

The pages in this document were taken from the "Millers Creek Watershed Improvement Plan" published in April 2004. The entire document can be found at <http://www.aamillerscreek.org/Findings.htm>.

# Millers Creek Watershed Improvement Plan

## **Excerpt Showing an Example of How to Document Stream Conditions**

**April 2004**

## **Corridor Condition**

A diversity of upland and wetland plant communities including woodland, shrubland, and meadow are present along the creek corridor. In many locations, natural plant communities extend well beyond the 200-foot wide corridor (See **Figure 5.11**). Urban land cover including significant areas of road, lawn and building encroachments are also present. Cover types within the corridor are summarized in **Table 5.8**. Dominant cover types are woodlands including forested wetlands and urban savanna\lawn. Tree species present in the woodlands are consistent with presettlement oak-hickory and mixed oak plant communities. Invasive shrubs such as buckthorn, honeysuckle and autumn-olive dominate the shrub layer throughout the corridor. Herbaceous vegetation is dense in some portions of the corridor and nonexistent in others. In general, herbaceous vegetation on the creek banks is minimal due to erosion and dense shade from woody invasives. Overhanging vegetation or stream canopy coverage ranges from 0 to 100% depending on location. Coverage is sufficient over much of the creek, but in many locations, woody invasives comprise a significant portion of that coverage.

While much of the streamside vegetation has degraded significantly, areas of high quality vegetation can still be found in the corridor. Seepage wetlands along the main stem and the tributary originating near Narrow Gauge Way Road contain diverse species such as skunk cabbage, marsh marigold, and red twig dogwood. Mature forests contain diverse tree species and some very large oaks. An extensive wetland complex with intact floodplain can be found at the creek's confluence with the Huron River.

**Table 5.8**  
**Summary of Cover Types Within 200 Foot Wide Stream Corridor**

| CORRIDOR COVER TYPE     | RANK          | AREA<br>(ACRES) | PERCENT<br>COVER |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Woodland                | 1             | 47.0            | 29.8%            |
| Forested Wetland        | 2             | 29.4            | 18.6%            |
| Urban Savanna / Lawn    | 3             | 28.2            | 17.8%            |
| Scrub Shrub Wetland     | 4             | 14.1            | 8.9%             |
| Road / Streetscape      | 5             | 12.1            | 7.6%             |
| Shrub/Immature Woodland | 6             | 11.4            | 7.2%             |
| Meadow/Prairie          | 7             | 7.5             | 4.7%             |
| Parking Lot             | 8             | 2.6             | 1.7%             |
| Roof Top                | 8             | 2.4             | 1.5%             |
| Emergent Wetland        | 9             | 1.8             | 1.1%             |
| Wet Meadow              | 10            | 0.8             | 0.5%             |
| Detention Basin Wetland | 11            | 0.2             | 0.2%             |
| Open Water              | 11            | 0.3             | 0.2%             |
|                         | <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>157.8</b>    | <b>100%</b>      |

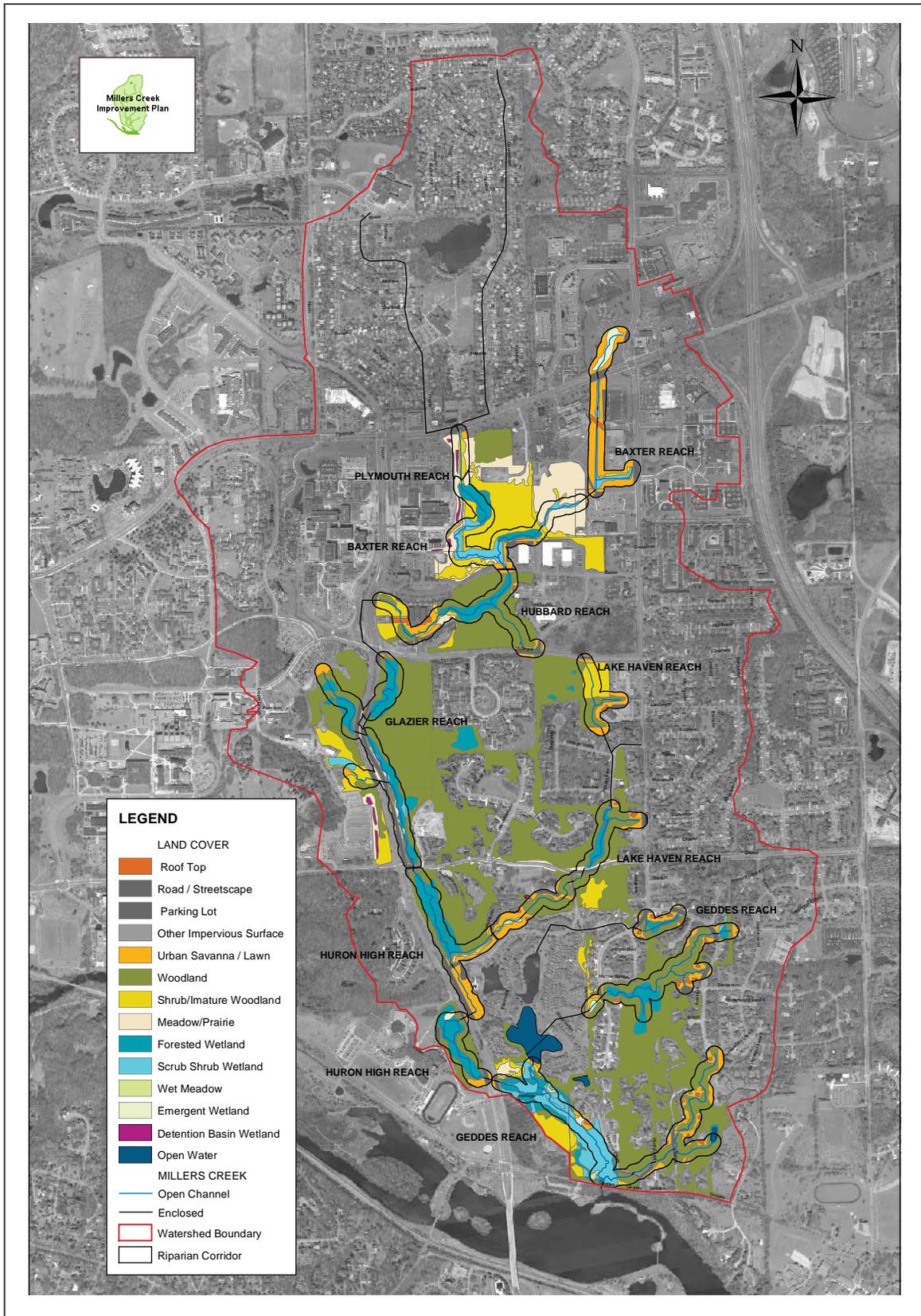


Figure 5.11 Riparian Corridor Land Cover and Contiguous Natural Plant Communities