs

Waterfowl management

It is generally desirable to have waterfowl habitat within a watershed ecosystem. However, waterfowl can be a significant source of bacteria and nutrients in waterbodies, and a number of management strategies are available to control their populations. The following strategies can be used to discourage the overuse of waterbodies by waterfowl, particularly Canadian geese:

- Install devices that repel waterfowl from a waterbody without causing harm to the birds or other wildlife (custom windmills, eagle-shaped kites, flashing lights, etc.)
- Reduce or eliminate fertilization and irrigation near waterbodies.
- Replace lawn areas along waterbodies with shrubs, yucca plants, or other vegetation that is less attractive to waterfowl.
- Build in trees, shrubs, rocks and other natural obstructions that provide habitat for predators.

These strategies should also be used to prevent BMP retrofits, especially pond retrofits and stormwater wetlands, from being accessed by problematic waterfowl.

4.3 Evaluation and Location of BMP Priority Areas

The BMPs above were further evaluated to select the most promising BMPs for detailed modeling and assessment by individual catchment. Tetra Tech, the environmental consultant used on this project, used available observed and simulated data to designate which catchments presented the greatest management needs, including

- **Catchment Loading:** estimated total loading from overland runoff in the watershed, including Total Nitrogen (TN); Total Phosphorus (TP); Total Suspended Solids (TSS). These estimates are from the LSPC watershed model results of existing conditions.
- **Observed Monitoring Data:** measured water quality data including TN, TP, TSS, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Fecal Coliform (FC), Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), and Turbidity (as discussed in Section 3.3.3).
- **Flashiness Index:** a measure of the peak flow of streams. These estimates are from Tetra Tech's modeling of existing conditions using the project's LSPC watershed model.
- **Aquatic Habitat Score:** indicators of overall stream health from the project characterization reports.
- **Total Stream Segment Score:** an indicator of overall stream condition from the project's characterization reports.

As noted above, all of the BMPs in the previous section are recommended for the watershed improvement strategy. However, different combinations of BMPs were selected for different catchments. The BMPs were screened for their potential effectiveness and implementation feasibility based on each catchment's (1) management needs, and (2) existing types and intensities of land cover. Each strategy included a number of distributed and centralized engineering BMPs, streambank and riparian area management, and citizen education. The BMPs selected for more detailed catchment assessment were considered the most promising BMPs; however, other BMPs options on the menu could be effective as well in a given catchment and should also be considered in the future.

Priority reaches for restoration and preservation were selected according to which reaches were rated as moderately degraded during ACC's field assessment (Section 3.1). Sites were evaluated to ensure that selected reaches exhibited moderate bank erosion, channelization, etc., and selected reaches did not have conditions that would cause major constraints, like unusually high banks or existing structures.

The following figure (Figure 4.3.1) show each catchment's high priority management needs and opportunities for the Hunnicutt Creek Watershed. For each watershed, a map is provided showing overall management needs and high priority BMPs, by catchment. The figures also highlight secondary management needs that should be addressed as resources become available, and the associated secondary BMPs. Figure 4.3.2 shows restoration and buffer preservation opportunities in Hunnicutt Creek.

Figure 4.3.1 Hunnicutt Creek Management Needs and Recommended BMPs



Figure 4.3.2 Hunnicutt Creek Restoration and Buffer Preservation Opportunities



4.4 Estimated Load Reductions of Best Management Practices

Modeling analysis was conducted to assess the management needs and BMPs put forth in this plan. In the Hunnicutt Creek watershed, the strategy employs BMP retrofits upstream of the priority stream restoration reaches in order to address peak flow and volume control impacts. The watershed improvement strategy recognizes that over a number of decades, the other impacted stream channels will reach a new, stable equilibrium on their own. Therefore, management resources would not be used to conduct stream restoration except at a limited number of stream sites.

The protection/preservation measures recommended, such as LID for future development projects, were not modeled in the assessment of watershed improvement BMPs since these measures do not address existing impairments. However, these protection measures are critical in maintaining the watershed improvements implemented and in addressing potential future impacts, and thus are included in the watershed management plan.

4.4.1 Characteristics of the Management Plan Strategy

The management plan strategy has a number of key characteristics to achieve:

- 25 percent of the impervious area is managed in the targeted catchment using the centralized and decentralized (engineering) watershed improvement BMPs.
- 50 percent of the residential area is targeted for a homeowner nutrient reduction program.
- 25 percent of the unvegetated stream buffers are restored in the targeted catchments.
- 25 percent of the good candidate streambank/channel restoration sites are implemented.

4.4.2 Modeling and Assessment Approach

Tetra Tech used the Best Management Practices (BMP) Evaluation Module to assess the effectiveness of management measures at the site and catchment level, and to estimate the cumulative effectiveness of the management strategy at the watershed level if implemented. The BMP evaluation module simulates BMP control of flow and water quality. The data inputs for the BMP Module were generated from the watershed model developed for the ACC study watersheds. The model used watershed hydrology and water quality data from the years 2001 to 2007 to estimate the annual pollutant load reduction and peak flow control if BMPs are implemented.

Several BMPs were not appropriate to assess in the BMP Evaluation Module: agricultural BMPs, buffer and stream restoration, the homeowner nutrient reduction program. These BMPs were evaluated using the project's watershed model and Geographic Information System (GIS) coverages of the study watersheds, and then "rolled into" the BMP Evaluation Model results to generate cumulative results for each strategy (except the stream restoration projects, which are reported separately).

Tetra Tech also assessed how well the management strategies meet the proposed water quality benchmarks. Using monitoring data from the three pilot watersheds (Section 3.3.3), Tetra Tech identified a catchment at the base (or bottom) of Trail Creek watershed (another watershed studied at the same time as Hunnicutt Creek) that met the midpoint of the TP and TN benchmark ranges for instream concentration. Since the nutrient concentrations at the base of the watershed reflect land cover runoff from the entire watershed, existing land cover loading rates for TP, TN, and TSS from the

Trail Creek watershed were used as target loading rates and used to develop target annual loading for all the county's watersheds, including Hunnicutt Creek.

To express the uncertainty of the target loading, a range was established around the target loading rate. The proposed water quality benchmarks were used as guidance for this range. The concentration-based benchmarks represent a 25 to 60 percent range around a midpoint. To be conservative, Tetra Tech established a range for the target load using a ± 25 percent around the target loading rate for each watershed. Then pollutant loading targets were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the moderate and aggressive strategies in meeting the recommended instream water quality benchmarks.

4.4.3 Modeling Results

The modeling results below are reported in several ways. First, there are bar graphs comparing annual pollutant loading under existing conditions and the target pollutant loading needed to achieve water quality benchmarks. Second, watershed maps compare catchment loading under existing conditions and the suggested management strategies. As the watershed improvement BMPs are implemented, it will be important to monitor stream conditions to determine how the load reductions achieved affect water quality compared to the water quality benchmarks (to be discussed in Section 4.6).

The watershed improvement strategy in Hunnicutt Creek attempts to stabilize flow in the upstream reaches, through the use of centralized and distributed BMPs (except the headwaters area catchment 76), then targets suboptimal reaches for stream channel restoration, and streambank stabilization and restoration once flow has been stabilized. This strategy produces a 32 percent reduction in TN, a 34 percent reduction in TP, and an 8 percent reduction in TSS. Figures 4.4.3.1 through 4.4.3.3 display the load reductions for these constituents. Figures 4.4.3.4 through 4.4.3.6 demonstrate how pollutant loading changes in each catchment of the watershed.

Figure 4.4.3.1 Total Nitrogen Anticipated Load Reductions

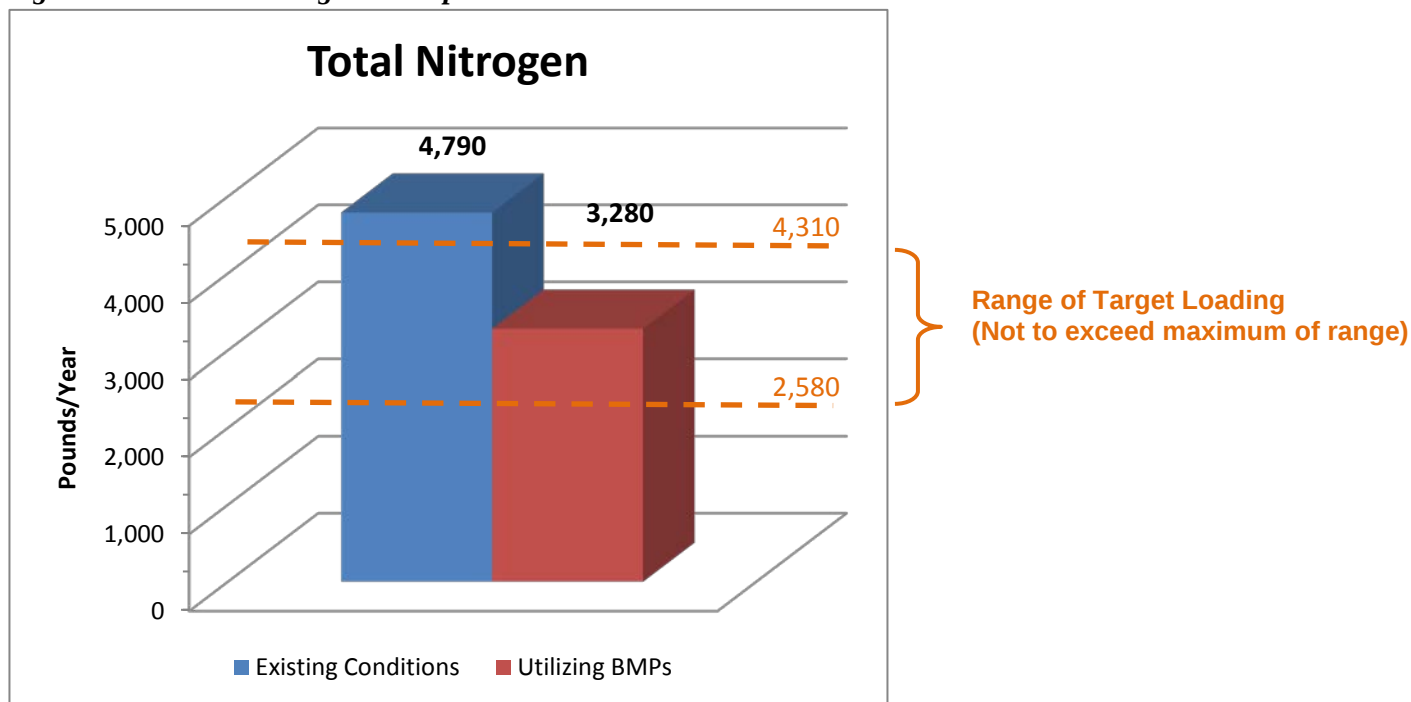


Figure 4.4.3.2 Total Phosphorous Anticipated Load Reductions

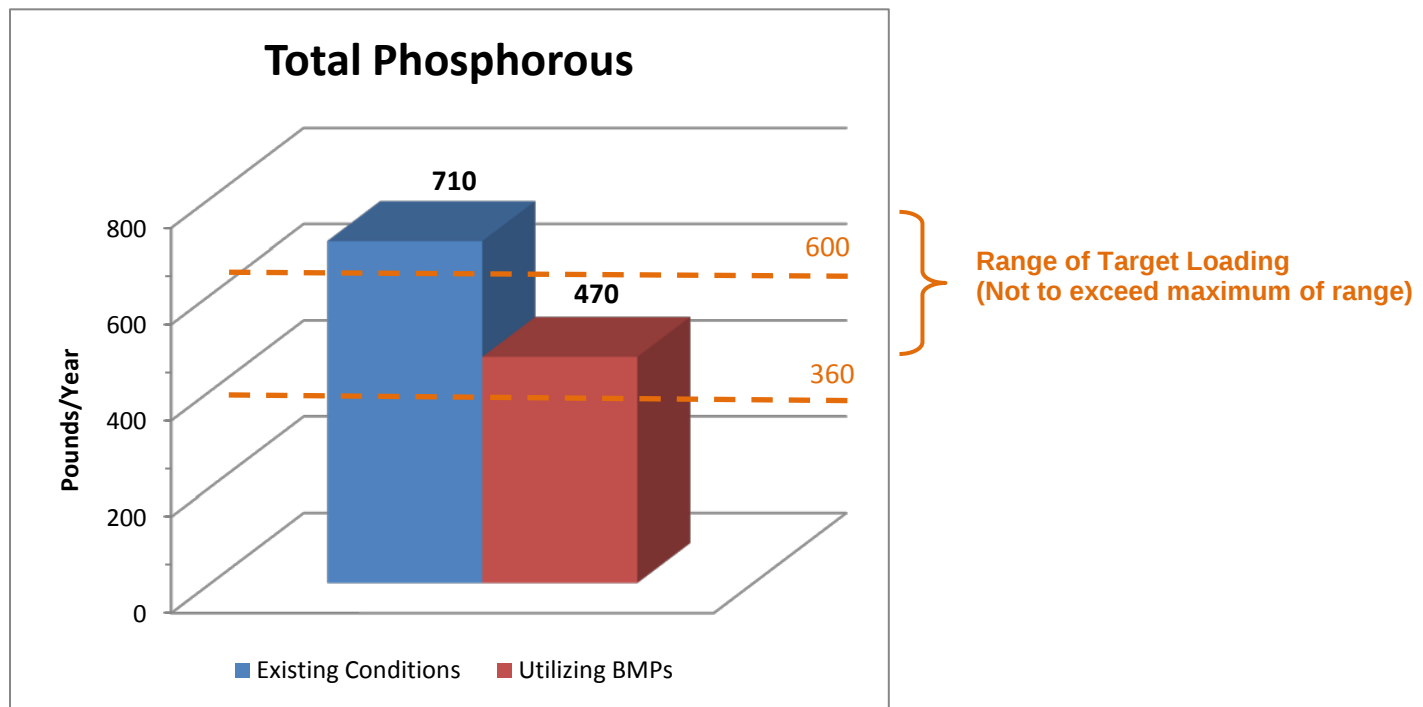
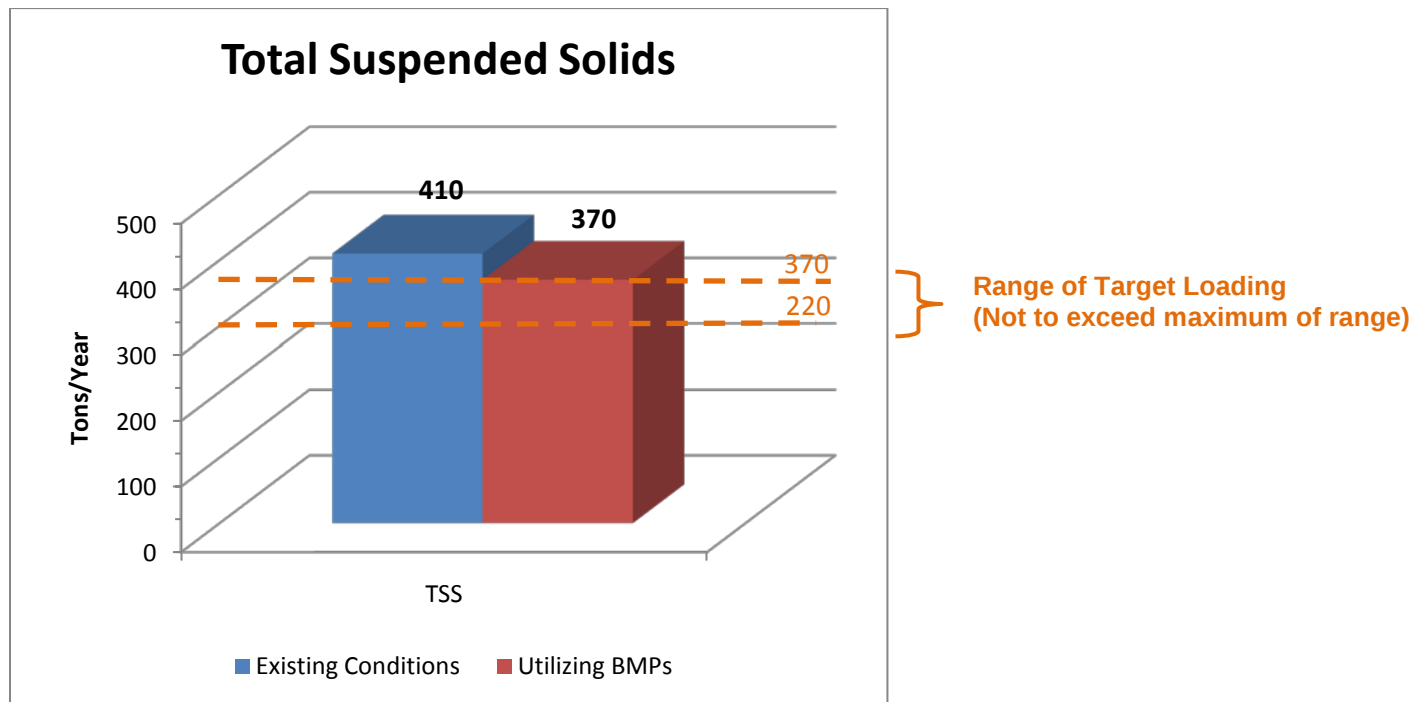


Figure 4.4.3.3 Total Suspended Solids Anticipated Load Reductions



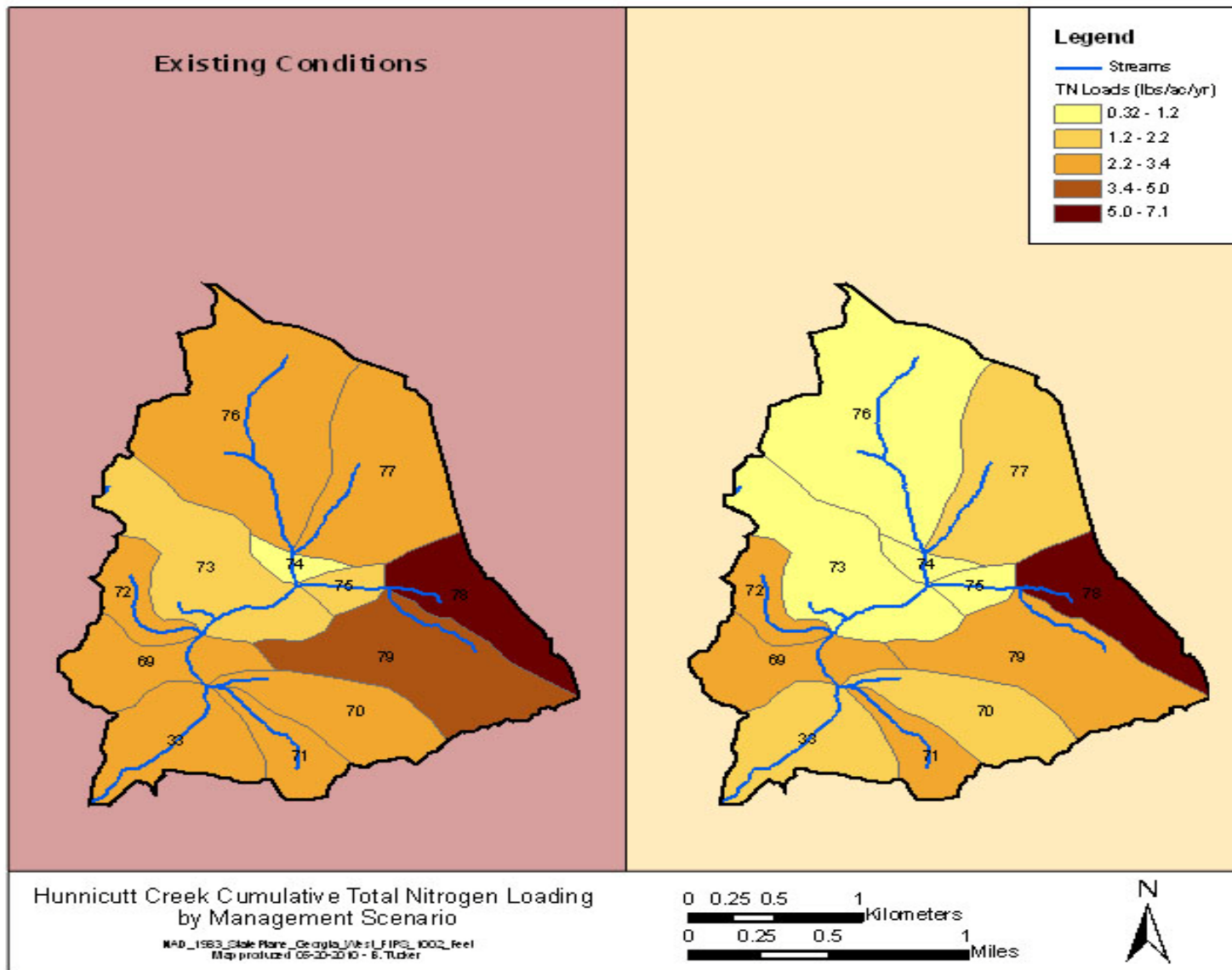


Figure 4.4.3.4 Hunnicutt Comparison of TN Loading in Catchments

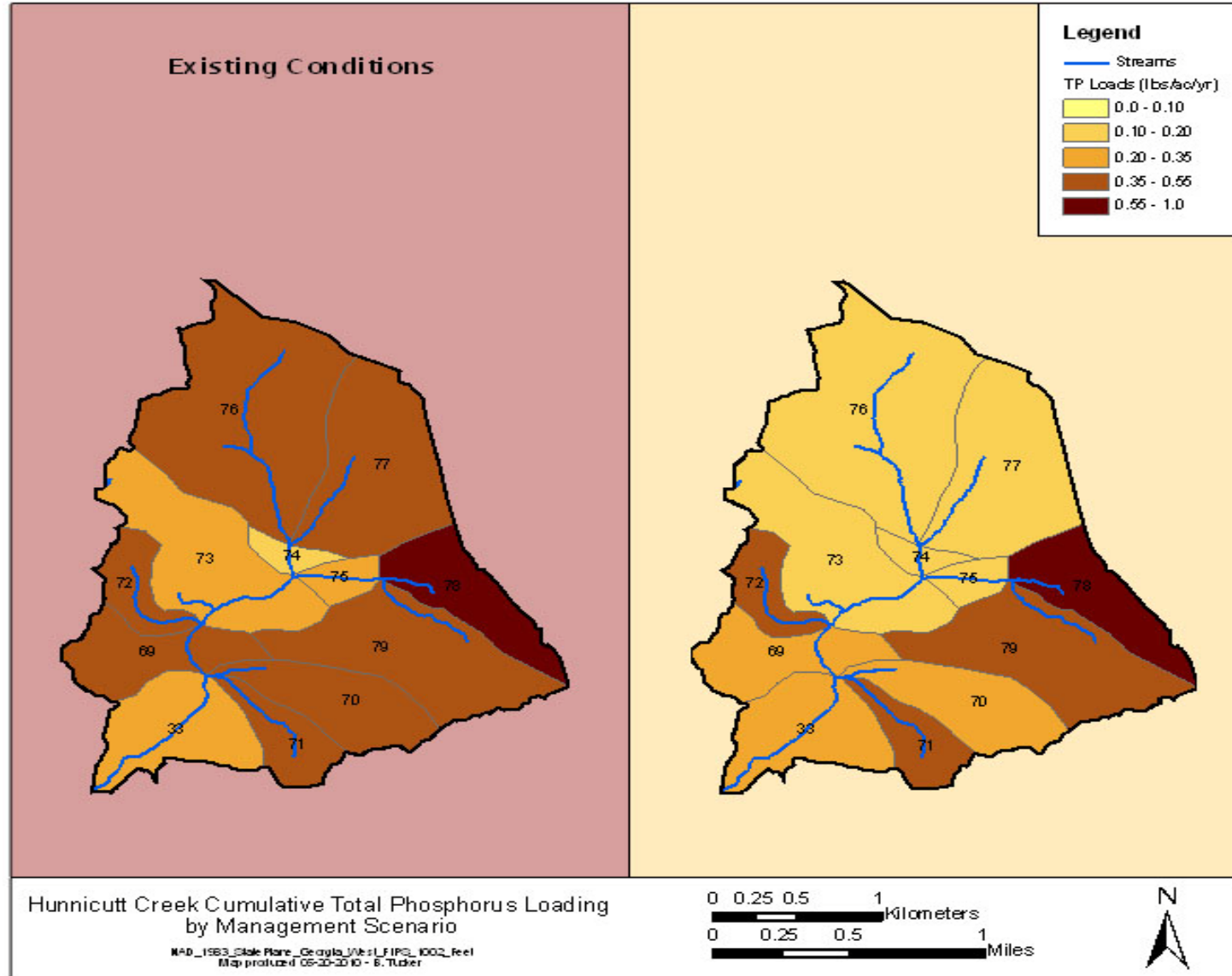


Figure 4.4.3.5 Hunnicutt Comparison of TP Loading in Catchments

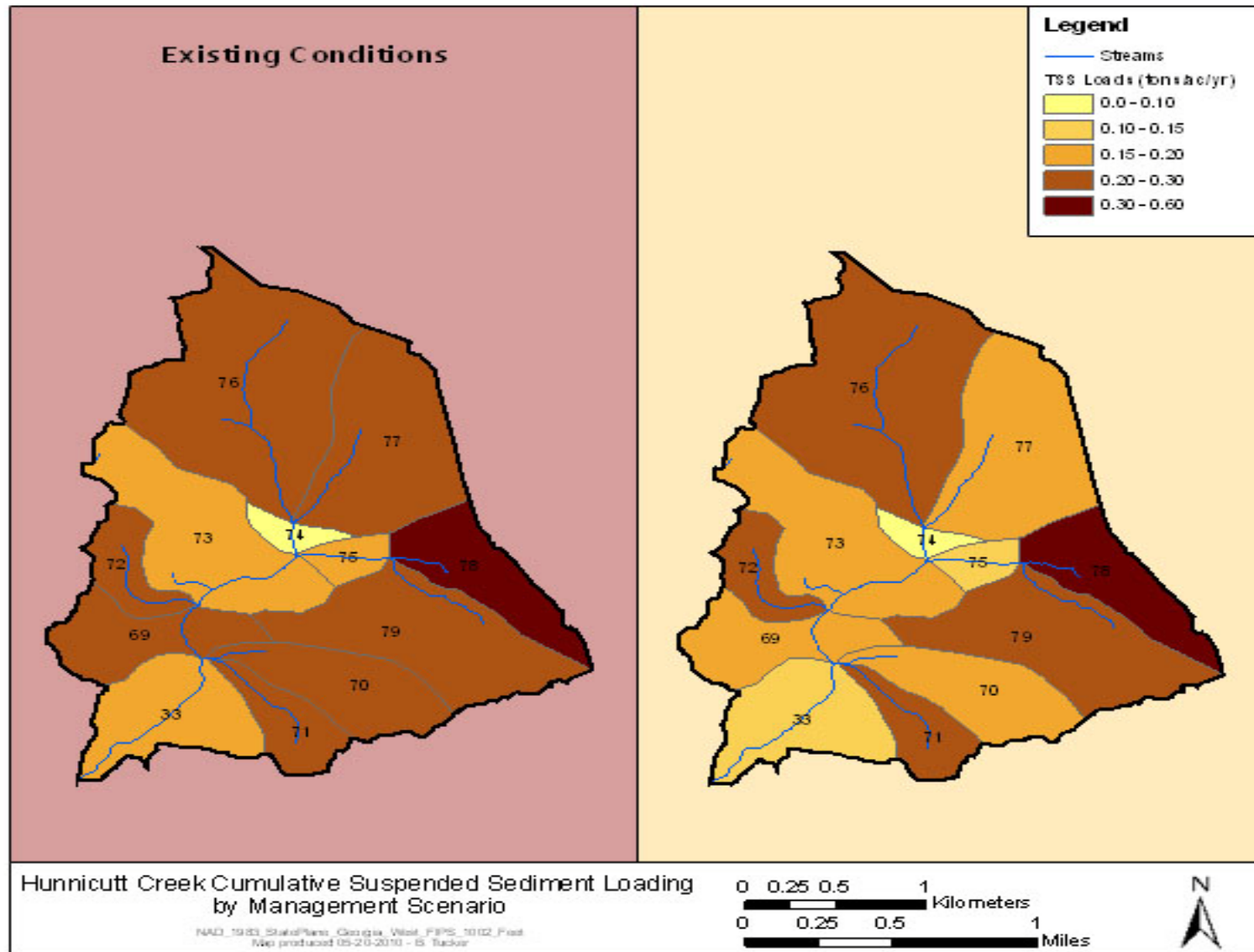


Figure 4.4.3.6 Hunnicutt Comparison of TSS Loading in Catchments

4.5 Implementation Cost and Schedule

Implementing this plan will require significant amounts of funding to achieve the load reductions mentioned in the previous section. These reductions will also not occur rapidly and therefore a long-term strategy for both cost and implementation is necessary. Table 4.5.1 provides a 10-year outline for the implementation of the aforementioned BMPs, as well as a lifetime cost estimate.

