

2010 Water Quality Report

University of Florida

Main Campus



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Overview

Water features in the landscape are often critical habitat for flora and fauna, but they can also provide many aesthetic and recreational amenities to humans. The types of habitat provided and opportunities for human use are often dictated by the quality of water. Many factors affect water quality, and chemical characteristics are often significantly influenced by activities not within the water body itself, but instead by input contributions upstream in the watershed. Characteristics of upstream inputs are driven both by geomorphologic (natural) characteristics of the soil, and anthropogenic (human-caused) activities within the watershed. As the intensity of development within a watershed increases, there is often a commensurate increase in the runoff of chemical and particulate contaminants. For this reason, maintaining or achieving a particular use and aesthetic condition of a water body is dependent on a holistic management effort not just within the water body, but also throughout the entire drainage basin and/or watershed.

The University of Florida (UF) has demonstrated its commitment to a sustainable campus through a variety of initiatives, including Greening UF, an application to be certified under Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program, the incorporation of a conservation component in its master plan, the creation of a Water Institute, and the establishment of an Office of Sustainability. In addition to these self-initiated efforts, the University is also required under Phase II of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to address potential sources of non-point source pollution through public education, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and implementation of Best Management Practices for storm water runoff.

To facilitate these multiple initiatives, a better understanding of water quality on the UF campus is warranted, and will better characterize existing conditions, help identify potential areas of concern, and establish a baseline for future assessment. Water quality monitoring has existed in Lake Alice for many years, typically in association with the UF Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. However, monitoring of tributaries that flow into Lake Alice as well as other prominent tributaries that flow into Bivens Arm, Hogtown Creek or to groundwater "sinks" on campus have only been intermittently sampled if at all. The sampling effort reported here was initiated in May 2003 by the UF Wetlands Club and is now organized under the UF Clean Water Campaign. Sampling presently consists of 11 stations on the UF campus, 5 stations at the Stormwater Ecological Enhancement Project (SEEP) located in the Natural Areas Teaching Lab (NATL), and 4 stations on the UF Golf Course. Coordination and sample analysis is financially supported by UF Physical Plant Division under NPDES Phase II permitting. Field sampling is facilitated by volunteer efforts of several UF student organizations. Presently, sampling is focused on water quality parameters related to physical characteristics and macronutrients. This report outlines the results of data collected during 2010. It is hoped that these efforts will provide water resource managers with

UF Clean Water Campaign

The UF Clean Water Campaign is an initiative by faculty, staff and students at the University of Florida whose mission is to protect the campus waterways from non-point source pollution, one of the major sources of pollution to rivers, lakes and estuaries. Specifically, the campaign addresses requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is implemented by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and is administered in the state of Florida by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Under the NPDES program, the University of Florida is required to implement a stormwater management program. The UF Clean Water Campaign focuses on the public education and participation components of the UF stormwater management program.

The campaign aims to reduce stormwater pollution as well as other non-point sources of pollution through the following activities:

- Campus Water Quality Monitoring Program (CWQ);
- Storm drain marking events to discourage dumping in storm drains;
- An informational website to educate the public about their role in keeping water clean; and
- A tour of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are found on the UF campus or could be implemented in the future.

For more information see
<http://campuswaterquality.ifas.ufl.edu>

a better understanding of existing conditions and means to protect these valuable campus resources.

Water Sampling

In November 2003, the Campus Water Quality monitoring program (CWQ) was formalized as part of the UF Clean Water Campaign with student volunteers from the UF Wetlands Club and the American Water Resources Association. The program has four main goals:

- 1) To develop a baseline of water quality data for campus waters;
- 2) To provide an annual summary of the data to the university community;
- 3) To identify potential pollution sources on campus; and
- 4) To propose the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in areas that would best alleviate water pollution.

Once a month, trained student volunteers collect water samples from twenty sites. At each site, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, total dissolved solids, and reduction/oxidation potential (redox potential) are measured with a YSI 556 Multi-Probe Sensor. Measurements are taken approximately 30 - 40cm below the water surface between 12 and 5 pm. When water is present, a 500 mL water sample is collected from the mid-point in the water column. Samples are then transported to the laboratory and processed according to standard operating procedures certified by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC). Water samples are analyzed for total suspended solids, total nitrogen, nitrates, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, ammonium, total phosphorus, and soluble reactive phosphorus. A more detailed description of sampling methods, sample preservation and analysis techniques can be found in Appendix A.

Watersheds

The UF Campus is part of four different watersheds: Lake Alice, Hogtown Creek, Tumblin Creek and internally drained Depression Basins (Figure 1). The majority of the University of Florida campus is a part of the Lake Alice watershed (1058 acres). None of these watersheds flow to tide, instead runoff from these areas eventually flow to groundwater either through natural sink or facilitated by gravity infiltration well. The entire campus is located in the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) which, in addition to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, provides regulatory oversight.

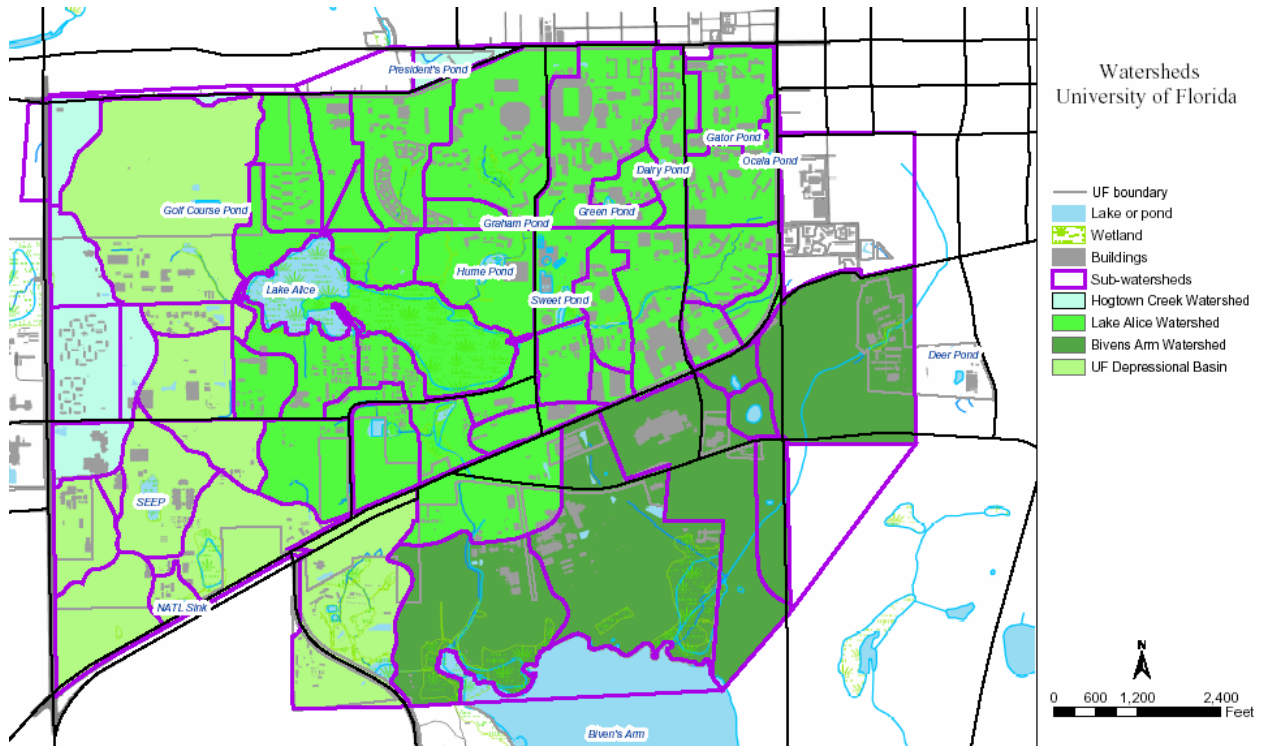


Figure 1. Major watersheds and sub-watersheds on the University of Florida Campus

Sampling Sites

There were 20 sites regularly sampled during the 2010 monitoring period (Figure 2). Eleven of these sites were on the Main Campus, five were at the Stormwater Ecological Enhancement Project (SEEP) in the Natural Area Teaching Lab (NATL), and four were at the UF Golf Course. Sampling sites were selected to characterize main tributaries flowing to Lake Alice, a tributary flowing to Bivens Arm, tributaries or water bodies flowing directly to a sink, or sites that subdivide a tributary into stream reaches or sub-catchments.

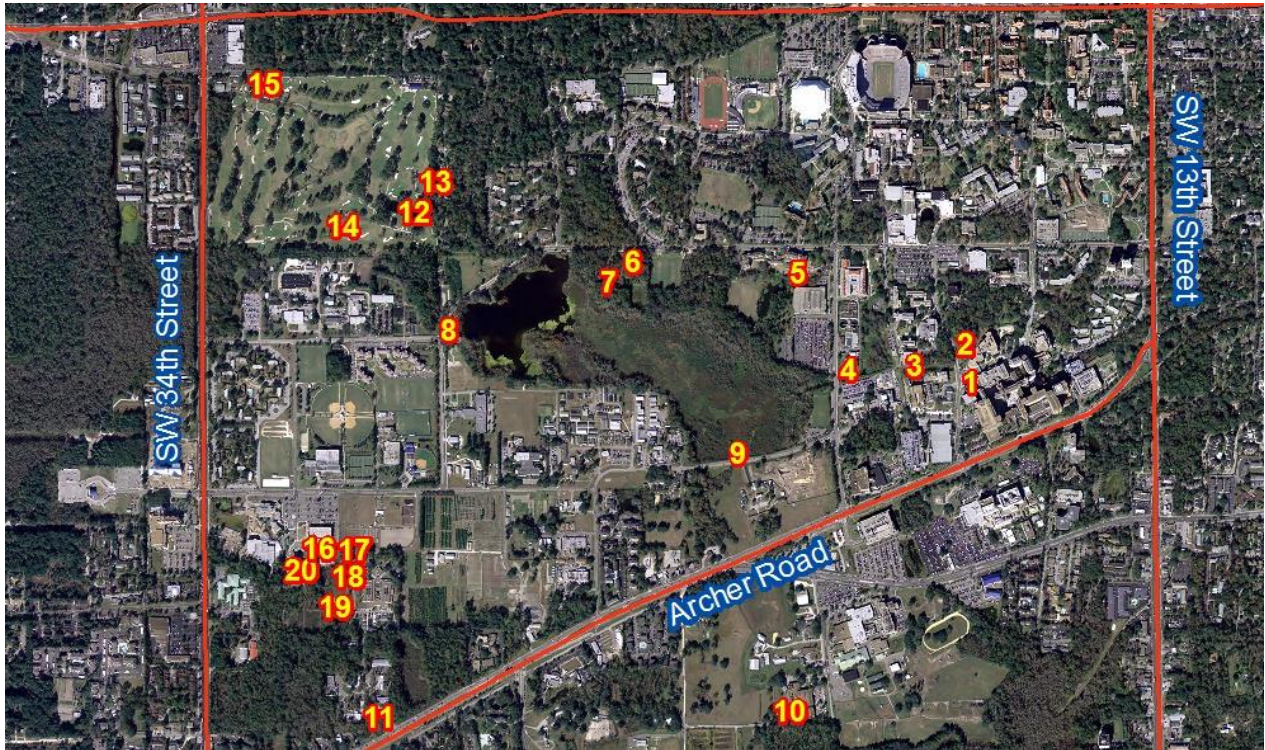


Figure 2. Location of Water Quality Sampling Stations

Description of Sampling Locations



Sites 1 and 2: Brain Institute South and North

Site 1 is the southern fork of the creek flowing south of Diamond Village and north of the McKnight Brain Institute. Its watershed includes the Brain Institute, parking garages and some of the academic and medical buildings to the south of the creek and east of Newell Drive.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 32.64996" W82° 20' 36.86959"

Site 2 is the northern fork of the creek flowing north of Diamond Village. Its watershed includes diamond village as well as buildings to the east of Newell Drive and south of Inner Road.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 32.64997" W82° 20' 36.86959"

Both forks have flow year round with some seasonal fluctuations. The two forks meet just north of the Brain Institute before the creek flows under Newell Drive and then continues on to Sites 3 and 4 before terminating in Lake Alice.



