



CITY OF JOHNSTON
SURFACE WATER
MONITORING
APRIL 2016 WATER QUALITY MONITORING
SUMMARY

PREPARED BY:
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JUNE 2016

2016 Data Collection

This represents the fourth year of collection and analysis of water samples from surface waters at selected locations in Johnston. The attached report from James Luzier with the University of Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory provides an analysis of the samples collected on April 28, 2016. Below is a summary of the twelve collection locations and summary of historic collection data to supplement Mr. Luzier's report.

Collection Sites

In total, collections are pulled from ten sites throughout the community to allow for an analysis of changes to water quality over time. These locations have been identified as key locations for drainage in/through Johnston and many represent locations up or downstream from planned construction projects.

In 2016, one new collection site was added at the pond at the newly constructed Greenwood Hills Pond (Site #12) located west of NW 86th Street. This pond construction was completed in 2015 following a more than \$3 million investment in constructing the pond and stabilizing the upstream channel which had been suffering from extreme erosion. Data from this site, and site C#2, which is downstream of the pond along Foxboro Road will allow a tracking of the water quality improvements in this basin as a result of the Greenwood Hills Pond project as well as a pending Green Meadows West Channel Stabilization project scheduled in 2017.

All location sites are shown on the map included on Page 9, a summary of each site is also included on Page 10.

Data Summary

The data tables below include the results of all nine datasets collected to date: April 9, July 15, and October 9, 2013; April 8, 2014; July 2, 2014; October 7, 2014, April 16, July 8, and October 5, 2015; and April 28, 2016.

Analytes

***E.coli* Bacteria**

Site	Site Description	Analyte	4/09/13	7/15/13	10/09/13	4/08/14	7/2/14	10/7/14	4/16/15	7/8/15	10/5/15	4/28/16
#1	Beaver Creek @ Merle Hay Rd	E.coli	330	380	570	41	1200	710	63	1600	450	1200
#2	Green Meadows West @ Foxboro Rd	E.coli	3300	1400	480	31	930	370	110	680	160	1500
#3	"Waterford Creek" @ NW 86 th St	E.coli	210	<10	180	20	1400	340	74	420	40	260
#4	Beaver Creek Elementary @ NW 86 th St	E.coli	460	1500	130	52	630	120	450	840	60	620
#5	NW 86 th Street south of NW 70 th Ave	E.coli	530	570	31	<10	390	600	200	700	280	530
#6	Little Beaver Creek @ NW 86 th Street	E.coli	420	250	400	<10	4900	500	400	4600	300	1300
#7	NW 59 th St near Maurice's	E.coli	1600	220	NF	470	630	86	NF	410	90	960
#8	Johnston Dr @ Prairie Point Crossing	E.coli	2500	610	340	5500	620	190	10	280	100	660
#11	Crescent Chase @ NW 62 nd Avenue	E.coli	--	--	--	210	1300	270	63	1900	770	710
TL	Terra Lake	E.coli	--	--	--	--	--	--	<10	110	<10	150
#12	Greenwood Hills Pond	E.coli	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5500

E. Coli Results

E. Coli are indicator bacteria monitored for water quality purposes to indicate the presence and level of animal or human waste. *E. Coli* are found in the gut of warm-blooded animals (birds and mammals). Bacteria levels can be highly variable and levels are often dependent on precipitation, with spikes in levels often occurring during and shortly after precipitation events as runoff transports the bacteria into drainage ways and streams. Other inputs in the absence of recent precipitation could include direct deposition by animals (wild or domestic) or faulty septic or sewer systems.

Of the sites monitored, only Beaver Creek has a stream classification established by the DNR. Beaver Creek is classified as an A3 Children's Recreational Use, which reflects the fact that the creek flows adjacent to residential lots and through public park areas where access is possible. The bacteria standard for A3 streams is a maximum of 235 MPN/100 ml (Most Probable Number per 100 milliliters) of *E.coli* bacteria.