Activity	Priority	Schedule (Year)										Costs (\$)
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Centralized BMPs												
Extended Dry Detention Basin - Public	1				X	X	X					\$544,500
Extended Dry Detention Basin - Private	1						X	X	X			\$686,000
Distributed BMPs												
Bioretention - Public	1				X	X	X	X				\$2,146,000
Bioretention - Private	1							X	X	X	X	\$3,477,000
Swales - Public	1			X	X							\$2,000
Swales - Private	1					X	X					\$5,000
Rainwater Harvesting - Public	1					X	X	X				\$66,000
Rainwater Harvesting - Private	1								X	X	X	\$429,000
Disconnected Downspouts - Public	1		X	X	X							\$3,000
Disconnected Downspouts - Private	1		X	X	X							\$1,500
Permeable Pavement/Retrofits	2			X	X							\$3,369,400
Stream Channel Restoration												
Stream Restoration	1		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			\$1,368,000
Sewer Line Maintenance/Replacement/Study												
Enhanced Bacteria Study	1	X	X									\$20,000
Sewer Pipe Condition Study	P			X	X	X	X					\$420,000
Streambank/Riparian Areas BMPs												
Buffer Preservation	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$260,000
Buffer Restoration	2			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		\$153,000
Citizen Education BMPs												
Citizen Education Efforts	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$150,000
		Total										\$13,100,419

Notes:

1 = First Priority

2 = Second Priority

P = Potential BMP

4.6 Evaluation Methods for Measuring Success

In order to ensure the success of the management measures outlined in this plan, an adaptive management approach is necessary. Continued evaluation, both quantitative and qualitative, will help

determine the effectiveness of the variety of BMPs used. All BMPs will be monitored upon implementation, but specific evaluations will take place at 5 year intervals. At this time, if necessary, revisions will be made to this plan in order to improve its effectiveness at enhancing watershed health.

4.6.1 Quantitative Evaluation Techniques

In assessing the current conditions in Hunnicutt Creek, we have a baseline of data to compare the expected BMPs' improvements against. In order to assess what improvements have been made, follow-up monitoring and physical assessment will be conducted 5 and 10 years after adoption of this plan. This will include the following activities and goals:

- **Streamwalks**
 - **Activities:**
 - Hunnicutt Creek will again be walked and the same stream reaches will be scored using the same system.
 - **Goals:**
 - **5-year:** 9 of 14 reaches score at least Sub-Optimal (currently 6 of 14)
 - **10-year:** 11 of 14 reaches score at least Sub-Optimal, with at least 1 scoring Optimal
- **Water Quality Sampling**
 - **Activities:**
 - **Quarterly Monitoring:** Conduct quarterly grab sampling for parameters of concern including fecal coliform, nutrients (TN, NO₃, NH₄, TP, PO₄), and turbidity (for TSS).
 - **Delisting Sampling:** Conduct delisting sampling, four samples over a 30-day period, for fecal coliform as described in TMDL implementation plan for Hunnicutt Creek.
 - **Goals:**
 - **5-year:** 15 percent reduction in TN and TP, and a 3 percent reduction in TSS
 - **10-year:** 30 percent reduction in TN and TP, and a 8 percent reduction in TSS
 - Delisting of Hunnicutt Creek from the 303(d) list for fecal coliform contamination.
- **Biological Monitoring**
 - **Activities:**
 - Macroinvertebrate analysis will be conducted at the current sampling locations and scored using the same system.
 - **Goals:**
 - **5-year:** Site H5 will improve to a "fair" score and site H3 will improve to a "good" score.
 - **10-year:** All sites will score either "good" or "excellent".

Other measures will be tracked as well, including the number of BMPs implemented, the amount of impervious surface removed or replaced, the number of cisterns or other rainwater harvesting methods put in place, etc. At 5 years after adoption of this plan, mostly lower cost BMPs such as citizen

education and an enhanced bacteria study should be completed, while funding sources are identified for the more expensive BMPs and programs.

4.6.2 Qualitative Evaluation Techniques

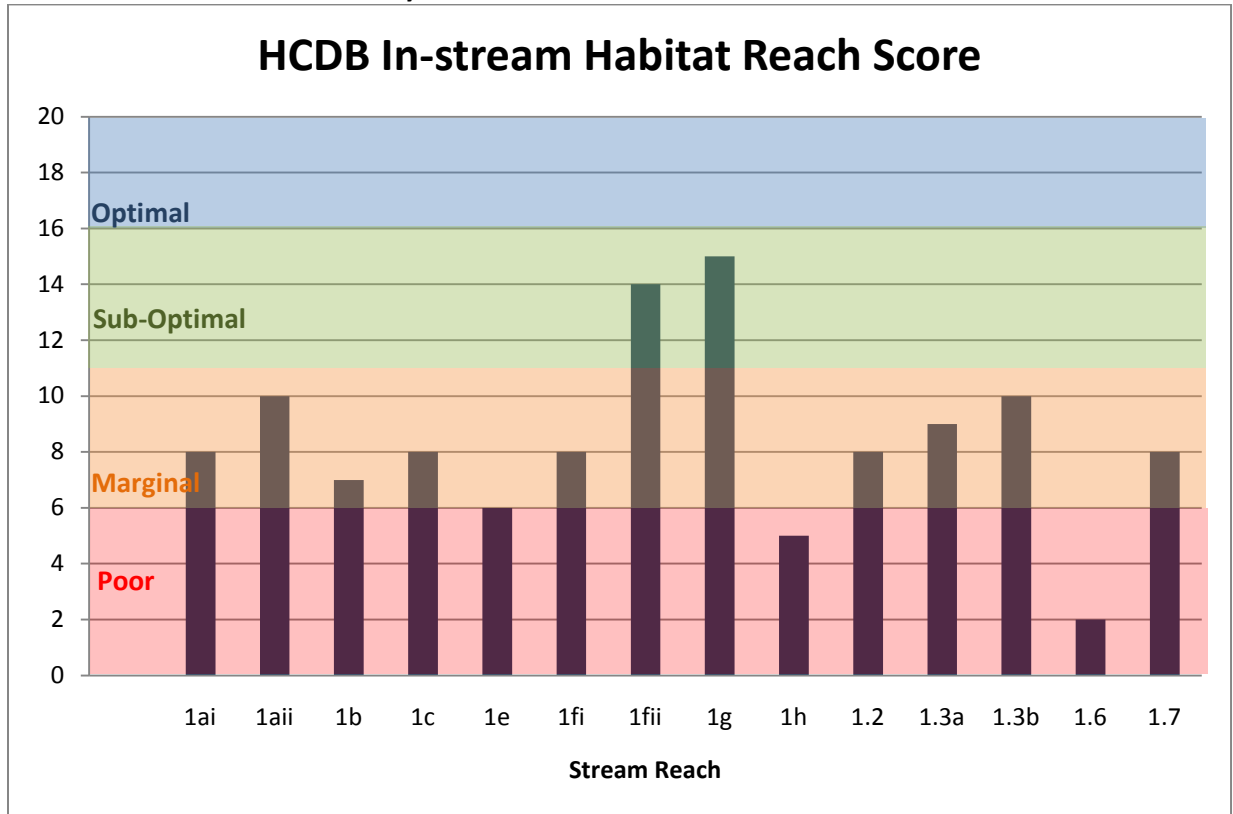
A set of qualitative evaluation criteria can be used to determine whether pollutant loading reductions are being achieved over time and whether substantial progress is being made towards attaining water quality standards in the watershed. Conversely, the criteria can be used for determining whether this Watershed Management Plan needs to be revised at a future time in order to meet standards. A summary (Table 4.6.2.1) of the methods provides an indication of how these programs might be measured and monitored to evaluate success in both the short and the long term. By evaluating the effectiveness of these programs, communities and agencies will be better informed about public response and success of the programs, how to improve the programs and which programs to continue. Although these methods of measuring progress are not tied directly to measurements in Hunnicutt Creek, it is fair to assume that the success of these actions and programs, collectively and over time, will impact positively on the instream conditions and measurements of the river system.

Table 4.6.2 (*Adapted from Lower Huron River Watershed Management Plan*)

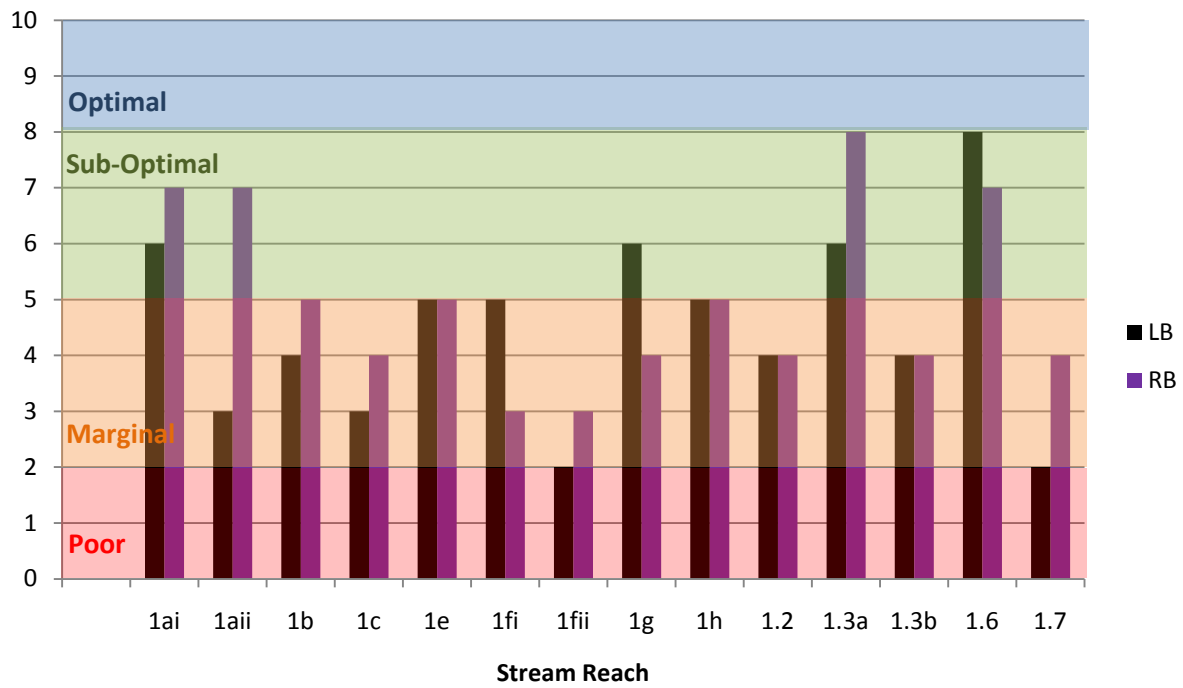
Evaluation Method	Program/Project	What is Measured	Pros and Cons	Implementation
Public Surveys	Public Education or involvement program/project	Awareness; Knowledge; Behaviors; Attitudes; Concerns	Moderate cost. Low response rate.	Pre- and post- surveys recommended. By mail, telephone, or group setting. Repetition on regular basis can show trends.
Written Evaluations	Public meeting or group education or involvement project	Awareness; Knowledge	Good response rate. Low cost	Post-event participants complete brief evaluations that ask what was learned, what was missing, what could be done better. Evaluations completed on-site.
Visual Documentation	Structural and vegetative BMP installations, retrofits	Aesthetics. Pre- and post-conditions.	Easy to implement. Low cost. Good, but limited form of communication.	Provides visual evidence. Photographs can be used in public communication materials.
Phone Call/ Complaint records (Stormwater Hotline)	Education efforts, advertising of contact number for complaints/ concerns	Number and types of concerns of public. Location of problem areas.	Subjective information from limited number of people.	Answer phone, letter, emails and track nature of calls and concerns
Participation Tracking	Public involvement and education projects	Number of people participating. Geographic distribution of participants. Amount of waste collected, e.g. stream cleanup waste collection	Low cost. Easy to track and understand.	Track participation by counting people, materials collected and having sign-in/ evaluation sheets.
Focus Groups	Information and education programs	Awareness; Knowledge; Perceptions; Behaviors	Medium to high cost to do well. Instant identification of motivators and barriers to behavior change.	Select random sample of population as participants. 6-8 people per group. Plan questions, facilitate. Record and transcribe discussion.

Appendix of Charts and Data

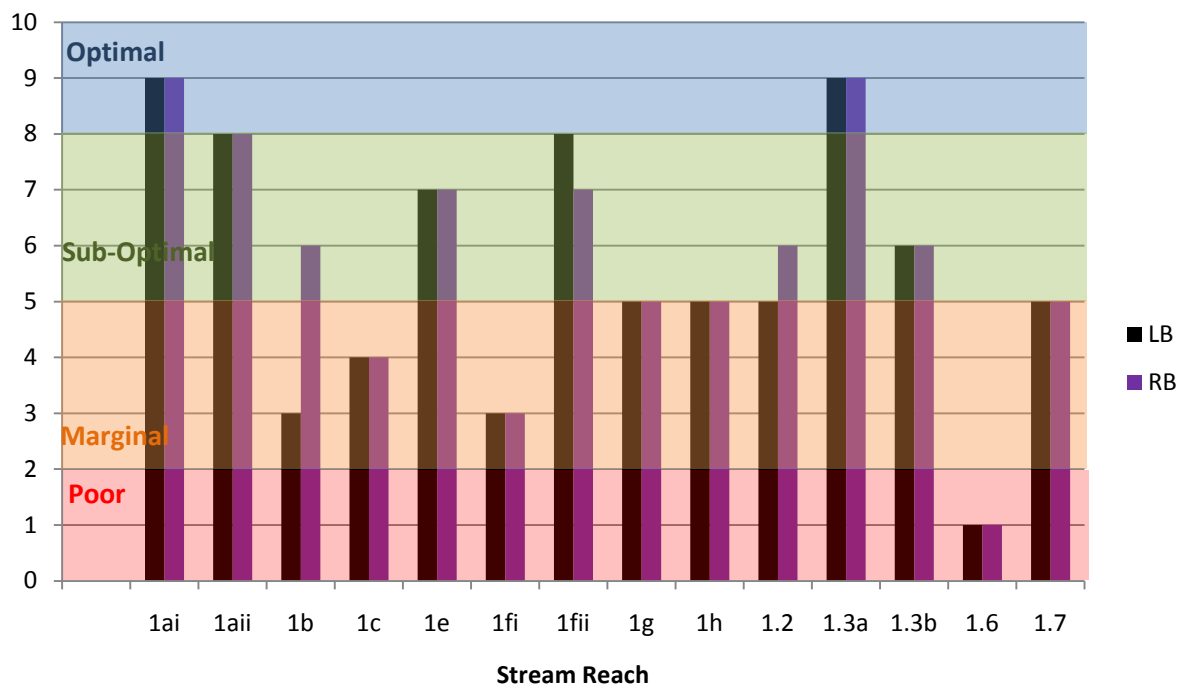
Section I – Stream Reach Scores by Parameter

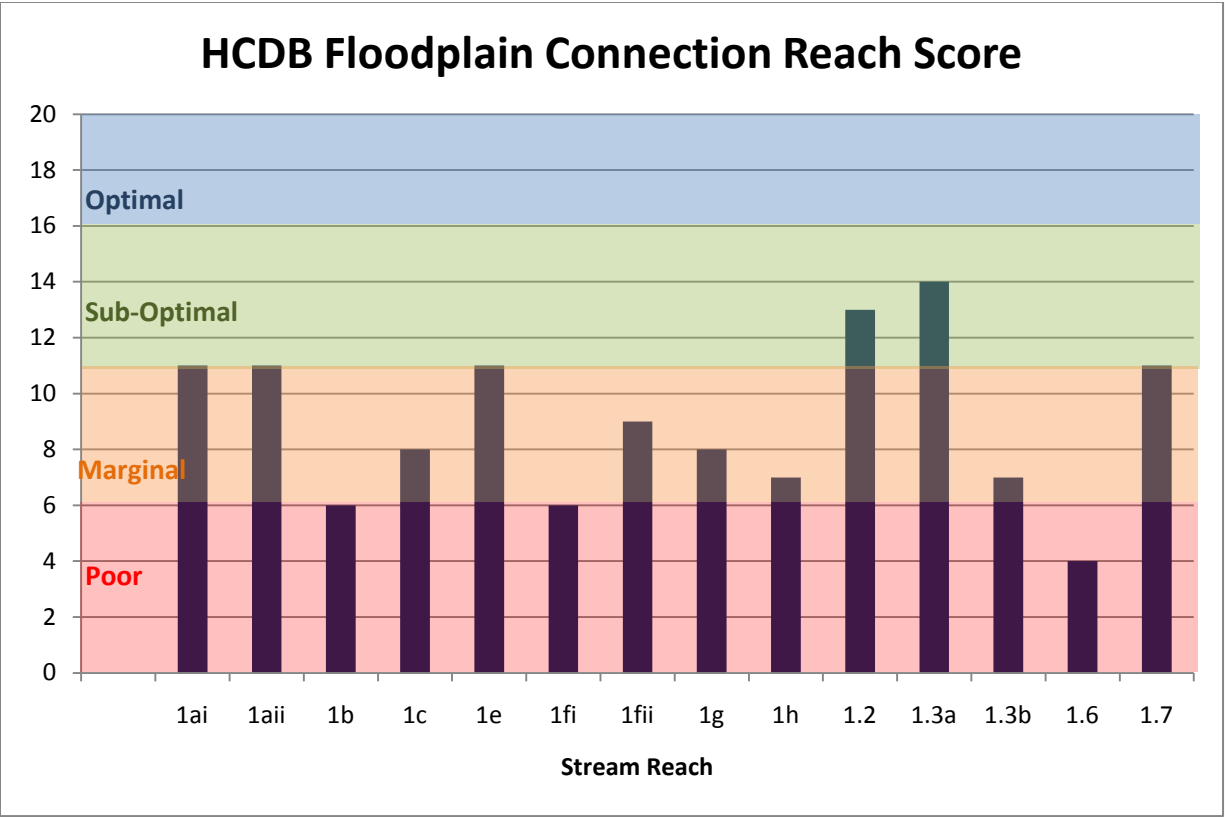


HCDB Vegetated Buffer Width Reach Score



HCDB Bank Erosion Reach Score





Section II – Water Quality Data

II.1 – Monthly Grab Sampling Results

NR = Non-recorded data (due to equipment failure or sampling methods were changed and therefore this data was not recorded)

ND = Non-detectable data (the amount was non-detectable by the sampling method)

Sample Site H01

Date	Time	Weather	Temp (Deg. C)	pH	DO (mg/L)	Conductivity (mS/cm)
1/6/09	7:37 AM	Cloudy, Sprinkling	13.98	6.9	9.73	0.058
2/3/09	7:30 AM	Cold, Clear	NR	NR	NR	NR
3/17/09	7:22 AM	Cloudy	11.88	7.39	9.74	0.045
4/6/09	7:20 AM	Windy	14.57	7.37	8.88	0.060
5/4/09	6:40 AM	Cloudy, Some Rain	17.91	7.27	8.66	0.023
6/1/09	7:35 AM	Clear	18.38	6.96	8.38	0.084
6/29/09	7:25 AM	Clear	23.3	7.41	6.82	0.095
7/27/09	7:24 AM	Clear	22.18	7.19	6.78	0.102
8/24/09	7:29 AM		20.47	7.11	7.19	0.105
9/21/09	7:15 AM	Cloudy, Humid	22.19	7.23	7.47	0.140
10/19/09	7:40 AM	Clear	11.03	6.4	9.38	NR
11/16/09	7:16 AM	Clear, Cool	11.97	7.8	9.81	0.131
12/14/09	7:25 AM	Cloudy, Fog	10.55	6.23	10.07	0.115
1/11/10	7:18 AM	Cold	3.12	7.41	0.61	0.088
2/8/10	7:15 AM	Clear	6.76	8.29	NR	0.062
3/8/10	7:03 AM	Cool. Clear	7.05	6.75	10.43	0.101
4/5/10	7:15 AM	Clear	14.83	7.86	8.66	0.375
5/3/10	7:00 AM	Rain	19.15	7.72	6.79	0.856

Sample Site H01 (cont'd)

Date	Fecal Coliform (#Col/100 mL)	TSS (mg/L)	BOD (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	TOC (ppm)
1/6/09	775	37	2	53.1	7.06
2/3/09	374	3	2	3.3	5.57
3/17/09	417	9	2	13.7	7.06
4/6/09	324	6	1	9.63	8.41
5/4/09	120	4	1	2.12	12.56
6/1/09	344	3	1	2.66	3.23
6/29/09	245	15	1	3.38	6.79
7/27/09	ND	8	4	5.83	12.29
8/24/09	411	3	ND	1.65	8.86
9/21/09	2420	9	2	22.1	5.7
10/19/09	152	3	1	5.22	6.54
11/16/09	214	3	1	3.93	4.11
12/14/09	51	2	ND	4.99	3.53
1/11/10	93	2	3	3.3	1.73
2/8/10	42	5	ND	9.47	3.33
3/8/10	135	2	ND	2.48	4.4
4/5/10	387	17	ND	3.24	3.74
5/3/10	816	7	3	4.78	

Date	NH4	NO2 + NO3	TN	PO4	TP	Cu	Zn
1/6/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
2/3/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
3/17/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
4/6/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
5/4/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
6/1/09	0.0244	0.8311	1.0280	ND	0.0772	NR	NR
6/29/09	0.01715	0.7121	0.64962	ND	0.00963	NR	NR
7/27/09	0.0692	0.6543	0.57744	ND	ND	NR	NR
8/24/09	0.0031	0.2326	0.301227	ND	0.02736	4.396	44.22
9/21/09	0.0038	0.4147	0.9499	0.0209	0.06832	ND	19.73
10/19/09	0.0175	0.2491	0.334376	ND	0.00812	ND	38.25
11/16/09	ND	0.4959	0.5929	ND	ND	ND	7.294
12/14/09	0.0109	0.5904	0.49788	0.0025	0.013028364	ND	26.01
1/11/10	ND	0.1953	0.461301	ND	0.023000692	ND	20.05
2/8/10	ND	0.6537	0.676349	0.0037	0.015441024	3.002	105.3
3/8/10	ND	0.3949	0.41024	ND	0.0408	ND	14.83
4/5/10	0.024	0.6145	0.74648	0.002289	0.015792	ND	36.58
5/3/10						5.586	91.53

Sample Site H03

Date	Time	Weather	Temp (Deg. C)	pH	DO (mg/L)	Conductivity (mS/cm)
1/6/09	7:59 AM	Cloudy	13.59	7.16	8.87	0.047
2/3/09	8:00 AM	Clear, Cold	NR	NR	NR	NR
3/17/09	7:42 AM	Overcast, Slight Breeze	11.93	7.07	8.76	0.041
4/6/09	7:44 AM	Windy, Overcast	13.84	7.15	8.08	0.050
5/4/09	7:00 AM	Light Rain	17.33	6.61	7.37	0.071
6/1/09	8:00 AM	Clear	17.87	7.02	7.51	0.070
6/29/09	7:40 AM	Clear	22.31	7.26	6.24	0.080
7/27/09	7:35 AM	Clear	21.51	7.15	5.62	0.078
8/24/09	7:49 AM		20.03	6.83	6.39	0.093
9/21/09	7:40 AM	Cloudy, Humid	21.42	6.41	7.07	0.125
10/19/09	8:00 AM	Clear	11.31	6.32	8.56	NR
11/16/09	7:30 AM	Clear, Cool	12.31	7.53	9.01	0.119
12/14/09	7:45 AM	Cloudy, Fog	11.09	6.19	9.46	0.112
1/11/10	7:41 AM	Cold, Clear	4.07	7.76	0.57	0.082
2/8/10	7:30 AM	Clear, Cold	7.36	7.81	NR	0.061
3/8/10	7:18 AM	Clear	7.78	7.3	9.46	0.106
4/5/10	7:35 AM	Clear	14.82	7.57	6.49	0.320
5/6/10	7:30 AM	Sunny, Clear	17.00	8.23	7.98	0.108

Date	Fecal Coliform (#Col/100 mL)	TSS (mg/L)	BOD (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	TOC (ppm)
1/6/09	1492	19	2	25.1	7.69
2/3/09	3400	2	1	2.1	5.70
3/17/09	407	6	2	14.3	6.92
4/6/09	2138	4	2	6.28	8.47
5/4/09	178	2	1	1.3	13.23
6/1/09	284	2	1	1.98	3.24
6/29/09	423	3	1	1.96	7.64
7/27/09	990	12	1	2.61	6.59
8/24/09	613	2	ND	1.54	10.16
9/21/09	1300	9	2	18.6	5.50
10/19/09	921	3	1	3.15	1.88
11/16/09	131	2	1	3.12	3.85
12/14/09	214	2	ND	5.49	3.66
1/11/10	276	2	3	1.94	3.57
2/8/10	2420	4	ND	7.92	5.53
3/8/10	1986	2	ND	2.07	21.03
4/5/10	1414	4	ND	1.45	3.97
5/6/10	1120	1	1	4.7	

Sample Site H03 (cont'd.)

