

TODAY'S WEATHER:

www.wunderground.com/us/mi/kewadin

STORM CENTRAL

www.gtlakes.com/storm-central/

LOCAL MITCHELL CREEK

TNN Sampling showed the Creek at East Bay is clean IS NOT NUTRIENT LOADED.

Time to restore the food web in this State Designated Trout Stream.

OF BOBCATS AND BEAVERS

Bobcats are opportunistic hunters of beavers, ducks, geese, frogs, snakes, fish, muskrats, rabbits, and hares.

Bobcats commonly wade and swim; many do not hesitate to attack a beaver in shallow waters.

But Bobcats have NOT kept beavers in check – it's up to us - the Community!

A Bobcat was recorded by trail-cam near Mitchell Creek headwaters and beaver dams - sightings confirmed near O'Dell and Birchview wetlands.



AI Overview

Bobcats are common but elusive wild cats in northwest Michigan. They are nocturnal, solitary, and on the move - running at speeds up to 30 mph.

Bobcats are 2X the size of a house cat, weighing 11 to 30 pounds., Fur varies from brownish red to mostly brown with a white underbelly. Their most distinctive feature is a short, stubby tail, which gives the species its name, and white ear tips.

But Bobcats have NOT kept beavers in check – it's up to us - the Community - to restore flow one stream at a time!

TRAVERSE BAY BOTTOMLANDS - A DESERT NEARLY DEVOID OF LIFE TO FEED ALL SORTS OF FISH
RESTORING THE BAY FOOD WEB IS OVERWHELMING.
BUT WE CAN RESTORE CREEK FLOW AND FOOD WEB ONE STREAM AT A TIME.

TNN TEAM TROUT - RESTORING FLOW AND FOOD WEB ONE STREAM AT A TIME!



The Community has long fished inland lakes, creeks, and East Bay. The food web in the Bay is not getting fixed. Local Mitchell Creek (MiltonTownship), a State designated trout stream, is in trouble. Typically the Creek flows year-round fed by spring runoff, summer storms and groundwater.

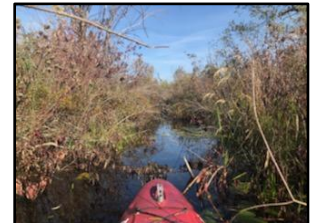
But flow stopped in June 2023. Why?

TNN formed Team Trout which determined that Mitchell Creek flow is blocked by beaver dams in its headwaters. Volunteers from farm, rural, stream and lake residents, advised by the Watershed Center, meet in a White's Barn Venue. (Photos by Scott DeFrain)

The Team reviewed remedies to restore normal year-round flow. Aerial, kayak, boat, and walking confirm a 12 foot beaver dam and the return of nuisance beavers. It was estimated up to 4 feet of water was held back across the beaver dam. Mud lake water had risen to threaten a nearby home and flood two track road access to Mud Lake.

Property owners kept Mitchell Creek open for years by removing beavers and dams but are no longer able to do so. Beavers are State designated nuisance species which can be removed year-round as can dams. Antrim Road Commission cleared 150 feet (1%) of the Creek at Cairn Hwy, to the limit of authority. The US 31 culvert is clear.

Team Trout agreed on a slow release in autumn of 2023 to draw down Mud Lake. Care was taken to avoid flood risk to downstream property. A portion of the dam was opened by the Antrim County Forester. Reference stakes were placed. The stream flowed all winter at the Bay.



Mud Lake receded 2½ feet to 20 feet from the home's foundation. But standing water near Cairn Hwy remains as a threat which will drown hardwoods.

NEXT STEPS: Remove the dam with an excavator to a disposal site on higher ground with State Permits. Continue to remove beavers with bounty payments. TNN has raised seed money but more is needed. Quotes are being obtained. Please Donate!

RESTORATION GOAL - Restore Mitchell Creek flow and fish migration to Class 1.

Class 1. High-quality trout waters – capacity for natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout.

Class 2. Some natural reproduction, but not enough to utilize available food and space.

Class 3. Marginal trout habitats with no natural reproduction. Requires annual stocking.

Class 4 (Today *) - Lower reaches of creeks too warm for trout. Primarily sustains streams with Great Lakes runs of fish. Minor brook/brown trout fishing.

*Mitchell Creek has seen no fish for decades. After opening a hole in the dam, there was a return of suckers and a solitary salmon. No smelt or steelhead were observed. Midstream conditions are unknown pending contact with property owners.

NOTE: This Edition discusses beaver & dam removal locally to restore year-round flow of Mitchell Creek. The Creek went dry for the first time in 50 years in Spring-Summer 2023.

