

# **White Clay Creek State of the Watershed**

**White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River  
Management Committee  
London Britain Township, PA**

**Jan 9, 2007**

# Data Analysis:

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University of Delaware, IPA, Water Resources Agency

## Delaware River Basin



## Christina River Basin



## White Clay Creek Watershed



## Cool Run Watershed

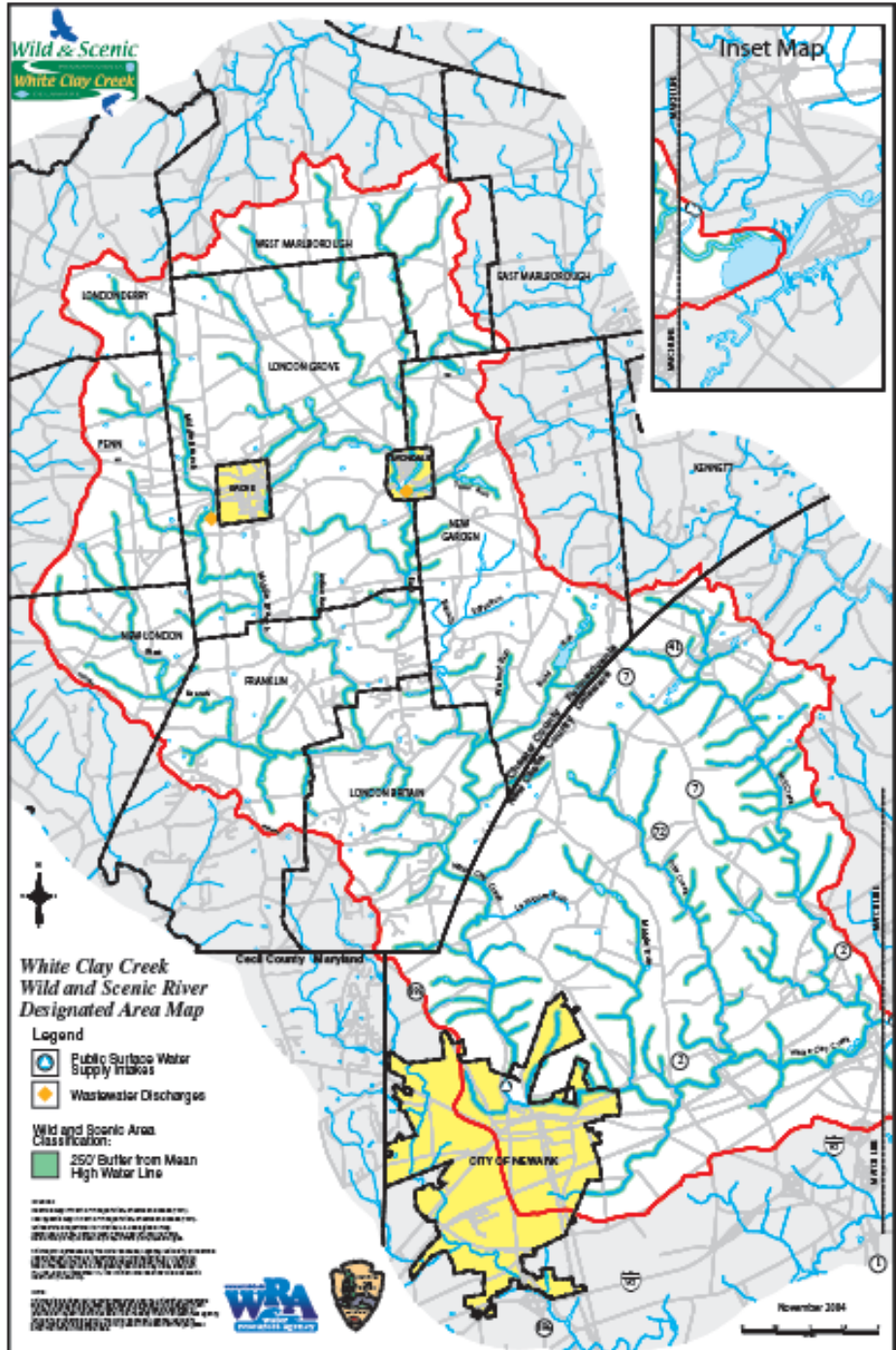


## UD Rain Garden

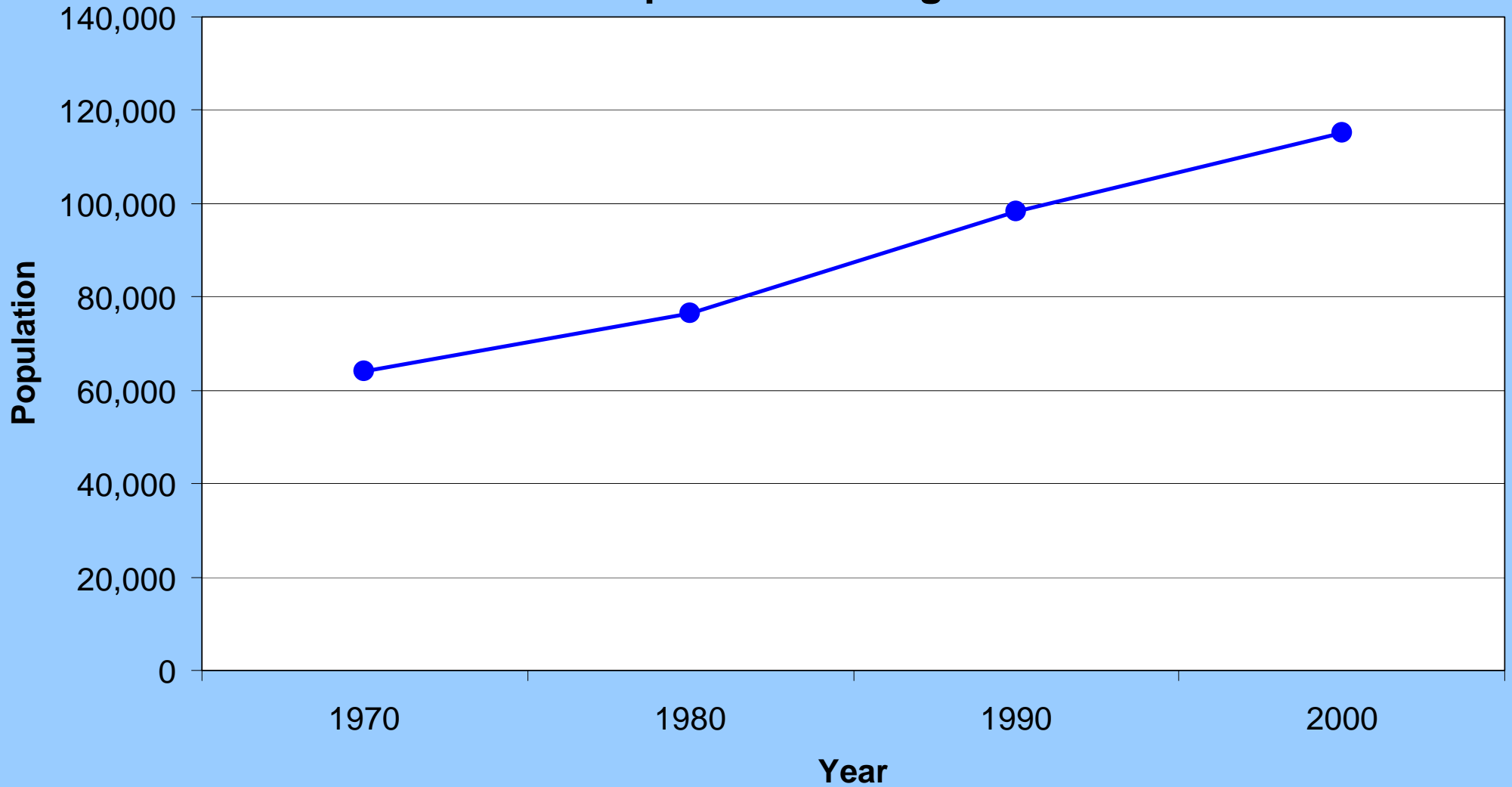


The UD Rain Garden, although small in stature, is part of a complex watershed system, ranging in increasing scale from the small Cool Run tributary, to the White Clay Creek watershed, to the Christina Basin, and finally to the Delaware River Basin. The UD Rain Garden is situated in the headwaters of Cool Run, a small, ephemeral stream that flows south past the Perkins Student Center and then under the Amtrak railroad tracks to the UD Agricultural Farm on its way to join White Clay Creek. As the UD campus developed, the stream has been manipulated and rerouted, sometimes into an underground pipe, as illustrated by the dashed blue line.

White Clay Creek, Delaware's only National Wild and Scenic River, is the first to be designated on a watershed basis instead of a single-river-segment basis. The 108-square-mile White Clay Creek watershed is an important source of drinking water for Newark's residents and is one of only six trout streams in Delaware. It is one of the four major streams in a larger watershed called the Christina River Basin. The White Clay Creek and sister watersheds Brandywine Creek, Red Clay Creek, and Christina River originate upstream in Pennsylvania before flowing through New Castle County, Delaware, on their way to the Delaware River. The Christina River Basin is, in turn, part of a larger watershed, the five-state Delaware River Basin, which includes parts of Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

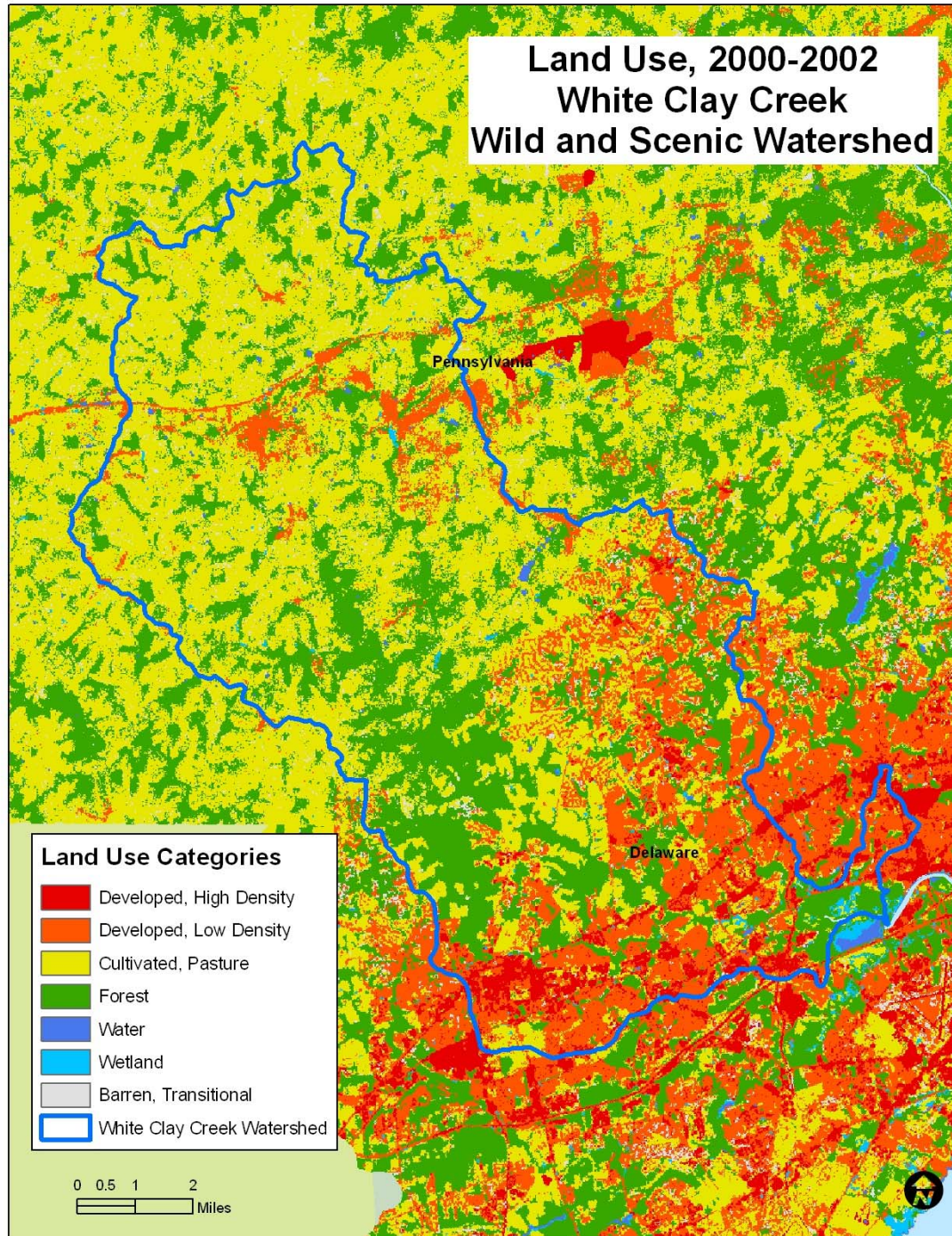


## White Clay Creek Watershed Population Change

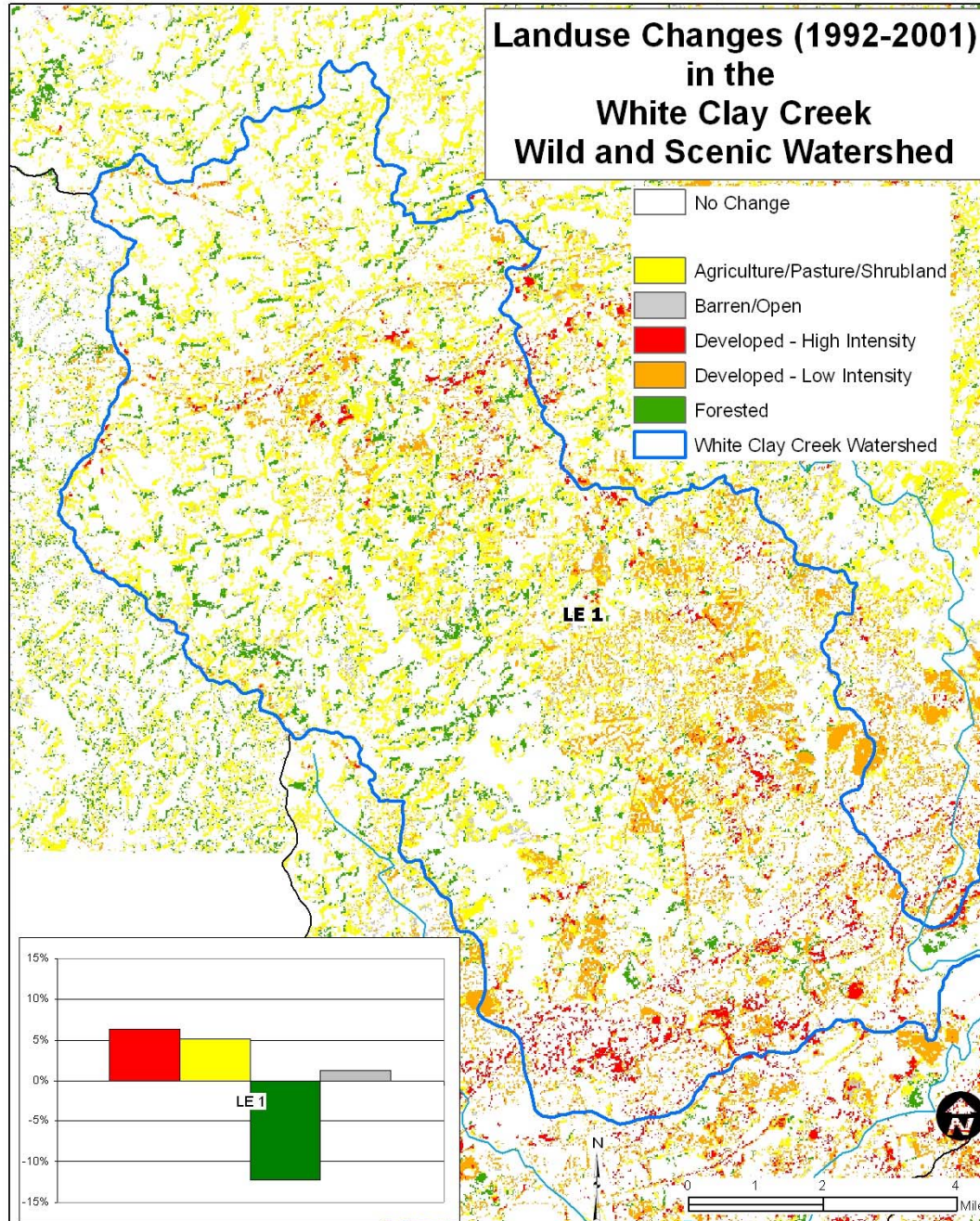


<b>WCC Population</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
EAST BR. ABOVE AVONDALE	4,728	4,932	5,461	7,297
EAST BR. BELOW AVONDALE	3,060	3,827	4,902	7,282
MAIN STEM ABOVE DELAWARE PARK	20,843	22,739	27,282	27,996
MAIN STEM ABOVE NEWARK	4,100	7,411	9,133	8,877
MAIN STEM AT CHURCHMANS MARSH	9,434	9,085	8,872	9,353
MIDDLE BRANCH	2,774	3,571	4,458	5,639
MIDDLE RUN	2,406	3,603	4,578	4,509
MILL CREEK	11,769	14,717	22,762	27,299
PIKE CREEK	5,040	6,546	10,744	16,804
	<b>64,153</b>	<b>76,431</b>	<b>98,193</b>	<b>115,056</b>

# Land Use, 2000-2002 White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Watershed



# Landuse Changes (1992-2001) in the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Watershed





**Table 3: Characteristics of the Delineated Source Water Area for the City of Newark Intake on the White Clay Creek**

Characteristic	Description
Source Water	White Clay Creek
Total Source Water Area	DE 7 sq. mi. (10 %) PA 61 sq. mi. (90 %) <u>MD less than 1 sq. mi</u> Total 68 sq. mi. (100 %)
Total Source Water Area Land Use	Urban/Suburban 12 sq.mi. (18 %) Agriculture 34 sq.mi. (50 %) Wooded/Open Space 22 sq. mi. (32 %)
States	Delaware Pennsylvania Maryland
Counties	New Castle County, DE Chester County, PA Cecil County, MD
Municipalities	Newark, DE Avondale, PA West Grove, PA