Date	NH4	NO2 + NO3	TN	PO4	TP	Cu	Zn
1/6/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
2/3/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
3/17/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
4/6/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
5/4/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
6/1/09	ND	0.592	0.7810	ND	0.0455	NR	NR
6/29/09	0.01595	0.7835	0.59202	ND	0.03177	NR	NR
7/27/09	0.0141	0.50965	0.75996	ND	ND	NR	NR
8/24/09	0.0041	0.3385	0.581536	0.0052	0.02048	4.047	72.18
9/21/09	0.0051	0.3638	0.70938	0.0262	0.06034	ND	13.45
10/19/09	ND	0.3343	0.386596	0.0025	0.01232	ND	57.19
11/16/09	ND	0.5737	0.63644	0.0031	0.00252	ND	10.8
12/14/09	ND	0.5853	0.52524	0.0091	0.01946	ND	25.7
1/11/10	ND	0.3338	0.25668	ND	0.02268	ND	9.145
2/8/10	ND	0.3975	0.56214	0.0081	0.03217	ND	18.3
3/8/10	ND	0.2989	0.3736	0.003	0.043	ND	23.52
4/5/10	0.011	0.5676	0.6769	0.003	0.01	ND	50.26
5/6/10						5.103	81.15

Sample Site H05

Date	Time	Weather	Temp (Deg. C)	pH	DO (mg/L)	Conductivity (mS/cm)
1/6/09	8:22 AM	Cloudy, drizzle	14.59	7.08	8.27	0.025
2/3/09	8:14 AM	Clear	NR	NR	NR	NR
3/17/09	8:05 AM	Cloudy	12.39	6.97	8.37	0.057
4/6/09	7:55 AM	Windy	14.39	7.05	6.99	0.081
5/4/09	7:15 AM	Light Rain	18.24	6.82	3.96	0.078
6/1/09	8:15 AM	Clear	18.16	6.76	5.99	0.100
6/29/09	7:55 AM	Clear	22.01	6.97	4.31	0.123
7/27/09	7:46 AM	Clear	21.2	6.88	4.72	0.187
8/24/09	8:02 AM		20.39	6.7	5.02	0.104
9/21/09	8:00 AM	Cloudy	22.17	6.78	6.31	0.138
10/19/09	8:17 AM	Clear	11.62	6.6	7.67	NR
11/16/09	7:45 AM	Clear, Cool	13.02	7.35	7.98	0.132
12/14/09	8:00 AM	Clearing, Fog	11.71	6.32	7.97	0.122
1/11/10	7:57 AM	Cold, Clear	5.49	7.31	0.55	0.091
2/8/10	7:45 AM	Cold, Clear	8.83	7.53	NR	0.083
3/8/10	7:31 AM	Cool, Clear	8.83	7.39	8.94	0.115
4/5/10	7:50 AM	Clear	15.36	7.21	7.25	0.267
5/6/10	7:48 AM	Sunny, Clear	17.79	7.29	6.93	0.133

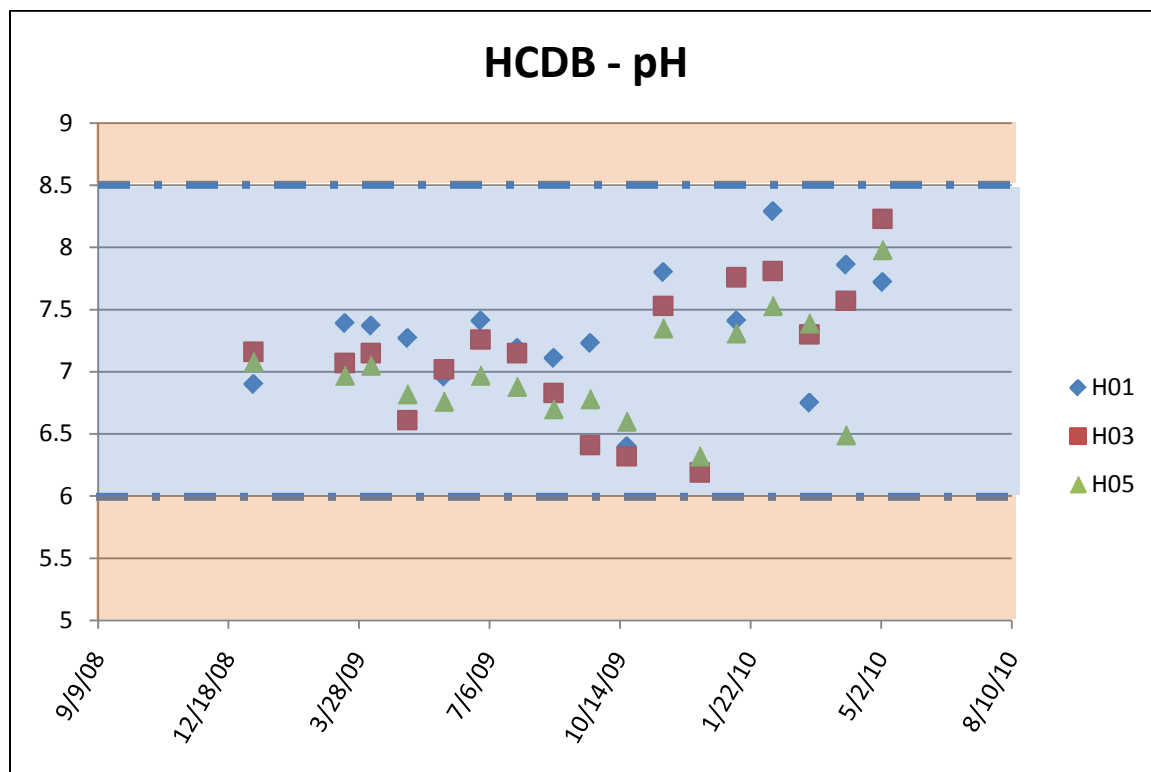
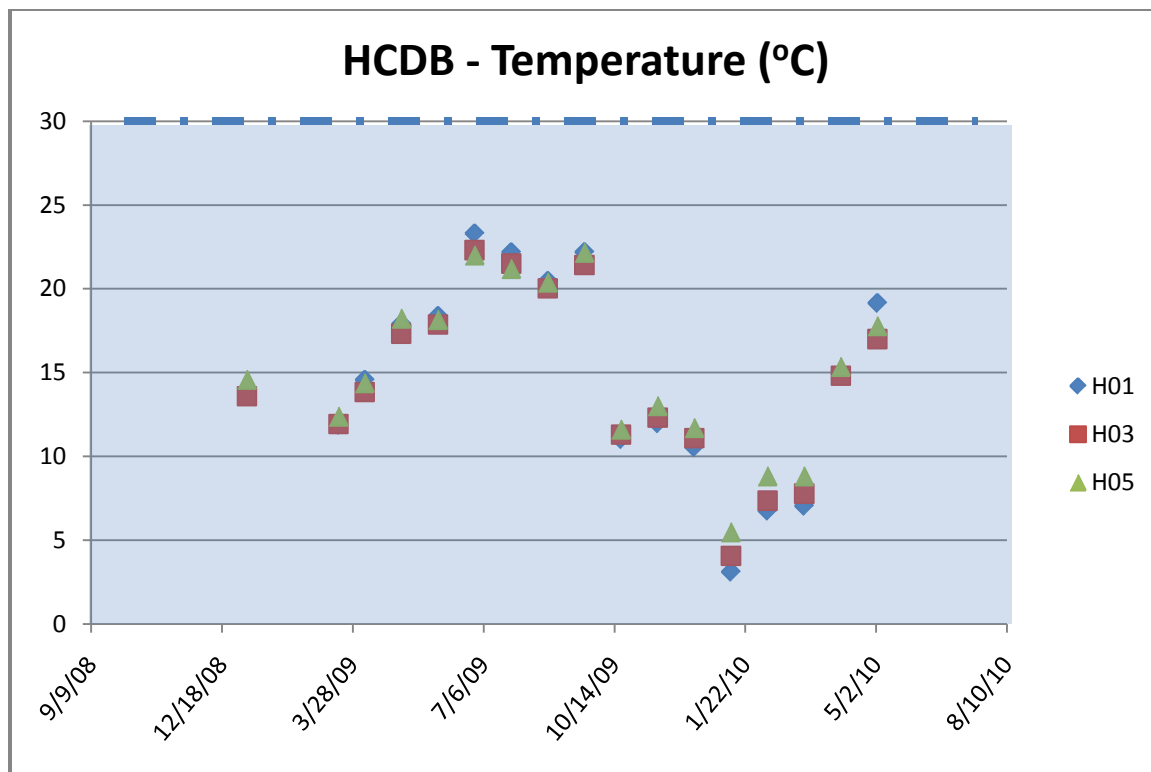
Date	Fecal Coliform (#Col/100 mL)	TSS (mg/L)	BOD (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	TOC (ppm)
1/6/09	NR	9	1.4	44	7.11
2/3/09	427	3	2	2.7	6.18
3/17/09	1537	6	2	9.5	6.09
4/6/09	68	4	2	2.84	10.37
5/4/09	3236	4	1	2.6	12.98
6/1/09	212	4	1	3.71	3.25
6/29/09	404	4	1	2.45	6.43
7/27/09	110	16	3	10.2	6.96
8/24/09	866	4	ND	2.33	8.74
9/21/09	1120	9	2	11.8	4.38
10/19/09	62	4	ND	3.6	1.51
11/16/09	41	2	1	2.53	5.84
12/14/09	96	1	1	3.36	3.55
1/11/10	49	20	2	3.43	2.52
2/8/10	62	2	ND	4.48	4.05
3/8/10	365	4	ND	3.85	5.96
4/5/10	436	18	1	2.73	3.11
5/6/10	613	3	1	3.36	

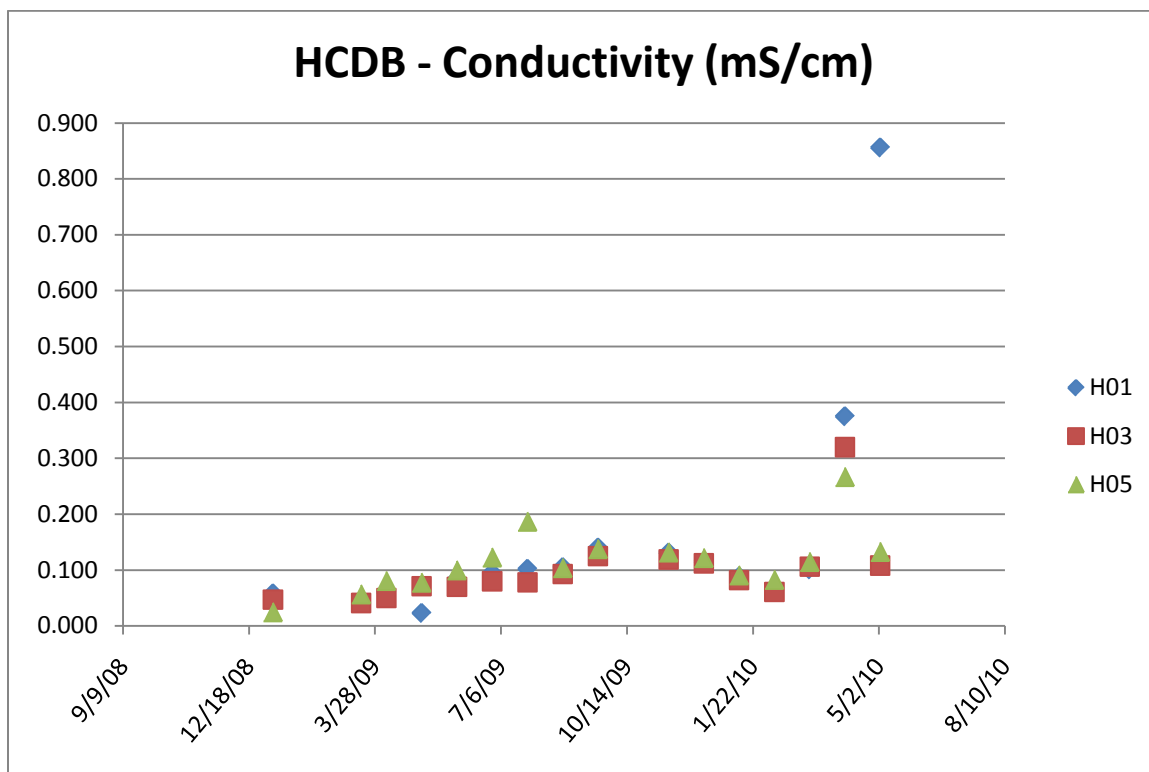
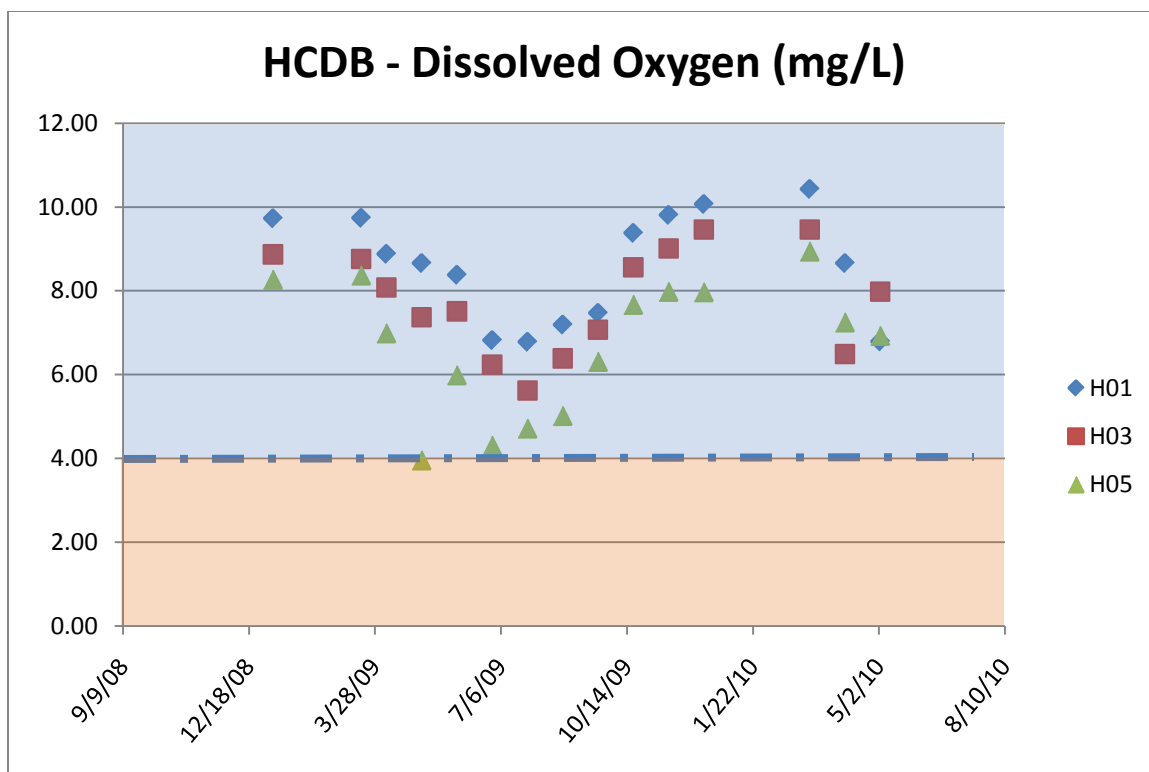
Sample Site H05 (cont'd.)

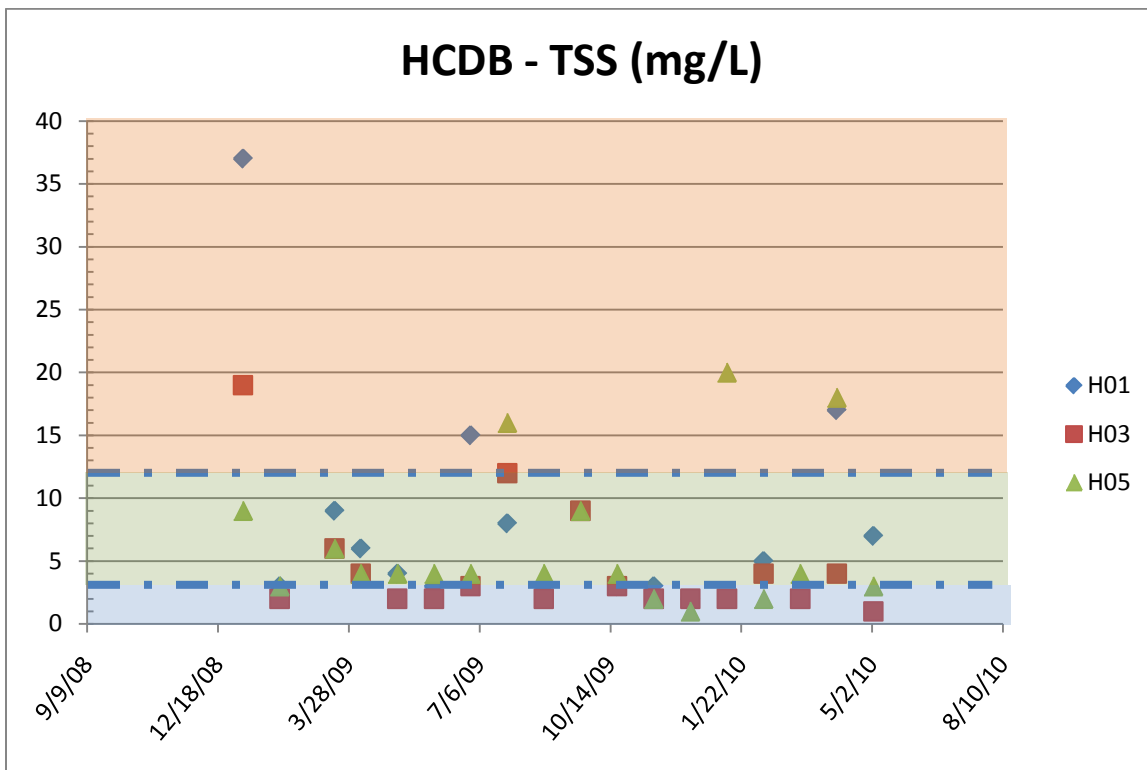
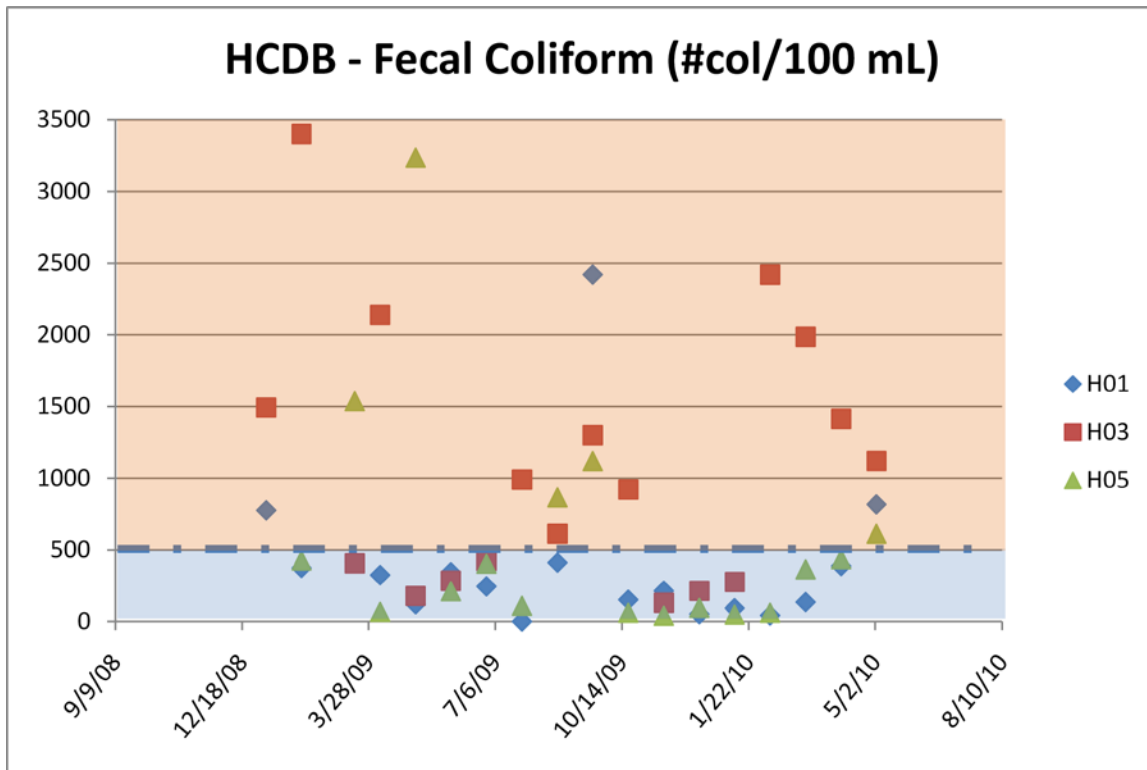
Date	NH4	NO2 + NO3	TN	PO4	TP	Cu	Zn
1/6/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
2/3/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
3/17/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
4/6/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
5/4/09	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
6/1/09	0.0441	1.0973	0.9696	0.0023	0.0266	NR	NR
6/29/09	0.03155	1.8158	2.09376	ND	ND	NR	NR
7/27/09	0.2897	2.35475	2.63574	0.0067	ND	NR	NR
8/24/09	0.0023	0.6566	0.837227	0.0047	0.01152	5.872	63.17
9/21/09	0.1087	0.514	0.92302	0.0146	0.04704	ND	14.72
10/19/09	0.0097	0.395	0.473956	ND	0.00462	ND	38.42
11/16/09	ND	1.273	0.9107	0.005	ND	ND	16.58
12/14/09	0.0396	0.8151	0.69876	0.0117	0.02171	ND	12.77
1/11/10	ND	0.4226	0.503603	ND	0.02461	ND	8.899
2/8/10	0.0164	0.993	1.17577	0.0081	0.03456	2.163	32.03
3/8/10	ND	0.6721	0.731	ND	0.0525	ND	22.92
4/5/10	0.0138	1.0696	1.14	0.0044	0.0157	ND	69
5/6/10						8.608	125.4

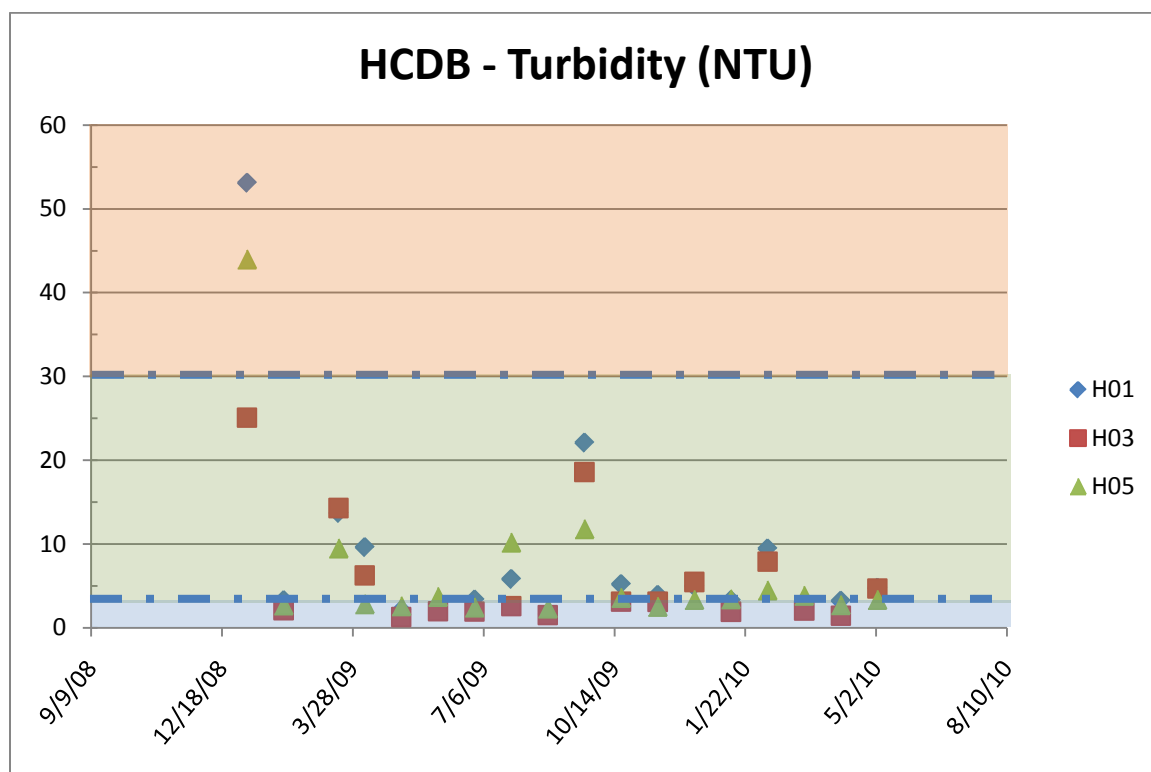
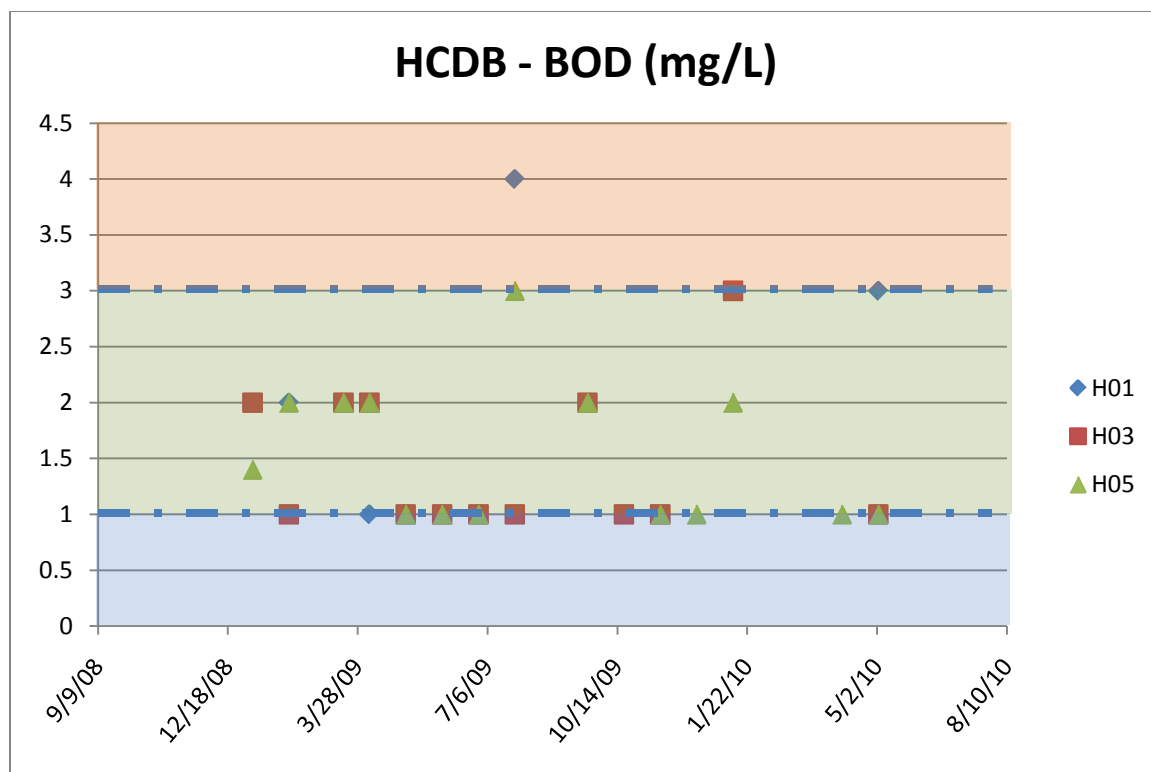
Grab Sampling Results Graphically Represented by Indicator. Spaces in the data represent either there was no data available or data was below detection limits. Shading is explained below.

