



Tookany/Tacony-Frankford
Watershed Partnership, Inc.

**YOUR WATERSHED...
YOUR FUTURE.**

Streamkeeper First Year Report



Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed



Delaware River Watershed Initiative

TTF Streamkeepers

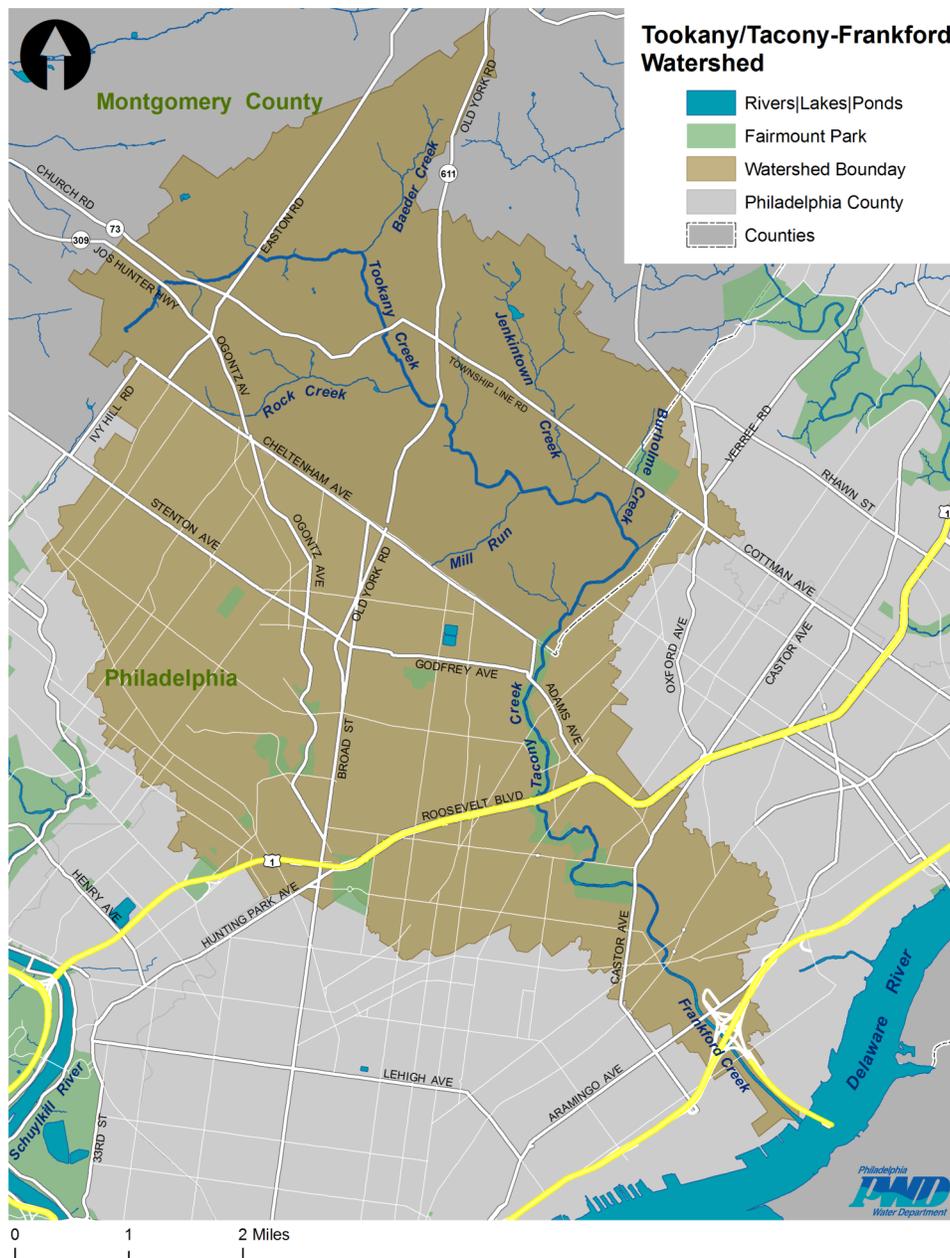
In the summer of 2014, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership launched Streamkeepers, its first citizen water quality monitoring program. Streamkeepers are trained citizen scientists who adopt a section of the Tookany Creek and monitor water quality over time. September of 2015 marks our Streamkeeper Program One-Year Anniversary. In that time, over 20 citizens have adopted sites throughout the Tookany Creek Watershed. Streamkeepers monitor the creek monthly with a visual assessment, photographs and chemical monitoring. The following report contains Streamkeeper data for August 2014 – August 2015. The Streamkeeper team is increasing watershed awareness while providing data to support the Delaware River Watershed Initiative ([DRWI](#)).

