

Village of Albany  
Green County

January 4, 1977

Sugar River - Surface Acres - 364 Miles, Miles = 60, Gradient = 1.7 feet per mile.

The paramount water feature of eastern Green County is the Sugar River. It sluggishly meanders through wetland and farm land, flowing south-southeast from the Village of Belleville, where it enters the county, through the villages of Albany and Brodhead, and on southeast into Rock County.

Its water is inhabited by smallmouth bass, black crappies, white crappies, channel catfish, brown and black bullheads, carp, northern pike, and numerous other warm-water fishes. Occasionally even a brown trout or rainbow trout is reported, possibly having entered the river from one of the few trout streams feeding it. The most important species in the economy of the river is the channel catfish, and the river is regarded as one of the best catfish streams in southern Wisconsin. An estimated 80 percent of the fishing pressure is directed toward this fish.

The Sugar River has 364 surface acres of water within Green County, approximately 35 percent of the total surface acreage of all water within the county. When the area of the principal impoundment in Green County, Decatur Lake, also located on the Sugar River, is added to this, the figure changes to 49.7 percent. It is, therefore, understandable that at least half the fishing pressure within the county is directed to this watercourse.

Below the dam, on an expanse of river known locally as the "Dead River", resides a remnant population of beaver. Trails through this section provide much for the hiker who appreciates the value of lowland wilderness. This "Dead River" region is one of the few places in Green County where the swamp white oak is found. This species is common on the intermittently inundated flood plains of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers.


Recommendations

From the Albany outfall and for the remainder of the Sugar River the classification should be continuous fish and aquatic life.

The above recommendations represent a concurrence of opinion of the stream classification team who are as follow:

Jerry Friederichs - District Engineer  
Clifford Brynildson - Area Fish Manager  
Tom Bainbridge - District Biologist  
Roger Schlessler - Natural Resources Technician

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas Bainbridge  
Stream Classification Coordinator

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