Site 3: New Engineering Building (NEB)

Site 3 is downstream from Sites 1 and 2 on the western side of Center Drive south of the New Engineering Building. The watershed for Site 3 includes the sub-watersheds of Sites 1 and 2 as well as Medical buildings east of Center Drive (to the south of the creek) and runoff from Center Drive itself. The creek widens at this point, has year-round flow and appears to be a point of periodic soil deposition. This creek terminates at Lake Alice.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 28.14122" W82° 20' 46.49562"



Site 4: North South Drive

Site 4 is downstream from Site 3 on the west side of North South Drive. The watershed for Site 4 includes the sub-watersheds of Sites 1, 2 and 3 as well as buildings and parking lots to the north and south of the creek and to the east of North South Drive. The sub-watershed also includes ponds and wetlands which flow south of the Chemical Engineering building and Wastewater Treatment Plant and runoff from Center Drive itself. The creek continues to widen, has year-round flow and has seasonal blooms of *Lemna sp.* west of the culvert. This creek enters the Lake Alice wetland and terminates at Lake Alice.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 27.33574" W82° 21' 02.31465"



Site 5 Hume Creek

Site 5 is located upstream from Hume Pond by the bridge between the Commuter Parking Garage and the Hume Honors Dormitory parking lot. The watershed for Site 5 includes two creeks which drain a large area to the north and east of Hume Pond. The eastern fork of the creek drains the majority of the area east of North South Drive, south of University Avenue and North of Museum Road. The western fork drains the area west of North South Drive, south of SW 2nd Ave, and east of Woodlawn Drive. The entire watershed includes academic buildings, residences, parking areas, and athletic facilities including the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium and Perry Field. The creek has year-round flow and flows to Hume Pond before terminating in Lake Alice.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 38.39625" W82° 21' 06.06332"



Site 6: Medicinal Gardens upstream

Site 6 is located in the University Gardens south of Museum Road near the intersection with Fraternity Drive. The creek watershed includes Levin School of Law, Fraternity Row residences and athletic facilities including the Soccer Field and Beard Track. The creek has year-round flow and continues downstream to Site 7 and then terminates at Lake Alice.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 41.16428" W82° 21' 26.31308"



Site 7: Medicinal Gardens downstream

Site 7 is located downstream from Site 6 after the creek flows through a small pond area. The creek watershed is similar to that of Site 6. The creek has year-round flow and terminates at Lake Alice.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 41.16428" W82° 21' 26.31308"



Site 8: Baughman Center

Site 8 is located at the Baughman Center on the western side of the bridge. Water sampled at Site 8 is somewhat representative of Lake Alice water. Water passing under the bridge is likely to discharge down one of two gravity infiltration wells on Lake Alice that flow directly to the Floridian Aquifer. This is the only sampling site located on Lake Alice.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 33.46003" W82° 21' 50.09270"



Site 9: Pony Field

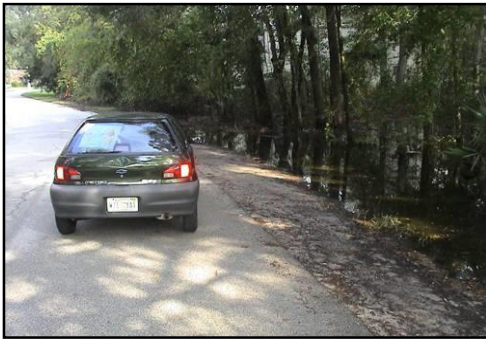
Site 9 is located on the south side of Mowry Road east of IFAS Facilities Planning/Operations and north of an improved pasture. The site drains the pasture and open spaces south of the site. The creek continues north under Mowry Road where it enters the Lake Alice wetland, terminating at Lake Alice.

Lat/Lon: N29° 38' 17.92599" W82° 21' 14.44418"



Site 10: Animal Sciences

Site 10 is located on the south side of Ritchey Road near the Animal Sciences facility. The watershed for Site 10 includes academic buildings, roads and animal pastures south of SW 16th Ave, west of Shealy Drive and north of Ritchey Road. Flow in this creek is not continuous and often dry or only intermittent during the dry season. This creek flows south and terminates at Bivens Arm. Lat/Lon: N29° 37' 49.17346" W82° 21' 11.57746"



Site 11: Surge Area

Site 11 is located on the east side of Natural Area Drive just north of the intersection with Archer Road. The watershed for Site 11 is comprised largely of natural areas and street runoff from Archer Road and some facilities east of Natural Area Drive in the Surge Area. This creek terminates at a natural sink located on the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory. Lat/Lon: N29° 37' 50.72151" W82° 21' 57.95536"



Site 12: Golf Course Pond

Site 12 The lined Golf Course Pond primarily receives tertiary treated wastewater from the UF Water Reclamation Facility. However, contributions from Golf View Creek, precipitation and runoff from the golf course can also be significant depending on rainfall and season. Water from the pond is used for irrigation on the golf course. Storm overflow from the pond is directed off site to the low spot of Depressional Basin UF-1A just north of Elmore Hall.



Site 13: Golf View Creek

Site 13 Golf View Creek originates offsite, and flows through the Golf View residential community before terminating in the Golf Course Pond. The catchment for this stream flows through a residential watershed and is in direct contact with the underlying Hawthorne Formation, a geological formation consisting mostly of sandy clay with often high background concentrations of phosphorus.



Site 14: 7th Fairway

Site 14 The 7th Fairway site is located at the end of a stormwater drainage pipe for the southern portion of the golf course. The pipe empties into a shallow channel which exits the golf course and empties into the low spot of UF basin 1A. This site is of importance because it is a site where water exits the golf course and is a potential source of water to the aquifer via infiltration at the old collapsed sinkhole.



Site 15: Shop Stormwater Pond

Site 15 The Shop Stormwater Pond site is located on the northwest corner of the golf course and is an integrated wetland pond. Sampling occurs on the creek discharge side of the weir along the southern side of the pond. Flow at the weir only occurs during or shortly after storm events. On two occasions, water was present on the wetland side, but not on the creek side. In these cases, sampling was conducted in the wetland. Water discharged from the pond to the creek eventually enters Hogtown Creek to the west of campus.



Site 16 The Forebay – SEEP site is located in the western portion of the forebay. This area receives the greatest inflow of water from the watershed, mainly from the parking lots in front of the Harn Museum of Art, the Natural History Museum, and the Phillips Center. Water quality in this part of the SEEP is likely most similar to a traditional stormwater basin and if the collection is during or shortly after a storm event it likely resembles water quality inputs to the basin.



Site 17 The Weir – SEEP site is located at the northern edge of the SEEP treatment wetland. It captures 80 % of the stormwater runoff entering the wetland. Water quality is improved within the forebay through sediment removal and nutrient uptake by wetland plants.



Site 18 The Shallow Marsh – SEEP site is located at the southeast side of the SEEP wetland. This collection point captures water flowing from the cypress swamp into the pond and provides and provides an idea of the quality of water flowing into the pond



Site 19 The Pond – SEEP site is located on the southern side of the SEEP and is the final destination of water from the treatment wetland. Water quality at this point represents “treated” water.



Site 20 The Discharge Marsh – SEEP site is located on the western side of the SEEP and does not receive water until the shallow areas west of the boardwalk are approximately 18 inches deep. It is technically not a sinkhole, but a depression area with very high infiltration rates.

Results

The results presented in this report include data from nine sampling events completed between January and December 2010 (1/27, 4/2, 5/7, 6/11, 7/30, 8/27, 10/29, 11/29, and 12/23). During this period, some of the sites were dry and could not be sampled. Samples were not collected for the months of February, March and September. The table below summarizes the number of samples collected from each site.

Site # and Name	Total # of Sampled Parameters		Dry period (no flow)
	Physical	Chemical	
1 Brain Institute South	9	9	0
2 Brain Institute North	9	9	0
3 New Engineering Bldg	9	9	0
4 North South Drive	8	9	0
5 Hume Creek Bridge	9	9	0
6 Medicinal Gardens upstream	9	9	0
7 Medicinal Gardens downstream	9	9	0
8 Baughman Center	9	9	0
9 Pony Field	4	4	5
10 Animal Science	4	4	5
11 Surge Area	4	4	5
12 Golf Course pond	9	9	0
13 Golf View Creek	4	4	5
14 #7 Fairway	0	0	9
15 Shop Stormwater Pond	4	4	5
16 Forebay – SEEP	6	6	3
17 Weir – SEEP	6	6	3
18 Shallow Marsh – SEEP	1	1	8
19 Pond – SEEP	6	6	3
20 Discharge Marsh- SEEP	1	1	8

Data for each parameter surveyed is presented in a table with the minimum, maximum and median value for each site and a graphic with the 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th and 90th quartiles expressed as a box and whiskers plot. Statistical outliers are retained on the graphic to show the full range in values of samples collected. A gray line in each graph represents the statistical mean for each parameter.

In addition, a grey text box provides information regarding the ecological significance of a given parameter, some context to interpret results, and where to find additional information if you are interested.

Temperature

The temperature of sampled water ranged from 9.4°C to 34.3°C. Variations in temperature are mainly due to the amount of shade upstream and over the sampling location as well as seasonal variation in climate. For instance, the Pond - SEEP pond has no shade whereas the Medicinal Gardens sites have significant tree canopy throughout the watershed.

Site	Minimum	Median	Maximum
Brain Institute South Fork	11.17	19.41	26.24
Brain Institute North Fork	10.44	19.87	26.64
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	11.61	20.25	27.48
North South Drive, center culvert	9.40	19.46	25.82
Hume Creek Bridge	13.27	20.91	27.60
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	11.26	22.59	26.78
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	11.17	21.37	27.08
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	12.38	22.91	32.70
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	12.55	20.52	23.52
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	9.70	19.23	27.10
Surge Area - NATL Sink	11.36	21.60	25.34
Golf Course - the pond	13.60	25.72	32.80
Golf View Creek	12.57	19.49	25.35
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	10.27	25.84	28.73
Forebay – SEEP	10.16	25.96	29.21
Weir – SEEP	11.98	26.48	28.98
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	25.92	25.92	25.92
Pond – SEEP	15.22	29.97	34.30
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	17.11	17.11	17.11

* No data

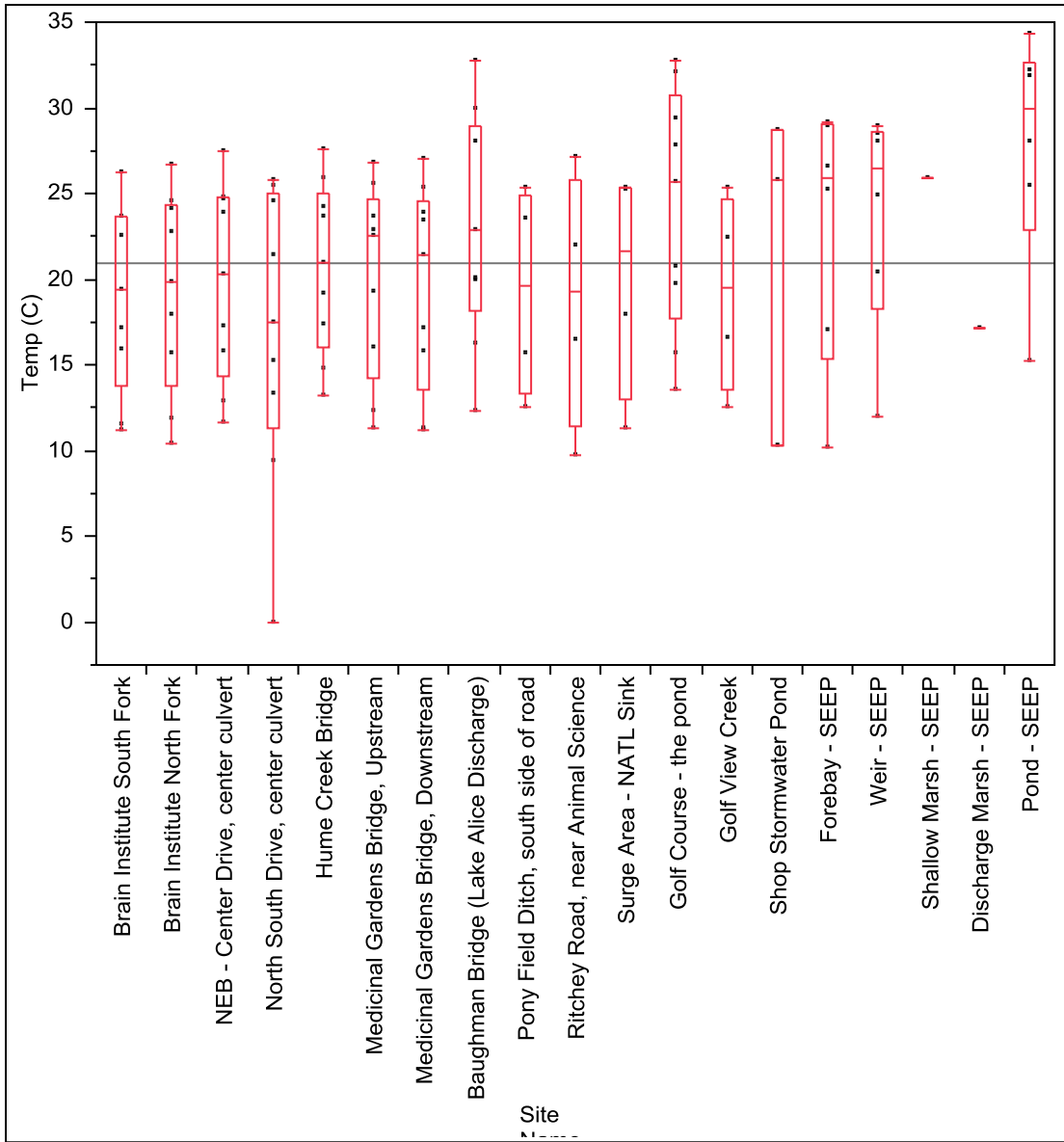
What does the temperature mean?

