



## *Benzie Rivers' Report Card 2018*

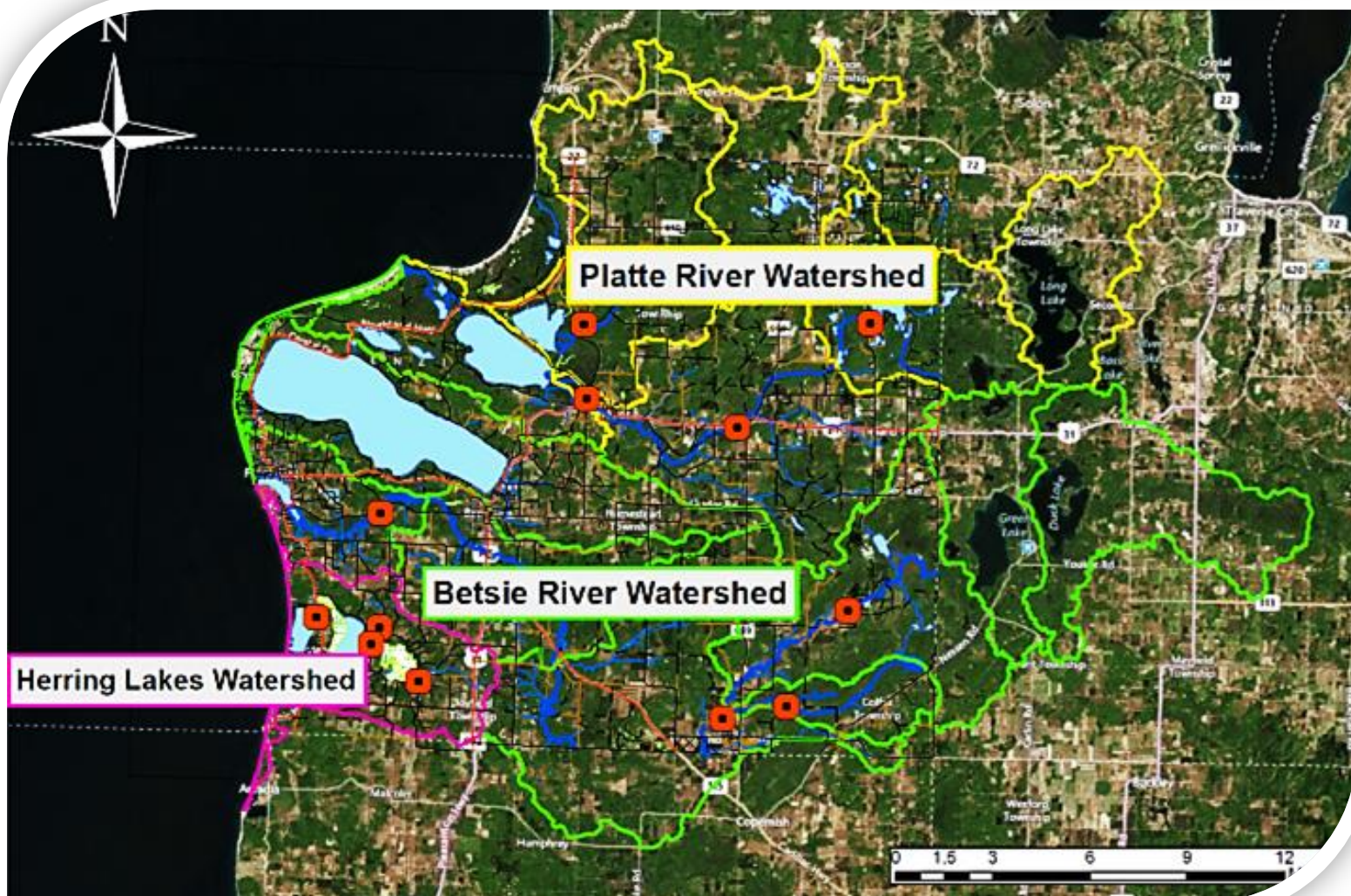
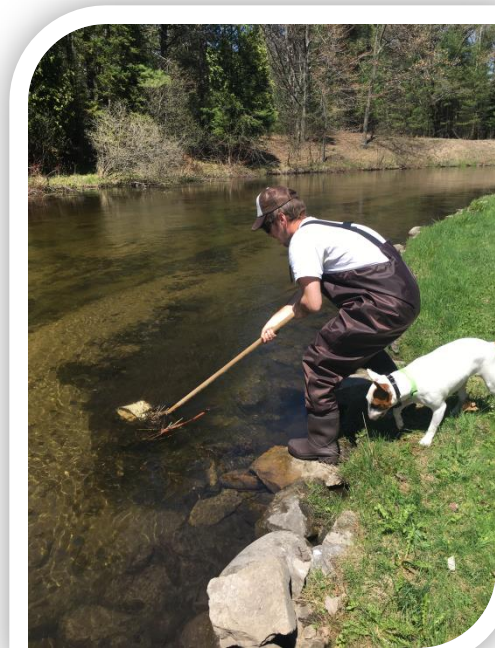




# Benzie Rivers' Report Card 2018

Since 2012 the Benzie Conservation District has been working with caring volunteers to help assess the quality and health of Benzie County's lotic (flowing) waters. As part of Michigan Clean Water Corps' **Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP)** our teams have been collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates (water bugs) at nine sites within the Platte, Betsie and Herring lakes watersheds.