# White Clay Creek above Newark

Figure 3: Land Use in Level 1A & B

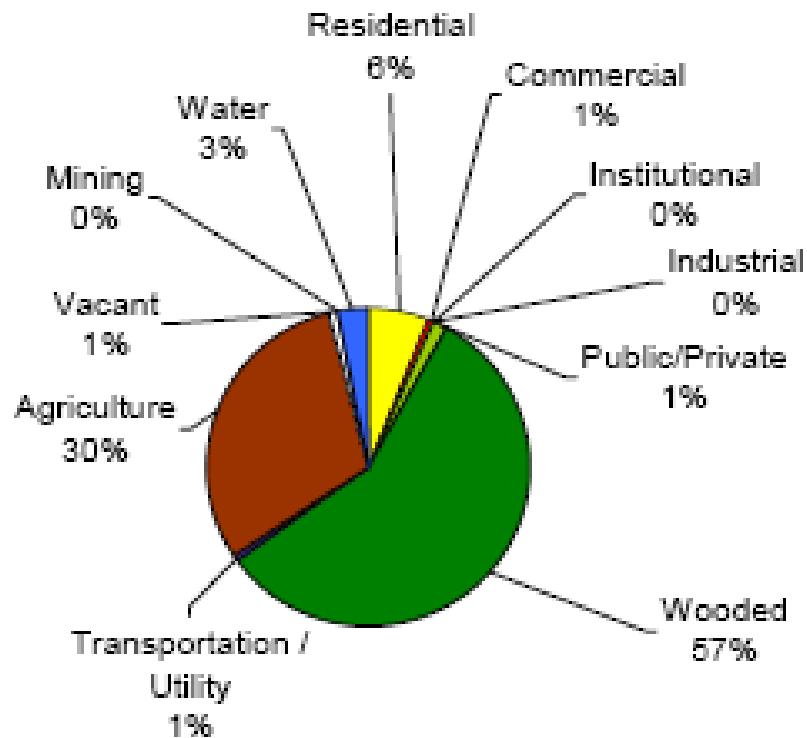
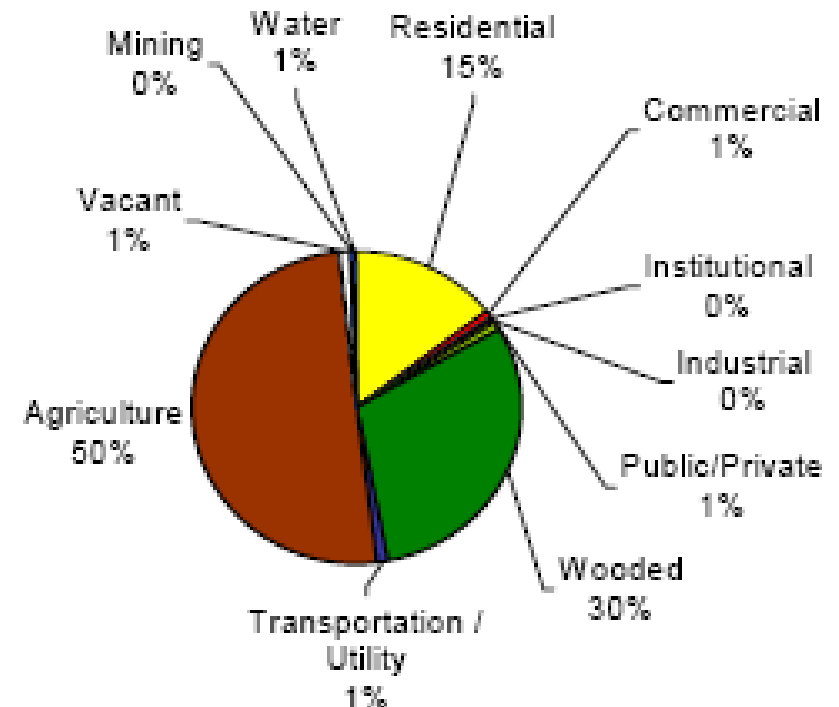


Figure 4: Land Use in Level 2

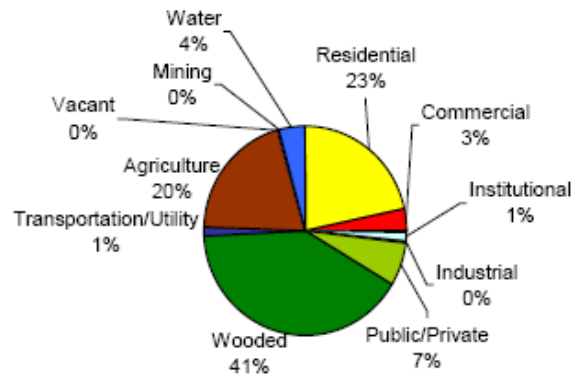


**Table 3: Characteristics of the Delineated Source Water Area for the UWD at Stanton Intake on the White Clay/Red Clay Creeks**

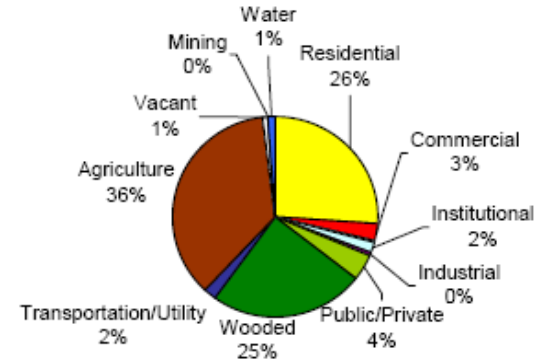
Characteristic	Description
Source Water	White Clay Creek Red Clay Creek
Total Source Water Area	DE 68 sq. mi. (42 %) PA 93 sq. mi. (58 %) <u>MD less than 1 sq. mi.</u> Total 161 sq. mi. (100 %)
Total Source Water Area Land Use	Urban/Suburban 53 sq. mi. (33 %) Agriculture 58 sq. mi. (36 %) Wooded/Open Space 50 sq. mi. (31 %)
States	Delaware Pennsylvania Maryland
Counties	New Castle County, DE Chester County, PA Cecil County, MD
Municipalities	Newark, DE Avondale, PA West Grove, PA Kennett Square, PA

# White Clay Creek above Stanton

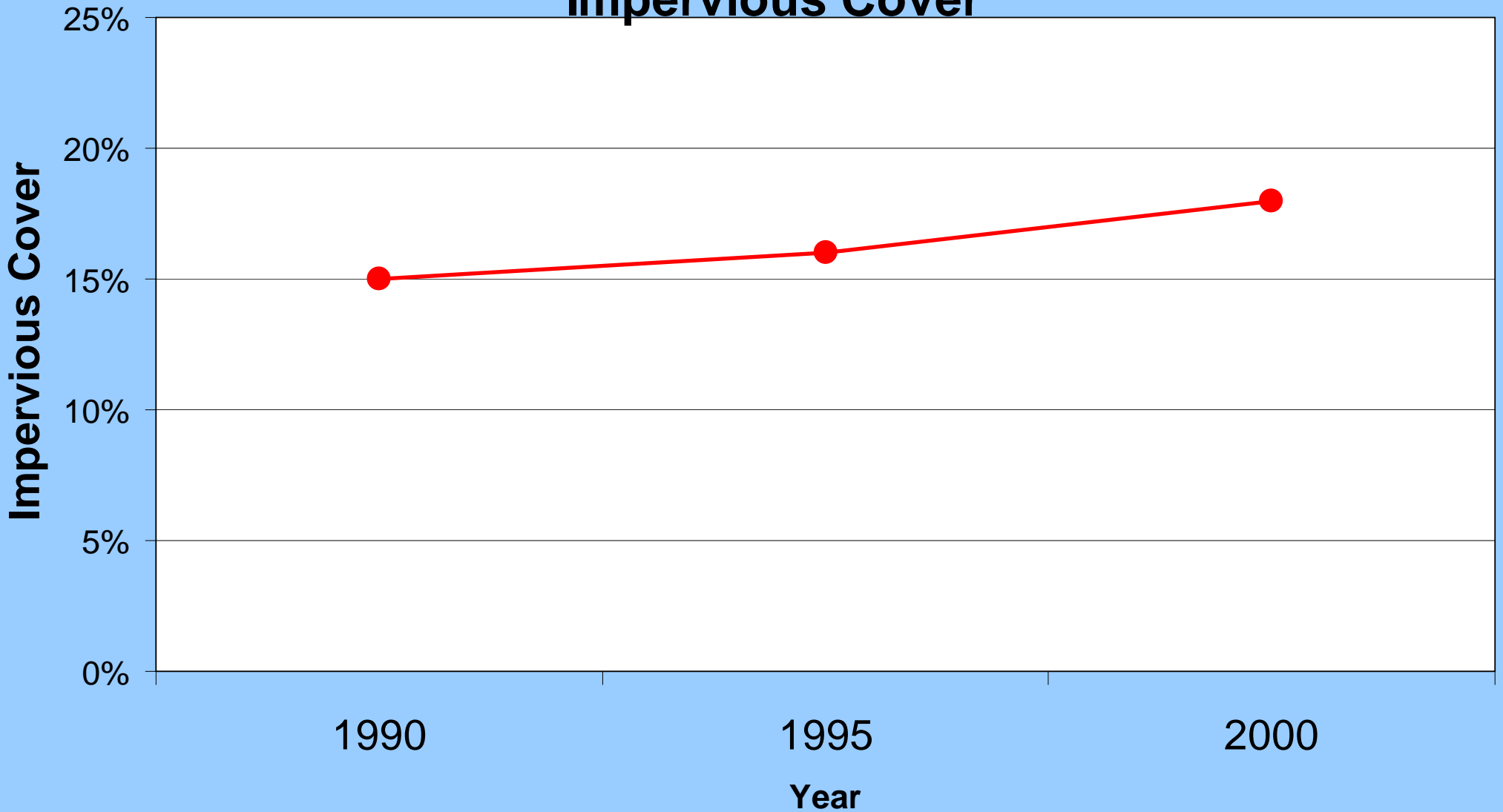
**Figure 3: Land Use in Level 1A & B**



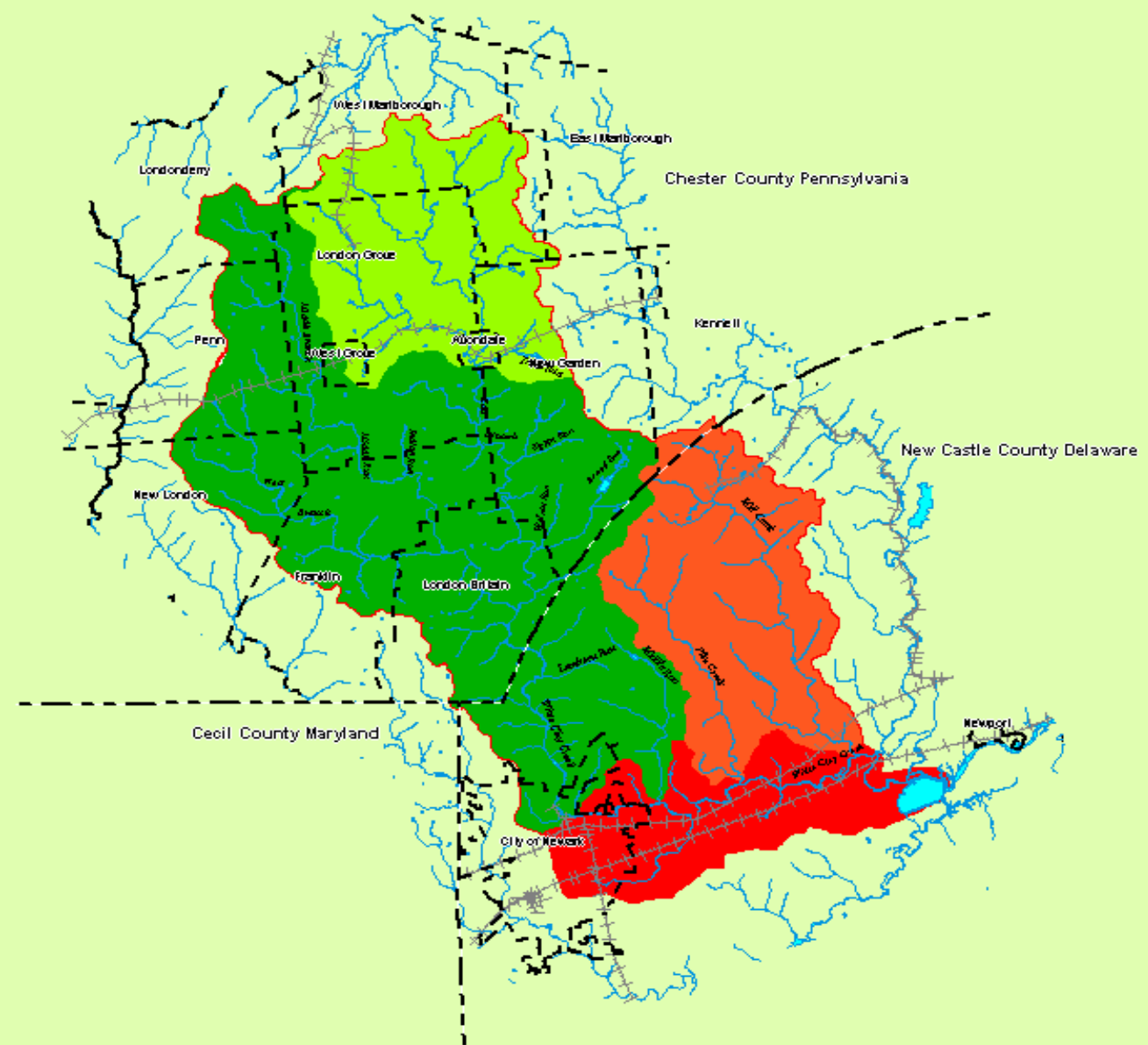
**Figure 4: Land Use in Level 2**



# White Clay Creek Watershed Impervious Cover



- County Labels  
Abc
- Waterway Labels  
Abc
- Municipal Labels  
Abc
- Pennsylvania Township
- County and State Bound
- Roads
- Railroads
- Hydrology
- Percent Impervious
  - 0 - 5%
  - 6% - 10%
  - 21% - 30%
  - > 30%
- White Clay Creek Study
- Study Area Buffer



# White Clay Creek - % Impervious

<b>Subwatershed</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>
E.B. above Avondale	6	7	9
E.B. below Avondale	9	11	13
Middle Branch in PA	7	8	9
West Branch in PA	8	9	9
Above Newark	8	9	10
Middle Run	6	8	9
Above Delaware Park	35	36	41
At Churchmans Marsh	50	49	52
Pike Creek	22	24	25
Mill Creek	27	28	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>

# Christina Basin WQ Sampling Stations

## *Christina River*

Rt. 273, Above Newark

CR\_1

Smalley's Dam Spillway

CR\_2

Rt. 141, Newport (USGS tide gage 01480065)

CR\_3

Conrail Br. (USGS tide gage 01481602)

CR\_4

## *Brandywine Creek*

Smith Bridge

BW\_1

Foot Bridge

BW\_2

## *Red Clay Creek*

Ashland, Rd. 258a

RC\_1

Stanton, Rt. 4 (USGS gage 01480015)

RC\_2

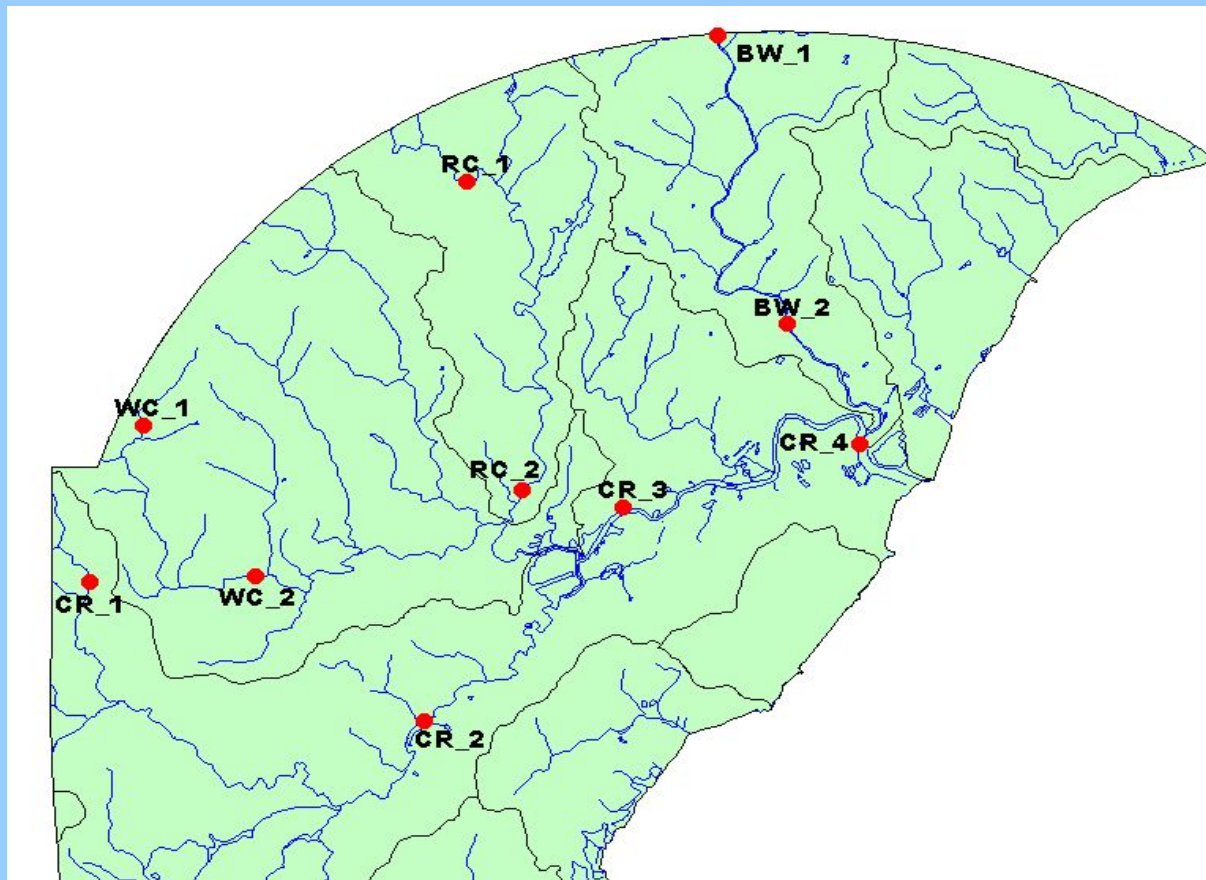
## *White Clay Creek*

Chambers Rock Rd.

WC\_1

Stanton, Old Rt. 7 Bridge

WC\_2





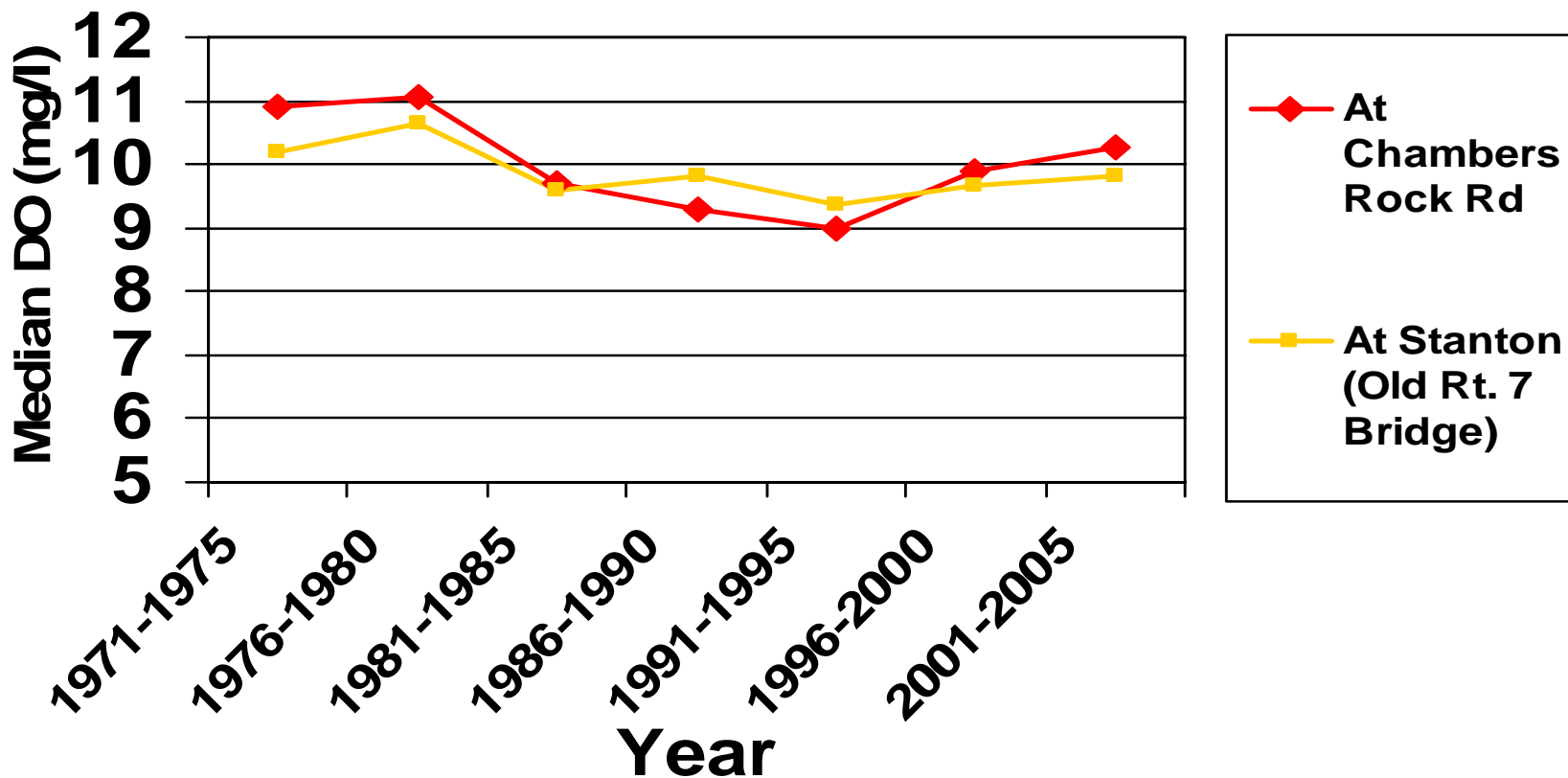
# Site Locations

- White Clay Creek Basin
  - East Branch at Avondale.
  - Middle Branch near Avondale.