The rates of biological and chemical processes depend on temperature. Aquatic organisms from microbes to fish are dependent on certain temperature ranges for their optimal health. Temperature affects the oxygen content of the water (oxygen concentration drops as temperature rises); the rate of photosynthesis by aquatic plants; the metabolic rates of aquatic organisms; and the sensitivity of organisms to toxic wastes, parasites, and diseases. Causes of temperature change include season, removal of shading, stream bank vegetation, impoundments (a body of water confined by a barrier, such as a dam), discharge of cooling water, urban storm water and runoff from impervious surfaces, and groundwater inflows to the stream. Conditions such as fish kills, low oxygen, disease, and foul odors are usually most pronounced when water temperatures are high.

Modified from:

Environmental Protection Agency. Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual. November 1997. 10 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream/stream.pdf>>

Temperature by Site



pH

The pH ranged from 4.17 to 9.58. This range exceeds the range which is considered preferable to most aquatic animals of 6.5-8.0 (see text box). High pH values may be indicative of excess algal or plant growth consuming carbon dioxide during the day, resulting in an increase in water column pH. Low pH values may represent sources of organic acids that can be the result of leaf litter or other organic matter decomposition within the watershed.

Site	Minimum	Median	Maximum
Brain Institute South Fork	5.52	7.25	7.64
Brain Institute North Fork	5.75	7.4	7.87
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	6.37	7.35	7.58
North South Drive, center culvert	6.14	6.88	7.37
Hume Creek Bridge	6.81	7.39	7.79
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	5.31	7.31	7.57
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	5.53	7.13	7.28
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	7.36	8.64	9.58
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	5.57	6.64	7.23
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	5.15	6.19	7.26
Surge Area - NATL Sink	4.39	6.18	7.01
Golf Course - the pond	8.07	8.84	9.27
Golf View Creek	4.93	6.84	7.60
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	6.36	6.54	7.12
Forebay – SEEP	3.65	6.06	7.15
Weir – SEEP	4.17	5.89	7.02
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	6.60	6.60	6.60
Pond – SEEP	7.38	8.53	9.22
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	7.43	7.43	7.43

* No data

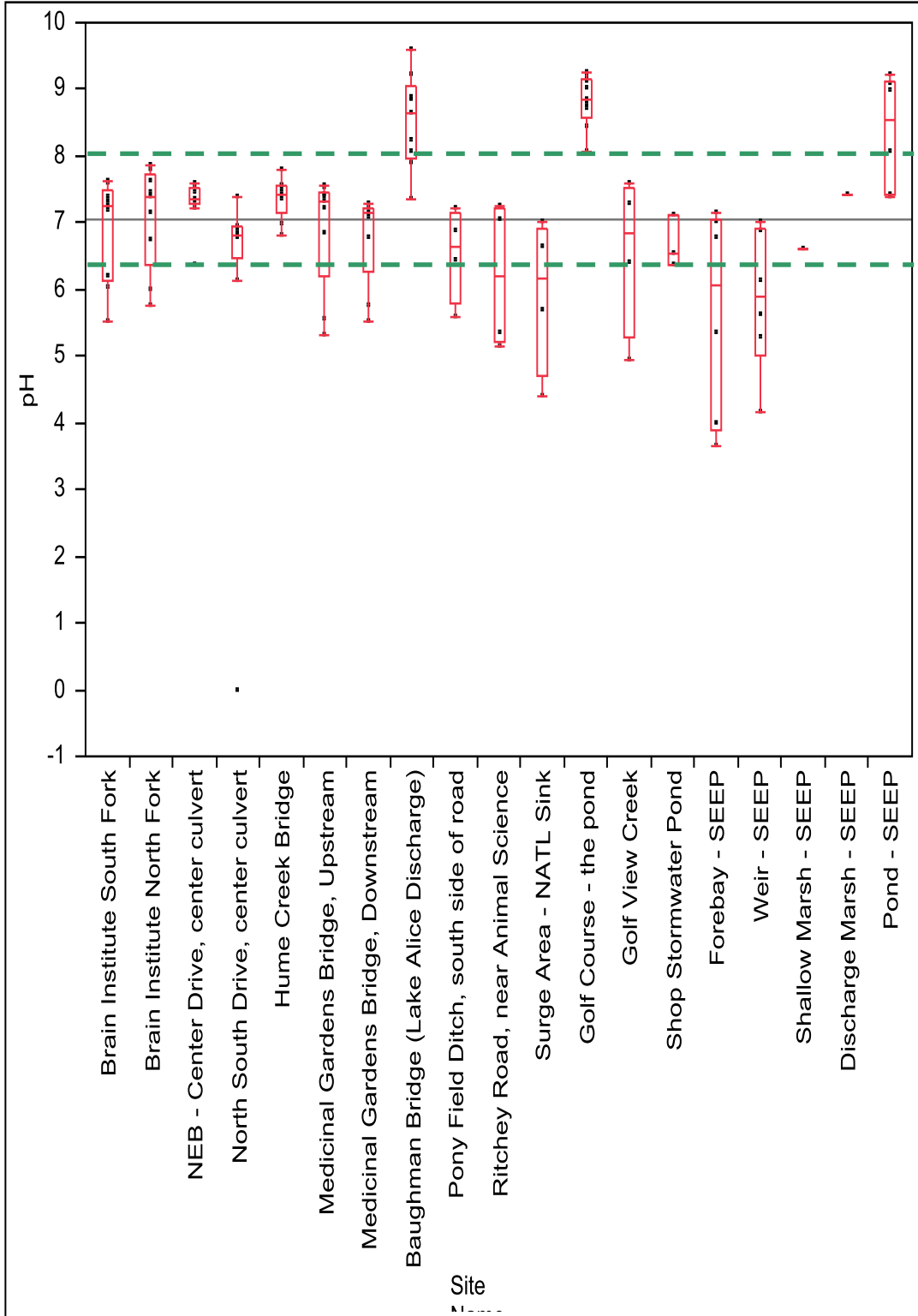
What does the pH mean?

pH affects many chemical and biological processes in the water. For example, different organisms flourish within different ranges of pH. The largest variety of aquatic animals prefers a range of 6.5-8.0. pH outside this range reduces the diversity in the stream because it stresses the physiological systems of most organisms and can reduce reproduction. Low pH can also allow toxic elements and compounds to become mobile and "available" for uptake by aquatic plants and animals. This can produce conditions that are toxic to aquatic life, particularly to sensitive species. Changes in acidity can be caused by atmospheric deposition (acid rain), surrounding rock, and certain wastewater discharges.

Modified from:

Environmental Protection Agency. Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual. November 1997. 10 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream/stream.pdf>>

pH by Site



Optimal range for largest variety of aquatic animals

Conductivity

Conductivity ranged from 7 to 1590 μS . Conductivity levels at the SEEP are low for several possible reasons. Much of the water at the SEEP is from parking lot runoff. Car oil present in this runoff could lower the conductivity. Also, most the water entering the SEEP is from areas with little background nitrogen and phosphorus, which can increase conductivity. On the other hand, conductivity levels at the Course pond and Hume Creek Bridge can be attributed to elevated nitrate and phosphorus levels.

Site	Minimum	Median	Maximum
Brain Institute South Fork	323	401	801
Brain Institute North Fork	331	387	1160
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	35	437	1012
North South Drive, center culvert	228	277	1004
Hume Creek Bridge	495	612	1363
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	76	357	744
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	303	358	759
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	232	279	626
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	244	261	271
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	243	377	482
Surge Area - NATL Sink	152	163	176
Golf Course - the pond	69	601	1590
Golf View Creek	334	362	377
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	95	129	375
Forebay – SEEP	71	115	199
Weir – SEEP	16	90	119
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	73	73	73
Pond – SEEP	7	69	382
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	63	63	63

* No data

What does the conductivity mean?

Conductivity is a measure of the ability of water to pass an electrical current. Conductivity in water is affected by the presence of inorganic dissolved solids such as chloride, nitrate, sulfate, and phosphate anions (ions that carry a negative charge) or sodium, magnesium, calcium, iron, and aluminum cations (ions that carry a positive charge). Organic compounds like oil, phenol, alcohol, and sugar do not conduct electrical current very well and therefore have a low conductivity when in water. Conductivity is also affected by temperature: the warmer the water, the higher the conductivity. For this reason, conductivity is reported as conductivity at 25 degrees Celsius (25 C).

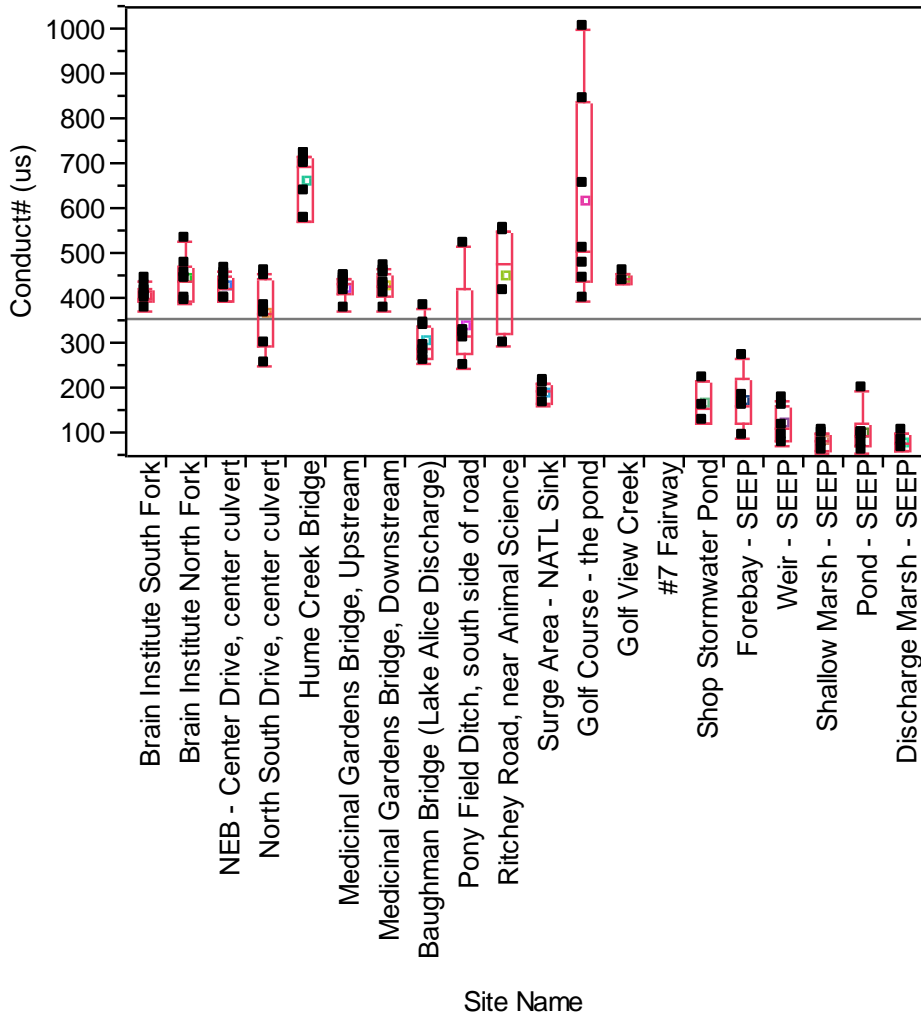
Conductivity in streams and rivers is affected primarily by the geology of the area through which the water flows. Streams that run through areas with clay soils tend to have higher conductivity because of the presence of materials that ionize when washed into the water. A failing sewage system would raise the conductivity because of the presence of chloride, phosphate, and nitrate; an oil spill would lower the conductivity.

Conductivity is measured in micromhos per centimeter ($\mu\text{mhos/cm}$) or microsiemens per centimeter ($\mu\text{s/cm}$). The conductivity of rivers in the United States generally ranges from 50 to 1500 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$. Studies of inland fresh waters indicate that streams supporting good mixed fisheries have a range between 150 and 500 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$. Conductivity outside this range could indicate that the water is not suitable for certain species of fish or macroinvertebrates. Each stream tends to have a relatively constant range of conductivity that, once established, can be used as a baseline for comparison with regular conductivity measurements. Significant changes in conductivity could be an indicator that a discharge or other pollutant has entered a stream.

