



Grant (left) and Archer Grissinger examine the clams they netted from Rife Run during the Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance's Creek Stomp.

All of these aquatic finds indicate that the water quality of Rife is "medium to good." Koffroth pointed out that the grasses and plantings along the streambank help filter water. Koffroth reminded participants that keeping trash out of the stream is something they can do to help improve water quality. Additionally, trees along the stream provide shade, which cools the water and makes it a better habitat for fish.

The portion of Rife Run that flows through Mummau Park was the watershed group's first major project. A streambank restoration was initiated in 2002 and completed in 2004. Since then the organization has organized streambank planting efforts. A small viewing platform, and a kiosk with educational information about the stream and restoration efforts have been added over the years.

"There's been a huge change here. If you were here 15 years ago, it would have looked really different — just grass down to the water," said Jineen Boyle, watershed coordinator with the state Department of Environmental Protection.

She has been involved with the watershed group through DEP's Growing Greener Grant program, which has helped to fund some of the improvements to the stream. However, she said this was the first time she had participated in an activity such as the Creek Stomp.



“It’s a neat experience. It’s good to see so many little kids participating at an event like this,” she said.

Creek Stomp participants returned their “finds” to Rife Run before heading home.

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