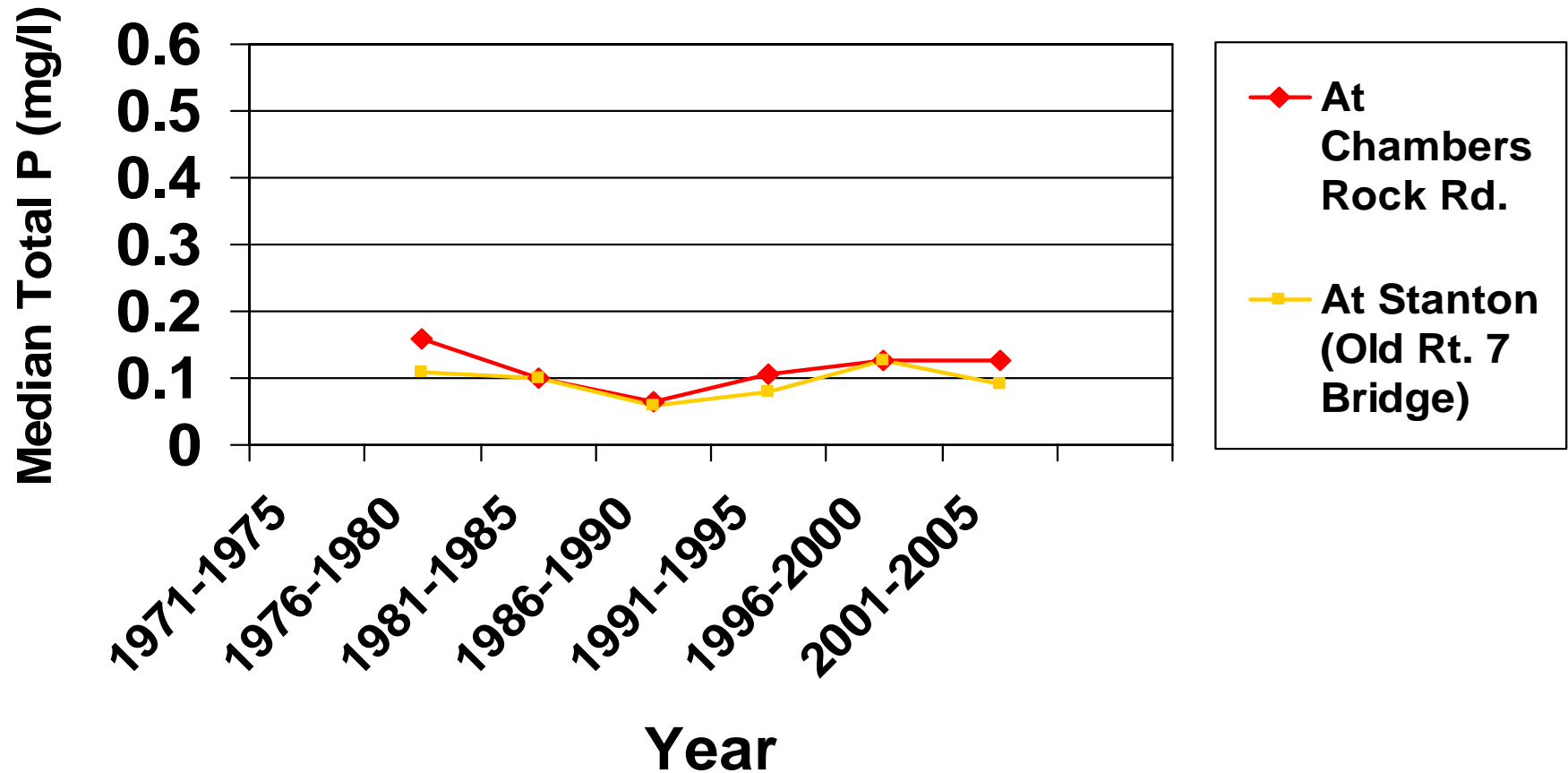
# DO Status

## White Clay Creek



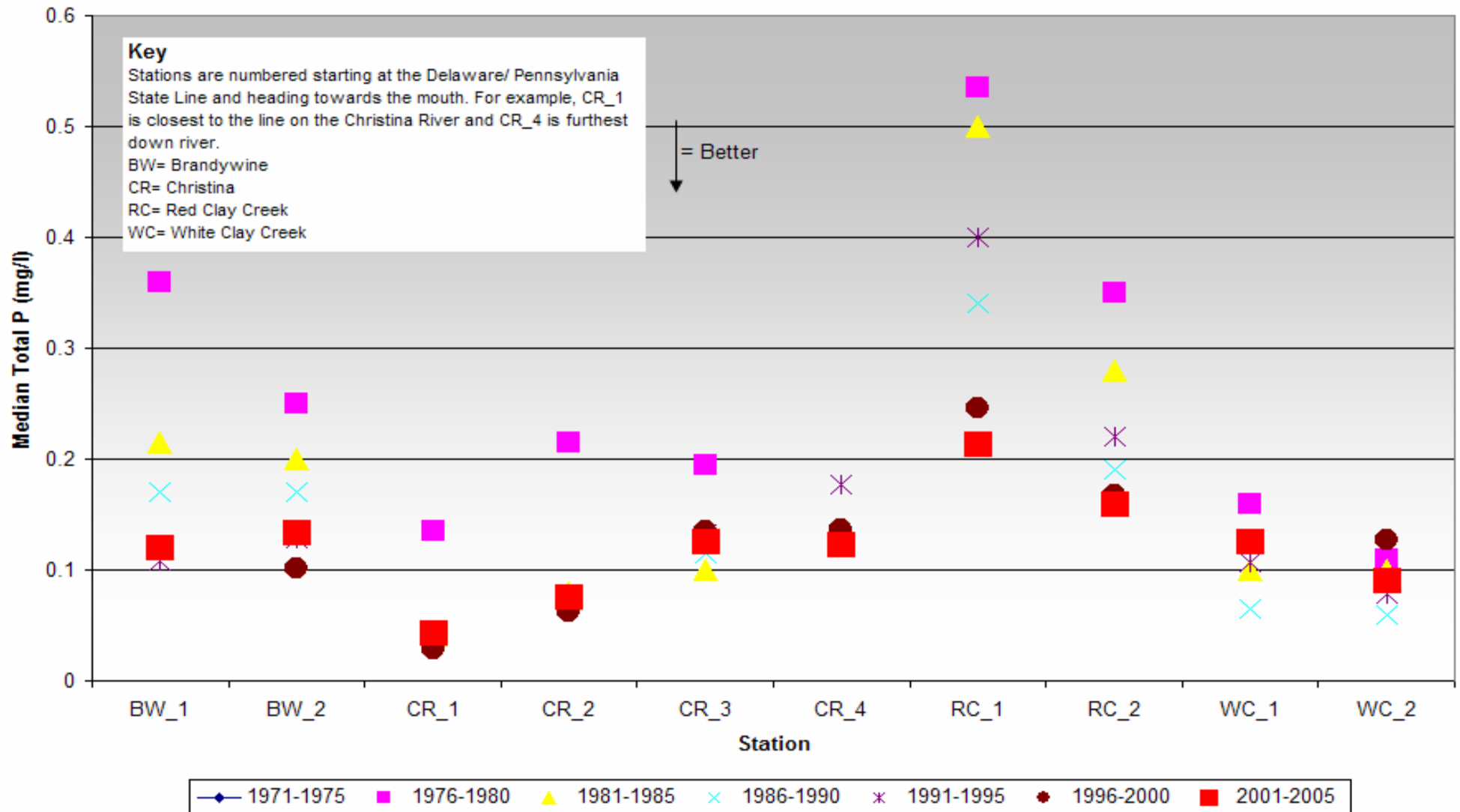
# Total P Status

## White Clay Creek

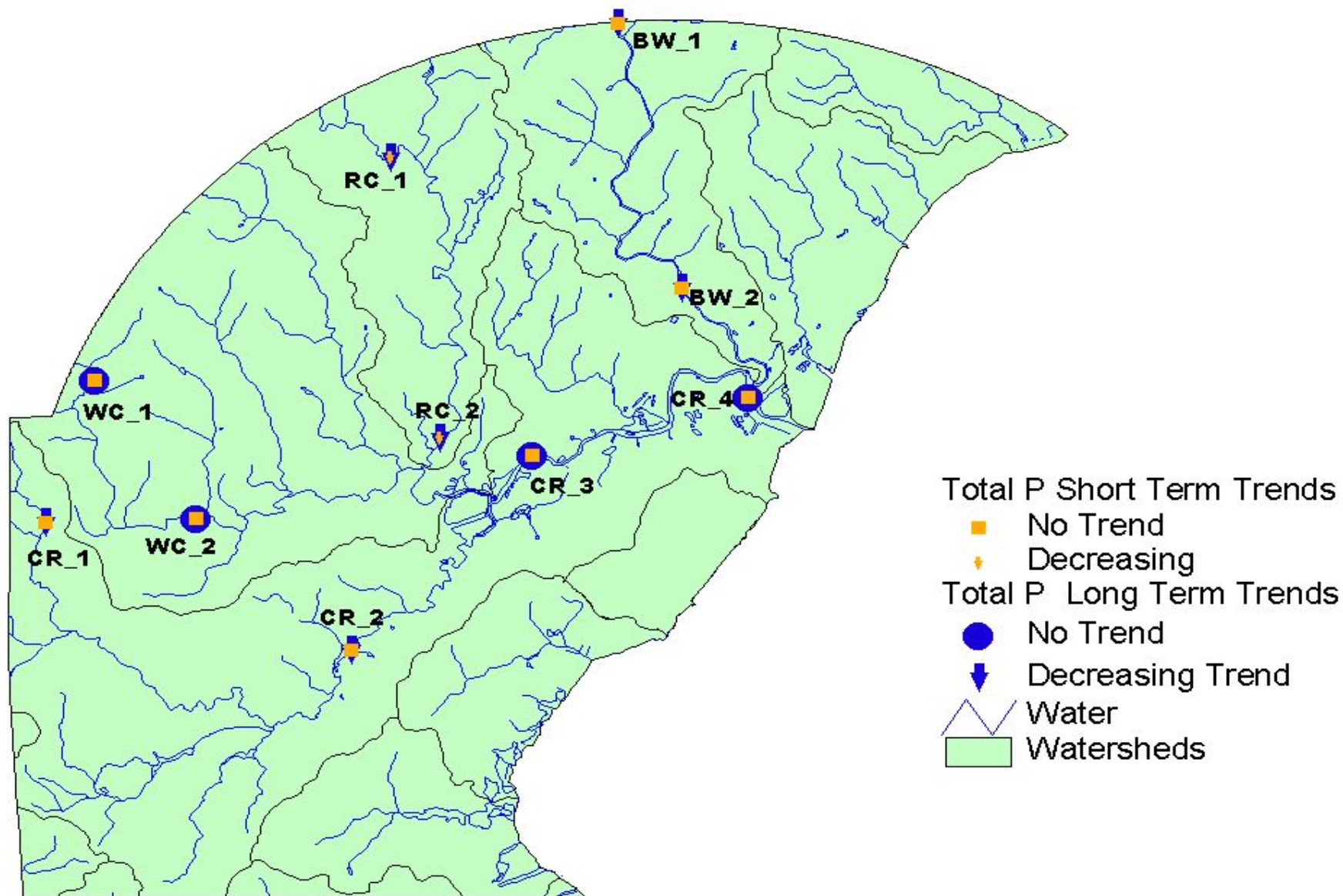


# Total P Status

Christina River Basin in Delaware Median Total Phosphorous in 5 Year Groups



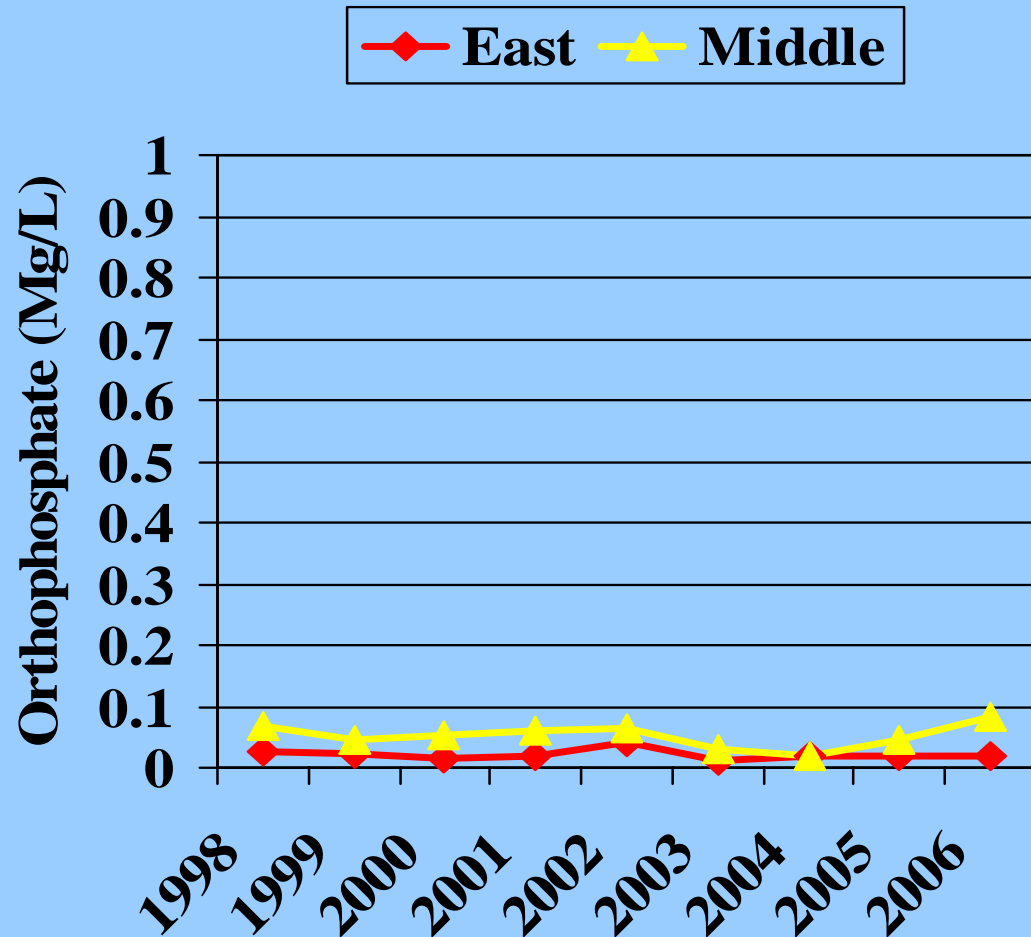
# Total Phosphorous Trends in the Delaware Portion of the Christina Basin



# Current Status – White Clay

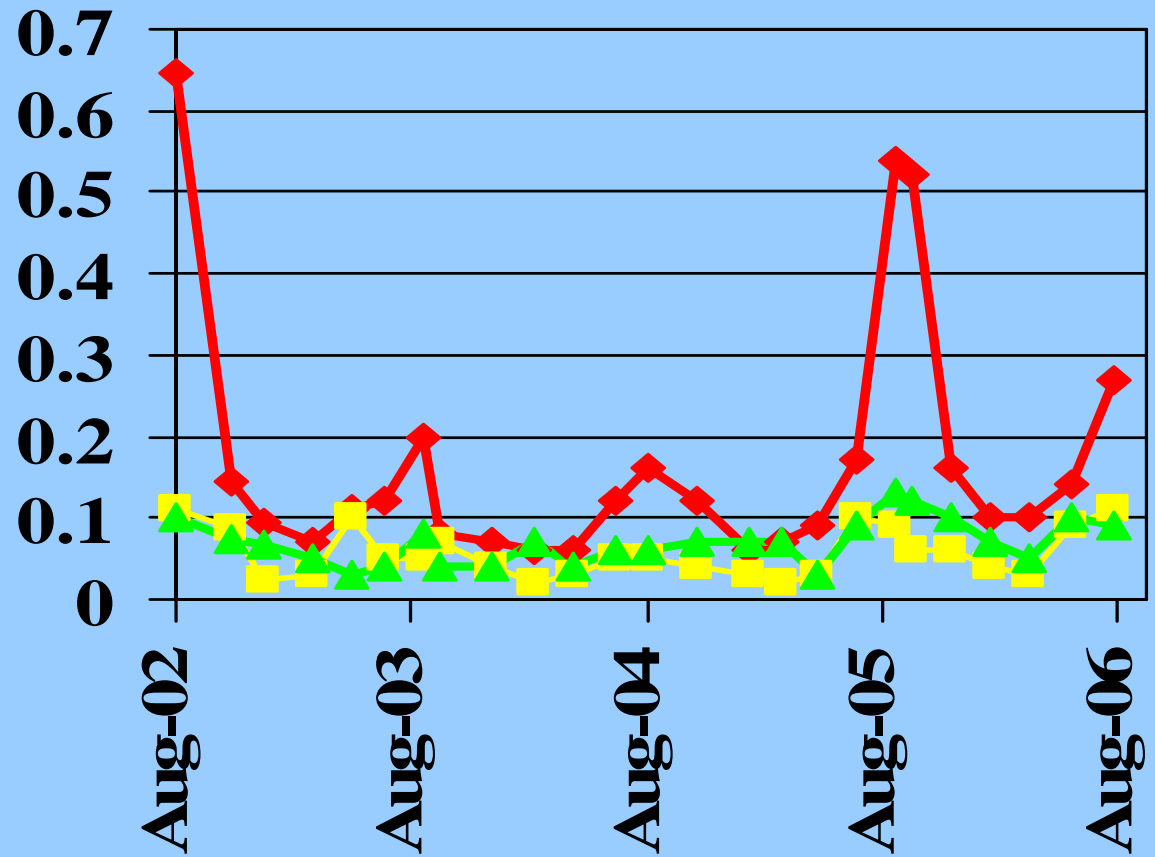
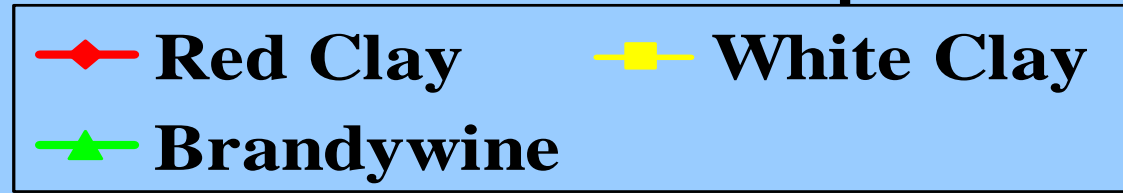
- Ortho-Phosphate

- No trends
- Generally low Ortho-Phosphate concentrations.
- East Branch has the lowest concentrations