Modified from:

Environmental Protection Agency. *Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual*. November 1997. 10 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream/stream.pdf>>

Conductivity by Site



Dissolved Oxygen %

Dissolved oxygen monitoring data is presented both as % of saturation at the temperature and pressure during sampling and later as a concentration in milligrams oxygen per liter of water. Percent dissolved oxygen saturation, ranged from 1.0% to 235.5%. While dissolved oxygen levels may fluctuate over a 24-hour period, most samples were collected at approximately the same time of the day between 12 and 5 pm to avoid potential wide ranges in values. Variation of dissolved oxygen levels between sites could be due to a number of different factors, but are typically driven by temperature, light, water flow rate and biological oxygen demand which are related to the amount of labile organic matter in the water column. For instance, the Pony Field site shows consistently low oxygen, possibly due to a high level of organic matter found in the water and relatively stagnant flow conditions, whereas, the Golf Course Pond has higher daytime levels of oxygen which may be due to a high algal population and photosynthetic production of oxygen.

Site	Minimum	Median	Maximum
Brain Institute South Fork	62.5	71.9	96
Brain Institute North Fork	78.3	91.2	99.9
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	53.7	74.0	99.2
North South Drive, center culvert	1.0	12.2	46.3
Hume Creek Bridge	41.7	79.0	89.1
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	64.7	78.4	99.2
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	29.1	54.0	74.4
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	90.8	141	236
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	14.9	24.3	33.2
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	11.1	44.1	108.6
Surge Area - NATL Sink	13.5	35.1	37.4
Golf Course - the pond	108.1	150.8	235.5
Golf View Creek	5.21	25.9	45.3
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	3.97	14.3	30.2
Forebay – SEEP	36.1	53.8	141.5
Weir – SEEP	35.6	64.1	146.2
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	95	95	95
Pond – SEEP	117.5	150	160
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	118.4	118.4	118.4

* No data

What does dissolved oxygen mean?

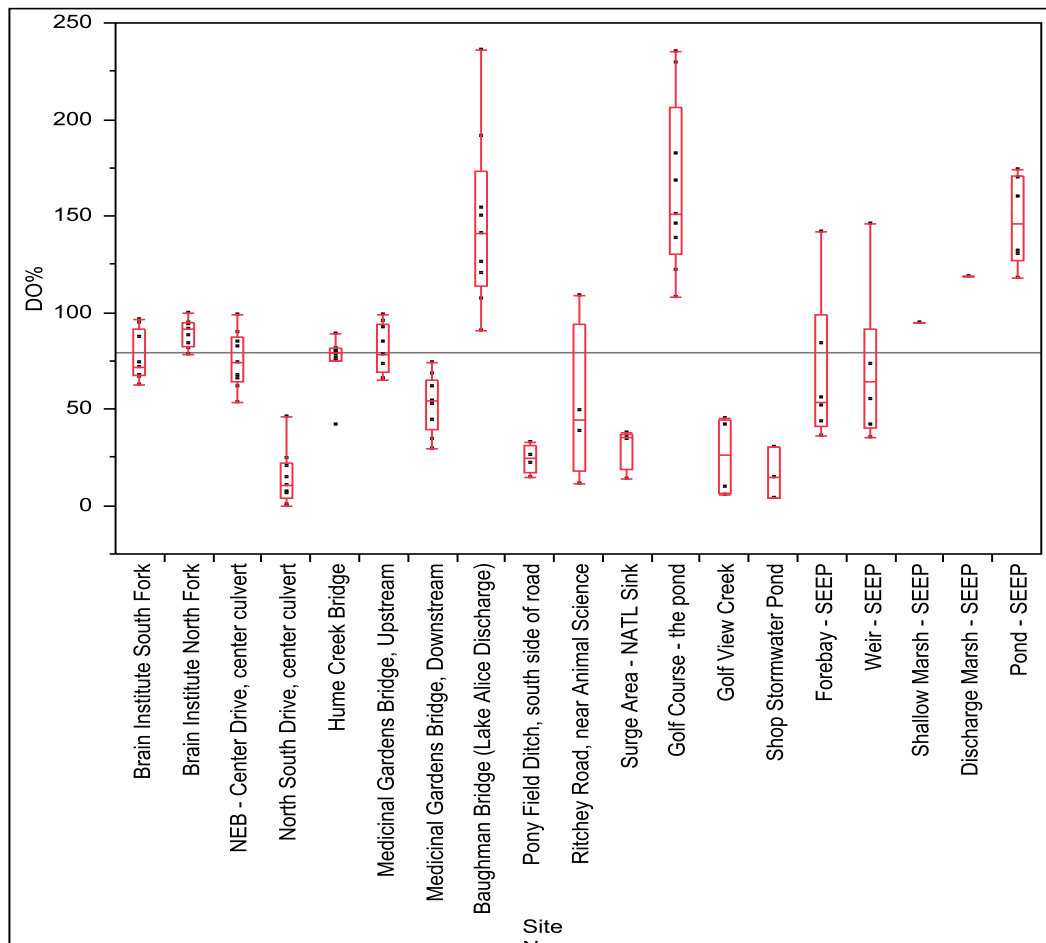
The stream system both produces and consumes oxygen. It gains oxygen from the atmosphere and from plants as a result of photosynthesis. Running water, because of its churning, dissolves more oxygen than still water, such as that in a reservoir behind a dam. Respiration by aquatic animals, decomposition, and various chemical reactions consume oxygen. (The amount of oxygen consumed by these organisms in breaking down the waste is known as the biochemical oxygen demand or BOD.) Other sources of oxygen-consuming waste include stormwater runoff from farmland or urban streets, feedlots, and failing septic systems. Oxygen is measured in its dissolved form as dissolved oxygen (DO). If more oxygen is consumed than is produced, dissolved oxygen levels decline and some sensitive animals may move away, weaken, or die.

DO levels fluctuate seasonally and over a 24-hour period. They vary with water temperature and altitude. Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water and water holds less oxygen at higher altitudes. Thermal discharges, such as water used to cool machinery in a manufacturing plant or a power plant, raise the temperature of water and lower its oxygen content. Aquatic animals are most vulnerable to lowered DO levels in the early morning on hot summer days when stream flows are low, water temperatures are high, and aquatic plants have not been producing oxygen since sunset.

Modified from:

Environmental Protection Agency. Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual. November 1997. 10 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream/stream.pdf>>

Dissolved Oxygen (%) by Site



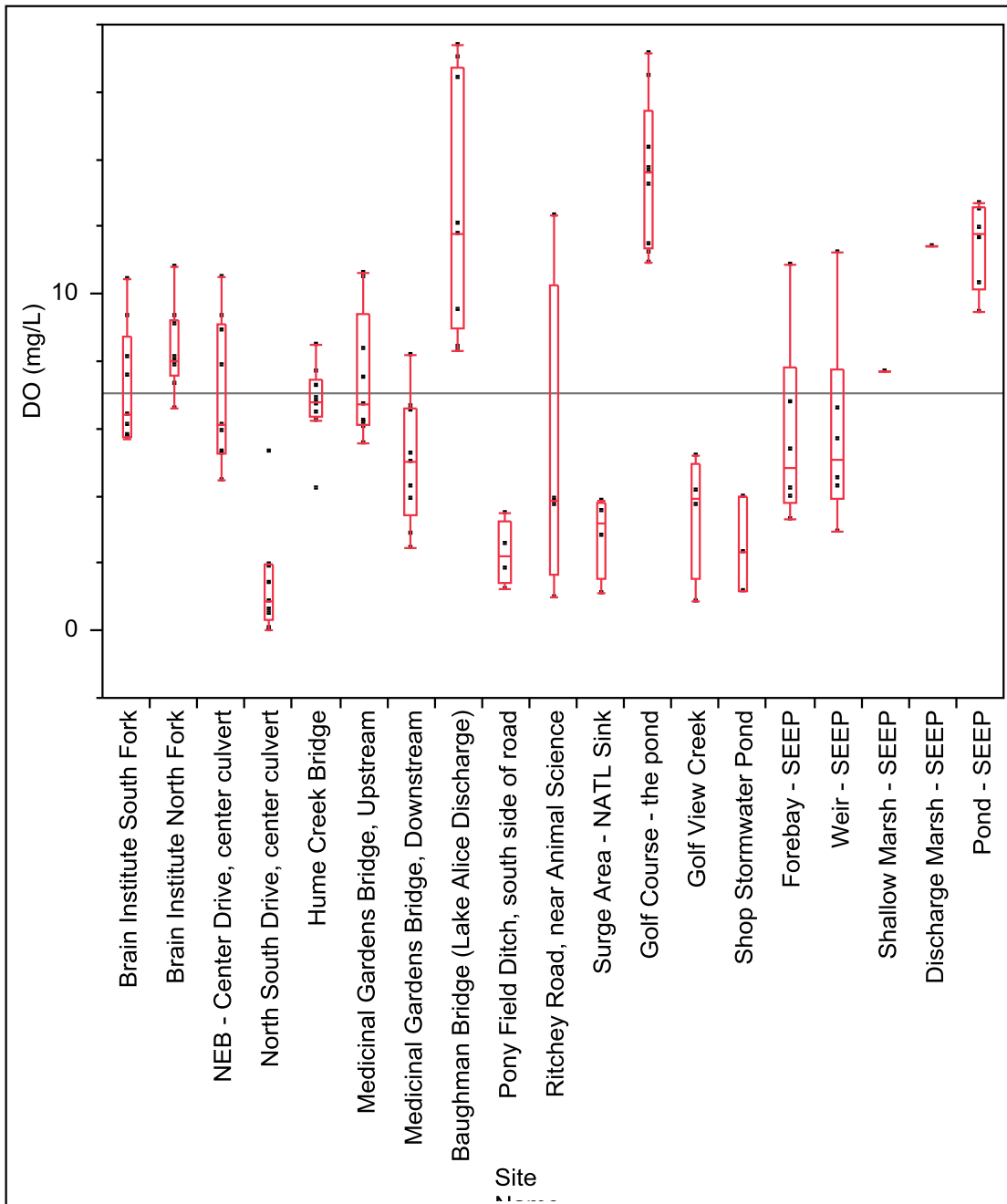
Dissolved Oxygen mg/L

Dissolved oxygen, in mg/L, ranged from 0.1 to 17.41 mg/L. State water quality standards for Class III waters, which is the designated use for water bodies adopted by the Campus Master Plan, have standard criteria that are deemed protective of that designated use. In the case of dissolved oxygen concentrations, the criterion state that no average value for DO should be below 5 mg/l and no single value should be below 4 mg/l. Although part of state administrative code, these criteria are presently being reassessed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as some water bodies are thought to have DO concentrations below these standard limits may be due to natural and not anthropogenic processes. The use of these state standards in this report is for reference only, and may not be appropriate at some of the sites sampled such as Surge Area-NATL Sink. However, some sites, such as North South Drive, Pony Field Ditch, and the Shop Stormwater Pond, appear to have depressed DO concentrations.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	5.71	6.44	10.44
Brain Institute North Fork	6.58	8	10.79
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	4.46	6.13	10.47
North South Drive, center culvert	0.1	1.14	5.29
Hume Creek Bridge	4.23	6.76	8.51
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	5.59	6.72	10.6
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	2.48	5.03	8.16
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	8.28	11.77	17.41
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	1.26	2.19	3.51
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.97	3.84	12.34
Surge Area - NATL Sink	1.11	3.18	3.88
Golf Course - the pond	10.92	13.64	17.16
Golf View Creek	0.84	3.94	5.21
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	1.16	2.33	3.97
Forebay – SEEP	3.31	4.84	10.89
Weir – SEEP	2.95	5.1	11.24
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	7.72	7.72	7.72
Pond – SEEP	9.47	11.70	12.70
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	11.44	11.44	11.44

* No data

Dissolved Oxygen mg/L by Site



Total Dissolved Solids

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) ranged from 0.034 to 1.142 mg/L and is calculated from conductivity and temperature measurements by the YSI. Two sites, Hume Creek Bridge and Ritchey Road, have reported high median TDS values in the past and in the present study. In addition, the Golf Course Pond reported high values. These values are probably a result of high nutrient concentrations from manure and/or fertilizer.