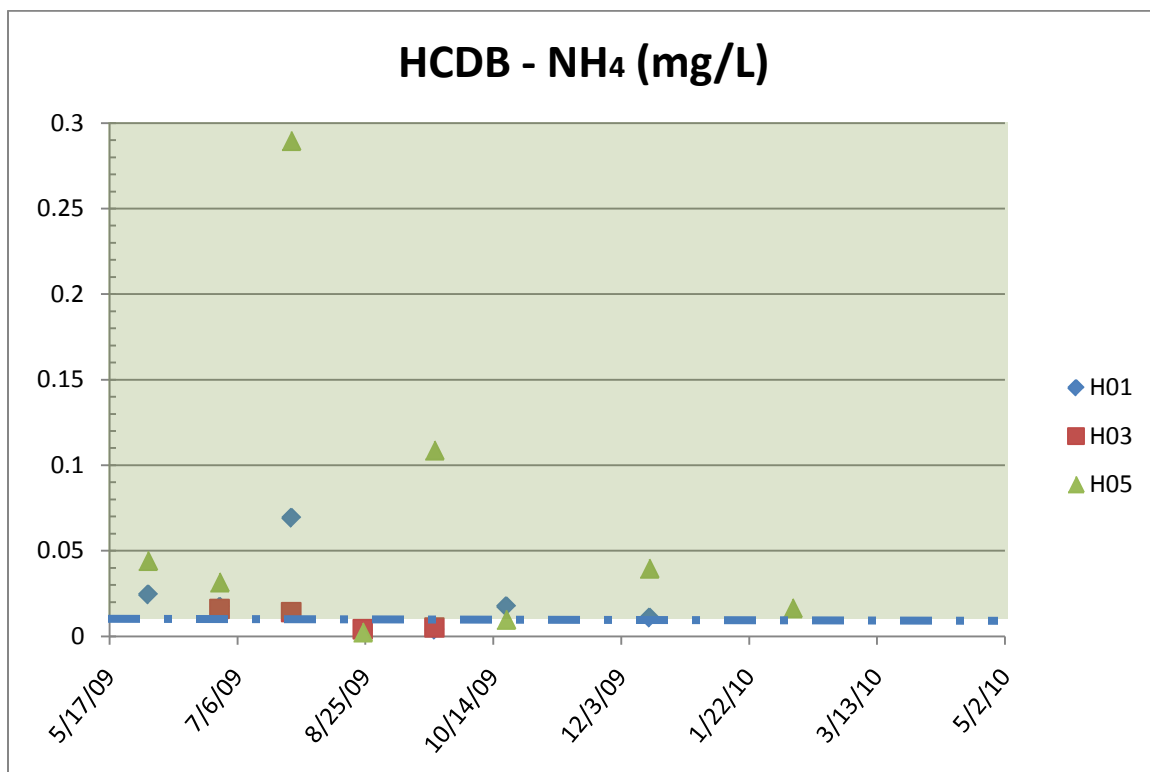
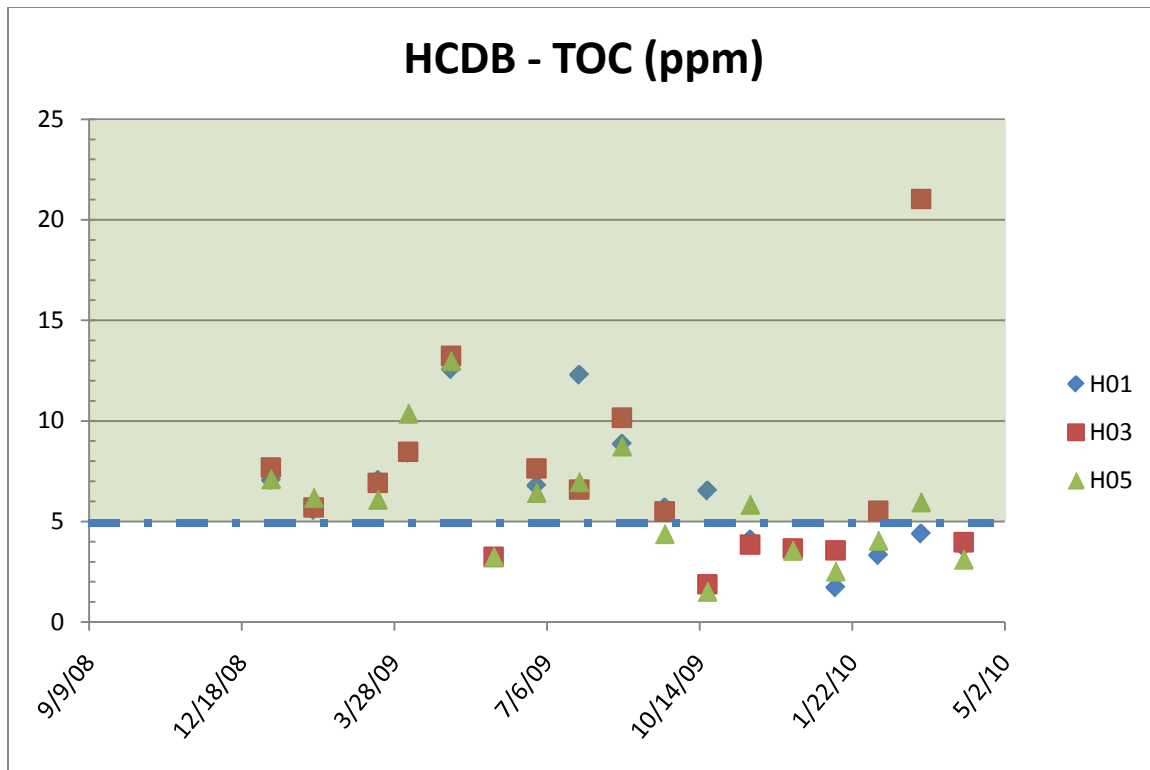
	= Optimal		= Acceptable		= Level of Concern
---	-----------	---	--------------	--	--------------------

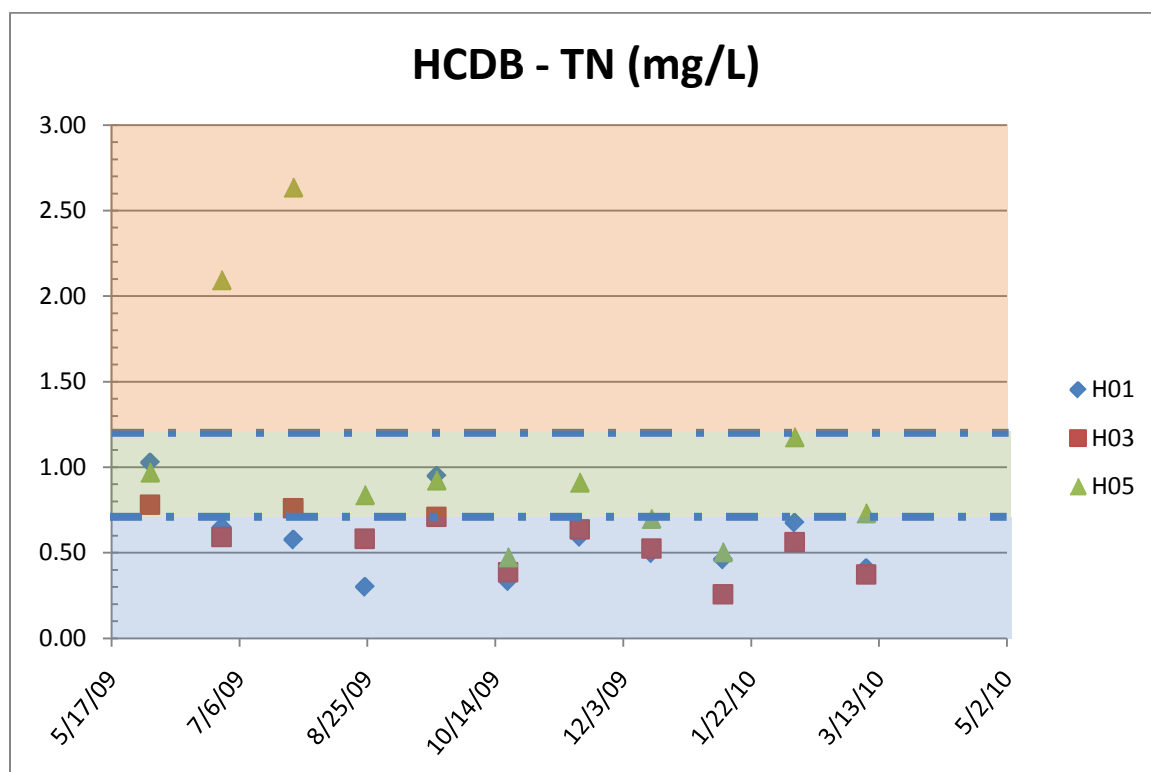
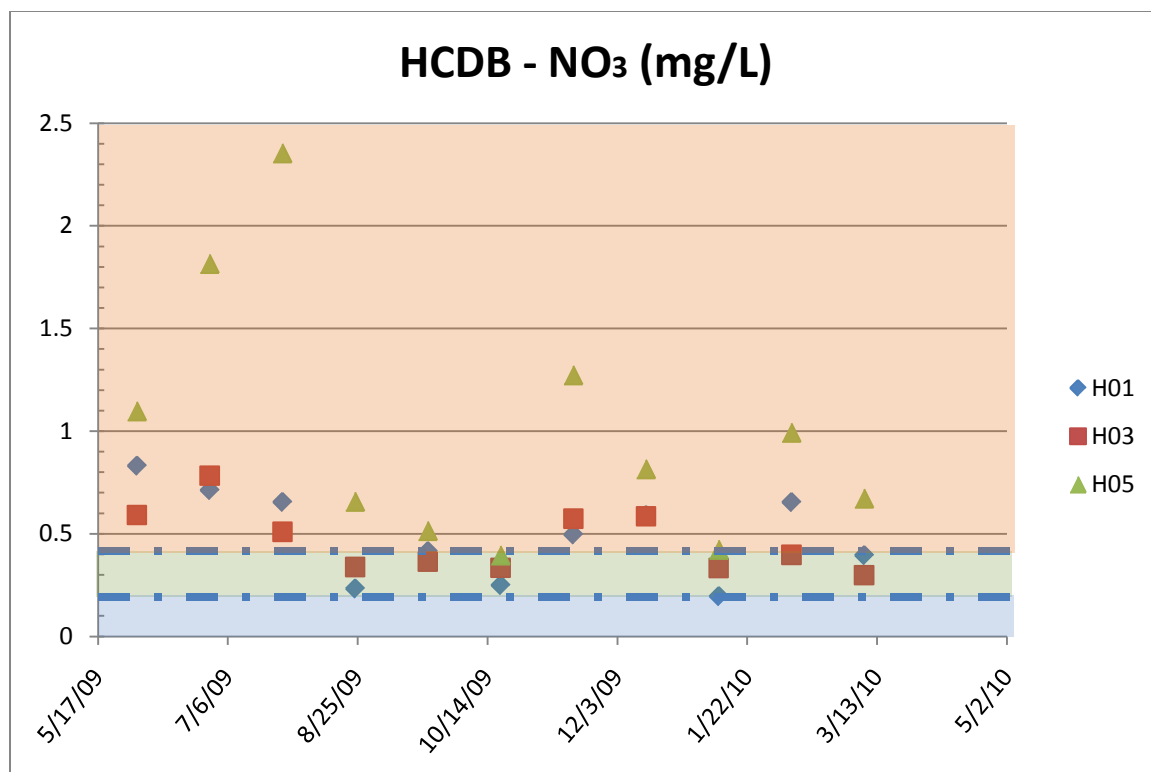


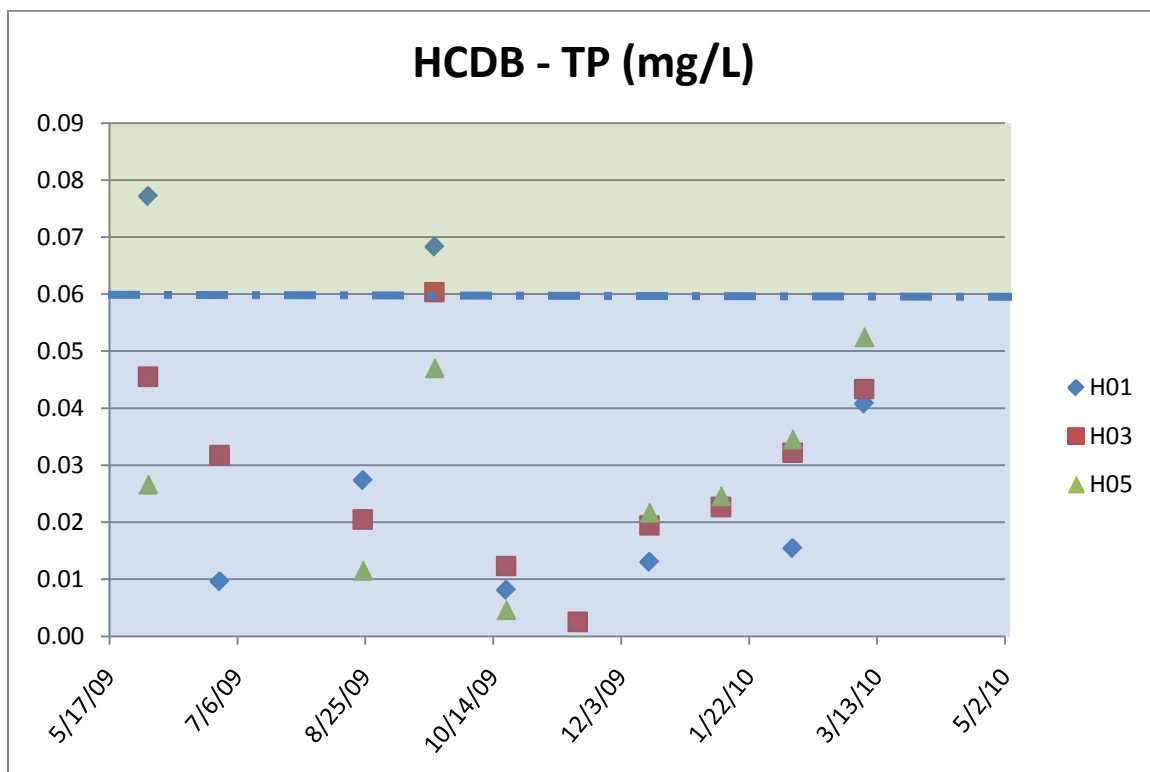
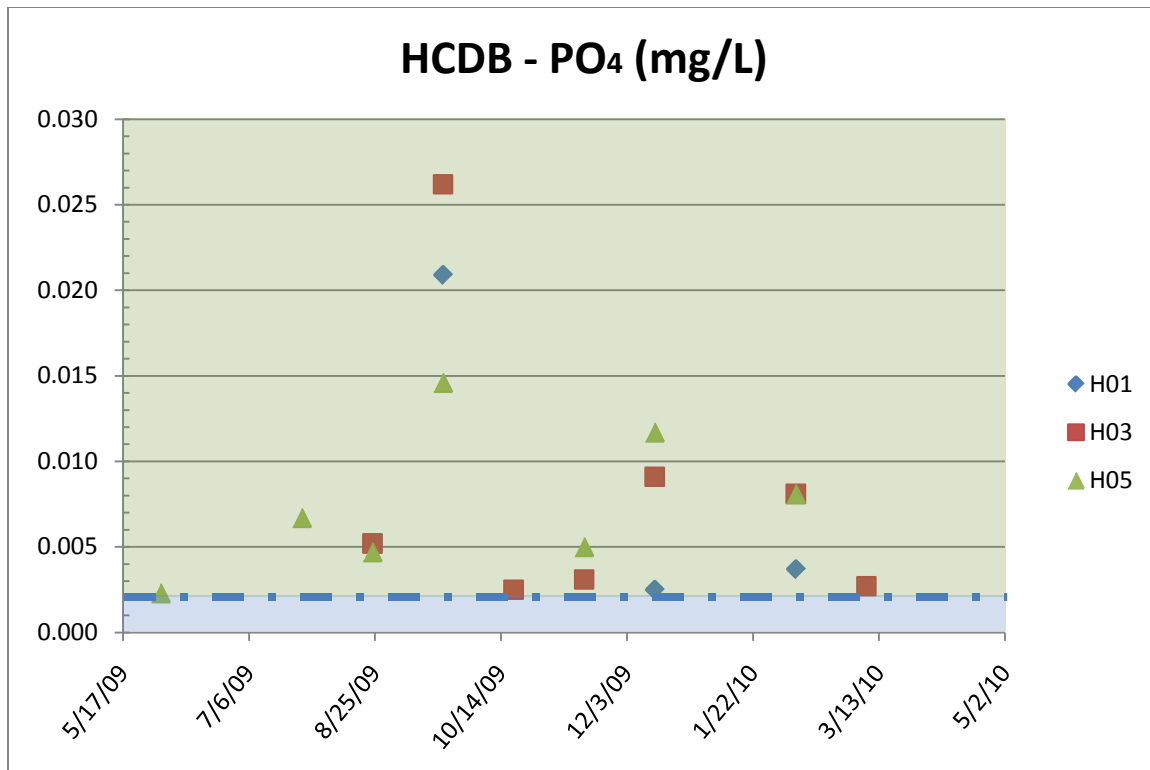


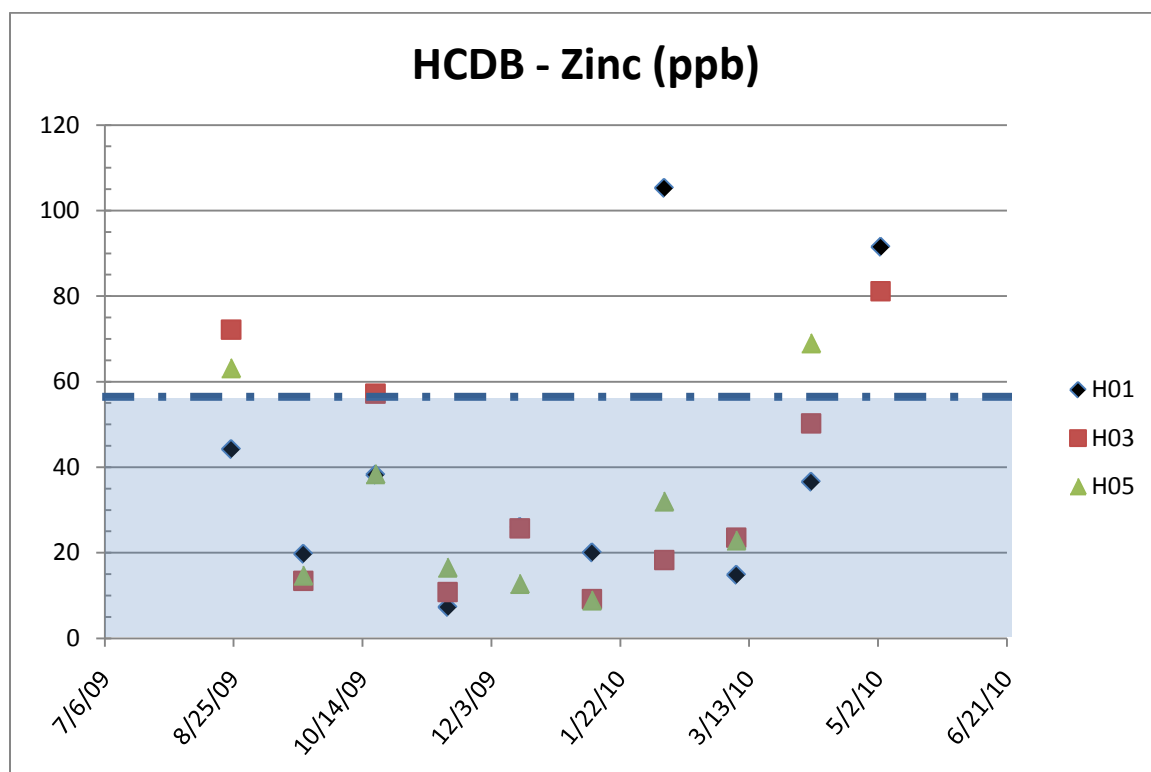
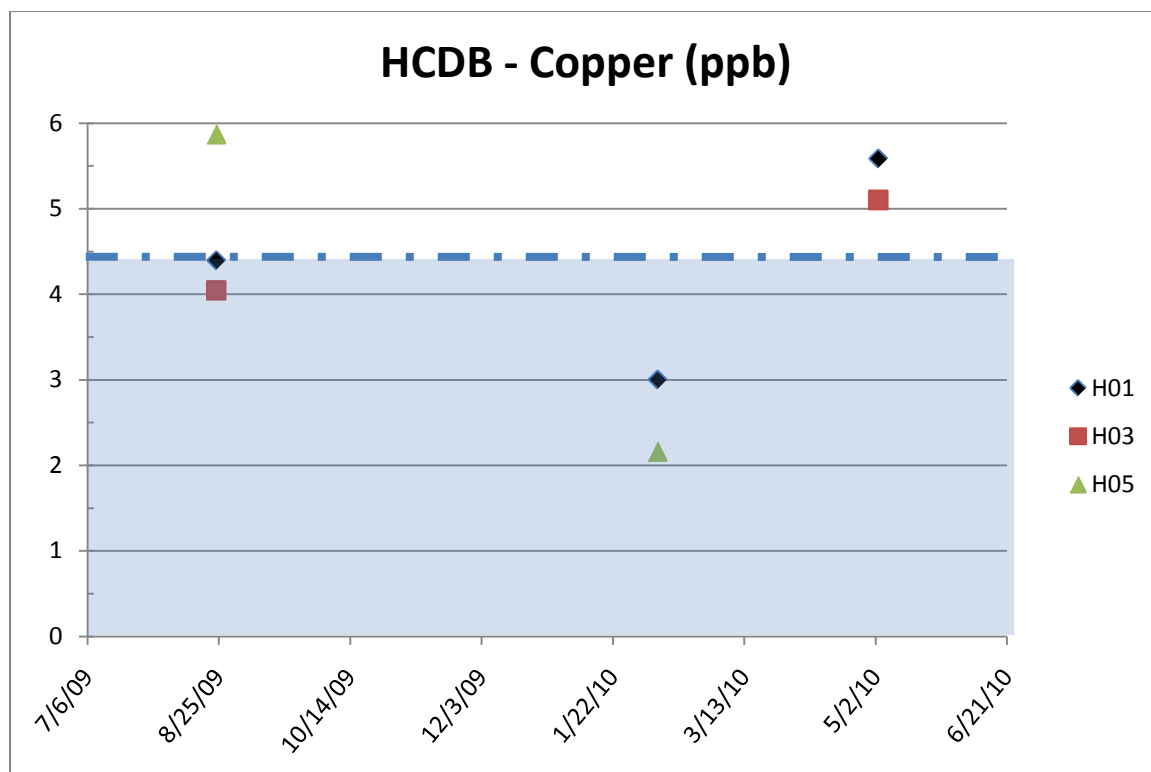