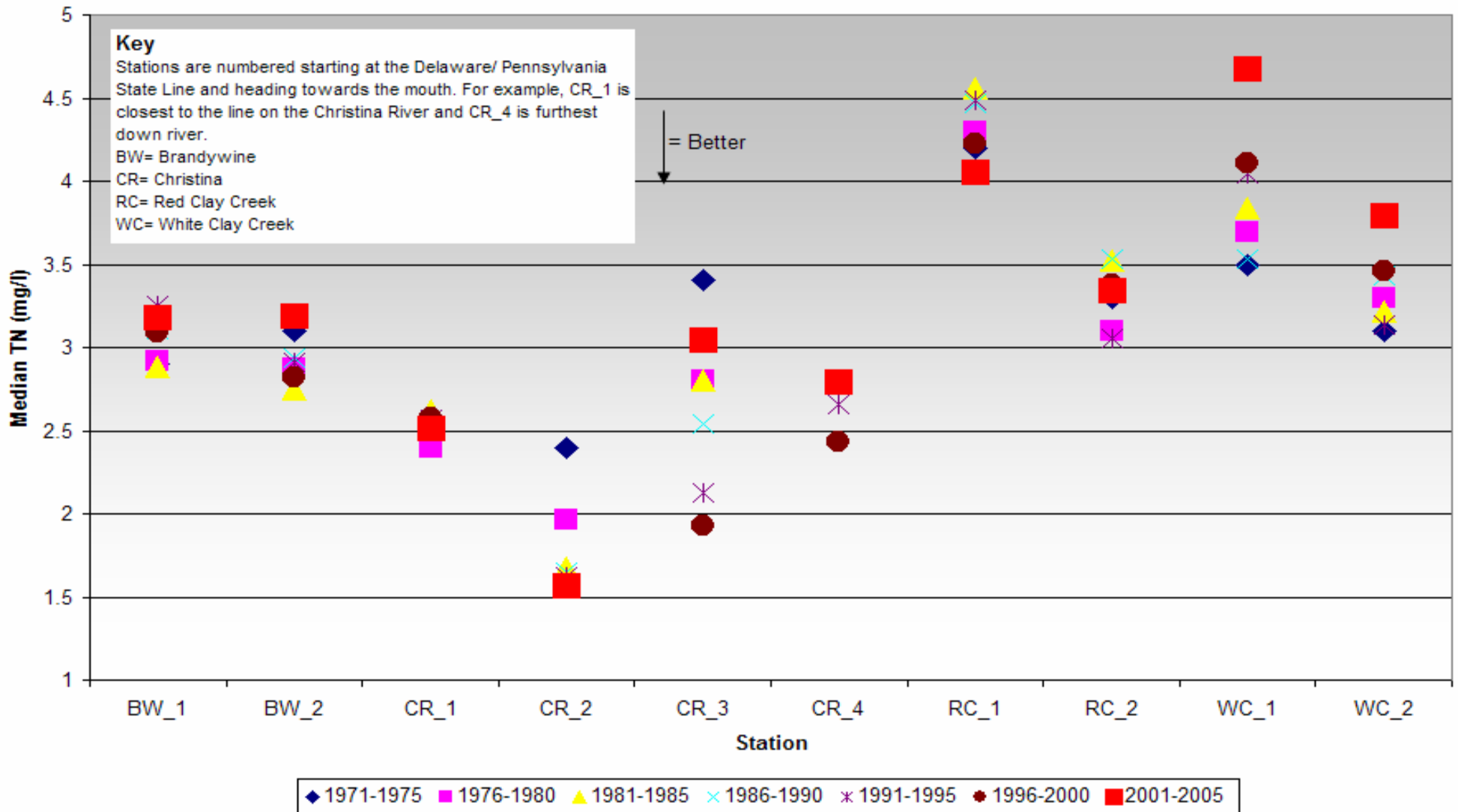
# WQN Data – Ortho-Phosphate

- Red Clay has occasional spikes in O-P and slightly higher ambient concentrations



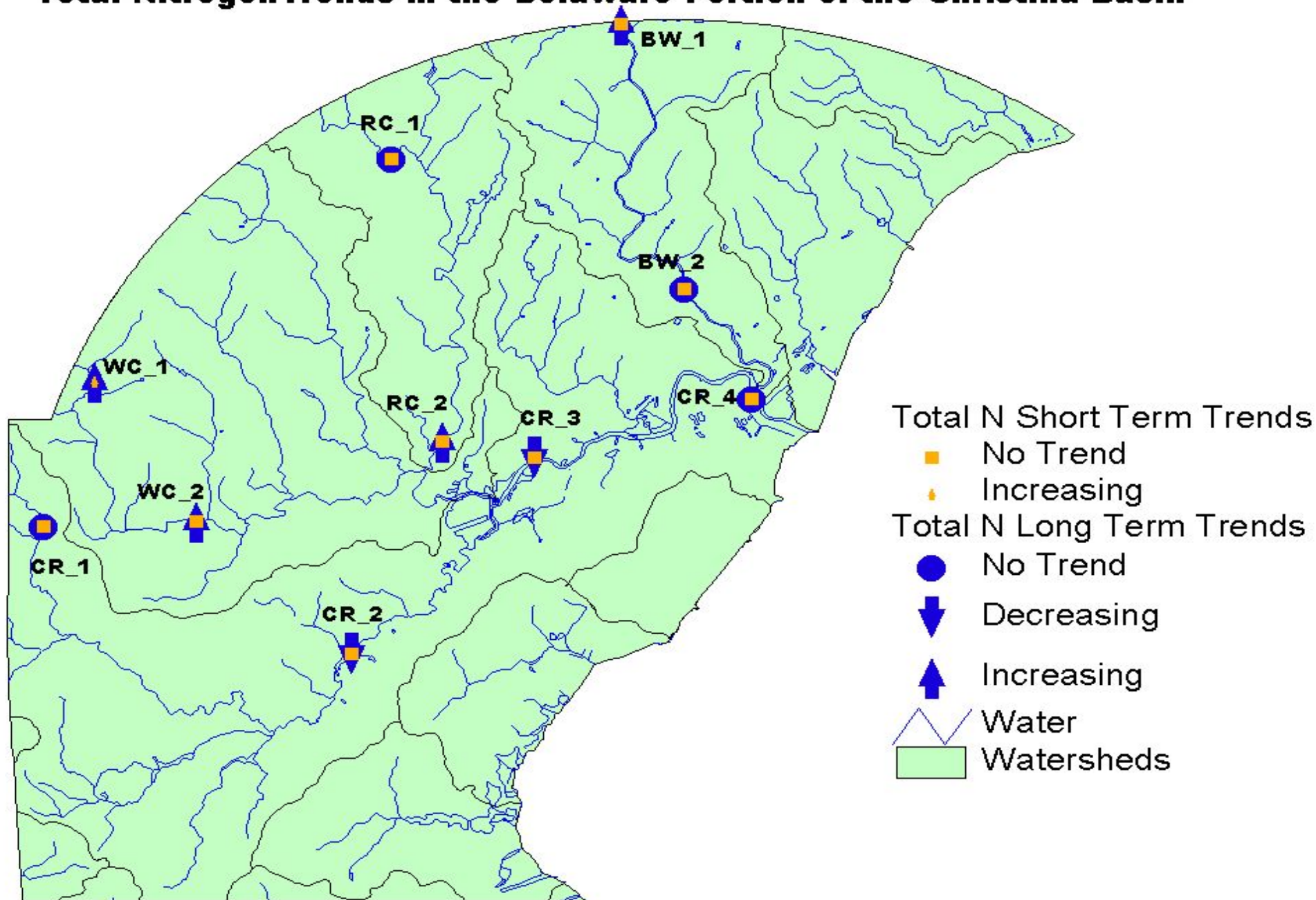
# Total N Status

Christina River Basin in Delaware Median Total Nitrogen in 5 Year Groups





# Total Nitrogen Trends in the Delaware Portion of the Christina Basin



# Current Status – White Clay

- Nitrate

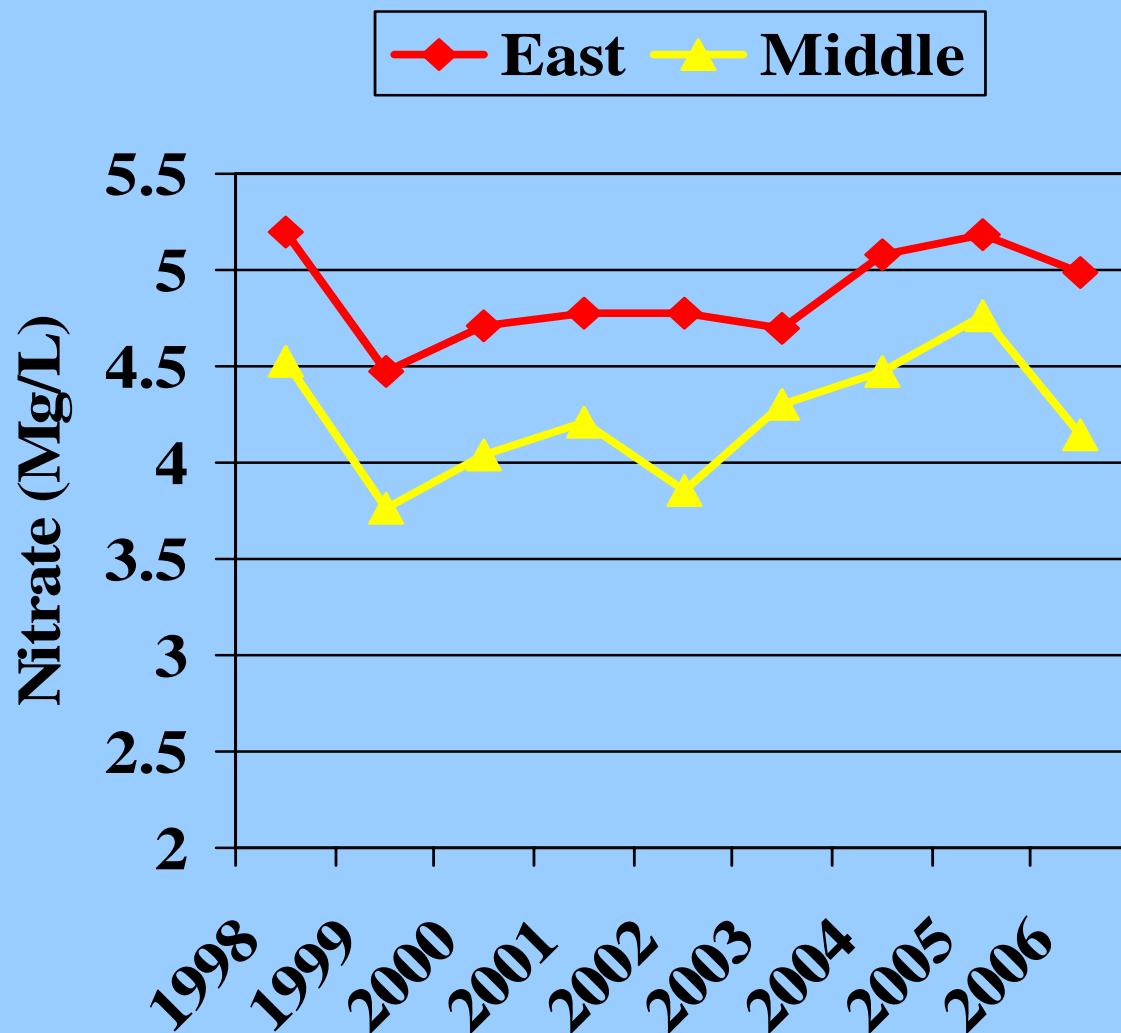
## East Branch

- Elevated concentrations with no trend. Slightly upwards since 2003?

## Middle Branch

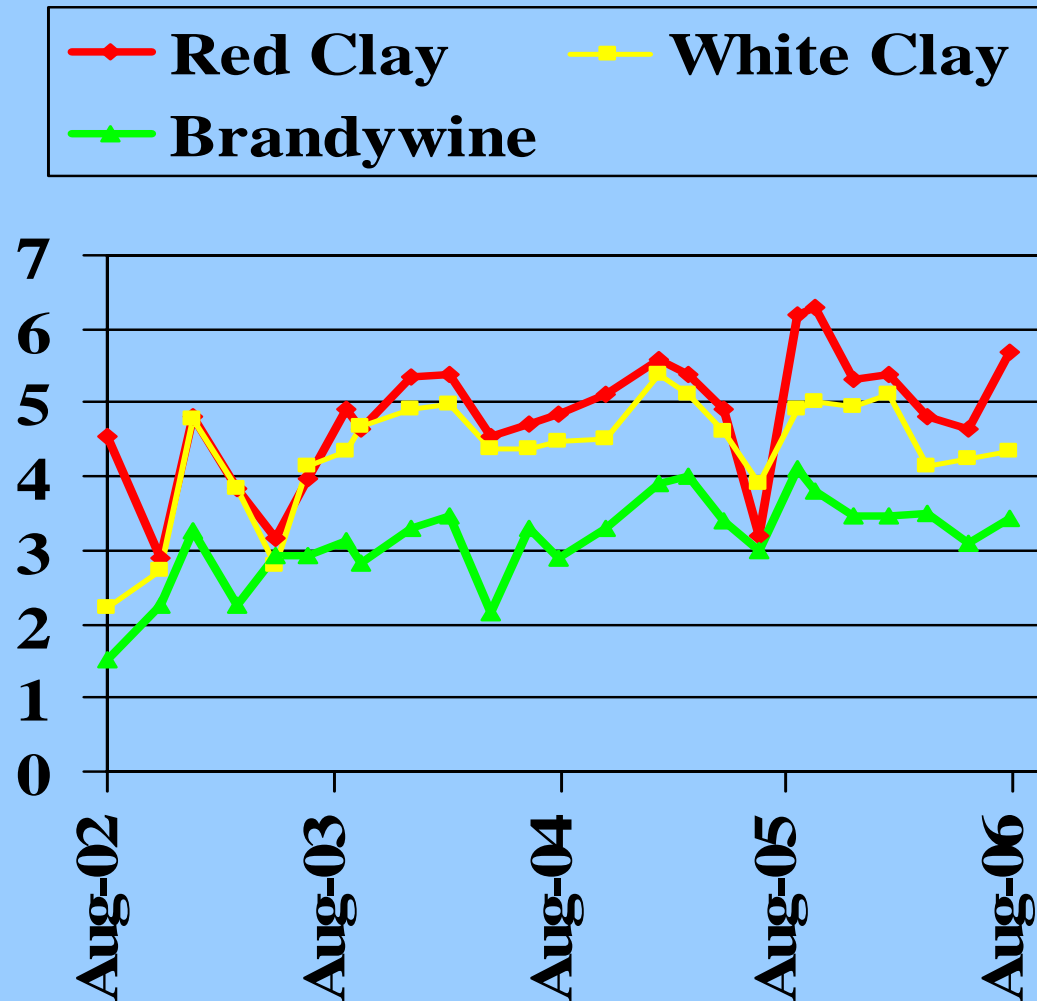
- Rising slowly since 1999

Increases may be due to increased flows.



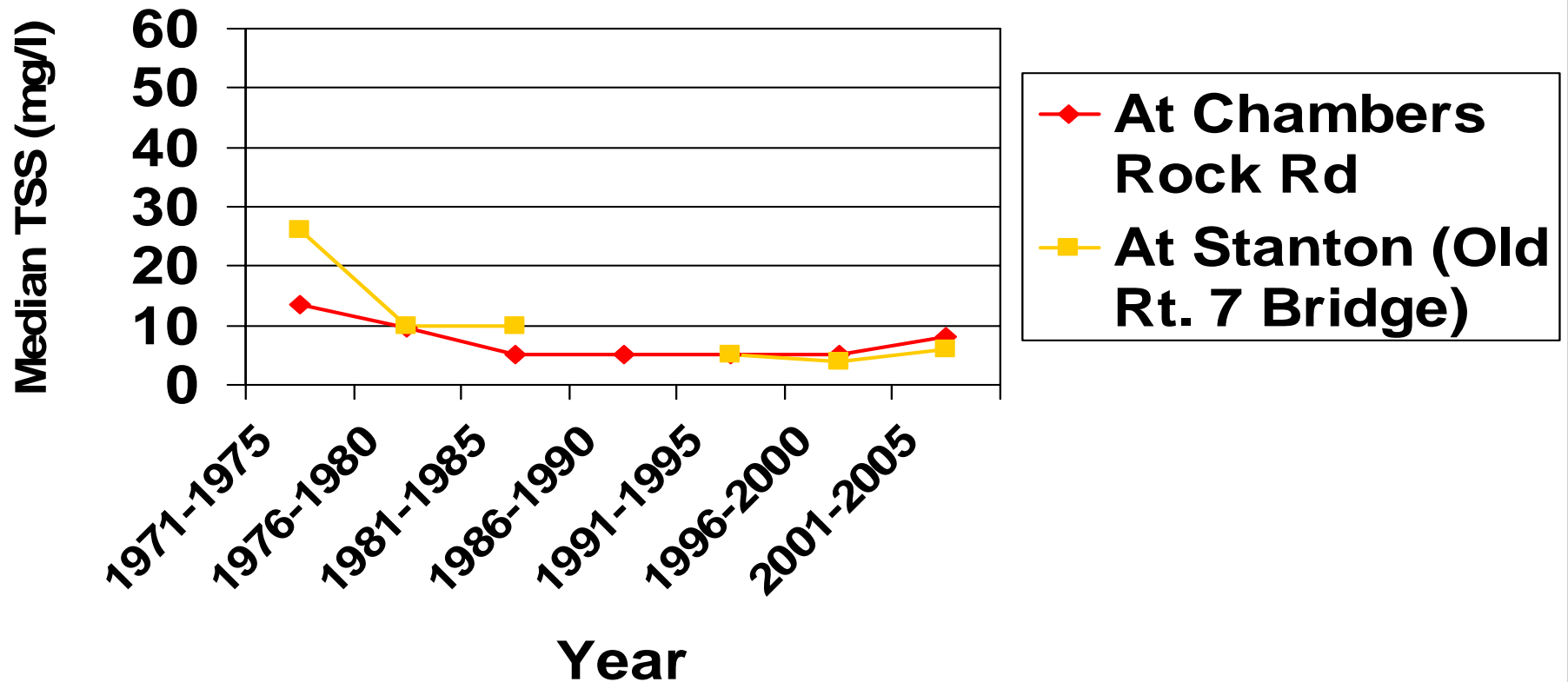
# WQN Data - Nitrate

Nitrate lowest in  
Brandywine.  
Higher in  
Red/White  
Clay  
Possible upward  
trend.