Delaware River Watershed Initiative: Philadelphia Upstream

Five watershed organizations in the suburban Philadelphia region are collaborating on a water quality monitoring program for Cobbs, Pennypack, Poquessing, Tookany, and Wissahickon Creeks. The overall goal of this program is to improve the habitat and water quality in these creeks through improved stormwater management, restoration projects, passing of municipal legislation, and community engagement. The Academy of Natural Sciences oversees monitoring as watershed organizations like TTF install Rain Gardens and Riparian Buffers to restore streams. Streamkeeper data supports data collected by TTF, Temple and Villanova Universities, and the Academy of Natural Sciences. Each of the five watersheds uses a shared protocol that allows for comparisons across the upstream Philadelphia region. TTF Streamkeeper findings will be used to help understand issues in the watershed, measure the effectiveness of restoration projects, and compare our creek to others in the Delaware River Watershed.

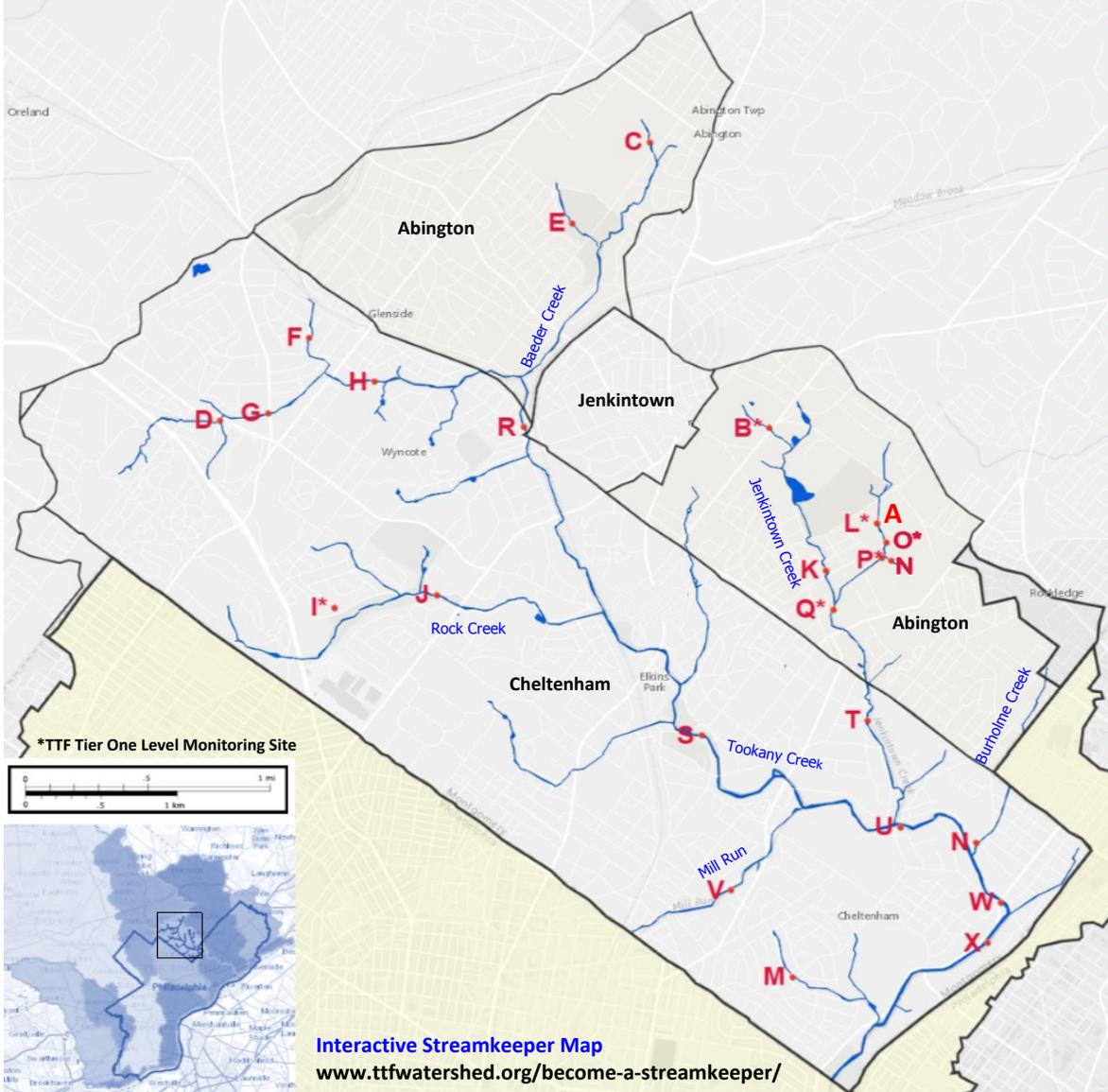
Welcome to Your Watershed!