Based on the types (taxa: taxonomic orders and families) of macroinvertebrates collected, we can compute a Stream Quality Index (SQI) score for each site. This will be used to track changes in water quality over time.





## Results

After carefully sorting and identifying specimens from the nine sites across the county, we use the macroinvertebrate community to classify sites into one of four categories: excellent, good, fair, or poor. The table below shows how each site scored.

*Stream Quality Index ratings from Spring and Fall 2018*

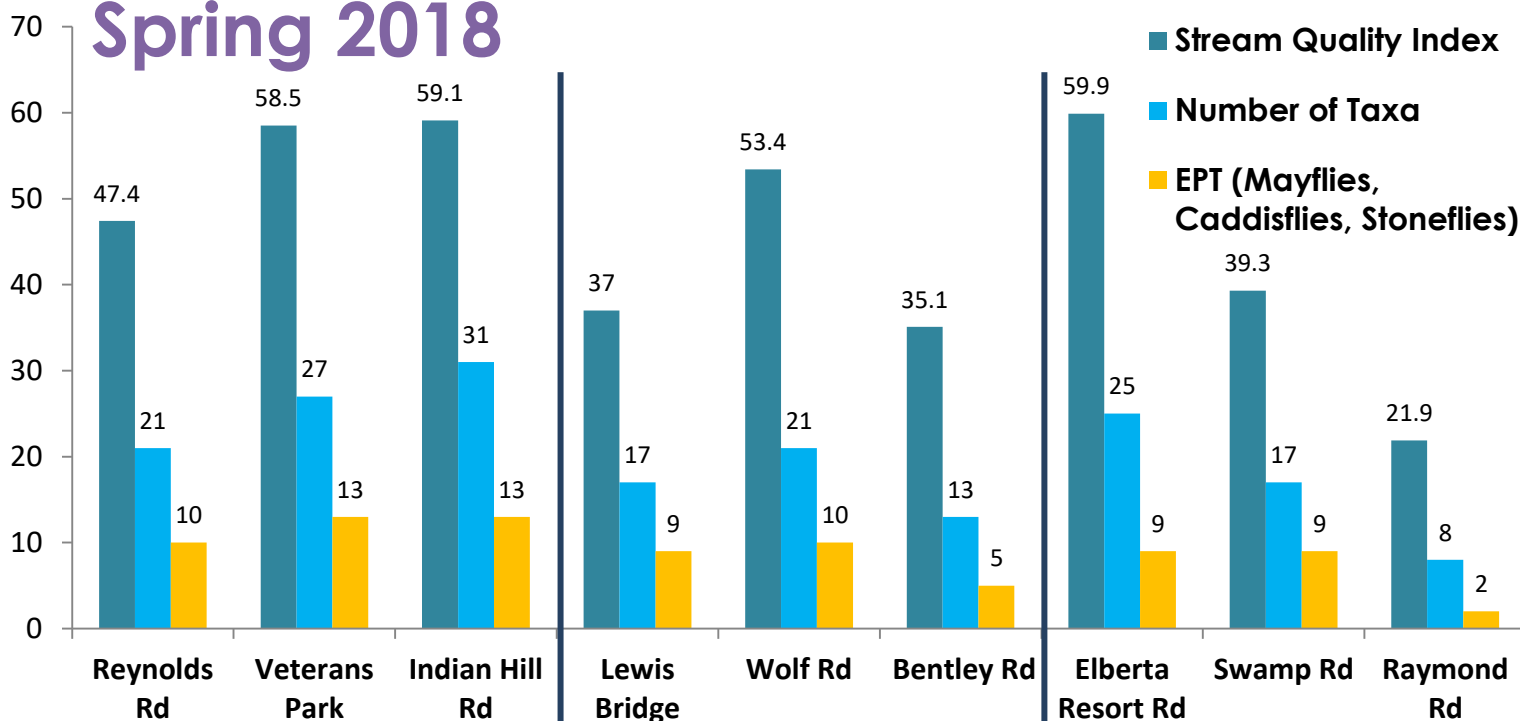
River Name	Site Name	Spring 2018	Fall 2018
Platte	P1 – Reynolds Rd	Excellent	Excellent
	P2 – Veteran's Park	Excellent	Excellent
	P3 – Indian Hill Rd	Good	Good
Betsie	B1 – Lewis Bridge	Good	Good
	B2 – Wolf Rd	Excellent	Excellent
	B3 – Bentley Rd	Good	Good
Herring	H1 – Elberta Resort	Excellent	Excellent
	H2 – Swamp Rd	Good	Fair
	H3 – Raymond Rd	Fair	Fair



