Methods

Sterile sample containers, a D-shaped sampling net, and two-meter sticks were collected and taken to three different locations in Prince Edward County (two times each) and four samples were taken at each location each time. At each location the meter sticks were used to determine a meter by meter square from which the flow of the water, a sample from the D-net, amount of corbicula, corbicula depth, water depth and an underwater soil sample were taken and recorded. First a random location was chosen for sampling. Then, the water flow was recorded, a meter stick was placed horizontally in the water at the sample site and a sterile container was placed in the water at the top of the meter stick. Then, when the container flowed past the tip of the meter stick a stopwatch was started and was then stopped when the container flowed past the bottom tip of the meter stick, the data was then recorded. Next the meter stick was placed in the water vertically until it touched the water bed and the water depth of the sample site was recorded (in inches). Then the D-net was used to take a soil sample inside of the square meter sample site and then the organic material was shifted through to find the invasive species corbicula. The sizes (in centimeters), abundance, and depth in the soil (in inches) of the corbicula were recorded along with the type of soil and rate of water movement. Finally, a soil sample slightly upstream of the D-net sample area but still within the sample site was scooped up with a sterile sample container. These steps were repeated for each sample site at each location.

 Once all the samples were collected they were put into an incubator at 70 degrees Celsius and left to dry. After all the samples were dried the soil samples were put through shifters which ranged between sieve #5-sieve #230. This was used to determine the type of soil in each sample site. Next, crucibles were collected and weighed in grams. After the crucibles were weighed an unset portion of each sample was poured into its own crucible. These crucibles that contained sample material were then put into a furnace which burned off the organic matter which left only ash in the crucibles. The crucibles were then weighed again and the difference between the first crucible weight and the ashed crucible weight were recorded.