

Volunteer Total Phosphorus Monitoring

Riley School Br at Bagley Rd

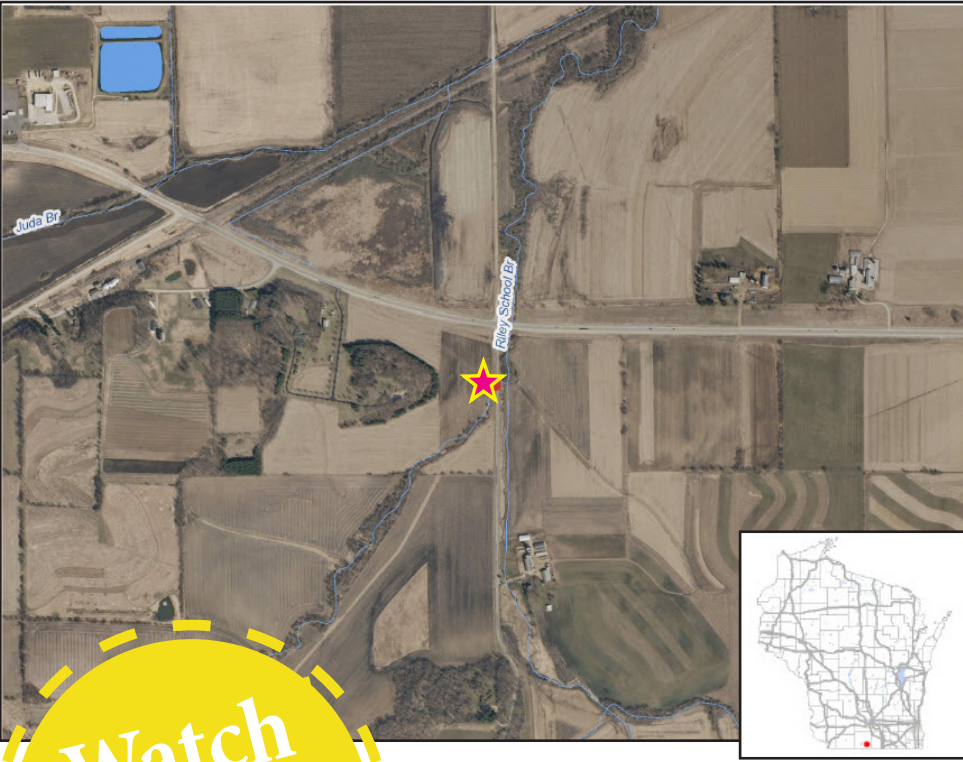
2013 Monitoring Results

Monitoring Site Quick Facts

SWIMS Station ID	10020957
County	Green County
Watershed	Lower Sugar River
Watershed Area	8.69 sq km
Stream Gradient	0.46 %
Downstream Waterbody	Juda Branch
Volunteer	Nathan Gingerich