Nitrate + Nitrite Nitrogen as N

Site	Site Description	Analyte	4/09/13	7/15/13	10/09/13	4/8/14	7/2/14	10/7/14	4/16/15	7/8/15	10/5/15	4/28/16
#1	Beaver Creek @ Merle Hay Rd	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	0.48	15.0	1.9	0.26	8.0	14.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	6.5
#2	Green Meadows West @ Foxboro Rd	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	0.86	1.8	1.1	0.46	3.2	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.0	0.62
#3	"Waterford Creek" @ NW 86 th St	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	0.21	8.7	0.84	0.19	1.7	2.0	3.2	0.78	1.3	0.81
#4	Beaver Creek Elementary @ NW 86 th	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	1.6	2.8	2.9	1.3	4.6	3.0	1.8	3.3	2.8	2.2
#5	NW 86 th Street south of NW 70 th Ave	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	<0.10	5.6	1.9	0.48	4.5	2.7	1.8	2.2	1.6	0.67
#6	Little Beaver Creek @ NW 86 th Street	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	3.4	9.6	12	7.2	10.0	11	6.0	8.7	8.1	5.1
#7	NW 59 th St near Maurice's	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	0.62	0.26	NF	1.2	2.1	0.60	NF	<0.10	0.30	0.16
#8	Johnston Dr @ Prairie Point Crossing	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	1.9	5.2	6.0	4.7	3.2	3.7	5.4	2.6	3.4	1.6
#11	Crescent Chase @ NW 62 nd Avenue	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	--	--	--	<0.10	2.4	0.98	0.61	1.1	0.90	0.70
TL	Terra Lake	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	--	--	--	--	--	--	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.1
#12	Greenwood Hills Pond	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.71

This analyte is the total amount of nitrogen present as nitrate and nitrite in the sample. Since nitrite relatively quickly converts into nitrate, this is for practical purposes a measurement of the amount of nitrate in the sample. Nitrate is a nutrient commonly found in fertilizer and human and animal waste. Nitrate is regulated only for water bodies that are designated as drinking water sources, such as the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers in the Des Moines area. For reference, the regulatory limit for drinking water sources is 10 mg/l and Des Moines Water Works activates its nitrate removal equipment when levels at their intakes exceed 9 mg/l.

pH

Site	Site Description	Analyte	4/9/13	7/15/13	10/9/13	4/8/14	7/2/14	10/7/14	4/16/15	7/8/15	10/5/15	4/28/16
#1	Beaver Creek @ Merle Hay Rd	pH	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.5	7.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.3	8.2
#2	Green Meadows West @ Foxboro Rd	pH	7.8	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.8
#3	"Waterford Creek" @ NW 86 th St	pH	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9
#4	Beaver Creek Elementary @ NW 86 th St	pH	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.2	8.2
#5	NW 86 th Street south of NW 70 th Ave	pH	8.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.8	8.0	7.4	8.2	7.7	8.3
#6	Little Beaver Creek @ NW 86 th Street	pH	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.9	7.6	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.4	8.2
#7	NW 59 th St near Maurice's	pH	7.6	7.7	NF	7.7	7.6	8.2	NF	7.7	8.0	7.8
#8	Johnston Dr @ Prairie Point Crossing	pH	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.5	7.8	7.7	8.1	7.7	7.6	7.6
#11	Crescent Chase @ NW 62 nd Avenue	pH	--	--	--	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.0
TL	Terra Lake	pH	--	--	--	--	--	--	8.4	8.8	9.4	8.8
#12	Greenwood Hills Pond	pH	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7.6

pH is a measure of how acidic or basic a substance is, with 7 being neutral and lower levels than that indicating increasing acidity and higher numbers indicating how alkaline something is. For reference, baking soda has a pH of 8, ammonia 11, bleach 13. Concrete washout has a pH of about 12. On the acidic side of the scale, orange or tomato juice is 4 and vinegar is 3. The pH of rainfall can be very variable but is typically acidic in the range of 5 to 6 on the pH scale. Most drinking water is adjusted during treatment to be approximately neutral (close to 7).

Most Iowa surface waters are slightly basic due to the effect of the local limestone geology and have a pH of in the range of 8.0 to 8.5; however several of the streams monitored in Johnston have shown averages between 7 and 8. None of the results thus far are far outside normal ranges but it is important to note trends so that any atypical results from future sampling will be more easily spotted.

