

Site # _____ Date: _____ Recorder: _____ _____
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Stream Visual Survey

Use this form to record important information about the health of your stream. By keeping accurate and consistent records of your visual observations, you can document current conditions as well as changes in water quality and stream habitat.

Stream name: _____

Stream location: _____

Names of group members: _____

Group contact person (Name, address, phone and e-mail): _____

Visual Survey

Weather conditions: ___ sunny & clear ___ partly cloudy ___ cloudy/overcast ___ rain ___ rain within last 24 hrs? ___ 48hrs?

Stream Walk

Length of stream (approx.) walked: _____ ft (15-20X the stream width is suggested {500 ft maximum})

Width of stream (approx.): _____ ft Depth of stream (approx.): _____ ft

Number of Pools: _____ Number of Riffles: _____

Streambank Buffer Width:

Looking *downstream* from anywhere in your survey reach, approximate: Right buffer _____ ft Left Buffer _____ ft

Water Appearance

- ___ clear ___ milky/gray
- ___ muddy ___ green
- ___ oily ___ brown
- ___ foamy ___ black
- ___ scummy ___ other _____

Water Odor

- ___ none ___ rotten eggs
- ___ natural ___ sewage
- ___ gas/oil ___ chemical
- ___ chlorine ___ other _____

Algae Presence

- ___ none present
- ___ in spots
- ___ attached
- ___ everywhere

Algae Appearance

- ___ light green
- ___ dark green
- ___ brown coated
- ___ matted on stream bed
- ___ hairy

TU	CD	FC	DO	pH	TP	BIO

Please do not fill this out. Thanks.

Land Use

What are the different land uses in the area within 1/4 mile of your site?

- _____ % Residential (houses & apartments) _____ % Commercial (strip malls & gas stations)
- _____ % Industrial (factories & mines) _____ % Agricultural (livestock & farming)
- _____ % Recreational (parks & trails) _____ % Natural (undisturbed)
- _____ % other _____

(Optional) Additional samples collected? ___ yes ___ no Sample collection site: _____	Sample bag number: # _____ Reason collected: _____
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Site # _____
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 Recorder: _____

Stream Walk Survey

Choose the rating that best describes your stream segment for each category.
 Consider the area within 1/4 mile of your stream site as the watershed for ranking purposes.

	Rating	Poor 1	2	Fair 3	4	Good 5	6	Excellent 7
Banks : Vegetation		Little or no vegetation, less than 25% of bank vegetated		Little vegetation, 25% to 50% of bank vegetated		Moderate vegetation, 50% to 80% of bank vegetated		Good vegetation cover, over 80% of bank vegetated
Predominant Bank vegetation cover		Sand, eroded bank, exposed roots. No stream shading.		Grass, small cover. Little stream shading from vegetation		Shrubby, small trees. Moderate shading of stream.		Trees/shrubs. Much canopy cover. Stream shaded.
Banks: erosion, undercutting		Severe erosion 60%-100% exposed soil, roots, obvious loss of dirt/bank, tree falls		Moderate erosion, 20% to 60% exposed soil, roots, some cover, evidence of soil loss		Some erosion Less than 20% exposed soil. Moderate vegetation cover, slight evidence of soil loss		No erosion, dirt is covered, no evidence of soil loss or bank undercutting.
Streambed material		Much mud/sand, more than 50% of streambed has sediment (sand/mud) deposits.		Moderate mud/sand, 30% to 50% of stream bed has sediment.		Moderate gravel/rock, Mud/Sand deposits mostly in pools, 5% to 30% mud/sand sediment.		Much gravel/rock No mud/sand, less than 5% of stream bed has sediment.
Water Odor		Severe/Strong Odor		Moderate Odor		Slight Odor		No Odor
Litter/Trash		Abundant		Very common		Small amount		None
Land Use by stream		Maximum disturbance, bare dirt of completely paved.		Moderate disturbance, mostly bare dirt or some paved.		Moderate cover, some bare ground and some paved.		Undisturbed, good cover all year.
Human impacts in stream		Major: dams, pipes, culverts		Severe, evidence of change		Moderate, some evidence of change		Little, seems natural

Other observations

Wildlife: _____

Evidence of pollution: _____

Litter in the area: _____

Presence of discharge/withdrawal pipes? yes no Active discharge? yes no

Stream Walk Map

Please draw a map of your stream walk. Please utilize these symbols to map conditions of the stream.

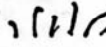
Note any landmarks that would exist for a number of years for future reference.



cobble



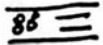
debris/dam



grass



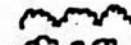
rootwad



riffles



log



shrub



direction of flow



slabs/boulder



bridge



forest



sample location



pipe



undercut bank



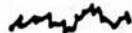
pool



pasture to stream



rip rap bank



severely eroded bank



rowcrop

Draw Map Here