

IS FOREST HILLS RUN POLLUTED?

To answer this question, we've gathered some information from past studies of Forest Hills Run.

Aquatic Resource Consulting, June 2009.

BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATES OF PARADISE WATERSHED

Studied 21 sites in the Paradise watershed, including:

Forest Hills Run #1 – upstream of the Mt. Pocono STP outfall, approximately 50 yards above route 611 stream crossing (above all discharge pipes).

Forest Hills Run #2 – below Mount Pocono STP discharge, approximately 75 yards upstream of Grange road stream crossing.

“Four stations scored below the benchmark, indicting impairment (Table 4). The station with the lowest Total Biological Score of 6.83, indicating severe impairment, was Forest Hills Run Station 2 below the Mt. Pocono STP outfall (Table 4). On the date of sampling, the outfall appeared cloudy and had a strong sewage odor. Forest Hills Run was cloudy from the effluent to Grange Road. Forest Hills Run Station 1 above the discharge scored 96.94 with a fairly diverse community. Only 4 taxa were collected at Station 2 below the discharge. The sample consisted primarily of aquatic worms, indicating organic enrichment, with only 4 *Baetis* sp mayfly larvae and Chironomid midge and Simulium blackfly larvae also present (Appendix A.” (page 7)

[Read the Report.](#)

DEP Report, June 2009, Sherrill R. Leap, Water Pollution Biologist

Studied 8 stations on Forest Hills Run, 2008 and 2009, including:

Station 1 - 100 yards upstream of the Mount Pocono STP discharge pipe

N 41° 06' 53.8” W -075° 21' 06.6”

Station 2 – 100 yards downstream of the STP discharge, 25 yards downstream of the SR611 culvert pipe N 41° 06' 56.8” W -075° 20' 57.1”

“The Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) for Station 1 is a value of 75.8. ... The IBI value downstream of the reference Station 1 was 19.3 at Station 2. “

(Note: The Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) is DEP's current protocol for determine stream health, known as “aquatic life use (ALU).” “ ... an IBI score > 63 results in ALU attainment and an IBI score < 50 results in ALU impairment .”)

“... Kupsky’s 1997 report showed that the stream at one time could support a sensitive macrobenthic community downstream of the Mount Pocono STP. All surveys since May 2000 show impacts to the stream macrobenthos downstream from and including Station 2. ... There seems to be no improvement at Station 2 over the past 13 years to the conditions found in 1997.”
(page 8)

BWA letter to DEP – October 30, 2009

“The sample from the station below the Mt. Pocono STP discharge indicated severe impairment, scoring by far the poorest of 21 benthic samples collected in the Paradise Watershed (see attached report – Baylor, 2009). The samples from above and below the discharge had Total Biological Scores of 96.94 and 6.83, respectively.”

DEP letter to BWA – March 2010

“The Department's June 2009 Forest Hills Run Stream Survey report for data collected in May of 2008 indicates similar results of impairment to Forest Hills Run as did the Association's 2009 report that you provided.

[Read the letter](#)

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