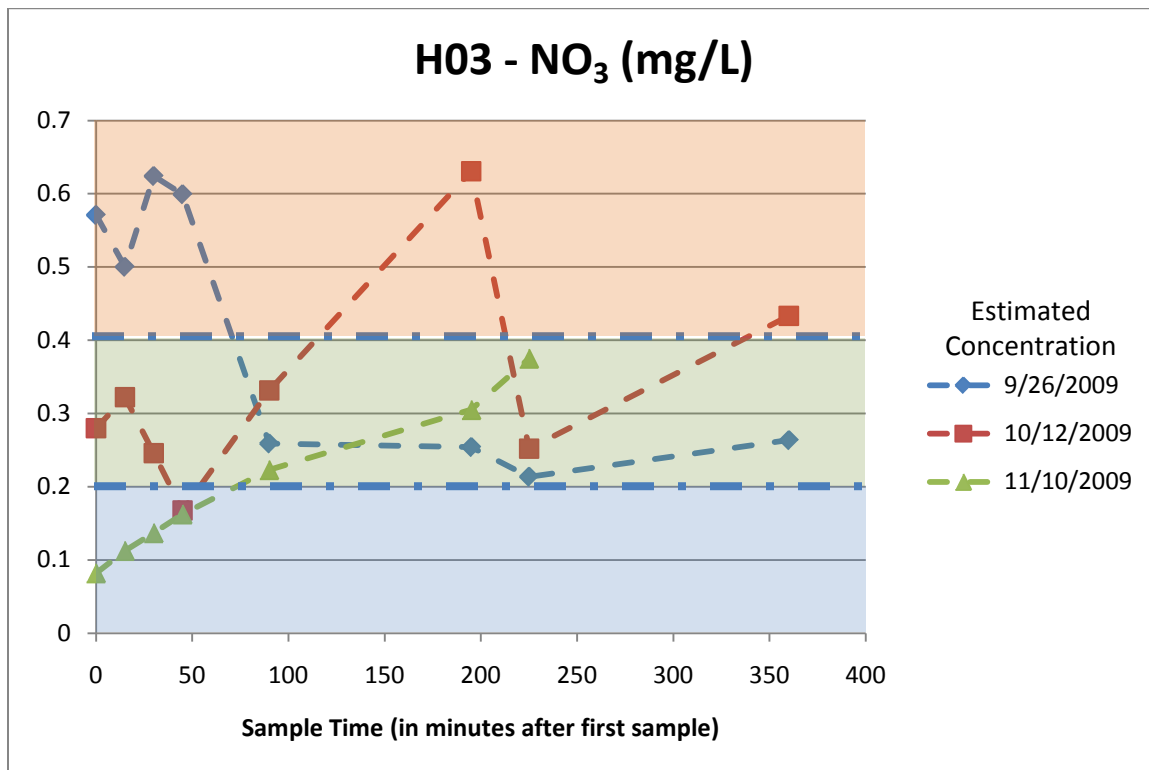
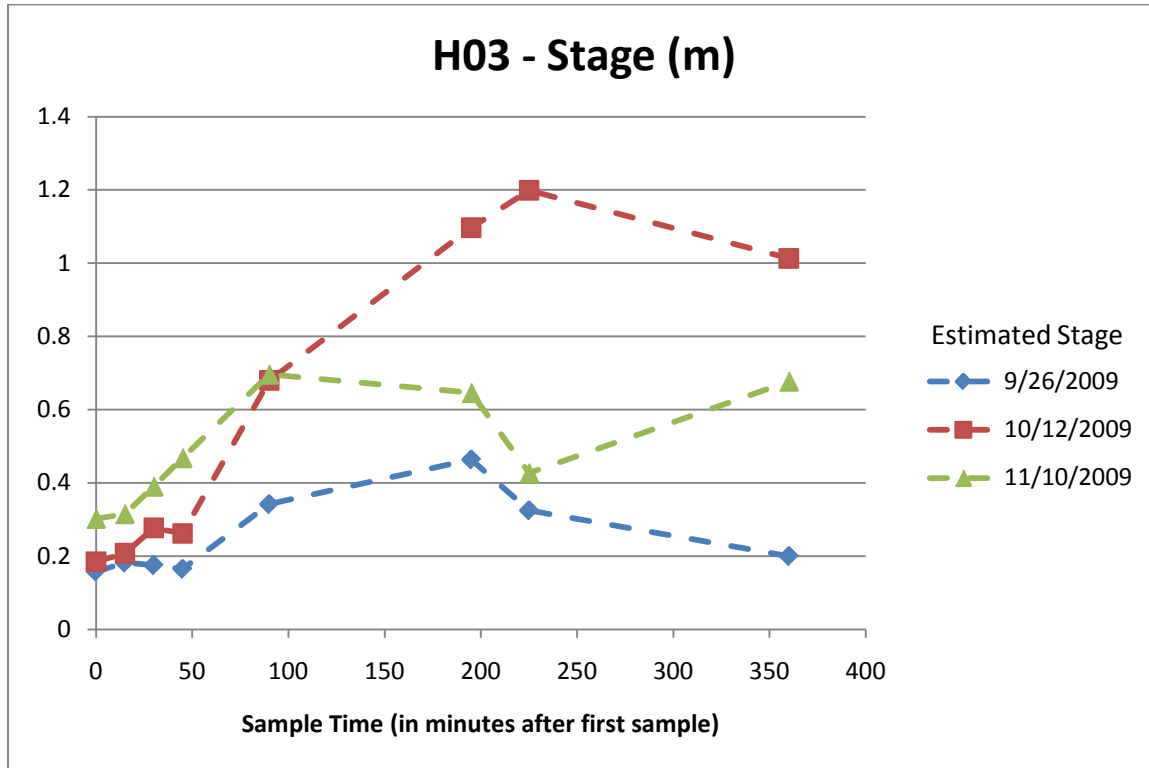


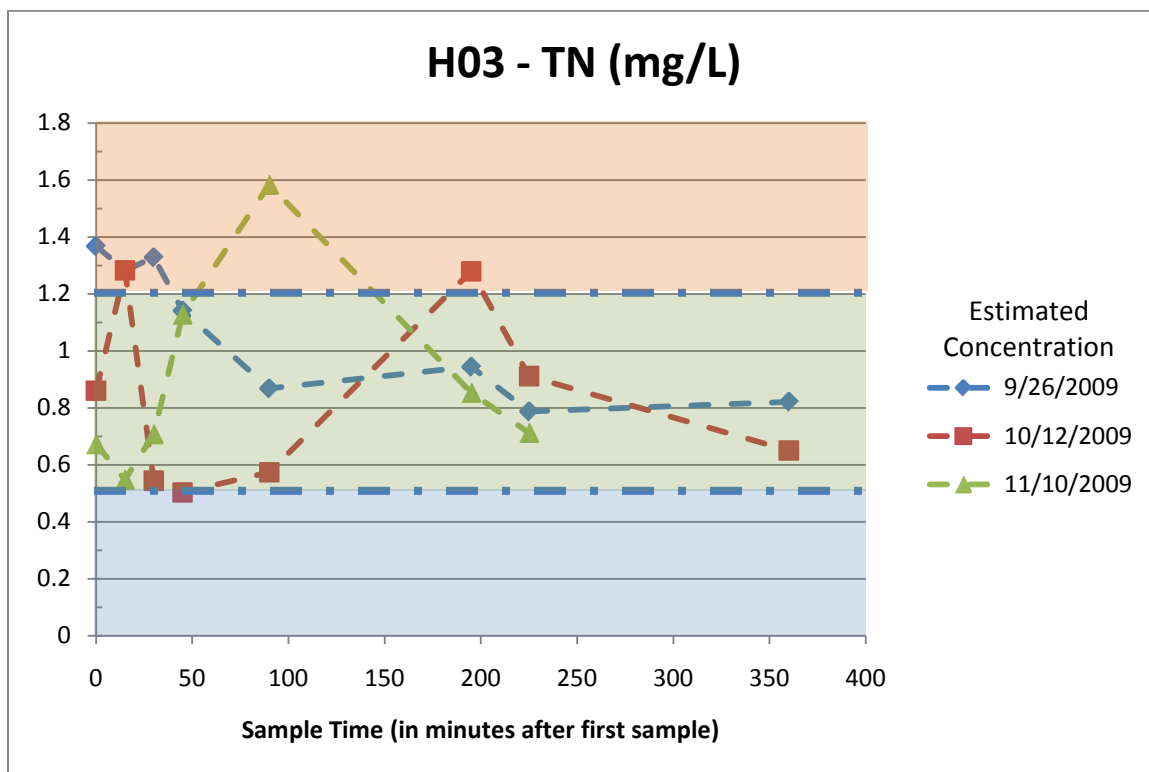
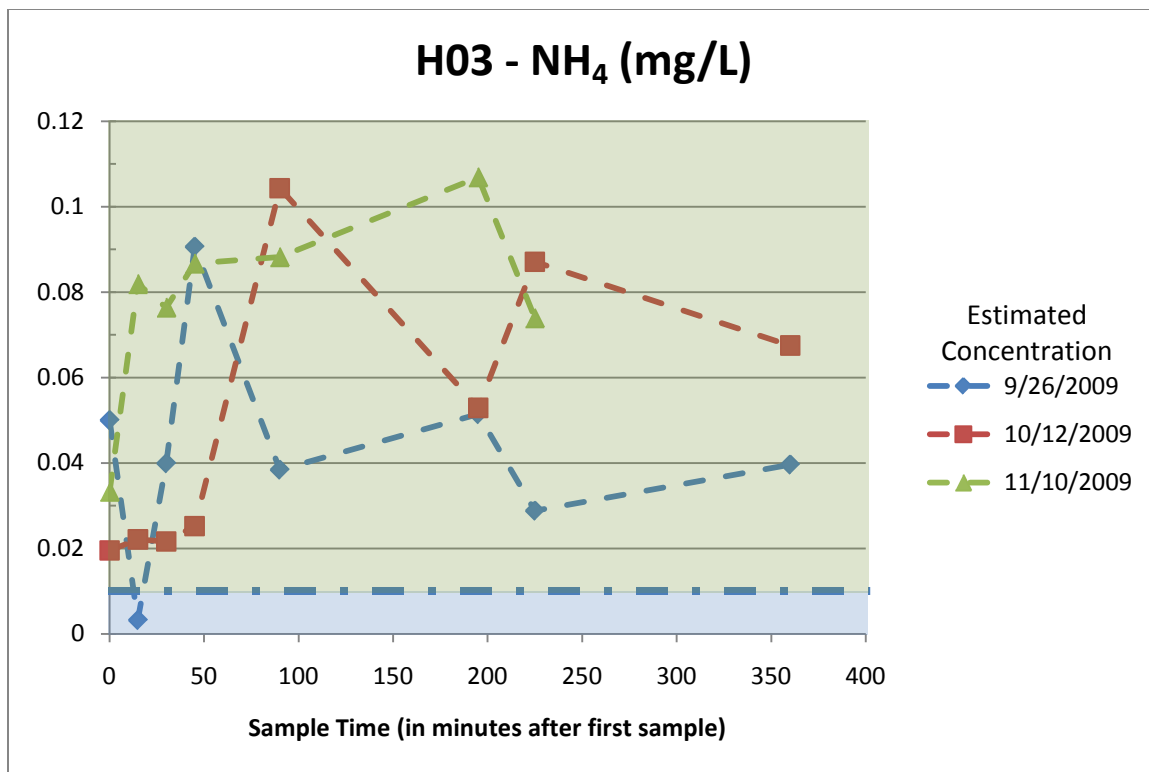


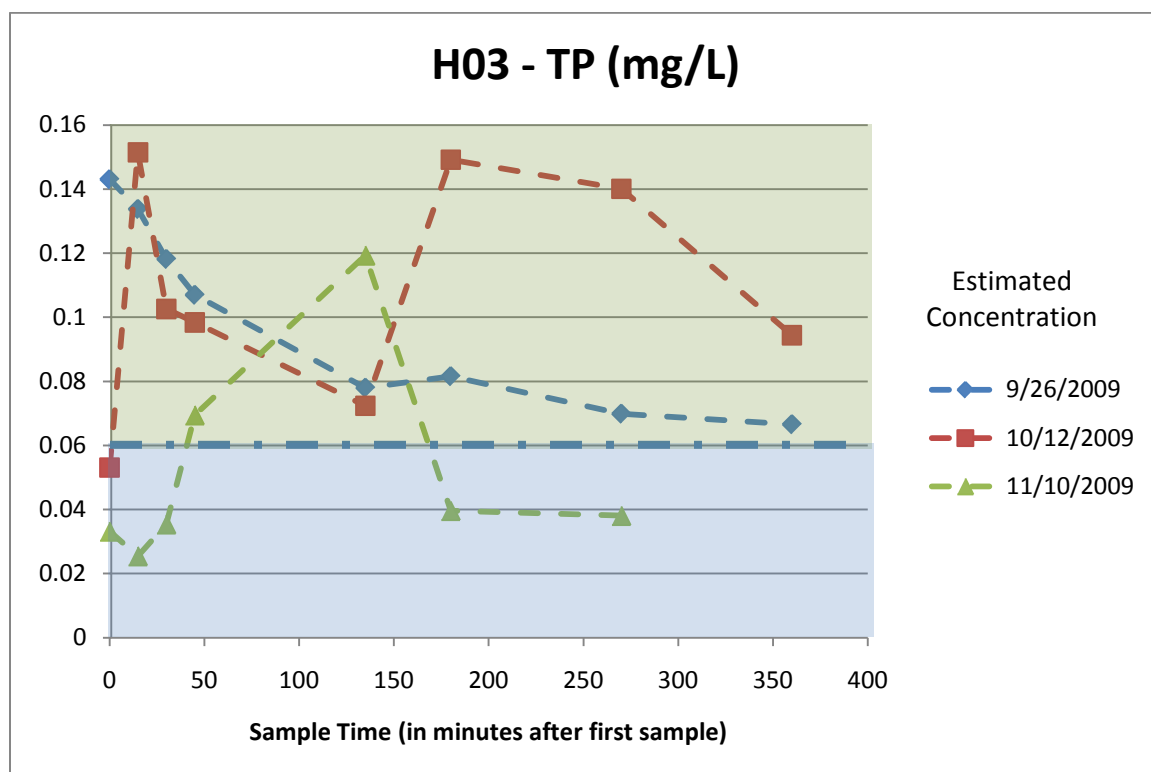
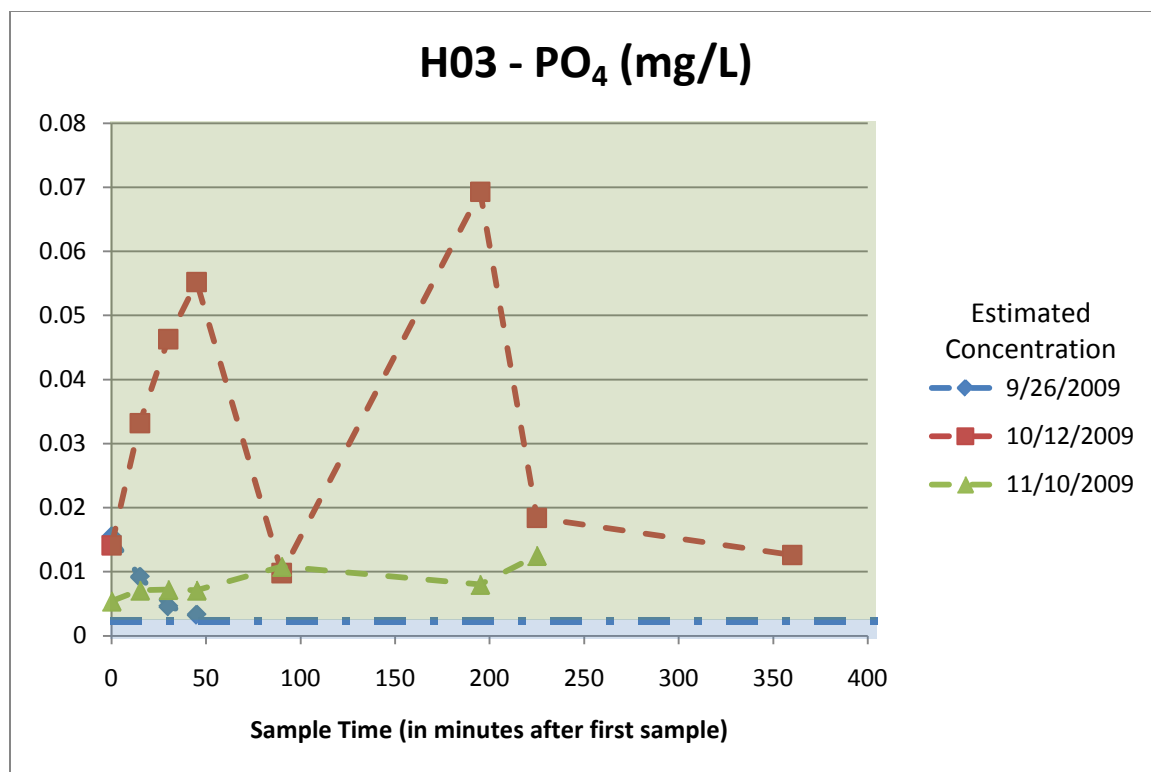


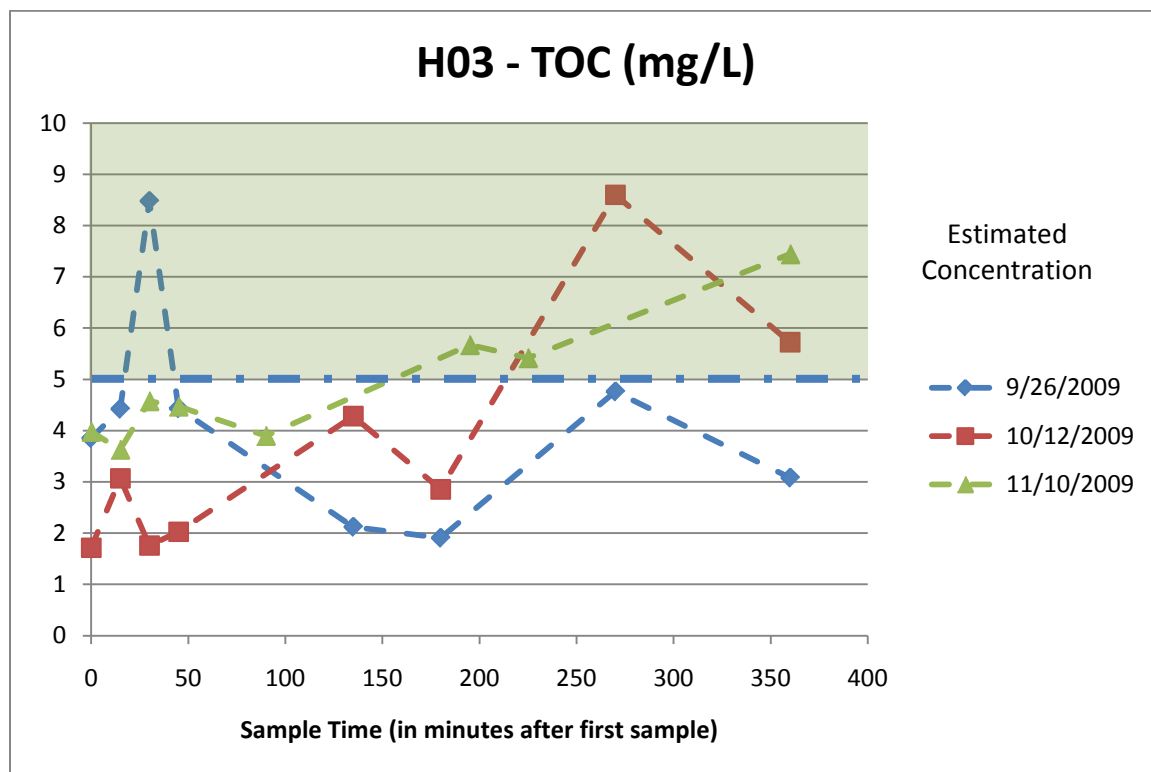
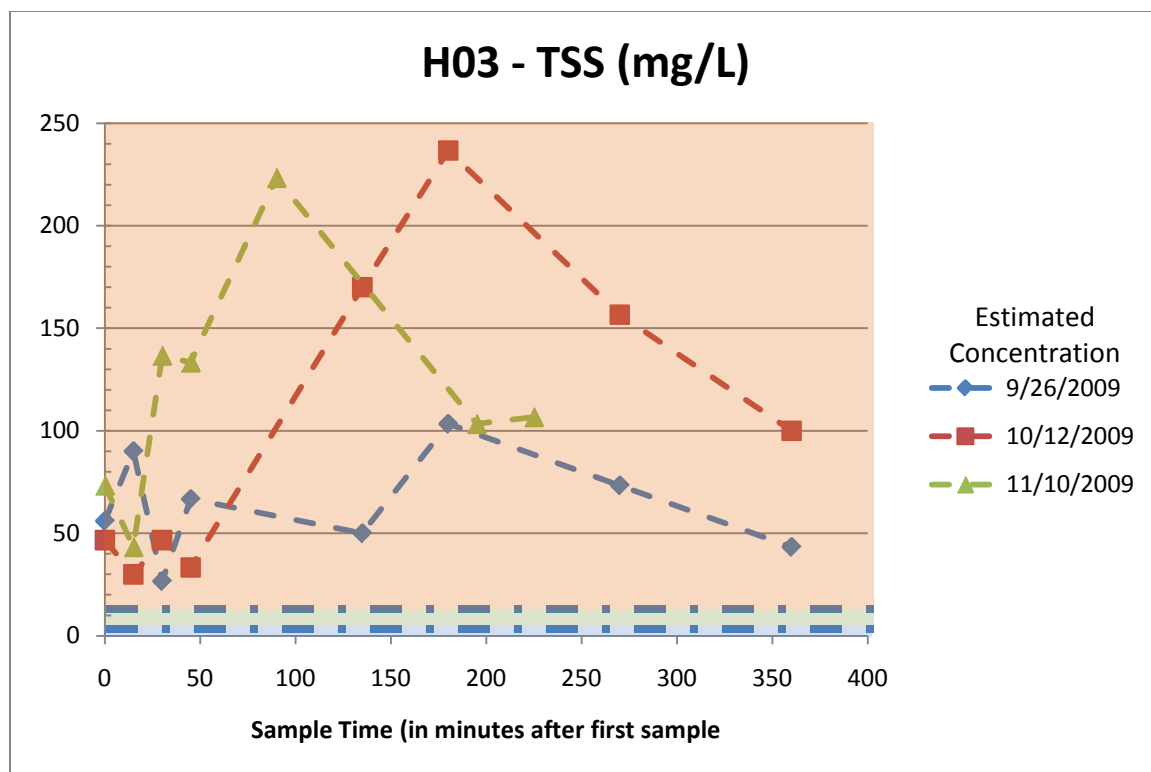
II.2 – Wet Weather Sampling Using ISCO Samplers

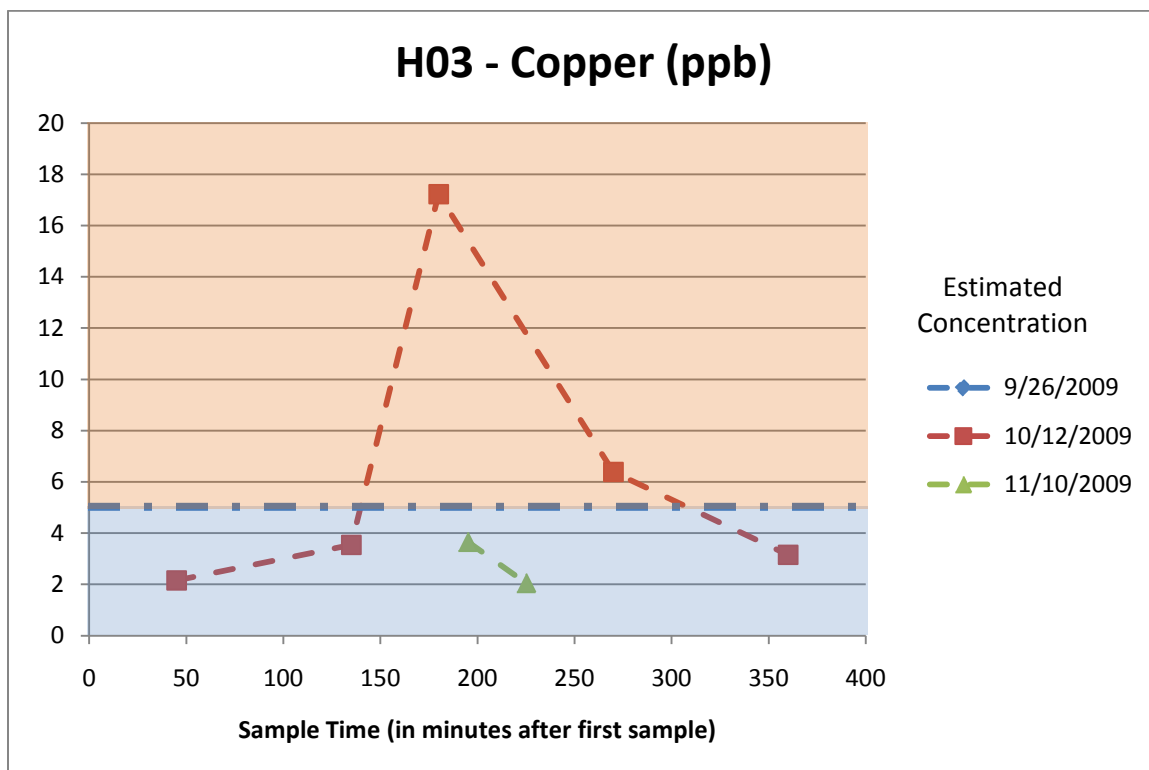
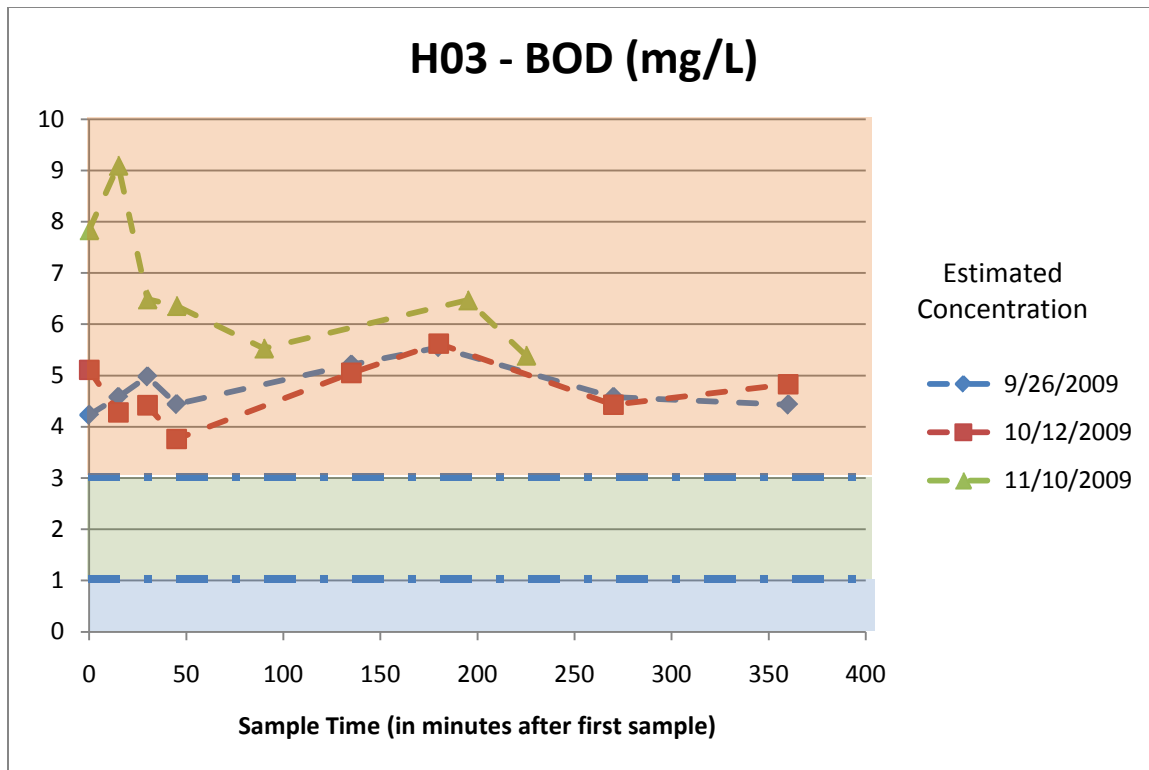
H03 Wet Weather Data