TTF's mission is to improve the health and vitality of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek and watershed — which includes neighborhoods in North, Northeast, and Northwest Philadelphia and Abington, Cheltenham, Jenkintown, Rockledge, and Springfield in Montgomery County — by engaging our communities in education, stewardship, restoration, and advocacy.



Streamkeeper Sites

Location	Waterway	Township	Location	Waterway	Township
A* Sisters of Saint Basil	Jenkintown Creek	Abington	M Parkview Park	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham
B* Abington Friends School	Jenkintown Creek	Abington	N Boy Scout Cabin	Burholme Creek	Cheltenham
C Abington Jr High School	Baeder Creek	Abington	O* McKinley Elementary	Jenkintown Creek	Abington
D Arcadia University	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham	P* Tributary at McKinley	Jenkintown Creek	Abington
E Baederwood Park	Baeder Creek	Abington	Q* Cedar Road Bridge	Jenkintown Creek	Abington
F Grove Park	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham	R Ralph Morgan Park	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham
G Glenside Elementary	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham	S High School Park	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham
H Renninger Park	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham	T Einstein Hospital	Jenkintown Creek	Cheltenham
I* Cedarbrook Middle School	Rock Creek	Cheltenham	U Tookany Creek Park	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham
J Curtis Arboretum	Rock Creek	Cheltenham	V Upstream Coventry Park	Mill Run	Cheltenham
K Ethel Jordan Park	Jenkintown Creek	Abington	W Central Avenue Bridge	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham
L* Manor College	Jenkintown Creek	Abington	X Cheltenham Little League	Tookany Creek	Cheltenham



Find Your Creek!



Creek

Streamkeeper Site

Tookany Creek

1T

Baeder Creek

2B

Rock Creek

3R

Mill Run Creek

4M

Jenkintown Creek

5J

Burholme Creek

6B

Glenside Elementary School TTF400
 Arcadia University TTF350
 Ralph Morgan Park TTF800
 High School Park TTF900
 Grove Park TTF390
 Jenkintown Road Bridge.....TTF1050
 Cheltenham Little League.....TTF1100
 *Renninger Park.....TTF425
 *Parkview Park.....TTF625

Abington Junior High School..... TTF300
 Baederwood Park TTF375

Cedarbrook Middle School TTF500
 Curtis Arboretum..... TTF550

*Downstream Coventry Park.....TTF1100

Sisters of St. Basil the GreatTTF100
 Abington Friends SchoolTTF200
 Ethel Jordan ParkTTF575
 Einstein Medical CenterTTF1000