Total Phosphorus as P

Site	Site Description	Analyte	4/9/13	7/15/13	10/9/13	4/8/14	7/2/14	10/7/14	4/16/15	7/8/15	10/5/15	4/28/16
#1	Beaver Creek @ Merle Hay Rd	Total Phosphorus as P	0.18	0.12	0.25	0.17	0.49	0.19	0.09	0.45	0.18	0.29
#2	Green Meadows West @ Foxboro Rd	Total Phosphorus as P	0.15	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.10	0.04	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.06
#3	"Waterford Creek" @ NW 86 th St	Total Phosphorus as P	0.07	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.14	0.08	0.14	0.15	0.11	0.08
#4	Beaver Creek Elementary @ NW 86 th St	Total Phosphorus as P	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.50	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.05
#5	NW 86 th Street south of NW 70 th Ave	Total Phosphorus as P	0.06	0.02	<0.02	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.08	0.08
#6	Little Beaver Creek @ NW 86 th Street	Total Phosphorus as P	0.54	0.37	1.0	0.72	0.30	0.28	1.0	0.30	0.46	0.26
#7	NW 59 th St near Maurice's	Total Phosphorus as P	0.13	0.11	ND	0.18	0.20	0.08	NF	0.18	0.09	0.16
#8	Johnston Dr @ Prairie Point Crossing	Total Phosphorus as P	0.17	0.05	0.06	0.10	0.17	0.07	0.15	0.13	0.09	0.12
#11	Crescent Chase @ NW 62 nd Avenue	Total Phosphorus as P	--	--	--	0.05	0.13	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.10	0.05
TL	Terra Lake	Total Phosphorus as P	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.04	0.08	0.07	0.07
#12	Greenwood Hills Pond	Total Phosphorus as P	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.13

Phosphorus is an unregulated nutrient that is present in animal waste, decomposing organic matter and many commercial fertilizers. High levels can lead to algae blooms and undesirable levels of plant growth, especially in standing water such as ponds and lakes. Phosphorus attaches to soil particles, meaning that high levels of phosphorus can also be an indirect indicator of possible soil erosion. There are currently no regulatory levels for phosphorus in Iowa but for reference when considering the data, the EPA recommended maximum levels for total phosphorus is approximately 0.08 mg/l for flowing streams and 0.04 mg/l for standing waters and reservoirs in this ecoregion.

Total Suspended Solids

Site	Site Description	Analyte	4/9/13	7/15/13	10/9/13	4/8/14	7/2/14	10/7/14	4/16/15	7/8/15	10/5/15	4/28/16
#1	Beaver Creek @ Merle Hay Rd	Total Suspended Solids	50	14	20	8	80	59	21	110	42	190
#2	Green Meadows West @ Foxboro Rd	Total Suspended Solids	88	1	1	3	8	2	4	6	1	17
#3	"Waterford Creek" @ NW 86th St	Total Suspended Solids	10	<1	2	2	14	2	8	13	<1	8
#4	Beaver Creek Elementary @ NW 86th St	Total Suspended Solids	35	<1	<1	4	5	<1	8	2	<1	17
#5	NW 86th Street south of NW 70th Ave	Total Suspended Solids	7	1	3	3	17	3	2	16	4	42
#6	Little Beaver Creek @ NW 86th Street	Total Suspended Solids	18	3	5	4	40	3	5	44	3	73
#7	NW 59th St near Maurice's	Total Suspended Solids	10	5	NF	6	7	2	NF	3	<1	16
#8	Johnston Dr @ Prairie Point Crossing	Total Suspended Solids	26	<1	<1	7	4	<1	9	2	<1	19
#11	Crescent Chase @ NW 62 nd Avenue	Total Suspended Solids	--	--	--	22	42	5	16	50	4	11
TL	Terra Lake	Total Suspended Solids	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	16	6	3
#12	Greenwood Hills Pond	Total Suspended Solids	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60