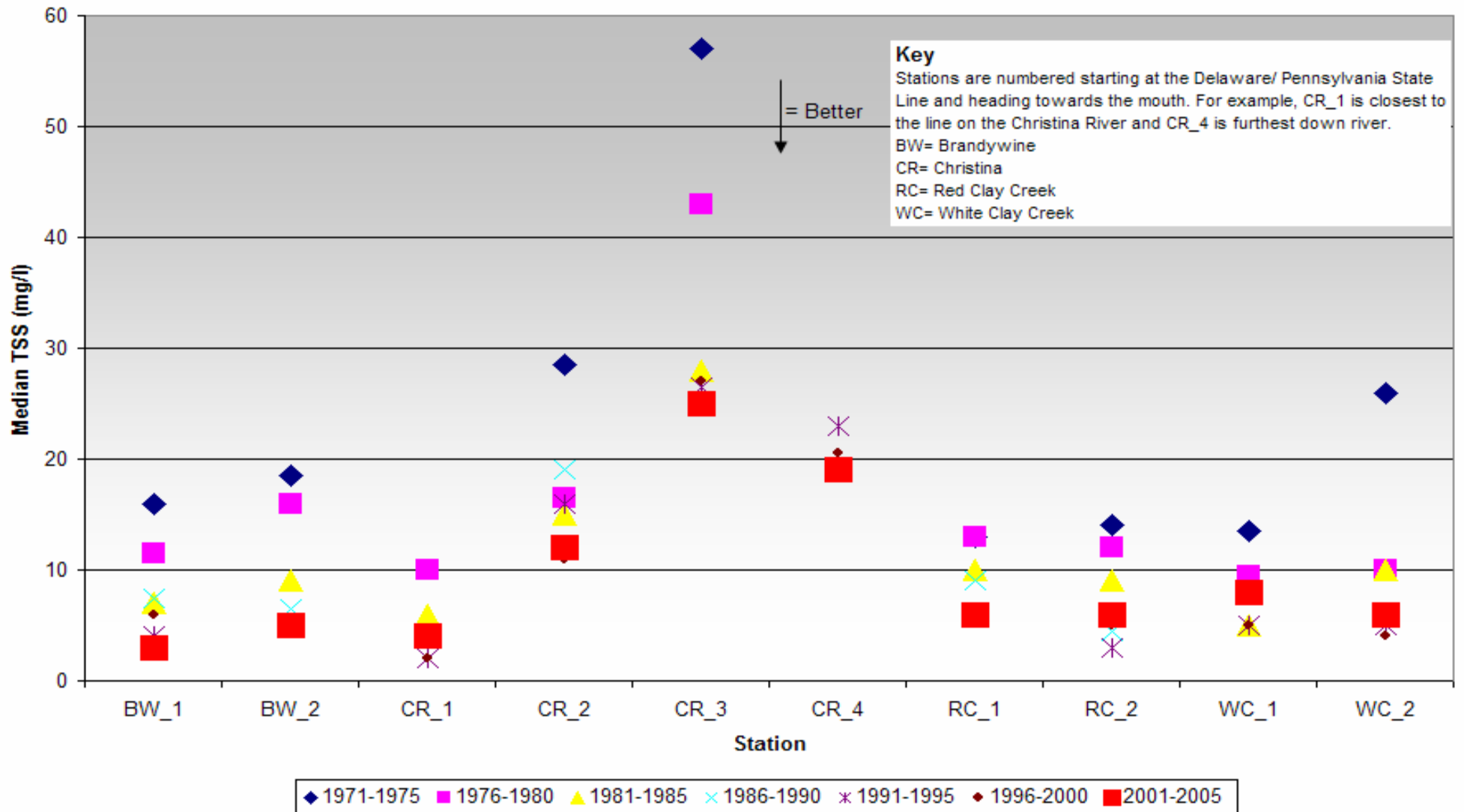
# Total Suspended Solids

## White Clay Creek

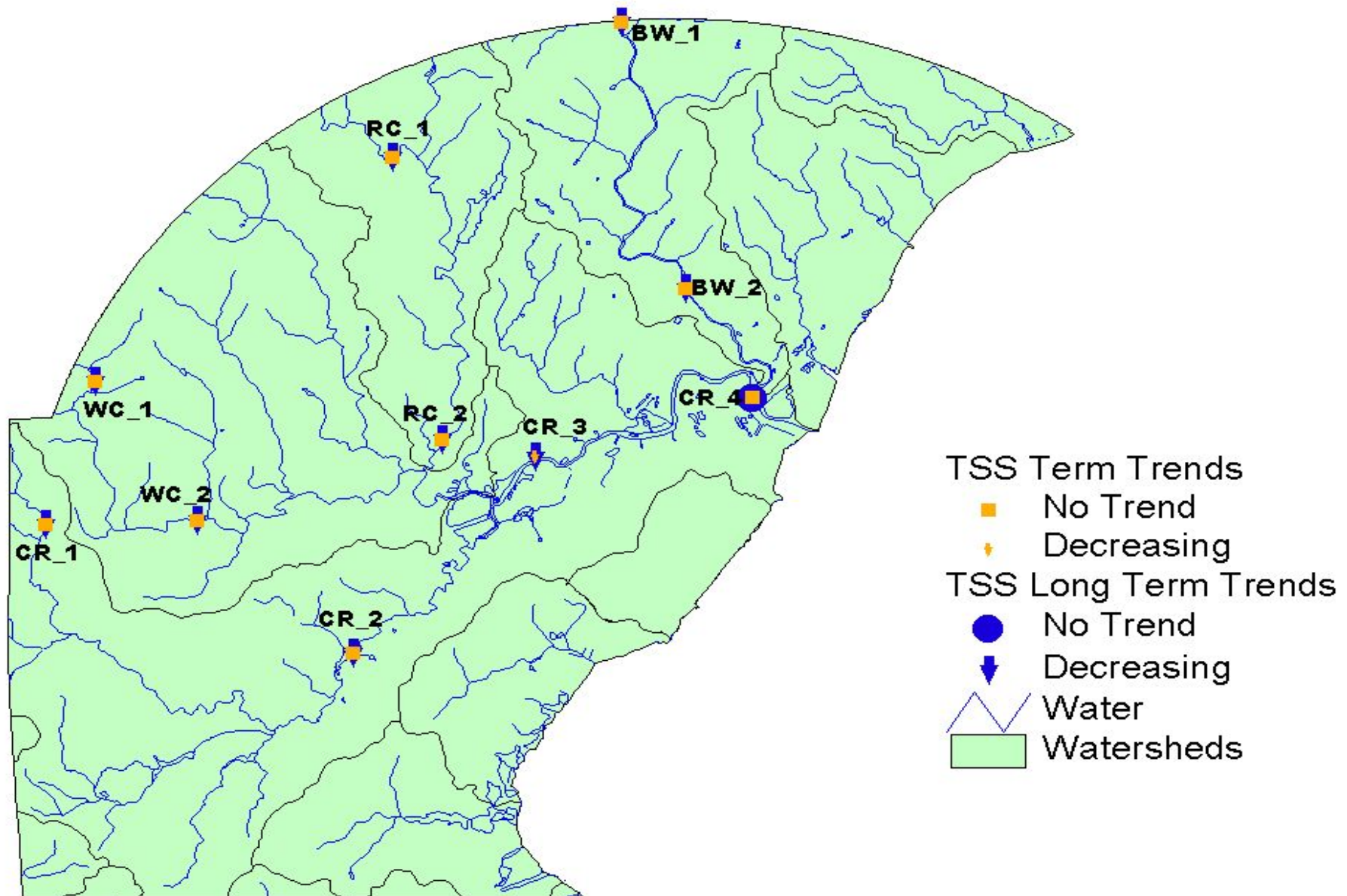


# TSS Status

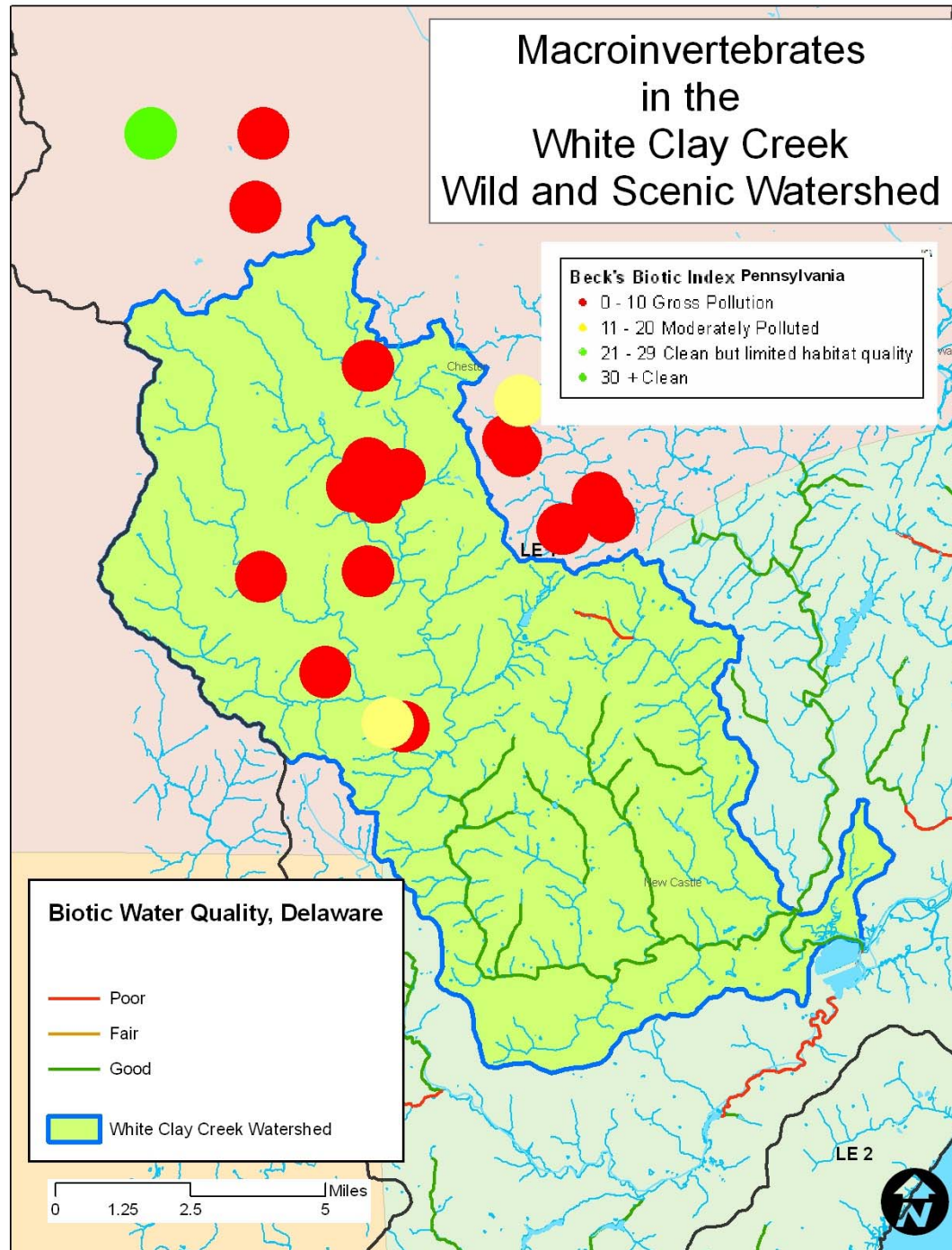
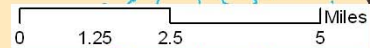
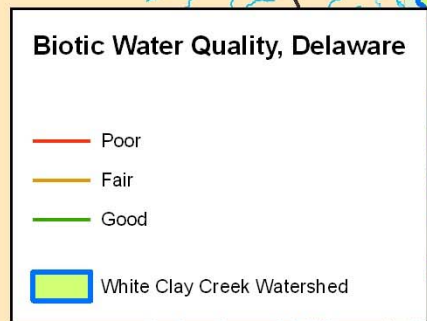
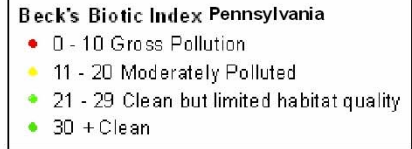
## Christina River Basin in Delaware Median Total Suspended Solids in 5 Year Groups



# Total Suspended Solids Trends in the Delaware Portion of the Christina Basin



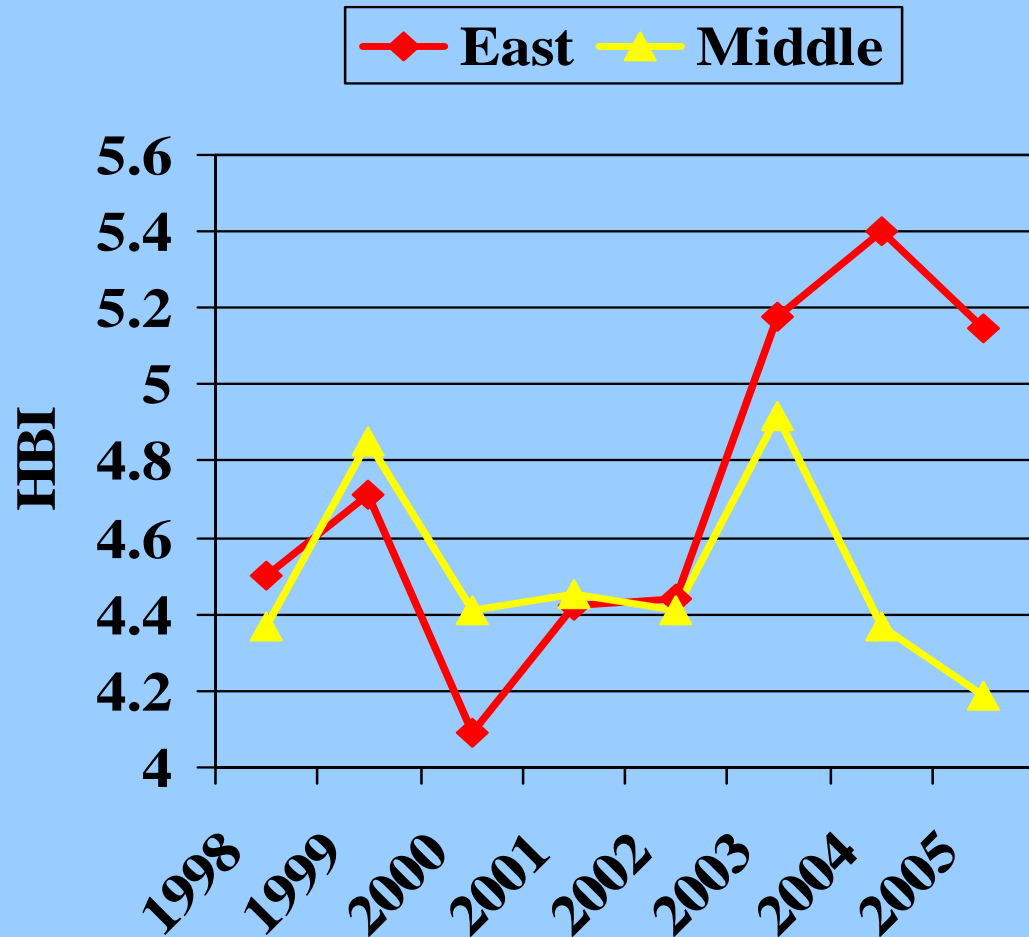
# Macroinvertebrates in the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Watershed



# Current Status – White Clay

- Macroinvertebrates

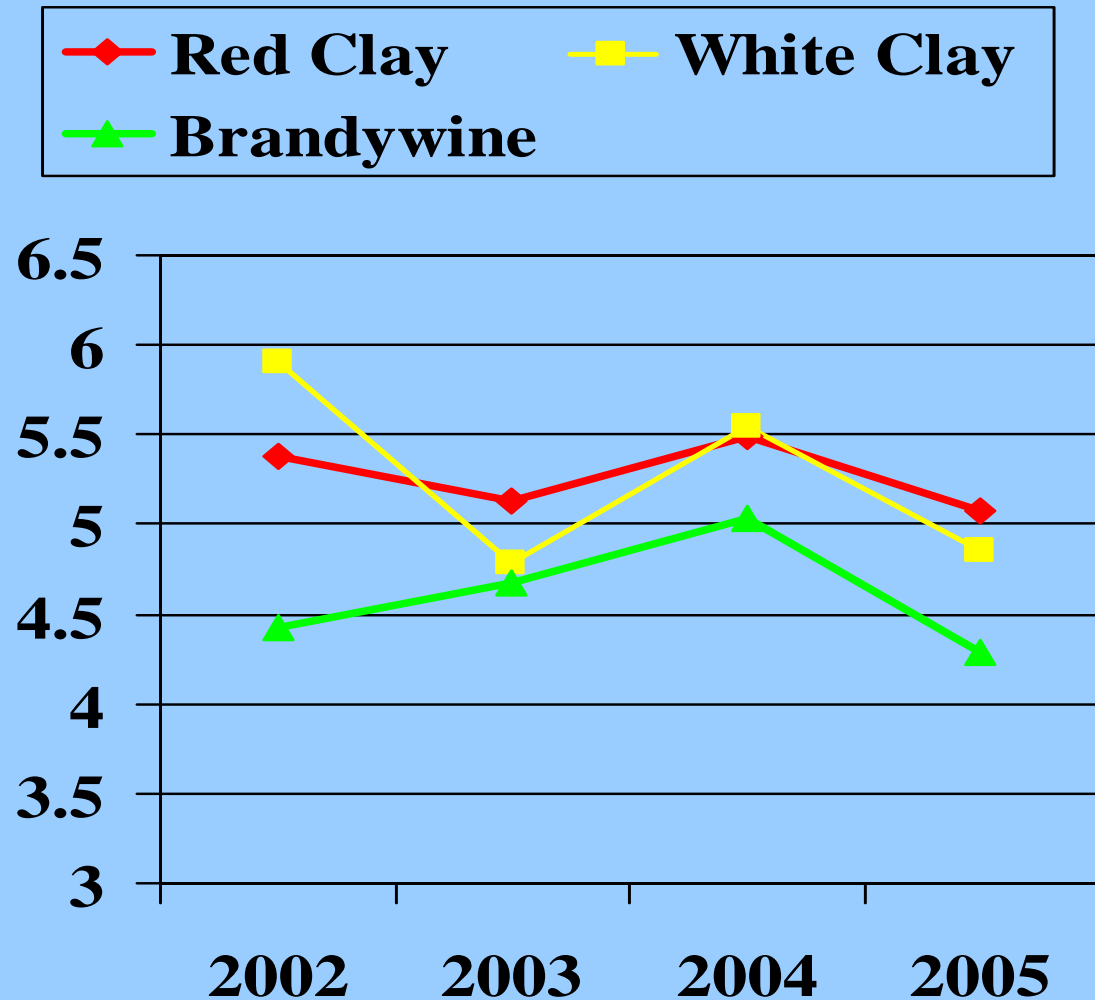
- All samples have HBI values that indicate moderate organic pollution.
- Increasing HBI (decreasing QW) in the East Branch samples (not statistically significant).