*Cheltenham Boy Scout Cabin.....TTF650



Compare Water Quality

1T Tookany Creek

2B Baeder Creek

5J Jenkintown Creek

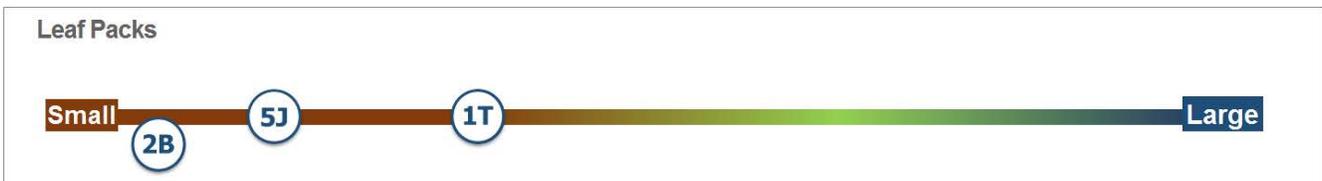
Shade

A forested streamside provides shade for aquatic life that can't survive in warmer water. When a stream is exposed to sunlight throughout the day, temperature goes up and dissolved oxygen declines. Low dissolved oxygen kills trout, amphibians, macroinvertebrates and other organisms.



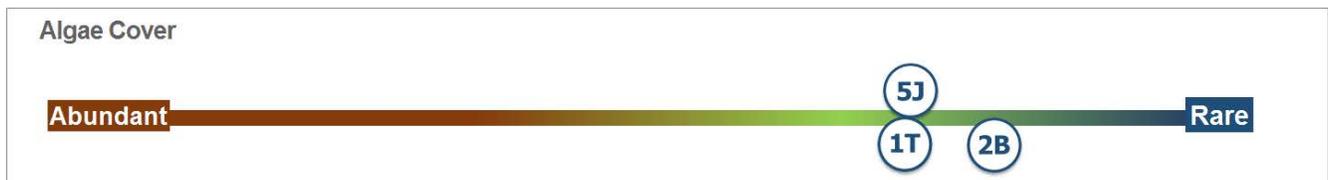
Leaf Packs

Leaves are a vital source of food in a stream. Streamkeepers count leaf "packs" that get caught behind fallen branches and under rocks. A healthy stream should have leaves in the creek all year. Streamkeepers record how the amount changes in a "flashy" watershed like TTF that has very fast, high flows after rain.



Algae Cover

Algae is important to a healthy stream ecosystem. Streamkeepers track algae changes throughout the year. Abundant algae can be a warning that the stream is receiving excess nutrients from fertilizers.



Surface Coating

Bubbles, scum, and foam sometimes occur naturally, but detergents, oil, and other pollution can also be the source. Streamkeepers look for clues to help find the source of the surface coating.