Site	Minimum	Median	Maximum
Brain Institute South Fork	0.254	0.292	0.585
Brain Institute North Fork	0.239	0.293	0.853
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.242	0.296	0.723
North South Drive, center culvert	0.146	0.266	0.700
Hume Creek Bridge	0.343	0.472	0.961
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	0.242	0.275	0.543
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	0.230	0.277	0.552
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	0.156	0.196	0.450
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	0.158	0.190	0.232
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.199	0.262	0.381
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.098	0.119	0.142
Golf Course - the pond	0.142	0.389	1.142
Golf View Creek	0.244	0.263	0.285
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	0.083	0.088	0.227
Forebay – SEEP	0.048	0.073	0.120
Weir – SEEP	0.046	0.071	0.096
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	0.047	0.047	0.047
Pond – SEEP	0.034	0.049	0.220
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	0.046	0.046	0.046

* No data

Total Solids

Total solids are dissolved solids plus suspended and settleable solids in water. In stream water, dissolved solids consist of calcium, chlorides, nitrate, phosphorus, iron, sulfur, and other ions particles that will pass through a filter with pores of around 2 microns (0.002 cm) in size. Suspended solids include silt and clay particles, plankton, algae, fine organic debris, and other particulate matter. These are particles that will not pass through a 2-micron filter.

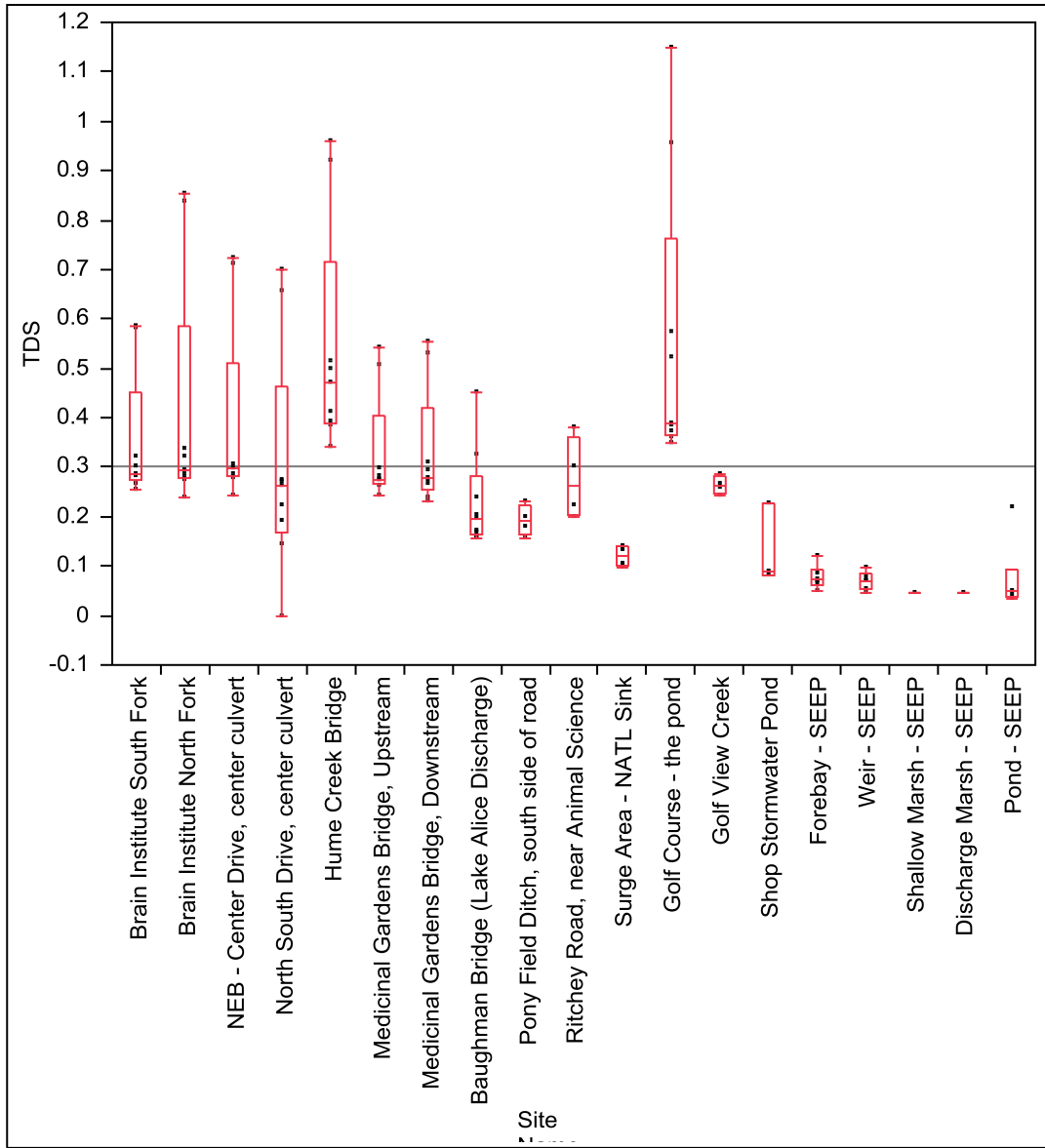
Total Dissolved Solids

The concentration of total dissolved solids affects the water balance in the cells of aquatic organisms. An organism placed in water with a very low level of solids, such as distilled water, will swell up because water will tend to move into its cells, which have a higher concentration of solids. An organism placed in water with a high concentration of solids will shrink somewhat because the water in its cells will tend to move out. This will in turn affect the organism's ability to maintain the proper cell density, making it difficult to keep its position in the water column. It might float up or sink down to a depth to which it is not adapted, and it might not survive.

Modified from:

Environmental Protection Agency. Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual. November 1997. 10 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream/stream.pdf>>

Total Dissolved Solids by Site, mg/L



Total Suspended Solids

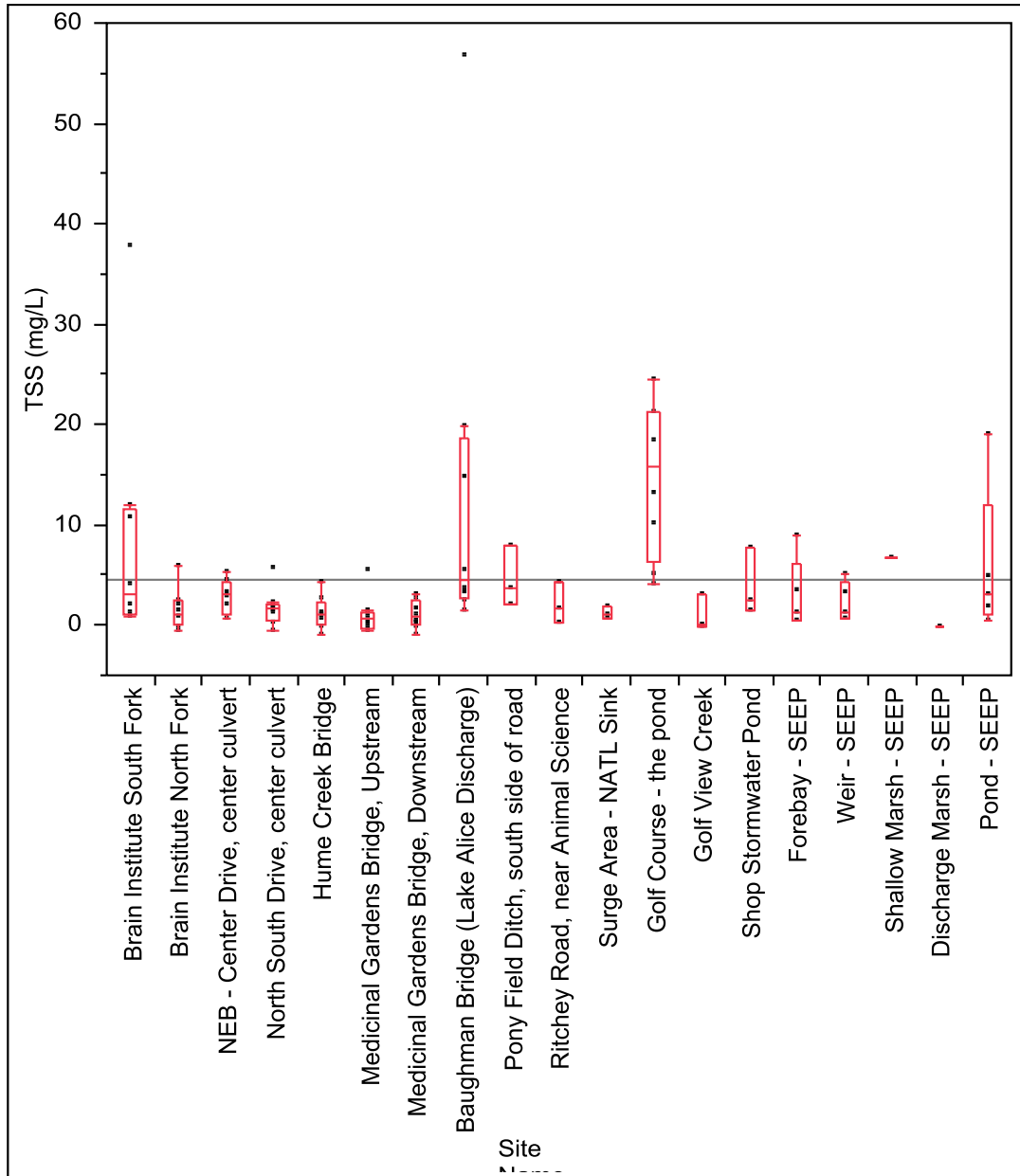
The range for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) was from below detection to 56.82 mg/L. Fluctuations in TSS are most prominently influenced by the timing of sample collection relative to stormwater runoff events. TSS values are generally highest during or directly after storm events or during high flow conditions, when particles from runoff or streambed sediment can be picked up and remain in suspension. However, changes in watershed land use, or construction activities upstream of a sampling site can also contribute significantly to an increase in TSS. Elevated TSS levels can block sunlight from reaching submerged vegetation, reduce photosynthesis, and lower DO levels.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	0.90	3.07	37.72
Brain Institute North Fork	^	1.12	5.96
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.59	3.10	5.26
North South Drive, center culvert	^	1.62	5.79
Hume Creek Bridge	^	1.08	4.30
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	^	0.57	5.55
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	^	0.76	3.08
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	1.37	4.58	56.82
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	1.98	3.69	8.00
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.20	1.59	4.34
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.70	1.09	1.90
Golf Course - the pond	4.16	15.79	24.40
Golf View Creek	^	0.02	3.04
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	1.52	2.40	7.76
Forebay – SEEP	0.48	1.34	9.00
Weir – SEEP	0.62	1.26	5.16
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	6.74	6.74	6.74
Pond – SEEP	0.36	3.02	19.00
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	^	^	^

^ Below detection

* No data

Total Suspended Solids by Site, mg/L



Total Nitrogen

The range of values for Total Nitrogen (TN) was 0.135 to 10.818 mg/L. Three sampling sites consistently showed elevated TN values relative to the rest of campus. Hume Creek Bridge and both Medicinal Garden sites have consistently shown elevated TN values since the monitoring program began in 2003. These elevated nitrogen levels are coming from fertilizer that is applied to baseball and football practice fields, as well as, Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. Nearby Bivens Arm has an average total nitrogen concentration of 3.38 mg/L (LAKEWATCH data between 1992 and 2009). All campus sites have lower median values, with exception of the three elevated sites identified above.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	0.185	0.729	1.093
Brain Institute North Fork	0.632	0.952	1.599
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.398	0.816	1.267
North South Drive, center culvert	0.511	0.748	1.058
Hume Creek Bridge	3.362	4.074	4.937
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	6.475	7.618	9.046
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	3.606	5.488	8.162
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	0.628	1.143	10.818
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	1.222	1.347	1.593
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.956	1.301	2.400
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.214	0.739	1.203
Golf Course - the pond	0.939	1.664	3.532
Golf View Creek	0.571	1.139	1.850
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	2.663	3.322	8.674
Forebay – SEEP	0.267	0.754	0.915
Weir – SEEP	0.181	0.953	1.710
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	0.963	0.963	0.963
Pond – SEEP	0.135	1.008	1.201
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	0.568	0.568	0.568

* No data

What does nitrogen mean?

