

WHAT'S YOUR EATING STYLE?

Aquatic bugs—macroinvertebrates—are the base of the food chain in Gore Creek. They break down organic matter in the water and pass on that energy to larger predators. How they eat, and what they eat, is one way to tell them apart.

shredder



CRANE FLY

Species like crane flies and scuds break down leaves by eating them. Their “crumbs” then drift downstream.

collector



NET-SPINNING CADDISFLY

Some macroinvertebrates use fan-like filaments to capture passing food. Some species also create web-like nets.

grazer-scrafer



CASE-BUILDING CADDISFLY

These macroinvertebrates feed on algae that grows on rocks. They include water pennies, certain mayflies, and case-building caddisflies.

predator



DARNER DRAGONFLY

Species like dobsonflies and dragonflies have large mouthparts for grabbing their prey—including other macroinvertebrates.

COURTESY, JAN HARRIS

STAYING OFF THE MENU

Some macroinvertebrates build shelters that help protect them from predators. Caddisflies use grains of sand, pieces of leaves, small sticks, and even the shells of other animals to create custom cases.



COURTESY, JAN HARRIS

take cover!

CASE-BUILDING CADDISFLY