

Site name: Northwest Branch at White Drive

Assessment Area: 1

Key Wildlife Habitat type: Montane-Piedmont Seepage Swamp

HGM Class: Slope

NWI Mapped Cowardin Type: None

DNR Mapped Cowardin Type: PFO1A (Palustrine, Forested Broad-leaved Deciduous, Temporarily Flooded)

Mapped Soil Type: Hatboro silt loam

Date of Site Visit: 2023-06-09

Observers present for site visit: James Larsson, Carolyn Smith

Mapped location:



Site Description:

This site is a small area of groundwater seep adjacent to a trail feeding an extremely slow-moving small stream which feeds into the Northwest Branch Anacostia River. The vegetation and woody debris at this site has been altered by Emerald Ash Borer and includes a dead Ash log 27 inches in diameter which previously fell onto a hiking trail. The soil at this site contained less than 10% redox concentrations starting 0-6 inches from the soil surface, and the mineral surface horizon was greater than 4 inches thick

and had a munsell color of 7.5YR 2.5/1. The channel showed minimal evidence of instability/migration, but did have relatively steep banks, and was minimally disconnected from its floodplain. The vegetation in this site was dominated in the tree stratum by *Carpinus caroliniana* and *Liriodendron tulipifera*, the sapling/shrub stratum was dominated by *Acer negundo*, *Lindera benzoin*, and *Sambucus canadensis*, the herb stratum was dominated by *Symplocarpus foetidus* and *Vinca minor*, and the woody vine stratum was dominated by *Lonicera japonica*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, and *Smilax rotundifolia*. Invasive species present include *Rosa multiflora*, *Vinca minor*, *Alliaria petiolata*, *Berberis thunbergii*, *Microstegium vimineum*, *Potentilla indica*, and *Lonicera japonica*. Despite the number of invasive species present at this site, this site is in good condition overall and is a good example of a smaller seepage swamp site.

Site Photos (Including photo of soil sample with surface layer at the top and nearest stream reach):



Site Scores:

Native Mean C-value: **4.1** Adjusted FQI: **36.0**

Core Factor Scores: Landscape **2.75**, Soil/Substrate **3.5**, Hydrology **2.667**, KWH/Veg. **3.167**

Overall Core Factor Score: **3.042 = Good**

Additional points: **0.2** (Wetlands adjacent to use IV waters)

Final KWH Ecological Integrity Assessment Score: **3.242 = Good**