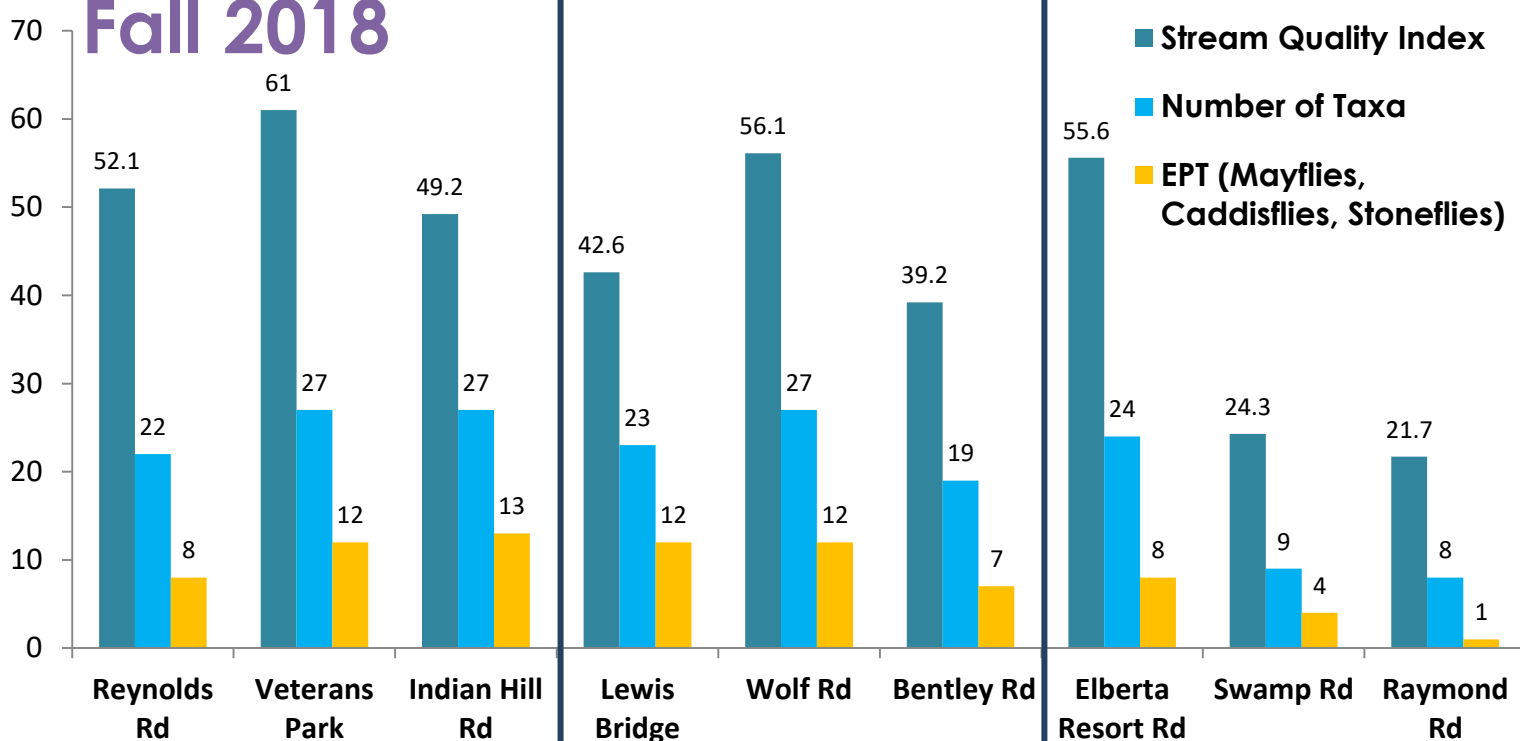
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Stream Quality Index values, number of taxa collected, and EPT (mayfly, stonefly and caddisfly) families collected from Spring and Fall 2018

## Spring 2018



## Fall 2018



**Platte**

**Betsie**

**Herring**

## What does it mean?

2018 was another quality year for our Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. Across all sites the average SQL score was 45.7, which ranks in the high end of the “good” category. Our highest quality sites including: Veteran's Park (Platte), Wolf Road (Betsie), and Elberta Resort Road (Herring) were again hotspots for macroinvertebrate diversity and high SQL scores. We also saw improved scores on the Upper Herring Creek sites after both ranked as “poor” last spring.



If you want to learn more about the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP) or to see past results from the program please visit Benzie Conservation District's website and look for VSMP under the “Benzie Waters” tab or contact Conservation Specialist John Ransom at [john@benziecd.org](mailto:john@benziecd.org) or 231.882.4391.



To all the volunteers who make this program possible,  
**THANK YOU!**