1T Tookany Creek



New monitoring site at Renninger Park



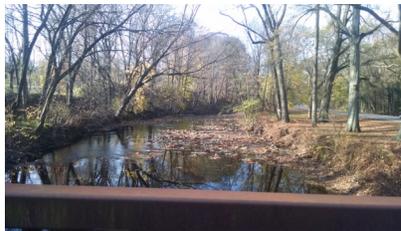
Water snake at Ralph Morgan Park



Water clarity at High School Park



Surface coating at Tookany Creek Park

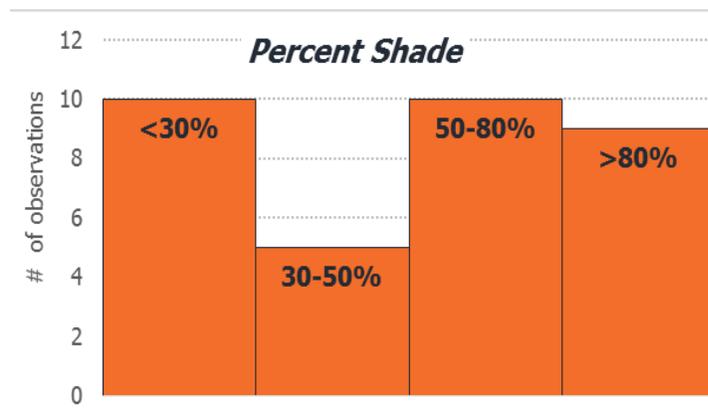
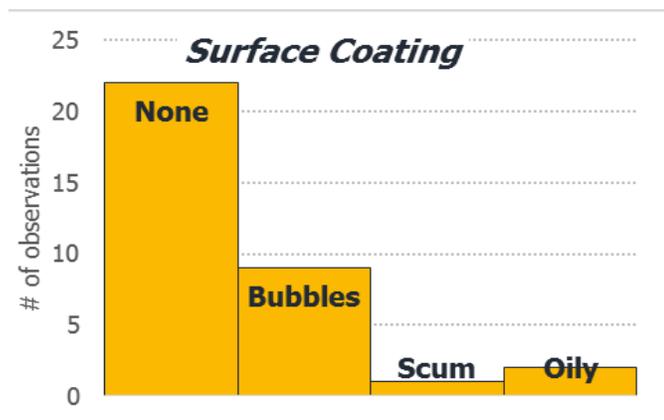
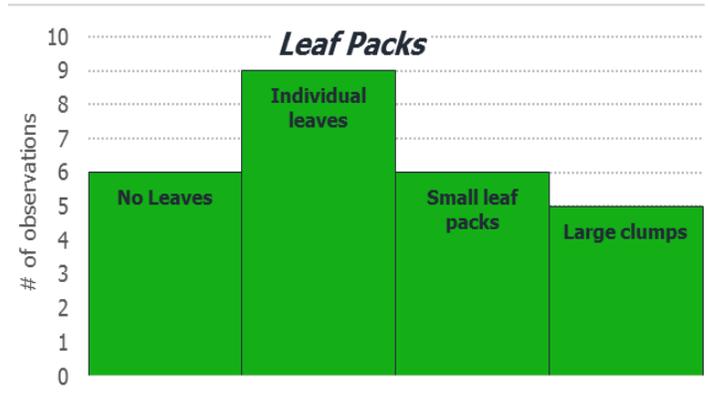
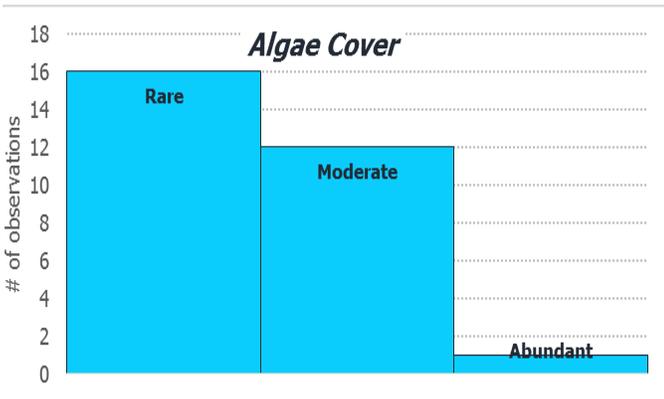


Monitoring creek before it enters city



Invasive plants on the bank

Streamkeepers reported clear water clarity, normal odor, a brown stream bed, continued bank erosion, an average pH of 7.5 and no aquatic vegetation.