TNN Team Trout volunteers from farm, Bay, rural, mid-stream, and Mud lake residents, advised by the Watershed Center, agree, "**Beaver dams in the Creek's headwaters block flow in this low lying stream.**"



OR



Massive Brook Trout (cont'd)

can destroy critical habitat for spawning brook trout, disrupt gravel stream bottoms, decrease stream flow, cause lower oxygen, and heat up water temperatures.

From 2018 to 2021, the Michigan DNR & USDA goal was to protect areas of coastal wetland and other habitats in Michigan. Wildlife Services staff monitored targeted areas along 19 streams, surveying approximately 200 acres and removing 120 beaver dams.

Grand Traverse County Road Commission has an organized program to eliminate nuisance beavers and beaver dams.

ARE BEAVERS GOOD OR BAD FOR TROUT? IT DEPENDS . . .

Author: Phil Monahan - Posted on August 23, 2018. **ADAPTED** PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE - <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/beavers-good-bad-trout-might-surprised>

A serious examination of whether beavers are ultimately good or bad for trout streams requires some complex weighing of divergent factors. Trout Unlimited Senior Scientist Dr. Jack Williams says, "It's hard to make generalizations, because the effects of beavers are so site-specific.

Anglers see the beavers' work as predominately *destructive* - turning a babbling trout stream into a slow-moving wetland. However each of these "destructive" effects has a flip side: situations in which that very same effect is *beneficial* to trout.

After looking at all the data, the question "Are beavers good or bad for trout streams?" can be answered only with a definitive, "**It depends.**"

A History of Conflict - Picture your favorite trout stream, and then imagine what it would look like after it has been dammed by beavers. These mental images can be dramatically different depending on where you fish.

HIGH-GRADIENT MOUNTAIN STREAMS. A beaver dam might create a nice pool where you'll find deeper water and larger fish. In the West, where drought is much more common, beaver ponds and wetlands can be important tools to manage water by holding water in the headwaters of river systems. Beaver ponds serve as a reservoir, and wetlands raise the water table.

LOW GRADIENT MIDWEST STREAMS. (Like Mitchell Creek) might be turned into a shallow, swampy, troutless mess. Summer warming and the decline in dissolved-oxygen levels make a stream unsuitable for trout survival. Research on removing beaver dams by Wildlife biologist Ed Avery: Summer water temperatures were cooler; wild brook trout populations were much higher; average wild brookie size increased 17%, the number of fish over 7 inches increased 311%.

What that means for trout will depend on a divergent number of factors, and both anglers and biologists will have to weigh all the pros and cons when deciding how to manage each stream. [Are beavers good or bad for trout? It Depends . . .](#)

REMOVING BEAVER DAMS TO PROTECT MASSIVE BROOK TROUT (Excerpt: Read Entire Article)

February 28, 2023 By Megan Helsel and Aaron Guikema, USDA Wildlife Services
<https://wildlife.org/removing-beaver-dams-to-protect-massive-brook-trout/>

Anglers are familiar with spectacular but petite brook trout. Imagine a brook trout measured in feet and pounds. Massive "coasters" hatch in small streams that feed into Lake Superior, migrate to the lake to mature, then return to spawn.

USDA-Wildlife Services protect stream habitat crucial to the life cycle of coaster brook trout which grow up to three times larger than inland stream brook trout.

Beaver dams are a major cause of habitat degradation in streams that drain into Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan. Beaver ponds obstructing small streams (Cont'd at left)

TNN PLANS TO REACH OUT TO MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED

<https://prioritywaters.tu.org/michigan/>

"Threats & Opportunities - Michigan's trout rivers can be a climate stronghold for native brook trout and wild brown and rainbow trout. But over a century of legacy harm to rivers impede their potential as climate change threatens to warm them in the coming decades. TU's work in the region removes failing dams, replaces road stream crossing barriers, and restores riparian and in-stream habitat. Our work is key to making streams resilient to warming."

**PLEASE DONATE TO TNN
 A 501(c)(3) Charity**

Help TNN restore Mitchell Creek flow blocked in 2023. **No water-no fish!**

TNN Team Trout

Volunteers: farm, midstream, rural, Bay, Mud Lake, Watershed Ctr agree.

Dams and Beavers Are the Cause.

Mitchell Creek is a State designated trout stream- Currently **Class 4 – no fish. Restore to Class 1.** “High-quality wild trout waters with natural reproduction, sustained populations.”

TNN raised substantial seed money

- Nuisance beavers controlled.
- Partially opened dam
- Restored flow.

Water was released slowly by 2 feet - 20 feet from of the Mud Lake home..

