

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2013



Mission Statement

"Protect, maintain & enhance water quality and quantity in the Duck Creek Watershed Region for today and future generations"

ADAMS COUNTY UW EXTENSION

Streamline

News flowing through the Duck Creek Watershed.

Welcome to Our First Newsletter Issue!

To Our Watershed Neighbors;

We hope you will enjoy receiving news of water issues within our watershed and Adams County. Our intent is to publish the newsletter quarterly. If you have any water issues or concerns, please feel free to share them with us.

A very special thank you to the property owners along Duck Creek for their cooperation and participation in the inventory completed October 2012. Without your help we would not have been able to inventory the entire 23 miles of Duck Creek. The collaboration of landowners, watershed volunteers and the Land and Water Conservation staff helped accumulate a great deal of data, despite our dry summer. Our findings and timeline goals are featured in this issue of the newsletter. The primary goal established for Duck Creek is to have a flowing stream year around; as you know this as not been the case for many years.

The DNR was impressed with the inventory and will be offering their assistance on State held land and offering technical support for upcoming projects. Land and Water Conservation Department has also met with, and will continue to meet with Organizations interested in helping achieve the goal of 24/7 water flow.

Your cooperation in any upcoming project is voluntary and we appreciate your efforts to promote the overall health of Duck Creek. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me through UWEX at 608-339-4237 or our Duck Creek email at duckcreekwag@gmail.com

The Duck Creek Watershed Advisory Group is also working to educate our neighbors through school presentations, free nitrate screenings and other projects within the watershed.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped to make our first stream inventory a success. We will keep you posted on all upcoming activity along the creek and within the watershed.

Sincerely,

Robin Skala, President

Duck Creek Watershed Advisory Group

How to Get Involved

Our members are the strength of the Duck Creek Watershed Advisory Group. Becoming a member is easy to do; just \$20.00 per year gets you invitations to events, and meetings, and the piece of mind knowing you are helping to "protect maintain, and enhance water quality for future generations."

To register as a member, please visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Duck-Creek-Watershed-Advisory-Group> .

Duck Creek Inventory August-October 2012

At the time of this inventory, Adams County was in a severe drought, so the majority of Duck Creek had little to no water. History has shown that in late summer to early fall parts of Duck Creek normally have little to no water.

Water Depths: Section 28 has water levels to a depth of 5 feet, the deepest holes also were the only areas reported to have fish swimming in them. Section 29 also had water holes, the deepest measuring 39 inches.

Streambed Conditions: The streambed condition was found to be on average a solid sand bottom. However, the head waters of Duck Creek showed mud/muck sediment of over 3 inches. Two other areas with a majority of mud/muck of over 3 inches is the bottom of Section 15 and Section 22. Typically, around culverts it tended to be one to three inches of mud/muck sediment and then would gradually change back to a sandy bottom. Areas with no defined streambed include 40 acres in Section 15, and the bottom of Section 27 and the top half of Section 34, and the bottom portion of section 26, these areas flood in the spring. In Section 26 there are several concerns due to the lack of a defined streambed. This area seems to be a big wetland area. The actual streambed ends in the wetland area with the drainage ditch being more defined and connecting with Duck Creek.

Plant Life: The most prevalent invasive species that were detected throughout the entire creek other than Section 34 was Reed Canary Grass. In most areas this grass was so thick it was difficult to walk through. Other invasive species that were found in order of most to least was Canada Thistle, Field Bindweed and Purple Loosestrife.

Other sightings of plant life that were listed were Goldenrod, Black Swallow Wort, Joe Pie Weed, Floating Heart, Alder Bush, Hedge Parsley, Wild Veronica, Cattails, Arrowhead, Water Hemlock, Swamp Buttercup, Dames Rocket and Marsh Milkweed.

Erosion: Another area of concern that was reported on was streambank erosion and gully erosion. There were multiple areas that were reported on with streambank erosion being identified as more of an issue than gully erosion. These areas tended to be more in the middle part of duck creek.

Pollution Sources: Animal waste runoff was identified in a small part of Duck Creek located at the bottom of Section 27 and the top of Section 34. This is the same area where there is no defined streambank. These areas are identified to have two of the three concerns:

- Livestock operation with 100 feet of the stream
- Unlimited access to stream by livestock.

Wildlife Damage: Beaver dams are extremely prevalent throughout Duck Creek - Section 27 and 34. The last two sections before Duck Creek dumps into the Wisconsin River, and are the only sections that a beaver dam was not reported in. Many large dams were reported. In Section 29 one beaver dam was at least 25 feet in length and 4 feet in height. The top portion of Section 34 has 14 dams with the largest being 30 yards long, 4-5 feet high, expanding from one side of the creek to the other. Section 22 reported the most wildlife observations showing several beaver dams and other animal activity. The tracks in the dirt/mud were identified as raccoon, coyote, badger, beaver and wolf. This area was also mud/muck of 3 inches and greater with pools of standing water. Very marsh like with thick Canary grasses.

In conclusion, the seventeen miles of Duck Creek was found to have multiple reoccurring issues; canary grass, beaver dams, streambank and gully erosion, areas of no defined streambank which in turn flood low lying areas, and animal waste runoff.

Now, the question remains, which items need to be addressed? What action will make the biggest impact for the future of Duck Creek? The next step is to determine our goals!