# WQN Data - HBI

Brandywine  
samples  
consistently  
indicate better  
invertebrate  
communities



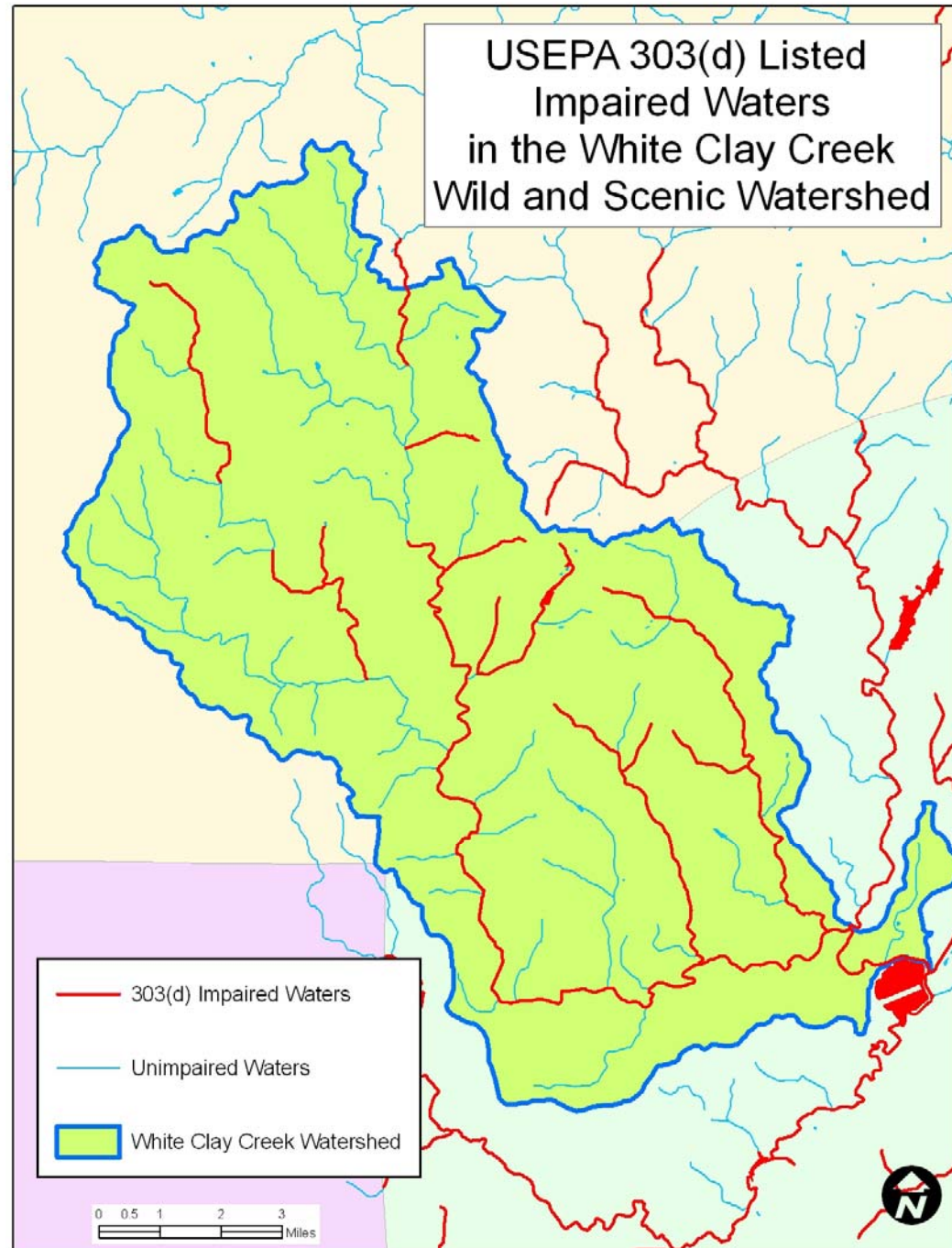
**Table 9: Summary of Substances Detected in the Untreated Water  
White Clay Creek above Newark (1990-2001)**

<b>Contaminant Category</b>	<b>Substance</b>	<b>Potential Sources</b>
<b><i>Above Detection Level</i></b>		
<i>Nutrients</i>	Nitrate Nitrogen	Fertilizer, Septic Tanks, Wastewater Treatment
	Nitrite Nitrogen	Fertilizer, Septic Tanks, Wastewater Treatment
	Nitrate + Nitrite	Fertilizer, Septic Tanks, Wastewater Treatment
<i>PCBs</i>	Polychlorinated biphenyls	Railroads, Electric Transmission Equipment
<i>Other Organics</i>	Dibromochloromethane	Wastewater Treatment
<i>Metals</i>	Arsenic	Natural Deposits, Orchard Runoff
	Copper	Household Plumbing/Wastewater Treatment
	Zinc	Industries
<i>Other Inorganics</i>	Chloride	Road Salt, Deicing Chemicals
	Sulfate	Natural Deposits
<b><i>Above 50% MCL/RBCL</i></b>		
<i>Metals</i>	Lead	Plumbing/Wastewater Treatment, Brake Linings
<b><i>Above 100% MCL/RBCL</i></b>		
<i>Pathogens</i>	Enterococcus	Human and Animal Fecal Waste
<i>Other Organics</i>	Bromodichloromethane	Wastewater Treatment
	Chloroform	Wastewater Treatment
<i>Metals</i>	Aluminum	Erosion of Natural Deposits
	Iron	Erosion of Natural Deposits
	Manganese	Erosion of Natural Deposits

**Table 9: Summary of Substances Detected in the Untreated Water  
White Clay/Red Clay Creeks above United Water Delaware Stanton Intake (1990-2001)**

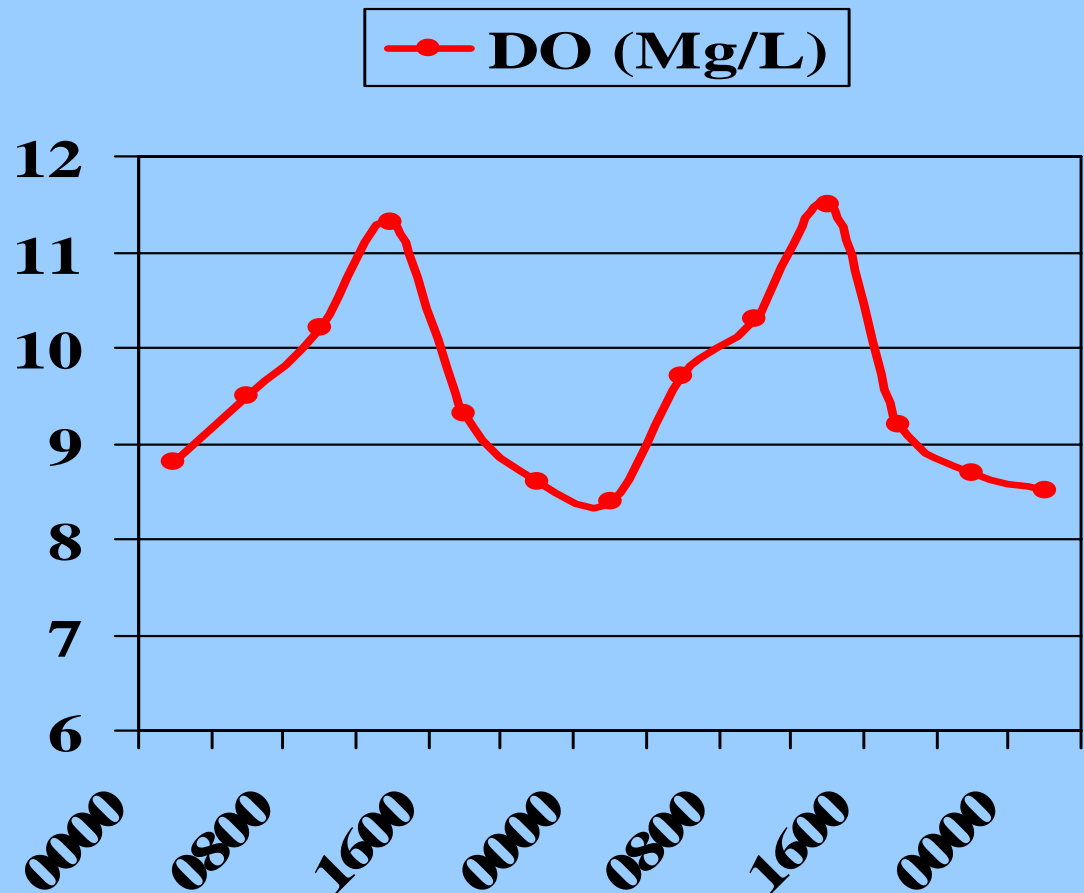
<b>Contaminant Category</b>	<b>Substance</b>	<b>Potential Sources</b>
<b><i>Above Detection Level</i></b>		
<i>Nutrients</i>	Nitrate	Fertilizer, Wastewater Treatment
	Nitrite	Fertilizer, Wastewater Treatment
	Nitrate + Nitrite	Fertilizer, Wastewater Treatment
<i>PCBs</i>	Polychlorinated biphenyls	Railroads, Electric Transmission Equipment
<i>Other Organics</i>	Dibromochloromethane	Wastewater Treatment
<i>Metals</i>	Arsenic	Natural Deposits, Orchard Runoff
	Copper	Household Plumbing, Wastewater Treatment
	Zinc	Industries
<i>Other Inorganics</i>	Sulfate	Natural Deposits
	Fluoride	Natural Deposits, Fertilizer Factories
<b><i>Above 50% MCL/RBCL</i></b>		
<i>Other Inorganics</i>	Chloride	Road Salt, Deicing Chemicals, Delaware River
	Cyanide	Metal Factories
<b><i>Above 100% MCL/RBCL</i></b>		
<i>Other Organics</i>	Bromodichloromethane	Wastewater Treatment
	Chloroform	Wastewater Treatment
<i>Metals</i>	Aluminum	Natural Deposits
	Cadmium	Natural Deposits, Metal Refinery, Galvanized Pipe
	Iron	Natural Deposits
	Lead	Plumbing/Wastewater Treatment, Brake Linings
	Manganese	Natural Deposits

USEPA 303(d) Listed  
Impaired Waters  
in the White Clay Creek  
Wild and Scenic Watershed



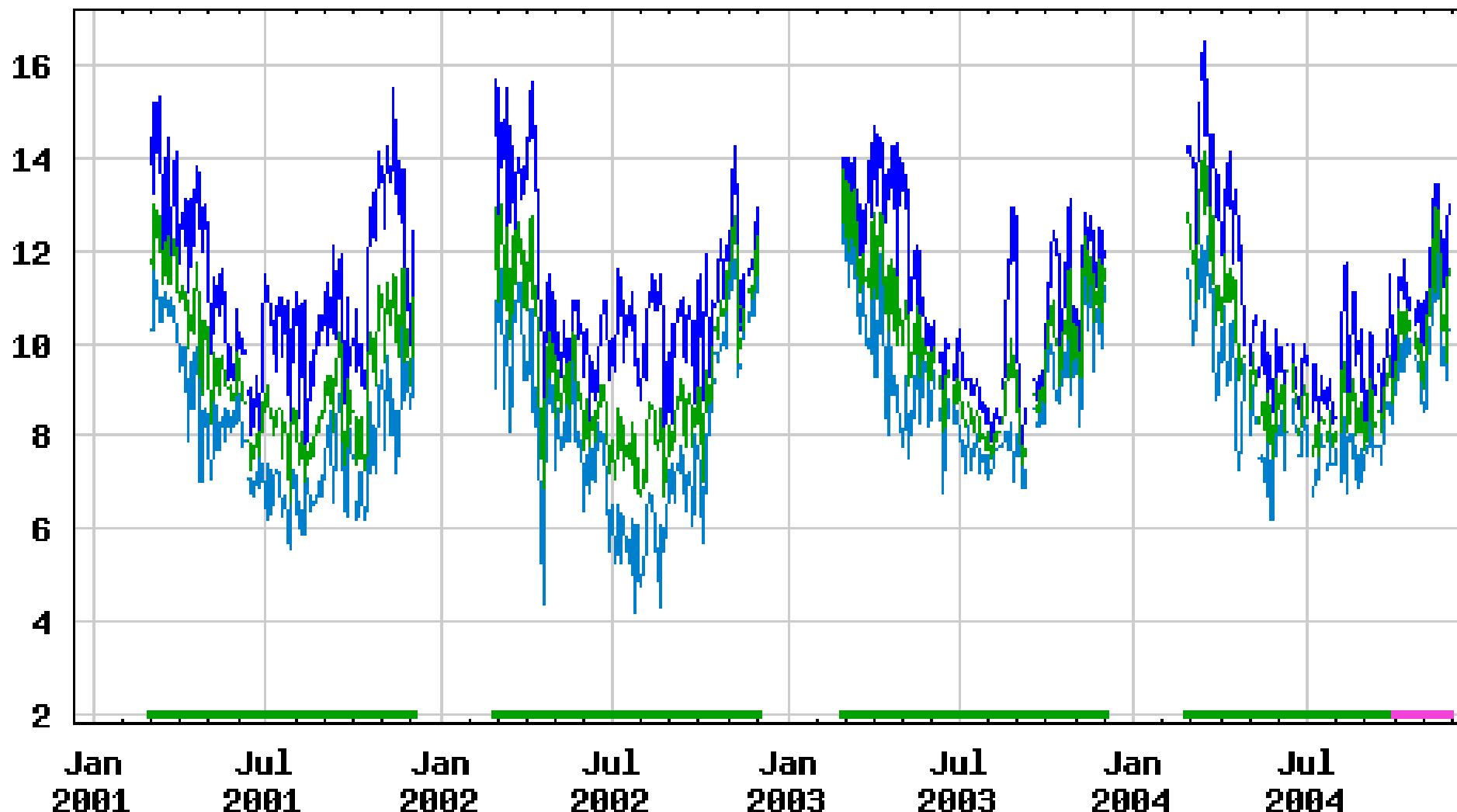
# USGS QW Monitors

- QW gages on the Brandywine have been in operation since 1972
- Continuous monitoring is needed to accurately measure trends in DO values.



# USGS 01480617 West Branch Brandywine Creek at Modena, PA

DAILY Dissolved oxygen, water,  
unfiltered, milligrams per liter



— Daily maximum dissolved oxygen  
— Daily minimum dissolved oxygen  
— Daily mean dissolved oxygen

— Period of approved data  
— Period of provisional data

# White Clay Creek above Newark

**Table 5: Number of Discrete Sources by Category**

Site Type	DE		PA	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2
Hazardous Substance Sites (Superfund and SIRB)	0	3	*	*
Underground Storage Tanks	1	10	*	2*
Landfills/Dumps	0	0	0	5
NPDES Wastewater Discharges	2	**	38	**
Waste Water Outfalls	0	**	4	**
Tire Piles	0	0	*	*
Hazardous Waste Generators	0	0	*	*
Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Sites	0	0	*	*
Salvage Yards	0	0	*	*
Pesticide Loading, Mixing Areas	0	0	*	*
Large On-Site Septic Systems	0	0	1	16
Waste Water Spray Irrigation	0	0	8	2
Waste Sludge Application	0	0	*	*
Confined Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs)	0	0	*	*
Combined Sewer Overflows	0	0	*	*
Dredge Spoils	0	0	*	*
Domestic Septic Systems	*	*	*	*
SARA Title III Sites	*	*	*	*

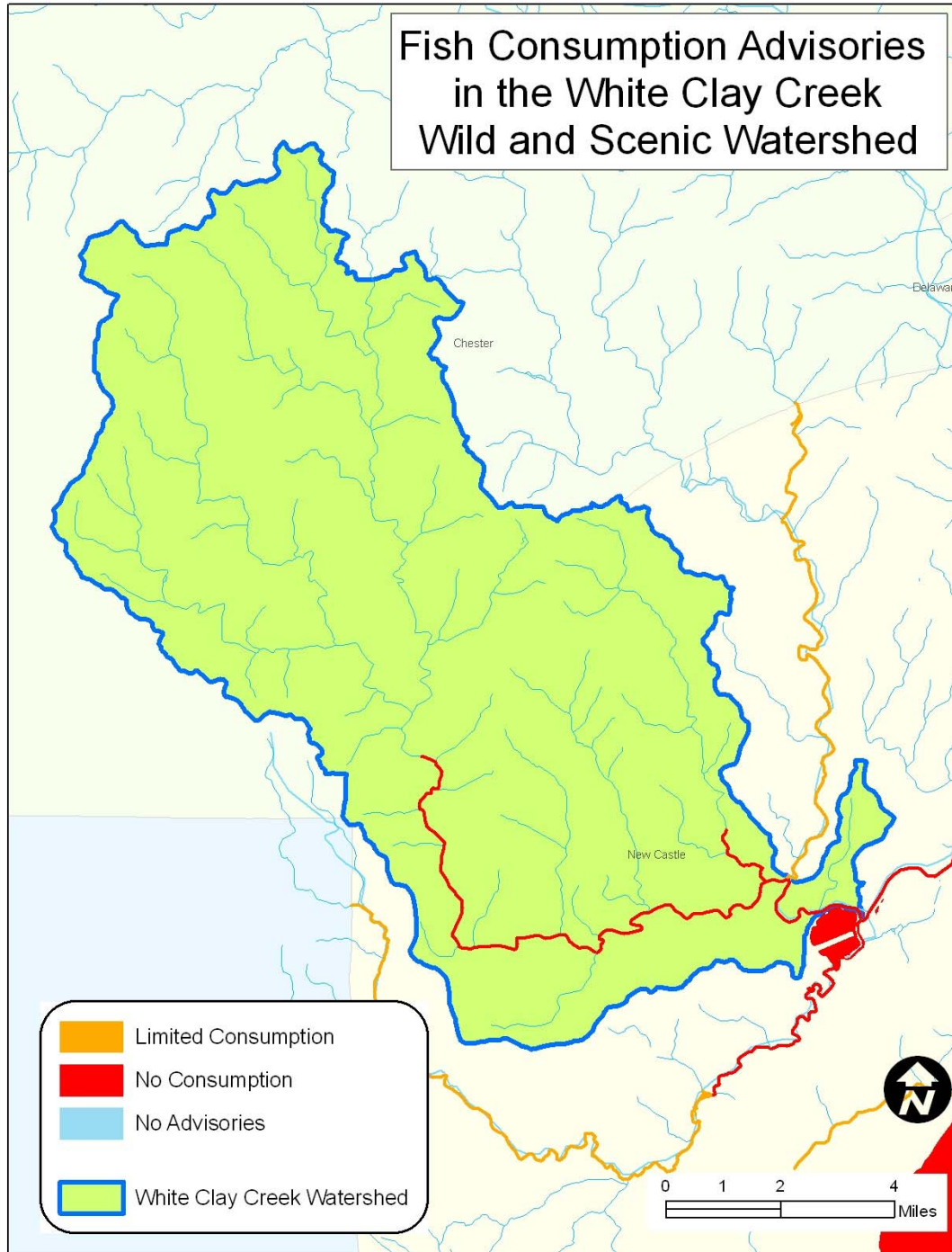
# White Clay Creek above Stanton

**Table 5: Number of Discrete Sources by Category**

Site Type	DE		PA	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2
Hazardous Substance Sites (Superfund and SIRB)	7	30	*	*
Underground Storage Tanks	25	277	*	*
Landfills/Dumps	0	3	1	1
NPDES Wastewater Discharges	9	**	21	**
Waste Water Outfalls	0	**	21	**
Tire Piles	1	0	*	*
Hazardous Waste Generators	32	118	*	*
Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Sites	2	7	*	*
Salvage Yards	1	0	*	*
Pesticide Loading, Mixing Areas	0	0	*	*
Large On-Site Septic Systems	0	0	5	16
Waste Water Spray Irrigation	0	0	1	2
Waste Sludge Application	0	1	*	*
Confined Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs)	0	0	*	*
Combined Sewer Overflows	0	0	*	*
Dredge Spoils	0	0	*	*
Domestic Septic Systems	*	*	*	*
SARA Title III Sites	*	*	*	*