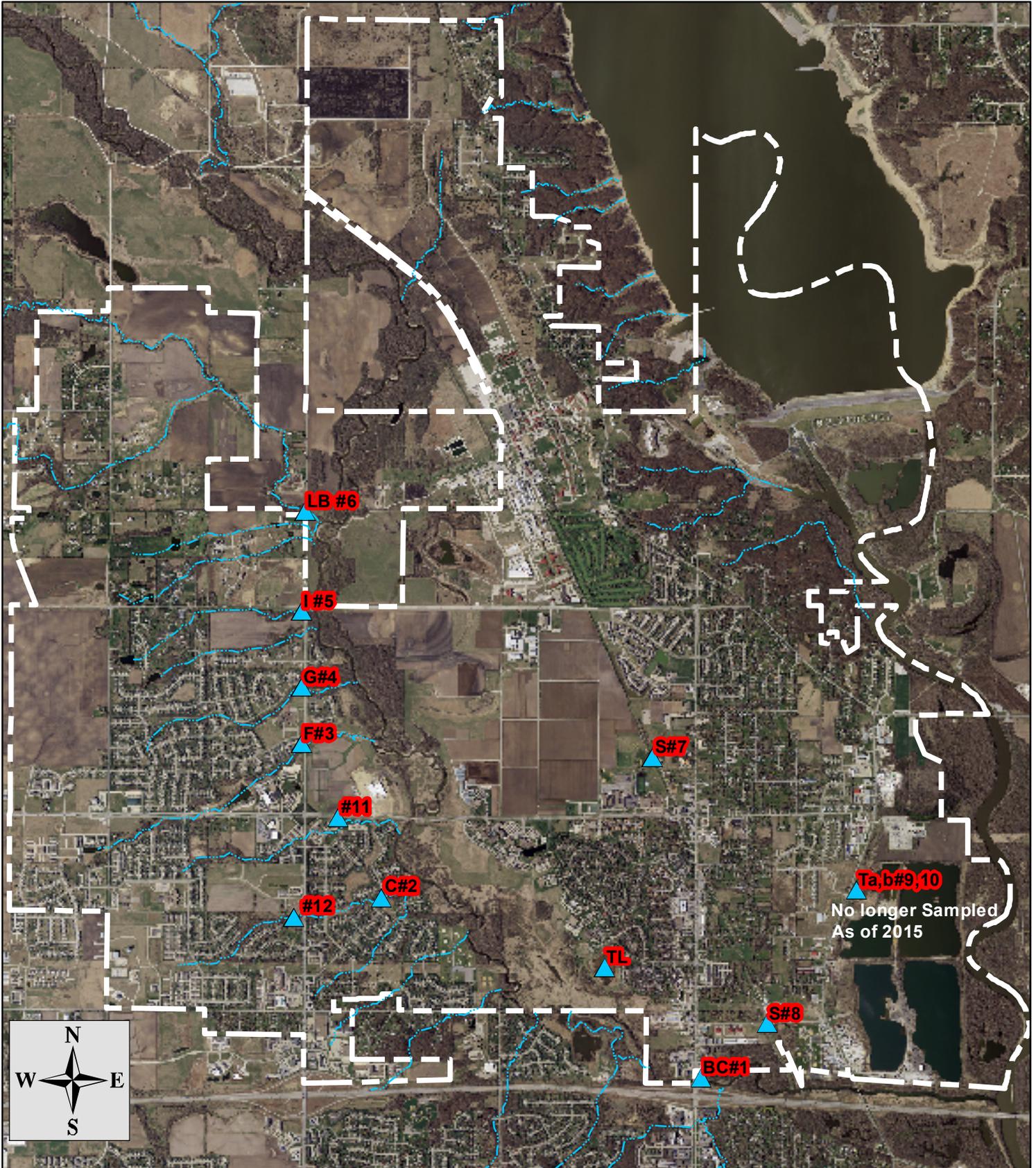
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) is a measure of the amount of solid (undissolved) particles present in water samples. High TSS levels are usually an indicator of active soil erosion upstream. There are no regulatory levels for surface waters in Iowa, but high TSS levels can silt in streams, ponds and lakes and increase the cost of drinking water treatment through the need for increased filtration and chlorination.

Turbidity

Site	Site Description	Analyte	4/9/13	7/15/13	10/9/13	4/8/14	7/2/14	10/7/14	4/16/15	7/8/15	10/5/15	4/23/16
#1	Beaver Creek @ Merle Hay Rd	Turbidity	25	7.1	12	4.0	51	28	8.2	61	21	65
#2	Green Meadows West @ Foxboro Rd	Turbidity	38	1.4	1.2	2.6	4.0	2.8	3.3	5.5	2.4	14
#3	"Waterford Creek" @ NW 86th St	Turbidity	10	<1.0	2.5	2.0	16	1.7	4.3	8.4	1.6	5.4
#4	Beaver Creek Elementary @ NW 86th St	Turbidity	19	<1.0	<1.0	2.1	1.4	<1.0	2.2	1.2	<1.0	6.8
#5	NW 86th Street south of NW 70th Ave	Turbidity	5.2	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	8.0	2.2	<1.0	10	1.7	22
#6	Little Beaver Creek @ NW 86th Street	Turbidity	7.8	1.5	3.5	1.9	27	2.8	1.8	25	2.0	45
#7	NW 59th St near Maurice's	Turbidity	11	1.5	NF	8.1	9.2	4.2	NF	4.6	1.5	17
#8	Johnston Dr @ Prairie Point Crossing	Turbidity	20	<1.0	<1.0	8.5	5.4	<1.0	2.1	2.1	<1.0	20
#11	Crescent Chase @ NW 62 nd Avenue	Turbidity	--	--	--	14	17	2.7	3.2	22	2.4	7.6
TL	Terra Lake	Turbidity	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.9	8.2	4.0	3.6
#12	Greenwood Hills Pond	Turbidity	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	100