DCWAG Goals

Goals	Calendar	Activities	Who
Define creek with year-round flow from headwaters to WI River	To 2013	Coordinate an effort to educate group about cranberry operation	LWCD
	2013	Contact cranberry operation to gauge interest in developing MOA to meet 25%	DWAG
	2013	Contact landowners adjacent to stream to get permission to remove beavers and their dams.	DWAG LWCD
	2013	Coordinate local fur trappers to remove beavers	LWCD
	2013	Coordinate landowner's efforts to remove all beaver dams. (mechanical devices as an option).	LWCD
	2013	Survey proposed streambed in Section 26 and present data to WDNR	LWCD
	2013	Develop and implement design to redesign the stream channel in Section 26	WDNR
	2013	Educate landowners in Sections 27 and 34 on NR 151 and seek compliance, particularly on keeping livestock out of stream and off associated banks	LWCD DWAG
	2013-2014	Develop and implement design to define stream channel in Sections 27 and 34	WDNR LWCD
	2013	Educate group about private dam operations.	DWAG
Restore floodplain to native prairie	2014	Investigate options.	LWCD
Restore stream to productive fishery	2013-2015	Monitor and collect stream data***	DWAG WDNR
	2016	Develop plan to improve fishery based on collected stream data	WDNR
	2017-2018	Implement plan to improved fishery	LWCD DWAG
Educate residents on stream restoration activities	2013-2014	Produce and distribute newsletter	UWEX
		Coordinate public meetings	LWCD UWEX
	2013	Website	UWEX
	2018	Install stream restoration signs	LWCD DWAG

Related Links of Interest

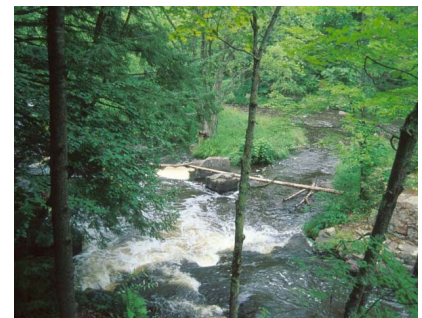
LWCD - www.adamscountywcd.net

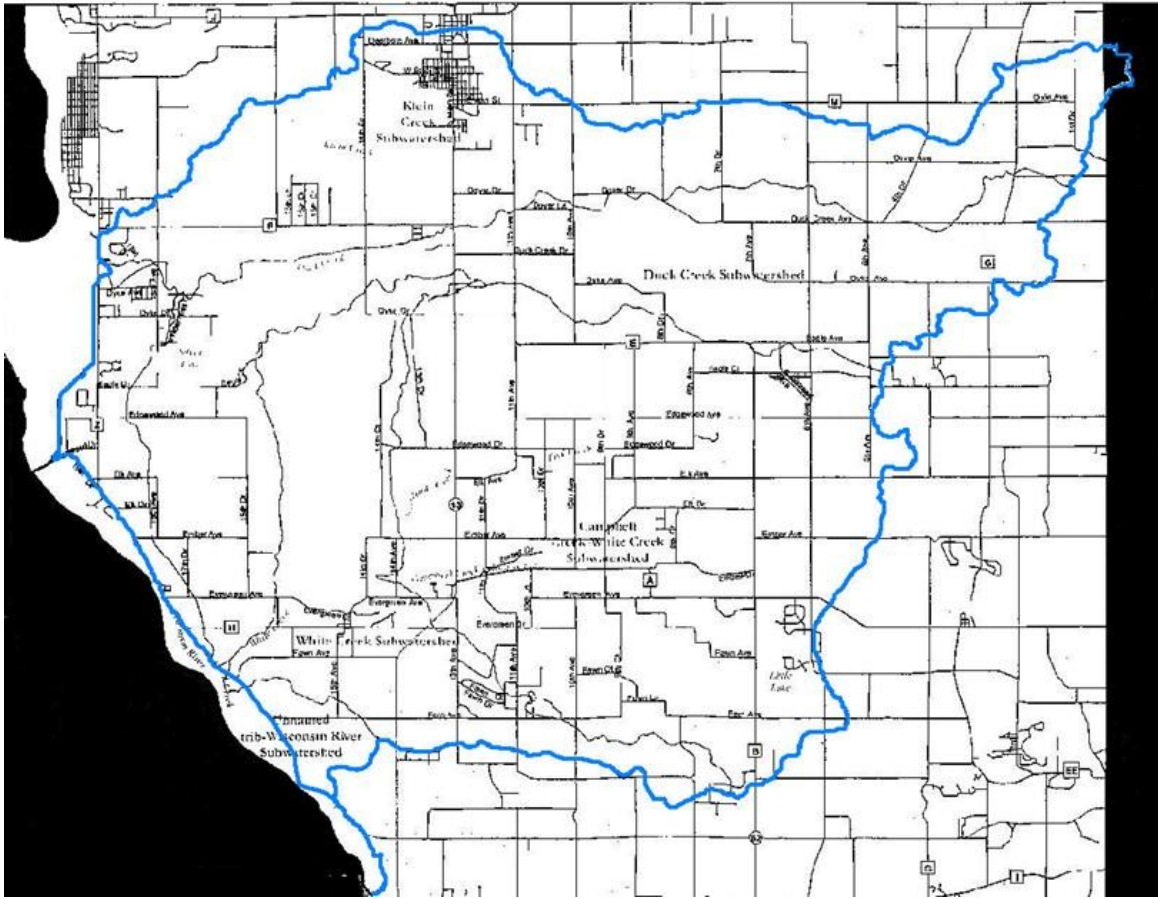
River Alliance of Wisconsin - www.wisconsinrivers.org

Volunteer Stream Monitoring - watermonitoringuwex.edu

Wisconsin Wetlands - wisconsinwetlands.org

Adams UWEX Water Resource - <http://adams.uwex.edu/water-resources>

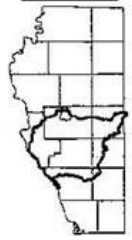




Duck
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*Caring for the Faces & Spaces of
Adams County.*