5J Jenkintown Creek



Monitoring for impacts from development



Monitoring sun and shade



Runoff during rainstorms



Measuring depth



Monitoring before buffer planting



McKinley Elementary

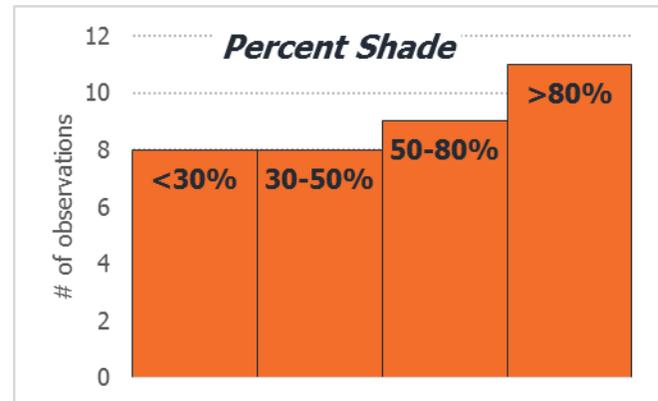
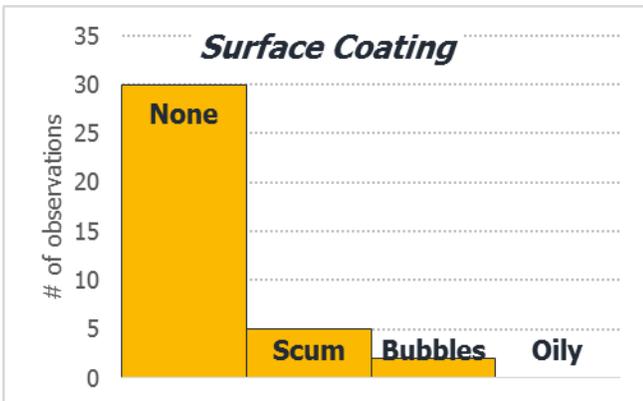
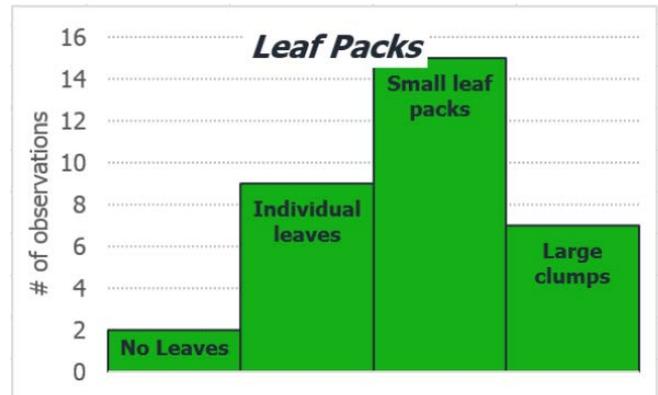
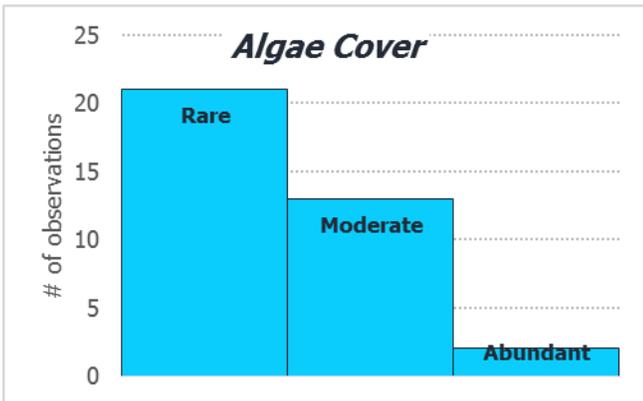


Chemistry sampling



Abundant algae

Streamkeepers reported clear water clarity, normal odor, a brown stream bed, and an average pH of 6.5.