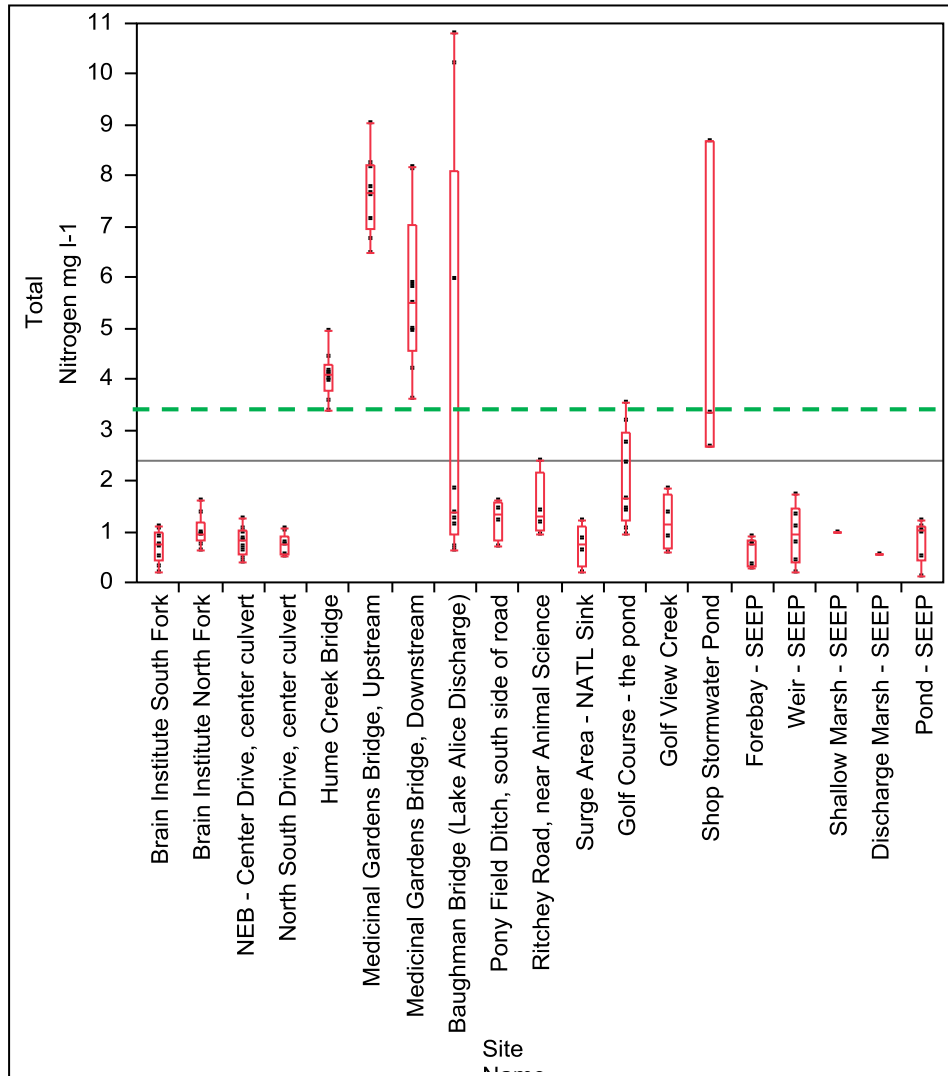
Nitrogen is found in all living things and is a basic nutrient. About 80% of the air we breathe is nitrogen gas (N₂). Nitrogen in water can be inorganic (not associated with living tissues) or organic (associated with living tissues). Inorganic forms typically dissolve in water and include: ammonia (NH₃), nitrate (NO₃⁻), and nitrite (NO₂⁻), while organic forms may be dissolved or particulate and include cells or pieces of cells that are or once were living.

Excess nitrogen in lakes can contribute to accelerated eutrophication. (Eutrophication is the process of lake aging and can be culturally accelerated by nutrient introduction that causes excessive algae and rooted plant growth.) Nitrogen can enter the water when bacteria called blue-green algae convert or “fix” nitrogen gas into ammonia for use in their tissues. Because of this bacterial “fixing” capability, there is an unlimited supply of nitrogen to aquatic systems. Other sources of nitrogen to lakes and streams include: fertilizer runoff, decomposing organic material, and human and animal waste products.

Modified from:

Tippecanoe Environmental Lake & Watershed Foundation. 2004. 28 Feb. 2009.
<<http://www.telwf.org/watertesting/watertesting.htm>>

Total Nitrogen Concentration by Site



3.38 mg/L
Average Total
Nitrogen
concentration in
Bivans Arm 1992-
2009
(LAKEWATCH)

Nitrate

The range for nitrate-N is 0.005 mg/L to 7.910 mg/L. Nitrate-N comprised the majority of total nitrogen identified on campus. Several sites (Hume Creek and both Medicinal Garden sites) have consistently elevated nitrate values. Although nitrate levels were high at some sites, none exceeded 10 mg/L which is an EPA threshold for human toxicity in groundwater (not surface water). Nitrate levels on campus have been steadily decreasing since 2003, which is probably a result of reduced fertilizer application to the landscape, as well as better removal of nitrates by the wastewater treatment facility.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	0.030	0.179	0.274
Brain Institute North Fork	0.290	0.425	0.880
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.060	0.233	0.460
North South Drive, center culvert	^	0.015	0.130
Hume Creek Bridge	2.390	3.201	3.890
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	5.640	7.180	8.60
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	3.020	4.430	7.910
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	0.006	0.019	7.770
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	0.010	0.018	0.031
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.009	0.016	0.045
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.006	0.010	0.016
Golf Course - the pond	0.028	0.105	1.670
Golf View Creek	0.008	0.020	0.056
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	0.541	0.551	6.450
Forebay – SEEP	0.005	0.016	0.033
Weir – SEEP	0.006	0.013	0.017
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	0.007	0.007	0.007
Pond – SEEP	0.005	0.011	0.015
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	0.014	0.014	0.014

^ Below detection limit (0.010 mg/L)

* No data

What does nitrate mean?

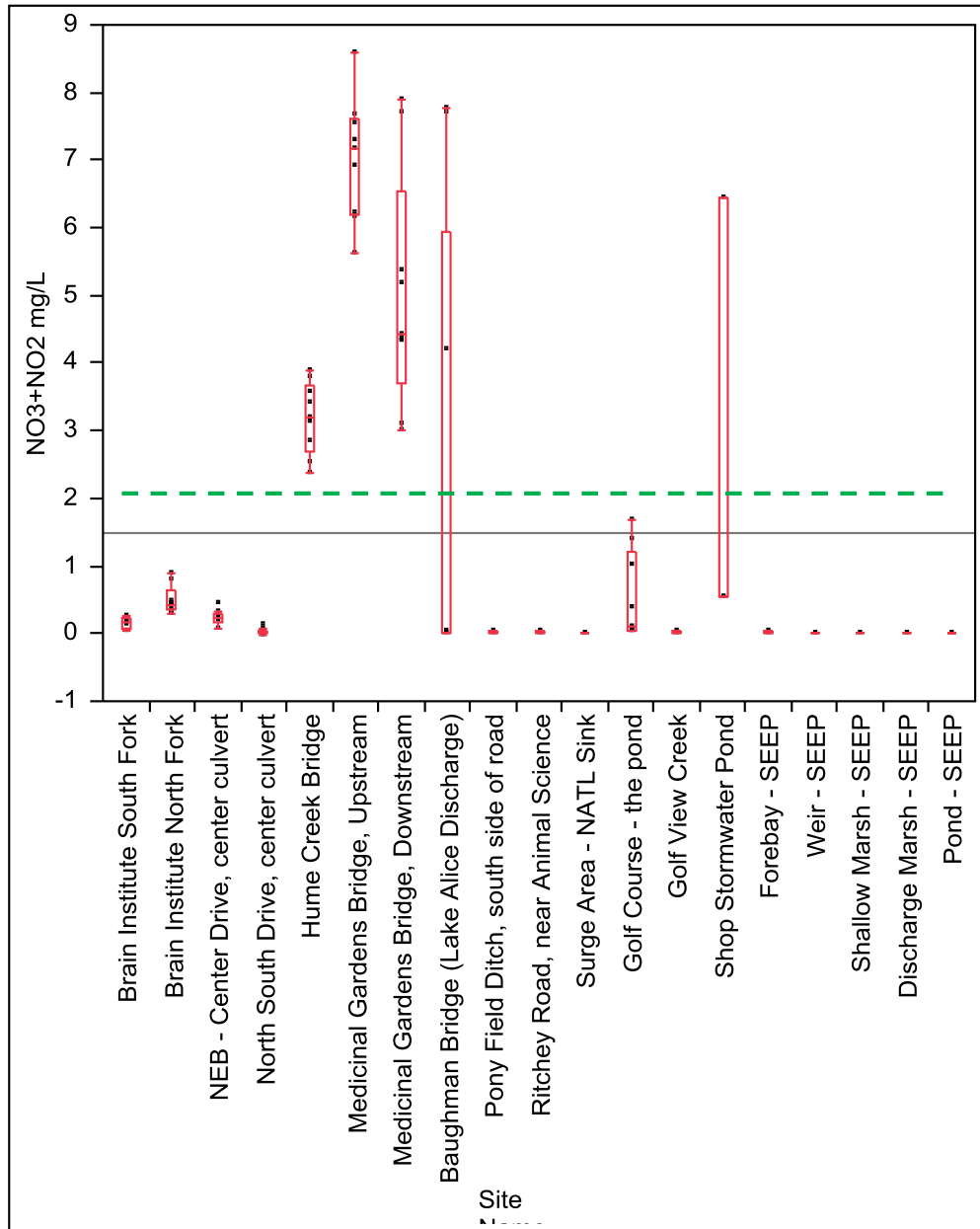
Nitrates are a form of nitrogen, which is found in several different forms in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These forms of nitrogen include ammonia (NH₃), nitrates (NO₃), and nitrites (NO₂). Nitrates are essential plant nutrients, but in excess amounts they can cause significant water quality problems. Together with phosphorus, nitrates in excess amounts can accelerate eutrophication, causing dramatic increases in aquatic plant growth and changes in the types of plants and animals that live in the stream. This, in turn, affects dissolved oxygen, temperature, and other indicators. Excess nitrates can cause hypoxia (low levels of dissolved oxygen) and can become toxic to warm-blooded animals at higher concentrations (10 mg/L or higher) under certain conditions. However, one paper which reviewed published scientific literature on the impacts of nitrates to freshwater and marine animals concluded that nitrate levels in freshwater should not exceed 2 mg/L. [Camargo, Julio A., Alvaro Alonso, Annabella Salamanca. Nitrate toxicity to aquatic animals: a review with new data for freshwater invertebrates. *Chemosphere* 58 (2009) 1255-1267]

The natural level of ammonia or nitrate in surface water is typically low (less than 1 mg/L). Sources of nitrates include wastewater treatment plants, runoff from fertilized lawns and cropland, failing on-site septic systems, runoff from animal manure storage areas, and industrial discharges that contain corrosion inhibitors.

Modified from:

Environmental Protection Agency. Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual. November 1997. 10 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream/stream.pdf>>

Nitrate Concentration by Site



10 mg/L - Groundwater standard and level considered potentially toxic to warm blooded animals

2 mg/L, suggested maximum level for freshwater organisms (Camargo, et al 2009)

Ammonium

Ammonium concentrations ranged from 0.005 to 0.493 mg/L. Ammonium concentrations made up only a small fraction of the total nitrogen measured in sites sampled. None of the data points in this year's sampling exceeded the threshold of concern for aquatic organisms of 0.5 mg/L (see dashed line). The two highest levels of ammonium were found at the Shop Stormwater Pond and the Golf Course Pond, which could be a result of high organic nitrogen entering both sites.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	0.016	0.042	0.080
Brain Institute North Fork	0.006	0.032	0.070
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.034	0.063	0.188
North South Drive, center culvert	0.073	0.127	0.330
Hume Creek Bridge	0.004	0.067	0.110
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	0.023	0.050	0.080
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	0.031	0.060	0.103
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	0.008	0.027	0.070
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	0.046	0.088	0.116
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.027	0.058	0.137
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.016	0.035	0.101
Golf Course - the pond	0.017	0.040	0.220
Golf View Creek	0.027	0.056	0.157
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	0.228	0.248	0.493
Forebay – SEEP	0.012	0.042	0.059
Weir – SEEP	0.021	0.042	0.093
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	0.011	0.011	0.011
Pond – SEEP	0.006	0.022	0.086
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	0.005	0.005	0.005

* No data

What does ammonium mean?

The ammonium ion, NH_4^+ , is an important member of the group of nitrogen-containing compounds that act as nutrients for aquatic plants and algae. In surface water, most of the ammonia, NH_3 , is found in the form of ammonium ion, NH_4^+ . This fact allows us to approximate the concentration of all of the nitrogen in the form of ammonia and ammonium combined, commonly called ammonia nitrogen.

Factors that influence the amount of ammonium nitrogen include decaying plants and animals; animal waste; industrial waste effluent; agricultural runoff; and atmospheric nitrogen.

What is the optimal amount of ammonium nitrogen concentration in a watershed?

1. Levels of ammonium nitrogen should not exceed 0.5 mg/L.
2. Streams or ponds near heavily fertilized fields may have ammonium nitrogen levels that exceed 0.5 mg/L.