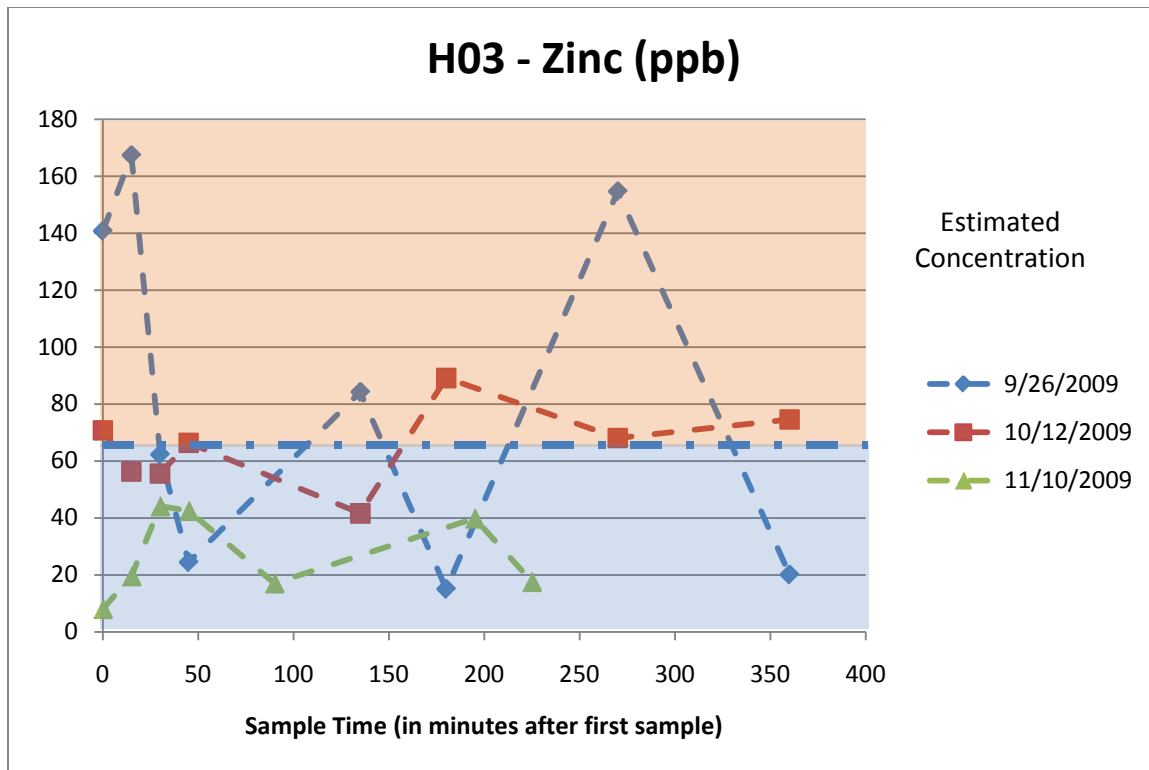




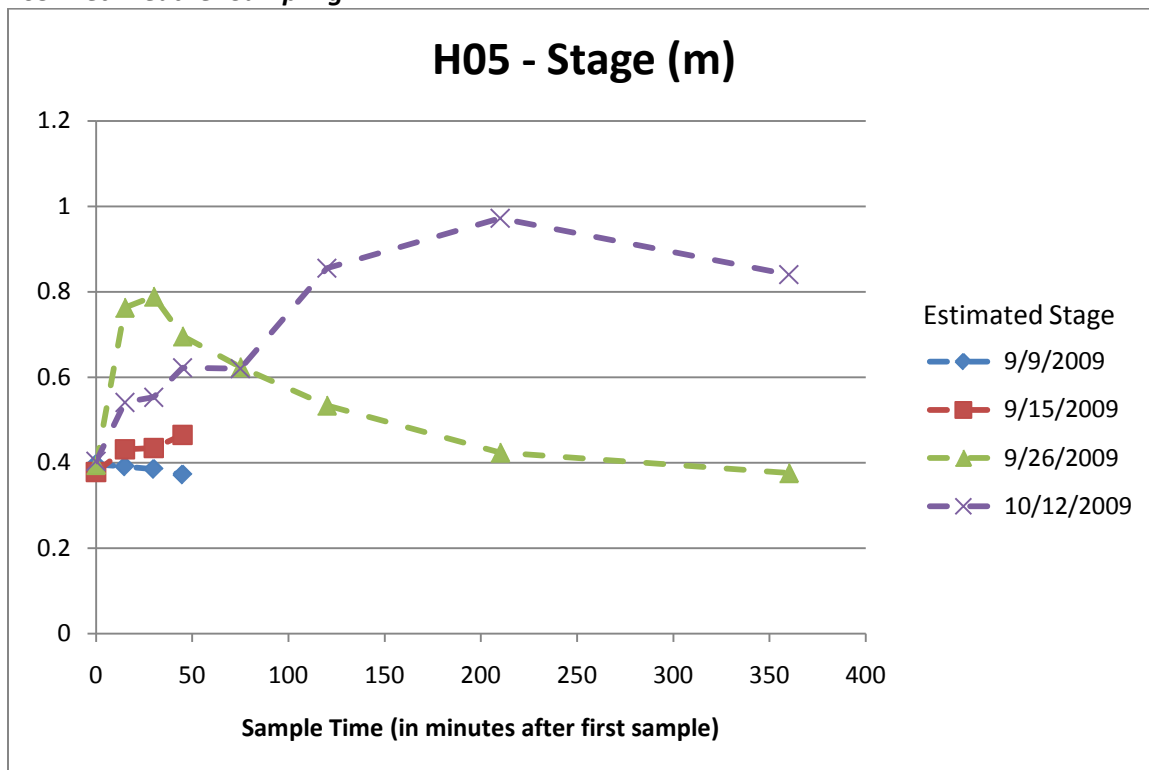


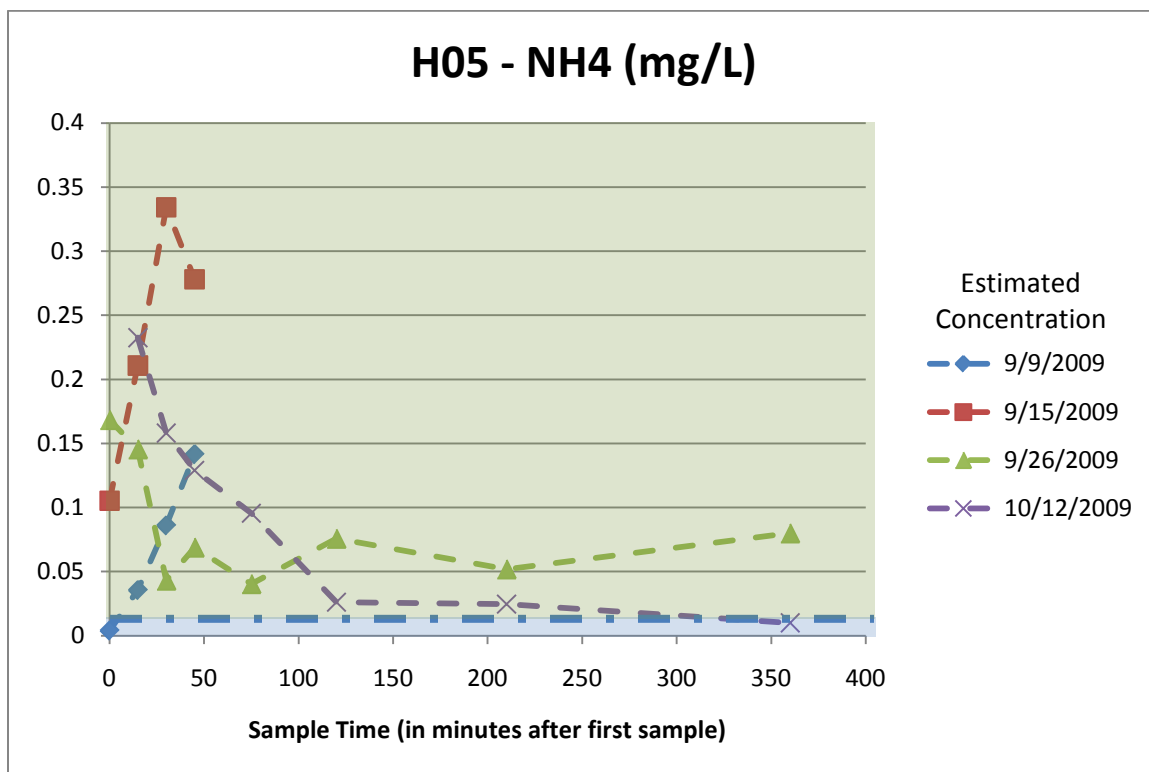
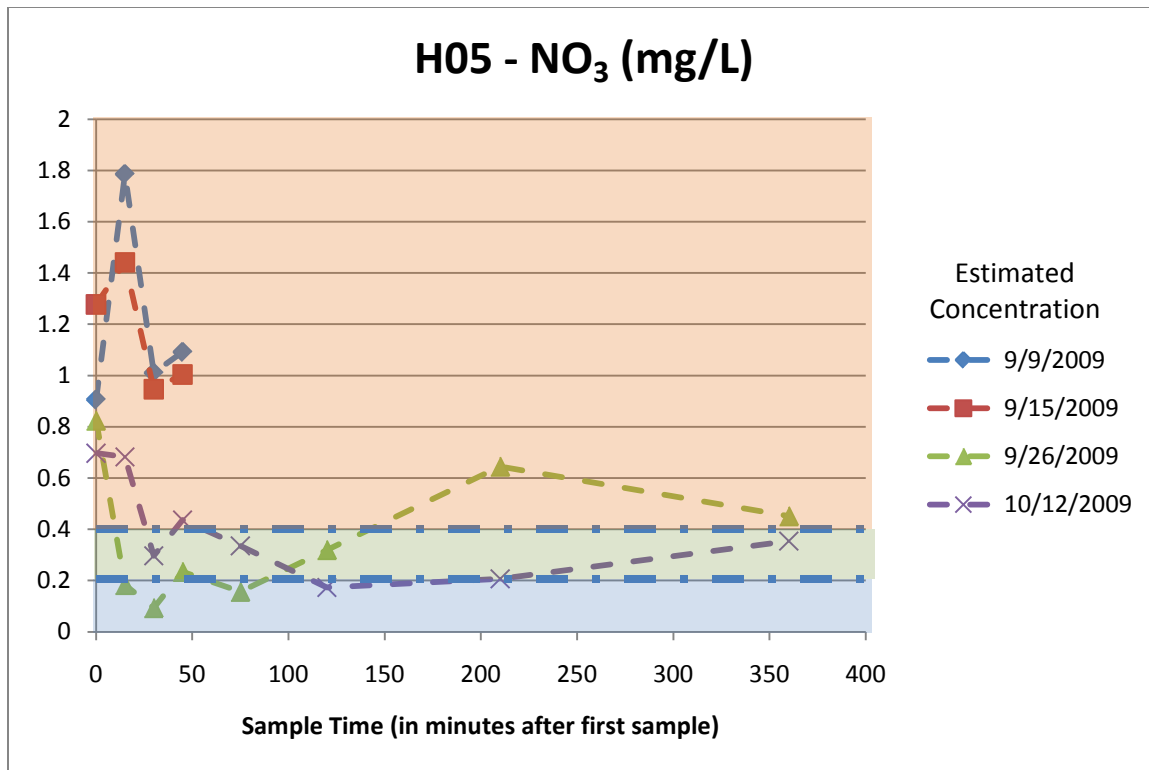


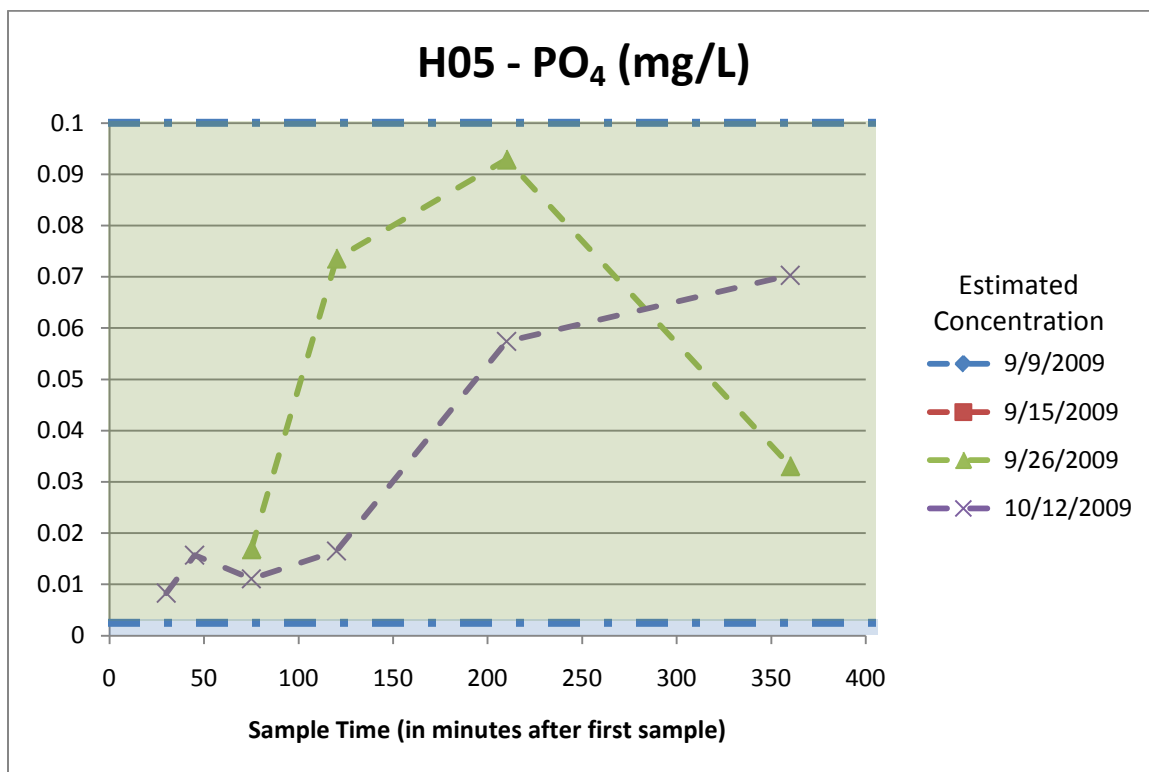
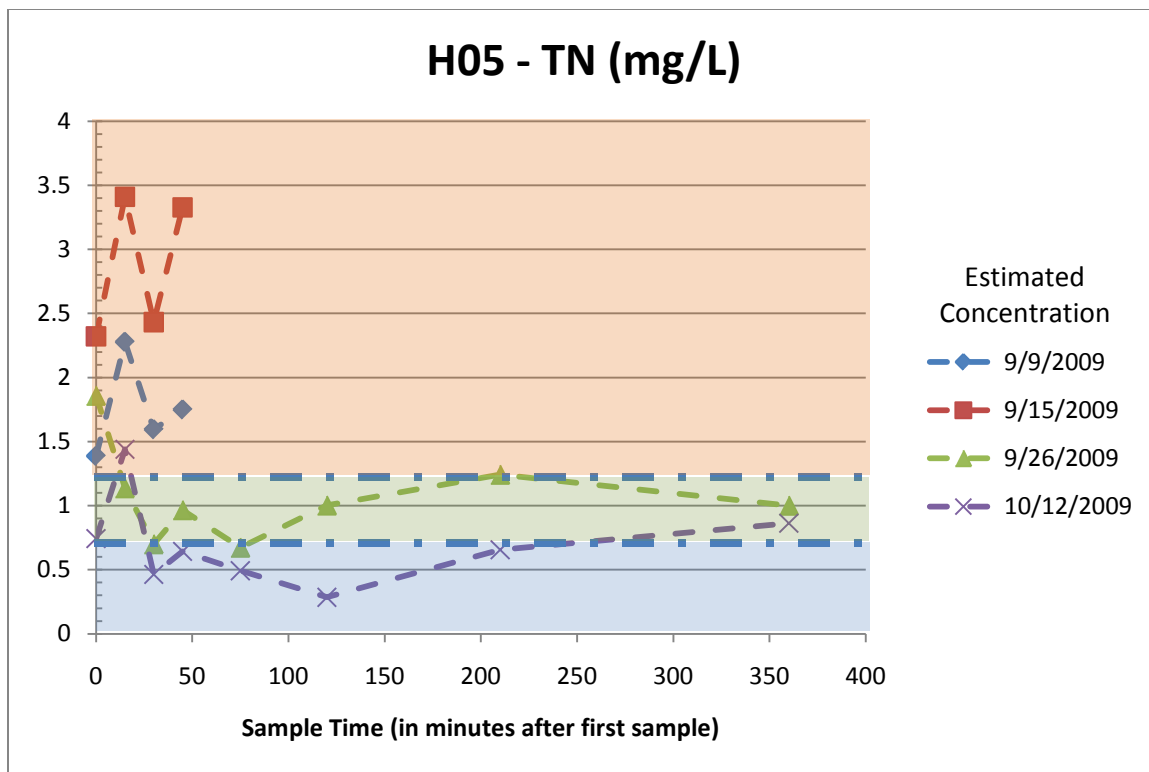


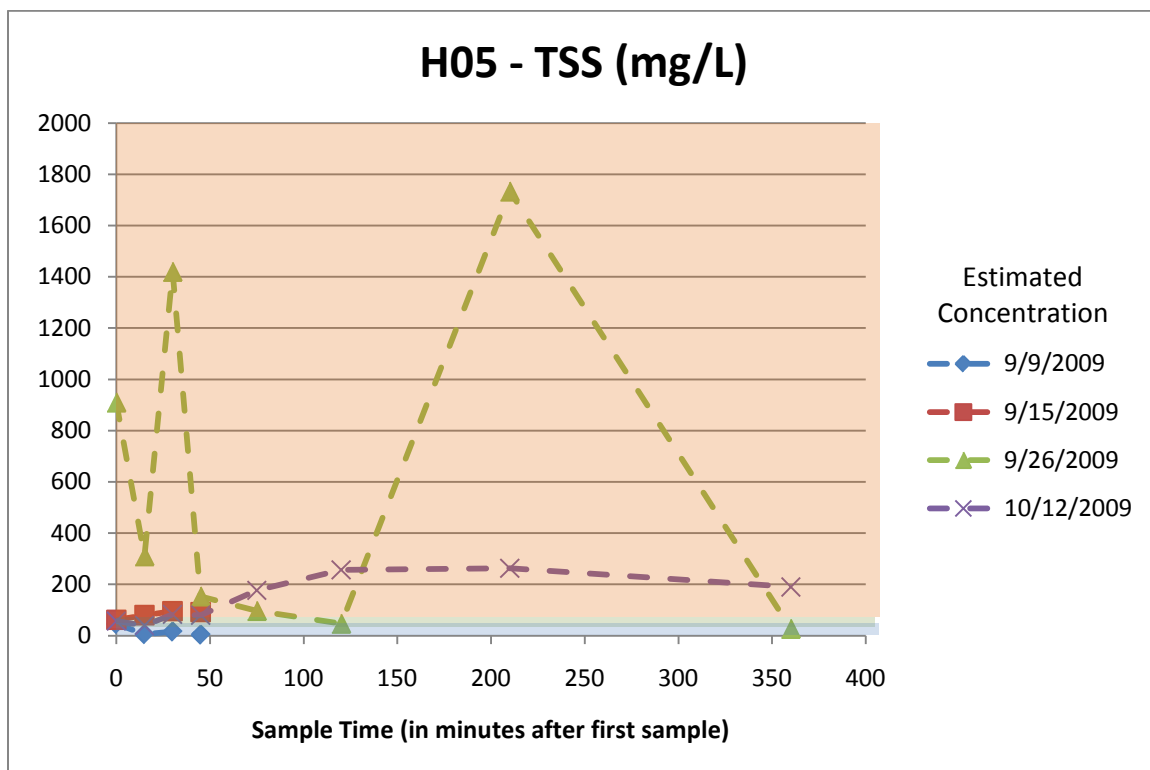
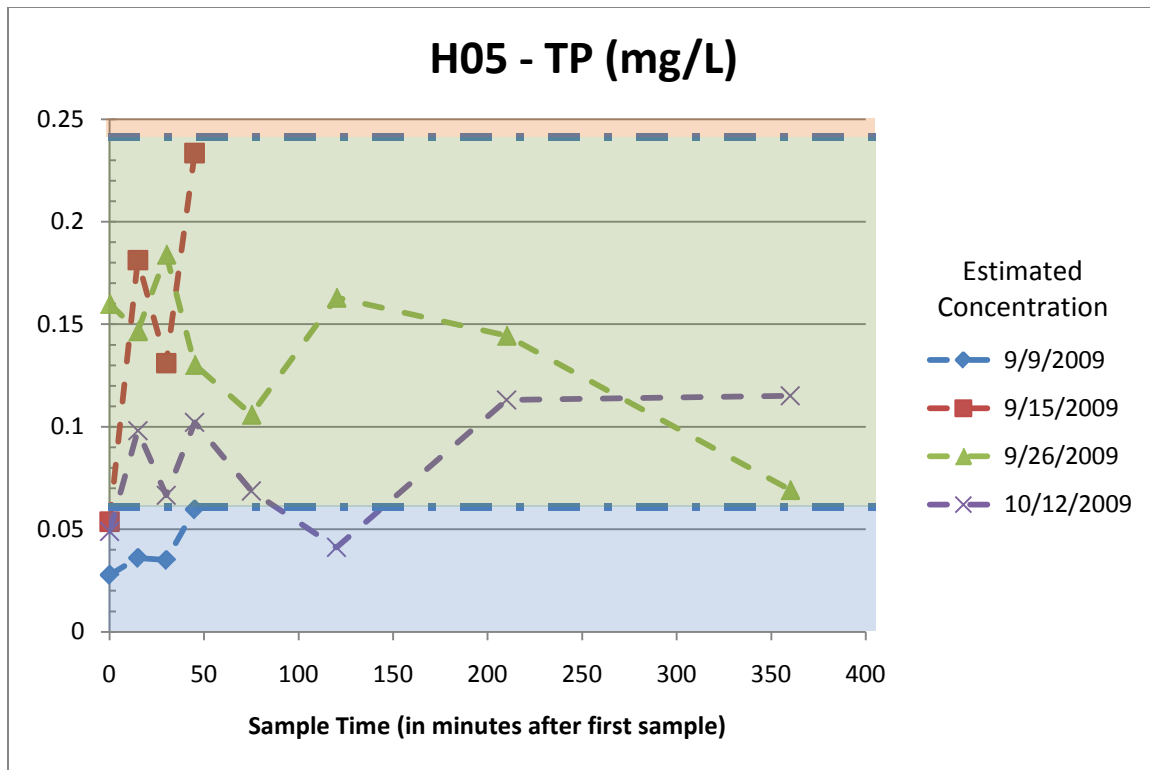


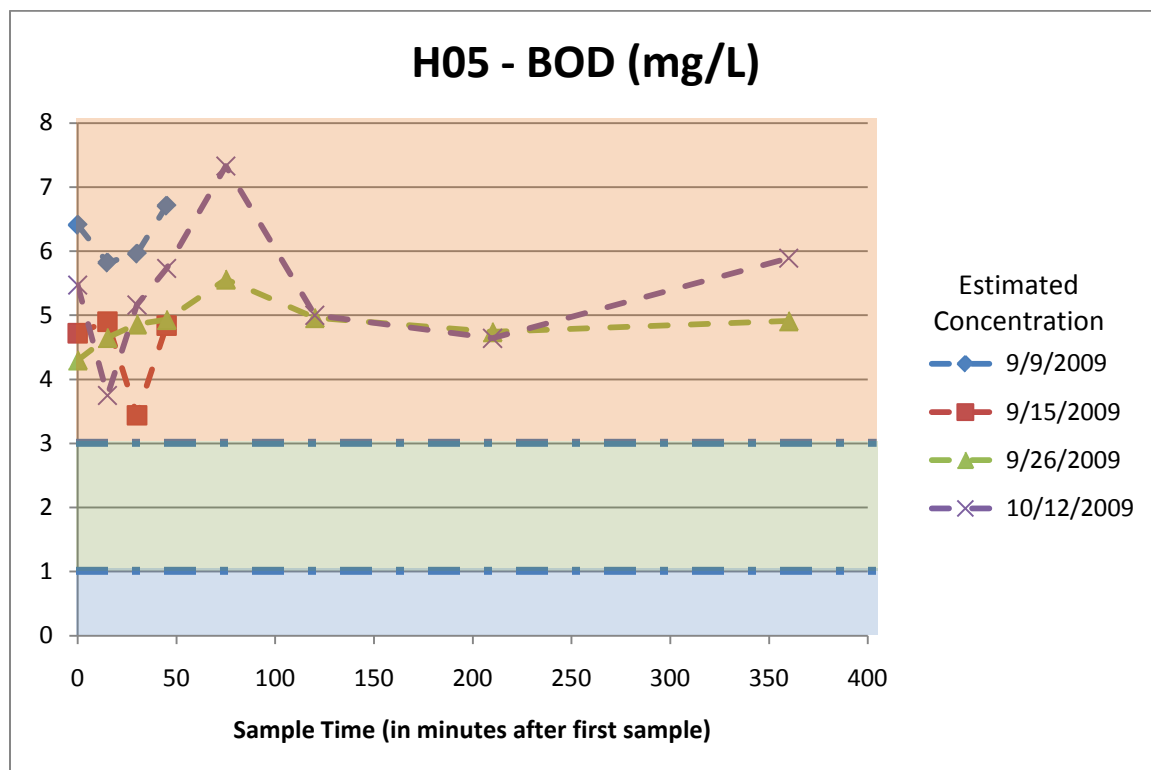
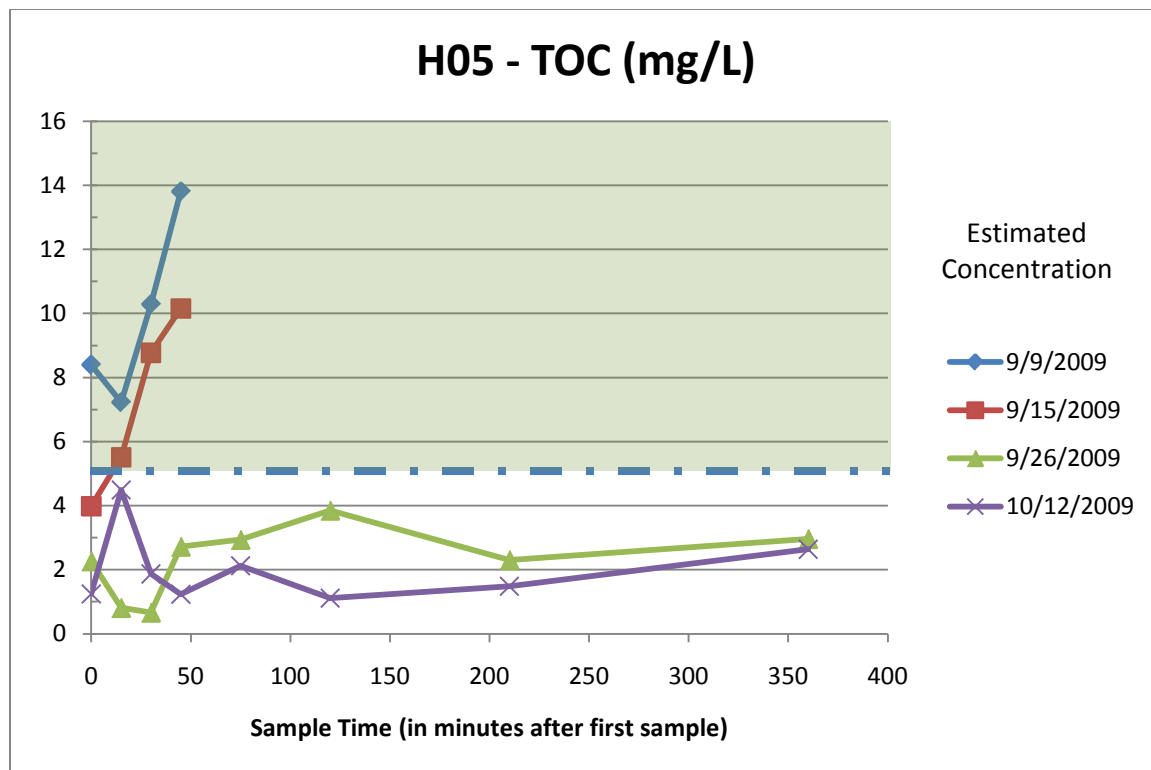
H05 Wet Weather Sampling