2B Baeder Creek



Mayfly



Salamander



Midge



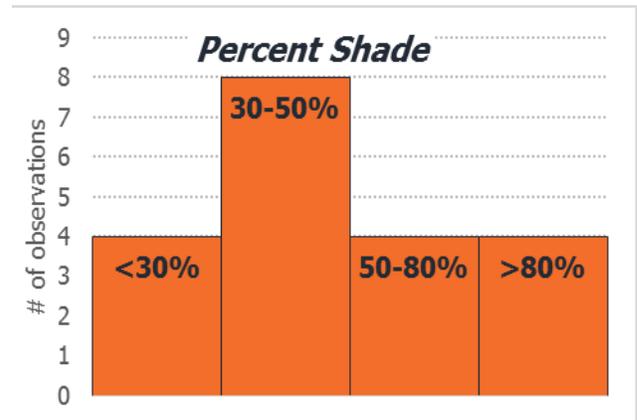
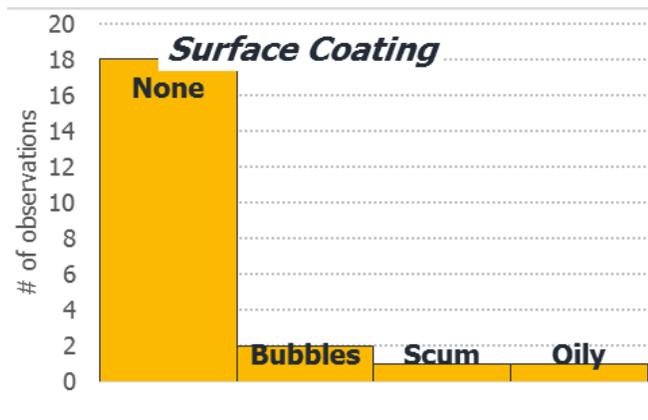
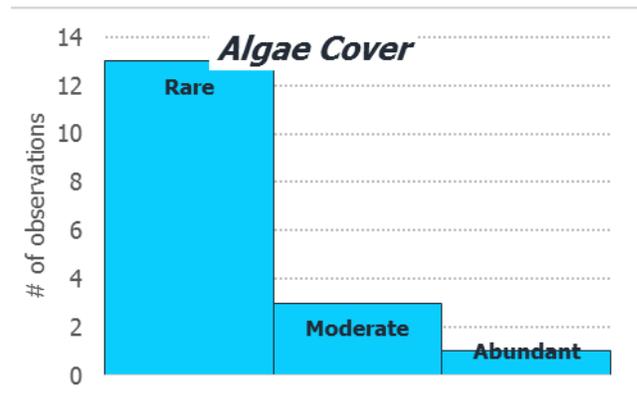
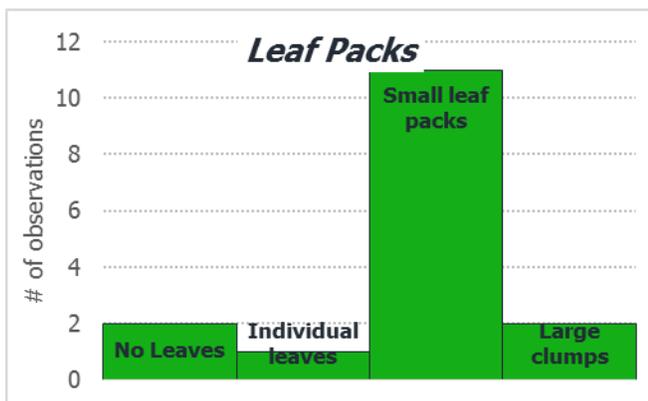
Monitoring West Baeder Creek



Seasonal changes at TTF's buffer on East Baeder Creek



Streamkeepers reported clear water clarity, normal odor, a brown stream bed, and an average pH of 6.8.





Rock Creek



Mill Run



Burholme Creek

Rock Creek, Mill Run and Burholme Creek need further monitoring.

Become a TTF Streamkeeper now to adopt a site on these creeks!

ROCK CREEK

Streamkeepers measured chloride levels that could be harmful to aquatic life.



MILL RUN

Streamkeepers observed rapid bank erosion and trash.



BURHOLME CREEK

Streamkeepers discovered aging infrastructure and patches of thick algae.



Damselfly in Burholme Creek

Notes



Contact Us!

We Need You! Be a Streamkeeper!

Care about the creek down the street?
Concerned about clean water? Looking to make
a difference? Like to hop in the water & get
your hands dirty?

TTF Streamkeepers are volunteers who monitor a creek near them each month to collect data about changes in water quality, erosion, and creekside vegetation. This citizen science effort is funded by the William Penn Foundation's Delaware River Watershed Initiative, which supports organizations implementing stream restoration and green infrastructure projects, and informs municipal stormwater permits and public investments, using monitoring data gathered through aligned, science based efforts. The Academy of Natural Sciences and Stroud Water Research Center lead this watershed analysis work, and guide us as we train and mobilize citizen scientists.

Interested? **Contact Alex Cooper**
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