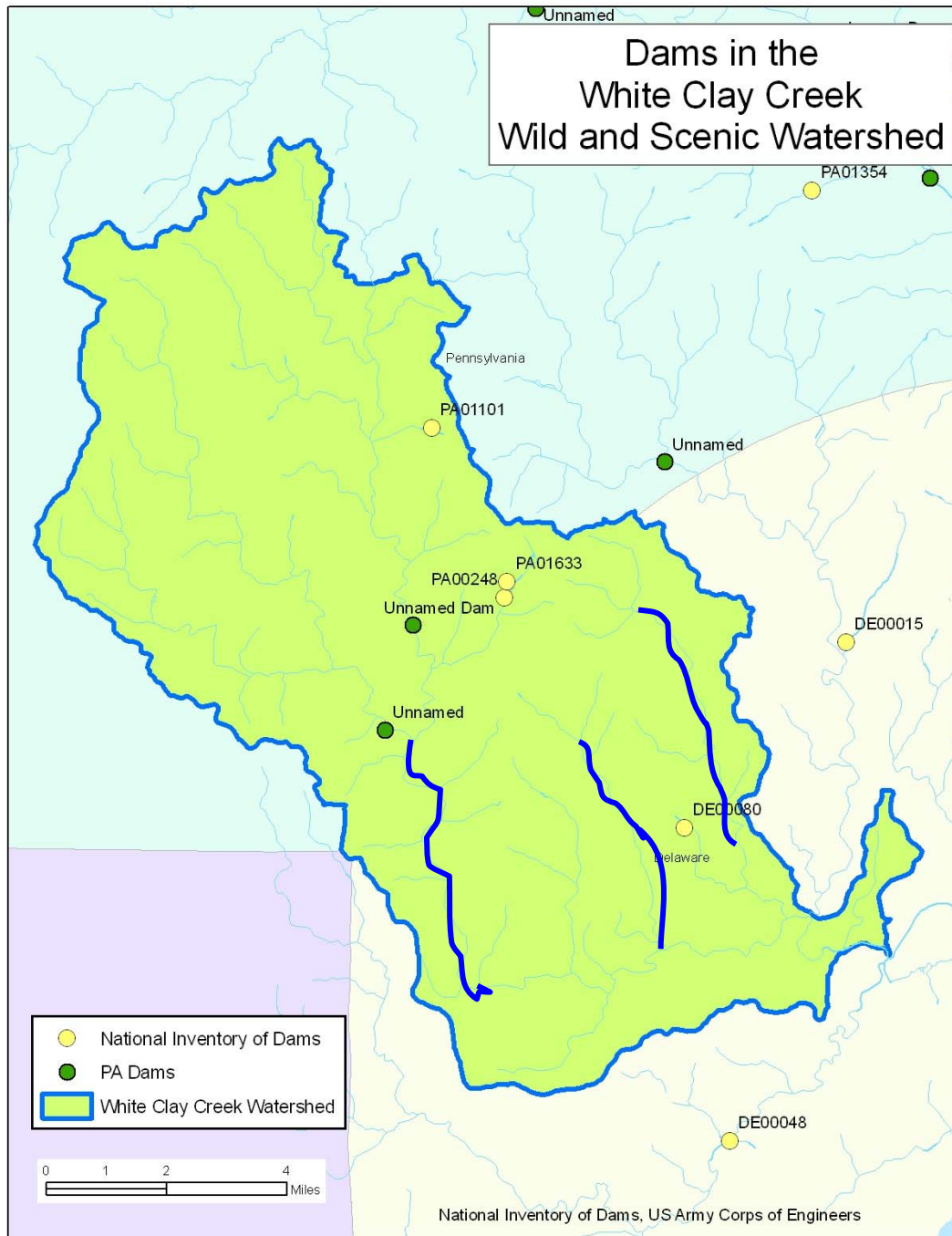


# Fish Consumption Advisories in the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Watershed



## ***2006 Delaware Fish Consumption Advisories***

<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Geographical Extent</b>	<b>Contaminants of Concern</b>	<b>Advice</b>
Tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	River Mouth to Route 4	PCBs	No Consumption
Non-tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	Route 4 to DE/PA Line	PCBs	No more than one 8-ounce meal per month
Designated Trout Streams and Ponds other than Christina Creek	Stocked Trout	Designated Trout Stocking Areas are listed in the Delaware 2006 Fishing Guide and at <a href="http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/fw/Trout/TroutMaps.htm">http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/fw/Trout/TroutMaps.htm</a>	PCBs	No more than one 8-ounce meal per month



Put and Take Trout Streams  
In Delaware:

White Clay Creek  
above Newark

Pike Creek

Mill Creek

Stocked Waters

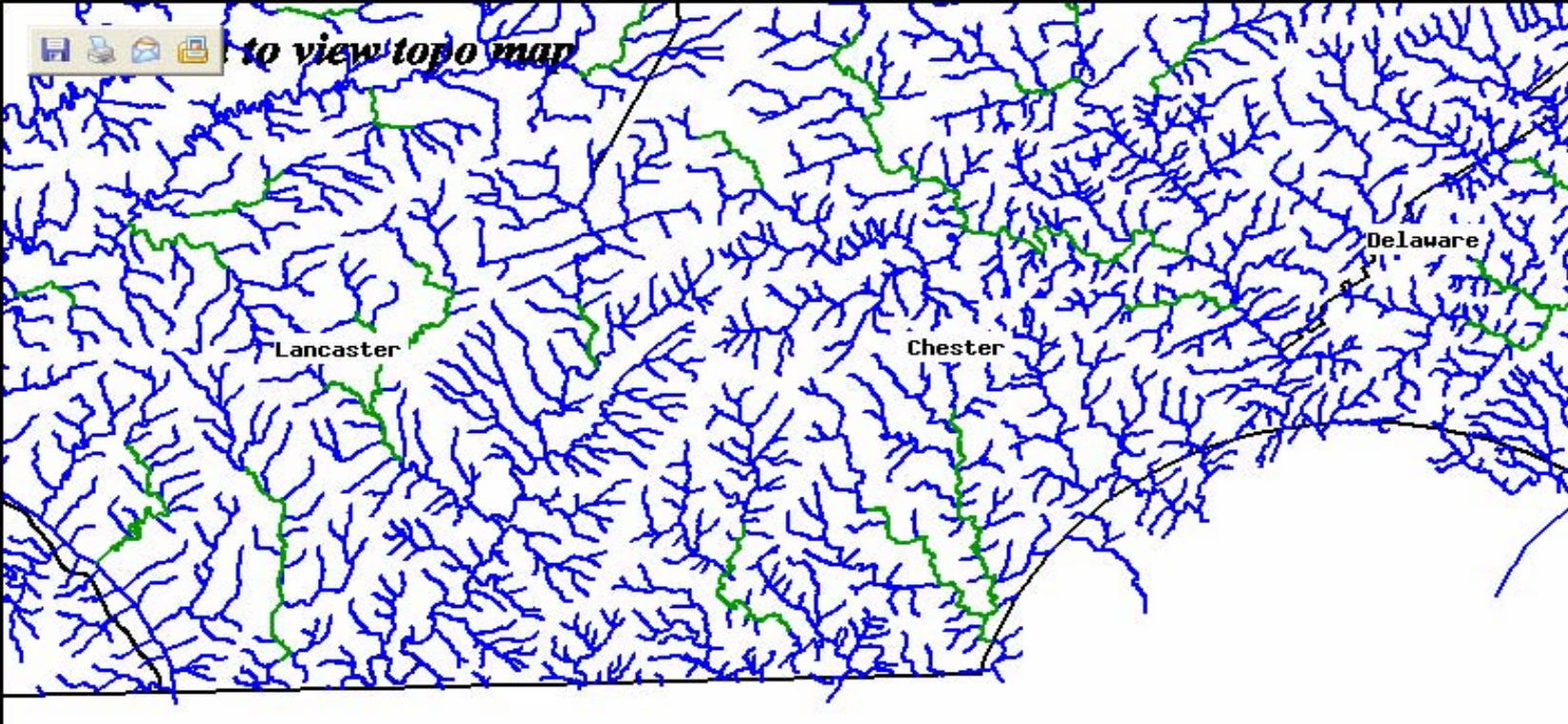
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Print Mail W

Address <http://orser7.eri.psu.edu/fishing2005/stocked.htm>

## Interactive GIS - Stocked Streams

Show Layers Show Legend Zoom In Zoom Out Pan Info Full Map Refresh Print



to view topo map

Lancaster

Chester

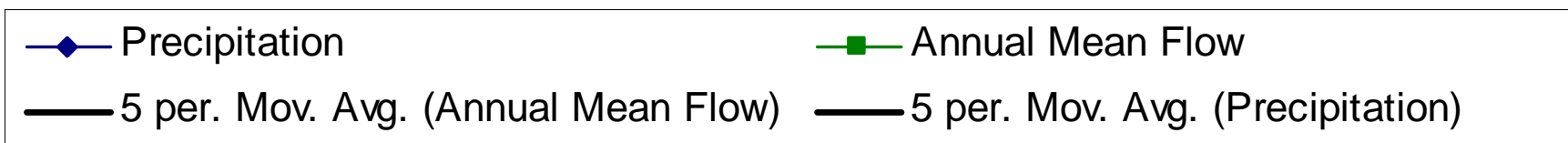
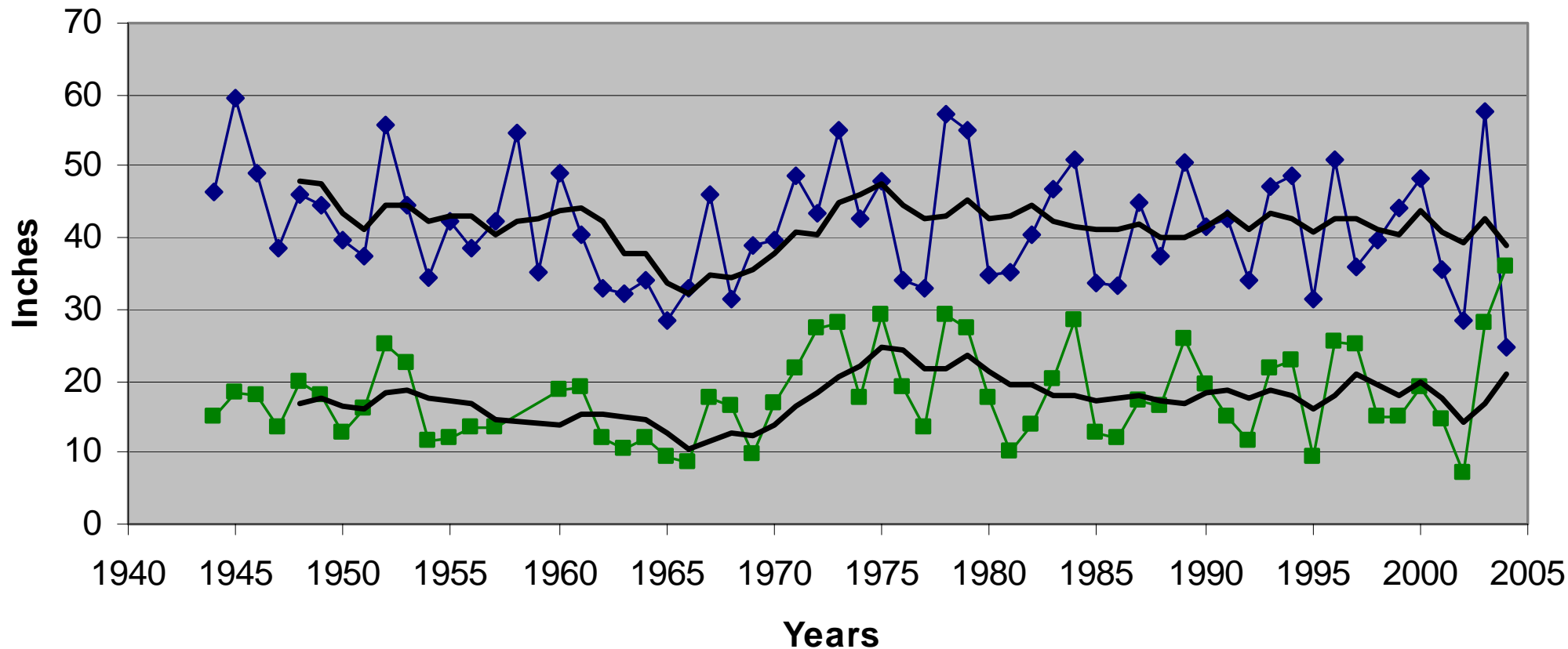
Delaware

Stocked Trout Streams in PA:  
Middle and East Branches of White Clay Creek

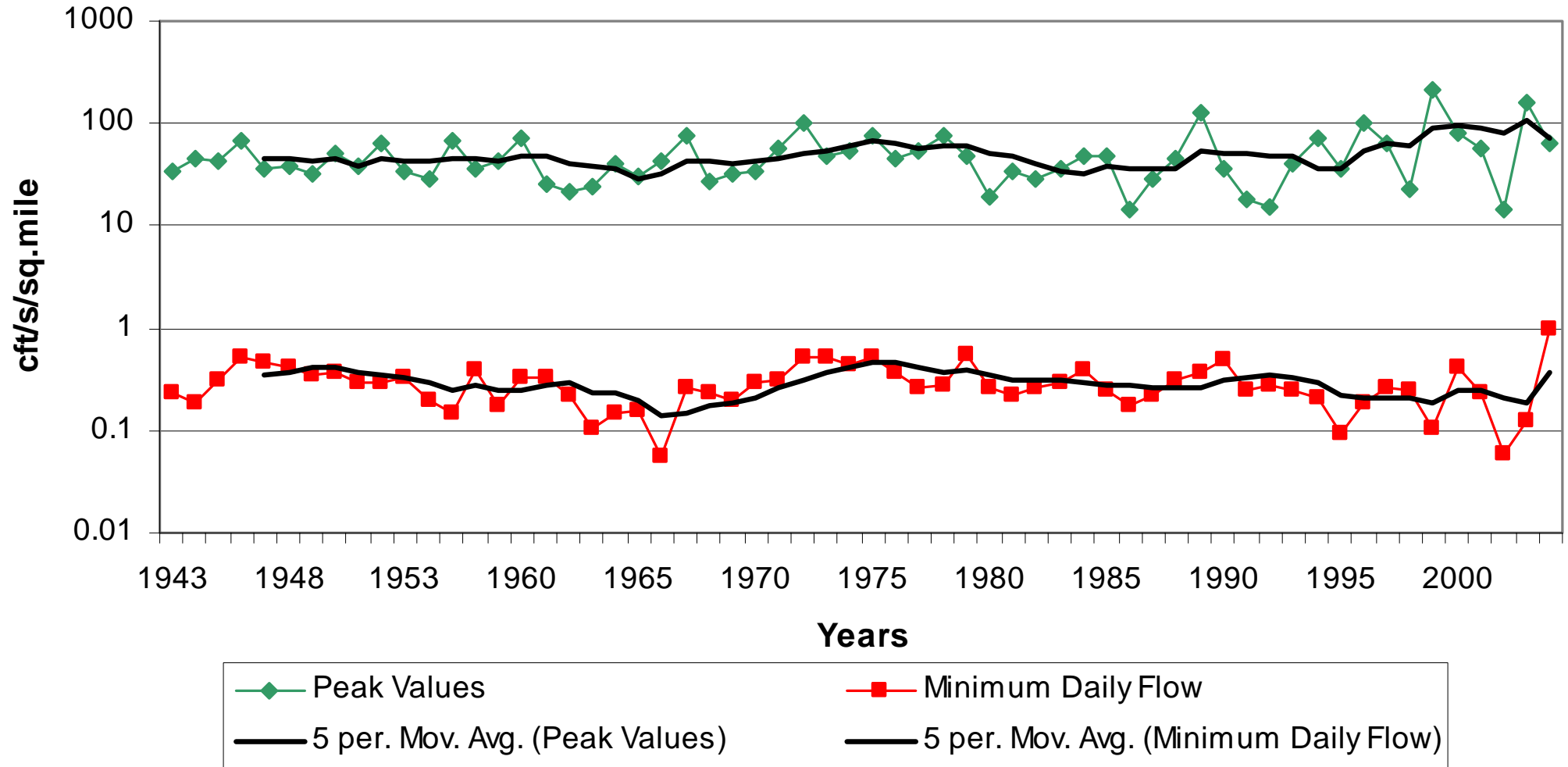
Stream (source: FEMA Flood Insurance Study for New Castle County, DE)	Feet above Mouth	Name of Dam	Height of Dam (ft)
White Clay Creek	22,300	DE Pk. Race Track (No. 1)	8
	40,200	Kirkwood Hwy (No. 2)	3
	50,000	No. 3	4
	53,300	Rt 72 Paper Mill Rd (No. 4)	6
	58,400	No. 5	10
	61,300	No. 6	3
	67,000	No. 7	6

USGS Sub watershed ID	Sub watershed Area (sq mi)	Groundwater Availability (mgd/sq mi) (mgd)	Groundwater Withdrawal (mgd/sq mi) (mgd)	Remaining Groundwater (mgd/sq mi) (mgd)	Available Groundwater Used (%)
DB-124 WCC	104.0	0.275 (28.6)	0.021 (2.18)	0.253 (26.31)	7.9%

