

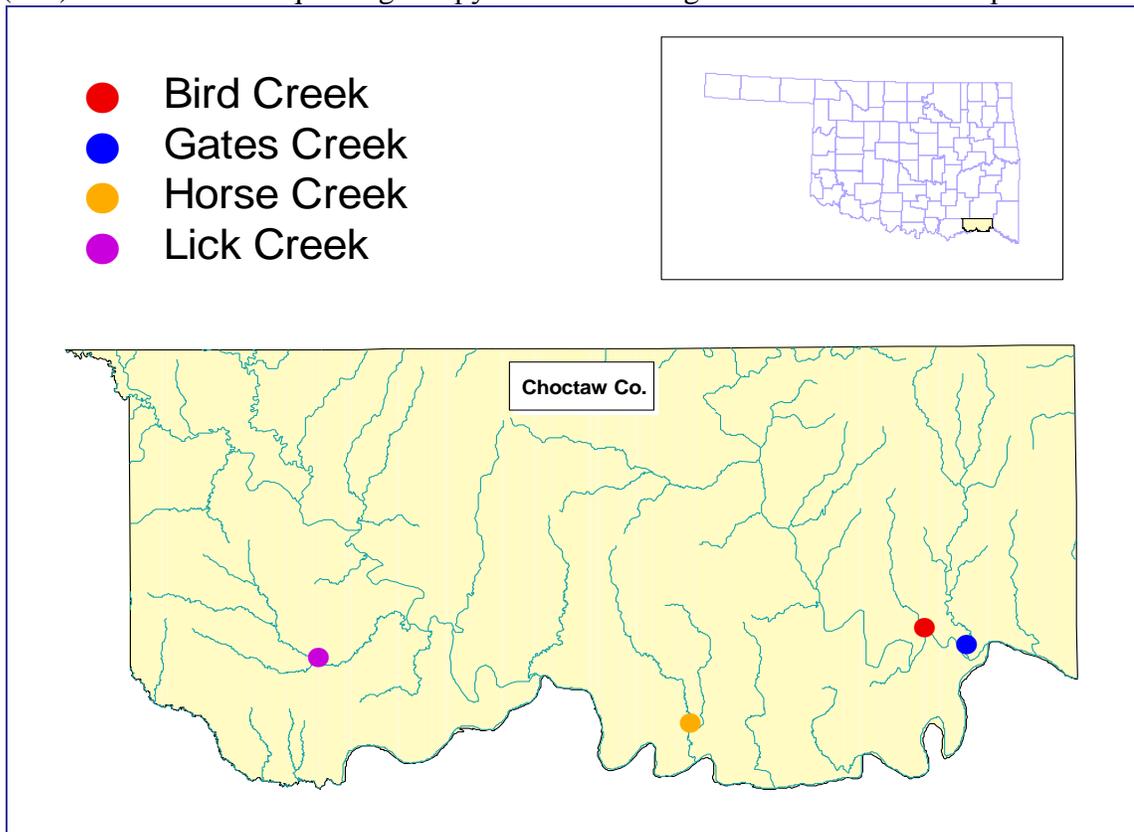


Rotating Basin Site Summary South Central Plains Level 3 Ecoregion: Choctaw County

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) has the statutory responsibility of monitoring streams across the state in order to identify healthy streams as well as those which may be impacted by non-point source (NPS) pollution. NPS pollution is pollution which runs off the land from diffuse sources rather than being discharged from a specific source. If a stream is found to be impaired by NPS pollution, the OCC may be able to implement a voluntary cost-share program to address the identified problems; however, streams must be monitored in order to select best management practices necessary for improvement. The OCC's "Rotating Basin Monitoring Program" provides the tools to assess and then restore water quality in Oklahoma.

This leaflet gives a brief summary of the assessment results for the first cycle of the monitoring program for streams in Choctaw County. The full report can be accessed online at:

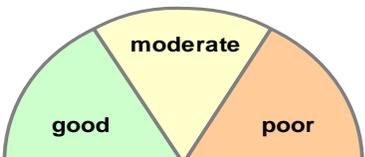
http://www.ok.gov/okcc/Agency_Divisions/Water_Quality_Division/WQ_Reports/WQ_Assessment_Reports
or by calling (405) 522-4500 and requesting a copy of the "Rotating Basin Year 5 Final Report."



OCC Rotating Basin monitoring sites within Choctaw County.

Through the Rotating Basin Program, four streams in Choctaw Co. were sampled approximately every five weeks from June 2005-June 2007. Nineteen water quality parameters were measured or analyzed at each site visit. In addition, OCC staff conducted one fish and habitat assessment and up to four macroinvertebrate collections during this time. Summer samples were also analyzed for *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* bacteria. Each site was compared to "high quality" streams in the ecoregion, streams known to have high quality fish populations, benthic macroinvertebrate populations, instream and riparian habitat, and water quality. All of the data collected has been distilled into a few key components in order to produce an index score of general, overall stream health, shown on the next page.

Summary of general stream health as determined by comparison to high quality streams in the South Central Plains ecoregion and by assessment using Oklahoma State Water Quality Standards†.

	<i>Moderate</i>			
	Horse Creek	Gates Creek	Bird Creek	Lick Creek
Overall Stream Health	37	35	32	28
Phosphorus	1	5	5	3
Nitrogen	1	5	5	5
Ammonia	5	5	5	5
Dissolved Oxygen	5	1*	5	1*
pH	5	5	5	5
Turbidity	5	-5	-5	-5
Salts (chloride, sulfate, TDS)	5	5	5	5
Fish	5	5	3	5
Macroinvertebrates	5	5	NI	NI
Instream/Riparian Habitat	5	1	1	1
Bacteria	-5	3	3	3
<i>Scale of 1-5 with 5 being the best</i>				
<p>KEY: 1=significantly worse than high quality sites 3=not as good as high quality sites but not impaired 5=equal to or better than high quality sites -5=impaired by state standards NI=no information</p>				

Horse Creek (OK410400-01-0040G): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired due to bacteria. The amount of phosphorus and nitrogen in the stream was significantly higher than high quality sites in the ecoregion. All other values were good.

Gates Creek (OK410300-01-0020F): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired for turbidity. The stream has higher bacteria levels than high quality sites in the ecoregion but is not impaired for bacteria currently. The instream habitat was significantly lower than high quality sites in the area.

Bird Creek (OK410300-01-0100C): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired for turbidity. The stream has higher bacteria levels than high quality sites in the ecoregion but is not impaired for bacteria currently. The instream habitat was significantly lower than high quality sites in the area. There were no macroinvertebrate collections on this stream due to lack of flow during the collection period. The fish community was slightly poorer than the high quality sites.

Lick Creek (OK410400-01-0130G): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired for turbidity. The stream has higher bacteria levels than high quality sites in the ecoregion but is not impaired for bacteria currently. The level of phosphorus in the stream was higher than high quality sites. The instream habitat was significantly lower than high quality sites in the area. There were no macroinvertebrate collections on this stream due to lack of flow during the collection period.

† The use of Oklahoma Water Quality Standards to assess streams and the 2008 results are described in the DEQ’s 2008 Integrated Report, accessible online at http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnw/305b_303d/2008_integrated_report_entire_document.pdf

* This site may be listed as impaired by state standards, but ongoing research indicates that low dissolved oxygen levels occur naturally in this part of the state

