

Erlebnispfad Reidbach, Wädenswil

The Freshwater Trail was modelled after the Freshwater trail in Dragonja Valley, Slovenia. It does not contain all the elements, such as planted soil filter. It is not equipped with panels, but consists of a Guide for Teachers describing the stations, and tasks which can be performed by pupils at every station.

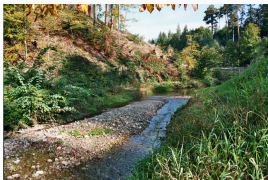
Some measurements that were carried out at the learning path in Dragonja, were not repeated here, due to the complexity of the measurements, such as pH, dissolved oxygen and conductivity.

Stations of the Freshwater Trail "Reidbach"



Station 1: In the Forest

- very natural stream section
- high structural diversity
- artificial steps
- strong current with riffles



Station 2: Gravel deposits

- the streambed expands
- less current
- more light than station 1



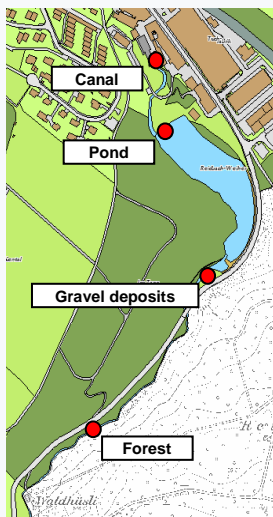
Station 3: Pond

- very different wildlife habitat
- very weak current
- stratification in summer
- artificially backed-up by a weir



Station 4: Canal

- concrete enforced streambed
- natural structure are missing
- hostile environment for many organisms
- strong current, no riffles



The tasks

The tasks can be carried out by pupils at the stations of the freshwater trail.

Describe the stream at the station

- describe the stream at the station with several keywords
- draw the section of the stream and immediate surroundings
- measure the current velocity and calculate the flow quantity
- measure the water temperature
- observe the turbidity and smell of the water

Selpurification experiment

- A simple model of a gravel bed/soil filter was made
- Empty PET bottles were cut in half. The upper part of the bottle was filled with stones, gravel and sand, and used as a filtering device for the turbid water.



Search for aquatic animals

- find small bottom dwelling aquatic animals by sieving the sediment and searching under the stones
- separate these into groups according to appearance
- identify the animals with the help provided pictures
- define the water quality on the basis of the animals found