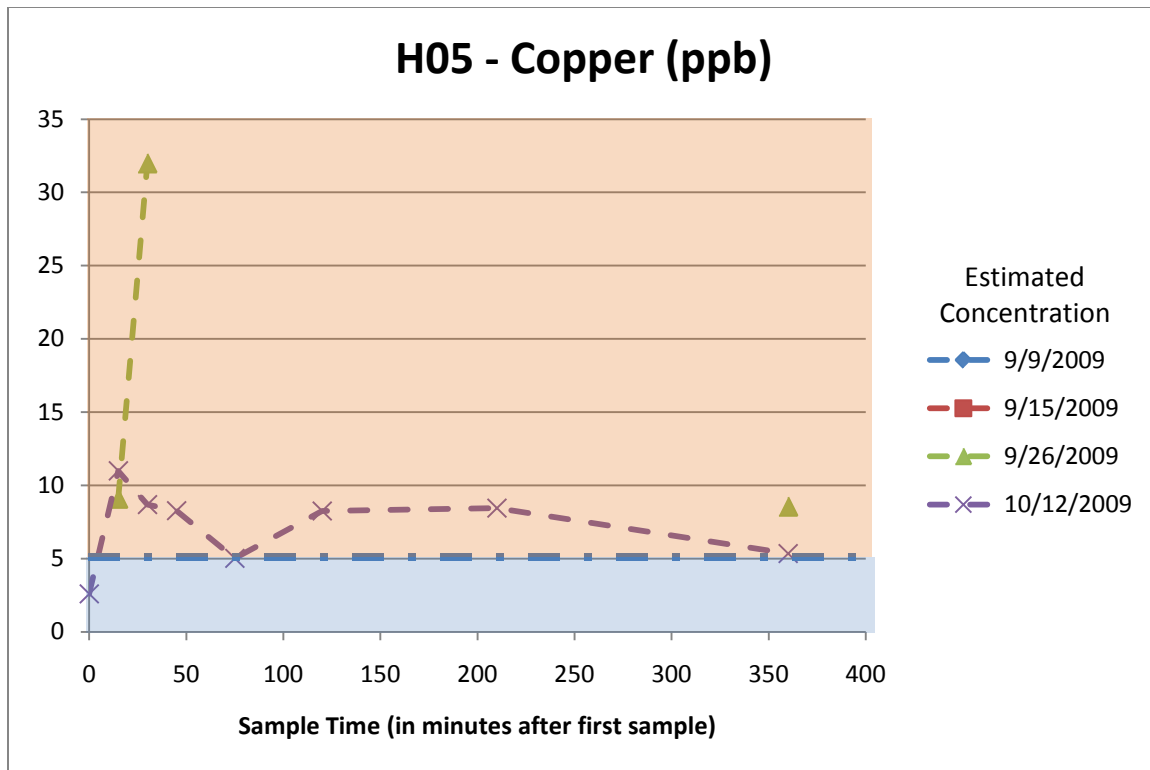








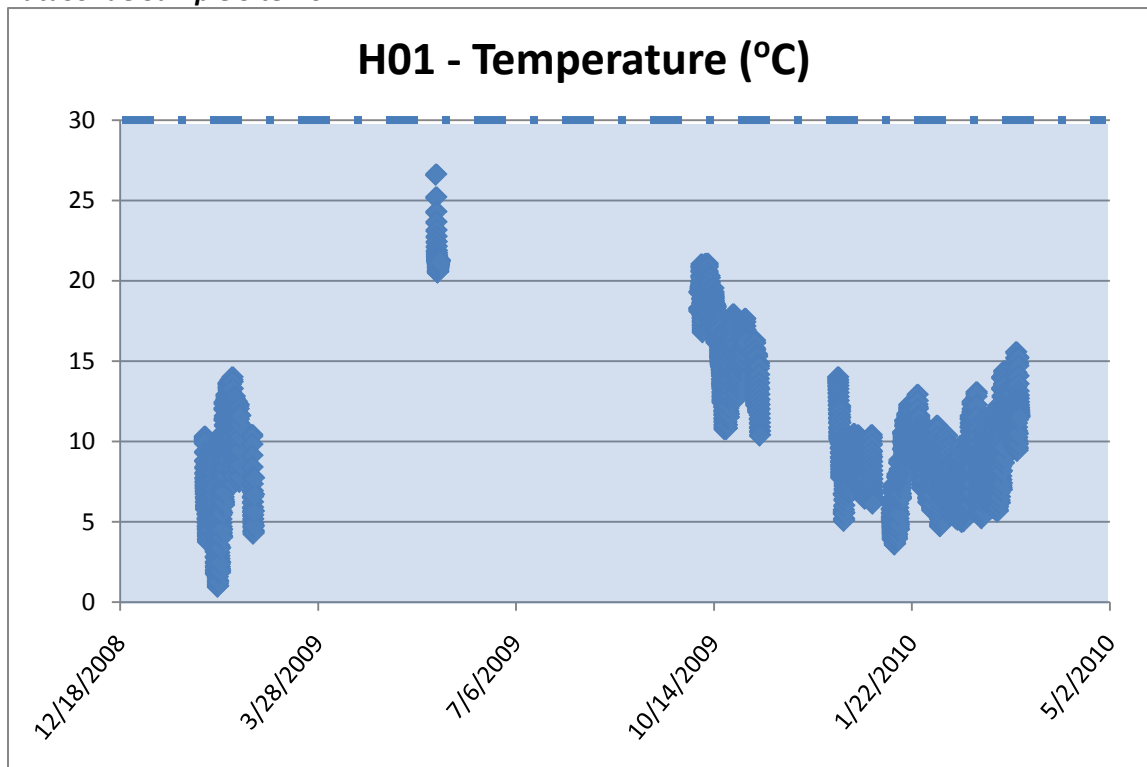


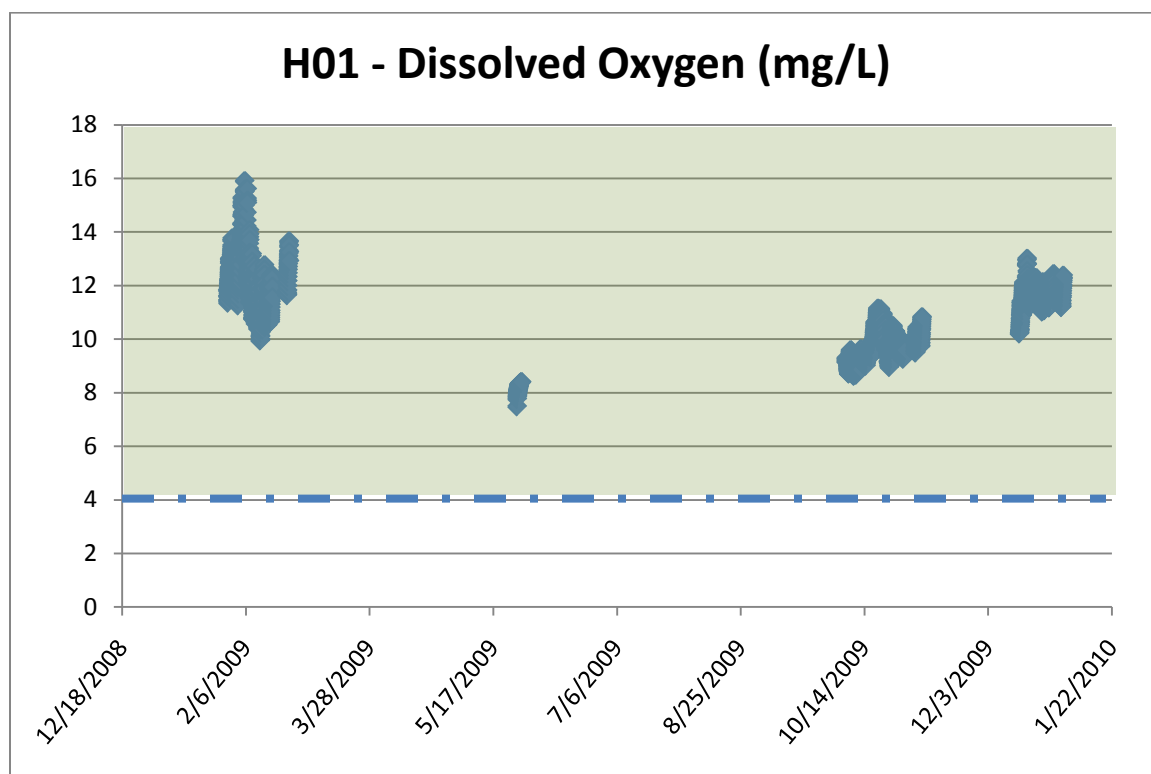
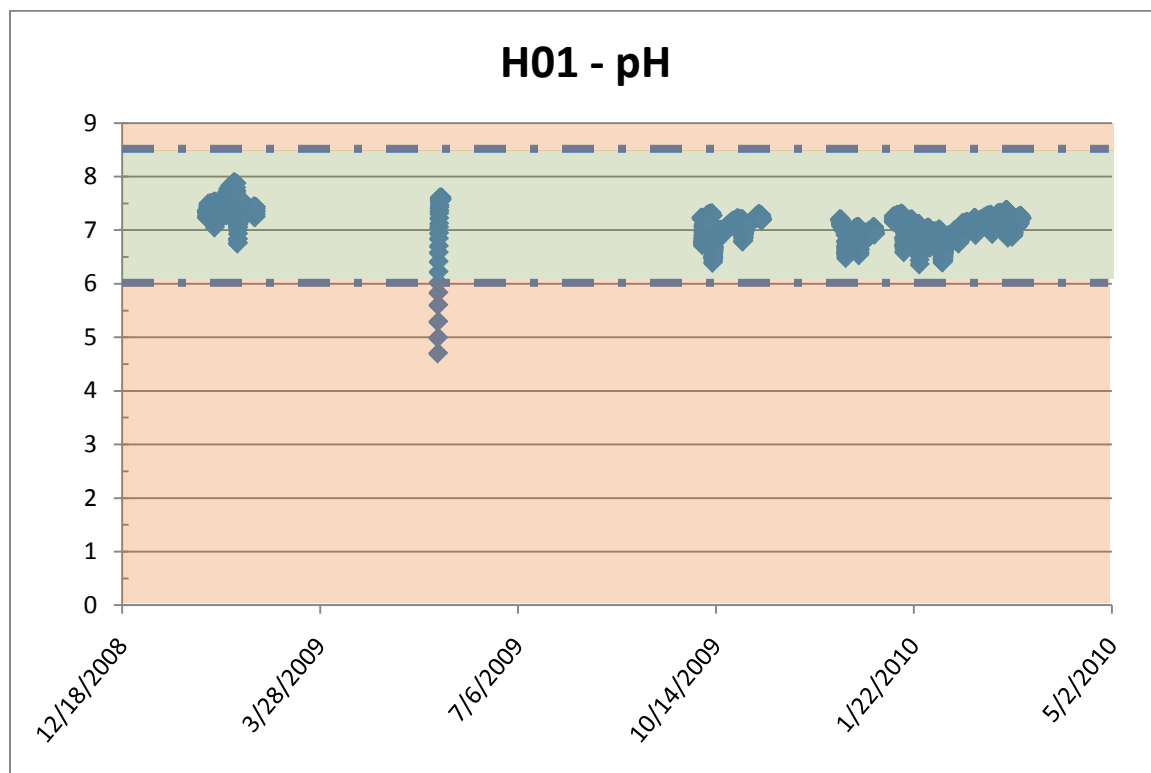


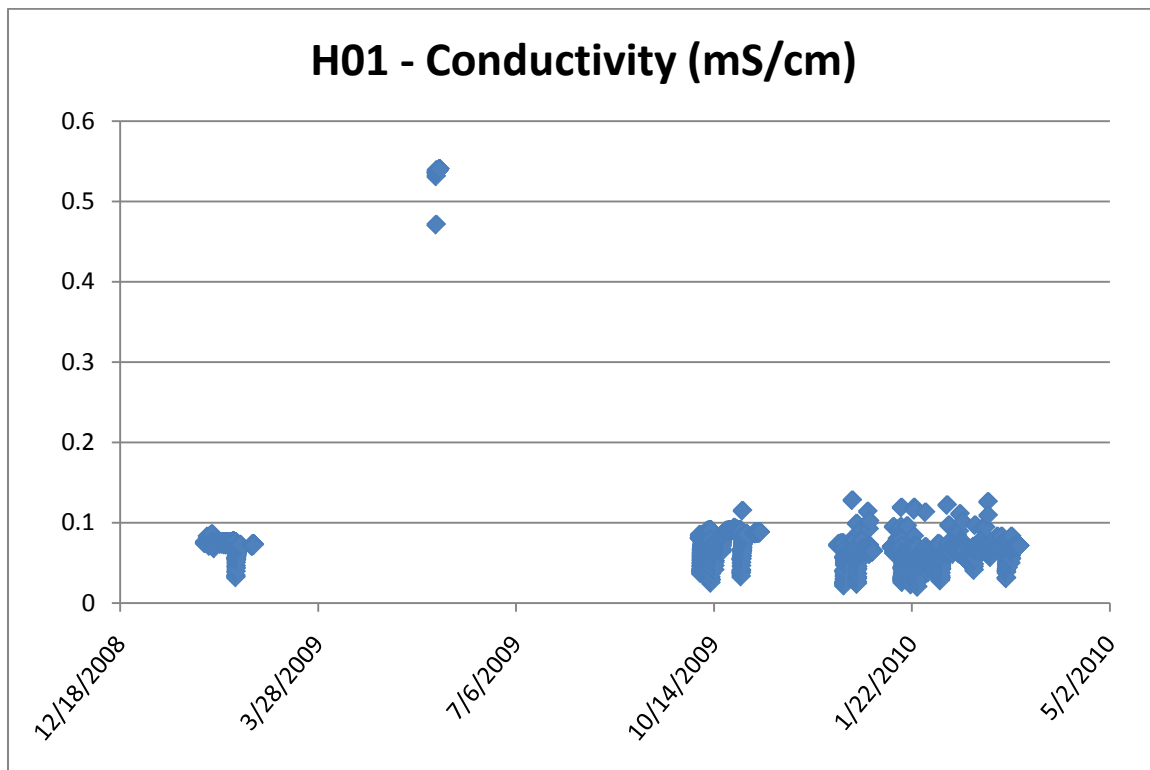
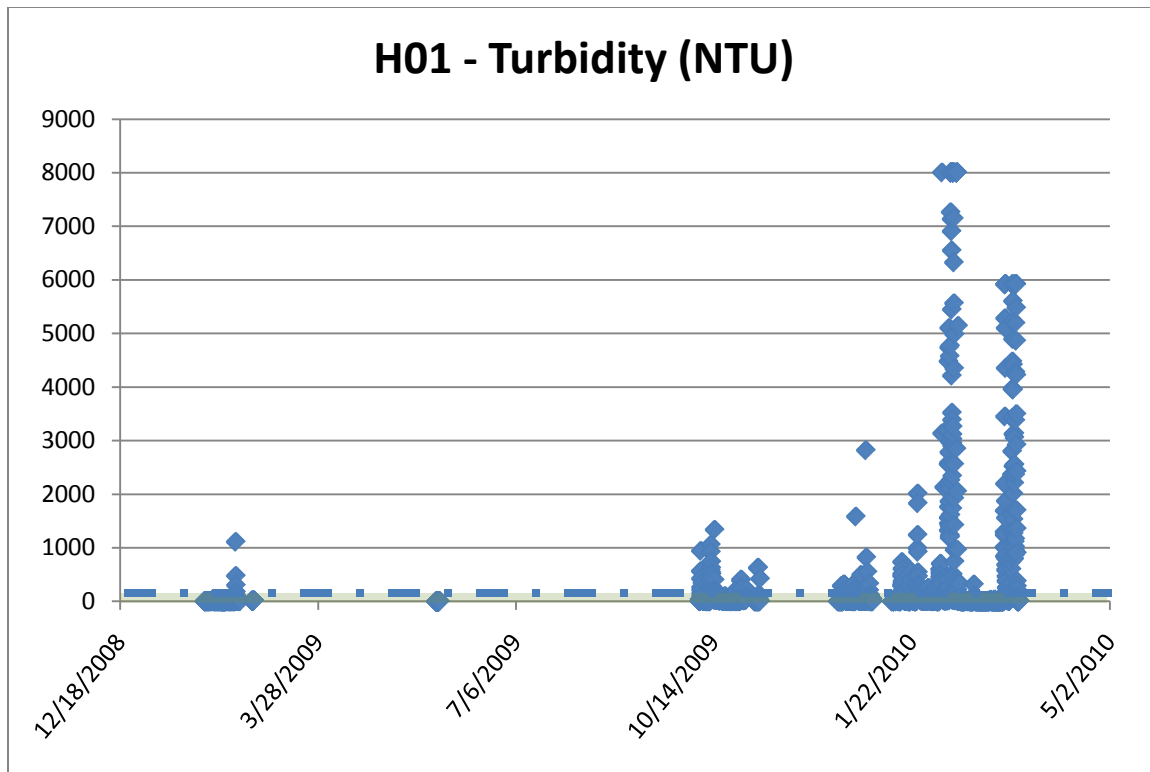
II.3 In-Situ Water Sampling Using Datasondes

Gaps in data are due to equipment malfunction and subsequent repair times.

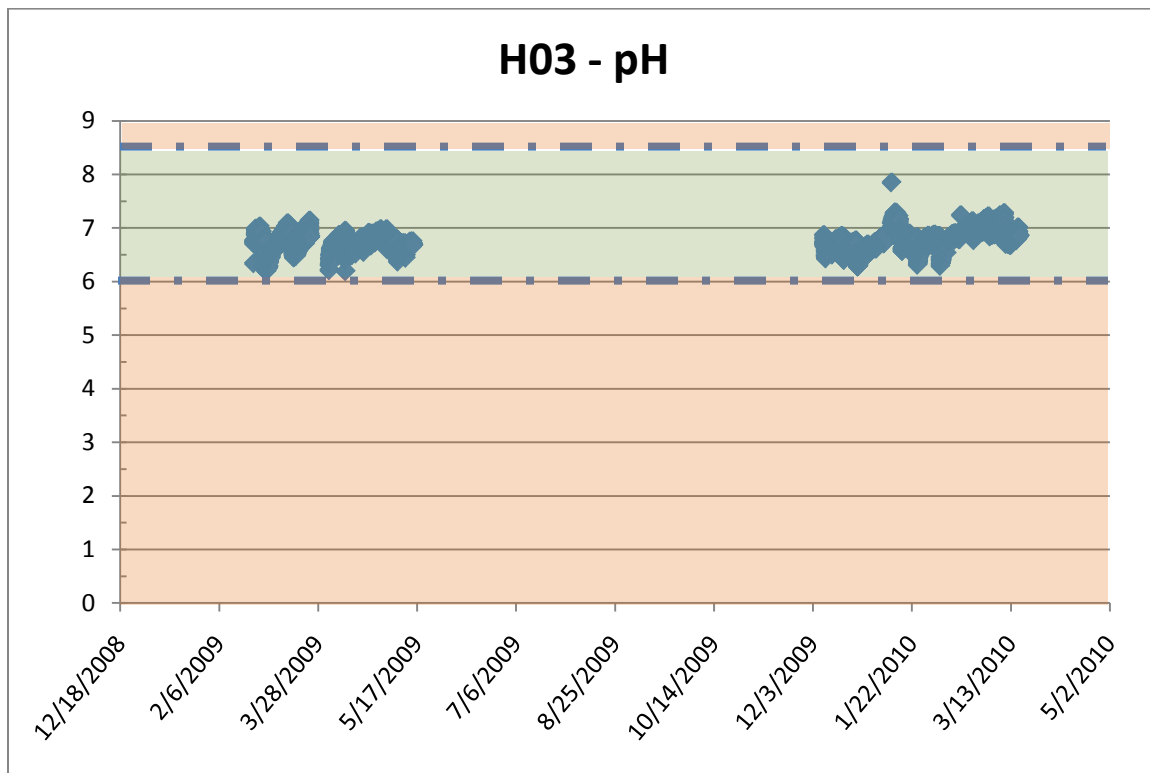
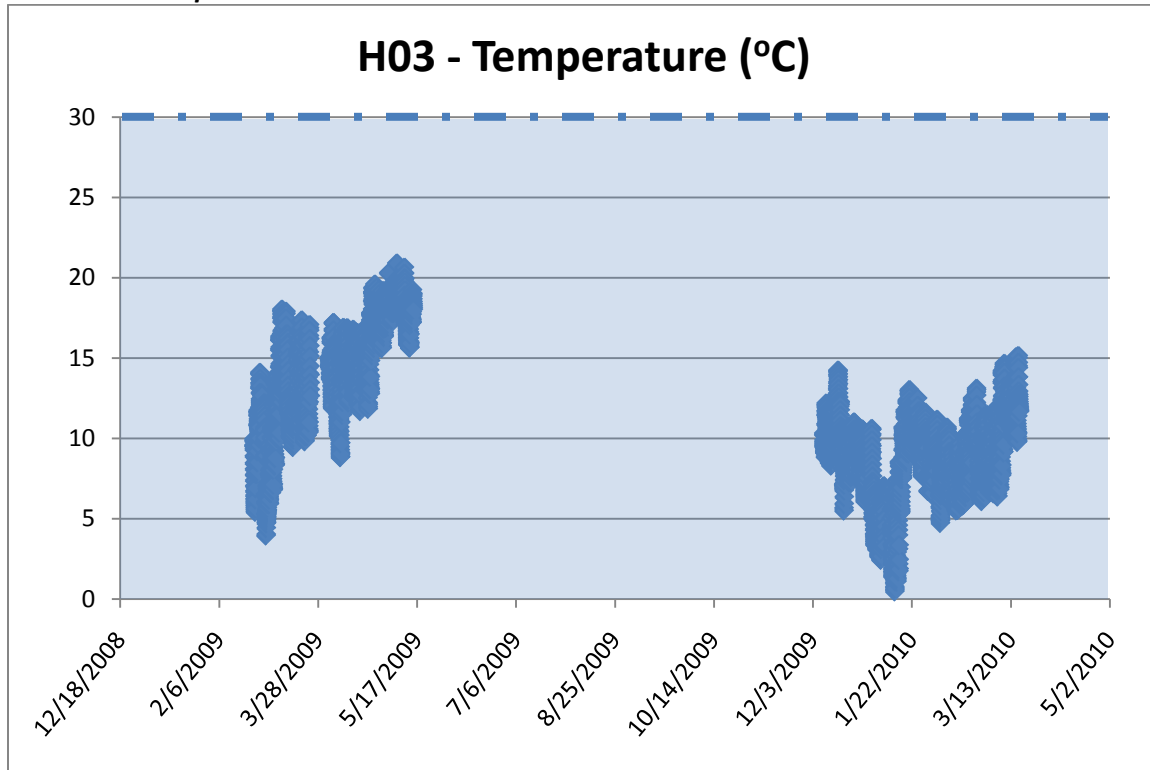
Datasonde Sample Site H01

