2019 Waterwatch Water Quality Site Summary Report

Site Name and Description

ME_YFM980 Five Mile Creek, Upstream of Moonee Ponds Creek Confluence.

Monitors: Five Mile Creek Waterwatch Group.

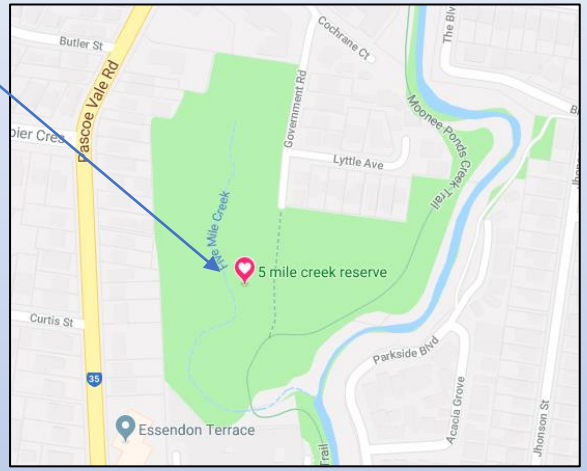
Site Introduction

Five Mile creek is predominantly an underground storm water drain. Coming to the surface as a short winding creek at Five Mile Creek Reserve, it meets with Moonee Ponds Creek.

Fed by the surrounding suburban area, including Woodlands Park wetland, the creek is an indicator of storm water usage by residents and businesses. In the past there have been high readings of turbidity, detergents and nutrients, which have a detrimental health impact on the aquatic life within the creek as well as negative amenity for the community. At times the creek appears dirty looking and smelly.

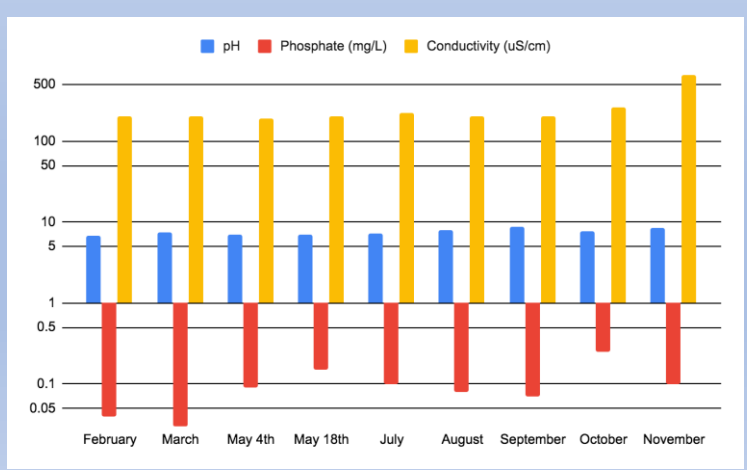
Objectives of the sampling:

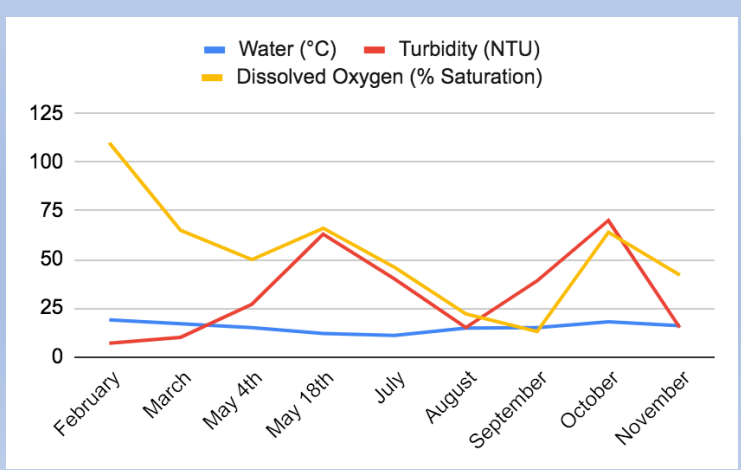
Track the health of the creek over time.
Identify pollution events and report to the EPA.
Enhance understanding of local usage.



Monthly Parameters

- Temperature
- Turbidity (muddiness)
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Reactive Phosphate
- Ammonium
- pH
- Electrical Conductivity (salinity)





Summary

In 2019 we found evidence of a creek in relatively poor condition, with high turbidity (>15 NTU) and phosphate levels (>0.1 mg/L), and low dissolved oxygen (<80% saturation) readings observed.
Electrical conductivity remained constant except for a spike (660 uS /cm) in November that was three times greater than previously recorded data (190-260).
pH ranged between 6.8 - 8.6, slightly on the high side.

Waterwatch Data portal

To view more data at this site for other years, go to the WW data portal site: ME_YFM980