

Fish of Hoover Creek

Hoover Creek is a very small tributary of the West Branch of Wapsinonoc Creek from which the city of West Branch derives its name. The creek was a small trickle of water running through a linear wetland when Herbert Hoover was a boy. Changing land use from deep rooted prairie to bare soil and row crops that shed rain water quickly changed this subsurface drainage into a surface water drainage. The addition of tile in the farm fields further increased the amount and speed of water drainage from fields and into the creek. Surface hardening in the city and the addition of storm sewers that empty into the creek have created a stream that flash floods after heavy rains, but also dries during drought. The creek continues to incise deeply into the soil with each high flow carrying more soil downstream than is replaced from upstream. The extreme fluctuations in the amount of water and water velocity in Hoover Creek limit the species that will be found living there.

CATASTOMIDAE

Catostomus commersoni	white sucker
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CYPRINIDAE

Rhinichthys atratulus	blacknose dace
Pimephales notatus	bluntnose minnow
P. promelas	fathead minnow
Campostoma anomalum	central stoneroller
Notropis cornutus	common shiner
N. spilopterus	spotfin shiner
N. dorsalis	bigmouth shiner
Semotilus atromaculatus	creek chub

PERCIDAE

Etheostoma nigrum	Johnny darter
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