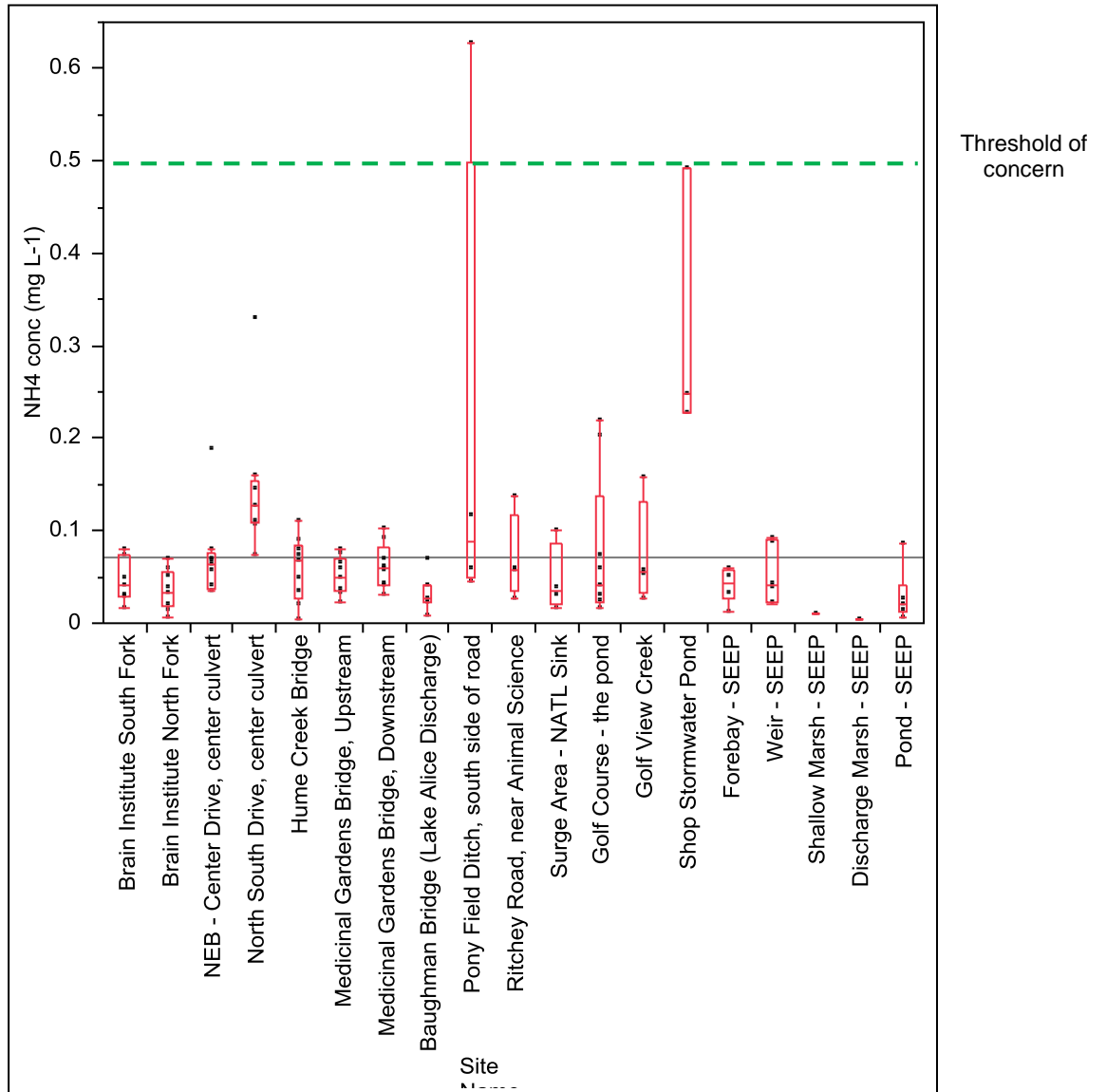
What factors are affected by the amount of ammonium nitrogen in a watershed?

1. Ammonium nitrogen is a compound that acts as nutrients for aquatic plants and algae. If enough nutrients are available, eutrophication and increased algal blooms may occur.
2. If ammonium nitrogen levels are too high in surface waters, they can be toxic to some aquatic organisms.
3. When ammonium nitrogen levels are high, it can increase nitrification. Consequently, dissolved oxygen concentration is lowered.
4. Low levels of Ammonium nitrogen may limit plant and algal growth.

Excerpt from:

LEO and the SERVIT Group. LEO EnviroSci Inquiry. 2000-2002. Lehigh University. 28 Feb. 2009. <<http://www.leo.lehigh.edu/envirosci/watershed/wq/wqbackground/nh4nitrogenbg.html>>

Ammonium Concentration by Site



Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)

Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) concentration ranged from 0.125 to 3.050 mg/L. TKN represents the organic nitrogen fraction in the water column. Concentrations for TKN suggest the relative contribution of organic sources of nitrogen either from the watershed or produced internally in the stream or lake. Elevated TKN levels at the Ritchey Road site is due to runoff containing animal manure, while the high levels at the Golf Course pond could be due to grass clippings and algae. Elevated levels at the Baughman Bridge are a concern and deserve further attention and study.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	0.140	0.550	0.866
Brain Institute North Fork	0.350	0.519	0.720
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.270	0.590	0.955
North South Drive, center culvert	0.420	0.733	1.019
Hume Creek Bridge	0.540	0.973	1.134
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	0.450	0.550	1.013
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	0.250	0.610	1.194
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	0.602	1.342	3.050
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	0.672	1.327	1.578
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.939	1.273	2.385
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.204	0.728	1.194
Golf Course - the pond	0.872	1.340	3.427
Golf View Creek	0.554	1.107	1.828
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	2.120	2.228	2.772
Forebay – SEEP	0.258	0.744	0.901
Weir – SEEP	0.172	0.938	1.695
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	0.955	0.955	0.955
Pond – SEEP	0.125	1.003	1.190
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	0.554	0.554	0.554

* No data

What does total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) mean?

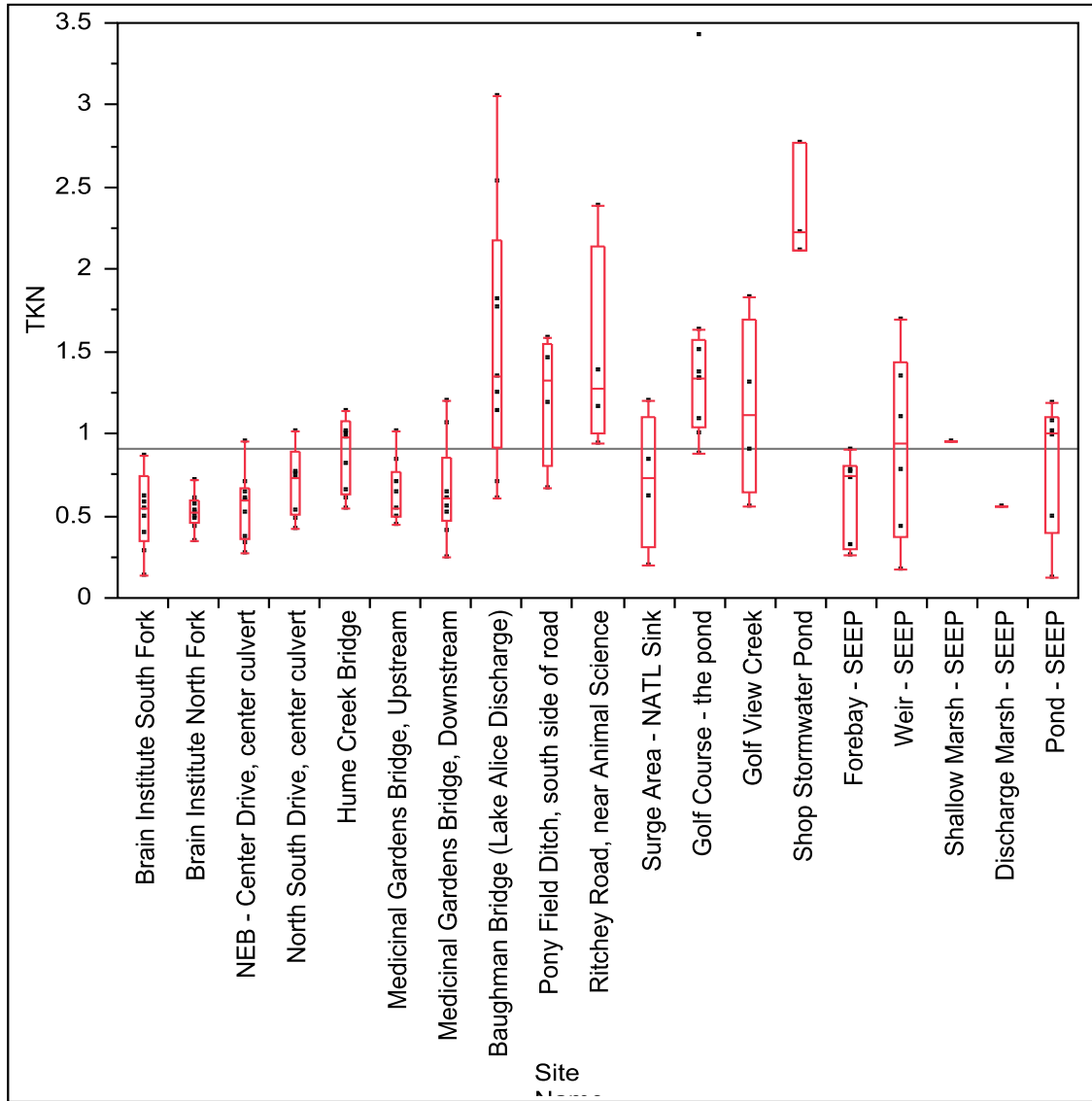
The Kjeldahl technique is a laboratory test for measuring the amount of organic nitrogen contained in water. The organic nitrogen concentration is actually the total Kjeldahl nitrogen concentration minus the ammonia concentration. Organic nitrogen may be either dissolved or suspended particulate matter in water. High levels of organic nitrogen in water may indicate excessive production or organic pollution from the watershed. Animal and human waste, decaying organic matter, and live organic material like tiny algae cells can cause organic nitrogen enrichment of lake water.

Modified from:

Tippecanoe Environmental Lake & Watershed Foundation. 2004. 28 Feb. 2009.

<<http://www.telwf.org/watertesting/watertesting.htm>>

TKN Concentration by Site, mg/L



Phosphorus

The range in concentration for Total Phosphorus (TP) was 0.033 to 2.830 mg/L. Nearby Bivens Arm has an average total phosphorus concentration of 0.281 mg/L (LAKEWATCH data between 1992 and 2009). All sites have average values that exceed Bivens Arm with the exception of the sites in the SEEP. This may be explained by the fact that much of campus is situated on the Hawthorne Layer, and many tributary streams are actively eroding the stream bed and likely mobilizing high concentration phosphorus sediments. Total Phosphorous concentration is not as indicative of the short-term biological response potential as Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (see page 36). However, TP values provide a better representation of the amount of phosphorus that may at some point become available for uptake. The majority of higher values appear to be associated with the golf course which may be due to the maintenance regime of the site.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	0.677	0.853	1.023
Brain Institute North Fork	0.105	0.622	1.600
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.619	0.756	1.384
North South Drive, center culvert	0.408	0.682	1.163
Hume Creek Bridge	0.701	0.916	1.116
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	0.765	0.916	1.170
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	0.751	0.924	1.102
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	0.228	0.465	0.969
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	0.621	0.984	2.605
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.890	1.274	1.521
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.184	0.311	0.823
Golf Course - the pond	0.518	1.583	2.526
Golf View Creek	0.736	1.806	2.830
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	1.364	1.525	1.878
Forebay – SEEP	0.152	0.221	0.794
Weir – SEEP	0.164	0.262	1.115
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	0.130	0.130	0.130
Pond – SEEP	0.033	0.082	1.086
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	0.063	0.063	0.063

* No data

What does Phosphorus mean?

Both phosphorus and nitrogen are essential nutrients for the plants and animals that make up the aquatic food web. Since phosphorus is the nutrient in short supply in most fresh waters, even a modest increase in phosphorus can, under the right conditions, set off a whole chain of undesirable events in a stream including accelerated plant growth, algae blooms, low dissolved oxygen, and the death of certain fish, invertebrates, and other aquatic animals.