Please Donate:

Use PAY PAL or card on website.

www.townshipneighborsnetwork.com/donate/

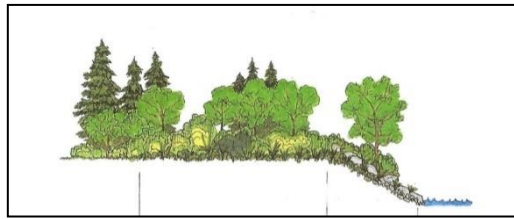
Mail check to: TNN Treasurer, using the form on the TNN website.

SCAN QR Code



What is a “Riparian Buffer Zone” and Why is it Important?

BY: **THI TROUT HEADWATERS, INC.** <https://www.troutheadwaters.com/what-is-a-riparian-buffer-zone-and-why-is-it-important/>



A riparian buffer zone is the area of land directly adjacent to a waterway (lake, stream, river, or wetlands). Where these areas are healthy, they feature riparian vegetation, which is integral to protect water quality, ecological integrity, and biodiversity.

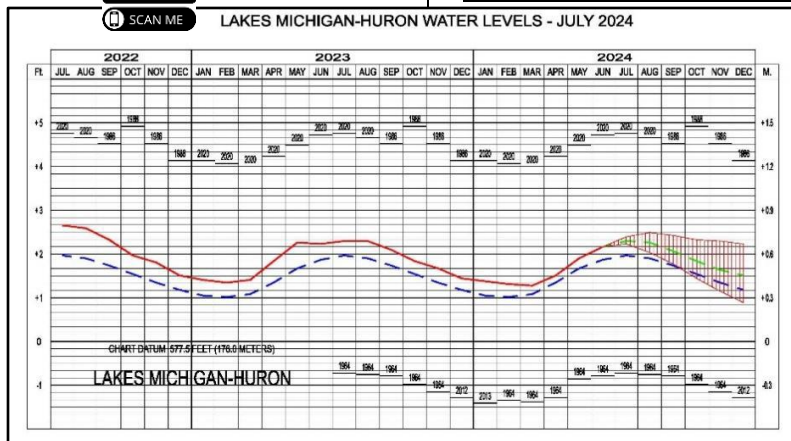
Natural & restored buffers serve critical functions for nature and people - improved wildlife habitat, fishing, and the joy of shore birds. The benefits to the watershed are water quality, lower cost clearing of sediments, and increased wildlife diversity.

Properly functioning buffers can sequester more carbon than annually cropped fields or cool-season pastures. Natural and restored riparian areas improve quality of life for rural & urban citizens. Protect riparian buffers on your property and near the water. We are in a “Goldilocks” time of stable L. Michigan average water level based on observations of 50 years of life alongshore. Bay waters have retreated from record highs. Nature is slowly returning natural beach vegetation. Help it along - plant Marram beach grass Spring and Fall). Add other plants which mimic nature.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT – NEIGHBORLY BEACH WALKING

Now that we’re in the thick of summer, TNN reminds all that the beach along L. Michigan, including East Bay, is private to the statutory Ordinary High Water Mark (“OHWM”). The Supreme Court, in the Glass v. Goeckel decision 15 years ago, established a right for the public to walk alongshore on a “sandy sidewalk”, that portion of the beach where the sand remains wet. Avoid walking inland or engaging in activities other than walking. Dogs should be leashed to not disturb wildlife habitat in the upper part of beaches and bluffs. Dog waste should be picked up, bagged, and taken along (Please).

WATER LEVELS FORECAST JULY 2024 US Army Corps of Engineers – Detroit



Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal rise from May to June. The Lake rose 3 inches to a level of 579.59 feet, which was 4 inches above its June Long Term Average, 1 inch below June 2023 level, and 31 inches below its June record high in 2020.

June precipitation was above average leading to higher runoff and above average water supplies*. Lake Michigan-Huron’s seasonal rise is projected to continue into July. Over the next 6 months, Lake levels are predicted to be within an inch of last year 4 inches above Long Term Average, and 29 to 37 inches below record high. * Combined quantity of precipitation plus runoff minus evaporation. Aka **Net Basin Supply**.



PIPING PLOVERS SEEN AGAIN ON LOCAL BEACH <https://www.greatlakespipingplover.org/> Great Lakes’

shores were once home to nearly 800 pairs of Piping Plovers. That had dropped to 13 in 1990. Decline was due to nest disturbance, predation, habitat deterioration. Piping Plovers were added to Federal Endangered Species list. The protected population has increased to 70 nesting pairs. The Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation Team works for recovery of this unique and delightful shorebird.

(Photo by TNN: East Bay beach near Mitchell Creek)