Turbidity is a measure of water clarity and is measured in NTU's (Nephelometric Turbidity Units). In this measurement of clarity, lower numbers indicate higher water clarity (as a reference, treated drinking water is low as required to meet a turbidity standard of 0.3 NTU's in at least 95% of samples, and no single sample can exceed 1 NTU). Turbidity, like TSS, is often an indicator of active erosion but can indicate the presence of other pollutants as well.

Watershed Sampling Sites



The following is a brief description of each testing site:

BC # 1 - Beaver Creek at Merle Hay Road – this sub-watershed is the largest identified in Johnston. It gives us a sample location prior to contribution from the east side of Johnston.

C # 2 - Green Meadows West at Foxboro – this is the location of the sanitary sewer repair and the highest % of impervious of all the proposed sampling areas. Is also part of the downstream drainage area for proposed Greenwood Hills Greenbelt project, allowing for pre, during and post construction sampling.

F # 3 - “Waterford Creek” at NW 86th Street – the first of three sites along NW 86th Street, each of which is at a different stage of development. Developed sites that would be considered with this sample location: Waterford, Century Woods and west. Eastward of this location, the Pioneer fields have experienced erosion damage from increased flow.

G # 4 - Beaver Creek Elementary School at NW 86th Street – this site drains to the Augustine development which has also experienced erosion damage due to increased flow. This channel is scheduled for improvements in 2022.

I # 5 - NW 70th Avenue at NW 86th Street – this area north of the Green Meadows North neighborhood is poised for development with the former Simpson property and the Bright Trust allowing for sample prior, during and after development.

LB # 6 - Little Beaver Creek at NW 86th Street –sampling of Little Beaver Creek before the confluence with Beaver Creek providing an understanding of impairments that are occurring outside and “above” Johnston in the larger Beaver Creek watershed.

S # 7 - NW 59th Street at Northglenn (drainage ditch near Maurices) – area with known drainage challenges. Monitoring this location will also provide upstream data to compare to the Prairie Pointe Crossing site in the same subwatershed.

S # 8 - Johnston Drive at Prairie Point Crossing –Monitoring this site will also provide a downstream data to the NW 59th Street location in the same sub watershed as well as an analysis of stormwater quality for an area that currently doesn’t have sanitary sewer service.

T # 9 and 10 – Storm-ceptor at NW Beaver Drive (2 sampling locations) –Sampling Discontinued in 2015 at this site due to regular lack of flow.

TL – Terra Lake – a newly renovated pond in a public park that is primarily groundwater fed via well but sampling could give a good baseline as to groundwater contaminants. Also this newer pond includes a forebay that is intended to capture some runoff from the great lawn and clean it before entering the pond. Fish were stocked in 2015 and sampling will help determine the health of the ecosystem here.

#12 – Greenwood Hills Greenbelt – Newly renovated drainage basin with new best management practices in place as of 2015. Sampling at this location could show how use of said practices influences runoff quality in an urban stream corridor. This drainage way is a typical scenario replicated in Johnston in several basins. If retrofits work well this could be a template for how to address urban stream quality in other areas in town.



David R. Wilwerding, AICP
Community Development Director
City of Johnston
6221 Merle Hay Road – P.O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131

June 9, 2016

Dear Mr. Wilwerding,

The State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa (SHL) collected water samples at eleven sites in the City of Johnston on April 28, 2016. Included with this report is a summary table of the results, pictures and notes from each site, and an appendix with reports generated from our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

According to the National Weather Service station KDSM at the Des Moines International Airport, the low temperature for the day was 46° F and the high temperature was 60° F. Month-to-date precipitation was reported as 2.49 inches, which is below the average of 3.54 inches. Measureable precipitation on the day of sample collection was 0.01 inches of rain. Conditions were overcast most of the day.