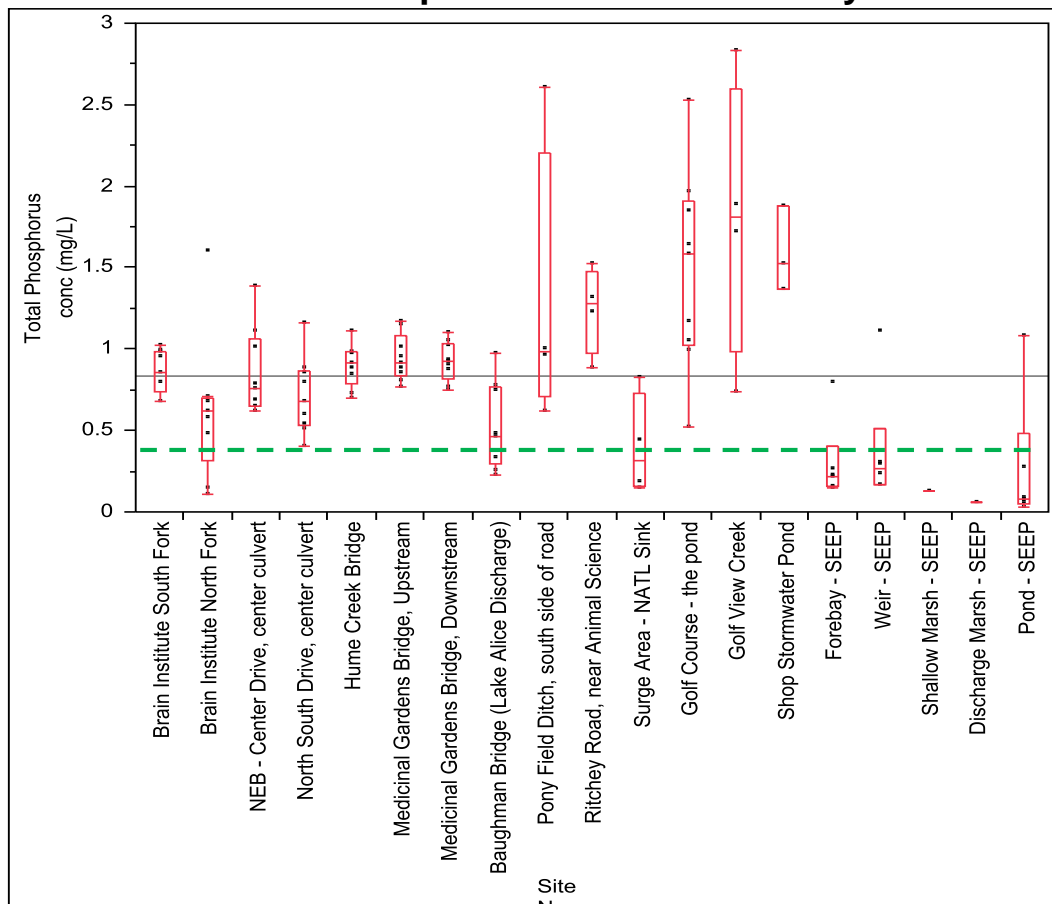
There are many sources of phosphorus, both natural and human. These include soil and rocks, wastewater treatment plants, runoff from fertilized lawns and cropland, failing septic systems, runoff from animal manure storage areas, disturbed land areas, drained wetlands, water treatment, and commercial cleaning preparations.

1. The *total phosphorus* test measures all the forms of phosphorus in the sample (orthophosphate, condensed phosphate, and organic phosphate).
2. The *dissolved phosphorus* test measures that fraction of the total phosphorus which is in solution in the water (as opposed to being attached to suspended particles).
3. *Insoluble phosphorus* is calculated by subtracting the dissolved phosphorus result from the total phosphorus result.

Modified from:

Environmental Protection Agency. Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual. November 1997. 10 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/stream/stream.pdf>>

Total Phosphorus Concentration by Site



0.281 mg/L
Average
concentration
recorded in
Bivens Arm
between 1992
and 2009
(LAKEWATCH)

Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP)

Distribution of SRP concentrations ranged from 0.006 to 2.810 mg/L. SRP is the most bioavailable form of phosphorus and therefore the most likely to cause a rapid biological response if phosphate is limiting. The golf course sites generally tended to show concentrations greater than that of main campus. Because SRP concentrations are so high in tributaries, this data suggest that Nitrogen and not Phosphorus may be the limiting nutrient controlling algal and plant productivity at most areas of campus.

Site	Minimum mg/L	Median mg/L	Maximum mg/L
Brain Institute South Fork	0.665	0.834	0.969
Brain Institute North Fork	0.456	0.625	1.575
NEB - Center Drive, center culvert	0.516	0.707	1.355
North South Drive, center culvert	0.347	0.530	1.135
Hume Creek Bridge	0.535	0.684	0.941
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Upstream	0.750	0.928	1.074
Medicinal Gardens Bridge, Downstream	0.688	0.949	1.022
Baughman Bridge (Lake Alice Discharge)	0.056	0.370	0.429
Pony Field Ditch, south side of road	0.480	0.940	2.360
Ritchey Road, near Animal Science	0.817	0.977	1.420
Surge Area - NATL Sink	0.109	0.158	0.396
Golf Course - the pond	0.437	0.909	2.215
Golf View Creek	1.628	1.766	2.810
#7 Fairway	*	*	*
Shop Stormwater Pond	1.292	1.295	1.750
Forebay – SEEP	0.117	0.177	0.203
Weir – SEEP	0.118	0.142	0.253
Shallow Marsh – SEEP	0.084	0.084	0.084
Pond – SEEP	0.006	0.045	0.220
Discharge Marsh – SEEP	0.052	0.052	0.052

* No data

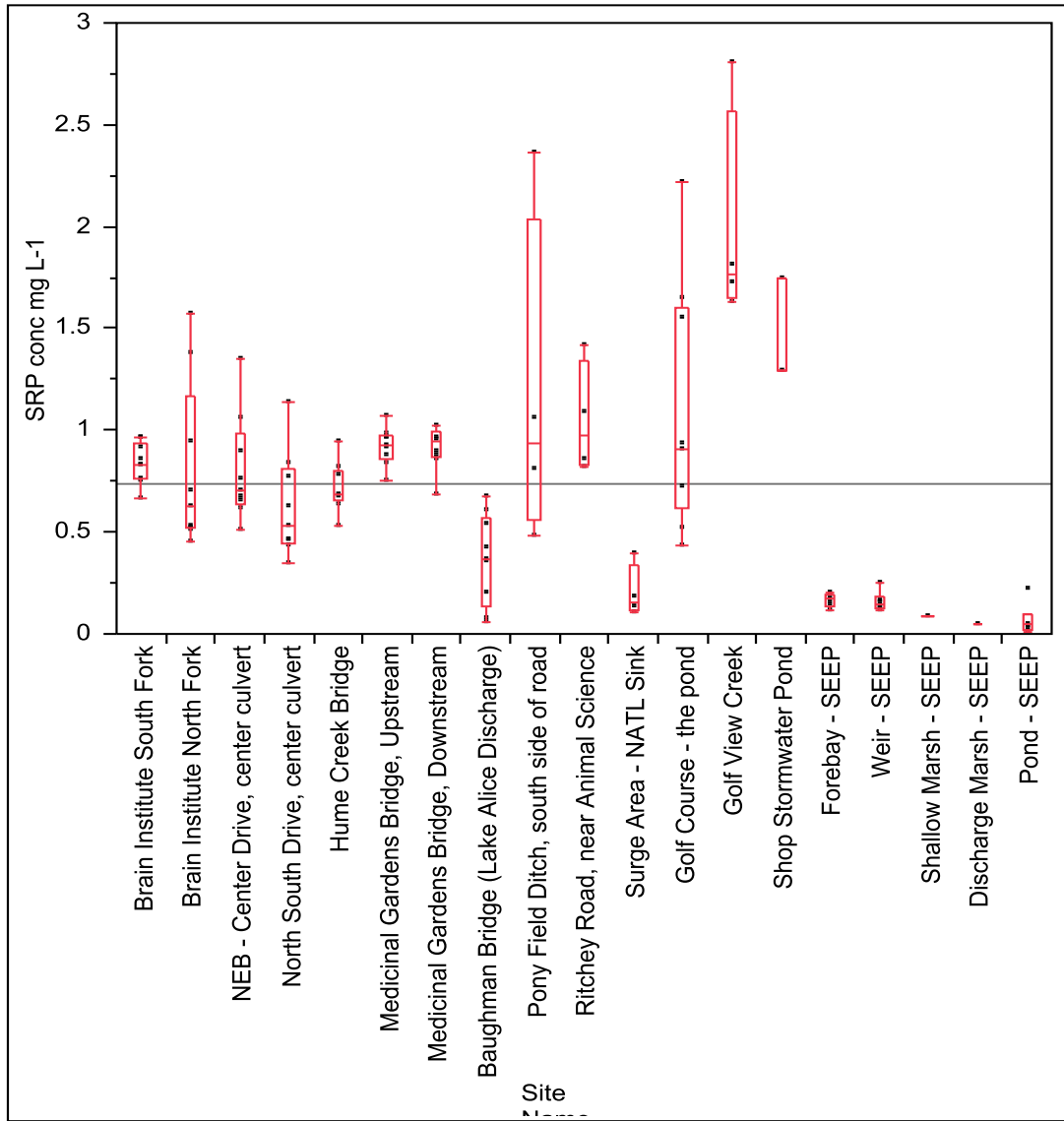
What does soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) mean?

Soluble reactive phosphorus also known as SRP is a dissolved form of phosphorus. Because dissolved phosphorus is readily available for uptake by plants, the amount of SRP found in a lake provides a good estimation of how much phosphorus is available for algae and plant growth. Because aquatic plant growth is typically limited by phosphorus, added phosphorus especially in the dissolved, bioavailable form can fuel plant growth and cause algae blooms. Sources of SRP can include: failing septic systems, animal waste, fertilizers, decaying plants and animals, and resuspension from the lake bottom.

Modified from:

Tippecanoe Environmental Lake & Watershed Foundation. 2004. 28 Feb. 2009.
<<http://www.telwf.org/watertesting/watertesting.htm>>

Soluble Reactive Phosphorus Concentrations by Site



Appendix A

Methods and Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Volunteers Training and Participation

The Campus Water Quality Monitoring (CWQM) program is managed by the Soil and Water Sciences Department. Part of a student Research Assistantship is allocated to oversight of the CWQM and this student is responsible for monitoring all sampling, data collection and analysis, preparation of samples for analysis, and volunteer recruitment and training.

During the course of the year, the student manager trains student volunteers to assist with the collection and processing of samples. Volunteers are provided with a one hour training including information on the program and proper sampling techniques. A Volunteer Handbook provides step-by-step instructions as a reference for all volunteers. During 2004, eleven student volunteers assisted with the CWQM program, providing more than 50 volunteer hours.

Field and Laboratory Procedures

Pre and post testing of the YSI 556 Multi-Probe on the day of sampling were conducted to assure all field data (temperature, conductivity, pH, DO, and redox) were within calibration targets. If test values were outside of the predetermined variance, the instrument was recalibrated and retested.

All water samples were collected in acid-cleaned and triple-rinsed 500 mL Nalgene bottles. Once collected, samples were stored in a cooler during transportation to the lab. At the laboratory, a 20mL sample was filtered using a 0.45 μ m membrane filter, preserved with one drop of concentrated H₂SO₄ and stored in a 20mL scintillation vial in a refrigerator at 4 degrees Celsius. Additionally, two 20mL scintillation vials were filled with unfiltered samples, preserved with one drop of concentrated H₂SO₄ and stored at 4 degrees Celsius. The 500mL samples were shaken to re-suspend any particulates prior to pouring into 20mL scintillation vials. All sample preparation and analysis was conducted at the Wetland Biogeochemistry Laboratory (WBL) within the Soil and Water Science Department. The WBL is certified under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference and all methods and techniques adhere to standard operating procedures as outlined in this certification program.

Quality Control (QA/QC)

Each month, a field and equipment blank were run along with a duplicate sampling at one of the stations and processed along with the samples. Additional laboratory blanks, duplicates, QC's and spikes were used for each lab analysis. Samples were processed within proper holding times as necessary for each laboratory analysis unless otherwise noted. Chain of custody forms were completed to log every sample that enters the lab.

Reliability of Data

In many volunteer programs, emphasis is place on developing standardized methods and QA/QC procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data and lessen the potential for human error as much as possible. The UF Clean Water Campaign's Water Quality Monitoring program is managed to ensure that all processes are conducted in the same manner month to month. Additionally, the use of instrumentation such as the YSI yields consistent, reliable data with little room for human error as long as the equipment is properly calibrated each time.

When volunteer efforts follow a standard set of procedures, the resulting data can be just as valid as that collected by professional scientists. For instance, LAKEWATCH, a volunteer citizen lake monitoring program, has been sampling lakes throughout Florida since 1986. A study to test the reliability of volunteer collected samples in the LAKEWATCH program found that data collected by volunteers was comparable to that collected by professionals. (Canfield, et al, 2002).

References

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