# Precipitation and Annual Mean Flow for White Clay Creek Near Newark, DE USGS Station 01479000

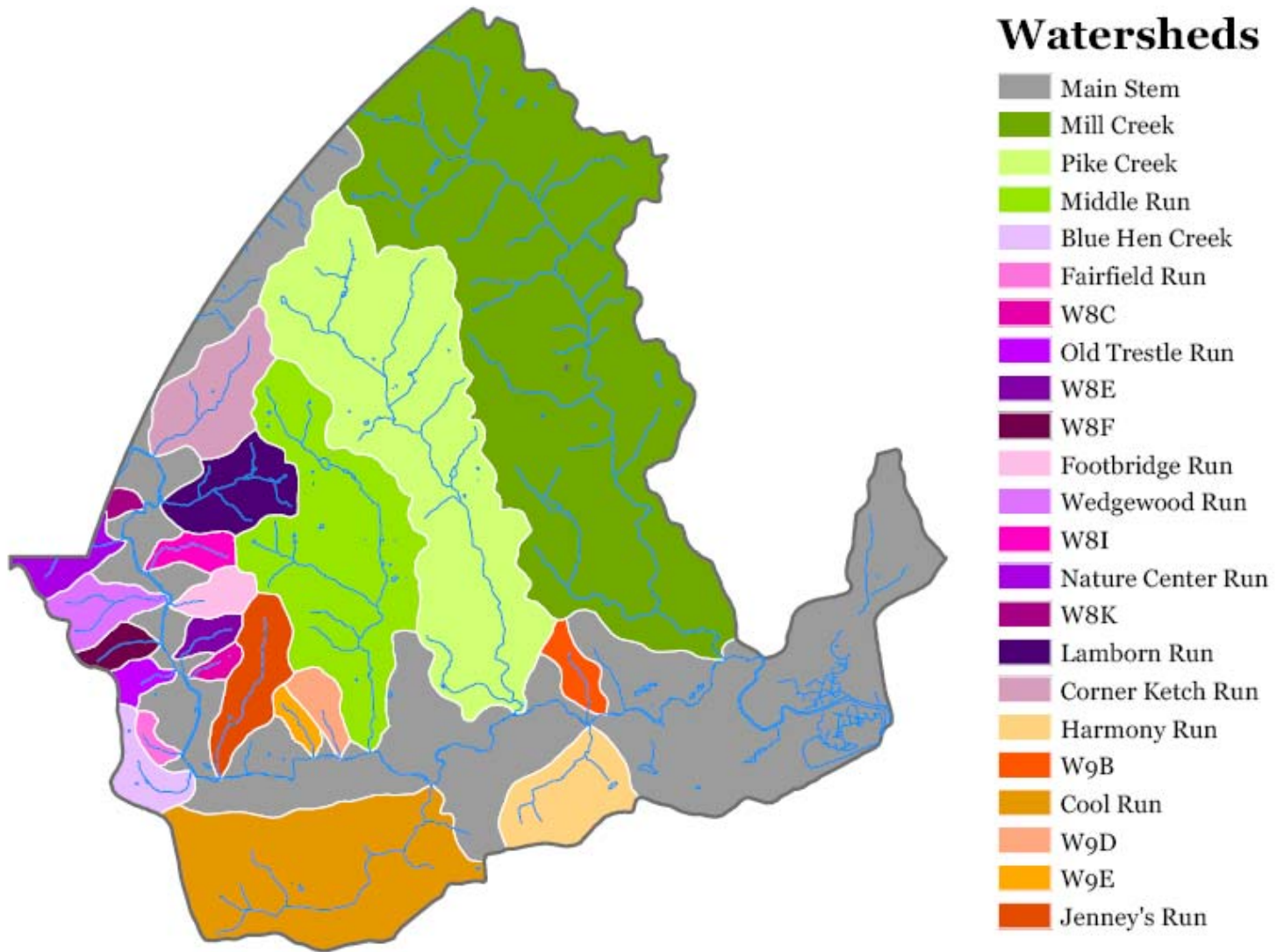


# Peak Flow and Minimum Daily Flow, White Clay Creek Near Newark, DE USGS Station 01479000

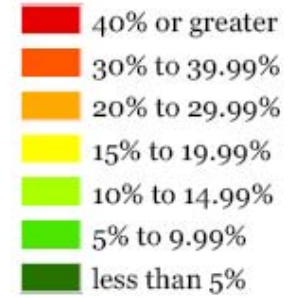
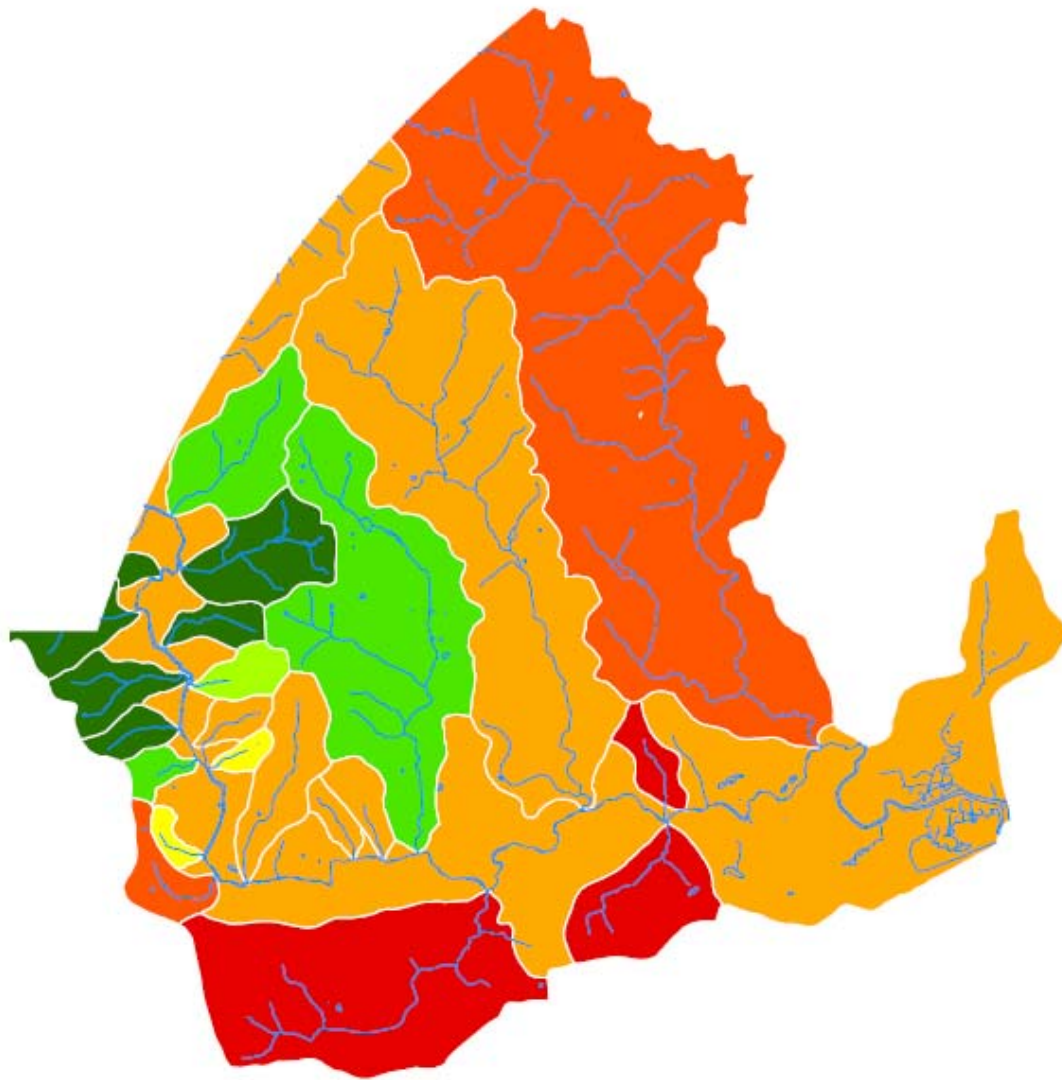


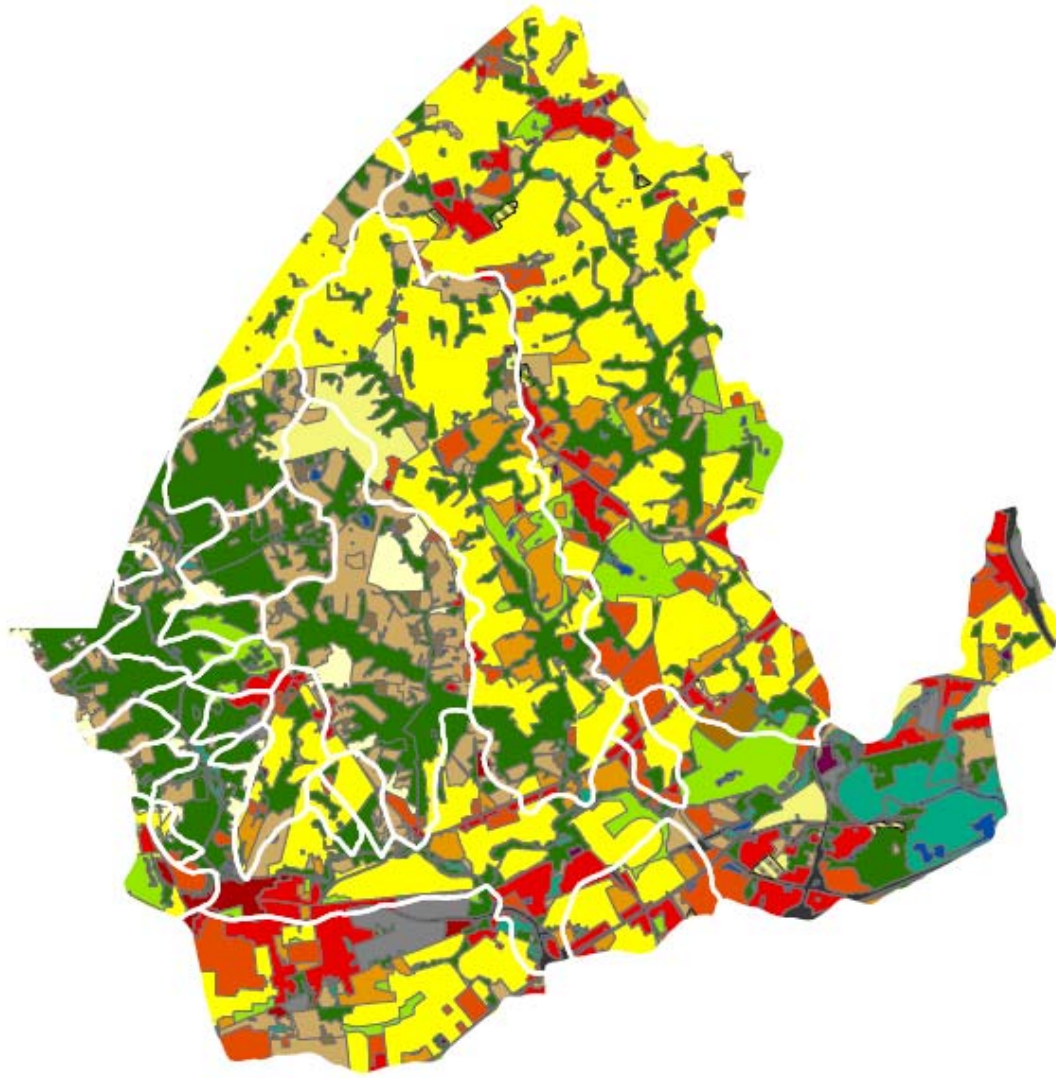


## Watersheds



## Impervious Cover

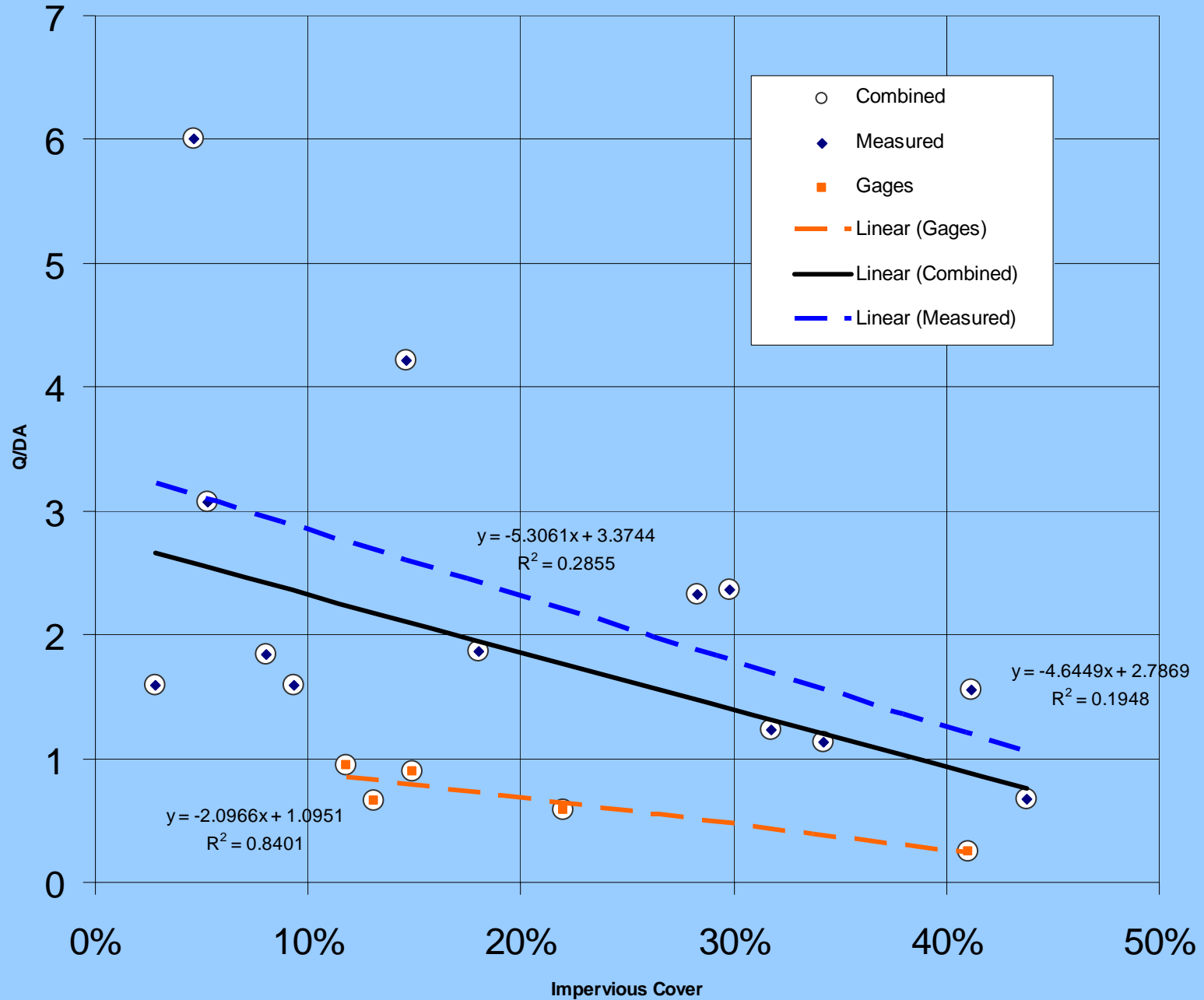




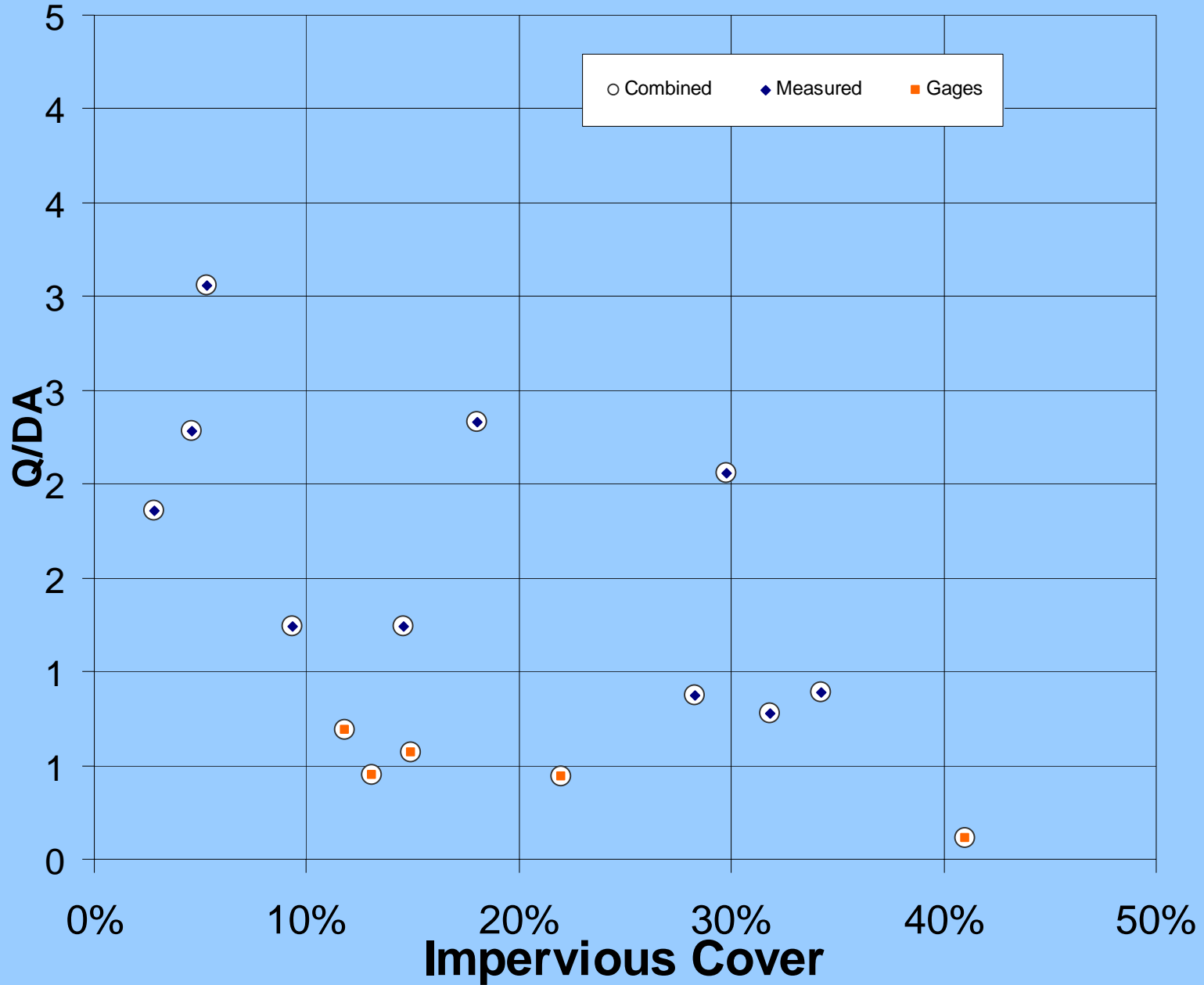
## Land Use

- SF Residential (Rural)
- SF Residential (Suburban)
- SF Residential (Urban)
- MF Residential
- MH Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Mixed Urban
- Other Urban
- Recreational
- Agricultural
- Agricultural Buildings
- Forestland
- Water
- Wetlands
- Transitional

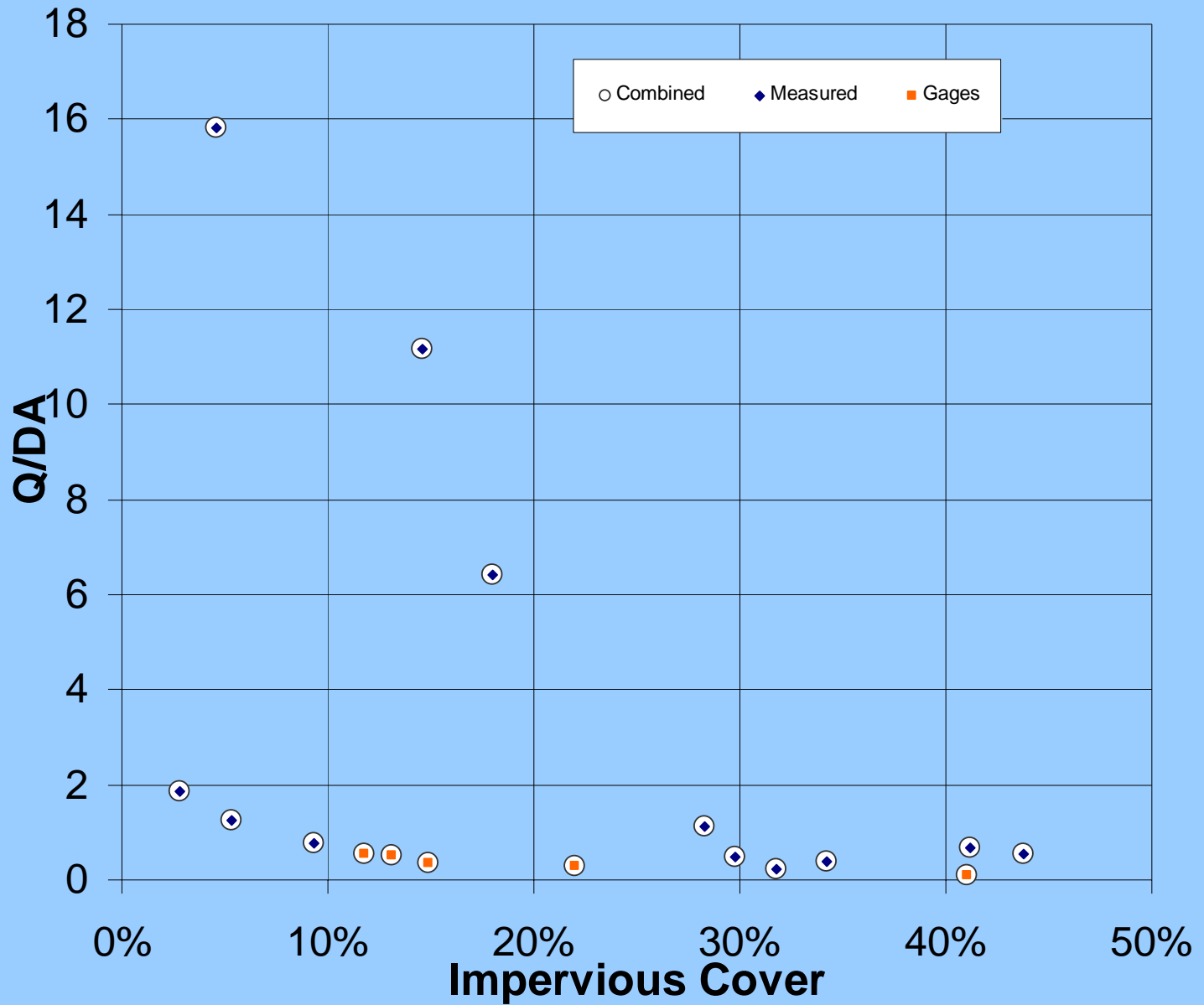
# May 2, 2006



May 26, 2006



May 9, 2006



<b>Grade</b>	<b>Water Quality</b>	<b>Basis of Rating</b>
A	Excellent	So pure one could drink water from stream.
B	Good	Meets fishable/swimmable standards, supports cold water trout fishery.
C	Average	Clean enough to support warm water fishery, not swimmable.
D	Unsatisfactory	Polluted, okay for boating not swimming or fishing
F	Poor	Polluted, has raw sewage and floating trash

	W5. Mill Creek	W6. Pike Creek	W7. Middle Run	W8. White Clay Cr. Ab. Newark	W9. White Clay Cr. below Newark	W10. White Clay Creek Tidal
Total Nitrogen	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
Total Phosphorus	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
Chlorophyll	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
Maximum Copper	-	-	-	<b>A</b>	-	<b>A</b>
Maximum Lead	-	-	-	<b>C</b>	-	<b>F</b>
Maximum Zinc	-	-	-	<b>A</b>	-	<b>B</b>
Dissolved Oxygen	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>
Enterococcus Bacteria	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
Total Susp. Solids	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
Aquatic Life Support	<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
ERES Waters	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
Cold Water Fishery	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
Fish Consumption Advisories	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>
Biological Index	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
Habitat Index	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>
Superfund Sites	-	-	-	<b>B</b>	-	<b>F</b>
Imperviousness	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Population Density	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
Forest/Open Space	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Grade</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>B<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>C<sup>-</sup></b>



# Questions?



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