

SUGAR CREEK CSI

“polluting our waters is a crime”

When we study the streams, we include collecting bugs and other small critters that live under water. For our Sugar Creek Watershed Management Plan, our stream was studied by scientists, similar to the CSI investigators; these scientists evaluate what is killing the bugs. If the bugs are dead, then the scientists make recommendations which would benefit and improve the health of the stream. These improvements include such land use activities as buffer strips, no-till or low-till row cropping, and fencing livestock out of the stream. On the other side of the coin, if the scientists find a lot of bugs, then the stream is considered healthy. Not only should the numbers of bugs be crowded, but the types of bugs should include all types including dragonflies, moths, beetles, snails, worms, crayfish and even leeches.

The team of scientists currently working on Sugar Creek has studied the bugs during 2007 along with investigating the water chemistry and surrounding stream habitat. The results will be used in our Watershed Management Plan. This plan will be available in mid-2008. A watershed is an area from which water drains to a single point in a natural basin and contributes flow to a place or point on a body of water. Depending on the scale of the discussion, a watershed can range in size from thousands of square miles (i.e. the Ohio River watershed) to a few acres (i.e. a farm pond watershed). Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes and can cross city, county, and state borders.

If you would like to join the team, that is striving to improve the Sugar Creek Watershed, contact us at the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District at 317-462-2283 Ext 3. And for more information, please visit <http://www.hancockswcd.org/SugarCreek.htm>. Check out an additional article about the critters (Benthic Macroinvertebrates) of Sugar Creek, additional information about the critters we have found in the study and our 1st issue of the Sugar Creek Scoop Newsletter.



Family: *Polymitarcyidae*

Burrowing Mayfly



Family: *Belostomatidae*

Giant Water Bug



Family: *Veliidae*

Broad-Shouldered Water Strider