Samples were collected with an HDPE sampling bucket and split into the appropriate sample containers. Samples were preserved as required per method and placed into a cooler with ice immediately after collection. The pH was measured in the field immediately after sample collection using a portable pH meter. All other analyses were performed at the SHL. Photographs were taken of each site and any pertinent field observations were recorded.

Water samples were analyzed for pH, total phosphorus, *E. coli*, nitrate + nitrite nitrogen, total suspended solids, and turbidity. The pH ranged from 7.6 to 8.8, total phosphorus ranged from 0.05 mg/L to 0.29 mg/L, *E. coli* ranged from 150 MPN/100 ml to 5,500 MPN/100 ml, nitrate + nitrite nitrogen ranged from <0.01 mg/L to 6.5 mg/L, total suspended solids ranged from 3 mg/L to 190 mg/L, and turbidity ranged from 3.6 NTU to 100 NTU.

A field blank was collected using lab pure water and was analyzed for the same analyses as the water samples. All results for the field blank were less than the detection limit for the respective analyte.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James M. Luzier

James M. Luzier
Limnologist

Table 1. Water quality results for samples collected from 11 sites in the City of Johnston on April 28, 2016.

Site Name	Site Description	Accession Number	pH (no units)	Total Phosphorus as P (mg/L)	<i>E. coli</i> (MPN/100ml)	Nitrate + Nitrite Nitrogen as N (mg/L)	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)
S#11	Crescent Chase at NW 62 nd Ave	371701	8.0	0.05	710	0.70	11	7.6
S#12	Greenwood Hills Greenbelt	371703	7.6	0.13	5500	0.71	60	100
BC#1	Beaver Creek at Merle Hay Rd	371698	8.2	0.29	1200	6.5	190	65
C#2	Green Meadows West at Foxboro Rd	371702	7.8	0.06	1500	0.62	17	14
F3#	Waterford Creek at NW 86 th St	371707	7.9	0.08	260	0.81	8	5.4
G#4	Beaver Creek Elementary at NW 86 th St	371706	8.2	0.05	620	2.2	17	6.8
I#5	NW 70 th Ave at NW 86 th St	371704	8.3	0.08	530	0.67	42	22
LB#6	Little Beaver Creek at NW 86 th St	371705	8.2	0.26	1300	5.1	73	45
S#7	NW 59 th St at Northglenn	371700	7.8	0.16	960	0.16	16	17
S#8	Johnston Drive at Prairie Point Crossing	371697	7.6	0.12	660	1.6	19	20
Terra Lake	Terra Lake	371699	8.8	0.07	150	<0.1	3	3.6

Site Pictures and Field Notes



Figure 1. Looking downstream from Site 11 on 28 April 2016. Collector's comments: "At the sample site the water was flowing and clear. Trash was present in the stream."



Figure 2. Looking upstream from Site 11 on 28 April 2016.



Figure 3. Looking downstream from Site 12 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "Water was clear at the sample site."



Figure 4. Looking downstream from Site 12 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 5. Looking downstream from Site BC1 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "At the sampling site the water was turbid and had high flow."



Figure 6. Looking upstream from Site BC1 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 7. Looking downstream from Site C2 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "At the sample site the water was clear and flowing with filamentous algae present."

