

7.5 CLARK CREEK

Description

The Clark Creek watershed drains an area of 43.1 square miles in central Dauphin County. The watershed is a long narrow basin approximately 25 miles long with an average width of about 1.5 miles. The stream flows west joining the Susquehanna River northeast of Dauphin Borough. There are no significant tributaries, only small streams draining the steep mountainsides; Third and Stony Mountain to the south and Peters Mountain to the north.

Most of the watershed is forested with a significant amount of land in public ownership. Population density is very low. Located along the mainstem of Clark Creek in Rush Township is the DeHart Dam. Constructed from 1939 to 1940, the dam forms the DeHart Reservoir, a drinking water source the city of Harrisburg and surrounding area. The reservoir has billions of gallons of capacity and has a required conservation release which provides year-round flow. Topography is typical of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province in Pennsylvania. The ridges of the Clark Creek watershed are composed mainly of red and gray sandstone with some conglomerate. The valley is underlain with sandstone and shale.

DEP Classification

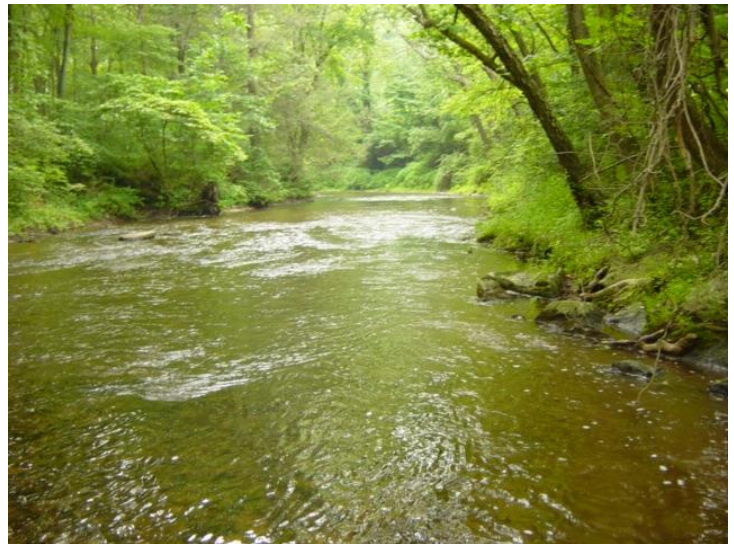
Clark Creek is classified as a High Quality – Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF) designated special protection waters. The creek is also classified as a Trout Stocking Fishery (TSF).

Site Locations

Three sites were located on Clark Creek, all on the main stem. Site CLRK 22.72, furthest upstream was located above the Dehart Dam. CLRK 16.24 was located near the intersection of Clark Creek and The Appalachian Trail. CLRK 01.85 was located furthest downstream at McKelvey Road.

Study Results

The sites all recorded good health scores, with high numbers of total macroinvertebrate types and pollution sensitive types.



Clark Creek before entering the Susquehanna River.

QUICK FACTS

Watershed Size: 43.1 mi² in
Dauphin County

Stream Miles: 46.9

Impaired Stream Miles: 0

Land Uses: Predominantly forested

DEP Stream Classification:

Clark Creek watershed

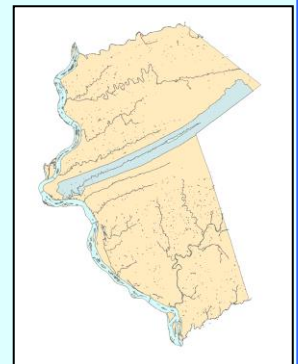
- Cold Water Fishery
- High Quality, Special Protection waters
- Trout Stocking Fishery

DEP Listed Impairments:

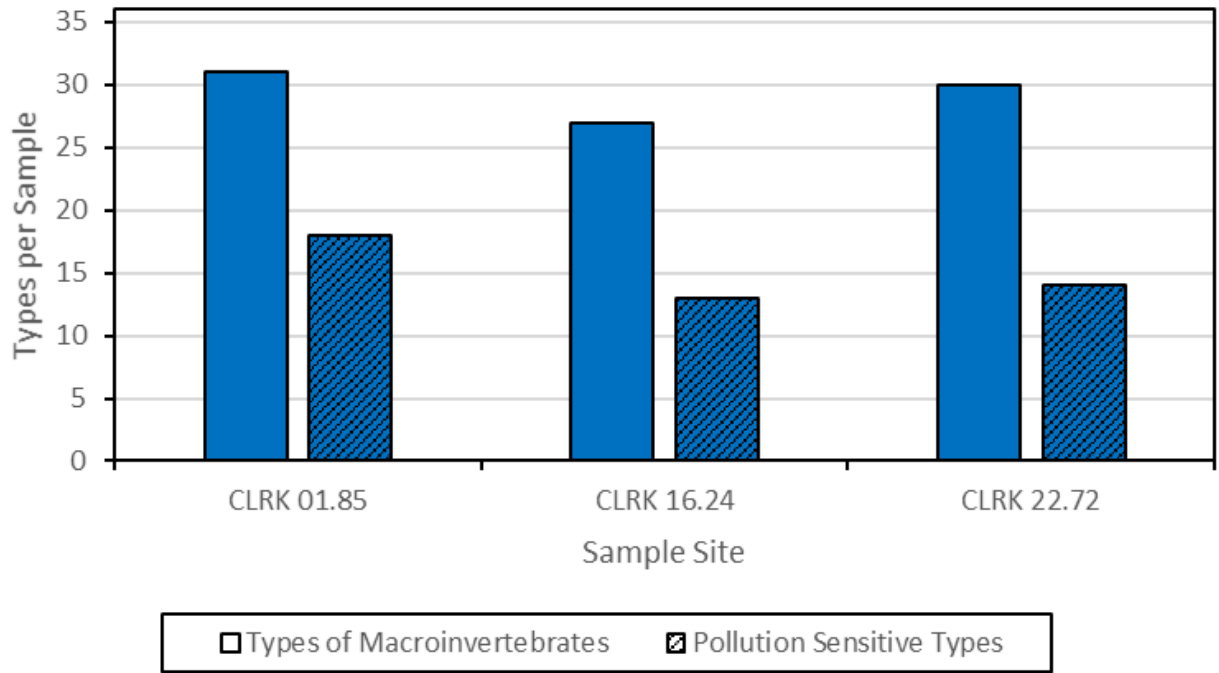
None

Watershed Municipalities:

Jackson Twp, Jefferson Twp, Middle Paxton Twp,
Rush Twp



Clark Creek Watershed Macroinvertebrates



Stream Health:

Good Fair Poor

Clark Creek Watershed Health Scores

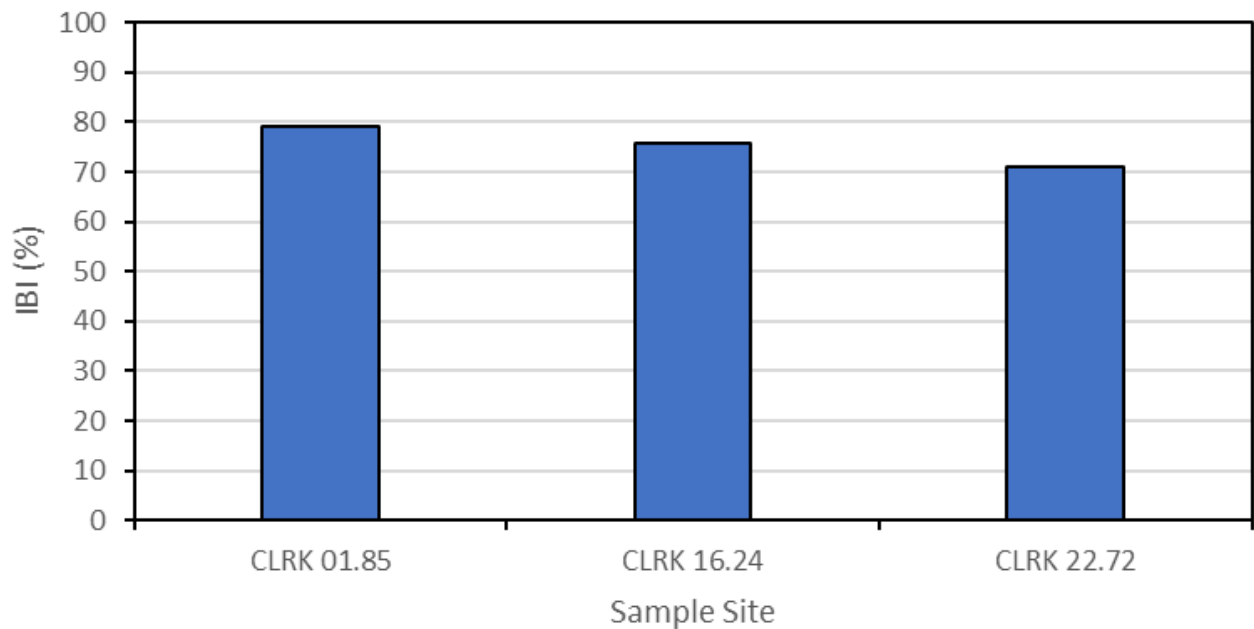
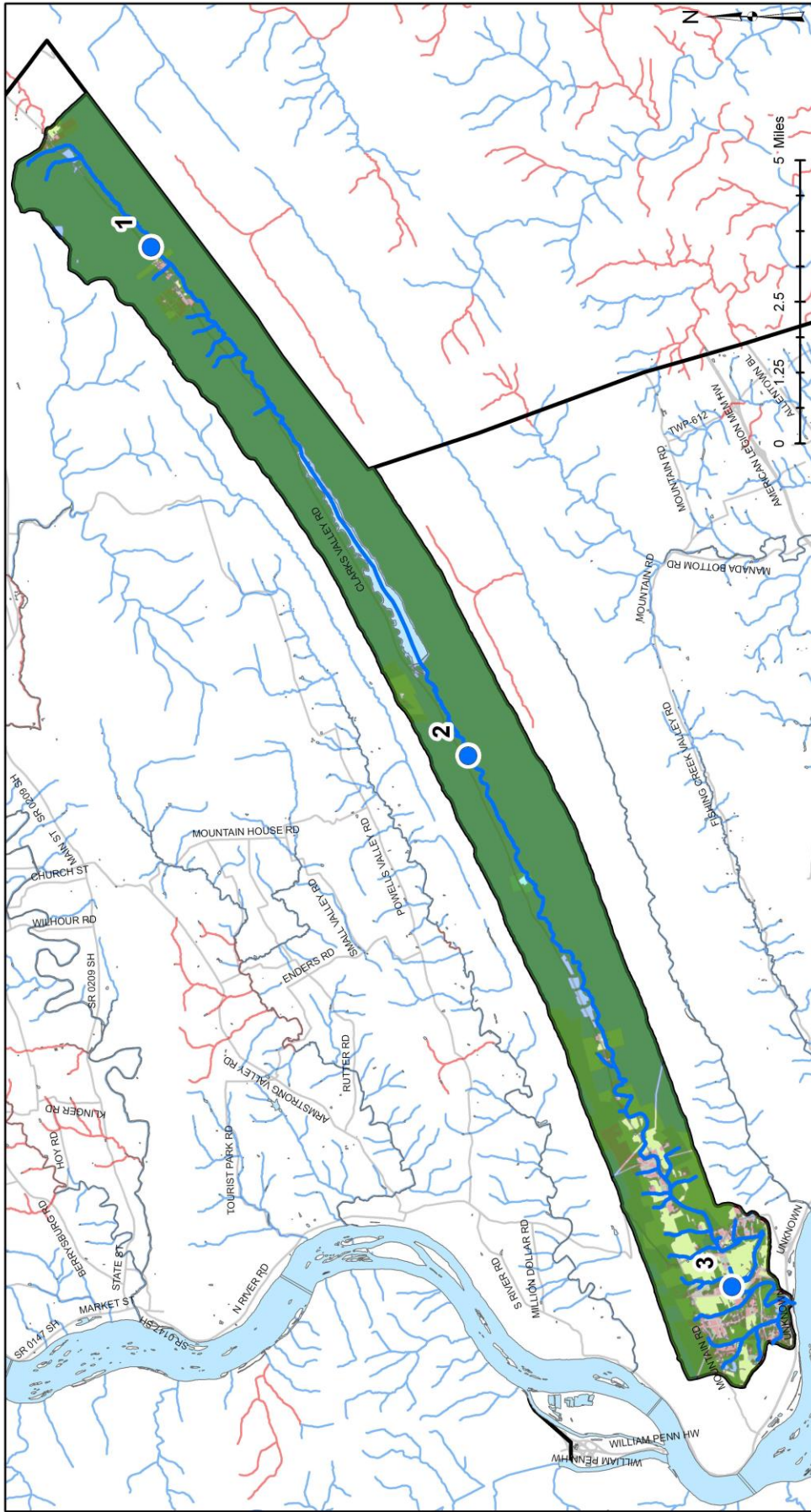


Figure 7.5



Clark Creek Health Rating 2013

Site Number	Sample Site	Health Score	Notes
1	CLRK 22.72	Good	High total macroinvertebrate types / pollution sensitive types
2	CLRK 16.24	Good	High total macroinvertebrate types / pollution sensitive types
3	CLRK 01.85	Good	High total macroinvertebrate types / pollution sensitive types

Existing Land Use

- Agriculture
- Forested*
- Residential
- Hydrology
- Transportation
- Public/Open Space
- Commercial/Industrial
- ~ Impaired streams
- ~ Non-impaired streams

DCCD Stream Health Rating

- Good
- Fair
- Poor