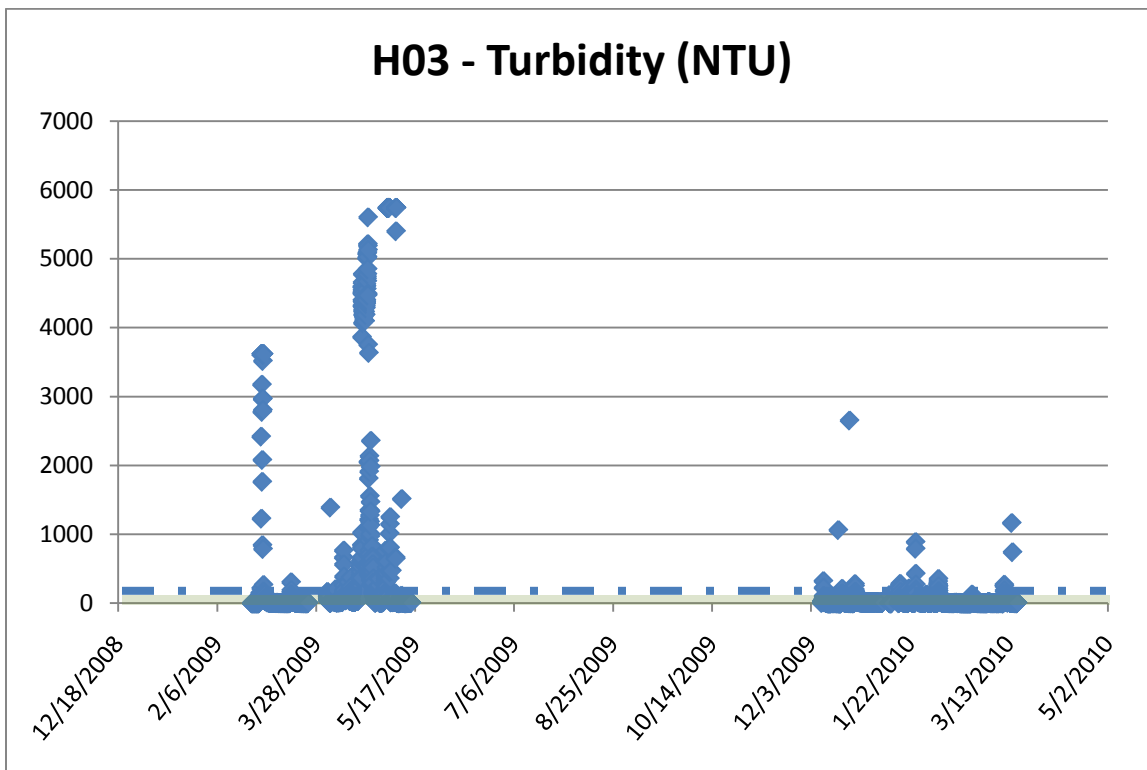
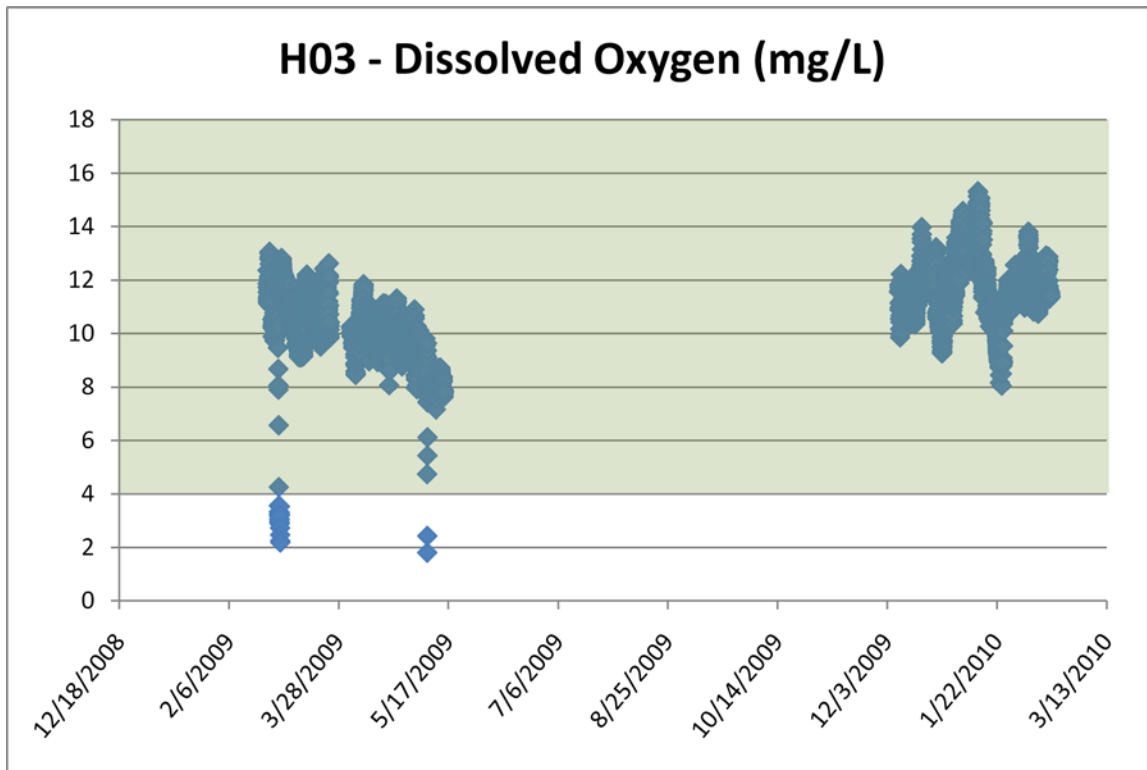


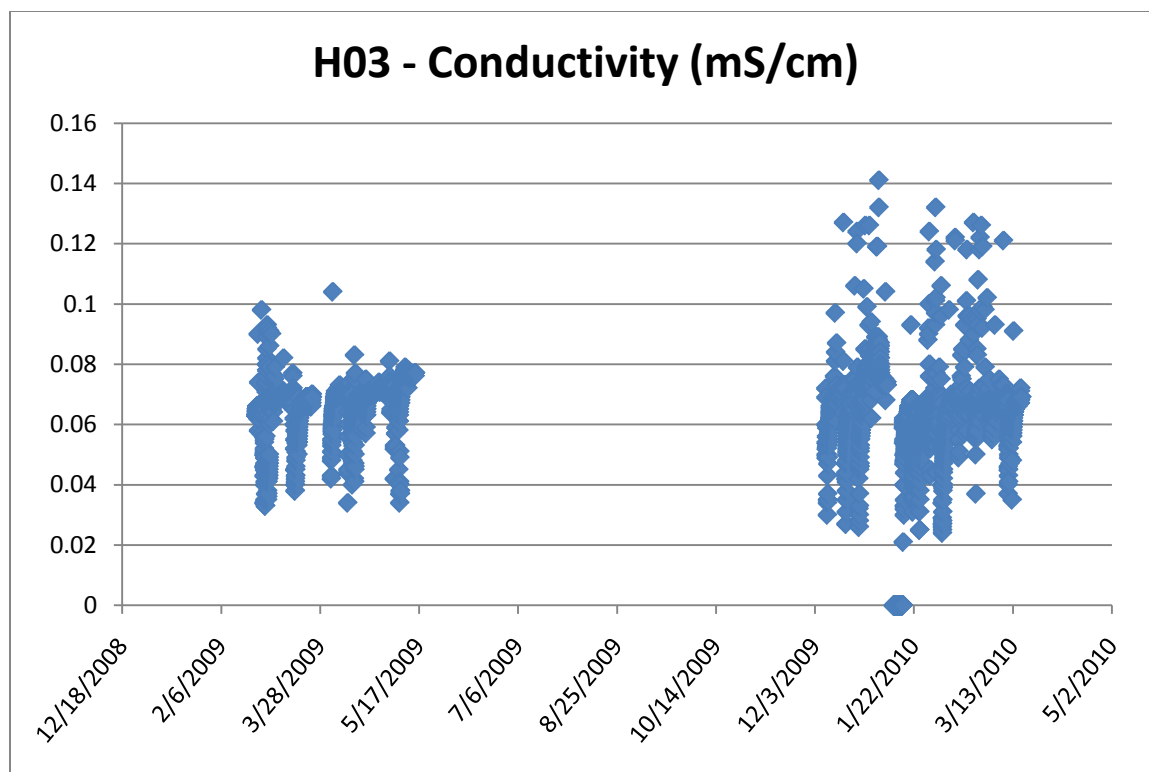




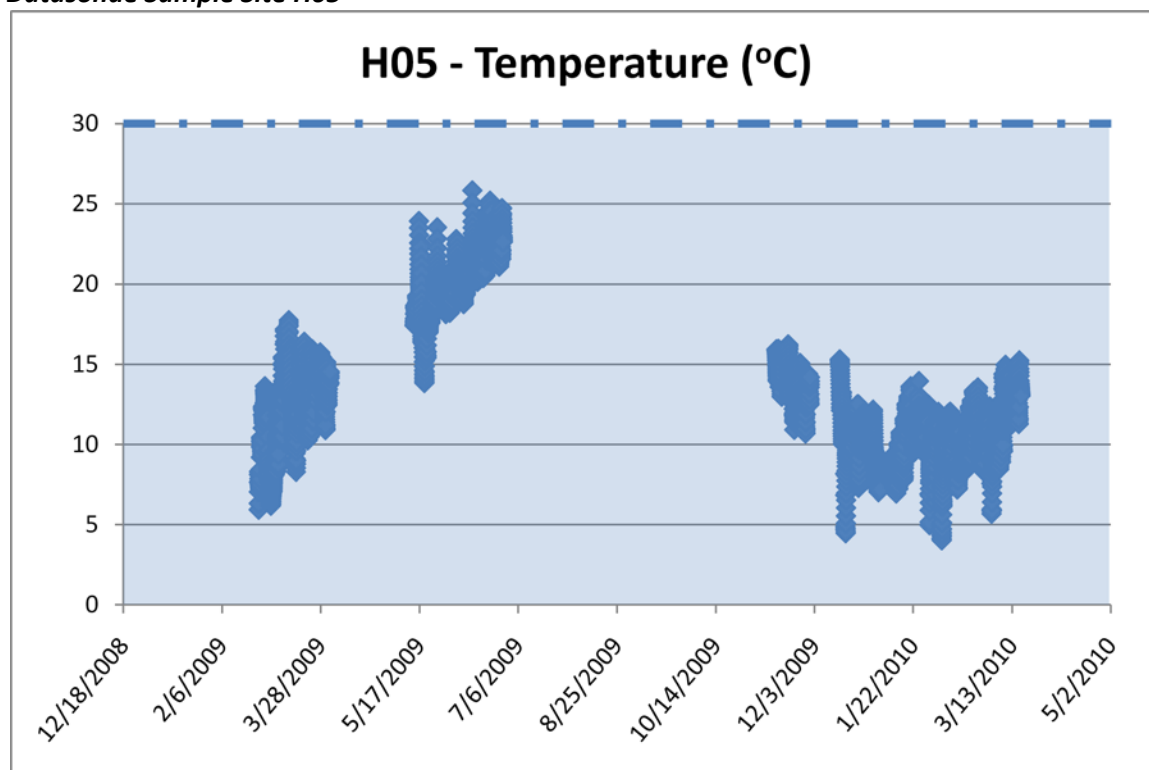
Datasonde Sample Site H03

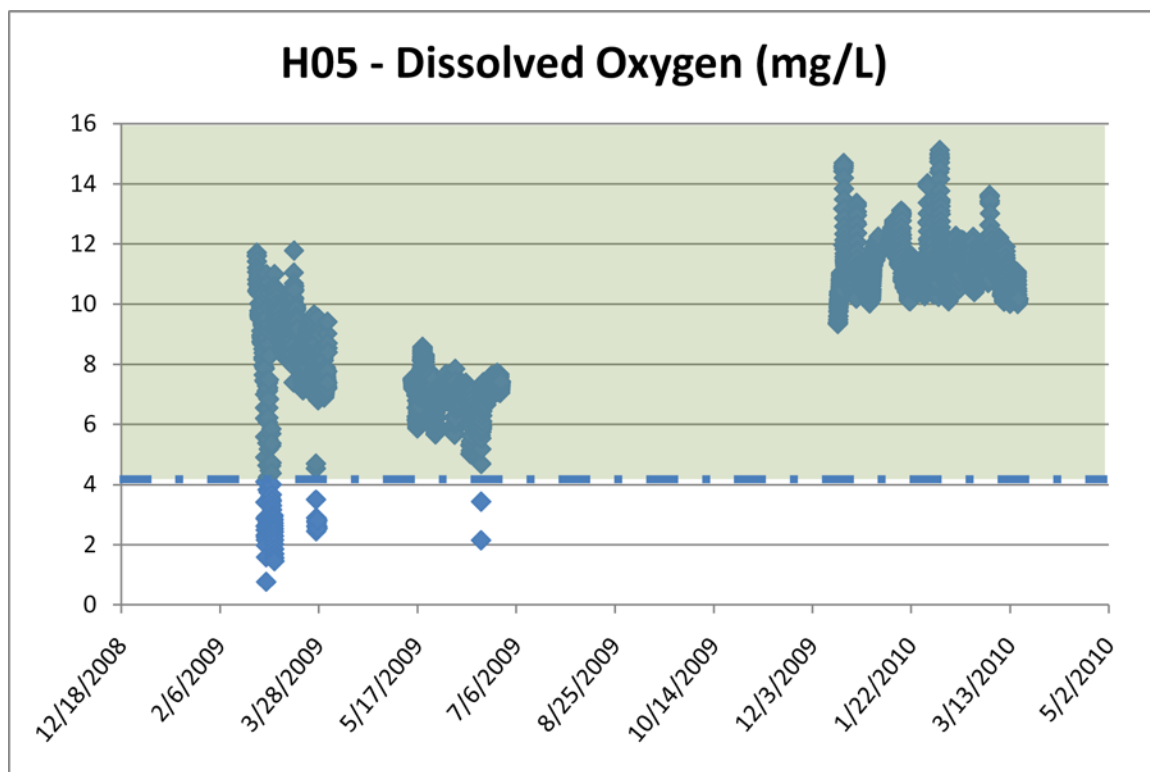
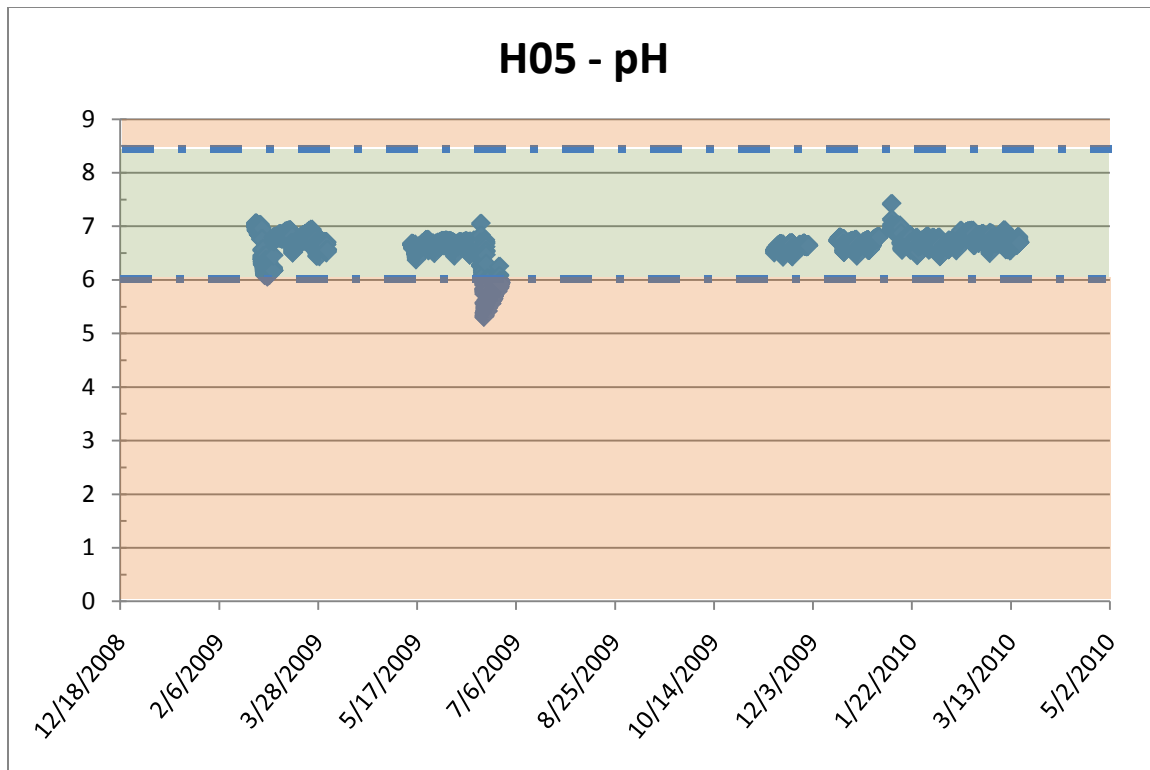


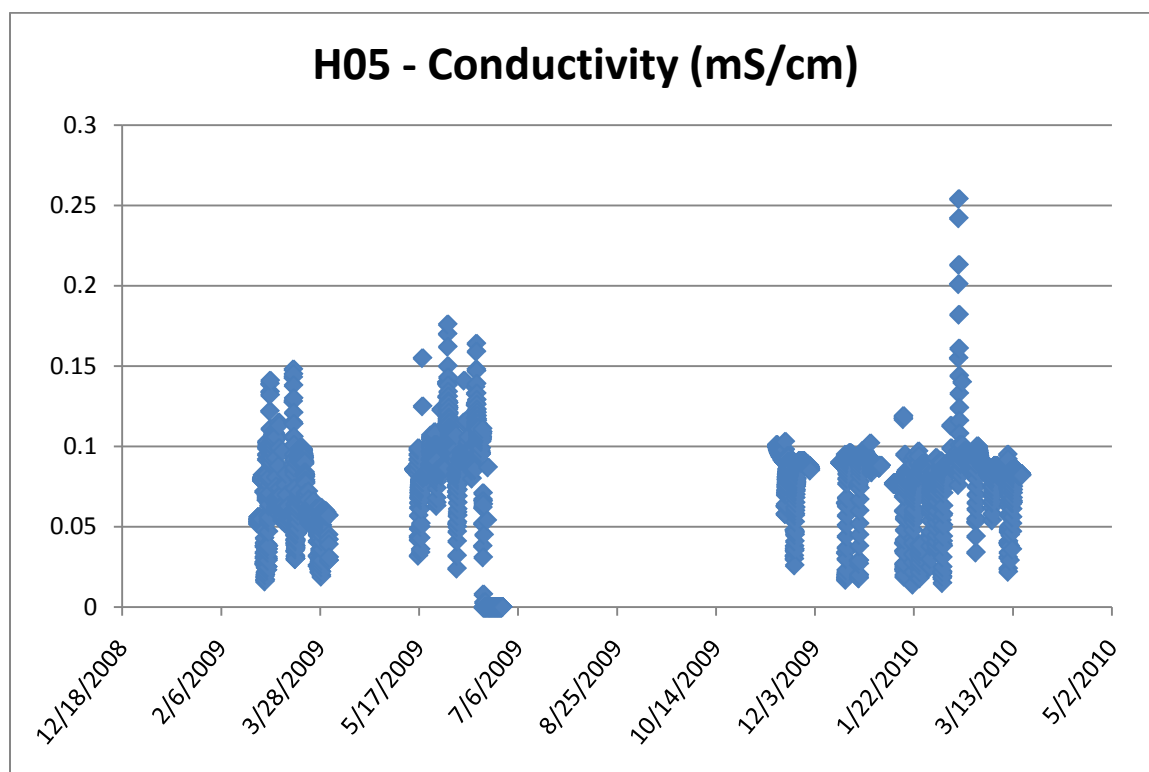
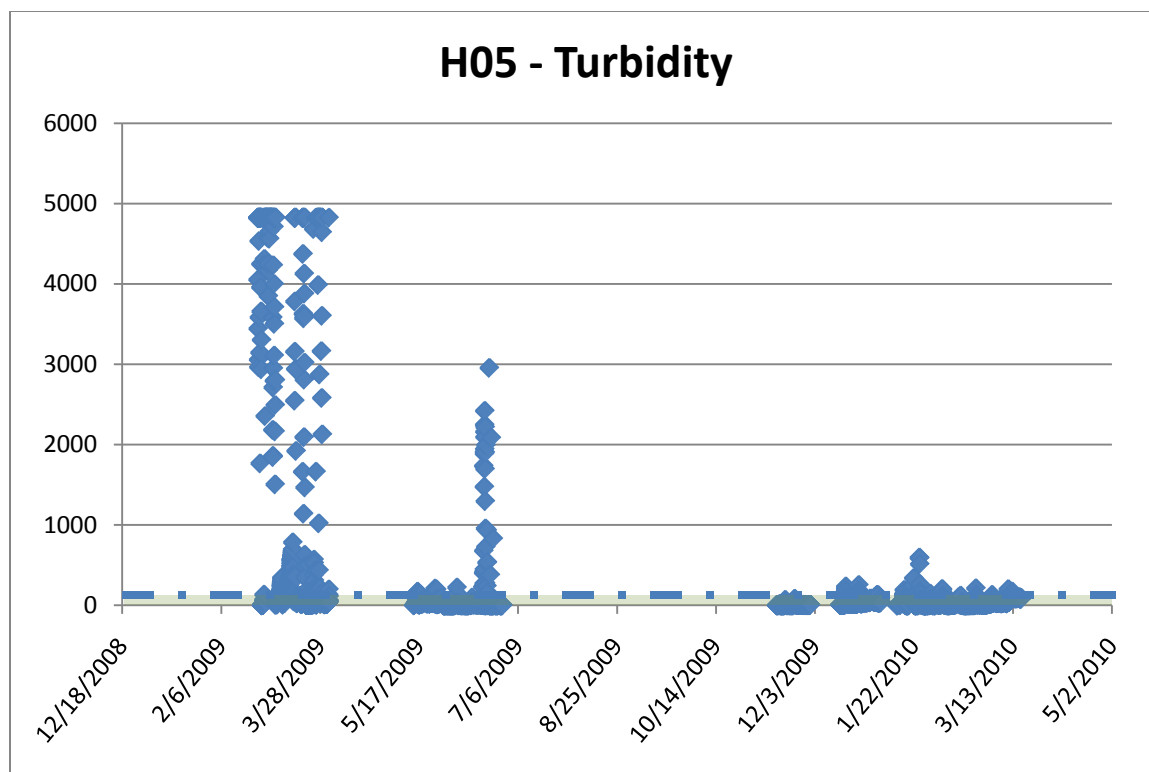




Datasonde Sample Site H05







Section III – Baseline Indicators (as of December 2009)

Land Cover Data for Hunnicutt Creek Basin

Type of Cover	100ft Buffer		All of Basin	
	Area (ft ²)	%	Area (ft ²)	%
Open Water	23380.63	0.43%	255275.19	0.34%
Developed Open Space	1520092.41	27.73%	24381015.32	32.72%
Developed-Low Intensity	506206.99	9.24%	15827010.93	21.24%
Developed-Medium Intensity	237975.30	4.34%	4827837.21	6.48%
Developed-High Intensity	0.00	0.00%	1235990.87	0.00%
Barren	0.00	0.00%	444476.19	0.00%
Agriculture-Pasture and Hay	38028.05	0.69%	894879.97	1.20%
Southern Piedmont Mesic Forest	217196.27	3.96%	794681.09	1.07%
Southern Piedmont Dry Oak (Pine)	1559757.77	28.46%	15498348.49	20.80%
Central Interior and Appalachian Riparian Systems	497552.40	9.08%	836628.82	1.12%
Ruderal Forest-Southeast Hardwood and Conifer	812645.20	14.83%	7945454.32	10.66%
Managed Tree Plantation-Southeast Conifer and Hardwood	68215.64	1.24%	1566647.48	2.10%
Total Area	5481050.66	100.00%	74508245.88	100%

Hunnicutt Watershed Information

Indicator	Total	Column1
Residential Building in Flood Hazard Zones	23	% of Total Structures = 1.06%
Non-Residential Buildings in Flood Hazard Zones	11	% of Total Structures = 0.51%
Length on Channelized/Piped Streams	2126ft	% of Total Stream = 7.4%
Impervious surface	23.80%	
of Outfalls	101	18.53/mile of stream
Septic Tanks	12	2.02/mile of stream
Sewer Crossings	39	7.16/mile of stream
Culverts	10	1.83/mile of stream
Sewer Spills	25	1997-2001: 16
		2002-2006: 8
		2006-2009: 1

Selected References

- American Public Health Association (APHA) , the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*. <http://www.standardmethods.org> . December 3, 2009.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Monitoring and Assessing Water Quality*. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring>. October 20, 2009.
- MacTammany, Matthew E. *Recovery of Southern Appalachian Streams from Historical Agriculture*. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA: 2004.
- WA Department of Ecology. *A Citizen's Guide to Understanding and Monitoring Lakes and Streams*. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/Programs/wq/plants/management/joymanual/streamnutrients.html>. 2009.
- GA DNR/EPD. 2007. Macroinvertebrate Reference Data Piedmont Ecoregion (45), Southern Outer Piedmont -- 45b Data. GA Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division. Accessed May 2009. http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/WPB_Macroinvertebrate_SOP.html
- City of Griffin. 2008. Water quality reference station in Meriwether County; data collected by City of Griffin (2005-2008).
- CWP. 2003. Impacts of Impervious Cover on Aquatic Systems. Center for Watershed Protection. Watershed Protection Research Monograph No. 1. Ellicott City, MD.
- CWP. 2005. Unified Stream Assessment: A Users Manual. Version 2. Center for Watershed Protection. Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series. Ellicott City, MD.
- Fox and Absher. 2002. The ABCs of Water-Quality Assessment in Georgia. Stormwater, March-April 2002. Accessed April 2009. <http://www.stormh2o.com/march-april-2002/water-quality-assessment.aspx>
- GA DNR. 2007. Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Two Stream Segments in the Oconee River Basin for Sediment (Biota Impacted). Submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Atlanta, GA. Submitted by the GA Department of Natural Resources Environmental protection Divisions, Atlanta, GA. Accessed March 2009. http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/techguide/wpb/TMDL/Oconee/EPD_Final_Oconee_Sediment_TMDL_2007.pdf
- Gore, J.A., J.R. Olsen, D.L. Hughes, and P.M. Brossett. 2005. Reference conditions for wadeable stream in Georgia with a multimetric index for the bioassessment and discrimination of reference and impaired streams. Phase II. Final Report. Columbus State University, Columbus, GA.
- Meyer, J. L., M. J. Paul, and W. K. Taulbee. 2005. Stream ecosystem function in urbanizing landscapes. *Journal of the North American Benthological Society*. Vol. 24(3):602-612.
- Paul, M. J., J. L. Meyer, C. A. Couch. 2006. Leaf Breakdown in Streams Differing in Catchment Land Use. *Freshwater Biology*. Vol. 51:1684-1695. Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Pitt, R. E. 2000. Water Quality Conditions in the Cahaba River and Likely Pollutant Sources. University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Accessed March 2009. <http://unix.eng.ua.edu/~rpitt/Publications/MonitoringandStormwater/Cahaba%20problems%20and%20sources.PDF>
- Roy, A.H., A. D. Rosemond, M. J. Paul, D. S. Leigh, and J. B. Wallace. 2003. Stream Macroinvertebrate Response to Catchment Urbanization. *Freshwater Biology* 48:329-346. Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Schoonover, J. E., B. G. Lockaby, S. Pan. 2005. Changes in chemical and physical properties of stream water across and urban-rural gradient in western Georgia. *Urban Ecosystems*. Vol. 8:107-124. Springer Science + Business Media, Inc.

State of Georgia. 2009. 391-3-6-.03 Water Use Classifications and Water Quality Standards. State of Georgia, Office of the Secretary of State. Accessed March 2009. http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/page.cgi?g=GEORGIA_DEPARTMENT_OF_NATURAL_RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENTAL_PROTECTION/WATER_QUALITY_CONTROL/index.html&d=1

State of Georgia. 2009. 391-3-6-.03 Water Use Classifications and Water Quality Standards. State of Georgia, Office of the Secretary of State. Accessed March 2009. http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/page.cgi?g=GEORGIA_DEPARTMENT_OF_NATURAL_RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENTAL_PROTECTION/WATER_QUALITY_CONTROL/index.html&d=1

Tetra Tech. 2006. Baseline Biological and Water Quality Conditions for Selected Streams in Dekalb and Fulton Counties, Georgia. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. Prepared for US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District.

USEPA. 2000. Ambient Water Quality Criteria Recommendations: Rivers and Streams in Nutrient Ecoregion IX. US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water. EPA 822-B-00-019. Accessed April 2009. http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/ecoregions/rivers/rivers_9.pdf