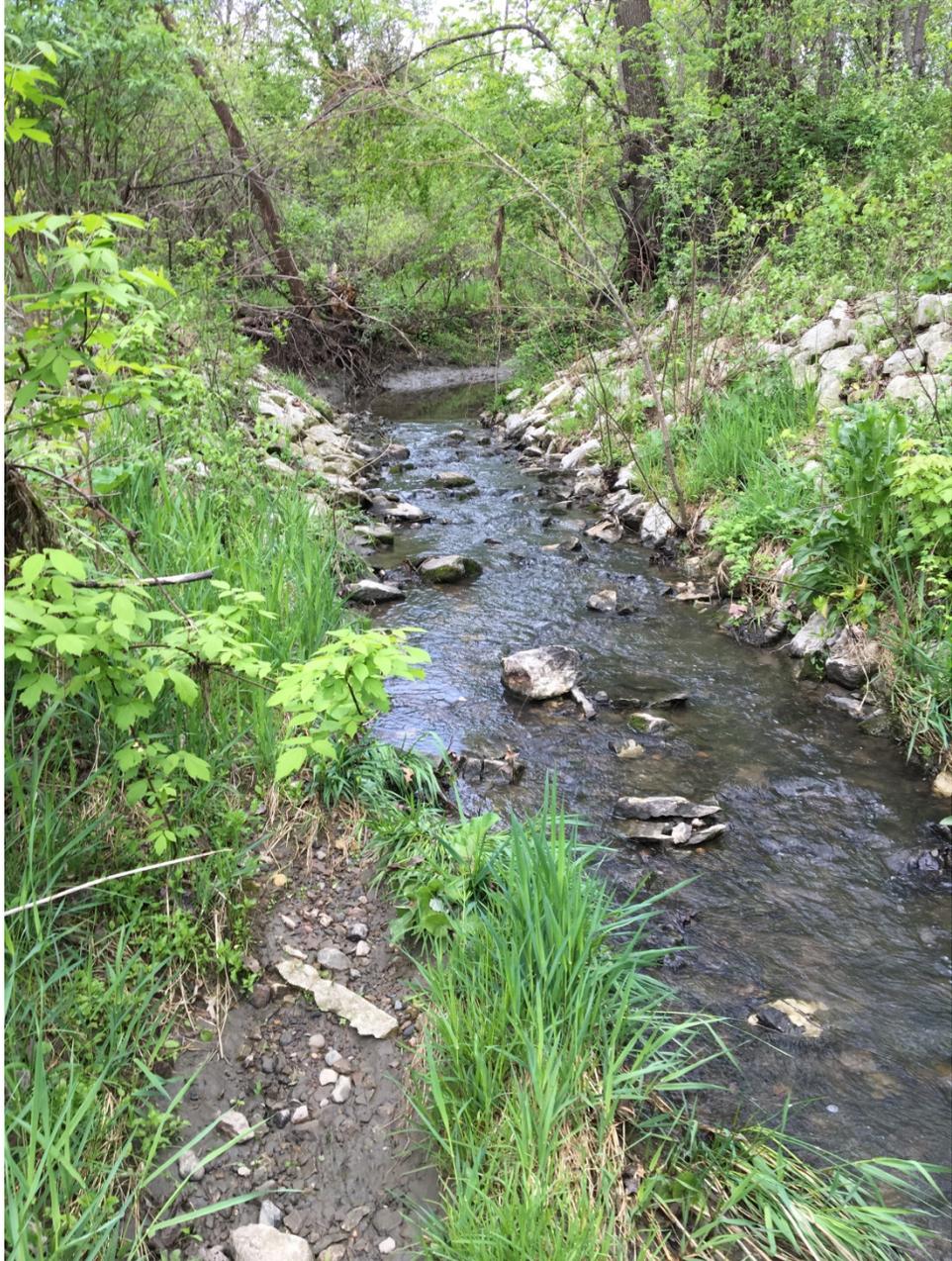


Figure 8. Looking upstream from Site C2 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 9. Site F3 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "Water at the site was fairly clear and was flowing slowly."



Figure 10. Looking downstream from site G4 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "Water at the sample site was clear and flowing slowly."



Figure 11. Looking upstream from site G4 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 12. Looking downstream from site I5 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "Water at the sample site was flowing quickly and was slightly turbid."



Figure 13. Looking upstream from site I5 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 14. Looking downstream from site LB6 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "Water at the site was flowing quickly and was slightly turbid."



Figure 15. Looking upstream from site LB6 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 16. Looking downstream from site S7 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "At the sample site the water was flowing steady and was slightly turbid with filamentous algae present."



Figure 17. Looking upstream from site S7 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 18. Algae observed at site S7 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 19. Looking downstream from site S8 on April 28, 2016. Collector's comments: "At sampling site the water was slightly turbid and flowing quickly with garbage present."



Figure 20. Looking upstream from site S8 on April 28, 2016.



Figure 21. Looking south from the Terra Lake sampling location on April 28, 2016. Collector's comment: "At the sample site the water was clear with filamentous algae present."



Figure 22. Looking north from the Terra Lake sampling location on April 28, 2016.



Figure 23. Algae observed at the Terra Lake sampling location on April 28, 2016.