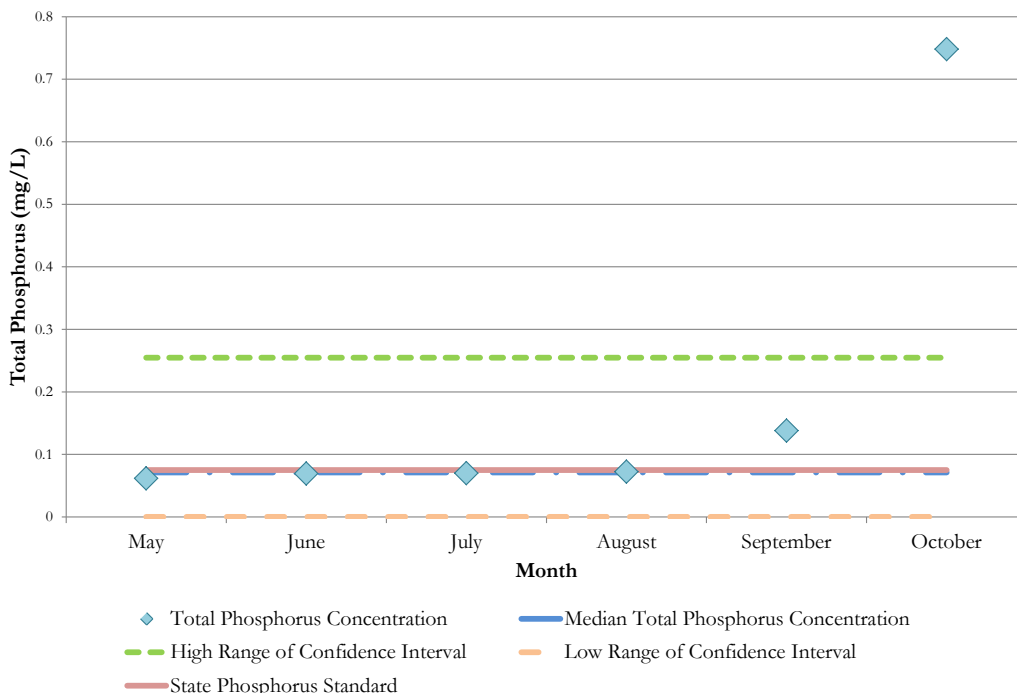
2013 Monitoring Results

Min TP Value	0.0617 mg/L
Max TP Value	0.748 mg/L
Median TP Value	0.07115 mg/L
No. Samples > 0.075 mg/L	2



The Lower Sugar River Watershed Association, Applied Ecological Services, and Grande Cheese are working together with DNR biologists and WAV to monitor over 20 stations in the Lower Sugar River Watershed. A true collaboration, funding is split throughout three DNR projects and LSRWA to get the job done!

Total Phosphorus Concentration per Month



Watershed Land Use

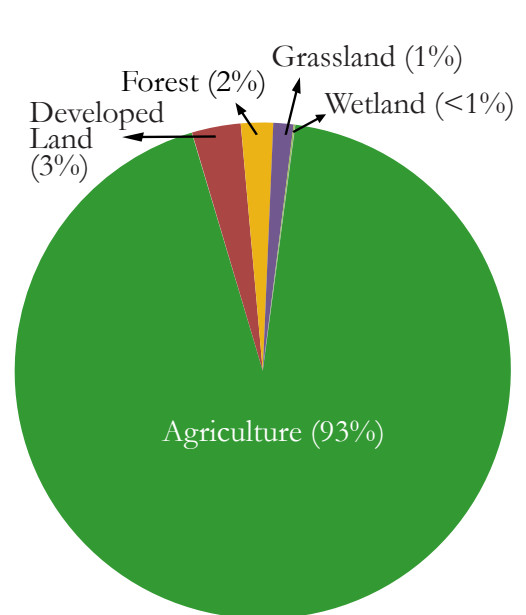




Photo credits to David Seligman, Lindsey Albright, Ray Zuelke, and Dave Zelinger

Why Phosphorus?

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient responsible for plant growth, but it is also the most visible, widespread water pollutant in Wisconsin lakes. Small increases in phosphorus levels in a lake can bring about substantial increases in aquatic plant and algae growth, which in turn can reduce the recreational use and aquatic biodiversity of said lake. When the excess plants die and are decomposed, oxygen levels in the water drop dramatically which can lead to fish kills.

Additionally, one of the most common impairments in Wisconsin's streams is excess sediments that cover stream bottoms. Since phosphorus moves attached to sediments, it is intimately connected with this source of pollution in our streams. Phosphorus originates naturally from rocks, but its major sources in streams and lakes today are usually associated with human activities: soil erosion, human and animal wastes, septic systems, and runoff from farmland or lawns. Phosphorus-containing contaminants from urban streets and parking lots such as food waste, detergents, and paper products are also potential sources of phosphorus pollution from the surrounding landscape. The impact that phosphorus can have in streams is less apparent than in lakes due to the overall movement of water, but in areas with slow velocity, where sediment can settle and deposit along the bottom substrate, algae blooms can result.

Volunteer Monitoring Protocol

To assess in stream phosphorus levels, WAV volunteers collected water samples that were analyzed for total phosphorus (TP) at the State Lab of Hygiene during the growing season (May through October). Following Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) methods, six phosphorus water samples should have been collected at each monitoring site - one per month for each of the six months during the growing season. The water samples were collected approximately 30 days apart and no samples were collected within 15 days of one another.

A stream site is considered "impaired" if: 1) the lower 90% confidence limit of the sample median exceeds the criterion (see the orange dashed line on the 'Total Phosphorus Concentration per Month' graph on the previous page) or 2) there is corroborating WDNR biological data to support an adverse response in the fish or macroinvertebrate communities. If there is insufficient data for either of these requirements, more data will need to be collected in subsequent years before an impairment decision can be made.

PROJECT PARTNERS

